Mercantile Cricket Association Competition Rules  
Suggested changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Submitting:</th>
<th>Malvern CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Rule</td>
<td>Y / N</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Rule</td>
<td>Y / N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rule &amp; Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii))</td>
<td>10.4</td>
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</table>

Suggested rule amendment or new rule:
"Where the actions of the home side lead to the abandonment of a match, that side shall be required to pay both umpires their entitled fees"

Rationale behind rule amendment:
It is incongruous that an away team can do no wrong yet be required to pay umpires' fees in a match where no play has been possible due solely to the actions of the home team.
Example: In Malvern's match against Monash Tigers this past season, Monash, as the home side, elected to remove the covers sometime between 9:30am and 11:30am on match day. The rain that fell in that time rendered the pitch unplayable, and it wasn't until umpires and players from both sides had arrived at the ground that this was discovered. As per current rules, Malvern was required to pay partial umpire fees in a situation where the club and its players were not at fault.

Aside from incorrect usage of covers, this amendment could also include neglecting to turn off timers on sprinklers, and any other act of impropriety as judged by the MCA Executive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Submitting:</th>
<th>South Yarra Cricket Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Rule</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Rule</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule &amp; Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii))</td>
<td>2.14(f), 2.15</td>
</tr>
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Suggested rule amendment or new rule:
Remove provisions for restricted players

Rationale behind rule amendment:
Despite the run and over limits imposed on restricted players, SYCC believes a higher graded player playing in D grade still has the ability to significantly influence the outcome of a game which could adversely affect different club's chances for finals

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<td>Y / N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rule &amp; Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii))</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suggested rule amendment or new rule:

If the official weather report forecast is for a maximum temperature of more than 40 degrees C, then that day’s play is abandoned.

Rationale behind rule amendment:

Days that reach extreme heat are often interrupted by constant temperature checking and intermittent suspension of play with often incomplete games, especially in one day games. There is also inconsistent application across games in various grades. The rule change is aimed at bringing some consistency to results on these days as well as consideration of players well-being.

Club Submitting: South Yarra Cricket Club

| Existing Rule | Yes |
| New Rule | Yes |
| Rule & Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii)) | 2.2(b) |

Suggested rule amendment or new rule:

2.2(b) states that there is no restriction in interchange when 12 players are named in C Grade or lower, and that bowlers may resume bowling immediately after returning to the field.

SYCC is suggesting the alteration of this clause or an introduction of a new clause to impose a “Penalty Time” condition on bowlers returning to the field of play as per the new MCC Law 24 being introduced from October 2017 (https://www.lords.org/assets/Uploads/MCC-Laws-of-Cricket-2017-Code-Final-8-May.pdf), or the older standard laws of cricket (ref. Laws of Cricket 2000 Code 4th edition final 10422 from the MCC’s website) Law 2, clause 5(c) which is being superceded by Law 24.

In general terms, Penalty Time starts to accrue from the departure from the field (or being off the field at the start of an innings), is limited to a maximum of 90 minutes and is carried forward during innings breaks (but not loss of time due to unscheduled breaks) and is reset on change of innings.

SYCC would like to either copy these clauses to apply under 2.2(b), or provide a cross-reference to the MCC rules stating this clause applies to player substitutions under 2.2(b)

Rationale behind rule amendment:

Prevent sides playing with 12 players from using substitutions to rest bowlers.

Club Submitting: South Yarra Cricket Club

| Existing Rule | No |
| New Rule | No |
| Rule & Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii)) | Appendix 1 |

Suggested rule amendment or new rule:
We would like to introduce the following words (or words to this effect) into Appendix 1 (CODE OF CONDUCT) at the very end of the section, after point 10 (Consumption of Alcohol):

“Notwithstanding the above areas of concern, we view positive play, pressure, body language and banter between opponents as legitimate tactics and integral parts of the competitive nature of cricket”

Rationale behind rule amendment:

Over the past season, SYCC has observed a significant disparity in interpretation between different umpires of the code of conduct to the extent that in some matches the umpires have prevented any talk between players which we believe impinges on our players’ ability to use legitimate tactics to pressure the opposition and erodes from our players’ enjoyment of the game.

The above wording is based loosely on wording penned by Steve Waugh in 2003 as Cricket Australia’s “Spirit of Cricket” policy and has been accepted and supported by all national players since that time – we believe these words provide more clarity to guide umpires in their interpretation of on-field behaviour, but in no way erode their authority under Rule 19 (CONDUCT) of the MCA rules nor the preamble or LAW 42 of the MCC’s laws of cricket.

Club Submitting:  Monash University Cricket Club

| Existing Rule | Y |
| New Rule | N |
| Rule & Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii)) | 2.15 |

Suggested rule amendment or new rule:

We propose that the number of runs be reduced to 20 (not 25).

Restricted players should also be required to be listed in the Match Notes in MyCricket.

It also needs to be clear to umpire that the batsmen score does not get rounded down to 20 (ie the batsman can still make 25 retire, if they hit a 6 when they are on 19).

Rationale behind rule amendment:

We feel that 25 (and ultimately 30) is enough to swing a match in C and D and is worth a lot more than 4 overs.

Club Submitting:  Monash University Cricket Club

| Existing Rule | Y |
| New Rule | N |
| Rule & Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii)) | 14.9 |

Suggested rule amendment or new rule:

Add 14.9 (c)

When no possible further result is achievable, the two captains and the umpires can agree to end the Match at any time.

Rationale behind rule amendment:
This is for when too much time has been lost to rain or heat during the day to achieve a result, however play can drag on. This is currently the practice, but should be in the rules.

Club Submitting: Monash University Cricket Club

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<td>9.3 and 9.4</td>
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</table>

Suggested rule amendment or new rule:

**Rule 9.3 Add**

Play is not to proceed if the wicket square is damp enough that if the players during normal play would damage the playing surface in such a way that it could not be used for future weeks.

**Rule 9.4 Replace with**

Rubber mats, dried grass clippings, sawdust or sand may be used on wet areas on the ground or pitch, outside 'the protected area', only at the discretion of the home team, where any actions will not be against local curator and council guidelines.

Rationale behind rule amendment:

This is to make it clear to umpires and captains when we can play or not. This issue continues to get worse, as umpires and sides that are in finals contention continue to push to play on centre squares that are not safe, and can be damaged for future matches.

The new rule 9.4 is to make the rule work for curators who have banned clubs from using rubber mats and sawdust on their wickets. We want to play as much cricket as possible, but if we also need to keep the curators on side.

Club Submitting: Monash University Cricket Club

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<tr>
<td>Rule &amp; Part number if existing (ie2.1(a)(ii))</td>
<td>13.2</td>
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Suggested rule amendment or new rule:

Add the following:

(d) Splitting a one-day match into two T20 matches.

(e) Reduce a one-day match to a T20 match.

Rationale behind rule amendment:

Add rules for what has happened on occasion, so that all clubs are aware of the option.
In addition, the following rule changes are put forward by the Executive Committee of the MCA:

1. **With 12 in a side, remove the requirement to name non-batter or non-bowler.**
   
   This has been done in Premier 3rds/4ths. If a captain wants to bowl his 12th best bowler -- let him. If he wants to hold back his decision on the non-batter in case someone gets injured/doesn't get a bowl/leaves in a huff -- let him.

2. **Anti-stacking - clarify that 2.4d applies to players not covered in 2.4a and b.**

3. **Clarify that restricted player games only qualify you for restricted player rights (eg prev player)**

4. **Eligibility breaches - breach of professional player rule can be raised at any time**

5. **Rule 8.4 -- remove reference to 1900 info line, just use website**

It has also been proposed that the MCA implement the VMCU’s suspect bowling procedure which reads as follows:

**Suspect Actions Advisory Group (SAAG)**

The VMCU have in partnership with the Cricket Victoria have established an advisory group specifically to deal with suspect actions. The VMCU Community SAAG comprises members from both the VMCU & Cricket Victoria, with the ability to co-opt as required.

**LEVEL 1A:**

In any scheduled match of the VMCU or one of their affiliate associations, if there is a doubt, the first mention* is to be made by the umpire(s) to their local association administrator/secretary on a note, separate from the Match Report, naming the bowler and expressing what the concerns are. Upon receipt, the association administrator/secretary makes contact with the club administrator/secretary and requests the club investigate the matter and take remedial action if necessary.

#Note 1: For clubs who require assistance and are aware it is a user pays service, they are able to contact CoachForce via email.

**LEVEL 1B:**

If there is a second mention* (same process – umpire(s) make a separate report to the association administrator/secretary). Upon receipt of the second mention, the association administrator/secretary makes contact with the VMCU administrator; at this point the player is placed on the VMCU suspect action registry. Upon receipt, the VMCU administrator makes contact with the club administrator/secretary and asks the club to investigate the matter and take additional remedial action.

Refer Note 1.

# VMCU Note: Should a player be deemed suspect in any VMCU or one of their affiliates scheduled matches that do not have a league umpire, a report is to be lodged by a designated official from the club making the report. For senior matches it is to be the club President, in all junior matches any player is referred via their club President or designated Junior coordinator.

**LEVEL 2A:**

If there is a third mention* (same process – umpire(s) make a separate report to the association secretary, and then on forward to VMCU). The VMCU administrator contacts the club and requests that video footage be taken and forwarded to the Cricket Victoria Suspect Action Advisory Group, who will then liaise with the VMCU administrator to provide remedial action advice. The cost to the club will be, ($150) for the video review and report production. The bowler and club are provided with a video analysis and a report. The Suspect Action Advisory Group, (VMCU administrator, Coach Force personnel, (Kane and Neil), Association Umpire Manager) will consult with the bowler on areas to rectify any problems with the bowling action. A copy of the report is also forwarded to the VMCU administrator. There will be an 8 week “intervention period” following this analysis to allow remedial work to be
undertaken. During this intervention period the player will be permitted to bowl in matches. 

**Umpires will be advised of the player’s situation.**

(If there is any doubt* during this intervention period then the umpire(s) will continue to make a separate report to association secretary).

**Should the bowler/club decide not to co-operate or participate in this part of the procedure the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.**

**LEVEL 2B:**

If there is a fourth mention* (same process – umpire(s) make a separate report to association secretary). The VMCU administrator contacts the club and advises that the bowler is to undergo a Pace Bowling Technique analysis with Cricket Victoria coaching group. The cost to the club will be **SUSPECT BOWLING ACTIONS – COMMUNITY CRICKET**

VMCU Suspect Bowling Action – Procedure Aug 2015 Page 2

$150 for the video review and report production; the player will be required to travel to MCG to complete this assessment.

The bowler/club is provided with a video analysis and a report. At the analysis session, a Cricket Victoria Coach will consult with the bowler on areas to rectify any problems with the bowling action. There will be an additional 8 week “intervention period” following this analysis to allow remedial work to be undertaken. During this intervention period the player will be permitted to bowl in matches. 

**Umpires will be advised of the player’s situation.**

(If there is any doubt* during this intervention period then the umpire(s) will continue to make a separate report to the association administrator/secretary).

**Should the bowler/club decide not to co-operate or participate in this part of the procedure the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.**

# VMCU Note: Should a player be deemed suspect in any VMCU or affiliate scheduled junior matches. 

A report is to be lodged by a designated official from the club making the report. It is to be the club Junior President or designated Junior coordinator. All junior players loop through Level 2 whilst they remain eligible for junior cricket and all are free to play senior cricket during this time. However, at the time the player moves out of junior cricket and receives a first mention whilst participating in a senior match, they are automatically placed on Level 2B.

**LEVEL 3:**

Following the intervention period, at Level 2A and 2B, should there be a further mention* the bowler will not be permitted to bowl in any VMCU or affiliate scheduled matches for a further period of 8 weeks.

This is to allow any remedial work to be continued, without the pressures of bowling in matches. Upon activation of Level 3, the region secretary makes contact with the VMCU administrator; at this point the player is placed on the VMCU suspect action registry.

**LEVEL 4:**

Following Levels 1A, 1B,2A, 2B & 3 if the bowler is mentioned* again, he will not be permitted to bowl in Community Cricket for a period of 12 months. (MyCricket player registration used to track current playing status during this 12 month period.)

"The procedure is ongoing and players do not return to Level 1 each season. Each mention will progress the procedure, irrespective of time”.

**SUBSEQUENT MENTION:**

If a player suspended from bowling at Level 4 resumes bowling after the specified suspension period, and he is mentioned* again, he is immediately at Level 4 and suspension from bowling will apply forthwith.

* THIS ENTIRE PROCESS DOES NOT PRECLUDE ANY UMPIRE FROM CALLING A BOWLER FOR THROWING, AT ANY TIME, IF THE UMPIRE IS IN NO DOUBT.

Throughout the process clubs and coaches are to act in the best interests of the player and cricket in general with the overall welfare of the player and the game being the prime considerations.