

# South Eastern Metropolitan Softball Region



## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SOUTH EAST METRO

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**The South East Metro Softball Regional competitions shall be managed by a sub-committee of the Region formed for the purpose.**

1. MANAGEMENT

The sub-committee shall comprise a:-

- Chairperson - known as Competition Manager
  - Competition Registrar
  - Umpires Manager
- and one delegate from each participating Association.

2. DUTIES

The Competition Manager shall be responsible for the organisation of and overseeing of the competition shall act as Secretary of the sub-committee and is required to liaise with and report to the Management Committee.

The Competition Registrar shall be responsible for arranging the competition draw in consultation with other sub-committee members, shall receive and peruse all match reports and take action as may be required to enforce these rules and regulations.

The Umpires Manager shall be responsible to develop and maintain a liaison with umpiring bodies of participating Associations and to deal with allocation of umpires ensuring an adequate skill level of umpires is maintained.

3. ENTRIES

The Competition Manager of the Region shall call for entries into the competition from member Associations and other Associations that from time to time may be interested.

Member Associations delegates to Management Committee shall be responsible to ascertain from their Clubs intentions for competition entry.

Entries shall be handed to the appointed Competition Manager for necessary actions.

4. GROUNDS

In preparing the draw, games will be allocated to the home ground of each participating Association.

It is the responsibility of the sub-committee delegate from each Association to ensure they:-

- (i) are in attendance at all games rostered to their home ground or appoint an appropriate substitute;
- (ii) arrange for facilities to be adequately prepared.

## 5. GRADINGS

- (a) The sub-committee shall consider entries, determine the number of divisions and allocate teams to grades accordingly.
- (b) In Grading, consideration will be given to finishing position in previous year's competition and a promotion (of division winning team) and relegation (of division losing team) system shall apply at the discretion of the Committee.
- (c) Teams entering the competition for the first time shall be graded in the lowest division, however an Association may apply in writing if just reason can be shown, for consideration of a team to be graded into a higher division.

## 6. REGRADING

Regrading if deemed necessary, (by the sub-committee) shall be considered and determined after the playing of three (3) games by each team in each division. Should a team be promoted/relegated, all existing points and percentage will be retained.

## 7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

- (a) Each team competing shall submit a list of all players and officials participating, giving name, address, VSA registration number and phone number, to be lodged with the Competition Registrar prior to or at the first game of the competition.

Failure to do so will incur a loss of 4 points for each subsequent week.

- (b) Players and officials participating for the first time after the lodgment of the original list MUST have their name, address, VSA Registration number and phone number recorded on the reverse side of the match card covering their first game.

Penalty: loss of 4 points for each subsequent week or time this does not occur.

- (c) All inter Association permit players/officials must be recorded on the team sheet and a copy of the permit forwarded to the Competition Registrar prior to or at the first game as noted in 7 (a) above.

Penalty: loss of 4 points each time breach occurs.

- (d) Where a Club has more than one team in a Grade or a teams in two grades, players are able to move between the two but are only permitted to play in only one or the other team for a scheduled round. A ROUND IS DEFINED AS – games played on the same date.

## 8. TEAM FEES

Team entry fee will be determined annually by the Management Committee and must be paid prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> October. Penalty: a fine of \$50.00 and this fine must be paid within 30 days.

## 9. UNIFORMS

- (a) All players and coaches must wear a uniform as registered with the Region.

Player's uniforms MUST clearly display a number visible at all times and this number must be recorded in the scorebooks. ALL players/coaches MUST be in full uniform by the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of competition. Penalty: \$20.00 fine per infringement.

If teams require extension of time, they should approach the Competition Manager for an extension.

- (b) Coaches must wear a top as per the players' uniform or one of similar colour/s. Penalty: \$20.00 fine per infringement.

## 10. AWARDS

- (a) The Region shall award a perpetual trophy to the winner of each division.
- (b) The Management Committee shall annually determine an appropriate awards system for members of grand final teams and/or individuals.

## 11. OFFICIAL GAME

For a team to qualify to start a scheduled game (home & away round), they must have a minimum of

Women's	A1	Nine (9) players
Women's	A2	Seven (7) players
Men	A	Seven (7) players
Juniors		Seven (7) players

who can take the diamond at the scheduled game time and are registered as per Rule 7 or a forfeit will be declared by the umpire. In all final games, all teams must have 9 registered players as per clause 7 hereof

## 12. GAME TIME

All scheduled A Grade games will commence at;  
Saturday afternoon 4.15 pm,  
Saturday evening 7pm\* and  
Wednesday evenings at 8pm.

\* Where there is a double header scheduled and the double header consists of the same two teams, there shall be a 30 minute break between the games. The 7pm start time refers to games that have been scheduled to be played specifically under lights

Junior games will be played at the time prescribed in the draw.

### 13. GAME RULES

#### (a) DURATION OF GAME – HOME & AWAY

- A1. Women's Games will be seven (7) innings, no time limit.  
A2. Women's Games will be seven (7) innings or two hours, which ever is completed first.  
A. Men's Games will be seven (7) innings or two hours, which ever is completed first.  
Under 17's Games will be seven (7) innings or one hour and twenty minutes, which ever is completed first.

#### (b) MERCY RULES:

##### (i) 10 Run Mercy Rule

A team which is 10 runs ahead after the completion of the fifth innings shall be declared the winner and the game concluded.

##### (ii) 15 Run Mercy Rule

A team, which is 15 runs ahead after the third innings, that team shall be declared the winner and the game shall be concluded.

#### (c) SPEED UP RULE:

If there are two outs and the catcher is a base runner the catcher may be replaced on base by the last out, who is not the Designated Runner (DR). This is done by the batting team calling time.

#### (d) PITCHERS WARMUP RULE:

Pitchers are allowed five (5) warm up pitches prior to their first innings but will only be allowed three (3) warm up pitches between each additional innings.

#### (e) DESIGNATED RUNNER RULE

A Designated Runner (DR) may be used once per innings for any player.

- The DR must be named on the official score card and must appear on the official benchlist after the position of DH (if used) and **MUST BE NAMED PRIOR** to submission of the bench list to the umpire.
- Should a DR enter the game for a second time in any innings the said player shall be ejected.
- Should a DR enter the game after the line-up has been submitted, they shall be declared an illegal player, and be ejected from the game.
- Should a DR illegally re-enter the game, then both the coach (whose name appears on the line up card) and said player are ejected.

(f) AWARDING POINTS:

- Win - 4 points
- Tie - 2 points
- Wash out - 2 points
- Draw - 2 points
- Loss - 0 points
- Forfeit - 4 points
- Bye - 4 points

(g) FORFEIT:

Notification of a forfeit must be made to the Competition Registrar and opposing team official, 72 hours prior to the scheduled starting time.. The team forfeited against must collect a match card from their home Association on the mach day and provide a listing of players who would have taken part in the game if it had been played. The card is to be completed in the normal manner, listing the team names and a score of 7 - 0 and the words FORFEIT BY ..... written in the Match Report section. The card is to be forwarded to the Competition Manager in the normal fashion.

Penalty for not notifying the intention to forfeit: \$50.00 fine to be paid within 30 days.

(k) DECLARATION RULE

Each team has the option to declare once per game in their respective batting innings.

(l) AGE LIMIT - OPEN COMPETITION

A player must have attained the age of 14 to be eligible to take the field in an open competition.

Penalty for playing an under age player in an Open Competition, loss of 4 points and \$50 fine to be paid with in 30 days.

(m) RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

Agreement must be sought from the Competition Manager 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement time of the game. If the Competition manager agrees to the rescheduling, both teams must be in agreement to a suitable date and time to play the game. It is the team's responsibility to ensure the relevant Association Umpires Co-ordinator is to be advised of the rescheduled game and games must be played within two (2) weeks of the abandoned game.

Teams must arrange for venue and umpires for rescheduled game and no games are to be rescheduled under this rule after January.

14. TOSS FOR BATTING/FIELDING.

Teams to decide toss at least 15 minutes prior to start time. Team first at bat occupies 1<sup>st</sup> base.

15. DISCREPANCY BETWEEN SCOREBOOKS

If it is found during the game that the score books differ, it is the umpire's responsibility to resolve the difference before the beginning of the next innings. If the umpire is unable to resolve the problem, the protest committee at the ground is to be called.

16. TIED GAMES – HOME & AWAY:

- (a)
  - (i) A1 Grade Women's - In the case of a tied game after 7 innings, the tiebreaker rule will apply.
  - (ii) A2 Women - In the case of a tied game after 7 innings or time, the tiebreaker rule shall not be played and the game shall be recorded as a tie.
  - (iii) A Men - In the case of a tied game after 7 innings or time, the tiebreaker rule shall not be played and the game shall be recorded as a tie.
  - (iv) Juniors - In the case of a tied game after 7 innings or time, the tiebreaker rule shall not be played and the game shall be recorded as a tie.
- (b) Where tiebreaker innings are played, no more than two (2) tiebreak innings will be played. If the scores are still level the game will be declared a draw.

17. MATCH CARDS

- (a) The Region will supply match cards and best and fairest cards to each of the participating Associations who will be responsible for ensuring that they are prepared in accordance with the draw for those matches scheduled at their venue
- (b) The First named team is responsible to collect, from the administration area, the match card and Best and Fairest cards at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of game.
- (c) The First named team is responsible for the delivery of the completed match card and best and fairest cards to the Association Secretary for posting to the Registrar of the Region to be received no later than three days after the match was played. Results of games must be notified to the Publicity Officer by 12 noon on the day following the match.

**Penalty of \$20.00 will be imposed on the Association if these rules are not adhered to.**

18. GROUND/WEATHER CONDITIONS

- (a) The sub-committee delegate at their home ground in consultation with, where possible, other committee members will decide if the weather and/or ground conditions will permit play. The day's play may be abandoned and if so the delegate must advise the

other associations immediately so that away teams can be notified.

- (b) If the day's play is not abandoned at all rostered grounds on any one fixtured day, those teams involved in an abandoned game may elect to accept two (2) points allocated for such a game, or:

At the agreement of both teams arrange a suitable date to play the game. Notification of the intention of the teams involved to play or accept the points, must be given to the Region Registrar and the relevant Association Umpires Co-ordinator within three (3) days from the abandoned game. Games must be played within three (3) weeks of the abandoned game. Teams must arrange for venue and umpires for rescheduled game. Disputes or difficulties in agreement will be heard by the Committee. In the situation of games abandoned or that are unable to be played within the last four weeks of the season, teams shall be awarded 2 points each.

- (c) Should play be interrupted for any period of time or the game be abandoned by the umpire, then 4/5 of the scheduled playing time (96 minutes) or the completion of five (5) innings is necessary for a game result to be recorded.
- (d) Should any game be abandoned before completion of a legal game (as per 18c) two (2) points will be awarded to each team involved.
- (e) Should play be abandoned at all venues, teams will be awarded two (2) points.

## 19. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- (a) Players must have played at least four (4) games with the team to qualify.
- (b) Players in clubs with more than one side will be tied to the team with which they have played the most games. If there is an even number of games played with two teams the player will be tied to the team with which they first played during the finals.
- (c) Junior players, to qualify for Senior Finals must have played at least 4 games with their club to qualify.

## 20. FINALS

- (a) Format of finals will be according to the ladder results.

SEMI FINALS -	1 <sup>st</sup> Semi	lv2 played at home ground of 1
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semi	3v4 played at home ground of 3
PRELIM FINAL	Loser of 1 <sup>st</sup> semi plays winner of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semi played at the ground of the loser of the 1 <sup>st</sup> semi.	
GRAND FINAL	Winner of 1 <sup>st</sup> semi plays winner of prelim final at winner of the 1 <sup>st</sup> semi's ground.	



- (b) If any semi or preliminary final game is stopped for any reason the game is to be continued at a time mutually acceptable as determined by Management Committee.
- (c) All finals games must be played to a result unless rule 20 (e), (ii) is invoked.
- (d) The duration of semi and preliminary finals shall be timed games as per the home and away rounds, however the innings in progress must be completed to a result. A five minute rule shall apply if a new innings is to commence within five minutes of the completion of the game. If the scores in the game are tied at the completion of time or at the five minute mark, an international tiebreaker shall be played till a result is achieved.
- (e) All Grand Finals shall be played for seven innings or to a result
  - (i) If at the completion of the prescribed number of innings the scores are even, the game shall go into an international tie breaker.
  - (ii) If any Grand Final is abandoned and cannot be rescheduled, the game shall be awarded to the team graded higher on the Premiership table at that time.

## 21. PROTESTS

Intention to protest must be given to the umpire prior to the next legal pitch. Protests will be heard on the spot by the Protest Committee. If however protests are unable to be heard, they should be lodged in writing within 48 hours of the game with the Competition Manager of the SEMR.

### Protest Protocol

In the event of a protest occurring, it is preferable that the Protest Committee consist of a South Eastern Region Representative and two senior Umpires. If it is not possible to form the protest committee, then one Senior Umpire, Level 4 or above will be empowered to hear the protest with the agreement of both teams.

In the event the protest can not be heard immediately, a written protest must be lodged with the South Eastern Region Competition Registrar. Both scorers should note in their respective books where the protest has arisen. The game is then played out to a conclusion.

In the case of a written protest the following information is to be contained in it.

- The time the protest was lodged.
- Name of the teams involved.
- Name(s) of the officiating umpires.
- Game situation at the time of the protest, including runners on base, count on the batter, outs and runs scored.
- Reason for protest.
- Signature of protesting coach.

All relevant information must be submitted within 48 hours of the completion of the game for a protest to be considered.

No protest will be considered if:

- All parties have signed the card.
- The protesting side has won the game.
- The protest is based on a judgement call.

Where written protests are received, the composition of the membership of the Protest Committee will be at the discretion of the SEMR committee.

The Protest Committee decisions are final.

## 22. PERMIT PLAYERS/TEAMS

A team is permitted to have a maximum of two (2) permit players on the diamond at any one time from an Association outside of the Association the team is registered with. These permit players must be indicated with a "P" on the match card.

Permit teams may be invited at the discretion of the Management Committee.

## 23. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Any person ejected from a game will be reported to the Disciplinary Panel.

The Disciplinary Panel will be comprised of ONE Executive member of the SEMR, or in the event of no SEMR member being available, an Executive member of the host Association and TWO senior umpires, who will make a ruling.

The hearing must be held prior to the next scheduled round that the ejected player's team is scheduled to play.

The ejected person, the officiating umpires, opposition coach(s) and any witnesses may be called upon to give evidence at the hearing.

Penalties may involve an official caution, suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity of the evidence.

All penalties must be advised to the Executive of the SEMR within 24 hours.

If the offending person is dissatisfied with the ruling he/she may lodge a written appeal. All appeals will be referred to an Executive Appeals Panel, which will comprise FIVE members of the Region committee.

The decision of the Executive Appeals Panel will be final, notwithstanding the rules and procedures of the Victorian Softball Association Inc.

## 24. ALTERATION TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

These Rules and Regulations may be amended by the Management Committee provided:-

- (a) The proposed amendment accompanied by reasons has been submitted in writing, by a member Association to the Secretary at least three (3) weeks before the Management Committee meeting and circulated by the Secretary to all Management Committee members at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.
- (b) Three-fourths majority of vote's cast at the meeting are in favour of the amendment.

Amendments shall take effect immediately approved by the meeting concerned unless a resolution at the same meeting directs that the amendment be effective from a specified time in the future.

(Any rules not covered herein are covered under the Rules of Softball).