



# **AFL VICTORIA COMMUNITY AFFILIATE REGULATIONS**

APRIL 2025

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Overview	3
1.2 Application	3
1.3 Variation	3
<b>2. Definitions and Interpretations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Player Registration, Transfer and Permit Process</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Appeals	4
3.2 Conflicting Regulations	4
3.3 Player Registration, Transfer and Appeal Process	4
3.4 Coates Talent League / VFL / VFLW Players	4
3.5 State Interchange agreements and Permit Arrangements	5
<b>4. Admission and Transfer of Clubs and Teams</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 General	6
4.2 Establishment of New Clubs	7
4.3 Transfer of Existing or Amalgamated Clubs	7
4.4 Establishment of New Teams	8
4.5 Transfer of Existing or Amalgamated Teams	9
<b>5. Introduction or Amendment of any Underage Competition</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. Appeals Process</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1 Appeals under Regulation 4 or 5	11
6.2 Additional AFL Victoria Appeals	11
6.3 AFL Victoria Appeal Panel Nominations	12
<b>7. AFL Victoria Policies</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8. Financial Reporting Procedure</b>	<b>13</b>
8.1 Annual Report	13
8.2 Financial Year	13
<b>9. Sponsorship</b>	<b>13</b>
9.1 Sponsors	13
9.2 Protected Sponsors	13
9.3 Notice	13
<b>10. Communication Between AFL Victoria and Affiliates</b>	<b>13</b>
10.1 Affiliate Input	13
10.2 Affiliate Contact Details	14
<b>11. Regulation and Policy Amendments and Additions</b>	<b>14</b>
11.1 Regulation and Policy Review	14
11.2 Affiliate Submissions	14

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

AFL Victoria provide these regulations to assist Affiliates in the development of the game. The regulations and policies are to be read in conjunction with any AFL Victoria Affiliation Agreement.

### 1.2 Application

These regulations apply to all Affiliates of AFL Victoria and their affiliated leagues and clubs and are to be read in conjunction with the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook and AFL Victoria Country Rules. Specifically, in relation to player, club or team movements, the introduction of new clubs or teams and the introduction or amendment of any underage competitions these regulations govern the said process.

### 1.3 Variation

AFL Victoria may, from time to time, alter these regulations at its absolute discretion.

## 2 Definitions and Interpretations

A list of definitions and interpretations relevant to these regulations are listed in Section 1 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

In addition, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

**Affiliate** - means any league, association, or body responsible for the organisation and conduct of matches which is affiliated with AFL Victoria

**Country Region** - The hierarchical authority including but not limited to a Commission or Council, that:

- has designated governance responsibilities for the direction of football in a geographical location and
- is affiliated with AFL Victoria.

**Metropolitan League** - an organisation that is affiliated with AFL Victoria and conducting football competitions in Metropolitan Victoria.

**Destination Affiliate** - the league to which a player, team or club seeks to transfer to.

**Source Affiliate** - the league from which a player, team or club seeks to transfer from.

**New Clubs** - an entity which is not recognised as an affiliated club of an AFL Victoria affiliated League or Region desiring to affiliate and or enter a team or teams in an affiliate League.

**New Teams** – a team from an affiliated club of an AFL Victoria affiliated League or Region desiring to enter as an additional team or teams in an affiliate League.

**Amalgamated Club** - an entity which is not recognised as an affiliated club of an AFL Victoria affiliated League or Region but comprises at least one or more existing clubs who propose to amalgamate with another entity to form a club which is desiring to affiliate or enter a team or teams in an affiliate League.

**Amalgamated Teams** - a team which is comprised from at least one or more existing affiliated clubs who propose to amalgamate with another to form a team which is desiring to enter an affiliate League.

### **3 Player Registration, Transfer and Permit Process**

#### **3.1 Appeals**

AFL Victoria will make determinations in relation to appeals that arise involving more than one Affiliate, and any decision of AFL Victoria shall be binding.

#### **3.2 Conflicting Regulations**

No Affiliate shall have in place rules or regulations that conflict with these regulations. In the event of such rules or regulations being inconsistent, in conflict with or designed to circumvent these AFL Victoria regulations, then AFL Victoria regulations shall bind Affiliates.

#### **3.3 Player Registration, Transfer and Appeal Process**

All player registrations and transfers shall be administered consistent with Section 3 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

- a) Where a Player disputes a transfer refusal, that Player and/or their Destination Club must use best endeavors to resolve the dispute with the Source Club.
- b) Where a dispute cannot be resolved under Section 3.5(d) of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook, a Player and their Destination Club may appeal the transfer refusal by the Source Club provided that;
  - i) An appeal involving a Club from an Affiliate Country Region and a club from a Metropolitan League, or clubs from two different Metropolitan Leagues, will be heard by the AFL Victoria Appeal Panel in accordance with Section 26 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.
  - ii) An appeal of a player transfer objection must be lodged with AFL Victoria no later than 5.00pm on the day following the relevant decision of a Club, League or Affiliate, following:
    - A. A duly completed Notice of Appeal; and
    - B. Payment of a fixed fee as determined by AFL Victoria (which will be dealt with in accordance with Sections 26.4(d) and 26.4(e) of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.
  - iii) At the hearing of an appeal, each party may be represented by an advocate provided that such advocate is not a person who is legally qualified, unless approved by the Chairman of the Appeals Panel.
  - iv) An appeal involving a Source Club and a Destination Club that are both affiliated with the same Metropolitan League will be heard by that Metropolitan League in accordance with that Leagues Appeal Process.
  - v) An appeal involving a Source Club and a Destination Club that are both affiliated with a Country Region will be heard in accordance with Clause 8 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules.

#### **3.4 Coates Talent League / VFL / VFLW Players**

The following Regulations relate to the movement of players between the Affiliate and the VFL, VFLW and Coates Talent League competitions.

##### **3.4.1 Interchange Permit**

Players desiring registration with the VFL, VFLW or Coates Talent League competitions shall

complete the appropriate Interchange Permit as required under the Interchange Agreement, approved under Section 3.7 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

Upon lodgement of the permit with the AFL, the applicant may be provided a permit to play by the relevant competition manager.

#### **3.4.2 Interchange from Community Club**

The player retains registration with the community club and, in accordance with the VFL, VFLW and Coates Talent League Interchange Agreements, the VFL, VFLW and Coates Talent League may permit players to return to their Community Interchange Club when their services are not required by those leagues and their affiliated clubs.

A Player that is subject to an Interchange Permit with a VFL, VFLW or Coates Talent League Club may not participate with their community club without the approval of their VFL, VFLW or Coates Talent League Club, and may be deemed an ineligible player by that Community League should the required approval from their VFL, VFLW or Coates Talent League Club not be obtained.

### **3.5 State Interchange Agreements and Permit arrangements**

Permits detailed in this section must be applied for by the Destination Club completing all required details contained in the Permit application form available at <https://play.afl/learning-resources/victoria>.

#### **3.5.1 Under Age Compassionate Permit:**

Where a player eligible to play in an underage junior affiliated competition (as defined by the destination League or Region) is in a situation where the parents have separated and have special custody arrangements, such players may be eligible to apply for a permit to play at a second or alternate club which is more than 100km away from their primary registered club upon approval of both affiliate League Operations Departments and the AFL Victoria Community Football Operations Department.

A player eligible under this permit may only participate in one game per weekend and may be eligible for finals providing they have qualified under the local provisions however they may only play in one finals series per weekend.

The verification and approval of a permit under this clause will rest with both affiliate League Operations Departments and the AFL Victoria Community Football Operations Department after lodgement of the Compassionate Permit Form, available on AFL PLAY Victoria's website, and proof of separation and residence of both parents as requested.

Prior to any match played, the player shall obtain a Season Permit in Play HQ. Compassionate Permits under this clause must be applied for and approved prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> in each year and is only applicable for that current year.

#### **3.5.2 Student Living Away from Home Permit:**

This permit arrangement is only open to players who are full-time students. A player residing away from their usual place of abode while attending a Secondary/TAFE College, Institution or University on a full time and continuous basis and playing in any affiliated competition may, during registered school holidays and registered semester vacations approved by both affiliate League Operations Departments and AFL Victoria Football Operations Department, receive a permit to play with the club with which the player was last registered with before being transferred to their current club.

If required by either affiliate League Operations Departments or AFL Victoria Football Operations Department, the player shall supply documentary evidence of their attendance at the said College, Institute, or University.

A player eligible under this permit may only participate in one game per weekend and may be eligible for finals providing they have qualified under the local provisions however they may only play in one finals series per weekend. Any finals matches must also be during registered school holidays and registered semester vacations approved by both affiliate League Operations Departments and AFL Victoria Football Operations Department.

Prior to any match played, the player shall obtain a Season Permit in Play HQ. Permits under this clause must be applied for and approved prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> in each year and is only applicable for that current year.

## **4 Admission and Transfer of Clubs and Teams**

### **Regulation Intent Statement**

The following Transfer Regulations are established to best provide a collaborative and strategic approach amongst community football bodies in Victoria to ensure the benefits to the game is a high priority. By providing early intent notifications to relevant parties and maintaining transparent communications throughout the processes, assessment of the proposed transfer can assist in guiding decision making.

The creation and use of forms to capture evidence relevant to a proposition and submitted within timeframes ensures adequate assessment and collaboration between key stakeholders to ideally reach agreement on decisions which have significant influence on the future direction of the game in Victoria.

### **4.1 General**

- a) AFL Victoria will make determinations in relation to the Admission and Transfer of Clubs and Teams impacting more than one Affiliate League; any decision of AFL Victoria shall be binding.
- b) AFL Victoria shall make such determinations and decisions in respect to Affiliates failing to comply with these Regulations as it deems fit, and the decision of AFL Victoria shall be final and binding on all Affiliates.
- c) The Affiliation, Admission and Transfer of Clubs and Teams must be approved by AFL Victoria. A new club or team, a transferred Club or Amalgamated Club or Team may not participate in any league match until AFL Victoria approval has been granted.
- d) Affiliate Clubs seeking to transfer under these regulations will only be approved by AFL Victoria having already ensured all approval processes and requirements and financial obligations relevant to all Clubs, Leagues and Regions (as applicable) have been met.
- e) Unless otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, as detailed in Clause 3 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules, Country Regions will manage the process for a Club or Team transfer, including an Appeal process, where that transfer relates to a Club or Team transferring within the same Country Region with any such process administered consistent with this Section 4 of these Regulations.
- f) Unless otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, as detailed in Clause 3 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules, Country Regions will manage the process for the establishment of a New Club or New Team, including an Appeal process with any such process administered consistent with this Section 4 of these Regulations.

## 4.2 Establishment of New Clubs

- a) The Affiliation of a new club must be approved by AFL Victoria. The new club may not participate in any league match until AFL Victoria approval has been granted.
- b) Affiliate Leagues intending to accept a New Club must notify AFL Victoria or relevant Country Region, consistent with Section 3 of AFL Victoria Country Rules on an **Intention to Accept Form** by no later than 5.00pm 31<sup>st</sup> October (in the year prior).
- c) In exceptional circumstances, the Head of AFL Victoria may, on application waive any timeframes at their discretion.
- d) Having received an **Intention to Accept Form**, AFL Victoria or relevant Country Region shall commence the collation of data relevant to the proposed new club and prepare an analysis of the consequences on the broader football landscape and make available to the relevant Affiliates.
- e) On receipt of **Intention to Accept Form**, AFL Victoria or relevant Country Region shall, within 14 days or as otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, notify the affiliate Leagues that they, at their absolute discretion, determine may be impacted by the proposed new Clubs and provide an opportunity to Appeal the Intent to Accept by no later than 5.00pm on the day following.
- f) Any appeal process will be administered consistent with Section 6.1 of these regulations.
- g) Should there be no Appeal, AFL Victoria or relevant Country Region shall make such determinations and decisions in respect to new club as it deems fit, and the decision of AFL Victoria shall be final and binding on all Affiliates.

## 4.3 Transfer of Existing or Amalgamated Clubs

- a) Where a club or clubs seek to transfer from one Affiliate to another Affiliate, such transfer must be approved by AFL Victoria.
- b) Any Affiliate Club intending to transfer to another Affiliated League shall notify AFL Victoria and its Source Affiliate League consistent with Section 4.1 in writing using the **Intention to Transfer Form** not later than 5.00pm on 30<sup>th</sup> June the year prior to the proposed transfer.
  - i) Any Affiliate Club intending to transfer to another Affiliated League having notified AFL Victoria and its Source Affiliate League shall be required to meet with its Source Affiliate League by 31<sup>st</sup> July
  - ii) Any Destination Affiliate League considering accepting a transfer of an existing or amalgamated Club from a Source Affiliate League shall be required to meet and liaise with the Source Affiliate League regarding any possible Club transfer by 31<sup>st</sup> July
  - iii) Any Destination Affiliate League, having met with the Source Affiliate League and remain intent on accepting the transfer of an existing or amalgamated Club shall be required to confirm in writing on an **Intention to Accept Form** with the Source Affiliate League and AFL Victoria later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August the year prior to the proposed transfer.
  - iv) Where a Destination Affiliate League does not wish to accept the transfer of an Affiliated Club for the following year, notification is to be provided to AFL Victoria, the Source Affiliate

League and Affiliate Club by no later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August the year prior to the proposed transfer.

- v) An Affiliate Club may submit multiple **Intention to Transfer Forms** within the allowable timeframes, however, may only have one under consideration at any one time.
- c) Having received an **Intention to Transfer Form** from an Affiliate Club, AFL Victoria shall commence the collation of data relevant to the proposed transfer and prepare an analysis of the consequences of the transfer on the broader football landscape and make available to the Source Affiliate and Destination Affiliate Leagues and the Affiliate Club.
- d) On receipt of **Intention to Accept Form** from a Destination Affiliate League, AFL Victoria shall, within 14 days or as otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, notify the Source Affiliate League and the Destination Affiliate League of the Intent to Accept Form and provide the Source Affiliate League an opportunity to Appeal the Intent to Accept by no later than 5.00pm on the day following.
  - i) Where a Source Affiliate League wishes to appeal against a decision of the Destination Affiliate League to intend to accept such a transfer under Section 4.3 (b) of this regulation, written notification is to be provided to AFL Victoria and the Destination Affiliate League by no later than 5.00pm on the day following receiving advice from AFL Victoria of such intended transfer.
  - ii) Where a Destination Affiliate League does not wish to accept the transfer of an Affiliated Club for the following year, notification is to be provided to AFL Victoria, the Source Affiliate League and Affiliate Club by no later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July the year prior to the proposed transfer.
- e) In exceptional circumstances, the Head of AFL Victoria may, on application from either Source Affiliate League or Destination Affiliate League, waive any timeframes at their discretion.
- f) Any appeal process will be administered consistent with Clause 6.1 of these regulations.
- g) Should there be no Appeal, AFL Victoria shall make such determinations and decisions in respect to new club as it deems fit, and the decision of AFL Victoria shall be final and binding on all Affiliates.

#### 4.4 Establishment of New Teams

- a) Any Affiliate League intending to accept a newly established team, must advise AFL Victoria, consistent with Section 4.1 (as applicable for County Regions), by no later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> March (that year) in writing on an **Intention to Accept Form**.
- b) In exceptional circumstances, the Head of AFL Victoria may, on application waive any timeframes at their discretion
- c) Having received an **Intention to Accept Form**, AFL Victoria shall commence the collation of data relevant to the proposed new teams and prepare an analysis of the consequences on the broader football landscape and make available to the Affiliate League.
- d) On receipt of **Intention to Accept Form**, AFL Victoria shall, within 14 days or as otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, notify the affiliate Leagues that they, at their absolute discretion,

determine may be impacted by the proposed new teams and provide the Affiliate Leagues an opportunity to Appeal the Intent to Accept by no later than 5.00pm on the day following.

- e) Where another Affiliate League appeals the intended establishment of the new team or teams under Section 4.4(e) of this Regulation, that Affiliate League is to provide written notification to AFL Victoria by no later than 5.00pm on the day following receiving written advice from AFL Victoria.
  - i. Should there be no Appeal, AFL Victoria shall make such determinations and decisions in respect to new club as it deems fit, and the decision of AFL Victoria shall be final and binding on all Affiliates.
- f) Any appeal process will be administered consistent with Clause 6.1 of these regulations.

#### **4.5 Transfer of Existing or Amalgamated Teams**

- a) Where a club or clubs seek to transfer an existing or amalgamated team from one Affiliate to another Affiliate, such transfer must be approved by AFL Victoria.
- b) Any Affiliate Club intending to transfer an existing or amalgamated team to another Affiliated League shall notify AFL Victoria and its Source Affiliate League consistent with Section 4 in writing use the **Intention to Transfer Form** not later than 5.00pm on 30<sup>th</sup> June the year prior to the proposed transfer.
  - i. Any Affiliate Club intending to transfer an existing or amalgamated team to a Destination Affiliate League having notified AFL Victoria and its Source Affiliate League shall be required to meet with its Source Affiliate League by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - ii. Any Destination Affiliate League intending to accept the transfer of an existing or amalgamated Team from a Source Affiliate League shall be required to meet and liaise with the Source Affiliate League regarding any possible transfer by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - iii. Any Destination Affiliate League, having met with the Source Affiliate League and remain intent on accepting the transfer of an existing or amalgamated team shall be required to confirm in writing on a **Intention to Accept Form** with the Source Affiliate League and AFL Victoria later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August the year prior to the proposed transfer.
  - iv. Where a Destination Affiliate League does not wish to accept the transfer of an existing or amalgamated team for the following year, notification is to be provided to AFL Victoria and the Source Affiliate League and Affiliate Club by no later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August the year prior to the proposed transfer.
  - v. An Affiliate Club may submit multiple **Intention to Transfer Forms** within the allowable timeframes, however, may only have one under consideration at any one time.
- c) Having received an **Intention to Transfer Form**, AFL Victoria shall commence the collation of data relevant to the proposed transfer and prepare an analysis of the consequences of the transfer on the broader football landscape and make available to the Source Affiliate League and Destination Affiliate Leagues and the Affiliated Club.
- d) On receipt of **Intention to Accept Form** from a Destination Affiliate League, AFL Victoria shall, within 14 days or as otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, notify the Source Affiliate League and

the Destination Affiliate League of the Intent to Accept Form and provide the Source Affiliate League an opportunity to Appeal the Intent to Accept by no later than 5.00pm on the day following.

- I. Where a Source Affiliate League wishes to appeal against a decision of the Destination Affiliate League to intend to accept such a transfer under Section 4.5 (b) of this regulation, written notification is to be provided to AFL Victoria and the Destination Affiliate League by no later than 5.00pm on the day following receiving advice from AFL Victoria of such intended transfer.
- e) In exceptional circumstances, the Head of AFL Victoria may, on application from either the Source Affiliate League or Destination Affiliate League, may waive any timeframes at their discretion.
- f) Any appeal process will be administered consistent with Clause 6.1 of these regulations.
- g) Should there be no Appeal, AFL Victoria shall make such determinations and decisions in respect to new team as it deems fit, and the decision of AFL Victoria shall be final and binding on all Affiliates.

## 5 Introduction or Amendment of any Underage Competition

- a) Where an Affiliate League or Leagues seek to introduce or amend an existing underage competition, such action must be approved by AFL Victoria and the decision of AFL Victoria shall be final and binding on all Affiliates.
- b) Unless otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, consistent with Clause 3 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules, Country Regions will manage the process for any amendment to age groups or introduction of new age groups in competitions, including an Appeal process with any such process administered consistent with Section 6 of these AFL Victoria Community Affiliate regulations.
- c) Affiliate Leagues must notify AFL Victoria and all relevant Metropolitan or Country Region Affiliate Leagues of its intent to amend or introduce new age groups in competitions. Applications must be received in writing on an **Intention to Amend an Age Group Form** by AFL Victoria by no later than 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October in the year prior to the proposed amendment.
- d) In exceptional circumstances, the Head of AFL Victoria may, on application from the Affiliate League, waive any timeframes at their discretion.
- e) Having received an **Intention to Amend an Age Group** application, AFL Victoria shall commence the collation of data relevant to the proposed amendment and prepare an analysis of the consequences of the transfer on the broader football landscape and make available to the relevant Affiliate Leagues.
- f) AFL Victoria shall, within 14 days or as otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, notify the Affiliate Leagues that, at their absolute discretion, may be impacted by the proposed amendment to an existing age group qualification or introduction of new age group in competitions and provide the Affiliate Leagues an opportunity to Appeal by no later than 5.00pm on the day following.
- g) Where another Affiliate League appeals the intended amendment to an existing age group qualification or introduction of new age group in competitions under Section 5(c) of this regulation, that Affiliate League is to provide written notification to AFL Victoria (and communicated to all affiliate leagues) by no later than 5.00pm on the day following receiving advice from AFL Victoria.

- h) AFL Victoria must approve any introduction of new or amendment of existing age group qualification for any competition for an Affiliate League, following consultation and subject to any appeals being received from Affiliate Leagues.
- i) Any appeal process will be administered consistent with Clause 6.1 of these regulations.

## **6 Appeal Process**

### **6.1 Appeals under Regulations 4 or 5**

- a) Where an Affiliate appeals the:
  - i) Establishment of a new club
  - ii) Transfer of an existing or amalgamated club
  - iii) Establishment of a new team
  - iv) Transfer of an existing or amalgamated team or
  - v) Introduction or amendment of any underage competition,

the Head of AFL Victoria or nominee shall appoint three (3) members to the AFL Victoria Appeal Panel.
- b) Parties to the appeal process will be requested to provide AFL Victoria with a written submission which may contain:
  - i) Any facts, reasons and arguments concerning the applications and the appeal; and
  - ii) Any other matters that they desire to be considered by the AFL Victoria Appeal Panel.
- c) AFL Victoria shall, distribute the written submissions to the other parties concerned in the hearing, and provide all parties the opportunity to provide final submissions.
- d) Following provision of final submissions, the Appeal Panel make seek further detail from any party to the appeal and this further detail must be provided in writing and within the timeframe specified by the Appeal Panel
- e) The AFL Victoria Appeal Panel:
  - i) Shall consider and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner
  - ii) Is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit
  - iii) May regulate the proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit
  - iv) Shall decide in relation to the appeal as soon as practicable
  - v) Shall not be obliged to give reasons for its decision

### **6.2 Additional AFL Victoria Appeals**

- a) Unless otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, appeals will be heard consistent with Section 26 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- b) For the avoidance of doubt, a party to a decision (as determined by AFL Victoria)

- i) Made under clause 11.3 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy
- ii) Made under clause 13 of a Metropolitan League or Region Commission's Player Payments Rules
- iii) Made under Section 23.3 (c) of the AFL National Community Policy Handbook; or
- iv) Any matter referred by the Head of AFL Victoria,

may Appeal to the Appeal Panel in respect of such a decision on one or more of the following grounds:

- A. Section 26.1(b)(i)(A) the decision was an error of law that had a material impact on the decision.
  - B. Section 26.1(b)(i)(B) the decision was so unreasonable that no Controlling Body or Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it.
  - C. Section 26.1(b)(i)(D) the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.
- c) Any appeal relevant to an Age Dispensation decision under Section 4 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook will be heard by the relevant Metropolitan League or Country Region consistent with their own Appeal Process.
  - d) The Head of AFL Victoria or nominee may from time to time convene an AFL Victoria Appeals Panel, comprising a Chairperson and a further two (2) persons to hear and determine the matter.
  - e) At the discretion of AFL Victoria, each party may, within the time specified by the AFL Victoria Appeals Panel, lodge with AFL Victoria written submissions which may contain:
    - i) Any facts, reasons and arguments concerning the appeal; and
    - ii) Any other matters that they desire to be taken into account by the AFL Victoria Appeals Panel in determining the appeal.
  - f) AFL Victoria may as soon as practical,, distribute the written submissions to the other parties concerned in the appeal and provide all parties the opportunity to provide final submissions.
  - g) Following provision of final submissions, the Appeal Panel make seek further detail from any party to the appeal and this further detail must be provided in writing and within the timeframe specified by the Appeal Panel .
  - h) The AFL Victoria Appeals Panel:
    - i) Is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts record but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit;
    - ii) May confirm, reverse or modify the decision being appealed and make such decisions in such manner as it thinks fit; and
    - iii) Shall not be obliged to give reasons for its decision.

### **6.3 AFL Victoria Appeal Panel Nominations**

Nominations from Affiliates for appointments to the AFL Victoria Appeals Panel are to be received by the AFL Victoria Community Football Operations Manager at any time in a given year.

AFL Victoria is to determine the appointment of members to the AFL Victoria Appeals Panel. The decision of AFL Victoria regarding appointments shall be final.

## **7 AFL Victoria Policies**

Each Affiliate shall adopt policies as detailed in the:

- a) AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook
- b) AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy
- c) Metropolitan Leagues or Country Regions Player Payment Rules and Guidelines
- d) AFL Victoria Country Rules as applicable to affiliated Country Regions and Leagues

AFL Victoria will provide the current AFL Victoria policies via <https://play.afl/learning-resources/victoria>.

## **8 Financial Reporting Procedure**

### **8.1 Annual Report**

Within 7 days of an Affiliates Annual General Meeting, the Affiliate shall provide its Annual Report (including audited and detailed Financial Statements) to AFL Victoria.

### **8.2 Financial Year**

Unless otherwise approved, the financial year of AFL Victoria and all Affiliates shall be 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## **9 Sponsorship**

### **9.1 Sponsors**

Where AFL Victoria has entered into a sponsorship arrangement on behalf of its Affiliates, the Affiliate shall support those sponsors in accordance with the contractual arrangements.

### **9.2 Protected Sponsors**

From time to time AFL Victoria will nominate sponsors deemed to be “protected sponsors” notwithstanding they may not be involved with Affiliates.

The Affiliate acknowledges and agrees that:

- a) the AFL Victoria protected sponsors provide in part the financial resources to AFL Victoria to enable it to financially support the development of Australian Football; and
- b) in order to maximise the financial benefits for AFL Victoria from such sponsorship, it will only enter into its own sponsorship arrangements with a person or business whose goods, services or operations compete with the goods or services supplied by or the operations of the AFL Victoria Protected Sponsors if it has first advised AFL Victoria of its intention to enter into such arrangement. AFL Victoria will provide advice to the Affiliate regarding implications of entering into such arrangement.

Protected sponsors will only be nominated after AFL Victoria makes every endeavour to ensure that such protected sponsors will not conflict with Affiliate arrangements.

### **9.3 Notice**

AFL Victoria will give reasonable notice to Affiliates of protected and other sponsors.

## **10 Communication between AFL Victoria and Affiliates**

### **10.1 Affiliate Input**

Prior to formulating any AFL Victoria policy, input will be sought from Affiliates.

## **10.2 Affiliate Contact Details**

Each Affiliate must provide to AFL Victoria appropriate identity and contact details of its President and CEO/General Manager and changes must be notified to AFL Victoria within 10 days of such changes taking place.

## **11 Regulation and Policy amendments and additions.**

### **11.1 Regulation and Policy Review**

AFL Victoria will from time to time review its policies and regulations and will provide Affiliates with an opportunity to provide input via the AFL Victoria Policy Reference Group into any updates of AFL Victoria rules, regulations and policies.

### **11.2 Affiliate Submissions**

Affiliates may make submissions to AFL Victoria in respect to current and/or potential future rules, regulations and policies via the AFL Victoria Policy Reference Group.

Any written submissions for AFL Victoria's consideration are to be forwarded to the Football Operations Manager of AFL Victoria by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> October in each year.