



Gridiron Victoria Operating Rules 2009

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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:

- GV meets its legal and moral obligations.
- All clubs are treated equally and fairly.
- GV Com 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 both the junior and senior competitions, along with any other GV sanctioned game or event.

Any variance between the Junior and Senior competitions Operating Rules are set out in this document.

NCAA playing rule penalties automatically apply in applicable circumstances.

The Operating Rules come into effect on the 1st of January each year.

The Operating Rules apply until 31st December of each year.

From the 1st of January, the Operating Rules **CANNOT** be amended for that year unless by **UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT** of all clubs and other affiliated bodies of GV, present and voting at the GV Com meeting. The issue in question must also be an agenda item for that meeting to be voted on.

Clubs are not permitted to make independent agreements amongst themselves to suit circumstances.

The GV Com will review the Operating Rules each year.

Amendments may be made for future year's Operating Rules by a majority vote of the GV Com at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

All penalties for infractions of the Operating Rules:

- Take effect immediately.
- Are automatically applied.

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

- Abide by all of the GV Operating Rules.
- Act in accordance with the GV Code of Conduct.
- Meet the requirements of the GV and GA Anti-Doping Policy.

- Meet the requirements of any applicable State or Federal Government legislation.
- Obtain sanctioning for any such competition or game.

Fixed Events:

Unless extenuating circumstances apply, the following GV events shall be held at the same time each year:

Bowl Games:

Seniors	Vic Bowl	Last Sunday in August
Junior	Vic Bowl	Last Sunday in November

Qualification Courses:

Coaches Accreditation Courses:	Level 1 - First two Sundays in February and first two - Sundays in September.
Officials Accreditation Courses:	Level 0 - Third Saturday in February. - Third Saturday in September.
	Level 1 - Last two Saturdays in February.

Other Events:

Senior Presentation Night:	Saturday night of the 2 nd league bye week, prior to the Senior Semi Finals.
Junior Presentation:	To be held immediately after the Junior Vicbowl
GV Annual General Meeting:	2 nd Monday in February of each year.

GV Com:

Meetings:

The GV Com will meet monthly on the second Monday.

A minimum of one Representative from each member Club must attend the GV Com monthly meeting.

Penalties:

Penalty for failing to have a representative at a GV Com meeting:

Infraction

Penalty

No Club Representative at GV Com meeting.
1st non appearance -

Must explain to GV Com reason for no appearance. If unaccepted, fine of **\$200** will stand.

No Club Representative at GV Com meeting.
2nd and subsequent non appearance -

\$200 per meeting.

No Club Representative at 3 consecutive GV Meetings.

Suspension of Club from GV.

Club Reps more than 30 minutes late for
GV Com Meeting.

\$200 if excuse not accepted by GV
Com

Agenda Items:

All submissions for discussion at GV Com meetings are subject to the following requirements:

- The submission must be in written form. (Email or letter).
- The GV Secretary must receive the submission not less than 14 days prior to the next scheduled GV Com meeting.
- The GV Secretary will distribute the agenda and a copy of any submissions to be discussed at the GV Com meeting not less than 10 days prior to the next scheduled GV Com meeting.
- No vote can take place **ON ANY MATTER** at a GV Com meeting unless it is listed as an agenda item for that meeting.
- Non-agenda items discussed at a GV Com and requiring a vote will be placed on the agenda for the next GV Com meeting.

Extraordinary Items:

A non-agenda item, raised at a GV Com meeting that is agreed by a **UNANIMOUS VOTE** at that GV Com meeting as being an extraordinary item requiring urgent attention, will be documented and emailed by the GV Secretary to each Club Representative by the end of the 2nd day following the GV Com meeting.

All Clubs and Affiliated Associations will have the opportunity to vote on the extraordinary agenda item, via email, by the end of the 4th day following the GV Com meeting where the matter was raised.

The GV Secretary will forward all GV Club Representatives and Affiliated Associations email votes, to all GV Com Club Representatives.

The GV Secretary will add the result of the vote to the minutes of the meeting.

The GV Secretary will distribute the minutes of the GV Com meeting within 14 days of the completion of the meeting.

Event Schedule:

By the December GV Com meeting each year the GV Com will:

Finalise and publish the following year's Operating Rules and Schedule of Events including:

- Forfeit bond
- Team entry costs
- GV registration fee
- GV match fees
- Development levy
- Payment deadlines
- Playing season start/end dates
- Minimum player numbers
- Coaching courses
- Officiating courses
- Presentation night
- Annual General Meeting
- Any representative games
- **Any other important events involving GV**

Season Format:

Seniors Season:

Each team will be scheduled 12 regular season games.
11 man football.

Junior Season:

Each team will be scheduled 7 regular season games.
11 man football unless otherwise specified by GV Com due to player availability.

Ladder Rankings and Tiebreaker Rules:

- Two (2) points are awarded for a win, One (1) point for a draw and Zero (0) points for a loss.
- Teams may be penalised full or partial points for infractions of these Operating Rules.
- If two or more teams are tied on points, the tiebreak procedures apply in the following order:

Seniors

- Best head-to-head results.
- Best for and against record in head-to-head matches.
- Best for and against percentage overall.
- Least number of ejections.
- Least number of unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.
- Least number of personal fouls.
- Coin toss.
- A team that forfeits any game automatically loses a head to head decision.

Juniors

- Least number of ejections.
- Least number of unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.
- Least number of personal fouls.
- Best head-to-head results.
- Best for and against record in head-to-head matches.
- Best for and against percentage overall.
- Coin toss.
- Any forfeiting team will automatically lose a head to head decision.

Fixture:

The fixture will be based on the number of teams that supply a team registration application form (that is accepted by GV), pay team participation bond and supply ground availability dates by the date set in the Schedule of Events.

- The fixture is the responsibility of the GV Registrar.
- As far as possible host games will be spread equally amongst clubs who apply to host.
- As far as possible, all teams should have an equal number of designated home and away games.
- After the publication of the fixture, if a team is unable to host a scheduled round on the ground nominated, they lose the right to host that round.
- The GV Registrar will organize the relocation of the game(s)/round to another venue(s).
- Team with the least number of scheduled host games will have first right of refusal.

- Team cannot negotiate relocation of games with other clubs.
- There is no right of compensation.
- The first named team on the fixture is always the home team.
- The home team must provide a 3 person chain crew.
- The senior home team will wear home (coloured) jerseys.
- The Host club may not always be the home team.
- All grounds will be inspected on behalf of GV by a member of the VGOA and the GV Com prior to the schedule start of each season. No Host rounds will be allocated to grounds that do not meet with GV minimum requirements.

Team Entry Conditions:

Existing Teams:

The development of junior players is the cornerstone for ensuring the viability of the sport.

Clubs are encouraged to field both junior and senior teams.

To be eligible to enter a team in a GV Competition, a Club must:

- Pay a participation bond of **\$1,000.00** (seniors), **\$500.00** (juniors), to be held by GV to offset clubs debts during that season. Balance can be refunded at the end of the season or rolled over for following season at clubs discretion.
- Be an incorporated body or registered company.
- Have no outstanding debts to GV.
- Have at least one (1) coach who meets the minimum GV accreditation standard.
- Meet all requirements outlined in this document.
- Meet any additional requirements set in place by the GV Com for that competition.
- Ground must be inspected by a member of the VGOA and the GV Com on behalf of GV prior to being accepted as a host venue.

New Teams – Existing Clubs:

If an existing club wishes to enter an additional team into the GV Competition they must:

- Meet ALL the criteria and dates outlined in both the Schedule of Events and the Operating Rules for entry of Existing Teams into the upcoming season's competition (see above).
- The application must include as a minimum the following information:
- Proposed Team Name
- Proposed uniform – Home and Away (Seniors)
- Name of Coach/Coaches
- Coaches' experience
- Coaches' accreditation level
- Names of at least 6 people who will undergo VGOA Level 0 accreditation.
- Ground must be inspected by a member of the VGOA and the GV Com on behalf of GV prior to being accepted as a host venue.
- Any other details that differ from the existing team/teams in the club

No intra-club transfers are permitted during the season.

New Clubs:

For a new club to be admitted to GV they must meet ALL the criteria outlined in the Operating Rules for entry of Existing Teams into the upcoming season's competition.

In addition, submit an application (team registration form) to GV, not less than six (6) months prior to the commencement of the season they wish to participate in.

The application must include as a minimum, the following information:

- Have as a minimum, 20 on line registered Senior players and/or 20 on line registered Junior players.
- Proposed Team Name.
- Training Venue (with proof of Council Approval) - Days and Times (including Melways reference).
- Playing Venue (with proof of Council Approval) with details of facilities (including Melways reference).
- Proposed uniform, including jersey, helmet, pants, sock colour and logo – Home and Away (Seniors only)
- Committee structure, names and contacts.
- Proof of Incorporation.
- Junior Team Development Plan
- Names of at least 6 people who will undergo VGOA Level 0 accreditation
- Nominate Club Representative (1) and Appointees (5) who may attend GV Com meetings.
- Ground must be inspected by a member of the VGOA and the GV Com on behalf of GV prior to being accepted as a host venue.
- Name of Coach/Coaches
- Coaches' experience
- Coaches' accreditation level

Additional Financial Requirements:

In addition to the normal GV financial requirements and bonds outlined in these Operating Rules and guidelines, the following additional financial requirements must be met:

- Not less than three (3) months prior to the commencement date of the first match in the season in which a new club wishes to participate, the club requesting admission to the GV Competition must pay a no forfeit guarantee bond of **\$1000.00** for the first season.
- If the team completes the season without ANY forfeits, this bond will be refunded or credited towards registrations and match fees for the next playing season in which they participate.

Exhibition Teams:

New teams that wish to be a part of the competition, but cannot fully meet the requirements for full club entry are invited to apply to be an Exhibition Team.

Teams wishing to apply for exhibition status shall provide to the GV Com no later than the 3 months prior to the start of the proposed season (senior/junior) the following:

- Proposed playing Venue (with proof of Council Approval) with details of facilities (including Melways reference). Ground must be inspected by VGOA and GV Member on behalf of GV prior to being accepted as a host venue. (**NOTE: This is required ONLY if the exhibition team wishes to host any rounds during the season.**)
- Proposed uniform, including jersey, helmet, pants, sock colour and logo.
- Committee structure, names and contacts.
- Proof of Incorporation.

In addition to the above criteria, an exhibition team shall:

- Have a minimum of 20 (senior) and/or 20 (junior) players registered on line.
- Pay a \$300.00 forfeit bond to GV prior to the start of their first exhibition game.
- Be scheduled at least one game against each side competing for championship points.
- Not be granted any home games until all existing clubs have been allocated their minimum of two games.
- In the event that the exhibition team is under the umbrella of an existing club, the above clause is waived.
- Have at least one (1) coach who meets the minimum GV accreditation standard.
- Nominate a minimum of three (3) individuals who will undergo VGOA level 0 accreditation
- Have at least one (1) qualified medic.

Exhibition teams must comply with all match day requirements (e.g. paperwork, sideline staff, match day fees, etc.).

Exhibition teams will not be permitted to be in debt more than \$100 to GV for a period of more than one week.

Exhibition Teams in debt to GV at or over this amount will not be permitted to play any exhibition game until the debt is cleared.

Competition points will be awarded for the result of any exhibition game; however an exhibition team will not be eligible for finals football.

Failure to supply officials, medics, or accredited coaches by any club (including exhibition teams) will be penalised as per the guidelines in this document.

All existing rules relating to fines, ejections, and suspensions apply.

Existing clubs scheduled an exhibition game must play the game to completion.

Forfeit penalties as stipulated in this document will apply to existing clubs competing against exhibition teams.

Exhibition teams that notify GV of a forfeit prior to midday Friday before their exhibition game, shall lose their forfeit bond but will be permitted to continue their exhibition schedule.

Exhibition teams that forfeit after the midday Friday deadline shall lose their forfeit bond, and will be removed from future exhibition games for that season.

An Exhibition Team must view their entry into the competition as a stepping stone to full membership the following year. An Exhibition Team will not be permitted to continue year to year in the competition just as an exhibition team. They must progress to full club status.

At the discretion of the GV Com, exhibition teams that successfully finish their exhibition schedule with no forfeits shall be invited to join GV as a full fledged member, with all voting rights and privileges.

Exhibition teams will be permitted to use the Loan Player Assistance Policy.

Uniforms:

Each team will supply a description of their colours on their team registration form.

All players must wear:

Helmets:

- All helmets must be the same colour.
- All face masks must be the same colour.
- All helmets must have the same team decal attached (if applicable).
- All helmet visors must be clear.

Jerseys:

- All jerseys must be full length and be the same colour and design.
- All jersey numbers must be the same colour and size.
- Any sponsorship logos must be identical on each jersey.
- Visible sleeves of any players wearing undershirts must all be the same colour and design.

Pants:

- All pants must be the same colour and design.
- Any sponsorship logos must be identical on each pair of pants.
- Belts must be uniform in colour.

Socks:

- All team socks must be uniform in colour and length.
- 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.

Gloves:

- All gloves must be grey.

Mouthguards:

- All players must wear a mouthguard that covers all upper teeth.
- Mouthguards cannot be **clear or white**.
- Individual exceptions to the rule that disallows **clear or white** mouthguards will be considered in 2008 if a player produces a certificate from a registered doctor or dentist stating that the mouthguard has been properly fitted.
- Such certificate must state that the mouth guard was fitted before **1 January 2008**.
- 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 3 things:
 - 1) In the doctor/dentist's opinion it is necessary for the player to wear a cut down mouthguard for medical reasons,
 - 2) The doctor/dentist has arranged for a suitably cut down mouthguard to be properly fitted, and
 - 3) In the doctor/dentist's opinion it is safe for the player to play American Football wearing this mouthguard.

Boots:

- Full metal studs are illegal.
- Studs that comprise more than ¼ their length in metal are illegal.
- Studs can be either rubber or plastic.
- Any player out of uniform or with illegal studs will not be able to take the field until they comply.
- It is the coach's responsibility to ensure late players are wearing legal equipment.
- After the commencement of play, any player found to not conform as above will be subject to the appropriate penalties.

Senior Teams:

- The first named team in the fixture will wear jerseys in the team's registered (home) colours.
- The second named team in the fixture will wear white (away) jerseys only if in the opinion of the VGOA (pre season) both the home jerseys clash in colour.
- All teams **MUST** submit a photograph of their **FULL** uniform prior to the commencement of the season for approval.
- A **team** that does not wear jerseys of the colour required by the fixture will forfeit the game and lose their bond.

Junior Teams:

- All teams must comply with the senior uniform requirements, except the need for an away jersey.

Penalties:

Penalties for breach of uniform policy:

Infraction

Penalty

Individual player not in team uniform.	Removal of the player/s from the game until they are in the correct uniform, plus charged team time out for each infraction.
Illegal Metal cleats	Ejections of the player/s from the game. Suspended automatically for 2 matches. Club fined \$500.00 .
Team uniform infraction (Wrong jerseys etc)	\$200.00 per game

Registrations:

Forms:

Please ensure only the current years forms are used.

Team Registrations, Referee Match Reports, Injury Report Forms, Liability Waiver, Transfer Forms, Match Reports, GA Senior and Junior Authorisation Forms, Disqualification and Tribunal Report Form and Insurance Claim Forms are available on the GV website www.gridironvictoria.com.au

GA online registration is available on line through the GV Members portal.

Team Registration:

To enter a team in the upcoming GV playing season, a club must supply to the GV Registrar, no later than the date set in the GV Schedule of Events:

- A completed application for admission (Team Registration Form)
- Proof of named coach's current accreditation.
- Payment of the team registration bond.
- Details of ground availability (with proof of Council or private Approval) if applying to host rounds for the upcoming season.
- Ground must be inspected by a member of the VGOA and the GV Com on behalf of GV prior to being accepted as a host venue.
- All team registrations are subject to GV Com approval.
- **If ground availability details are not provided with the application (Team Registration Form), no host games will be allocated for that team.**

Late Team Registration:

The GV Registrar may accept the completed application, (Team Registration Form), proof of coaching accreditation and the competition entry fee for up to 14 days after the date set in the GV Schedule of Events.

A late team registration fee applies. (\$10 per day, up to 14 days)

The late payment fee must be paid at the same time as the competition entry fee for the team registration to be accepted.

If an application (Team Registration Form), proof of coaching accreditation and the total payment are not received within the 14 days grace period the team will be automatically excluded from the upcoming playing season.

Withdrawal from the Competition:

Once the team registration fee has been paid, a team withdrawing from the competition prior to the start of the season will forfeit the full amount of the team registration fee.

A team withdrawing from the competition after commencement of the season forfeits their bond.

The bond will be applied against the first game forfeited after withdrawal.

Re-entry criteria for any future competitions will then be based on the New Club criteria.

Age Eligibility Levels for Contact Football:

Juniors:

- To be eligible to play junior football a player must be 14 years or over prior to commencing training or playing in any game.
- A player must be 17 years or under at the 1st of January of the competing year.

Seniors:

- A player must be 18 years or over at the 1st of January of the competing year to be eligible for senior football.

Exception:

- A junior player is permitted to play senior football once the required 'GA Junior to Senior Authorisation 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. (AGCA Coaching Director and the GV President).
- A junior player is permitted to play senior football and then return to junior football once the required 'GA Senior to Junior Authorisation Form' has been completed and submitted. This form contains written signed approval from the GV Eligibility Approval Committee. (AGCA Coaching Director and the GV President).
- Any such decisions to allow the junior player to play senior football or return to junior football will ultimately be determined by the GV Eligibility Approval Committee. (AGCA Coaching Director and the GV President).

ALL INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE MADE ON LINE AND PAID FOR WITH GA

It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure all participants, are registered and appropriately qualified, prior to allowing them to participate in any training or games.

Registration covers participation in any event authorised or sanctioned by GV during the registration period. (12 months from the date of registration.)

To be covered by the GA insurance, all participants must:

Be 14 years of age or older prior to training or playing in any game.

Be registered on line with GA.

Have electronically signed, completed and submitted a GV Release and Liability Waiver and Code of Conduct.

By entering or providing their details to be added to a team's registration list, a participant will be deemed by GV to have agreed to the terms and conditions and code of conduct for the current year.

All players must sign a liability waiver each year prior to training or playing with a club.

A player under the age of 18 must complete a GV Release and Liability waiver form, countersigned by their parent or guardian.

Prior to participating in their first game in any GV Competition a participant must supply proof of on line registration and in addition, junior players, proof of age id.

Such proof of id must be shown to a member of the GV Executive, or the GV Registrar, prior to a participant competing in their first game.

Participants only need to supply proof of age id to the league **ONCE**. They do not need to supply photo id every year.

A Participant is not considered registered or insured with the GV for the current season until they have:

- Completed their GA on line registration.
- Paid their registration fee on line.
- Met the photo id requirement, 1st time participants' only.
- Completed the GV Release and Liability Waiver.

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

- They have any outstanding debt owed to GV.
- They are in possession of GV equipment or uniform/s they have failed to return immediately when asked.

The amount payable for all categories of registration will be set each year by the GV Com.

Clubs Responsibilities:

Team Registration Bond of **\$1,000.00** (Senior) and **\$500.00** (juniors) is to be paid no later than the date indicated on the Schedule of Events.

On the date indicated in the Schedule of Events, **ALL NEW CLUBS** must provide the GV Registrar with a minimum of 20 (Senior) or 20 (Junior) on line player registrations.

After the first round, any further participants must be registered with GA on line, prior to the registered persons name first appearing on the GV Team Sheet.

If a participant's name appears on the GV Team Sheet the participant must be fully registered on line.

By adding a participants details to a clubs electronic registration list a club will be deemed by GV to have accepted that player as a registered player for that club.

If a club includes a participant on their registration list and the participant does not provide, prior to competing, proof of payment via GA online registration , the participant will be considered unregistered for the purposes of match penalties.

All participant registrations for each competition season are non-refundable except where the participant does not compete in any GV sanctioned game. Any requests for refunds **MUST** be made through the participants club.

Any participant who does not complete the registration requirements is not recognized as a registered member of GV and is ineligible for any benefits covered by membership of GV.

These include but not limited to:

- Insurance.
- Selection in any GV representative or club side, in any event that involves or is sanctioned by GV, or any of its member clubs.

Transfers:

All transfers between clubs are automatic, except when:

- The participant has outstanding debts owing to their previous club,
- The participant is in possession of uniform or equipment belonging to their previous club.

If the transfer is during the season and the participant's name has appeared as a registered participant on another clubs team list for that season, the participant or the club they wish to transfer to must pay the **\$100.00** transfer fee:

- **\$50.00** will be credited to the account of the participant's previous club.
- **\$50.00** will be retained by GV.

In all cases a transfer form must be completed by the participant and signed by the participant's previous club.

Intra-club transfers are not permitted during the season the participant is registered.

It is the responsibility of the club to whom they wish to transfer, to obtain a signed transfer form from the participant's previous club and send the signed form plus, if applicable, the transfer fee of **\$100.00** to GV **PRIOR** to the participant competing with the new club.

Penalties

Penalties for registration infraction

<u>Infraction</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
Unregistered Participant	2 match points and \$200.00 fine per participant.
Ineligible Participant/s	2 match points.

- Offending teams can go into negative points.

Costs:

Team Entry Costs:

Junior team/s only	GV registration fee. *
Junior and senior team/s	GV registration fee. *
Existing club - senior team only	GV registration fees plus \$2000.00 development levy. **
Forfeit bond	\$300.00 bond for every Team entered. ***

* The GV registration fee covers insurance plus GA and GV levies.

** Any existing club that enters a team in the GV Senior competition without fielding a junior team in the previous junior season must pay the development levy.

*** Forfeit bonds must always be current. If not used the bond is rolled over to the next GV competition.

If a team forfeits, the forfeit bond loss will be \$100, **IF** the GV Secretary is notified by phone **PRIOR** to midday Friday.

If a team forfeits, the forfeit bond loss will be \$300, **IF** the GV Secretary is notified by phone **AFTER** midday Friday, - To be divided as follows:

- Host Club - \$100 unless you are the forfeiting team in which case it goes to GV.
- Opposing Team - \$50 if forfeit after midday Friday.
- GV - \$150 if forfeit after midday Friday.
- Any match started and forfeited prior to half time will incur a \$100 fine. \$50 to GV \$50 to Opposing Team.

Weekly Fees:

The weekly fee covers league costs for officials and other GV operating expenses.

Senior competition- **\$10.00** per player named on the weekly GV Team Sheet.

Junior competition- **\$5.00** per player named on the weekly GV Team Sheet.

Season Fees:

Prior to each competition season, by the dates set out in the Schedule of Events, each team must pay a team registration bond of **\$1,000.00** (Senior) and **\$500.00** (Junior).

Payment Deadlines

Penalties

Penalties for registration payment infractions

Infraction

Penalty

Late Team Registration Form or fee:

Additional **\$10.00** per day up to 14 days from schedule due date.

Non-payment of team registration fee including, late registration fee, outstanding penalties and development levy, if applicable, 15 days or more after scheduled team registration date:

Exclusion from upcoming season.

- All outstanding debts to GV must be paid in full prior to participation in any finals series and prior to submission and acceptance of Team Registration applications for subsequent seasons.

Officials:

Team Officials:

To assist in increasing the number and standard of officials, clubs should encourage participants, past and present and others who will act as team officials, to attend the VGOA training and accreditation courses.

- VGOA will coordinate and run the officiating courses.
- The venue and cost will be set each year by the VGOA.
- Course dates are in the GV Schedule of Events.

Qualifications:

All team officials must have attained VGOA Level 0 accreditation.

Team officials may undergo further officiating training to obtain a higher qualification.

Level 0:

To complete Level 0 accreditation, team officials must attend a 1-day course.

This accreditation will remain current as long as the official officiates in at least **2** games (senior or junior) each year.

If an official does not officiate in at least 2 game during any given year, the official must repeat the Level 0 course in order to be re-accredited.

Level 1:

To complete Level 1 accreditation, officials must:

- Complete a 2-day course (the first day of which is the Level 0 course)
- Pass an exam
- Officiate in at least 10 games
- Be assessed in at least 2 of those games and achieve a rating of “Satisfactory”.

Level 1 official’s are also subject to re-accreditation every three years. Details can be supplied by the VGOA on request, along with details of Level 2 and Level 3 accreditation.

Once an official completes the course, he will become a Provisional Level 1 Official. He will then have until:

- The end of that calendar year to pass the exam.
- The following two calendar years to complete the games requirements.

If the official fails to meet these requirements by the deadlines set, he will lose his status as a Provision Level 1 Official and will need to repeat the course to become accredited.

Payment to Team Officials:

- Level 1 official’s are eligible for full match fees from the VGOA.
- Provisional Level 1 officials are eligible for full match fees for games in the calendar year in which they complete the 2-day Level 1 course.
- Upon completion of Level 1 accreditation within the three-year period, they will be eligible for retrospective payment for games in the two years after they completed the Level 1 course.

Abuse of Officials – Zero Tolerance:

GV intends that ‘Abuse’ shall be interpreted as, but not limited to:

- Any critical or demeaning comment that is made about an official's honesty, integrity, ability or appearance, or that of officials generally and any foul or abusive language directed toward an official."

- GV will not tolerate abuse of officials by participants or spectators.
- A zero tolerance policy applies regarding abuse of officials.
- It is the responsibility of the coaches to control themselves, their players and sideline staff.
- It is the responsibility of clubs to control their spectators.

Participants:

Participants who abuse an official will be ejected from that game. In addition they will be subject to the following sanctions:

- 1st offence - 1 game suspension.
- 2nd offence - 2 game suspensions.
- 3rd offence - 6 game suspensions.
- 4th offence and subsequent offences - referral to the tribunal
- Penalties will be assessed, based on a cumulative 3-year period from the date of the 1st offence.

Clubs are expected to control their spectators.

Any spectator abusing an official or otherwise behaves in an unacceptable manner, should be immediately spoken to by members of the club committee and advised that the behaviour will not be tolerated.

If a spectator continues to abuse officials or behave in an unacceptable manner:

- The officials will stop the game.
- Captains from both participating clubs will approach the spectator and advise them their behaviour is unacceptable.
- If the spectator is identified as a registered participant of any member club of GV, they will be subject to the same penalties that would have applied if they had been a participant in the game.
- If the spectator is identified as a registered participant of one of the competing clubs, the officials may impose a 15-yard penalty against that team each time the officials feel the abuse is sufficient to warrant such a penalty.

Team Officials - Match Day Responsibilities:

The VGOA will supply as many qualified VGOA officials as possible for each game. In addition, teams will be rostered to supply team officials for each game. (They are welcome to supply additional officials if desired.)

It is the responsibility of the **ROSTERED TEAM** to supply the required number of Team Officials.

If an arrangement is made with another team to officiate and that team fails to meet the obligation, any **penalties will be applied against the ROSTERED TEAM.**

Match Day Pre-Game:

The VGOA will supply all team officials with uniforms.

Team officials must be changed and ready for the pre-game briefing not less than **45 minutes prior** to the scheduled starting time of the game.

Team officials who arrive less than 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time may, at the referees' discretion, be omitted from the crew if their late arrival prevents them participating in an appropriate pre-game briefing.

Penalties

Infraction

Penalty

Unqualified team official/s-

Loss of ½ a match point for each unqualified team official plus a fine \$50.

Non-supply of team official/s-

Loss of 1 match point for each team official not supplied plus a **\$100** fine per official not supplied.

Team official arrives late and is omitted from the crew

Loss of 1 match point for each official omitted from the crew for late arrival

For junior games, if the rostered team supplies an official but in the opinion of the Referee there are sufficient VGOA officials for the game, the Referee has the discretion to waive the requirement for a team official and no penalty will apply.

The Referee does **NOT** however, have the discretion to waive the requirement for team officials for senior games.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, because of failure to supply team officials, there are insufficient officials to safely proceed with the game, the game will be suspended.

If this occurs, the team rostered to supply officials will also lose their forfeit bond.

Coaching Accreditation:

Minimum Coaching Qualification:

ALL COACHES: Must provide evidence, prior to the commencement of each season, that they are registered in accordance with the Victorian Government Working with Children Bill 2005 regardless of whether you are coaching under 18 year olds or not.

ALL COACHES: Must, as a minimum, have a current Level 1 Trainee AGCA accreditation.

ALL HEAD COACHES MUST, AS A MINIMUM, HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

Junior: A full Level 1 AGCA accreditation.
A current Level 0 Officials accreditation -
(Such accreditation can be maintained for 3 years by attending a GV pre season Coaches/Officials Conference or Level 0 Officials Course during each calendar year.)
A current Working with Children's accreditation

Seniors: A Level 2 Trainee AGCA accreditation
A current Level 0 Officials accreditation
A current Working with Children's accreditation

Courses:

The AGCA accreditation is made up of 2 parts:

(1) General Principles – ALL coaches can achieve this accreditation by:

- Completing a self paced learning course via the VIS or ASC web sites, or
- Attending a course run by an accredited training organisation, or
- Attending a course organised by GV or AGCA or
- Successfully applying to AGCA for an exemption.

(2) Sports Specific – ALL coaches can achieve this accreditation by:

- Attending a course coordinated and run by the AGCA Victorian State Director of Coaching.

In addition GV require that ALL coaches achieve the following accreditation:

Working With Children's Check – ALL Coaches can achieve this accreditation by:

- Completing the required W.W.C. check (Applications available from Registrar).
- MUST be presented prior to being permitted to coach in GV.
- If exempt, proof of such exemption is required prior to being permitted to coach in GV.

In addition GV require that **ALL HEAD COACHES** achieve the following accreditation:

Level 0 Officials Accreditation – Head Coaches can achieve this accreditation by:

- Attending the official's course run by the VGOA.

All course dates can be found in the GV Schedule of Events.

Sports Specific courses are run under the auspices of the AGCA.

All course venues and costs will be set by GV.

Penalties for Unaccredited Coaches

Infraction

Any Coach NOT accredited.

Penalty

Deregistration as a GV coach.
Loss of 2 match points for ANY team for ANY game where ANY coach is unaccredited.

Host Club:

If a club fails to meet its hosting obligations the GV Com may, at its discretion, reschedule future games to an alternate venue. Host clubs are responsible for:

- Supply and cleanliness of players', officials' and spectator facilities.
- Ground marking.
- Ground set up.
- Canteen.
- Scoreboard.
- Ground clean up.

All facilities must be clean and operational not less than two hours prior to the scheduled start time of the first game.

Suitable change rooms must be available for teams and officials.

Ground marking and ground set up must be completed prior to the scheduled start time of the first game.

- Ground marking must be in accordance with the NCAA rulebook (except that pylons, nine-yard marks, yard line numbers and a solid white area between the front of the coaches' box and the sideline are optional for GV games).
- All ground markings must be white unless specifically authorized in advance by the GV Com.
- All goal posts must be adequately padded.
- The field must be free of hazards.
- The field must be roped off or have an appropriate barrier, on all 4 sides of the ground to keep spectators clear of the playing area and team area. The rope must be at least 12 feet from the sidelines and end lines and at least 6 feet from the back of the team area.
- A stretcher of a satisfactory standard must be available and readily accessible – on the home team sideline.

Canteen must be operating 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the first game and until after the conclusion of the last scheduled game. All profits belong to the host club.

Scoreboard must be operational and updated after each score.

Host Clubs must ensure that spectators (i.e. any persons other than participants of the teams in a match in progress) behave in an orderly manner and that any spectators whose conduct is

disruptive to the game, is a threat to any other person or otherwise brings the game into disrepute, is removed.

All costs associated with the above responsibilities are to be borne by the Host Club.

If the Host Club fails to meet any of these responsibilities, and if in the opinion of the Referee such failure represents a threat to the safety of any person, the game will not begin, or will not continue, until the problem is rectified. If such problem cannot be rectified, or the host club refuses to rectify the problem, the game will be suspended.

Documentation:

GV Team Sheet:

By each Wednesday, the GV Registrar will supply an official GV Team Sheet to each club. This Team Sheet will contain the names of all eligible participants for each team.

This will be completed by each club official and handed to the **Referee** immediately following the match in which they are competing.

- **Only the official GV Team Sheet will be accepted.**

The GV Team Sheet will contain:

- The jersey numbers or role (i.e. Head Coach) of the participants.
- The full name (surname first) of those participants.
- Whether the participant has paid match fees. (optional)
- The signature of the participants.
- If no team list is supplied or fully completed, match fees for all registered participants will be payable for that game and that game will not count towards finals eligibility for each participant.

Injury Reports:

If an injury occurs and a participant receives medical attention during a game, a notation must be made on the GV Match Report immediately following the game in which it occurred.

A GV Injury Report must also be completed and submitted to the GV Registrar by close of business Tuesday following the injury.

Injury Reports are the responsibility of the injured participants club.

- **Only the official GV Injury Report will be accepted.**

Referee's Match Reports:

At the conclusion of each game the Referee will complete a Referees Match Report containing:

- Final scores
- Number of ejections, personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.
- Details of team officials.
- Summary of disqualified players.
- Report on facilities, ground marking, conduct of players and coaches, etc
- The GV Team Sheets.
- Any other information that needs to be brought to the attention of GV

All Referees Match Reports must be completed in full and submitted by the officials to the GV Registrar by email on the Monday immediately following the weekends round of matches.

- **Only the official GV Referees Match Report will be accepted.**

Match Reports:

The two team's officials will complete ALL details on the Match Report and sign it. The winning team is responsible for ensuring the Match Report reaches the GV Registrar by the Tuesday following their game by email.

All teams MUST pay their registration and match fees directly into the GV bank account:

- GV bank account details are:
- National Bank
- BSB 083 454
- Account number 668873581
- Please ensure you clearly identify what the payment is for and who made it. This should also be followed by an email to the GV Registrar and GV Treasurer.
- **Only the official GV Match Report will be accepted.**

Game Day Playing Requirements:

For a game to commence each team must have:

- The GV minimum number of players (Seniors 15 – Juniors 15/11man or 12/9man) uniformed and equipped in accordance with mandatory safety requirements and fit to play.
- Have at least one (1) coach who meets the minimum GV accreditation standard.
- A chain crew (home team only)
- A ball person.
- A Medic.

Medic:

All teams must have a registered and fully qualified medic present at each game.

A game cannot begin without each team having a qualified medic present.

- Medics must as a minimum have a Level 2 First Aid qualification or higher. If the Level 2 Medic is a player, there must be a Level 1 non-playing Medic present.
- Medics must be registered on line with GA and GV and provide proof of qualification to the GV Registrar at time of registration.
- If one team has no registered Medic present, the game will be declared a forfeit against that team.
- That team will receive no points and the game will be scored as a 7-0 win to their opponent.
- The team will lose their forfeit bond.
- If no registered Medic is present for both teams, the game will be declared a forfeit against both teams.
- No team will receive points and no scores will be recorded.
- Each team will lose their forfeit bond.

Chain Crew:

A game cannot begin without a chain crew. The home team must organise a chain crew of 3 people.

The chain crew must be available to the Linesman no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

Equipment:

League Supplied:

Down markers, chains and footballs, vest will be supplied by GV and administered by the VGOA unless otherwise arranged.

Teams are not permitted to supply or substitute other footballs before or during any game.

Sideline:

Teams are responsible for the conduct of everyone within the box marked as their team sideline area.

Anyone within that area MUST be a registered member of Gridiron Victoria unless volunteering as chain crew or ball boy.

There is no restriction on the number of players or team officials.

Penalty for match day violations

Infraction

GV Team List, not supplied, missing, late or not completed.

GV Match Report, not supplied, missing, late

Penalty

Match fees for all registered participants will be payable for that game and that game will not count towards finals eligibility for each participant.

The responsible team will forfeit the game.

or not signed.	No match points will be allocated for the game and that game will not count towards finals eligibility for each participant.
Injured player named on GV Match Report and no Injury Report form supplied.	No access to GV Insurance.
No chain crew ready for the scheduled start of the game (home team)	10-yard penalty against the home team. If the game cannot be played because a chain crew cannot be found: forfeit of the game (by home team).
No ball person ready for the scheduled start person of the game (either team)	If the game cannot be played because a ball cannot be provided: Forfeit of the game by one or both teams.
Ball person fails to return both footballs at the end of the game.	Club will be charged for the replacement cost of the football/s.
Deliberate substitution/tampering of a football in a game.	Forfeit of game by the offending team 7- 0. If the opposition team has scored, their score will be used as the winning score. The offending team will receive a score of zero.

Status of Games:

Forfeited Games:

A forfeit game is declared if:

- A team does not have at least a one (1) coach present who is GV accredited.
- A team does not have the GV minimum number of players suited up and ready and able to play at the scheduled start time of their game.
- A team illegally substitutes a football into a game.
- Failure to supply a chain crew (home team) and ball person (both teams), or team official(s) (where the participating teams are rostered to supply officials).

The GV requirement for a minimum number of players is:

- 15 for Senior games
- 15 for 11 man Junior games
- 12 for 9 man Junior games

The opposition team will be credited with the match points and a 7 – 0 score.

If neither side has the minimum number of players suited up and ready and able to play at the scheduled start time of their game, both teams will be deemed to have forfeited.

No team will receive points and no scores will be recorded.

Suspended Games:

The decision as to whether to suspend any game is at the sole discretion of the Referee.

Regular Season Game Suspended - Extreme Weather Conditions:

(See Attached Heat Policy)

If a game is suspended before the start of play or before the completion of the second quarter:

- The game will be declared a 0 – 0 tied game.
- The teams will receive the same match points as awarded for a completed tied game.

If the game is suspended after the completion of the second quarter, the game will be declared a completed game:

- The team leading at the time of the suspension will be declared the winner.
- The scores and any penalties incurred at the time of suspension will stand.

If the game is suspended after the completion of the second quarter and the scores are tied at the time of suspension:

- The game will be declared a completed tied game.
- The scores and any penalties incurred at the time of suspension will stand.

Semi Final or Vic Bowl Suspended - Extreme Weather Conditions:

If a Semi Final or Vic Bowl is suspended before the start of play or before the completion of the second quarter:

Of the 2 competing teams, the team that finished higher on the ladder during the regular season will be declared the winner.

If a Semi Final or Vic Bowl is suspended after the completion of the second quarter:

- The team leading at the time of suspension will be declared the winner.
- Any penalties incurred at the time of suspension will apply.

If the scores are tied at the time of suspension (after the completion of the second quarter):

- Of the 2 competing teams, the team that finished higher on the ladder during the regular season will be declared the winner.
- Any penalties incurred at the time of suspension will stand.

No Game:

The decision as to whether to suspend any game is at the sole discretion of the Referee.

Regular Season Suspended For Reasons Other Than Weather Conditions:

The GV Committee of Management shall meet not more than 48 hours after the suspended game and discuss the reasons for the suspension of the game. This may be done by email.

The GV Com may either:

- Order the resumption of the game at a time and place determined by the GV Com.
- Award the game to either of the competing teams.
- Declare the game a tie.

The competing teams are excluded from the vote on this decision.

Semi Finals/Vic Bowl Suspended For Reasons Other Than Weather Conditions:

The GV Committee of Management shall meet not more than 48 hours after the suspended game and discuss the reasons for the suspension.

The GV Com may either:

- Order the resumption of the game at a time and place to be determined by the GV Com.
- Award the Semi Final/s/Vic Bowl to either of the competing teams

The competing teams are excluded from the vote on this decision.

League Awards

Voting Criteria and Procedures

Seniors:

MVP, Offensive Lineman, Offense and Defense Awards:

No later than the start of the competition, the GV Com will appoint an MVP Panel to decide the winners of each category.

The MVP Panel will comprise 3 experienced football people of the GV Com's choice.

All 3 members of the MVP Panel will be from different clubs or have no affiliation to any GV club.

Procedure:

- At the completion of each regular season the Head Coaches of the competing teams will email to the GV Registrar, no later than the Tuesday following their last match, the votes for their own team, in the respective categories. (If no votes received, club's players will be ineligible)
- 3-2-1 points will be allocated to the best player in each of the following categories from their own team for the entire season:
- Overall MVP

- Offensive Lineman
- Defense
- Offence

In Addition:

- At the completion of each regular season the Head Coaches of the competing teams will also email to the GV Registrar, no later than the Tuesday following their last match, one nomination for each of the other competing teams, in the respective categories above.
- 1 point will be allocated to the best player in each of the categories above from each of the other teams for the entire season:
- No half votes are permitted.

The MVP Panel will meet on the Wednesday following the last regular season game to select the award winners.

The MVP Panel will report their decision to the GV Registrar by the Thursday following the final game.

The MVP Panel appointed by the GV Com will also select a ‘GV Team of the Year’ including selection of the best player in each of the following positions:

Coach:

- Coach of the Year

Offense:

- Quarterback
- Receiver
- Tight End
- Offensive Tackle
- Offensive Guard
- Centre
- Tailback
- Fullback

Defense:

- Defensive Tackle
- Defensive End
- Linebacker
- Cornerback
- Safety

Special Teams:

- Player of the Year
- Punter
- Kicker

Rookie of the Year - Seniors:

- There can only be **ONE** Rookie of the Year.
- Rookie of the Year will be decided by a vote of the Head Coaches.
- Only the registered Head Coach from each Senior team will be entitled to vote.
- The coach may submit up to three (3) names for consideration as Rookie of the Year at any time during the regular season.
- Names are to be submitted to the GV Registrar.
- Head coaches will be supplied with the list of nominated rookies no later than the day after the final regular season match and may each cast 3,2,1 votes from these names.
- The player with the most votes will be the Rookie of the year.
- In the event of two (2) or more rookies receiving the same number of votes the coaches will then vote by ballot until one rookie player has a clear majority.

A player **IS NOT** a Rookie if:

- They have previously played open age Gridiron anywhere in the world.
- They have been registered as a Junior player for more than 2 previous Junior seasons anywhere in Australia.
- They have played any Senior High School football or College Football in the U.S.A, Canada, Mexico, Japan, UK, Europe.
- The GV Registrar will check the GA/GV registration database and previous registration forms to ensure players nominated meet the Rookie qualification criteria.

Voting Criteria and Procedures - Juniors:

Voting criteria for the Junior season is the same as the Senior season.

Official of the Year – Seniors:

- There can only be **ONE** Official of the Year.
- The Official of the year must be a VGOA official.
- The Official of the Year will be decided by a vote of the Head Coaches.
- Each registered Head Coach may submit one name for Official of the Year at any time during the regular season.
- Names are to be submitted to the GV Registrar.
- The official with the highest number of votes will be selected as Official of the Year.
- In the event of two (2) or more officials receiving the same number of nominations the coaches will then vote by ballot until one official has a clear majority.

Life Membership:

GV 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

Long-serving individuals who have not participated at a league level may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Nominations may be made at any time by any GV voting entity or person registered with GV.

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 GV Com at the AGM following the nomination.

The GV Com will vote to accept or reject the life membership.

Life Membership will be presented at the next Senior presentation night following the acceptance of the life membership.

Recognition of outstanding club level contributions for playing, coaching and administration should be recognised by individual clubs.

Awards Presentations:

Senior Season:

GV will hold an annual senior season awards presentation night on the Saturday night of the 2nd League Bye Round, after the final regular season game.

Responsibility for organising the presentation night will be allocated to all GV clubs on a rotational basis, in alphabetical order. The Croydon Rangers will be the responsible club for 2009. Clubs are able to choose the venue of their choice.

The following perpetual awards will be presented:

- VGOA Best and Fairest Player
- Rookie of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Offensive Lineman of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- Offensive Player of the Year
- League Most Valuable Player

GV may also present any other award that it sees fit: eg. Life Membership.

The Organising Club will purchase any yearly trophies, medallions and premiership flag and arrange engraving on perpetual and yearly trophies. This is to be paid for by GV.

It is **mandatory** for all SENIOR TEAMS to purchase a minimum of 10 tickets to the GV presentation night by the date indicated in the GV Schedule of Events.

It is the joint responsibility of the individual player and the current club of the previous year's perpetual trophy winners to collect the perpetual trophies and deliver them to the appointed GV Com representative no later than the second last regular season game.

Penalties for team failing to support the GV presentation night

Infraction

Penalty

Failure of a team to purchase a minimum of 10 tickets to the GV presentation night

Clubs will be charged the cost of 10 tickets per club.

Failure to return perpetual trophy

Clubs will be charged the replacement cost of the trophy. If a player has transferred teams, the team he is currently registered with is responsible.

All clubs must pay all amounts owed to GV prior participation in any finals game.

Clubs who do not make the finals must pay all amounts owed to GV prior to team registration being accepted for the following season.

Junior Season:

A representative of the GV Com will present the junior seasons MVP awards at the conclusion of the Junior Vic Bowl.

The following awards will be presented:

- Winning Team Medallions
- Winners Pennant
- GV Junior Vicbowl Trophy
- Junior Vic Bowl Most Valuable Player
- Lineman of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- Offensive Player of the Year
- League Most Valuable Player

Recognition medallions will be presented to the on field officiating staff used in the Junior Vic Bowl.

The Host Club will purchase the trophies and medallions and arrange engraving on all trophies except the Junior Vic Bowl Most Valuable Player.

The Junior Vic Bowl MVP will be decided by a panel appointed by the GV Com.

Finals:

Finals Format:

A maximum of 4 teams will be eligible to play in the Semi Finals.

A minimum of 2 teams must remain outside the Semi Finals.

Formula as follows:

- 4 Team Competition – (2 teams) 1st and 2nd – Vicbowl.
- 5 Team Competition – (3 teams) 3rd v 2nd (Semi) - Winner v 1st in Vicbowl
- 6 Team Competition – (4 teams) 1st v 4th & 2nd v 3rd (Semi) – Winners in Vicbowl
- 7 Team Competitions – As Above.
- 8 Team Competition – As Above
- 9 Team Competitions – As Above.

Fees for Finals:

Match day fees will NOT apply for ALL finals.

Finals Eligibility:

Team Eligibility:

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 eligible team inserted.

In the event of a team forfeiting a finals game their scheduled opponent will be declared the winner.

Penalty for team infraction for finals

Infraction

Penalty

Un-financial team

Team taken out of finals and next eligible team inserted.

Player Eligibility:

To be eligible to compete in the finals series, players must have met **all** of the following requirements:

- Be registered in the current season.
- Be named on and signed the GV Team Sheet and participated with that team during the current regular season in not less than:
 - 4 matches for the Senior competition.
 - 2 matches for the Junior competition.
- Have no outstanding debts with GV.

- Not be in possession of any GV equipment or uniform that was asked to be returned.
- GV Registrar will inform clubs of player eligibility for finals.

In-Season Transfers (Eligibility):

Where any player transfers from one club to another during a season that player must meet these additional requirements:

- Must be named on and signed the GV Team Sheet and participated with the team he has transferred to in not less than:
 - 6 games for seniors
 - 3 games for juniors

An application may be made to the GV Com to waive the minimum finals eligibility games requirement for a player **only** if the player would have been able to complete the minimum match requirements except:

- The player sustained an injury during a GV sanctioned game, event or training, and
- The player had a current registration with GV at the time of sustaining an injury, and
- An injury report form was completed and submitted to the GV registrar within 7 days of the injury being sustained, and
- Substantiating medical evidence is supplied to the GV Com.

Penalty for playing an unregistered player in a final

Infraction

Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in a final

Penalty

As per unregistered player penalty

Finals Responsibilities and Organization:

All venues:

For all finals games the Host Club will be responsible for the provision of:

- Chain Crews
- Scoreboard operator
- Canteen supplies and staffing
- Ground marking
- Ground and facilities set up and clean up
- Admission Gate
- Procuring a liquor license if liquor is to be served, where applicable.

For Bowl games only:

- Game commentator
- PA hire
- Program design, content and printing

The cost of PA equipment hire will be paid by GV subject to **PRIOR** approval by GV Com.

Neutral Venues:

For finals at a neutral venue, or an existing club's venue where the game is to be organised by the GV Com, the GV Com will be responsible for the above items.

- GV will pay all game running costs.
- GV will retain all game profits.
- All non competing clubs will supply at least 2 registered GV personnel to assist with game day activities (including but not limited to, chain crew, score board operator, canteen etc)

Finals Procedures:

Bowl Games:

Competing Teams:

All regular season match day documentation must be completed in full.

The highest ranked team at the end of the regular season who competes in the Bowl game will be the home team.

The 2 competing teams must supply a team list with player names and jersey numbers to the Bowl organizing committee no later than the Monday prior to the Bowl game.

The following post match presentations will take place:

- Winners Medals
- Winners Pennant
- Bowl Game Trophy
- MVP of Bowl Game

GV will supply and present recognition medallions to the on field officials with duties in the Bowl game.

The Bowl Game MVP will be decided by a panel appointed by the GV Com.

Final Venues:

Prior to the start of the regular season the GV Com may organise a finals venue. This may be done:

- By tender
- By resolution of the GV Com.

A venue determined by the GV Com may be a venue that is:

- Not used during the regular season, or

- That is used during the regular season and is agreed upon by a majority vote of all clubs and affiliated bodies.

The GV Com will organise a finals venue by the mid point of the season.

Tribunal

(To be read in conjunction with Tribunal By - Laws)

What “Games Suspended For” Means:

- “Games suspended for” means GV regular season and finals games involving the club that the coach or player was registered with at the time of the suspension.
- A coach or player cannot be registered with another club until the completion of their suspension.
- Suspended players are ineligible to participate in any other GA or GV sanctioned games during their suspension period, including but not limited to: All Star games, intra club scrimmages, interstate games, national championships, international games.
- GA or GV sanctioned games played during the suspension period are not included in the number of games the player is suspended for.

Procedure:

The GV Com will appoint a non-voting Tribunal Chairperson and a panel of 3 independent Tribunal members.

The Definition of Independent:

For the purposes of the tribunal hearing independent shall mean:

- Someone who is not registered with, or holds an active position with the club of the charged participant.
- Someone who is not registered with, or holds an active position with the club of the alleged victim.
- Someone who did not officiate in the game during which an alleged incident has occurred.

A tribunal will be formed if a report against any GV registered participant or club is lodged by the officials for:

- Misconduct
- A playing violation
- A breach of the code of conduct
- Bringing the game into disrepute

The officials have the power to report someone for an incident that occurs from 60 minutes prior to the game until 12 midnight after the completion of the game.

The Referees Match Report must be lodged with the GV Secretary via email or in writing by 5pm on the Monday immediately following the completion of the round of matches that the incident occurred.

A club or individual registered with GV may request a tribunal be convened because they believe there has been an incident outside the scope of the playing rules that bring the sport of Gridiron in Victoria into disrepute.

- The request must be lodged with the GV Secretary via email or in writing within 24 hours of the incident taking place.
- The request must detail the incident and include the date, time, place and individuals or group/s involved.

The GV Executive will determine whether the matter is to be referred to a Tribunal.

A request by a club or an individual for a tribunal that is subsequently found by the tribunal to be frivolous, mischievous or without substance may result in the suspension or deregistration of the club or person/s who requested the tribunal.

Notification Procedure:

The GV Secretary will only advise the Secretary of the reported players' club that the player is required to attend the GV Tribunal. This information along with the time, date and venue of the hearing will be conveyed no later than 8:00 pm on the Tuesday following the incident.

Notification by email is the appropriate method, however a telephone call should also follow to ensure the information has been relayed.

The tribunal will sit no later than the Wednesday following the incident.

- If a guilty verdict is handed down, the tribunal may hand down any penalty they feel is appropriate for an offence, within any constraints contained in the Tribunal By-Laws, except where NCAA rules specify a penalty for that offence.
- For an offence where a NCAA penalty is specified, this is the minimum penalty that can be applied.
- A larger penalty than the NCAA specified penalty could be applied at the discretion of the tribunal.
- The penalty for GV registered people will be in the form of suspension.

- The penalty for clubs may be in the form of suspension of a team from playing in the competition or fines or both.
- A club will forfeit all future matches until a fine is paid.
- The result of the Tribunal hearing will be notified to all parties at the conclusion of the hearing, and any player or club penalised by the Tribunal but not in attendance at the hearing will be notified by the GV Secretary within 24 hours after the hearing.
- Only the club/s or the GV registered individual suspended or penalised by the tribunal may appeal a tribunal decision.

An appeal can only be lodged if new evidence that was not available at the original hearing has been discovered.

An appeal against the original penalty must be lodged with the GV Secretary, in writing, no later than 5:00pm the day following the original tribunal hearing together with an appeal bond of **\$200**.

The appeal must be heard prior to the commencement of the next round of matches or finals following the incident.

Where possible the tribunal members from the original hearing will hear the appeal.

The tribunal has the right to increase, decrease or confirm the original penalty.

If the appeal does not result in a not guilty verdict or a reduction of the original penalty the **\$200** appeal bond is forfeited.

If the appeal cannot be heard prior to the next round of matches, the suspended participant will NOT be permitted to play until the appeal has been heard.

State Team

It is an honour to be selected to play for Victoria, not a right.

Funding:

The full cost of travel, accommodation, travel apparel, team and player tournament registration and individual's meals and entertainment will be borne by the participants.

Participants may be able to reduce their individual cost by:

- Finding an individual sponsor.
- Applying for a local government state team representation grant.

GV will endeavor to reduce the participation costs by obtaining team sponsorship whenever possible.

At the request of the state team administrators and coaches, GV will provide funding to allow the purchase of items essential to the running of the state team program.

Funding will be made available for the purchase of:

- Playing uniforms
- Footballs
- Training aids
- Coaching aids
- First aid kit and equipment
- Playing aids but excluding players equipment
- Sundry expenses required for the operation of the state team, e.g. ice.

All uniforms or equipment purchased through GV funding remains the property of GV and must be returned to the team manager at the conclusion of the tournament.

The registration of any player or coach who does not return GV equipment when asked will be immediately revoked.

GV funded uniforms and equipment is strictly for the use of the state program and is not available for use in the domestic competition by teams or individuals.

The disposal of surplus or old equipment will be discussed and organised by the GV Com.

Unless agreed to by the GV Com, funding is not available for subsidisations of an individual player, coach or team tournament costs, including:

- Travel
- Accommodation
- Team apparel
- Social events

Administration:

Coaching Appointments:

Expressions of interest to apply for the GV state team Head Coach will be advertised on the GV website and circulated to all clubs in the 3 months immediately following the National Championships.

The Head Coach tenure is until the conclusion of the next National Championships, unless the GV Com determines that the Head Coach's tenure should be terminated.

All applications must be sent to the GV Secretary within 3 months of the date the position was advertised. Applicants must have as a minimum, a current Level 2 Trainee coaching accreditation. The GV Com will select a Head Coach from the list of applicants.

If no qualified or suitable applicant applies, the GV Com may re-advertise the position, or approach and appoint a qualified applicant.

Team Manager Appointments:

After the appointment of the state team Head Coach, expressions of interest to apply for the GV state Team Manager will be advertised on the GV website and circulated to all clubs. All applications must be sent to the GV Secretary within 2 months of the date the position was advertised.

The Head Coach will select a Team Manager from the list of applicants.

If no suitable applicant applies, the GV Com may re-advertise the position, or approach and appoint a team manager.

Player Eligibility:

Selection Eligibility:

Senior Team:

To be eligible for selection in the Senior state training squad players must:

- Be nominated by the club with which they are currently registered or invited by the State Head Coach.
- Meet all other tournament eligibility requirements.

Any player who does not meet both of the above criteria is ineligible to train with a GV state squad.

Any player who is ineligible to train with a GV state squad is ineligible for selection in a GV state team.

Junior Team:

To be eligible for selection in the state Junior training squad players must:

- Be nominated by the club with which they are currently registered or invited by the State Head Coach.
- Meet all other tournament eligibility requirements.

Any player who does not meet both of the above criteria is ineligible to train with a GV state squad or be selected in a GV Junior state team.

Down Under Bowl:

All players with a current GV registration are eligible for selection in a Down Under Bowl team.

Coaches Selection Eligibility:

All coaches must have a current Full GV coaching accreditation.

Ineligible Participants:

Any player or coach who falls into any of the following categories is not permitted to participate in any GV representative squad or team activities.

- Players or Coach without a current GV registration.
- Player or Coach with outstanding debts to GV.
- Player or Coach with GV equipment or uniform that they failed to return when asked.
- Player or Coach whose club requests their exclusion because of outstanding debts to the club.
- A coach without a Full Level 1 accreditation.

Responsibilities:

Coaches:

The Head coach will:

- Appoint all assistant coaches, who must be Full Level 1 accredited.

- Liaise with the team manager on all matters relating to organisation of the state team.
- Provide the team manager with a list of the players the coaching team wish to invite to train with the state squad.
- Liaise with clubs and team coaches regarding training times and venues.
- Provide the team manager with a list of training times and venues.
- Organise and run state squad training and games.
- Ensure no ineligible players or coach's train with or are part of the state squad.

Team Manager:

The team manager will:

- Liaise with coaches regarding organisation of the team.
- Check the eligibility of all players on the coaches list with the GV registrar.
- Advise coaches of any ineligible players.
- Prepare and arrange distribution of state squad information pack, including:
 - Participation and commitment letter
 - Code of conduct
 - Training schedule
 - Payment schedule
- Be a contact point for the tournament organising committee.
- Calculate participation costs and set payment schedule.
- Source and book accommodation for players and sideline staff.
- Source, organise and order travel apparel.
- Stock and maintain the first aid kit.
- Organise other team requirements or activities.

Players:

To remain a member of any state training squad a player must:

- Fully complete and return all paperwork by the scheduled dates.
- Make all payments by the scheduled dates.
- Attend state training and train with the state squad on a regular basis. Minimum requirements to be set by the coaches.

An invited player who does not meet paperwork and payment dates and training commitments will be regarded as having voluntarily withdrawn from the state training squad.

Once a player voluntarily withdraws from a state training squad they cannot be reinstated.

Notes regarding refunds of player's state team payments:

- Full refunds will be given immediately to players who voluntarily withdraw or who are cut by the coaching staff prior to the announcement of the final playing squad 10 weeks prior to the tournament date.
- Players who voluntarily withdraw after the final playing squad is announced will only receive a refund of any money not already committed on their behalf.
- Committed money includes the player's share of any cost that is divided amongst the participants and had been factored into each participant's final cost.

Money will not be refunded until after the completion of the tournament

State Team Documents:

(Documentation to be written)

- State team participation pack
- Invitation to train
- State admin contact details
- Team rules and Code of conduct
- Player responsibilities
- Training
- Administration
- Approximate cost per player
- Payment schedule
- Payment methods
- Training schedule
- Times and locations
- Local council grant letter
- Sponsorship letters
- Team
- Individual

State Team Administration Contact Details:

	Business Name	Contact Name	Phone	Email
Travel Apparel				
Team Uniforms				
DVD				
SA				
QLD				
Down Under Bowl				
NSW				
WA				
ACT				

Tribunal Chairmen

Name	Phone	Email
Damien Hellard		damienh@tlcpl.com.au
Garry Wilson	0431 476680	garrywilson@swifdsl.com.au

GRIDIRON VICTORIA HOT WEATHER POLICY

1. STATEMENT

Gridiron Victoria has a responsibility to take a positive role in educating and increasing the awareness of its registered players towards the dangers of physical activity in the heat. With this in mind the Gridiron Victoria, Hot Weather policy has been formulated which reinforces the guidelines produced by Sports Medicine Australia, (Vic Branch). The policy shall apply to all members, administrators, officials, coaches and players associated with Gridiron Victoria.

2. BACKGROUND

Exercise in the heat creates competitive demands on the cardiovascular system, which is required to increase blood supply to the exercising muscles. At the same time it must regulate the body temperature by increasing skin blood flow in order to produce the sweat that keeps the body cool.

High intensity exercise in a hot environment, with the associated fluid loss and elevation of the body temperature, can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion and eventually heat stroke. Heat stroke is a potentially fatal condition and must be treated immediately by a medical professional and can still occur in the presence of good hydration.

An individual's ability to regulate body temperature is dependant on a number of physical and external factors and when considering suspending a specific sporting event, there are many factors

that need to be considered. One way of evaluating the external environment is Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). WBGT measures thermal stress. It is a more reliable indicator than ambient temperature (degrees Celsius) as it takes into account humidity. Humidity indicates how saturated the air is with water molecules. The higher the humidity, the less likely the chance to cool off, through the evaporation of sweat.

WBGT is not the same as temperature in degrees Celsius, i.e. 35 degrees Celsius, 20% relative humidity, is approximately a WBGT of 27.6 degrees Celsius.

Within this policy, guidelines have been produced to assist GV in deciding whether to suspend or modify games or training. However, these guidelines are not binding and all parties must act responsibly.

3. POLICY

3.1 Action Plan for Suspension of Events

- GV will enforce, through this policy, the following action plan for suspending gridiron/flag football games on days of hot weather:
 - GV Match Day Official will obtain the WBGT one-hour prior to the programmed start time of the game from the Victoria Weather Bureau's website page at www.bom.gov.au/products/IDS65004.shtml. If the WBGT is unavailable, GV is to obtain the ambient temperature.
 - The checklist, in accordance with hot weather guidelines, is to be performed by a GV representative. (An attachment to this policy contains pre-calculated values for most questions on the checklist)
 - Gridiron Victoria will contact teams if the points score from the checklist exceeds sixty-five (65) and where;
 - The WBGT is above 28 (An ambient temperature of 35 degrees Celsius to be used as cut-off equivalent to 28 WBGT if the WBGT not available) or
 - Age of the majority of participants get a point value of 8 on the Hot Weather Guideline Checklist, where it will be recommended by Gridiron Victoria that the game be suspended and re-scheduled.

3.2 Upon being contacted by GV, the host team contact is required to:

- Contact the participant teams and decide in consultation, whether the game is to be suspended.
- Notify the GV representative of the decision 30 minutes prior to the programmed start time of the game.
- For all games that are suspended, GV has a responsibility to:
 - Reschedule, wherever possible, the affected match.

- Record the match as a nil all draw if it is not possible to reschedule the match. Premiership points are to be split between the two teams.
- If one or both team contacts are unable to be contacted then the game will go ahead as scheduled.
- Games that are not suspended may still be modified to accommodate the heat, as per agreement from the two-team Head Coaches. (Please refer to Section 4 below for suggested modifications to decrease the risk of injury caused by heat.)

4. NON-SUSPENSION/MODIFICATION OF GAMES.

4.1 In the event that a game is not suspended, it is recommended that the following precautions be implemented to ensure the safety of all participants if checklist point score is from 56 to 74.

- A reduction in playing time and extended rest periods to ensure opportunity to re-hydrate during the game. This is to be actively promoted by coaches, officials and captains during the rest periods. Playing Time could be altered from 12-minute quarters, to 10-minute quarters if the checklist point score is above 65.
- Reformatting the game to include five-minute breaks at quarter & three quarter time if the checklist point score is above 65 and allowing for and promoting extra drink breaks and hydration by Officials calling extra water Time Outs if the checklist point score is above 55.
- Providing adequate shaded areas (where possible) and water, if the checklist point score above 65.)

5. TRAINING

5.1 Action Plan for Cancellation of Training

- GV will enforce through this policy the following action plan for suspending gridiron/flag football training on days of hot weather:
 - GV affiliated bodies (Clubs) to obtain the WBGT within an hour prior to the programmed start time of training from <http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDS65004.shtml>. If the WBGT is unavailable the affiliated body is to obtain the ambient temperature.
 - The checklist in accordance with hot weather guidelines to be performed by a representative of the affiliated body. An appendix to this policy to contain pre-calculated values for most questions on the checklist
 - The representative of the affiliated body only to contact Head Coach if the points score from the checklist exceeds sixty-five (65). In this case if the WBGT is above 28 or an ambient temperature of 35 degrees Celsius, to be used as cut-off equivalent to 28 WBGT if the WBGT is not available, or the age of the majority of participants get a point value of 8 on the Hot Weather Guideline Checklist, it will be recommended by GV that training be suspended.

- Upon being contacted by the representative of the affiliated body, the Head Coach is to decide whether training is to be suspended.
- Notify the representative of the affiliated body of the decision prior to the programmed start time of training.
- Training that is not suspended, should be modified to accommodate the heat, as per agreement from the Head Coach. (Please refer to Section 4 below for suggested modifications to decrease the risk of injury caused by heat.)

6. NON-SUSPENSION/MODIFICATION OF TRAINING

6.1 In the event that training is not suspended, it is recommended that the following precautions be taken to ensure the safety of all participants, if the checklist point score is from 56 to 74.

- A reduction in training time, extended rest periods & extra rest periods to ensure opportunity to re-hydrate during the game. Hydration is to be actively promoted by coaches, officials and captains during the rest periods.
- Providing adequate shaded areas (where possible) and water.

7. EDUCATION

7.1 All Clubs will be issued with the Smart Play Hot Weather Guidelines as a point of referral, (See attached) as well as being issued a copy of this policy.

8. POLICY REVIEW

8.1 The GV Hot Weather Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains current and practical.

HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES CHECKLIST.

1.	WBGT	to be obtained.
2.	Overall duration of Event	6
3.	Individual Intensity during the Event	5
4.	Acclimatisation of Participants	5
5.	Athletic ability of individuals	6
6.	Age of participants	3
7.	Time between available drinks	2

8.	Time of the event	5 (Late Games) 2 (Early Games)
9.	Surface Type	4 (Artificial) 2 (Grass)
10.	Venue	8
11.	Other predisposed medical Conditions of participants.	To be obtained
12.	Other factors to consider; Shade Available Water Freely Available Sports trainer/first aid person on site Individual body fat of participants	Home Team (YES) / Away Team (NO) YES YES MODERATE

TOTAL POINT SCORE:

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1. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature.

0-18 degrees	2
18-22 degrees	10
23-28 degrees	14
28 + degrees	20

2. Overall Duration of Event.

0-30 minutes.	2
30-60 minutes	4
60-2 hours	6
2 hours +	8

3. Individual Intensity during the Event.

Easy pace throughout	2
Moderate pace, breaks in intensity	4
Moderate pace throughout	6
Sustained effort with some breaks	8
Sustained effort throughout	10

4. Acclimatisation of Participants.

Used to hot weather conditions	2
Used to warm weather conditions	5
Used to cool/cold conditions	8

5. Athletic Ability of Individuals.

Elite fitness levels	2
Good fitness level	6
Moderate fitness levels	6
Low fitness levels	8

6. Age of Participants.

18-30	2
13-17	5
30-40	5
40 +	8
Under 13	8

Complete your checklist

Determine the point score for each item.

(Some categories may not be exactly to your needs, so you will need to use common sense, if in doubt choose higher value in order to err on the side of caution.)

7. Time Between Available Drinks.

0-15 minutes	2
15-25 minutes	4
25-35 minutes	6
35-45 minutes	8
45 + minutes	10

8. Time Of The Event.

Before 9am	2
After dark	2
9am till 11am	5
3pm till sunset	5
11am to 3pm	10

9. Surface Type.

Water	1
Grass	2
Boards	4
Sand	6
Synthetic Surface	6
Asphalt	8

10. Venue.

Indoor air conditioning	1
Indoor no air conditioning	4
Outdoor	8

11. Other Predisposed Medical Conditions Of Participants.

Yes	6
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12. Other Factors To Consider.

Shade available during breaks	Yes/No
Water freely available at venue	Yes/No
Sports trainer/first aid person on site	Yes/No
Individual body fat of participants	High / Low

Total of Your Sport _____ ?