

CRICKET BALLS

USE WITHIN PREMIER CRICKET (2014/15 season)



Purpose and Application

- 1) The Board of Cricket Victoria (CV) adopted this Policy on 28th July 2014.
- 2) This Policy identifies the approved balls for season 2014/15 and prescribes the application process for seeking approval of a ball.
- 3) This Policy applies to (and binds) all persons and clubs participating in the CV Premier Cricket competition.
- 4) This Policy may be amended or supplemented by the Board of CV in its absolute discretion from time to time. CV will provide notice of any change to all Premier Cricket clubs and, upon request, will provide a copy of the Policy (including any amendments or additions) to any cricket ball manufacturer or licensee.

Definitions

- 5) In this Policy, unless the context requires otherwise:
 - a) words denoting the singular shall include the plural and vice versa;
 - b) 'including' means including without limitation; and
 - c) words denoting a gender shall include a reference to the other genders.

Balls used in CV's Premier Cricket competition

- 6) Only CV approved and stamped balls may be used in the Premier Cricket competition. Balls which are used in the Premier Cricket competition must be approved by CV and comply with the standards and specifications in this Policy. Prior to the commencement of each season, Cricket Victoria will confirm the brand of ball(s) that shall be used in the Premier Cricket competition.
- 7) CV will determine whether a ball complies with the required standards and specifications in this Policy.
- 8) CV may make this determination on its own initiative or upon application by any manufacturers or their approved licensees. Any such determination will be made in accordance with this Policy.

Approved balls for season 2014/15

- 9) CV has determined that the following balls will be approved for use within all grades of the Premier Cricket competition for the 2014/15 season:
 - a) Kookaburra – Regulation
 - b) Platypus – Special Turf
 - c) Dukes – County International

Process to seek approval of balls

- 10) An applicant that wishes to apply for approval for use of a particular ball must provide evidence that the ball meets the standards and specifications in this Policy.
- 11) When determining the approved balls for the 2014/15 season CV has taken a variety of factors into consideration. CV reserves the right to determine the appropriate weighting given to these factors (and the standards and specifications set out in this Policy) when approving balls. Such factors include:
- a) use within Cricket Australia managed and endorsed competitions;
 - b) use within equivalent competitions in other Australian States and Territories; and
 - c) previous use within Cricket Victoria competitions or by Cricket Victoria squads.
- 12) For applications relating to use of a ball in the 2015/16 season, balls will be considered on a case by case basis. Evidence must be provided by the applicant to show the ball meets the specifications in the table below and the standards set out in this Policy.

Men's Premier Cricket	Women's Premier Cricket
156g weight	142g weight
4 piece	4 piece
Leather	Leather
Red and white balls available	White balls available
Round (ring tested)	Round (ring tested)
Proof of use within relevant competitions with data compiled to support usage at proposed level.	Proof of use within relevant competitions with data compiled to support usage at proposed level.

- 13) If CV considers that a ball meets the specifications in paragraph 12, the relevant ball must be tested in practical match play throughout the 2014/15 season to determine whether the ball meets the acceptable standards outlined in this Policy. All balls for practical testing must be supplied by the applicant free of charge.
- 14) Acceptance for testing does not guarantee that a ball will be approved. Approval will be granted (or refused) at CV's sole discretion based on all standards and specifications set out in this Policy (and any other matter CV considers to be relevant).
- 15) To determine if the ball is of sufficient quality to meet the required standards, the practical testing to be conducted includes:
- a) Balls will be tested within competition throughout the 2014/15 season.
 - b) Unbranded white balls will be tested in all 3rd grade men's 50 over matches (minimum. 9 matches total). This will occur during two rounds within the season at different times to provide variations in pitch conditions (minimum of 72 balls total required for testing).
 - c) Unbranded red balls will be tested in all 3rd grade men's matches (minimum 9 matches total) during one round within the season (minimum of 54 balls total required for testing).

- d) Unbranded white balls will be tested in all 2nd grade women's matches (minimum 5 matches total). This will occur during two rounds within the season at different times to provide variations in pitch conditions (minimum of 40 balls total required for testing).
- e) Data on ball quality will be collected by CV during each round of practical testing with balls retained by CV for further analysis if required. Key aspects of the ball to be assessed include:
 - i) shape;
 - ii) bounce;
 - iii) swing;
 - iv) seam;
 - v) shine; and
 - vi) hardness.
- f) CV will assess the data collected and compare with the data compiled from the approved Premier Cricket balls during the same period to determine the suitability of the ball for use in Premier Cricket competitions.

Any costs incurred by CV in relation to testing balls or assessing related data may, at the discretion of CV, be charged to the applicant. Upon request, the applicant must pay these costs within 30 days.

Use of Approved Ball During Season

- 16) Premier Cricket clubs (male and female) must only use CV approved and stamped cricket balls in any Premier Cricket competition. The following process must be followed by Premier Cricket clubs in relation to nominating their preferred ball for use within competition:
 - a) Clubs must nominate the ball to be used at home games for the season and such information will be distributed to all clubs 14 days prior to the season commencing.
 - b) Clubs may nominate a different ball for each grade if preferred.
 - c) Clubs have the right to change their preferred ball during the season but must notify CV at least 7 days in advance of their next home game to ensure the opposition club is notified of the change.
 - d) All men's and women's clubs will be responsible for purchasing their own balls (including costs).
 - e) CV will provide balls only for finals which will be the nominated ball of the designated home club.
 - f) Clubs agree that at the discretion of CV they will be required to use unbranded balls for testing within their fixtures, with CV reserving the right to vary the process.
 - g) Any commercial deal negotiated between clubs and ball manufacturers/licensees must not be for a period of more than 3 years to align with the CV/Platypus partnership.
 - h) All Premier Cricket commercial partnerships (involving either CV or a Premier Cricket club) relating to ball use must also permit the use of unbranded balls for testing within their lower grades.

- i) All Premier Cricket Clubs agree to work with CV as and when required to compile data on the quality for pre-approved balls with assessed balls to be returned to CV for comparative purposes