

**CRAZY JOHN'S
VICTORIAN
VOLLEYBALL
LEAGUE**

BYLAWS

**2011 2nd Final Draft
(18/02/2011)**

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VICTORIAN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

VV	Volleyball Victoria
VVL	Victorian Volleyball League
Junior State League	The Under 17 division of the VVL

PART A: COMPETITION RULES

A1. FIVB RULES

- A1.1 Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, the VVL will be played according to the current, published "FIVB - RULES OF THE GAME – Official Volleyball Rules" in force for the commencement of the season (For the 2011 Season – The 2011-2012 Edition)
- A1.2 Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, all rules in the FIVB Rulebook which are marked as "**For FIVB World and Official Competitions**" shall **NOT** apply to the VVL.
- A1.2.1 Bylaw A1.2 does not preclude adopting such requirements where they do not alter the rules of the game and improve the presentation, safety or amenity of the game. e.g. extension of attack lines in FIVB Rule 1.3.4.
- A1.3 No rule changes shall be *automatically* adopted by the VVL mid-season.
- A1.3.1 Any mid-season rule changes shall be determined by VV, in consultation with the VVRC and specifically communicated to all clubs along with specific implementation timelines.

A2. COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE

- A2.1 The VVL shall be comprised of the following divisions:
- **Premier Division** – The highest division in the league
 - **Reserves Division**
 - **Juniors (U/17)**
 - **Second Division**
- A2.2 Where possible, there shall be 8 Premier VVL clubs who shall each field a team in the Premier & Reserves Divisions of both genders.
- A2.3 VV may, at their discretion, allow exceptions to Bylaw A2.2 where the current clubs are unable to fulfil that Bylaw.
- A2.4 Each club entering Premier & Reserves Divisions must enter a team in the corresponding genders of the Juniors Division.

- A2.4.1 VV may, at their discretion, allow exemptions to Bylaw A2.4 where a club is unable to field a team in the appropriate Juniors Divisions. Such a club will need to demonstrate, to VV's standards, that they operate a sufficiently extensive Juniors program as a suitable replacement. These standards shall be determined by VV.
- A2.5 The number of teams allowed into Second Division shall be determined by VV on a season-by-season basis depending on entries and availability of court space and time. At a minimum, the 8 Premier Division clubs shall have the right to enter a team into Second Division. All other entries shall be at the discretion of VV in the best interests of the league and development of the sport in general.

A3. TEAMS

- A3.1 To play for a particular VVL team, a player must first be an appropriately registered member of VV with the particular Club that they are representing. A VVL Club is defined as a Club that competes in the VVL. A VVL Club is financially responsible for all teams entered by that Club.
- A3.1.1 The definition of "registered" for the purposes of this and other bylaws shall be at the discretion of VV. VV shall retain the right to determine who is registered and when and to withdraw and/or reinstate registration status according to their policies.
- A3.1.2 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.
- A3.1.3 Subject to Bylaw A3.1.4, the time frame in which players may transfer (refer to Bylaw B5.1) is from January 1 to midday on the last business day before Round 7 of each VVL season (for a 14 round season. Round 8 for a 16 round season. Round 9 for a 18 round season). This date is the same for all divisions regardless of the number of actual matches played during the season and will be based on VVL round numbers as published in the draw.
- A3.1.4 A player may not transfer from a club during a given season if they have already played a game for that club during that season.

Commentary: A3.1.3 & A3.1.4 combined together allow a player who requires a transfer to register any time during the window specified in A3.1.3. However, once a player has played for a club during the season, they can not transfer out of that club, even before the deadline specified in A3.1.3.

- A3.2 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 VV and all players must be uniformed and eligible to play under relevant rules.
- A3.2.1 A team will be permitted to play with six players but will be penalised an *Insufficient Players Penalty* (see Appendix A).
- A3.2.2 No person under 15 years of age is permitted to participate in the non-Junior divisions of the VVL unless permission has been granted by VV via written correspondence. VV will require the *U15 Parental Waiver Form* to be completed and submitted to VV before such a request will be considered. The form is available on the VV and VVL websites.

A3.3 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. Further, incorrect information may lead to issues with transfers in future seasons resulting from confusion over whether a player played in a match or not. Signed scoresheets shall be the primary form of evidence used when determining which matches players have played.

A3.3.1 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 (as per FIVB rules).

A3.3.2 All coaches (and, by extension, assistant coaches) must hold at least a Level 1 NCAS Accreditation).

A3.3.3 Where a team lists a Coach or Assistance Coach in a match who does not hold at least a Level 1 NCAS Accreditation, that team will be penalised the *Unaccredited Coach* penalty (see Appendix A) for each such coach or assistant coach.

A3.3.4 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 teams are not permitted to use that area to make comments concerning the match (except, see Bylaw A3.3.6).

A3.3.5 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. VV may penalise a club an *Inadequate Game Documentation Penalty* (see Appendix A) where they believe this requirement has not been met.

A3.3.6 Where scoresheets are provided with Participants' names and/or numbers already filled in, it is the responsibility of the captain and coach to verify the accuracy of this information and make any necessary corrections (names, numbers and roles – e.g. Libero). Where a player needs to be added to the scoresheet and insufficient space remains, the comments section of the scoresheet may be used. Players who will not be participating should be deleted from the scoresheet.

A3.4 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.

A3.5 At the conclusion of the match the referee must strike any players' names from the scoresheet if they were not present, uniformed and otherwise eligible to play in the match. The referee should inform the coach or captain, if they are available, that these names are being removed.

A4. UNIFORMS

A4.1 All club uniforms must be registered with VV. Where a club intends to change its uniform during or between seasons, VV 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, socks and advertising material. Where multiple colour combinations will be used, all must be approved. Libero uniforms are also included in this requirement.

A4.2.1 Each player of a team shall, during an official game, wear the prescribed uniform as per FIVB Rules except as described in Bylaw A4.

A4.2.2 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 A4.2.5) 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. Bandannas are permitted if they match one or more of the colours of the team's uniform. In the Premier Division, Captains must have a suitable bar below the number on the front of their uniform as described in the FIVB rules.

A4.2.3 Exceptions to the FIVB uniform rules are as follows:

- Players' jerseys may be numbered 1 to 100 inclusive for Reserves, Juniors and Second Division. Premier Division players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 18 inclusive.
- VV has the authority to permit a uniform design in the VVL.
- Socks must be predominantly the same colour.
- Captain's bars are only required in the Premier Division.
- Player names on the backs of uniforms are optional and a team may play with a mixture of shirts some containing player names and some not. Names on uniforms do not have to match the players' real names.
- A club name on a uniform is treated as part of the uniform just as a logo would be and such a name must be present on either all uniforms in a team or none.
- Where player numbers appear on shorts, those numbers must be the same as on the players' shirts and must be present on either all shorts in a team or none.
- In Second Division, players must wear shorts that are predominantly the same colour. Variations in logos, stripes and precise shading are permitted.

A4.2.4 Temporary modifications to uniforms, including using tape or similar materials, are not part of the official uniform (and are not permitted – see Bylaw A4.3) except for the purposes of placing a bar under the number on the front of the Captain's uniform.

A4.2.5 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 A4.1. 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'.

- A4.3 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. 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 A12 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, the VV Disputes Procedure must be followed.
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 A12 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.
- A4.4 If a player is discovered to be out of uniform during a match, they must be removed through substitution immediately and may return similarly once their uniform is repaired. If there is no legal means of substitution or the substitution is delayed, the player will be removed as if by expulsion.
- A4.4.1 If such a player's uniform cannot be made legal, they may not return to the match and must be removed from the scoresheet. The team shall not be further penalised (eg through forfeit) for having played a player out of uniform who is subsequently removed from the scoresheet.
- A4.5 VV may direct all teams to wear certain forms of advertising identification on their uniforms in a specified manner as per a sponsor's request. VV will not allow a player to take the court if they fail to wear specified sponsor identification.

For the 2011 season, the league shall be known as the "*Crazy John's Victorian Volleyball League*" and Crazy John's logos must be worn in a manner described in the "*2011 Sponsorship Guidelines for Uniforms*" published on the VVL website – <http://vvl.org.au/>

A5. BALLS

- A5.1 VV will nominate and provide suitable balls to be used in VVL.
- A5.2 The 3-ball system will apply where possible; otherwise a 1-ball system shall be used.

A6. ACCESS

- A6.1 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 A12).

A7. SUITABILITY OF THE VENUE/EQUIPMENT

- A7.1 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 according to the VV Disputes Procedures.

A8. SUBSTITUTIONS AND THE LIBERO

A8.1 TWELVE SUBSTITUTION RULE – TO BE USED IN ALL VVL DIVISIONS

The Twelve-Substitution Rule works 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.

A8.2 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 chooses to list two Liberos on the scoresheet and through injury to a non-Libero player the team would be forced to forfeit according to FIVB rules, then the non-active Libero may become a normal player and replace the injured player. That Libero must have an alternative uniform in the normal team colours in order to play as a normal player. They may not return to being the Libero for the remainder of the match.
- 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. ie 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.

A9. CHAMPIONSHIP LADDER

- A9.1 VV 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.
- A9.2 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.
- A9.2.1 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).
- A9.2.2 Where both teams in a match forfeit the entire match or are disqualified, there is no winning team and the result will be recorded as 0-3 (and 0-25, 0-25, 0-25) to both teams. Penalties applied under Bylaw A9.2.1 still apply.
- A9.3.1 In the case of equal championship points, the sets won/lost percentage shall determine precedence.
- A9.3.2 In the case of equal championship points and equal sets won/lost percentage, the points won/lost percentage shall determine precedence.
- A9.3.3 In the case of equality after Rule A9.3.2 the match results of the games played against each other by the teams involved will resolve the matter as per A9.3.1 and A9.3.2.
- A9.3.4 In the case of equality after Rule A9.3.3 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.

A9.4 VV shall ratify the results and ladders at the conclusion of each round and make these available to the clubs. Publication on the VV or VVL websites is deemed to be sufficient to satisfy this bylaw.

A10. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS & FINALS

A10.1 At the conclusion of the round robin series, the top 4 placed teams shall play off in the finals series as predetermined by VV. VV 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.

A10.2 Divisions shall receive trophies and/or medallions and/or prize money as specified by VV.

A10.3 Clubs may promote players within their Club at any time - with the exception of A10.3.1 to A10.3.5, inclusive.

A10.3.1 A maximum of two players may move into a team in a lower division from a higher division for the same club per round.

A10.3.2 Subject to Bylaw A10.3.3 Clubs may relegate players within their Club provided that the player has played less than seven (7) matches (including finals) in a higher division - for a 14 match season (8 for 16 matches, 9 for 18 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.

A10.3.3 In any one match, a club may play up to two players in the Reserves Division who would otherwise be locked into the Premier Division by Bylaw A10.3.2.

A10.3.4 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 six (6) matches (including finals) for the other team in that division - in a 14 match season (7 for 16 matches, 8 for 18 matches).

A10.3.5 A club may apply in writing to VV in *exceptional* circumstances for transfers between teams outside of the Bylaws A10.3.1 to A10.3.4.

A10.4 Except where allowed under Bylaws A10.4.1 and A10.4.2, 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 (eg 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 A9.2).

A10.4.1 Where a team is scheduled to play more than one match in the same round, players are permitted to play in both games without penalty, despite Bylaw A10.4.1. A player who plays a match in another team for that same club during that round may not play in either

of the two games in question. Where there is an extra bye that corresponds to the double game, there are no extra restrictions preventing those players playing in other teams during that bye round other than those already in these Bylaws.

Commentary: This situation most often arises where a partial round-robin is being played in a division that has an odd number of teams. In this case, most teams will play one game per week but some (eg 2 in a 7-team division) will get a double-game one round and a bye in another round. Players are permitted to play in other divisions during the bye round (as long as all other player movement rules are obeyed) even though other teams in the division have no byes. Further, no attempt is made to classify one of the double games as being in one round and one in another. Both are in the same round and, under this bylaw, players can play in both.

Clubs should take care that some rules regarding player movements that are based on matches played may take effect between the two games if the first game takes a player over one of the thresholds described in other bylaws.

A10.4.2 VV may declare an event, competition, match, etc to be a “*Significant Event*”. For each player that cannot play in a VVL match due to commitments to a “*Significant Event*”, that club shall be allowed to nominate (to VV, before the match in question) a player who will be permitted to play two games in the same day – one in their normal team and one in the place of the player so lost. That extra game shall not count towards any qualification or player movement rules.

For the 2011 season, the Women’s AVL Competition has been declared a “*Significant Event*” by VV for the purposes of this Bylaw.

A10.4.3 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 B5) but has not yet completed said transfer shall be considered unregistered for the purposes of the VVL from the time that the transfer was **required** despite the fact that they are a fully registered member of VV.

NB: Where a player is discovered to require a financial clearance, they will be considered unregistered from the time that **discovery** is made and reported to the club by VV until the clearance is granted.

Commentary: Note the difference between the consequences for not getting a transfer and not getting a financial clearance. In the case of a transfer, that player is unregistered from the time they required a transfer – which will mean any matches played during that time will be retrospectively forfeited. However, a player only requiring a financial clearance is only considered unregistered from the time that is discovered and no retrospective forfeits will occur. They may not, however, play any further games until the clearance is granted.

A10.4.4 A team that plays a player in a manner contrary to the requirements of Bylaw A10, or any other Bylaw limiting the movement or eligibility of players (eg Bylaw B5), shall forfeit the match and be penalised the *Forfeit Penalty* (see Appendix A).

A10.5 To be eligible for the finals, players must have been present, uniformed and otherwise eligible to participate in the match, for a minimum of four (4) matches during the season.

A10.5.1 Members of the Volleyball Team Australia squads and holders of AIS Residential 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 VV. 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 VV before such a player can participate in finals.

- A10.5.2 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 greater than the total number of games in which the individual has played in that lower division (and divisions below that) in that season. However, subject to Bylaw A10.4, 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 A10.3).
- A10.5.3 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.
- A10.6 VV shall determine the date, time and venue of the finals.

A11. MATCH OFFICIALS

- A11.1 VV 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 VV to supply a 1st referee, the duty team shall be required to supply the same. In this instance, VV will provide as much notice as is possible for the supply of these officials. (These officials must be suitably qualified).
- A11.2 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 A11.1.
- A11.3 VV, through the VVRC, will appoint one 1st referee, one 2nd referee, two lines judges and one scorer for grand final matches and, where possible, for all other finals.
- A11.4 Teams not providing the required duty personnel or not fulfilling their duties to an acceptable standard, as set out by VV will be penalised an *Inadequate Duty Penalty* (see Appendix A).
- A11.4.1 The term 'acceptable standard' as used in Bylaw A11.4 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 A6). 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.

A12. MATCH CONTROL

A12.1 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 A6.1, whichever is later.

A12.2 If a team is deemed incomplete (see Bylaw A3.2) 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 otherwise eligible to play. 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*.

A12.3 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 A12.2 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 A12.2). 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.

A12.4 Each match is under the control of the 1st Referee who may be rostered or team supplied.

A13. MATCH RECORDS

A13.1 At the conclusion of each match, the 1st referee shall complete the following reports:

- scoresheet
- referee checklist
- player votes

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

A14. MISCONDUCT SANCTIONS

A14.1 Except where Bylaw A14.2 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.

A14.2 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 A14.1 and A14.2 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 MP team of Club Y, receives a red card in round 5 of the VVL. The MP 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.

A15. PROTESTS & DISPUTES

A15.1 All disputes related to the VVL shall be dealt with according to the “**2011 VVL Dispute Procedures Flow Chart**” (Dispute Procedures) as published on the VV and VVL websites.

A15.2 This Bylaw is intended to be explanatory only and the official “Dispute Procedures” document shall take precedence if it differs from this text.


A15.3 For the purposes of interactions described in the “Dispute Procedures” as **protest**, the FIVB Protest Protocol shall be used modified as follows:

A15.3.1 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 other expertise present to assist in resolving the protest as he or she sees fit (but the decision shall be that of the Chief Referee or duty referee).

NB Only the on-court captain may register a protest

A15.3.2 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.

A15.3.3 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 according to the “Dispute Procedures”

- A15.3.4 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 VV (or, where appropriate, record the decision on the scoresheet).
- A15.3.5 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 addressed to VV according to the "Dispute Procedures" within two working days of the scheduled starting time of the match to which the appeal refers.
- A15.4 Matches shall not be replayed as a result of a decision under Bylaw A15.3. However, where appropriate, results may be adjusted or overturned or other decisions made regarding the conduct of the competition.
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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. 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 VV in order to participate in VVL.

B2. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- B2.1 All profits from VVL activities VV and at VV's discretion, shall be used for the development and promotion of Volleyball within Victoria.

B3. PAYMENT OF FEES/LEVIES/FINES

- B3.1 Teams failing to pay entry fees and other levies by the final deadline date, or as prescribed by VV, will be penalised a *Late Payment Penalty* (See Appendix A) per week until the payment is made in accordance with VV's payment rules. Failure to pay the required amount after a time specified by VV (including any *Late Payment Penalty* fines) may result in suspension or expulsion from the VVL.
- B3.2.1 A club, and all teams that play for that club, may be held responsible for fees owed by one team of that club.
- B3.2.2 Any team suspended from the VVL under Bylaw B3 shall forfeit any matches they are scheduled to play during that time.
- B3.3 VV may, at its discretion, withdraw a player's registration or right to compete in the VVL for non-payment of any debt to VV or not abiding by a payment plan agreed between VV and the player. Such a player shall be considered unregistered for the purposes of these bylaws.
- B3.4 Any individual disqualified under these rules and regulations, and specifically through Bylaw B3, may be deemed by VV to be disqualified from any form of participation (other than spectating) in all official Volleyball Victoria activities, Volleyball matches, tournaments, teams, tours and functions until otherwise directed. For VV affiliated bodies (ie. Local and Regional Leagues and Associations), this disqualification shall be at the individual affiliated bodies' discretion (please consult VV for effects this may have on insurance arrangements).

B4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND COACHES

- B4.1 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.
- B4.2 Before any player or official is eligible to take part in any official match, he/she must be registered with VV according to VV's procedures and processes. A player or official may register with VV at any time during the season, subject to Bylaws B5 and B6.
- B4.3 VV shall nominate the procedures for registration, timing requirements, fees, etc and shall, at its discretion, determine which players and coaches are registered.
- B4.4 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.
- B4.5 Officials of affiliated teams must be registered with VV in the same manner as players. Coaches of Premier, Reserves and Second Division 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 VV.
- B4.6 By virtue of registration, a player/official automatically agrees to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions of the VV and these Bylaws.
- B4.7 International players may play in the VVL as long as this is permitted by their National Federation, the AVF and any other bodies who may have an interest in the matter.

B5. TRANSFER / CLEARANCE OF PLAYERS

- B5.1 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 within a season or between 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 A3.1.3. Any applications received outside these dates will be invalid.
- VV has the right to penalise a club an *Abuse Of Transfer Penalty* (see Appendix A) if they believe that non-adherence to these transfer rules has prejudiced another club or the competition as a whole.
- B5.2 Any player who commences playing with a club in a particular season who played in at least one game for any other club in the previous season requires an Inter-Club Transfer.

- B5.2.1 A player may not play for two clubs in the same season (transfers are not permitted after a player commences playing for a club during a season).
- B5.2.2 The Transfer rules apply to all of Senior & Junior VVL – Premier, Reserves & Second Divisions. 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.
- B5.3 A Financial Clearance is required for an official (coach, assistant coach or other club member) moving from one club to another.
- B5.3.1 A player or official previously registered with a VVL Club shall require a Financial Clearance from that Club BEFORE playing or coaching for another league Club. Applications shall be on the prescribed form and shall be lodged with VV.

Commentary: Note that all player movements require a Financial Clearance including Transfers. Where B5.2 does not require a player to transfer, B5.3 still requires a Financial Clearance.

- B5.4 An Inter-Club *transfer fee*, which shall be determined by VV, must be received by VV before a transfer is approved (or in another manner as prescribed by VV). The current *Transfer Fee* (see Appendix A) must be forwarded WITH the transfer form, or the transfer will not be considered for approval.
- B5.5 The Transfer / Clearance Form must be signed by the new club and the player concerned and forwarded to VV.
- B5.6 VV will forward the form to the old club and that club will have 14 days to respond. If an adequate response is not received within 14 days, the transfer / clearance will be granted.
- B5.7 Clubs may refuse a transfer/clearance of a player/official due to financial indebtedness to the club.
- B5.8 Should a Club refuse an application on financial grounds, any dispute shall be resolved according to Bylaw A15.
- B5.9 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)
- B5.10 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.
- B5.11 Where a dispute arises concerning a transfer or financial clearance the dispute will be resolved according to Bylaw A15.

- B5.12 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.
- B5.13 Teams may register a maximum of three transferred players from other VVL Clubs each season (subject to Bylaw B5.14). Once a player transfers to a club, they are considered a 'transferred player' for that club until the end of the year in which they transfer.
- B5.14 Where a Club has more than one team, each team may only play three 'transferred players' in any one game. A financial clearance is not considered a transfer.
- B5.15 Where more than three (3) players are transferred out of a team, its club may apply, in writing, to VV 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.

B5.16 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*.
- 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 VV registered club, each player will require a financial clearance.
- VV may withhold Free Agent status or prevent a player from playing where their disbanding club still owes money to VV. See also Bylaw 5.9, point 3.
- Players may apply to VV, 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.

B5.17 All Transfers and Clearances require endorsement by VV

B5.18 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.

Commentary: Clubs are advised to ask all new players when, and for whom, they played their last VVL game (if any). If that game was played during the preceding season, then a transfer is required. If that game was played in an earlier season, only a financial clearance is required. eg if a player joins a new club in 2011 and played in one match for another club in 2010, they require a transfer.

B6. JUNIORS

B6.1 For each Premier Division team entered in the VVL, clubs must enter a junior team in a competition or competitions as nominated or approved by VV.

B6.1.1 VV may consider other junior-related activities that clubs may conduct as an alternative to entering teams as described in Bylaw B6.1.

B6.1.2 In order to qualify for the VVL Under 17's division, a player must be 16 for the entire year in which the season is held.

Commentary: For instance, for the 2011 season, players must be 16 for all of 2011. ie They must still be 16 on December 31st 2011. This only players born in 1995 or later can play VVL Under 17's in 2001.

- B6.2 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.
- B6.3 A junior player can play in a maximum one Junior State League match and one VVL match per round, or designated final (Semi, Preliminary or Grand).
- B6.4.1 A player may play VVL for one club and Junior State League for another during the same season only if their VVL club does not enter a team into the corresponding gender of Junior State League and only with the agreement of both clubs.
- B6.4.2 For the purposes of the transfer rules contained in these Bylaws, the player shall be considered as playing for the VVL club.
- B6.4.3 Such a player will require a financial clearance from both clubs should they wish to move to another club.

B7. VENUES

- B7.1 VV shall determine the venue/s for each round of the normal season.
- B7.2 No match shall be transferred from a nominated venue without prior approval of VV. See Appendix B - 'Rescheduling of Games'.
- B7.3 The nominated venue must meet the standard volleyball requirements as designated by VV.
- B7.4 VV shall determine the venue for the finals.

B8. CHANGE OF TIME/VENUE/DATE

- B8.1 VV discourages changes of times, venues or dates. However, teams may apply in writing to VV 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 VV, a prescribed fee is payable by the team requesting the change, and VV 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 VV from time to time). VV's decision in such matters shall be final. The team requesting the change must also contact the VVRC once permission has been granted by VV.
- B8.2 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.

- B8.3 VV has the right to compel a team to accept the rescheduling of a game where they believe that doing so is in the best interests of the players, the VVL or the sport.
- B8.4 VV 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 B8.2. If one team refuses to play at that time, they shall forfeit the match.
- B8.5 The team that has requested the reschedule shall be responsible for supplying or organising duty personnel for the requested game. They are also required to fulfil any duty requirements they or the opposition had in the original fixture unless an alternative (such as an adjustment to the draw) is organised by VV.
- B8.5.1 Where both teams mutually agree to reschedule a game, the duty responsibilities for the rescheduled game shall be shared between the two teams. Original duty requirement in the published draw will be the responsibility of the team nominated on that draw.

Refer to Appendix B - 'Rescheduling of Games'.

B9. DRAW

- B9.1 VV shall provide teams with a detailed draw for the complete VVL season prior to the season.
- B9.1.1 Where certain matches within the draw are unable to be determined before the start of the season, VV shall provide details as to how those game details will be determined and when.
- B9.2 The length of the season and the number of matches in the draw shall be determined by VV.

B10. TIME OF PLAY

- B10.1 All round matches during the season shall be played on such days as VV determines is of benefit to the competition.
- B10.2 Before the date and/or time of the match can be varied, approval must be sought from VV 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 Bylaw B8, and Appendix B.

B11. PROMOTION/RELEGATION/ADMISSION

- B11.1 Whilst accepting in general terms the principle of promotion and relegation, VV's aim is to achieve the competition structure outlined Bylaw A3
- B11.2 VV shall work with clubs to promote structures that encourage and facilitate the achievement of the structure outline in Bylaw A3
- B11.3 VV shall have sole right to determine which clubs and teams participate in the VVL

- B11.4 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.
- B11.5 VV reserves the right to direct any team to compete in the Qualifying Tournament, irrespective of where the team(s) finished on the ladder.
- B11.6 The format of the Qualifying Tournament will be decided each year by VV.
- B11.7 VV may introduce special player movement or qualification rules affecting who can play in a Qualifying Tournament and where they can play subsequent to that Qualification Tournament in order to protect the integrity of the competition.

B12. MEETINGS

- B12.1 **DELEGATE MEETING:** VV may call meetings of Club Delegates to discuss various aspects of the VVL from time to time.
- B12.2 **TECHNICAL MEETING:** VV may hold a technical meeting(s) before or during each VVL season if necessary. VV 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, VV 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	A3.2.1	1 per game
<i>Inadequate Game Documentation Penalty</i>	A3.3.5	1 per game
Forfeit Penalty	A10.4, A10.4.3, A10.4.4, A12.3	2 per game
Late Start Penalty	A12.2	1 per game
Late Payment Penalty	B3.1	1 per week
Inadequate Duty Penalty	A11.4	1 per game
Transfer Fee	B5.4	N/A
Reschedule Fee	B8.1	N/A
Unregistered or unaccredited Official or Coach	A3.3.3 B4.4,	1 per official/coach per game
Abuse Of Transfer Penalty	B5.1	Min: 1 Max: 4

Note: Penalties of Championship Points are mandatory.

APPENDIX B

RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- a) Teams may apply in writing to VV, 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, VV 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 VV.

Where the club that has been requested to reschedule does not respond in the stated time frame, VV will seek an immediate response. If a definite answer is not forthcoming, VV 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, VV reserves the right to compel teams to reschedule if it is felt to be in the best interests of the VVL.

- e) VV must be informed by the Club requesting the rescheduled game, regarding the match details for VV approval.
- f) The Club rescheduling the game is responsible for the organising of all duty responsibilities and use of a correct scoresheet. VV 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.