



MRDCA 2026/27 Senior Bylaws

Preamble – Spirit of Cricket

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws, but also within the Spirit of Cricket. The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, match officials and, especially in junior cricket, teachers, coaches and parents.

Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket.

- Respect your captain, team-mates, opponents and the authority of the umpires.
- Play hard and play fair.
- Accept the umpire's decision.
- Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct and encourage others to do likewise.
- Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.
- Congratulate the opposition on their successes and enjoy those of your own team.
- Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result.

Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket.

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Version Control

Version	Date	Amendment
1.0	5 October 2026	Draft
1.1	8 October 2026	2026/27 First Release

Glossary Of Terms

1. All references to the “Association” shall be taken to mean the Manning River District Cricket Association Incorporated.
2. The only official abbreviations for the Association shall be:
 - a. MRDCA Inc.
 - b. MRDCA
3. Abbreviations used herein:
 - a. MCC Marylebone Cricket Club (governing body of world cricket)
 - b. CNSW Cricket New South Wales Cricket
 - c. MNCCC Mid North Coast Cricket Council
 - d. MRDCA Board MRDCA Board of Directors
 - e. MRDCUSA Manning River District Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association
 - f. JMS Johnny Martin Shield
 - g. MDMS Mick Dobson Memorial Shield
 - h. CDS Chris Dempsey Shield
 - i. PlayHQ The online platform used for management of MRDCA competitions
4. Definitions:
 - a. Playing Age The age of a player on the 31st August for the current season.

Bylaw 1 – COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

- 1.1 The Competition shall be formally known as the Manning River District Cricket Competition (the “Competition”). The MRDCA Board has the right to change the name of the competition in accordance with any corporate agreements for sponsorship and/or naming rights.
- 1.2 The Competition will consist of 3 grades playing 40 over one day matches.
 - a. 1st Grade will be known as the Johnny Martin Shield.
 - b. 2nd Grade will be known as the Mick Dobson Memorial Shield.
 - c. 3rd Grade will be known as the Chris Dempsey Shield.
- 1.3 A Rules Committee Chairperson will be invited at/after the AGM and have autonomy to select a committee and carry out a review of the previous season’s Playing Conditions and Bylaws. Any amendments to the MCC Laws of Cricket will be reviewed prior to the new season commencing.

Bylaw 2 – SEASON

- 2.1 The competition shall commence and be completed on dates to be determined by the MRDCA Board.

Bylaw 3 – FIXTURES

- 3.1 Fixtures for each grade will be prepared by the CNSW Competition Manager in consultation with the MRDCA Board.
- 3.2 Fixtures will be compiled and presented to the MRDCA Board for formal sign off and made available on PlayHQ prior to the first competition match.
- 3.3 Should the Fixtures Committee deem it necessary to alter any fixtures during the season, the clubs affected shall be advised by the MRDCA Board by email, text message or any other method deemed appropriate. Every effort will be made to have late changes notified to the club affected. Such information will also be available on PlayHQ where practical.

Bylaw 4 – NOMINATION OF TEAMS and PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- 4.1 The cutoff date for nomination of teams will be determined by the MRDCA Board.
- 4.2 Team nomination fees will be set by the MRDCA Board following the AGM and budget review.
- 4.3 All players must be registered for the current season on PlayHQ.
- 4.4 Player registration lapses when:
 - a. The player transfers to another Association, unless they have applied for dual registration status.
 - b. The player is not recorded as playing a match during one complete cricket season.
 - c. At the annual renewal date.
- 4.5 New players can register at any time during the season but must meet qualification rules to participate in finals.
- 4.6

Bylaw 5 – TRANSFERS and CLEARANCES

- 5.1 Any player seeking to relocate to another club, must arrange a PlayHQ transfer from their most recent club prior to the player being eligible to play for the new club.
- 5.2 If a player has not played since PlayHQ was adopted, transfers must be done in writing from their most recent club.
- 5.3 Players that are new to the area are to be provisionally graded prior to playing, as per **Bylaw 6.4.i**.
- 5.4 Any players that have not previously played senior cricket are not required to get a clearance or grading prior to playing in the MRDCA for the first time.
- 5.5 Any club providing a PlayHQ transfer for a player signifies, whether express or implied, that the relocating player has fulfilled all obligations to that club and is free of debt to that club.

Furthermore, the club cannot later pursue the relocating player for any monies subsequently discovered to be owing.

- 5.6 Any club, upon receiving a PlayHQ transfer request from a player, shall act upon the request in a diligent and prompt manner.
- 5.7 If a club has not provided a response to a PlayHQ transfer within 7 days of having received it, the MRDCA Board may, upon request from the relocating player, intervene on the player's behalf and make a ruling on the transfer after making enquiries, if any, as deemed necessary.
- 5.8 A player may be registered with only one club within a competition. The MRDCA Board may, upon application, grant special exemptions.
- 5.9 Mid-season relocations are allowed when the following conditions are met:
 - a. The player receives a PlayHQ transfer from their original club. Note: The original club has the right to decline a transfer after the player has played at least one match in the current season, even when all financial obligations have been met.
 - b. The player is not under any form of suspension from the original club and/or the Association.

NB: the word "club(s)" is also deemed to read as "team(s)".

Bylaw 6 – GRADINGS

- 6.1 Grading criteria for all grades will be decided by the Grading Committee and distributed to the clubs prior to the commencement of each season and will remain in place until the next season.
- 6.2 The Grading Committee will meet within one (1) month of the AGM and then as required by the MRDCA Board.
- 6.3 Players will not be eligible for re-grading to a lower grade unless a written request from their club is submitted to the Grading Committee Chairman.
- 6.4 Grading guidelines:

The grading committee shall be responsible for setting grading criteria each season, however the following guidelines should apply:

 - a. The top 50 participating players on PlayHQ in each grade from the previous season shall be assessed by the Grading Committee for regrading prior to the commencement of the coming season. Each club shall be notified of any re-grading relevant to their clubs.
 - b. Any player participating in the MRDCA junior competition for the current season will be ungraded.
 - c. Players aged under 18 on the 1st of September prior to the current season will be graded no higher than 2nd grade.
 - d. Players over the age of 40 on the 1st of September prior to the current season can have their grading reassessed by applying in writing, stating the reason behind the request to the Grading Committee Chairman.
 - e. Ungraded players are eligible to play in any grade.
 - f. Any desired regrading can be requested in writing by the club stating the statistics of the request to the Grading Committee Chairman. Grading requests must be submitted no later than 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the players first scheduled match.
 - g. Any player who interrupts their continuity with the MRDCA and returns to play will resume at the same level at which they were last graded.
 - h. New players who have never played before, will be ungraded and may play in any grade however, performances will be scrutinised.
 - i. Players transferring from another association must apply for grading prior to participating in the MRDCA. Recent playing history must be provided to the Grading Committee. The grading application along with playing history records must be

submitted by 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the players first scheduled match. The MRDCA Board or the Grading Committee reserves the right to re-grade or otherwise impose restrictions on the player if it is considered that their performance or ability indicates that they should be graded to a higher level. Where a person's playing history is unclear, it is recommended that the MRDCA Board should be consulted before that person participates in a match.

- j. Any player may play above their grade.
- k. The Grading Committee at their discretion can set restrictions on players.

Bylaw 7 – MULTIPLE TEAMS IN SAME GRADE

- 7.1 A club can field multiple teams in the same grade only after:
 - a. The club is represented in all grades.
 - or
 - b. On receiving written approval from the MRDCA Board.
- 7.2 Where a club has multiple teams in the same grade:
 - a. The teams shall be deemed to be separate teams, and no player shall be exchanged between the teams over the course of the season.
 - b. Players are bound to the team which they first play for.
 - c. Any junior player with "playing age" of 16 or less may float between the teams during the preliminary rounds when necessary. Players must still meet the qualification criteria for a team to play for that team in the finals.
 - d. The teams are not permitted to play each other in the final two rounds of the competition.

Bylaw 8 – POINTS ALLOTMENT

- 8.1 In each grade points shall be awarded as follows:

One day win	6
Draw / Tie / Washout in one day match	3
Bye	3
Win on forfeit	6
Unqualified player breach	-6
Junior pace bowling restriction breach	-6
Restricted player breach	-6
Use of incorrect ball	-6
Results recording breach	-2
Forfeit	As per Bylaw 8.4
Non-attendance at MRDCA meeting	As per Bylaw 13

- 8.2 Unqualified player breach

An unqualified player is classified as, but not limited to:

- An unregistered player.
- A player playing below their permitted grade.

Penalty: -6 points

- 8.3 Restricted player breach

A restricted player breach applies to players scoring more runs or taking more wickets than allowed by their restricted grading.

Penalty: -6 points

- 8.4 Forfeit – advised and non-advised

The offending club will be penalised as follows:

- a. If the forfeiting team is the club's 1st lowest grade, the club will be fined \$300.
- b. If the forfeiting team is the club's 2nd lowest grade, the club will be fined \$400.

- c. If the forfeiting team is the club's 3rd lowest grade, the club will be fined \$500.
- d. The club cannot accumulate points for any team in any grade lower than the grade forfeited.
- e. Any fines must be paid to the MRDCA by midnight Wednesday following scheduled completion of the forfeited match.
- f. Submissions to the MRDCA Board can be made in exceptional circumstances.

Example 1: A one team club would be fined \$300.00 because the one team is their 1st lowest grade.

Example 2: If a club forfeits 1st grade, then that club cannot accumulate any points in the lower grades. If that club had forfeited 3rd grade, then the 1st and 2nd grade teams could have accumulated points.

- 8.5 The MRDCA Board has the power to decide on deduction of points for result sheet and non-attendance misdemeanours, where it is considered that there has been a manipulation of the final points score and/or it has been determined that where two teams from the same club have played each other and the scores have been entered on PlayHQ by one person.

Bylaw 9 – FINALS – ORDER OF PLAY

- 9.1 Ladder positions shall be determined by the MRDCA Board following completion of the final round match and recording of results.
- 9.2 In the event of two or more teams having equal points at the end of the round matches, the competition table will be decided on quotient as shown on PlayHQ. Quotient is determined as a team's season batting average divided by its season bowling average.
- 9.3 A team that is all out will be determined as having lost 10 wickets.
- 9.4 For competitions of 5 or more teams, the finals structure will be a 3-week format:
 - a. Week 1
(QF) Qualifying Final = 1 v 2
(EF) Elimination Final = 3 v 4
 - b. Week 2
(PF) Preliminary Final = Loser of QF v Winner of EF
 - c. Week 3
(GF) Grand Final = Winner of QF v Winner of PF
 - d. For team rankings in the case of abandoned matches, the winner of QF will be considered the higher ranked team in the GF.
- 9.5 For competitions of less than 5 teams, the finals structure will be a 2-week format:
 - a. Week 1
(PF) Preliminary Final = 2 v 3
 - b. Week 2
(GF) Grand Final = 1 v Winner of PF
- 9.6 The MRDCA Board, at its discretion, may split a grade for finals to allow greater participation. Where a grade is split, the fixtures committee will make a recommendation to the MRDCA Board on the make-up of the newly created divisions.
- 9.7 Higher ranked teams will be given the first preference for ground allocations, however the MRDCA Board and Fixtures Committee reserve the right to allocate matches to any available ground.
- 9.8 Where possible, 2nd and 3rd grade finals may be played on a turf wicket.
- 9.9 The MRDCA Board and Fixtures Committee will schedule a reserve playing day which can only be used in the event of the grand final being washed out.

Bylaw 10 – PLAYER QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

- 10.1 A player must play in 20% of current season matches in a grade to be eligible to participate in finals series matches for that grade.
- 10.2 A player may play in a higher grade finals series game (subject to qualification), however they may not play in a grade lower than that which they have qualified.
- 10.3 Where a grade is split mid-season, matches played both before and after the split will count towards qualification for the finals.
Example: If a player is graded 2nd grade, then to qualify for the 2nd grade finals that player must play in a minimum of 20% of the available 2nd grade playing days during the season. The number of days played in higher grades is irrelevant where a person has met the qualification criteria in any particular grade. This scenario would also make the player eligible to play in 1st grade matches.
- 10.4 Players that relocate mid-season in accordance with rule 14(g) must satisfy the qualification criteria with their new club, as stated in rules 22(a) to 22(d), to be eligible to participate in finals series matches.
- 10.5 The inclusion of byes does not affect the 20% rule.
Example: If a grade has 15 rounds including byes, players must play in a minimum of 3 matches to qualify for finals.

Bylaw 11 – ALCOHOL POLICY

- 11.1 The consumption of alcohol is not permitted by any player or club/association official, either participating in or involved in a game organised by the MRDCA. This policy is inclusive of Representative Matches that have been organised by the MNCCC. Where such action is believed to be a contributing factor in behaviour or spirit of the game breaches, the matter may be referred under the CNSW Code of Conduct.
- 11.2 Note that Mid Coast Council policy does not permit alcohol on the playing area of the Taree Regional Recreational Ground or glass bottles on any council field (On the spot fines may be imposed).
- 11.3 Consumption of alcohol off the playing field by spectators and incidents that may arise, are not within the power of the Association, but it is expected that clubs will take some control where spectators are supporters of their club.

Bylaw 12 – ASSOCIATION FINANCE

- 12.1 The Association treasurer shall, from time to time, in accordance with resolutions of the MRDCA Board, issue accounts for fees. All accounts shall be issued to clubs at the next available general meeting, and/or via email. Such accounts are payable within 21 days of issue. Any club which has not paid the account within this time shall be deemed as un-financial unless an exemption has been applied for in writing and granted by the MRDCA Board prior to the expiration of the time within which the account is to be paid.
- 12.2 The payment of team nomination fees is due by the end of November.
- 12.3 Any club deemed to be un-financial shall receive no further competition points until the club becomes financial. Any club deemed to be un-financial shall be charged a levy of 10% per month until it becomes financial. Un-financial clubs shall be excluded from finals.
- 12.4 The MRDCA Board is also empowered to expel an un-financial club from membership of the Association and to refuse re-admission where requests to pay debts have not been honoured.
- 12.5 Where a club has become defunct and is in debt to the Association, its members may register with another club. This is on the proviso that they pay their portion of the debt owing OR provide documentary evidence in a form acceptable to the Association that they have

- fulfilled all their obligations to the defunct club. Such evidence shall include, but not be limited to, proper receipts or a Statutory Declaration that they have fulfilled their obligations.
- 12.6 In order that any such evidence provided to the Association by a player may be verified, the Association shall have the power to demand delivery from the last known executive members of the defunct club, of all the financial records of the club to the Secretary of the Association. Failure to so deliver these records shall not necessarily prejudice a player's application for re-registration and every such application shall be judged on its own merits.
- 12.7 The amount to be paid to the Association by or on behalf of a player shall be calculated by dividing the amount owing at the date the club became defunct by the number of players registered by the club with the Association at that date.
- 12.8 The provisions of Bylaw 12.2 and 12.3 shall apply to but not be limited to moneys owed to The Association, any umpire for umpiring fees and any monies owed to other clubs in respect of Playing Condition 1.7.c. At the discretion of the MRDCA Board, they may be extended to include any debts incurred by a club, particularly, but not restricted to, instances where it is considered that the associated financial mismanagement may bring the Association, the game of Cricket and/or any other club into disrepute.

Bylaw 13 – CLUB OBLIGATIONS

- 13.1 Any member club of the Association which is not represented by at least one delegate at any Association general meeting shall be penalised as follows:
- \$100 fine for first offence during the current season.
 - \$200 fine and loss of 5 competition points for second offence during the current season.
 - \$300 fine and loss of 10 competition points for third and subsequent offences during the current season.
- 13.2 Point's penalties shall be applied to every team in every grade in which the club is represented.
- 13.3 Such meetings include all regular season meetings, the AGM, the Planning meeting, and any other official meeting as notified by the executive, in accordance with the constitution.
- 13.4 Clubs may apply in writing to the MRDCA Board for leave from any scheduled Association meeting. Applications for leave must adhere to the following conditions:
- Must be submitted prior to the meeting in question.
 - Must include reasons for requesting leave.
- 13.5 Applications for leave will be assessed by the MRDCA Board as necessary.

Bylaw 14 – SEASON AWARDS

- 14.1 Competition prize money
- Prize money will be awarded as follows:

1 st Grade Major Premiers	\$1000
1 st Grade Runner Up	\$450
1 st Grade Minor Premiers	\$400
1 st Grade Player Of the Year	\$200
2 nd Grade Major Premiers	\$400
2 nd Grade Runner Up	\$150
2 nd Grade Minor Premiers	\$150
2 nd Grade Player Of the Year	\$100
3 rd Grade Player Of The Year	\$75*

*Only players with "playing age" 17 or less are eligible for 3rd grade player of the year.
 - Clubs must be present at the MRDCA presentation night to receive prize money.

- c. Individuals must be present at the MRDCA presentation night to receive prize money. Where an individual cannot attend, a nominated representative can receive prize money in their absence.
- d. Trophies will be awarded to clubs or individuals that are absent from the presentation night.

14.2 Qualification for individual awards

- a. Batting 150 runs
- b. Bowling 15 wickets
- c. The player must have played a minimum of 3 matches in the grade.
- d. Players with grading restrictions are not eligible for awards
- e. Any player found guilty of an offence by the NSW Code of Conduct Commissioner or NSW Judiciary Committee shall be ineligible to win any Association awards for that season.

14.3 Club championship

- a. The Club Championship will be awarded to the club that accrues the most points based on the following calculation:
 - i. 1st grade x3
 - ii. 2nd grade x2
 - iii. 3rd grade x1
- b. To be eligible to win the Club Championship, a club must have a 1st grade team and all teams in the club must complete the full season. Any team withdrawn or that forfeits a match will render the club ineligible. Exceptional circumstances will be considered by the MRDCA Board.
- c. Where a grade is split, all divisions will have the same multiplier applied.