



By Laws

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1. Preamble

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the:

- AFL Central Victoria Commission Constitution
- Laws of Australian Football
- AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL Victoria Country after the printing of the AFL Victoria Country Handbook
- All Australian Netball Association Rules
- Playing Rules of the International Federation of Netball Associations
- Netball Australia Limited Member Protection Policy

2. Definitions and Interpretation

In these By-Laws unless the contrary intention appears:

- **Commission** means the Commission of AFL Central Victoria Inc. (Central Victoria Australian Football Commission)
- **Commissioners** means elected Board of the Commission
- **Club Member** means those organisations as may be granted Club Member status from time to time;
- **Home Club** means the Club Member where the player is allocated one point
- **Home Player** means a one point player of the Club Member
- **Laws of Australian Football** means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the League
- **League Member** means a league who has entered into a membership agreement with the Commission and granted League Member status from time to time
- **Umpire Member** means an umpiring body who has entered into a membership agreement with the Commission and as may be granted Umpire Member status from time to time

3. Disciplinary Action

- 3.1. If the Commission is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Commission must appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member. The members of the disciplinary subcommittee:
 - 3.1.1. May be Commission members or anyone else.
 - 3.1.2. Must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.
- 3.2. Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Regional General Manager must give written notice to the member:
 - 3.2.1. Stating that the Commission proposes to take disciplinary action against the member.
 - 3.2.2. Stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action.
 - 3.2.3. Specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the disciplinary meeting).
 - 3.2.4. Advising the member that they may do one or both of the following:
 - Attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting.
 - Give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting.



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- 3.2.5. Setting out the member's appeal rights.
 - 3.2.6. The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.
 - 3.3. At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must:
 - 3.3.1. Give the member an opportunity to be heard.
 - 3.3.2. Consider any written statement submitted by the member.
 - 3.3.3. No member can be represented by a barrister or solicitor or person qualified to practice as a barrister or solicitor.
 - 3.4. After complying with rule 3.3, the disciplinary subcommittee may vote to recommend to the Commission:
 - 3.4.1. Take no further action against the member.
 - 3.4.2. Reprimand the member.
 - 3.4.3. Suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period.
 - 3.4.4. Expel the member from the Commission.
 - 3.4.5. Fine, which may be wholly or partly suspended.
 - 3.5. The recommended suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee under this rule takes effect immediately upon approval by the Commission.
 - 3.6. A member whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Commission under rule 3 may appeal through the Area Appeals Committee. The mechanism of appeal is contained in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

4. Grievance Procedure

- 4.1. The grievance procedure applies to disputes under these Rules between:
 - 4.1.1. A member and another member;
 - 4.1.2. A member and the League/Umpire Board;
 - 4.1.3. A member and the Commission.
- 4.2. A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.
- 4.3. The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.
- 4.4. If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by rule 4.3, the parties must within 10 days:
 - 4.4.1. Notify the Commission of the dispute; and
 - 4.4.2. Agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - 4.4.3. Attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 4.5. The mediator must be a person chosen by agreement between the parties, or in the absence of agreement if the dispute is between a member and another member, a person appointed by the Commission; or if the dispute is between a member and the Commission, a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- 4.6. A mediator appointed by the Commission may be a member or former member of the Association but must not be a person who has a personal interest in the dispute or is biased in favour of or against any party.



- 4.7. The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must give each party every opportunity to be heard, allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party and ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- 4.8. The mediator must not determine the dispute.
- 4.9. If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

5. Independent Regional Tribunal

- 5.1. The Commission shall annually appoint an Independent Regional Tribunal panel in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 7 consisting of up to twenty persons, three of whom will comprise any one sitting. Such persons will not be directly associated with any Club in the Leagues but will be thoroughly conversant with the rules of the game and the Leagues and, in the opinion of the Commission, will be thoroughly capable of handling any cases or disputes which may be put before them.
- 5.2. This Independent Tribunal will deal with players and officials reported in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Rules of AFL Victoria Country, Netball Australia Rules of the Game, the Leagues' By Laws. They may also sit in judgment on any football or netball issue or matters for AFL Central Victoria at the direction of the Commission within its jurisdiction.

6. Codes of Conduct and Other Policies

- 6.1. All players, officials and Club members at all League matches shall be subject to the Policies and Codes of Conduct as issued by the Commission and/or AFL Victoria from time to time.

7. Expulsion or Suspension of an Affiliated Club by an Affiliated League

- 7.1. An affiliated club will have the right to a hearing by the AFL Central Victoria Regional Commission if expelled or suspended from an affiliated league.
- 7.2. The hearing shall be held in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules 4.4 and 4.5.

8. Player Points System

- 8.1. The AFL CV Commission have adopted the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy (PPS).
- 8.2. Clubs are responsible for providing AFL Central Victoria with the names of any players that played AFL in the preceding three seasons or finished top five in their previous club best and fairest.
- 8.3. Individual player errors, made by AFL CV staff, discovered prior to 30th June in the same year will be altered, if discovered after 30th June the original allocation will stand. Incorrect allocations, due to games played in AFL or top 5 in the club best and fairest, will be changed if the allegation is proven to be correct, as it is the clubs responsibility to inform AFL CV staff of these parameters.
- 8.4. A Club may claim a junior aligned 'Home Player' in the following circumstances:
 - 8.4.1. If the player plays 40 or more games, up to and including under 16 competitions at the aligned junior clubs below, then their aligned Senior Club will be as set out below:

Junior Club

Eaglehawk Junior Football Club
Gisborne Rookies Junior Football Netball Club
Gisborne Giants Junior Football Netball Club
Golden Square Football Netball Club – Juniors
Heathcote Junior Football and Netball Club

Aligned Senior Club

Eaglehawk Football Netball Club
Gisborne Football Netball Club
Gisborne Football Netball Club
Golden Square Football Netball Club
Heathcote Football Netball Club



Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club	Kangaroo Football Netball Club
Maiden Gully Lions Football Club	Maiden Gully YCW Eagles
North Bendigo Junior Football Club	North Bendigo Football Netball Club
White Hills Junior Football Club	White Hills Football Netball Club

- 8.4.2. If the player plays for the Runnymede Junior Football Club, games played may be counted for the Colbinabbin, Elmore or Mt Pleasant Football Netball Club from the date the individual players name was added to the MOU document. Names must be supplied to the HDFNL Manager to be added to the document. A combined total of 40 games must be played to qualify as a 'Home Player'.
- 8.4.3. If the player plays/ed 40 games for the Dockers Junior Football Club, and was a member of the club prior to 2017, they will be a 'Home Player' for the first club they play a combined total of 5 games in reserves or seniors.
- 8.4.4. If the player plays for the Dockers Junior Football Club, and was a member of the club from 2017 onwards, they will not be allocated a 'Home Club' through service to the Dockers JFC.
- 8.4.5. If the player played 40 or more games with the Midlands Junior League they will be a 'Home Player' for the Castlemaine Football Netball Club.
- 8.4.6. At the time Woomelang-Lascelle Football Club wound up, if a player had played 40 junior games and qualified as a 'home player' at the Woomelang-Lascelle Football Club and no other club, and attended Tyrell College in Sea Lake, they will be a 'Home Player' for Sea Lake Nandaly FNC.
- 8.4.7. If a player has played less then 5 games in the previous 36 months they may be considered as a 'Home Player' when they reregister.
- 8.4.8. Where there is any difference or dispute as to whether a player is a 'Home player' then this will be determined by Commission in its absolute discretion.

8.5. Additional Point Deductions

- 8.5.1. Junior players who relocate to Victoria and the first club they play for is within the AFL Central Victoria region, without enough years to play 40 junior games with a club, may receive a 1 point deduction from their point allocation for that first club.
- 8.5.2. Injury – If a player was clearly recruited, registered and played for the club but was injured during the preseason/season and therefore the player did not play 5 games for the club, provided evidence regarding the player's injury is irrefutable and therefore there is no doubt that he would have played the 5 games and been eligible for a 1 point deduction if not for the injury, the player will receive a 1 point deduction.

8.6. Commission Player Points Panel

The Commission may appoint persons to a Player Points Panel. Each panel will consist of 5 members and will comprise:

- Commission Regional General Manager or representative appointed by the Regional General Manager
- 2 Commissioners
- 2 representatives from a league member (preference for the league involved)

8.7. Jurisdiction of Commission Player Points Panel – Player Assessment

- 8.7.1. Clubs may make application in writing to the Commission Region General Manager for reassessment of a player's points allocation within 7 days of the player's points being allocated by Commission pursuant to the AFL Victoria Player Points System framework.



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- 8.7.2. The application must be on the Commission appeal form and address the matters set out in Clause 7.4 of the Policy. Any supporting evidence should be submitted with the application.
- 8.7.3. The Player Points Panel will consider the application within 14 days of receipt by the Commission Region General Manager.
- 8.7.4. Decisions of the Player Points Panel will be by majority vote.
- 8.7.5. The Player Points Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 8.7.6. The Regional General Manager will provide written notification to the Club within 7 days of the Player Points Panel making its decision.
- 8.8. Appeals against the Commission Player Points Panel
- Clubs may appeal a decision of the Player Points Panel to the Commission provided that:
- 8.8.1. The appeal is made in writing to the Commission Region General Manager not later than 3 days after the Region General Manager has notified the Club of the decision.
- 8.8.2. Decisions of the Commission will be by majority vote.
- 8.8.3. The appeal may be dealt with in whatever form the Commission considers most appropriate – including at a formal meeting of the Commission, by teleconference or by consideration ‘on the papers’.
- 8.8.4. The Regional General Manager will provide written notification to the member club within 7 days of the Commission making its decision.
- 8.8.5. The Commission is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 8.8.6. The decision of the Commission is final.
- 8.9. Jurisdiction of the Commission – Club Assessment
- 8.9.1. Clubs may make an application in writing to the Commission Regional General Manager for reassessment of their total club points allocation by 1st December of the Club’s points being allocated pursuant to the AFL Victoria Player Points System.
- 8.9.2. 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.
- 8.9.3. Commission will consider the written application within 28 days of receipt by the Regional General Manager.
- 8.9.4. Decisions of the Commission will be by majority vote.
- 8.9.5. Regional General Manager will provide a written response to the Club notifying the decision of the Commission.
- 8.9.6. The decision of the Commission is final.

9. Player Points System Review

By Law 8 in relation to the Player Points System shall be annually reviewed.

10. Allowable Player Payments Rule

- 10.1. The Commission have adopted the AFL Victoria Allowable Player Payment Rule.
- 10.2. The Commission will set each Leagues Allowable Player Payment Amount by 15th September.
- 10.2.1. Within 7 days of being notified by the Commission of the Allowable Player Payment Amount, the League may make application in writing to the Regional General Manager for an amendment.



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- 10.2.2. The application must set out the League's reasons for seeking an amendment in the Allowable Player Payment Amount.
 - 10.2.3. The Commission will consider the application within 7 days of receipt by the Regional General Manager.
 - 10.2.4. Decisions of the Commission will be by majority vote.
 - 10.2.5. Regional General Manager will provide a written response to the League notifying the decision of the Commission.
 - 10.2.6. The decision of the Commission is final.
 - 10.3. 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.
 - 10.3.1. 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.
 - 10.3.2. The Commission will consider the application within 28 days of receipt by the Regional General Manager.
 - 10.4. Clubs may make application in writing to the Regional General Manager for consideration of any other matters relevant to the Allowable Player Payments Rules at any time.
 - 10.4.1. The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking consideration and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.
 - 10.4.2. The Commission will consider the application within 28 days of receipt by the Regional General Manager.
 - 10.5. The Commission may initiate investigations into possible breaches of the Allowable Player Payment Rules.
 - 10.6. The Commission shall from time to time appoint persons to a body to be known as the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee.
 - 10.6.1. Any charge laid by the Commission under the Player Payment Rule shall be heard and determined by the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee.
 - 10.6.2. The Player Payments Disciplinary Committee shall consist of 3 persons being
 - A Legal Practitioner nominated by the Commission, who shall be the Chairperson
 - Two other persons nominated by the Commission
 - 10.6.3. A person shall not be appointed to the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee to hear a charge if that person has been a Club Official of a Club or has been a Player of a Club in the 24 months preceding the appointment.
 - 10.6.4. The procedures of the hearing are outlined in the Player Payment Rule.
 - 10.7. Alleged Allowable Player Payment Breach Investigation Request
 - 10.7.1. A Club or League member may lodge a notice in writing with Regional General Manager outlining the particulars of an alleged breach in the Allowable Player Payment Rule by a Member Club or Player.
 - 10.7.2. The Member club or league lodging the notice must provide supporting evidence of the alleged breach.
 - 10.7.3. A sum of \$2,500 must accompany the notice which shall be fully refundable by the Commission should the allegation not be deemed frivolous or vexatious. If the allegation is deemed frivolous or



vexatious, the AFL CV Commission may refund all, part or none of the sum in their absolute discretion.

- 10.7.4. The Regional General Manager shall refer the allegation and its evidence to the Commission within 7 days of receipt.
 - 10.7.5. The Commission shall determine if the allegation is to be referred to an Investigation. The decision of the Commission will be final and binding.
 - 10.7.6. 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 Player Payments Disciplinary Committee, the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee may order that the offending Club or player pay all or part of the costs of the investigation.
- 10.8. Penalties for breaches are outlined in the Sanctions section of the Player Payment Rule.