

SAFETY & APPEARANCE-RELATED EQUIPMENT POLICY

Policy number	SA-01	Version	2
Drafted by	Peter Steve	Approved by Board on	2 MAR 2019
Responsible person	Governance	Scheduled review date	20 JAN 2020

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall be responsible for communicating this policy to Members of Gridiron Victoria.

The Governance & Policy Director, shall be responsible for ensuring that a copy of this policy is available for reference online, for easy access by Members. The Board Chair shall be responsible for making a ruling on any point in dispute in this policy. Clubs that wish to enter a team in a GV competition but cannot fully meet the requirements for a new team, are invited to apply to enter an Exhibition Team.

PART 1 SAFETY RELATED EQUIPMENT RULES (EXTRACTS FROM IFAF RULE BOOK WITH GV MODIFICATIONS)

Further to the rules, outlined by IFAF in the 2019 Rule book, Gridiron Victoria have further modifications which are managed on game-day by the VGOA.

1. Mandatory Equipment – All players must wear the following mandatory equipment:

- a. Helmet.
- b. Hip pads.
- c. Jersey.
- d. Knee pads.
- e. Mouthpiece.
- f. Pants.
- g. Shoulder pads.
- h. Socks (Exception: Barefoot kickers).
- i. Thigh guards.

2. Specifications: Mandatory Equipment

- Helmets.* The helmet must be fitted with a facemask and a secured four- or six-point chin strap, all points of which must be secured whenever the ball is in play.
- Hip Pads.* Hip pads must include a tailbone protector.
- Jersey.* The jersey must cover all pads worn at or above the waist. It must not be altered or designed to tear.
- Knee Pads.* All Knee pads must be completely covered by pants. No pads or protective equipment may be worn outside the pants. Pants and Knee Pads MUST Cover the entire knee area.
- Mouthpiece.* The mouthpiece must be an intra-oral device of any readily visible colour. It must not be white or transparent. It must cover all upper teeth. It is recommended that the mouthpiece be properly fitted.

3. Optional equipment

- Eye shields.* Eye shields must be clear, not tinted, and made from moulded or rigid material. No medical exceptions are permitted.

4. Illegal Equipment includes the following:

- i. Equipment worn by a player that could endanger other players.

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- ii. Tape or any bandage other than that used to protect an injury, subject to the approval of the umpire.
- iii. Hard, abrasive or unyielding equipment that is not completely covered and padded, subject to the approval of the umpire.
- iv. Any equipment that could confuse or deceive an opponent.
- v. Any equipment that could provide an unfair advantage to any player.
- vi. Adhesive material, paint, grease or any other slippery substance applied to equipment or a player's person, clothing or attachment [Exception: Eye shade.].
- vii. Uniform attachments other than towels.
- viii. Rib pads, shoulder pad attachments and back protectors that are not totally covered.
- ix. All footwear that uses metal, or predominantly metal, inclusive of studs and/or cleats.
- x. Visible bandannas worn on the field outside the team area
- xi. Non-standard overbuilt facemask
- xii. Equipment that has been modified in a way that reduces the protection of the player wearing it or any other participant

PART 2 APPEARANCE RELATED EQUIPMENT RULES (EXTRACTS FROM IFAF/IFAF RULE BOOK WITH GV MODIFICATIONS)

1. Specifications: Mandatory Equipment

Helmets	Helmets for all players of a team must be of the same colour and design. All facemasks must be of the same colour. Club decals are permitted on helmets, including individual achievement stickers.
Jersey	
Design.	The jersey must be full-length. Players of a team must wear jerseys of the same colour and design.
Colour.	Players of opposing teams shall wear jerseys of contrasting colours. Players on the same team shall wear jerseys of the same colour and design.
Numerals.	The jersey must have clearly visible, permanent Arabic numerals measuring at least 8 and 10 inches in height front and back, respectively, of a colour(s) in distinct contrast with the jersey. All players of a team shall have the same colour and style numbers front and back. The individual bars must be approximately 1-1/2 inches wide. Numbers on any part of the uniform shall correspond with the mandatory front and back jersey numbers.
Logos.	Any sponsorship logos must be identical on each jersey.
Undershirts.	Visible sleeves of any players wearing undershirts must all be the same colour and design.
	Jerseys may <u>not</u> be taped or tied in any manner (Exception: To repair a torn jersey)
Pants	Pants MUST cover the knees and knee pads. Players of a team must wear pants of the same colour and design. Any sponsorship logos must be identical on all pants. Belts must be uniform in colour.
Socks	Players of a team must wear socks that are identical in colour, length and design [Exceptions: Unaltered knee braces, tape or a bandage to protect or prevent an injury, and barefoot kickers]. Short-socks must be clearly visible above the boot. All visible leggings must be worn with team coloured long socks. (Clubs are encouraged to wear leggings the same colour as the long socks.) Short socks cannot be worn with leggings.

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2. Optional Equipment – The following items are legal:

- Gloves.** A glove is a fitted covering for a hand having separate sections for each finger and thumb, without any additional material that connects any of the fingers and/or thumb. There is no restriction on the colour of gloves.
- Eye shade.** Any shading under a player's eyes must be solid black with no words, numbers, logos or other symbols.

3. Attention is drawn to the following safety-related rules, which will be strictly enforced:

- Mouthpiece.** The mouthpiece must be an intra-oral device of any readily visible colour. It must not be white or transparent. It must cover all upper teeth.

Individual exceptions to the requirement to cover all upper teeth will be considered if a player produces a certificate from a registered doctor or dentist stating the following three (3) things:

- In the doctor/dentist's opinion it is necessary for the player to wear a cut down mouthpiece for medical reasons;
- The doctor/dentist has arranged for a suitably cut down mouthpiece to be properly fitted, and;
- In the doctor/dentist's opinion it is safe for the player to play American Football wearing this mouthpiece.

- Eye shields.** Eye shields must be clear, not tinted, and made from moulded or rigid material. Eye-glasses and goggles also must be clear and not tinted. No medical exceptions are allowed.

4. Appearance-related equipment rules

- a. These will be monitored by the VGOA & the Match Day Official. Appearance-related equipment rules (extracted from the IFAF rulebook and modified for GV) are included in www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

5. Penalties for breaches of equipment rules

Infraction	Penalty
Breach of safety-related uniform rules	Removal of the player from the game until in correct uniform, with penalties as per the IFAF rulebook (charged team time out or delay of game penalty). Report by the Match Day Official to the Board for further action, such as warnings and fines for repeated infractions
Breach of appearance related uniform rules	First Offence: Warning, plus removal of the player from the game until in correct uniform, with penalties as per the IFAF rulebook (charged team time out or delay of game penalty).
Illegal metal cleats	Second Offence (in the same game): Ejection of the player from the game, and automatic suspension for 1 match. Club fined \$200

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Ops Rules – www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

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- [2019 IFAF Rule Book](#) (entire rule book)
- [Concussion Policy](#)
- [Coaching Ethics](#)
- [Rules of Competition \(U15\)](#)
- [Social Media Policy](#)
- [Starting a New Club/Team](#)
- [Coaches Feedback Form](#)
- [Disqualification - Tribunal Report](#)
- [Heat Policy](#)
- [Injury Report](#)
- [Junior to Seniors Eligibility Form](#)
- [Loan Player Assistance \(LPA\)](#)
- [Match Day Officials Report & Checklist](#)
- [Regular Season - Host Club](#)
- [Senior Eligible for Juniors Form](#)
- [Specialist Player \(Import\)](#)
- [Team Registration Form](#)
- [Transfer Policy](#)
- [Transfer Form](#)
- [Tribunal By-laws & Procedures](#)
- [Confirmation-of-Clubs-Affiliated-bodies-Insurance-2019](#) (PDF)
- [Certificate Of Insurance for Voluntary Workers Personal Accident Insurance 2018](#) (PDF)

AUTHORISATION

Peter Steve – Director & Chairperson
Gridiron Victoria Ltd.

2nd March 2019