



SOUTH WEST CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SEASON 2025/26 BY-LAWS

UPDATED & ADOPTED OCT 2025

CONTENTS

1	Laws of Cricket.....	Page 3
2	Executive Committee Powers.....	Page 3
3	Codes of Behavior.....	Page 3
4	Rules for Competition Matches.....	Page 10
5	Results of Competition Matches.....	Page 10
6	Umpires.....	Page 10
7	Tribunal and Reports.....	Page 11
8	Clearances.....	Page 21
9	Permits.....	Page 13
10	Player Qualifications.....	Page 13
11	Dress.....	Page 14
12	Home Team Duties.....	Page 15
13	Working with Children.....	Page 15
14	General Rules.....	Page 16
15	Association Awards.....	Page 16

SOUTH WEST CRICKET

By-Laws.

*** Kookaburra brand balls must be used in all matches.**

1 LAWS OF CRICKET

The laws of Cricket, as adopted by Cricket Victoria shall apply to all matches except as herein modified.

2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POWERS & EMERGENCY RULINGS

- (a)** The executive committee shall have the power to take any action deemed appropriate on a club or player breaking a Law of Cricket.
- (b)** Subject to the Constitution, the Executive Committee shall have the power to decide all questions arising out of South West Cricket matches not provided for in these Rules.

3 CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

These codes of behaviour, developed by the Australian Sports Commission, includes codes of behaviour for players, parents and spectators, coaches and teachers and officials:

(a) General Code of Behaviour

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others.
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for your actions.
- Make a commitment to providing quality service.
- Operate within the rules of the sport including state guidelines which govern CV Organisations.
- Do not use your involvement with a CV Organisation to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these are inconsistent with those of the CV Organisation.
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
- Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
- Refrain from any behaviour that may bring the sport of cricket or a CV Organisation into disrepute.
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.
- Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
- Be a positive role model.
- Where required by this By-law, ensure proper recording and documentation procedures required by the By-law are undertaken and completed.

- Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of this Code of Behaviour.
- Act at all times to protect and promote the sport of cricket in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket.

(b) Administrator Code of Behaviour

- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others. Be professional in, and accept responsibility for your actions. Your language, presentation, manners and punctuality should reflect high standards.
Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
- Maintain strict impartiality.
- Be aware of your legal responsibilities.
- Develop a positive sport environment by allowing for the special needs of the players (especially Children), by emphasising enjoyment and by providing appropriate development and competitive experiences.
- Involve players in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making relating to the activity.
- Ensure activities, equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of participating players. Activities, rules, equipment, lengths of games and training schedules should take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating players.
- Ensure that everyone (administrators, coaches, players, umpires, parents, spectators, sponsors and physicians) emphasise fair play in Cricket activities and games.
- Where appropriate, distribute a Code of Behaviour sheet to coaches, players, umpires, parents, spectators and the media.
- Protect and promote the sport of Cricket in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket.

(c) Coach Code of Behaviour

- Operate within the rules and Spirit of Cricket and teach your players to do the same.
- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players; all young players need and deserve equal time, attention and opportunities.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Display control and respect to all those involved in Cricket. This includes opponents, coaches, umpires, administrators, parents and spectators. Encourage your players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest Cricket coaching practices and principles of growth and development of young people. Be honest and ensure that qualifications are not misrepresented.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

- Promote a climate of mutual support among your players. Encourage players to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play.
- Encourage and facilitate players' independence and responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions.
- Determine, in consultation with the players, what information is confidential and respect that confidentiality.
- Provide feedback to players in a caring sensitive manner to their needs. Avoid overly negative feedback.

Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your players. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse. Be alert to any forms of abuse directed toward your players from other sources while they are in your care.

Refrain from any form of harassment towards your players. Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, and other condition.

- Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationship and avoid any sexual intimacy with players that could develop as a result.
- Avoid situations with your players that could be construed as compromising. Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- At all times use appropriate training methods which will benefit the players and avoid those which could be harmful. Ensure that the tasks, trainings, equipment and facilities are safe and suitable for age, experience, ability and physical and psychological conditions of the players.
- Ensure the players time spent with you is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities. Provide training and game opportunities that ensure everyone has a reasonable chance to succeed and to improve/acquire skills and develop confidence.
- Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, the use of alcohol and tobacco and illegal substance. (Abide by the Cricket Victoria Anti-Doping Policy).
- Recognise individual differences in players and always think of the player's long-term best interests.
- Set challenges for each player which are both achievable and motivating.
- Respect the fact that your goal as a coach for the player may not always be the same as that of the player. Aim for excellence based upon realistic goals and due consideration for the participant's growth and development.
- At all times act as a role model that promotes the positive aspects of sport and of Cricket by maintaining the highest standards of personal conduct and projecting a favourable image of Cricket and of coaching at all times.
- Recognise your player's rights to consult with other coaches and advisers. Cooperate fully with other specialists (e.g. sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists etc.).
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship or information gained through Cricket Victoria Programs, to further personal, political, or business interests.
- Encourage players and coaches to develop and maintain integrity in their relationship with others.

(d) Junior Player Code of Behaviour

- Play by the rules and within the Spirit of Cricket.

- Never argue with an umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the umpire during a break or after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in Cricket.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your teammates. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in cricket as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.

Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition. Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

- Participate because you enjoy it, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Participate fairly and safely.
- Do not engage in practises that affect sporting performance (alcohol, tobacco and drug use.)
- Respect and acknowledge the contribution of those who create the opportunity for you to play. Respect your coach and train and play to the best of your ability and develop your participation in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket.

(e) Senior Player Code of Behaviour

- Play by the rules and abide by the Spirit of Cricket.
- Never argue with an umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the umpire during a break or after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in Cricket.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your teammates. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in cricket as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual or other harassment.
- Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors. Care and respect the uniform and equipment provided to you.
- Be frank and honest with your coach concerning illness and injury and your ability to train and play fully.
- Conduct yourself in a responsible manner relating to language, temper and punctuality.
- Maintain a high standard of personal behaviour at all times.
- Be honest in your attitude and preparation to training. Work equally hard for yourself and your team.

- Cooperate with coaches and staff in relation to programs that adequately prepare you for competition.
- Do not engage in practises that affect sporting performance (alcohol, tobacco and drug use.)

(f) Umpire Code of Behaviour

- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- Be a good sport yourself- actions speak louder than words.
Keep up to date with the latest available resources for umpiring and the principles of growth and development of young people.
Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Place the safety and welfare of participants above all else.
- Treat all players with respect at all times.
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken. Exercise reasonable care to prevent injury by ensuring players play within the rules. Reasonable care consists of advising the players of illegal body movements, showing due diligence in detecting infringements and penalising rule breakers.
- Umpires must be impartial and maintain integrity in their relationship with other umpires, players and coaches.
- Avoid situations which may lead to a conflict of interest.
- Value the individual in sport. Ensure the players have the opportunity for discussion with you after the match.
- Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating. Aim for excellence based upon realistic goals and due consideration for growth and development.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance by maintaining the highest standards of personal conduct and projecting a favourable image of Cricket and umpiring at all times. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards players. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse. Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards the players from other sources while they are playing.
- Refrain from any form of harassment towards players. Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status, and other conditions.
- Show concern and caution towards ill and injured players. You should enforce the blood rule and apply procedures regarding ill or injured players according to the rule book. Common sense must be applied in all cases.
- In accordance with ACB and Cricket Victoria guidelines, modify rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of young people. Encourage and promote rule changes which will make participation more enjoyable.
- Give all young people a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Institute disciplinary procedures when necessary without fear or favour in accordance with the rules of the competition and the Spirit of Cricket.

- Participate in ongoing training, be aware of rule changes, be a member of an Umpires Association wherever possible and promote the Spirit of Cricket.

(g) Parent/Guardian Code of Behaviour

- Do not force an unwilling Child to participate in Cricket.
- Remember, Children are involved in Cricket for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your Child to play by the rules at all times.
- Focus on the Child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a Child for making a mistake or losing a game. Positive comments are motivational.
- Remember that Children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach Children to do likewise. If you disagree with an umpire or coach raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than question their judgement and honesty in public.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your Child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Teach your Child that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse.
- Be a model of good sports behaviour for Children to copy.
- Be courteous in communication with administrators, coaches, players and umpires. Teach Children to do likewise.
- Support the use of age appropriate development activities and modified rules.
- Do not undermine the efforts of coaches.
- Encourage junior players to participate in the sport of cricket in a safe manner.

(h) Spectator Code of Behaviour

Most players (in particular Children) participate in Cricket activities for fun. They are not participating for entertainment of spectators only.

Applaud good performance and efforts by all players. When watching a game congratulate both teams upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.

- Respect the umpires' and coaches decisions. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach Children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by administrators, coaches, players, umpires or parents/guardians.

- Show respect for your team's coach, the umpire and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to play according to the rules and the official decisions, and develop your own knowledge of the rules.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, and not harassing administrators, coaches, players or umpires.
- Support the use of age appropriate development activities and modified rules.

(i) Health and Safety (a) First Aid kit

The Home team shall be responsible for supplying the first aid kit. It shall be mandatory for each first aid kit to contain ice packs, gloves and other items consistent with the Association's SunSmart policy. The penalty for not having a first aid kit available shall be a fine of \$20 for a first offence and \$50 for all subsequent offences.

(b) Drinks

- The home team shall be responsible for the provision of afternoon tea, and drinks for all drinks breaks, including the provision of at least 30 clean cups (or disposable cups) for each days play.
- On hot days, by mutual consent of the captains and with the approval of the Umpire(s) if present, drinks may be taken not less than one hour following the commencement of any session, except that where very hot conditions apply, drinks may be taken every 40 minutes of play. Drinks must be taken on the field of play. To prevent the spreading of infection the sharing of drink and food vessels should not occur under any circumstances.

(c) Bleeding

Any player who suffers from bleeding shall leave the ground immediately and shall not be permitted back onto the ground until the bleeding has ceased. Should a batsman be forced to leave the ground for treatment due to bleeding during an innings if the batsman is able to resume his innings within two minutes the batsman may do so. Otherwise, the batsman's innings shall be considered to be retired hurt and he may recommence his innings at the fall of a wicket.

(d) Thunderstorms and Lightning

- Suspension and resumption of play should follow the "30/30" rule. Play should stop when the flashto-bang count is less than 30 seconds, since this indicates that lightning is 10km away. This is associated with significant risk that the next lightning strike could be at the observer's location. Thus activity should be suspended and people moved to designated safe shelters.
- Play shall cease immediately and remain suspended while a thunderstorm is active in the immediate vicinity
- Resumption of play should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike

(e) Sunsmart

The Association shall adopt a SunSmart policy consistent with ACB, VCA and VCCL guidelines.

(f) Alcohol and Smoking

- i. No alcohol shall be consumed on or off the ground by any player or Umpire while the match they are involved in is in progress.
- ii. No smoking shall be permitted
 - a. on the ground during any match
 - b. within 10m of the playing area at any match.

(g) Other

At any event conducted of the Association. **Covid / Health guidelines** will be in accordance with DHS, Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and VCCL.

4 RULES FOR COMPETITION MATCHES

- a. The competition shall be open to any team whose entry has been approved and whose playing ground has also been passed by the Association.
- b. The clubs of the Association shall compete in a series of matches, the program of which shall be arranged by the Executive Committee prior to the commencement of the season.
- c. The Executive Committee shall have the power to alter the schedule if the need arises
- d. Should clubs request a night match the following conditions shall apply
 - i. The night matches shall only take place in the months of December, January and February.
 - ii. Play shall cease no later than 10.00pm due to health and safety issues.
 - iii. The innings break shall be 10 minutes.
 - iv. Prior to the toss, the match scheduled overs shall be calculated at the rate of **18 overs per hour**.
 - v. Innings time shall consist of start time plus 2 Hours and 15 minutes
 - vi. The Association General Secretary and Umpire's Association Secretary shall be given 96 hours notice of the scheduling of a night match.

5 RESULTS OF COMPETITION MATCHES

- a) Live-Scoring is the preferred method of results, if this is not possible fully completed results of all matches are to be entered on Play HQ by 6 pm on the day following the completion of the game. Penalty for non-compliance shall be **\$50** for the first offence and **\$100** for subsequent offences. 4 or more non compliance may result in Highest Division team penalised 2 premiership points
- b) All games are required to be live scored by at least one side, preferably the scheduled home team.

6 UMPIRES

- a. The South West Cricket Association Umpires Executive and selection panel will be elected at the South West Cricket Association Umpire's Association Annual General Meeting.
- b. Umpires will become members of the South West Cricket Association Umpire's Association after the payment of their annual subscription.

- c. The Umpires Coordinator shall be responsible for the registration of all umpires on Officials HQ cricket.
- d. Two umpires shall be appointed for all semi-final and grand final matches.
- e. At the commencement of each season the General Secretary of SWCA shall give copies of the rules to the Executive of the SWCA Umpire's Association.
- f. The SWCA Umpire's Association shall be responsible to ensure that all umpires have a copy of the rules.
- g. Umpires shall obtain a Working With Children application and the WWC number and expiry date shall be recorded on Official HQ in accordance with Cricket Australia guidelines.
- h. Where available, an official umpire will be appointed to as many games as possible. Umpires are to be paid in accordance with the agreed rate set for that season. Umpires must be paid prior to the conclusion of the afternoon tea break.
- i. If a day's play is abandoned without a ball being bowled, umpires are to receive \$20 per team traveling money.
- j. If a day's play is abandoned before the afternoon tea break, umpires are to receive a half payment for that day.
- k. Appointment Umpires have the authority to report in writing any offences or incidents of misconduct to the independent tribunal through the Association Secretary.
- l. When no umpire is appointed, the two captains are in charge. (e.g. Do votes for "Cricketer of the Year", determine ground conditions etc).
- m. It shall be the responsibility of all clubs to have available a replacement ball. The Umpire shall have the power to change the ball should it be considered no longer in a suitable condition.
- n. The batting team must provide the square leg umpire unless two umpires are supplied by the Association. The square leg umpire shall be appropriately dressed with Association supplied umpires vest or easily distinguished suitable top and trouser from fielding players, carry and use a club supplied ball counting device & be over 16 years of age. Change of umpires shall be done as quickly as possible.

7 TRIBUNAL & REPORTS

- a. The Principles of natural justice and procedural fairness as outlined in the Victorian Country Cricket Leagues Rules shall apply to all tribunals.
- b. The Independent Tribunal is to be made up of Life Members of the Association or people from the Association with cricketing backgrounds. A Minute's Secretary who is not part of the Independent Tribunal shall record the formal finding of the Tribunal and forward such finding to the Association Executive.
- c. An Umpire / Club intending to report a serious misbehaviour (or record a caution for minor misbehaviour) shall notify the player concerned and the team captain at the end of the days play on which the offence occurred
- d. The Umpire / Club shall notify the Association Secretary of any report for serious misbehaviour by phone/fax or e-mail within 24 hours of the game and complete a written or electronic report to be forwarded to the Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the game.
- e. If no umpire is present then the captain/s or Association Official have the power to report serious misbehaviour but must follow the procedure outlined in rule 10c.

- f.** A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the reported player or team at least 48 hours prior to scheduling of the tribunal.
- g.** The independent tribunal shall hear the report as soon as possible, preferably before the next round of matches.
- h.** At the Independent Tribunal both the defence and accused shall be permitted to have an advocate and to have their case presented. No advocate shall have a legal qualification.
- i.** The independent tribunal shall hear the report as soon as possible, preferably before the next round of matches.
- j.** If during the hearing of evidence, the Independent Tribunal finds it appropriate, it shall have the power to hear and make a ruling on further charges at the hearing.
- k.** Any requests for appeals shall be directed to the General Secretary within 14 days of the tribunal's adjudication. The protest must be accompanied by \$500.00 as assurance against frivolous complaint.
- l.** Any person receiving 2 cautions on Umpires match reports for minor misbehaviour in a season may also be required to appear before the independent tribunal.
- m.** Any player suspended during the season is ineligible to win the "Cricketer of the Year" awards in any grade.
- n.** The penalties for offences are set in the tables below. Reported persons with category A charges can choose to take the set penalty. Persons reported under Category B charges shall have the matter referred directly to the Tribunal.

PENALITY GUIDELINES

For season 2025/2026

Level 1 Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match.• Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action.• Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting.• Making an obscene gesture.• Appealing excessively.• Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.• Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.• Failure to follow CDCA Mandatory Head Protection Policy (CDCA Clubs only)	<p><u>During Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The umpire shall call time, if necessary.• Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred.• The umpire shall award 5 penalty runs to the opposing team.• As soon as practicable the umpire shall call Play. <p><u>Post Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the captain and or Executive of the offending player's team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the player elects to have the matter heard by the Independent Tribunal, a minimum penalty of two matches will apply if the Umpire determination is upheld.• The Independent Tribunal can set any sanctions as it sees fit within the scope of level 1 to 4 penalties.• Minimum mandatory suspension players – 1 match – Teams, Officials, Clubs \$250
-------------------------	---	---	--

Offence Level	Player Offences	MCC Law 42 Action by Umpires	Recommended Player Penalties
Level 2 Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action. Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player. Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner. Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature. 	<p><u>During Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The umpire shall call time, if necessary. Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred. The umpire shall award 5 penalty runs to the opposing team. As soon as practicable the umpire shall call Play. <p><u>Post Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The umpire shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the captain and or Executive of the offending player's team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the player elects to have the matter heard by the – – Independent Tribunal, a minimum penalty of three match suspension will apply if the Umpire determination is upheld. The Tribunal can set any sanctions as it sees fit within the scope of level 1 to 4 penalties. Minimum mandatory suspension players - 2 matches - Teams, Officials, Clubs \$500

PENALITY GUIDELINES
For season 2025/2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence. 		<p>Note:</p> <p>Players found guilty of a level 2 offence in the home and away season are ineligible for player of the season association awards.</p>
Offence Level	Player Offences	MCC Law 42 Action by Umpires	Recommended Player Penalties
Level 3 Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture. Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire. 	<p><u>During Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The umpire shall call Time, if necessary. The umpire shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred. The umpire shall direct the captain to remove the offending player immediately from the field of play for a period in accordance with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a match where the innings are not limited to a number of overs, the player shall be suspended from the field of play for 10 overs. Any balls remaining in the over in progress at the time of suspension shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended. In a match where the innings are limited to a number of overs, the player shall be suspended for one fifth of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the player elects to have the matter heard by the Independent Tribunal, a minimum penalty of four match suspension will apply if the Umpire determination is upheld. The Tribunal can set any sanctions as it sees fit within the scope of level 1 to 4 penalties.

PENALITY GUIDELINES
For season 2025/2026

		<p>number of overs allocated to the current innings at its commencement. If, in calculating the length of the suspension, a part-over results, it shall be considered as a whole over. Any balls remaining in the over in progress at the time of suspension shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for him/her. The offending player may return to the field of play after serving the period of suspension and may bowl immediately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum mandatory suspension players – 3 matches – Teams, Officials, Clubs \$750 <p>Note:</p> <p>Players found guilty of a level 3 offence in the home and away season are ineligible for player of the season association awards.</p>
Offence Level	Player Offences	MCC Law 42 Action by Umpires	Recommended Player Penalties
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a bowler is suspended mid-over, then that over must be completed by a different bowler, who shall not have bowled the previous over nor shall he/she bowl the next over. - If the offending player is a not out batter, he/she shall be replaced by another member of his/her team. The offending player may return to bat after having served the 	

PENALITY GUIDELINES
For season 2025/2026

		<p>suspension only at the fall of a wicket. If no batter is available to bat during a batter's suspension, the innings is completed. If the offending player does not continue his/her innings for whatever reason, he/she is to be recorded as Retired – not out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the offending player is a dismissed member of the batting side, the period of suspension will not commence until the start of the next innings. Furthermore, in these circumstances, the offending player may not act as a runner during the innings when he/she was suspended. - Any overs remaining to be served from a suspension shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent innings of the match. A part over at the end of the innings shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As soon as practicable, the umpire shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team. - Signal the Level 3 runs to the opposing team. - Call Play. 	
--	--	---	--

Offence Level	Player Offences	MCC Law 42 Action by Umpires	Recommended Player Penalties
		<u>Post Play</u>	

PENALITY GUIDELINES
For season 2025/2026

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The umpire shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the captain and or Executive of the offending player's team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team. 	
Level 4 Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatening to assault an umpire. Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire. Physically assaulting a player or any other person. Committing any other act of violence. 	<p><u>During Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The umpire shall call Time, if necessary. Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred. The umpires shall direct the captain to remove the offending player immediately from the field of play for the remainder of the match and shall apply the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for him/her. He/She is to be recorded as Retired – out at the commencement of any subsequent innings in which his/her team is the batting side. If a bowler is suspended mid-over, then that over must be completed by a different bowler, who shall not have bowled the previous over nor shall be permitted to bowl the next over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum mandatory suspension players – 1 season – Teams, Officials, Clubs \$2,500 If the player elects to have the matter heard by Independent Tribunal penalty can be up to life ban. <p>Note:</p> <p>Players found guilty of a level 4 offence in the home and away season are ineligible for player of the season association awards.</p>
Offence Level	Player Offences	MCC Law 42 Action by Umpires	Recommended Player Penalties

PENALTY GUIDELINES
For season 2025/2026

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the offending player is a batter, he/she is to be recorded as Retired – out in the current innings, unless he/she has been dismissed under any of Laws 32 to 39, and at the commencement of any subsequent innings in which his/her team is the batting side. If no further batter is available to bat, the innings is completed.• As soon as practicable, the umpire shall:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing tea.- Signal the Level 4 penalty to the scorers.- Call Play. <p><u>Post Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player’s team and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.	
--	--	---	--

8 CLEARANCES

- a. Any player changing from one club to another within the South West Cricket Association (having played in the association in the previous season) must have received a clearance from their original club via the Play HQ Clearance Site and then be registered on Play HQ before being eligible to play.
- b. Any player changing from any club in Victoria to a club within the South West Cricket Association must submit and have approved a clearance via Play HQ and be registered with the destination club before being eligible to play.
- c. A player who has not played cricket in the previous season(s) does not need a clearance to play for a South West Cricket Association affiliated club but must be registered with that club via the Play HQ Cricket Site.
- d. Any team playing an ineligible player automatically loses all the points gained in the match,
- e. **Clearances applications** - Clearance applications must be submitted between 12 midnight on August 31 and 12 midnight on December 31 in each season. All applications made after this time shall not be considered in the current season. The player's previous Club shall have a maximum of 10 days to reply otherwise an automatic clearance shall be granted by the Association.
- f. **Moving to area as a result of post Christmas employment** - A player who comes into the area for employment after the 31st of December can be issued with a permit to play. The qualification for finals will be - the player must play 75% of games after registration or fulfill normal qualifications as in 10(a).
- g. **Premier division** – Players must register with their club under the South West Cricket Association and then get a season permit to the Colac-South West Cricket on PlayHQ

9 PERMITS

- a. Any player wishing to play on a match permit must submit a permit electronically via Play HQ and be registered to play with a SWC affiliated club.
- b. The opposition captain and umpire must be informed of the permit prior to the commencement of the match.
- c. Players on match permits may only play the same grade or higher grade than they have previously been playing (i.e. Players cannot play down a grade).
- d. A new permit must be obtained before each game. Any player playing without a permit will be treated as an ineligible player and penalties will apply as per by-law 8(d).
- e. Limit of three permits per season, per player. No match permit players shall play in finals or T/20 games.
- f. No permits shall be granted after Christmas.
- g. **Overage permits** - Upon receipt of a written or electronic application from a Club, the South West Cricket Association Executive shall have the power to grant a permit to a player who is less than six months over 16 years of age on 1st September in the year the season commences. Once granted such permits shall be minuted at a meeting of the South West Cricket Executive. Players playing overage prior to being granted a permit shall be declared ineligible and the Club shall lose all points in all matches in which the ineligible player participates. The Executive shall have the power to revoke any overage permit at any time.

10 PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

- a. A player must have played **at least four (4) one day games** of cricket played in that grade or other grades to be eligible for finals. A player must not have played **more games** in a higher grade, than the grade they play finals in. The players of a club that only has one team must have played at least **four one day games and fewer in a higher grade** for the team they are playing in.
- b. If a player plays more than half their playing days in a higher grade, they are ineligible to play in a lower grade final unless the higher grade team is playing on the same day.
- c. **T/20 Qualifications** - A player must have played two one day games in the current season to be eligible to play in the T/20 competition. A player must have played one T/20 game to be eligible to play in the T/20 finals.
- d. **Twelfth Man**

In all matches a captain shall have the option to nominate twelve players. The following conditions shall apply:

(a) One player in each side shall not bat, and another not bowl. Only eleven fieldsmen shall be on the field at any one time. With the consent of the umpires unlimited interchange of fieldsmen from the twelve nominated players shall be allowed between overs or after intervals and interruptions.

(b) The bowling restriction under Law 24.2 and batting restriction under Law 25.3 (MCC Laws of Cricket) shall not apply to a nominated player returning to the field to replace another nominated player. However, any nominated player failing to take the field in the final 10 overs of the first innings shall not be allowed to bat in the top six unless the team has been dismissed prior to the 50 overs being completed. The restriction shall apply to a returning nominated player for whom a substitute other than one of the nominated twelve has been used.

(c)

(d) The wicket keeper and captain need to be one of the 12 named players but do not necessarily need to bat nor bowl. Note: This rule allows for free "interchange" of fieldsmen. The Laws of Cricket regarding substitute fieldsmen are to be strictly applied and enforced by Umpires only when a 13th fieldsman is used.

e. Two Teams in One Grade

- i. Any club with two teams in the one Division must nominate separate squads of players prior to the season.
- ii. Any player wishing to transfer to the other squad must inform the Association Secretary prior to the day's play, failure to do this will lead to a loss of points. Players are allowed to play a maximum of three games in the other squad.

f. Bye ruling

- i. In the event of a club having the bye in the highest team, no player(s) shall be allowed to interchange to their club's teams in the lower divisions if they have played in the higher grade in the previous match.

g. Overseas Players

- i. An overseas player shall be defined as any player entering Australia on a Temporary Visa in the previous 6 months.
- ii. Any player entering Australia on a Visa, needs to apply to SWC Executive for permission to play in the SWC competition each season, complete and submit to the Visa and arrangements with the club he wishes to play for.
- iii. Each club shall be permitted to play a maximum of two overseas players in their first XI team in any one season. Any player defined as an overseas player shall require the consent of the Executive (prior to commencement of the game) to play in a second or lower team of that club.
- iv. Players entering on a Temporary Residency Visa, can apply to the SWC Executive to be deemed a local player for the current season, if their primary purpose of the visa is not to play cricket. Any player who commenced employment with a local business (defined by their primary business address being less than 75kms from their registered club), prior to 30 June of current season (minimum 3 months prior to the season start date) shall automatically be determined a local player.
- v. . Any player entering on a Working Holiday Visa, will be deemed an overseas player, except where otherwise determined by clause i and/or iv above

11 DRESS

- a. For all matches under the Association's control, players are to wear club approved clothing, long trousers, shirts (no motif "T" t-shirts), jumpers .
- b. Club playing shirts, pants and jumpers with can be worn after approval from the Association Executive. The umpire (or team manager in the Colts competition) is to determine suitability of clothing and players may be ordered from the ground until correctly attired.

12 GROUNDS & HOME TEAM DUTIES

- a. Home grounds of each club are to be deemed available to the association from October 1 to March 31 each season.
- b. Grounds are to be mown weekly or when required. Grounds considered dangerous or below par will not be included in the draw.
- c. Any club with a ground unsuitable for play or deemed to be unavailable must give the association executive as much notice as possible for an alternative venue to be arranged
- d. Each home team must supply stumps, clearly define the boundary, have well marked creases and provide a scoreboard which is updated at regular intervals.
- e. Markings for leg side wides shall be clearly marked by the home club and shall be twelve inches (305 mm) from the middle stump for all matches.
- f. Offside markings shall be clearly marked at 35 inches (890 mm) from the middle stump for all matches.
- g. The home shall supply chalk when games are fixtured on synthetic surfaces to allow batsman to mark centre.
- h. The home team must provide afternoon tea for both teams and the umpire(s).
- i. The home team must provide an iPad for the purpose of live-scoring games via Play HQ.

13 WORKING WITH CHILDREN

- i. Under the Working with Children Act (2016) people engaged in 'child related work' must apply for and pass the Working with Children (WWC) check. Umpires, Coaches, Managers and Junior Coordinators must pass the WWC check if:
 - a. Their role involves contact with children in connection with their club role; and
 - b. Their role is voluntary on a regular basis; and
 - c. They have direct contact with children under 18 years of age and not directly supervised; and,
 - d. They do not qualify for an exemption from the need for a WWC check.
- ii. In line with the above provisions or exemptions outlined under the Act, the following shall apply and successfully obtain a WWC check
 - a. All Club Coaches must obtain a Working With Children check and provide to the Association proof of registration together with the card expiry date unless specifically exempted under the Working With Children Act (2016).
 - b. All Coaches, Managers and Junior Coordinators who have direct contact with children less than 18 years of age must obtain a Working With Children check and provide to the Association proof of registration together with the card expiry date unless specifically exempted under the Working With Children Act (2016).
 - iii. Exemptions may be but not limited to Teachers, Police Officers, Coaches involved in a coaching role where their own child is a regular part of that Team, a helper that is directly supervised by a Coach or Manager that has obtained a WWC card, a Captain or team member that includes any child under 18 years of age. Clubs that are unsure or who should obtain a WWC check, must refer to the Working With Children Act (2016) and/or to the Association Secretary for clarification.
 - iv. All Clubs must provide to the Association a list of all Coaches and Managers who have direct roles involving children less than 18 years of age on an ongoing basis. Clubs must register all People who have or should have a WWC check as a "Coach" regardless of any other role they may have on the Play HQ computer system and note their WWC number and expiry date.
 - v. On no account must a club or individual allow or continue to allow any person, including themselves, to Coach, Manage or have any direct involvement with children under the age of 18 years as outlined in these Rules unless they have successfully obtained a WWC check. Penalties for non compliance as determined by the Executive shall apply.

14 GENERAL RULES

- a) **Protest or dispute** - In the event of a protest or dispute the details of such dispute or protest must be forwarded in writing or electronically to the General Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of that game. The protest must be accompanied by \$50.00 as assurance for frivolous complaint.
- b) **Forfeits** – A team failing to take the ground to forfeit the game if no reasonable excuse can be offered. The lowest grade of the club must forfeit and the club must explain their reasons to the Executive. Forfeits shall incur a \$50 fine. It shall be the responsibility of Clubs to inform the Association Secretary and the Umpire's Coordinator prior to 10pm on the Friday preceding the match.

- c) **Scoring discrepancies** - In the event of scoring discrepancies between scorebooks, the batting scores shall take precedence over the bowling scores.
- d) **Media Rule** - Any club or member of a Club with a complaint against the Executive, Umpires, other Club or the Independent Tribunal must make the complaint to the Executive in writing and not through any other channel (eg. Media outlet or social media platform). Non- observance of this rule could incur suspension or a monetary fine for the Club or individual concerned.

15 ASSOCIATION AWARDS

At the completion of the home and away season the following trophies shall be awarded. a)

- A)** Cricketer of the Year shall be determined by the umpires for all grades.
- b)** One Rising Start Award – Under 21
- c)** Representative Player of the Year
- d)** Team of the Year – 12 players
- e)** A batting aggregate for the runs scored in all grades.
- f)** A bowling aggregate for the wickets taken in all grades.
- g)** In the Under 16's, a Cricketer of the Year trophy shall be awarded based on champion player points.
- h)** Country Week player of the week awards for Juniors