

The 2018 pennant season 1 will be played subject to compliance with all the By-Laws as in all previous and future seasons.

It is well to remind all that the terms and conditions of being eligible to play in any VBSA sanctioned tournament includes compliance with these By-Laws which are binding on all players.

There are a few changes to the By-Laws applying to pennant that will apply in the 1<sup>st</sup> season of 2018 and may well become permanent after this first trial period.

Otherwise, all By-Laws will apply whether new or established, including the responsibility of all participants to abide by the decisions of the referee at all times. This applies to any player acting as the referee in any match regardless of that person having any accreditation as a qualified referee or not. This is not to say that a decision may not be questioned, it may, but in a respectful, calm manner which may not develop into an argument.

The VBSA Board will be asking all referees and acting referees to enforce all the official rules during these coming and future seasons, including those to be found in section 4 of the WPBSA rule book entitled 'Players', which demands that players be warned for ungentlemanly conduct and that the frame under way will be forfeit for any repeat offence, or that the match be forfeit if the seriousness warrants it. Ungentlemanly conduct includes arguments with the referee and audible swearing primarily but does not rule out other things which the referee may interpret as such.

Any referee acting in accordance with these rules will have the full backing of the Board.

The conditions outlined in the current ABSC Code of Ethics ([LINKED](#) here) will also apply to all tournaments and competitions run under the auspices of the VBSA.

The VBSA encourages healthy and positive discussion over supper of any issues, including disputes, that have arisen during matches.

As a last resort, I am always awake until late on pennant playing evenings and would not be put out by a text or a phone call if a rules dispute cannot be resolved. Having said that, I must remind all that decisions of judgement, i.e. Section 3, Rule 14, cannot be definitively resolved without being an eyewitness.

The few and experimental or permanent changes proposed for the upcoming season mentioned earlier are: -

1. The dress regulations for all finals matches will now not include the option of a sleeveless vest. The dress combinations open to all players are either a waistcoat and a bow tie or one of either without the other.
2. A Grade will not be timed, as in previous years, but will play each match over 13 frames with the No. 1 players playing 4 frames. For all other grades the timings for finals matches will revert to the same conditions as the home and away matches. In addition, if a 13<sup>th</sup> and deciding frame is required, it will have a time limit of 30 mins. unless it is started before the completion of the 90 mins. allowed in which case any time remaining from the 90 will be added to the allocated 30 mins. The major change here is that each round of matches will have a maximum time allocation of 90 mins. not the 100 mins. previously allowed. All other pennant playing conditions will also apply, including the 10-point rule, for all grades except A grade.

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