



AFL VICTORIA

COMMUNITY LEAGUE

AFFILIATE REGULATIONS

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Further to the AFL Victoria / Affiliate Agreements, particularly clause 5, AFL Victoria provide these regulations and policies to assist Affiliates in the development of the game. The regulations and policies are to be read in conjunction with the AFL Victoria Membership Agreement particularly preserving the internal autonomy of the Affiliate.

1.2 Application

These Regulations apply to all Affiliates of AFL Victoria and their subsequent affiliated leagues and clubs. Specifically, in relation to player, club or league movements, these Regulations govern the said movement from the jurisdiction of one Affiliate to another Affiliate.

1.3 VFL Competition

It is noted that Regulations in respect of the VFL Competition are detailed in the “VFL Playing Rules and Regulations” and are to be applied to VFL Club Licence Holders.

1.4 Variation

Following Affiliate input and in accordance with the time line as set down in Regulation 9.2, AFL Victoria may, from time to time, alter these Regulations in its absolute discretion.

2. Definitions and Interpretations

2.1 Definitions

Unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

AFL Victoria	Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited ACN 24 147 664 579
Metropolitan Affiliate	a direct AFL Victoria Affiliate conducting a competition within Metropolitan Melbourne
Metropolitan Affiliates	the collective of all Metropolitan Affiliates
VAFA	Victorian Amateur Football Association
VCFL	Victorian Country Football League or AFL Victoria Country
Local League	an Affiliate of the VCFL, a Metropolitan Affiliate or the VAFA
Local Club	an Affiliate Club of a Local League
Under Age Competition	a schedule of underage matches
Under Age Match	a match where participation is limited by the age of players
Open Age Match	a match where participation is not limited by the age of players
Third 18	the oldest under age team where such team is directly linked to an open age team
New Affiliated Body	the league to which a player or club seeks to transfer to
Former Affiliated Body	the league from which a player or club seeks to transfer away From

Days	business days, inclusive of the date of receipt regardless of the actual time received. For the purposes of these Regulations, business days relate to all weekdays (days excluding Saturday and Sunday) and excludes the following official Victorian Public Holidays when they fall on a weekday – New Years Day, Australia Day, Labour Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Queens Birthday, Melbourne Cup Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
AFL Victoria Decision	An AFL Victoria decision or determination for the purposes of these Regulations include a decision or determination of the AFL Victoria Executive Committee which shall comprise the General Manager and at least two other persons appointed by the General Manager.
Female competition	A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the players are female.

2.2 Interpretations

In the interpretation of these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise:-

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these Regulations;
- (d) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (e) any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these Regulations shall have the meaning prescribed within the particular Regulation; and
- (f) words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these Regulations, shall be given their ordinary meaning.

3. Player, Club & League Transfer Regulations

3.1 Involvement

AFL Victoria Affiliate League Regulations are applicable for any transfers involving more than one AFL Victoria Affiliate.

3.2 Disputes

AFL Victoria will make determinations in relation to any disputes that arise involving more than one Affiliate and decisions of AFL Victoria shall be binding.

3.3 Appeal Process

Unless otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, relevant appeals will be heard as follows:

Applications for an appeal hearing are to be lodged with AFL Victoria within ten (10) days of notification of a decision by a club, league or Affiliate (refer AFL National Player Transfer Regulations).

De-registration/player transfer appeals will be heard by the AFL Victoria Appeals Board as appointed from time to time pursuant to Regulation 3.8.

All other appeals to AFL Victoria will be heard by the AFL Victoria Appeals Board as appointed from time to time pursuant to Regulation 3.8.

3.4 Conflicting Regulations

No Affiliate shall have in place rules or Regulations that conflict with these Regulations unless such rule or Regulation affects the Affiliate only. In the event of such rules or Regulations being inconsistent, in conflict with or designed to circumvent these AFL Victoria Regulations, then the latter shall bind Affiliates.

3.5 Existing Agreements

Existing agreements in place involving more than one Affiliate (i.e. AFL Victoria Country / Metropolitan Affiliates, Metropolitan Affiliates / VAFA, VAFA / VCFL, Metropolitan Affiliates internal) are replaced by these Regulations and Appendix 1 AFL National Player Transfer System and Appendix 2 Affiliate to Affiliate: Movement of Clubs.

3.6 AFL / VFL Players

The following Regulations relate to the movement of players between the Affiliate and the VFL Open Age and Under Age competitions and the AFL.

3.6.1 AFL Listed Players

For the purposes of these Regulations, the definition of VFL registered players includes those listed players at an AFL club where such club also competes in the VFL competition.

3.6.2 Interchange Form

Players desiring registration with the VFL Open Age or Under Age competitions shall complete the appropriate Interchange Form.

Upon lodgement of the form not yet signed by the player's local club or league, the VFL may grant the applicant a permit to play.

Such form shall then be forwarded to the relevant League for completion and returned to the VFL within 10 days.

3.6.3 Suspended Players

(a) The permit to play will be withdrawn in the event the player is under suspension at the relevant time.

(b) Disqualifications by the VFL or local league tribunal shall be recognised by all parties to this agreement.

3.6.4 Interchange to Local Club

The relevant player retains registration with the local club and, in accordance with the VFL interchange Regulations, the VFL may permit players to return to their interchange club when their VFL Club does not require their services. The VFL or a VFL club may not interchange a player to a club other than the players' interchange club unless the player has first obtained a relevant transfer from his current interchange club.

3.7 Affiliate to Affiliate Regulations

3.7.1 Player Transfer and Appeal Process

Refer AFL National Player Transfer System Regulations for appropriate rules.

3.7.2 Admission of New Clubs / Transfer of Existing Clubs and Appeals Process

Refer Appendix 2 for appropriate rules.

3.7.3 League Transfer process

Refer Appendix 2 for appropriate rules

3.7.4 Interchange Agreements

Interchange agreements involving two Affiliates may be introduced with support from both Affiliates and AFL Victoria.

AFL Victoria will make a determination on a dispute regarding a current interchange agreement following request for such determination from either party.

3.8 AFL Victoria Appeals Board Nominations

Nominations from Affiliates for appointments to either the AFL Victoria Appeals Board are to be received by the AFL Victoria Community Football Development Manager by no later than 1st August in a given year.

AFL Victoria is to determine the appointment of members to the AFL Victoria Appeals Board. The decision of AFL Victoria regarding appointments shall be final.

4. Gender Regulation

AFL Victoria is awaiting the 2019 Gender Regulation Policy. Any enquiries in regards to the gender Regulations by AFL Victoria affiliates for 2019 should come through AFL Victoria.

5. AFL Victoria Policies

5.1 Required Affiliate League Policies

Considering the AFL Victoria objectives as set out in the Affiliate Agreement, each Affiliate must as a minimum adopt procedures and policies to address:

- 5.1.1 Risk Management;
- 5.1.2 AFL Victoria Vilification & Discrimination Policy
- 5.1.3 Health Through Football;
 - 5.1.3 (a) Anti-Doping Policy
 - 5.1.3 (b) Infectious Diseases Policy
 - 5.1.3 (c) Alcohol Management Policy
 - 5.1.3 (d) Smokefree Policy
- 5.1.4 Codes of Conduct;
- 5.1.5 AFL Victoria De-Registration Policy;
- 5.1.6 AFL Victoria Member Protection Policy;
- 5.1.7 AFL National Player Transfer Regulations; and such other football or community issues that require policies and procedures that arise from time to time as notified by AFL Victoria.
- 5.1.8 Fair game respect matters
- 5.1.9 AFL Child Safety Policy

5.2 Risk Management – Insurance Requirements

Such minimum insurance requirements will alter in line with community football requirements and AFL Victoria will notify Affiliates of the requirements at least annually.

5.3 AFL Victoria Policies

AFL Victoria has provided, and will continue to provide, the current AFL Victoria / VFL procedures and policies in writing and / or via the official AFL Victoria website. These procedures and policies are to be used by Affiliates as the minimum requirement when developing the Affiliate's relevant policy. The AFL Victoria / VFL Policy will be the Affiliate Policy should the Affiliate choose not to further update the AFL Victoria / VFL Policy.

5.4 Appeals

On request, AFL Victoria may from time to time convene an AFL Victoria Appeals Board and shall appoint persons to the AFL Victoria Appeals Board. On any occasion when the Appeals Board is required to be convened AFL Victoria shall appoint a Chairman and a further person or persons to hear and determine the matter.

The hearing shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter permits. Subject thereto and any provision of the AFL Victoria Regulations in relations thereto, the procedure at any hearing shall be within the discretion of the person appointed as Chairman. The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding.

5.4.1 National Age Dispensation Policy Appeals

The relevant Appeal Body for metropolitan leagues is the Leagues Appeal mechanism.

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5.5 Coach Accreditation Appeals

An applicant for coaching accreditation can appeal to AFL Victoria against a decision of the Coaching Development Manager refusing entry into an accreditation course or refusing accreditation once the applicant has completed such course.

6. Financial Reporting Procedure

6.1 Annual Report

Within 7 days of the Annual General Meeting of the Affiliate, the Affiliates Annual Report (including audited and detailed Financial Statements) shall be provided to AFL Victoria.

6.2 Financial Year

Unless otherwise approved, the financial year of AFL Victoria and all Affiliates shall be November 1st to October 31st.

7. Sponsorship

7.1 Sponsors

Where AFL Victoria has entered into a sponsorship arrangement on behalf of its Affiliates, the Affiliate shall support those sponsors in accordance with the contractual arrangements.

7.2 Protected Sponsors

From time to time AFL Victoria will nominate sponsors deemed to be „protected sponsors“ notwithstanding they may not be involved with Affiliates.

The Affiliate acknowledges and agrees that:

- (a) the AFL Victoria Protected Sponsors provide in part the financial resources to AFL Victoria to enable it to financially support the development of Australian Football; and
- (b) in order to maximise the financial benefits for AFL Victoria from such sponsorship, it will only enter into its own sponsorship arrangements with a person or business whose goods, services or operations compete with the goods or services supplied by or the operations of the AFL Victoria Protected Sponsors if it has first advised AFL Victoria of its intention to enter into such arrangement. AFL Victoria will provide advice to the Affiliate regarding implications of entering into such arrangement.

Protected sponsors will only be nominated after AFL Victoria makes every endeavour to ensure that such protected sponsors will not conflict with Affiliate arrangements.

7.3 Notice

AFL Victoria will give reasonable notice to Affiliates of protected and other sponsors

8. Communication Between AFL Victoria and Affiliates

8.1 Affiliate Input

Prior to formulating any AFL Victoria policy input will be sought from Affiliates.

8.2 Policy Distribution

AFL Victoria will provide copies of all relevant policies affecting the Affiliate and will seek to promote these policies as widely as possible (e.g. newsletter, internet).

8.3 Affiliate Obligation

It is the obligation of the Affiliate to distribute AFL Victoria policies & newsletters to its Affiliates.

8.4 Affiliate Contact Details

Each Affiliate must provide to AFL Victoria appropriate identity & contact details of its President and CEO/General Manager and changes must be notified to AFL Victoria within 10 days of such changes taking place from time to time.

9. Regulation & Policy Amendments and Additions

9.1 Regulation and Policy Review

AFL Victoria will from time to time review its policies and Regulations and will provide Affiliates with appropriate consultation and an opportunity to provide input into any updates of AFL Victoria rules, Regulations and policies.

9.2 Affiliate Submissions

Affiliates may make submissions to AFL Victoria in respect to current and / or potential future rules, Regulations and policies.

Written submissions for AFL Victoria consideration are to be forwarded to the General Manager of AFL Victoria by no later than 1st August in each year. AFL Victoria decisions regarding the submission are to be made by no later than 1st October in the same year following Affiliate input and review.