



**MACKAY
CRICKET**

EST. 1891

**SENIOR CRICKET
RULES, REGULATIONS AND PLAYING CONDITIONS
2026/27 SEASON**

**VERSION 1.0
ADOPTED 19 SEPTEMBER 2026**

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ASSOCIATION RULES, REGULATIONS AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

1. LAWS OF CRICKET

1.1 For matches commencing before 1 October 2026, the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code, 3rd Edition 2022 apply except as varied by these Rules, Regulations and Playing Conditions.

1.2 For matches commencing on or after 1 October 2026, the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code, 4th Edition 2026 apply except as varied by these Rules, Regulations and Playing Conditions.

1.3 A reference in an incorporated playing condition to the Governing Body or Cricket Australia is, for MCA competition administration, a reference to Mackay Cricket Association unless the context requires otherwise.

1.4 Where these Rules expressly vary the Laws, the MCA rule applies. Where no variation is stated, the applicable Laws of Cricket apply.

1.5 For these Rules, Official Draw means the fixture, venue and start-time information published by MCA in PlayHQ, together with any later authorised written MCA match notice. If a later authorised MCA notice conflicts with the earlier PlayHQ listing, the later authorised notice controls.

1.6 Competition Weekend means the Friday, Saturday and Sunday period to which the relevant senior competition round is allocated in the Official Draw. A fixture played on another day counts as part of that Competition Weekend only where MCA expressly designates it as part of that round or weekend.

1.7 Competition Round means the set of fixtures allocated by MCA to the same numbered or designated round in the Official Draw.

1.8 MCA Competition Administration means the MCA Sports Operations Manager or another person authorised by MCA to administer the senior competition. MCA Duty Officer means the person nominated by MCA to make match-day operational decisions for the relevant fixture or round.

1.9 If an MCA procedure, form, checklist or operational guide referenced by these Rules conflicts with these Rules, these Rules prevail unless MCA has formally amended these Rules through the appropriate approval process.

2. CODES OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOURAL POLICIES

2.1 The MCA Code of Behaviour is the controlling local disciplinary document for conduct reporting, disciplinary procedures, sanctions and conduct appeals arising from MCA senior cricket.

2.2 Applicable Cricket Australia and Queensland Cricket codes, safeguarding policies, anti-harassment, vilification and other mandatory behavioural policies continue to apply where relevant. Where an external code or policy is required by a higher governing body or expressly incorporated by MCA, it applies in addition to the MCA Code of Behaviour to the extent of that requirement.

2.3 "Official" means the manager or a member of the coaching, medical or fitness staff of a team; the selectors of a team; any other person acting in an official capacity for the Mackay Cricket Association or a Grade Club in relation to a team; or an umpire of a match.

3. COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

A. Management Committee – Board of Directors

3.1 The Management Committee of the Association consists of the Board of Directors of the Mackay Cricket Association Inc.

B. Match Committee

3.2 The Match Committee chair is the MCA Board Director responsible for Senior Cricket. If that Director is unavailable, conflicted or unable to act, the MCA Board will appoint another Director as chair for the matter.

3.3 The Match Committee chair appoints two additional members for each meeting or matter from the following eligible persons:

3.3.1 Another MCA Board Director;

3.3.2 The MCA Umpires Co-ordinator or an authorised delegate;

3.3.3 The MCA Sports Operations Manager or MCA Head of Sports;

3.3.4 Another person appointed by the MCA Board who has relevant competition, cricket or governance expertise;

3.4 The Match Committee consists of three persons, including the chair. A member with an actual conflict of interest in a matter must not participate in the consideration or determination of that matter. The chair must appoint another eligible person under Rule 3.3 for that matter so that the Match Committee continues to comprise three persons.

3.5 The Match Committee is responsible for the competition matters expressly referred to it by these Rules, including fixtures and draws, player eligibility and grading decisions, competition-rule administration and other senior competition determinations referred by MCA. The Match Committee also deals with Level 1 breaches referred to it under Rule 3.9 on behalf of the MCA Match Commissioner.

C. MCA Match Commissioner

3.6 The MCA Match Commissioner will be appointed by the Management Committee.

3.7 The MCA Match Commissioner will exercise the Match Referee / Match Commissioner functions assigned under the MCA Code of Behaviour.

3.8 MCA Competition Administration is responsible for receiving alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct, Behavioural Policies and these Rules and referring them through the applicable MCA conduct process.

3.9 Any alleged breach of the MCA Code of Behaviour is dealt with under the current MCA Code of Behaviour and prescribed reporting process. A Level 1 breach will be referred to the Match Committee, which will deal with the matter on behalf of the MCA Match Commissioner. A Level 2 or higher breach will be referred to the MCA Match Commissioner unless the MCA Code of Behaviour expressly requires another process. Competition eligibility, grading, fixture and playing-condition matters remain subject to these Rules.

3.10 When dealing with a Level 1 breach under Rule 3.9, the Match Committee may exercise the authority and impose any sanction available for that breach under the MCA Code of Behaviour on behalf of the MCA Match Commissioner. Any other conduct sanction must be imposed through the authority and process specified in the MCA Code of Behaviour. A sanction for a competition-rule breach may be imposed by the Match Committee where these Rules expressly confer that power.

D. Appeals Committee

3.11 This Part D applies only to appeals from final Match Committee decisions made under these Rules. An affiliated senior club directly and materially affected by such a decision may appeal. Appeals arising from a decision under the MCA Code of Behaviour are governed by the appeal process in that Code.

3.12 An appeal may be brought only on the ground that: (a) these Rules were incorrectly interpreted or applied; (b) a material factual finding was not reasonably available on the evidence; (c) procedural fairness was denied; or (d) the decision was outside the authority conferred by these Rules. An appeal is not available against an on-field umpiring judgment under the Laws, a match-day operational decision expressly stated by these Rules to be final, or a decision for which these Rules expressly exclude an appeal. The appeal filing fee is \$500.00, payable to Mackay Cricket Association Inc.

3.13 The Appeals Committee consists of three persons. The Chair is the President of the Board of Directors or, if the President is unavailable, conflicted or unable to act, another person appointed by the Management Committee. The Management Committee appoints the other two members. A person who participated in the decision under appeal, has an actual conflict of interest, or is an office-holder of a directly affected club must not sit on that appeal.

3.14 An appeal must be in writing and received by MCA Competition Administration within 48 hours of the appellant club receiving the decision. The filing fee must be paid by the same deadline. The appeal must identify the decision challenged, the ground or grounds relied upon, the alleged error and the outcome sought. A late or materially incomplete appeal may be rejected without a hearing.

3.15 The Appeals Committee must conduct the appeal hearing as soon as practicable and, unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise, within seven (7) days of receipt of a valid appeal.

3.16 The Chair of the Match Committee that made the decision, or another member nominated by that Chair, may provide written or oral submissions explaining the decision under appeal. That person is not a member of the Appeals Committee for the matter and the appellant must be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to any material relied upon.

3.17 The hearing of the appeal will be conducted:

3.17.1 In private unless the Appeals Committee determines that another arrangement is appropriate and all materially affected parties agree;

3.17.2 With procedural fairness and with as little formality and technicality as reasonably practicable;

3.17.3 As quickly as proper consideration of the appeal permits; and

3.17.4 In person, by telephone, by video conference or by another approved conference facility as directed by the Appeals Committee Chair.

3.18 The Appeals Committee may:

3.18.1 Receive and consider relevant written or oral material and is not bound by the formal rules of evidence;

3.18.2 Ask questions and permit parties to put relevant questions to a witness through the Chair;

3.18.3 Appoint an independent person to provide procedural, cricket, governance or other relevant assistance, provided that person does not take part in the decision; and

3.18.4 Allow a party to be assisted by one club representative or support person.

3.19 All persons attending an Appeals Committee hearing must:

3.19.1 Behave respectfully and with due decorum;

3.19.2 Avoid conduct that disrupts, intimidates or improperly influences the hearing; and

3.19.3 Comply with reasonable directions of the Appeals Committee Chair as to the conduct of the hearing.

3.20 A person who fails to comply with Rule 3.19 may be excluded from the hearing. Any separate conduct concern arising from that behaviour is dealt with under the MCA Code of Behaviour or other applicable policy.

3.21 All parties and non-member attendees must leave the hearing, or be disconnected from the conference facility, while the Appeals Committee deliberates.

3.22 The Appeals Committee may affirm, vary or set aside the decision under appeal, or remit the matter to the Match Committee for reconsideration with directions. Any substituted outcome must be one that is authorised by these Rules.

3.23 If an appeal cannot be determined before a relevant match or deadline, the Appeals Committee may make an interim ruling, including staying the operation of the decision under appeal or making another temporary direction reasonably necessary to preserve competition integrity, safety or the practical effectiveness of the appeal.

3.24 The Appeals Committee Chair must ensure that a written Findings Sheet or decision record is lodged with the Secretary of Mackay Cricket Association. The record must identify the decision, the grounds considered, the outcome and brief reasons, and must be distributed to the appellant, the original decision-maker and any other directly affected club or party.

3.25 The Appeals Committee must communicate its decision in writing to the appellant as soon as practicable and no later than seven (7) days after completion of the hearing. Where the decision is announced verbally at the hearing, the written decision and reasons must still follow.

3.26 Any further appeal beyond Mackay Cricket Association is available only where the rules of the relevant higher governing body expressly provide a right of appeal and must be made under that body's rules.

E. Delegate Members

3.27 The Match Committee will convene senior club delegate meetings before, during and after the cricket season as required. Meetings may be held face-to-face or by approved online meeting platform. The purpose of these meetings includes informing and consulting with Senior Delegates on matters relating to MCA senior cricket, the affiliated clubs and the administration of the senior competitions.

3.28 Each affiliated senior club must nominate two Senior Delegate representatives to MCA for the season.

3.29 At least one nominated Senior Delegate, or an authorised substitute advised to MCA, must attend each properly convened Senior Delegate meeting.

3.30 If a nominated delegate cannot attend, the club must notify MCA before the meeting of the apology and, where applicable, the name of the authorised substitute.

3.31 Each club is responsible for circulating meeting papers, minutes, decisions and directions internally to its committee, teams and relevant officials.

3.32 A decision or direction communicated at a properly convened Senior Delegate meeting applies to the club whether or not the club attended, subject to that decision being within MCA authority and not inconsistent with these Rules.

4. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

4.1 Each club shall pay to the Association an amount, as set by the Management Committee, to cover affiliation and registration fees for players and teams.

4.2 A member who fails to satisfy a financial obligation or debt due to their club or the Association may be disqualified by the Management Committee from participating in MCA matches until the obligation or debt is satisfied.

4.3 All clubs must be financial with the Association as at the 1st August each year to be allowed to participate in the next season's fixtures.

4.4 All clubs must be financial with the Association as at the end of the final round of the regular season of a competition to be eligible to play in finals matches for that competition.

5. PLAYER REGISTRATION, CLEARANCES AND PERMITS

5.1 PlayHQ is the official player-registration and competition-management system for MCA senior cricket.

5.2 A player must be correctly registered and eligible in PlayHQ before the scheduled start of a match.

5.3 One Senior Club - A player may represent only one (1) affiliated club within the same MCA Senior One Day competition or the same MCA Senior T20 competition at any one time.

5.3.1 A permit must not be used to allow a player registered with one MCA senior club to represent another MCA senior club in the same competition.

5.3.2 A player may move between grades within their registered club only in accordance with the applicable player-eligibility, grade-movement and multiple-team provisions of these Rules.

5.3.3 Where a club has more than one team in the same grade, movement between those teams is governed exclusively by Rule 30 for One Day cricket and Rule 71 for T20 cricket.

5.4 Transfer Between Senior Clubs - A player wishing to leave one MCA senior club and join another must complete the applicable PlayHQ clearance or transfer process before representing the new club.

5.4.1 Submission of a clearance or transfer request does not make the player eligible. The clearance or transfer must be fully approved by the player's former club, MCA and the new club, and the player must then be correctly registered with the new club in PlayHQ before participating in any match for the new club.

5.4.2 A permit must not be used as an alternative to a required club clearance or transfer.

5.5 Permits From Another Competition - A PlayHQ permit may be used only where a player is registered in a different competition or participation pathway and PlayHQ requires a permit for that player to enter and participate in an MCA senior competition without permanently transferring their primary registration.

5.5.1 This may include: (a) an MCA junior-registered player entering MCA senior cricket where the applicable PlayHQ registration structure requires a permit; (b) a player whose primary registration is in a separately administered MCA competition or tournament, including the Porters T20 Smash or Komatsu Ladies T20 Smash, where PlayHQ requires a permit for that player to participate in MCA senior cricket; or (c) a player registered in another association or competition where an approved PlayHQ permit is required to participate in MCA senior cricket.

5.5.2 A permit under Rule 5.5 does not authorise a player to represent two different clubs in the same MCA Senior One Day competition or the same MCA Senior T20 competition.

5.6 Any clearance, transfer or permit requiring manual MCA action must be submitted to MCA Competition Administration by 9:00am on the Friday immediately preceding the relevant Competition Weekend. A request received after that deadline does not create eligibility for that weekend unless the required PlayHQ process is fully completed without manual MCA action before the scheduled start of the match.

5.7 Clubs are responsible for confirming that every selected player is correctly registered and that all required clearances, transfers or permitted cross-competition permits have been fully approved before the player participates.

5.8 A player who participates contrary to this Rule is an ineligible player. The applicable penalty under Rule 25.10 for One Day cricket or Rule 51.10 for T20 cricket applies, and a Finals Match breach is dealt with under Rule 42.9 or Rule 68.9.

5.9 The registration, clearance, transfer or permit status recorded in PlayHQ is the controlling administrative record unless MCA establishes that the record contains an MCA or PlayHQ administrative or recording error.

6. UMPIRE ALLOCATION AND PAYMENT

6.1 The Mackay Umpires Co-ordinator will appoint official umpires to fixtures scheduled by MCA.

6.2 Where umpire numbers are limited, MCA will seek to spread available official umpires across more matches before routinely appointing two umpires to one match, while maintaining appropriate priority for First Grade, higher-risk fixtures and finals.

6.3 Two official umpires may still be appointed to one match where operationally required, including where a trainee umpire requires supervision.

6.4 Umpire payments will be the amount approved by the Management Committee and published in the applicable annual umpire fee schedule.

7. FITNESS OF GROUNDS – LAW 6

7.1 Conditions are not dangerous or unreasonable merely because they are not ideal. Wet grass or a wet ball does not, by itself, make a ground unfit for play.

7.2 Conditions are dangerous where there is an actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of a player or umpire. Conditions are unreasonable where, although not unsafe, it would not be sensible for play to proceed.

7.3 Wet or slippery conditions are dangerous or unreasonable where they deprive a bowler of a reasonable foothold, fielders of the ability to move freely, or batters of the ability to play strokes or run between wickets normally. Standing water is relevant evidence but is not the sole test.

7.4 At Harrup Park, before a ground is handed to appointed umpires, the MCA Curator or authorised Grounds representative is the final authority on whether the ground can be prepared and made available for play.

7.5 Once a Harrup Park ground has been handed to appointed umpires, the umpires determine fitness for play under the Laws and this Rule. If no official umpire is appointed, the captains decide jointly. If the captains disagree, the MCA Duty Officer or authorised Ground Authority makes the final operational decision where available.

7.6 At grounds other than Harrup Park, the home club or relevant ground authority must complete the Marsh Cricket Game Day and Training Checklist, or another game-day checklist expressly approved by MCA, and advise MCA as soon as it becomes apparent that the ground may be unavailable. At match time, appointed umpires determine fitness. If there are no official umpires, the captains decide jointly and must obtain an MCA Duty Officer ruling if they disagree.

7.7 Until a disputed safety decision is resolved, play must not commence or recommence while either captain maintains a genuine safety concern.

8. CHANGE ROOMS AND TOILETS

8.1 Teams supplied with change rooms or toilets must leave those facilities clean and tidy at the conclusion of the match.

8.2 A team that fails to leave an allocated change room or associated facility in a clean and tidy state may be fined \$150.00 by MCA. Where responsibility cannot reasonably be attributed to one team, MCA may investigate before applying the penalty.

9. USE OF LIGHTS

9.1 First Grade One Day matches are 50-over-per-side fixtures. When scheduling First Grade matches, MCA must take into account whether the nominated venue has suitable match floodlighting.

9.2 Where a First Grade match is scheduled at a venue with approved floodlighting, the lighting may be used as a normal part of the match to enable the scheduled overs to be completed.

9.3 At a floodlit venue, available match lights must be switched on sufficiently early to maintain suitable playing conditions as natural light deteriorates. The appointed umpires retain authority to determine whether conditions remain safe and reasonable for play.

9.4 A reduction in natural daylight is not, by itself, grounds to suspend play where suitable floodlighting is operating and the umpires consider conditions safe and reasonable.

9.5 Where a First Grade fixture is scheduled at a venue without suitable match floodlighting, MCA must schedule the fixture at a time that provides a reasonable opportunity for the full 50-over match to be completed in natural light.

9.6 Unless the Official Draw specifies another approved time, an unlit First Grade Saturday fixture starts at 10:30am. An unlit First Grade fixture may instead be scheduled on Sunday at 10:30am or at another time expressly published in the Official Draw.

9.7 A club must not delay the commencement of an unlit First Grade match on the expectation that additional playing time will be available after natural light becomes unsuitable.

9.8 If natural light becomes dangerous or unreasonable at an unlit venue, the umpires must suspend play in accordance with the Laws and MCA playing conditions. There is no entitlement to continue the match after light becomes unsuitable simply because the scheduled overs have not been completed.

9.9 Where floodlighting fails during a match at a lit venue, the umpires determine whether play can safely continue in the remaining natural light. If conditions become unsafe or unreasonable, play is suspended and the ordinary interrupted-match provisions apply.

10. FINALS MATCHES

10.1 The finals structure for each grade is fixed by Rules 41 and 67 and the Official Draw. The Match Committee may schedule venues and times but must not alter the published finals qualification structure after the competition has commenced except by a controlled MCA amendment approved by the appropriate authority.

10.2 Finals eligibility is governed by Rules 42 and 68. No informal agreement, club practice or verbal approval can override those eligibility rules.

10.3 Grand Final reserve dates, venue relocation and no-result procedures are governed by Rules 40 and 66.

11. COVERING THE PITCH

11.1 Pitch covers at Harrup Park shall be applied, removed and stored in accordance with this Rule and the MCA "Covering the Pitch - Covers Duty" Procedure.

11.2 At Harrup Park, all directions relating to the application, removal, positioning and storage of covers shall be under the direction of the MCA Curator or authorised Grounds staff. Their direction takes precedence over the normal times prescribed in this Rule where weather, pitch preparation or ground conditions require otherwise.

11.3 Where covers have been applied overnight, the club allocated Covers Duty must attend at the required time and remove the covers no earlier than 6:00am and no later than 7:30am, provided: (a) it is not raining; and (b) the Curator or authorised Grounds staff has not directed that the pitch remain covered.

11.4 Where rain is falling, rain is considered imminent, or the Curator or authorised Grounds staff determines that continued protection of the pitch is required, the covers shall remain in place beyond 7:30am until permission is given for their removal.

11.5 Once permission is given to remove the covers, the Covers Duty club must remove them promptly from the wicket square and move them completely beyond the playing boundary or to another location directed by Grounds staff.

11.6 Once a match has commenced, both teams are jointly responsible for assisting with the covers whenever the pitch is required to be covered or uncovered.

11.7 Both Captains must ensure sufficient players are available to assist promptly with the covers where rain threatens, play is suspended, or the appointed umpires, Curator, Grounds staff or authorised MCA official directs that the pitch be covered.

11.8 The appointed umpires control the timing of suspension and resumption of play. The Curator or Grounds staff may provide advice regarding the use of covers and protection of the pitch.

11.9 Player, umpire and staff safety takes priority over the covering of the pitch. No person is required to remain on or enter the playing field to apply or remove covers where Rule 14 or another immediate safety direction requires persons to leave the playing area.

11.10 Where another match is scheduled on the same ground the following day, both teams playing the final match on that ground are responsible for ensuring that the pitch is covered at the completion of play, when directed by the Curator or Grounds staff.

11.11 Where no match is scheduled on that ground the following day, both teams playing the final match must fold, roll or otherwise store the covers at the completion of play in the manner and location directed by Grounds staff.

11.12 Where covers have been required during the day, both Captains are responsible for ensuring that the covers are left folded, rolled or stored in a safe and tidy manner at the completion of the day's play.

11.13 Under no circumstances may a person wearing spiked footwear walk on, stand on, handle or move pitch covers. A player involved with the covers must change into suitable non-spiked footwear or remove their spiked shoes before handling the covers.

11.14 Where covers are damaged because a club, player or team has failed to comply with Rule 11.13 or has otherwise handled the covers negligently, MCA may recover the reasonable repair or replacement cost from the responsible club.

11.15 A club that: (a) fails to attend an allocated Covers Duty; (b) fails to apply or remove covers as directed; (c) leaves covers incorrectly positioned or stored; or (d) otherwise fails to perform its obligations under this Rule, may be dealt with under Rule 43 - Covers Duty.

11.16 At a turf venue not controlled by MCA/Harrup Park, the home club is responsible for ensuring suitable pitch-cover arrangements are in place before the match and for complying with any directions of the relevant ground authority. Once play has commenced, both teams must assist with the application, removal and storage of covers when required.

12. DUTY OF CARE

12.1 All affiliated clubs, coaches, managers, captains and players must take reasonable steps to manage foreseeable cricket safety risks and comply with the player-safety requirements in these Rules and any incorporated Australian Cricket safety policy.

12.2 A player aged 14 to 17 years inclusive fielding within 10 metres of the striker, other than as wicketkeeper, off-side slip or gully, must wear a properly fitted British Standard 7928:2013 compliant cricket helmet. Appropriate additional protective equipment, including an abdominal protector where applicable, is strongly recommended.

12.3 A player aged under 14 years must not field within 10 metres of the striker except as wicketkeeper, off-side slip or gully.

12.4 If a fielder is in breach of Rule 12.2 or 12.3 before the ball reaches the striker, either umpire must call and signal Dead Ball and play must not continue until the field complies with these Rules. Where no official umpire is appointed, the player umpire and both captains are responsible for enforcing this requirement in accordance with Rule 13.5.

12.5 Concussion and Head Impact Management - For the purposes of these Rules, MCA adopts the Australian Cricket Community Cricket Concussion and Head Impact Guidelines and Graded Return to Play After Concussion Framework applicable to the 2026/27 season, as incorporated and summarised in Annexure A. Annexure A forms part of these Rules. A player for whom concussion is suspected must be removed from play immediately and must not return to cricket on the same day where concussion is suspected, likely or confirmed.

12.6 A diagnosed concussion requires formal medical review and clearance in accordance with Annexure A before return to full training, followed by successful completion of the applicable Australian Cricket Graded Return to Play After Concussion Framework before return to match play. The official Australian Cricket Medical Referral & Clearance Form, or equivalent written medical clearance accepted by MCA, must be retained by the player's club and provided to MCA if requested.

12.7 Concussion Replacement - A player removed because of head trauma or suspected concussion may be replaced by an eligible like-for-like Concussion Replacement.

12.7.1 Where official umpire(s) are appointed, the Concussion Replacement must be approved by the appointed umpire(s).

12.7.2 Where no official umpire is appointed, the replacement must be agreed jointly by both captains. If the captains cannot agree, the MCA Duty Officer shall determine the matter and that decision is final.

12.7.3 The replacement may bat, bowl, wicketkeep and field. The replaced player takes no further part in the match.

12.8 MCA adopts the Australian Cricket Heat Stress Risk Index procedures set out in Annexure B. Where any participant is under 18, the Australian Cricket Pathway HSRI must be used for the match. Play must be suspended where the applicable HSRI exceeds the mandatory match stop threshold and may resume only when the return criteria in Annexure B have been satisfied.

12.9 The junior pace-bowling workload limits in Annexure C apply to all pace bowling by a player on that match day across MCA junior, senior and representative cricket. A player changing teams, grades or competitions does not reset the player's match-day workload.

12.10 Safeguarding Players Under 18 - Where a player under eighteen (18) years of age participates in MCA senior cricket, the player's club and all relevant coaches, captains, team officials and other persons responsible for the player must comply with Australian Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People, the Looking After Our Kids Code of Behaviour, Queensland Cricket's applicable safeguarding and Blue Card requirements, and any safeguarding directions issued by MCA.

12.10.1 These requirements apply to training, matches, team communications, changerooms, travel and other team activities associated with MCA senior cricket.

12.10.2 These requirements apply whether or not the player requires or has been granted a Minimum Age Exemption under Rule 31 or Rule 56.

12.10.3 A Minimum Age Exemption does not remove, reduce or override any child-safeguarding, supervision, Blue Card or player-welfare obligation.

13. PLAYING CONDITIONS – HELMETS

13.1 Batting

13.1.1 A batter must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at all times when batting.

13.1.2 The match umpire(s) are responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn when required by Rule 13.1.1 but are not responsible for ensuring that the helmet being worn by the batter is compliant with British Standard 7928:2013.

13.1.3 The umpire(s) must not allow the match to continue during any period in which a batter fails to wear a helmet when required by Rule 13.1.1.

13.1.4 In the event of an extended delay in which a batter fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet when required by Rule 13.1.1, the umpires must also report the occurrence to the Executive of the offending player's team and the MCA Match Commissioner via MCA Competition Administration.

13.2 Wicketkeeping

13.2.1 At all times when wicketkeeping up to the stumps, the wicketkeeper must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.

13.2.2 The umpire(s) are responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn when required by Rule 13.2.1 but are not responsible for ensuring that the helmet being worn by the wicketkeeper is compliant with British Standard 7928:2013.

13.2.3 The umpire(s) must not allow the match to continue during any period in which a wicketkeeper fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 helmet when required by Rule 13.2.1.

13.2.4 Any wicketkeeper who is aged 17 years or younger, when wicketkeeping within seven (7) metres of the stumps, must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.

13.2.5 The umpire(s) are responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn when required by Rule 13.2.4 but are not responsible for ensuring that the helmet being worn by the wicketkeeper is compliant with British Standard 7928:2013.

13.2.6 The umpire(s) are the sole judges of the relevant distance from the stumps for the purposes of this Rule.

13.2.7 The umpire(s) must not allow the match to continue during any period in which a wicketkeeper fails to wear a helmet when required by Rule 13.2.4.

13.2.8 In the event of an extended delay in which a wicketkeeper fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet when required by Rule 13.2.4, the umpires must also report the occurrence to the Executive of the offending player's team and the MCA Match Commissioner via MCA Competition Administration.

13.3 Fielding

13.3.1 At all times when fielding in a position closer than seven (7) metres from the batter's position on the popping crease on a middle-stump line, with the exception of any fielding position wholly behind the popping crease, a fielder must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet.

13.3.2 The umpire(s) are responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn when required by Rule 13.3.1 but are not responsible for ensuring that the helmet being worn by the fielder is compliant with British Standard 7928:2013.

13.3.3 The umpire(s) are the sole judges of the relevant distance from the batter for the purposes of this Rule.

13.3.4 The umpire(s) must not allow the match to continue during any period in which a fielder fails to wear a helmet when required by Rule 13.3.1.

13.3.5 In the event of an extended delay in which a fielder fails to wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet when required by Rule 13.3.1, the umpires must also report the occurrence to the Executive of the offending player's team and the MCA Match Commissioner via MCA Competition Administration.

13.3.6 The exchange of protective equipment between members of the fielding side on the field of play is permitted provided that the umpire(s) do not consider that it constitutes a waste of playing time.

13.4 NECK PROTECTORS AND SIGNIFICANT HELMET IMPACTS

13.4.1 MCA strongly recommends that players use a properly fitted neck protector compatible with the helmet when batting, wicketkeeping up to the stumps, or fielding within seven (7) metres of the batter, except for off-side slips and gully fielders.

13.4.2 A helmet that sustains a significant impact must be removed from use and managed or replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations before it is used again. If a compliant replacement helmet is not available, the player must not continue in a role for which a helmet is mandatory under this Rule.

13.5 MATCHES WITHOUT OFFICIAL UMPIRES

13.5.1 Where no official umpire is appointed, both captains are jointly responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn whenever required by Rule 13. The player umpire at the bowler's end is the immediate judge of any distance relevant to Rules 13.2 and 13.3 for that delivery.

13.5.2 Each club remains responsible for providing properly fitted helmets that comply with the required standard. Captains and player umpires are responsible for enforcing the wearing requirement but are not expected to technically certify the helmet beyond reasonable observation.

13.5.3 Play must not continue while a batter, wicketkeeper or fielder is in a position requiring a helmet and is not wearing one. Any continued refusal or material delay must be reported to MCA Competition Administration.

14. LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

14.1 All appointed umpires, captains, coaches, managers and relevant officials must exercise extreme caution during thunderstorms. The 30/30 rule in this Rule 14 applies to all MCA fixtures.

14.2 If a lightning flash is followed by thunder within 30 seconds, players and officials must leave the field or training area immediately and seek appropriate shelter.

14.3 Play must not resume until 30 minutes have elapsed after the most recent lightning flash or thunder event that triggered evacuation. If lightning or thunder is observed again during the waiting period, the 30-minute period restarts.

14.4 At Harrup Park, where Rule 14.2 requires evacuation, an appointed official umpire, the MCA Duty Officer or an authorised Grounds representative will initiate three short bursts of an air horn to signal that players and officials must immediately leave the playing areas and seek appropriate shelter. The person initiating the warning will coordinate the 30-minute waiting period with the appointed umpires and/or captains. The appointed umpires retain authority over the suspension and resumption of their match in accordance with Rule 14.3.

15. PLAYER TROPHIES

15.1 Individual Trophies

15.1.1 Individual statistical trophies are determined from regular-season matches only. Semi-Finals and Grand Finals are excluded unless an award is expressly stated otherwise.

Award	Minimum eligibility
One Day Batting Average - First to Fourth Grade	Highest average; minimum 200 runs; batter must have batted in at least two-thirds of the greatest number of innings commenced by any player of that club in that grade.
T20 Batting Average - First to Fourth Grade	Highest average; minimum 200 runs; batter must have batted in at least 50% of the greatest number of innings commenced by any player of that club in that grade.
One Day Bowling Average - First to Fourth Grade	Lowest average; minimum 20 wickets and 50 overs bowled in that grade.
T20 Bowling Average - First to Fourth Grade	Lowest average; minimum 7 wickets and 15 overs bowled in that grade.
Bowling Aggregate	Highest wickets in that grade and competition.
Batting Aggregate	Highest runs in that grade and competition.

15.2 Player of the Year Trophies

15.2.1 At the conclusion of each regular-season match, the appointed umpire(s) allocate 3-2-1 Player of the Year points to the three best-performing players.

15.2.2 Where no official umpire is appointed, the two captains jointly determine the 3-2-1 points in accordance with Rule 15.2.5.

15.2.3 No player may receive more than three Player of the Year points from one match.

15.2.4 First Grade and matches with official MCA umpires: the umpire(s) must submit the 3-2-1 points through the method directed by the Umpires Co-ordinator / MCA.

15.2.5 Matches without an Official Umpire - Where no official umpire is appointed, the two captains must jointly determine the 3-2-1 Player of the Year votes. Only one submission is required for the match, and the home team captain is responsible for ensuring that the submission is completed and lodged with MCA Competition Administration by 6:00pm on the Tuesday following the match.

15.2.5.1 An authorised official of the home team may lodge the submission on behalf of the home team captain, but responsibility for ensuring that a complete and timely submission is made remains with the home team captain.

15.2.5.2 The submission must identify both captains and confirm whether the 3-2-1 allocation has been agreed by both captains.

15.2.5.3 A unilateral 3-2-1 allocation made by one captain or team must not be submitted or recorded as agreed votes.

15.2.5.4 If the captains cannot agree by the submission deadline, the home team captain must still ensure that the submission is lodged by the deadline, records that the captains disagree and identifies both captains. MCA may then follow up with both captains.

15.2.5.5 If the captains subsequently reach agreement through the MCA follow-up process, MCA may record that agreed 3-2-1 allocation. If agreement cannot be reached following MCA follow-up, no Player of the Year points are recorded for that match.

15.2.6 No Player of the Year points are retrospectively created where the required submission was not lodged by the required deadline. This does not prevent a timely disagreement submission under Rule 15.2.5.4 from being resolved after the deadline through the MCA follow-up process in Rule 15.2.5.5.

15.2.7 The points are totalled across the regular season to determine the Player of the Year for each competition and grade.

15.2.8 Representative Duty Credit - A player who is unable to participate in a scheduled MCA senior competition fixture solely because of an eligible representative cricket commitment shall be awarded three (3) Player of the Year points for that fixture, provided the MCA fixture becomes a Commenced Match.

15.2.8.1 Eligible representative cricket is limited to official selection for: (a) Mackay Whitsunday / North Queensland Cricket Association representative cricket; (b) the Kookaburra Cup - North Queensland v South Queensland, or its equivalent recognised North Queensland v South Queensland representative competition; (c) Queensland Country; (d) Queensland or Australian representative cricket; (e) Queensland Masters; and (f) Australian Masters.

15.2.8.2 Mackay Masters, North Queensland Masters, Masters Intercity Challenge matches, club Masters cricket, invitational teams, touring teams, social matches, trials and training sessions do not qualify for Player of the Year representative-duty points.

15.2.8.3 Grade Allocation - The three (3) representative-duty points shall be credited to the grade in which the player participated in their most recent actual MCA senior competition fixture during the current season immediately before the missed fixture.

15.2.8.4 Where a player misses consecutive MCA fixtures because of the same or consecutive eligible representative commitments, the credit continues to be allocated to the grade of the player's most recent actual MCA senior match appearance. A representative-duty credit does not itself constitute a match appearance or alter the player's grade.

15.2.8.5 The representative commitment must directly prevent the player from participating in the MCA fixture. Selection alone does not qualify where the player remains available to play the MCA fixture.

15.2.8.6 No representative-duty points are awarded where the affected MCA fixture does not become a Commenced Match.

15.2.8.7 A player may receive no more than three (3) Player of the Year points in respect of any one MCA fixture.

15.2.8.8 A player who has not participated in an MCA senior competition fixture during the current season before the representative commitment is not eligible to receive representative-duty Player of the Year points, as no grade has yet been established for allocation of those points.

15.2.9 The Mackay Cricket First Grade Player of the Year is calculated by combining the First Grade One Day and First Grade T20 Player of the Year points.

16. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

16.1 Club Championship grade weightings are:

Competition grade	Weighting
First Grade	x5
Second Grade	x4
Third Grade	x3
Fourth Grade	x2

16.2 The grade weightings in Rule 16.1 apply to both the One Day and T20 competitions.

16.3 Winter Masters points are multiplied by two. Any other competition, including a competitive women's competition, is included only if its weighting is published by MCA before that competition commences.

16.4 Where a club has more than one team in a grade, only the competition points of the highest-finishing team in that grade and competition count toward the Club Championship.

17. CONTRIVED RESULT

17.1 MCA may investigate a match, captain, player, team or club where it reasonably suspects that a result, competition points, Net Run Rate, player eligibility or finals qualification has been deliberately contrived or manipulated.

17.2 MCA must give materially affected parties an opportunity to provide information before determining a contrivance or manipulation matter, unless an urgent interim measure is required to protect safety or competition integrity.

17.3 A player, official or other participant found, after the applicable process, to have deliberately contrived or manipulated a match result, competition points, Net Run Rate, player eligibility or finals qualification is suspended from participation in MCA competitions for the remainder of that season. Additional sanctions available under these Rules, the MCA Code of Behaviour or another applicable policy may also be imposed, including loss of competition points, match forfeiture, finals disqualification, further suspension or referral to a higher governing body. A club or team involved may also be subject to any competition sanction expressly authorised by these Rules or an applicable MCA governance document.

17.4 A club or participant must not use an otherwise lawful player-movement, forfeit or team-selection provision for the dominant purpose of manipulating a ladder position, finals opponent or eligibility outcome.

ONE DAY CRICKET - RULES AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

Rules 18-44 apply to MCA One Day fixtures and are read with Rules 1-17 and the applicable Laws of Cricket.

18. DURATION OF MATCHES

18.1 One Day matches consist of one innings per side with the following scheduled overs:

Grade	Scheduled overs
First Grade	50
Second Grade	40
Third Grade	35
Fourth Grade	30

18.2 A minimum of 15 overs per side constitutes a One Day match, subject to a result being achieved earlier. The First Grade One Day Grand Final requires a minimum of 20 overs per side, subject to a result being achieved earlier.

19. HOURS OF PLAY – Match Times

19.1 The Official Draw controls the scheduled start time. Unless a different time is expressly published in the Official Draw, the standard One Day start times are:

Fixture	Standard start time
First Grade - Saturday at a venue with approved match lighting	12:30pm
First Grade - Saturday at an unlit venue	10:30am
First Grade - Sunday	10:30am
Second Grade - Saturday	12:30pm
Third Grade - Saturday	1:00pm
Fourth Grade - Saturday	1:00pm
Second Grade - Sunday	10:30am
Third Grade - Sunday	10:30am
Fourth Grade - Sunday	Time published in Official Draw

19.2 Each 50-over innings is scheduled for 3 hours 20 minutes.

19.3 Each 40-over innings is scheduled for 2 hours 40 minutes.

19.4 Each 35-over innings is scheduled for 2 hours 20 minutes.

19.5 Each 30-over innings is scheduled for 2 hours.

19.6 The interval between innings is 20 minutes unless reduced by the umpires because of lost playing time or a published weather contingency.

19.7 If the first innings finishes early, the interval begins immediately and the second innings starts correspondingly earlier.

19.8 First Grade matches at venues with approved match lighting may use lights to complete scheduled overs in accordance with Rule 9. Lighting may be used for another senior grade only where the Official Draw or an authorised MCA match notice expressly permits it.

20. INTERVAL FOR DRINKS

20.1 In matches of more than 25 overs and up to 40 overs per side, one drinks break per innings is permitted after approximately half the scheduled number of overs has been completed.

20.2 In matches of more than 40 overs per side, two drinks breaks per innings are permitted, ordinarily after 17 and 34 overs.

21. LENGTH OF INNINGS – Uninterrupted Match (Neither delayed nor interrupted)

21.1 Each team shall bat for the maximum number of overs allocated unless dismissed earlier. A team shall not be permitted to declare its innings closed.

21.2 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled cessation time, play continues until the required number of overs have been bowled or the innings ends. The team batting second retains its full scheduled allocation in an uninterrupted match.

21.3 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than the maximum number of allocated overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to receive the full number of allocated overs.

21.4 If the team fielding second fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled cessation time, the hours of play shall be extended (where possible) until the required number of overs have been bowled or a result achieved.

22. LENGTH OF INNINGS - Delayed or Interrupted Matches

22.1 Lost playing time is converted to overs at four minutes per over. Fractions of an over are ignored when calculating the revised allocation.

22.2 Where possible, both teams must receive the same number of overs. The team batting second may not receive more overs than the first team unless the first team completed its innings in fewer than its allocated overs.

22.3 The minimum overs in Rule 18.2 must remain possible for the team batting second. If that is not possible and a result has not already been achieved, the match is a No Result.

22.4 If an interruption occurs after play has commenced and the target must be revised, the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method in Rule 38 must be used.

22.5 In a reduced-overs match, the fielding team receives one over of operational leeway in addition to genuine umpire time allowances. The revised cessation time determined by the umpires governs.

22.6 If an innings is interrupted during an over, the over in progress is completed on resumption where required by the Laws and the revised allocation.

22.7 No additional playing time is added solely to replace time lost through a delay or interruption, except where these Rules, the Official Draw or an authorised MCA match notice expressly permits an extension.

23. THE BALL

23.1 The approved One Day match ball for each grade is:

Grade	Approved One Day ball
First Grade	Kookaburra Regulation White 156g
Second Grade	Kookaburra White Senator 156g
Third Grade	RJR Test Match Special White 156g
Fourth Grade	RJR Test Match Special White 156g

23.2 Each fielding team starts the innings with one new approved ball unless the ball is lost, damaged or replaced under the Laws.

23.3 The appointed umpires retain control of match balls during intervals and stoppages. In matches without official umpires, the captains jointly manage ball condition and replacement under the Laws.

23.4 A club must not substitute another ball make or model without MCA approval.

24. NOMINATIONS OF PLAYERS

24.1 Each captain must prepare the final team list. Where official umpire(s) are appointed, the captain must provide the final team list in writing to the appointed umpire(s) and the opposition captain at or immediately before the toss and before the coin is tossed. Where no official umpire is appointed, the captains must exchange final team lists with each other at or immediately before the toss and before the coin is tossed.

24.2 A First Grade or Second Grade team that does not name 11 eligible players by the time of the toss is subject to the penalties in Rules 24.2.1 to 24.2.4. The penalty does not apply where the team is short solely because of a withdrawal first arising after the Friday eligibility deadline and the club has complied with the applicable late-withdrawal / emergency process in these Rules.

24.2.1 First infringement - written warning.

24.2.2 Second infringement - \$50.00 fine payable to Mackay Cricket Association Inc.

24.2.3 Third infringement - \$100.00 fine payable to Mackay Cricket Association Inc.

24.2.4 Each subsequent infringement - \$100.00 fine plus deduction of two (2) competition points.

24.3 A team may still commence a match with no fewer than seven eligible players in accordance with Rule 27.3. For First and Second Grade, Rule 24.2 continues to apply where fewer than 11 eligible players are named by the time of the toss unless the stated late-withdrawal / emergency exception applies.

24.4 Once the final team list has been provided under Rule 24.1, a nominated player may be replaced only where expressly permitted by the Laws of Cricket or these Rules, including an approved Concussion Replacement under Rule 12.7. Any replacement remains subject to all applicable registration, eligibility, minimum-age and safety requirements.

25. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

25.1 One Day senior match limit

25.1.1 A player may participate in one MCA senior One Day competition match per Competition Weekend without a Double-Up Request.

25.1.2 A second or subsequent MCA senior One Day match in the same Competition Weekend requires prior written approval through the prescribed Double-Up Request unless the player qualifies for the automatic junior exemption in Rule 25.6.

25.1.3 A routine Player Regrade, Match Dispensation or Double-Up Request must be received by MCA no later than 12:00pm Friday immediately preceding the relevant Competition Weekend. A routine request received after that deadline will not be considered for that weekend. The only post-deadline eligibility approval pathway is an Emergency Match Dispensation under Rule 25.8, which must be approved before the affected match commences. No retrospective eligibility approval may be granted after the match has commenced.

25.2 Established Higher-Grade Player test - One Day

25.2.1 Established status is assessed separately for One Day cricket and applies only after the player has made at least three appearances in Commenced Matches in the grade from which the player is proposed to move down, together with any higher grades, during the current One Day competition.

25.2.2 A Commenced Match is a match in which at least one legal or illegal delivery has been bowled. A player appearance counts where the player was named in the final playing XI. A bye, pre-ball abandonment, unplayed forfeit and substitute-fielder-only appearance do not count.

25.2.3 After the three-appearance threshold is met, a player is an Established Higher-Grade Player if the player has either: (a) 200 or more runs at a batting average of 20.00 or higher; or (b) 10 or more wickets at a bowling average of 25.00 or better.

25.2.4 The test uses the grade being moved from plus every higher grade in the One Day competition. For Second-to-Third it uses Second plus First Grade; for Third-to-Fourth it uses Third plus Second plus First Grade; for First-to-Second it uses First Grade.

25.2.5 Official PlayHQ statistics are the controlling record. Both parts of a batting or bowling benchmark must be met. Club spreadsheets or alternative calculations do not override the PlayHQ record, subject only to correction of a proven PlayHQ data-entry error.

25.2.6 The three-appearance threshold in Rule 25.2.1 triggers assessment under the Established Higher-Grade Player test; it does not, by itself, make the player an Established Higher-Grade Player. This test applies when assessing a proposed downward movement from First Grade to Second Grade, Second Grade to Third Grade, or Third Grade to Fourth Grade. A player who has made three or more relevant appearances but does not satisfy either statistical pathway in Rule 25.2.3 is not an Established Higher-Grade Player.

25.3 Downward movement

25.3.1 A player who is not an Established Higher-Grade Player may move down one grade without Match Committee approval, subject to every other eligibility rule.

25.3.2 An Established Higher-Grade Player may move down one grade only where a Player Regrade or Match Dispensation has been approved before the match.

25.3.3 Every proposed downward movement of two or more grades requires prior written Match Committee approval regardless of statistics or Established status.

25.3.4 First-to-Second, Second-to-Third and Third-to-Fourth are one-grade movements. First-to-Third, First-to-Fourth and Second-to-Fourth are movements of two or more grades.

25.4 Grade not playing

25.4.1 A higher or usual grade having a bye, washout, representative break or no scheduled fixture does not create any additional right to move down. The player is assessed under the ordinary movement rules in this Rule exactly as if the higher grade had a fixture.

25.4.2 Previous participation in the lower grade does not itself create an exemption.

25.5 Player Regrades and Match Dispensations

25.5.1 A Player Regrade is a prospective, format-specific approval that moves the player to a lower grade on an ongoing basis for the remainder of the One Day competition, unless it is later varied or revoked under Rule 25.5.2. A Match Dispensation applies only to the specified player and match / Competition Weekend.

25.5.2 An approved Player Regrade does not automatically lapse merely because the player subsequently fills in or participates in the higher grade. The regrade remains active unless the Match Committee reviews, varies or revokes it because the player's subsequent higher-grade participation, performance, role or other relevant circumstances demonstrate that the basis on which the regrade was granted has materially changed. Any variation or revocation operates prospectively from the time it is communicated to the club.

25.5.3 A player who is not an Established Higher-Grade Player does not require a Player Regrade merely because the player has previously moved between adjacent grades. A Match Dispensation does not itself create an ongoing Player Regrade.

25.5.4 No new Player Regrade may be granted after completion of the One Day regular season for the purpose of lower-grade finals eligibility.

25.6 Junior automatic double-up exemption

25.6.1 The automatic junior double-up exemption applies only to a player who holds a valid registration through an MCA junior competition or junior participation pathway for the 2026/27 season and whose normal MCA junior age group is Under 17 or below. A player remains eligible for this exemption where their registered junior club does not field a team in the player's applicable age group, provided the player otherwise holds a valid MCA junior registration for that season.

25.6.2 A player satisfying Rule 25.6.1 may exceed the ordinary One Day senior match limit without a Double-Up Request, provided every appearance is otherwise permitted.

25.6.3 The junior exemption does not override grade-movement rules, the two-or-more-grade approval requirement, same-grade team locks, minimum ages, pace-bowling workloads, concussion, helmet or other safety requirements.

25.6.4 A player who is age-eligible but does not hold a valid MCA junior registration for the 2026/27 season does not receive the automatic junior double-up exemption. The absence of a team in the player's applicable age group at their registered junior club does not, by itself, make the player ineligible for the exemption. The former separate Under-20 automatic exemption does not apply in 2026/27.

25.7 Current-season Open Men's representative classification

25.7.1 A player officially selected in the current-season Mackay Whitsunday Open Men's 50-over representative squad is, for the purposes of player grading and downward movement under Rule 25, deemed to be an Established Higher-Grade Player at First Grade level in the MCA One Day competition, effective from the next MCA One Day round after official selection. Selection in the squad counts even if the player does not take the field.

25.7.2 There is no previous-season representative carry-over. Nitros T20 selection does not affect One Day grading.

25.7.3 A Representative-Classified Player may apply to be regraded from First Grade to Second Grade only after at least three First Grade appearances in Commenced Matches after the most recent representative selection and, across those matches, failing to satisfy either the batting pathway or bowling pathway required to be Established under Rule 25.2.3.

25.7.4 A Representative-Classified Player cannot be directly regraded from First Grade to Third or Fourth Grade. A First-to-Second representative regrade remains subject to review under Rule 25.5.2. Subsequent participation in First Grade may be taken into account in that review but does not automatically cancel the regrade.

25.8 Late withdrawals, contingency players and Emergency Match Dispensations

25.8.1 Where a club submits a Player Regrade, Match Dispensation or Double-Up Request before the Friday 12:00pm deadline, the club may also nominate no more than two contingency players for that grade where it reasonably anticipates that a late withdrawal may otherwise require a further eligibility approval. Contingency nominations are optional and are not required for players who are already eligible to participate under these Rules.

25.8.2 A contingency nomination must identify the player, the grade, the approval being sought and the circumstances in which the contingency may be used. An approved contingency player may be used only if those circumstances arise and only within the scope of the written approval granted by MCA.

25.8.3 If a player becomes unavailable after the Friday deadline, the club may replace that player with: (a) a player who is already eligible without prior approval; or (b) an approved contingency player used within the scope of the written approval. A club does not need to nominate contingency players merely because a player may become sick, unavailable for work or otherwise withdraw where the replacement player would already be eligible under these Rules.

25.8.4 Where a genuine and unforeseen illness, injury, work emergency, family emergency or other comparable circumstance first arises after the Friday 12:00pm deadline, a club may apply for an Emergency Match Dispensation for a replacement player. The request must be made before the affected match commences and must identify the unavailable player, the proposed replacement and the circumstances giving rise to the request.

25.8.5 The Match Committee or its authorised delegate may approve an Emergency Match Dispensation only where satisfied that: (a) the withdrawal genuinely first arose after the Friday deadline; (b) the original player was reasonably expected to be available when the deadline passed; (c) no reasonably available player who is already eligible can fill the position; (d) the proposed replacement is otherwise correctly registered and satisfies all applicable minimum-age, safety, same-grade team-lock and representative-classification requirements; and (e) the request is not being used to obtain a selection, grading or competitive advantage.

25.8.6 An Emergency Match Dispensation may permit: (a) a one-grade downward movement that would ordinarily require a Match Dispensation; (b) an otherwise eligible player to play a second or subsequent MCA senior One Day match in the same Competition Weekend where the additional appearance is required solely because of a genuine and unforeseen late withdrawal; or (c) both (a) and (b) where required for the same replacement player. It cannot be used to approve a movement down two or more grades, an otherwise prohibited same-grade team movement, or to override registration, clearance, permit, minimum-age, safety or representative-classification requirements.

25.8.7 An emergency Double-Up under Rule 25.8.6(b) or (c) may be approved only where MCA is satisfied that no reasonably available player who could fill the vacancy without requiring a Double-Up Request is available, and the proposed player would otherwise be eligible for the affected match apart from the ordinary Competition Weekend senior match limit.

25.8.8 An Emergency Match Dispensation, including an emergency Double-Up, is a one-match approval only. It does not create a Player Regrade and cannot be granted retrospectively after the affected match has commenced.

25.8.9 If no eligible replacement or approved Emergency Match Dispensation is available, the team must field short if it can still name at least seven eligible players or forfeit if it cannot meet the seven-player minimum.

25.9 Registration, clearances and permits

25.9.1 All One Day player-registration, clearance, transfer and permitted cross-competition permit requirements are governed by Rule 5.

25.9.2 A permit is valid for One Day cricket only where permitted by Rule 5.5. A permit must not be used to allow a player to represent two different MCA senior clubs in the same One Day competition.

25.10 Ineligible player penalty

25.10.1 A team fielding an ineligible player in a regular-season One Day match is deducted 8 competition points for each affected match, unless MCA establishes that the issue was solely an MCA / PlayHQ administrative error and the club had completed all required steps by the applicable deadline.

25.10.2 Fielding an ineligible player in a One Day Finals Match is dealt with under Rule 42.9.

25.11 ELIGIBILITY DECISIONS REGISTER AND COMPLIANCE

25.11.1 MCA will maintain an Eligibility Decisions Register available to Senior Delegates recording formal Player Regrades, Match Dispensations, Double-Up approvals, Emergency Match Dispensations and any later variation or revocation.

25.11.2 The register will record the player, club, approval type, grade movement or match scope, effective date or Competition Round and current status. Private medical, employment, family or other sensitive supporting information will not be published.

25.11.3 MCA will update the Eligibility Decisions Register as soon as practicable after each decision. All routine Player Regrades, Match Dispensations and Double-Up approvals must be entered in the register before the relevant match commences. Emergency Match Dispensations must be entered as soon as practicable after the decision.

25.11.4 Each club remains responsible for ensuring that every player it selects is eligible. MCA may audit PlayHQ records, team selections and approvals, investigate a suspected breach and determine eligibility and any sanction under these Rules. A club may refer a suspected eligibility breach to MCA Competition Administration for determination.

26. ATTIRE

26.1 Teams playing matches with white balls must wear their club's approved coloured playing uniform. Batters must wear coloured leg guards or coloured pad covers.

26.2 A player representing an MCA club for the first time may use a two-match attire allowance in Third or Fourth Grade. The allowance applies to the player, not separately to each grade, and covers only the player's first two Commenced Matches for that club. After the second Commenced Match, the player must wear the correct club attire before participating in another MCA senior match.

26.3 All players playing on turf pitches must wear suitable spiked cricket shoes.

26.4 For matches played on synthetic wickets, players must wear rubber-soled or other suitable non-spiked sports or cricket shoes. Metal spikes must not be worn on a synthetic playing surface.

26.5 Club Headwear

26.5.1 Where a player wears a cap, floppy hat, bucket hat or other non-protective headwear during an MCA match, the player must wear their club's designated or approved club headwear.

26.5.2 Where a player wears alternative headwear that is not official club apparel, any visible logo, name or identifying mark of another cricket club, cricket association, representative team or sporting organisation must be completely covered before the player enters the field of play.

26.5.3 Normal manufacturer branding on headwear is permitted and does not need to be covered.

26.5.4 Rule 26.5 does not prevent a player from wearing a batting helmet, other required protective equipment, medical headwear, or religious or cultural headwear, provided it is safe and otherwise complies with the Laws of Cricket and applicable MCA safety requirements.

26.5.5 A player who does not comply with Rule 26.5 must correct the breach before entering or returning to the field of play.

26.6 Teams failing to comply with Rules 26.1 to 26.5 will be fined \$100.00 for each player who contravenes the relevant requirement. A player legitimately using the two-game allowance under Rule 26.2 is not in breach of this Rule.

27. PLAYERS TO CONSTITUTE A TEAM

27.1 The applicable Law 1.1 - Number of players applies subject to this Rule.

27.2 A registered player of the same club may act as a substitute fielder in accordance with the Laws and this Rule. The substitute does not need to be named in the final playing XI before the match, may not bat or bowl, and does not count towards the minimum number of players required to constitute a team unless activated as an eligible Concussion Replacement under Rule 12.7. A substitute-fielder-only appearance does not count as a player appearance for grading, same-grade team lock or ordinary finals qualification purposes.

27.3 No fewer than seven (7) eligible players are required for a One Day match to commence. Rule 28.6 governs forfeiture where seven eligible players are not available within 15 minutes after the scheduled start.

28. FORFEITS AND BYES

28.1 A team intending to forfeit must notify MCA Competition Administration and the opposing club by 6:00pm on the day preceding the fixture, or immediately if the inability to play first becomes known after that deadline.

28.2 Where a club cannot field all scheduled senior teams in a Competition Round, the club must protect the highest scheduled grade and forfeit the lowest scheduled grade first unless MCA grants approval under Rule 28.3 for a higher grade to forfeit while a lower grade plays.

28.3 A club may forfeit a higher grade while a lower grade continues to play only where Match Committee approval is obtained and at least one of the following applies: (a) a minimum-age restriction or required Minimum Age Exemption prevents an otherwise available player moving higher; (b) a mandatory junior pace-bowling workload limit prevents the move; (c) a genuine documented player welfare or safety issue prevents the move; (d) another eligibility restriction in these Rules prevents the move; or (e) after all otherwise eligible and available players are considered for movement upward, the higher-grade team would still be unable to field seven eligible players.

28.3.1 The following are not grounds for approval: keeping a lower-grade team competitive; ladder or finals positioning; keeping stronger players in a lower grade; player preference; friendship or family preference; preserving an undefeated lower-grade side; or choosing a preferred match time.

28.4 If a genuine illness, withdrawal or emergency first arises after the Friday eligibility deadline, the club must immediately notify MCA and the opposition. MCA must determine any higher-grade-forfeit request before a lower-grade match from that club commences. No retrospective approval is available after a lower-grade match has commenced.

28.4.1 A same-day approval determines only whether the lower-grade team(s) may continue despite the higher-grade forfeit. It does not itself approve an otherwise ineligible replacement player or create a late Double-Up, Regrade or Match Dispensation. Any replacement player requiring eligibility approval must be separately approved under Rule 25.8 before the affected match commences, including by Emergency Match Dispensation or emergency Double-Up where the requirements of that Rule are met.

28.5 If a club forfeits a higher grade without the approval required by this Rule and a lower-grade team from that club plays in the same Competition Round, every lower-grade team from that club that plays in that round is deemed to have forfeited regardless of the on-field result.

28.5.1 Where a lower-grade team is deemed to have forfeited under Rule 28.5, bona fide individual statistics from the match remain in the official PlayHQ record. Players representing the offending club receive no qualifying appearance or Finals Qualification Credit from that match for the purposes of Rule 42. Players representing the opposing club retain their match appearance, individual statistics and any otherwise applicable finals qualification.

28.6 A team unable to field at least seven eligible players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start forfeits if the opponent can field at least seven eligible players. If neither team can field at least seven eligible players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start, both teams are recorded as forfeiting the fixture. Neither team receives competition points and the fixture has no Net Run Rate effect. No player receives an appearance or Finals Qualification Credit for the fixture. Each club is subject to the applicable forfeit charge under Rule 28.12.

28.6.1 Where a forfeit is claimed at the ground because a team cannot field at least seven eligible players, the club receiving the forfeit must notify MCA Competition Administration in writing by 12:00pm on the day following the scheduled fixture.

28.7 A team receiving a One Day forfeit receives the maximum number of competition points available for that match, being 10 competition points. The forfeit has no Net Run Rate effect.

28.7.1 Where a First Grade or Second Grade team forfeits a One Day fixture, every playing side entered by that club in the MCA Senior One Day competition is deducted four (4) competition points. This deduction applies in addition to the forfeiting team receiving no points for the forfeited fixture.

28.8 Where byes are unequal across teams, a team receiving a bye is awarded the maximum number of competition points achieved by a winning team in that grade in that Competition Round. If no match in that grade produces a winning team in the Competition Round, the team receiving the bye is awarded the ordinary One Day win allocation of eight (8) competition points. Where every team receives the same number of byes, no points are awarded for the bye. A bye has no Net Run Rate effect.

28.9 For finals qualification only, a team receiving a forfeit may enter a final XI in PlayHQ. The XI must be entered before the scheduled start time of the forfeited match, may contain no more than 11 players, and cannot be retrospectively altered to create eligibility.

28.10 Players of the forfeiting team receive no appearance or Finals Qualification Credit for the forfeited fixture.

28.11 Upon a team's second forfeit in the One Day competition, MCA Competition Administration will issue the club with a written show-cause notice requiring reasons why the team should remain in the competition. The club must respond by the deadline stated in the notice. After considering the response and the effect on competition integrity and remaining fixtures, the Match Committee may allow the team to remain, impose reasonable administrative requirements for its continued participation, or remove the team from the competition. The decision and brief reasons must be communicated to the club in writing.

28.11.1 Where a club has a First Grade or Second Grade team that forfeits two (2) One Day matches in the same season, the club must also show cause why its rights of membership or representation to MCA should not be suspended, restricted or otherwise dealt with under the MCA Constitution, By-Laws or applicable governance documents. The Match Committee may make a recommendation, but any decision affecting club membership or representation rights is a matter for the Management Committee under the applicable governance authority.

28.12 A club that notifies MCA Competition Administration and the opposing club of a forfeit by 6:00pm on the day preceding the scheduled fixture is charged its normal \$150 match fee. Where notice of the forfeit is provided after that deadline, the forfeiting club is charged its own \$150 match fee plus the opposing team's \$150 match fee, for a total charge of \$300.

29. FIXTURES

29.1 A fixture may be postponed or rescheduled only in extraordinary circumstances and only where MCA confirms the change in writing or through the Official Draw.

29.2 MCA may move an uncommenced fixture to another suitable ground to maximise playable cricket.

29.3 First Grade is to be scheduled on turf. Second Grade is predominantly turf. Third Grade may be turf or synthetic. Fourth Grade is primarily synthetic. Weather contingencies may vary Second or Third Grade surfaces where a suitable alternative is required.

29.4 A Saturday One Day fixture that is washed out before a result can be achieved remains a No Result and is not transferred or replayed on Sunday as part of that Competition Round.

29.5 The decision to move or postpone a fixture must be communicated by MCA and, once communicated, is binding on the participating clubs. For competition-administration purposes, an authorised MCA fixture movement or postponement decision under this Rule is final and is not appealable under Part D of Rule 3.

29.6 Team nominations - First to Fourth Grade.

29.6.1 First Grade: a club may nominate no more than one (1) team in First Grade.

29.6.2 Second Grade: the ordinary position is that a club will nominate no more than one (1) team in Second Grade. Any second Second Grade team is subject to Rules 29.7 to 29.10.

29.6.3 Third Grade and Fourth Grade: a club may nominate more than one (1) team in Third Grade and/or Fourth Grade, subject to MCA approval of the overall competition composition and compliance with Rule 30.

29.7 The Match Committee may approve a second Second Grade team for a club where, after considering all team nominations, sustainable player numbers, player availability, participation opportunities, draw structure, byes, grounds and the overall balance of the competition, it determines that the additional team is in the best interests of the competition as a whole.

29.8 When determining the composition of Second Grade, the first Second Grade team nominated by each club takes priority over approval of an additional Second Grade team from another club. A club may not have more than two (2) Second Grade teams in the same One Day competition.

29.9 Approval of an additional Second Grade team is specific to the One Day competition for which it is granted. It creates no entitlement to an additional Second Grade team in T20 cricket or in a future season. The Match Committee may impose reasonable conditions on the approval, including conditions relating to sustainable player numbers, team allocation and compliance with Rule 30.

29.10 Once MCA confirms the competition composition and publishes the Official Draw, the approved number of teams remains in place for that One Day competition unless MCA issues a formal controlled amendment.

30. CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE (1) TEAM NOMINATED IN A GRADE

30.1 Where a club fields two or more teams in the same grade in the One Day competition, Rounds 1-3 are the Team Allocation Period. This Rule applies to every player, including juniors.

30.2 During Rounds 1-3, a player may represent different same-club teams in that grade until locked, subject to Rule 30.3.

30.3 Before being locked, a player must not represent two different same-club teams in that grade against the same opposition club during Rounds 1-3. This same-opposition restriction ends after completion of Round 3.

30.4 A player who makes two Commenced Match appearances for the same same-grade team is immediately locked to that team for the remainder of the One Day competition, including finals.

30.5 By 12:00pm on the Friday immediately following completion of Round 3, the club must submit its final same-grade team allocation list to MCA.

30.5.1 The allocation list includes only players who represented that grade during Rounds 1-3 and who are not already locked under Rule 30.4.

30.5.2 A player who represented each same-grade team once must be allocated to one team. A player who represented only one same-grade team once may be confirmed in that team or allocated to the other same-grade team, provided Rule 30.3 was not breached.

30.5.3 A player who did not represent that grade during Rounds 1-3 is not included on the Round 3 allocation list.

30.5.4 Failure to lodge a required allocation by the deadline does not preserve movement. An affected unallocated player is treated as locked to the same-grade team of their most recent Commenced Match appearance during Rounds 1-3.

30.6 From the Round 3 allocation deadline, every allocated or previously locked player is locked to that same-grade team for the remainder of the competition, including finals. There is no Match Committee transfer, dispensation or exceptional-circumstances exemption.

30.7 A player who first enters that grade after Round 3 becomes locked to the first same-grade team they represent in a Commenced Match.

30.8 A breach of this Rule makes the player ineligible for the affected match and the regular-season ineligible-player penalty in Rule 25.10 applies.

31. MINIMUM AGE EXEMPTIONS

31.1 The standard minimum ages for MCA senior cricket are:

Grade	Minimum age at date of match	Exemption required when
First Grade	15 years	Player is under 15
Second Grade	15 years	Player is under 15
Third Grade	14 years	Player is under 14
Fourth Grade	14 years	Player is under 14

31.2 A 14-year-old may play Third or Fourth Grade only unless a written Minimum Age Exemption has been approved for a higher grade. A player aged 15 years or older may play First, Second, Third or Fourth Grade subject to all other eligibility and safety rules.

31.3 A player below the standard minimum age for a grade may participate only after a written MCA Minimum Age Exemption is approved for that player and grade.

31.4 The club must lodge the completed Minimum Age Exemption application no later than three business days before the player's intended first fixture in the requested higher grade. Lodgement by the deadline does not make the player eligible; written approval must be received before participation.

31.5 The application must include parent/guardian acknowledgement, club endorsement, playing history, grade sought, an assessment of technical and physical readiness and any MCA development/high-performance assessment required by the form.

31.6 An exemption must identify the grade(s) and period for which it applies. Approval for one grade does not automatically approve the player for a higher grade.

31.7 A junior player must not miss a scheduled MCA junior competition fixture in order to participate in an MCA senior fixture unless MCA has approved in writing a specific representative, pathway or exceptional participation arrangement. Where a junior and senior commitment directly overlap or cannot reasonably both be completed, the junior competition commitment takes priority unless such approval has been given.

31.8 Junior registration does not itself make a player age-eligible for a senior grade. The automatic junior double-up exemption is governed by Rule 25.6.

31.9 All players under eighteen (18) years of age participating in MCA senior cricket remain subject to the safeguarding requirements in Rule 12.10, whether or not a Minimum Age Exemption is required.

32. SCOREBOOKS AND UMPIRES REPORTS

32.1 Each match must be scored using either: (a) PlayHQ eScoring with a suitable backup record; or (b) a hard-copy scorebook / approved scoring record capable of reconstructing the full match.

32.2 The scoring record must include, as applicable: full names of batters and bowlers; each batter's score and method of dismissal; sundries; bowling figures; innings totals; and the match result.

32.3 Captains must ensure the innings totals and result are agreed at the conclusion of play. Where official umpires are appointed, the umpires must verify the result; otherwise both captains must verify it. If the captains cannot agree the scores or result, each club must provide its primary scoring record to MCA Competition Administration by 12:00pm on the next business day, and MCA will determine the official match record and direct any required PlayHQ correction.

32.4 Unless MCA directs otherwise, the first-named / home team is responsible for entering the final scores and individual player statistics in PlayHQ by 6:00pm on the Tuesday following the match. The opposing club must review the entered result and notify MCA Competition Administration of any material discrepancy by 12:00pm on the Wednesday following the match. If PlayHQ is unavailable, the first-named / home team must provide MCA Competition Administration with the primary scoring record by the Tuesday deadline.

32.5 Failure by the club responsible under Rule 32.4 to enter or complete the PlayHQ result by the deadline: first infringement - written warning; second - \$50 fine; third - \$100 fine; each subsequent infringement - \$100 fine plus deduction of 2 competition points.

32.6 MCA may require a club to provide its original scorebook or scoring record within 48 hours for an audit. Failure to provide it when directed attracts a \$50 fine.

32.7 Concussion and Head Impact Reports - Where a player is removed from a match because concussion is suspected, likely or confirmed, the reporting requirements in Annexure A.6 are mandatory.

32.7.1 Club Report - The affected player's captain must ensure that the player's club completes the official Australian Cricket Community Concussion and Head Impact Guidelines - Incident Report Form and submits a copy to MCA Competition Administration no later than 12:00pm on the next business day following the incident. The form may be completed and submitted by the captain, coach, team manager or another authorised club official. The official form is linked in Annexure A.6 and the Referenced Documents and Forms section.

32.7.2 Umpire Report - Where official umpire(s) are appointed, the umpiring team must submit one separate umpire incident report through the prescribed MCA process under Rule 32.8 by the same deadline. The umpire report must

record observed facts, player removal, match-control actions and any Concussion Replacement decision. It must not purport to provide a medical diagnosis, formal medical Head Injury Assessment or medical clearance.

32.7.3 Failure to submit a required report by the prescribed deadline is a breach of the applicable reporting obligation. A club failure may result in a written direction requiring immediate compliance and, where repeated, deliberate or materially affecting player welfare, may be referred through the MCA Code of Behaviour or another applicable safeguarding process. An umpire failure may be referred to the MCA Umpires Co-ordinator and the applicable umpire appointment or conduct process.

32.8 Official umpires must submit any other required match, conduct or incident report through the prescribed MCA process.

32.9 A captain may raise an umpiring concern through the Umpires Co-ordinator / MCA process. Only the team captain or an authorised club official may formally approach an umpire about match-performance concerns.

33. RESTRICTIONS ON THE PLACEMENT OF FIELDERS

33.1 At the instant of delivery no more than five fielders may be on the leg side.

33.2 One Day Powerplay fielding restrictions apply to First and Second Grade only. Third and Fourth Grade do not use One Day Powerplay fielding restrictions.

33.3 For First and Second Grade, no more than two fielders may be outside the 30-yard circle in Powerplay 1, no more than four in Powerplay 2 and no more than five in Powerplay 3. The Powerplay allocations for a reduced innings are shown in the table below.

Overs	Powerplay 1	Powerplay 2	Powerplay 3
15	3	9	3
16	3	10	3
17	4	10	3
18	4	11	3
19	4	11	4
20	4	12	4
21	4	13	4
22	5	13	4
23	5	14	4
24	5	14	5
25	5	15	5
26	5	16	5
27	6	16	5
28	6	17	5
29	6	17	6
30	6	18	6
31	6	19	6
32	7	19	6
33	7	20	6
34	7	20	7
35	7	21	7
36	7	22	7
37	8	22	7
38	8	23	7
39	8	23	8
40	8	24	8
41	8	25	8
42	9	25	8
43	9	26	8
44	9	26	9
45	9	27	9
46	9	28	9
47	10	28	9
48	10	29	9
49	10	29	10
50	10	30	10

33.4 If an innings is reduced, the applicable Powerplay table applies immediately. If an interruption occurs mid-over, the revised restriction applies from the next delivery after play resumes where the revised phase has already been reached.

33.5 A breach of a Powerplay fielding restriction is called and signalled No Ball.

34. NUMBER OF OVERS PER BOWLER

34.1 No bowler may bowl more than one-fifth (1/5) of the total overs allowed in an innings.

34.2 Where the total overs are not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler necessary to make up the balance.

34.3 In the event of a bowler being unable to complete an over due to injury, another bowler will bowl the remaining deliveries. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

35. NO BALL - LAW 21

35.1 Law 21 - No Ball applies, with a free hit following every No Ball.

35.2 If the free-hit delivery is itself a No Ball or Wide, the next delivery remains a free hit.

35.3 For a free hit, field changes are permitted only where there is a change of striker or where necessary to correct a fielding-restriction breach that caused the No Ball.

35.4 A bowler may bowl a maximum of two fast short-pitched deliveries per over in One Day cricket.

35.4.1 For the purposes of this Rule, a fast short-pitched delivery is a delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed above shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

35.4.2 A delivery satisfying Rule 35.4.1 counts toward the permitted quota whether or not it is also called Wide.

35.4.3 Any fast short-pitched delivery in excess of the permitted maximum in an over shall be called and signalled No Ball. The dangerous and unfair bowling provisions of Law 41.6 continue to apply independently of this quota.

35.5 Head-height delivery after pitching. For a match commencing before 1 October 2026, a delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease is a No Ball in accordance with Law 21.10 of the 2017 Code, 3rd Edition 2022. For a match commencing on or after 1 October 2026, such a delivery is adjudged in accordance with Law 22.1.3 of the 2017 Code, 4th Edition 2026 and is a Wide, unless another provision of the Laws requires it to be called No Ball, including the dangerous or unfair short-pitched bowling provisions of Law 41.6.

35.6 Junior pace bowlers remain subject to the lower workload limits in Rule 12.9.

36. WIDE BALL - JUDGING A WIDE - LAW 22

36.1 Law 22 - Wide Ball applies subject to this Rule.

36.2 In First Grade, and in any Second, Third or Fourth Grade match where official umpire(s) are appointed, Wide Ball decisions shall be made under Law 22 using the normal limited-overs interpretation applied by the appointed umpire(s).

36.3 In Second, Third and Fourth Grade matches where no official umpire is appointed, all Wide Ball decisions shall be made in accordance with the applicable Law 22. A delivery is not automatically a Wide solely because it passes the striker on the leg side. In judging a Wide, the player-umpire must take account of the striker's position and movement and whether the delivery was sufficiently within reach for the striker to have played it by means of a normal cricket stroke, as provided by Law 22.

36.4 Where no official umpire is appointed in Second, Third or Fourth Grade, captains should, wherever practicable, nominate players with suitable knowledge and experience of the Laws of Cricket to perform bowler's-end umpiring duties. Less experienced or junior players should preferably perform square-leg duties while developing their umpiring knowledge.

37. PENALTY FOR NOT BOWLING REQUIRED OVERS

37.1 If the fielding team fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled cessation time, play continues until the required number of overs have been bowled or the innings ends.

37.2 At the completion of the innings, the batting team is credited with five (5) penalty runs for every whole over not bowled by the scheduled or revised cessation time, after applying the allowances in Rule 37.8.

37.3 If the side batting second is credited with runs in this way and this consequently takes their score past that of the side batting first, then the match shall be deemed to be won by the side batting second.

37.4 All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the innings.

37.5 If the innings is completed before the scheduled time for cessation of the innings, no over-rate penalty will apply.

37.6 If the innings is interrupted, the over-rate penalty will apply based on the rescheduled cessation time for that innings.

37.7 The umpire must inform the fielding captain of the scheduled cessation time for the innings when the team first takes the field and again whenever play is interrupted by weather. The bowler's-end umpire must inform the fielding captain, the striker and the other umpire of any time allowances as they arise. Time allowances are not subject to retrospective negotiation.

37.8 For determining penalties, the following allowances shall be considered:

37.8.1 Actual time taken for treatment of an injured player on the field.

37.8.2 Actual time taken for a player leaving the field in the event of serious injury.

37.8.3 Actual time taken to dry a wet ball.

37.8.4 Actual time to find or replace a ball.

37.8.5 Actual time taken for any additional or extended hydration or cooling break directed by the umpires or required under Annexure B, including the full duration of any mandatory heat-safety suspension or cooling period.

37.8.6 Actual time taken for referrals to third umpire.

37.8.7 Actual time lost due to all other circumstances that are beyond the control of the fielding side.

37.9 There shall be no allowances given for:

37.9.1 Wickets falling.

37.9.2 Ordinary scheduled drinks intervals, other than additional or extended heat-safety breaks covered by Rule 37.8.5.

37.9.3 Sightscreen changes.

38. THE RESULT - LAW 16

38.1 Law 16 - The Result applies subject to this Rule.

38.2 A result can be achieved only if both teams have had the opportunity to receive at least 15 overs, unless one team is dismissed earlier or the team batting second reaches the target earlier. The First Grade Grand Final minimum is 20 overs per side.

38.3 If the minimum requirement is not met, the match is a No Result.

38.4 In an uninterrupted match, the team scoring more runs wins. If the scores are equal in a regular-season One Day match, the match is a Tie and each team receives the tie points in Rule 39.

38.5 If a target must be revised after play has commenced, Duckworth-Lewis-Stern is the only approved target-adjustment method. Scorers must use PlayHQ DLS where available; if PlayHQ cannot produce the calculation, the official Play Cricket DLS Calculator must be used.

38.6 A simple run-rate, same-stage-plus-one or other manual target method is not an authorised substitute for DLS.

38.7 A tied One Day Finals Match proceeds to a one-over-per-side Super Over if ground, weather, light and time permit. Each team nominates one bowler and up to three batters; the Super Over innings ends after two wickets.

38.8 If a Super Over is tied, further Super Overs are played until a winner is determined, subject to ground, weather, light and time. Boundary countback is not used.

38.9 If a Super Over cannot be commenced or completed in a Semi-Final, the higher-placed team progresses. In a Grand Final, Rule 40 reserve-date provisions apply.

39. MATCH POINTS

39.1 One Day match points are:

Result	Competition points
Win	8
Tie	4
No Result	4
Loss	0

39.2 A winning team whose run rate is at least 1.25 times the opposition's run rate receives one bonus point.

39.3 A winning team whose run rate is at least twice the opposition's run rate receives one additional bonus point, for a maximum of two bonus points.

39.4 A team dismissed before its full allocated or revised quota is treated as having used that full quota when calculating the run-rate comparison for bonus points.

39.5 The official PlayHQ result and ladder settings are the controlling competition record, subject to Rule 41.3 where teams remain inseparable after the ordinary PlayHQ ladder criteria and subject to correction of a proven data-entry error.

40. FINALS MATCHES

40.1 One Day Finals Matches are played on the dates and at the venues published in the Official Draw.

40.2 There is no reserve date for a Semi-Final. If no result can be achieved, the higher-placed team at the end of the regular season progresses.

40.3 The scheduled 2026/27 One Day Grand Final date is 12 December 2026 with 19 December 2026 as the weather reserve date, subject to any controlled MCA amendment.

40.4 If the original Grand Final cannot produce a result, the match is restarted from the beginning on the reserve date. Scores and individual statistics from the abandoned match do not carry into the replay.

40.5 If no result can be achieved on the reserve date, the higher-placed team at the end of the regular season is declared the competition winner.

40.6 Where a reserve Grand Final venue is required, the Match Committee must confirm the venue no later than 6:00pm on the Thursday before the reserve date.

40.7 First Grade Grand Finals are to be played on turf where a suitable turf venue is available. Second and Third Grade may be moved to a suitable synthetic venue where required by weather or availability. Fourth Grade may be moved to another suitable synthetic venue.

40.8 Reserve-date player selection: a player who was eligible for the original Grand Final remains subject to the finals eligibility rules on the reserve date. A player who did not play the original Grand Final may be selected on the reserve

date only if independently eligible and if the player did not participate in a Grand Final in another grade on the original date. The reserve-date replay is the same finals stage for the one-final-per-stage rule.

41. QUALIFYING FOR THE FINAL

41.1 The finals-series structure for each grade is determined by the number of teams included in the Official Draw at the commencement of that competition. A later withdrawal, removal or forfeiture of a team does not change that finals-series structure.

41.1.1 Where a competition has fewer than eight (8) teams, the team finishing first qualifies directly for the Grand Final and the teams finishing second and third play the Semi-Final. The Semi-Final winner progresses to the Grand Final.

41.1.2 Where a competition has eight (8) or more teams, the Semi-Finals are first versus fourth and second versus third. The winners progress to the Grand Final.

Teams in competition	Semi-Final structure	Grand Final
Fewer than 8	2nd v 3rd	1st v Semi-Final winner
8 or more	1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd	Semi-Final winners

41.2 Where Rule 41.1.2 applies and only one of the two Semi-Finals can be commenced, the second-versus-third Semi-Final has priority over the first-versus-fourth Semi-Final.

41.3 Where a Semi-Final cannot produce a result, the higher-placed team at the end of the regular season progresses. Ladder position is determined first by competition points, then by the greater number of wins, then by the higher official PlayHQ Net Run Rate. If two or more teams remain inseparable after those criteria, MCA will apply a head-to-head mini-table using competition points earned only in regular-season matches between the tied teams, followed by head-to-head Net Run Rate calculated by MCA under Rule 44. If the teams remain inseparable, ladder order will be determined by drawing of lots conducted by the Match Committee Chair, with affected club delegates invited to observe where practicable.

42. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

42.1 Finals qualification denominator and required appearances

42.1.1 For finals qualification only, the denominator for a team in a grade is the number of that team's regular-season fixtures that either: (a) became a Commenced Match; or (b) were formally recorded as a forfeit received by that team. A bye and a match abandoned before the first delivery, where no forfeit is recorded, are excluded.

42.1.2 Required Finals Appearances = one-third of the denominator in Rule 42.1.1, rounded down to the nearest whole number, with a minimum requirement of one qualifying appearance or Finals Qualification Credit.

42.1.3 A player ordinarily qualifies for a final in a grade by accumulating the Required Finals Appearances in that grade or any lower grade in the same competition format. Matches played in a higher grade do not count toward this ordinary lower-grade qualification route.

42.1.4 Finals Matches do not count toward regular-season qualification for a later Finals Match.

42.2 Finals Qualification Credits

42.2.1 Representative duty: for this Rule, recognised representative duty means an eligible representative cricket commitment listed in Rule 15.2.8.1 and excludes the commitments listed in Rule 15.2.8.2. A player receives one Finals Qualification Credit only where that representative commitment actually prevents the player from participating in a scheduled MCA match in the same competition format. Selection alone, training, or representative cricket that does not clash with an MCA fixture does not create a credit.

42.2.2 Replacement-player credit: a player who moves to a higher grade specifically to replace a player absent on recognised representative duty under Rule 42.2.1 receives one Finals Qualification Credit in the immediately lower grade the replacement would otherwise have represented only where: (a) both grades had scheduled matches; (b) the replacement is named in the final XI of the higher-grade match; (c) the representative player receives a credit for the same round; (d) the replacement does not also play the lower-grade match; and (e) the club identifies the replacement to MCA Competition Administration in writing, by email or through any MCA form published for that purpose, by 12:00pm on the day following the scheduled match.

42.2.3 Received forfeit: each player named in the receiving team's final PlayHQ XI before the scheduled start time of the forfeited match receives one Finals Qualification Credit. No player may be added after the scheduled start time for this purpose.

42.2.4 A bye creates no Finals Qualification Credit. A Finals Qualification Credit counts only toward finals qualification and is not an Appearance or Commenced Match for statistics, Established status, regrading, match limits or same-grade team locks.

42.3 Established Higher-Grade Player finals restriction

42.3.1 Established Higher-Grade Player status is assessed at completion of the regular season and is fixed for the entire finals series. Finals performances do not change that status.

42.3.2 A player who is an Established Higher-Grade Player at completion of the regular season is ineligible to play a final in any lower grade even if the player otherwise has the Required Finals Appearances, unless the player was formally regraded to that lower grade during the regular season.

42.3.3 No new Player Regrade may be granted after completion of the regular season for the purpose of lower-grade finals eligibility.

42.3.4 If a player formally regraded during the regular season participates in a higher-grade Finals Match, that regrade lapses immediately and the player cannot return to the lower grade for a later final in that competition.

42.4 Immediate higher-grade finals pathway - maximum three

42.4.1 A player who does not qualify for a lower-grade final through the ordinary route may use the immediate higher-grade pathway only where every condition in this Rule is met.

42.4.2 The movement is one grade only: First-to-Second, Second-to-Third or Third-to-Fourth. No two-grade or three-grade finals movement is permitted.

42.4.3 The club's immediate higher-grade and lower-grade teams must both be participating in the same finals stage, except where the immediate higher-grade team has qualified directly for the Grand Final under Rule 41.1.1 and the immediately lower-grade team is playing a Semi-Final. In that circumstance Rule 42.5 applies.

42.4.4 The player must have independently satisfied the Required Finals Appearances for the immediate higher grade, must not be an Established Higher-Grade Player of that immediate higher grade, and must not be named in the final playing XI of the immediate higher-grade team for that finals stage.

42.4.5 No more than three players in a lower-grade Finals Match may rely on this immediate higher-grade pathway. There is no Match Committee exemption to increase the maximum or waive a condition.

42.4.6 Eligibility is reassessed separately for each finals stage. The same player may use the pathway again in the Grand Final only if every condition is again satisfied. If the higher-grade team is eliminated, the pathway is unavailable for the lower-grade Grand Final.

42.5 Direct-to-Grand-Final exception

42.5.1 Where a club's immediate higher-grade team finishes first in a competition with fewer than eight (8) teams and qualifies directly for the Grand Final while the immediately lower-grade team plays a Semi-Final, the club must submit an intended higher-grade Grand Final XI to MCA before the scheduled start of the lower-grade Semi-Final.

42.5.2 A player named in the intended higher-grade Grand Final XI cannot play in the immediately lower-grade Semi-Final. Up to three players not named in that XI may use the immediate higher-to-lower-grade pathway if they satisfy every other condition in Rule 42.4.

42.5.3 The intended higher-grade Grand Final XI controls eligibility for the immediately lower-grade Semi-Final only. It is not binding as the actual higher-grade Grand Final XI.

42.6 Same-grade team locks continue through the finals series. A player locked to one same-grade team cannot represent another same-grade team in a Semi-Final or Grand Final.

42.7 A player may participate in only one MCA senior Semi-Final in that competition and only one MCA senior Grand Final in that competition, even where the matches are played on different days. There is no Match Committee exemption.

42.8 Official finals eligibility list and challenge period

42.8.1 MCA will provide the official finals eligibility position to clubs on or before the Tuesday following the final regular-season round. The list will record ordinary qualification, approved credits, Established status, approved regular-season regrades and same-grade team locks.

42.8.2 A club must lodge any eligibility query or correction by 12:00pm Thursday following the final regular-season round. After that deadline the published eligibility position is final unless MCA identifies an administrative or PlayHQ-recording error.

42.9 Ineligible Player - Finals Match

42.9.1 A team that names an ineligible player in its final XI for a Semi-Final or Grand Final and commences the match with that player included shall forfeit that Finals Match.

42.9.2 Where the breach occurs in a Semi-Final, the opposing team shall be declared the winner and shall progress to the Grand Final.

42.9.3 Where the breach occurs in a Grand Final, the opposing team shall be declared the winner of the Grand Final and the competition.

42.9.4 The only exception is where MCA determines that the player's apparent ineligibility resulted solely from an MCA or PlayHQ administrative or recording error and the club had provided complete and accurate information and complied with every applicable requirement and deadline.

42.9.5 A club error, misunderstanding of these Rules, failure to check eligibility, incorrect or incomplete information supplied by the club, a missed deadline or inadvertent selection does not constitute an administrative-error exception.

42.9.6 Where MCA has formally published a player as eligible on the official Finals Eligibility List after the club provided complete and accurate information, the administrative-error exception in Rule 42.9.4 applies if MCA later establishes that the published eligibility was incorrect solely because of an MCA or PlayHQ administrative or recording error.

43. COVERS DUTY

- 43.1** When a match is scheduled on a Harrup Park ground on the following day, both teams playing the final match on that ground must cover the pitch at the conclusion of play when directed by the Grounds team or MCA Competition Administration. Each team that fails to comply with this end-of-day covering direction is fined \$100.00.
- 43.2** A club allocated morning Covers Duty must attend at the published time and comply with Rule 11.3 to Rule 11.5. In ordinary conditions, covers must not be removed before 6:00am and must be removed by 7:30am where it is not raining and the Grounds team has not directed that the pitch remain covered.
- 43.3** Where no match is scheduled on the ground the following day, both teams playing the last match must fold or roll the covers as directed before leaving the venue.
- 43.4** No person wearing spiked shoes may handle or walk on pitch covers. A club responsible for avoidable cover damage may be charged the repair or replacement cost.
- 43.5** Failure to perform an allocated Covers Duty: for the first breach in a season, the club is fined \$250.00 and has four (4) competition points deducted from each of its First and Second Grade teams where the breach occurs during the One Day competition, or three (3) competition points deducted from each of those teams where the breach occurs during the T20 competition. For any subsequent Covers Duty breach in the same season, the club is fined \$500.00 and has eight (8) competition points deducted from each of its First and Second Grade teams in the competition then in progress.
- 43.6** Failure of the final teams on a ground to fold or roll covers when directed attracts a \$250 fine if the failure is not rectified by the deadline directed by MCA.
- 43.7** Finals Covers Duty - Semi-Finals. Where an MCA senior Semi-Final is played at Harrup Park, the lower-placed team in that Semi-Final, based on the final regular-season ladder position, is responsible for the allocated Covers Duty for that fixture and ground. For the avoidance of doubt, in a 2nd versus 3rd Semi-Final the 3rd-placed team is responsible, and in a 1st versus 4th Semi-Final the 4th-placed team is responsible.
- 43.8** Finals Covers Duty - Grand Finals. Where an MCA senior Grand Final is played at Harrup Park, the lower-placed Grand Final team, based on the final regular-season ladder position, is responsible for the allocated Covers Duty for the scheduled Grand Final. If the Grand Final is required to be replayed on the published reserve date, the same lower-placed Grand Final team remains responsible for the allocated Covers Duty for the reserve Grand Final.
- 43.9** MCA Competition Administration or the Grounds team will publish the required attendance times, grounds and duties for Finals Covers Duty. The Finals Covers Duty allocation applies to all required pre-match cover application, removal and related duties directed by MCA and overrides the ordinary club Covers Duty roster for the affected ground and date.

44. NET RUN RATE

- 44.1** The official PlayHQ ladder Net Run Rate is the controlling NRR for the One Day competition.
- 44.2** For audit purposes, NRR is the total runs per over scored by a team minus the total runs per over conceded across matches that produce an NRR result.
- 44.3** Where a team is dismissed before using its full allocated or revised quota, the full allocated or revised quota is used for the run-rate denominator.
- 44.4** No Results, byes and forfeits have no NRR effect.

T20 CRICKET - RULES AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

Rules 45-71 apply to MCA T20 fixtures and are read with Rules 1-17 and the applicable Laws of Cricket.

45. DURATION OF MATCHES

45.1 Each T20 match consists of one innings per side, limited to 20 overs unless reduced under Rule 48.

45.2 A minimum of five overs per side constitutes a T20 match, subject to a result being achieved earlier.

45.3 Fourth Grade participates in the 2026/27 post-Christmas T20 competition and is primarily scheduled on synthetic wickets.

46. HOURS OF PLAY – Match Times

46.1 The Official Draw controls the start time of every T20 fixture. Unless a different time is expressly published in the Official Draw, the standard 2026/27 T20 start times are:

Grade	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
First Grade	6:30pm	7:00pm	10:30am or 2:00pm
Second Grade	6:30pm	3:30pm	10:30am or 2:00pm
Third Grade	6:30pm	12:00pm	10:30am or 2:00pm
Fourth Grade	No Friday fixture	1:00pm	10:30am or 2:00pm

46.2 Each uninterrupted 20-over innings is scheduled for 80 minutes.

46.3 The interval between innings is 15 minutes. If the first innings overruns or play is delayed/interrupted, the umpires may reduce the interval to not less than 10 minutes.

46.4 There is no routine scheduled drinks break during a T20 innings. Mandatory heat-safety breaks override this provision.

47. LENGTH OF INNINGS – Uninterrupted Match (Neither delayed nor interrupted)

47.1 Each team receives 20 overs unless dismissed earlier or a result is achieved earlier. A team may not declare its innings closed.

47.2 If the team fielding first fails to complete 20 overs within the scheduled 80 minutes, play continues until the required overs are completed or the innings ends, subject to Rule 63 over-rate penalties.

47.3 If the team batting first is dismissed in fewer than 20 overs, the team batting second remains entitled to receive its full 20-over allocation in an uninterrupted match.

47.4 If the team fielding second is behind the required over rate, play may be extended where conditions permit until the required overs are completed or a result is achieved.

48. LENGTH OF INNINGS - Delayed or Interrupted Match

48.1 Lost playing time is converted to overs at four minutes per over. Fractions of an over are ignored when determining a revised allocation.

48.2 Where possible, both teams receive the same number of overs. The team batting second may not receive more overs than the first team unless the first team completed its innings in fewer than its allocation.

48.3 The minimum five-over requirement must remain possible for the team batting second. If it is not possible and no result has already been achieved, the match is a No Result.

48.4 A revised target after play has commenced must be determined by DLS under Rule 64.

48.5 In a reduced-overs match, the fielding team receives one over of operational leeway in addition to genuine umpire time allowances. The revised cessation time determined by the umpires governs.

48.6 No additional playing time is added solely to replace time lost through a delay or interruption, except where these Rules, the Official Draw or an authorised MCA match notice expressly permits an extension.

49. THE BALL

49.1 The approved T20 match ball for each grade is:

Grade	Approved T20 ball
First Grade	Kookaburra Club Match 156g
Second Grade	Kookaburra White Senator 156g
Third Grade	RJR Test Match Special White 156g
Fourth Grade	RJR Test Match Special White 156g

49.2 Each fielding team starts with one new approved ball. Replacement balls are managed under the Laws.

49.3 A club must not substitute another ball make or model without MCA approval.

50. NOMINATIONS OF PLAYERS

50.1 Each captain must prepare the final team list. Where official umpire(s) are appointed, the captain must provide the final team list in writing to the appointed umpire(s) and the opposition captain at or immediately before the toss and before the coin is tossed. Where no official umpire is appointed, the captains must exchange final team lists with each other at or immediately before the toss and before the coin is tossed.

50.2 A First Grade or Second Grade team that does not name 11 eligible players by the time of the toss is subject to the penalties in Rules 50.2.1 to 50.2.4. The penalty does not apply where the team is short solely because of a withdrawal first arising after the Friday eligibility deadline and the club has complied with the applicable late-withdrawal / emergency process in these Rules.

50.2.1 First infringement - written warning.

50.2.2 Second infringement - \$50.00 fine payable to Mackay Cricket Association Inc.

50.2.3 Third infringement - \$100.00 fine payable to Mackay Cricket Association Inc.

50.2.4 Each subsequent infringement - \$100.00 fine plus deduction of two (2) competition points.

50.3 A team may still commence with no fewer than seven eligible players under Rule 53.

50.4 Once the final team list has been provided under Rule 50.1, a nominated player may be replaced only where expressly permitted by the Laws of Cricket or these Rules, including an approved Concussion Replacement under Rule 12.7. Any replacement remains subject to all applicable registration, eligibility, minimum-age and safety requirements.

51. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

51.1 T20 senior match limit

51.1.1 A player may participate in up to two MCA senior T20 competition matches per Competition Weekend without a Double-Up Request.

51.1.2 A third or subsequent MCA senior T20 match in the same Competition Weekend requires prior written approval through the prescribed Double-Up Request unless the player qualifies for the automatic junior exemption in Rule 51.6.

51.1.3 A routine Player Regrade, Match Dispensation or Double-Up Request must be received by MCA no later than 12:00pm Friday immediately preceding the relevant Competition Weekend. A routine request received after that deadline will not be considered for that weekend. The only post-deadline eligibility approval pathway is an Emergency Match Dispensation under Rule 51.8, which must be approved before the affected match commences. No retrospective eligibility approval may be granted after the match has commenced.

51.2 Established Higher-Grade Player test - T20

51.2.1 Established status is assessed separately for T20 cricket and applies only after the player has made at least three appearances in Commenced Matches in the grade from which the player is proposed to move down, together with any higher grades, during the current T20 competition.

51.2.2 A Commenced Match is a match in which at least one legal or illegal delivery has been bowled. A player appearance counts where the player was named in the final playing XI. A bye, pre-ball abandonment, unplayed forfeit and substitute-fielder-only appearance do not count.

51.2.3 After the three-appearance threshold is met, a player is an Established Higher-Grade Player if the player has either: (a) 100 or more runs at a batting average of 20.00 or higher; or (b) 5 or more wickets at a bowling average of 25.00 or better.

51.2.4 The test uses the grade being moved from plus every higher grade in the T20 competition. Official PlayHQ statistics are the controlling record and both parts of a batting or bowling benchmark must be met.

51.2.5 The three-appearance threshold in Rule 51.2.1 triggers assessment under the Established Higher-Grade Player test; it does not, by itself, make the player an Established Higher-Grade Player. This test applies when assessing a proposed downward movement from First Grade to Second Grade, Second Grade to Third Grade, or Third Grade to Fourth Grade. A player who has made three or more relevant T20 appearances but does not satisfy either statistical pathway in Rule 51.2.3 is not an Established Higher-Grade Player.

51.3 Downward movement

51.3.1 A player who is not an Established Higher-Grade Player may move down one grade without Match Committee approval, subject to every other eligibility rule.

51.3.2 An Established Higher-Grade Player may move down one grade only where a Player Regrade or Match Dispensation has been approved before the match.

51.3.3 Every proposed downward movement of two or more grades requires prior written Match Committee approval regardless of statistics or Established status.

51.4 Grade not playing

51.4.1 A higher or usual grade having a bye, washout, representative break or no scheduled fixture does not create any additional right to move down. Previous participation in the lower grade does not itself create an exemption.

51.5 Player Regrades and Match Dispensations

51.5.1 A T20 Player Regrade is a prospective, format-specific approval that moves the player to a lower grade on an ongoing basis for the remainder of the T20 competition, unless it is later varied or revoked under Rule 51.5.2. A T20 Match Dispensation applies only to the specified player and match / Competition Weekend.

51.5.2 An approved T20 Player Regrade does not automatically lapse merely because the player subsequently fills in or participates in the higher grade. The regrade remains active unless the Match Committee reviews, varies or revokes it because the player's subsequent higher-grade participation, performance, role or other relevant circumstances demonstrate that the basis on which the regrade was granted has materially changed. Any variation or revocation operates prospectively from the time it is communicated to the club.

51.5.3 A player who is not an Established Higher-Grade Player does not require a Player Regrade merely because the player has previously moved between adjacent grades. A Match Dispensation does not itself create an ongoing Player Regrade.

51.5.4 No new T20 Player Regrade may be granted after completion of the T20 regular season for the purpose of lower-grade finals eligibility.

51.6 Junior automatic double-up exemption

51.6.1 The automatic junior double-up exemption applies only to a player who holds a valid registration through an MCA junior competition or junior participation pathway for the 2026/27 season and whose normal MCA junior age group is Under 17 or below. A player remains eligible for this exemption where their registered junior club does not field a team in the player's applicable age group, provided the player otherwise holds a valid MCA junior registration for that season.

51.6.2 A qualifying registered junior may exceed the ordinary T20 senior match limit without a Double-Up Request, but the exemption does not override grade movement, same-grade locks, minimum ages, bowling workloads or any safety rule. The former separate Under-20 automatic exemption does not apply in 2026/27.

51.7 Nitros representative classification

51.7.1 A player officially selected in the current-season Mackay Whitsunday Nitros squad for the BullsMasters T20 Challenge is automatically classified as an Established First Grade Player for the MCA T20 competition only.

51.7.2 Where the Nitros squad is selected before the MCA T20 competition begins, Established First Grade T20 status takes effect from T20 Round 1 after Christmas. A later official selection takes effect from the next MCA T20 round. Selection counts even if the player does not take the field.

51.7.3 There is no previous-season representative carry-over and Open Men's 50-over selection does not affect T20 grading.

51.7.4 A Representative-Classified Player may apply to be regraded from First Grade to Second Grade only after at least three First Grade T20 appearances in Commenced Matches after the most recent representative selection and, across those matches, failing to satisfy either the batting pathway or bowling pathway required to be Established under Rule 51.2.3.

51.7.5 A Representative-Classified Player cannot be directly regraded from First Grade to Third or Fourth Grade. A First-to-Second representative regrade remains subject to review under Rule 51.5.2. Subsequent participation in First Grade may be taken into account in that review but does not automatically cancel the regrade.

51.8 Late withdrawals, contingency players and Emergency Match Dispensations

51.8.1 Where a club submits a Player Regrade, Match Dispensation or Double-Up Request before the Friday 12:00pm deadline, the club may also nominate no more than two contingency players for that grade where it reasonably anticipates that a late withdrawal may otherwise require a further eligibility approval. Contingency nominations are optional and are not required for players who are already eligible to participate under these Rules.

51.8.2 A contingency nomination must identify the player, the grade, the approval being sought and the circumstances in which the contingency may be used. An approved contingency player may be used only if those circumstances arise and only within the scope of the written approval granted by MCA.

51.8.3 If a player becomes unavailable after the Friday deadline, the club may replace that player with: (a) a player who is already eligible without prior approval; or (b) an approved contingency player used within the scope of the written approval. A club does not need to nominate contingency players merely because a player may become sick, unavailable for work or otherwise withdraw where the replacement player would already be eligible under these Rules.

51.8.4 Where a genuine and unforeseen illness, injury, work emergency, family emergency or other comparable circumstance first arises after the Friday 12:00pm deadline, a club may apply for an Emergency Match Dispensation for a replacement player. The request must be made before the affected match commences and must identify the unavailable player, the proposed replacement and the circumstances giving rise to the request.

51.8.5 The Match Committee or its authorised delegate may approve an Emergency Match Dispensation only where satisfied that: (a) the withdrawal genuinely first arose after the Friday deadline; (b) the original player was reasonably expected to be available when the deadline passed; (c) no reasonably available player who is already eligible can fill the position; (d) the proposed replacement is otherwise correctly registered and satisfies all applicable minimum-age, safety, same-grade team-lock and representative-classification requirements; and (e) the request is not being used to obtain a selection, grading or competitive advantage.

51.8.6 An Emergency Match Dispensation may permit: (a) a one-grade downward movement that would ordinarily require a Match Dispensation; (b) an otherwise eligible player to play an additional MCA senior T20 match in the

same Competition Weekend that would otherwise require a Double-Up Request, where the additional appearance is required solely because of a genuine and unforeseen late withdrawal; or (c) both (a) and (b) where required for the same replacement player. It cannot be used to approve a movement down two or more grades, an otherwise prohibited same-grade team movement, or to override registration, clearance, permit, minimum-age, safety or representative-classification requirements.

51.8.7 An emergency Double-Up under Rule 51.8.6(b) or (c) may be approved only where MCA is satisfied that no reasonably available player who could fill the vacancy without requiring a Double-Up Request is available, and the proposed player would otherwise be eligible for the affected match apart from the ordinary Competition Weekend senior match limit.

51.8.8 An Emergency Match Dispensation, including an emergency Double-Up, is a one-match approval only. It does not create a Player Regrade and cannot be granted retrospectively after the affected match has commenced.

51.8.9 If no eligible replacement or approved Emergency Match Dispensation is available, the team must field short if it can still name at least seven eligible players or forfeit if it cannot meet the seven-player minimum.

51.9 Registration, clearances and permits

51.9.1 All T20 player-registration, clearance, transfer and permitted cross-competition permit requirements are governed by Rule 5. A permit is valid for T20 cricket only where permitted by Rule 5.5 and must not be used to allow a player to represent two different MCA senior clubs in the same T20 competition.

51.10 Ineligible player penalty

51.10.1 A team fielding an ineligible player in a regular-season T20 match is deducted six (6) competition points for each affected match, unless MCA establishes that the issue was solely an MCA or PlayHQ administrative or recording error and the club had completed all required steps by the applicable deadline. This six-point penalty also applies where the ineligibility arises from a failure to satisfy the registration, clearance, transfer or permit requirements in Rule 5.

51.10.2 Fielding an ineligible player in a T20 Finals Match is dealt with under Rule 68.9.

51.11 ELIGIBILITY DECISIONS REGISTER AND COMPLIANCE

51.11.1 MCA will maintain an Eligibility Decisions Register available to Senior Delegates recording formal T20 Player Regrades, Match Dispensations, Double-Up approvals, Emergency Match Dispensations and any later variation or revocation.

51.11.2 The register will record the player, club, approval type, grade movement or match scope, effective date or Competition Round and current status. Private medical, employment, family or other sensitive supporting information will not be published.

51.11.3 MCA will update the Eligibility Decisions Register as soon as practicable after each decision. All routine Player Regrades, Match Dispensations and Double-Up approvals must be entered in the register before the relevant match commences. Emergency Match Dispensations must be entered as soon as practicable after the decision.

51.11.4 Each club remains responsible for ensuring that every player it selects is eligible. MCA may audit PlayHQ records, team selections and approvals, investigate a suspected breach and determine eligibility and any sanction under these Rules. A club may refer a suspected eligibility breach to MCA Competition Administration for determination.

52. ATTIRE

52.1 The attire, headwear and footwear requirements in Rule 26 apply in full to T20 cricket.

52.2 For the avoidance of doubt, T20 matches are white-ball matches. Players must wear their club's approved coloured playing uniform, and batters must wear coloured leg guards or coloured pad covers, in accordance with Rule 26.

52.3 The turf and synthetic footwear requirements in Rules 26.3 and 26.4 apply to T20 cricket.

52.4 The new-player attire allowance in Rule 26.2, the club headwear requirements in Rule 26.5 and the attire penalty in Rule 26.6 apply to T20 cricket.

53. PLAYERS TO CONSTITUTE A TEAM

53.1 A team may name a maximum of 11 playing members. No fewer than seven eligible players are required for a T20 match to commence.

53.2 A registered player of the same club may act as a substitute fielder in accordance with the Laws and this Rule. The substitute does not need to be named in the final playing XI before the match, may not bat or bowl, and does not count toward the seven-player minimum unless activated as an eligible Concussion Replacement under Rule 12.7.

53.3 A substitute-fielder-only appearance does not count as a player appearance for grading, same-grade team lock or ordinary finals qualification purposes.

54. FORFEITS AND BYES

54.1 A team intending to forfeit must notify MCA Competition Administration and the opposing club by 6:00pm on the day preceding the fixture, or immediately if the inability to play first becomes known after that deadline.

54.2 Where a club cannot field all scheduled senior teams in a Competition Round, the club must protect the highest scheduled grade and forfeit the lowest scheduled grade first unless MCA grants approval under Rule 54.3 for a higher grade to forfeit while a lower grade plays.

54.3 A club may forfeit a higher grade while a lower grade continues to play only with Match Committee approval and only for the objective grounds listed in Rule 28.3. The non-acceptable grounds in Rule 28.3.1 apply equally to T20.

54.4 If a genuine illness, withdrawal or emergency first arises after the Friday eligibility deadline, the same-day process in Rule 28.4 applies. MCA must decide the higher-grade-forfeit request before any lower-grade match from that club commences. No retrospective approval is available.

54.5 If a club forfeits a higher grade without the required approval and a lower-grade team from that club plays in the same Competition Round, every lower-grade team from that club that plays in that round is deemed to have forfeited regardless of the on-field result.

54.5.1 Where a lower-grade team is deemed to have forfeited under Rule 54.5, bona fide individual statistics from the match remain in the official PlayHQ record. Players representing the offending club receive no qualifying appearance or Finals Qualification Credit from that match for the purposes of Rule 68. Players representing the opposing club retain their match appearance, individual statistics and any otherwise applicable finals qualification.

54.6 A team unable to field at least seven eligible players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start forfeits if the opponent can field at least seven eligible players. If neither team can field at least seven eligible players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start, both teams are recorded as forfeiting the fixture. Neither team receives competition points and the fixture has no Net Run Rate effect. No player receives an appearance or Finals Qualification Credit for the fixture. Each club is subject to the applicable forfeit charge under Rule 54.11.

54.6.1 Where a forfeit is claimed at the ground because a team cannot field at least seven eligible players, the club receiving the forfeit must notify MCA Competition Administration in writing by 6:00pm on the Tuesday following the scheduled fixture.

54.7 A team receiving a T20 forfeit receives 6 competition points. The forfeit has no Net Run Rate effect.

54.7.1 Where a First Grade or Second Grade team forfeits a T20 fixture, every playing side entered by that club in the MCA Senior T20 competition is deducted four (4) competition points. This deduction applies in addition to the forfeiting team receiving no points for the forfeited fixture.

54.8 Where byes are unequal across teams, a team receiving a bye receives the ordinary T20 win points. Where every team receives the same number of byes, no points are awarded for the bye. A bye has no NRR effect.

54.9 For finals qualification only, a team receiving a forfeit may enter a final XI in PlayHQ before the scheduled start time, maximum 11 players. No retrospective additions are permitted.

54.10 Upon a team's second forfeit in the T20 competition, MCA Competition Administration will issue the club with a written show-cause notice requiring reasons why the team should remain in the competition. The club must respond by the deadline stated in the notice. After considering the response and the effect on competition integrity and remaining fixtures, the Match Committee may allow the team to remain, impose reasonable administrative requirements for its continued participation, or remove the team from the competition. The decision and brief reasons must be communicated to the club in writing.

54.10.1 Where a club has a team that forfeits two (2) T20 matches in the same season, the club must also show cause why its rights of membership or representation to MCA should not be suspended, restricted or otherwise dealt with under the MCA Constitution, By-Laws or applicable governance documents. The Match Committee may make a recommendation, but any decision affecting club membership or representation rights is a matter for the Management Committee under the applicable governance authority.

54.11 A club that notifies MCA Competition Administration and the opposing club of a T20 forfeit by 6:00pm on the day preceding the scheduled fixture is charged \$60.00. Where notice is provided after that deadline, the forfeiting club is charged \$120.00. No additional T20 playing fee is charged for that forfeited fixture.

55. FIXTURES

55.1 A T20 fixture may be postponed or rescheduled only in extraordinary circumstances and only where MCA confirms the change in writing or through the Official Draw.

55.2 MCA may move an uncommenced fixture to another suitable ground to maximise playable cricket.

55.3 First Grade is scheduled on turf; Second Grade is predominantly turf; Third Grade may be turf or synthetic; Fourth Grade is primarily synthetic. Weather contingencies may vary Second or Third Grade surfaces where required.

55.4 T20 fixtures may be managed more flexibly than One Day fixtures where clubs agree and MCA confirms the change in the Official Draw or an authorised match notice.

55.5 Once MCA communicates a fixture movement or postponement, that decision is binding on the participating clubs. For competition-administration purposes, an authorised MCA fixture movement or postponement decision under this Rule is final and is not appealable under Part D of Rule 3.

55.6 Team nominations - First to Fourth Grade.

55.6.1 First Grade: a club may nominate no more than one (1) team in First Grade.

55.6.2 Second Grade: the ordinary position is that a club will nominate no more than one (1) team in Second Grade. Any second Second Grade team is subject to Rules 55.7 to 55.10.

55.6.3 Third Grade and Fourth Grade: a club may nominate more than one (1) team in Third Grade and/or Fourth Grade, subject to MCA approval of the overall T20 competition composition and compliance with Rule 71.

55.7 The Match Committee may approve a second Second Grade team for a club where, after considering all T20 team nominations, sustainable player numbers, T20 player availability, participation opportunities, draw structure, byes, grounds and the overall balance of the competition, it determines that the additional team is in the best interests of the T20 competition as a whole.

55.8 When determining the composition of Second Grade T20, the first Second Grade team nominated by each club takes priority over approval of an additional Second Grade team from another club. A club may not have more than two (2) Second Grade teams in the same T20 competition.

55.9 Approval of an additional Second Grade T20 team is specific to that T20 competition and is assessed independently of the One Day competition. One Day approval does not create an entitlement to a second T20 team, and T20 approval does not create an entitlement in One Day cricket or in a future season. The Match Committee may impose reasonable conditions on the approval, including conditions relating to sustainable player numbers, team allocation and compliance with Rule 71.

55.10 Once MCA confirms the T20 competition composition and publishes the Official Draw, the approved number of teams remains in place for that T20 competition unless MCA issues a formal controlled amendment.

56. MINIMUM AGE EXEMPTIONS

56.1 The standard minimum ages for T20 senior cricket are: First Grade - 15 years; Second Grade - 15 years; Third Grade - 14 years; Fourth Grade - 14 years.

56.2 Rules 31.2 to 31.9 apply to T20 Minimum Age Exemptions, junior priority and safeguarding.

56.3 The automatic registered-junior double-up exemption is governed by Rule 51.6 and does not override age eligibility.

56.4 Every player under eighteen (18) years of age participating in T20 senior cricket is subject to Rule 12.10, regardless of whether the player requires a Minimum Age Exemption.

57. SCOREBOOKS AND UMPIRES REPORTS

57.1 The scoring, PlayHQ, scorebook-content, result-verification and reporting requirements in Rule 32 apply to T20 cricket.

57.2 T20 scores and individual player statistics must be entered in PlayHQ by 6:00pm on the Tuesday following the match. The Rule 32.5 escalating administrative penalties apply.

57.3 MCA may require the original scoring record within 48 hours for audit. Concussion and head-impact reporting is governed by Rule 32.7 and Annexure A.6. Other official umpire match, conduct and incident reports are governed by Rule 32.8.

58. RESTRICTIONS ON THE PLACEMENT OF FIELDERS

58.1 At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than five (5) fielders on the leg side.

58.2 In addition to Rule 58.1, Fielding Restriction Overs (FROs) apply to First, Second, Third and Fourth Grade T20 matches.

58.3 In an uninterrupted 20-over innings, the additional fielding restrictions apply to the first four (4) overs of the innings and to a block of two (2) consecutive floating FROs nominated by the batters at the wicket between the end of the 10th over and the beginning of the 19th over.

58.4 Two semi-circles shall be drawn on the field of play, each centred on the middle stump at either end of the pitch with a radius of 30 yards (27.43 metres).

58.5 The semi-circles must be linked by two parallel straight lines. The fielding-restriction area must be marked by continuous painted white lines or dots at 5-yard (4.57 metre) intervals, using suitable white plastic or rubber markers where required. Metal markers must not be used.

58.6 Where an innings is reduced below 20 overs, the number and timing of FROs are determined by the table below.

Overs available	Fixed FROs	Floating FROs	Floating may begin
20	4	2	after over 10
19	4	1	after over 9
18	4	1	after over 9
17	4	1	after over 8
16	4	1	after over 8
15	3	1	after over 7
14	3	1	after over 7
13	2	1	after over 6
12	2	1	after over 6
11	2	1	after over 5
10	2	0	-
9	2	0	-
8	2	0	-
7	2	0	-

Overs available	Fixed FROs	Floating FROs	Floating may begin
6	1	0	-
5	1	0	-

58.7 During FROs, no more than two (2) fielders may be outside the fielding-restriction area at the instant of delivery.

58.8 During non-FRO overs, no more than five (5) fielders may be outside the fielding-restriction area at the instant of delivery.

58.9 A batter must nominate the floating FROs no later than the moment at which the umpire reaches the stumps at the bowler's end for the start of the next over.

58.10 Once the batting side has nominated the floating FROs, that nomination cannot be reversed.

58.11 If the batting side does not nominate the floating FROs, they commence automatically at the latest point at which the full floating allocation can be completed. In an uninterrupted 20-over innings this is the beginning of the 19th over.

58.12 A breach of an applicable fielding restriction is a No Ball.

58.13 Where the number of overs available to the batting team is reduced, the number of FROs is reduced in accordance with the table in Rule 58.6 and applies to both innings of the match.

58.14 Where, after an interruption, the recalculated number of FROs is no longer fully achievable, the actual number of FROs for that innings shall be the closest achievable whole number consistent with the table.

58.15 If an innings is interrupted during an over and, on resumption, the recalculated number of required FROs has already been completed, the remaining deliveries in the over are not subject to the FRO restriction.

59. NUMBER OF OVERS PER BOWLER

59.1 No bowler shall bowl more than 4 overs in an innings.

59.2 In matches lasting less than 20 overs in duration (whether scheduled or due to a delayed or interrupted match), no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth (1/5) of the total overs allowed.

59.3 Where the total overs are not divisible by five, one additional over may be allocated to as many bowlers as necessary to make up the balance.

59.4 In the event of a bowler being unable to complete an over due to injury, another bowler will bowl the remaining deliveries. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

60. NO BALL - LAW 21

60.1 Law 21 - No Ball applies, with a free hit following every No Ball.

60.2 If the free-hit delivery is itself a No Ball or Wide, the next delivery remains a free hit.

60.3 For a free hit, field changes are permitted only where there is a change of striker or where necessary to correct a fielding-restriction breach that caused the No Ball.

60.4 A bowler may bowl a maximum of one fast short-pitched delivery per over in T20 cricket.

60.4.1 For the purposes of this Rule, a fast short-pitched delivery is a delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed above shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

60.4.2 A delivery satisfying Rule 60.4.1 counts toward the permitted quota whether or not it is also called Wide.

60.4.3 Any fast short-pitched delivery in excess of the permitted maximum in an over shall be called and signalled No Ball. The dangerous and unfair bowling provisions of Law 41.6 continue to apply independently of this quota.

60.5 Head-height delivery after pitching. For a match commencing before 1 October 2026, a delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease is a No Ball in accordance with Law 21.10 of the 2017 Code, 3rd Edition 2022. For a match commencing on or after 1 October 2026, such a delivery is adjudged in accordance with Law 22.1.3 of the 2017 Code, 4th Edition 2026 and is a Wide, unless another provision of the Laws requires it to be called No Ball, including the dangerous or unfair short-pitched bowling provisions of Law 41.6.

60.6 Junior pace bowlers remain subject to the lower workload limits in Rule 12.9.

61. WIDE BALL - JUDGING A WIDE - LAW 22

61.1 Law 22 - Wide Ball applies subject to this Rule.

61.2 In First Grade, and in any Second, Third or Fourth Grade match where official umpire(s) are appointed, Wide Ball decisions shall be made under Law 22 using the normal limited-overs interpretation applied by the appointed umpire(s).

61.3 In Second, Third and Fourth Grade matches where no official umpire is appointed, Wide Ball decisions shall be made in accordance with the applicable Law 22 and the interpretation in Rule 36.3. A delivery is not automatically a Wide solely because it passes the striker on the leg side.

61.4 Where no official umpire is appointed in Second, Third or Fourth Grade, the player-umpire guidance in Rule 36.4 applies.

62. TIMED OUT

62.1 Law 40 - Timed out applies with the local variation that the incoming batter must be ready to receive the next ball, or have their partner ready, within 90 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket.

62.2 The incoming batter must enter promptly enough to comply with the 90-second requirement in Rule 62.1.

63. PENALTY FOR NOT BOWLING REQUIRED OVERS

63.1 If the fielding team fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled cessation time, play continues until the required number of overs have been bowled or the innings ends.

63.2 At the completion of the innings, the batting team is credited with five (5) penalty runs for every whole over not bowled by the scheduled or revised cessation time, after applying the allowances in Rule 63.8.

63.3 If the side batting second is credited with runs in this way and this consequently takes their score past that of the side batting first, then the match shall be deemed to be won by the side batting second.

63.4 All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the innings.

63.5 If the innings is completed before the scheduled time for cessation of the innings, no over-rate penalty will apply.

63.6 If the innings is interrupted, the over-rate penalty will apply based on the rescheduled cessation time for that innings.

63.7 The umpire must inform the fielding captain of the scheduled cessation time for the innings when the team first takes the field and again whenever play is interrupted by weather. The bowler's-end umpire must inform the fielding captain, the striker and the other umpire of any time allowances as they arise. Time allowances are not subject to retrospective negotiation.

63.8 For determining penalties, the following allowances shall be considered:

63.8.1 Actual time taken for treatment of an injured player on the field.

63.8.2 Actual time taken for a player leaving the field in the event of serious injury.

63.8.3 Actual time taken to dry a wet ball.

63.8.4 Actual time to find or replace a ball.

63.8.5 Actual time taken for any additional or extended hydration or cooling break directed by the umpires or required under Annexure B, including the full duration of any mandatory heat-safety suspension or cooling period.

63.8.6 Actual time taken for referrals to third umpire.

63.8.7 Actual time lost due to all other circumstances that are beyond the control of the fielding side.

63.9 There shall be no allowances given for:

63.9.1 Wickets falling.

63.9.2 Ordinary scheduled drinks intervals, other than additional or extended heat-safety breaks covered by Rule 63.8.5.

63.9.3 Sightscreen changes.

64. THE RESULT

64.1 A result can be achieved only if both teams have had the opportunity to receive at least five overs, unless one team is dismissed earlier or the team batting second reaches the target earlier.

64.2 If the minimum requirement is not met, the match is a No Result.

64.3 In an uninterrupted match, the team scoring more runs wins.

64.4 If a target must be revised after play has commenced, Duckworth-Lewis-Stern is the only approved target-adjustment method. PlayHQ DLS must be used where available; if PlayHQ cannot produce the calculation, the official Play Cricket DLS Calculator must be used. Simple run-rate calculations are not an approved replacement.

64.5 A match with equal scores proceeds to a one-over-per-side Super Over if conditions permit. Each team nominates one bowler and up to three batters; the innings ends after two wickets.

64.6 If the Super Over is tied, further Super Overs are played until a winner is determined. Boundary countback is not used.

64.7 If a Super Over cannot be completed in a regular-season match, the match is recorded as a Tie and each team receives three points. If it cannot be completed in a Semi-Final, the higher-placed team progresses. If it cannot be completed in a Grand Final, Rule 66 reserve-date provisions apply.

65. MATCH POINTS

65.1 T20 match points are:

Result	Competition points
Win	6
Tie where Super Over cannot be completed	3
No Result	3

Result	Competition points
Loss	0

65.2 Where a regular-season T20 match is tied and a Super Over cannot be completed because of ground, weather, light or time, each team receives 3 points under Rule 64.7.

66. FINALS MATCHES

66.1 T20 Finals Matches are played on the dates and at the venues published in the Official Draw.

66.2 There is no reserve date for a T20 Semi-Final. If no result can be achieved, the higher-placed team at the end of the regular season progresses.

66.3 The scheduled 2026/27 T20 Grand Final date is 13 March 2027 with 20 March 2027 as the weather reserve date, subject to any controlled MCA amendment.

66.4 If the original T20 Grand Final cannot produce a result under the five-over minimum and DLS provisions, the match is restarted from the beginning on the reserve date.

66.5 If no result can be achieved on the reserve date, the higher-placed team at the end of the regular season is declared the competition winner.

66.6 Reserve-date player selection follows the same principle as Rule 40.8. The reserve-date replay is the same finals stage for the one-final-per-stage eligibility rule.

67. QUALIFYING FOR THE FINAL

67.1 The finals-series structure in Rule 41 applies to each T20 grade. The relevant team number is the number of teams included in the Official Draw at the commencement of the T20 competition.

67.2 Where a Semi-Final cannot produce a result, the higher-placed team progresses.

67.3 Ladder position is determined first by competition points, then by the greatest number of wins, then by the higher official PlayHQ Net Run Rate. If two or more teams remain inseparable after those criteria, MCA will apply a head-to-head mini-table using competition points earned only in regular-season matches between the tied teams, followed by head-to-head Net Run Rate calculated by MCA under Rule 70. If the teams remain inseparable, ladder order will be determined by drawing of lots conducted by the Match Committee Chair, with affected club delegates invited to observe where practicable.

68. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

68.1 Finals qualification denominator and required appearances

68.1.1 For finals qualification only, the denominator for a team in a grade is the number of that team's regular-season fixtures that either: (a) became a Commenced Match; or (b) were formally recorded as a forfeit received by that team. A bye and a match abandoned before the first delivery, where no forfeit is recorded, are excluded.

68.1.2 Required Finals Appearances = one-third of the denominator in Rule 68.1.1, rounded down to the nearest whole number, with a minimum requirement of one qualifying appearance or Finals Qualification Credit.

68.1.3 A player ordinarily qualifies for a final in a grade by accumulating the Required Finals Appearances in that grade or any lower grade in the same competition format. Matches played in a higher grade do not count toward this ordinary lower-grade qualification route.

68.1.4 Finals Matches do not count toward regular-season qualification for a later Finals Match.

68.2 Finals Qualification Credits

68.2.1 Representative duty: for this Rule, recognised representative duty means an eligible representative cricket commitment listed in Rule 15.2.8.1 and excludes the commitments listed in Rule 15.2.8.2. A player receives one Finals Qualification Credit only where that representative commitment actually prevents the player from participating in a scheduled MCA match in the same competition format. Selection alone, training, or representative cricket that does not clash with an MCA fixture does not create a credit.

68.2.2 Replacement-player credit: a player who moves to a higher grade specifically to replace a player absent on recognised representative duty under Rule 68.2.1 receives one Finals Qualification Credit in the immediately lower grade the replacement would otherwise have represented only where: (a) both grades had scheduled matches; (b) the replacement is named in the final XI of the higher-grade match; (c) the representative player receives a credit for the same round; (d) the replacement does not also play the lower-grade match; and (e) the club identifies the replacement to MCA Competition Administration in writing, by email or through any MCA form published for that purpose, by 12:00pm on the day following the scheduled match.

68.2.3 Received forfeit: each player named in the receiving team's final PlayHQ XI before the scheduled start time of the forfeited match receives one Finals Qualification Credit. No player may be added after the scheduled start time for this purpose.

68.2.4 A bye creates no Finals Qualification Credit. A Finals Qualification Credit counts only toward finals qualification and is not an Appearance or Commenced Match for statistics, Established status, regrading, match limits or same-grade team locks.

68.3 Established Higher-Grade Player finals restriction

68.3.1 Established Higher-Grade Player status is assessed at completion of the regular season and is fixed for the entire finals series. Finals performances do not change that status.

68.3.2 A player who is an Established Higher-Grade Player at completion of the regular season is ineligible to play a final in any lower grade even if the player otherwise has the Required Finals Appearances, unless the player was formally regraded to that lower grade during the regular season.

68.3.3 No new Player Regrade may be granted after completion of the regular season for the purpose of lower-grade finals eligibility.

68.3.4 If a player formally regraded during the regular season participates in a higher-grade Finals Match, that regrade lapses immediately and the player cannot return to the lower grade for a later final in that competition.

68.4 Immediate higher-grade finals pathway - maximum three

68.4.1 A player who does not qualify for a lower-grade final through the ordinary route may use the immediate higher-grade pathway only where every condition in this Rule is met.

68.4.2 The movement is one grade only: First-to-Second, Second-to-Third or Third-to-Fourth. No two-grade or three-grade finals movement is permitted.

68.4.3 The club's immediate higher-grade and lower-grade teams must both be participating in the same finals stage, except where the immediate higher-grade team has qualified directly for the Grand Final under Rule 41.1.1 and the immediately lower-grade team is playing a Semi-Final. In that circumstance Rule 68.5 applies.

68.4.4 The player must have independently satisfied the Required Finals Appearances for the immediate higher grade, must not be an Established Higher-Grade Player of that immediate higher grade, and must not be named in the final playing XI of the immediate higher-grade team for that finals stage.

68.4.5 No more than three players in a lower-grade Finals Match may rely on this immediate higher-grade pathway. There is no Match Committee exemption to increase the maximum or waive a condition.

68.4.6 Eligibility is reassessed separately for each finals stage. The same player may use the pathway again in the Grand Final only if every condition is again satisfied. If the higher-grade team is eliminated, the pathway is unavailable for the lower-grade Grand Final.

68.5 Direct-to-Grand-Final exception

68.5.1 Where a club's immediate higher-grade team finishes first in a competition with fewer than eight (8) teams and qualifies directly for the Grand Final while the immediately lower-grade team plays a Semi-Final, the club must submit an intended higher-grade Grand Final XI to MCA before the scheduled start of the lower-grade Semi-Final.

68.5.2 A player named in the intended higher-grade Grand Final XI cannot play in the immediately lower-grade Semi-Final. Up to three players not named in that XI may use the immediate higher-to-lower-grade pathway if they satisfy every other condition in Rule 68.4.

68.5.3 The intended higher-grade Grand Final XI controls eligibility for the immediately lower-grade Semi-Final only. It is not binding as the actual higher-grade Grand Final XI.

68.6 Same-grade team locks continue through the finals series. A player locked to one same-grade team cannot represent another same-grade team in a Semi-Final or Grand Final.

68.7 A player may participate in only one MCA senior Semi-Final in that competition and only one MCA senior Grand Final in that competition, even where the matches are played on different days. There is no Match Committee exemption.

68.8 Official finals eligibility list and challenge period

68.8.1 MCA will provide the official finals eligibility position to clubs on or before the Tuesday following the final regular-season round. The list will record ordinary qualification, approved credits, Established status, approved regular-season regrades and same-grade team locks.

68.8.2 A club must lodge any eligibility query or correction by 12:00pm Thursday following the final regular-season round. After that deadline the published eligibility position is final unless MCA identifies an administrative or PlayHQ-recording error.

68.9 Ineligible Player - Finals Match

68.9.1 A team that names an ineligible player in its final XI for a Semi-Final or Grand Final and commences the match with that player included shall forfeit that Finals Match.

68.9.2 Where the breach occurs in a Semi-Final, the opposing team shall be declared the winner and shall progress to the Grand Final.

68.9.3 Where the breach occurs in a Grand Final, the opposing team shall be declared the winner of the Grand Final and the competition.

68.9.4 The only exception is where MCA determines that the player's apparent ineligibility resulted solely from an MCA or PlayHQ administrative or recording error and the club had provided complete and accurate information and complied with every applicable requirement and deadline.

68.9.5 A club error, misunderstanding of these Rules, failure to check eligibility, incorrect or incomplete information supplied by the club, a missed deadline or inadvertent selection does not constitute an administrative-error exception.

68.9.6 Where MCA has formally published a player as eligible on the official Finals Eligibility List after the club provided complete and accurate information, the administrative-error exception in Rule 68.9.4 applies if MCA later

establishes that the published eligibility was incorrect solely because of an MCA or PlayHQ administrative or recording error.

69. COVERS DUTY

69.1 The covers obligations and penalty framework in Rule 43 apply to T20 cricket, including the Finals Covers Duty allocations in Rules 43.7 to 43.9.

69.2 Where a T20 fixture is the last match on a ground and a match is scheduled on that ground the following day, both teams must cover the pitch when directed by MCA Grounds / Competition Administration. Each team that fails to comply is fined \$100.00 in accordance with the end-of-day covering penalty in Rule 43.1.

69.3 Where no match is scheduled the following day, both teams must fold or roll covers as directed before leaving the venue.

70. NET RUN RATE

70.1 The official PlayHQ ladder Net Run Rate is the controlling T20 NRR.

70.2 Where a team is dismissed before using its full allocated or revised quota, the full quota is used for the run-rate denominator.

70.3 No Results, byes and forfeits have no NRR effect.

71. CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE (1) TEAM NOMINATED IN A GRADE

71.1 Where a club fields two or more teams in the same grade in the T20 competition, Rounds 1-3 are the T20 Team Allocation Period. The One Day allocation and team lock do not carry into T20; the process resets.

71.2 During T20 Rounds 1-3, a player may represent different same-club teams in that grade until locked, but before being locked must not represent two different same-club teams against the same opposition club during the allocation period.

71.3 Two Commenced Match appearances for the same T20 team immediately lock the player to that team for the remainder of the T20 competition, including finals.

71.4 By 12:00pm on the Friday immediately following completion of T20 Round 3, the club must submit the final same-grade T20 allocation list. The allocation-list rules in Rules 30.5.1 to 30.5.4 apply.

71.5 From the allocation deadline, every allocated or previously locked player is locked to that T20 team for the remainder of the competition, including finals. There is no Match Committee transfer or exceptional-circumstances exemption.

71.6 A player who first enters that grade after T20 Round 3 is locked to the first same-grade T20 team they represent in a Commenced Match.

71.7 A breach of this Rule makes the player ineligible for the affected match and the regular-season ineligible-player penalty in Rule 51.10 applies.

REFERENCED DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

Document / form	Application
MCA Communication Policy (MCA-GOV-001), Version 1.0	Competition communication and club/delegate pathways.
MCA Code of Behaviour	Conduct reporting, hearings and appeals
Covering the Pitch - Covers Duty Procedure	Harrup Park covers duty and handling requirements
Harrup Park Ground Cover Application Guide	Safe application, removal and storage of covers
MCA Minimum Age Exemption Application (MCA-SNR-AGE-001)	Approved 2026/27 MCA application form required under Rules 31 and 56.
Marsh Cricket Game Day and Training Checklist	Referenced external ground / game-day risk-management checklist.
Australian Cricket Community Concussion and Head Impact Guidelines - Incident Report Form	Official Australian Cricket club incident-report form required under Rule 32.7 and Annexure A.6. Open official form
Australian Cricket Helmet Recommendations	Current Australian Cricket helmet, neck-protector and protective-equipment guidance referenced by Rule 13. Open recommendations
Australian Cricket Community Concussion and Head Impact Guidelines	Primary external concussion policy source adopted through Rule 12.5 and Annexure A. Open concussion resources
Australian Cricket Medical Referral & Clearance Form	Medical clearance documentation referenced by Rule 12.6 and Annexure A.4 before return to full training. Open official form
Australian Cricket Graded Return to Play After Concussion Framework	Staged return-to-training and return-to-play requirements incorporated in Rule 12.6 and Annexure A.4. Open framework
Concussion Recognition Tool 6 (CRT6), SCAT6 and Child SCAT6	Recognition and clinical-assessment resources referenced by Annexure A.1; non-health-care personnel use CRT6, while SCAT6/Child SCAT6 are clinical tools for appropriately qualified health-care professionals. Open concussion resources
Australian Cricket Concussion Officer Position Description	Administrative concussion coordination role referenced by Annexure A.7. Open role description
MCA Player of the Year Votes Form	Online submission form supporting Rule 15.2.5 for matches without an official umpire. https://bit.ly/47bu1oo
MCA Senior Player Eligibility, Grade Movement & Double-Up Guide & Request Form	Official MCA request form supporting Rules 25, 51 and Annexure E. https://bit.ly/MCA_Senior_Eligibility

Game Day Checklist: [Marsh Cricket Game Day and Training Checklist](#)

SAFETY ANNEXURES

Annexures A-C form part of these Rules and record the Australian Cricket player-safety requirements adopted by MCA for the 2026/27 season. Where an Australian Cricket source is updated during the season, MCA will issue a controlled amendment before any changed requirement becomes operative in MCA competition.

Australian Cricket source material for Annexure A rechecked 18 September 2026; Annexures B-C checked 3 September 2026. These annexures are operational summaries and do not replace medical advice or emergency services.

ANNEXURE A - CONCUSSION & HEAD IMPACT MANAGEMENT

Source: Australian Cricket Community Concussion and Head Impact Guidelines, Concussion Recognition Tool 6 (CRT6), Graded Return to Play After Concussion Framework and related Australian Cricket resources; incorporated by Rule 12.5 for adoption with these Rules for 2026/27 (sources checked 18 September 2026).

Australian Cricket concussion resources: [Play Cricket - Concussion](#)

A.1 Responsibility, recognition and immediate removal

A.1.1 Concussion recognition is a shared player-welfare responsibility. Players, captains, coaches, team managers, club officials and appointed umpires must act where they observe a head impact or signs or symptoms that may indicate concussion. Any person may raise a concussion concern and no medical qualification is required to suspect concussion.

A.1.2 A person who is not an appropriately qualified health-care professional may use the current Concussion Recognition Tool 6 (CRT6) to assist in recognising suspected concussion. SCAT6 and Child SCAT6 are clinical assessment tools for appropriately qualified health-care professionals and must not be used by an umpire, captain, coach or club official as a substitute for medical assessment unless that person is appropriately qualified. Any age-specific clinical tool must be used in accordance with the current instructions accompanying that tool.

A.1.3 An appointed umpire is not responsible for medically diagnosing concussion or conducting a formal medical Head Injury Assessment unless that umpire is appropriately medically qualified and is separately acting in that medical capacity.

A.1.4 Following any blow to the head or upper neck, or any collision capable of transmitting force to the head, concussion must be considered. A player for whom concussion is suspected must be removed from play immediately. Appointed umpires retain match-control authority to stop or delay play where necessary for immediate player safety and must not permit a player removed for suspected concussion to return to play on the same day.

A.1.5 Once a player is removed for suspected concussion, the player's club is responsible for the player's immediate supervision and for arranging appropriate medical assessment. The team captain must ensure that a coach, team manager or other responsible club official assumes responsibility for the affected player.

A.1.6 Where the affected player is under eighteen (18), the club must ensure that the player's parent or guardian is notified as soon as reasonably practicable and that the player remains under appropriate adult supervision.

A.1.7 Where a red-flag symptom is present, emergency medical assistance must be sought immediately. Red flags include loss or deterioration of consciousness, seizure, repeated vomiting, severe or increasing headache, double vision or loss of vision, significant neck pain or tenderness, weakness or numbness, or an increasingly agitated or abnormal conscious state.

A.2 Same-day return

A participant must not return to cricket on the same day where concussion is suspected, likely or confirmed. Concussion can evolve and signs or symptoms may be delayed; participants, family members and club officials should continue monitoring after the incident.

A.3 Initial care and medical assessment

A participant with suspected, likely or confirmed concussion must be referred for assessment by a registered medical doctor as soon as practicable. Only an appropriately qualified medical practitioner may diagnose concussion or provide the medical clearance required for return to cricket. The participant must not be left alone for the first three (3) hours after the incident, must not be sent home alone, should not consume alcohol and must not drive until cleared to do so by an appropriate healthcare professional.

A.4 Return to cricket after diagnosed concussion

A.4.1 A participant diagnosed with concussion must follow the current Australian Cricket Graded Return to Play After Concussion Framework progressively. The participant must not advance to the next stage where symptoms are present or return, and any recurrence of symptoms requires a return to the previous stage and appropriate medical review.

A.4.2 A formal medical review by an appropriately qualified medical doctor is required before the participant commences full training. The official Australian Cricket Medical Referral & Clearance Form, or equivalent written medical clearance accepted by MCA, must be completed and retained by the participant's club.

A.4.3 A participant must not return to match play earlier than twenty-one (21) days from the date of injury and must not return earlier than fourteen (14) days from the date the participant became symptom-free, subject always to completion of the graded return-to-play stages and medical clearance requirements.

A.4.4 For a participant aged eighteen (18) years or younger, the same minimum twenty-one (21) day return-to-play period and minimum fourteen (14) days symptom-free requirement apply, and return to school or study should be guided by medical advice.

A.4.5 For this Annexure, multiple concussions means at least two concussions within a three-month period or at least three concussions within a twelve-month period. A participant meeting this threshold should be assessed by a medical practitioner with specific training and expertise in concussion, must be managed more conservatively, and must be symptom-free for at least twenty-eight (28) days before return to full training.

Official Australian Cricket Medical Referral & Clearance Form: [Open the official form](#)

Australian Cricket Graded Return to Play After Concussion Framework: [Open the framework](#)

Stage	Requirement	MCA operational summary
1	Relative physical and cognitive rest	Minimum 48 hours; gentle day-to-day activity only and minimise screen time.
2	Light aerobic exercise	Minimum 72 hours; gradual increase in mental and physical activity, without resistance training.
3	Moderate-intensity exercise	Minimum 48 hours; increase exercise intensity and introduce light resistance work.
4	High-intensity exercise	Minimum 48 hours; higher-intensity running / conditioning and strength work may be added.
5	Low-risk cricket skills	Minimum 48 hours; non-competitive individual cricket skills with low risk of head impact.
6	Full training	Formal medical review is required before this stage; minimum 48 hours of full cricket training without symptom recurrence.
7	Return to play	Not before 21 days from the incident and not earlier than 14 days from the date the participant became symptom-free.

A.5 Concussion Replacement - MCA playing condition

A player removed because of head trauma or suspected concussion may be replaced in accordance with Rule 12.7. The replacement must be eligible for the team and like-for-like. Where official umpire(s) are appointed, they approve the replacement. Where no official umpire is appointed, both captains must agree; if they cannot agree, the MCA Duty Officer determines the matter. The replacement may bat, bowl, wicketkeep and field. The replaced player takes no further part in the match.

A.6 Concussion and Head Impact Incident Reporting

A.6.1 Every incident arising during an MCA match in which concussion is suspected, likely or confirmed must be formally reported to MCA Competition Administration.

A.6.2 The affected player's club must complete the official Australian Cricket Community Concussion and Head Impact Guidelines - Incident Report Form and submit a copy to MCA Competition Administration no later than 12:00pm on the next business day following the incident.

Official Australian Cricket Incident Report Form: [Open the official form](#)

A.6.3 The team captain is responsible for ensuring the club report is submitted. The report may be completed and submitted by the captain, coach, team manager or another authorised club official.

A.6.4 The reporting obligation applies whether or not an official umpire was appointed, whether or not a Concussion Replacement was used, and regardless of whether concussion is subsequently medically confirmed.

A.6.5 Where official umpire(s) are appointed, the umpiring team must also submit one separate umpire incident report through the prescribed MCA process under Rule 32.8, recording the observed circumstances, player removal, match-control action and any Concussion Replacement decision. The umpire report must not purport to provide a medical diagnosis, formal medical Head Injury Assessment or medical clearance.

A.6.6 The player's club must retain any medical assessment and medical-clearance documentation required under this Annexure and provide evidence of clearance to MCA where requested before the player returns to cricket. Detailed medical records are not required to be attached to the incident report unless specifically requested and lawfully required by MCA.

A.7 Concussion Officer and administrative coordination

A.7.1 MCA will designate a Concussion Officer or administrative concussion contact to receive concussion information, coordinate the MCA reporting pathway and maintain the Association's concussion administration records.

A.7.2 The MCA Concussion Officer or contact is an administrative role and is not a concussion expert. The role does not diagnose or treat concussion and does not determine whether a participant is medically cleared to return.

A.7.3 Each club should, where practicable, nominate a club concussion contact. The nominated person may hold another club role and should coordinate the club's Incident Report Form, graded return-to-play information, parent or guardian communication for participants under eighteen (18), and retention of Medical Referral & Clearance Forms.

A.7.4 Concussion administration records must be handled confidentially. MCA and clubs should record only the information reasonably required to administer player safety and return-to-play requirements and must not publish private medical information in competition communications.

Australian Cricket Concussion Officer Position Description: [Open the resource](#)

ANNEXURE B - HEAT STRESS RISK INDEX PROCEDURES

Source: Australian Cricket Weather Conditions - Heat Guidelines and Heat Stress Risk Index procedures; adopted by MCA for 2026/27 (source checked 3 September 2026).

B.1 HSRI calculator

The Australian Cricket Heat Stress Risk Index (HSRI) is the controlling heat-risk tool for MCA senior cricket. The calculation uses air temperature in the shade, wind speed, relative humidity and sun exposure. Weather data must be taken from a credible source, with the Bureau of Meteorology station closest to the venue used where available.

B.2 Under-18 participants

Where any player or umpire participating in the match is under 18, the Australian Cricket Pathway HSRI tool must be used for the match. The adult Community HSRI tool is used only where every participant is 18 or older.

B.3 Responsibility and monitoring

Appointed umpires are responsible for applying the match heat protocol. Where no official umpire is appointed, the captains are jointly responsible and must obtain an MCA Duty Officer ruling if they disagree. The forecast HSRI must be checked before the match. If conditions are expected to produce an HSRI of 4 or higher, readings must be repeated during play at least hourly while those conditions continue.

HSRI	Required match management
0-3	Normal heat management: ready access to drinks, hats, sunscreen and normal hydration practices.
4-7	Provide additional or more frequent drink opportunities, generally every 20-30 minutes where required.
Additional welfare trigger (HSRI >5)	In addition to the applicable HSRI band above, closely monitor participants for signs of heat illness, including muscle cramping, dizziness and excessive fatigue.
8-10	Use longer cooling and hydration breaks. Participants should be able to leave the field to cool and rehydrate, generally for 15-30 minutes as required.
Above 10	MATCH MUST BE SUSPENDED. Play may recommence only after the HSRI has fallen below 10 and remained below 10 for at least 30 minutes. If conditions do not improve sufficiently, the match must be abandoned under the applicable result provisions.

B.4 Welfare override

The HSRI does not prevent umpires or MCA from taking earlier action where participant welfare is at risk. Where reliable weather data is unavailable, the officials responsible for the match must use reasonable judgement and may implement extra breaks or suspend play where heat or humidity presents an unacceptable risk.

B.5 Record of readings

Where an HSRI reading of 8 or higher is recorded, or where play is suspended for heat, the scorer or match official must record the reading, time, weather source and any suspension / resumption times in the match record or umpire report.

ANNEXURE C - JUNIOR PACE-BOWLING WORKLOAD LIMITS

Source: Australian Cricket Junior Pace Bowling Workload Guidelines; adopted by MCA for 2026/27 (source checked 3 September 2026). The guidelines apply to male and female junior pace bowlers.

C.1 Match-day limits

The following maximum spell and match-day limits apply to junior pace bowlers. Age is determined on the date of the match. These limits are cumulative across every match the player bowls in on the same day. Playing in a second team, grade, junior match, senior match or representative match does not restart the count.

Age	Maximum overs per spell	Maximum overs per match day
Under 11	2 overs	4 overs
11 to under 13	4 overs	8 overs
13 to under 15	5 overs	12 overs
15 to under 17	5 overs	16 overs
17 to under 19	6 overs	18 overs

C.2 Rest between spells

After completing a spell, the bowler must not begin another spell until at least the same number of overs as the completed spell have been bowled from that same end. As a practical example, after a five-over spell, at least five overs must be bowled from that end before the player may return to bowl.

C.3 Weekly recovery guidance

Clubs, coaches and parents should also manage training and match frequency in accordance with Australian Cricket guidance:

- Under 17: aim for at least one bowling rest day after a bowling day; no more than three bowling days per week; maximum five overs in a spell.
- Age 17 to under 19: no more than two bowling days in a row; no more than four bowling days per week; maximum six overs in a spell.

Where match scheduling creates consecutive bowling days, training bowling should be reduced so the player retains appropriate recovery across the week.

C.4 Lower-back pain and vulnerable bowlers

A junior pace bowler who experiences lower-back pain while bowling should stop bowling and obtain assessment from an appropriately experienced sports doctor or physiotherapist before continuing. Players with a history of lumbar bone stress injury, recent rapid growth, or other identified vulnerability should be managed more conservatively than the maximum limits above.

C.5 Responsibility

The captain and team coach / manager are responsible for knowing the player's pace-bowling workload before the player bowls in an MCA senior match. A club must account for overs already bowled by that player earlier on the same day in any other cricket.

ANNEXURE D - PLAYHQ / DUCKWORTH-LEWIS-STERN PROCEDURE

- D.1** PlayHQ eScoring is the primary DLS calculation method for MCA limited-overs cricket.
- D.2** Every stoppage that changes the available overs must be entered accurately. In PlayHQ eScoring, use Actions / Parameters to enter the revised over limit and select DLS for the target where applicable.
- D.3** The revised over limit and DLS target / par score must be communicated to both captains before play resumes.
- D.4** If PlayHQ eScoring is unavailable or cannot produce the DLS calculation, use the official Play Cricket DLS Calculator. Website - <https://play.cricket.com.au/dls-calculator>
- D.5** CricHeroes, simple average run rate, same-stage-plus-one and any other unofficial fallback are not authorised DLS substitutes for 2026/27.
- D.6** A scorer must retain a record or screenshot of any manual DLS calculation used outside PlayHQ so the target can be audited if required.

ANNEXURE E - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY, GRADE MOVEMENT & DOUBLE-UP GUIDE

This Annexure is an operational guide to Rules 25 and 51. It does not override the Rules. If this guide and the Rules conflict, the Rules prevail.

E.1 When no approval is required

- A player who is not an Established Higher-Grade Player may move down one adjacent grade without a Player Regrade or Match Dispensation, provided every other eligibility rule is satisfied.
- Moving between grades within the same club is not itself a PlayHQ clearance or transfer. Registration, clearance, transfer and permit requirements under Rule 5 still apply where relevant.
- One Day: a player may play one MCA senior One Day match per Competition Weekend without a Double-Up Request. T20: a player may play up to two MCA senior T20 matches per Competition Weekend without a Double-Up Request, subject to the automatic junior exemption and all other eligibility rules.

E.2 Established Higher-Grade Player thresholds

Format	Batting pathway	Bowling pathway
One Day	200 or more runs AND batting average 20.00 or higher	10 or more wickets AND bowling average 25.00 or better
T20	100 or more runs AND batting average 20.00 or higher	5 or more wickets AND bowling average 25.00 or better

The statistical test applies only after the player has reached the applicable three-appearance threshold. Official PlayHQ statistics are the controlling record. The grade being moved from plus every higher grade in that format is used when applying the test.

E.3 Choosing the correct request

Request / mechanism	Use when	Not for	Effect
Player Regrade	An Established Higher-Grade Player is intended to move down one grade on an ongoing basis.	A one-off fill-in or a movement down two or more grades.	Ongoing and format-specific unless MCA later reviews, varies or revokes it.
Match Dispensation	An Established Higher-Grade Player needs a one-off move down one grade for a specified match / Competition Weekend.	An ongoing grade change.	One-off approval only.
Double-Up Request	An adult player would exceed the ordinary senior match limit for that format in the same Competition Weekend.	An otherwise ineligible grade movement or same-grade lock.	Approval for the specified additional match(es).
Emergency Match Dispensation	A genuine unforeseen late withdrawal first arises after the Friday deadline and the only suitable replacement requires a one-grade Match Dispensation, an emergency Double-Up, or both.	A movement down two or more grades; prohibited same-grade movement; or overriding registration, age, safety or representative-classification requirements.	One-match approval only and must be granted before the match commences.

E.4 Deadlines and contingency players

Routine Player Regrade, Match Dispensation and Double-Up Requests must be received by MCA by 12:00pm Friday immediately preceding the relevant Competition Weekend. Contingency nominations are optional, not a standing weekly requirement. Up to two may be included where a timely eligibility request is already being lodged and there is a realistic late-withdrawal risk.

After the deadline, the only new eligibility approval pathway for a genuine unforeseen late withdrawal is an Emergency Match Dispensation under Rule 25.8 or 51.8. It must be approved before the affected match commences.

E.5 Emergency Match Dispensation - practical examples

Eligible replacement available - A selected player withdraws Sunday morning and another player who is already eligible for that grade and weekend is available. No emergency approval is required.

Emergency one-grade movement - A selected Second Grade player withdraws after the Friday deadline. The only suitable replacement is an Established First Grade player. MCA may approve a one-match Emergency Match Dispensation for the First-to-Second movement if all Rule 25.8 conditions are satisfied.

Emergency Double-Up - A selected Third Grade player becomes genuinely unavailable on Sunday morning. The only suitable replacement played Second Grade on Saturday and would otherwise be eligible for Third Grade apart from the Competition Weekend match limit. If no reasonably available player can fill the vacancy without a Double-Up, MCA may approve the emergency Double-Up before the Sunday match starts.

Emergency one-grade movement plus Double-Up - If the Sunday replacement both played the day before and is an Established player moving down one grade, the same Emergency Match Dispensation may cover both requirements if all conditions are satisfied.

Two-or-more-grade move - A First Grade player cannot be moved directly to Third or Fourth Grade through the Emergency Match Dispensation process. A movement down two or more grades is not available as an emergency approval.

E.6 Regrades after a higher-grade fill-in

An approved Player Regrade does not automatically lapse because the player later fills in for the higher grade. The regrade remains active unless MCA reviews, varies or revokes it because the player's circumstances, higher-grade participation, performance or role have materially changed.

E.7 Club process checklist

1. Check PlayHQ registration, clearance / permit status and the player's relevant grade appearances and statistics.
2. Decide whether the player is Established under the correct One Day or T20 threshold.
3. Identify whether the club needs a Player Regrade, Match Dispensation or Double-Up Request.
4. Lodge routine requests by 12:00pm Friday and include optional contingencies only where useful.
5. If a genuine unforeseen withdrawal first arises after Friday and the only suitable replacement requires a one-grade Match Dispensation, an emergency Double-Up, or both, seek an Emergency Match Dispensation before the match starts. Do not use the emergency pathway for a two-or-more-grade downward movement.
6. Check the Eligibility Decisions Register before selecting a player who requires routine approval.

E.8 Eligibility Decisions Register

MCA will maintain an Eligibility Decisions Register for Senior Delegates showing formal Player Regrades, Match Dispensations, Double-Up approvals, Emergency Match Dispensations and any variation or revocation. All routine approvals must be entered in the register before the relevant match commences. Emergency Match Dispensations must be entered as soon as practicable after the decision. The register records the decision and its scope, not private medical, work or family information. Clubs remain responsible for their own player eligibility, while MCA may audit selections and determine any referred or suspected breach.

E.9 Important limitations

This guide does not override representative-player classifications, same-grade team locks, minimum-age requirements, registration / clearance / permit requirements, finals eligibility, concussion, pace-bowling, helmet, safeguarding or other player-safety requirements. An Emergency Match Dispensation may authorise a tightly controlled emergency Double-Up where the Rule 25.8 / 51.8 conditions are met, but it cannot authorise a movement down two or more grades.