

VICTORIAN COUNTRY CRICKET LEAGUE
Melbourne Country Week Rules
(Revised in January 2016)

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1. FORMAT OF COMPETITION

1.1 CONTROL OF COMPETITION

The competition shall be under the control of the Board of the VCCL Incorporated. For the purpose of considering any matter pertaining to the Country Week Competition the quorum for the Board shall be three members.

1.2 POWERS OF THE BOARD

The Board is empowered to enquire into and determine all disputes, protests, reports, breaches of rules or any other matter covered or not specifically covered in these rules arising from or in connection with the administration and playing of the Country Week Competition. The Board shall have the power to impose fines up to but not exceeding an amount of \$500, or suspend any player or team from the competition in connection with the exercise of its powers under these rules. The Board may summon and interview any player or official, and/or request the presentation of any scorebook or other document in relation to any matter under consideration. Any decision of the Board is final.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION

The Competition shall be divided into Divisions as determined by the Board. The Divisions shall be known as: Provincial; Division 2; Division 3, etc.

1.4 LAWS OF CRICKET

The Laws of Cricket (2000 Code, 6th Edition 2015) shall apply to all matches except where modified by these Rules, and with the following specific modifications:

- The words "The umpire shall call and signal No Ball for each such delivery." Shall be added to the end of Law 42 6 (b) (i) (fast high full tosses) & 6 (b) (ii) (slow high full tosses);
- Law 42 7 – Dangerous and unfair bowling – action by the umpire shall apply only to fast bowlers, unless the act is deliberate, in which case Law 42 8 shall still apply.
- All instances of 5 penalty runs shall not apply with the exceptions of:
 - Law 41 2 – Fielding the ball, and
 - Law 41 3 – Protective helmets of the fielding side

2. ELIGIBILITY OF ASSOCIATIONS

2.1 ELIGIBILITY

All Associations affiliated to the VCCL shall be eligible to make application to participate in the VCCL Country Week competition. An Association may enter more than one team provided that each team is entered and registered separately, and that there is no interchange of players between teams.

2.2 APPLICATION FOR ENTRY

Each season, each eligible Association shall be invited to participate. Entries shall be accepted provided that:

- (a) they are received by the date set down by the Board, and
- (b) they are accompanied by the entry fee determined by the Board.

2.3 ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION

In the allocation of the available positions priority shall be given to Associations which participated in the previous season's Competition. Associations which did not participate during the previous season shall be placed on a waiting list.

2.4 AMALGAMATION OF ASSOCIATIONS

Two eligible Associations from within the same VCCL Region may combine to make application for entry. One Association must be nominated as the senior Association and will be responsible for the selection of the team and all administrative requirements.

2.5 GRADING

Associations will be graded into the Divisions specified in Rule 1.3. Grading shall be based on the previous season's performance and in accordance with the provisions of Rules 12 and 14. Any vacancy in any Division shall be filled by the promotion of the best performed Association, during the previous season, in the next lower Division. Vacancies in the lowest Division shall be filled from Associations on the waiting list. Selection of these Associations shall be at the discretion of the Board.

2.6 LATE WITHDRAWAL

Should an Association withdraw after the draw has been made, a bye may be included in the affected Division.

3. PLAYING DATES

The playing dates shall be determined by the Board in consultation with Cricket Victoria.

4. VENUES

All matches shall be played on grounds as allocated by the Board. Unless specifically advised the matches shall be played on the main oval of Cricket Victoria and VSDCA Clubs. The allocated venue shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Board.

5. DRAW

Each Division shall play a program of four one-day matches on Days 1 to 4 of the Competition. The draw shall be made by the Board and circulated to each competing Association following the closing date for team nominations.

6. UMPIRES

All umpires are to be appointed by the respective host Clubs in accordance with Rule 17.5, and shall be properly attired as per Cricket Victoria requirements.

7. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

7.1 RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible for this competition a player must be a resident in the country, be a bone fide registered playing member within the Association he represents, and have taken part in normal competition within that Association during the current season.

7.2 PLAYERS FROM NON REPRESENTED DISTRICTS

Players residing in Victoria in districts not represented in the Competition by an Affiliated association shall be eligible to play with the nearest Affiliated Association only, provided however that the nearest Affiliated Association shall not include in its number of registered players under Rule 16.1, more than three such players. Should more than three such players be nominated, only the first three named shall be regarded as registered players.

7.3 PLAYERS RESIDING OUTSIDE VICTORIA

Permits may be granted by the Board to any player residing outside the State of Victoria who is not a playing member of any team taking part in a Victorian Association. Such permits to be applied for not later than 7 days prior to the commencement of the Competition.

7.4 INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

No international player who has played test or international cricket under the control of the ICC in the calendar year immediately preceding the first day of Country Week will be eligible to participate in the competition.

7.5 REGISTRATION FOR COUNTRY WEEK

Before taking part in the Competition, a player must be registered in accordance with Rule 16.1. Only eligible players as defined above may be registered.

Rules 8 - 14 (Playing Conditions)

8. HOURS OF PLAY

All matches shall commence at 10.15 a.m. and unless changed by specific circumstances applying to a match, shall cease when the Total Match Overs (see 9.1) have been completed. A nominal finishing time of 5:30 pm shall be used for the purpose of over calculation.

9. PLAYING CONDITIONS

9.1 PRINCIPLE OF COMPETITION

In principle, all matches shall be played under the conditions of compulsory closure where each side is entitled to bat for 50 overs, unless time is lost due to adverse weather conditions. A stipulated number of overs, referred to as the "Total Match Overs" shall be bowled in each match. This number shall normally be 100, but shall be reduced to account for lost time due to adverse weather as specified in 9.4 and 9.5. No deduction shall be made to Total Match Overs for change of innings. All matches are based on the completion of the Total Match Overs irrespective of the time. A nominal finishing time of 5:30 pm is provided for calculation purposes.

Rules 9.2 & 9.3 apply to matches in which play commences on time and are not interrupted by adverse weather conditions:

9.2 THE SIDE BATTING FIRST IS NOT DISMISSED

The side batting first shall have its innings compulsorily closed after 50 overs. (Note that the lunch interval shall take place at 1.35pm., but any over in progress at 1.35pm. shall be completed in accordance with Rule 9.12). Play will resume at 2.10pm.

The side batting second (if not previously dismissed) shall be entitled to receive 50 overs, whereupon the match shall end. This Rule applies to matches which start on time and are not interrupted by adverse weather conditions.

9.3 THE SIDE BATTING FIRST IS DISMISSED OR DECLARES

If the dismissal or declaration occurs –

before 1.00pm: then a ten minute break is taken and the side batting second commences its innings. A 35 minute interval is taken at 1.35pm.

after 1.00pm, but before 1.35pm: then a 35 minute interval is taken immediately, after which the side batting second commences its innings;

after 1.35pm: then the side batting second commences its innings at 2.10pm.

The side batting second (if not previously dismissed) is entitled to receive 50 legitimate overs plus the number of whole overs not faced by the side batting first.

This Rule applies to matches which start on time and are not interrupted by adverse weather conditions.

9.4 DELAYED STARTS

The umpires shall be the sole judges of weather conditions. If play does not commence on time because of adverse weather conditions, the following shall apply :

- The umpires will decide on a new starting time and then will determine the time remaining for play by using an estimated finishing time of 5.30pm. and allowing 35 minutes for an interval which must be taken at 1.35pm. (Note: there is no need to allow for a ten minute innings break.)

- The umpires will then determine the number of overs to be bowled to each team by dividing the time remaining for play into two and allowing for one over every four minutes or part thereof. The number of overs to be bowled to each team, as calculated here, is then doubled to become the new Total Match Overs figure.

The match shall only proceed under the foregoing conditions if there is sufficient time to permit at least 40 Total Match Overs, otherwise the match shall be abandoned.

If the side batting first is dismissed or declares, the side batting second (if not previously dismissed) shall receive the number of overs calculated in part (ii) of this Rule plus the number of whole overs not faced by the side batting first, but to which they would have been entitled.

9.5 INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The umpires shall be the sole judges of weather conditions. If any game after starting is interrupted by adverse weather conditions, the Total Match Overs shall be reduced by one for each four minutes (or part thereof) of the time lost. The reduction in overs so calculated shall be applied wholly to the innings of the team batting second. The team batting first shall still be entitled to receive its over entitlement as calculated in 9.2 or 9.4.

Where the overs entitlement of the team batting second has been reduced by interruptions which occur after play has commenced, or where adverse weather conditions prevent the game from being completed, the following shall apply:

Situation: The team batting second scores more runs than the team batting first

Result: First innings win to the team batting second

Situation: The team batting second scores the same number of runs as the team batting first (whether all out or not)

Result: First innings tie

Situation: The team batting second is dismissed or declares before reaching the score of the team batting first

Result: First innings win to the team batting first

Situation: The team batting second is not dismissed or does not declare, but does not reach the score of the team batting first

Result: Match is drawn

Examples of the Application of Rules 9.4 & 9.5:

1. Play starts on time and there are no interruptions:

Neither 9.4 nor 9.5 applies

Start of play is not delayed

Calculated Minutes of Play Remaining = 400

Calculated Total Match Overs = 100

Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 50

Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 50

Total interruptions after start = 0 mins

Amended Total Match Overs = 100

Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 50

Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 50

2. Start of play is delayed by 40 mins, but there are no further interruptions:

9.4 applies, but 9.5 does not

Start of play is delayed by 40 mins

Calculated Minutes of Play Remaining = 360

Calculated Total Match Overs = 90

Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 45

Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 45

Total interruptions after start = 0 mins

Amended Total Match Overs = 90

Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 45

Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 45

3. Play starts on time, but is later interrupted for a total of 60 mins:

9.5 applies, but 9.4 does not

Start of play is not delayed

Calculated Minutes of Play Remaining = 400

Calculated Total Match Overs = 100

Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 50

Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 50

Total interruptions after start = 60 mins
Amended Total Match Overs = 85
Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 50
Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 35

4. Start of play is delayed by 40 mins, then, after starting, play is further delayed by 60 mins:

Both 9.4 and 9.5 apply
Start of play is delayed by 40 mins
Calculated Minutes of Play Remaining = 360
Calculated Total Match Overs = 90
Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 45
Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 45
Total interruptions after start = 60 mins
Amended Total Match Overs = 75
Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting First = 45
Amended Overs Entitlement - Team Batting Second = 30

9.6 FIRST INNINGS RESULTS PROGRAM MATCHES

If a first innings decision is obtained before the Total Match Overs have been completed, then the match shall continue under ordinary conditions (ie: without compulsory closure) until the required Total Match Overs are bowled or an outright result is achieved.

9.7 FIRST INNINGS RESULTS FINALS

If a first innings result is obtained in a final before the Total Match Overs have been completed then the captain of the team which is behind on the first innings may opt to end the match.

9.8 DECLARATIONS

Either side may declare its innings closed at any time during the match.

9.9 FOLLOW ON

If the side batting second trails by 80 runs or more at the completion of its innings (except by compulsory closure), the captain of the side batting first has the option of enforcing the follow on.

9.10 NOTIFICATION OF END OF INNINGS

In each innings which is subject to compulsory closure, the scorers shall notify the umpires when 5 overs remain to be bowled, and at the beginning of the last over. The umpires shall in turn notify the captain of the fielding side and the batsmen.

9.11 REFUSAL OR INABILITY TO PLAY

If play does not commence at the appointed time and the delay is due to the refusal or inability of one or both of the competing teams, and provided that the delay is not greater than 60 minutes, then the match shall begin under the conditions of Rule 9.4 (Delayed Starts), and the Umpires shall inform the VCCL Secretary or his nominee of the circumstances. The Board of the VCCL shall then determine any penalties deemed appropriate. If the commencement of the match is delayed by more than 60 minutes, then play shall not take place, the Umpires shall inform the VCCL Secretary or his nominee of the circumstances, and the Board of the VCCL shall determine the match result and any penalties deemed appropriate.

9.12 COMPLETION OF LAST OVER

The last over before an interval or the close of play shall be completed.

9.13 TWELFTH MAN

Twelve players may be named in each team, however only eleven of these players shall be permitted to participate as batsmen, and only eleven shall be permitted to bowl or keep wickets i.e.: the batting twelfth man and the bowling twelfth man may be two different players. The bowling twelfth man is not permitted to keep wickets. The Team Declaration Form must indicate which player will not bat and which player will not bowl or keep wickets. **Note:** This rule is not intended to allow free "interchange" of fieldsmen. Law of Cricket No.2 regarding substitute fieldsmen is to be strictly applied and enforced by Umpires.

9.14 PLAYERS' DRESS

9.14.1 Coloured Shirts

Players are permitted to wear coloured shirts provided that:

- (i) such shirts are collared, either standard or polo style. Tee shirts are not permitted;
- (ii) all players in a team must be similarly attired ("one-in, all-in"). Mixtures of traditional and coloured shirts within a team are not permitted, and all team shirts must be identical in colour and style.

All other clothing & footwear must be standard cricket white/cream. This includes jumpers/sweaters worn over coloured shirts.

Any player not conforming with the requirements of this rule liable to be penalised by the VCCL Board in accordance with Rule1.2.

9.14.2 Logos

The following logos are permitted on players' upper clothing only:

- (i) home association or club logo;
- (ii) VCCL logo and/or VCCL sponsor logo;
- (iii) association's sponsor logo,

provided always that the size of any one logo does not exceed 250 sq cm, AND the total size of all logos combined does not exceed 500 sq cm, AND the total number of logos does not exceed four.

9.15 OVER LIMITS

9.15.1 Over Limits for all Bowlers

Where the Overs Entitlement of the batting side (as specified in 9.1 - 9.5) is 50 overs or less, then any bowler is restricted to a maximum number of overs equal to one fifth of the Overs Entitlement, rounded up:

eg: Overs Entitlement Bowler's Over Limit

20	4
21-25	5
26-30	6
31-35	7
36-40	8
41-45	9
46-50	10

Where the Overs Entitlement of the batting side is 51 overs or more, then the above limits shall apply until the completion of the 50th over, beyond which no further individual limits shall apply,

9.15.2 Back Injury Prevention Limits for Young Bowlers

This Rule specifies limits for bowlers who are under the ages of 17 and 19 years on September 1st in the season of the competition. Bowlers of medium pace or faster (broadly defined as those to whom the wicket-keeper would normally stand back) are restricted to:

Under 19: • A maximum spell of eight consecutive overs.

- A maximum daily allocation of 20 overs.

Under 17: • A maximum spell of six consecutive overs.

- A maximum daily allocation of 16 overs.

Bowlers who complete a spell must not resume bowling until the same number of overs from the same end have been bowled, eg: A bowler who bowls three overs 1-3-5 must wait until overs 7-9 & 11 have been bowled before returning. Note: Any break in play will count in determining when a bowler can return, eg: A tea break of 15 mins will count as two overs from the same end (15 mins = a total of 4 overs - halve this number to arrive at 2).

Players who are under the ages of 17 and 19 years on September 1st in the season of the competition must be identified on the Team Declaration Form before taking part in a match.

9.16 NO BALL PENALTY PLUS RUNS SCORED OTHERWISE

A penalty of one run shall be scored from a no-ball and be additional to any runs scored by the batsman otherwise from that delivery.

9.17 WIDE BALL PENALTY PLUS RUNS SCORED OTHERWISE

A penalty of one run shall be scored from a wide ball and be additional to any runs made otherwise from that delivery.

10. RESULT OF MATCH

Where a match is not played to an outright result, the winner shall be the team scoring the greater number of runs in the first innings irrespective of wickets lost, except as specified in 9.5.

11. POINTS

11.1 MATCH POINTS

The following match points shall be awarded during the program of matches:

Outright win winning team leads on first innings	20 points
Outright win first innings a tie	16 points
Outright win winning team behind on first innings	12 points
Outright tie	10 points
First innings win	12 points
First innings lead points retained if beaten outright	8 points
Tie on first innings	6 points
Outright loss tie on first innings	4 points
Drawn game (play starts, but no first innings or outright result is reached)	6 points
Abandoned game (play does not start)	6 points
Bye or Win by forfeit - Point awarded shall be equal to the maximum number of points scored by any other team within the same Division on the same day.	

11.2 BONUS POINTS

For each run scored in any innings the batting side receive 0.01 points For each wicket taken in any innings the bowling side shall receive 0.20 points. Where a match is abandoned, each side shall be awarded bonus points equal to the average bonus points obtained by other competitors who have played in the same Division in the round.

12. DETERMINATION OF FINALISTS

12.1 FINAL PLACING

The final placings in each Division shall be decided by the total of the match and bonus points won during the program of matches.

12.2 EQUALITY OF POINTS

Should there be an equality in the number of points, the respective places shall be determined by the Team Average. (Refer Cricket Victoria Premier Cricket Rules for calculation of Team Average.)

12.3 PARTICIPANTS

The teams finishing in first and second place on the ladder after the program of matches shall play off in the final.

13. FINAL

13.1 PLAYING CONDITIONS

The final shall be played under the conditions set out in Rule 9 on dates and venues determined by the Board.

13.2 UNCOMPLETED MATCH

Should the match result in a tie or should the match be drawn, the team finishing in the first position in that Division after the program matches shall be declared the winner.

13.3 PRESENTATION

The winning team in each Division shall receive a Plaque in the colours of the VCCL.

14. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

The winning team (as defined in Rule 13) in all Divisions except Provincial will be promoted to the next higher Division for the ensuing season unless determined otherwise by the Board. The Association finishing last in Provincial and in all Divisions except the lowest will be relegated to the next lower Division for the ensuing season unless determined otherwise by the Board.

15. DISPUTES & REPORTS

15.1 INVESTIGATION OF DISPUTES & REPORTS

The Board of the VCCL shall investigate all disputes and reports arising out of, or in connection with Country Week matches, and is entitled to exercise its powers as defined in Rule 1.2.

15.2 NOTIFICATION OF DISPUTE

Initial notification of any intended or suspected dispute should be made as early as possible by telephone to the VCCL Secretary. A formal statement, in writing, of the matter in dispute must be in the hands of the VCCL Secretary or his deputy within two hours of completion of the match in question. At the same time an additional copy of the statement must be made available for each other affected Association .

15.3 NOTIFICATION OF REPORT

Initial notification of any intended report should be made by the reporting umpire(s) as early as possible by telephone to the VCCL Secretary. A formal statement, in writing, of the report must be in the hands of the VCCL Secretary or his deputy within two hours of completion of the match in question.

16. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETING ASSOCIATIONS

16.1 REGISTRATION

Each competing Association must register the following details in respect of each team representing the Association with the VCCL Secretary on the form provided for that purpose:

- (i) a list of its players, their addresses and their home Association (see 7.2)
- (ii) the address and contact telephone number(s) of the Association's team manager during Country Week.

- 16.1.1 The registration form must be forwarded to reach the VCCL Secretary or his nominee by the Friday of the week preceding Country Week.
- 16.1.2 A minimum of twelve players must be registered initially.
- 16.1.3 Once registered, a player may not be removed from the registration list.
- 16.1.4 Additions to the registration form will be accepted by the VCCL Secretary at any time up until 9:30 am on the Thursday of Country Week. No additions will be accepted after that time.
- 16.1.5 Additions to the registration form must be in writing and must be delivered to the Secretary or his nominee before 9:30 am on the day upon which player(s) being added first takes part in a game.

- 16.1.6 No more than 24 players can be registered.
- 16.1.7 Any Association playing a player who is ineligible (Rule 7) or unregistered shall forfeit any match points gained for matches in which the ineligible or unregistered player took part, and shall be subject to any other action deemed appropriate by the VCCL Board.

16.2 TEAM DECLARATION FORMS

Team Declaration forms shall be completed by each Association and exchanged with the opposing Association prior to the commencement of each day's play. The Declaration Form shall identify:

- (i) the player who will not bat and the player who will not bowl or keep wickets in accordance with Rule 9.13;
- (ii) any players who are Under 17 or Under 19 years of age as at September 1st in the season of the competition, for application of Rule 9.15.

Declaration forms of opposing Associations so received during the program matches shall be held by the team manager of each Association.

16.3 MATCH RESULT FORMS

At the conclusion of each day a Match Result form (including Umpires Report) is to be completed. The winning Association is responsible for completion of this form which must be signed by each Captain. The team manager of the winning side shall retain the original copy, and the team manager of the losing side shall retain the duplicate copy.

16.4 SUBMISSION OF FORMS

Each Association shall forward all Match Result forms and Team Declaration forms to the VCCL Secretary to reach the Secretary by the Friday of the week immediately following Country Week.

16.5 LODGEMENT OF RESULTS BY TELEPHONE

Each competing Association shall telephone the Results Centre by 6.15 p.m. on all match days (including finals). The location and telephone number of the Results Centre will be published with the draw. The following details are to be provided:

- (i) the match scores;
- (ii) details of any individual performances (bowlers 3 or more wickets, batsmen 30 or more runs);
- (iii) match points claimed;
- (iv) any difficulties encountered with umpires, ground or facilities;
- (v) any known details of a possible dispute situation.

Notes:

1. This rule does not absolve any Association from its responsibilities specified in Rule 16.2, 16.3 or 16.4.
2. Where telephone advice of a match result is received from only one of the two Associations involved in a match, then that advice shall be accepted as the official result.
3. Any Association contemplating, suspecting or hearing of any possible dispute situation must inform the Results Centre immediately so that VCCL officers can take steps to secure any applicable paperwork.

16.6 AVAILABILITY OF PAPERWORK

Any Association shall make available, at the request of an officer of the VCCL, any paperwork being held by that Association in relation to matches played under the auspices of the VCCL. This includes scorebooks and any forms held under the provisions of Rules 16.2, 16.3 and 16.4. The Association shall, upon request, immediately deliver (or cause to have delivered) the requested items to any location specified by the VCCL, officer. The contact point for the purposes of this Rule shall be the address provided under Rule 16.1. Any variation to this address must be immediately notified to the VCCL Secretary.

16.7 PENALTIES FOR NON COMPLIANCE

The Board of the VCCL may fine any competing Association a sum not exceeding \$500.00, where an Association has failed to comply with the responsibilities and duties detailed above.

17. RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOST CLUB

17.1 GROUND AND PITCH

Matches are to be played on turf wickets on the Club's main ground (unless prior approval is obtained from the Board of the VCCL)

17.2 MATCH BALLS

The VCCL will supply two balls per match of a type approved by the VCCL. These balls are for use in each first innings. Competing VCCL Associations should provide any additional new balls. If sought / procured from the VCCL the cost of these shall be paid by the requesting Association. All additional balls used shall be of a VCCL approved type.

17.3 OTHER EQUIPMENT

Clubs shall provide stumps and bails for use in matches; all other equipment (except balls) shall be provided by competing Associations.

17.4 FACILITIES

Clubs shall ensure that adequate dressing rooms are available to competing Associations from 9.00 a.m. on each match day. Lunch shall be provided for players and umpires at the lunch break. Clubs shall ensure that a representative of the Club is present throughout the match to assist the competing teams.

17.5 UMPIRES

Umpires for all matches shall be current members of the Cricket Victoria or VSDCA Umpires' Panel. Two umpires will be appointed for each match and paid by the host Club. The fee paid shall be the equivalent of a Cricket Victoria Premier Cricket 1st XI match fee for the current season.

17.6 COVERS

The use of pitch covers prior any match shall be at the discretion of the Ground Manager. During the course of the match, competing Associations shall be given access to all wicket covers which are not required to cover wickets prepared for normal Saturday/Sunday competition matches. Covers shall be laid and removed by competing teams under the supervision of the Ground Manager, or in his absence, the match Umpires.

17.7 SCOREBOARD

All Clubs shall make available scoreboard facilities which display at the minimum, the Team Scores and the Number of Overs.