



# **AFL VICTORIA CENTRAL VICTORIA**

## **Region By Laws**

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## 1. Definitions

### Junior League, Club or Competition

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

- Bendigo Junior Football League
- North Central Football League (Under 14 & below)
- Central Murray Football Netball League (Under 15 & below)
- Golden Rivers Football Netball League (Under 15 & below)

**Region** = The hierarchical authority including but not limited to a Commission or Council, that:

- has designated governance responsibilities for the direction of football in a geographical location and
- is affiliated with AFL Victoria

## 2. Player Points System AFL Central Victoria Regional Conditions

AFL Central Victoria affiliated leagues of the Region must comply with the provisions of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy (**the PPS Policy**), with all Region By laws developed under Section 3.4 of the Policy to be lodged and approved by the CCSP Advisory Panel.

### 2.1. Definition of a “Home Player” for AFL Central Victoria Leagues

This clause is to be read in conjunction with the definition of a Home Player contained in the PPS Policy. A Club may claim a junior aligned “home player” under the applicable Region By Law in the following circumstances:

- Games played on “permit” are not included in these assessments, except for underage matches played on a Compassionate (Spilt Family) or Student living away from home permit under AFL Victoria Country Rules \*.
- Where there is any difference or dispute as to whether a player is a “Home Player” then this will be determined by AFL Central Victoria in its absolute discretion.

**Note: A player may have multiple “home clubs”.**

- 2.1.1. If the player plays more than 40 games, up to and including under 16 competitions at the aligned junior clubs below, then their aligned Senior Club will be set out below:

Junior Club	Aligned Senior Club/s
Broadford Junior Football Club	Broadford Football Netball Club
Eaglehawk Junior Football Club	Eaglehawk Football Netball Club
Gisborne Rookies Junior Football Netball Club	Gisborne Football Netball Club
Golden Square Football Netball Club – Juniors	Golden Square Football Netball Club
Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club	Kangaroo Flat 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

- 2.1.2. Games played on “permit” are not included in these assessments.
- 2.1.3. If the player plays for the Runnymede Junior Football Club, games played may be counted for the Colbinabbin, or Elmore 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’.
- 2.1.4. 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.
- 2.1.5. 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.
- 2.1.6. 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. 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.
- 2.1.7. At the time Nullawil FC & Wycheproof FC amalgamated, if a player had qualified as a ‘home player’ at either club they will be a ‘Home Player’ for the Calder United Lions Football Club, and any eligible ‘season of service’ deductions whilst playing with the former clubs will be recognised when assessing player points values for the Calder United Lions Football Club
- 2.1.8. **Circumstances that limit playing opportunities:** Where irrefutable evidence demonstrates that a broken District League junior pathway has compelled a player to pursue an alternative community junior club pathway, the Player Points Panel (PPP) may, at its discretion, grant a one (1) point reduction to the player’s assessed points value.
- 2.1.9. **Neutral Club Movement:** Where a player transfer would otherwise result in a reduction to the player’s points value, the PPP may, at its discretion, maintain the player’s pre-transfer points value. Where a player transfer results in the player meeting the “three (3) clubs in three (3) seasons” criteria, any applicable additional point shall be applied in accordance with the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- 2.1.10. **Employment:** No reduction in assessed points shall be granted under this clause.
- (a) Additional points shall not be applied solely on the basis that a player’s relocation has resulted in registration at three (3) or more community clubs within three (3) seasons, as referenced in Clause 6.4 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, provided that all of the following conditions are met:
- (i) The player’s relocation is due to an employer-directed transfer

within the same company or government organisation; and  
(ii) Acceptable documentary evidence of the forced employment relocation is provided by the employer with the application; and  
(iii) The PPP determines that the relocation distance is excessive for the player to reasonably continue playing with their previous club.

2.1.11. **University or Education:** No reduction in assessed points will be considered, but additional points may not be applied only where the relocation has resulted in the player registering at 3 or more community clubs in 3 seasons as referenced in Clause 6.4 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.

If a player has been relocated due to a university placement, consideration for non-application of extra points as above will only be given if:

- (a) Acceptable evidence of current enrolment is provided with the application
- (b) The distance relocated is considered by the PPP too excessive to continue playing for their previous club.

2.1.12. **Contracted player:** Any player who is to receive three hundred dollars (\$300) or more per senior game in the current season shall not be eligible for any points reduction under these By-Laws.

2.1.13. Where there is any difference or dispute as to whether a player is a 'Home player' then this will be determined by the AFL Central Victoria Region in its absolute discretion

#### 2.1.14. **Additional Point Deductions**

2.1.14.1. **Relocation (Interstate):** 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

2.1.14.2. **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.

### 3. **AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel**

The Region may appoint persons to a Policy Panel. The panel will be a minimum of four (4) members and will comprise:

- the Region Manager or Region Operations Manager (if applicable);
- an AFL Central Victoria Region Council Member
- two (2) members appointed at the discretion of the Region Manager.

#### **4. Jurisdiction of AFL Central Victoria Panel – Player Points Reassessment**

- 4.1. Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager for reassessment of a player’s points allocation consistent with Section 7.3 of the PPS Policy. Clubs may seek reassessment:
  - 4.1.1. within 7 days of the player’s points being reviewed and allocated by AFL Central Victoria pursuant to the PPS Policy following the PPS value being assigned to that player by the club and league,
  - 4.1.2. within 7 days of any further in-season transfer, provided the player has physically played a game with another club before seeking a return transfer
  - 4.1.3. not less than 75% of the clubs anticipated Senior team playing list is registered.
- 4.2. The application must address the matters set out in Clause 7.3 of the PPS Policy. All applications must use the template available [here](#).
- 4.3. The Policy Panel will consider the application within 14 days of receipt by the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager.
- 4.4. Decisions of the Policy Panel will be by majority vote of the AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel.
- 4.5. The Policy Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 4.6. AFL Central Victoria will provide written notification to the Club within 7 days of the Policy Panel making its decision.

#### **5. Jurisdiction of AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel – Total Team Points Assessment**

- 5.1. AFL Central Victoria shall give notice of the allocation of total team points for each affiliated League for the following season by August 31st annually or such other date as determined by the Region.
- 5.2. Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager for reassessment of their total team points allocation within 28 days of the Club’s being

notified pursuant to the PPS Policy. All applications must use the template available [here](#).

- 5.3. 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 PPS Policy and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.
- 5.4. AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel will consider the application within 28 days of receipt by the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager.
- 5.5. Decisions of the AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel will be by majority vote.
- 5.6. The Policy Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 5.7. AFL Central Victoria will provide a written notification to the club within 7 days of the Policy Panel making its decision.

## **6. Appeals against the AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel - Player Points**

- 6.1. As provided under Sections 11.1 and 11.2 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, clubs may appeal a decision of the Policy Panel made under By-Law 4 and 5 to the AFL Central Victoria Appeal Panel consistent with Section 19 of these By-Laws.
- 6.2. The appeal is made in writing to the AFLCV Region Manager not later than 5.00pm on the first day after the AFLNEB has notified the Club of the decision
- 6.3. For appeals under this clause, a sum of \$500 is received by the AFL Central Victoria, which will be dealt with in accordance with Sections 26.4(d) and 26.4(e) of the NCFPH.
- 6.4. The Appeal shall be considered on written submissions only.
- 6.5. AFL Central Victoria Region Council shall consider the Appeal at the next scheduled meeting after receipt of the Appeal.
- 6.6. Decisions of AFL Central Victoria Region Council will be by simple majority vote of the Region Council Members in attendance.
- 6.7. AFL Central Victoria will provide written notification to the member club within 7 days of the AFL Central Victoria Region Council making its decision.
- 6.8. AFL Central Victoria is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 6.9. The decision of the AFL Central Victoria is final.

## **7. AFL Central Victoria Player Payments Rules**

AFL Central Victoria have adopted the Player Payment Rules as detailed on the League/Region Website [here](#).

The Regions affiliated leagues and clubs must comply with the provisions of the Rules.

#### **8. Jurisdiction of AFL Central Victoria Region – Allowable Player Payment variation under APP Rule 3(a)**

The Region shall confirm the Allowable Player Payment cap for each affiliated League for the following season by August 31st annually or such other such date as determined by the Region.

- 8.1. By 31st October, a Club may make application in writing to the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment Cap to apply to that Club for the upcoming season .
- 8.2. 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 Player Payment Rules and be accompanied by supporting evidence.
- 8.3. AFL Central Victoria Region will consider the application at the next scheduled Region meeting.
- 8.4. Decisions of the AFL Central Victoria Region will be by majority vote.
- 8.5. AFL Central Victoria will provide a written response to the Club notifying the decision of the AFL Central Victoria and will give reasons for the decision.
- 8.6. The decision of the AFL Central Victoria Region is final.
- 8.7. Where an application for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment for the Club is granted, AFL Central Victoria will make this decision public.

#### **9. Jurisdiction of AFL Central Victoria Region–Application under APP Rule 8(d)**

- 9.1. A Club may at any time make application for a ruling as to whether any payments, considerations, advantages or other benefits constitute a Player Payment, including their value, for the purpose of the Allowable Player Payment Rules.
- 9.2. 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.
- 9.3. AFL Central Victoria Region will consider the application at the next scheduled meeting after receipt by the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager and any ruling of

the Region must be forwarded to the AFL Victoria Football Operations Manager prior to any announcement or approval by the Region.

9.4. The ruling may be made public.

## **10. AFL Central Victoria Allowable Player Payments Integrity Reviews**

10.1. The AFL Central Victoria may initiate integrity reviews into possible breaches consistent with Rule 9 of the AFL Central Victoria Player Payment Rules.

10.2. Where an integrity review 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.

## **11. Jurisdiction of AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel – Additional matters**

11.1. In the absence of an affiliate league having the relevant rule the AFL Central Victoria Policy Panel may, in direct consultation with the relevant affiliate league and at the Regions absolute discretion also consider and determine the following matters or alternatively delegate to the affiliated League of that Region to determine

11.2. Minimum Age Player or Umpire applications – refer to By Law 12 and 14 and sections 3 and 6 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (**NCFPH**).

11.3. Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications – refer to By Law 13 and section 4 of NCFPH.

11.4. Management of any Policy regulations or breaches under the NCFPH, including but not limited to potential Breaches of the Member Protection regulations (Section 9) and Social Media regulations (Section 10) – refer Section 23 of the NCFPH.

11.5. Management of the Match Review Regulations for Reportable Offences consistent with section 22.2(b) of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

11.6. Ineligible Player breaches, Permit Breaches and Special Consideration Permit Applications – refer Clauses 1 and 2 of AFL Victoria Country Rules and Section 3 of the NCFPH.

11.7. Any matter referred to it by the AFL Central Victoria Region Manager, where provided for in the AFL Central Victoria By Laws.

## **12. Minimum Player Age to play in a Competition**

12.1. A player's minimum age eligibility to play in a relevant age group of an AFL Central Victoria competition is detailed at Section 3.1 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).

12.2. Section 3.1(ii) of the NCFPH allows for special consideration permission for individual players, to participate in a higher age group to that specified in the minimum age table detailed at 3.1 (b) of the NCFPH. This permission may be granted

by the affiliated League under exceptional and compelling circumstances as detailed in the application form template.

- 12.3. 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.
- 12.4. Any Application must be lodged using the [application form](#) and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent.

### **13. Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications**

- 13.1. AFL Central Victoria affiliated leagues may only consider applications from a Club for a player to play in a Competition age group below their applicable age group consistent with the process detailed Section 4 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- 13.2. AFL Central Victoria affiliated leagues may only consider such applications made the [application form](#) and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent
- 13.3. Any appeal of an unsuccessful Overage Dispensation application will be heard under the Region Appeal Committee process detailed at Clauses 8.3 and 8.1 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules.

### **14. Minimum age to umpire in a competition**

- 14.1. A Umpires minimum age eligibility to participate in a relevant age group of an AFL Central Victoria competition is detailed at Section 6.2 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).
- 14.2. Section 6.2 (c) (iii) of the NCFPH allows for special consideration permission for individual umpires , to participate in a higher age group to that specified in the minimum age table detailed at 6.2 (c) (ii) of the NCFPH. This permission may be granted by the affiliated Local League or Umpiring group (as determined by the Local League) under exceptional and compelling circumstances as detailed in the application form template available [here](#) , must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent
- 14.3. The processes for special consideration permission will be on application and will be assessed considering the needs of existing official competitions which are relevant to the application.

### **15. Interchange (Area) Agreements and Permits**

The following Permit conditions may be included in Interchange (Area) Agreements relevant to AFL Central Victoria Leagues, noting these conditions do not apply to Underage Compassionate or Students Living Away from Home permits applied for under Sections 3.5 of AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations Rules.

### 15.1. Permit Purpose Statement

A permit request should only be approved providing that at least one of two purposes is achieved:

- (a) A player is being permitted to a higher level of football being Junior or District player to a Major League in which case 22 players may appear on the team sheet or;
- (b) To assist a team in achieving 20 players in which case, if using a permit player, no more than 20 players may appear on the team sheet. Fit, available registered players of the Club in that age group must be selected before requesting a permit.

### 15.2. Permit Conditions

The following Permit condition shall be included in all Interchange (Area) Agreements relevant to all AFL Central Victoria Leagues:

1. Registered players must be given preference over any permit player
2. If a team has at least 1 permit player, they shall not be allowed to have more than 20 players on the team sheet
3. A maximum of 4 permit players shall be allowed on any one team sheet
4. AFL Victoria Country and League finals eligibility criteria shall apply
5. Player eligibility shall be the responsibility of the club playing the permit player
6. Permit breaches shall be addressed under AFL Victoria Country Rules ineligible player regulations.

### 15.3. Special Circumstances

Any clubs requesting special circumstance considerations must apply in writing to the AFL Victoria Region Manager annually, and prior to June 30th.

## 16. Management of Investigation Fees

In the absence of an applicable league regulation, where a club and or League has initiated an investigation under Clause 5 of AFL Victoria Country Rules, the following shall prevail;

Where the investigation request is deemed frivolous by the relevant league executive, the application fee lodged shall be forfeited in full; or

- 16.1. 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 application fee lodged shall be forfeited in full.
- 16.2. Where a charge from an Investigation results in the acceptance of an Early Guilty Plea or is referred to the league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is proven at a hearing;
  - (a) the application fee shall be fully refunded and;
  - (b) the offending club shall be fined a sum equal to the costs of the investigation.
- 16.3. 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.
  - (a) the total cost of the investigation will be imposed proportionally to the clubs based on charges which are proven.

- 16.4. For other matters, not specifically covered by these rules, clubs and/or leagues may request that the AFL Central Victoria Region make a determination on whether the application fee is refundable provided that;
- (a) The request be made in writing.
  - (b) The request is made by 5pm on the 7th day after the tribunal hearing or sending of notification from the relevant league.
  - (c) The AFL Central Victoria Region shall determine the matter on evidence presented and its absolute discretion.
  - (d) The AFL Central Victoria Region's decision is final.

## 17. Variation Of Time

Notwithstanding any other provision of these By Laws, where any time limit is imposed for the doing of any act or thing or for any other purpose, the Region Manager may in their absolute discretion extend or bring forward the time within which a person may do any act or thing under these Rules.

## 18. Appeals

Region appeals under these By Laws will be heard by the Region Commission or Region Council (as applicable) and must be conducted consistent with Section 26 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

Appeals that may be heard by the Region within these by Laws include

- Individual Player Points reassessment as per Section 4 of these by laws and consistent with Section 7.3 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- Additional Total Team points application as per Section 5 of these by laws and consistent with 8.3 AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- Ineligible Player breaches as per Clause 1.1 of AFL Victoria Country Rules

Any appeal must detail relevant Grounds for appeal as specified at Section 26.1 (b) of the NCFPH and Section 13 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System, allowing an Appellant subject to a decision to appeal in respect of such a decision on one or more of the following grounds:

- a) Section 26.1(b)(i)(A) the decision was an error of law that had a material impact on the decision.
- b) Section 26.1(b)(i)(B) the decision was so unreasonable that no Controlling Body or Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it.

## 19. Notice of appeal

An appeal must be submitted by the Appellant lodging with the AFL Central Victoria, by no later than 5:00pm on the day following the relevant decision of the Region including:

- a) a duly completed Notice of Appeal which must specify the Appeal Ground(s) relied upon by the Appellant and supporting submissions in respect of the Appeal Ground(s); and
- b) payment of \$750 (which will be dealt with in accordance with Sections 26.4(d) and 26.4(e) of the NCFPH).

## 20. Appeal Process

The Region Council shall consider the Appeal and provide written notification of the appeal decision as soon as practicable and no later than 7 days of receipt of the final written submissions.

At the discretion of Region Council, any party may, within the time specified by the Region, lodge written submissions which may contain:

- a) any facts, reasons and arguments concerning the appeal; and
- b) any other matters that they desire to be considered by the Region Commission or Region Council in determining the appeal.

Following provision of submissions, the Region Council may seek further detail from any party to the appeal and this further detail must be provided in writing and within the timeframe specified by the Region Council.

Decisions of the Region Council will be by simple majority vote of the Region Council members.

The Region Council:

- a) is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts record but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- b) may confirm, reverse or modify the decision being appealed and make such decisions in such manner as it thinks fit.
- c) shall not be obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- d) The decision of the Region Council is final.

For the avoidance of doubt, Region Council members that were part of the decision-making process to the decision being appealed shall not be involved in any Appeal hearing.

## 21. Extreme Heat Management

AFL Central Victoria adopt these by laws as a best practice approach and recommend that clubs use this information to inform their decisions prior to a planned AFL activity.

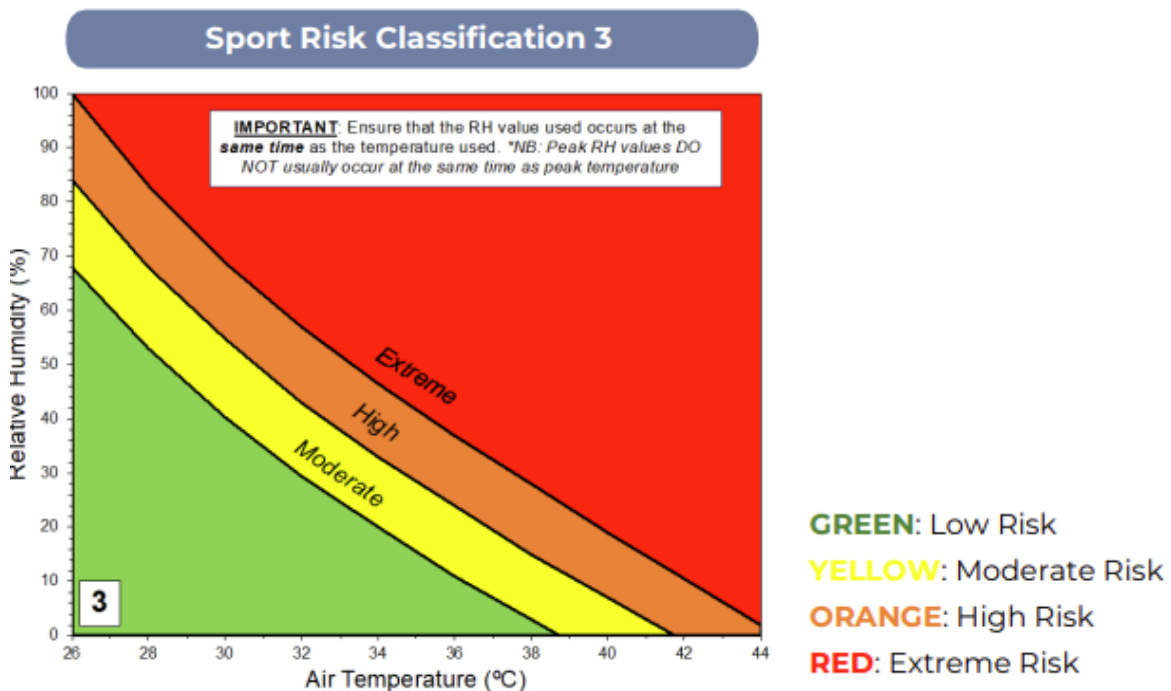
In addition to the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 17.2 EXTREME HEAT these by laws also reference the SMA-Extreme-Heat-Policy-2021-Final where AFL is classified as SPORTS RISK CLASSIFICATION 3

- (a) To predict the heat risk associated with participation in a relevant sporting classification, the temperature and humidity for the location where competition or practice will be taking place needs to be acquired.
- (b) It is essential that the peak temperature during the time of play is used with the accompanying relative humidity at that specific time. If the peak relative humidity is used for a particular day, which usually occurs when temperature is lowest, heat stress risk will be over-estimated, and competition unnecessarily disrupted or cancelled.
- (c) To predict the heat risk associated with participation in a relevant sporting classification, the temperature and humidity for the location where competition or practice will be taking place needs to be acquired.

- (d) It is essential that the peak temperature during the time of play is used with the accompanying relative humidity at that specific time. If the peak relative humidity is used for a particular day, which usually occurs when temperature is lowest, heat stress risk will be over-estimated, and competition unnecessarily disrupted or cancelled.

**To obtain a forecast of temperature and humidity for the upcoming 7 days:**

1. Visit the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website and search/select the location where the football activity will be played
2. Click on Hourly forecast and select the day and time when the football activity will occur
3. Note the expected Temperature (C) and expected Humidity (%).
4. The combined Temperature (x axis) and the Humidity (y axis) should be plotted on the below graph. The point of intersection will fall in one of the 4 coloured zones indicating a given level of heat stress risk:



- (e) AFL Central Victoria recommend that clubs only participate in AFL activities if the plotted temperature sits in the LOW RISK (GREEN) or MODERATE RISK (YELLOW) areas.
- (f) AFL Central Victoria recommends that clubs do not participate in AFL activities if a HIGH RISK (ORANGE) or EXTREME RISK (RED) is identified. This level of risk can be managed in professional settings with misting fans etc. but this type of equipment is unlikely in a community club setting.
- (g) In managing any participation in Extreme Heat circumstances, Clubs and Players are also encouraged to refer to and apply the strategies recommended at Section 17.2 of the [AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook](#).