

Reg No. A0100134K

GOULBURN VALLEY LEAGUE

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

05/05/2026



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These By-Laws are to be read in conjunction with the current AFL Laws of the Game, AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook, AFL Victoria Country Handbook and AFL Goulburn Murray By-Laws.

2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND PERMITS

As outlined in the current AFL Victoria Country Handbook

3 AREA AGREEMENTS

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. Goulburn Murray Junior League

4 APPEALS AGAINST A REFUSED CLEARANCE

As outlined in the current AFL Victoria Country Handbook

5 GVL SEASON FIXTURE

- (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. Feb – Next year fixture dates and draft rolling fixture circulated to all clubs
 - ii. Feb/March – Request window open (Sunday/Night games/Special occasions etc for consideration)
 - iii. Start May– Draft fixture tabled to delegates for written feedback/comment
 - iv. Start May– Club negotiation window open, for Sunday/Night games/Special Occasions etc
 - v. Mid-June– Club negotiation period closed
 - vi. End July – Final fixture tabled for ratification at General Meeting
 - vii. August – 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 / AGE DISPENSATION

The age conditions of players playing in the GVL Football competitions shall be in accordance with the rules of National Community Football Policy Handbook, AFL Victoria Country and the AFL Junior Football Rules.

Under 18 competition - Players must be a minimum age of 15 years on the 31st of December in the year prior to the applicable playing year.

Seniors & Reserves competition - Players must be a minimum age of 16 years on the 31st of December in the year prior to the applicable playing year to play in Reserves or Seniors competitions.

As per Age Dispensation in the National Community Football Policy Handbook, a Player may apply for dispensation to play in a Competition higher age group than that specified above, if the Player believes there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that warrant such permission being granted. The application process, relevant factors in assessing an application,

effect of an approved application and appeal process is as set out in the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

Where the Player is an Underage Player, that Player's parent or guardian must consent to such application.

The application process, relevant factors in assessing an application, effect of an approved application and appeal process is as set out in the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

7 PLAYING NUMBERS

- (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 in the case of a team being short of Reserves or Under 18s 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

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

- (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 final's series.

9 FORFEIT OF MATCHES

- (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 be penalised according to Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fees and any other fees incurred on the day Any forfeit must be notified to the League and opposition club as early as possible and by no later than 7.00pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled game to ensure rescheduling of umpires, videographers, broadcast teams etc can occur. Failure to notify the opposition club and the League by 7pm Friday will result in additional penalties being applied by the Board. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- (b) Forfeit percentage shall be calculated according to the Laws of Australian Football. If the League is of the opinion that a team will be disadvantaged by the calculation of percentage under these laws, 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

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 Facility Guidelines, 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, as set out in the AFL Facility Guidelines.

11 FOOTBALLS

- (a) Home clubs are responsible for the supply of two (2) A grade Sherrin footballs for all matches that comply with the minimum standards of quality for footballs as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time.
- (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 as well as the official AFL Victoria Country Logo in a manner and on a location on the match football as specified by AFL Victoria Country.

12 FOOTBALL STARTING TIMES – HOME AND AWAY

- (a) Matches shall start in all home and away day games at –
 - i. Under 18 -10.00am
 - ii. Reserves – 12:00pm
 - iii. Seniors – 2:00pm
 - iv. Or any other times agreed to by both competing teams and approved by the Board. Must be submitted to the League by 5.00pm week prior the round.
- (b) Matches shall start for all home and away night games at –
 - i. Under 18 – 2:00pm
 - ii. Reserves – 4:00pm
 - iii. Seniors – 6:00pm
- (c) Matches to be played in accordance with the rules of AFL Victoria Country or otherwise approved by the Board.
- (d) Lighting for night fixtures in the GVL:
 - As set out in the AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines, the Australian Standards (AS 2560.2 – Sports Lighting, Part 2: Specific applications) contains recommendations and requirements specific to the lighting for Australia Football. AS 2560.2 was published in 2021 to supersede the previous AS 2560.3 – Lighting for football (all codes).
 - This is a minimum maintained average horizontal illuminance (LUX) of 100. Whilst the average minimum lux levels for amateur community club night competition is 100 lux, AS 2560.2 identifies that where practical, the provision of minimum 150 lux is preferred to take account of contemporary viewing expectations of spectators.

13 FOOTBALL PLAYING TIMES – HOME AND AWAY

- (a) Playing time of home and away football matches
 - i. Under 18 – Four quarters of 20 minutes, no time on.
 - ii. Reserves – Four quarters of 20 minutes, no time on.
 - iii. Seniors – Four quarters of 20 minutes, plus time on.
- (b) The breaks for all matches are as follows
 - i. ¼ time – 5 min (All Grades)
 - ii. ½ time – 15 mins (U18 & Reserves) 20 mins (Seniors)
 - iii. ¾ time – 5 min (all grades)

- (c) Only the Senior team may leave the field at half time.
- (d) All times are to be recorded on the Leagues official timecard 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

- (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.
- (d) Team lists for all grades must be submitted to PlayHQ by 9am Friday prior the scheduled Rounds matches. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$250 per grade applicable.

15 RUNNERS, WATER-CARRIERS, TRAINERS & COACHES

- (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
- (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. All officials & volunteers MUST be registered on the Competition Management Platform (PlayHQ).
- (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/nude colored 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 and as specified in Section 5 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook, all coaches and assistant coaches of AFL

Victoria Country Clubs are required to obtain Foundation Level Accreditation, prior to their first match as coach or assistant coach in the relevant season.

- ii. If a coach is appointed without having obtained the necessary accreditation, Leagues shall:
 - a) impose a \$1,000 fine (Senior) or \$500 fine (Junior) and
 - b) the loss of match points for the matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach.
- iii. In the event of no match points being received the league must apply the above fines. Fines are applied once only (\$1,000 or \$500) and are not applicable to every match. In the instance where coaches are not accredited and commit to obtaining Coach Accreditation by an agreed date with the League, a bond for clubs shall apply of \$1,000 (Senior) and \$500 (Junior).

Where a coach fails to obtain Coach Accreditation by the agreed date the bond paid by the club is forfeited and the relevant fines shall also apply. During play coaches are to remain in the designated coach's box area and adhere to the ALF Goulburn Murray Coaching Box White Card System.

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 they coach is participating.

16 CLUB GUERNSEYS

- (a) Only AFL Victoria Country and Goulburn Valley League approved guernseys and shorts 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 AFL Victoria Country Logo (as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time) must feature on each item of uniform (guernseys and shorts)
- (c) 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.
Clubs are required to submit their guernsey designs to the League for approval, PRIOR the confirming and ordering of these. Any clubs failing to seek the necessary approval will be subjected to penalties as determined by the Board.

17 PLAYING SHORTS

- (a) Only nude 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

- (a) One responsible timekeeper to be provided by each competing club.
- (b) Stop watches/table times to be synchronised. **MOBILE PHONES MUST NOT BE USED.**
- (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 is as outlined in the Laws of the Games:
 - 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;

- The boundary umpire signals that the football is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full; 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;
 - The football is obviously in play
 - Or the umpire calls “Play On”.

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 MELEES

A melee is as defined in the National Community Football Policy Handbook. As follows:

Engaging in a Melee/Wrestle A Melee/Wrestle is defined as an incident involving Persons who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another, and which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the Controlling Body. In determining if a Person’s conduct constitutes Engaging in a Melee/Wrestle, the following factors will be considered:

- (A) the duration the Person is involved in the Melee/Wrestle;
- (B) the vigour applied by the Person;
- (C) whether the Melee/Wrestle occurs at a break in play, particularly at quarter breaks and half time;
- (D) whether the Person contributed to an escalation of the Melee/Wrestle; and
- (E) the role of the Person (for example, Player or Football Official).

Instigator of a Melee/Wrestle

Where a Person’s conduct results in retaliatory action which leads to a Melee/Wrestle, that Person’s conduct may constitute a Reportable Offence of Instigator of a Melee/Wrestle. The Reportable Offence of Instigator of Melee/Wrestle is separate to the Reportable Offence of Engaging in a Melee/Wrestle and a Person may be found guilty of both Reportable Offences.

Players involved in either instigating a melee or engaging in a melee, will be charged accordingly. In addition to the individual player reports, clubs will incur a financial penalty as well.

Additional financial penalties would be as follows:

- a) *Team 1st offence (in one season): \$500;*
- b) *Team 2nd offence (in one season): \$800;*
- c) *Team 3rd offence (in one season): \$1000;*
- d) *Team 4th offence (in one season): Decision referred to Board. Fines shall be charged to the club’s account.*

If the melee occurs during finals series, the penalty will be \$1,000

21 MATCH RESULTS

- (a) The home club is responsible for implementing live scoring for all three grades.
- (b) Home Club to enter all match details at the completion of the game onto PlayHQ no later than 30 minutes from the conclusion of each game.
- (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 PlayHQ.
- (d) Please submit all paperwork (including Netball) to AFL Goulburn Murray in the prescribed manner. This will be communicated to clubs ahead of the commencement of each season.
 - i. Official team Sheets (Both teams)
 - ii. League best & fairest Vote slips x 1 per grade
 - iii. MVP award vote slips x 2 per grade
 - iv. Timecard x 1
 - v. Timekeepers sheet x 1
 - vi. Goal Umpire Score Card x 2
 - vii. Interchange & Order off Form
- (e) 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).
- (f) The home club must submit the full match results, outlined in 20c above, no later than 30 minutes from the conclusion of each game.
- (g) If match results are not entered correctly as outlined above the club may receive a fine at the discretion of the Board.
- (h) Clubs to notify the League Operations Manager ASAP if any issues arise regarding entering match results.

22 FINALS FORMAT

- (a) The Finals format of the League shall be played as a final six, as follows –
 - i. Elimination Finals – Week one
 - 3rd placed team vs 6th placed team – Elimination final 1 (Saturday)
 - 4th placed team vs 5th placed team – Elimination final 2 (Sunday)
 - ii. Qualifying Final – Week one
 - 1st placed team vs 2nd 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) Gate keepers for all finals matches to be appointed and paid for by the League.
- (d) In the event of a club having two teams in a final at the same venue, those teams to use the same dressing rooms.

23 FOOTBALL STARTING TIMES – FINALS

- (e) Matches shall start in finals (Elimination, Qualifying & Semi Finals) day games at –
 - v. Under 18 – 10:00am
 - vi. Reserves – 12:00pm
 - vii. Seniors – 2:00pm
- (f) Matches shall start in finals (Elimination, Qualifying & Semi Finals) night games at –
 - iv. Under 18 – 2.00pm
 - v. Reserves – 4.00pm
 - vi. Seniors – 6.00pm

- (g) Matches shall start in Grand Final games at –
- vii. Under 18 – 10:00am
 - viii. Reserves – 12.30pm
 - ix. Seniors – 2.40pm

24 FOOTBALL PLAYING TIMES – FINALS

Playing time of finals football matches

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

25 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
- b) A player must play a minimum of three (3) home and away games with their club (irrespective of what grade) to qualify for the finals for their club.
- c) If a player has played three (3) or more Senior grade home and away games, he must have played at least five (5) Reserves grade home and away games to qualify for a finals game in the Reserves grade. This is only applicable to Senior grade & Reserves grade Players.
- d)
 - i) A VFL listed player categorised as a one (1) Point Home player under the AFL Player Points System Policy, shall qualify for GVL Senior Finals providing they have played a minimum of three (3) GVL Senior home and away games.
 - ii) Any VFL player not categorised as a one (1) Point Home player must play a minimum of six (6) Senior GVL home and away games to qualify for GVL Finals. GVL Reserves grade games DO NOT count towards GVL Senior games.
 - iii) A VFL listed player will not qualify for GVL Reserves Grade Finals unless they have played a minimum of six (6) GVL Reserve Grade home and away games during the season.
- e) When a club has each of its Senior grade and Reserve grade teams participating in the same finals round, the selection of players shall be unrestricted, provided a player has participated in at least three (3) club games in that relevant season. 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. E.g. Player plays Reserves grade and Seniors grade on the same weekend, the Senior grade game will be used for finals qualification; the Reserves grade game will not count towards the player's finals qualification for Reserves grade. This is only applicable to Senior grade & Reserves grade Players.
- 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 Coates League 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.
- v. These must be submitted before Round 16, otherwise they will not be reviewed.

26 DRAWN MATCHES - FINALS

- a) In the event of a tied game in any finals match (except Senior Grand Final); 2 x 5 minute halves plus time-on shall be played (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) Once the Goal Umpires have confirmed the scores are tied (by waving the flags to the scoreboard), Coaches may only address players as a group for 5 minutes, between the end of full time and the start of the 2 x 5 minute (plus time on) 'extra time' period. Teams change ends straight over after the first half of extra time has elapsed, with no additional coaches address.
- c) 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.

27 FINALS FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION

- (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.

28 FINALS CAR PARKING

As per direction of the Board.

29 UMPIRES

- (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 U18's.
 - i. All club Boundary umpires must be older than 13 years of age
- (d) Club Goal umpires must wear a white coat.
- (e) Club Central & Club Boundary Umpires to wear League Approved top with sponsors logo when relevant, and black shorts
- (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) Each competing club (home and away) must escort umpires onto and from the playing arena, at the commencement, half time and at the conclusion of each match. The home club and away club must both 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 as set out in Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fees.

30 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- (a) All leagues partnered with the AFL Goulburn Murray Region Administration Centre will fall under the same tribunal processes. The Tribunal Panel 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.
- (b) This tribunal will sit under the guidelines set out by AFL Vic Country (contained within the AFL Victoria Country handbook) and the National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- (c) Tribunal members are not to have held office at a club in the previous 24 months.

31 MATCH REVIEW OFFICER

- (a) All leagues partnered with the AFL Goulburn Murray Region Administration Centre will fall under the same match review processes.
- (b) This match review officer will operate under the guidelines set out by AFL Vic Country (contained within the AFL Victoria Country handbook) and the National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- (c) The match review officer is not to have held office at a club in the previous 24 months.

32 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRIBUNAL HEARINGS & INVESTIGATIONS

- (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 an early guilty plea or guilty plea/verdict delivered by the tribunal relating to an investigation the charged club will pay all costs. This includes any umpire fees/ disciplinary officer costs.
- (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

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

- (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

- (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

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

- (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
 - viii. Statistics/Analytics 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) The Morrison Medal/Wellman Family Medal presentation night shall be held on the Monday immediately following the preliminary final.
- (e) Any player found guilty or accepting of an early guilty plea 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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.
- (h) Most Valuable Player Awards shall be awarded annually in each of the grades under the following conditions:
 - i. voting shall be carried out by each coach who will complete their own voting slip, and they shall award three votes for the most valuable opposition player, two votes for the second one and one for the third. Votes for own players will see the vote card to be deemed to have been completed correctly.
 - ii. the voting card will be signed by the coach and put into a sealed envelope and given to the home club to return with match day paperwork. Votes will not be awarded if the card is unsigned.
 - iii. Votes will be counted each season by the League Operations Manager.

- (i) Clubs will be fined \$300 for any vote cards not completed correctly.
- (j) 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 1st 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.
- (k) The “Bob Dawson”, “Bill Enders” and “Hastie” Premiership cups shall be presented along with a Premiership medal immediately following the U18, Reserves and Senior Grand Finals respectively.
- (l) 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 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.
- (m) 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.
- (n) 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.
- (o) 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.
- (p) 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.
- (q) 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.
- (r) 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.
- (s) 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.
- (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 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 31st January of each year.
- (h) Failure by Delegates to respond to meeting requests, or not attend meetings without advising an apology and who the alternate delegate that will be attending is, will be subject to penalties as set out by the Board.

42 COMMITTEES

- (a) The Board may appoint committees of the League at its discretion.
- (b) Committees will have a charter that each member must adhere to.
- (c) One Board Member and one member of AFL Goulburn Murray will be the ex officio members of all committees.

43 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 (+GST) 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.

44 CLUB CRITICISM

- (a) GVL club officials, players and coaches shall refrain from public criticism of umpires and/or the GVL. This also includes online comments (social media, blogs, etc).
- (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.

45 FINES

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.

46 GVL WEEKENDER

- (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.

47 DELEGATIONS

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

48 PUBLIC/MEDIA COMMENTS

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) – Chairperson
- (b) League related (operational) – Chairperson 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 – Chairperson and/or Region General Manager and/or League Operations Manager
- (g) Social Media (Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Instagram) – Region General Manager and/or League Operations manager
- (h) Netball media previews etc – GVL Board member (Netball portfolio)
- (i) Development activities – AFL Victoria Participation Co-ordinators.

49 ISSUES NOT COVERED IN THESE BY-LAWS OR LEAGUE POLICIES

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.

