

Reg No. A0100134K

# **GOTAFE GOULBURN VALLEY LEAGUE**

## **FOOTBALL BY-LAWS**

**UPDATED 29/4/2020**

**gotafe**



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## **1 AFL VIC COUNTRY HANDBOOK**

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These By-Laws are to be read in conjunction with the current AFL Vic Country Handbook.

## **2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND PERMITS**

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As outlined in the current AFL Vic Country Handbook (Section 2, 16.0)

## **3 AREA AGREEMENTS**

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The Goulburn Valley League shall each year revise, negotiate and distribute area agreements consistent with requirements of the AFL Victoria Country with the following Leagues:

- i. Kyabram District Football Netball League
- ii. Heathcote and District Football League
- iii. Wangaratta & District Junior Football League
- iv. Ovens and King Football League
- v. Seymour and District Junior Football League
- vi. Shepparton and District Junior Football League
- vii. AFL Masters

## **4 APPEALS AGAINST A REFUSED CLEARANCE**

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As outlined in the current AFL Vic Country Handbook (Section 2, 16.0)

## **5 GVL SEASON FIXTURE**

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- (a) The fixture is to consist of the following conditions –
  - i. Season is to consist of 18 home and away games
  - ii. Grand Final to be held the Sunday prior to the AFL Grand Final
  - iii. One full round bye (AFL Victoria Community Championships/Interleague)
  - iv. One further bye or two split rounds
- (b) Fixture process –
  - i. July – Next year fixture dates circulated to all clubs
  - ii. July/August – Request window open (Sunday/Night games/Special occasions etc for consideration)
  - iii. Start October – Draft fixture tabled to delegates for written feedback/comment
  - iv. Start October – Club negotiation window open, for Sunday/Night games/Special Occasions etc
  - v. Mid November – Club negotiation period closed
  - vi. End November – Final fixture tabled for ratification at General Meeting
  - vii. December – Final fixture released to the public
- (c) Any variation from the standard schedule of Saturday fixtures, to be negotiated by both clubs. If the clubs are unable to reach an agreement, a request can be submitted to the Board for assessment. Each club will be asked to supply written reasons why the variation is required or refused, as the case may be. The Board will have the power to decide the outcome following the assessment.

## **6 COMPETITION AGE OF PLAYERS/OVERAGE PLAYER PERMITS**

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The age conditions of players playing in the GVL FOOTBALL under 16 competition of the League shall be in accordance with the rules of AFL Victoria Country and be under the age of 16 years on the first of January of that year's competition. All players must attain a minimum age of 14 during the year of competition to be eligible to play in the under 16 competition. (ie. players must turn 13 years by the first of January of that year's competition.)

The age conditions of players playing in the GVL FOOTBALL under 18 competition of the League shall be in accordance with the rules of AFL Victoria Country and be under the age of 18 years on the first of January of that year's competition.

Overage player permits may be applied for according to the following criteria –

- (a) The player shall be under the age of 17 years (for Under 16 competition) and 19 years (for Under 18 competition) as at 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current playing season.
- (b) Applications for overage players will only be accepted up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June of the current playing season and will only be accepted on the Overage Permit application form to be submitted at least five days prior to the overage player's first game. (Overage Permit application form can be found in Appendix 2 on page 12 and may also be downloaded from [www.gvleague.com.au](http://www.gvleague.com.au))
- (c) The player has not previously played senior grade football at any club in any season.

- (d) An overage permit is to be strictly used for players requiring a further year of underage football for their development.
- (e) A club is limited to approval for a maximum of four (4) overage permit players for the season. The Board may extend this limit in exceptional circumstances.
- (f) An overage permit player who is found guilty of any reportable offence, shall immediately forfeit their overage permit. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the acceptance of a set penalty.
- (g) Overage permit players shall be reassessed after four (4) matches and again on or about the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to determine if an overage permit is still appropriate.
- (h) The player/s is/are identified on the official team sheet.
- (i) The player/s is/are not permitted to play at another club league under a type 1 (match day) or type 2 (local area agreement) permit.
- (j) The GVL Board may revoke an overage permit at any stage if details in the application are found to be false.
- (k) If a medical condition forms part of the overage permit application, supporting medical evidence must be supplied.

## **7 PLAYING NUMBERS**

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- (a) That there are maximum 22 players allowed for the Seniors.
- (b) That there are maximum 22 players allowed for the Reserves.
- (c) That there are maximum 22 players allowed for the Under 18s.
- (d) That there are maximum 22 players allowed for the Under 16s.
- (e) That in the case of a team being short of reserves, Under 18s or Under 16s players the following is to occur:

*The number of players on the field is determined by the team with the least amount of players at the commencement of the game. Attrition through injury/send offs does not determine these team numbers.*

1. 18 or more players = Team A - 18, Team B - 18
2. One team has 17 players = Team A - 17, Team B - 17
3. One team has 16 players = Team A - 16, Team B - 16
4. One team has 15 players = Team A - 15, Team B - 16
5. One team has 14 players = Team A - 14, Team B - 16
6. One team has 13 players = Team A – Forfeit (NB. If team numbers drop to 13 players during the course of a game, the game is to cease and is considered a forfeit)

## **8 MATCHES FOR THE PREMIERSHIP – HOME AND AWAY MATCHES**

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- (a) The football season shall be played as per the fixture and by-Laws determined by the League
- (b) A round of home and away matches shall be played with each club playing each other in accordance with the draw adopted by the League at the commencement of the season.
- (c) In all matches four points shall be counted for a win and two for a draw and in the event of any clubs tying at the conclusion of the foregoing round of matches, the position of such clubs shall be determined by the proportion of points kicked for and against each club of those which may be possibly eligible for inclusion in the finals series.

## **9 FORFEIT OF MATCHES**

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- (a) In the event of any club failing to keep its engagement to play any match the club so failing shall forfeit the match and shall pay the umpires fees in respect of the match so forfeited if required to as directed by the Board. The forfeiting club shall be penalised according to Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fees. Any forfeit must be notified to the League and opposition club by 5.00pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled game.
- (b) Forfeit percentage shall be calculated according to 11.2.2 and 11.2.3 of the Laws of Australian Football. If the League is of the opinion that a team will be disadvantaged by the calculation of percentage under law 11.2.2, the League may, upon application by the team, vary the points debited or credited to the team or the method of calculating the team's percentage.

## **10 GROUND CONDITIONS**

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In all home and away matches the home side shall;

1. Provide a stretcher available for immediate use.
2. Provide at least one scoreboard capable of showing the total number of points.
  - i. If clubs are utilising an electronic scoreboard, they must have a backup ready to go in case of failure.

3. Ground to be provided as per AFL markings and AFL Victoria Country rules.
4. A white line shall be marked in front of the Coaches boxes to indicate the Area to which Coaches and Club Personal shall be confined to. Such white line to be approximately one metre from box, and a minimum of 1.5 metres from the boundary line.
5. Provide a suitable shelter for interchange officials.
6. To prepare a venue to conform with AFL Victoria Country Match Day Checklist in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Risk Management Manual.
  - i. This includes but not limited to massage tables and bikes not being permitted inside the fenced playing area of the field.
  - ii. The penalty for failing to complete a Match Day Checklist and forwarding to the league shall be a fine at the discretion of the Board. (Team manager/official from both teams shall complete the checklist together on the official Match Day app.)
7. Where night matches are conducted, provide adequate lighting for all patrons' amenities.

## **11 FOOTBALLS**

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- (a) Home clubs are responsible for the supply of two (2) A grade Sherrin footballs for all matches.
- (b) A spare football must be left with the home club team manager / interchange steward.
- (c) In the seniors, home clubs must provide one (1) new ball & one (1) approved ball for all matches.
- (d) Finals footballs will be provided by the League.
- (e) Match day footballs must include league sponsor logo if applicable.

## **12 FOOTBALL STARTING TIMES – HOME AND AWAY**

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- (a) Matches shall start in all home and away day games at –
  - i. Under 16 – 9.15 am
  - ii. Under 18 -10.55 am
  - iii. Reserves – 12.35 pm
  - iv. Seniors – 2.20 pm
  - v. Or any other times agreed to by both competing teams and approved by the Board.
- (b) Matches shall start for all home and away night games at –
  - i. Under 16 – 12.45pm
  - ii. Under 18 – 2.30pm
  - iii. Reserves – 4.15pm
  - iv. Seniors – 6.00pm
- (c) Matches to be played in accordance with the rules of AFL Victoria Country or otherwise approved by the Board.
- (d) For night fixtures the GVL, in accordance with the Australian Standards relating to sports lighting, requires a minimum of an average of 100 lux illumination and that at no point on the playing surface, is the illumination to be less than 50% of the average illumination, this is a uniformity of 0.5 or higher. For example, if the average illumination across the entire playing surface is 120 lux, then at no point on the playing surface can the illumination be less than 60 lux (ie. 50% of 120 lux). This is for insurance purposes.

## **13 FOOTBALL PLAYING TIMES – HOME AND AWAY**

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- (a) Playing time of home and away football matches
  - i. Under 16 – Four quarters of 20 minutes, no time on.
  - ii. Under 18 – Four quarters of 20 minutes, no time on.
  - iii. Reserves – Four quarters of 20 minutes, no time on.
  - iv. Seniors – Four quarters of 20 minutes, plus time on.
- (b) The breaks for all matches are as follows
  - i. ¼ time – 5 min (Seniors), 3min (Reserves, U18 & U16)
  - ii. ½ time – 5 min (U16, U18, Reserves), 20min (Seniors)
  - iii. ¾ time – 5 min (all grades)
- (c) Only Senior teams may leave the field at half time.
- (d) All times are to be recorded on the Leagues official time card and the League shall have the power to impose fines as follows: -
  - i. The Club not ready to start at the prescribed time in respect to the first quarters of each match may be fined.
- (e) All affiliated clubs must have an efficient siren, to be sounded at the proper time for the determination of the match.

- i. A backup emergency bell or siren must be available if the main siren breaks down

#### **14 TEAMSHEETS**

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- (a) Thirty minutes before commencement of every match, team sheets must be completed correctly with copies provided to the umpires, opposition team, Interchange and your team.
- (b) All copies need to be signed before being presented.
- (c) The umpires' copy is to be submitted with the paperwork to the league at the end of the game and will be deemed to be the official team sheet for that match.

#### **15 RUNNERS, WATER-CARRIERS, TRAINERS & COACHES**

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- (a) All water carriers, trainers, medical officers, physiotherapists and coaches must comply with the rules and regulations as set out herein and as outlined in the AFL Vic Country Handbook (Section 2, 16.0 & 17.0)
- (b) Board members are authorised to report non-compliance with the below regulations, with the league having the power to fine clubs for breaches.
- (c) All on-field volunteers must be a minimum of 12 years of age.
- (d) Eligibility
  - i. No person who is a registered player or an official of any club of an open or junior age team, who is under disqualification or suspension by his home club or League, shall act as an official runner, trainer or water carrier in any competition match, or any other match in which an AFL Victoria Country affiliated club or League is participating.
- (e) Listing of Officials
  - i. All official runners, trainers and water carriers shall be listed on the official team sheet (including their given name, surname and shirt number) and for the purposes of interpretation of this regulation shall be deemed to be officials of the club for the match.
- (f) Doctors
  - i. Registered doctors are not required to be registered as an official on the day or included on the official team sheet.
- (g) Infringements
  - i. Any club that infringes this rule shall appear before the League's Independent Tribunal to determine the penalty. The penalty applicable for determination by the Independent Tribunal shall include the following: (a) Substantial fine, and/or (b) Loss of points for the match, and/or (c) Such other penalties as determined appropriate by the Tribunal.
  - ii. The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of these rules, order the runner, trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the arena for a period of 15 minutes. Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire that shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire, shall be referred to the league's independent tribunal.
- (h) Water Carriers, Trainers- On Field Officials
  - i. No team shall be permitted to have more than the combined total of 6 trainers and water carriers, except where AFL Victoria Country Heat/Cold Policy is invoked.
  - ii. All water carriers must remain behind the boundary line while the game is in progress and enter the playing arena only when there is a clear break in play away from the players - generally after a goal is scored.
  - iii. Water carriers to be positioned on the fence behind the boundary line at the 50-metre mark at either end of the ground.
  - iv. Water carriers are only permitted to go to the coach's box when refilling.
  - v. Trainers entering the playing arena for the purpose of attending an injured player must not interfere with the play in any way and must vacate the arena as soon as possible.
  - vi. Umpires can penalise on field officials with a free kick to the opposing side if the on field official impedes passages of play or remains on the ground after completing their duties. The free kick should take place where the offence occurs as long as there is no disadvantage to the side receiving the free kick.
  - vii. No coaches, assistant coaches or team runners are allowed to be water carriers at senior level.
  - viii. Water carriers must not throw water bottles to players.
  - ix. A trainer / water carrier must not engage in physical contact that may cause or incite injury to any player, official, or umpire or initiate any physical contact outside the realms of his/her duty of responsibilities.
  - x. Water carriers to be attired as follows:

1. GVL FOOTBALL approved orange vest, with club name and number on it
  2. White shorts or black tracksuit pants
  3. Full length black skins permitted under shorts
  4. Black jacket/jumper permitted under vest
- xi. Trainers to be attired as follows:
1. Club approved polo top/jacket with appropriate club branding
  2. White, black or dominant club colour pants eg. Mooroopna blue, Echuca green etc.
- (i) Club Runners
- i. Runners to be attired as follows:
    1. GVL FOOTBALL approved top, with club name and a unique number on it
    2. GVL FOOTBALL approved shorts
    3. Black skins permitted under shorts
  - ii. The runner's sole role is to deliver messages from the coaching staff to players on the ground. The runner must immediately vacate the playing arena once the message has been delivered. The runner must not interfere with the course of play. This includes standing in and filling a space at set plays.
  - iii. As per the AFL Laws of the Australian Football runners are not allowed inside the centre square at centre bounces. The runner is not permitted to stay on the field and coach or barrack.
  - iv. If a runner fails to abide by the instruction above a free kick may be awarded against his team at the spot of the infringement or where the ball is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty. If a runner uses foul or abusive language, a free kick may be awarded against his team at the spot of the infringement or where the ball is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty.
  - v. A runner must not engage in physical contact that may cause or incite injury to any player, official or umpire or initiate physical contact of any nature while conducting his/her duties. Runners shall be reported by the umpires for infringements of this nature or may come under the scrutiny of the ground manager or affiliated League official. Penalties will then be determined through the appropriate channels. Any penalties incurred by a player acting as a runner shall be viewed as penalties against a player in respect to the league best and fairest medals.
  - vi. Clubs shall be entitled to use two (2) runners for each grade (as long as uniforms have different numbers on them).
  - vii. For teams with two runners, only one runner from each team will be permitted entry to the playing arena at any one time. Access to and from the playing arena for runners must be through the official interchange area in the same manner players are interchanged. Interchange stewards are to note any infringements relating to the interchanging of runners to and from the playing arena. Field umpires will note any of the above infringements on the post-match paperwork. Where there is only one runner for a team there is no need to enter the field through the interchange area.
- (j) Coaches
- i. As per AFL Vic Country Handbook All coaches of AFL Victoria Country clubs are required to obtain Level 1 Accreditation specific to the age of the players they are coaching, prior to the commencement of the season. The penalty to be imposed by leagues if coaches continue to coach having not obtained the necessary accreditation must be
    1. a \$200 fine (Senior) or \$100 fine (Junior) and
    2. the loss of match points for the matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach.
    3. In the event of no match points being received the league must apply the above fines. Fines are applied once only (\$200 or \$100) and are not applicable to every match.
  - ii. In the instance where coaches are not accredited and commit to completing the next available (or otherwise agreed upon) AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course, the following bonds for clubs are to apply \$200 (Senior) and \$100 (Junior). Where a coach fails to complete the agreed upon AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course the bond paid by the club is forfeited.
  - iii. During play coaches are to remain in the designated coach's box area.
  - iv. Further provided that no coach or assistant coach of an AFL Victoria Country team shall act as a runner, trainer or water carrier in a match in which the team that he coaches is participating

## **16 CLUB GUERNSEYS**

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- (a) Only AFL Victoria Country and Goulburn Valley League approved guernseys may be worn in official Goulburn Valley League games. Approved AFL Victoria Country licensees are found in the annual AFL Victoria Country Handbook.
- (b) The official Goulburn Valley League logo including the naming rights sponsor (if applicable) must be displayed on all official playing guernseys. The logo will be positioned on the back and to the top centre of the guernsey. The logo must be a minimum of 45mm high x 60mm wide. The logo must stand out against the guernsey background and may require a white background to be included. Variations of the official league logo and advice for the best logo to use can be obtained from the League Operations Manager upon request.
- (c) The requirement to include the official Goulburn Valley League logo is only needed on new guernsey orders post 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019. For the avoidance of doubt, players may wear guernseys without the official Goulburn Valley League logo displayed, until new sets or individual orders of guernseys are made post 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **17 PLAYING SHORTS**

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- (a) Only skin colour compression shorts are to be worn
- (b) All teams in competition shall wear white shorts at away games, unless prior arrangement has been approved by the board. Shepparton FNC has been given permission to wear maroon coloured shorts during both home and away games.

## **18 TIMEKEEPERS**

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- (a) One responsible timekeeper to be provided by each competing club.
- (b) Stop watches to be synchronised.
- (c) Timekeepers shall accurately record all details on a Timekeepers card as supplied by the League.
- (d) The Board shall appoint Independent Timekeepers to all preliminary and grand final matches. Competing teams will supply timekeepers for all elimination, qualifying and semi-final matches.
- (e) One timekeeper card to be submitted to the league for all games.
- (f) Stopping and recommencing time
  - i. Stopping time – The timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of a match when:
    - Directed to do so by a field umpire by the raising of one arm at a stoppage
    - The goal umpire signals that a goal has been scored
    - The goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored; or
    - The field umpire indicates a stoppage for a ball-up by crossing of the arms across the chest.
  - ii. Recommencing time – The timekeepers shall recommence the clock used for the timing of a match when:
    - Directed to do so by the field umpire by raising of one arm
    - The football is bounced (or thrown up) in the centre square after a goal has been scored
    - The football is brought back into play after a behind has been scored
    - The football is thrown back into play by the boundary umpire or brought back into play by a player (as the case may be) after it had gone out of bounds or out of bounds on the full and the central umpire has indicated time off; or
    - The football is obviously in play
  - iii. THE CLOCK DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY STOP WHEN THE BALL GOES OUT OF BOUNDS, UNLESS DIRECTED BY A SIGNAL (RAISING OF ONE ARM) OF THE CENTRAL UMPIRE.

## **19 TIMEKEEPERS AND MEDIA BOXES**

Timekeepers and media areas are to be exclusive for the use of club/League timekeepers and media representatives and suitably signed.

## **20 MATCH RESULTS**

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- (a) The home club is responsible for implementing live scoring for all 3 & four grades.
- (b) Home Club to enter all match details at the completion of the game onto Sports TG website.
- (c) This includes quarter by quarter scores, goal kickers, best players (both teams), and checking names on the team sheet. Handwritten corrections on the official team sheets including jumper numbers, must be amended on the website.
- (d) MVP votes must be entered by the home team onto the Sports TG website.

- (e) Please send all paperwork (including Netball) to PO Box 1253, Shepparton, VIC, 3632 or drop it into AFL Goulburn Murray Office, Kialla Park Community Centre, Reserve St, Kialla, 3631. Clubs from outside the Greater Shepparton City Council boundary will be provided with nine express post envelopes each season for posting results. These clubs must post the match day paperwork on the first business day following the round of matches. Shepparton, Shepparton Swans, Shepparton United, Mooroopna and Tatura must deliver match day paperwork by the close of business on the second business day following the round of matches. A results letterbox is provided at AFL GM for after-hours delivery.
- i. Official team Sheets (Both teams)
  - ii. League best & fairest Vote slips
  - iii. MVP award vote slips
  - iv. Timecard x 1
  - v. Timekeepers sheet x 1
  - vi. Goal Umpire Score Card x 2
  - vii. Interchange & Order off Form
- (f) It is the responsibility of the away team to provide the home team with their match details following each match (best players and goal kickers).
- (g) The home club must submit the full match results online no later than 2 hours after the senior game.
- (h) If match results are not entered correctly as outlined above the club may receive a fine at the discretion of the Board.
- (i) Clubs to notify the League Operations Manager ASAP if any issues arise in regard to entering match results.

## **21 FINALS FORMAT**

- (a) The Finals format of the League shall be played as a final six, as follows –
- i. Elimination Finals – Week one
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team vs 6<sup>th</sup> placed team – Elimination final 1 (Saturday)
    - 4<sup>th</sup> placed team vs 5<sup>th</sup> placed team – Elimination final 2 (Sunday)
  - ii. Qualifying Final – Week one
    - 1<sup>st</sup> placed team vs 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team (Saturday)
  - iii. First Semi Final – Week two (Sunday)
    - Loser Qualifying Final vs Lower placed winner of Elimination Finals
  - iv. Second Semi Final – Week two (Saturday)
    - Winner Qualifying Final vs Higher placed winner of Elimination Finals
  - v. Preliminary Final – Week three (Sunday)
    - Loser Second Semi Final vs winner First Semi Final
  - vi. Grand Final – Week four (Sunday)
    - Winner Second Semi Final vs winner Preliminary Final
- (b) Finals Hosting – Group 1 (Odd years) Benalla, Euroa, Mooroopna and Rochester, with one final to be decided by the Board from Expressions of Interest from clubs. Group 2 (Even years) Kyabram, Echuca, Mansfield, Seymour and Tatura. Board to allocate finals to all venues each year.
- (c) Grand Final Raffle Rotation – to be advised
- (d) Gate keepers for all finals matches to be appointed and paid for by the League.
- (e) In the event of a club having two teams in a final at the same venue, those teams to use the same dressing rooms.

## **22 FOOTBALL STARTING TIMES – FINALS**

- (e) Matches shall start in finals (Elimination, Qualifying & Semi Finals) day games at –
- vi. Under 16 – 8.45am
  - vii. Under 18 – 10.40am
  - viii. Reserves – 12.35pm
  - ix. Seniors – 2.30pm
- (f) Matches shall start in finals (Elimination, Qualifying & Semi Finals) night games at –
- v. Under 16 – 12 midday
  - vi. Under 18 – 2.00pm
  - vii. Reserves – 4.00pm
  - viii. Seniors – 6.00pm
- (g) Matches shall start in Grand Final games at –
- ix. Under 16 – 8.30am

- x. Under 18 – 10.30am
- xi. Reserves – 12.30pm
- xii. Seniors – 2.40pm

### **23 FOOTBALL PLAYING TIMES – FINALS**

Playing time of finals football matches

- ii. Under 16 – Four quarters of 20 minutes, plus time on in quarters three and four only.
- iii. Under 18 – Four quarters of 20 minutes, plus time on in quarters three and four only.
- iv. Reserves – Four quarters of 20 minutes, plus time on in quarters three and four only.
- v. Seniors – Four quarters of 20 minutes, plus time on.

### **24 FINALS ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) All clubs must comply with the rules and regulations as set out herein and as outlined in the AFL Vic Country Handbook (*Section 2, 14.0 FINALS ELIGIBILITY – NAB CUP AND VFL PLAYERS*)
- (b) A player must play a minimum of three (3) home and away games with the club (seniors, reserves, U18s, U16s) to qualify for the finals for their club.
- (c) If a player has played three (3) or more home and away games in a higher ranked team in the club (e.g. senior team) he must play at least five (5) home and away games with a lower ranked team (e.g. reserves team) to qualify for a finals game in the lower ranked team.
- (d) If a player has played 3 or more VFL 1st 18 games, he must play 5 home and away games for his club to qualify for finals (with exception of AFL Vic Country rule 14.0 (b))
- (e) Notwithstanding, when a club has each of its senior grade, reserve grade and U18 grade teams participating in the same finals round, the selection of players in the finals shall be unrestricted, provided a player has participated in at least three (3) club games in that relevant season.
  - i. However, a player is not permitted to play in two finals on the same weekend
- (f) A player who plays two games on the same weekend during the home and away season will have the highest game attributed to him for finals qualification.
  - i. E.g. Player plays reserves and seniors on the same weekend the senior game will be used for finals qualification; the reserves game will not count towards the player's finals qualification for that grade.
- (g) For a player to qualify for the under 18s finals he is only required to play a minimum of 3 games for the club (irrespective of what grade). For the avoidance of doubt, this includes NAB Cup games which are counted as senior games for the club.
- (h) No player is allowed to play any finals game on permit.
- (i) Long Term Injury Clause
  - i. A player who has missed six (6) or more consecutive games through injury may, provided medical documentation is forwarded to the league, be permitted to play in the finals in the competition in which the player was playing at the time of the injury, despite not having qualified for that grade of competition.
  - ii. All applications for use of this agreement must be directed through the league.
  - iii. There is no provision for players who miss consecutive matches due to suspension and/or unavailability.
  - iv. The Board of the league will make a ruling on the case once all documentation is received.

### **25 DRAWN MATCHES - FINALS**

- (a) In the event of a tied game in any finals match (except Senior Grand Final) a further ten (10) minutes plus time-on shall be played in 2 x 5-minute halves (teams change ends for the start of each half).
  - i. Senior Grand Final will be a further 20 minutes plus time on (2 x 10min halves)
- (b) Coaches may only address players, as a group, between the end of full time and the start of the 2 x 5 minute (plus time on) 'extra time' period.
- (c) Teams change straight over after the first half of extra time has elapsed. If after the two halves of 'extra time' the match is still drawn, the First Score Rule will apply.
- (d) The First Score Rule
  - i. After the goal umpires have consulted (at the conclusion of extra time), both teams remain in the positions they were in after the last period finished.

- ii. A ball up will commence in the centre square and timekeepers will allow play to continue until the next score when they will sound the siren.
- iii. The team that scores first is the winner.

**26 FINALS FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION**

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- (a) That the Shepparton Swans pay the league a fee of 10% of each year's preliminary final gate (ex gst amount) as a catering right.
- (b) Shepparton and Shepparton United each pay the league a fee of 7.5% of each year's grand final gate (ex gst amount) as a catering right.
- (c) That all revenue gained from these fees be dispersed evenly between the other nine clubs each year.

**27 FINALS CAR PARKING**

As per direction of the Board.

**28 REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS**

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Any player who without a reasonable excuse fails to make himself available for selection and/or fails to attend training for a Representative match, shall, at the discretion of the Board, not be permitted to play in the next home and away match in which his club is engaged, and may be subject to further sanction as decided by the Board.

**29 UMPIRES**

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- (a) GVL to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the GVFUA on behalf of all clubs.
- (b) Only umpires officiating on match day are permitted free entry
  - i. Umpires to enter the grounds in full off field uniform and must sign in at gate for admission.
  - ii. Only umpires under the age of 18 are permitted 1 additional person (guardian) free entry (noted on sheet with an asterisk).
- (c) Club Boundary Umpires are recommended to be over the age of 16 years for the Reserves and fourteen years for the U16s and U18's.
  - i. All club Boundary umpires must be older than 13 years of age
- (d) Club Boundary umpires to be dressed in white shirt and white shorts.
- (e) Club Goal umpires must wear a white coat.
- (f) It shall be the responsibility of the goal umpires to record the score of matches, which on being countersigned by each goal umpire at the conclusion of the match shall be the official score of the game.
- (g) On completion of the match goal umpires must provide the score card to the home club secretary.
- (h) All club umpires have the same power of reports as a registered GVFUA umpire.
- (i) All games are to be officiated by a minimum 2 Field, 2 Boundary and 2 Goal umpires.
  - i. Where 2 club field umpires are required both clubs are to provide one each (unless agreed to by both clubs).
  - ii. Where 1 club field umpire is required the home club is to provide (unless agreed to by both clubs)
  - iii. If at any stage only one field umpire is present the home club is to notify the league.
- (j) It is the responsibility of the home club to escort umpires onto and from the playing arena, at the commencement, half time and at the conclusion of each match. The home club must supply a responsible club official for this task, such official identifiable by wearing a suitable fluoro vest.
- (k) Umpires must submit a copy of any reports to the league by 9.00am of the first business day after the offence.
- (l) Any club umpires not presented in the correct uniform may incur a fine against their club

**30 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL**

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- (a) All leagues partnered with the AFL Goulburn Murray Region Administration Centre will fall under the same tribunal processes. The Tribunal Panel, endorsed by both the Goulburn Valley League and the Kyabram District Football Netball League, will consist of individuals charged with the responsibility of adjudicating on reported incidents or referred investigations in any or all of the Goulburn Valley League, Kyabram District Football Netball League, Shepparton & District Junior Football League, Seymour District Junior Football Netball League and Goulburn Campaspe Junior Football League.

- (b) This tribunal will sit under the guidelines set out by AFL Vic Country (contained within the AFL Victoria Country handbook) and the tribunal guidelines document.
- (c) Tribunal members are not to have held office at a club in the previous 24 months.

### **31 MATCH REVIEW PANEL**

- (a) A pool of panel members for the Match Review Panel (MRP) to be approved by the League. From this pool of panel members, three members shall be selected when required, to comprise the MRP for a particular incident. The members of the MRP must not hold any other office with the League or any Goulburn Valley League club, nor have done so for a period of twelve months prior to their appointment. A person may not be both a member of the Goulburn Valley League tribunal and MRP. The identity of the MRP members will not be disclosed publicly. A MRP member must not be involved in a review if they have been involved in any way with one of the Clubs who participated in the match under review. This means being a player, office bearer or holder of any other official role with one of the Clubs who participated in the match under review during the preceding three years.
- (b) Role of the MRP:
  - i. Review match day reports and determine if the incident has been captured on video. Only video footage officially sanctioned by the League (not private or club provided footage) may be used in this process. If captured on video, determine whether the report stands or is withdrawn. Majority decision of the MRP is binding on the League and GVFUA ie. Decision requires two out of three panel members to agree. If MRP determine that the report should be withdrawn, there will be no further action taken against the charged player and both parties to the report and the GVFUA will be advised. If the MRP determine by majority decision that the report stands, the regular set penalty and tribunal process is followed.
  - ii. Review official referrals lodged by the GVFUA or League Board members (if no match day report made) and determine if the incident has been captured on video. Official referrals must be lodged by midday on the first business day following the match. Majority decision of the MRP is binding on the League and GVFUA ie. Decision requires two out of three panel members to agree. If MRP determine that a report should be made, the League Operations Manager (or his deputy) is to be advised as soon as possible following the match. The League Operations Manager (or his deputy) is authorised to report any player or official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a reportable offence per the Laws of Australian Football section 21.2.2, if the MRP determine that a report should be made.
  - iii. Review official referrals lodged by a Club. Official referrals from a Club must be made on the relevant form which can be downloaded from the League's website or requested from the League Operations Manager (or his deputy). The official referral from a club must be received by the League Operations Manager (or his deputy) by midday on the first business day following the game in question. A Club making an official referral for a MRP, shall be invoiced the sum of \$200 (+gst).
- (c) Procedure following a MRP
  - i. If the MRP determine that there is no reportable offence shown on the video following the review, the League Operations Manager (or his deputy) shall notify the party requesting the review (ie either the GVFUA, GVL Board member or Club) of that decision. No further appeal process will be allowed. This, however, does not prevent a request for an investigation per rule 5.0 Unbecoming Conduct, in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook. If the review was initiated by a Club, there shall be no refund in full or part, of the \$200 fee.
  - ii. If the MRP determine that a report should be made, it shall also advise which reportable offence to report the player with per the Laws of Australian Football section 21.2.2.
  - iii. The League Operations Manager (or his deputy) shall complete a valid AFL Victoria Country Notice of Report and forward a copy of this report to both the reported player's club and the offended against player's club (if applicable).
  - iv. If the reportable offence allows a set penalty to be offered to the reported player, both clubs involved must be advised and agree with the set penalty being offered. If any party does not agree with the set penalty being offered, the matter must be referred to the League's Independent Tribunal.
  - v. The reported player's club must advise the League Operations Manager (or his deputy) as soon as possible, and within 24 hours, whether the reported player requests to apply for the relevant set penalty (if applicable). If no notification is made within 24 hours, it will be deemed that the relevant set penalty is accepted if offered.

- vi. The offended against player's club (if applicable) must advise the League Operations Manager (or his deputy) as soon as possible, and within 24 hours, if there are any objections to a set penalty being offered. If no notification is made within 24 hours, it will be deemed that there are no objections.
- vii. If a report is made following an official referral from a Club, the referring Club shall be refunded \$100 of the applicable fee. If the reported player accepts a set penalty, pleads guilty or is found guilty of the reported offence at an Independent Tribunal, the reported player's Club shall be invoiced \$100 (+gst) in addition to any costs associated with a tribunal hearing per bylaw 31 (a).

### **32 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRIBUNAL HEARINGS & INVESTIGATIONS**

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- (a) Any guilty plea/verdict delivered by the tribunal the charged club will be pay a fee according to Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fees.
- (b) Any acceptance of a set penalty or guilty plea/verdict delivered by the tribunal relating to an investigation the charged club will pay all costs up to \$1,000.
- (c) In the case of a not guilty verdict from a tribunal or an investigation the league will pay all costs.

### **33 AMENDMENT OF RULES & BY-LAWS**

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Amendment or alteration to the by-laws contained herein may be made, added to or repealed as per the Rules of the League.

### **34 PROTESTS, COMPLAINTS & PENALTIES**

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- (a) It shall be the duty of the Board to inquire into and determine all protests disputes and charges other than those referred to the Independent Tribunal, and any player who, or club which feels aggrieved, at the determination of the Board, shall have the right of appeal to the League Independent Tribunal, refer Rule 9-14 of the GVL Rules, but otherwise such determination shall be final.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the League Operations Manager to refer all matters of protest, complaint or penalty to the appropriate authority.

### **35 DISPUTES TO THE BOARD – TIME LIMITS**

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- (a) All clubs or persons referring disputes or charges against clubs, officials or players to the Board, or umpires reporting any infringement of these rules shall within five days of the occurrence, if it is sought thereby to affect the result of any match, or within reasonable time in all other cases, forward particulars in writing through their Club/Association to the League.
- (b) Clubs and persons, other than umpires, shall with the protest, dispute or charge, lodge a fee of \$200.00 which shall be dealt with by the Board or Independent Tribunal, as determined by the League. For the avoidance of doubt, this procedure does not include requests for an investigation under rule 5.0 Unbecoming Conduct in the AFL Victoria Country handbook.
- (c) All documentary evidence tendered upon the hearing of dispute, protest or charge before the League or Independent Tribunal shall be filed by the League and shall remain the property of the GVL.

### **36 CLUB DOCUMENTS**

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Each club secretary shall provide documents to the League, at the latest 2 weeks, after the club's AGM.

- i. Annual Report
- ii. Financial Statement
- iii. Office Bearers and other relevant club officials contacts
- iv. Ground Lighting Audit (if required)

### **37 FEES**

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- (a) All league fees shall be provided to the clubs prior to the season starting
- (b) Each Club shall pay an administration levy as decided by the Board
- (c) All fees are Monthly Payments – five (5) payments from May to September
- (d) The fees include;
  - i. GVL affiliation fee (invoiced separately in March)
  - ii. GVL Football administration fee
  - iii. GVL Netball administration fee
  - iv. Affiliation – Trainers

- v. GVL Weekender
- vi. Umpires (inc. Travel)
- vii. Video Levy

### **38 TROPHIES AND MEDAL PRESENTATIONS**

- (a) There shall be a medal known as the 'Morrison Medal' which shall be awarded each year to the player obtaining the greatest number of votes as the Fairest and Best senior player as awarded by the field umpires each week.
- (b) There shall be a medal known as the 'Abikhair Medal' which shall be awarded each year to the player obtaining the greatest number of votes as the Fairest and Best reserves player as awarded by the field umpires each week.
- (c) There shall be a medal known as the 'Pattison Medal' which shall be awarded each year to the player obtaining the greatest number of votes as the Fairest and Best Under 18 player as awarded by the field umpires each week.
- (d) There shall be a medal known as the '*To Be Advised Medal*' which shall be awarded each year to the player obtaining the greatest number of votes as the Fairest and Best Under 16 player as awarded by the field umpires each week.
- (e) The Morrison Medal/Wellman Family Medal presentation night shall be held on the Monday immediately following the preliminary final.
- (f) Any player found guilty or accepting of a set penalty for a field offence, involving the suspension of such player, during the current home and away season, shall be ineligible to receive any Fairest and Best medal. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes where the suspension period is suspended for any length of time but does not include the penalty of a reprimand.
- (g) In the event of a tie by two or more players following the counting in the fairest and best votes in any competition, joint winners will be declared, and each player will receive a medal.
- (h) The winner of the League's Fairest and Best awards in each competition, shall be presented with their medals on the night of the League medal count.
- (i) The League shall award a Football 'Rising Star' Award each season based on the following criteria.
  - i. The player is under the age of 21 years as at the 1<sup>st</sup> January of that season; and
  - ii. Must not have played more than eight (8) GVL senior games in previous seasons.
  - iii. One (1) player shall be nominated by each club and then a further six (6) nominations shall be sought from clubs. Clubs may only have a maximum of two (2) Rising Star nominations.
  - iv. The Rising Star winner shall be determined by voting of the twelve senior football coaches, based on a 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 voting system, where 5 votes is awarded to the coach's first preference, 4 votes for the coach's second preference etc.
- (j) The "*To Be Advised (U16)*", "*Bob Dawson*", "*Bill Enders*" and "*Hastie*" Premiership cups shall be presented along with a Premiership medal immediately following the U16, U18, Reserves and Senior Grand Finals respectively.
- (k) There shall be a perpetual cup known as the "*George Hunter*" Champion Club Cup which shall be presented to the champion club each year. The method of scoring shall be 12 points for a Seniors win, 6 points for a Reserves win, 6 points for an U18 win, 6 points for an U16 win and in addition 8 points shall be scored for a win in A Grade Netball, and 4 points awarded for each win in each of B, B Reserve 17&U and 15&U Netball.
- (l) In the event of a tied result in relation to the overall points between the clubs, the winner shall be decided on a count back system:- firstly on the number of Senior games won by the club involved, if the result is still tied then the number of A grade games won shall decide the issue. If the result is still tied then the same procedure shall apply in relation to Reserves games, and so on.
- (m) Prior to the senior Grand Final a member of the Connolly family shall be involved in tossing the Barry Connolly coin which shall then be presented to the premier team.
- (n) Following the Grand Final each year the League shall present the "*WILF COX MEDAL*" to the player judged the best player in the Senior Grand Final. Selection to be made by the media.
- (o) Following the Grand Final each year, the AFL Victoria Country shall present the "*AFL Victoria Country MEDAL*" to the player judged best player in the Senior Grand Final. Selection to be made by the umpires.
- (p) Following the Reserves Grand Final each year, the League shall present the "*PETER RYAN MEDAL*" to the player judged best player in the Reserves Grand Final. Selection to be made by the umpires and media.

- (q) Following the Under 18 Grand Final each year, the League shall present the “FREDDO MCMAHON MEDAL” to the player judged best player in the Under 18 Grand Final. Selection to be made by the media.
- (r) Following the Under 18 Grand Final each year, the AFL Victoria Country shall present the “AFL Victoria Country MEDAL” to the player judged best player in the Under 18 Grand Final. Selection to be made by the umpires.
- (s) Following the Under 16 Grand Final each year, the League shall present the “*To be Advised* MEDAL” to the player judged best player in the Under 16 Grand Final. Selection to be made by the *To Be Advised*.
- (t) League perpetual trophies shall be retained by the League.

### **39 GVL HALL OF FAME**

To provide recognition for players, administrators and officials who have given exemplary service to the GVL and Australian Football and Netball. (Full terms and conditions available from the League on request).

### **40 REPRESENTATIVE TEAM APPAREL**

Each player who takes part in a match representing the League at Senior or U18/U16 level, shall receive all apparel allocated to the interleague team for that season, including the guernsey.

### **41 DELEGATE’S GENERAL MEETINGS AND THE CLUB SIGNATORY**

- (a) There will be five general meetings held every year (March, May, July, October and November)
- (b) Additional special meetings may be held if deemed necessary by the Board.
- (c) The President of each club shall be the Delegate to represent their club at League General meetings, with each club entitled to one vote.
- (d) In the absence of the President, a proxy may be appointed to attend General meetings who shall have the right to vote on behalf of their President.
- (e) Clubs may appoint up to three other delegates each year to attend meetings and these delegates have the right to vote on behalf of their President.
- (f) Clubs should be represented by at least one football and one netball delegate at General meetings. (One vote per club)
- (g) Names and official club role of the other delegates must be supplied to the League Operations Manager by the 31<sup>st</sup> January of each year.

### **42 COMMITTEES**

- (a) The Board may appoint committees of the League at its discretion.
- (b) The Chairman and one member of AFL Goulburn Murray will be the ex officio members of all committees.

### **43 PROTESTS, COMPLAINTS & PENALTIES**

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Board to inquire into and determine all protests, disputes and charges other than those referred to the Independent Tribunal, and any player who, or club which feels aggrieved, at the determination of the Board, shall have the right of appeal to the League Independent Tribunal (refer Rule 9.14 of the GVL Rules) but otherwise such determination shall be final.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the League Operations Manager to refer all matters of protest, complaint or penalty to the appropriate authority.

### **44 DISPUTES TO THE BOARD – TIME LIMITS**

- (a) All clubs or persons referring disputes or charges against clubs, officials or players to the Board, or umpires reporting any infringement of these rules shall within five days of the occurrence, if it is sought thereby to affect the result of any match, or within reasonable time in all other cases, forward particulars in writing through their Club/Association to the League.
- (b) Clubs and persons, other than umpires, shall with the protest, dispute or charge, lodge a fee of \$200.00 which shall be dealt with by the Board or Independent Tribunal, as determined by the League. For the avoidance of doubt, this procedure does not include requests for an investigation under rule 5.0 Unbecoming Conduct in the AFL Victoria Country handbook.
- (c) All documentary evidence tendered upon the hearing of dispute, protest or charge before the League or Independent Tribunal shall be filed by the League and shall remain the property of the GVL.

**45 CLUB CRITICISM**

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- (a) GVL club officials, players and coaches shall refrain from public criticism of umpires and/or the GVL.
- (b) Should clubs have concerns regarding umpires or the league, these concerns are to be communicated in writing on club letterhead and addressed to the League Operations Manager.

**46 FINES**

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Any breach of the by-laws may incur a penalty at the discretion of the board (up to 10 penalty units). A schedule of fees may be found at the end of these by-laws. One penalty unit shall be \$50.00.

**47 GVL WEEKENDER**

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- (a) Each club shall receive a minimum of 100 GVL Weekenders for each home game.
- (b) Clubs may nominate a permanent minimum order in excess of 100 by notifying the League Operations Manager
- (c) Clubs may nominate a one-off order of additional copies by notifying the League Operations Manager by 3.00pm on the Monday preceding the game requiring the additional copies.

**48 DELEGATIONS**

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The League Operations Manager may approve payments of all League accounts up to and including \$1,000.00.

**49 PUBLIC/MEDIA COMMENTS**

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To ensure a consistent communications protocol, the following people are authorised to speak on the following GVL issues with the media.

- (a) Board related (governance/policy/strategy) – Chairman
- (b) League related (operational) – Chairman and/or League Operations Manager
- (c) Club issues and liaison – League Operations Manager
- (d) Umpiring issues and liaison – League Operations Manager
- (e) Tribunal issues and liaison – League Operations Manager
- (f) Media Releases – Chairman and/or Region General Manager and/or Commercial/Marketing Officer.
- (g) Social Media (Facebook/Twitter) – Region General Manager and/or Commercial Marketing Officer.
- (h) Netball media previews etc – GVL Board member (Netball portfolio)
- (i) Development activities – AFL Victoria Football Development Managers

**50 ISSUES NOT COVERED IN THESE BY-LAWS OR LEAGUE POLICIES**

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In the event of any question arising not provided in these by-laws or League policies, the Board shall have the power to decide such question. This decision will then be adopted for the current season and may be included in by-laws or policy, after a review of the by-laws and policies at the end of the season.



**GOULBURN VALLEY LEAGUE**  
**OVERAGE PERMIT APPLICATION**  
**FOOTBALL UNDER 16\*/UNDER 18\***

\*delete whichever is not applicable

Please complete this form and return to the League Operations Manager by post to -  
PO Box 1253 Shepparton 3632, or email to [jo.spencer@afl.com.au](mailto:jo.spencer@afl.com.au)

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Club Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clubs Played for \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ cm                      Weight \_\_\_\_\_ kg

Seasons Played \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Grade Played \_\_\_\_\_

Club Awards \_\_\_\_\_

League Awards \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Squads \_\_\_\_\_

**Player's Statement** (Reasons for requiring overage permit)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(If further space is required, please attach another sheet)

Player's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach/Junior Development Officer Statement** (Reasons for requiring overage permit)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PERMIT CONDITIONS.**

- A player must be under the age of 19 as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current playing season.
- Any player who has been granted an overage permit who is reported and found guilty of an offence, shall have their permit automatically withdrawn. This shall include the acceptance of a set penalty.
- A club may not have more than four overage permit players each year.
- A player having played senior grade football at any club in any season, is not eligible for an overage permit.
- No overage permits will be granted after 30<sup>th</sup> of June each year.
- The decision on the granting or otherwise of an overage permit by the GVL Board is final.
- A player playing on an overage permit must be highlighted or otherwise marked on the team sheet.
- An overage permit is provisional for four games after which the permit will be re-assessed. A further re-assessment will be conducted on or about 30<sup>th</sup> of June.
- An overage permit player may not play senior grade football or more than four reserves grade games.
- Overage permit players and their club must be fully aware of the relevant bylaws section 5.
- **A copy of a proof of age document must be attached to this application.**
- **A copy of a medical certificate must be attached to this application if request is due to health issues.**

We, the undersigned, understand and agree to the above conditions.

Signed player \_\_\_\_\_ Signed President/Coach \_\_\_\_\_

GVL use only

Date application received                    /            /20

Signed conditions received                Y/N

Proof of age attached                        Y/N

Medical certificate attached                Y/N or N/A

Player Statement completed                Y/N

Coach/JDO Statement completed        Y/N

Signed by President                         Y/N

Provisional approval                        Y/N    Provisional for four games

Date Club Advised                         /            /20\_\_ via \_\_\_\_\_

Reassess after round \_\_\_\_\_

Final approval                                Y/N

Date Club Advised                         /            /20\_\_ via \_\_\_\_\_

# GOTAFE Goulburn Valley League (GVL) 2021 Season COVID Guidelines

## 1. Overview of Document

- a. These guidelines have been established to provide stakeholders with an overview of the changes that have been implemented for the 2021 season of Community Club Football. Given a number of rules will apply for this potentially this 2021 season only, an addendum to the Bylaws was deemed more appropriate than Bylaws changes that will be required to be reversed at the end of the season. The regulations here will only apply for the 2021 season. Depending on prevailing conditions at conclusion of the season, they may be modified and extended into future seasons.
- b. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the following pre-existing documents:
  - i. [Laws of Australian Football](#)
  - ii. [AFL Victoria Regulations](#)
  - ii. [National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#)
  - iii. [State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines](#)
  - iv. League specific documents such as:
    - A. Bylaws
    - B. Player Points System Policy
    - C. Player Payment Rules
    - D. Player Interchange Agreements
- c. In the event there is a conflict between the pre-existing documents outlined in **1(b)**, these Guidelines shall prevail.
- d. The COVID-19 2021 Season Guidelines is an evolving document and may be subject to change at any time, by the Goulburn Valley League.

## 2. COVID Safety Compliance

- a. Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring all relevant Club personnel familiarise themselves with the AFL Victoria [Return to Training and Games Protocols](#), as well as all State Government restrictions and protocols relating to community sport.
- b. Clubs must appointment a minimum of one (1) COVID Safety Officer, who must complete the free 20 minute [COVID-19 infection control training](#), submit the certificate of completion to their league administrator, and be responsible for ensuring all COVID protocols are adhered to, including taking an attendance register.
- c. It is recommended that Clubs encourage all participants to download the COVID-SAFE App.

## 3. Positive Case Implications

- a. If there is an occurrence of a positive or suspected case of COVID-19 at your club, the health authorities, your clubs COVID Safety Officer and the League Administrator should all be notified and the process detailed in AFL Victoria's Suspected COVID Case Response Plan (see appendix) should be followed.
- b. Cancellation or Suspension of Matches - If a team is unable to participate in a designated fixture due to COVID-related medical reasons, the club must submit to the Competition Management Committee any available evidence (i.e. number of players affected, medical certificates etc.).
- c. In such circumstances, the Competition Management Committee will determine the

outcome of the match in line with league specific by-laws.

d. Such determination will factor in minimum player numbers, squad availability, player eligibility and notification timeframes as a basis for decision.

#### **4. Competition Management Committee**

a. The Competition Management Committee will be a body comprised of Goulburn Valley League executive members and/or external independent individuals to determine the outcome of matches affected by COVID-19 related incidents.

b. The Competition Management Committee will at its earliest convenience determine the findings of any COVID-19 affected match and communicate these decisions to the affected clubs, competition and other league stakeholders.

#### **5. Factors to be considered when determining COVID-19 affected match outcomes / alternatives**

a. Number of affected players / officials from each team;

b. Match result history of previous matches between the same competing teams;

c. For finals matches, the ladder position of a team at the conclusion of the H&A season;

d. The willingness and option of affected teams to play match at an alternative time in the season;

e. The impact that a match's results will have on the overall competition;

f. Where umpire's availability is impacted from COVID-19 incidents, the viability of pursuing alternative match referee options, including but not limited to the use of club umpires;

g. Any other determining and relevant factors as deemed appropriate by the Competition Management Committee.

#### **6. Potential outcomes of COVID-19 affected match determinations**

a. Splitting of premiership points amongst competing teams with team sheets able to be submitted;

b. Determination of a match winner based on factors listed in point 5 above;

c. Where teams in the competition play in an uneven number of matches, teams may be positioned on the ladder by "Winning Percentage" in place of total premiership points accrued. The "Winning Percentage" is percentage of team wins against matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one club has the same "Winning Percentage", those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs;

- d. Rescheduling of match;
- e. The use of alternate match referees, such as club umpires, where availability of umpires is impacted by a COVID-19 incident;
- f. A cancellation of the match. No premiership points or team sheets are able to be submitted;
- g. An amended match structure (such as playing with less numbers on the field) in the case where sufficient number of players are deemed available and a meaningful match can occur;
- h. Any other outcome as deemed appropriate by the Competition Match Committee.