WOMEN'S RULES AND PLAYING ARRANGEMENTS

Season 2026-2027

Table of Contents

TITLE **2**
RDCA RULES APPLY **2**
1. WOMENS COMMITTEE 2
2. COMMUNICATIONS 3
3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE 3
4. GRADING 3
5. ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES 3
CLUB/TEAM ENTRIES **4**
6. APPLICATIONS FOR ADMITTANCE 4
7. FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES 4
PLAYING ELIGIBILITY **6**
8. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS 6
9. CLASSIFICATION OF PLAYERS 6
10. TRANSFERS AND PERMITS 7
11. CRICKET ATTIRE 7
PLAYERS **8**
12. CODE OF CONDUCT 8
13. UNDERAGE PLAYERS 9
14. OTHER POLICIES 9
MATCH CONDITIONS OF PLAY **10**
15. LAWS OF CRICKET 10
16. FITNESS OF CONDITIONS 11
17. GROUNDS, SURFACES AND PITCHES 11
18. EQUIPMENT 13
19. AFTERNOON TEA AND DRINKS BREAKS 13
20. INJURY GUIDELINES 14
GAME DAY : GENERAL RULES OF PLAY **15**
21. PLAYING HOURS & OVER ENTITLEMENTS 15
22. DUTIES OF TEAM CAPTAINS ON MATCH DAY 16
23. RULES FOR ALL GRADES 17
24. TEAM LISTS 18
25. DEFAULT HOURS OF PLAY 18
26. LATE STARTS 18
27. BOWLING RESTRICTIONS 18
28. NO BALLS AND WIDES 19
29. BATTING RESTRICTIONS 21
30. DELAYED OR INTERRUPTED MATCHES 21
31. TIMED OUT 23
32. RESULT 23
FINALS **24**
33. MATCHES TO QUALIFY FOR FINALS 24
34. FINALS CONDITIONS 24
35. FINALS STRUCTURE 25
36. SEMI-FINALS 25
37. PRELIMINARY FINALS 25
38. GRAND FINALS 25
PREMIERSHIP **26**
39. PREMIERSHIP SYSTEM 26
MATCH RECORDS **27**
40. OFFICIAL MATCH SCORE ENTRY 27
41. MATCH REPORTS 27
TEAM/INDIVIDUAL AWARDS **28**
42. GRADE TROPHIES 28
43. OTHER RDCA TROPHIES 28
UMPIRING **29**
44. UMPIRES 29
45. DUTIES AND POWERS OF PROFESSIONAL UMPIRES 29
46. APPOINTMENTS OF AMATEUR UMPIRES 30
47. DUTIES OF UMPIRE AT SQUARE LEG 30
48. FINALS UMPIRES 31
49. UMPIRES' CODE OF SIGNALS 31
OTHER COMPETITIONS : T20 TOURNAMENT **32**
50. RULES FOR T-20 TOURNAMENT 32

TITLE

The Women's Competition will be known as the Ringwood and District Cricket Association (Incorporated) (RDCA) Women's Competition.

RDCA RULES APPLY

The RDCA Women's Competition operates under the constitution of the RDCA. The rules of the RDCA Constitution and the Senior Men's Competition, as defined herein, will apply. Penalties are stated in penalty units. Each penalty unit is worth $20.

1. WOMENS COMMITTEE

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 3

The Women's Competition will be administered by the Women's Committee and shall be under the control of the RDCA Board of Management.

1.1. The Women's Committee will consist of Chairperson and Secretary, all elected in accordance with the constitution, and other ex-officio members. Ex-Officio members may be invited to serve on the committee and shall have normal voting rights at any Women's Committee Meeting.

1.2. No more than two (2) members of any one affiliated club shall be on the Women's Committee at any one time.

1.3. The elected Chairperson of the Women's Committee shall be the Chairperson/s of all its meetings and in their absence, they shall elect a chairperson for that meeting.

1.4. The Chairperson at all meetings shall be entitled to a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

1.5. The Women's Committee will meet as required and the Women's Secretary shall convene meetings.

1.6. Five members shall form a quorum, and business shall not be proceeded with unless such a quorum is present.

1.7. Any member absent, without leave from three consecutive meetings of the Women's Committee shall forfeit their seat.

1.8. The Women's Committee will issue directives in order to enforce and administer the rules of the women's competition. If any direction of the Women's Competition has not been complied with, within the specified time, the Women's Committee is empowered to take such action as it deems fit.

1.9. The Women's Committee, in the absence of any set penalty for the breach of a rule, will determine the penalty which may be in the form of a fine, and/or the loss of match points and/or other suitable penalty.

1.10. Players, Club Officials and Spectators are required to follow any instruction from an RDCA Umpire, RDCA Match Day Official or RDCA Committee Member. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action by the Women's Committee.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 5

2.1. Information circulars emanating from RDCA officials must be consecutively numbered to ensure that clubs are aware that all advice have been received. Clubs will be held responsible for ensuring that advice are received in sequence and is implemented and circulated to appropriate persons within their club.

2.2. All forms and communications addressed to the Association must be in writing via email and addressed to the Women's Committee Secretary.

2.3. Information requiring immediate dissemination to clubs may be sent via email, social media and to team Captains.

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Applies to Women's Rules Only

3.1. The Women's competition will consist of three divisions, each containing one or more grades.

PREMIER DISTRICT COMMUNITY

3.2. Where possible all grades will contain an even number of teams to prevent "byes". Grades may comprise an alternate number of teams to fulfill fixturing requirements.

4. GRADING

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 32

A promotion and relegation system will apply to the Women's grades as follows:

4.1. Any club being promoted will conform to the conditions as detailed by the Women's Committee.

4.2. If any club does not conform to the conditions of entry into the higher grade, the Women's Committee will decide on the club to be promoted.

4.3. The Women's Committee will determine the promotion and relegation system to apply to teams competing in the senior grades. The basic principle, where possible, is that all Premiers will be promoted, and last placed teams relegated.

5. ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 6

5.1. The Selection Committee consisting of a minimum of three (3) members will be appointed annually by the Women's Committee to select teams to represent the Association in matches.

5.2. "Representative Teams" of the Association will be selected by the Selection Committee.

5.3. A player selected in any Association Representative Team, who is subsequently unable to play in such Representative Team or attend practice, will advise the Women's Committee, at least seven (7) days before the match or practice, their games played outside of the standard fixtured games.

5.4. If a selected player fails to attend or play as required or if the notice of the unavailability is provided less than seven (7) days before the match or practice, the Women's Committee may impose such penalty, including suspension or fine, as it considers the occasion warrants. Players selected in Association Representative Teams will be unavailable for selection in any club team scheduled to play on the same day.

5.5. Notification of selection will, for the purpose of this rule, be deemed sufficient if players concerned are advised of their selection personally, by mobile text message, email, or letter at least four (4) days before the match or practice.

CLUB/TEAM ENTRIES

6. APPLICATIONS FOR ADMITTANCE

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 7

All new clubs will be eligible for affiliation with the Ringwood and District Cricket Association Incorporated subject to the following:

6.1. All applications by clubs desirous of playing cricket with the Association for the ensuing season will be made in writing via email, on forms supplied by the Association and lodged with the Women's Committee not later than the 15th of August in each year and will contain:

- Name, address and telephone number of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Women's Co-ordinator, and Match Day Contact.
- Team entries for the ensuing season, indicating the location of playing grounds.
- Name of team(s) sharing its wicket and dates on which the ground(s) may be unavailable.
- The contact phone number at the Pavilion or Ground.

6.2. Regarding the nomination of new Clubs into the Association, additional information may be required by the Board of Management before a nomination is placed before the General Committee for decision at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. Such entries are to be regarded as final.

i. Failure to field any nominated team may result in a penalty as decided by the Board of Management.

ii. Before the commencement of each season each Club must certify that it complies with the requirements of the Member Protection Policy on the form provided by the Women's Committee.

6.3. The Women's Committee will determine the composition of all senior women's grades. Proposals for changes to the playing competition structure of the Association will be dealt with by the convening of a General Meeting, to provide the clubs with the opportunity to hear submissions, for and against the proposal, and permit the members the opportunity to vote by ballot or by show of hands. A simple majority of eligible votes will be required to achieve acceptance of such a proposal.

7. FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 8

7.1. If a team is unable to secure its ground for a match, it must give seven (7) clear days' notice to that effect to the opposing club and to the Women's Committee. The Women's Committee will then decide where and when the match will be played and is empowered to impose a penalty on any club failing to comply with its decision.

7.2. Any team unable to play a competition match will give notice to the Women's Committee of its inability to play by **no later than 10am** on the day scheduled for play.

i. Should this deadline be met, there will be no penalty, but should advice be received after this deadline the penalty will be a deduction of 6 match points.

ii. Withdrawal of a team from the competition, after the second week of competition, may incur a fine of up to 10 penalty units.

7.3. Any team failing to fulfil any engagement will forfeit the match in question and will also be liable to be dealt with by the Women's Committee, which may include financial penalties.

7.4. In the event of a club withdrawing a team from the competition or forfeiting a match during the season, then the club must withdraw or forfeit its lowest grade team.

7.5. In the event where a match is required to be re-scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. vandalism to club facilities, ground damage, etc.), clubs must advise the Women's Committee as soon as possible who, in consultation with the Women's Committee Chair, or their delegate, will make a ruling.

7.6. In the event of any team of a member club being unable to field a team resulting in their forfeiture of matches on more than 5 occasions during a season then the said team and club will be dealt with by the Women's Committee.

i. Sanctions on the said team may include being compulsorily withdrawn from competition during the season.

ii. Sanctions on the said club may include a financial penalty (minimum 10 penalty units) and a restriction on the club registering the team again in the following season.

iii. Both will be at the discretion of the Women's Committee.

7.7. Clubs desiring to apply to play matches outside the fixtured day and time (instead of Sunday) must submit an application at least four (4) weeks before the scheduled date of the match.

i. The Women's Committee is empowered to make the decision. If approved, the match will become part of the scheduled fixture and be subject to the rules that apply thereto.

ii. Approval may not be forthcoming if the proposed date of the match clashes with that of a scheduled Association representative match.

iii. Clubs requesting a change of fixture must be aware of player availability under Rule 5.3 above.

iv. If Sunday matches of the same round are abandoned by the Women's Committee due to weather conditions (wet or heat), such decision will also apply to matches in that round being played on the Saturday or public holiday.

PLAYING ELIGIBILITY

8. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 9

All players must be registered in PlayHQ with their respective clubs and a player must be registered with the club with which they desire to play, prior to the completion of the match. Each club is responsible for maintaining their own player registration listing (in PlayHQ) comprising ONLY those players that are eligible to be registered with their club.

8.1. **Existing Registered Players**: The existing club player block registration listing at the end of the previous season will be used as the club player block registration listing for the next season.

8.2. **Registration of New Players**: Before entry onto a Club's PlayHQ database, each new player is subject to Rule 10.1 below should they be registering from a club that requires a clearance/ permit. No player will be eligible to play unless registered as above and no player will be registered unless eligible.

8.3. **Approval by Board of Management**: Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, all players will be and always remain subject to the approval of the Board of Management and / or the Women's Committee.

8.4. **Player Registering with more than one Club**: Any player submits themself for registration with more than one club in this Association will be dealt with by the Women's Committee.

8.5. **Players with Duplicate Records**: Any player who is found to have multiple profiles on PlayHQ will be dealt with by the Women's Committee.

8.6. **Players Registered as a Fill-In**: A fill-in is a non-registered player within the current season being played who is used to fill-in for one (1) game only where a club experiences a shortage of players in any 'home & away' game. They are entered via the admin or e-scoring portal. Play HQ allows clubs to include fill-in players into a team line-up.

i. A fill-in player must be registered with the club if they intend to play in any subsequent rounds. Any player who is found to have played multiple games as a fill-in will be dealt with by the Senior Committee

ii. A fill-in player cannot participate in any Finals games unless the player subsequently has become a registered player at the club and meets the qualifying criteria

9. CLASSIFICATION OF PLAYERS

Refer to Men's Rules: Rule 10

9.1. A Premier, Sub-District or Club of another Association will be permitted free interchange of players between its Women's teams and their highest grade in this Association without permits, provided that such players are duly registered in accordance with the rules of this Association. This rule will not permit the transfer of players between teams in this Association without compliance with these rules.

9.2. If a club has two or more teams in this Association, then any player of that club may play in any team of that club, within 6 grades or 1 team, whichever is the greater number of grades, than played in their previous match, without the approval of the Women's Committee.

9.3. A player may transfer to a team of their club in a higher grade at any time without a permit.

10. TRANSFERS AND PERMITS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 12

10.1. Transfer requests are to be submitted online through PlayHQ and MUST be approved before that player commences play in any match.

10.2. If no action is taken by the club to which the application for clearance is made within Five (5) days, the Women's Committee may deal with the application as deemed fit.

10.3. All transfer and associated registrations must be finalized before the commencement of the match.

10.4. Any player unable to obtain a transfer from their club in this Association will have the right to apply to the Women's Committee who will have the power to deal with the application.

10.5. Any player who has previously registered with an RDCA affiliated club requires a transfer application to be submitted online, on their behalf, in the PlayHQ system. This transfer must be approved by the player's previous RDCA club before that player commences play in any match.

10.6. Disqualified players from any Association must obtain a transfer before playing in this Association.

10.7. Any player who has played with a club affiliated with another Association during the current season and desiring to transfer to RDCA must first obtain a transfer from their club, such clearance to be endorsed by the Association they desire to leave. In the event of the club refusing the transfer, the player may appeal to their Association.

i. Should the club and Association refuse the application for a clearance, the player may appeal to the Women's Committee of the RDCA, whose decision will be final and binding on all concerned.

ii. To be eligible to play in following rounds, a player must be registered with the club with which they desired to play before the commencement of the match.

10.8. In the case for interim permits, the Women's Committee will have the power to grant Interim Permits.

11. CRICKET ATTIRE

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 13

11.1. All players must appear on the field in proper cricket attire which for women should be approved coloured clothing, with matching-coloured pads, and use a white ball.

11.2. Leggings may be worn in the lowest grade only.

11.3. Players officiating as umpires must wear proper cricket attire plus distinguishing clothing as required under Rule below46.3 below.

11.4. Umpires will report players contravening this rule as stated above, who will, on a first occasion, be fined 1 penalty unit and, if a further breach of this rule occurs, will be dealt with by the Women's Committee, which may impose a higher fine or penalty.

11.5. No player will wear boots or shoes equipped with studs, spikes, sprigs, or projections made of metal or hard plastic which could damage the surface when playing on synthetic wickets. The penalty for non-compliance with this rule will be a fine of 2 penalty units, and the offending player will not be permitted to participate in the match until this rule has been complied with.

PLAYERS

12. CODE OF CONDUCT

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 14 and Rule 15

The following code of behaviour is recommended by the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union (VMCU) and adopted by the RDCA. The Women's Committee may impose penalties for breaches of this code.

12.1. All matches will be conducted in the true spirit of the game of cricket and Club Officials, Coaches, Captains and Players are required to adopt this code or the Women's Committee may impose penalties.

12.2. Persons registered with the Ringwood and District Cricket Association Incorporated (RDCA) who post on the RDCA website or on a club website or in social media will be subject to the rules of the RDCA and the Code of Conduct under the RDCA Social Media policy (RDCA, 2024) as posted on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com).

12.3. The RDCA Women's Competition will be governed by the RDCA Discipline and Protests Framework (2025) found on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com).

12.4. Offensive and/or obscene language will not be tolerated.

12.5. Smoking or vaping on the playing field during the progress of a match is strictly prohibited.

12.6. No alcohol will be consumed by players or match officials while the match they are participating in is in progress.

12.7. Players will maintain a standard of dress consistent with Rule 11 above.

12.8. **Club's Responsibilities**: Clubs are expected to be responsible for their patrons and the safety of all players. Clubs will:

i. be responsible for the behaviour of their supporters and spectators
ii. place all teams under the control of a responsible person
iii. take necessary action for any players ***Officially reprimanded*** as per Rule 14.3 and the RDCA Discipline and Protests Framework (2025) found on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com).

12.9. **Player's Responsibilities**: No player or official will, during any match, whether on or off the field of play, engage in conduct unbecoming to the game of cricket. Players will:

i. Respect the umpire.
ii. Not verbally or physically abuse any umpire.
iii. Not dispute the umpire's decision nor react in a threatening or disapproving manner.
iv. When given out, move immediately from the field.
v. Endeavour to assist the umpire in carrying out the umpire's duties.
vi. Not indulge in "sledging" of opposition players.
vii. Not verbally or physically abuse any player or official.

12.10. **Captain's Responsibilities**: In addition to the players responsibilities, Captains are expected to take on additional responsibilities. Captains will:

i. Instruct all players to avoid time-wasting. Incoming and outgoing batters are expected to pass on the field of play.
ii. Instruct bowlers to return to the start of their run-up quickly and be ready to bowl without time- wasting.
iii. Instruct all fielders to move quickly between overs and whenever required to change position, i.e. field setting, and changes be undertaken without time-wasting.
iv. Ensure that players conduct themselves in a manner that conforms to the traditional image of the game of cricket

13. UNDERAGE PLAYERS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 30

The RDCA Women's Competition is an inclusive competition and does not discriminate on age or ability. With an increase in girls playing cricket over recent years a pathway has been created for females, and it is important to not risk turning players away from the game. Young players can be scared or discouraged if they play at too high a level, whilst on the flip side more experienced players who want to play in a competitive environment should be able to do so.

With the availability of all-girls cricket competitions and other cricket formats for females, the RDCA provides guidance on age requirements.

13.1. **Age of player**: A player's age shall be determined as of 1st September in the current season.

13.2. **Fielding restrictions:** Players under the age of 16 years as of this date will not be permitted to field within ten (10) metres of the striker's end stumps except slips and gully in any Senior Grade match within this Association.

13.3. **Bowling Restrictions**: ALL underage bowlers, are restricted to a maximum number of consecutive overs in any one spell and a daily quota as per the Australian Cricket Junior Bowling Guidelines, 'Specific Recommendations for Community Level' (Cricket Australia, 2023)

Age:	Under 19	Under 17	Under 15	Under 13	Under 11
Total Overs per Day	18	16	12	8	4
Total Overs per Spell	6	6	5	4	2

Table 1: Underage Bowling Restriction Guidelines

14. OTHER POLICIES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 30

14.1. **RDCA Member Protection By-Law** (RDCA, 2016): The RDCA Board has the discretion to apportion to clubs some or all of the costs incurred in any mediation process. Refer to the policy as stated on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com).

14.2. **RDCA Privacy Policy** (RDCA, 2024): This policy complies with the Information Privacy Principles (IPP) contained in the Information Privacy Act 2000. Refer to the policy as stated on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com/privacy-policy).

14.3. **RDCA Discipline and Protests Framework** (2025): Also known as '**Misbehaviour**', this policy is a framework to articulate the process that the RDCA will follow and for Investigations, Protests, Tribunal Hearings and Appeal Hearings across all Competitions. The RDCA Women's committee will govern any reported misbehaviour by players as per the policy as stated on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com)

14.4. **RDCA Social Media Policy** (RDCA, 2024): The RDCA recognises that social media is an important part of the way members communicate. Accordingly, the RDCA has developed and maintains its own online social media presence through which it delivers content to its members and the public to develop and increase opportunities in cricket at all levels in the metropolitan area bound by the affiliates of the RDCA. Refer to the policy as stated on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com/social-media-policy)

14.5. Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy (2024)

14.6. Australian Cricket's Looking After Our Kids Code of Behaviour (2024)

14.7. **Cricket Australia Live Streaming & Digital Guidelines** (2025): Cricket Australia has created user-friendly resources to help clubs manage livestreaming. These guidelines aim to keep the cricket community safe and outline content captured via livestreaming which is not allowed and the type of content not allowed to be created and shared. Refer to the PlayCricket website (play.cricket.com.au)

14.8. **Cricket Australia's Child Safe Policy** (2025): RDCA requires teams playing in the Women's Competition to have an up-to-date policy in place as per the recommendations found on the PlayCricket website (play.cricket.com.au). Key documents to consider are:

14.9. **Pregnancy in Cricket Policy**: Players should consider if continued participation in cricket during pregnancy poses theoretical risks to them and their unborn child. It is recommended pregnant players seek advice from an appropriately qualified medical practitioner as to:

- the risks involved in participating in cricket while pregnant.
- is it safe to continue participating in cricket while pregnant and, if so, for how long participation should continue?

It is recommended players notify their club of their pregnancy. A checklist for this policy is available from Cricket Victoria for clubs.

MATCH CONDITIONS OF PLAY

15. LAWS OF CRICKET

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 16

The Laws of Cricket and the Women's Rules and Playing Arrangements of the RDCA, except as varied herein, will apply.

The Laws of Cricket, as adopted and interpreted by Cricket Victoria as existing at the date of the Annual General Meeting of this Association in any year will be observed, except as varied by the current RDCA rules including:

15.1. Any law introduced as an experimental law will be subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting or a meeting of the General Committee before the commencement of the season.

15.2. The number of on-side fielders will not exceed five of whom not more than two may be behind the popping crease at the instant of the bowler's delivery. In the event of an infringement of this rule by the fielding team, the umpires will call "No ball"

15.3. A team will consist of a minimum of seven (7) players for the entire duration of the match.

15.4. No balls, wides, and dangerous and unfair bowling as outlined in Rule 28 NO BALLS AND WIDES

15.5. Any player absent at commencement of a day's play will not incur any time penalty on taking the field for the first time on that day.

15.6. Should a bowler be unable to complete an over in any match, that over will be completed by another bowler provided that such bowler will not be the one who bowled the preceding over.

16. FITNESS OF CONDITIONS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 27

The Women's Committee will determine the members of the Adverse Weather Committee. The RDCA's 'Adverse Weather Policy (RDCA, 2025)', found at RDCA.com.au, covers extreme heat, fire rating, and lightning apply to all matches.

16.1. **Wet Weather**: This Committee will inspect several grounds, and if the majority of grounds are unsuitable for play on that day, a decision will be advised via social media and to team Captains as early as possible, but **no later than 10:00 am**.

16.2. A match having commenced, the decision to resume play will be in the hands of the amateur umpires or Team Captains, if official umpires are not in attendance (refer Rule 46.4 below)

16.3. **Rain**: With the agreement of the official umpire(s) (refer Rule 45: DUTIES AND POWERS OF PROFESSIONAL UMPIRES) or team captains, if official umpire(s) are not in attendance, that the safety of players is not in jeopardy, play may commence when it is raining. However, should a decision be taken to suspend play due to rain, play may not recommence until, in the opinion of the Umpires / Team Captains, the rain has eased, and it is safe to continue.

16.4. **Lightning**: Refer to the 'Adverse Weather Policy (RDCA, 2025)', as stated in the Match Handbook and on the RDCA website (RDCA.com.au).

16.5. **Extreme Heat**: Refer to the 'Adverse Weather Policy (RDCA, 2025)', as stated in the Match Handbook and on the RDCA website (RDCA.com.au).

16.6. **Fitness of Ground**: The official umpire(s) (refer Rule 45 DUTIES AND POWERS OF PROFESSIONAL UMPIRES) or team captains if official umpire(s) are not in attendance (refer Rule 46.4 below) will consider the ground as unfit for play when it is so wet or slippery as to deprive the bowlers of a reasonable foothold, the fielders of the power of free movement, or the batters of the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets.

i. Conditions will not be regarded as either dangerous or unreasonable merely because they are not ideal, e.g. simply because the grass and the ball are wet and slippery.

ii. Conditions will be regarded as dangerous if there is an actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire.

iii. Conditions will be regarded as unreasonable if, although posing no risk to safety, it would not be sensible for the play to proceed.

iv. If team captains cannot agree on the fitness of the ground to play, refer to Rule 46.4.ii below

17. GROUNDS, SURFACES AND PITCHES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 28

All competition matches will be played on synthetic, or any other type of pitch approved by the Association.

17.1. **Reporting of damage to a pitch**: A club must advise the Women's Committee that the synthetic surface has been damaged. Such advice is to include details of the action the club plans to take. The Women's Committee will confirm whether the action is acceptable and carry out inspection, if, or as, necessary.

17.2. **Laying of a new/replacement pitch**: Clubs must notify the Women's Committee of any planned or ongoing pitch upgrades.

17.3. **Wicket dimensions**: A synthetic wicket will not be more than 2.75 metres and no less than 1.8metres wide and no less than 23.75 metres.

17.4. **Marking the pitch**: On synthetic wickets, the batting or popping crease will be marked **IN WHITE**, 1.2 metres in front of and parallel to the bowling crease. Clubs failing to have painted creases on synthetic wickets will incur a fine of 10 penalty units.

i. All line markings including on the pitch, circles and boundaries must be a minimum width of 2cm.

ii. To assist in the adjudication of wides in limited-over matches, a white line must be painted extending from the popping crease to the bowling crease, the inner edge being 75centimetres either side of the outside stumps.

17.5. **Pitch Conditions**: The Women's Committee may require a club whose synthetic wicket is, in its opinion, not of the required length or in good condition, to repair or replace the wicket to the satisfaction of the Women's Committee within a reasonable time.

i. All pitches and surrounds must be properly prepared for each day's play by the home team, which will be responsible for the provision of an approved playing surface, marking full circles of a 10metre radius on the ground and centred on each middle stump and the proper fixing of boundaries.

17.6. **Boundaries**: Clubs will be responsible for setting playing boundaries and must ensure that player safety is always considered when setting the boundaries by taking any hazards out of the field of play (e.g. football goalposts, drains).

i. Boundaries will, where possible, be set as Table 2: Field Boundary Requirements from the centre of the pitch.

One Day Boundaries	Premier Division	60 metres
	All other Divisions	50 metres

Table 2: Field Boundary Requirements

ii. Boundary markers (lines, ropes, cones, etc.) must be used and placed at least 3.1 metres away from any hazards including but not limited to fencing, concrete gutters, trees, or other solid structures which may cause injuries to cricketers.

iii. Raised markers must be set no more than 10 metres apart. The boundary between markings will be taken as a straight line unless a continuous white line clearly marks the boundary.

iv. Umpires must be informed of the boundaries marked out before the commencement of play.

17.7. The batting crease will be filled in level with the pitch and the approach to the wicket will be sufficiently level to enable the bowler to obtain a fair run to the wicket.

17.8. All grounds and pitches will always be subject to the approval of the Women's Committee and any instructions issued by the Women's Committee for their improvement must be carried out.

17.9. The RDCA will have prior claim over all grounds of clubs competing in the RDCA for use in connection with all final matches, as defined in Rule 34 below.

i. Each club must ensure that before the start of each season, a booking is made for its main ground for possible use for final matches.

18. EQUIPMENT

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 29

18.1. **The Ball:** In all grades, each team will provide one new **WHITE** leather ball (142 grams), purchased from the Association, to be used as the match ball.

i. Each club will only use balls of Australian manufacture and stamped "RDCA approved". Non-compliance with this requirement will result in a fine of 5 penalty units for each offence.

ii. One new white RDCA approved cricket ball will be used to commence each inning as the match ball by the fielding team.

iii. The balls so provided must be approved by the professional umpires, or by the captains if no professional umpire is present.

iv. Clubs are expected to have additional balls available in case of lost balls etc. to avoid delays.

v. A substitute ball, in good condition, will be provided by each team and handed to the umpire or umpires before the commencement of the match for use in case the ball originally provided is lost or becomes unfit for further play

18.2. **Stumps:** Stumps of the regulation sizes, in good condition, erected to be 71.1 cm in height and 22.86 cm in width, will be used in all matches. Fine of 2 penalty units, if in poor condition.

18.3. **Helmets**: Any protective helmet, which must be fitted with a face grill, will be of a colour, type, standard, design and brand approved and advised by Cricket Australia

i. Notwithstanding the above, the applicable minimum standard for all helmets worn by players is **British Standard 7928:2013** 'Specification for head protectors for cricketers'.

ii. Any protective helmet, which must be fitted with a face grill, will be of a colour, type, standard, design and brand approved and advised by Cricket Australia. Notwithstanding, the applicable minimum standard for all helmets worn by players is **British Standard 7928:2013** 'Specification for head protectors for cricketers'.

iii. In line with the ICC Rules and Regulations for Helmets/Head Protectors (ICC, 2025) and Cricket Australia Player Safety Head and Neck Protectors (Cricket Australia, 2025), the RDCA strongly recommends that **all players wear British Standard 7928:2013** 'Specification for head protectors for cricketers' compliant helmets when batting, and wicket-keeping up to the stumps.

iv. All wicketkeepers standing within 3 metres of the stumps must wear a protective helmet as described in Rule 18.3.i above.

v. Whilst batting, all players must wear a protective helmet as described in Rule 18.3.i above

18.4. The first named (or home team) in all matches will provide sawdust to be available in the event of inclement weather.

18.5. The first named team (or home team) will provide a scoreboard, chalk and at least one broom.

18.6. ALL home teams shall have a First Aid Kit available at the ground for the use of both competing teams and umpires.

18.7. Sufficient materials, satisfactory to the umpire(s), to complete the match, will be ready 20 minutes before the commencement of each day's play.

19. AFTERNOON TEA AND DRINKS BREAKS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 25

19.1. Should an innings terminate, or there be a suspension in play resulting from bad light or weather conditions within 15 minutes of the scheduled afternoon tea break, an adjournment will be taken immediately, and, upon resumption, play will continue under the normal playing conditions.

19.2. Should the team batting have lost 9 wickets at the time scheduled for the afternoon tea break, play may continue for up to 15 minutes in an endeavour to complete the innings.

19.3. Drinks may be taken on field, if pre-arranged before each session between captains and umpires.

19.4. Drinks will not be taken more than once in any session of play, except as required for the health and safety of players and umpires.

19.5. The players and umpires, on all days of play, will provide their own drinks. and will provide a means to store and transport the drinks onto the ground when required. The home club will provide access to drinking water from a tap.

20. INJURY GUIDELINES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 30

20.1. **Injury where bleeding is Involved**: Where a player or Umpire, during the course of a match, suffers an injury which causes bleeding:

i. That person shall immediately retire from the match until such First Aid has been administered to prevent further bleeding.

ii. The injured person shall not resume their part in the match until either the bleeding has stopped, or the wound is securely covered to prevent blood seepage.

20.2. **Injury to Batters where a Batter is unable to return to the field**: A batter who is injured and has temporarily retired under Laws of Cricket – Law 25.4.2 (MCC, 2022), and who is unable to return after the fall of the ninth wicket, shall be deemed "retired hurt" and the innings of the batting team shall be deemed closed.

20.3. **Injury to batter involved in tenth wicket partnership**: Where an injury occurs to a batter involved in the tenth wicket partnership, a maximum of five minutes will be allowed in order for the batter to obtain treatment. If the batter is unable to resume after five minutes the batter will be recorded in the scorebook as "retired hurt" and the innings shall end.

20.4. **Injury to an Umpire**: Where an injury occurs to an Umpire necessitating the Umpire leaving the field, a competent person, on agreement between the captains, shall be nominated to officiate if the Umpire is unable to resume after five minutes.

20.5. **Concussion and Head Trauma**: Refer to the policy as stated on the RDCA website (www.rdca.com).

20.6. **Reduction in Overs**: There shall be no reduction in the number of overs to be bowled or requisite period when time is lost due to injury.

20.7. **Prior Permission to use a runner**: A player can seek permission to use a runner in their place to run between wickets prior to the commencement of the match, if agreed to by the opposing team and they meet the following:

i. A player who has a permanent injury or disability who requires the use of a runner to continue to participate in Women's matches may seek permission by applying to the Women's Committee. To be considered the application must:

- Cover the coming season or the season in progress.
- Be accompanied by a certificate from a registered medical practitioner which is descriptive in detailing the capacity in which the player may compete.

ii. If approved, the application will stand for the coming season or the season in progress only and must be renewed each subsequent season unless otherwise advised by the Women's Committee.

iii. Once approved, the player will be notified, and the permit will be indicated on the RDCA website.

GAME DAY : GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

21. PLAYING HOURS & OVER ENTITLEMENTS

		PREMIER		DISTRICT	COMMUNITY	
	Grade	**A Grade**	**B Grade**	**C Grade**	**D Grade**	**E Grade**
1	Game Format	One Day	One Day	One Day	One Day	One Day
2	Hours of play *(see also Rule 25 below)*	1:00 pm – 6:10 pm *(may be extended with time lost, and if both team captains agree)*				
3	Scheduled Overs of play	80	72	72	60	40 / 50 / 60
4	Compulsory overs close for each team	40	36	36	30	20 / 25 / 30
5	Overs per end *(see also Rule 27.5 below)*	5	6	6	6	5
6	Boundaries *(see also Rule 17.6 above)*	60 Metres measured from centre of pitch		50 Metres measured from centre of pitch		
7	Drinks Interval *(See also Rule 19 above)*	One per innings normally taken at the end of 20 overs. *(In case of extreme heat, the RDCA Adverse Weather Policy for Modified Rules to be implemented)*				
8	Afternoon Tea Break *(See also Rule 19 above)*	20 minutes on completion of the first innings of the match				
9	**MIN** overs required to constitute a match	20 overs per team	18 overs per team	18 overs per team	15 overs per team	10 overs per team
10	Time lost before or during the 1st Innings:	Reduce 1 over per bowler, in turn, for each 7 minutes lost, or part thereof *(see also Rule 30 below)*				
11	Completion of Match *(See also Rule 32 below)*	Team batting second declares, is dismissed, or compulsorily closed				
12	Batter Runs reached to retire *(See also Rule 29 below)*	n/a	100	100	100	50
13	Bowling restrictions *(see also Rule 27 below)*					
I	**Min** bowlers per match	5	6	6	5	5
ii	**Max** overs per bowler	8	6	6	6	4
iii	**Underage Players** *(see also Rule 13.3 above)*					
	Max overs per **DAY**	U/11 - 4 overs U/13 - 8 overs U/15 - 12 overs		U/17 - 16 overs U/19 - 18 overs		
	Max overs per **SPELL**	U/11 - 2 overs U/13 - 4 overs U/15 - 5 overs		U/17 - 6 overs U/19 - 6 overs		
	Break between spells	Rest between spells should be minimum of 20 mins between spells				

Table 3: Summary of Rules for All Grades

22. DUTIES OF TEAM CAPTAINS ON MATCH DAY

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 17

On match day, team captains have a duty to uphold that is expected from the RDCA. Team Captains should see that:

22.1. They have a good knowledge of the rules and laws of cricket and the Women's Rules & Playing Arrangements.

22.2. Conduct of team members is exemplary.

22.3. The team displays high sportsmanship and abides by the spirit of cricket.

22.4. If playing at their home ground, that the ground is in order. This includes ensuring that:

i. boundary markers are in the correct position,
ii. fielding circles are marked on the ground as required,
iii. stump holes are filled level with the pitch surface,
iv. the bowler run-ups are satisfactory as per rule 17.3 above, and
v. stumps are in position at least five (5) minutes before the start of play.

22.5. Players under the age of 16 on or before 1st September of the current season must adhere to all aspects of Rule 13 UNDERAGE PLAYERS

22.6. The team is ready to play at the scheduled time.

22.7. Before the start of play, captains or a club official will exchange a list of all players who may not be changed without the consent of the opposing captain. These names are to be entered into the scorebook and /or PlayHQ after completion of play if it has not already been done so.

22.8. During play, both captains are responsible for maintaining match momentum, ensuring an acceptable average over rate of not less than **16 overs per hour** and that, at the fall of wickets, outgoing / incoming batters cross on the ground (except when a break in play is called by the umpire(s).

22.9. At the end of the match, the "Captains Umpire Report" form is completed

22.10. Ensure that both team captains agree to the score in PlayHQ at the conclusion of play. By agreeing at the conclusion of the match signifies the correctness of all names, full results and match points claimed.

22.11. Welcome officials of the opposing team and the RDCA (if present) at the afternoon tea interval.

22.12. At the end of each match, ascertain from the official umpire(s) whether any matters emanating from the match will require further action.

23. RULES FOR ALL GRADES

Applies to Women's Rules Only

The Women's Committee will determine the grades to which these rules apply based on team entries each season (refer Table 3: Summary of Rules for All Grades).

23.1. Matches will consist of a designated maximum number of overs as defined for the grade and will be single innings matches.

23.2. Matches will be played on days determined by the RDCA Women's Committee at the 'home' club venue.

23.3. Matches will commence at 1:00 pm.

23.4. There will be an interval of 20 minutes between each innings.

23.5. An individual player may be given a drink either on the boundary edge or at the fall of a wicket, on the field, provided that no playing time is wasted.

23.6. If a bowler commences an over that exceeds the limit of overs bowled as specified in these guidelines any deliveries are to be declared null, and void and a replacement bowler will re-bowl the over.

23.7. Any ball bowled that bounces over the shoulder will be deemed a 'No ball' *(refer Rule 28 below: No Balls and Wides)*

23.8. Scorers must record details when a player retires, such as the team score (treat like the fall of a wicket) at that point and the number of overs bowled e.g.15.3. These facts will help in determining batting partnerships.

23.9. If other players have retired, the 12th players can bat, with the opposition captain's permission, until a team loses 10 wickets.

23.10. If a team is dismissed in less than their scheduled overs of play per day, the opposition is entitled to bat a maximum of their scheduled overs of play per day ONLY *(refer **Table 3**: Summary of Rules for All Grades)*.

23.11. Overs shall be a **maximum of eight (8) balls**, regardless of the number of illegal deliveries.

23.12. A team can have thirteen (13) registered players of which any combination of eleven (11) players can bat, bowl and field.

23.13. Each team must declare their 13 players by exchanging team lists in the scorebook and in PlayHQ. List all 13 players and indicate underage players where relevant, before the commencement of play.

23.14. All 13 players of a team must be entered in PlayHQ and be recorded in both scorebooks. If players are not listed in the scorebook and on PlayHQ they are unable to count the match towards finals qualifications.

23.15. Whilst batting, all players must wear a protective helmet

23.16. All wicketkeepers standing within 3 metres of the stumps must wear a protective helmet

23.17. Note Rule 13 UNDERAGE PLAYERS for bowling restrictions for junior and youth players.

23.18. At all times there are to be at least four (4) fielders other than the wicketkeeper and bowler within thirty (30) metres of the pitch. If there are less than four (4) fielders within this range either umpire will call and signal a no ball.

24. TEAM LISTS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 35

24.1. The team list must not differ from those names recorded in terms of Rule 22.7 above without the consent of the opposing captain.

24.2. Substitutes are only to be permitted in terms of laws of cricket and after advising umpires and opposing captain.

24.3. Failure to advise of a substituted player prior to the entry of players names in the scorebook will preclude that player from participating in that match.

24.4. At the conclusion of the match, the scorebook must be signed by the captains or officials of both clubs signifying the correctness of:

- all players names,
- full results including match scores, player scores and extras, and
- match points claimed

25. DEFAULT HOURS OF PLAY

Applies to Women's Rules Only

25.1. The default position is outlined in **Table 3**: Summary of Rules for All Grades above.

25.2. Times of play can be negotiated between competing teams. The Women's Committee must be notified of any time changes at least 10 days prior to the match. If teams are unable to agree, the default position will stand.

25.3. If playing time is lost before or during a match the 6:10 pm cessation time is advanced by the amount of time lost, to a maximum of 30 minutes, allowing for the cessation time to extend to a maximum of 6:40 pm.

26. LATE STARTS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 26

26.1. The team or teams responsible for unnecessary delay will be liable for the fine of 2 penalty units or as determined by the Women's Committee.

26.2. Should a team not arrive at the ground designated for a match within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled starting time, then that team will forfeit the match.

26.3. If play did not commence within thirty (30) minutes of the time appointed, without a satisfactory explanation as determined by the Women's Committee, each Club offending shall be fined 2 penalty units

26.4. If play has not commenced within 2.5 hours of scheduled commencement of play, thus allowing a minimum of twenty (20) overs per side with a ten (10) minute change of innings, the match shall be abandoned, the result being a washout.

27. BOWLING RESTRICTIONS

Applies to Women's Rules Only

27.1. There are restrictions to the number of overs each bowler can bowl:

Scheduled Overs	80	72	60	50	40
Maximum overs per bowler	8	6	6	5	4

Table 4: Senior Women Bowling Restrictions

27.2. Refer to Rule 13 UNDERAGE PLAYERS for bowling restrictions for Junior and underage players

27.3. Matches may be played by bowling from only one end if umpires decide that the other end is unfit for play (wet, sun glare etc.) or other exceptional circumstances (e.g. propensity for lost balls).

27.4. In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be allowed by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only insofar as each bowler's limit is concerned.

27.5. **Number of overs bowled at each end before changing ends:** A prescribed number of overs shall be bowled from each end before the fielding team changes ends. Umpires may change positions at the same time as the bowler. Batters shall change ends at the conclusion of every other over.

Scheduled Overs	80	72	60	50	40
Number of overs before end change	5	6	6	5	5

Table 5: Change of ends guidelines

27.6. **Allowable Deliveries per Over:** Overs shall be a maximum of eight (8) balls, regardless of the number of illegal deliveries. However, the final over of each innings shall be completed by six (6) legal deliveries

28. NO BALLS AND WIDES

Applies to Women's Rules Only

28.1. **No Balls**: For the purposes of determining "no balls" in matches:

i. Where a professional umpire is officiating, one (1) ball per over may pass between the batter's shoulder and top of the head whilst standing in an upright position. Any other ball within the over which, in the umpire's opinion, would pass higher than the height of the batter's shoulder whilst standing in an upright position will be called and signalled as a "no ball" by the umpire at the bowler's end or by a professional umpire at square leg.

ii. Where a professional umpire is not officiating, any ball that would pass higher than the height of a batter's shoulder whilst standing in an upright position shall be called and signalled as a "no ball".

iii. Any delivery pitching off the designated playing surface will be called and signalled "No ball". Any additional extras scored off such deliveries will be debited against the offending bowler.

iv. At the instant of the bowler's delivery there shall not be more than five (5) fielders on the leg side. In the event of infringement of this law the umpire shall call and signal "No ball".

28.2. **Dangerous and unfair bowling**: Where a professional umpire is officiating, the rule will be applied as it is listed in the Laws of Cricket (Law 41.6 and 41.7) except as stated below.

i. In all matches, ANY delivery which passes or would have passed on the full above waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease is to be called a "No ball". Either umpire may make the call on such deliveries.

ii. If considered by the umpire(s) not to have been deliberately bowled, the delivery will be called and signalled "No ball" only. No cautionary or other action will be taken.

iii. If directed at the batter AND considered dangerous, the cautionary requirements, as stated in Cricket Law 41.7 will apply.

28.3. **Wides**: For the purposes of determining "wides" in matches:

i. On either side of the wicket, if the ball passes outside the extension of the painted lines as described in Rule 17.4 above as it passes the popping crease, it will be deemed wide.

ii. Any additional extras scored off such deliveries will be debited against the offending bowler.

29. BATTING RESTRICTIONS

Applies to Women's Rules only

29.1. Batters retire as soon as they make the required number of runs listed in **Table 6**: Runs for Retirement guideline below, and not the end of the over. RETIRED NOT OUT is the scorebook entry.

29.2. When all available players in the team have batted (at the fall of the ninth or last wicket), Retired Not Out batters may return in order of retirement and bat until dismissed or until the close of the innings.

29.3. When a batter returns to the crease the bowling team may reuse any bowlers who have bowled without any of the original over limitations.

29.4. Note, there is no compulsory retirement of batters in A Grade in One-day matches.

Scheduled Overs	80	72	60	50	40
Runs reached to retire	n/a	100	100	50	50

Table 6: Runs for Retirement guideline

30. DELAYED OR INTERRUPTED MATCHES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 48

30.1. **Time lost** before or during the first innings for adverse weather or other unforeseen circumstances will result in both innings being reduced by **1 over for every 7 minutes**, or part thereof lost.

i. The minimum number of overs faced by each team to constitute a match is outlined in **Table 3**: Summary of Rules for All Grades above.

ii. If a match that has commenced cannot be completed because of weather, light or some unforeseen reason, the match will be declared a draw.

30.2. **Adverse Conditions**: When adverse conditions reduce the overs for the side batting second, the result shall be a draw if the target score has not been achieved or if the side has not been dismissed. Refer 'Adverse Weather Policy (RDCA, 2025)' for further details, found at the RDCA website: RDCA.com.au

30.3. **Batting**: If the team batting second has its time/overs cut short then the game is deemed a draw

30.4. **Bowling**: In a match where there is a delay to the start, or an interruption to play in the first innings causes the reduction of the number of the allotted overs for both teams to less than the minimum number of overs outlined in **Table 3**: Summary of Rules for All Grades above.

i. No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the allotted overs

ii. When the overs are not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance.

30.5. **Reduced Over Restrictions Calculations**: The below tables define the restrictions for a reduced over game as a result of delayed or interrupted matches for each grade:

80 Overs		
Time lost (mins)	Overs per Innings	MINIMUM Bowlers
0	40	5
7	39	5
14	38	5
21	37	5
28	36	5
35	35	5
42	34	5
49	33	5
56	32	5
63	31	5
70	30	5
77	29	5
84	28	5
91	27	5
98	26	5
105	25	5
112	24	5
119	23	5
126	22	5
133	21	5
140	20	5
>140	<20	Abandon Game

72 Overs		
Time lost (mins)	Overs per Innings	MINIMUM Bowlers
0	36	6
7	35	6
14	34	6
21	33	6
28	32	6
35	31	6
42	30	6
49	29	5
56	28	5
63	27	5
70	26	5
77	25	5
84	24	5
91	23	5
98	22	5
105	21	5
112	20	5
119	19	4
126	18	4
>126	<18	Abandon Game

60 Overs		
Time lost (mins)	Overs per Innings	MINIMUM Bowlers
0	30	5
7	29	5
14	28	5
21	27	5
28	26	5
35	25	5
42	24	5
49	23	5
56	22	5
63	21	5
70	20	5
77	19	5
84	18	5
91	17	5
98	16	5
105	15	5
>105	<15	Abandon Game

50 Overs		
Time lost (mins)	Overs per Innings	MINIMUM Bowlers
0	25	4
7	24	4
14	23	4
21	22	4
28	21	4
35	20	4
42	19	4
49	18	4
56	17	4
63	16	4
70	15	4
77	14	4
84	13	4
91	12	3
98	<12	Abandon Game

40 Overs		
Time lost (mins)	Overs per Innings	MINIMUM Bowlers
0	20	4
7	19	4
14	18	4
21	17	4
28	16	4
35	15	4
42	14	4
49	13	4
56	12	3
63	11	3
70	10	3
>70	<10	Abandon Game

Table 7: Reduced Overs Bowling Restrictions

31. TIMED OUT

Refer to Senior Men's Rules: Rule 63

31.1. The incoming batter must be in position to take guard or for their partner to be ready to receive the next ball within one and one half (1½) minutes (90 secs) of the fall of the previous wicket.

31.2. The incoming batter is expected to be near the boundary and to jog to the wicket.

32. RESULT

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 52

32.1. **Normal Conditions**: When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity to bat for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs (including penalty runs) shall be the winner.

32.2. **Interrupted Conditions**: In a match where an interruption to the innings of the team batting second occurs, If the team batting second has its time/overs cut short then the game is deemed a draw

32.3. **Declarations:** The captain of the batting team may not declare their innings closed at any time during the course of the match

32.4. **End of play**: Once a result is achieved play will end.

i. The winner shall be the side scoring the greater number of runs, irrespective of wickets lost.

ii. If both sides score an equal number of runs, the result shall be a draw, irrespective of wickets lost.

iii. If the reduced number of overs have not been completed by the applicable cessation time determined under Rule 25.3, the match shall end.

FINALS

33. MATCHES TO QUALIFY FOR FINALS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 10

33.1. The minimum number of home and away matches (finals qualifying matches) to be played by players to be eligible to play in finals matches of any one grade in any season will be determined by the Women's Committee.

33.2. A player will be eligible to play for a club in finals matches of any one grade in that season if they have played the minimum number of finals qualifying matches for that club in that grade or lower including forfeits received

- excluding any abandoned or cancelled matches; and
- excluding any matches with Juniors, Veterans, or other clubs; and
- subject to Rule 8.6 above.

33.3. Only teams receiving a forfeit can enter eligible player names into PlayHQ, which will count as a game played. Players of a team causing a forfeit cannot use that forfeit match as part of their eligibility to play in finals matches.

33.4. Any team playing an unregistered or ineligible player in any game will be fined 10 penalty units per player and will forfeit that game. The win and any premiership points will be awarded to the non-offending team. The Women's Committee reserves the right to impose further penalties against captain, players, officials, and club.

33.5. Persons called upon to act as "substitutes" MUST be registered players of this Association. A player acting as a substitute need not have played the required qualification matches to act as a substitute in finals; however, a player may not act as a substitute in a grade more than two (2) consecutive club teams lower than the team in which they last played for that club during the current season.

33.6. A registered player of this Association will not be permitted to play in two matches at the same time or in the same round, either with this or any other Association without a permit from the Women's Committee.

33.7. Players from another Association, refer to Rules 10.6, 10.7 and 10.8.

34. FINALS CONDITIONS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 24

34.1. **General Conditions**: The match shall be played in accordance with all Rules governing the playing of One-day matches.

34.2. **Ground**: The match shall be played at a ground provided by the team which finished in the higher position on the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away season. Should the team which finished higher on the ladder be unable to provide a ground, its opponent will be given an opportunity to provide a ground. Such grounds will be subject to approval by the Women's Committee. If neither team is able to provide a ground, the Women's Committee will provide a suitable neutral ground.

34.3. **Substitute Fielder**: While a substitute player must be registered with the RDCA, they do not need to have played the requisite number of qualifying games.

35. FINALS STRUCTURE

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 24

35.1. All Finals matches will be played in the One-day format in all grades.

35.2. The following structure will be used to decide the winner of the premiership in each Division:

Premier Division	
Elimination Final	3rd **vs** 4th
Qualifying Final	1st vs 2nd
Preliminary Final	Winner Elimination Final vs Loser Qualifying Final
Grand Final	Winner Qualifying Final vs Winner Preliminary Final

District & Community Division						
Semi Finals	1st	vs	4th	and	2nd	vs 3rd
Grand Final	Winners of Semi Finals					

36. SEMI-FINALS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 24

36.1. Semi-final matches, including Elimination and Qualifying final matches, will be played on the Sunday following the end of the home and away matches.

36.2. **Play abandoned on scheduled day**: If no play takes place on the scheduled day of the Semi-Final, the team that was placed higher on the ladder shall progress to the Final.

36.3. **Tied Match or Drawn Result**: Should a result of a match be a tie or draw, then the side which finished in a higher position on the ladder at the conclusion of the Home and Away matches shall proceed to the final.

37. PRELIMINARY FINALS

(Premier Division only)

37.1. Preliminary Final matches will be played on the weekend following the completion of the elimination and qualifying final matches.

37.2. **Tied Match or Drawn Result**: In the event of a drawn, abandoned or tied match the loser of the Qualifying final will proceed to the Grand Final.

38. GRAND FINALS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 24

38.1. Grand Final matches will be played on the weekend following the completion of the Semi-Final matches for District and Community Divisions.

i. The Grand Final shall be played between the winners of the semi-finals and in accordance with the rules employed in the semi-finals and rules conditions (Refer Rules 35 & 36 above).

38.2. Grand Final matches for Premier Division will be played on the weekend following the completion of the Preliminary Finals.

i. The Grand Final shall be played between the winner of the Preliminary final and in accordance with the rules employed in the preliminary-finals and rules conditions (Refer Rules 35 & 37 above)

38.3. **Play abandoned on scheduled day**: If no play takes place on the scheduled day of the Grand Final the game may be played on another day as advised by the Women's Committee.

PREMIERSHIP

39. PREMIERSHIP SYSTEM

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 31

39.1. The following premiership point system will be adopted:

Event	Points awarded to	Points
WIN	Winning team	6 points
Tied match	Each team	3 points
No play or drawn match	Each team	3 points
Fixtured Bye	Team listed for Bye	6 points
Forfeit or Walk-over	Team receiving a forfeit or walk-over	6 points

Table 8: Premiership point system

39.2. If any teams are equal in premiership points gained at the end of the home and away matches, the relative positions of such teams will be determined by percentages as follows:

i. The batting percentage for a team will be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored by the number of wickets lost.
ii. The batting percentage against each team will be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored against it by the number of wickets taken.
iii. The former will be divided by the latter.
iv. The team having the higher quotient will be considered to have the better performance.
v. In an innings closed or match abandoned, only the wickets lost will be counted.
vi. In an innings completed, ten (10) wickets will be considered as lost.

39.3. If any team withdraws or is expelled from the Association during the home and away matches the Women's Committee will determine if the remaining fixtures will be regarded as walkovers or the fixture is to be redrawn.

39.4. Except where otherwise determined at the Annual General Meeting, at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the first four teams will play off for the premiership in accordance with Rules 34 and 38 above.

39.5. Premiership trophies will be awarded to the premiership teams in all senior grades. Where applicable perpetual trophies will be suitably engraved and held by the Association.

MATCH RECORDS

40. OFFICIAL MATCH SCORE ENTRY

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 33

40.1. During the progress of each match, each team will be required to be enter in its **scorebook or in PlayHQ** the detailed scores and bowling analyses of its own and of the opposing team.

40.2. All games in all grades shall have the option to score games online using the PlayHQ Live Score App. If live scoring is not done by an official match scorer, then scores must be synced with the official scorers at the end of each completed over and all breaks in play

40.3. At the conclusion of day's play, the respective Captains will see that the analyses of both scorebooks and, if applicable, online in PlayHQ agree and that the names of all players of both teams appear therein and will sign each other's scorebook accordingly (or confirm online PlayHQ score).

40.4. The home team shall have the preference to use a scorebook or score online in PlayHQ. Should the home team decide to use a scorebook, the away team can score online.

40.5. If online scoring is interrupted (temporarily or permanently), both teams shall agree that the score as recorded in the handwritten scorebook will prevail and that scoring will continue with both teams using a scorebook.

41. MATCH REPORTS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 34

41.1. Team scores of each day's play for both teams will be entered on PlayHQ by the home team by 9:00 pm on each match day. Every home team failing to comply with this rule will be fined 1 penalty unit per team per day.

41.2. Official match reports will be entered online with PlayHQ by both clubs individually, including all players' performances, by 6:00 pm on the day following the completion of a match. Fines, per offending team, for not complying will be:

1st offence:	Written warning
2nd offence:	2 penalty units fined per team
3rd offence:	3 penalty units fined per team
4th offence:	4 penalty units fined per team
5th and subsequent offence:	Loss of four (4) match points per team

41.3. Official match results must also be entered when a match is washed out (excluding when the round is abandoned by the Women's Committee), or when a team receives a forfeit (by the team receiving the forfeit).

41.4. A separate Captains Umpires Report is to be completed by each captain within 72 hours of the scheduled completion of the match. The report is to be completed in accordance with the guidelines in the Women's Matchday Handbook.

i. Failure to comply will initially result in the club receiving a written warning of non-compliance. A second failure to comply will result in the club being fined 5 penalty units and for any subsequent breach, a fine of 10 penalty units will be applied.

41.5. Incomplete or inadequate reports in terms of the guidelines provided may result in clarification being sought of the offending captain / club and is to be provided within 7 days of the request. Failure to do so will result in a penalty being applied as above.

TEAM/INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

42. GRADE TROPHIES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 36

The Association will provide trophies approved by the Women's Committee to the winners of Batting and Bowling averages in every grade in the Association. All shields and trophies will be insured by the Association to the full insurable value.

42.1. All criteria for Batting, Bowling and All Rounder trophies are based on performances during the home and away series only.

42.2. **To win a Batting award** a batter must:

i. bat in at least half the matches played by their team in the particular grade; and
ii. Score a minimum of **200 runs**

42.3. **To win a Bowling award** a bowler must:

i. bowl in at least half the matches played by their team in the particular grade; and
ii. bowl a minimum of **240 balls**; and
iii. taken a minimum of **10 wickets**

42.4. **An All-Rounder Trophy** will be presented each year to a player in the Women's competition. The winner of these trophies will be the player who gains the greatest number of points, based on the following allocation:

Runs	1 point per run
Catches	5 points per catch
Wickets (unassisted)	15 points per wicket
Wickets (assisted)	10 points per wicket
Throw Outs	10 points per throw out
Stumping	10 points per stumping

42.5. All trophy winners will be provided with a complimentary ticket to the Annual Presentation Function and will be expected to attend the function. In the case of the non-appearance of the trophy winner *without a valid reason in writing to the Women's Committee*, the club will be fined 3 penalty units and will pay the full cost of the ticket. The Board of Management may also take disciplinary action against a player for non-attendance.

42.6. The conditions authorised in abovementioned rules 42.2 and 42.3 may be varied by the Women's Committee under special circumstances.

43. OTHER RDCA TROPHIES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 37

43.1. **Best and Fairest Award**: This medal will be awarded each year, based on votes submitted by Umpires, on a 3, 2, 1 basis, with the winner being the cricketer who polls the greatest number of votes in the particular grade. Players disqualified during the year at home or away matches will not be eligible for this award. Should more than one cricketer tie on the greatest number of votes, a tie will be declared, and an award will be made to each player.

43.2. **Umpire of the Year Away**: An Umpire of the Year Award, will be made each year, and will be awarded to an umpire by club votes using the collated Captains' reports.

UMPIRING

44. UMPIRES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 38

44.1. Professional umpires as available will be allotted to matches as available.

44.2. At least one umpire will be appointed to stand in each A Grade Match. On match day, each team will pay half the fees of the umpires. In case of non-payment, clubs will be liable to the Association for any amount due to the umpires and a fine imposed.

44.3. The fees payable to umpires will be determined at the Annual General Meeting or at any meeting of the General Committee. (Refer Senior Match & Rules Manual for details.) Such fees will be charged to Clubs by RDCA Finance Manager and paid to individual Umpires following the end of each calendar month.

44.4. The professional umpire will officiate at the bowler's end throughout the match where only one is appointed to a match.

44.5. Professional umpires will ascertain from the Captain of the home club particulars of all boundaries before the commencement of play and advise the visiting captain.

44.6. If the professional umpire(s) are not in attendance, umpires will be supplied as per Rule 46 below: APPOINTMENTS OF AMATEUR UMPIRES.

44.7. Professional umpires will don the uniform as described in RDCAUA Rules and Guidelines.

44.8. Professional umpires will adopt the recognised code of signals, provide themselves with copies of the RDCA rules and the laws of cricket and be in attendance at least 45 minutes before the start of play.

44.9. The Board of Management and/or the Women's Committee may call on any professional umpire to attend any meeting of the Association and/or its committees.

44.10. Professional umpires will submit incident reports as per the RDCA Discipline and Protests Framework

44.11. Any professional umpire appointed by the Umpires Association Executive or Women's Committee may at any time be suspended or removed from the Association list by the Umpires Association Executive or Women's Committee.

45. DUTIES AND POWERS OF PROFESSIONAL UMPIRES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 39

45.1. Upon the umpire's arrival at the appointed ground on the day of play, the professional umpire(s) will assume sole control of the match and will decide as to the weather or ground being fit for play.

45.2. If no professional umpire is in attendance, refer to Rule 46: APPOINTMENTS OF AMATEUR UMPIRES.

45.3. It is solely for the umpires together (or sole umpire if only one in attendance) to decide whether either the conditions of the ground, weather or light or exceptional circumstances mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place (refer to Rule 15 above).

45.4. At matches where an official umpire is officiating, they must compare time with the captains and advise them, at the appropriate time that play is to commence in five (5) minutes. At all other matches, captains must compare time.

45.5. In matches with an RDCA appointed umpire, the coin should be tossed no later than 30 minutes before the commencement of play.

46. APPOINTMENTS OF AMATEUR UMPIRES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 41

46.1. In the case of matches for which non-professional umpire(s) have to be provided, such umpire(s) will be provided by the batting team unless otherwise agreed by the respective captains.

46.2. The captain of the batting team may replace an umpire from time to time, and the captain of the fielding team may request the replacement of an umpire at any time. Any request to change a club umpire must be complied with by the opposing captain.

46.3. A non-professional umpire will wear suitable distinguishing clothing acceptable to the professional umpire or in the absence of that umpire acceptable to both captains.

46.4. Where no professional umpire is in attendance, the non-professional umpires will have all the powers and duties of professional umpires, save and except that

i. no player under the age of sixteen (16) years will officiate unless by consent of the opposing captains.

ii. The captains will be the sole judges of the fitness of the playing conditions. Should captains disagree, the match MUST start or continue. The aggrieved team may seek the opinion of an RDCA Match Day contact, as listed in the *Match Day Handbook*, who is independent of both competing clubs. This can be done by calling any of the mobile numbers provided in the Handbook. The decision of the RDCA Match Day contact will be final.

47. DUTIES OF UMPIRE AT SQUARE LEG

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 42

47.1. The umpire must wear suitable distinguishing clothing acceptable to either the professional umpire(s), if present, or to both captains.

47.2. Like the umpire at the bowler's end, the square leg umpire must concentrate fully on the match, remain unbiased and refrain from coaching during over changes.

47.3. The umpire must stand approximately 20 metres from the wicket so that the crease, which is the back edge of the marked line, can be clearly seen.

47.4. The Umpire will give decisions on STUMPING, HIT WICKET, RUN OUT, SHORT RUN (they must be watching the crease, and not where the ball goes), NO BALL, if ball lands off the side of a synthetic pitch, if wicketkeeper has gloves in front of the wicket before the ball reaches wicket, or if bowler appears to throw.

47.5. The umpire may be called upon to assist the bowler's end umpire in their decision, if view blocked during the action of a catch, if batters had crossed before a catch taken, if more than five fielders on the leg side, if more than two fielders behind square leg).

47.6. The Umpire will remake the wicket when bails are off.

47.7. The Umpire will alert the bowler's end umpire if fielders are deliberately upsetting the batter by moving or making noises while the bowler is running in.

47.8. The Umpire may stand at "point" for a better view, e.g. sun at the back, but must seek the fielding captain's permission when doing so.

47.9. The Umpire may be replaced if requested by the fielding team captain.

47.10. The umpire must be at least the age of sixteen (16).

47.11. The Umpire may be a person not playing in the match, but only with the consent of both captains.

47.12. Where a professional umpire is in attendance and standing at the bowler's end and a nonprofessional umpire is standing at square leg, the professional umpire will have the power to over-rule the nonprofessional umpire, if in the opinion of the professional umpire the nonprofessional umpire made an incorrect decision.

48. FINALS UMPIRES

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 40

48.1. RDCA Umpires will be appointed to finals.

48.2. Where only one (1) official umpire is officiating, the batting teams will provide a suitable person, to the satisfaction of the appointed official umpire, to act as the square leg umpire.

i. The person acting as square leg can be changed through the course of the innings to the satisfaction of the appointed official umpire.

ii. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the club incurring a fine equivalent to umpire's payment, unless extenuating reasons, acceptable to the Women's Committee are provided by the club.

49. UMPIRES' CODE OF SIGNALS

Refer Senior Men's Rules: Rule 44

49.1. Umpires must use the Code of Signalling as per Law of Cricket 2.13 which is:

Signal/Call	Signal action by umpire
"Boundaries"	waving the arm from side to side across the body
"Six"	raising both arms above the head
"Bye"	raising an open hand above the head
"Leg Bye"	touching a raised leg with the hand
"One Short"	bending arm upwards to touch the nearest shoulder with the tips of the fingers
"No Ball"	extending one arm horizontally and calling out sufficiently loud for the striker to hear to enable them to play the ball so called
"Wide Ball"	extending both arms horizontally
"Dead Ball"	crossing and re-crossing both wrists below the waist
"Cancel Call"	crossing arms across the chest
"Out"	raising the index finger above the head

Table 9: Umpires' Code of Signals

49.2. Besides signalling, the umpire will call distinctly for the information of players.

OTHER COMPETITIONS : T20 TOURNAMENT

50. RULES FOR T-20 TOURNAMENT

Applies to Women's Rules Only

The RDCA may run a T-20 Tournament during the season. In these events, the following rules apply:

50.1. The match will consist of one innings per team with each innings limited to a maximum of 20 overs.

50.2. A team can have twelve (12) RDCA registered players of which any combination of eleven (11) players can bat, bowl and field.

i. Each team must declare their 12 players by exchanging team lists in the score book, listing all players and indicate underage players where relevant, before the commencement of play.

ii. All 12 players of a team must be entered in PlayHQ and be recorded in both scorebooks. If players are not listed in the scorebook and on PlayHQ they are unable to count the match towards finals qualifications.

50.3. The team batting second will be entitled to receive the same number of overs as the team batting first. Should the innings of the team batting first be completed "all out", the team batting second will be entitled to bat until the completion of the 20th over or when a decision has been reached.

50.4. **Adverse Weather:** The RDCA's Adverse Weather policies covering rain, lightning, and heat apply.

50.5. **Change of Ends**: Five (5) overs to be bowled at each end before changing ends, batters change ends at the end of each over except every fifth over.

50.6. **Drinks**: A drinks interval will be permitted after 10 overs of each innings.

50.7. **Bowling Restrictions**: Bowlers are limited to bowling a maximum of 5 overs per game.

50.8. **Batting Restrictions**: Batters retire as soon as they make 50 runs (not the end of the over). RETIRED NOT OUT is the scorebook entry.

50.9. **Fielding Restrictions**: The number of fielders allowed outside the fielding restriction circle in each innings is as follows (irrespective of any reduction in overs):

Overs Period	Number of fields allowed outside the 30-metre Circle
First 5 Overs (1 to 5)	up to **2** fielders
Overs 6 – 10	up to **3** fielders
Overs 11 – 15	up to **4** fielders
Overs 16 onwards	up to **5** fielders

Table 10: T-20 Fielding Restrictions

50.10. **Field conditions:** An inner circle of 30 metres radius is clearly marked to allow fielding restrictions. This should be marked by producing two continuous semi-circles out from the centre stump at each end and a continuous parallel line on each side of the wicket joining the semi-circles.

50.11. **Free Hit after no ball**: The delivery following a no-ball called for a foot fault (Laws of Cricket 21.5) shall be a "free hit" for whichever batter is facing. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the subsequent delivery will become a "free hit" for whichever batter is facing it. The Umpire will advise the on-strike batter of the "free hit".

i. Should a foot fault no ball occurs on the 8th delivery of an over, the over will end without a 9th delivery, except in the final over of an innings. In the final over, the requirement for this no ball shall be invoked immediately and the bowler shall bowl a further 9th ball in that over.

ii. Should another illegal delivery (wide or no ball) occur the over shall continue until the free hit has been utilized.

iii. The batter may only be dismissed under the circumstances that apply to a no ball, even if the delivery for the "free hit" is called a wide ball.

iv. Field changes will only be permitted for a "free hit" delivery where a different batter is on strike for the "free hit" delivery.

References

Cricket Australia. (2023, July). *Junior Bowling Guidelines*. Retrieved from https://play.cricket.com.au/community/resources/player-safety/junior-bowling-guidelines?

Cricket Australia. (2024, November). *Looking After our Kids Code of Behaviour.* Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/5d13eb_8fc85fe2be194b16aeae2526d5955372.pdf

Cricket Australia. (2024, November). *Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People*. Retrieved from RDCA.com.au: https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/5d13eb_50ec172962db450a85ac926f9f1ce71e.pdf

Cricket Australia. (2025). *Child Safety*. Retrieved from https://play.cricket.com.au/community/resources/player-safety/child-safety?

Cricket Australia. (2025). *Concussion Guidelines*. Retrieved from https://play.cricket.com.au/community/resources/player-safety/concussion

Cricket Australia. (2025). *Live Streaming & Digital Guidelines*. Retrieved from https://play.cricket.com.au/community/resources/player-safety/livestreaming-digital?

Cricket Australia. (2025). *Player Safety, Head and Neck Protectors*. Retrieved from https://play.cricket.com.au/community/resources/player-safety/head-neck-protectors?

ICC. (2025). *Helmets/ Head Protectors*. Retrieved from https://www.icc-cricket.com/about/cricket/rules-and-regulations/helmets

MCC. (2022). *The Laws of Cricket*, 3rd Edition. Retrieved from https://www.lords.org/mcc/the-laws-of-cricket-2d35b4b95a4a67ae8f9c76f258a84aa8

RDCA. (2016, November 23). *Member Protection By-Law.* Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/c846e3_a8fd9209cf6541a5968832c02220cf6a.pdf

RDCA. (2024). *Privacy Policy*. Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/privacy-policy

RDCA. (2024, December). *Social Media Policy*. Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/social-media-policy

RDCA. (2025, September). *Adverse Weather Policy.* Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/c4acf1_bab75f63b4e34f68a28b102f830868f2.pdf

RDCA. (2025, September 24). *Discipline and Protests Framework.* Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/5d13eb_b3305ed8bc68421bb3427d9ea786205d.pdf

RDCA Women's East. (2025, July). *Captains' Code of Conduct.* Retrieved from RDCA.com.au: https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/23872a_dd49cc301761453e9b8f9568a2f94e01.pdf

RDCA Women's East. (2025, July). *Players' Codes of Coduct.* Retrieved from RDCA.com.au: https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/23872a_b2a5fd52c19d4d6b914086e876204765.pdf

VMCU. (2003, July 1). *Community Cricket Member Protection By-Law.* Retrieved from https://www.rdca.com/_files/ugd/c846e3_4916c09b103f4a52b94ca2f554d2b540.pdf