

# Constitution

STRATHFIELDSAYE DODGERS BASEBALL CLUB  
INCORPORATED



**BASEBALL CLUB**

# Constitution

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<b>1</b>	<b>Objects of Club</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Objects	1
1.2	Name	1
1.3	Colours & Numbers	1
1.4	Alteration of objects and Constitution	1
<hr/>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Income and payments</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1	Application of income	1
2.2	No dividends, bonus or profit to be paid to Members	2
2.3	Payments in good faith	2
<hr/>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1	Ongoing Membership	2
3.2	Members	2
3.3	Members admitted to membership	3
3.4	Admission of Members	3
3.5	Ceasing to be a Member	4
3.6	No claim against the Club	4
3.7	Limited liability	4
3.8	Members subscriptions	4
3.9	Register of Members	4
<hr/>		
<b>4</b>	<b>General meetings</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	Annual general meeting	5
4.2	Power to convene general meeting	5
4.3	Notice of general meeting	5
4.4	Committee Members entitled to attend general meetings	6
4.5	Non-receipt of notice	6
<hr/>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Proceedings at general meetings</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1	Number for a quorum	6
5.2	Requirement for a quorum	6
5.3	Quorum and time	6
5.4	Adjourned meeting	6
5.5	President to preside over general meetings	6
5.6	Conduct of general meetings	7
5.7	Adjournment of general meeting	7
5.8	Notice of adjourned meeting	7
5.9	Questions decided by majority	7
5.10	Equality of votes casting vote for chairman	8
5.11	Declaration of results	8
5.12	Poll	8
5.13	Objection to voting qualification	8
5.14	Chairman to determine any poll dispute	8
<hr/>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Votes of Members</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1	Votes on show of hands	9
6.2	Votes on a poll	9
6.3	Proxy voting	9
<hr/>		
<b>7</b>	<b>ABF and Baseball Victoria</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	Constitution	9
7.2	Enforcement of rules	10

---

7.3	Disputes	10
<b>8</b>	<b>Patrons and Life Members</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1	Appointment and removal of Patrons	11
8.2	Rights of Patrons	11
8.3	Life Membership Policy	11
8.4	Eligibility for Life Membership	11
8.5	Nomination requirements	11
8.6	Selection Process	12
8.7	Distinguished Service Assessment	12
8.8	Selection Sub-committee	12
8.9	Admission to Life Membership	12
8.10	Rights of Life Members	13
<b>9</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>13</b>
9.1	Number of Committee Members	13
9.2	Elections	14
9.3	Casual vacancy	14
9.4	Remuneration of Committee Members	14
9.5	Vacation of office	14
9.6	Committee to be bound by Club, Baseball Victoria and ABF Rules	15
<b>10</b>	<b>Powers and duties of Committees</b>	<b>15</b>
10.1	Committees to manage Club	15
10.2	Minutes	15
10.3	Signing Cheques and other negotiable instruments	15
<b>11</b>	<b>Proceedings of Committees</b>	<b>15</b>
11.1	Committee meetings	15
11.2	Questions decided by majority	16
11.3	Chairman's casting vote	16
11.4	Quorum	16
11.5	Effect of vacancy	16
11.6	Committee Members attending and voting by proxy	16
11.7	Convening meetings	16
11.8	President to preside at Committee meeting	16
11.9	Committees	16
11.10	Powers delegated to Committees	17
11.11	Committee meetings	17
11.12	Circulating resolutions	17
11.13	Validity of acts of Committees	17
<b>12</b>	<b>Public Officer</b>	<b>17</b>
12.1	Appointment of Public Officer	17
12.2	Suspension and removal of Public Officer	17
12.3	Powers, duties and authorities of Public Officer	17
<b>13</b>	<b>By-laws</b>	<b>18</b>
13.1	Making and amending By-laws	18
13.2	Effect of By-law	18
<b>14</b>	<b>Seals</b>	<b>18</b>
14.1	Safe custody of common seals	18
14.2	Use of common seal	18

<b>15</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>18</b>
15.1	Source of Funds	18
15.2	Funds management	19
<b>16</b>	<b>Inspection of records</b>	<b>19</b>
16.1	Inspection by Members	19
16.2	Right of a Member to inspect	19
16.3	Custody of documents	19
<b>17</b>	<b>Service of documents</b>	<b>19</b>
17.1	Document includes notice	19
17.2	Methods of service	19
17.3	Methods of service on the Club	19
17.4	Post	20
17.5	Fax or electronic transmission	20
<b>18</b>	<b>Indemnity</b>	<b>20</b>
18.1	Indemnity of officers	20
18.2	Insurance	21
<b>19</b>	<b>Winding up</b>	<b>21</b>
19.1	Contributions of Members on winding up	21
19.2	Excess property on winding up	21
<b>20</b>	<b>Accounts</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Disciplining of members</b>	<b>22</b>
21.1	Introduction	22
21.2	Judiciary Panel	22
21.3	Proceedings	22
21.4	Penalties	24
21.5	Effect of Penalty	25
<b>22</b>	<b>Definitions and interpretation</b>	<b>25</b>
22.1	Definitions	25
22.2	Interpretation	26
22.3	Corporations Act	27
22.4	Headings	28
22.5	"Include" etc	28
22.6	Powers	28

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# **1 Objects of Club**

## **1.1 Objects**

The objects for which the Club is established are to:

- (a) be the member Club of Baseball Victoria and to comply with the constitution and by-laws of ABF and Baseball Victoria;
- (b) prevent infringement of the constitution and by-laws of ABF and Baseball Victoria and protect Baseball from abuse;
- (c) foster friendly relations among the officials and players of Baseball by encouraging Baseball games;
- (d) prevent racial, religious, gender or political discrimination or distinction among Baseball players;
- (e) promote, provide for, regulate and ensure effective management of Baseball competitions, tournaments and games under the control of or authorised by the Club;
- (f) co-operate with ABF, Baseball Victoria and other bodies in the promotion and development of, or otherwise in relation to, Baseball, the Statutes and Regulations and the Laws of the Game;
- (g) facilitate the provision and maintenance of grounds, playing fields, materials, equipment and other facilities for Baseball; and
- (h) act in the best interests of the Club and Baseball.

## **1.2 Name**

The name of the incorporated association is the Strathfieldsaye Dodgers Baseball Club Incorporated.

## **1.3 Colours & Numbers**

The colours of the Club shall be a yellow playing shirt with black lettering and black pants with yellow & black piping.

## **1.4 Alteration of objects and Constitution**

Subject to **rule 7.1**, an addition, amendment or alteration of the objects in **rule 1.1** or of any other rule contained in this Constitution must be approved by Special Resolution.

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# **2 Income and payments**

## **2.1 Application of income**

All the Club's profits (if any), other income and property, however derived, must be applied only to promote its objects.

## **2.2 No dividends, bonus or profit to be paid to Members**

None of the Club's profits or other income or property may be transferred to the Members, directly or indirectly, by any means.

## **2.3 Payments in good faith**

Subject to **rule 9.4**, **rule 2.2** does not prevent the payment in good faith to an officer or Member, to a firm of which an officer or Member is a partner or to a Club of which an officer or Member is a director or shareholder:

- (a) of remuneration for services to the Club;
- (b) for goods supplied to the Club in the ordinary course of business;
- (c) of interest on money borrowed from them by the Club at a rate not exceeding the rate fixed for the purposes of this **rule 2.3** by the Club in general meeting; or
- (d) of reasonable rent for premises let by them to the Club.

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# **3 Membership**

## **3.1 Ongoing Membership**

Those persons who were members of the Club immediately prior to the approval of this Constitution shall continue to be Members of the Club in accordance with **rule 3.2**.

## **3.2 Members**

The Members of the Club shall consist of:

- (a) Life Members, who subject to this Constitution, shall have the rights set out in **rule 8.10**;
- (b) Ordinary Members over 18 years of age who, subject to this Constitution, shall have the right to be present, debate and vote at General Meetings;
- (c) Social Members over 18 years of age being persons other than Ordinary Members who are interested in promoting the Club but who do not participate in the playing activities (including in the role of player, coach or official) of the Club and who shall not be entitled to be present, debate and vote at General Meetings; and
- (d) Junior Members under the age of 18 years who, subject to this Constitution, are not entitled to hold any office, but shall have the right to be present, debate and vote at General Meetings through the Junior Member's parent or legal guardian.

### 3.3 Members admitted to membership

The Club must procure that each Member admitted to membership agrees to be bound by and observe:

- (a) This Constitution;
- (b) The Laws of the Game;
- (c) The Statutes and Regulations and those of the By-Laws expressed to apply to or in relation to Members;
- (d) The Statutes and Regulations and the constitutions and by-laws of ABF and Baseball Victoria as enforced from time to time;
- (e) The Baseball Victoria Codes of Behaviour and Rules of Competition, as amended from time to time; and
- (f) The ABF Code of Conduct, as amended from time to time.

### 3.4 Admission of Members

An individual ("applicant") must either:

- (a) apply for membership of the Club by application in writing (in the form set out in **Appendix 1** or a form which incorporates the applicant's agreement to the details set out in **Appendix 1**), accompanied by the appropriate fee (if any) and submitted by the applicant or his/her nominated representative and lodged with the Club; or
- (b) self-register and pay the appropriate fee (if any) through the approved Baseball Victoria registration system (online or otherwise), which registration process includes the applicant agreeing to become a Member of the Club and be bound by this Constitution, the By-laws and the Statutes, Regulations, applicable Codes of Conduct and Behaviour and Rules of Competition (of ABF, Baseball Victoria and the Club, as applicable).

Before admission as a Member, an applicant must complete a written application or the approved Baseball Victoria self-registration process (online or otherwise) which includes an agreement to be bound by this Constitution, the By-laws and the Statutes, Regulations, applicable Codes of Conduct and Behaviour and Rules of Competition (of ABF, Baseball Victoria and the Club, as applicable).

Subject to the above and to the prior or concurrent completion of any additional Club membership requirement (if any) which are consistent with the requirements of the approved Baseball Victoria registration process, the applicant becomes a Member of the Club:

- (c) from the time of completion of the approved Baseball Victoria registration process (online or otherwise and including payment), whether by self-registration or registration by a Club official, unless the applicant's application for registration or Club membership is validly

refused by the Club in accordance with the National Competition Regulations; or

- (d) if there is no applicable Baseball Victoria registration process for a particular category of membership, at the time of approval of the membership application by the Club.

### **3.5 Ceasing to be a Member**

A person ceases to be a Member on:

- (a) resignation;
- (b) death;
- (c) becoming bankrupt or insolvent or making an arrangement or composition with creditors of the person's joint or separate estate generally;
- (d) becoming of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under a law relating to mental health;

the termination of their membership according to this Constitution.

### **3.6 No claim against the Club**

No Member whose membership ceases has any claim against the Club or the Committee Members for damages or otherwise.

### **3.7 Limited liability**

Members have no liability to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Club, or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Club.

### **3.8 Members subscriptions**

Membership fees, subscriptions or other amounts payable by Members to the Club shall be determined by the Committee from time to time.

### **3.9 Register of Members**

A register of Members must be kept and contain:

- (a) the name and address of each Member;
- (b) the date on which each Member was admitted to the Club; and
- (c) if applicable, the date of, and reasons for termination of membership.

In addition to the details above, the register must be maintained in the form, and contain such details as may be required by Baseball Victoria from time to time.



The Club must provide Baseball Victoria (and to ABF if requested by ABF) with a copy of its register by 1 February and 1 August each year, certified by the Secretary to be true and correct as at the previous 31 December and 30 June respectively.

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## **4 General meetings**

### **4.1 Annual general meeting**

Annual General meetings of the Club are to be held according to the Act.

The Club shall convene an Annual General meeting of its members on the third Thursday of November each year.

The Annual General Meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.

The ordinary business of the Annual General meeting shall be:

- (a) To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting;
- (b) To receive from the Committee and consider an Annual Report containing at least:
  - (i) The Presidents report
  - (ii) The audited financial statement submitted by the Club
  - (iii) The statement submitted by the Club in accordance with section 30(3) of the Act.
- (c) To elect the Officers of the Club, that is, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registration Secretary (if required) and any other positions deemed appropriate.
- (d) The Annual General meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- (e) The Annual General meeting shall be in addition to any other general meeting that may be held in the same year.

### **4.2 Power to convene general meeting**

The Committee may convene a general meeting when they think fit and must do so if required under the Act.

### **4.3 Notice of general meeting**

Notice of a meeting of Members must be given at least 21 days before the meeting and in accordance with **rule 17** and the Act.

#### **4.4 Committee Members entitled to attend general meetings**

A Committee Member is entitled to receive notice of and attend and speak at all general meetings.

#### **4.5 Non-receipt of notice**

The non-receipt of a notice convening, cancelling or postponing a general meeting by, or the accidental omission to give a notice of that kind to, a person entitled to receive it, does not invalidate any resolution passed at the general meeting or at a postponed meeting or the cancellation or postponement of the meeting.

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## **5 Proceedings at general meetings**

### **5.1 Number for a quorum**

Subject to **rule 5.4**, 6 by number of those persons who are Members and eligible to vote are a quorum at a general meeting.

### **5.2 Requirement for a quorum**

An item of business may not be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to consider it.

If a quorum is present at the beginning of a meeting it is taken to be present throughout the meeting unless the chairman of the meeting (on their own motion or at the request of a Member who is present) declares otherwise.

### **5.3 Quorum and time**

If within 30 minutes after the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:

- (a) if convened by, or on requisition of, Members is dissolved; and
- (b) in any other case stands adjourned to the same day in the next week and the same time and place, or to such other day, time and place as the Committee appoint by notice to those entitled to notice of the meeting.

### **5.4 Adjourned meeting**

At a meeting adjourned under **rule 5.3(b)**, 6 by number of those persons who are Members and who are present and eligible to vote are a quorum.

If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the adjourned meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

### **5.5 President to preside over general meetings**

The President is entitled to preside at general meetings. If a general meeting is convened and there is no President, or the President is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable

or unwilling to act, the Committee shall appoint the Vice-President to preside as chairman for that meeting only.

#### **5.6 Conduct of general meetings**

The chairman of a general meeting:

- (a) has charge of the general conduct of the meeting and of the procedures to be adopted;
- (b) may require the adoption of any procedure which is in their opinion necessary or desirable for proper and orderly debate or discussion or the proper and orderly casting or recording of votes; and
- (c) may, having regard where necessary to the Act, terminate discussion or debate on any matter whenever they consider it necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the meeting.

A decision by the chairman under this rule is final.

#### **5.7 Adjournment of general meeting**

The chairman of a general meeting may at any time during the meeting adjourn the meeting or any business, motion, question, resolution, debate or discussion being considered or remaining to be considered by the meeting.

The adjournment may be either to a later time at the same meeting or to an adjourned meeting at any time and any place.

The chairman may, but need not, seek any approval for the adjournment.

Unless required by the chairman, a vote may not be taken or demanded in respect of any adjournment.

Only unfinished business is to be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

#### **5.8 Notice of adjourned meeting**

It is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at any adjourned meeting unless a meeting is adjourned for one month or more.

In that case, the same period of notice as was originally given for the meeting must be given for the adjourned meeting.

#### **5.9 Questions decided by majority**

Subject to the requirements of the Act requiring a Special Resolution and **rule 1.2**, a resolution is carried if a simple majority of the votes cast on the resolution are in favour of it.

### **5.10 Equality of votes casting vote for chairman**

Except on a resolution to elect a Committee Member, if there is an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman of the meeting is entitled to a casting vote in addition to any votes to which the chairman is otherwise entitled.

### **5.11 Declaration of results**

At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is properly demanded and the demand is not withdrawn.

A declaration by the chairman that a resolution has on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meetings of the Club, is conclusive evidence of the fact.

Neither the chairman nor the minutes need state and it is not necessary to prove, the number or proportion of the votes recorded for of or against the resolution.

### **5.12 Poll**

If a poll is properly demanded, it must be taken in the manner and at the date and time directed by the chairman and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

A poll demanded on the election of a chairman or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.

A demand for a poll may be withdrawn.

A demand for a poll does not prevent the meeting continuing for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll has been demanded.

### **5.13 Objection to voting qualification**

An objection to the right of a person to attend or vote at the meeting or adjourned meeting:

- (a) may not be raised except at that meeting; and
- (b) must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

A vote not disallowed under the objection is valid for all purposes.

### **5.14 Chairman to determine any poll dispute**

If there is a dispute as to the admission or rejection of a vote, the chairman of the meeting must decide it and their decision made in good faith is final and conclusive.

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## **6 Votes of Members**

### **6.1 Votes on show of hands**

On a show of hands each Member entitled to vote under **rule 3.2** and present at a general meeting has one vote, provided always that a parent or legal guardian of a Junior Member has one vote for each Junior Member he or she represents.

### **6.2 Votes on a poll**

On a poll each Member over the age of 18 years of age present in person has one vote and each person over the age of 18 years of age present as an attorney or parent or legal guardian of a Member whether over the age of 18 years of age or not has one vote for that Member, provided always that a parent or legal guardian of a Junior Member has one vote for each Junior Member he or she represents.

### **6.3 Proxy voting**

Proxy voting is not permitted at general meetings of the Club.

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## **7 ABF and Baseball Victoria**

### **7.1 Constitution**

The Club must:

- (a) be a body corporate or incorporated association to be recognised by ABF and/or Baseball Victoria and must have the following characteristics:
  - (i) it organises teams to participate in competitions sanctioned by Baseball Victoria or ABF;
  - (ii) all members of its teams are entitled to membership;
  - (iii) members may vote in an election for any officeholders (whether directly if over 18 years of age or indirectly through the Junior Member's parent or other legal guardian if under 18 years of age);
  - (iv) agrees to be bound by the Statutes and Regulations, the Laws of the Game and those ABF or Baseball Victoria rules (including the respective constitutions) and by-laws expressed to apply to it; and
  - (v) prevent infringement of the constitutions and by-laws of ABF and Baseball Victoria and protect Baseball from abuse;
- (b) amend:
  - (i) this Constitution; or

- (ii) the By-laws,

to promptly adopt changes in the constitutions and by-laws of ABF and/or Baseball Victoria made from time to time to the extent that they are applicable to the Club. In this clause the reference to changes to by-laws includes additional or replacement by-laws;

- (c) not otherwise amend or vary this Constitution without the prior written consent of Baseball Victoria and in accordance with the Act; or
- (d) not otherwise amend or vary any of its By-laws without the prior written consent of Baseball Victoria.

Baseball Victoria must consent to any amendment to this Constitution or those By-laws which are required by law.

## 7.2 Enforcement of rules

Subject to applicable law, the Club must:

- (a) promulgate and comply with, and do everything within its power to enforce compliance with, the Statutes and Regulations and the Laws of the Game; and
- (b) co-operate with ABF and Baseball Victoria in all matters relating to the organisation of competitions, the Club's own competitions and Baseball in general.

## 7.3 Disputes

- (a) This **rule 7.3** applies to a Dispute.
- (b) The parties to a Dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the Dispute within 14 days after the Dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.
- (c) If the parties are unable to resolve the Dispute at the meeting or meetings held in accordance with **rule 7.3(b)**, or if a party fails to attend such a meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- (d) The mediator must be:
  - (i) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
  - (ii) in the absence of agreement:
    - (A) in the case of a Dispute between a Member and another Member, a person appointed by the Directors; or
    - (B) in the case of a Dispute between a Member and the Club, a person appointed by Baseball Victoria.

- (e) A Member can be a mediator.
- (f) A Member who is a party to the Dispute cannot be a mediator.
- (g) The parties to a Dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the Dispute by mediation.
- (h) The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must:
  - (i) give the parties to the mediation process reasonable opportunity to be heard; and
  - (ii) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
  - (iii) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the Dispute throughout the mediation process.
- (i) The mediator must not determine the Dispute.
- (j) If the mediation process does not result in the Dispute being resolved, the parties may then seek to resolve the Dispute in accordance with the process set out in the Grievance Procedure.

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## **8 Patrons and Life Members**

### **8.1 Appointment and removal of Patrons**

The Committee may appoint and remove Patrons of the Club.

### **8.2 Rights of Patrons**

Patrons are:

- (a) entitled to notice of all general meetings;
- (b) entitled to attend and speak at general meetings;

### **8.3 Life Membership Policy**

### **8.4 Eligibility for Life Membership**

Any Member or Committee Person may nominate an individual for admission as a Life Member.

### **8.5 Nomination requirements**

A nomination under **rule 8.34** must:

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) set out the reasons why, in the opinion of the nominator, the nominee should be considered for Life Membership.

## **8.6 Selection Process**

The following Minimum Eligibility Criteria must first be met before consideration can be made by the Sub-committee of the nominated person's Distinguished Service to the club. The Sub-committee will then forward its nomination to the Club to endorse.

(a) Minimum Eligibility Criteria:

The nominee for Life Membership of the Strathfieldsaye Dodgers Baseball Club must have sustained ongoing commitment and contribution for a minimum of **15 years** (consecutive or intermittent) in one or more of the following positions (unless there are specific and relevant extenuating circumstances why the 15 year minimum was not achieved):

- (i) Member of the Committee;
- (ii) Senior Player, Coach, Umpire or Scorer representing the Club;
- (iii) Official or another position of note within the club ie grounds manager;

## **8.7 Distinguished Service Assessment**

The nominee of the Club must be someone "who has rendered distinguished service to baseball for the Club and where such service is deemed to have assisted the advancement of the Club in baseball."

The nomination must include specific examples of 'distinguished service' that has 'assisted the advancement of the Club in baseball.'

The Sub-committee will confirm the eligibility and service of the nominee before considering the recommendation.

## **8.8 Selection Sub-committee**

A Sub-committee, chaired by the President and consisting of one other committee member and a panel of at least three existing life members shall be formed to adjudicate and present to the Club with their decision. The nomination must be carried by a minimum of 75% of votes of the Sub-committee.

## **8.9 Admission to Life Membership**

The Sub-committee's recommended decision on the Nomination(s) for admission to Life Membership are to be presented and considered by the Club for endorsement at the Annual General Meeting.

In their absolute discretion, and without the need to give reasons for doing so, the Club may:

- (a) Accept the recommendation, or
- (b) Decline the recommendation or



- (c) Request that further evidence be provided and a new recommendation be presented.

A nominee is admitted to Life Membership if:

- (d) the Sub-committee recommend that the nominee be admitted to Life Membership; and
- (e) the recommendation is approved by a majority of two-thirds of Members present at the annual general meeting at which the recommendation is considered.

## **8.10 Rights of Life Members**

A Life Member is afforded the following:

- (a) Forever recognition of distinguished service to the Club that has assisted the advancement of the Club in baseball;
- (b) A Life Member's lapel pin;
- (c) Vote as a 'member';
- (d) Exempt from paying capitation fees to play baseball in Victoria;
- (e) has the right to remain a Life Member until they die or resign their Life Membership or unless they are expelled from the Club; and
- (f) subject to any separate agreement with the Club to the contrary, has no obligation, and may not be required, to pay any subscription or other amount;

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## **9 Committee**

### **9.1 Number of Committee Members**

There are to be no more than 5 Committee Members comprised as follows:

- (a) the President;
- (b) the Secretary;
- (c) the Treasurer;
- (d) the Vice President; and
- (e) the Junior Registration Secretary; (if required)

who must all be Ordinary Members (or the parent or other legal guardian of a Junior Member) and who shall be elected under **rule 9.2**.

## **9.2 Elections**

A Member or a Committee Member may nominate a person for election as a Committee Member (including as President). A nomination must be in writing and signed by the nominator and nominee.

If insufficient nominations are received to fill all available Committee vacancies the candidates nominated shall, subject to declaration by the chairman, be deemed to be elected.

If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall, subject to declaration by the chairman, be deemed to be elected.

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, voting papers shall be prepared containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order, for each vacancy.

Elections shall be conducted by such means as is prescribed by the Committee.

## **9.3 Casual vacancy**

The Committee may at any time appoint a person to be a Committee member to fill a casual vacancy.

A Committee member appointed under this rule holds office until the end of the term of the Committee member in whose place they were appointed.

Service as a Committee member under this rule is a full term of office for the purposes of **rule 9.3**.

## **9.4 Remuneration of Committee Members**

A Committee may not be paid for services as a Committee Member but, with the approval of the Committee, may be reimbursed by the Club for their reasonable expenses when:

- (a) otherwise engaged on the affairs of the Club.

## **9.5 Vacation of office**

The office of a Committee Member becomes vacant when the Committee Member:

- (a) is disqualified by the Act from being a Committee member;
- (b) is disqualified by the Corporations Act from being a Committee Member;
- (c) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under a law relating to mental health;
- (d) resigns office by notice in writing to the Club;

- (e) is not present personally at three consecutive Committee meetings without leave of absence from the Committee.

## **9.6 Committee to be bound by Club, Baseball Victoria and ABF Rules**

By accepting office, each Committee Member agrees to be bound by and observe:

- (a) This Constitution;
- (b) The Statutes and Regulations and those of the By-Laws expressed to apply to or in relation to Committees of Clubs;
- (c) The Statutes and Regulations and the constitutions and by-laws of ABF and Baseball Victoria as enforced from time to time;
- (d) The Baseball Victoria Codes of Behaviour and Rules of Competition, as amended from time to time; and
- (e) The ABF Code of Conduct, as amended from time to time.

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## **10 Powers and duties of Committees**

### **10.1 Committees to manage Club**

The Committee is to manage the Club's business and may exercise those of the Club's powers that are not required, by the Act or by this Constitution, to be exercised by the Club in general meeting.

### **10.2 Minutes**

The Committee must cause minutes of meetings to be made and kept according to the Act.

### **10.3 Signing Cheques and other negotiable instruments**

Cheques and other negotiable instruments must be signed by at least two Committee Members nominated by the Committee.

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## **11 Proceedings of Committees**

### **11.1 Committee meetings**

The Committee Members may meet together for conducting business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. The Committee Members consent, by accepting nomination as a Committee Member, to meetings being held using any technology that gives the Committee, as a whole, a reasonable opportunity to participate. To avoid doubt, this includes meetings held by telephone and/or video conferencing.

### **11.2 Questions decided by majority**

A question arising at a Committee meeting is to be decided by a majority of votes of the Committee Members present and entitled to vote.

### **11.3 Chairman's casting vote**

The chairman of the meeting has a casting vote.

### **11.4 Quorum**

Until otherwise determined by the Committee, 3 Committee Members (at least two of whom are entitled to vote) present in person or by proxy is a quorum.

### **11.5 Effect of vacancy**

The continuing Committee may act despite a vacancy in their number. If the number of Committee Members is reduced below the number required for a quorum, the remaining Committee Members may act only for the purpose of filling the vacancies to the extent necessary to bring their number up to the number required for a quorum or to convene a general meeting.

### **11.6 Committee Members attending and voting by proxy**

A Committee Member may attend and vote by proxy at a Committee meeting if the proxy:

- (a) is another Committee Member; and
- (b) has been appointed in writing signed by the appointor in the form set out in **Appendix 2** or a similar form approved by the Committee.

The appointment must be for a particular meeting.

### **11.7 Convening meetings**

A Committee Member may, and the Secretary on the request of a Committee Member must, convene a Committee Members meeting.

### **11.8 President to preside at Committee meeting**

The President is entitled to preside at Committee meetings.

If the President is not present and able and willing to act within 15 minutes after the time appointed for a meeting or has signified an intention not to be present and able and willing to act, the Committee Members shall appoint a Committee Member to preside as chairman for that meeting only.

### **11.9 Committees**

The Committees may delegate any of their powers to Committees consisting of those persons they think fit, and may revoke that delegation.

### **11.10 Powers delegated to Committees**

A Committee must exercise the powers delegated to it according to the terms of the delegation and to any directions of the Committees.

Powers delegated to and exercised by a Committee are taken to have been exercised by the Committees.

### **11.11 Committee meetings**

Committee meetings are governed by the provisions of this Constitution dealing with Committees' meetings, as far as they are capable of application.

### **11.12 Circulating resolutions**

The Committees may pass a resolution without a Committees' meeting being held if all of the Committees who are entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document.

Separate copies of the document may be used for signing by Committees if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.

The resolution is passed when the last Committee signs.

### **11.13 Validity of acts of Committees**

Everything done at a Committees' meeting or a Sub-Committee meeting, or by a person acting as a Committee, are valid even if it is discovered later that there was some defect in the appointment, election or qualification of any of them or that any of them was disqualified or had vacated office.

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## **12 Public Officer**

### **12.1 Appointment of Public Officer**

There must be a Public Officer of the Club who:

- (a) must be resident in the State; and
- (b) is to be appointed by the Committee.

### **12.2 Suspension and removal of Public Officer**

The Committee may suspend or remove a Public Officer from that office.

### **12.3 Powers, duties and authorities of Public Officer**

A Public Officer holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, as determined by the Committee.

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## **13 By-laws**

### **13.1 Making and amending By-laws**

The Committee may from time to time make By-laws which in their opinion are necessary or desirable for the control, administration and management of the Club's affairs and may amend, repeal and replace those By-laws, but only to the extent the Club can do so under **rule 7.1**.

Subject to **rule 7.1**, the Club in general meeting, may amend, repeal and replace any By-law made by the Committee, but that does not affect the validity of anything previously done by the Committee or anyone under that By-law.

### **13.2 Effect of By-law**

A By-law:

- (a) is subject to this Constitution;
- (b) must be consistent with this Constitution and the objectives stated in Baseball Victoria's constitution, and if not, the Constitution prevails to the extent of the inconsistency; and
- (c) when in force, is binding on all Members and has the same effect as a provision in this Constitution.

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## **14 Seals**

### **14.1 Safe custody of common seals**

The Committee must provide for the safe custody of any seal of the Club.

### **14.2 Use of common seal**

If the Club has a common seal or duplicate common seal:

- (a) it may be used only by the authority of the Committee; and
- (b) every document to which it is affixed must be signed by a Committee Member and be countersigned by another Committee Member or another person appointed by the Committee to countersign that document or a class of documents in which that document is included.

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## **15 Funds**

### **15.1 Source of Funds**

The funds of the Club are to be derived from fees paid by Members and any other sources the Committee determine.

## **15.2 Funds management**

The funds of the Club are to be used solely for the objects specified in **rule 2.1** in any manner the Committee determine.

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## **16 Inspection of records**

### **16.1 Inspection by Members**

Subject to the Act, the Committee may determine whether and to what extent, and at what times and places and under what conditions, the accounting records and other documents of the Club or any of them will be open for inspection by the Members.

### **16.2 Right of a Member to inspect**

A Member does not have the right to inspect any document of the Club except as provided by law or authorised by the Committee or by the Club in general meeting.

### **16.3 Custody of documents**

Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Secretary must keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all books, documents and securities of the Club.

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## **17 Service of documents**

### **17.1 Document includes notice**

In this **rule 17**, **document** includes a notice.

### **17.2 Methods of service**

The Club may give a document to a Member:

- (a) personally; or
- (b) by sending it by post to the address for the Member in the Register or an alternative address nominated by the Member; or
- (c) by sending it to a fax number or electronic address nominated by the Member; or
- (d) by posting it on the Club's website.

### **17.3 Methods of service on the Club**

A Member may give a document to the Club by:

- (a) delivering it to the Registered Office; or
- (b) sending it by post to the Registered Office; or

- (c) sending it to a fax number or electronic address nominated by the Club.

#### **17.4 Post**

A document sent by post if sent to an address:

- (a) in Australia, may be sent by ordinary post; and
- (b) outside Australia, must be sent by airmail,

and in either case is taken to have been received on the day after the date of its posting.

#### **17.5 Fax or electronic transmission**

If a document is sent by fax or electronic transmission, delivery of the document is taken to:

- (a) be effected by properly addressing and transmitting the fax or electronic transmission; and
- (b) have been delivered on the day following its transmission.

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## **18 Indemnity**

### **18.1 Indemnity of officers**

Every person who is or has been a Committee Member or a Public Officer is entitled to be indemnified out of the property of the Club against:

- (a) every liability incurred by the person in that capacity (except a liability for legal costs); and
- (b) all legal costs incurred in defending or resisting (or otherwise in connection with) proceedings, whether civil or criminal or of an administrative or investigatory nature, in which the person becomes involved because of that capacity,

unless:

- (c) the Club is forbidden by statute to indemnify the person against the liability or legal costs; or
- (d) an indemnity by the Club of the person against the liability or legal costs would, if given, be made void by statute.



## **18.2 Insurance**

The Club may pay or agree to pay, whether directly or through an interposed entity, a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been a Committee Member or Public Officer against liability incurred by the person in that capacity, including a liability for legal costs, unless the:

- (a) Club is forbidden by statute to pay or agree to pay the premium; or
- (b) contract would, if the Club paid the premium, be made void by statute.

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## **19 Winding up**

### **19.1 Contributions of Members on winding up**

Each Member must contribute to the Club's property if the Club is wound up while they are a Member or within one year after their membership ceases.

This contribution is for:

- (a) payment of the Club's debts and liabilities contracted before their membership ceased;
  - (b) the costs of winding up; and
  - (c) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves,
- and the amount is not to exceed \$1.00.

### **19.2 Excess property on winding up**

If on the winding up or dissolution of the Club, and after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property remains, that property must be given or transferred to another body or bodies:

- (a) having objects similar to those of the Club; and
- (b) whose constitution prohibits (or each of whose constitutions prohibit) the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Club under this Constitution.

That body is, or those bodies are, to be determined by the Members at or before the time of dissolution or, failing that a determination, by a judge who has or acquires jurisdiction in the matter.

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## **20 Accounts**

The Committee must cause the accounts of the Club to be audited as required by the Corporations Act and in compliance with the Act.

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## **21 Disciplining of members**

### **21.1 Introduction**

This rule sets out the procedure for dealing with disciplinary actions and matters and:

- (a) establishes a Judiciary Panel to hear disciplinary matters of the Club; and
- (b) sets out the procedures of that Judiciary Panel.

### **21.2 Judiciary Panel**

The Judiciary Panel shall be convened and function as follows.

- (a) The Committee may convene a Judiciary Panel of such persons, on such terms and for such purpose(s) as is required. A member of each Judiciary Panel appointed shall act as Judiciary Panel Secretary and keep records of all investigations and decisions.
- (b) The jurisdiction of a Judiciary Panel shall be limited to matters referred to it by the Committee in accordance with the Constitution and this rule.
- (c) Every referral to a Judiciary Panel shall be clear and unambiguous and shall clearly set out the matter(s) required to be investigated or determined by the Judiciary Panel.
- (d) Upon a referral to a Judiciary Panel the Judiciary Panel Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, appoint a time and place suitable to the Judiciary Panel for the proceedings.
- (e) A Judiciary Panel shall conduct any referral to it within such time as the Committee direct, provided always that a concerned person may apply for an adjournment by application in writing to the Judiciary Panel chairperson. Such application must be received at least 2 days prior to commencement of proceedings.
- (f) A Judiciary Panel shall have power to require the attendance of any Member or Club representative at any proceedings before it. Notice shall be given in accordance with this rule. Where a person who is required to attend, fails to attend without reasonable excuse, the Judiciary Panel may draw such inferences from that failure to attend as it considers reasonable.
- (g) The quorum for a Judiciary Panel shall be determined by the Committee.

### **21.3 Proceedings**

The proceedings of a Judiciary Panel shall be conducted as follows.

- (a) Upon receipt of a referral the Judiciary Panel may request the party or parties concerned in the referral appear before it. Such request shall be in writing either delivered personally or in appropriate cases by post or facsimile or email to the appropriate address or facsimile number of the party or parties concerned. The Judiciary Panel shall inquire into, or determine, the matters in question.
- (i) A notice given by post shall be deemed to have been given on the day following the day on which it was posted.
  - (ii) A notice given by facsimile or email shall be deemed to be given upon receipt of a confirmation report confirming the facsimile was received at the facsimile number or where the email was not confirmed undeliverable at the email address to which it was sent.
- (b) Proceedings shall take place as soon as practicable. All parties concerned shall be given at least 7 days notice of the proceedings by the Judiciary Panel. The notice shall:
- (i) be in writing;
  - (ii) state that the party or parties concerned are required to appear and in what capacity;
  - (iii) state the nature of the proceedings and the matters or alleged offence(s) the subject of investigation or determination, the possible penalty or penalties and the date, place and time of the hearing; and
  - (iv) be delivered in accordance with rule 21.3(a) above.
- (c) Persons appearing before the Judiciary Panel shall be entitled to call witnesses but must state their case in person unless the Judiciary Panel has permitted representation through an advocate. No person appearing before the Judiciary Panel shall be entitled to legal representation as of right at the proceedings. The chairperson will consider all requests for legal representation made by a party but the decision to allow legal representation is at the sole discretion of the chairperson. The chairperson is not required to give reasons for such decision. The person appearing before the Judiciary Panel and his/her witnesses shall be given a full opportunity to be heard. In his/her absence, or in the absence of his/her witnesses, a decision may be made by default. Before making a decision in default of appearance, the Judiciary Panel must satisfy itself that the party concerned was aware of the time, date and place of hearing and had been requested to appear in accordance with this rule.
- (d) The Judiciary Panel chairman shall announce the opening of the proceedings, stating the Judiciary Panel's authority, jurisdiction, composition and the nature and purpose(s) of the proceedings.

- (e) The procedure to be followed at proceedings shall be clearly explained by the Judiciary Panel chairman. The Judiciary Panel chairman shall state who is entitled to be present throughout proceedings during evidence and submissions.
- (f) The matter(s) the subject of proceedings shall then be read to the person(s) concerned. The body or person reporting the matter(s) the subject of the proceedings shall be given the opportunity to report the circumstances of those matter(s). The person(s) concerned will be given the opportunity to respond to this report and present evidence and submissions as to their view of the circumstances of those matter(s). Any witnesses called by either the reporting body or the person(s) concerned will be given the opportunity to give evidence or make submissions. Witnesses may be questioned on their evidence. Evidence and/or submissions may be tendered in writing.
- (g) The Judiciary Panel will consider the evidence presented. The Judiciary Panel may adjourn the hearing if necessary to do so. No other person shall be present or partake in any discussion with the Judiciary Panel at this time. If the Judiciary Panel finds an offence has not been committed or not proved it will advise the Committee and dismiss the charge accordingly.
- (h) If the Judiciary Panel finds an offence has been committed or proved it may impose, in its discretion, an appropriate penalty or penalties. It may also report its findings to the Committee with such recommendations as it considers appropriate. The Judiciary Panel chairperson will declare the proceedings closed.
- (i) If a decision cannot be given immediately after proceedings, the relevant party or parties must be advised of the time and place at which the decision will be given. The decision, any penalty and notice of the person's appeal rights shall be given in writing and signed by the Judiciary Panel chairperson.
- (j) Every decision of a Judiciary Panel under this Rule shall be conveyed in writing to the parties concerned.

#### **21.4 Penalties**

- (a) Penalties which may be imposed include:
  - (i) a reprimand;
  - (ii) suspension, from such activities of the Club, including but not only competition, on such terms and for such period as the Judiciary Panel thinks fit;
  - (iii) exclusion from a particular competition, activity, event or events;
  - (iv) expulsion from the Club;

- (v) a fine, imposed in such manner and in such amount as the Judiciary Panel thinks fit; or
  - (vi) such combination of any of the above penalties as the Judiciary Panel thinks fit.
- (b) During proceedings, the subject(s) of the proceedings may be suspended, on such terms and for such period as the Judiciary Panel thinks fit and shall remain under suspension unless the Judiciary Panel decides otherwise.

## 21.5 Effect of Penalty

- (a) Where a Member is suspended under this rule, all rights and privileges of that Member shall be forfeited, either partially or completely, during the period of suspension. In the case of complete suspension, a Member shall also forfeit all Club rights during the currency of the suspension.
- (b) Where a Member is expelled under this rule his membership of, and representation rights and privileges in, the Club shall be forfeited immediately and membership shall cease.
- (c) There is no right of appeal against a decision of a Judiciary Panel under this rule.

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## 22 Definitions and interpretation

### 22.1 Definitions

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

**Act** means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic). (Act is available from the Consumer Affairs website [www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au) )

**Club** means STRATHFIELDSAYE DODGERS BASEBALL CLUB Incorporated.

**By-law** means a by-law made under this Constitution.

**Constitution** means this constitution as amended from time to time, and a reference to a particular rule is a reference to an rule of this Constitution.

**Corporations Act** means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

**Committee** means a Committee of the Club and includes the President.

**Committee Member** means all or some of the Committee of the Club acting as a board.

**Dispute** means a dispute under this Constitution between:

- (a) a Member and another Member; or
- (b) a Member and the Club.

**ABF** means Australia Baseball Federation.

**IBAF** means International Baseball Federation.

**Baseball Victoria** means Baseball Victoria Incorporated.

**Grievance** has the meaning given to that term in the Grievance Procedure;

**Grievance Procedure** means the procedures in the Baseball Victoria Grievance, Disciplinary, Tribunal By-Law, as amended from time to time.

**Junior Member** means a player, coach or official of the Club under **rule 3.2(d)**.

**Laws of the Game** means the rules of Baseball referred to in the Statutes and Regulations.

**Life Member** means a person admitted as such under **rule 8**.

**Member** means a member of the Club admitted to membership under **rule 3.2**.

**Ordinary Member** means a player, coach or official of the Club under **rule 3.2(b)**.

**Patron** means any person of influence or support appointed by the Club as a Patron of the Club under **rule 8.1**.

**President** means the President from time to time of the Club.

**Public Officer** has the meaning and functions accorded to that office as set out in the Act.

**Registered Office** means the registered office of the Club from time to time.

**Registrar** has the meaning given to it in the Act.

**Social Member** means a Member under **rule 3.2(c)**.

**Special Resolution** has the meaning given to it in the Act.

**State** means Victoria.

**Statutes and Regulations** means the Statutes and Regulations of IBAF in force from time to time.

## 22.2 Interpretation

(a) In this Constitution:

- (i) **(presence of a Member)** a reference to a Member present at a general meeting means the Member present in person, by attorney or by a parent or legal guardian in the case of a Junior Member;

- (ii) **(annual general meeting)** a reference to an annual general meeting in a calendar year (for example, in 2006), is a reference to the annual general meeting required to be held by the Club in that calendar year under the Act; and
  - (iii) **(document)** a reference to a document or instrument includes any amendments made to it from time to time and, unless the contrary intention appears, includes a replacement.
- (b) In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:
- (i) **(gender)** words importing any gender include all other genders;
  - (ii) **(person)** the word "person" includes a firm, a body corporate, a partnership, a joint venture, an unincorporated body or association or an authority;
  - (iii) **(successors)** a reference to an organisation includes a reference to its successors;
  - (iv) **(singular includes plural)** the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
  - (v) **(instruments)** a reference to a law includes regulations and instruments made under it;
  - (vi) **(amendments to legislation)** a reference to a law or a provision of a law includes amendments, re-enactments or replacements of that law or the provision, whether by a State or the Commonwealth or otherwise;
  - (vii) **(signed)** where, by a provision of this Constitution, a document including a notice is required to be signed, that requirement may be satisfied in relation to an electronic communication of the document in any manner permitted by law or by any State or Commonwealth law relating to electronic transmissions or in any other manner approved by the Committees; and
  - (viii) **(writing)** "writing" and "written" includes printing, typing and other modes of reproducing words in a visible form including, without limitation, any representation of words in a physical document or in an electronic communication or form or otherwise.

### 22.3 Corporations Act

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears an expression has, in a provision of this Constitution that deals with a matter dealt with by a particular provision of the Corporations Act, the same meaning as in that provision of the Corporations Act.

## **22.4 Headings**

Headings are inserted for convenience and do not affect the interpretation of this Constitution.

## **22.5 “Include” etc**

In this Constitution the words “include”, “includes”, “including” and “for example” are not to be interpreted as words of limitation.

## **22.6 Powers**

A power, an authority or a discretion reposed in a Committee, the Committees, a Sub-Committee, the Club in general meeting or a Member may be exercised at any time and from time to time.



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**APPENDIX 1 – APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF STRATHFIELDSAYE DODGERS  
BASEBALL CLUB INC**

**(for use when the applicant is not self-registering via the approved Baseball Victoria registration system (online or otherwise) or if otherwise required by the Club)**

I,....., of .....apply to become a  
(name) (address)

member of ..... Incorporated  
(name of Club)

I agree to be bound by and observe the following (for the time being in force and applicable to me as a Member of the Club or a registered participant):

- (a) this Constitution;
- (b) the Laws of the Game;
- (c) the Statutes and Regulations and those of the By-Laws expressed to apply to or in relation to Members;
- (d) the Statutes and Regulations and the constitutions and by-laws of ABF and Baseball Victoria as enforced from time to time;
- (e) the Baseball Victoria Codes of Behaviour and Rules of Competition, as amended from time to time; and
- (f) the ABF Code of Conduct, as amended from time to time.

.....  
Signature of applicant

Date .....

If the applicant is under 18 years of age, I acknowledge and agree the applicant's grant of membership is subject to the applicant's agreement (and, to the extent it is applicable, my agreement) to be bound by and observe the constitution, rules, regulations, statutes, by-laws and codes set out above.

.....  
Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicant under 18 years)

Date .....