Mercantile Cricket Association
Constitution

MCA CONSTITUTION 2024-25

1. Name

An Association is hereby constituted, and shall be known as the Mercantile Cricket Association Incorporated.

2. Objects

The objects of the Association are:

(a) To promote, control and manage, free from any objectionable feature, all competition matches between clubs comprising this association.

(b) To help and advance cricket in Victoria.

(c) To foster a better acquaintance and social spirit among the members of the various clubs comprising this Association.

3. Office Bearers

(a) The office bearers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Match Secretary and the Fawkner Park Secretary.

(b) These office bearers and up to five Club Delegates shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year.

4. Executive Committee

(a) The Executive Committee shall have entire control and management of all matches played by member clubs or under the auspices of this Association.

(b) The Executive Committee shall consist of the above elected members and a co-opted Umpires' Representative. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill a casual vacancy on the committee.

5. Nomination to Executive Committee

(a) All nominations for Executive Committee positions shall be made in writing to the Secretary one week prior to the Annual General Meeting.

(b) A club that has fielded an A grade side and at least one other for three successive years shall nominate one of its members for election or cooption to the Executive Committee to be eligible to continue in A grade. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to co-opt from those members nominated for cooption, in the case of an Executive position being unfilled. A club shall be fined if its Executive Committee member is absent from more than two Executive Committee meetings in the season.

6. Executive Committee Vacancies

For the purposes of these rules, the office of an officer of the Association or of any ordinary member of the Executive Committee becomes vacant if the officer or member:

(a) Ceases to be a member of the Association.

(b) Becomes insolvent under the administration within the meaning of the Companies (Victoria) Code.
(c) Resigns his office in writing to the Secretary.

7. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall conduct and be responsible to the Association for the financial business of the Association, and shall keep records of the property of the Association. He shall keep the Association informed as to the outstanding liabilities of the clubs, and submit to the Annual General Meeting an audited receipt and expenditure account for the season's undertakings ending 30 June, together with a balance sheet of the Association.

8. Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall generally conduct the business of the Association and shall carry out all directions given at the meetings of the Association and its sub-committees. He shall keep all records of the Association and, by virtue of his office shall, with the President, be a member of all committees.

9. Duties of the Match Secretary

The Match Secretary shall keep all records of match results, player registrations and matches played, and averages, and shall coordinate ground bookings and fixtures.

10. Duties of the Fawkner Park Secretary

The Fawkner Park Secretary shall coordinate pitch covers, and ground and pavilion requirements in Fawkner Park, and advise wet weather and pitch cover rulings on the Association wet weather line as required.

11. Association Accounts and Signatories

All monies are to be paid into an approved bank by either the Secretary or the Treasurer, to either a current or savings account to be styled 'Mercantile Cricket Association Incorporated'. Withdrawals from accounts and control of any properties and securities must be signed by any two signatories comprising the President, Secretary or Treasurer.

12. Auditing Association Accounts

The accounts of the Association shall be audited at least two weeks prior to the AGM.

13. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the months of July or August, fourteen days notice of which shall be notified in circular. Voting at the Annual General Meeting shall be restricted to members as stated in rules 14, 19 and 27.

14. Voting Eligibility at Meetings

At all Annual General Meetings, Special General Meetings, and other meetings of the Association, members shall be comprised of the Executive Committee, a Club Delegate for each side, and an Umpires' Delegate, each of whom shall be entitled to a deliberate vote. Each member present and entitled to vote may cast only one vote.

15. Association Colours

The colours of the Association shall be green and gold.

16. Procedure for Amending Constitution and Competition Rules

No clause in the constitution, committee rules, or competition rules shall be altered, amended or repealed without the consent of the Association at a meeting specially called, of which 21 days notice shall be given, such notice to contain the particulars of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal, and must be passed by a two thirds majority of the members present, but the Association shall have the power to make by-laws consistent with any of these rules.

17. Powers of the Executive Committee to Determine Disputes

The Association empowers the Executive Committee to inquire into and determine all disputes, in accordance with Rule 19 (Conduct) and Rule 20 (Disputes and Mediation). It may also, without in any way limiting the generality of the powers conferred, do all other acts, deeds, or things which are authorised by the rules of the Association, or which may be deemed necessary for the carrying out of the objects thereof, or which the Executive Committee may consider conducive to the best interests of the game of cricket, and may make by-laws consistent with the constitution.

18. Clubs Infringing Rules of the Association

Any club or delegate infringing any of the rules of the Association shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee as empowered in rule 17 above.

19. Life Memberships

The Executive shall have the power to elect Life Members (not more than two every two years), such membership to be awarded to those who have rendered special service to the Association or the game. Nominations for life membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary, setting out the reasons for nomination, and shall be endorsed by the secretaries or delegates from three clubs. Life Members shall have all the privileges and rights of the Association.

20. Association Meetings

The Association shall meet monthly during the cricket season unless otherwise notified by the Secretary, who may call emergency meetings at any time throughout the year.

21. Notice of Special General Meetings

The Secretary shall call by circular a Special General Meeting within seven days after receiving a written request signed by no fewer than five clubs, setting forth the objects of the meeting.

22. Quorum at Executive Meetings

At Executive Committee meetings, four members shall constitute a quorum.

23. Duties of the Executive Committee

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:

(a) Deal with and finalise affairs and correspondence and report to the Association.
(b) Inspect all grounds.
(c) Arrange draw and grading of teams.
(d) Make arrangements for semi-final and grand final matches.
(e) Review registration of players.
(f) Decide trophies to be awarded.
(g) Set honorariums as deemed fit.
(h) Appoint tribunals and committees empowered to finalise misconduct reports and misconduct and administration appeals.
(i) Appoint any other sub-committee deemed necessary.
(j) Appoint umpires.
(k) Establish the administration fines and conduct penalties to apply. The Secretary shall advise clubs of the list of offences and applicable fines and penalties at the start of each season. See appendix 3 of the MCA Competition Rules.

24. Association Meeting Place

The meeting place of the Association shall be such place as shall be from time to time advised by the Secretary.

25. Membership

The competition shall be open to any club whose entry has been approved and whose playing ground has been accepted by the Executive Committee as fit for competition.

26. Application for Membership

Each club wishing to compete in this Association must lodge a written application stating the number of teams it wishes to field. The application must be accompanied by the affiliation fee, as determined each year by the Executive Committee. Once a team has been nominated in an application, no refunds of affiliation fees will be allowed except at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

27. Proxy Voting at Meetings

In the event of the absence of any club delegate not a member of the Executive Committee from any meeting of the Association, the club whose representative he is may appoint another member of the club to act as proxy for that meeting. Such proxy may vote and act as such representative might have or could have done if present, upon advising the chairman of such meeting of the appointment referred to.

28. Common Seal of the Association

The common seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary, and shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Executive Committee. The affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signature of either two members of the Executive Committee, or one member of the Executive Committee and the public officer of the Association.

29. Records of the Association

Except where otherwise provided for in these rules, the Secretary shall keep in his custody or under his control all books, documents and securities of the Association.

30. Cancellation of the Incorporation of the Association

In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

31. Request to Inspect Association Documents

Members of the Association may inspect the books and documents of the Association. Requests must be in writing to the Secretary and seven days notice must be given.

STANDING ORDERS

32. Moving a Motion

Any member wishing to move a motion shall rise, identify himself, and address the chairman respectfully, avoid personal and unbecoming language, and take his seat if called to order by the chairman. The motion must be seconded before it is debated, and shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the seconder.

33. Right of Reply

No member may speak more than once to any motion or amendment, excepting the mover of the original motion, who shall have right of reply.

34. Rules of Debate

A motion or amendment having been moved and seconded, debate may ensue, but not more than two other speakers shall follow successfully on the same side of the question. If two speakers have spoken, and there be no speaker to take the opposite view, the question shall be put forthwith.

35. Points of Order

If a member rises on a point of order during a discussion, the speaker shall resume his seat and the member rising shall state the point of order. The chairman shall rule thereon, and his ruling may be reviewed by the meeting.

36. Deciding the Speaker

When two or more members rise at the same time, the chairman shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

37. Voting Procedures

Voting at meetings of the Association shall be determined by a show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by a minimum of three members present. Should any vote result in a tie, the chairman shall declare it in the negative.

38. Roll of Attendance

A roll book shall be kept containing the attendance of each club. Penalties for non-attendance apply. See appendix 3 of the MCA Competition Rules.

39. Quorum at Association Meetings

At all meetings of the Association, fifty percent of members shall constitute a quorum.

40. Meeting Chairman in Absence of the President

In the absence of the President, a person appointed by the meeting shall chair the meeting.