

SPECIALIST PLAYER & COACH POLICY

Policy number	SP-01	Version	3
Drafted by	Daniel Noonan	Approved by Board on	MAR 2020
Responsible person	Governance	Scheduled review date	JAN 2021

RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The Board 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.

INTRODUCTION

'Specialist Players/Coaches' or 'Import players/coaches' typically come from North America due to the higher level of play and the longer tradition with the game of American football, however in recent years many European and Asian teams have also begun to import players and coaches from other countries within Europe due to strict import rules. Regardless of their country of origin, talented imports can have a profoundly positive impact not only on generating more wins for your team, but also on the development of your organisation as a whole.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Facilitate the enhancement and development of club capabilities through the utilisation of foreign coaching and playing experience within the domestic competition.
2. Regulate the utilisation of foreign experience to protect competition balance and the interests of Members and Gridiron Victoria.
3. Simplify the status of any given individual.

DEFINITION

For the purpose of this document a Specialist Player is defined as;

1. A playing participant;
2. Be other than a permanent resident (Permanent Visa or Citizen) of Australia, and
3. Have playing experience within a football system as defined below within the Table. This is to eliminate "fly in/fly out" player recruitment, while encouraging participation of those committed to being members of the Australian community.

For the purpose of this document a Specialist Coach is defined as;

1. A Coaching participant;
2. Be other than a permanent resident (Permanent Visa or Citizen) of Australia.

Exceptions to the definition of an Australian Resident/Citizen:

1. A New Zealand Resident/Citizen
2. Special Category Visa (SCV), Subclass 444, or visas offering a period greater than 12 months stay in Australia.
3. Special Category Visa, Subclass 444 holders fit the commonly understood meaning of the term 'permanent resident' as they are entitled to live in Australia indefinitely, in much the same way as an Australian citizen

SPECIALIST PLAYER & COACH POLICY

or a permanent visa holder. As they are not required to apply for permanent residency or citizenship, they are exempt from the definition of an import player for the purpose of these rules.

PLAYING PARTICIPANT CLASSIFICATIONS

1. **NFL/CFL** - Players that have participated within these leagues in the past are not allowed to participate in Gridiron Victoria as a Player.
2. **Specialist Player** NCAA (All Divisions), Canadian Collegiate, NGL, Japan, Arena Football League (AFL), Mexico, Germany, Austria.

GUIDING RULES & TIMELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All application submissions must be made through the [Gridiron Victoria Specialist Player & Foreign Coach Application Form](#)

1. A club cannot engage & secure a Specialist Player or Coach if the club has outstanding debt to Gridiron Victoria.
 - a) Any club that has outstanding debts and submits an application will have the application rejected.
2. A Specialist Player & Foreign Coach Application submission must be received by the Board 45 days prior to season commencement (round 1)
3. Acceptance of any submission or application received after Rule 2 will be at the Board's discretion.
4. A Specialist Player can only be engaged for 11-a-side contact Gridiron Victoria competitions.
5. Where there are multiple divisions in a competition, a Specialist Player can only be engaged to participate in the highest division.
6. Participation is not defined by actual playing time, but rather, from being a member of an active roster for a scheduled regular season game and/or a scheduled final. This does not include participation, or activation, for any "pre-Season" games, "Out of Season" games, or team try-outs.
7. Any Coach can be recruited and does not come under this policy, unless, they are registered as a player & play in any sanctioned game.
8. Players who have participated (training roster and/or playing roster) within the NFL & CFL (and subsidiaries) are not permitted to participate, as a player, in any Gridiron Victoria competition.
9. All approved applications must have their Specialist Player & Foreign Coaches be in Australia and with their nominated club 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the season (round 1).
 - a) Once the season has commenced (round 1), no application can be submitted or accepted
 - b) Specialist Player & Foreign Coaches moving between IFAF-Affiliated leagues may require a transfer application and/or transfer processing fee. Please refer to relevant Gridiron Australia issued documentation for further information. Compliance with transfer processes and payment of associated fees is the responsibility of the club requesting the transfer.

RECRUITMENT AND THE PLAYER/CLUB AGREEMENT

1. The club is wholly responsible for selection, vetting and all other due diligence to establish the playing history of any potential recruit. The club is responsible to collect signed declarations from any player they suspect may have played the sport outside of Australia, which may not meet the exemption clause.
2. Where a Specialist Player has been offered entitlements or benefits in return for their participation, a written agreement shall be employed to detail expectations and obligations of both parties. Gridiron

SPECIALIST PLAYER & COACH POLICY

Victoria is not a party to such agreements and should be expressly excluded from any written agreement.

3. Should an agreement be terminated, the availability of any transfer will be as permitted by the relevant instrument of Gridiron Victoria.
4. Should a Specialist Player & Foreign Coach believe they have been unfairly terminated, they may opt to appeal the termination to the Gridiron Victoria Tribunal. All obligations in regard to the appeal process shall apply. Both parties will be bound by the judiciary decision.
5. All Specialist Players must have a contract drawn between the club and the player.
6. All Foreign Coaches must have a contract drawn between the club and the Coach.
7. Gridiron Victoria Board is to be sent a copy of all contractual agreements between all parties, to ensure there is no violation under NCAA rules regarding "Professionalism". Attached to these documents, must be a copy of the signed "Specialist Player/Coach Declaration" advising of the Specialist Player's highest level of play according to the Classification system as listed previously within this document.
8. Players receiving player payments, within any competition within a calendar year, will not be registered with Gridiron Victoria. Such an application would be in direct violation of the NCAA Amateurism Certification Process. Any player receiving payments after registration with Gridiron Victoria, will be immediately de-registered.

DOMESTIC SEASON OPERATIONS

1. Transfer Authorisation

1.1 Gridiron Victoria does allow for a transfer fee between Members but said fee must be requested within the transfer time regulations as set out by Gridiron Victoria.

1.2 As Gridiron Victoria is currently governed by IFAF transfer fees, players moving between IFAF-Affiliated leagues may require a transfer application and/or transfer processing fee. Please refer to relevant Gridiron Australia issued documentation for further information. Compliance with transfer processes and payment of associated fees is the responsibility of the club requesting the transfer.

2. Specialist Player Declaration

2.1 Members will be required to identify Specialist Players on their team rosters and report accordingly. Please refer form "Gridiron Victoria Specialist Player/Coach Declaration" at the end of this document.

3. Participation Limitations (Players)

3.1 A team, not club, may have unlimited Specialist Players on their roster

3.2 A maximum of 2 Specialist Players may be on the field at any one time

4. Reduction of playing numbers through injury

In the event a team is reduced by injury during the course of a game to a point they cannot field 11 players without exceeding the number of Specialist Players permitted on the field, they must:

4.1 Abide by the limit permitted by prevailing game-rules, continue play with reduced numbers whilst still observing the restriction of Specialist Players, or

4.2 Forfeit the game, whereby the regulation regards in-game forfeiture will apply.

5. Import Player On-Field Identification

All classified Specialist Players must at all times wear a stipulated 'high-visibility' decal to their helmet which will clearly identify them as a Specialist Player. Gridiron Victoria will be responsible for procurement and issue of such decals. If upon review, as adjudicated by either game day officials and/or Gridiron Victoria Tribunal, a Specialist Player was on the field at any time without such marking, the game shall be forfeited by that team.

6. **Penalty Assessment and Enforcement**

Gridiron Victoria reserves the right to review the provisions of Penalty Assessment and Enforcement during the season, should any enforcement of above conditions prove to become problematic for effective administration.

SPECIALIST PLAYER & COACH POLICY

SPECIALIST PLAYER/COACH DECLARATION FORM

Players Name:	
Players Date of Birth:	
Year of Competition (yyyy):	
Gridiron Victoria team:	
List the highest level of competition played:	

I hereby declare that all above information to be true and accurate. I declare that I have not knowingly made any attempt to falsify any information within this declaration, nor have I been instructed by any other person to do so.

Player's Signature: _____

Dated: / /

I hereby declare that all above information to be true and accurate. I declare that I have not knowingly made any attempt to falsify any information within this declaration, nor have I been instructed by any other person to do so.

Club President's Signature: _____

Dated: / /

A printed and signed copy of this form is to be submitted to the Gridiron Victoria Board, along with:

- Contract between Club & Player
- Football Resume of player with links to rosters, articles & websites

Copies of these contracts and declarations are to be made available, at an agreed upon time and place, upon request by any member of the Gridiron Victoria Board or the Member Committee.

All submissions must be emailed to <mailto:casey.marin@gridironvictoria.com.au>

SPECIALIST PLAYER & COACH POLICY

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Ops Rules 2020
<http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Gridiron-Victoria-Operating-Rules.pdf>
- Team Registration Form
<http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Gridiron-Victoria-Team-Registration-Form.pdf>
- Specialist Player & Coach Declaration form
<http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Specialist-PlayerCoach-form-2018.pdf>
- Transfer Form
http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/GV_Transfer_Form.pdf

AUTHORISATION

Daniel Noonan – Director & Chairperson

Gridiron Victoria Ltd.

20th February 2020