

2019 Rules of Operation

DRAFT



General

Gridiron Victoria is the governing body for American Football, or as it's known in Australia, Gridiron, for the State of Victoria, Australia. Formed in 1997, Gridiron Victoria was an amalgamation of the two existing governing bodies of the time: the Victoria Gridiron Football League and the Gridiron Association of Victoria.

Our vision is to inspire all Australians to enjoy our great global game, making Gridiron a game for all. This policy is aimed at ensuring that as many people as possible can participate in Gridiron; however, it must be safe and fair for all participants. When participants with broadly compatible attributes compete with one another, this environment can be created.

Gridiron should be safe, inclusive and fair.

All endeavours must be made for Gridiron participants with broadly compatible physical development in conjunction with ability and/or experience to play with and against each other.

REVIEW HISTORY OF GRIDIRON VICTORIA INCORPORATED – STATEMENT OF RULES AND PURPOSES

VERSION	DATE REVIEWED	CONTENTS	DATE ENDORSED
<i>One</i>	<i>January 2015</i>	<i>Change/Revision</i>	<i>February 15, 2015 (Gridiron Vic)</i>
<i>Two</i>	<i>May 2017</i>	<i>Format change & update of rules</i>	<i>June 5, 2017 (GV Board)</i>
<i>Three</i>	<i>February 2019</i>	<i>Full review of Ops Rules. New Policy creation</i>	

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

These Operating Rules form the basis for the ongoing successful running and growth of the sport of gridiron in Victoria. The Operating Rules have been designed and put in place to ensure that:

- GV meets its legal and moral obligations.
- All clubs are treated equally and fairly.
- GV Board intervention is minimal.
- The competitions run smoothly.
- GV administration is minimal.

Responsibility for complying with the Operating Rules lies with the clubs, their members and persons registered with GV. The Operating Rules apply to the U15, U19 and Senior Men's and Women's competitions, along with any other GV sanctioned game or event. Any differences between the U15, U19 and Senior Men's and Women's competition Operating Rules are set out in this document.

Participating in any competition or game, run by, sanctioned by, or involving GV, means any club, its members, and all persons registered with GV have agreed to:

- Abide by all of the GV Operating Rules and the GV Constitution.
- Act in accordance with the GV Code of Conduct.
- Comply with the GV Anti-Doping Policy
- Comply with all other GV policies.
- Meet the requirements of any applicable State or Federal Government legislation.
- Obtain sanctioning from GV for any such competition or game played in Victoria.

Where there is conflict between this document and the GV Constitution, the GV Constitution shall override any rule, regulation or penalty written herein.

1.2 Amendments to Operating Rules

The GV Board shall review the Operating Rules each year. Any club, being a member of GV, may submit to the Board, any amendments they see as beneficial to the improvement of the Operating Rules. The Board will collate and consider all proposals and notify the GV Com of any amendments to the Operating Rules.

2. Definitions

GV – Gridiron Victoria

GA – Gridiron Australia

General Committee or **GV CoM** – The Committee of Management of Gridiron Victoria, as specified in the GV Constitution.

Board – The Board Committee of Gridiron Victoria, as specified in the GV Constitution.

Player – Any individual registered as a player for any member Club/Team of Gridiron Victoria.

Participant – Any person who participates in a GV competition as an Official or as a Player, Coach, Sideline Staff Member or Volunteer (including Club Committee Members) for any member Club/Team of Gridiron Victoria.

Member – Member means and includes all Registered Players, Coaches, Officials, Sideline Staff Members and/or Volunteers, Representatives and Life Members.

Club – Club refers to any of the Gridiron Football Clubs granted the status of a Club by GV and the consequent rights to representation in the League.

Age Group – Competitions within GV are characterised on the basis of the age of the players in that competition.

Senior Men's – An age group in which participants are male and at least 18 years of age. Exemptions may apply.

Senior Women's – An age group in which participants are female and at least 18 years of age. Exemptions may apply.

U15 – An age group in which participants are male or female and U15 years of age on January 01 in the year of competition and a minimum of 11 years old. Exemptions may apply.

U19 – An age group in which participants are male and U19 years of age on January 01 in the year of competition and a minimum of 15 years old. Exemptions may apply.

Division – A classification within an age group used to distinguish between groups of teams in that age group. These divisions could have equal status (in which case they are sometimes referred to as Conferences) or there could be a ranking of Divisions (e.g. Division 1 and Division 2).

Host Club – The Club whose ground is being used for hosting games on a given day - Where the games are not taking place at their ground, the Club that has been designated in the fixture as the Host Club for games on that day.

Home team – The team listed first on the fixture for a game.

Away team – The team listed second on the fixture for a game.

State Team – Any team representing the state of Victoria for any gridiron purposes. This includes Senior men's, women's, U19 and U15 tours, games and functions.

Responsible Club – The responsible club will be considered to be the club that may have breached the operating rules, including any and all registered or unregistered individuals associated with that club.

Rostered Team – The team rostered by GV to supply personnel or to carry out a specified function (e.g. provision of a Club Official).

3. Penalties for Breach of the Operating Rules

The Operating Rules set out penalties that may be applied in the event of a breach of these rules. If it is suspected that a breach may have occurred, the following process shall be followed, except in case of Abuse of Officials and/or on-field situations that are referred to the Board.

- a) Notice of a possible breach of the Operating Rules shall be sent to the Responsible Club by the Board.
- b) The Responsible Club will have 7 days to enter a plea with the Board. Any evidence in support of a Not Guilty plea should be submitted at this time.
- c) The Board shall then decide:
 - a. If a Guilty plea is entered, the appropriate penalty that shall be applied.
 - b. If a Not Guilty plea is entered, and it is determined that no breach has occurred, the notice of possible breach shall be rescinded by the Board and the matter considered closed.
- d) If a not guilty plea is entered, and it is determined a breach has occurred the Board will consider and determine the outcome and penalty.
- e) Any participant or club issued with a penalty will have access to the GV appeals process.

4. General Committee of Management (GV CoM)

The GV CoM shall be provided with minutes from the Board of Directors using social media channels. It's important that all clubs, after each AGM provide the Board with their updated Committee Members and contact details, 7 days after they hold their respective AGM's.

5. Budget

5.1 Fees

Relevant fees will be set by GA in accordance with their set timeframes.

The Board shall set the relevant GV fees by the 1st of May each year. If the fees are not set at that time, they will remain unchanged from the previous year.

Fees should not be changed after that date unless extenuating circumstances apply.

5.2 Fines

Save where otherwise specified, all fines administered under these Operating Rules and associated Policies will be paid to GV's 'Future Football' account to be reinvested in League growth programs, as determined by the Board.

5.3 Honoraria

The following positions within the Board shall receive an honorarium, in the following amounts, at each AGM (in arrears) where it is considered by the CoM that the person has done a satisfactory job:

- Elected Directors \$1,000 each
- Appointed Directors \$400 each

6. Team, Player Registration and Eligibility

6.1 Team Registration

Please see the online Policy for the Team Registration on <http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/> using "Team Registration".

6.2 New Club Affiliation

Please see the online Policy for the starting of a new club on <http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/> using "Starting a New Club/Team".

6.3 Team Registration Form

In order to enter any team into a GV Competition, a Club must submit a Team Registration Form, and pay all fees and charges as specified,, by the deadline specified by the Board. The Team Registration Form can be found at <http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/>

7. Individual Registration and Eligibility Requirements

7.1 Requirement to be registered

All participants in any GV competition must be registered with GV.

A participant can only be registered with one club at any one time.

Participants is defined to include:

- Officials
- Players
- Coaches
- Sideline Staff (medic, trainer, video, film, photographer, chain crew, ball person)
- Club Board & Committee members
- Volunteers

7.2 Age and Other Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to be on the sideline (i.e. inside the fence or rope) for any GV game, a participant must be no younger than 10 years old.

Where the seasons are aligned, a participant can only play in one age competition.

To be eligible to play Junior football, a player:

U19 – Boys

- Must be male, 15 years or over as at 1 January in the year of competition, prior to commencing training or playing in any game.
- Must be under 19 as at the 1st of January in the year of competition

U15 – Mixed

- Must be male or female, 10 years or over prior to commencing training or playing in any game.
- Must be under 15 as at the 1st of January in the year of competition

All U15 players must supply proof of age ID prior to their confirmation of registration and appearance on teams', Team Sheet. Such proof of ID must be submitted to the Registrar, prior to the player appearing on the team sheet.

An U15 or U19 player is not eligible to play until they have registered online AND met the photo ID requirement. *The ID itself must contain Name, Photo and D.O.B as a minimum.* Should it not contain any of the items, further proof of ID will be required.

To automatically qualify to play Senior Men or Women's Football, a player must be 18 years or older on the 1st of January of the competing year.

Where a club has both a Senior and U19 team, no U19 player is permitted to play in a Senior Competition, if the season is aligned. (exemptions apply)

Exemptions

- a) A male player, 16 years or older may be permitted to play Seniors once the required 'GV Junior-to-Senior Eligibility Form' has been completed and submitted. This form contains written signed approval from the player's parent/guardian, Senior Head Coach, Club President and the GV Eligibility Approval Committee (the GV Coaching Director/department and the GV Board). A player cannot play more than 1 game in any given weekend.
- b) A male player, under 15 years of age may be permitted to play U19 if they are deemed physically capable of doing so safely as determined by the player's parent/guardian, U19 Head Coach, Club President and the GV Eligibility Approval Committee (the GV Coaching Director and the GV Board). A player cannot play more than 1 game in any given weekend.
- c) An U19 player may be permitted to play Seniors in one season and then return to the U19 competition the following season once the required 'GV Senior-to-Junior Eligibility Form' has been completed, submitted and approved.
- d) A female player over 15 yrs. but under the age of 18 yrs. may be eligible to play senior women's football if they are deemed physically capable of doing so safely as determined by the player's

parent/guardian, Senior Head Coach, Club President and the GV Eligibility Approval Committee (GV Coaching Director and GV Board).

- e) A player cannot play more than 1 game in any given weekend.

Notwithstanding the above, a player who fulfils the age requirements for U19s, but who has also played in a Senior State or Senior National Representative Team, may not subsequently play U19s.

7.3 Specialist Player and Foreign Coach (Import) Policy.

Please consult the Specialist Player and Foreign Coach (Import) Policy and Form online.

<http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/>

7.4 Registration Requirements

Registration of participants must be done via the Registration Portal. This can be accessed via a link on the GV website. It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure that all their participants are registered and appropriately qualified (i.e. coaches and medics) prior to allowing them to participate in any training or games. Registration of any person who is a member of a GV Club also requires payment of a GA Registration Fee.

GV Registration covers participation in any event authorised or sanctioned by GV and includes professional indemnity insurance, management and volunteer insurance and public liability insurance for 12 months season to season. GV Insurance does not include any injury insurance. Details of the GV insurance policy can be found on the GV website. Registration includes electronically signing the following (which also must be signed by a parent/guardian for players under 18):

- GV Code of Conduct
- Release and Liability Waiver
- Declarations regarding deregistration or suspension, anti-doping by-laws, participant identification, insurance acknowledgement and privacy considerations.

7.5 Player Transfers

Please consult the Transfer Policy and Form online. <http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/>

7.6 Responsibility for Registration

It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that everyone at their club, are properly registered and eligible to participate before taking part in a match. If a Club includes a participant on a Team Sheet, who is found not to be registered and eligible to participate, the Club will be responsible for all penalties associated with an unregistered participant.

7.7 Refund of Registration Fees

Registrations fees are non-refundable in most circumstances.

7.8 Cancellation of Registration

A participant will have their registration cancelled, effective immediately, if:

- a) They have any outstanding debt owed to GV. This includes any debts relating to the State Team.
- b) They are in possession of GV equipment or uniform(s) and fails to return it immediately when asked.

8. Coaching Requirements

8.1 Requirements for all Coaches

All coaches must meet the requirements as set out in the Coaching Accreditation Framework in order to be one of those named on the Team Registration Form, and in order to be eligible to coach at training or during a game.

8.2 Additional Requirements for Head Coaches

All Head Coaches must have completed the above requirements and in addition, must meet the following additional requirements in order to be named as the Head Coach on the Team Registration Form:

- U15 Full GV Level 1 accreditation.
- U19 Full GV Level 1 accreditation
- Senior Men Full GV Level 2 accreditation
- Senior Women Full GV Level 2 accreditation

Note: To retain accreditation a coach must be actively coaching. If a coach has not coached for more than 3 years they must re sit the Level 1 course and will then revert back to the level previously held. See

<http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/> for Coaching Ethics Form.

8.3 Coaching Transfers

Please consult the Transfer Policy and Form online. <http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/>

9. Conduct of Gridiron Competitions

9.1 Season format

The make-up of a competition, whether it's the duration of season, number of divisions, teams, style (contact/non-contact) or its age grouping, shall be the decision of the Board. Provided below are the minimum criteria covering season formats;

- Senior Men: Each team will be scheduled no fewer than 10 regular season games.
- Senior Women: Each team will be scheduled no fewer than 5 regular season games.
- U15/U19: Each team will be scheduled no fewer than 3 regular season games.

9.2 Fixture

The creation of the fixture is the responsibility of the GV Board. The fixture will be based on:

- i) The Board's decision as to number of teams in each competition.
- ii) Information supplied by Clubs regarding their preferences as to when and at what times they wish to host and play games
- iii) Information as to special events scheduled by the Board.
- iv) In the fixture:
 - a. As far as possible, host games will be spread equally amongst Clubs who apply to host
 - b. All new grounds will be inspected on behalf of GV by a member of the VGOA and/or the Board prior to the first game on that ground.
 - c. All costs associated with inspections will be passed onto the Club for payment.
 - d. No games will be allocated to grounds that do not meet GV minimum requirements.
 - e. If the Board determines that a ground has not met GV's minimum standards during one or more games in a given season, the Board may decide not to allocate games to that ground, for the remainder of the current season and/or for the following season, or until such time as it is satisfied that the standard will be met in the future.
 - f. No ground will be accepted for hosting if there is a concrete cricket pitch (covered or uncovered) impinging on any part of the playing surface.
 - g. No ground will be accepted for hosting if there are no appropriate change room, toilet and canteen facilities and a scoreboard of any description.
 - h. As far as possible, all Clubs should have an equal number of home and away games.
 - i. The first named team on the fixture is always the home team.
 - j. The host club may not necessarily be the home team for its game
 - k. If the Board determines that there is a 'colour clash', the Board will determine the club that wears an alternate strip.
- v) The Board will distribute a fixture to the GV CoM Facebook page no less than 48 hours prior to formal release.
- vi) Following this period, no further changes or requests will be accepted, excepting extraordinary circumstances and subject to the discretion of the Board
- vii) After the publication of the fixture, if a Club is unable to host allocated game(s):
 - a. The Club may lose the right to host that game or those games;
 - b. The Board will organise the relocation of the game(s) to another venue or venues.
 - i. Of those Clubs wishing to host games, the Club with the fewest scheduled host games will have first right of refusal.
 - c. Clubs cannot negotiate relocation of games with other clubs.
 - d. There is no right of compensation.

10. Finals

10.1 Ladder rankings and tie-breaker rules

As outlined below, the Board shall determine the rankings for finals. Any change to the ranking system will be determined and communicated to Members at the AGM. Should there not be any change, the rules below remain;

- a) Two (2) points are awarded for a win
- b) one (1) point for a draw
- c) zero (0) points for a loss.
- d) Teams may be penalised full or partial points for infractions of these Operating Rules.

It is possible, as a result of penalties, for a team to have negative points. If, at the end of the regular season, two or more teams in the same division finish with the same number of points, the following tie-break procedure shall be applied.

- 1) If there is more than one tie for position, then the higher-position tied teams will be tie-broken before the lower-position tied teams
- 2) If two teams are tied, the following steps will be taken until the ladder positions are determined.
- 3) If three or more teams are tied, the following steps will be taken until the order of standing is determined.
- 4) If, after any step, the position of one or more of the tied teams can be determined (i.e. no longer tied) then the standings will be reordered, and the tie breaking procedure restarted if any ties still exist.
- 5) A team that has forfeited any game automatically loses a tie-break.

Tie-break steps:

1. Fewest forfeits.
2. Best head-to-head record (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the tied teams).
3. Best net points differential (in games between the tied teams).
4. Best head-to-head record (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the tied teams and the highest-ranked non-tied team).
5. Best net points differential in games between the tied teams and the highest-ranked non-tied team. Repeat Steps 3 and 4, using results between the tied teams and the next highest-ranked non-tied team, until results against all other teams in the Division have been used.
6. Fewest ejections.
7. Fewest Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls.
8. Fewest Personal Fouls.
9. Coin toss.

10.2 Finals Format:

Each division will have its own name for their championship, however the name of the Final will be VicBowl. The added aspect will be the specific year in which the competition has been ongoing, and represented in Roman Numerals. As an example; VicBowl XXXII

10.3 Finals eligibility - Teams

To be eligible to compete in the finals, a team must have paid all registration fees, match day payments, fines, bond payments or other outstanding debts owed to GV by the Tuesday prior to their 1st scheduled finals game. In the event of a team NOT being financial by the required time, that team will be taken out of the final and the next highest-ranking team inserted. In the event of a team forfeiting a finals game, their scheduled opponent will be declared the winner.

10.4 Finals eligibility – Individuals

To be eligible to play in finals automatically, a player must

- Be registered and fully paid in the current season
- Have no outstanding debts to their club or GV
- Not be in possession of any GV equipment or uniform that was asked to be returned
- Are named on the clubs Team Sheet for each game they have played
- Are registered and played before the third last game in the regular season
- The Registrar will advise each team of all players' finals eligibility.

10.5 Finals venues, Dates and Kick-off Times

Subject to the following, finals may be on Friday night, Saturday or Sunday.

- i. The Board shall determine the location, date and kick-off time for all finals.
- ii. At any time prior to the end of the regular season, the Board may determine the venue and date for the Post Season games (or Finals Series). If, by the end of the regular season, a Semi-final or Preliminary Final venue and date has not been determined, the Board, shall have regard to the following to determine the location and dates for finals:
 - a. In a 3-team final series, the 2nd-ranked team may be granted the right to host the Preliminary Final. The date and time to be determined by the Board
- iii. If the Board determines that both Semi-finals are to be played at the same venue, on the same day, the 1st-ranked team may be granted the right to host the Semi-finals, however the Board will determine the day and time.

- iv. If the Board determines that the Semi-finals may be played at different venues, the higher-ranked team for each Semi-final may be granted the right to host the Semi-final, however the Board will determine the day and time

10.6 Finals Organisation

Finals organisation in the first instance shall be the responsibility of the Board however, all clubs not competing in the finals will be required to support the organisation with man power. If responsibility for hosting is given to a Club, they shall be responsible for all Host Club responsibilities specified in the policy available at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

In addition, the Host Club shall be responsible for the following for all finals:

- Collection of gate takings (if applicable)
- Procuring a liquor license (if applicable)

In addition, the Host Club shall be responsible for the following for Vic Bowls:

- Game commentators x2
- Game announcer x 1
- Program design, content and printing
- Game Opening, Half-time/around the ground entertainment
- PA hire (including Referee microphone)

All costs shall be the responsibility of the Host Club, and all profits shall be retained by the Host Club. In the event that there is no designated Host Club:

- a. The Board shall be responsible for all Host Club responsibilities.
- b. GV will pay all running costs and retain all profits.
- c. All non-competing clubs in that division shall supply at least 2 Registered GV Members to assist with game day activities (including, but not limited to, chain crew, score board operator, game clock and play clock operators, canteen, etc.)

The VGOA are required to supply chain crews, ball persons and clock operators, using non-rostered officials. To the extent that they are unable to do so, the provision of chain crews, game and play clock operators, shall remain the responsibility of the Host Club.

10.7 Game Day Administration.

The highest-ranked team on the ladder at the end of the regular-season shall be designated the home team. All requirements of this rule shall apply to finals. For Vic Bowls, each competing team must supply a team list with player names and jersey numbers to the Host Club or GV Organising Committee no later than the Monday prior to the game.

11. Regular Season Host Club Responsibilities (*Non-Finals*)

For Regular Season Match Hosting, please review the Policy online at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

12. Game Day Administration

12.1 Match Day Paperwork

- a) Only the current year's forms are to be used. The following forms shall be made available on the GV website – www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/
 - i. Team Registration Form
 - ii. Injury Reports
 - iii. Senior-to-Junior and Junior-to-Senior Authorisation Forms
 - iv. Transfer Forms
 - v. Disqualification/Tribunal Report Forms
 - vi. Referees Match Report
 - vii. Team Sheets, listing all registered Players, Coaches and other Sideline Staff Members at the time of preparation, will be sent to each Club prior to the start of the season.
- b) Only the Team Sheet from the GV Registrar will be accepted
- c) Newly-registered Players, Coaches and other Sideline Staff Members shall be added to the Team Sheet supplied by the Registrar, using the same format as existing entries on the Team Sheet
- d) The following forms shall be completed and submitted on match day, by the responsible parties as outlined in Rule 12.2, according to the following specifications.
 - a. Team Sheets – Details include:
 - o Jersey number (for Players) or role (for Coaches and other Sideline Staff Members)

- Full name and signature of all Players, Coaches and other Sideline Staff Members
- Total number of players for each team
- b. Referee's Match Report will be submit in an electronic report, based on an agreed format, to the GV Board at the end of each round, covering all games in that round. This report will highlight any issues regarding grounds and club personnel, note any significant injuries or delays, disqualified players, other incidents or issues and game scores.
- c. Injury Reports
 - A GV Injury Report must be completed, signed and submitted to the Registrar via the advised online system within three (3) days of the completion of the game

12.2 Responsibilities for Match Day Paperwork

- a) Each Team must have filled out (by half time) their team sheet which has participants names, jersey numbers, signatures, and given to the Officials at half time. No names are to be added to the Team Sheet after the commencement of the 2nd half.
- b) Team sheets are to be uploaded to each Clubs Google Drive no later than the third last game in the regular season

12.3 Responsibilities of the VGOA

The VGOA must complete Referee's Match Report, and send to the League registrar as described in 12.1

12.4 Penalties for Missing or Incomplete Match Day Paperwork

Infraction	Penalty
Unregistered or ineligible player or coach	2 match points and \$200 fine per player or coach per match. For finals, loss of game
Unregistered participant other than a player or coach (e.g. medic, trainer, statistician, chain crew or ball boy)	First offence WARNING Subsequent offence \$200 fine
Team Sheet(s) not supplied	The team will be fined \$100 per missing team sheet. The game will not count for finals eligibility for players.

13. Game Day Playing Requirements

13.1 Minimum Number of Players

- a) For a game to commence, each team must have at least 15 players (for 11-person football) or 12 players (for 9-person football) or 9 players (for 7-person football) in uniform, fit and ready to play.
- b) If the number of fit players falls below this number during the game and the Referee is of the view that it is unsafe to continue (e.g. fewer than 11 (or 9) fit players) the game shall be forfeited.
 - i. Even if the team wishes to continue, this shall be treated as a voluntary forfeit for the purposes of penalty

13.2 Coaches

For a game to commence and continue, each team must have at least one (1) person who meets the minimum accreditation standards for coaches as per GV's Coaching Accreditation Policy

Infraction	Penalty
Either team does not have at least one (1) accredited coach	Involuntary forfeit

13.3 Ball Person

For a game to commence and continue, each team must have a ball person who must at least be a registered volunteer.

Infraction	Penalty
Delayed start due to a late presentation of Ball Person, by either team	Involuntary forfeit
At half-time or after the game, ball boy does not return all footballs provided to him or her	The club shall be charged the full cost of replacement football(s)

13.4 Medic

- a) Each team must have at least one (1) Level 2-qualified medic in attendance for that team.
- b) If all of a team's Level 2-qualified medics in attendance are players, there must be at least one (1) Level-1 qualified medic in attendance for that team who is not a player and registered.
- c) If one team does not have suitably-qualified medics:
 - i. If the other team is prepared to allow their medic to attend to injured players on both teams
 1. Once per season, each team shall be permitted to play the game under these circumstances without penalty.
 2. The second and subsequent time this occurs:
 - a. The game can commence, but the offending team will receive no match points
 - b. If the offending team wins, or loses by fewer than 7 points, the game will be scored as a 7-0 win to the opposing team. If the opposing team wins by 7 points or more, the score will stand.
 - c. The offending team will be fined in accordance with **Rule 16**.
 - d) If the other team is not prepared to allow their medic to attend to injured players on both teams, the game cannot commence, and an involuntary forfeit shall be imposed on the offending team.
 - e) If neither team meets the above requirements regarding medics:
 - i. The game shall not commence
 - ii. Neither team shall receive match points
 - iii. An involuntary forfeit shall be imposed on both teams

14. Club Officials

For the Club Officials Policy, please review the Policy online at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

15. Loan Players

For a complete set of guidelines covering Loan Players Assistance, please see the policy at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

16. Delays, Forfeits and Suspension of Game

For the rules and penalties associated with delays, forfeits and game suspensions, please review the Policy online at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

17. Uniforms

17.1 Uniform Colours

- a) Uniform colours are to be specified on the Team Registration Form under **rule 7**. A request to vary the uniform rules must be submitted in writing, no less than one (1) week prior to the game for which the variation is requested. Variations requested less than one (1) week prior to the game will only be considered if there are extenuating circumstances.
- b) Their colour combinations can be found at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

Team	Primary Shirt Colour	Shirt Trim Colour	Pants Colour	Helmet Colour
Ballarat Falcons	Teal	Black	Black	Teal
Bendigo Dragons	Vegas Gold	Navy Blue	Navy Blue	Vegas Gold
Pakenham Silverbacks	Fluro Green, Orange & Black	Black	Black	Black
Croydon Rangers	Forest Green	Silver	Forest Green	Silver
Geelong Buccaneers	Navy Blue	Sky Blue	Navy Blue	Navy Blue
Casey Spartans	Navy Blue	Yellow Gold	Black	Black
Melbourne Uni Royals	White	Royals Blue	White	Royal Blue
Monash Warriors	Cardinal Red	Yellow Gold	Yellow Gold	Cardinal Red
Melton Wolves	White	Magenta	Black	Black
Northern	Silver	Black	Black	Silver

Raiders				
Peninsula Sharks	Powder Blue	White	Powder Blue/Black strip	Black
South Eastern Predators	Black	Yellow Gold	Black	Black
Western Crusaders	Crimson Red	Black	Crimson	White

- c) Any new team entering the competition should not have the same colour combination as an existing team or use of the same Primary Colour as an existing team.
- d) Any new team colour scheme requires the following to be approved.
 - i. Acceptance by the Board & VGOA that the uniform does not constitute a clash with an existing uniform for game day purposes.
 - ii. If a clash is deemed by Board & VGOA alternate shirt/pants/helmet for clash games needs to be submitted for Board & VGOA approval.
 - iii. If alternate is acceptable it is taken as given the newest team with that colour will always have to change shirt/pants/helmet in case of clash regardless of home or away. If an established team changes its primary colour, pants colour or helmet colour it then becomes the newest team with that colour and subject to the same rules as a new club.
 - iv. Alternate strips require approval by the Board/VGOA.
 - v. The Following Uniform Combinations are acceptable registered alternate Uniforms with GV.

Western Crusaders	• Black Shirt Red Trim Black Pants
	• White Shirts Red Trim White Pants
Melbourne Uni Royals	• Black/Blue Shirt Black Pants
South Eastern Predators	• Black Shirt Yellow Trim Black Pants
 - vi. Teams wishing to wear alternate shirts must defer to all Primary uniform rules as above i.e. Crusaders must change out of Crimson Red when playing the Warriors in all Divisions bar Women where the opposite applies (Warriors women must change to white) as an example.
 - vii. Teams can negotiate between each other on who will wear what registered alternate uniform to reach agreement when playing each other however if no agreement can be found the primary uniform/rules will apply.

18. Safety Related Equipment Rules

- a) All safety-related equipment rules in the IFAF rulebook, with GA-sanctioned variations, will be enforced by the officials. These rules and variations are included in www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

19. Conduct of Participants

Please refer to GV's Code of Conduct included in www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

19.1 Abuse of officials – Zero Tolerance

- a) 'Abuse' shall be interpreted as, but not limited to:
 - i. Any critical or demeaning comment that is made about an official's honesty, integrity, ability or appearance, or that of officials generally, or
 - ii. And any foul or abusive language directed toward an official.
- b) GV will not tolerate abuse of officials by participants or spectators.
- c) It is the responsibility of the coaches to control themselves, their players and sideline staff.
- d) It is the responsibility of clubs to control their spectators.

19.2 Participants

- a) Participants who abuse an official shall be ejected from that game. In addition, they will be subject to the following penalties at Board discretion:
 - i. 1st offence – 1-50 game suspension.
 - ii. 2nd offence – 2-50 game suspension.
 - iii. 3rd offence – 6-50 game suspension.
 - iv. 4th offence and subsequent offences - referral to the Board Penalties will be assessed, based on a cumulative 3-year period dating back from the most recent offence.

19.3 Spectators

- a) Any spectator abusing an official, or otherwise behaves in an unacceptable manner, should be immediately spoken to by the Match Day Official and members of the Host Club Committee and advised that the behaviour will not be tolerated.
- b) If a spectator continues to abuse officials or behave in an unacceptable manner:
 - i. The officials shall stop the game.
 - ii. Head Coaches from both participating clubs shall approach the spectator and advise them their behaviour is unacceptable.
 - iii. If the spectator is identified as a registered participant of one of the competing clubs, the officials may impose a 15-yard penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct against that team each time the officials feel the abuse is sufficient to warrant such a penalty.
 - iv. If the spectator is identified as a registered participant of a non-competing GV club, the Match Day Official shall make a report to the Board.

19.4 Team Area Restrictions

- a) Teams are responsible for the conduct of all persons, registered or unregistered, within their team area.
- b) No participant shall gain an unfair advantage for a team by observing the game from outside the team area and then communicating with the team's players or coaches.
- c) The Match Day Official is responsible for monitoring such activity and preventing it and/or reporting it to the Board. Such activity includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. Team personnel observing the game from behind the end zone and then returning to the team area or communicating electronically to team personnel in the team area.
 - ii. Team personnel or other registered participants observing from the vicinity of the opposing team and gaining an unfair advantage by communicating information gained thereby to players or coaches.
 - iii. Video camera operators gaining an unfair advantage by communicating information to players or coaches.

Exception: Ball persons and statisticians are permitted outside the team area but may not gain an unfair advantage by communicating with players from outside the team area.

20. Tribunal

- a) All matters in the first instance will be reported to the GV Board Committee who will determine if a breach of the rules has occurred. The Board may then do one of three (3) things:
 - i. If a plea of guilty is entered, make a determination as to penalty as soon as possible.
 - ii. If a plea of Not Guilty is entered, determine if there is a case to answer. If not, then dismiss the matter.
 - iii. If a plea of Not Guilty is entered and the Board decide the matter should proceed to a formal Tribunal, then the Board should arrange this as soon as possible.
- b) The GV Tribunal By-Laws are contained at www.gridironvictoria.com.au/about-us/

21. Post Season

21.1 League awards

- a) At the conclusion of each Senior Championship match, the following awards will be presented:
 - Winning team medallions
 - Winners' pennant
 - Championship trophy
 - Game's Most Valuable Player (Decided by a panel appointed by the Board)
 - Medallions to the on-field officials
- b) At the conclusion of each U15& U19 Championship match, the following awards will be presented:
 - Winning team medallions
 - Winners' pennant
 - Junior Vic Bowl trophy
 - Junior Vic Bowl Most Valuable Player (Decided by a panel appointed by the Board)
 - Medallions to the on-field officials
- c) The Board shall be responsible for the purchase and engraving of these awards (except for engraving of the MVP award).
- d) It is the joint responsibility of each trophy winner from the previous year, and their current Club, to collect the perpetual trophies and deliver them to the appointed Board representative by the date requested.
- e) If this is not done, the cost of any new trophies will be charged to the responsible Club.
- f) The following perpetual trophies will be awarded each year. The columns in the table indicate to which Divisions and/or Age Groups each award applies.

Award	Men	One award for Senior Divisions	Women	U19 & U15
Offensive Line of the Year	✓		✓	✓
Defensive Line of the Year	✓		✓	✓
Offensive Player of the Year	✓		✓	✓
Defensive Player of the Year	✓		✓	✓
League Most Valuable Player	✓		✓	✓
Coach of the Year	✓		✓	✓
Rookie of the Year	✓		✓	
Official of the Year		✓		

The VGOA will also present its own trophy for the Best and Fairest Player in each Senior Division.

22. Life Membership

- a) Life membership is awarded as recognition of an outstanding contribution towards the overall development and growth of the sport of gridiron in this State. The individual's contribution must have been in one or more of the following roles:
 - An Official
 - A League Administrator
 - A State Coach, Player or Sideline Staff Member
- b) Long-serving individuals who have not participated at a League level may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- c) Nominations may be made at any time by any GV voting entity or person registered with GV.
- d) Nominations must be in writing and outline the work and achievements of the person who has been nominated. The nomination will be discussed by the Board
- e) The Board shall determine whether a nominations committee shall be formed to discuss all nominations as per **Clause 27** of the Constitution.
- f) The Nominations Committee may endorse nominated candidates, or not, in its discretion. All nominations endorsed by the Nominations Committee will be submitted to a general meeting of the Company for election.
- g) The Board shall recommend acceptance of the submission, and will vote to accept or reject the life membership.
- h) Life Membership will be presented at the next AGM
- i) Recognition of outstanding club level contributions for playing, coaching and administration should be recognised by individual clubs.