

**VICTORIAN CHURCHES**  
**BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**(VCBA)**



**Constitution and By-Laws**

# Victorian Churches Basketball Association

## Constitution

### **1. Name**

The name of the Incorporated Association is The Victorian Churches Basketball Association.

### **2. Umbrella Constitution**

As an affiliated body this Association accepts the Constitution of the Victorian Basketball Association as its guiding constitution.

### **3. Membership**

Player – Any currently registered player is considered a member of this Association.

Team – A team must be connected with a Baptist church or another Christian denomination and must follow the rules set down on their application form.

Non Playing Member – Any person elected or appointed to a position by the Association at a member's annual meeting.

### **4. Registration Fees and Subscriptions**

Apart from an Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee shall have the power to set appropriate fees for each season.

### **5. Annual General Meetings**

The Association shall in each calendar year convene an Annual General Meeting to be held prior to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Appropriate notice shall be given to members prior to the meeting (14 days).

The ordinary business of the meeting shall:-

- i. Confirm minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
- ii. Receive reports from the Executive Committee.
- iii. Receive a detailed financial report which has been audited.
- iv. Elect Office Bearers for the coming year.
- v. Transact any special business which may occur.

### **6. Special General Meeting**

If the need arises these meetings can be called in the following ways:-

- i. The Executive Committee can call a meeting at any time
- ii. The Executive Committee at the written request of 12 team representatives would be duty bound to call a meeting within 21 days of such a request being received.

## **7. Proceedings at Meetings**

- i. All business conducted at any meetings shall be conducted under normal business practice and appropriate minutes kept.
- ii. A quorum shall be 25 people (refer item 3).
- iii. The President or in his absence a member of the so elected shall preside at each meeting of the Association.
- iv. All voting shall be a show of hands.

## **8. Committee of Management**

Between Annual General Meetings the affairs of the association will be conducted by an Executive Committee elected to do so.

The committee shall comprise of the following:-

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Score Secretary
- Committee Member – Outreach
- Committee Member – Carnival

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled a ballot shall be held. Any person aspiring to be an office bearer of the Association must have written endorsement supplied by the Minister or appropriate responsible persons from their church. The committee would meet on a needs basis and at least four (4) times per year.

## **9. Auditor**

An auditor shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting and shall be a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person.

## **10. Cheques**

All Executive Members shall be cheque signatories with any two to sign.

## **11. Association Business**

The Executive Committee between the Annual General Meetings shall have the power to conduct all aspects of the running of the Association including all details regarding new season's application forms, playing conditions, etc.

# Victorian Baptist Basketball Association

## By-Laws

1. To enter the competition, teams must follow the registration procedure set down prior to the season.
2. Each player must be an amateur and must sign the application form to register. The Association also requires an agreement from the church to which the team is affiliated with, for use of the church name by that team.
3. All teams must be registered with the registration form for the coming season. Additional unregistered players must register by completing registration details on the computer system at the stadium and by completing the individual player registration form available from the canteen manager. Failure to register on the night of their first game will render team match points void. If after the above said conditions the player is still unregistered, loss of premiership points will also occur for the following matches involving that player until the player is correctly registered.

It is the team's responsibility to ensure that all registration conditions are strictly adhered to including players commencing during that current season. No notice needs to be given by the Score Secretary but should be noted on the ladder at the first opportunity.

4. A player shall not play in any more than one (1) team within the Association during the season, except with the express approval of the Executive for the case of a transfer or where a player is moving between teams of their clubs as outlined below. A player shall not play in more than one (1) game during a night of play, except in the case of preventing a walkover. No premiership points will be awarded to the second team and a 20-0 score will be recorded.

A player may play in a higher grade within their own club for a maximum of two (2) matches. Beyond this time, they become bound to this team and cannot return to their previous team. Players cannot drop to a lower grade within their own club. A player may transfer clubs once during the season provided both teams give written approval to the Secretary prior to transfer. The team accepting the player may be subject to upgrading. The player would be subject to finals qualifications with their new club – refer By Law 14.

5. Any club failing to send a delegate to a General Business Meeting shall be subject to a fine equal to that of the nightly team sheet fee.

6. The Association shall be notified of each team's colours and/or changes prior to commencement of each season for ratification by the committee. New teams must obtain permission from the committee for their colours. Colours are allocated on a priority basis and when there is a clash of colours the team that has been in the Association for the least amount of time must provide alternative tops.
7. All players must be in correct uniform. Each player who is not will incur a loss of five (5) points per infraction for that match. Correct singlets and shorts shall constitute a full team uniform. It is the job of the referees to make sure that this is correctly recorded on the score sheet. Player's fingernails must be cut or taped if protruding beyond the fingertips. All ear rings and jewellery must be removed before the start of the game.
8. Singlet numbers on the front shall be 10cm (4") and on the back 20cm (8") in size. Illegal numbers shall be regarded as incorrect uniform. All numbers must be the same colour. Taped or textured numbers are not permitted and will incur penalties as set out above. Illegal numbers are: 00, 1, 2, 3, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 36, 37, 38, 39, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 56 onwards.
9. COMMENCING THE GAME, SUBSTITUTIONS, AND TIME-OUTS
  - All games during the fixture season will run on a straight twenty (20) minutes for both halves.
  - **Commencing the game – referees must not start the clock until they have blown the whistle loudly and moved to the centre and called centres. They must continue to call centres until the players respond.**
  - The clock will not stop in a fixture match except for a referee's time out and when the score is 6 points or less at the 60 second mark of the second half.
  - Substitutions must be made in the shortest time possible. There is no maximum permissible time for substitution. No substitutions are allowed in the last minute of play in either half except for the case of an injured player or a player receiving five (5) fouls. The substitute player must enter the court as soon as possible. No one (1) minute time out allowance is given for replacing a player with five (5) fouls during any stage of the game.
  - Time outs are of 60 seconds maximum duration. One (1) time out per half shall apply. No time outs will be allowed during the last (3) minutes of matches. At 50 seconds the referees must signal 10 seconds and move to their correct positions. Once time in is called the team with the ball has 5 seconds to put the ball into play. If they fail to do this a violation should be called and the ball awarded to the opposing side. **During all time outs both referees are to ensure that no spectators come onto the court.**

**FOR FINALS:-** Two (2) time outs per half per team. The clock shall stop on all time outs and on all whistles in the last three (3) minutes of play. The Executive Committee can adjust the timing regulations as deemed necessary in accordance with the rules of the game.

10. Each team must supply an official scorer(s) on the bench for the duration of the match. The game can commence with one (1) scorer, however any protests from the team not represented will not be recognised.

Premiership points will be allocated as followed:-

Win – 3 points

Draw – 2 points

Loss – 1 point

Bye – 3 points

Forfeit or walkover – 0 points

Teams receiving a forfeit or walkover will receive 3 match points and a 20-0 point score.

11. For each minute or part thereof that a team is late, the opponents are awarded 1 point. A maximum of 10 points shall be allowed until a walkover occurs and a score of 20-0 will be recorded.
12. For giving a walkover, a fine will be imposed. The fine shall be equal to the team sheet fees for both teams involved in the match. The team giving the walkover will not be permitted to play in the competition until the fine is paid to the venue. Players of the attending team in the walkover must write their name, number and sign the back of the scoresheet to indicate actual presence. This can then be recorded as games played in terms of finals qualifications etc. Notified walkovers can be given, but this must be done well in advance, and there will still be a cost to the venue to be incurred.
13. Any player who does not score, foul, or take a free throw during a fixture game must write their name, number and sign the back of the scoresheet for ratification by the score secretary. Any player playing under an assumed name will result in that player being disqualified for 6 matches and the team concerned losing 10 premiership points.
14. To play in the finals, a player must have played in at least 6 games of the fixture matches excluding byes. It is the responsibility of each team manager to organise their teams in such a way that they reach the finals with a minimum of 5 qualified players.
  - In the event of a player's injury or medical condition being sufficient to render a player unable to participate in finals, a procedure may be followed to allow a team to take the court. This procedure is only available to teams who have been left with 5 or less players due to injury or medical condition;
  - If this procedure is requested by a team, then the player/s must submit a medical certificate, stating their inability to play, to the Executive Committee **before** the last round of the season. The next most qualified player on that team's list will then be permitted to replace the injured player;
  - There will be no player supplementation for teams that have insufficient numbers of qualified players for other than health related reason;
  - Teams that have five (5) players who have qualified for the finals will be allowed to participate in the final series. Teams with four or less qualified players will be

removed from the finals series and the team ranked fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) on the ladder, will be installed as the fourth-placed team;

- The Executive Committee have the authority to waive this requirement in the case of absences due to ministry service, provided the player was previously registered with the team in that particular season and that such request is presented to the Executive Committee prior to the player being absent;

15. All matches will be conducted under the Official Basketball Rules of the Australian Basketball Federation with modifications deemed necessary by the Association. All conditions and regulations in the V.B.A. constitution dealing with reporting players shall apply to the VCBA.
16. Any team desiring to lodge a protest in respect to any match should endorse the scoresheet. The official protest must be lodged in writing to the Secretary within 48 hours of the match.
17. Any player sent off the court by the referee can take no further part in the game and must vacate the player's bench. If the player continues to be unruly the referee can eject them from the stadium. If a referee wishes to report a player for any offence, they must obtain a report form from the venue, fill it in and return it to the venue manager. Notation of any report must also be made on the back of the score sheet. The venue manager will then notify the tribunal secretary with 24 hours. Reported players who do not attend a Tribunal hearing without adequate reason will have two (2) weeks added to their suspension in accordance with the V.B.A. Tribunal rules.
18. Any player suspended by the V.B.A. Tribunal will not be eligible for the Best player or Most Valuable Player award relevant to that season. However, if the suspension occurs during the finals, the award will stand.
19. A best on court or most valuable player award for each grand final will also be adjudged on the night itself.
20. Any players reported for misconduct of any kind can be referred to the V.B.A. Tribunal and any penalties incurred will apply.
21. To be eligible to play in an Australian Baptist Carnival, players must fall into one of the categories below:-
  - A registered player in the VBBA during the current or previous season.
  - A member of a Baptist church or other Christian church.
  - At the discretion of the Committee for reasons such as involvement in the VBBA over several years.
  - All team lists must be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval prior to the carnival.
  - An audited financial statement showing all transactions by the Carnival group must be presented to the Executive Committee after each carnival.