

GOTAFE GOULBURN VALLEY LEAGUE

NETBALL BY-LAWS

UPDATED 14/03/2019



1. INTERPRETATION

These by-laws are subject to the Rules of the Goulburn Valley League and should a conflict arise between these by-laws and the Rules, the Rules shall prevail.

2. DEFINITIONS

In these by-laws, unless the contrary intention appears:

- i. "League's Netball Administrator" means the administrator as appointed by AFL Goulburn Murray
- ii. "Member" means a member of the League
- iii. "Player" means a player registered by or with or otherwise permitted to play in the competition conducted by the league and shall include playing coach or playing trainer;
- iv. "Club" means a body corporate registered with the Goulburn Valley League Inc.
- v. "Delegate" means a person appointed to represent his or her Club in accordance with these rules.
- vi. "Registration" means Netball Australia - Victorian Registrations
- vii. "Rule" or "Rules" means a rule or rules of the Goulburn Valley League Inc. Rules.

3. COMPETITIONS & PROGRAMS

1. The League offers the following competition & programs:

15&U	Female
17&U	Female
B Reserve	Female
B Grade	Female
A Grade	Female

4. ALTERATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS

These by-laws of the League must not be altered except in accordance with Rules of the Goulburn Valley League Inc.

5. COURSES, SEMINARS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

1. The League's Netball Administrator shall provide notification for all clubs to improve their members' skills by attending courses, seminars and other personal development activities.
2. The Board shall encourage and support members who wish to attend appropriate courses, seminars and other personal development activities.

6. REGISTRATIONS OF PLAYERS/COACH ACCREDITATION

1. Each player must be registered yearly with their club, by the player self-registering on MyNetball. Online self-registration must be completed before the player plays their first match for their club.
2. Registration of all new players remains open until 10.00 am Friday prior to round 16.
3. Clearance notification within the Goulburn Valley League Inc., playing season may be made by telephone or in person to the League's Netball Administrator prior to the player playing her first match with the club they are transferring to. The official Clearance form as set out in Schedule 2 must be with the League's Netball Administrator before the player takes the court the second time. The completed Clearance form must be posted or personally delivered to the League Office. A penalty of a loss of 4 premiership points will imposed as decided by the League's Netball Administrator for the uncleared player.
4. The minimum age for netballers will be 13 years old as at 1st January of the playing season. A penalty for an underage player participating in a game will incur a deduction of 4 premiership points from the offending team for every time the player takes the court.
5. All clubs and registered players agree to abide by the rules and netball by-laws of the GVL and agree to be bound by any decision made by the GVL.
6. All coaches must be accredited or attain a minimum coaching accreditation prior to Round 1 of the playing season. Failure to be accredited by Round 1 of the current season will result in a fine of \$60. Notification of all Clubs coaches to be submitted to the League's Netball Administrator prior to the commencement of the season.
7. Single Game Vouchers will be made available to each club on request to the League's Netball Administrator:
 - A Single Game Voucher covers the player for insurance for one game per player. If a player is required to play more than one game on a day, then additional single game vouchers will be required to be purchased. Cost is \$10 per voucher and will be invoiced to the club.
 - A maximum of four (4) vouchers can be issued per player in the current season. After the maximum number of SGVs have been purchased a player will then be required to purchase a

full Netball Victoria membership if they participate in any further scheduled home and away games.

- Single Game Voucher does qualify as a qualification game.

7. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. A player must have played the following:
 - A Grade Female – eight (8) games
 - B Grade Female – six (6) games
 - B Reserve Female– six (6) games
 - 17 & Under Female– six (6) games
 - 15 & Under Female– six (6) games

In the specific grade to qualify to play in that grade for Finals. The nominated number of games must be played up to and including Round 16, HOWEVER if a player has played more than half of the current playing season in one grade the player is qualified to play finals in that grade or a higher grade.

In the event of an injured player returning during the season, who is unable to meet the above criteria, they will be able to apply to the Board for special consideration. Details of the injury must be provided, together with supporting evidence of the severity and anticipated recovery will need to be submitted to the League's Netball Administrator by round 16 for review and decision by the Board.

2. Open age players are eligible to play either A, B or B Reserve - Female Grade up to and including Round 16. After Round 16, players who have played 10 or more games in a higher grade (in any combinations are ineligible to play any further matches in a lower grade, including finals. For example, play 10 in A Grade - Female cannot play in B or B Reserve Grade - Female. Play 10 in B Grade - Female cannot play in B Reserve - Female. Play 2 in A and 8 in B cannot play in B Reserve - Female.
3. Once a player plays 3 matches in A Grade - Female, they may not play a B Reserve - Female match. A loss of four premierships points will apply to the offending B Reserve - Female team.
4. 17 & Under - Female players are eligible to play in either A, B or B Reserve Female Grade up to and including Round 16. After Round 16 players who have played 10 or more in a higher grade (in any combination) are ineligible to play any further matches in 17 & Under Female Section. For example play 5 in A, 3 in B, 2 in B Reserve Female cannot play 17 & Under.
5. 15 & Under Female players aged 14 as at 31st December of the current playing season are only eligible for 15 & Under Female or 17 & Under Female competitions. 15 & Under Female players aged 15 as at 31st December of the current playing season, are eligible to play in either A, B, B Reserve Female or 17 & Under Female Grade up to and including Round 16. After Round 16 players who have played 10 or more in a higher grade (in any combination) are ineligible to play any further matches in 15 & Under Female Section. For example play 1 in A, 3 in B, 2 in B Reserve Female, 4 in 17 & Under Female cannot play 15 & Under Female.
6. 17 & Under Female players must be 17 & Under as at 31st December of that playing year.
7. 15 & Under Female players must be 15 & Under as at 31st December of that playing year.
8. Any breach of the player eligibility or registration bylaws will be dealt with as follows:
 - a) If the offending team wins the home/away game:
 - i. reversal of match points ie. 4 match points awarded to the opposition,
 - ii. loss of all goals For pertaining to that game,
 - iii. A fine of \$60 per player for every breach
 - iv. and may be subject to further penalty as determined by the League
 - b) If the offending team loses the home/away game
 - i. loss of all goals For pertaining to that game,
 - ii. A fine of \$60 per player for every breach
 - iii. and may be subject to further penalty as determined by the League
 - c) In finals, If the offending team wins the game:
 - i. reversal of match result,
 - ii. fine of \$150 per breach,
 - iii. may be subject to further penalty as determined by the League
 - d) In finals, If the offending team loses the game
 - i. fine of \$150 per breach
 - ii. may be subject to further penalty as determined by the League

8. MATCHES

1. The season shall commence and terminate on dates determined by the Goulburn Valley League Inc.
2. No member Club shall, during the season, participate in a match not scheduled in the draw without the permission of the League.
3. The draw shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The venues to be used and the days for the final series will be determined by the Goulburn Valley League Inc.
5. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of the game as published and amended from time to time by the International Netball Federation unless otherwise specified in these by-laws.

9. MATCHES – HOME & AWAY SEASON

In the event that less than five teams can be fielded in any round of the Goulburn Valley League Inc. competition an "A" Grade team must be entered into the competition first and a subsequent team will then be entered in the "B" Grade competition and then a "B" Reserve grade team or 17 & Under team. A 17 & Under team must be entered into the competition before a 15 & Under team if short of junior player numbers.

10. MATCHES – PREMIERSHIP POINTS

1. In all matches four premierships points shall be awarded to the winning team and two points awarded to each team in the event of a draw.
2. Four premierships points will be awarded for a bye.
3. Placing in the final six shall be decided on the accrued total points by each team.
4. Where premierships points are equal, the Club with the highest percentage of scores for and against shall be placed ahead of the others.
5. In the event of a match being cancelled the teams will share the points equally. The decision regarding the match being played shall not be made earlier than the appointed starting time of the match and must be made on a bona fide basis. An umpire, captain and a club official from each club shall jointly provide a short description of the basis for cancelling the match to the GVL within 7 days.
6. If a player is injured during a match and is unable to be moved from the court (and the game is not able to re-commence within 30 minutes), or play is delayed for any other unforeseen and unavoidable reason (and the game is not able to re-commence within 30 minutes) and no other court is available to transfer the game to on that day then the following will apply:
 - if play is ceased prior to half time and the margin is 10 goals or more at the stoppage the team with the lead will be awarded the game, at the current score, and the 4 premierships points. If the margin is less than 10 goals at the stoppage, then 2 points will be awarded to each side
 - if play is ceased after the half time interval the current score at the stoppage will stand.
7. A team not on the court at the commencement time will lose four premierships points. Twenty (20) minutes travelling time may be utilised by the away team but not by the home team. A team must take the court if five (5) members of the team are present.
8. If a lower grade match or matches are completed prior to an "A" Grade Female forfeit then the forfeiting club will lose all 4 premierships points for each of the other matches played.

11. MATCHES – SCORERS AND SCORE SHEETS

1. Each Club shall supply one (1) scorer and/or timekeeper and both must be positioned together at the score bench for the duration of the game. Any official either scoring or timekeeping are not permitted to use any electronic devices whilst the game is in progress.
2. Each Club needs to provide 3 Timers – One for the Match time, Injury Time & Interval Time.
3. Scorers shall score the entire game unless agreed on by both umpires.
4. Goals are to be recorded numerically. Failure to score numerically during any part of the game will incur a fine of \$30.
5. All Players names are to be recorded on the Scoresheet prior to the commencement of the game. Players will only be recognised with a game played if a position is marked beside their name when they take the court. A club will incur a fine of \$50 for any player who takes the court when the player is not recorded on the scoresheet prior to the commencement of the game.

6. Substitution forms are to be completed and handed to the scorers before the commencement of the game and at each interval to enable player positions to be completed on the scoresheet.
7. In the event of an injury time, the substitution forms are to be completed and provided to the score bench as soon as practical after the game has recommenced.
8. Each team must nominate a captain on the scoresheet prior to the commencement of the game.
9. Team managers are the only club representative who are permitted to approach the score bench whilst the game is in progress.
10. All Score Sheets must be checked and signed by Captains, Scorer/Timekeeper immediately at the conclusion of a match.
11. Captains must check that all names are entered correctly and agree with the final Score.
12. Failure to sign score sheet by either Captain or Scorer/Timekeeper will result in a fine of \$150 to the offending team unless a protest is lodged.
13. The score sheets must then be placed in a sealed envelope and given to the home team's club football Secretary along with the Best and Fairest votes to be forwarded to the League Administration Offices. Failure to include netball score sheets and best and fairest votes will, at the discretion of the Board, incur a penalty of \$60.
14. Both umpires are to sign the scoresheet at the completion of the match

12. MATCHES – FORFEITS

1. Notice of a forfeit should be phoned through to the opposing team no later than 24 hours prior to commencement of the first scheduled game.
2. A fine of \$60 per team will be instituted if notice is not given prior to the match commencing, to the opposing team of the forfeit. \$30 of the \$60 will go to the teams who were forfeited to.
3. If a forfeit occurs a score sheet must still be filled in by the home team. The score sheet should include the non-forfeiting team's player's names, with the first seven players listed on the score sheet being acknowledged with a game for qualification purposes. The score sheet is to be signed by an official from each club and scores to be recorded as follows:
 - a) "A" Grade - Female 20 v 0;
 - b) "B" Grade - Female 20 v 0;
 - c) "B" Reserve - Female 20 v 0;
 - d) "17 & Under" - Female 20 v 0.
 - e) "15 & Under" - Female 20 v 0.
4. The score sheet should be sent in as normal.

13. MATCHES – FINALS

1. Commencement time for all grades during finals to be decided at a League meeting at least four (4) weeks prior to the Elimination Final.
2. Time breaks during all finals in all grades will be:
 - a) Quarter time and Three-Quarter time – 3 minutes;
 - b) Half time – 5 minutes.
3. Final Six to be played as follows:
 - a) Elimination Final
 - 3rd placed team vs 6th placed team – Elimination Final 1
 - 4th placed team vs 5th placed team – Elimination Final 2
 - b) Qualifying Final
 - 1st placed team vs 2nd placed team
 - c) 1st Semi Final
 - Loser Qualifying Final vs Lower placed winner of Elimination Final
 - d) 2nd Semi Final
 - Winner of Qualifying Final vs Highest placed winner of Elimination Final
 - e) Preliminary Final
 - Loser 2nd Semi Final vs winner 1st Semi Final
 - f) Grand Final
 - Winner 2nd Semi Final vs Winner Preliminary Final
4. No match shall be a drawn game in finals. If the score is equal at the end of time for an "A" Grade - Female or "B Grade" - Female or "B Reserve" - Female or "17 & Under" – Female or "15 & Under" - Female match there will be a five-minute break, then two (2) seven (7) minute ends will be played. If in the event the game is still drawn the game will continue until one team holds a two (2) goal advantage.

5. The GVL will provide netballs for finals and League representative official matches.

14. UMPIRES

1. Each club is to supply one umpire per game.
2. All umpires are to have current Netball Victoria registration and names of Club umpires are to be submitted with Team lists at the commencement of the season.
3. Umpires shall not umpire in club uniform or colours. Umpires shall wear a white top and/or a top supplied by sponsors of the League. Failure to comply results in a \$50 fine per offending umpire.
4. Unless an umpire is injured (including illness) during a game, she or he must complete umpiring that game.
5. If a team cannot supply one umpire per game:
 - a. contact the opposing team 24 hrs prior to the game to seek help;
 - b. the opposition are under no obligation to help find an umpire;
 - c. if no umpire is supplied, a penalty in the form of a forfeit will apply.
6. All umpires officiating at A Grade Female or B Grade Female games in the GVL must be badged. Failure by a Club to provide a badged umpire for either A or B grade games will result in a fine of \$60 per game. If a club fails to provide a badged umpire for two (2) games in one grade per season the team will incur a loss of four (4) premiership points for each game that an unbadged umpire officiates.
7. Each team must supply one umpire for B Reserve Female, 17 & Under Female and 15 & Under Female games (being badged or competent and pursuing her/his qualifications in umpiring) for each round of the home and away season.
8. A list of Club umpires, including name, date of birth and Netball Victoria membership number, must be submitted to the League's Netball Administrator prior to the commencement of the season.
9. All umpires are required to sign the score sheet at the completion of the game. The officiating umpire is required to write their Netball Victoria membership number beside their signature on the score sheet.
10. A Club who has appointed an umpire with an immediate family member (ie. Mother, father, daughter, son, spouse or partner) involved in that specific game of the GVL are to notify the opposing Club's League representative of the "conflict of interest" no later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the scheduled game. Penalty for failure to notify the representative will result in a \$30 penalty.
11. Umpires are only permitted to officiate in a maximum of two (2) games on one day in the GVL.
12. Clubs are to ensure that their umpires have white umpire uniforms to distinguish them from players and spectators. Clubs are responsible to ensure that their nominated umpires are in correct attire. Umpire uniforms may include a combination of white clothing including shirt, skirt, jacket and tracksuit pants.
13. Each Club is required to have two (2) people per season complete the credentials for C badge. This accreditation can be completed via the Foundation online course and the theory exam. It is not however a requirement, that these two (2) people officiate as umpires during the season.
14. A current coach or a current head coach of a club within the GVL, should not nominate as an umpire. If the nomination of a coach as an umpire is unavoidable, the club is to notify the opposing club's League representative of the "conflict of interest" no later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the scheduled game. Penalty for failure to notify the representative will result in a \$30 penalty.

15. UNIFORMS

1. Club colours must be uniform and correspond with those of the club's football club colours. The current GVL logo must be included on the position patches, in a position as determined by the GVL Board. This requirement relates to the ordering of new position patches only. The length of the uniform must cover the underpants.
2. The uniform so described shall be approved or otherwise by the Board.
3. Pants must be black or matching uniform.

16. ANNUAL BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

1. Best & Fairest Awards shall be awarded annually in each of the grades under the following conditions:
 - a) voting shall be carried out by both officiating Umpires and they shall award three votes for the Best and Fairest Player on the court, two votes for the second and one for the third;

- b) either the voting cards and/or the seal of the envelope must be signed by both umpires or votes shall not be awarded;
 - c) votes shall be counted each season by the League's Netball Administrator;
 - d) players found guilty of an on court offence or offences by the Board during the season are ineligible to receive a Best and Fairest award for that season
2. Players found guilty of on court offences during finals shall not be eligible to receive these awards. If suspension carries over to the following season, they will not be eligible to receive the award next season.
 3. League's Netball Administrator shall provide the voting cards to each member club prior to the commencement of the home and away season.
 4. The Wellman Family "A" Grade - Female medal winner will be entitled to free entry to all future GVL games.

17. LIFE MEMBERS

1. Life Members (qualified) will be awarded to any player who has played a total of 200 games for the GVL. This total will consist of games recorded from Season 1981 to 2004 in all "A", "B", "B Reserve" - Female and "17 & Under"- Female grades, finals and League Representative games. Commencing from Season 2005 only "A" grade games will be added to existing games to qualify.

A qualified Life Member entitles the player free admission to all GVL games, home and away and finals, upon presentation of their life member badge.

18. MATCH COMMITTEE / REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

1. Players shall be encouraged to try out for Association Representative teams and any other representative teams.
2. Any player who without reasonable excuse fails to make herself available for selection and/or fails to attend training in a representative match, at the discretion of the Committee, will not be permitted to play in the next home and away match in which her club is engaged.
3. All reasonable costs of entering representative tournaments are to be met by the Goulburn Valley League Inc.
4. Should a representative match be scheduled at a time that conflicts with a match scheduled by the League, any disadvantaged club may make an application to the GVL to seek the re-scheduling. The match may then be re-scheduled at the GVL's discretion and having regard to the convenience of both teams.

19. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Injury reporting
 All clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or player's guardian (player under 18) on the injury Reporting Sheets provided by Netball Victoria.
2. Pre-Match Checklist
 - a) A pre-match checklist will be completed prior to all GVL matches, programs and training.
 - b) Any hazards identified will be:
 - i. Documented, and
 - ii. Rectified if possible
 - iii. Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repair is required.
3. First Aid
 - a) Each Club will provide and made available at each match a First Aid Kit complying with Netball Victoria Online Clubhouse - First Aid for Netball.
 - b) Each Club's first aid kit must be maintained by each Club and an inventory is to be completed on a regular basis.
 - c) Each Club will endeavour to ensure that a qualified first aider is present at all matches and training. Each team shall have a person nominated as their primary carer, who shall remain courtside for the match and wear a GVL approved vest identifying them as the primary carer.
4. Emergency Procedures
 - a) Emergency phone numbers of players, Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and Emergency Procedure Plan is made available if required at each match.
5. Weather
 - a) In the case of extreme weather conditions, the GVL will follow policy per the Netball Victoria Online Clubhouse.

- b) In the event of the game being cancelled the teams will share the points.
 - c) The decision regarding the match being played shall not be made earlier than the appointed starting time of the match.
 - d) An umpire, captain and a club official from each club shall jointly provide a short description of the basis for cancelling the match to the GVL within 7 days.
6. Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases
 - a) The GVL will adopt the Netball Victoria policy relating to blood policy and infectious diseases.
 7. Pre-participation Screening Medical Indemnity
 - a) All players and personnel involved with the GVL will be required to complete a medical indemnity form (Netball Victoria Online Clubhouse).
 - b) A designated official from each Club will store all forms and bring them to all events.
 - c) All forms will be destroyed at the conclusion of the season.
 8. Sun Protection
 - a) The GVL will encourage a SunSmart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council Victoria.
 9. Codes of Behaviour
 - a) The GVL will adopt Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation.
 10. Drug Policy
 - a) The GVL does not support the use of performance enhancing substances and views any such use as detrimental to both the sport of netball and the spirit of the game. The Netball Victoria drug policy, August 1993 as amended from time to time, is implemented and will apply for all GVL competitions.

20. GENERAL REQUIREMENT

1. The Board reserves the right to order that any particular brand or grade of netball not be used for competition matches.
2. All poles must be padded.
3. All goal rings must have nets.

21. NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

1. Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually Netball Victoria Inc.
2. All players, coaches and umpires as members of the League must be current Netball Victoria members.

22. PRESENTATION NIGHT

1. At the conclusion of the Season a Presentation Night shall be held.
2. The date and format shall be determined by the Board
3. The date, time, venue and format shall be provided in writing to all members at least one (1) month prior to the event.
4. Presentation of all awards shall be made on the Presentation Night.
5. Recognition of achievements shall be made on Presentation Night.

23. PENALTIES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. The Board will impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to any member that fails to adhere to these By-Laws.
2. Any member of a team which does not agree with a penalty or action of the Board made under this By-Law, may advise the Board within 48 hours of the penalty or decision being made.
3. The Board may then:
 - a) discuss the issue with the relevant team and make a decision regarding the matter. The Board shall inform the party/ies involved of their decision either verbally or in writing; or
 - b) have an informal meeting with the relevant party/ies in order to discuss and resolve the dispute.
4. The Board's decision is final.

24. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

1. Where these By-laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the GVL is maintained at all times.
2. The Board may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in this By-Law relating to the GVL.

25. INDEMNITY

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the GVL and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from any liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.