



AFL GOULBURN MURRAY BY-LAWS

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DEFINITIONS

Junior League, Club or Competition

AFL GM, for the purpose of interpretation of AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations, classify the following as Junior Leagues, Clubs or Competition:

- Goulburn Murray Junior League (includes former Shepparton District Junior Football League, Seymour District Junior Football Netball League & Goulburn Campaspe Junior Football League).
- Northern Country Women's League Under 18 and below
- Murray Football League Under 17 and below
- Picola Football League Under 17 and below
- Kyabram District League Under 18 and below
- Goulburn Valley League Under 16 and below

AFL GOULBURN MURRAY BY-LAWS

1. Player Points System AFL GM Regional Conditions

AFL GM affiliated Leagues must comply with the provisions of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy (**the Policy**)

1.1 Definition of a “Home Player” for AFL GM Leagues

A Club may claim a junior aligned “home player” where a current and approved memorandum of understanding exists with a senior Club and an aligned junior Club which is approved by the respective clubs, their respective leagues, AFL GM and AFL Victoria. AFL GM shall record and file all approved MOU’s for reference.

1.2 A Player has not played football in any competition for 3 or more full seasons.

1.3 Games played on “permit” are not included in these assessments.

1.4 Where there is any difference or dispute as to whether a player is a “home player” then this will be determined by AFL GM in its absolute discretion.

Note: A player may have multiple “home Clubs”.

1.5 AFL GM Player Points Panel

AFL GM may appoint persons to a Player Points Panel. The panel will be a minimum of four (4) members and will comprise:

- the AFL GM Region Manager or representative;
- an AFL GM Commission member or delegated representative;
- 2 AFL GM League Managers and/or;
- an AFL GM non-League affiliated staff member.

1.6 Jurisdiction of AFL GM Player Points Panel – Player Assessment

1.6.1 Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL GM Region Manager for reassessment of a player’s points allocation within 7 days of the player’s points being confirmed by AFL GM pursuant to the AFL Victoria Player Points System framework.

1.6.2 The application must address the matters set out in Clause 7.4 of the Policy. Any supporting evidence should be submitted with the application.

1.6.3 The Player Points Panel will consider the application within 14 days of receipt by the AFL GM Region Manager or their representative.

1.6.4 Decisions of the Player Points Panel will be by majority vote.

1.6.5 The Player Points Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.

1.6.6 AFL GM will provide written notification to the Club within 7 days of the Player Points Panel making its decision.

1.7 Jurisdiction of AFL GM Player Points Panel – Club Assessment

1.7.1 AFL GM shall give notice of the allocation of total Club points for each affiliated League for the following season by September 15th annually

1.7.2 Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL GM Region Manager for reassessment of their total Club points allocation within 28 days of the Club’s being notified pursuant to the AFL Victoria Player Points System.

1.7.2.1 For season 2022 only, AFL GM shall accept applications up to March 31st.

1.7.3 The application must set out the Club’s reasons for seeking reassessment and must particularly address the matters set out in Clause 8.2 of the Policy and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.

- 1.7.4** AFL GM Player Points Panel will consider the application within 28 days of receipt by the AFL GM Region Manager or representative.
- 1.7.5** Decisions of the AFL GM Player Points Panel will be by majority vote.
- 1.7.6** The Player Points Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 1.7.7** AFL GM will provide a written notification to the Club within 7 days of the Player Points Panel making its decision.

1.8 Appeals against the AFL GM Player Points Panel

Clubs may appeal a decision of the Player Points Panel based on By-Law 1.6 and 1.7 to the AFL GM Commission provided that:

- 1.8.1** The appeal is made in writing to the AFL GM Region Manager or representative not later than 2.00pm on the second business day (business day in the state of Victoria) after AFL GM has notified the Club of the decision under By-Law 1.6 or 1.7.
- 1.8.2** A sum of \$250 is received by the AFL Goulburn Murray, which is non-refundable.
- 1.8.3** The Appeal shall be considered on written submissions only.
- 1.8.4** AFL GM Commission shall consider the Appeal at the next scheduled meeting after receipt of the Appeal.
- 1.8.5** Decisions of the AFL GM Commission will be by simple majority vote of the Commissioners in attendance.
- 1.8.6** AFL GM will provide written notification to the member Club within 7 days of the AFL GM Commission making its decision.
- 1.8.7** The Commission is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 1.8.8** The decision of the AFL GM Commission is final.

2. AFL GM Allowable Player Payments Rule

AFL GM have adopted the AFL Victoria Allowable Player Payment Rule. AFL GM affiliated Leagues and Clubs must comply with the provisions of the Rule.

2.1 Jurisdiction of AFL Goulburn Murray Commission – Allowable Player Payment variation under APP Rule 3(a)

- 2.1.1** AFL GM shall confirm the Allowable Player Payment cap for each affiliated League for the following season by the preceding September 15th annually.
- 2.1.2** By the preceding November 15th, a Club may make application in writing to the AFL GM Region Manager or representative for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment to apply to that Club.
- 2.1.3** The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking an increase in the Allowable Player Payment to apply to that Club and particularly should address the factors set out in Clause 3(a)(iv) of the Allowable Player Payment Rules and be accompanied by supporting evidence.
- 2.1.4** AFL GM Commission will consider the application not later than the last Commission meeting in any calendar year
- 2.1.5** Decisions of the AFL GM Commission will be by majority vote.
- 2.1.6** AFL GM will provide a written response to the Club notifying the decision of the AFL GM and will give reasons for the decision.
- 2.1.7** The decision of the AFL GM Commission is final.
- 2.1.8** Where an application for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment for the Club is granted, AFL GM will make this decision public.

2.2 Jurisdiction of AFL Goulburn Murray Commission – Travel & Accommodation Consideration variation under APP Rule 8(d)

- 2.1.9** A Club may at any time make application for a ruling as to whether any payments, considerations, advantages or other benefits constitute Player Payments and as to their value for the purpose of the Allowable Player Payment Rules.
- 2.1.10** The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking the ruling and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.
- 2.1.11** AFL GM Commission will consider the application at the next scheduled meeting after receipt by the AFL GM Region Manager or representative.

2.2 Jurisdiction of AFL Goulburn Murray Commission

- 2.2.1** Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL GM Region Manager or representative for consideration of any other matters relevant to the Allowable Player Payments Rules at any time
- 2.2.2** The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking consideration and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.
- 2.2.3** AFL GM Commission will consider the application at the next scheduled meeting after receipt by the AFL GM Region Manager or representative.
- 2.2.4** Where a variation is permitted, AFL GM may publish the variations.

2.3 AFL GM Allowable Player Payments Rule Investigations

The AFL GM may initiate investigations into possible breaches of the Allowable Player Payment Rules.

- 2.3.1** AFL GM Region Manager or representative may initiate Allowable Player Payment Investigations following:
 - 2.3.1.1** Voluntary disclosure by a Club;
 - 2.3.1.2** Assessment of a Club's Allowable Player Payment Budget declaration;
 - 2.3.1.3** Assessment of a Player or Players' Contracts;
 - 2.3.1.4** Assessment of a Club's Allowable Player Payment Budget declaration and Player Contracts;
 - 2.3.1.5** Assessment of the evidence provided of an alleged Allowable Player Payment breach by an affiliated Club or League initiated under 2.5, AFL GM Alleged Allowable Player Payment Breach Investigation Request.
- 2.3.2** The AFL GM Commission may randomly select Clubs for investigation without any allegation of possible breaches of the Allowable Player Payment Rules for the purpose of checking for compliance with the Allowable Player Payment Rules.

2.4 AFL GM Alleged Allowable Player Payment Breach Investigation Request

- 2.4.1** An AFL GM member Club or League may lodge a notice in writing with AFL GM Region Manager or representative outlining the particulars of an alleged breach in the Allowable Player Payment Rule by an AFL GM Club or Player.
- 2.4.2** The affiliated Club or League lodging the notice must provide supporting evidence of the alleged breach.
- 2.4.3** A sum of \$2,500 must accompany the notice which shall be fully refundable by the AFL GM Commission should the allegation not be deemed frivolous or vexatious. If the allegation is deemed frivolous or vexatious, the AFL GM Commission may refund all or part of the sum in their absolute discretion.

- 2.4.4** AFL GM Region Manager or representative shall refer the allegation and its evidence to the AFL GM Commission within 7 days of receipt.
- 2.3** The AFL GM Commission shall determine if the allegation is to be referred to an Investigation. The decision of the AFL GM Commission will be final and binding.
- 2.4.5** Where an Investigation has occurred and charges are laid against a Club and or player(s) and the charge is found proven at a Hearing of the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee may order that the offending Club or player pay all or part of the costs of the investigation.

2.5 Coaching fees for underage teams

- 2.5.1** AFL GM may determine at its absolute discretion whether coaching fees for a player of an open age team who is appointed coach of an underage team are to be included in the Clubs player payments.
- 2.5.2** Where a League does not have a full complement of underage teams, all coaching fees of an open age player for coaching an underage team shall be included in the calculation of the Player Payments.
- 2.5.3** Clubs may apply to the AFL GM Commission for exemptions to 2.5.1 under 2.3 Jurisdiction of AFL Goulburn Murray Commission.

3. AFL GM Operations Panel

AFL GM shall appoint persons annually to the AFL GM Operations Panel. The Operations Panel will be a minimum of four (4) members requiring three (3) for a quorum and will comprise:

- the AFL GM Region Manager or representative;
- an AFL GM Commission member or delegated representative;
- 2 AFL GM League Managers and/or;
- an AFL GM non-League affiliated staff member.

3.1 Jurisdiction of AFL GM Operations Panel

The AFL GM Operations Panel shall consider and determine the following matters:

- 3.1.1** Minimum Age Player applications – refer By-Law 4.
- 3.1.2** Overage Player applications – refer By-Law 5.
- 3.1.3** Ineligible Player cases, Permit Breaches and Special Consideration Permit Applications.
- 3.1.4** Any matter referred to it by the AFL GM Region Manager or representative where allowed by the AFL GM By-Laws.

The AFL GM Operations Panel shall also consider the following matters;

- 3.1.5** Unauthorised or inappropriate public comment cases – refer By-Law 8 and if the comments are considered to be in breach of By-Law 8 warranting action will refer the case to the relevant League to initiate AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.2 Unbecoming Conduct.

3.2 Appeals Against a Decision of the AFL GM Operations Panel

- 3.2.1** Office holders, Committee Members, Coaches, Players, Umpires or members of a League or Club ('the offender') may Appeal to the AFL GM Commission a decision of the AFL GM Operations Panel in relation to sanctions or decisions determined under AFL GM By-Laws provided that:

- 3.2.1.1** The Appeal is made in writing to the AFL GM Region Manager or representative not later than 2.00pm on the second business day (business day in the state of Victoria) after AFL GM has notified the Club of the decision under the relevant By-Law.
- 3.2.1.2** A sum of \$250 is received by the AFL Goulburn Murray which is non-refundable.
- 3.2.1.3** The Appeal shall be considered on written submissions only.
- 3.2.1.4** AFL GM Commission shall hear the Appeal at the next scheduled meeting after receipt of the Appeal.
- 3.2.1.5** Decisions of the AFL GM Commission will be by simple majority vote of the Commissioners in attendance.
- 3.2.1.6** AFL GM will provide written notification to the member Club within 7 days of the AFL GM Commission making its decision.
- 3.2.1.7** The Commission is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 3.2.1.8** The decision of the AFL GM Commission is final.

4. Minimum Player Age

- 4.1** AFL GM may from time to time determine a minimum age for a player to register to play in an AFL GM League unless they are granted special consideration permission in writing from AFL GM Operations Panel.
- 4.2** Whilst the policy allows for special consideration permission for individual players, where Clubs experience trouble fielding teams, the first preference is to reduce playing numbers.
- 4.3** The processes for special consideration permission will be on application and will be assessed considering the needs of existing official competitions and Auskick programs which are relevant to the application.
- 4.4** Where permission is granted by AFL GM the player's parent or guardian must sign a consent form and release.

5. Over Age Player Policy

- 5.1** AFL GM affiliated Leagues may only consider applications from a Club for a player to play in an age group which the player's age exceeds. Where the player has an incapacity to such a degree that it is not appropriate for them to play in the age group for which they are qualified and evidence is submitted of the incapacity (usually in the form of a doctor's certificate) to support the application.

AFL GM affiliated Leagues who grant such applications must inform Clubs that approval is subject to AFL GM approval and then submit the application (together with all supporting documentation) to AFL GM Operations Panel who will consider the application. AFL GM in its absolute discretion may dismiss the application, grant the application or grant the application on conditions.

- 5.2** Where a Club in an AFL GM affiliated League considers it appropriate that a player play in an age group which the player's age exceeds for reasons other than incapacity then the application (together with all supporting documentation) must be submitted to AFL GM who will consider the application in its absolute discretion and may dismiss the application, grant the application or grant the application on conditions.

6. Junior Competition By-Laws

AFL GM will adopt By-Laws, rules and regulations for the conduct of the Goulburn Murray Junior League from time to time, refer to Appendix 1 – Goulburn Murray Junior League By-Laws

7. Investigation Fees

In the absence of an applicable League regulation or clause, where a Club and or League has initiated an investigation under AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 the following shall prevail;

- 7.1.1** Where the investigation request is deemed frivolous by the relevant League executive, the \$500 sum lodged shall be forfeited in full.
- 7.1.2** Where a charge resulting from an Investigation is referred to a League Independent Tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is not proven at a hearing, the \$500 sum lodged shall be forfeited in full.
- 7.1.3** Where a charge resulting from an Investigation is referred to the League independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is proven at a hearing;
 - 7.1.3.1** the \$500 sum shall be fully refunded and;
 - 7.1.3.2** the offending Club shall be fined a sum equal to the full costs of the investigation.
- 7.2** Where multiple charges to one or more Clubs resulting from an Investigation is referred to the League independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and all or some charges are proven at a hearing;
 - 7.2.1** the total cost of the investigation will be imposed proportionally to the Clubs based on charges which are proven.
- 7.3** For other matters, not specifically covered by these rules, Clubs and/or Leagues may request that the AFL GM Commission make a determination on whether the sum of \$500 is refundable provided that;
 - 7.3.1** The request be made in writing.
 - 7.3.2** The request is made by 5pm on the 5th working day after the Tribunal hearing or sending of notification from the relevant League
 - 7.3.3** AFL GM Commission shall determine the matter on evidence presented and its absolute discretion
 - 7.3.4** The AFL GM Commission decision is final.

8. Unauthorised or Inappropriate Public Statements

- 8.1** Rule 5.2 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules & Regulations (“the AFL Victoria Rules”) defines “unbecoming conduct” as “conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official, or Club, or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute”. Such conduct on behalf of a player or an official of a Club, umpire, official of an umpires’ Association, AFL Victoria Country Official, League Official, Club, player advocate, or League appointed official (“the offender”) includes the making of any public statement reflecting adversely upon the decisions or performance of AFL GM Commission and Staff, AFL GM appointed Tribunals or umpires, including statements made:
 - 1. On radio
 - 2. On television
 - 3. In print
 - 4. On any form of digital or social media, or

5. By any other publicly available method

The AFL GM Operations Panel may require that the League with whom the offender is associated, or with respect to whose competition the statement was made, appoint an Investigation Officer to investigate the statement in accordance with Rule 5.1 of the AFL Victoria Rules.

9. PLAYER EQUALISATION POLICY

In the absence of an applicable League regulation or clause the AFL GM Player Equalisation Policy shall prevail.

These Equalisation Rules apply to all male underage competitions conducted by Leagues affiliated with AFL GM for home and away matches, but do not apply to finals series matches.

The 'spirit' of this rule is that the team that has the greater number of players available shall lend as many players as possible to equalise numbers with the other team so that all players available to participate in that match shall have the opportunity to play in as much of that match as possible.

1. Fourteen (14) players to a team is the minimum number required to field a team.
2. A game, which commences with the minimum number of 14 players per team, is considered legal for premiership points. Best and fairest votes and goal kickers will be recorded as normal.
3. If a team cannot field 14 players, that team will forfeit and four premiership points will be awarded to the opposition team. If a 'scratch match' is then played there will be no percentage, no best and fairest votes and no goal kickers recorded.
4. If neither team can field 14 players, the game is a 'no match' and no premiership points will be awarded.
5. If either team has less than 18 players, then there must be even numbers on the ground at the start of the match. Excess players (above the agreed starting number) will form an extended interchange bench.
6. Clubs are encouraged to discuss any player shortages and make decisions in the best interests of the players. This could include loaning players to have even numbers on both sides, both on the field and on the bench. If players are offered, but not accepted, then the team with the greater number of players is not required to reduce playing numbers, i.e. the evening up rule does not apply.
7. Daily loan of players - When players are loaned, the Team Manager of both teams shall note on the Team Sheet the players name with 'on loan' against their name. Players may be loaned on a quarter by quarter rotating basis or for the whole match as appropriate. (Type 1 Match Permit used)
8. Once a game commences, if the numbers of either team are reduced due to injury the game is to proceed however, the team loaning players must not be disadvantaged.
9. Once a game commences, if the numbers of either team are reduced due to "order-off" rule the game is to proceed without the requirement to maintain even numbers.
10. No interpretation of these rules should allow the team loaning players to be disadvantaged.

It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure all Junior coaches have read and adhere to this policy.