



LEAGUE BY-LAWS

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LEAGUE BYLAWS

1. DEFINITION

- i) The name of the Incorporated body is the “Gippsland League Inc” herein after referred to as the “League” or “GL”
- ii) The Board of Management is the elected members by the member clubs to oversee and control the affairs of the GL; herein referred to as the “Board”.
- iii) Subject to the provision herein applied; the Gippsland League is an affiliate member of AFL VICTORIA and Netball Victoria, in the event of conflict between the GL and AFL VICTORIA Rules and Regulations the AFL VICTORIA Regulation will take precedence.
- iv) “Nominated IT system” refers to the system that is provided by the affiliate to administer the participating competition. This may change from time to time as directed by the League.

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the:

Gippsland League Constitution

Laws of Australian Football

AFL Victoria Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL VICTORIA Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL VICTORIA after the printing of the AFL VICTORIA Handbook

Netball Victoria Affiliate Policies & Fact Sheets

INF & Netball Australia Rules

2. MEMBERS

- i) The League consists of the members of the Board, Life Members and clubs duly admitted and affiliated in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Gippsland League. As long as they remain a member, the member clubs will consist of the following clubs:- Bairnsdale, Drouin, Leongatha, Maffra, Moe, Morwell, Sale, Traralgon, Warragul, Wonthaggi

3. CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

Not later than 30 January each year, all affiliated clubs must lodge with the league (on the form provided), a list of all club office bearers for the ensuing year. Penalty: \$100. Name and official club role of the other delegates including coaches must be supplied to the General Manager by the last day of February each year.

4. LEAGUE LOGO

- i) Affiliated clubs may use the Gippsland League logo as per the official Gippsland League style guide

5. CLUB DOCUMENTS

Each club secretary shall provide documents to the League, at the latest 2 weeks, after the affiliated club’s AGM.

- i) Annual Report
- ii) Audited Financial Statement
- iii) A list of the clubs office bearers elected at the AGM

5.1 CLUB LOGOS

- i) Clubs are required to register their official logo with the League.
- ii) Any alterations to the registered logo must be supplied to the League before usage for activities relating to the Gippsland League

6. LIFE MEMBERS

- i) Nominations for Life Members of the League may be presented to the Board with supporting information. Presentation to Life Members so elected shall be made at the board’s discretion.
- ii) Nominees must have completed outstanding service and shown devotion to their club/League over a long period of time.
- iii) Life members will receive a badge and be allowed free entry to all Home & Away and finals matches
- iv) Life members of the LVFL, GLFL, WGFL and WGLFL shall be recognized as Life Members of this Association.

7. SERVICE CERTIFICATES

- i) Service certificates are available for persons who have given their club and or League service of excellence over a period of time. They will begin at 5 years service and increase in increments of five years. Certificates do not allow special privileges but are an acknowledgement of service.
- ii) The Board or clubs may recommend person/s, with supporting evidence, that they believe are worthy and recipients will be presented with the certificate at the board’s discretion.

8. COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

- i) The board may appoint, at any meeting, a subcommittee to control any affairs of the League

9. FAILURE TO CARRY OUT LEAGUE INSTRUCTIONS

- i) All clubs must carry out any instructions issued by the GL or its representatives.
- ii) Fine for non-compliance is \$100-00/and or referral to the Tribunal.

10. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- i) All clubs must have an OH&S Policy and adhere to it.
- ii) It is expected that all clubs will endeavour to have their venue a safe place to be with all care taken for the welfare of their employees, members and visitors.

11. TAMPERING WITH LEAGUE DOCUMENTS

- i) Any person who alters, destroys, falsifies or represents any document used in the operation of the League, in order to mislead, conceal, fabricate or conspire against the League, an official, an umpire or other member of the League commits an offence. Such offence is punishable by a suspension of up to six (6) months and/or a fine of up to \$2,000 as determined by the board or its delegate.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

- i) As part of member clubs affiliating with the Gippsland League, club executives listed in the supplied document under bylaw 3.1 will be bound by the confidentiality of the association.
- ii) This includes information shared at League meetings, information labelled confidential or any communications sent out by the League marked confidential. Club officials in breach of distributing confidential information will be bound by the penalties associated with by law 9 tampering with league documents.

13. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND APPEALS

- i) All protests, disputes and questions shall be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal.
- ii) All protests must be accompanied by the required deposit of \$500, which shall be liable to be forfeited to this League if the protest is deemed to be frivolous, and any protest in respect to home and away matches together with deposits must be in the hands of the General Manager of the League within five days from the date of the match in respect of which the protest is entered, and in respect to the finals matches, within 48 hours of the match in which the protest is entered.
- iii) On protests being received by the General Manager, a meeting of the Independent Tribunal of the League must be called, who shall meet as early as possible.
- iv) In the case of any report the Tribunal Secretary shall give notice of the hearing to the Club Secretaries concerned and they must ensure required personnel attend such hearing and bring forward any evidence in connection with such a report.
- v) If any member Club of the GL bringing legal action against the GL, thus incurring costs to all member Clubs, shall be disqualified from the GL.

14. GATE ADMISSION

- i) Admission and program prices for home and away games will be determined by the Board at the Annual General Meeting. Finals gate prices will be set by the board prior to the finals series.
- ii) At home and away matches all open-age players to pay at the gate.
- iii) Current Home & Away and regular finals series
 - Adults - \$12
 - Concessions - \$6
 - Under 16 Free
 - GL Record - \$2
 - Early bird discount at home club discretion
- iv) Current Grand Final
 - Adults - \$15
 - Concessions - \$8
 - Under 16 Free
 - GL Record - \$2

15. SEASON PASSES

Season Passes will be allocated to follows

- i) Season Pass – 15 per club - 1 per team (allocated to 1 coach) President, Secretary, Treasurer, Football Operations Manager & Netball Operations Manager
- ii) Under 18s – 22 total passes for 1 per player participating in the match
- iii) Volunteer (only access to home and away matches) – Up to 10 passes per club are available for volunteer trainers and netball umpires. Clubs are required to supply a list of trainers and volunteer netball umpires by March 1st and passes will be allocated to each volunteer
- iv) No further passes will be available for clubs.

16. GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RECORD

- i) The Record is the weekly publication produced by the League for the home and away season and finals series. At the beginning of each season the League will distribute a list of Record requirements that clubs will adhere to. Fine for non-compliance is \$100-00.
- ii) Football Players numbers are to be the same in the Record as the official team list.
- iii) Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.

16.2 Club Editorial Material

- i) Each Club will be allocated one page in the weekly 'Record' for notes. These notes, as well as any alterations to player names/numbers must be sent via e-mail to the publishers by Tuesday 12pm.
- ii) Clubs must refrain from including content of derogatory, sexual or defamatory nature. Penalty \$50.

16.3 Production Details

- i) Minimum number of records per round will be 120, a Club desiring additional records can arrange extra copies by contacting the League.
- ii) Extra copies will be charged at cost price to the clubs. All orders must be submitted by Monday 12pm for the upcoming addition.
- iii) All records shall be collected by home club from the Gippsland League nominated collection point

17. CLUB FEES

- i) League fees will be invoiced on the first working day of month. Fees must be paid in full within 45 days of the date of the invoice.
- ii) Failure to pay the invoice within 45 days will result in the following penalties:
 - 1 **Ineligibility for competition points in all grades in both Football and Netball.** After 45 days of the date of the invoice owing, in any future matches where the invoice is still owing, the club in breach will be ineligible for competition points in all football and netball matches it competes in. Matches will be played in full, the match scores will be recorded as at the final siren with the club in breach listed as a giving a forfeit. Percentage will be recorded for both sides on the ladder. Teams will be ineligible to compete in finals if their accounts receivable to the League includes overdue League Fees that exceed 45 days at the completion of round 18 matches.
 - 2 **Salary Cap reduction.** The club in breach of rule 37 (i) for any invoice before June 30th will have their total Salary Cap reduced by \$20,000 of the original Gippsland League Cap for the year or by 10% (if their submitted budget is lower than \$130,000).
 - 3 The reduction will only occur for the current season and the amount cannot be reinstated for the season once deducted. If the breach of rule 37 (i) occurs for an invoice after June 30th the salary cap reduction will occur for the following season.
- iii) If that the club breaches the adjusted salary cap under the AFL Gippsland Allowable Player Payments Rule and is found guilty of breaching the reduced cap for their total player payments. The League will enforce the following penalties.
 1. The Senior football grade will be deducted 16 premierships points for the following season.
 2. The Salary Cap will be reduced by \$25,000 for the following season that the Senior football team participates in.
 3. The club will be stripped of any Senior/Reserves football premierships won for the season where the breach of the reduced cap occurred.
- iv) Exemptions: A club may be exempt from the penalties listed in 37 (ii) if they have a payment plan for the overdue account and are meeting the minimum requirements.
- v) If a club believes it is going to have difficulty paying an invoice within 45 days, they must approach the League within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. The League will establish a payment plan for the club's invoice with the first instalment due the following working day at the expiry of the 45-day period from the invoice date. The club will need to meet the commitments of this plan otherwise the penalties in 37 (ii) will apply. If the club refuses to enter into a payment plan, they will be liable for the penalties in 37 (ii).
- vi) Carry over fees from previous years: At the end of the League's financial year (October 31st), if a club has outstanding League fees on their account, they must enter into a new payment plan from November 1st to clear their debts to the League.
- vii) The payment plan must have all overdue fees paid by the end of Round 18 in the following season or the club in breach will not participate in finals in any grade they participate in. For example - in Round 18 2020 a club cannot have any overdue fees from the 2019 season, or they cannot participate in finals.

18. FINES

- i) The Board shall determine the amount of fines.
- ii) Fines may apply for late starting, poor ground markings, incorrect attire of players and officials, missing paperwork, wrong playing numbers, non-provision of required official etc. Fines will be notified to the Clubs by the General Manager/Finance Manager and are to be paid within 30 days.
- iii) Failure to pay fines due within 30 days will render the club liable to an additional fine of \$50 per business day after the due date
- iv) Fines imposed by the Independent Tribunal are to be paid within 30 days of decision.

19. FINANCIAL AUDITOR

- i) A qualified Auditor, who shall not be a club/League member, shall be appointed by the Board at the Annual Meeting

20. COVID BYLAWS

Subject to changes in the Federal or State Government COVID Restrictions and AFL Victoria Protocols, a season may be impacted which shall trigger the implementation of the following By Laws.

1. Vaccinations Policy

- Refer to the Victorian Government website [How we live: Information for Victorians | Coronavirus Victoria](#) and **Getting active**.
- Vaccination requirements don't apply to people involved in community sport (e.g. a local footy match) or people using swimming pools for essential medical care like hydrotherapy.
- If the space is being operated only for the purpose of community sport, participants, spectators and workers (including volunteers), are excluded from the vaccination requirement.

2. Positive COVID TEST

- Should a Player/Official receive a positive COVID Test Result, they must immediately follow Victorian Health Authorities directions.
- The Player/Official must advise the Club immediately of the positive COVID Result and the Club assess the potential extent of exposure to its players and officials and notify the relevant League Manager immediately.
- Based on the extent of exposure, should the number of players in COVID isolation affect their ability to field teams the relevant By Laws shall be enacted.
- Public Health Authority shall advise on an individual's ability to Return to training or playing.

3. Impact of a COVID Interruption to Open Age Team Player availability

- Should players be unavailable to play any game as scheduled by the league due to COVID isolation requirements, Senior games shall take precedent for player numbers.
- Senior games will be played with the following player numbers:
- Senior Football – 16 field – 3 bench
- Senior Netball – 5 on court and 1 bench
- Teams must have equal number of players on the field at the commencement of the match
- Senior teams shall not share players

Reserve games will be played provided that:

- Reserve teams can field a minimum of 14 players and 2 on the bench players
- Teams are required to share players to meet the minimum requirement
- Teams must have equal number of players on the field at the commencement of the match
- If one team has players more than the other team, the team with more players than the team with fewer players must share the excess players until each team has equal numbers of players. If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the team with the greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench.
- Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench
- Where games are cancelled, teams are encouraged to play a practice match where possible

4. Impact of a COVID Interruption to Underage Team Player availability (Under 19 and below)

- Should players be unavailable to play any game as scheduled by the league due to COVID isolation requirements, game will be played provided that:
 - o Football Teams can field a minimum of 14 players in total
 - o Netball Teams can field a minimum of 5 players in total
- Teams are required to share players to meet the minimum requirement
- Should a team not be able to field the minimum amount of players the game shall be cancelled, and each team awarded 2 points
- Teams must have equal number of players on the field at the commencement of the match.
- o If one team has players more than the other team, the team with more players than the team with fewer players must share the excess players until each team has equal numbers of players. If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the team with the greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench
- o Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench
- Where games are cancelled, teams are encouraged to play a practice match where possible

5. Impact of COVID on Umpire Availability

- Should umpires be unavailable to be appointed to matches as scheduled due to COVID isolation requirements, Senior matches (Men's and Women's) shall be a higher priority than Thirds and Fourths
- Should umpires be unavailable to be appointed to Senior matches as scheduled by the league/umpire association due to COVID isolation requirements, Field umpires will be appointed as first priority, Goal umpires

- will be appointed as second priority, Boundary umpires appointed as third priority:
- Should an umpire group not be able to appoint Field umpires to all Senior matches, or where only partial umpire panels are appointed (e.g. Field umpires only) or Boundary or Goal umpires do not attend to officiate a match, the competing Teams may appoint an umpire(s) to officiate in those roles.
- Where a match is not appointed any league/association Field umpires, clubs will refer to Law 8.1.4 where the competing Teams may appoint a Field Umpire each to officiate the match.
- Netball matches require 2 umpires to proceed
- Should no boundary umpires be appointed or club volunteers available to a match, the

Gippsland League shall adopt the last disposal rule. If this is to occur:

- The field umpires will award a free kick against the team of a player who kicks or handballs the ball over the boundary, regardless of intent, when the ball crosses the boundary line between the two 50m arcs.
- If the ball goes out of bounds inside the 50m arcs, the field umpire shall ball the ball up at the spot where a boundary throw-in ruck contest would normally occur.

6. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a Single Round

- Should an entire Round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- If a single round is interrupted within the first 9 rounds, the interrupted matches will be played in lieu of the scheduled round 10 matches. The round 10 matches may be rescheduled at the board's discretion on an available split round weekend.
- If a single round is interrupted after Round 9 the matches will be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

7. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a consecutive Rounds

- Should consecutive Rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team for the abandoned Rounds
- If consecutive rounds are interrupted within the first 9 rounds, the interrupted matches will be played in lieu of the scheduled round 10 matches and the consequently following weeks. The affected matches may be rescheduled at the board's discretion.
- If consecutive rounds are interrupted after Round 9, the matches will be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

8. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a Multiple Rounds

- Should multiple Rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

9. Impact of a COVID Interruption on individual matches within any Round

- Should individual matches within any Round be abandoned, team shall be awarded 2 points each and the average weekly percentage of all participating teams of the same competition from that round of matches
- The individual games shall not be rescheduled
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

10. Return to Play following a COVID Interrupted Round or Match

- If 1-3 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round at the discretion of the league. If 4-6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum of 7-day training period at the discretion of the league but not less than a minimum 7-day training period
- If more than 6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum 14-day training period at the discretion of the League but not less than a minimum 14 day training period
- Should the recommencement following any period of abandonment occur during the scheduled Finals Series, then the Finals shall be adjusted at the direction of the League Executive in consultation with the Region Commission and AFL Victoria
- The Gippsland League home and away season must be completed by the last weekend of August. Any matches not played by that date will be abandoned

11. Awarding of Minor Premiers

- League shall award a minor premier immediately at the conclusion of the H&A series and prior to the commencement of any Finals provided a minimum of **9 (nine)** games has been completed

12. Impact of a COVID Interruption on an individual FINALS matches

- League Executive may reschedule FINALS matches at their absolute discretion
- Where time does not permit for a FINALS game to be rescheduled, should an individual FINALS match, excluding the GRAND FINAL be abandoned, the team with a higher ladder position at the end of the Home and Away

season shall be deemed the winner by virtue of higher ranking

13. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a GRAND FINAL

- League Executive may reschedule the GRAND FINAL matches at their absolute discretion
- GRAND FINAL must be completed by **September 26th**
- Where time does not permit for the GRAND FINAL to be rescheduled and the GRAND FINAL be abandoned, no Premiers shall be Awarded

14. Impact of a COVID cancellation of an entire Finals Series

- Should the entire Finals Series be abandoned with no finals games commencing, the team who finished top of the ladder at the completion of the Home & Away Season shall be awarded the Minor Premiers provided the leagues minimum number of H&A games be achieved
- No Premiership shall be awarded under this clause

15. Final Qualifications in a COVID interrupted Season

- Should a season be impacted on by COVID in any manner, the League Executive may determine FINAL Qualifications game requirements for Players at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season.

16. League Awards in a COVID interrupted Season

- Should a season be impacted on by COVID in any manner, the League Executive may determine at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season the management of and awarding of League Awards.

17. Consequence of a suspension in a COVID interrupted Season

- All suspensions MUST be served in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Rules and suspensions apply to games played and not dates.

18. Impact of COVID Interruption on the Allowable Player Payment Rule

- Should a round be abandoned, then the Allowable Player Payment Caps shall immediately be calculated on a pro rata of games played by the respective clubs
- Country Leagues may make application to the Region Commission to reduce the Allowable Player Payment Cap at any stage during the season should a minimum of 6 Rounds be abandoned
- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within this regulation, then the matter shall be referred to the **AFL Gippsland** to determine at their absolute discretion

19. Impact of COVID Interruption on the Player Point System

- Regardless of any Rounds being abandoned, the Player Point System regulations and categories shall not be affected
- Should individual club matches be abandoned, clubs may make application to the **AFL Gippsland** for special consideration for individual Player Reassessment for the following season under relevant region processes and consistent with the Clause 7.3 of AFL Victoria Player Points system Policy

20. Matters not covered by COVID By Laws

- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the League Executive to determine at their absolute discretion

FOOTBALL BYLAWS

1. FOOTBALL COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The League will be structured in the following manner for competition purposes:

- i) All games shall be played in strict accordance with the "Laws of Australian Football" as determined by the AFL or modified by AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY or the League.
- ii) Each Club shall field FOUR (4) football teams:
 1. Gippsland League Seniors – Open age
 2. Gippsland League Reserves – Open age
 3. Gippsland League Thirds – Under 18
 4. Gippsland League Fourths – Under 16
- iii) Each club shall field a Senior, Reserve, Third and Fourth football grade or a combination of these grades as agreed to by the League.
- iv) No club fielding less than the four grades will be entitled to a reduction in fees payable to the League

2. COMPETITION AGE OF PLAYERS

- i) The age conditions of players playing in Fourths competition of the League shall be in accordance with the rules of AFL Victoria and be under the age of 16 years on the first of January of that year's competition. All players must attain a minimum age of 14 during the year of competition to be eligible to play in the under 16 competition. (i.e.. players must turn 13 years by the first of January of that year's competition.)
- ii) The age conditions of players playing in the Thirds competition of the League shall be in accordance with the rules of AFL Victoria and be under the age of 18 years on the first of January of that year's competition.

3. CLEARANCES & REGISTRATION

- i) Clearances shall be dealt with under AFL VICTORIA rules and regulations. Refer AFL VICTORIA rule 1.0.
- ii) Registration as outlined in the current AFL Vic Country Handbook (Section 2, 16.0)

4. PERMITS

- i) The Gippsland League shall each year revise, negotiate and distribute area agreements consistent with requirements of the AFL Victoria with the following Leagues:

- North Gippsland FNL
 - West Gippsland FNC
 - Mid Gippsland FNL
 - Ellinbank District FNL
 - East Gippsland FNL
 - Omeo District FNL
 - Central Gippsland JFL
 - Southern Gippsland JFC
 - West Gippsland JFC
 - Traralgon and District JFL
 - Sale & District JFA
 - Warragul and District JFL
 - East Gippsland JFA
- AFL Victoria agreements with all AFL Victoria Leagues
- Victorian Football League
 - Victorian Amateur Football Association

5. SPECIAL DISPENSATION PERMITS

The Special Permit is to allow an over age player who is under developed, in skill and size or has a diagnosed physical medical condition/disability, an opportunity to continue playing in a game of football. Players must meet the requirements of the AFL Victoria Age Dispensation policy and the following:

- i) The Special Permit player must be under developed in skill and size.
- ii) The maximum age of a Special Permit player shall be twelve months above the age group he is applying for.
- iii) If a Special Permit player "stands out" the Special Permit Committee will reconsider the permit.
- iv) The maximum number of Special Permit players allowed to play in a game is four per club.
- v) The Special Permit player is to be identified with S/P next to his name on the official team sheet.
- vi) A Special Permit player is ineligible to have goals listed, be listed in the clubs best players or receive umpire's best & fairest votes. If the player receives votes or best player awards the permit may be revoked.
- vii) If the player has played any form of overage football (Seniors or Reserves) in the past they will be ineligible for a special overage permit.
- viii) Players with a tribunal history will be ineligible to apply for overage permits.
- ix) Players who have played any representative football in the past four seasons will be ineligible.
- x) A special permit player cannot play any form of overage football (Seniors or Reserves) whilst on a permit. If the player participates in overage football (Seniors or Reserves) the permit will be revoked.
- xi) Overage permits are to allow under developed players the opportunity to continue to play football. Permits are not considered to top up sides numbers or to allow sides to be more competitive. Each permit will be assessed on a case by case basis. All permits are required to be submitted by March 25th before the season for formal assessment by the Special Permits Committee.

6. HOME & AWAY MATCHES

- i) In all matches four points shall be counted for a win and two for a draw and in the event of any clubs tying at the conclusion of the foregoing round of matches, the position of such clubs shall be determined by the percentage of points kicked for and against each club of those which may be possibly eligible for inclusion in the finals series.
- ii) Match duration
 - Seniors - 4 x 20 minute quarters with time on
 - Reserves - 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on
 - Thirds - 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on
 - Fourths - 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on
- iii) Quarter Breaks
 - All grades – Quarter & Three Quarter time – 5 minutes
 - Seniors – Half time – 15 minutes
 - All other grades – 7 minutes
- iv) The Clubs shall be drawn to play in Home and Away Matches and Finals matches and the dates will be arranged by the League. Matches will take place on such grounds as the League shall elect.
- v) During the Home and Away season the normal day starting times shall be:-
 - Seniors at 2.20pm,
 - Reserves at 12-30pm,
 - Thirds at 10-45am,
 - Fourths at 9-00am.
- vi) Twilight games starting times shall be:
 - Seniors at 5.00pm,
 - Reserves at 3.10pm,
 - Thirds at 1.20pm,
 - Fourths at 11.30am.
- vii) Night games starting times shall be:-
 - Seniors at 7.00pm,
 - Reserves at 5.10pm,
 - Thirds at 3.20pm,
 - Fourths at 1.30pm.
- viii) Permission may be sought from the League for different starting times with at least five days notice. Clubs to be fined \$5 per minute for late starting and resumption of play except in the finals series when the penalty shall be \$10 per minute and shall apply to all teams.
- ix) Seniors shall have breaks of five minutes at quarter time/three quarter time and fifteen minutes at half time. Reserves, Thirds and Fourths shall have breaks of five minutes at quarter time/three quarter time and eight minutes at half time.
- x) If a game is halted beyond the control of a Club, prior to half time, and the match cannot recommence within thirty minutes, the match shall be declared a draw. Each team to receive two premiership points and the scores at that time will be used to determine percentage. After half time, if the game is halted beyond the control of a Club, and play cannot recommence within thirty minutes, the team that is leading shall be declared the winner and receive four premiership points, and percentage be calculated using the scores to that point. If scores are level, each team receives two premiership points.

7. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- i) If any Club is found guilty of playing any player who was not on the day he played a bona fide player, and ineligible to play under the AFL Victoria Rules and regulations, the Club and player shall be subject to AFL VICTORIA rule 1.3.

The following shall apply regarding team sheet irregularities:

- ii) Suspended player - if an illegible player appears on the team sheet and it is proven that he played; the penalty will be the loss of premiership points, up to \$500 fine for the Club and a charge being imposed on the player concerned, to be heard by the Independent Tribunal - If a suspended player appears on the team sheet, and he did not play, the penalty will be \$100-00 fine to the Club
- iii) If a player participates in a match, but his name does not appear on the team sheet, the penalty will be a \$100-00 fine against the Club and the player be ineligible for votes in the League Beat and Fairest award in that match.

8. TEAM PLAYING NUMBERS

- i) The maximum number of players that a club can field for Home and Away and Finals matches are:
 - Seniors: Eighteen plus four interchange. – 22 players maximum
 - Reserves: Eighteen plus four interchange. – 22 players maximum
 - Thirds: Eighteen plus four interchange. – 22 players maximum
 - Fourths: Eighteen plus up to six interchange. – 24 players maximum
- ii) Teams may begin a match with a minimum of 14 players on the field and up to 18 players on the field
- iii) Matches starting where both teams have less than 18 players on the field need to be approved by both team coaches and the officiating umpires prior to the start of the match unless the League has provided a written exemption prior to the match.
- iv) There is no requirement for an opposition team to 'even up' playing numbers if a competing team has less than 18 players available to participate.

9. FORFEIT OF MATCHES

- i) In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Club so offending shall forfeit the match and pay the Umpires fees/or an amount equal to, unless notice is given to the League Secretary before 8pm on Wednesday immediately prior to the engagement. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, any club finding it necessary to forfeit a match must notify the League Secretary in writing of such forfeiture, stating the reasons for same. Such notice to reach the League no later than 5-00pm Friday prior to the match.
- ii) Forfeit percentage shall be calculated according to 11.2.2 and 11.2.3 of the Laws of Australian Football.

NOTE: Gippsland League have a forfeit procedure policy to refer to in case on a match forfeit

10. MATCH DAY OFFICIALS

- i) Home club is to supply one interchange steward (all four grades), one time keeper (all four grades), one goal umpire and boundary umpires for reserves, thirds and fourths games.
- ii) Visiting club is to supply one time keeper (all grades), one goal umpire for reserves, thirds and fourths.
- iii) All clubs must provide the required match day officials. Fine for non-compliance is \$50 per instance.
- iv) All officials shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their duties as required under the laws of the game, rules & regulations and by laws of the AFL, AFL Victoria and GL.

11. REQUIRED PAPERWORK

- i) The League shall distribute a list of required paperwork/instructions/duties etc at the start of each season and all clubs will adhere to these requirements.
- ii) The Secretary of each competing team is to furnish two official scoring cards, two time keeping cards and two team sheets. Such team sheets to be handed to the umpires and opposing Secretary 15 minutes prior to the commencement of each match.
- iii) Team sheets are to be entered on the IT system and shall-:
 - List the names and numbers of players in the team.
 - Identify the interchange players.
 - Identify the captain.
 - List the names of the coaches.
 - List the team runner.
 - List the trainers/water carriers (maximum of six).
 - List any other official taking part in the match.
- iv) The Secretary of the home Club is to forward to the League, by Wednesday's mail following the match, the team sheets, the results of matches signed by goal umpires, timekeepers cards, interchange sheets, code of conduct cards and any reports by umpires. Penalties apply as listed in the schedule of fines

12. MATCH RESULTS

- i) A representative of the home Club must complete the match results, on line using the nominated IT system for the matches played that day. Final Scores must be entered no later than 30 (thirty) minutes from the conclusion of each game.
- ii) The Full Match Details must be entered on the nominated IT system on the day the game is played by:
 - Seniors: 6.00pm
 - Reserves: 4.00pm
 - Thirds: 1.00pm
 - Fourths: 11:30am
- iii) Where twilight or night matches are played other arrangements may be put in place.
- iv) Fine for non compliance is \$50 per breach.

13. RUNNERS & WATER CARRIERS

- i) Eligibility as per AFL VICTORIA Rule 14.1.
- ii) Club Runners must be registered players/officials of the Club. Runners must wear the Official GL Runner Uniform as directed by the league; pink top and bottom.
- iii) The reserves, thirds and fourths teams will be allowed one runner each. The senior teams may have up to two runners each. Only one runner, at a time, from each team, shall be allowed to enter the playing field. When using two runners, the runners must enter and leave the playing field between the interchange lines.
- iv) If both runners, from the same team, are found to be on the playing field during play, at the same time, the field umpire shall send one runner from the field with a yellow card and AFL VICTORIA send off regulations shall be applied.
- v) Trainers and water carriers must be registered players/officials of the club. Trainers and water carriers must wear the official GL trainers vest during a match. Trainers may wear white uniform or club attire under the vest. Design of the vests to be supplied by the League.
- vi) Runners, trainers and water carriers to wear correct strip or the umpires will order them from the ground
- vii) Water carrier's minimum age is 15 years of age.
- viii) Fine for non-compliance of the above is \$50-00 per instance.
- ix) Duties as per AFL VICTORIA rule 15.2.
- x) Trainers may deliver water to players during the course of play.

14. PLAYING VENUE

- i) Each Club must provide a ground approved by the League together with adequate dressing room facilities.
- ii) Each ground will meet the standards of AFL/AFL VICTORIA Rule 3: Playing Surface and Goal Posts.
- iii) Each Club must provide an adequate scoring board with letters and figures not less than 30 cm in size and not less than 2 m from the ground.
- iv) Any Club not having grounds correctly marked shall be fined \$50 for each instance.

15. INTERCHANGE

- i) There will be two lines, 15 m apart, marked across the boundary line (one metre each side) equidistant from the two coaches boxes. Players must enter and leave the arena during the course of the match between these lines unless otherwise provided for in the AFL VICTORIA Rules.
- ii) An Interchange Steward appointed by the Club is to be located inside the fence line, between the interchange lines. He/she must ensure that the AFL/AFL VICTORIA Laws of the game Rule 7. Interchange is adhered to.
- iii) Interchange stewards must wear red coat/vest and must escort Umpires from and to the umpire's room at the start, half time and at the conclusion of game.
- iv) Changes to the interchange players need to be listed at breaks
- v) A player that requires use of a stretcher throughout a game can be taken from
- vi) anywhere on the ground and is able to participate further in the game at a later time.
- vii) The League shall supply an interchange steward's list of duties to follow.
- viii) Fine for non-compliance of the above or not completing duties is \$50-00 per instance.

16. STRETCHERS

- i) Home club must have a suitable stretcher available at the interchange box at each home game. Fine for non-compliance is \$200-00.

17. COACHES BOX

- i) Home clubs are to supply coach's boxes for both home and away teams of sufficient size to cater for interchange players, coaches and support staff.
- ii) The Coaches Box area will be marked with a white line two metres in front of and to the sides. During the course of play only the following are allowed to leave the coaches box official area:
 - (a) The runner relaying messages.
 - (b) Interchange players warming up or entering/leaving the field.
 - (c) Team Manager to inform the interchange steward of changes.
 - (d) Trainers and water carriers.
 - (e) Fine for non-compliance Failure to comply will incur a fine of \$50
- iii) All officials are expected to observe a code of conduct that is not offensive.
- iv) Constant abuse will incur a fine of \$100-00 and/or a charge of Conduct
- v) Unbecoming and referral to the Tribunal.

18. FOOTBALL USAGE

- i) Prior to each season the League will instruct the clubs via email of any League requirements for footballs and netballs usage in the upcoming season. This may include brand of balls to be used, sponsorship requirements or any other League requirements. In every match during the regular season match balls that meet these requirements must be used.
- ii) Clubs require written permission from the League to use and balls in matches outside of the stated requirements.
- iii) Any Gippsland League football match scheduled as twilight or night fixtures require a yellow ball to be used that also meets any requirements in 38 (i).

- iv) Home clubs are responsible for the supply of two (2) A grade Sherrin footballs for all matches.
- v) A spare football must be left with the home club team manager / interchange steward.
- vi) In the seniors, home clubs must provide one (1) new ball & one (1) approved ball for all matches.
- vii) Finals footballs will be provided by the League.
- viii) Fines for breaching 18 (i), (ii) or (iii) will be \$100 per instance.

19. UNIFORMS

- i) Only AFL Victoria and Gippsland League approved guernseys may be worn in official Gippsland League games. Approved AFL Victoria licensees are found in the annual AFL Victoria Handbook.
- ii) Each Club is to wear a registered Club uniform as accepted by the League with approved AFL Victoria logos. Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.
- iii) Visiting teams will wear white shorts with AFL Victoria piping. Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.
- iv) Teams playing at their home venue or listed first in the fixture will wear their registered 'home' uniform
- v) Teams playing at their away venue or listed second in the fixture will wear their registered 'away' uniform where the colours of competing clubs is the same /similar or is considered to be a clash
- vi) Teams that do not compete in the correct uniform for each home and away match as per 19.1 will be fined \$20-00 per player not in the required uniform
- vii) The League shall keep a register of registered club uniforms which cannot be altered without the board's approval.
- viii) Players must wear the numbers allotted them on the official team sheet, and in their own Club colours. Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.
- ix) Sponsored logos on club playing jumpers must be approved by the board.
- x) Back of the jumper – Sponsor logos on the back of jumpers are to be placed either directly above or below the players number. The space below the players number must not exceed 30cm wide x 10 cm high. The space above the players number must not exceed 25cm wide x 5cm high. Clubs may place a maximum of 4 logos on the back of the playing jumper within the allocated spaces
- xi) Front of the jumper – Sponsor logos on the front of jumpers can be placed on the left chest or on the left hip of the playing jumper. The space on the left chest must not exceed 10cm wide x 10 cm high. The space on the left hip must not exceed 18cm wide x 6cm high and must not infringe on the jumpers feature. Clubs may place a maximum of 3 sponsor logos on the front of the playing jumper within the allocated spaces.
- xii) Logos on Shorts –Logos can be placed on either side of approved playing shorts with a maximum size of 7.5cm x 7.5cm. A maximum of two sponsor logos maybe placed on playing shorts.

19.1 - UNIFORM REGISTER

HOME

Colours	Main Colour	Feature	Shorts	Clash colour
Bairnsdale	Navy	Red sash	Navy	Black
Drouin	Maroon	Gold V filled	Maroon	Maroon
Leongatha	Green	Gold V	Green	
Maffra	Black	Red Stripes	Black	Black
Moe	Maroon	Royal V	Royal	Maroon
Morwell	Black	Yellow Sash	Black	Black
Sale	White	Black/white stripe vert.	Black	
Traralgon	Maroon	White sash	Maroon	Maroon
Warragul	Black	Red V filled on Black strip	Black	Black
Wonthaggi Power	Black	Black, Teal & White V	Black	Black

AWAY

Colours	Main Colour	Feature	Shorts
Bairnsdale	Red	Navy sash	White
Drouin	Gold	Maroon V , Gold Hawk	White
Leongatha	N/A	N/A	White
Maffra	Grey	Eagle with Black & Red stripe	White
Moe	Royal	Gold lion, Maroon Y	White
Morwell	N/A	N/A	White
Sale	N/A	N/A	White
Traralgon	White	Maroon sash	White
Warragul	White	Red V filled	White
Wonthaggi Power	White	Black, Teal & White V	White

FINALS - Football

20. FINALS FORMAT

- i) The Finals format of the League shall be played as a final five, as follows –
- **Week one**
2nd placed team vs 3rd placed team – Qualifying final 1 (Saturday)
4th placed team vs 5th placed team – Elimination final 2 (Sunday)
 - **Week two**
1st placed team vs Winner Qualifying Final – 2nd Semi Final (Saturday)
Loser Qualifying Final vs Elimination Final – 1st Semi Final (Sunday)
 - **Week three**
Loser 2nd Semi Final vs Winner 1st Semi Final – Preliminary Final
 - **Week four**
Winner 2nd Semi Final vs Winner Preliminary Final – Grand Final

21. FINALS START TIMES

- i) Matches shall start in finals (**Elimination, Qualifying, Semi & Preliminary Finals**) day games at:
 Fourths – 9am
 Thirds – 10.45am
 Reserves – 12.30pm
 Seniors – 2.20pm
- ii) Matches shall start in finals (**Elimination, Qualifying & Semi Finals**) night games at:
 Fourths – 12 midday
 Thirds – 2.00pm
 Reserves – 4.00pm
 Seniors – 6.00pm
- iii) Matches shall start in **Grand Final games** at:
 Fourths – 8.30am
 Thirds – 10.30am
 Reserves – 12.30pm
 Seniors – 2.30pm
- iv) Teams will be fined \$100 for every minute they are late entering the field at the beginning or during a finals match

22. FINALS DRAWN MATCHES

- i) In the event of a drawn match in any of the grades an additional two periods of five minutes each will be played. If there is still a draw, extra time will be played and the first side to score will be declared the winner.

The order of events will be:

- At the completion of normal full time the Goal Umpires will confer to confirm that the score is tied. Teams can gather together (without the coach, if he is a non-playing coach).
- On confirmation, the teams will kick to the same end as they did in the fourth quarter for five minutes.
- After this time, teams will immediately change ends for a further five minutes.
- If the score is still tied, the game does not stop, the time keepers will give a short blast of the siren to signify that the teams will continue kicking the same end and the first team to score in this time allocation will be adjudged the winner and the game will be concluded.
- The Coach is not to enter the playing field to instruct his players. In fact he is not allowed onto the ground after three quarter time until the match is declared finished (unless he is a playing coach).

23. FINALS OPERATIONS

23.1 - Premiership Cups

- i) The Senior Premiership Cup will be called the Mort Kennedy Cup
 ii) The Reserves Premiership Cup will be called the W J Doherty Cup
 iii) The Thirds Premiership Cup will be called the Mick Fox Sen Cup.
 iv) The Fourths Premiership Cup will be called the Cunningham/Keating Cup
 v) Any of the above awards can be named after a sponsor or have a sponsor's name added to, that is procured for the GL.

23.2 - Best on Ground in Grand Final

- i) The Seniors Best on Ground will be called the AFL VICTORIA medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
 ii) The seniors Best on Ground will be called the Stan Aitken Medal (adjudged by a GL appointed representative).
 iii) The Reserves Best on Ground will be called the AFL VICTORIA medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
 iv) The Thirds Best on Ground will be called the AFL Vic medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
 v) The Fourths Best on Ground will be called the AFL Vic medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
 vi) Any of the above awards can be named after a sponsor or have a sponsor's name added to, that is procured for the GL.

23.3 - Finals Uniforms

- i) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall wear their registered guernsey and home shorts unless this is varied by the Gippsland League. After the Elimination and Qualifying & 2nd Semi Final games the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team.

23.4 - Finals Change Room Allocations

- i) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall be considered the home team. After the Elimination and Qualifying games, the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team.
- ii) The League, at their discretion, will align any lower grades competing on the same day as their senior team with their senior team to share change room facilities where possible. The Senior change room allocation structure will always be given preference where applicable and lower grades moved to align when multiple teams from the same club are competing on the same day

24. FINALS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Seniors

- i) To be eligible to play in a Seniors finals series match, a player must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the participating Club in the current season.

Reserves

- ii) To be eligible to play in a Reserves finals series match, players must have played a minimum of four (4) matches in the Reserves with the participating club in the current season
- iii) For a player to remain eligible to play in the 2nd 18 finals series of the current season, he must not play in excess of eight 1st 18 H & A matches in the current season.

Thirds

- iv) To be eligible to play in a Thirds finals series match, players must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the 3rd 18 of the participating Club during the current season.
- v) Players playing under a local interchange agreement must meet all criteria in the agreement to be eligible to play in a Thirds finals match.

Fourths

- vi) To be eligible to play in a Fourths finals series match, players must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the 4th 18 of the participating Club during the current season.
- vii) Players playing under a local interchange agreement must meet all criteria in the agreement to be eligible to play in a Fourths finals match.

- viii) For a player to have played a game under this by law, the player must have got changed into his playing attire and taken to the ground, in match conditions, for at least one quarter of the entire game.

24.1 - EXEMPTIONS

- i) A player who has qualified for finals in his respective grade cannot play more than one finals game per weekend. If a player qualifies in two grades he must then choose which grade he plays in for that entire weekend.

The only exception to this rule shall be;

- ii) if an under 16 player moves up to help field a team in the Thirds.
- iii) Note - you must first pick all available under 18 players before this happens & all qualified under 16s players in Thirds (Fourth players who have played a minimum of four games with the Thirds) or an under 18 player moves up to help field a team in the Reserves.
- iv) Note - you must pick all available reserve players before this happens & all qualified Thirds players in the Reserves (Thirds players who have played a minimum of four games with the Reserves)
- v) If a Club has a combination of both Seniors, Reserves teams participating in the same final on the same day, or different finals on different days of the same weekend. The Club may choose any player on its list for one of those games provided the player has played four (4) games with the Club in the current season.

24.2 - COATES TALENT LEAGUE/ GIPPSLAND POWER PLAYERS

Senior qualification

- i) For the purposes of Finals Qualification, a NAB League game is considered equal to a 1st 18 competition game with an AFL Victoria affiliated team.
- ii) Players that have played a NAB League match in the current season are ineligible to play in a Reserves finals match in that same season.

Thirds qualification

- iii) Coates Talent League primary listed players must play a minimum of two (2) matches with the 3rd 18 of the participating Club during the current season to qualify to play in a Thirds finals match

Note: Primary listed players only apply to this rule. Development list, supplemental or any other players who play Coates Talent League matches must meet the standard Gippsland League Thirds finals eligibility criteria.

iv) Gippsland Power Under 16s matches or any other representative football matches in any senior/junior grade do not count towards Gippsland League finals qualifications.

24.3 - VFL/AFL LISTED PLAYERS

- i) Any player drafted by an AFL club, placed on an AFL supplementary or rookie list or included on an official VFL list can, provided he has qualified under the rules, return to play with the G.L in the finals in the senior's grade only.

24.4 - PENALTIES

- i) The penalty for breaching any of the finals qualifying criteria in section 24 will be a club fine of \$1,000 per player and the forfeiting of the match the player was involved in.

TRIBUNAL & REPORTS

25. TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

- i) The League shall appoint an Independent Tribunal. Any three of such members shall form a quorum.
- ii) Qualification will be required under AFL VICTORIA rule 7.1.2.
- iii) The tribunal shall adhere to the procedures set by the AFL VICTORIA rules 7 & 8.
- iv) Charged players/witness, each with an advocate, are required to attend a set tribunal hearing.
- v) Reporting umpires are required to be present at the Tribunal hearings.
- vi) All players/witnesses/umpires and advocates shall sign the Tribunal register at the end of each hearing.
- vii) Fine for non-compliance of the above is \$200-00 per instance.

26. REPORT PROCEDURE

- i) There will be a report procedure provided by the GL at the start of each year and clubs will adhere to this procedure. Fine for non-compliance is \$100-00 per instance.
- ii) The home club must ensure that the secretary/match day manager communicates with the field umpires at the conclusion of each match to obtain the "all clear" (no report) or that there is a report and then ensure that the report procedure is followed. Fine for non-compliance is \$100-00 per instance.

27. INVESTIGATION OFFICER

- i) An Investigation Officer will be appointed by the AFL VICTORIA from its panel of Investigation Officers to investigate any matter referred to him/her pursuant to AFL VICTORIA Rule 5.2 (Unbecoming conduct).

28. ORDER OFF RULE

- i) The order off rule will apply as per the AFL VICTORIA Rule 10.

29. SET PENALTIES

- i) Set Penalties will apply as per AFL VICTORIA Rule 11.

30. COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRIBUNAL HEARINGS & INVESTIGATIONS

- i) Any player offered a set penalty that refers the case to the tribunal must send in a formal referral in writing by 12pm the first working day after the match this will also be accompanied by a bond of \$250.
- ii) Any acceptance of a set penalty from a player report will not incur a fine for the charged club.
- iii) Any guilty plea/verdict delivered by the tribunal the charged club will be pay a fee of \$250
- iv) Any acceptance of a set penalty or guilty plea/verdict relating to an investigation the charged club will incur a fine up to \$1,000 or the total amount paid by the League for the investigation.
- v) In the case of a not guilty verdict from a tribunal or an investigation the league will refund the bonds paid.

NOTE: Information and processes for section 25-27 are listed in the National Community Handbook Part E Disciplinary including Match Review Panel details which operate inline with the Gippsland League MRP policy

AWARDS- Football

31. BEST AND FAIREST

- i) Field umpires will cast their 3,2,1, votes in each grade and place in a sealed envelope and handed to the home club representative who will ensure it is sent to the League.
- ii) When more than one player gains a winning or equal total of Umpires votes, then all players who are eligible will be awarded Best and Fairest Medallions.
- iii) Order of voting importance for all grades shall follow the order of number, Club and name.
- iv) The Senior Best and Fairest will be called the Trood Award/Rodda Medal
- v) The Reserves Best and Fairest will be called the Hartley Medal
- vi) The Thirds Best and Fairest will be called the Wilkinson Medal
- vii) The Fourths Best and Fairest will be called the Shaw/Carter Medal

32. GOAL KICKING AWARDS

- i) The senior Goal kicking award will be called the J.C Lawless Award.
- ii) The Reserves Goal Kicking award will be called the (TBD).
- iii) The Thirds Goal Kicking award will be called the (TBD).
- iv) The Fourths Goal Kicking award will be called the (TBD).
- v) Any of the above awards can be named after a sponsor or have a sponsor's name added to, that is procured for the GL.

33. INTER-LEAGUE BEST PLAYERS

- i) Seniors Best Player will be called the (TBD) medal.
- ii) Under 18's Best Player will be called the (TBD) medal.
- iii) Under 16's Best Player will be called the (TBD) medal.
- iv) Any of the above awards can be named after a sponsor or have a sponsor's name added to, that is procured for the GL.

34. MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARDS

- i) An award known as the "Most Valuable Player" shall be made each year to the best player or players in the senior football competition
- ii) The two coaches participating in each senior football competition match shall at the conclusion of the match select three (3) best players in the match
- iii) the player or players with the most votes shall be awarded the most valuable player award. In the case of two players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared and separate awards shall be awarded to each player
- iv) Home club to tally and submit votes via the nominated IT system
- v) Failure to submit the votes electronically by 9pm on the day of the game will result in a \$50 fine for the home club

PROMOTION & MARKETING - Football

35. LIVE SCORING

- i) During Senior games all scores must be entered live in real time.
- ii) Reserves, Thirds and Fourth's are all required to be live scored at a minimum of quarter by quarter.
- iii) At the completion of each match scores must be correct and all goalkickers and best players entered and saved correctly.
- iv) Should you have connectivity issues with the Internet, please alert your League Operations staff ASAP.
- v) Clubs that do not comply with Live Scoring will be fined a minimum of \$100 per game.

36. TEAM LISTS

- i) Team line-ups for the upcoming round of scheduled matches submitted by 9:30pm Thursday night online via PlayHQ
- ii) Senior, Reserves, Thirds and Fourth's team line-ups must be listed with all players allocated a position.
- iii) Up to 3 emergencies can be listed on the senior team sheet and listed as emergencies in the system
- iv) Team line-ups that are not completed fully with players allocated a position will incur a fine of \$50 per team.

37. UMPIRES

- i) Goal, field and boundary umpires for the seniors and field umpires for the thirds and fourths shall be obtained from a registered panel. Field, boundary and goal umpires from a registered panel have the power to report players.
- ii) If the panel is unable to provide field umpires the League shall communicate with both home and away clubs to organize personnel. These umpires will have power to report.

Should umpires not be able to be sourced from a registered panel the following will apply:

- iii) Competing clubs shall supply one field umpire each for the reserves (2nd 18) match.
- iv) Home clubs shall provide boundary umpires for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th eighteen matches.
- v) Each Club shall provide goal umpires for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th eighteen home and away matches. The above officials shall not have the power to report players.
- vi) Goal umpires must compare and initial each others cards at the end of each quarter. If there is a discrepancy, goal umpires are to confer with timekeepers to ascertain correct score.
- vii) Each Club must provide its goal umpires with two white flags at least 60 cm square and with white coats.
- viii) Any club having Officials in incorrect attire will be fined \$50-00 for each instance.

38. REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAMS

- i) Any player selected in a squad to play in an Interleague game and does not make himself available shall be automatically suspended for two home and away matches unless he produces a Doctor's certificate or receives from the Coach and selectors permission to withdraw from the squad and such permission to be sought 24 hours prior to the match. The Coach and selectors shall be the sole judge of whether the permission should be given. A player who produces a Doctor's certificate will be ineligible to play for his club in the next home and away match unless given permission to play by the Coach and selectors.
- ii) Any player selected in a training squad for an Interleague team and, does not make himself available for each training session unless he produces a Doctor's certificate and receives from the Coach and selectors permission to withdraw from the squad, shall be automatically suspended for one home and away match for each training session that he makes himself unavailable. The Coach and selectors shall be the sole judge of whether permission should be given.

Note: Suspension under these rules will not affect the eligibility for League Best & Fairest Medal.

39. MATCH REVIEW PANEL

Gippsland League Policy & Procedure– rules as per National Community Handbook

- i) The MRP will assess all referrals lodged in respect of potential Reportable Offences. A referral may be lodged by the officiating Umpires, the Gippsland League Umpire Officer, the Board of Management, the General Manager, the Operations Manager, the President or Secretary of a club competing in the relevant match, or the MRP itself during its video review of matches.
- ii) Annually a Match Review Panel shall be formed which will be made up of one independent member with no official club affiliation and the Gippsland League Operations Manager.
- iii) All referrals must be lodged by the official Gippsland League MRP Incident Referral form.
- iv) The MRP may only review footage produced by Gippsland League TV and League approved camera operators.
- v) The MRP will review an incident (from official Gippsland League footage or approved footage) and determine whether that matter should be referred to the Gippsland League Independent Tribunal, if in the opinion of the Panel there is a breach of the (AFL) Laws of Australian Football. The AFL laws referred typically relate to the AFL's Reportable Offences (as per the traditional AFL Victoria report sheet/Appendix 1 of the National Community Handbook).
- vi) The MRP may offer a Set Penalty & Early Guilty Plea referred in the National Community Handbook reportable offences via a Notice of Charge. The Notice must be in writing and set out particulars of the matter via an official Gippsland League MRP Incident Referral form.
- vii) The MRP members cannot be called as witnesses to any subsequent Independent Tribunal hearing where one of their recommendations is being heard.
- viii) The MRP recommendations cannot be appealed. The Appeal process is contained within the rules of the Independent Tribunal.

Submitting an incident – 39.1

- i) The MRP Referral Form must be submitted to the Operations Manager by no later than 12pm on the first business day after the incident accompanied by a \$250 bond (evidence of the payment to be attached in the email).

- ii) The footage will be sourced by the League and be sent for review to the MRP by no later than 5:00pm on the day that the MRP request form is received. Unless, the official footage is not available at that point in time.
- iii) The MRP will review the footage and forward their recommendations to the General Manager within 24 hours of receiving their video footage.
- iv) The MRP may list any of the following recommendations

Recommendations:

- i) There is insufficient video evidence to prosecute a Notice of Charge,
 - ii) The incident should potentially go to the Independent Tribunal, with an opportunity for the player to apply for a Set Penalty or Early Guilty Plea,
 - iii) The incident is seen as more serious and should go to the Independent Tribunal for resolution, without the player being offered the opportunity to take a set penalty,
 - iv) The video is inconclusive or more complex and the incident needs to be referred to the League investigation officer.
- v) **Notice of Charge:** On receiving the MRP recommendations 2 or 3 the General Manager must contact the club of the offending player and issue a Notice of Charge as per 22.2 b III of the National Community Handbook.

Outcome & Penalties – 39.2

- i) If a player is charged by the MRP, the charged player may challenge the imposed Set Penalty at tribunal. This request must be made via email by 5pm of the following business day from when the notice of report was distributed and be sent to the General Manager accompanied by a \$250 bond (evidence of the payment to be attached in the email) as per the League bylaws to have the case heard at the tribunal.
- ii) As per Appendix 1, 3d I of the National Community Handbook. Where a player or official has received a previous reprimand for an incident, that player will not be eligible to receive an Early Guilty Plea including another reprimand for an offence under the same classification in Appendix 1, 2a – Table 1 of the National Community Handbook.
- iii) A club's player or official who is reported and subsequently found guilty at the tribunal will be charged a fee of \$250.
- iv) If the player accepts the Set Penalty/Early Guilty Plea or is found not guilty, no fee is payable.
- v) If a request by a club to review an incident is deemed frivolous by the MRP, the requesting club will be fined \$250.

NETBALL BYLAWS

1. REGISTRATION

- i) Gippsland League clubs are to ensure all participants are registered electronically on the nominated IT system before taking of the court in any game. To be eligible to participate, a player is required to have a primary or secondary NV membership with the GL club they are taking the court for.
- ii) If a player is not electronically registered prior to taking the court, the player will be deemed an ineligible player and by law 1.2 will apply accordingly.

1.1 - NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

- i) Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by Netball Victoria.
- ii) All players, coaches and umpires participating in the GL season must be a current Netball Victoria member.
- iii) Single Game Vouchers (SGV) may be used for unregistered players. The GL SGV form must be submitted electronically to the League and purchased prior to taking the court.
- iv) Players with NV membership through another association must complete an electronic secondary registration with the GL club PRIOR to taking the court. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible and penalties will apply as per By-Law 1.2

1.2. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- i) Ineligible players who participate in games either deliberately or inadvertently, or if unregistered are an unacceptable insurance risk.
- ii) In these instances, the match in which the breach occurred will result as a forfeit to the offending team.
- iii) Teams who participated with an ineligible player will incur a \$500 fine per senior player and \$250 per junior player.

1.3 - COACH ACCREDITATION

- i) Clubs must ensure coaches obtain a coaching accreditation prior to round 9 of the current season. Coaches must ensure they attend an accredited Netball Victoria coaching course to obtain their accreditation.
- ii) Failure to provide evidence you are an accredited coach will incur a fine of \$100 per game after round nine of the season.

2. GRADING AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

- i) Participant age is determined as at 31st December of that year for A, B, C 17, 15 & 13 Under playing grades.
- ii) The playing grades shall consist of A, B, C, 17/U, 15/U & 13/U.
- iii) Each club starting with the highest grade first shall provide A, B and C Grades and 17/U, 15/U, 13/U or a combination of these teams agreed to by the Gippsland League.
- iv) Clubs failing to register six teams (A, B, C, 17/U, 15/U, and 13/U) 2 weeks prior to the start of the season must appeal to the GL in writing and provide reasons for failing to register the required 6 teams.
- v) Minimum age requirements are:
 - Open Sections - 14 years – Female competition
 - 17/Under – 14 years – Female competition
 - 15/Under – 12 years – Female competition
 - 13/Under – 10 years – Mixed competition

- vi) In the 13 & Under grade, male participation age is determined as of the first day of the competition - Males under 13 years of age as at the first day of the competition or season may participate.

Note: As per the updated NV Gender policy rule 2 vi applies only to female only competitions. Mixed competitions may have any gender that meet the age criteria in 2 i participate

- vii) The Association supports participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies. If issues arise, the Association will seek advice on the application of the applicable Victorian discrimination laws for the particular circumstances.
- viii) All competitions will be clearly labelled in regard to age group and gender. This includes additional references to all genders that are permitted to play. All competition labelling will be clear and transparent

3. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

- i) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:
- ii) Timing of matches is as follows;
- iii) 13/U, 15/U, 17/U & C grade matches will be timed as follows: x 12 minute quarters, 2 min (¼, ¾ time), 3 mins (½ time)
- iv) A grade & B Grade matches will be as follows x 15 minute quarters, 3 min (¼, ¾ time), 5 mins (½ time)

- v) Game times will normally be as follows or as negotiated between clubs (e.g. night games) or determined by the Gippsland League (e.g. finals):
- 13/U – 9am
 - 15/U – 10:05am
 - 17/U – 11:10am
 - C Grade – 12:15pm
 - B Grade – 1:20pm
 - A Grade – 2:35pm
- vi) Clubs are to ensure that at all home games the following forms are available at courtside before each match
- GL Contact list
 - Official rule book from Netball Australia & Gippsland League By-laws
 - Reporting forms – Injuries and conduct report sheets
 - Clubs are to ensure that appropriate league jackets for court supervisor and primary carer are available and worn at each match

3.1 - COURT OFFICIALS

- i) Court Supervisors are to be appointed before each match and their roles and duties will be as follows:
- This position will be the responsibility of the home club except during the finals series where it will be undertaken by Gippsland League representative and members
 - The appointed person may change for each game but not during game.
 - The appointed person should be one who is aware of the rules and bylaws and is mature and competent enough to take in considerations of safety and make crucial decisions on the day.
 - The appointed person shall act in an unbiased manner at all times
 - The appointed person will not for the duration of the game be involved in any other role
 - The appointed person will remain court side for the duration of the game
 - The appointed person will wear the supplied High Vis vest for the duration of the game.
 - The appointed person will act with the approval and authority of the Gippsland League

Duties of the Court Supervisor

- Attend to and resolve spectator issues. Where there is violence involved please contact police
 - Ensure time keepers are in place and aware of the rules
 - Ensure Scorers are in place and aware of the rules
 - Ensure Coaches and team members remain in designated bench areas
 - Should a no show by an umpire occur it will be the responsibility of the Court Supervisor to contact a member of the Gippsland League from the contact list provided for guidance or approval of an agreed upon resolution of the matter through consultation of both teams and should no Gippsland League member be contactable the decision of the court supervisor will be deemed to be that of the GL
 - Ensure safety of umpires
 - Ensure clear area at court side for umpire movement during play
 - Ensure umpires are dressed to the appropriate standard of the Netball Australia Rules
 - Ensure a copy of the Gippsland League Netball bylaws are available court side
 - Ensure all rules of Netball Victoria and bylaws of the Gippsland League are adhered to and administered fairly and without bias.
- ii) Penalty for not supplying a court supervisor will be \$100 per instance.
- iii) Clubs are to ensure a primary carer is supplied for the entirety of each match. They must wear supplied Gippsland League Vest at all times for identification by both umpires and court supervisors. Primary Carer requirements are as per stated in the Netball Australia rule book.
- iv) Failure to supply a primary carer for each game will incur a \$100 fine per game.

3.2 - INJURY/ILLNESS OR BLOOD STOPPAGES:

- i) The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).

If play is halted the following must occur:

- The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.
- A player can be replaced for the remaining time in the quarter or the position may remain vacant until the player is treated.
- Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.
- In the event that the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court.
- The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
- Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.

- ii) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
- iii) If no substitution is made for the injured/ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the Centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play as Centre to allow the match to continue.
- iv) If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may.

DURING THE MATCH subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:

- A goal has been scored (in this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant)
- Free pass where ball was when play stopped – the player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry
- A stoppage for injury/illness or blood
- An interval.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 - Injury Reporting

- i) All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting sheets provided and kept by the club.
- ii) Major injuries should also be recorded on the back of the score sheet.
- iii) All players in GL representative teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injury player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.

4.2 - First Aid

- i) Each club will provide a First Aid Kit complying with Netball Victoria Committee Room Fact Sheet – First Aid
- ii) The GL will ensure that a qualified first aid person is present at finals.
- iii) Emergency Procedure Plan is to be displayed by the phone and in the First Aid Kit. The home club is to assist the away club in an emergency.

4.3 - Weather

- i) In the case of extreme weather conditions the GL will follow Gippsland League policy.

4.4 - Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases

- iv) The GL will adopt Netball Victoria Committee Room Fact Sheet – Infectious Diseases and Hygiene

4.5 - Pregnancy

- i) As per Netball Victoria policy – Pregnancy & Netball

4.6 - Pre-participation Screening/Medical Indemnity

- i) All personnel involved with the Gippsland League will be required to complete a medical indemnity form
- ii) A designated club official will store all forms and bring them to all events.
- iii) All forms will be destroyed at the conclusion of the season.

5. DRESS CODE

- i) The GL must approve all uniform colours and designs. Clubs must notify the GL in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform. The GL must then approve all changes and contact the required club official.
- ii) Clubs must nominate the colour of their socks as part of their registered uniform
- iii) Player dresses or tops must be individually numbered. Numbers must be of a size that is legible from the score bench.
- iv) For each match, players can not wear the same number as another player in their team
- v) Players will not be permitted to take to the court unless they are in full uniform.
- vi) Penalty \$50 per occurrence.
- vii) Bike pants/tracksuit pants worn underneath playing uniform may be permitted for medical reasons, cultural or religious beliefs. Pants must be a club colour as nominated on the uniform registration sheet. All permissions must be sought by the Gippsland League before this occurs.
- viii) The GL recognises that uniform modifications may be required such as (but are not restricted to) the wearing of traditional Muslim headscarf. Headscarves can be tied but not fastened with any pins or sharp objects, the wearing of long sleeve top to cover arms. The colour of headscarves and other garments to be in accordance with the teams club colours. (As per Netball Victoria)

5.2 – Uniform register

Club	Main Colour	Feature Colour	Sock Colours	Primary BIB	Clash BIB
Bairnsdale	Navy	Red	White	Navy – White text	White – navy text
Drouin	Maroon	Gold	White	Maroon – Gold text	Green
Leongatha	Green	Gold	White	Green – Gold text	
Maffra	Black	Red	White	Black – Red text	
Moe	Royal Blue	Maroon	White	Royal – Gold text	
Morwell	Black	Yellow	White	Black – yellow text	
Sale	White	Black	White	Pink – black text	Pink – white text
Traralgon	Maroon	White	White	Maroon – white text	White – Maroon text
Warragul	Black	Red	White	White – Black text	Black – white text
Wonthaggi Power	Black	Teal	White	Teal – Black text	

6. CLEARANCES

- i) A clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club within GL during the current season. The relevant paperwork must be completed by no later than 30th June of each season.
- ii) A player will only be granted one (1) clearance per season.
- iii) Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of Club property (uniform, equipment) will not be granted a clearance.
- iv) A player must have received notification in writing from the Gippsland League before playing for a new Club.
- v) The player must complete all details on the top section of the clearance form and send to the GL Administrator.
- vi) The GL to forward the clearance request to the existing Club for approval.
- vii) The existing Club has 7 days to complete the clearance or the GL will automatically clear the player to the new Club.
- viii) If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearance), the GL will notify the player and club advising the reason why. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the grievance procedure outlined in the Constitution.
- ix) The existing Club to advise the GL when clearance is approved.
- x) The player will then receive notification advising that the clearance has been approved and copy is forwarded to both Clubs.
- xi) A clearance is not required between seasons.

7. SCORING

- i) Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. These people must sit together for the duration of the match. The home team shall provide a timekeeper, to also sit with the scorers.
- ii) Official Score sheets, at least 2, will be provided by the home club before each match. These sheets are to be printed off the nominated IT system. These Score sheets will list the complete names (both given and surname) of all players intending to take the court, prior to the commencement of play
- iii) Should a player take the court that was not on the score sheet prior to the commencement of play the following penalties shall apply:
 - If the player has played 1 quarter or more – The team will be liable for the loss of any premiership points for the game and the official result will be entered as a forfeit by the offending club. The game will continue after the breach has occurred and be played out in full.
 - If the player has played less than 1 quarter – Once the breach has been identified, the scorers are to sound the siren and notify the umpires of the offending player. The player will be removed from the court and the position left vacant until the end of the quarter. If the player was in the centre position in this case one player must move to the position for the rest of the quarter. The offending player will not be able to return for the remainder of the match.
 - The offending club in either case will incur a \$200 fine per breach.
- iv) The Score sheet shall record a running match score, centre passes taken and indicate the positions played each quarter by each player. Individual players goals should be recorded and tallied at the end of the match as per official GL scoring manual.
- v) At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the Official Score sheet is correct, the Official Score sheet is to be signed by;
 - The captains of both competing teams, and
 - Officiating scorers, and
 - Officiating umpires
- vi) If a scorer or captain believes the scoresheet is incorrect, they must not sign the scoresheet and the club must notify the League via email on the day of the match. The club has up to noon on the first business day after the match to submit an official protest into the match result. If the club does not submit the protest or it is deemed frivolous a fine of \$200 will apply

The League will advise the result of the dispute and this decision will be final and binding on all parties.

- vii) At the conclusion of each match, the score sheets are to be entered onto the online the nominated IT system. Clubs are to ensure that all results are to be entered no later than one hour after the conclusion of the 17&U game for Junior matches and one hour after the conclusion of A Grade for Senior matches. Any internet issues are to be advised to League as soon as possible.
- viii) The home team must send the original scoresheets via email to the League as per the matchday manual provided by the League, If the scoresheets match the home club is to send at least 1 hard copy to the GL Operations Manager and be received by no later than the Wednesday after the weekends game.
- ix) Once there becomes a 50 point difference in scores between 13&U sides, the use of the scoreboard must stop. Match scoring must also stop on the scoresheet with the match score to be recorded from the time the margin reaches 50 goals. Player positions must continue to be filled in each quarter on the scoresheet.
- x) Any breach of bylaw 7 will incur a \$100 per instance unless stated above.

7.1 - B&F VOTES & PLAYER VOTES

- i) Players in senior and junior grades are awarded votes (1, 2 and 3) from third best to best on court by the official umpires at the completion on games during the home and away season. Votes are placed in the sealed envelopes provided by the GL and returned to the Operations Manager with the team sheets by the home team.
- ii) When more than one player gains a winning or equal total of Umpires votes, then all players who are eligible will be awarded the Best and Fairest.
- iii) The A Grade Best and Fairest will be called the Hutchison Medal
- iv) The B Grade Best and Fairest will be called the Pearce Medal
- v) The C Grade Best and Fairest will be called the Proctor Medal

8. EIGHT GAME RULE

- i) Once a player has played eight (8) games in a particular senior grade throughout the home and away season, the player in question is no longer eligible to play in any lower senior grade but is eligible to play in a higher grade
- ii) Junior players who play in the senior grade are also subject to this rule but are still eligible to play in their own age grade.

9. FINALS QUALIFICATION

- i) A minimum of six (6) club games are required for a player to be deemed eligible to play finals for the club subject to the following:
 - Senior players must play a minimum of six (6) games in their respective senior grade to qualify for that grade's finals and higher.
 - Registered junior players must play four (4) out of the six (6) club games in their junior age grade to be eligible for that junior age grade's finals.
 - Registered junior players must play a minimum of four matches in a senior grade to be eligible to participate in that grade or a higher senior grade during finals.
- ii) Where senior players play in two grades in the same day, only the game in the highest grade will count towards their qualifying quota of games.
- iii) For a players match to count as eligibility towards finals the player must have taken the court either as a starter or substitute in any quarter of the match
- iv) All players may only play up to eight (8) quarters of netball in any home and away season matchday.

9.2 – FINALS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- i) Senior players qualified to participate in finals under section 9.1 may can play up to a maximum of six (6) quarters per weekend in finals
- ii) Junior players qualified to participate in finals under section 9.1 may can play up to a maximum of eight (8) quarters per weekend in finals
- iii) Qualified Junior players may fill in for a higher junior grades finals match
- iv) Players that participate in a senior grade Saturday match can not participate in a lower senior grade match the following day, even if qualified under section 9.1.
- v) Junior players can only participate with one senior team for the finals series. Once a junior player is listed on a senior team sheet for finals they cannot be listed for another senior grade during finals
- vi) Teams may list up to a maximum of 10 qualified players on a finals team sheet. Clubs may apply to the League for an exemption to list up to 12 players however this needs to be done prior to the finals series and needs to be approved in writing.

9.2-iv note: Exemptions may be awarded based on ensuring regular players are able to participate in finals

- vii) Any breaches of bylaw 9 will be liable for the penalties associated with playing an ineligible player under bylaw 1.2

10. FINALS

- i) GL will play top five finals series.
 - **Week one**
2nd placed team vs 3rd placed team – Qualifying final 1 (Saturday)
4th placed team vs 5th placed team – Elimination final 2 (Sunday)
 - **Week two**
1st placed team vs Winner Qualifying Final – 2nd Semi Final (Saturday)
Loser Qualifying Final vs Elimination Final – 1st Semi Final (Sunday)
 - **Week three**
Loser 2nd Semi Final vs Winner 1st Semi Final – Preliminary Final
 - **Week four**
Winner 2nd Semi Final vs Winner Preliminary Final – Grand Final

ii) FINALS START TIMES

Minor Finals – Qualifying, Elimination, Semi & Preliminary Finals

- 13/U – 9am
- 15/U – 10:05am
- 17/U – 11:10am
- C Grade – 12:15pm
- B Grade – 1:20pm
- A Grade – 2:35pm

Grand Final

- 13/U – 8:30am
- 15/U – 9:45am
- 17/U – 11:00am
- C Grade – 12:15pm
- B Grade – 1:30pm
- A Grade – 3:00pm

iii) The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.

10.1 - DRAWN MATCHES IN FINALS:

- iv) In the event that the scores are tied at full time, extra time will be played to determine a winner. The length of each half is specified below. The following procedure will apply:
- There is an interval of 2 minutes at the end of full time– team changes & substitutions can be made during this time
 - Extra time consists of two halves of equal length, with a half time interval of 1 minute– team changes & substitutions can be made during this time. Teams change ends at half time.
 - The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
 - The game will then continue for appropriate length as per information below
- v) Specified extra time
- 2x7 minute halves if the main game was 4x15 minute quarters
 - 2x6 minute halves if the main game was 4x12 minute quarters
 - 2x5 minute halves if the main game was 4x10 minute quarters
 - In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual sign (orange card) is placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by 2 goals.
- vi) Injury time – see conduct of matches

11. FORFEITS

- i) Where a match results in a forfeit prior to the match clock starting, the non-offending team will:
- Be awarded the four premiership points with a match score of twenty to zero (20-0);
 - Credit games to only seven (7) nominated players on a official score sheet for finals qualifications.
 - No games shall be credited to players of the offending team
 - In the event of a forfeit in a senior grade, a lower team from the club must be forfeited before a higher team.
- ii) Where a match results in a forfeit after the commencement of the match clock starting:
- The result of the match will be twenty to zero (20-0) if the forfeiture is caused by the winning team.
 - The score of the winning team or 20-0 (whichever is greater) will stand if the forfeiture is caused by the losing team. The losing team will be stripped of its score and credited with zero (0).
 - No games shall be credited to players of the offending team.

NOTE: Gippsland League have a forfeit procedure policy to refer to in case on a match forfeit

12. CANCELLATIONS

- i) Matches can only be cancelled by the League. Clubs may report extreme weather or adverse conditions that require the match to be cancelled however only the League has the power to cancel a match.
- ii) When matches are cancelled on account of a total strike (e.g.; power, or situation created by a prolonged petrol strike), weather or some other cause, both teams will be credited with two (2) points and five (5) goals each and the competition will continue as per the fixture.
- iii) Four (4) points can only be awarded for fully completed games.
- iv) In the event that a match is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to seven nominated players or quarters can be awarded to a maximum of twelve players totalling 28 quarters, for each team.
- v) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the Gippsland League will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

13. PROTESTS

- i) A team wishing to protest must lodge the protest in writing to the Gippsland League on an official letterhead with the prior consent from a club executive member by noon of the first working day following the match..
- ii) A Club shall have a right of appeal to the Gippsland League decision within 48 hours of notification of a penalty.
- iii) A club cannot protest a match result after the score sheet is signed by their captain. Once the scoresheet is signed all results are final.

14. UMPIRES

- i) Each club is responsible of the supply and payment to umpires during the home and away season. Minimum payment will follow the recommendation of Netball Victoria.
- ii) Umpires should not officiate more than two games in any one given day.
- iii) All Clubs must supply a NV Current Badged Umpire for all 'A & B' Grade Games
- iv) All umpires must be current to their badge grading.
- v) All Umpires must wear suitable sports clothes that are preferably white in colour. skirts or shorts no pants
- vi) All umpires must wear suitable sports footwear.
- vii) All umpires are to have completed the On Line Level 1 course and passed the theory section.

15. PRE MATCH CHECKLIST

- i) A pre-match check will be completed prior to all GL match day games, by members of both competing clubs.
- ii) Any hazards identified will be:
 - Documented – completion of court audit form
 - Rectified if possible.
 - Reported to the Gippsland League if major repair is required and then the league will follow up with appropriate agencies.

16. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

- i) Where this By-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the GL is maintained at all times. The League 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 GL

17. INDEMNITY

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

18. DELAY PLAY DUE TO SERIOUS INJURY

- i) If play is required to be suspended due to a serious injury/incident the following shall apply. Play is to be halted by the umpires. The match umpires will note the time of the incident and the time remaining in the current quarter with the scorers and this will be recorded on the match scoresheets. Quarter breaks are not to be taken early.
- ii) If a second court is available to re commence the match. The umpires will notify both clubs that the remainder of the match will be played on another court.
- iii) For play to commence the following must occur
 - Both clubs will be required to sign off on the Netball Australia matchday checklist to approve the surface and surrounds for play.
 - Both clubs must have a scorer courtside at the new court
 - A scoreboard must be visible at the new court for both benches
 - Once the above measures are in place off the umpires will be responsible for the recommencement of play. The match will be played out in full.
- iv) If a second court is not available.
 - The captains & match umpires will be responsible for determining when it is safe for play to recommence within a 30 minute period after the incident. If play resumes within the 30 minute period then the match will be played out in full and all other scheduled games after the current match will commence at the conclusion of the game.
- v) If play has not recommenced 30 minutes after the time noted on the scoresheet; The match umpires and the two captains will meet and determine if the match will be abandoned. If the captains decide there is no immediate opportunity to recommence the match than it will be abandoned.

18.1 - MATCH ABANDONMENT

- i) In the event that a match is abandoned the following shall apply
 - Match abandoned before half time: The game will be classed as a draw and both teams will receive 2 points. The score will be entered in the nominated IT system as 0-0. Players that have taken the court will count towards finals eligibility. No League B&F votes will be done for any match abandoned before half time.
 - Match abandoned at half time or after half time: The final score for the match will be as is when play stopped by the umpires. Scorers are to confirm with the umpires that scoresheets are correct and the final score will be recorded on the scoresheet. Both captains and umpires will be required to sign off on the scoresheet and once signed off the match result is final. Players that have taken the court will count towards finals eligibility. League B&F votes will be completed and submitted by the umpires.

19. GIPPSLAND LEAGUE NETBALL USAGE

- i) Prior to each season the League will instruct the clubs via email of any League requirements for netballs usage in the upcoming season. This may include brand of balls to be used, sponsorship requirements or any other League requirements. In every match during the regular season match balls that meet these requirements must be used.
- ii) Clubs require written permission from the League to use and balls in matches outside of the stated requirements.
- iii) Fines for breaching bylaw 19 (i), (ii) or (iii) will be \$100 per instance.
- iv) The League will be responsible for supplying finals netballs.

20. PENALTIES

Along with penalties mentioned in individual By-Laws above, the following will also apply;

- i) Failure to provide at least 6 original scoresheets (one per grade), votes and match results as per section 6, incurs.
- ii) Scoresheets for each grade must be electronically submitted on the matchday as per the instructions from the League.
- iii) Teams must electronically submit League MVP votes for A Grade on the matchday as per the instructions from the League
- iv) Failure to provide badged umpire for A&B Grade,

Any breach of the above rules will incur a \$100 fine per instance

21. SPECIAL DISPENSATION PERMITS

- i) The Special Permit is to allow an over age player who is under developed, in skill AND size or has a diagnosed physical medical condition/disability, an opportunity to continue playing in a game of netball. Players must meet the requirements of the National Age Dispensation policy (from AFL) and the following:
 - The Special Permit player must be under developed in skill and size.
 - The maximum age of a Special Permit player shall be twelve months above the age group she is applying for.
 - If a Special Permit player “stands out” the Special Permit Committee will reconsider the permit.
 - The maximum number of Special Permit players allowed to play in a game is four per club.
 - The Special Permit player is to be identified with S/P next to his name on the official team sheet.
 - A Special Permit player is ineligible to have goals listed, be listed in the clubs best players or receive umpire’s best & fairest votes. If the player receives votes or best player awards the permit may be revoked.
 - If the player has played any form of overage netball in the past they will be ineligible for a permit.
 - Players with a tribunal history will be ineligible to apply for overage permits.
 - Players who have played any representative netball in the past four seasons will be ineligible.
- ii) A special permit player cannot play any form of overage netball (A,B or C Grade) whilst on a permit. If the player participates in overage netball the permit will be revoked.
- iii) Overage permits are to allow under developed players the opportunity to continue to play Netball. Permits are not considered to top up sides numbers or to allow sides to be more competitive. Each permit will be assessed on a case by case basis. All permits are required to be submitted by March 25th before the season for formal assessment by the Special Permits Committee.

22. ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS

22.1 - Rolling Substitutions (all grades)

- Substitutions may be made during play.
- Substitutes may enter via the two designated substitution zones next to the team bench
- There is no limit to the number of substitutes that can be made per match
- Only one substitution may be made at the same time.
- Play will not be held for a substitution to be made.

22.2 - Rolling Substitutions – Court Markings

- The court must be marked for the player substitution zones at each end of the court.
- The zone must be a space of 1 metre wide that is not infringing on the umpire run off area that does not infringe with the team bench
- Players must remain behind the marked line until the substitution occurs.
- Players may leave the marked line as the substitution is occurring however must tag hands with the departing player off the court

22.3 - For a substitution during play:

- The substitute stands immediately behind the substitution zone for the area the player is entering
- Before entering the playing area, the substitute tags hands with the player leaving the court.
- Players must observe the offside rule as they enter/leave the court
- Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.
- A player leaving the court must cross into the substitution zone before returning to the team bench.

Sanctions for infringements: Free pass where the ball was when the interference or offside entry/exit occurred.

22.4 - Notification of substitution changes (all grades)

- (a) Teams are required to complete an official GL substitution form and submit to the score bench for each substitution. All changes must be reflected on the official scoresheet at the next quarter break during the match

NOTE: Teams do not have submit an individual form per substitution. The official form can be used for multiple substitutions however must be updated before the player takes the court.

- (b) All teams must complete the substitution form before a rolling substitution is made throughout the game.
- (c) Rolling Substitution forms are to be handed to the official scorer during a break in play (after goal, umpire time called etc) before a change.
- (d) Should a player be substituted out of the goaling positions. The scorers are to clearly mark on the scoresheet tally of goals when the substitution was made.

APPENDIX 1

SCHEDULE OF FINES

LEAGUE		
TYPE OF BREACH	BY-LAW REFERENCE	MINIMUM PENALTY ASSOCIATED
Club office bearer list submission – prior Jan 30 th	3	\$100
Club Documents – two weeks after AGM	4	\$100 (if any document not submitted)
Club Logo registration	4.1	\$100
Failure to carryout League instructions	7.2	\$100
Gippsland League record information	15.1	\$100
GL Record – Player numbers and names	15.2	\$20 per instance
Club editorial material – explicit content	15.2.2	\$50 per instance
FOOTBALL		
TYPE OF BREACH	BY-LAW REFERENCE	MINIMUM PENALTY ASSOCIATED
Match start times	6.8	\$5 per minute
Ineligible players – Suspended players	7.2	Minimum – Junior \$250, Senior \$500
Team sheet – Ineligible players not on team sheet	7.3	\$100
Match day officials – supplying correct officials	10.3	\$50 per instance
Required paperwork - team sheets	11	\$50 per sheet
Required paperwork - Votes	11	\$50 per sheet
Required paperwork - Matchday paperwork	11	\$100
Match results submission – late results via IT system	12	\$50 per game
Runners and Water Carriers - breaches	13	\$50 per instance
Playing Venue – breaches	14	\$50 per instance
Interchange – breaches	15	\$50 per instance
Stretcher – availability	16	\$200
Coaches Box – Leaving the area	17.1	\$50 per instance
Coaches Box – Abuse	17.4	\$100 per instance
Football – Incorrect usage	18	\$100 per instance
Uniforms – Incorrect shorts	19	\$20 per instance
Uniforms – Player numbers	19	\$20 per instance
Finals – Ineligible player	24	\$1000
Tribunal	25	\$200
Report Procedure	26	\$100 per instance
Tribunal costs	31	\$250 guilty tribunal verdict
MVP – submission	35	\$50
Live Scoring – non adherence	36	\$100
Team lists – non/late submission	37	\$50 per team
Umpires – Club non uniform	38.7	\$50 per instance
NETBALL		
TYPE OF BREACH	BY-LAW REFERENCE	MINIMUM PENALTY ASSOCIATED
Ineligible players	1.2	Minimum – Junior \$250, Senior \$500
Court Officials – Court Supervisor/Primary Carer	3.1	\$100 per official not supplied
Dress Code – Incorrect Uniform	5	\$50 per instance
Team sheet –players not on team sheet	7	\$200 per breach
Scoring – Mercy rule, incorrect scoresheet	7	\$100 per breach
Incorrect netball usage	20	\$100 per breach
Penalties – Netball operations as listed	21	\$100 per instance