

South Metropolitan Cricket Association

MINUTES of the General Meeting 12 May 2025

Venue: Thornlie Clubrooms, 7:00pm



PRESENT: As per attached attendance sheet

APOLOGIES: Jacob Landsmeer, Joe Covic

ABSENT: Kelmscott, Perth Tamil, Leeming Spartan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Peter welcomed Ferndale Lynwood back to SMCA.

AGENDA ITEMS

From Riverton-Rostrata

1 Consent for Live-Stream / Footage, Images, Sound

At the CricketWest forum held in September at the WACA, advice was provided regarding the use of Live-Streaming technology (i.e. Frogbox) and the subsequent use of footage, images and/or sounds for training or promotional purposes.

There are a few versions of consent forms, where participants provide consent to appear in Live Stream and footage, images etc. This is particularly relevant for young participants (people under the age of 18), where the advice from CricketWest was related to safeguarding young people from harm (e.g stalkers, harassers etc).

Part of the advice was also that the owner of the technology (i.e. the home club), is responsible for gaining consent from visiting players to appear in live or subsequent footage. And if an incident were to occur, then the home club would be liable. Based on this advice, RRCC contacted many clubs prior to home fixtures to confirm that all young players had provided consent to appear in the footage. Some clubs were not even aware of this process or the repercussions of inaction.

Propose a by-law to the effect that it will be assumed that all matches will be live streamed, and footage and images from those videos can and will be used by clubs for their purposes. If any registered players do not consent, then it should be the responsibility of that member's club to inform other clubs. This would reduce the level of administration, where currently multiple emails would need to be sent every week

between multiple clubs to confirm everyone consents.

Further, the proposed by-law could include wording to the effect that all clubs should include a statement related to consent in their PlayHQ registration, so that all players have the opportunity to give that consent automatically when registering (also reducing the additional administration).

This refers to the matter of adding custom registration questions in PlayHQ at the club level and amending the By-Laws. Riverton Rostrata Cricket Club spoke in support of the proposal, highlighting the flexibility and communication benefits of club-specific data collection.

Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed by all member clubs that:

- The SMCA will implement an updated or new By-Law to address consent for the use of images and video recordings taken during matches.
- The PlayHQ registration process will be updated to include a standard consent clause for being filmed or photographed.

This ensures that all clubs and participants are aligned with current expectations regarding media use and privacy. It also promotes transparency and protects both the Association and its members in the growing digital media landscape.

2 Forfeiting Matches

The way that clubs operate is changing, and it is becoming more prevalent for groups of ~15 people to request to join a club but in effect play as "their own team". The benefits of such an arrangement are increased participation for the club and the association, which carries both financial and cricketing advantages. The challenges typically revolve around administering such a team amongst an existing club infrastructure, and selecting which grade to place the group in. The safe option is to put them in the lowest grade, given the club doesn't have much control over player availability amongst that team, and if they forfeit, they do so as the lowest team per by-law 12.d.

However, putting them as the lowest grade may be below their ability, which makes it unfair on the other teams in that grade, and the other grades within that club. Hence, clubs do often take the risk of grading them appropriately. This however leaves the club open to the mercy of having forfeits in a higher grade and subsequently gutting a lower grade, or having to promote players to a higher grade where they are not suited to play.

Propose a change to by-law 12.d: it currently requires the lowest grade team in a club structure to have to forfeit; amend to allow clubs to forfeit any grade as they deem necessary. There would need to be subsequent controls related to how many players can drop to lower grades, but this could be similar to by-law 10.a: playing conditions

during byes, where a maximum of 2 players from the last fixture can drop to a lower grade.

A proposal was raised and discussed regarding allowing clubs to forfeit a team in any grade. The intent behind this proposal is to provide clubs with greater flexibility in managing unforeseen circumstances such as player shortages.

During discussion, some clubs expressed concern that this flexibility could be open to abuse. A question was raised as to whether clubs should be held accountable or “called out” publicly if forfeits appear to be non-genuine or are perceived to impact competition integrity.

To address these concerns while still trialling the idea, a compromise was suggested: to implement the change only in the one-day grades for an initial trial period.

Following a vote, the proposal was carried by 13 votes to 5, and it was agreed to trial this forfeiture policy in one-day grades only for the 2025–26 season. The outcomes of the trial will be reviewed at the end of the season to determine whether expansion to other grades is appropriate.

3. Number of Teams / Composition of Grades

Prompt to have an open forum discussion with all present member clubs on by-law 51.b "Clubs with three or more teams must nominate at least one team in a two-day grade". Is this by-law still appropriate for the times? Understand the desire of the SMCA to preserve the integrity of two-day cricket, but do the demands of modern life and the number of sports and activities available to participants still pertain to the requirements of being available for two-day cricket.

Riverton-Rostrata reaffirmed its support for two-day cricket but acknowledged a growing trend among players who prefer the one-day format. Similarly, Armadale Cricket Club referred to a decline in interest in two-day cricket, suggesting a broader shift in player expectations and availability.

Discussion was also held regarding promotion and relegation processes within the one-day grades. Questions were raised about consistency and fairness in grading outcomes. Peter Anderson, on behalf of the Fixtures and Gradings Committee, advised that the committee worked diligently with the available information and did its best to apply the grading criteria fairly and transparently.

A formal request was made to relax By-Law 51b, which governs grading procedures and restrictions. Following open discussion, the motion was put to a vote and carried 14 votes to 7, allowing greater flexibility in grading decisions for the 2025–26 season.

From Steve Kemp

1. Suggestion: From 2025/26 onward, only 1 Umpire in 1st Grade.

Thought Process: Umpires are a finite resource. We don't have enough of them. Reducing the Umpires in 1st Grade would give us a greater level of coverage within our association. This could be reviewed if umpire numbers are increased.

CBC acknowledged the need to provide incentives for both playing and umpiring in First Grade. Ian Hale noted that the use of a single umpire in First Grade had been trialled in previous years, but this led to some umpires leaving to officiate in other associations. David King mentioned that he had spoken with several umpires at the Umpires Windup, and there were indications that implementing a single-umpire system in First Grade could result in more umpires leaving the association.

There was general consensus among the clubs that this proposal should not be pursued.

2. Suggestion: Team Nomination fees reduced for Lower One Day Grades, without umpires.

Thought Process: The lower One Day only grades rarely get umpires. To me, it's unfair that clubs must pay the same amount of money to nominate a 1st Grade side as they do an ODI side, when they (1st Grade) clearly get vastly different levels of service from the SMCA. You may argue that umpires are paid for by clubs, which is true, but lower grades don't get that option.

There was discussion on this matter and the feeling was that the suggestion not be pursued.

3. Suggestion: All One Day Grades become first past the post. E.g. The game finishes once a result is achieved.

Thought Process: Poor player behaviour (which leads to P&D's) often takes place during junk time (E.g. when the game is over). No junk time hopefully means less bad behaviour (P&D's).

There was general agreement with the suggestion, accompanied by discussion regarding whether matches should be 35 or 40 overs in duration. This matter will be given further consideration by the SMCA.

4. Suggestion: 5th Grade to 7th Grade (or whichever is the lowest 2-day grade) become a 7-team competition. (1st Grade to 4th Grade remain 8 team grades).

Thought Process:

- 6 x 1 day & 6 x 2 day = 18-week fixture.
- No Sunday cricket required, no need for end of season 1-day games under 2-day

rules.

- Byes are built into the fixture. This allows for these grades to not play around busy times of the year (be that the start of the season, around test matches or holidays like Xmas & New Years).

Benefits:

- Teams with a Bye are required to provide two (2) players to umpire. These players/umpires will then umpire in a different grade to which they ordinarily play (no impact or favouritism within a grade) and be paid for their work (through the usual process of the SMCA invoicing clubs).
- This gives players a better appreciation for what umpires do. Gives the SMCA more umpires. Also allows for clubs with player shortages at various times to assist other grades within their club structure, provided current by-laws are adhered to.

The theory behind the proposal was that it would reduce the season from 21 days to 18; however, this is not achievable in practice, as a seven-team competition would still require 21 match days. It was proposed that teams with a bye supply umpires for other grades, with those umpires to be remunerated. Armadale noted that this system has been effective in other sports. The final recommendation was to trial this approach in the one-day grades for the upcoming season. However, when put to a vote, the proposal was defeated, with 8 votes against and 6 in favour.

5. Suggestion: All One Day grades become a 9-team competition.

Thought Process:

- This provides an even home and away fixture, whilst maintaining an 18-week fixture. Currently, some teams play three times, others play twice.
- Allows for these grades to not play around busy times of the year (be that the start of the season, around test matches or holidays like Xmas & New Years).
- Teams with a Bye are required to provide two (2) players to umpire. These players/umpires will then umpire in a different grade to which they ordinarily play (no impact or favouritism within a grade) and be paid for their work (through the usual process of the SMCA invoicing clubs).
- This gives players a better appreciation for what umpires do. Gives the SMCA more umpires. Also allows for clubs with player shortages at various times to assist other grades within the club structure, provided current by-laws are adhered to.

There was no support for this suggestion.

6. Suggestion: In all 2-day grades, the “bonus points” for runs and wickets in the 3rd and 4th innings are not awarded unless the Outright win is achieved.

Thought Process:

- This would discourage clubs from playing junk time cricket where one side goes out to bat for 10 overs and slogs.
- This would encourage captains to be more proactive about progressing the game, should they wish to genuinely attempt for an outright win.

There was general discussion on this matter, a quotient system in the premiership table was suggested, this is already available in PayHQ. The suggestion not to be pursued at this time.

7. Suggestion: 35 Over One Day Grades - Wides & No-Balls are not re-bowled unless it's the final over of the innings. Wides & No-Balls are worth 2 runs.

Thought Process:

- This should reduce the time spent in the field for both sides and better assists sides to get through their overs within the time restrictions set in the by-laws.
- Flow on effect is that there will be less P&D's, as players aren't complaining about having to play cricket in the dark or for an hour after the scheduled close of play.

There was discussion but no support for this suggestion.

8. Suggestion: The P&D process needs to be reviewed.

Thought Process:

- Too few must spend far too long dealing with petty squabbles, often caused by poor player behaviour and/or an inability to follow the by-laws. More Club involvement is required.
- All Clubs are required to provide one (1) person to join the P&D Roster for the season.
- The SMCA Executive will provide two (2) members each week to facilitate the process.
- Each week of the season, the Clubs will be rostered on to help with sitting on a P&D.
- SMCA Executive members will join two (2) rostered Club members.
- If the Clubs are going to make these issues, they can also be a part of managing the problem.
- Suggest that any suspension results in a Club Penalty. Level 1 Offences incur \$100 minimum Club fine. Level 2 Offences incur a \$250.00 minimum Club fine.

There was general agreement with the suggestion, with the SMCA to provide a roster of clubs to assist with the P&D Tribunal—two clubs, along with a backup, to be scheduled each week. The SMCA will also pursue the potential of conducting P&D hearings online via Microsoft Teams, a method that has already been used successfully in some instances.

From SMCA Executive

The 12 player rule brought in for this season has caused some concerns. It was apparent that this rule was being abused by some – players were being qualified for finals although they did not attend the match. Recommend that the 12 player rule be abandoned.

Both Kardinya Lakes and North Baldivis expressed support for the 12-player rule, with North Baldivis also submitting a written proposal (see attached) outlining a method to address potential abuse of finals qualification—specifically, the practice of naming a player who does not attend the match.

Maddington raised concerns regarding recent decisions made by the Review Committee, stating that some appeared to contravene the By-Laws. Peter Anderson acknowledged that certain decisions had been surprising; however, he reaffirmed that the Review Committee operates independently and that its decisions are final. The Executive will further consider the role and processes of the Review Committee at upcoming meetings. Additionally, Maddington highlighted an issue of poor communication between the Association and their club, for which the Association issued an apology.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

East Fremantle requested an amendment to the By-Laws to address situations where artificial lights are activated due to circumstances beyond the club's control.

Willetton proposed a By-Law amendment to allow for up to 30 minutes of additional play in finals matches where a result is imminent at the scheduled stumps time.

Both these matters to be reviewed by the SMCA.

Peter thanked Gary and his son Ryan for their work on the updated SMCA website – the website address is unchanged at smcacricket.com. Gary reminded clubs that email addresses for the President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, and Administrator now include “.au” at the end (e.g. secretary@smcacricket.com.au). The Treasurer's email address has also been updated to treasurer@smcacricket.com.au.

CLOSURE: The meeting closed at 8:24pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Executive Meeting 23 June at Thornlie – 6:00pm

Annual General Meeting 21 July at Thornlie – 7:00pm

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE – PLAYING 12TH MAN (ONE DAY GRADES ONLY)

1. Before tossing for choice of innings, which shall be no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of play, team captains must declare and exchange in writing one to another (or an official umpire) the names of the players comprising their teams (including any playing 12th man).
2. After exchange, the team lists shall not be altered in any way whatsoever, unless an obvious error has been made, or a listed player does not participate in the match.
3. Any listed player(s) who are not in attendance at the time of the toss shall be noted on the hard copy team list provided to the opposition captain (or official umpire). Such players upon arrival shall report their attendance to the opposition captain (or official umpire), who will then note their attendance on the hard copy team list. Failure of the player to notify the opposition captain (or official umpire) shall preclude this players participation in the scheduled match.
4. Any listed player(s) must be in attendance for a portion of the match. Should this not occur (or opposition captain / official umpire fail to be notified of their attendance) this player must then be removed from the hard copy team list provided to the opposition captain / official umpire. Additionally, such player(s) must also be removed from the PlayHQ team list by their team captain at the conclusion of the match.
5. Clubs who fail to remove listed players from PlayHQ who do not participate in the match shall receive a financial sanction as determined by the SMCA Executive.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING – 12 MAY 2025 – THORNIE

ATTENDANCE

President [Signature]
Senior Vice President [Signature] Junior Vice President [Signature]
Administrator [Signature] Treasurer [Signature]
Umpire's Advisor [Signature]
Executive _____
Armada [Signature]
Canning Vale Brendan Fowler
Cannington Tigers [Signature]
CBC James Coletta
Champion Lakes [Signature]
Cockburn [Signature]
East Fremantle Ben Scotsch, Michael Carmody Ryan Jones
Ferndale-Lynwood SEAN PARSONS [Signature]
Forrestdale KRISHNA MUSUNURI
Hilton Bicton CHRIS DICKSON JOHN ELLMAN
Jandakot Park MARIO BAELI
Kardinya Lakes Bruce Needham IAN HALE
Kelmscott _____
Kenwick Steve Kemp
Kwinana Adrian Wollons
Leeming Spartan _____
Maddington ALEX LACEY
North Baldivis [Signature]
Perth Tamil _____
Phoenix JEREMY DOUGHTY [Signature]
Piara Waters Stuart Mills
Riverton Rostrata Matt Connolly [Signature]
Roleystone-Karragullen Steve Keen
SJ Blues John Murphy
Thornlie DAVID KING [Signature]
Willetton Crows Michael Gatti [Signature] Mark HoFord [Signature]
Umpires Assoc. _____