

Competition Structure

1. Competition Structure – Vodafone State League

- **Divisions**

Division One 4 Teams	Division Two 4 Teams*	Division Three 1 Team	Division Four 1 Team
1. Blackburn	1. Berwick	1. Melton	1. Melton
2. Bonbeach	2. Fitzroy	2. Chelsea	2. Chelsea
3. Cheltenham	3. Moorabbin	3. All other	3. All other
4. Doncaster	4. Melbourne	clubs 5ths	clubs 6ths
5. Essendon	5. Mulgrave		
6. Geelong	6. Ormond		
7. Malvern	7. Preston		
8. Newport	8. Port Melbourne		
9. Sandringham	9. St Kilda		
10. Sunshine	10. Werribee		
11. Upwey FTG	11. Williamstown		
12. Waverley	12. Footscray		
	13. Springvale		

- **Games**

Division 1 1sts	33 game home & away season
Division 1 2nds	18 game home & away season
Division 1 3rds	18 game home & away season
Division 1 4ths	18 game home & away season
Division 2 1sts	24 game home & away season
Division 2 2nds	18 game home & away season
Division 2 3rds	18 game home & away season
Division 2 4ths*	18 game home & away season
Division 3	18 game home & away season
Division 4	18 game home & away season

*In the event a club is unable to fill a fourth side in Division 2, Baseball Victoria will assist the club in attempting to achieve an arrangement with another club that has excess of 4 teams, to remove the likelihood of a bye.

- **Season Dates**

The season will commence on the first weekend in October with all final series completed prior to Easter. The final schedule will be determined by Pennant Committee in-conjunction with the Competitions Manager.

- **Final Series**

A final series will be played in all Division to determine the Premiers.

Division 1 - Firsts

The final series will consists of a best of three semi final series followed by a best of three grand final series.

- The first ranked team at the conclusion of the home and away season will play the fourth ranked team in a best of three semi-final 1.
- The second ranked team at the conclusion of the home and away season will play the third ranked team in a best of three semi-final 2.
- The winner of semi-final 1 will play the winner of semi final 2 in a best of three grand final series.
- All final games will of 9 innings duration. The mercy rule will apply if required.

Division 2 - Firsts

The final series will consists of a best of three semi final series followed by a best of three grand final series.

- The first ranked team at the conclusion of the home and away season will play the fourth ranked team in a best of three semi-final 1.
- The second ranked team at the conclusion of the home and away season will play the third ranked team in a best of three semi-final 2.
- The winner of semi-final 1 will play the winner of semi final 2 in a best of three grand final series.
- All final games will of 9 innings duration with mercy rule to apply if required.

Division 1 & 2 2nds, 3rds & 4ths & Division 3 & 4

Week 1 – Semi Final 1 v 2 & 3 v 4

Week 2 – Preliminary Final Loser of 1v 2 vs. Winner of 3 v 4

Week 3 – Grand Final

- ***Promotion & Relegation***

- The Minor Premier club (being the team which finishes on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the of the Regular Season) in Division Two Firsts competition will be promoted into Division One (team criteria permitting).
- The Winner of the Grand Final in Division 2 Firsts competition will be promoted into Division One (team criteria permitting).
- In the event that the Minor Premier in Division Two Firsts competition at the conclusion of the Regular Season is the same team as the winner of the Division Two Firsts Grand Final, the losing club of the Division Two Grand Final series shall also be promoted to Division One (team criteria permitting).
- Only clubs that
 - a. Are declared the Minor Premier at the conclusion of the Regular Season in Division Two Firsts competition,
 - b. Are declared the Winner of the Grand Final in Division 2 First competition or,
 - c. Are the losing club of the Division Two Grand Final series (where the Minor Premier and Grand final Winner are the same club)Will be promoted to Division One, subject to meeting all senior and junior team criteria.
- Clubs finishing in 11th and 12th position at the end of the Division 1 Regular Season will be subject to relegation for the following season.
- If only one Division Two club is eligible for promotion in any given year, the Division One club that finished 11th in that year shall not be relegated. In the event that no Division Two club is eligible for promotion in any given year, no Division One clubs will be relegated.
- The Board of Baseball Victoria retains an overriding discretion as to the determination of clubs which are relegated and promoted between divisions after obtaining the recommendation/s of the Pennant Committee..

- ***Re-entry Rule***

Division 1 & 2 Fourths games are to be played before Thirds games. The re-entry rule (which applies at the conclusion of two completed inning), will apply for Division 1 & 2 Thirds and Fourths.

The re-entry rule will not apply to Division 3 and 4.

- ***Junior Team Requirements***

Division 1: Minimum of six (6) Junior teams of which one must be an U18 or U16 team. Clubs are allowed a maximum of one (1) composite team to be counted as one (1) junior team for each club.

Division 2: Minimum of three (3) Junior teams of which one (1) must be an U18 or U16 team. Clubs are allowed a maximum of one (1) composite team to be counted as one (1) junior team for each club.

Where a Division 2 club fails to meet the criteria, by 31 August the club must present to Baseball Victoria a junior development plan. This plan must outline activities that will allow the club to meet the requirements by the immediately following season.