

VICTORIAN CHURCHES  
BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION  
(VCBA)



By-Laws  
March 2026

## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| SECTION 1 – REGISTRATION.....                            | 3  |
| SECTION 2 - UNIFORMS .....                               | 5  |
| SECTION 3 - WALKOVERS .....                              | 6  |
| SECTION 4 - SCORING RULE / SCORESHEETS .....             | 7  |
| SECTION 5 - TIMING REGULATIONS.....                      | 8  |
| SECTION 6 - FINAL SERIES .....                           | 9  |
| SECTION 8 - Basketball Victoria RINGWOOD TRIBUNAL.....   | 11 |
| SECTION 9 - PLAYER CLEARANCES .....                      | 11 |
| SECTION 10 - FINGERNAILS & JEWELLERY .....               | 12 |
| SECTION 11 - BLOOD AND INJURY .....                      | 13 |
| SECTION 12 - DAMAGE TO ASSOCIATION PROPERTY / VENUE..... | 14 |
| SECTION 13 - PROTESTS .....                              | 14 |
| SECTION 14 - GENERAL .....                               | 15 |
| No Harassment Policy.....                                | 15 |
| No Tolerance Policy .....                                | 16 |

## SECTION 1 – REGISTRATION

- a) Team Entry / Registration must be lodged online complete with all details and the nominated fees, by the notified closing date. Individual players must register into their nominated team before the competition start date and pay their Basketball Victoria Annual Participation Fee where necessary. Any team registrations accepted after the closing date will incur a Late Fee.
- b) The Association requires an agreement from the church to which the team is affiliated with, for use of the church name by that team.
- c) Teams playing any individuals participating under another players name, will be penalised. Teams will lose premiership points for each game in which the offending player participates.
- d) 3 points = Win
- e) 2 points = Draw
- f) 1 point = Loss
  - i. Premiership points will not be reinstated.
  - b. 'Fill Ins' under Basketball Victoria (BV) guidelines may participate in 2 games across all BV affiliated competitions before registering with BV. On the 3rd game the player will be required to register and pay the BV Annual Participation Fee before taking the court.
- g) Where games are cancelled due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. power failure) the complete round will be cancelled if all teams in the grade are affected (ie game has not passed the half time break). However, if all teams in the grade are not affected, then those who had their game cancelled will be awarded (2) premiership points. If the game has passed the Half Time break the scores will stand and relevant premiership points will be awarded.
- h) No player under the age of 15 may participate in the open age competition unless given specific written permission by the VCBA. An offending team will incur loss of premiership points for each game the ineligible player participates. The ineligible player will not be covered for insurance purposes. The competitions supervisor at their discretion may ask for proof of age.

- i) Players may only play in a second game on any given night providing the following criteria is met:
  - a. The additional team is in a higher division than which the player was initially registered.
  - b. AND The higher ranked team requires an extra player to avoid a walkover (ie: 4th or 5th player only).
  - c. Penalty: Premiership points will be lost by the higher ranked team that the player participates with, should the above criteria not be met.
  - d. No player shall play more than (2) games at a higher level than which they were initially registered. After the 3rd game in the higher section the player must remain with that team.
  
- j) The grading, promotion and / or relegation of teams will be at the discretion of the competition coordinator.
  
- k) No new teams shall be accepted into the competition after 1/3rd of the season has been played unless authorised by the competition coordinator.
  
- l) Each registered team shall nominate (1) person as team captain. It is the responsibility of the team to advise immediately of any change of team contact information details.
  
- m) NBL, NBL1, Big V and Youth League players are not allowed to play below the highest grade offered unless the player has played all grading games with the said team and the team is then graded below the highest grade offered. Premiership points will be lost for each game played.

## SECTION 2 - UNIFORMS

- a) Singlets must be uniform and the same basic colour. All numbers must be the same size and colour contrasting to the singlets. No player shall take the court without a number. Numbers must be sewn, ironed or sublimated on. Numbers taped or drawn on are not accepted. (Singlet numbers: 0 - 99 permitted). Numbers must be clearly identified, if not incorrect uniform penalties will apply.
- b) Teams must play in the correct uniform by the end of the grading phase of the current competition. In extenuating circumstances, permission for an extension of time may be obtained from the competition coordinator. T-Shirts are not permitted to be worn under the team uniform singlet. Medical certificate required if non permitted compressions or t-shirts are needed to be worn. Medical certificates must be given to the Competition Coordinator or Competition Supervisor before the commencement of the game.
- c) If a team has conflicting colours to their opposition, the team who has been in the competition the shortest amount of time will be required to change uniform before taking the court to rectify the conflict.
- d) A 5 point penalty will apply per incorrect uniform item in all senior domestic competitions. Any shorts above the knee are permitted other than bike shorts or shorts with pockets and must be uniform and the same basic colour. No tracksuit pants allowed. A team shall forfeit a maximum penalty of ten [10] points penalty for incorrect uniform.
- e) Penalty points will be included by the referee before the scoresheet is finalised at the completion of half time. Players intending to take the court after the half time break, i.e. Players not playing in the first half only, must be in correct uniform, otherwise normal penalties apply at the conclusion of the game.
- f) The Association shall be notified of each team's colours and/or changes prior to commencement of each season for ratification by the committee. New teams must obtain permission from the committee for their colours. Colours are allocated on a priority basis and when there is a clash of colours the team that has been in the Association for the least amount of time must provide alternative tops.
- g) At the discretion of the Competition Coordinator, the VCBA reserves the right to reject wording on singlets and/or shorts that is considered offensive. This includes team names, player names, sponsors or other words.

- h) Only basketball shoes with non-marking soles are permitted on the court playing areas.
  - o Players will not be permitted to take the court in socks, thongs, street shoes or bare feet.
  - o Gloves are permitted to be worn
  - o Wedding bands that do not protrude are permitted to be worn
- i) All other jewellery and electronic devices must be removed prior to taking the court.
- j) Long hair can be in pony tails only – no plaits allowed.

## SECTION 3 - WALKOVERS

### WALKOVER FINES

- a) Equivalent of two team sheet fees.

Notification to be given to the Centre Management on 9298 4487

- b) If a team gives (3) walkovers in the one competition the team may be disqualified from the competition and risk possible refusal of further admission into the Association at the discretion of the competition coordinator.
- c) If a walkover fine is not paid before the offending teams next game, no further points will be accredited until the fine is paid. Premiership points so lost will not be reinstated. Teams will not be permitted to play in finals with outstanding walkover fines.
- d) In the case of a walkover a scratch match is to be played, teams are encouraged to consider playing ineligible players so as a game may be played and to avoid a walkover fine. In the event of a scratch match the score shall be 20-0 (forfeit) and the team not giving the walkover will receive a \$10 deduction in the scoresheet fee.

### SCRATCH MATCH SCORESHEET FEES

- e) Normal competition rules will apply under scratch match conditions – scratch match score will be 20-0.
- f) Teams who forfeit a game due to a walkover will not receive any premiership points, and a walkover score shall be noted as 0 – 20 (forfeit).

## SECTION 4 - SCORING RULE / SCORESHEETS

- a) Both teams are responsible for ensuring all players details, including singlet number, are correctly entered prior to the game commencing. New players can only register to the team via their unique team link that was emailed to their captain during the team registration process. Any player entered via the scoring device prior to the game, will NOT be registered to the team and this game will not count towards finals for that player.
  
- b) Prior to the commencement of the match and throughout the whole game, a minimum of (1) competent scorer / timekeeper, over 14 years old, must be present on the score bench. Teams failing to provide a scorer shall be penalized 5 points, to be added to the scoresheet at half time by the referee. Participating players may score.

**NOTE:** If neither team is represented on the score bench at the scheduled commencement of the game then the clock will start and the game will not commence until minimum conditions of the By-Laws have been met. A walkover will not be registered and monies shall not be refunded. There is no right of appeal where this By-Law has been correctly administered.

- c) Premiership points will be allocated as follows:
  - \* Win 3 points                      \* Walkover received                      3 points
  
  - \* Draw 2 points                      \* Walkover given                      0 points
  
  - \* Loss 1 point
  
  - \* Walkover score shall be 0—20.

- d) Information regarding ladders and fixtures can also be accessed via the website [vcba.au](http://vcba.au)

## SECTION 5 - TIMING REGULATIONS

- a) Late starting teams shall be penalised (1) point per minute or part thereof: (10) minutes late start will constitute a walkover and the offending team will be fined in accordance with the By-Law (3a).
- b) Domestic teams must have at least (4) players on the court before the game can commence. Teams which consistently have only (4) players may be investigated.
- c) The referee is to set a 60 second countdown and blow their whistle, and provide the players a one minute warning prior to the commencement of the game. Once the countdown has expired the game clock will only commence alongside the contact from the opening jump ball.
- d) In the final one (1) minute of the second half or any overtime period, a team in control of the ball must demonstrate active play toward scoring.

Where, in the opinion of the referee, a team is deliberately delaying play or holding possession without attempting to advance or score, the referee may commence an eight (8) second count.

If the team fails to make a clear attempt to advance the ball or initiate offensive play before the completion of the count, the ball will be awarded to the opposing team from the nearest sideline.

### Regular Season

- 50 Minute Schedule
- One timeout per team per half
- No timeout in the last two minutes of the first half
- No timeouts in the last three minutes of the second half
- CLOCK STOPS: If the score difference is 6 points or less at any stage within the last one minute of the second half the clock shall stop for all whistles throughout the last minute until completion of the game. If the score goes beyond 6 points the clock will continue running.

## Finals

- 60 Minute Schedule
- Clock stops for all time outs in both halves, all whistles in the last minute of the first half and all whistles in the last three minutes of the second half.
- The clock will stop on all whistles for the last 3 minutes in overtime
- Two (1) minute timeouts per team per half. Two minutes allowed for the half time break.
- A drawn result shall result in an extra period to be played. Each extra period shall be (5) minutes until a winner is determined.
- Each team is permitted (1) timeout per extra time period, with the clock stopping on all whistles and fouls will stand as is.

## SECTION 6 - FINAL SERIES

- a) Finals will be played in all VCBA grades
- b) Finals Qualification Senior Men's and Women's competitions—Players must play in at least (7) of the fixtured matches to qualify for finals. In the event of a bye or a received walkover, the bye/walkover will be counted if the player participates in the round directly before and after the bye/walkover. Teams will be disqualified if they play unqualified players in finals

**c) Finals Format Top (4) four teams.**

*Week (1) Semifinals:*

GAME (A) 1st vs 4th (knockout)

GAME (B) 2nd vs 3<sup>rd</sup> (knockout)

(Winner of each game will play off in Grand Final)

*Week (2) Grand Final:*

GAME (C) Winner of game (A) vs Winner of Game (B)

- d) In divisions where there are at least (10) teams, there will be a section (2) final series between teams placed fifth to eighth.
- e) If a team does not have (6) qualified available players, the team is able to use the next most qualified player **only** from those who have played throughout the season. The next most qualified player must have played a minimum of **3** games throughout the current season and must be cleared with the competition coordinator before the commencement of the game in question. By-Laws regarding competition registration (Sect. 1K.) also applies in determining available players. Teams will be required to provide proof that qualified players are unavailable. Mixed Competition teams may choose the next best qualified Male or Female player depending on the requirements of the team.
- **Enquiries regarding qualified players will not be accepted on the day of the finals.**

Non attendance of finals games will incur a walkover fine as per normal round matches.

## SECTION 7 - MIXED COMPETITION

- a) A team must be represented by at least (2) female and (2) male players on the court, the fifth player can be either female or male. A male player cannot be subbed on for a female unless there are (2) females on the court. The game will be called a forfeit if either team is unable to comply and have at least (1) of each sex on the court. The offending team loses the game regardless of points scored.

If prior to the commencement of the game, a team cannot field the required players normal late start penalties shall be applied.

- b) Male players are not permitted in the restricted (key) area at EITHER END of the court in the 1st half of the game and Female players are not permitted in the restricted (key) area at EITHER END of the court in the 2nd half. PENALTY : VIOLATION , side ball to opponents.
- Any intentional defensive key violation by the male players in the 1st half and the female players in the 2nd half, are to be treated as goal tending and the opposing team are to be granted (2) points.
  - After the first warning by either referee, further intentional infringements of the above rule are to be penalised with a technical foul (for un-sportsmanlike behaviour) on the offending behaviour.
- c) Fouls - Male and Female players are permitted only (5) personal fouls.

d) (12) Point Rule - Each player can only score (12) points until all players on their team have scored (12) points each. Once each team member has reached (12) points, all players on that team are free to score.

- Prior to all players scoring (12) points the following will apply:
- If a player on (12) points is intentionally fouled she / he may nominate another player in their team to take the free shots (points count).
- If a player on (11) points scores a field goal, only (1) point is allowed.
- If a player on (12) points shoots, and the basket is good VIOLATION, NO SCORE, side ball opposing team.
- If a player is on (11) points with two shots, if one shot is successful then another player may be nominated to take the remaining free shot.
- If a player scores their 12th point from a field goal & is fouled then another player may be nominated to take bonus foul shot.

**AS THIS IS A SOCIAL COMPETITION WE ASK ALL PLAYERS TO PLAY THE GAME IN A SOCIAL MANNER  
ENJOY YOURSELVES !!!**

## SECTION 8 - Basketball Victoria RINGWOOD TRIBUNAL

- a) The Basketball Victoria Ringwood Tribunal shall hear and determine all reportable offences. All teams and individuals shall be notified accordingly.
- b) Any persons reported are entitled to a copy of the report and to take (1) witness to the tribunal. Any queries on this point should be directed to the competitions coordinator via email on info@vcba.au.

## SECTION 9 - PLAYER CLEARANCES

- a) A player may participate in no more than a combined total of (2) games above the lowest grade that she/he has played. Once the player has taken the court for the third time in the higher grade they must remain in the higher grade.
- b) At the beginning of each domestic season, players will automatically be cleared to play in any team they choose. NBL & Big V (YL) players can only play in teams playing in the highest grade offered - see Bylaws section 1. Registrations, paragraph K)

- c) A midseason clearance may only be granted if the two teams involved have a verbal agreement coordinated and confirmed by the Senior Domestic Competition Manager.
  
- d) A team can only refuse a clearance on the following grounds:
  - 1. The player is un financial
  - 2. The player has not returned uniform to team
  - 3. The player is under suspension
  
- e) If a transfer objection by the former team is submitted, both parties will be directed to appear before the Senior Domestic Appeals Committee.
  
- f) If the prior team of the player applying for a clearance is not playing on the same night of the week, no clearance is required.

## SECTION 10 - FINGERNAILS & JEWELLERY

- a) No player will be permitted to take the court with fingernails visible above the level of the fingertips. Taped fingernails are permitted using tape only and not band aids. Gloves are permitted to be worn.
  
- b) Consistent checks of fingernails and jewellery are to be done by referees prior to the commencement of the game and before the game clock is turned on. Players must be in uniform and on the court (2) minutes before the scheduled time of the game commencement, for the fingernail and jewellery checks.
  
- c) Jewellery includes both sleepers and studs for both female and male competition.

If a check is requested by a team, then the referee will carry out that check at the first available stoppage of the game, whether during a time out or at half time.

## SECTION 11 - BLOOD AND INJURY

- a) During the game the official shall order any player who is bleeding or has an open wound, to leave the playing court and cause this player to be substituted.
- b) Before the player is allowed back into the game the wound should be treated (no further bleeding) and the affected area completely and securely covered.
- c) A bleeding player who has received treatment, and the affected area covered, may remain in the game at the expense of a team time-out (as for an injured player).
- d) If there is blood on the uniform the player is to change the uniform. Under no circumstances should a player with wet or dry blood stains on their uniform be allowed on the court.
- e) If there is blood on the court—the stadium’s cleaning mop and bucket shall be used (0.5% bleach and 2% detergent mixed with water).
- f) No penalty to apply if the substitute’s uniform does not match the normal team uniform. (Referee discretion will apply in such cases.)
- g) Blood on ball—replace ball
- h) Rubber gloves and napkins are available from the front desk of the venue if required.
- i) A basic first aid kit is available from the stadium’s front desk.
- j) Ice is always available upon request from the stadium’s canteen facility.

## SECTION 12 - DAMAGE TO ASSOCIATION PROPERTY / VENUE

- a) Offending parties and their registered club / will be prosecuted. Full restitution will be sought.
- b) Persons under the influence of alcohol or any foreign substances will not be permitted to enter any stadium or venue under the control of the R.B.A. Inc.
- c) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted within the R.B.A. Inc controlled stadiums, venues, car parks and their surrounds.
- d) Smoking is not permitted within R.B.A. Inc. controlled stadiums / venues.

## SECTION 13 - PROTESTS

- a) Protests or complaints against referees or officials are to be lodged in writing to the competition coordinator within 48 hours of the respective incident.

## SECTION 14 - GENERAL

- a) Except where indicated, all by-laws are applicable to Senior, Mixed, Veterans and Daytime domestic competitions.
- b) Except where indicated, all other rules of basketball will apply.
- c) Unduly rough play will NOT be condoned, nor offensive language. Offending teams will be subject to the No Tolerance policy enforced by stadium management and the Ringwood Basketball Association.
- d) It is the responsibility of all teams to see that players, coaches, parents and spectators act in a proper sportsmanlike manner.
- e) Any player suspended by the V.B.A. Tribunal will not be eligible for the Best player or Most Valuable Player award relevant to that season. However, if the suspension occurs during the finals, the award will stand.
- f) A best on court or most valuable player award for each grand final will be judged on the night itself.
- g) Any players reported for misconduct of any kind can be referred to the Tribunal and any penalties incurred will apply.

Queries regarding the competition By-laws can be emailed to [info@vcba.au](mailto:info@vcba.au)

## No Harassment Policy

Ringwood Basketball Association together with the The Rings enforce a 'No Harassment Policy' throughout all of its domestic competitions. Abuse or Harassment in any form towards Referees, Players, Spectators or Administrators is unacceptable and any player or team demonstrating any of these attributes will be dealt with appropriately. Referees, Supervisors and Administrators have the right to determine a situation and act accordingly.

A warning may be given depending on the breach of policy and any breaches of this policy will incur an immediate Technical Foul to the offending coach or player.

A technical foul will consist of 2 shots a possession

Any players, teams or spectators acting outside the Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct guidelines or the expectations of the Ringwood Basketball Association No Harassment Policy will be given a written warning by administration and dealt with as per our Bylaw guidelines.

## No Tolerance Policy

The Rings in conjunction with the (R.B.A) enforces a no tolerance policy for all senior competitions. Teams acting outside the spirit of competition will be dealt with under the no tolerance policy. The no tolerance policy covers the following;

Once a complaint has been received it shall be investigated by the competition coordinator. If it is deemed that the team in question has acted outside reasonable competition behaviour a written warning shall be issued. All teams that receive a written warning will be monitored.

If by chance the teams behaviour is not rectified a second letter will be issued stating that the next course of action will be to exclude them from the competition. There will be no third and final warning.

There is a zero tolerance for swearing. Players, Scorers, and Coaches will receive an instant technical foul (no warning) if an official witnesses this behaviour.

It is our strong belief and goal at The Rings to offer a competitive and friendly environment for all to enjoy. We pride ourselves on providing competitions that maintain a high level of sportsmanship to maximise participation for all players, referees and administrators.