



WEST GIPPSLAND
FOOTBALL NETBALL



West Gippsland Football Netball Competition

COMPETITION BY-LAWS

EFFECTIVE FROM 16TH OF MARCH 2017

UPDATED 12TH DECEMBER 2019

PREAMBLE

These Rules must be read in conjunction with:

- Laws of Australian Football
- AFL Vic Country Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL Vic Country Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL Vic Country after the printing of the AFL Vic Country Handbook.
- Netball Victoria Rules and Regulations

BYLAWS

These Bylaws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the Association. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In these By-Laws unless the contrary intention appears:

“WGFNC” means West Gippsland Football Netball Competition. In these rules referred to as “WGFNC” or “the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition”.

“Commission” means the Commission of AFL Gippsland.

“Laws of Australian Football” means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the League

“Competition” means the WGFNC.

“FDM” means AFL Victoria Football Development Manager

“Consultation” means AFL Gippsland will provide notice of any proposal to alter or amend any fixture, fee, venue or any other material amendment for the purposes of the administration of the competition to all Affiliated Clubs. Affiliated Clubs will then be invited for up to a period of 7 days to provide written input to AFL Gippsland in either support or opposition of the proposal for the AFL Gippsland’s consideration.

The appendices and schedules attached should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-Laws of the WGFNC.

2. CLUB AFFILIATION

2.1 AFFILIATION

Each Club shall affiliate with AFL Gippsland by signing an Affiliation and Agreement Form and submit the Affiliation and Agreement Form to AFL Gippsland for both Football & Netball.

2.1.1 MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Any AFL Victoria affiliated club (the Applicant) who supports the purposes of the competition is eligible to apply to AFL Gippsland for membership into the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition (the Competition).

Any application for membership made by any club seeking admission to the Competition must be made in accordance with the Application for membership requirements contained in clause 2.1.2.

2.1.2 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To apply to become a member of the Competition, the following requirements must be met for application to be determined by AFL Gippsland –

- a) The application must be made in writing;

- b) The application must include the name of the incorporated club, the previous Affiliated League from whom the club proposes to transfer, detailed particulars in support of the clubs application, signed minutes from the clubs members resolving to propose the application and be signed by the majority of the Executive members of the club;
- c) The application must be submitted to AFL Gippsland for determinations no later than 31 October in any year prior to the year intended by the applicant for entry in the competition;
- d) the Applicant must demonstrate its support for the purposes of the competition; and
- e) the Applicant is agreeable to be compliant with these Rules.

Any application made after 31 October may in any year prior to the year intended by the Applicant for entry into the competition will not be eligible for consideration and determination by AFL Gippsland unless there is written consent from both AFL Gippsland and the club's previous Affiliated League.

2.1.3 DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION

Any application made to AFL Gippsland will be approved or dismissed by special resolution, in consultation with existing members of the Competition. The following requirements for the consideration of any application must be met —

- a) As soon as is practicable after an application for membership is received, AFL Gippsland will confirm receipt of the application with the Applicant;
- b) As soon as is practicable following the receipt of application being issued by AFL Gippsland to the Applicant, AFL Gippsland must notify all existing members of the Competition of the receipt of application;
- c) As soon as is practicable, AFL Gippsland must convene and chair a special general meeting of all existing member clubs to consider the application providing no less than 14 days' notice of the time, date and place where the meeting for the special resolution will be held, along with copies of the application;
- d) A special resolution will be passed if at least 75% of existing members vote in its favour;
- e) The vote will be conducted by a show of hands at the special general meeting with eligible existing members who are unable to attend permitted to provide a proxy form indicating their vote in writing that is to be received by AFL Gippsland no less than 7 days prior to the scheduled date of the special general meeting;
- f) A quorum for any special resolution to be passed is at least seven existing member clubs; and
- g) The Applicant will be notified within 7 days of the outcome of the determination of their application and will be provided the reasons in writing for that determination.

2.1.4 APPEALS

The determination of an application by AFL Gippsland and its existing member clubs is an administrative process. AFL Gippsland is committed to discouraging any form of litigation in relation to its approval or dismissal of any application for the purpose of maintaining harmony amongst its current competition. For that reason, the principles of natural justice will be adhered to by AFL Gippsland and its existing members.

Any appeal made in relation to an application under these Rules to join the competition shall be made, and dealt with, in accordance Rule 4.0 of the AFL Vic Country Rules and Regulations.

2.1.5 NEW MEMBERSHIP

A club will only become a member of the Competition and is entitled to commence exercise it's rights of membership from the date upon which both —

- a) The current member clubs approve the clubs' membership; and
- b) The club pays the entrance fee and first year's annual subscription.

Once and member becomes so entitled —

- a) The Competition coordinator must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members.

2.2 ANNUAL COMPETITION FEE

Each Affiliated Club shall pay an annual competition fee of the sum prescribed by AFL Gippsland and payable in accordance with AFL Gippsland invoicing provisions.

Affiliated Clubs acknowledge that to meet the contingent costs associated with administering football and netball, Competition Fees will be reviewed each year. AFL Gippsland undertakes that any rise in fees will require the Consultation of all Affiliated Clubs.

2.3 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Each Club must pay all outstanding tax invoices to AFL Gippsland as determined by the Commission. All monies due to be paid to the Competition by Affiliated Clubs shall be payable in full no later than Thirty (30) days after the date of the invoice issued by the Competition unless contrary arrangements are specifically authorised by the Commission.

2.4 CLUBS IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENTS

In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with AFL Gippsland, Clubs will be subject to AFL Gippsland's Payments Default Policy as outlined below.

Failure to meet payment within specified 30 day period, unless that Club has entered into a formal agreement with AFL Gippsland, will result in that Club being subject to the following process.

Step 1: As a reminder, Club President to be contacted by AFL Gippsland on the day after payment falls due via email. The email will contain details of the relevant outstanding invoice/s.

Step 2: Payment of any outstanding amount to be made within 5 business days of reminder being issued. Failure to pay within this time will result in a \$100 administration fee being imposed relevant to the outstanding amount.

Step 3: For each subsequent period of 5 business days that elapses until payment is made, an additional \$100 administration levy will be imposed with NO limit.

Step 4: If, at the close of the AFL Gippsland financial year (October 31st) where a club has gone through Steps 1 to 3, and has payments outstanding, processing of player transfers into that club for the following season shall not commence until all payments are met or an alternative arrangement has been made with AFL Gippsland.

2.5 DISPUTED INVOICES

Any dispute must be finalised within payment date period through negotiation with AFL Gippsland. In such instances payment of original or negotiated amount must still be made within period indicated on original invoice.

2.6 REIMBURSEMENTS / PAYMENTS

(a) WGFNC approved personnel shall be entitled to claim expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity from the Competition. Receipts must be supplied.

(b) Netball Clubs are responsible for payment of their own umpires.

3. CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

Not later than 30 November each year, all clubs must lodge with the league (on the form provided from time to time), a list of all club office bearers for the ensuing year.

4. INFORMATION TO CLUBS

4.1 The WGFNC shall provide the following information in writing to all Clubs prior to the start of the season

- Administration contact details
- Bylaws
- Calendar of events
- Fixtures prior to each season commencing
- Details of courses, seminars etc

5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5.1 APPOINTMENT

A WGFNC Advisory Committee shall be formed at the discretion of the Commission.

5.2 ALTERATION TO BY-LAWS AND COMPETITION RULES

The Competition Rules and By-Laws may be amended by the Commission from time to time pursuant to the Rules and advised to affiliated Clubs.

5.3 FINES FOR BREACH OF BY-LAWS AND COMPETITION RULES

Fines may be imposed by the Commission or Commissions deputy for non-compliance with or violation of these by-laws.

- (a) at the rates specified in the By Laws and or Competition Rules; or
- (b) if no rate is specified in the By Laws and or Competition Rules, at the rate determined by the Commission.

6. ADMISSION TO HOME & AWAY MATCHES

6.1 Admission Price to home & away matches is set at \$12. This can be changed prior to the commencement of a new season if agreed upon by WGFNC member clubs.

6.2 Early Bird

- (a) Patrons who inform gate staff that they intend on leaving the ground before 11am will be handed an Early Bird Pass. If this pass is presented to gate staff upon exit of the venue prior to 11am, the patron will be entitled to a \$5 refund.

7. BARRACKER

7.1 CLUB EDITORIAL MATERIAL

7.1.1 All Club scribes for the 'Barracker' must have their name, email address and contact number registered with the Operations Coordinator.

7.1.2 Each Club will be allocated a page in the weekly 'Barracker' for notes. These notes, as well as any alterations to player names/numbers must be sent via e-mail to the Operations Coordinator by Tuesday 10.00am. **Penalty \$100**

7.1.3 Club notes must use full names, not abbreviations or nicknames, e.g. 'Bomber' Thompson. **Penalty \$50**

7.2 "BARRACKER" TEAM LISTS

7.2.1 All senior Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the League at least 10 days prior to the commencement of the first competition match in each season, one list for "Senior and Reserve" grades, one list for Under 18's and Under 16's grade as well as all eight netball grades, accurately stating all the club registered players' first name, surname and jumper numbers for inclusion in the record for the first game.
Penalty: Post Round 4 in each competition - \$30 per name.

7.2.2 All senior Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the Operations Coordinator, no later than 10.00am each Tuesday prior to the next round of the fixture, any changes of player names and numbers for team lists published in the "Barracker".

7.2.3 Team Lists for finals fixtures must be separated to reflect 'Seniors' 'Reserves' 'Under 18's and Under 16's' with a recommended maximum number of 30 players on each list.

7.3 PRODUCTION DETAILS

7.3.1 Minimum number of records per round will be 100. A Club desiring additional records can arrange extra copies by contacting the Operations Coordinator.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 All correspondence must be in writing from the Club Secretary or authorised person to the WFGNC administrator.

8.2 All correspondence from the Competition will be addressed to the Club Secretary or authorised person. In the case of Clubs who don't operate as Football Netball Clubs and have individual secretaries, up to date contact details of both secretaries are to be provided to the WGFNC administrator.

9. COMPETITION AND FIXTURES

9.1 FIXTURE

The Commission shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in all competitions by preparing fixtures for each team in each Division for each season. The Commission may amend a fixture as required.

9.2 HOME AND AWAY ROUNDS:

The league shall conduct a series of 18 (or such number as the Commission shall from time to time determine) home and away matches for all Grades.

9.3 FAILURE TO FILL AN ENGAGEMENT

(a) A fine of up to \$2,000 may be imposed on Clubs who withdraw a team from any obligatory competition section. All of that Club's teams may be disqualified from the competition for that season by resolution of the Commission.

(b) Any Club forfeiting a match in any section of the Competition during the season will be subject to a penalty fine of \$500 and shall be liable for the cost of umpires scheduled for that match.

(c) In the event of a Club failing to field a team or part thereof within half an hour of the arranged starting time of a match, the opposing Club may claim the match. The Commission shall investigate the circumstances and may apply provisions or By-Law 15.3 - Forfeit Calculations

9.4 FIXTURE ALTERATIONS

Clubs desiring to conduct any matches on a day or time other than that published by the Competition in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied:

(i) that all appropriate licenses and permissions to conduct the game have been received and copies forwarded to the Operations Coordinator prior to the game;

(ii) that 21 days' notice is forwarded to the Operations Coordinator indicating times of commencement of all games and any alterations of venues to the published fixture;

(iii) that 21 days' notice in writing requesting approval from the Competition that the fixture be altered is forwarded to the Operations Coordinator from each club.

10. LADDERS

10.1 POINT ALLOCATION AND MATCH RATIO CALCULATIONS

(a) In the home and away matches, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or walkover is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. Where an affiliated Senior Club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, four points will be awarded to the opposition club.

WGFNC Operations Coordinator will advise a club prior to a home and away match that they're not financial to allow clubs adequate time to action.

(b) The Operations Coordinator shall prepare a weekly ladder for each section and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw or loss it shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and in the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with lower percentage points. All decisions of the Competition in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.

10.2 SCORES USED TO CALCULATE

The scores used by the Competition to calculate the points and percentages for each ladder shall be based upon the scores contained in the goal umpires cards. Should these scores disagree; the timekeeping cards may be used as the basis for calculating points and percentages in accordance with Rule 12.7 of "Laws of the Game of Football" as published in the AFL Vic Country Handbook each year.

10.3 FORFEIT CALCULATIONS

In accordance with AFL Law of the Game 11.2.2 Consequence of Forfeiture, this rule will also be applicable to netball forfeit calculations.

Where a Team forfeits a Match, the following shall apply:

- a) the points for the Match shall be awarded to the Team who did not forfeit the Match; and
- b) at the conclusion of the Home and Away Matches in that round:
 - i. the percentage of the Team who did not forfeit the Match shall be adjusted by crediting that Team with the average winning score of all other matches in that round; and
 - ii. the percentage of the Team who did forfeit the Match shall be adjusted by crediting that Team with the average losing score of all other matches in that round.

11. FINALS

11.1 FINALS ARRANGEMENTS

(1) On completion of the home and away matches, the Affiliated Clubs gaining positions one to six on the ladder of each of respective grade shall form the Final Six, except where altered by the Commission, and shall compete to determine the premiership under the system adopted by the Commission.

(2) All finals matches shall be played on grounds to be decided by the Commission where a charge for admittance can be made.

Round	Match	Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	A	1 st Elimination Final	4 th	V	5 th
	B	2 nd Elimination Final	3 rd	V	6 th
2	C	1 st Semi Final	Winner of B	V	Winner of A
	D	2 nd Semi Final	1 st	V	2 nd
3	E	Preliminary Final	Loser of D	V	Winner of C
4	F	Grand Final	Winner of D	V	Winner of E

11.2 FIXTURES AND VENUES

The Commission and Advisory Committee shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all finals matches. Finals venues will be selected in accordance with the WGFNC Finals Tender process. Please refer to the WGFNC Finals Tender document for details on the venue selection process.

11.3 ENTRANCE FEES

The Commission, in consultation with the Advisory Committee and affiliated clubs, shall be responsible for the fixing and collection of all entrance fees at all finals series matches. The Commission may delegate its authority for the collection of entrance fees from time to time.

- (a) The current finals admissions prices are set at \$12 for a minor final and \$15 for the Grand Final.

11.4 FINALS UNIFORMS

(a) 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 Commission. After the Elimination and Qualifying games the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team.

(b) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall use the home team rooms and Coach's box unless this is varied by the Competition or its appointee. After the Elimination and Qualifying games the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team.

12. LIFE MEMBERS

12.1 Existing WGFL Life Members to be made Honorary Life Members of the WGFNC.

12.2 LIFE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The Nominee for Life Membership of the WGFNC must have given a minimum of 10 years continuous service with the WGFNC, unless exceptional services have been given, deemed by the current WGFNC Advisory Committee and AFL Gippsland.

Length of Service (10 years) alone is not appropriate.

The Nomination must articulate the reasons why Life Membership is considered appropriate and where possible, specify examples of work or involvement which has significantly progressed the WGFNC should be cited.

12.3 NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations for Life Membership must be forwarded to AFL Gippsland no later than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting on the appropriate nomination form.

Financial Members or Affiliate Clubs may nominate persons for Life Membership on a nomination form and in the manner approved by the Commission.

The person nominated does not have to be a member of the Association.

Each nomination form must be signed by the nominator and also be seconded.

Both the nominator and the seconder must be financial Members of the Association at the time of the nomination.

Details of the service of the nominee must be supplied on the nomination form with any appropriate support documents

The Commission will accept nominations and determine those nominees who meet the published criteria for the Award of Life Membership to be awarded Life Membership of the Association for recommendation to the Annual General Meeting

Presentation will be at the Annual General Meeting or other appropriate function as determined by the Commission.

12.4 LIFE MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS

Life Members of WGFNC are entitled to:

- Annually receive a letter from WGFNC acknowledging their Life membership and
- Annually receive a complimentary Season Pass for entry into all games

- Receive notification of the AFL Gippsland/WGFNC Annual General meeting or Special General meeting.

13. MEETING OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

13.1 The Commission may convene compulsory meeting(s) for Club Presidents and/or officials as stipulated by the Commission from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: Presidents, Club Administrators, Team Managers, Senior and Junior Coaches Forums.

13.2 The designated person may, with the prior approval of AFL Gippsland, appoint another person to attend Annual and Special Meetings or other compulsory meetings in their place.

13.3 All Clubs must be represented when requested at all official Competition meetings (e.g. presidents, secretaries, managers, coaches etc.) and functions.

Penalty: \$100.

14. ANNUAL AWARDS

14.1 BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS

14.1.1 Official Competition field umpires shall immediately following the conclusion of the match select their three fairest and best players in the match. They shall then number one, two and three in order of preference in a sealed addressed envelope their three nominations. Their number one nomination to receive three votes, number two nomination two votes, and number three nomination one vote. They shall then hand the sealed envelope to the Home Club Secretary or Team Manager.

14.1.2 In the event that the two or more Central Umpire system is in operation, then the Central Umpires shall confer, agree upon a joint nomination and otherwise comply with paragraph 23.1.1 hereof.

14.1.3 At the end of the Home and Away rounds of matches, the Competition shall gather all votes made during the minor rounds and the votes shall be counted and the player or players receiving the largest number of votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of an equal number of votes being awarded to more than one player, then players receiving such equal number of votes shall be declared joint winners and separate medals shall be struck and awarded.

14.1.4 Any player found guilty by the Independent Tribunal on any charge shall be ineligible for the award of Best and Fairest during the current season, except where the charge relates to time wasting.

14.1.5 Where the highest vote getter has been ruled ineligible, the second highest vote getter will be declared the winner. In the event that more than one player finishes second on votes, the winner will be decided on a count back based on most three votes; most two votes; and most one votes

14.2 WGFNC FOOTBALL & NETBALL AWARDS NAMES

To be developed in consultation with the WGFNC Advisory Committee and AFL Gippsland RAC.

14.3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each Year Club Championship Awards will be awarded in the WGFNC to the club who accumulates the most premiership points from all grades of football and netball that the clubs compete in.

14.4 GOAL KICKING AWARDS - FOOTBALL

Goal kicking awards will be made in each of the grades of football conducted in the WGFNC in the home and away fixtures but not finals fixtures.

The winner of each award will be the player kicking the most goals for each home and away season.

14.5 INTERLEAGUE AWARDS

The player adjudged best by the WGFNC Interleague Match Committee over the current year's Interleague carnival will be awarded the Trophy (Name to be confirmed).

14.6 TEAM OF THE YEAR

Each year a Team of the Year will be selected to recognise the best players at each position in the A Grade and Senior Football competitions of that year.

- a) a panel of 3 people will be selected for each discipline by the Operations Coordinator to pick the respective Team of the Years. It is at the discretion of the selection panel to decide who is eligible to be selected in the team.

14.7 UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

Each year an umpire will be recognised as the umpire of the year for outstanding performance in their role during the home and away season. This person in each discipline will be selected by the same 3 person selection panel appointed to pick the Team of the Year and it is at the discretion of this panel who is eligible for this award.

14.8 SPECIAL AWARDS

From time to time WGFNC may make awards for other categories or formats. The Awards and Formats will be at the discretion of the Competition from time to time.

14.9 ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

All awards will be presented at an annual presentation night. The date, venue and format of the presentation night will be determined by AFL Gippsland. The above information will be presented to clubs at least one month prior to the event.

15. WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

APPLICABLE TO ALL PERSONS WORKING WITH JUNIORS UP TO AND INCLUDING THE UNDER 18 and 17&U GRADES.

This check replaces the police check and is free for volunteers. It is mandatory by law as of January 2007 for coaches and volunteers to obtain this check if they undertake any of the following roles:

- (a) Club personnel including coaches, trainers etc appointed or seeking appointment for reward (\$70 charge for employees)
- (b) Volunteer personnel who will or are likely to travel away overnight with teams of players under 18 years of age and
- (c) Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with players Under 18 years of age.

How to apply?

- Complete a Working with Children Check application form. Application forms are available from participating outlets of Australia Post.
- Organise your proof of identity documentation.
- Organise a Passport size photo.
- Take your completed application form, proof of identity documentation, passport size photo to a participating Australia Post outlet. If you are in PAID employment you must pay the \$70 fee. If you are a Volunteer there is no fee payable.

We strongly suggest that you get this process underway ASAP and organize all your junior personnel to undertake the check. Perhaps organize a club representative to collect the forms from Australia Post and hand them out to each coach. For further information go to internet site address:



WEST GIPPSLAND
FOOTBALL NETBALL



West Gippsland Football Netball Competition

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

EFFECTIVE FROM 16TH OF MARCH 2017

UPDATED 12TH DECEMBER 2019

PREAMBLE

These Rules must be read in conjunction with:

- Laws of Australian Football
- AFL Vic Country Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL Vic Country Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL Vic Country after the printing of the AFL Vic Country Handbook.

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In these Competition Rules unless the contrary intention appears:

“WGFNC” means West Gippsland Football Netball Competition. In these rules referred to as “WGFNC” or “the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition”.

“Commission” means the Commission of AFL Gippsland.

“Laws of Australian Football” means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the League

“Competition” means the WGFNC.

The appendices and schedules attached should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-Laws of the WGFNC.

2. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

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 Competition.

3. REGISTRATIONS

3.1 Every player must be a registered member of their Club and approved by their Club Committee.

3.2 A player must be registered with AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY prior to the commencement of the first game he plays for the Club each year. The registration must be entered and confirmed on the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY database.

4. PLAYER TRANSFER AND APPEALS

4.1 PLAYER TRANSFERS

Player transfers are conducted under the current AFL Vic Country Rules.

All player transfers will be conducted using the AFL Vic Country approved electronic data base system.

The WGFNC Operations Coordinator will not endorse player transfers over the telephone.

4.2 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSED TRANSFER

All appeals against refused player transfers are handled under AFL Vic Country rules by the FDMs.

5. GROUND FACILITIES

5.1 Each Club is to provide a ground that in the opinion of the Commission is suitable for match play.

5.2 Goal posts must be correctly padded in accordance with AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rules.

Penalty: \$100

5.3 Goal posts must have flag-holders.

Penalty: \$100

5.4 The ground must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game unless impractical to do so. Variations are to be approved by the Commission.

Penalty: \$100

5.5 In terms of the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Acceptable Ground Conditions & Layout it is recommended that the actual boundary line of the playing area shall be no less than three (3) metres from the fence line.

5.6 A stretcher must be provided by the home Club and located in or near the coaches' box.

Penalty: \$100

5.7 All clubs must provide locks on doors to visiting team and umpires' dressing rooms.

Penalty: \$100

5.8 A separate dressing room must be available for umpires. Clubs should also provide dressing room facilities for female umpires when applicable.

5.9 Clubs must provide suitable weather proof coaches boxes of design approved by local council building regulations.

Coaches are NOT permitted to use coaches boxes in a manner that does not comply with local council building regulations or Occupational Health & Safety requirements.

5.10 A box 12 metres in length, one metre from the boundary line, with its sides returning to the fence shall be marked parallel to the boundary line in front of each of the coaches' boxes.

Penalty: \$100

5.11 Home Club must provide two (2) trainers tables in the visitor's rooms.

Penalty: \$100

5.12 GROUND INSPECTION

5.12.1 For both home and away and finals matches, the Commission retains the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary to address any issue arising from the ground inspection report, including but not limited to; moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.

5.12.2 On the day of any official match arranged by AFL Gippsland, a designated representative from each participating team must make a full inspection of the ground on which the match will be played prior to the match commencing. The representative shall complete the official Match Day Checklist (as provided each year by AFL Vic Country and their Insurer)

5.12.3 If the same Clubs are competing in all games on the same day at the same venue only one check is required, if more than two Clubs are competing on the same day at the venue then separate checks are to be completed by the Clubs competing in that match.

6. INTERCHANGE / ORDER OFF

Interchange and order off rules are to operate for all grades as per **AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rule 10 & Laws of Australian Football Rule 22.**

Note: All underage competitions are to comply with the above Rules and are unable to replace carded players until the relevant playing time has elapsed.

6.1 Interchange bench numbers for senior grades will be three (3) and four (4) in reserve grades.

There is no limit on interchange bench numbers in junior grades.

(i) To create player number equalisation, both teams must start the game with no difference in list numbers on the playing field.

A. Failure to ensure that both teams start with no difference in list numbers on the playing field will result in a fine to the offending club or possible loss of points.

(ii) This rule does not apply to finals interchange numbers, finals interchange numbers will be capped at 4 per team for junior grades.

A. For the sake of finals eligibility, a game played by a player for the opposing side will still count as a game played for his home club.

6.2 For the WGFNC, Clubs shall be required to field a minimum of 14 players to commence the game. Failure to do so will result in their side forfeiting the match.

6.3 If any irregularities are noted on the Interchange sheet, the Commission shall have the power to determine a fine and to deal with the match as they deem appropriate.

6.4 It is the responsibility of the interchange steward to ensure that players ordered from the ground under a yellow card, remain off for fifteen minutes of actual playing time and those ordered from the ground under a red card remain off for the remainder of the game. The interchange steward must therefore:

- (a) identify the umpire's signal (a yellow or red card), which indicates a player has been ordered off;
- (b) acknowledge the umpire's decision by holding their hand up in the air as the offending player is coming from the ground;
- (c) record the relevant amount of actual playing time from the moment the player crosses the interchange area in the space provided on the time cards (failure to record the implementation of this rule on the timecards will result in a \$30 penalty); and

The interchange steward will continue to record the change as has been the case. The onus remains with the clubs to ensure that this procedure operates effectively.

NB: In the event of more than one player being off at any given time, the onus is on the Club to confer with the interchange steward/timekeepers to determine which player is eligible to come on.

- (e) any player ordered off under a red card is not permitted to take any further part in the game.

6.5 Clubs in breach of procedure: In the event a Club believes an opposition player has returned to the field early, that Club must call a team count to verify the number of players on the ground and the score at that particular time. The Umpire will record the result of the count on the Umpire's Match Report. Where a Team has more than the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a) a field umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.
- (b) a fifty (50) Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- (c) the Goal Umpires shall write the current scores as at the time of the Head Count on their Score Card
- (d) the matter will be referred to the League to investigate and ultimately determine the outcome as they see fit - note that the offending team does not lose all points scored in the Match up to the time of the count on match day

6.6 The team official must advise the steward to make the replacement of one player by another player as per rule 22.4 of the Laws of Australian Football. Breach will incur a fine.

Penalty: \$50.

7. PLAYER UNIFORMS

7.1 All Club uniforms shall comply with AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY rules. The AFL Gippsland Commission, before adoption, must approve club colours.

7.2 Every player must be fully uniformed in his Club colours with his number prominent and securely fixed on his back.

7.3 All playing jumpers and shorts must carry logos as specified by the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY and AFL Gippsland. Clubs must formally request the Commission's approval to display sponsorship logos on Club jumpers. This request must include details such as size and positioning.

7.4 White shorts shall be worn by sides playing away unless approval otherwise is granted by the Commission.

7.5 The Commission will decide choice of shorts for finals matches with priority going to the highest finisher of the two sides playing.

7.6 Bike shorts worn under playing shorts must be of neutral or beige/skin colour.

Penalty for incorrect attire: \$25 per garment.

8. COACHES

8.1 The non-playing coach of any team is not allowed on the playing arena during the progress of the match except at the quarter intervals. During the progress of the match the non-playing coach, interchange players (other than in warming up) and other officials must be in the restricted area as marked by the 12 metre line.

8.2 Only the team captain of the day shall be permitted to speak to the Field Umpire at the intervals during the progress of the match (other than if requesting the umpire for a count of players on the playing surface). Any breach of this rule shall be reported by the Umpire and be referred to the League Independent Tribunal and if found guilty shall incur the following maximum penalty:

- 1st offence – \$100.
- 2nd offence – \$200.
- 3rd or any further offence – \$400.

8.3. COACH REQUIREMENTS

Refer AFL Vic Country Rule 14

"All coaches of AFL Victoria Country clubs are required to obtain Level 1 Accreditation specific to the age of the players they are coaching, prior to the commencement of the season. The penalty to be imposed by leagues if coaches continue to coach having not obtained the necessary accreditation must be i) a \$200 fine (Senior) or \$100 fine (Junior) and ii) the loss of match points for the matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach. In the event of no match points being received the league must apply the above fines. Fines are applied once only (\$200 or \$100) and are not applicable to every match.

In the instance where coaches are not accredited and commit to completing the next available (or otherwise agreed upon) AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course, the following bonds for clubs are to apply \$200 (Senior) and \$100 (Junior). Where a coach fails to complete the agreed upon AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course the bond paid by the club is forfeited."

9. RUNNERS

9.1 NUMBER OF RUNNERS

Senior and Reserve eighteen grades only are permitted to have up to two (2) runners. Under 18 and Under 16 grades are permitted one (1) runner.

9.2 ELIGIBILITY TO ACT AS RUNNER

9.2.1 No person who is a registered player or an official of any club, other than his home club whether affiliated or not, nor who is under disqualification or suspension by his home club or League, shall act as an official runner in any competition match, or any other match in which a AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY affiliated Club or League is participating.

9.2.2 No coach or assistant coach of an AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY open age team shall act as a runner in a match in which a team of his club is participating.

9.2.3 No coach or assistant coach of an AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY team shall act as a runner, trainer or water carrier in a match in which the team that he coaches is participating.

9.3 DUTIES OF RUNNERS

9.3.1 Team runner (s) shall not have affixed to his or her person communication device which includes but is not limited to headsets, microphones or earpieces or water bottles.

9.3.2 Runners shall enter and exit the playing arena via the interchange area where two (2) club runners are used. Only one runner from each club is permitted on the playing surface at any given time. Failure to adhere to these restrictions, prohibits the offending runner from entering the playing surface for the remainder of the game. Should a club use one (1) runner only, the runner may enter and exit the playing area from any point of the ground.

9.3.3 Where a field umpire or an official Emergency Umpire either identifies or is advised of and confirms a breach of 9.3.2 in that a team has 2 runners on the field at the same time, the Umpire shall escort one of the runners off. They will then inform the offending team and interchange steward that the offending team are now only able to use the one runner for the remainder of the game as per the by-law.

9.3.4 The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of his/her club and to immediately leave the playing arena.

9.4 RUNNERS UNIFORMS

All runners are to wear uniforms as approved by AFL Gippsland at the commencement of each season. Runner tops must carry the club name and the word "Runner". Where a Club uses two Runners in the Senior or Reserves section the uniforms must be numbered to distinguish the runners.

Penalty \$100

10. TRAINERS AND MEDICAL STAFF

10.1 Club trainers may enter the arena at any time during the match or intervals, but only to attend to an injured player or to replace a damaged uniform and for no other purpose whatsoever. Trainers may also carry water as part of their duties.

10.2 Club trainers will wear uniform dress consisting of the competition supplied blue trainers vest. The top must bear the Club name, the word 'trainer' and a number (trainers to be numbered 1 – 5).

10.3 Medical staff are to wear a clear and identifying armband. Medical staff means a qualified medical practitioner, physiotherapist or similar qualified person.

Penalty \$100

11. WATER-CARRIERS

11.1 ELIGIBILITY TO ACT AS WATER CARRIER

11.1.1 A maximum of three (3) water-carriers is permitted in any game.

11.1.2 Water carriers must be aged over fourteen years.

11.1.3 No coach or assistant coach of an AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY open age team shall act as a water carrier in any AFL Gippsland match.

11.2 WATER CARRIER UNIFORMS

11.2.1 Water-carriers are to wear a white shirt bearing the Club name and the word 'water carrier' and be correctly numbered with white, black or blue shorts or tracksuit pants.

Penalty \$50

11.2.2 Water-carriers must be numbered 6, 7 and 8 respectively and names and number must appear on the official team sheet.

Penalty \$50

11.3 WATER CARRIER DUTIES

11.3.1 Water-carriers may enter the arena at any time during the match or intervals but only to provide water to players and for no other purpose whatsoever and to immediately leave the playing arena once the drink has been delivered.

11.3.2 Water carriers are not permitted to operate constantly from the Coaches box area but must be around the boundary area against the fence while not delivering water.

12. TIMEKEEPERS

12.1 One responsible Timekeeper is to be provided by each competing Club. Each Club must provide a suitable clock that is to be synchronized with the other Club's timekeeper at the commencement of each match. Where only one clock is available that shall be the official time.

Failure to supply a timekeeper – Penalty \$50

12.2 In finals matches competing Clubs are to also supply their own timekeepers.

12.3 Matches shall start at the times decided by the Commission.

12.4 Matches shall be played in accordance with the time intervals set out by the Commission.

12.5 A bell, gong, or siren, capable of being heard across the ground at its farthest point must be provided.

Penalty: \$50

12.6 NUMBER OF OCCASIONS SIREN TO BE SOUNDED:

Start of Match

As Umpires enter the Arena (once)

Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)

One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)

Scheduled starting time (Start of Match) (once)

First Quarter time Interval

Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)

One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)

Scheduled starting time (Start of Quarter) (once)

Half Time Interval

As Umpires enter the Arena (once)

Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)

One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)

Scheduled starting time (Start of Quarter) (once)

Three Quarter Time Interval

Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)

One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)

Scheduled starting time (Start of Quarter) (once)

12.7 Timekeepers shall keep accurate records of scores on cards supplied by AFL Gippsland to each Home Club. Times of starts and finishes of quarters; appearance times of teams; elapsed playing time of players ordered from the ground. The timekeeper must sign the cards and return them to the Central Umpire for counter signature.

Penalty \$30

13. TEAM MANAGER

13.1 HOME TEAM MANAGER

The Home Team Manager is responsible for the following match day duties:

- Provide Time keepers cards as issued by the League
- Provide Umpires with Score Cards as issued by the League, Best & Fairest Vote Cards and envelopes as issued by the League and a current years report form pad.
- Provide umpires with AFL Gippsland Umpires Match Report form.
- Provide Interchange steward with Interchange Sheets as issued by the Commission.
- Provide footballs as per Rules.
- Provide any sponsors Special Award vote sheets for all grades.
- Enter Match Details on AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY web based data base as provided by both clubs at the end of each game in accordance with these rules.
- Email ALL player reports to AFL Gippsland at the end of each game.
- Complete quarter by quarter scores for that match using SportsTG, as per WGFNC Handbook. (Senior matches only)

13.2 AWAY TEAM MANAGER

The Away Team Manager is responsible for the following match day duties:

- Provide opposition team manager with details of Goalkickers, and best players as soon as possible after the conclusion of the game.

13.3 BOTH HOME AND AWAY TEAM MANAGERS

Both Team managers are responsible for the following match day duties

- Provide Team Sheet to the umpires, showing all players with correct jumper numbers and all officials with correct numbers where applicable generated from AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Data Base and signed by the Team Manager.
- Complete the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Match Day Ground Safety checklist
- Ensure Time keeper is available.
- Ensure Field, Goal and Boundary Umpires are available where no Association umpire appointment is made.
- Ensure Umpire Escort is appointed, is aware of and fulfils their duties.
- Obtain advice of any reported players from the central umpires after each game, sign and collect a copy of any player reports from that game.

14. PLAYING TIMES

14.1 DURATION OF GAMES

Playing times for Seniors, Reserves, Thirds and Fourths games will be:

Home & Away Games

	Teams on field	Start	Quarters	¼ time	½ time	¾ time
Seniors	1.55 pm	2.00 pm	20 min +TO	5 min	15 min	5 min
Reserves	12.05 pm	12.10 pm	20 min	5 min	10 min	5 min
Thirds	10.25 am	10.30 am	18 min	5 min	8 min	5 min
Fourths	8.55 am	9.00 am	16 min	4 min	7 min	4 min

Penalty: Clubs responsible for late starts at any point of any match will incur a fine of \$50 per occurrence.

In finals late start penalty will be \$100 per minute for each Club causing the delay.

If early games (prior to Seniors) are running behind time at half time the last 2 quarters are to be shortened accordingly to allow the game to finish on time. This provision is NOT applicable in finals games.

14.2 "TIME ON"

14.2.1 HOME & AWAY GAMES

Seniors "Time on" is to be signalled by the field umpires by either raising one hand above his head OR by crossing both arms across his chest or when a goal umpire signals a score is recorded (NOT when he completes waving his flags). If the Field umpire fails to signal "time on" when the ball goes out of bounds the clock is to be stopped when the signal is given by the boundary umpire, and restarted when the ball is thrown into play. All other grades only where a team count is called, a stretcher is on ground or there is a lengthy delay as deemed by the umpire/s in charge.

14.2.2 FINALS

Seniors will play Time On according to rules applicable during Home and Away season

All other grades will be played according to advertised times WITH Time On for excessive stoppages only.

- When the ball goes out of bounds time on will NOT be added unless the central umpire signals that he/she considers there will be an excessive delay caused by the ball going over the fence or another significant delaying factor.

"Time on" is to be signalled by the field umpires by either raising one hand above his head OR by crossing both arms across his chest or when a goal umpire signals a score is recorded (NOT when he completes waving his flags).

Teams must have entered the field by the designated time in table: Competition Rule 14.1

Penalty \$100

15. EXTRA TIME IN FINALS

15.1 There will be no drawn games in any finals.

In the case of equal scores at the end of scheduled time, the teams will play two (2) five (5) minute periods with time on. The match will recommence with the teams kicking to the same end as they were in the last scheduled quarter.

15.2 Coaches are permitted to address players at the end of the game prior to the commencement of extra time. Players must be in position to recommence the game prior to the goal umpires returning to their position.

15.3 A five minute quarter will be played (including time-on) before immediately changing ends for another five minute quarter (including time-on). There is to be no break between these quarters.

15.4 In the event of scores still being tied at the conclusion of these periods of extra time, play will recommence at a centre bounce (without change of ends) and the team to score first will be the winner.

16. INCOMPLETE MATCH

As per Law of Australian Football 11.1.2, if a Match is unable to commence or continue within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed), the following shall apply;

(a) Match not commenced: The result of a Match which is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of either Team shall be determined by the Controlling Body.

(b) Prior to half time: If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time prior to half time, the Teams shall depart from the Arena. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30 minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.

(i) In the event a finals match has been stopped before half time, the recommencement period of 30 minutes will not be applicable. Play may be recommenced at any stage provided it allows a minimum of five (5) minutes each way to determine the result of the match.

NOTE: It is at the discretion of the AFL Gippsland Commission or WGFNC Operations Coordinator to determine how long the remaining periods of the match will be, taking into account any matches that may need to follow in the days proceedings.

(ii) If extreme weather or serious injury is responsible for the non-completion of a finals match that has been stopped before half time, then the club that finished highest on the ladder at the end of the home and away season will be deemed to have won the match.

(c) Half time & beyond: If the half time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time, the Teams shall leave the Arena, or in the case of half-time, not return to the Arena. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30 minute period, the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match. The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.

(d) Match not able to proceed: Unless otherwise determined by a Controlling Body, a field Umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed. A field Umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or Within the Immediate Proximity of the Arena where the Match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy outlined in the Member Protection Policy.

(e) Recommencing of Play: Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match, in which case Law 11.2 shall apply.

(f) The Controlling Body may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals to suit practical circumstances.

17. FOOTBALLS

- All footballs used for matches will be determined by the Commission including any sponsor brand requirements
- Football for all games will be Size 5
- Two new Kangaroo Branded footballs are to be provided by the home Club in each senior match.
- Two suitable branded footballs in good order and condition are to be provided by the home Club for each other match.
- In finals, branded footballs will be provided by AFL Gippsland.

18. TEAM SHEETS

18.1 TEAM SHEETS MUST INCLUDE:

- Registered AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Player entered
- Registered AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Official entered
- Be signed by a Club Official or Captain
- Coach, Captain and Vice-captain should be identified on the team sheet
- Numbers opposite names in the Record must be the same as is on the team sheet

18.2 PLAYERS

Team sheets generated from the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Data Base and web site with full name and numbers signed by Captain or Club Official responsible are to be handed to central umpire prior to commencement of each game. Only players registered with the relevant AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY club are eligible to compete.

Club Secretaries are responsible for ensuring all participating players are registered with their club at the time of the game, names are correct, as well as seeing that the names of trainers, runners and medical staff are shown in the space provided. Coach, captain, and vice captain and any other official entering the arena should be identified on the team sheet.

Player number must match the number recorded in the football record. A notation of a variation of jumper number must be made on the team sheet to indicate exceptional circumstances.

- **Penalty for not signing – \$50**
- **Penalty for failure to include all players in team list – \$100 and loss of match points**
- **Penalty for failure to include other information – \$30**
- **Penalty for player number not matching football record – \$30**
- **Penalty for including names of players not participating in match - \$500 and loss of match points**

18.3 OFFICIALS

The maximum allowable number of officials is:

- Runners shall be two (2) for seniors and reserve grade teams (see Competition Rule 9) and one (1) for Under 18 and 16.
- Trainers shall be no more than five (5)
- Medical staff means a qualified medical practitioner, physiotherapist or similar qualified person
- Water carriers – no more than three (3).

“Officials” positions that are allowable on the WGFNC team sheet and inside the fence are:

- Coaching staff (not to exceed 3 (three))
- Team Manager
- Runner Number 1
- Runner Number 2
- Trainer Number 1
- Trainer Number 2
- Trainer Number 3
- Trainer Number 4
- Trainer Number 5 (accredited trainers only)
- Water Carrier Number 6
- Water Carrier Number 7
- Water Carrier Number 8
- Doctor (qualified)
- Physiotherapist (qualified)

All authorised persons, apart from Runners, Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain in the Coaches Box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach’s Box. **This should not total more than 4 people** + Interchange players.

Other match day staff must be stationed outside the perimeter fence or fence line.

19. MATCH REPORTS

19.1 The Secretary of the home Club must complete the match results, on line using the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Data Base, for the matches played that day. Scores must be entered no later than 30 (thirty) minutes from the conclusion of each game. The final scores for the Senior Game (1st eighteen) must be entered no later than 5.30pm.

19.2 The Full Match Details must be entered on the Club AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY data base on the day the game is played by 6.00pm
Where Friday night or Sunday games are played other arrangements MAY BE put in place.

19.3 If a report is made, a copy of the report must be scanned and emailed through by the home club to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator, no later than 6.00pm on the day of that match. If a scanner is not available, the home club must either text a photo of the report sheet or email the following details to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator within the same time frame. Reported player, Offended player (if applicable), Reporting umpire, alleged offence, if a tribunal is required. The original copy of the Notice of Report must be included in the match day paperwork envelope, regardless of whether a set sanction has been accepted or not.

If for some unforeseen reason the home club is unable to send these details electronically. A detailed message is to be conveyed to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator by phone within the required timeframe.

20. MATCH DAY PAPERWORK

Scanned items sent to AFL Gippsland will include:

- (i). AFL Victoria Country 2019 Notice of Report
- (ii). Umpires Match Report
- (iii). Team Sheets
- (iv). Scorecards (Official Umpire cards)

21. MATCH DAY PENALTIES

21.1 Team manager failing to receive the all clear regarding player reports from officiating umpires in Home and Away games.

Penalty \$50

21.2 Failing to include the signed Interchange/order off form in the Match Day envelope.

Penalty \$50

21.3 Failing to submit Umpires' Notice of Report Form or required details to WGFNC Operations Coordinator by 6.00 pm on the day of the match.

Penalty: \$100

21.4 Approved paperwork must not be altered under any circumstances.

21.5 Match Details submitted via AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY on line web site to AFL Gippsland must be entered by the required time and contain correct scores as per Goal Umpires Cards, accurate best players, and goal kickers for both competing teams.

Penalty: \$50 for first occurrence, \$100 for subsequent occurrences.

22. ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME & AWAY GAMES

22.1 A player playing in a game with the senior team of his Club, shall be ineligible to play in any lower grades in that round that are scheduled at a later date than the Senior game.

22.2 A Club playing an ineligible player will:

- (a) In the event of it winning the game forfeit all match and scored points and be subject to a fine to be set by the Commission.

(b) In the event of it losing the game, forfeit all scored points and be subject to a fine to be set by the Commission.

The opposing Club shall be awarded the match points and retains its scored points.

22.3 A Player who wishes to apply for dispensation to play in a Competition below their applicable age group on the basis of a Disability or for Physical Size or Development Considerations must make an application through the Player's Club, to the relevant League in accordance with the AFL National Age Dispensation Policy.

23. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

23.1 Definitions:

A player must be in attendance, in suitable attire to take the field and at a minimum be on the field in the club's interchange area for the duration of the game.

23.2 Eligibility for Club

A player must have played at least five (5) games with his Club during the season to be eligible to play in finals.

State League and NAB Cup Players (As per Rule 13 in AFL Victoria Country Handbook)

(i) For the purpose of finals qualification and player eligibility, the NAB Cup competition shall be considered the equal of AFL Victoria Country senior competition and NAB Cup matches shall be considered matches of the players senior AFL Victoria Country team for the purpose of eligibility to play in AFL Victoria Country finals.

(ii) For the purposes of finals eligibility within an AFL Victoria Country affiliated league, a player who has played more than twelve (12) 1st 18 homes and away games for a club affiliated with a senior state league competition in that season will not be eligible to play finals within an AFL Victoria Country affiliated competition.

(iii) NAB Cup players must play a minimum of three (3) matches with the under 18's of the participating Club during the current season to be eligible to play finals.

23.3 HIGHER GRADE GAMES

23.3.1 If a player plays in 2 or more matches on the same weekend the higher level game will count towards their finals eligibility.

***NOTE: - This rule does not apply for junior aged players filling in for either Seniors, Reserves or U18 teams.**

23.3.2 A game played by a player during the season in the first or reserve team of a Club affiliated with the AFL, VFL, WAFL, SANFL, QAFL, ACTAFL, TAFL, or NTF or NAB Under 18 Competition shall count as though it is a senior game played with his Club, only for the purposes of Rules 21.4.2 when assessing eligibility for finals in lower sections.

23.4 LOWER GRADE GAMES

23.4.1 A junior aged player who has played with the senior team of his WGFNC Club during the home and away season is eligible to play with his WGFNC under 18's or under 16's team provided he has played 3 games in his WGFNC under 18's or under 16's team during the home and away season.

23.4.2 An open aged player who plays more than 9 games with his WGFNC clubs senior team during the home and away season, will **NOT** be eligible to play reserves **UNLESS** the senior team is also playing on the same weekend.

***NOTE – This rule does not apply to junior aged players. A junior aged player must only satisfy the requirements in rule 23.4.1**

23.4.3 An open aged player who has qualified to play with his WGFNC club and not played more than 9 games in the senior team, must have played at least 4 reserves games to be eligible to play in reserves finals.

23.5 ONE GAME PER WEEKEND

23.5.1 A player may not play a game for their WGFNC club and also for their VFL or NAB club on the same weekend, unless they play less than 25 minutes of actual playing time for their VFL or NAB club on that weekend. If this occurs the WGFNC club will be deemed as having played an ineligible player and penalised accordingly.

23.5.2 A player may only play in one game over a weekend of finals if his Club is competing in more than one section.

- a) Teams may request special consideration should they have injured, absent or a shortage of players during a finals series. Please note requests may not be granted. All requests must be in writing to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator.

23.6 INELIGIBLE PLAYER IN FINALS

A Club playing an ineligible player in a finals game will:

- (a) Forfeit the match in the event of it scoring more points than the opposing.
- (b) Be subject to a fine to be set by the Commission.

24. UMPIRES

24.1 Central Umpires must make available to the home Club Secretary immediately after the match, the following:

- (a) Team sheets of opposing teams.
- (b) General report of match, starting time, uniforms, officials on WGFNC form.
- (c) Selection of three best and fairest players in order of preference marking the 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice using players' team name, names shown in team lists and numbers of such players. This vote card is to be placed in the separate sealed envelope.
- (d) Charges against Clubs or players (with numbers) for breaches of rules and any matter they consider should be brought up.

24.2 Central Umpires must see that Club Goal and Boundary Umpires are properly uniformed. Goal Umpires must be appropriately attired and equipped in white coats, where provided, and equipped with suitable white flags, and two timekeepers are to be in position prior to commencement of the game.

24.3 The Field Umpire shall have full control of the play and shall award penalties in accordance with the laws of the game. No appeal shall be entertained against any of his decisions.

24.4 In the event of an Official Umpire not being available, a substitute umpire shall be appointed by agreement of both Captains. Such Central Umpires shall have the power to:

- (a) issue yellow cards;
- (b) issue red cards; and
- (c) report players.

A player can be reported by a non-WGFNC appointed Umpire. Normal reporting procedures are to be followed.

24.5 Where a substitute Central Umpire has been appointed he shall fill in the Best and Fairest votes.

24.6 Where Goal Umpires are not provided by the WGFNC official umpire panels, they must be supplied by the competing Clubs. Any Club Goal Umpire officiating in a WGFNC match must be at least 16 years of age. They must be conversant with the rules, wear white coats and be provided with white flags at least 45 cm square by Clubs and must use the League scorecard which must be signed by both Goal Umpires, Timekeepers and Central Umpires at the match conclusion, failing which it may not be recognised as official. They must keep their goal area clear of spectators. Club-appointed goal umpires must wear a white coat.

Penalty \$50.

24.7 Where Boundary Umpires are not provided by the WGFNC official umpire panels, they should be supplied by the competing Clubs. Where a club does NOT supply a boundary umpire players from that Club must take responsibility for throwing the ball back into play for the entire boundary on one side of the ground. If both Clubs do not supply a boundary umpire players from the forward line of respective teams will take responsibility for throwing the ball back into play for the boundary in their forward half of the ground.

25. CLUB UMPIRES

As an AFL National Umpire Accreditation Policy requirement; it is mandatory that all community umpires whether being "League" or "Club" must have an active (Introductory – Level 1) or actively engaged in AFL Umpire Accreditation. (Introductory – Level 1) and be registered with AFL Gippsland.

26. UMPIRE & INTERCHANGE OFFICER

The home club is responsible for the appointment of an umpire and interchange officer, who is to perform all duties of the umpire escort (see below) and interchange steward (see ix):

- (i) Be listed on the Official team sheet
- (ii) Move quickly to the umpires at the end of each quarter
- (iii) Escort the field and goal umpires from the ground at half time and at the completion of the game to the door of the umpires room
- (iv) Where the club is the home club, offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter;
- (v) Remain in the centre of the ground with the umpires during quarter time and three quarter time breaks;
- (vi) Show courtesy at all times and NOT question or give comment on the umpire's performance;
- (vii) Be over the age of 18 years; and
- (viii) Wear approved League Escort Bib at all times whilst officiating as an umpires escort.
- (ix) The responsibilities of the interchange steward are outlined in AFL Laws of the Game Rule 7. The Interchange Steward will:
 - Ensure that the runners of each club are entering and exiting the field of play via the interchange gate.
 - Be responsible for players ordered from the ground (see 5.4)

Penalty \$100 (offending Club)

27. GROUND ENCROACHMENT

27.1 With the exception only of the quarter time, half time and three-quarter time interval, no persons other than officials provided for in these Rules may encroach upon or enter the playing arena, or stand sufficiently close to the boundary line to impede or hamper the progress or movement of the Boundary Umpires in the execution of their duties.

27.2 The officiating umpires are empowered to send off any of these officials if they are not correctly attired or are deemed to be exceeding their duties.

27.3 Team "huddles" at both quarter and three quarter times (and extra time in finals) must be located outside the centre square.

Penalty: \$100

28. BARRACKERS AND SUPPORTERS

Any supporters or barrackers who are known to be members of any Club, within the League who, in the opinion of the Central, Boundary or Goal Umpire, Emergency Umpire, Commissioner or AFL Gippsland Officer, behave in an offensive manner by spoken remarks, or openly incite players on the field to play in a manner not conducive to the best interests of the game, or are the cause of any disturbance between onlookers, will render the Club to which they belong liable to appear before the Commission or Tribunal who will have the power after dealing with the case to impose a special fine, suspend or expel such Club from the Competition.

29. INDEPENDENT REGIONAL TRIBUNAL

29.1.1 APPOINTMENT

The Commission shall annually appoint an Independent Regional Tribunal panel in accordance with AFL Vic Country Rule 7 consisting of up to twenty persons, three of whom will comprise any one sitting. Such persons will not be directly associated with any Club in the Leagues but will be thoroughly conversant with the rules of the game and the Leagues and, in the opinion of the Commission, will be thoroughly capable of handling any cases or disputes which may be put before them.

This Independent Tribunal will deal with players and officials reported in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Rules of AFL Vic Country, the WGFNC and AFL Gippsland. They may also sit in judgment on any football issue or matters for AFL Gippsland at the direction of the Commission within its jurisdiction.

They are to meet when occasion demands, and their decision is to be final and binding. All divisions affiliated with AFL Gippsland and the WGFNC will come under the jurisdiction of the Commission Independent Tribunal.

29.1.2 CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

The AFL Gippsland Commission, along with the WGFNC Advisory Committee shall appoint the Chairperson of the Independent Tribunal.

29.2 CLUB ADVOCATES

A Club advocate shall accompany any player attending the Independent Tribunal.

Penalty: \$100

Advocates are not permitted to be a member of the Legal profession.

Penalty: \$500 and represented player may be subject to a rehearing if deemed appropriate by AFL Gippsland

29.3 ATTENDANCE AT TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

29.3.1 Players or officials charged with an offence must attend the Independent Tribunal Meeting. If necessary the Meeting will be adjourned and the player or official penalised until attendance is confirmed. Club Secretaries (unless an alternate club official is notified to WGFNC Operations Coordinator at the commencement of the season) will be contacted with dates and times of Tribunal hearings.

29.3.2 Players or officials as witnesses, who are personally unable to attend the tribunal hearing for business or schooling reasons only, are allowed to submit a Statement to the tribunal, outlining reasons for non-attendance, their impressions of the circumstances or events relating to the report. The statement must include a telephone contact number that the witness will be available on and contactable at the scheduled time of the tribunal hearing. Failure to supply contact number or be available may render the witness liable to punishment. Submission of such statement must be approved by AFL Gippsland and be provided to AFL Gippsland offices no later than 12 noon on the day of the tribunal hearing.

29.4 HEARINGS – REPORTED PLAYERS

In normal circumstances the WGFNC Tribunal will meet, when required, on either Tuesday or Wednesday nights commencing at 6.30pm.

In the event that more than one case is scheduled, they will be heard in the order determined by the Tribunal Secretary, allowing approximately 45 minutes for each case. Should there be more than 3 cases to be heard on the one night a second Tribunal will be convened with a separate panel.

29.5 POWER TO REPORT

29.5.1 The Umpire panels as nominated to the AFL Gippsland Commission, will have the power to report players if deemed necessary.

29.6 REPORTING OF PLAYERS

7.6.1 A current years AFL Vic Country player report pad is to be placed in the umpire's room at the beginning of the day and left there for the duration of the day's games.

Penalty \$100

29.6.2 If a report is made, a copy of the report must be provided electronically by the home club to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator, no later than 6.00pm on the day of that match. Information required: Reported player, Offended player (if applicable), Reporting umpire, alleged offence, if a tribunal is required. If electronic hardware is not available, or not functioning, this information must be conveyed directly to the Operations Coordinator in the same time frame by mobile. The original copy of the Notice of Report must be included in the match day paperwork envelope regardless of whether a set sanction has been accepted or not.

Penalty \$100

29.7 SET SANCTIONS

Note the following variation to AFL Vic Country Rule 11.

If after the game the reporting umpire doesn't indicate on the player report sheet that the offence warrants a tribunal hearing, the offending player can choose to accept the prescribed penalty by signing the player report sheet in the space provided. He can also delay this decision until noon the day following the incident at the latest.

The reporting umpire, the offending player and the offended player's club secretary all have until noon the day following the incident to inform the league that they wish the matter to be heard by a tribunal. If one party initially chooses the set sanction, they can change their decision within the time frame.

Once one of the above parties indicates the matter should be heard at tribunal, the set sanction will not be an option. That decision cannot be changed. If there is no official indication within the designated timeframe that the player wishes to accept the set sanction, the matter will be heard at tribunal.

Players and/or team managers from both teams must sign the Player Report to acknowledge receipt of the form from the umpires.

Notifications regarding this section of the rule must be made to the Tribunal Secretary or nominated representative.

30. INVESTIGATION OFFICER

An Investigation Officer will be appointed by AFL Vic Country from its panel of Investigation Officers to investigate any matter referred to him pursuant to AFL Vic Country Rule 5.2 (Unbecoming conduct). Participant age is determined as at 31st December of that year.

31. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

31.1 AFL Gippsland Commission members or staff, Club members, Players or Umpires who allege that a player or an official of a Club has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a Player or an Official of a Club or which is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute may lodge with the Competition a notice in writing setting out the particulars of the allegation within 5 days.

A notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the Operations Coordinator within five days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the Commission agrees to extend this period to a maximum of 30 days. An

extension agreed to by the Commission may be for such period and subject to such conditions as the Commission thinks fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 21 days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of the 21 days, the Competition at the request of the Investigation Officer then grants an extension of time up to a maximum of 10 days.

A Deposit of \$500 from a club requesting an investigation shall accompany the notice, which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal consider it frivolous. \$150 will be deducted from the deposit to cover investigation costs.

31.2 Notice of any allegation received under By-Law 31.1 shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit.

31.2.1 Within 2 days of receiving the official request for an investigation, the Operations Coordinator is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the incident or matter for investigation.

31.3 If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player or Official in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player or an Official of a Club or is likely to bring the game of football in disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the Competition Independent Tribunal as hereinafter provided, he may lodge with the Competition a notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.

31.4 If a notice is lodged with the WGFNC under By-Law 31.3, the Operations Coordinator or his delegate shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation before the Competition Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than 9 days after lodgement of the notice and shall advise the Player or Official in question of those particulars and forward to the Player or Official direct or care of the Club Secretary in question a copy of the notice lodged under By-Law 31.3.

31.5 The Competition Independent Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it under this Rule as it thinks fit, but in any such proceedings, the Player or Official against whom the allegation has been made and his advocate shall be entitled to appear before the League Independent Tribunal.

31.6 In any proceeding brought before a tribunal under this rule the Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and lay any necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the Competition.

31.7 If the Competition Independent Tribunal decides that the Player or Official in question has been guilty of conduct which, in the opinion of the League Independent Tribunal, is unbecoming to a Player or Official of a Club or which is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the manner as it thinks fit.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Competition Independent Tribunal may:

- (a) impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player or Official in question; or,
- (b) may disqualify the Player or Official in question for such period as it thinks fit.

31.8 The decision of the Competition Independent Tribunal in respect of any allegation brought before it under this Rule shall be final and binding on all parties.

32. DISPUTES

To be read in conjunction with AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rules.

32.1 The Commission has the power to deal with and settle all disputes arising out of or in connection with this competition with the exception of appeals as defined in AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY rules. The Commission may have such disputes heard and decided by the Independent Tribunal. Should the party or parties concerned refuse or neglect to abide by such decision they shall be suspended from the competition for such time as the Commission or Tribunal may determine, and shall be liable to a fine in default of payment of such fine the party or parties concerned may be excluded from playing in the competition.

32.2 Any party referring any dispute to the Commission shall forward a statement of such dispute in writing to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator not later than 5pm on the Monday following the match and 5pm on the Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday. This notice must be accompanied with a deposit for \$500.

33. PRACTICE MATCHES

33.1 In all practice matches played by an affiliated Club whether within the Competition or against a Club from another League the Club Secretary shall ensure that a team sheet is completed and handed to the Central Umpire.

33.2 As the host club, the Secretary shall forward copies of all such team sheets and other relevant paperwork to the WGFNC Operations Coordinator in the event of a player being reported. A copy of the report or required details, must be provided to AFL Gippsland by 6.00pm on the day of the match.

33.3 Any player who plays in a practice match and is not a registered player of the participating Club must have his registered Club identified on the team sheet.

33.4 All practice matches will be conducted under AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY rules and under normal match conditions. Umpires will have the right to report and order off. Umpires have been instructed that the Order Off Rule will not be used in lieu of reporting a player when a reportable offence has been committed.

33.5 All reports will be heard by the Independent Tribunal of the league of the host Club and any investigations referred from a practice match, will be conducted by the Host Club's League Investigation Officer.

33.6 All practice matches played exclusively between WGFNC clubs must engage the use of SGUA or GUA umpires when available. A minimum of 10 days' notice is required to engage the services of either umpire panel.

33.7 Clubs shall deal directly with the AFL Gippsland Umpires Coordinator for the appointment of umpires for a practice match requiring umpires from the SGUA or GUA panels. Umpires' fees will be invoiced directly to each club.

34. CODES OF CONDUCT AND OTHER POLICIES

34.1 All players, officials and Club members at all Competition matches shall be subject to the Policies and Codes of Conduct as issued by the Commission from time to time.

34.2 The Commission is required to adopt complementary rules and regulations in football competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction as those of AFL Vic Country, AFL Victoria.

34.3 The Commission has adopted the following AFL Victoria, AFL Vic Country policies (as published by AFL Victoria and/or AFL Vic Country) as policies of the WGFNC:

- Infectious Diseases Policy;
- No Smoking & Alcohol Management Policy;
- AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
- Anti-Doping Policy;
- Codes of Conduct - Players, Coaches, Parents & Umpires
- Gender Policy;
- De-Registration Policy;
- Privacy Policy;
- Responsible Serving of Alcohol;
- Looking After Mates;
- Junior Coach Code of Conduct
- AFL Kids First
- AFL Victoria Cyber safety Policy
- AFL Gippsland Constitution



WEST GIPPSLAND
FOOTBALL NETBALL



Est. 1886

West Gippsland Football Netball Competition

NETBALL BY-LAWS

EFFECTIVE FROM 16TH OF MARCH 2017

UPDATED 12TH DECEMBER 2019

DEFINITIONS

“**Association**” is the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition.

“**Club**” includes all affiliated clubs.

“**Club Delegate**” is a representative of the Club or Team who liaises with the Advisory Committee.

“**Committee of Management**” is comprised of members of the WGFNC who are appointed to this committee as per the constitution.

“**Administrator**” employee appointed by AFL Gippsland & Netball Victoria East, to oversee the day to day operations of the WGFNC

“**Ineligible player**” is a player who is not entitled to participate in a game, which may include a player who has not qualified or a player not eligible to play in that age section.

“**Team**” is a team which is not affiliated with a governing Club at either the Night Competition or the Saturday Competition.

“**Constitution**” means the constitution of the WGFNC. It may otherwise be referred to as the Rules of Incorporation.

“**Bylaws**” are additional rules which apply to members which generally deal with internal and administrative matters. The Bylaws are made under the Constitution. Accordingly, the Bylaws are subordinate to the Constitution and must not be inconsistent with the Constitution. An Association should have a clause in the Constitution that provides the power to the Board or Committee to make Bylaws.

BY-LAWS

These Bylaws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the WGFNC. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

1. REGISTRATION

1.1 Club / Team

(a) To compete in WGFNC, clubs must ensure all registrations are completed in a timely manner and in line with Netball Victoria requirements.

(b) All clubs must field an A Grade first, then B, C, 17 & Under, 15 & Under with D Grade and 11&U optional. This can be amended with exceptional circumstances and AFL Gippsland will make the final decision. All Clubs will receive an information kit, which shall include:

- Due date and amount of all fees and levies that are to be paid for the season, including Fees to WGFNC, Netball Victoria and any other fees that may be deemed necessary for that season
- Copy of the WGFNC Constitution and Bylaws
- Information regarding any meetings or other requirements of the WGFNC
- Calendars
- Codes of Conduct
- Netball Victoria Cyber Safety Policy
- Netball Victoria Competition Regulation
- Netball Australia Member Protection Policy

2. NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc.

2.2 All players, coaches and umpires participating in the WGFNC or programs must be a current Netball Victoria member.

2.3 No player will be permitted to take the court without Netball Victoria membership.

2.4 Single Game Vouchers may be used.

- A player must purchase a Single Game Voucher from the competition office prior to taking the court for the Club or Team.
- A Single Game Voucher may be used by the player for one game only.
- A maximum number of three (3) Single Game Vouchers may be purchased by the player before the player must become a Netball Victoria member for the year.

3. AGE REQUIREMENTS & COMPETITIONS

3.1 Participant age is determined as at 31st December of that year.

3.2 Clubs and Teams are trusted to obtain and provide correct dates of birth.

3.3 Minimum age requirements are:

- 11&U – Turning 9 years
- 13&U – Turning 11 years
- 15&U – Turning 12 years
- 17&U – Turning 14 years
- Open Sections - 14 years

Penalty: Loss of four (4) premiership points to offending team

3.4 Boys are eligible to play in 11 & Under and 13 & Under age group.

(a) As per Netball Victoria Gender Regulation guidelines, where mixed competitions are offered up to and including the 13&U age group, there can be no restrictions applied on the basis of gender.

(b) Please refer to Netball Victoria Gender Regulations Policy for more information.

3.5 The WGFNC offers the following competition & programs:

11&U	Mixed	(females & males – no restrictions)
13&U	Female	(males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may participate)
15&U	Female	
17&U	Female	
Open	Female	

4. INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

4.1 The WGFNC actively support the participation of all groups and populations including; girls, boys, women, aged, indigenous, disabled and culturally & linguistically diverse.

4.2 The WGFNC will conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure your club is providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.

4.3 The WGFNC may elect to offer mixed competitions with a minimum age of 14 years and have some rules or restrictions in regards to the number and sex of participants permitted on court or per team playing at any one time. This can vary across competitions (with a minimum age of 14 years) at the discretion of the WGFNC.

(a) Please refer to Netball Victoria Gender Regulations for all rules and regulations relating to mixed competitions.

4.4 The WGFNC will allow for modifications where necessary.

4.5 The WGFNC will think ability not disability.

5. DRESS CODE

5.1 PLAYERS

- (a) Each Club and Team must register its uniform.
- (b) Clubs and Teams must notify AFL Gippsland & Netball Victoria in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform.
- (c) All Club and Team uniform colours and designs must be approved by AFL Gippsland & Netball Victoria.
- (e) All players must wear their Club or Team nominated uniform including positional bibs and any sports brief or shorts.
 - (i) Sports briefs must not be longer than the skirt or dress.
 - (ii) T-shirts must be tucked in if the Club or Team skirt cannot clearly be seen.
 - (iii) Shorts cannot have pockets.

Players may receive a warning before a penalty is applied for incorrect uniform.

Penalty: A fine will be imposed.

(d) Gloves, leggings, tracksuit pants are not permitted, except on the grounds of medical condition upon receipt of a doctor's certificate signed by a qualified medical practitioner. Players or officials with cultural or religious beliefs are exempt and may wear clothing appropriate to their culture or beliefs but must be within safety regulations.

5.2 UMPIRES

- (a) Shall wear clothes that are white in colour. Suitable footwear shall be worn.
- (b) Any umpire not wearing white attire will receive a warning from the WGFNC.
 - (i) Any umpire not wearing white after the initial warning may be fined. The value of the fine will be at the discretion of AFL Gippsland and the WGFNC Advisory Committee.

5.3 REPRESENTATIVE SQUAD

- (a) The Association representative squad uniform is
 - (i) Official WGFNC Netball Dress
 - (ii) AFL Gippsland & Netball Victoria may add to these items as they see fit.
- (b) All representative squad uniform items must be sourced through the WGFNC Administrator to maintain consistency.
- (c) Players will not be permitted to take to the court unless they are in full uniform.

6. CLEARANCES

6.1 A clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club OR Team during the current season.

6.2 No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.

6.3 A clearance will not be granted after the half way mark of the season, Round 9.

6.4 Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of Club or Team property (uniform, equipment) will not be granted a clearance.

6.5 A player must have received notification in writing from the WGFNC Administrator before playing for a new Club or Team.

6.6 A player must complete all details on the top section of the clearance form and send to the WGFNC Administrator.

6.7 The WGFNC Administrator will forward the clearance request to the existing Club or Team for approval.

6.8 The existing Club or Team has seven (7) days to complete the clearance or the WGFNC Administrator will automatically clear the player to the new Club or Team.

6.9 If the Club or Team refuses to clear the player (refer to 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4), the WGFNC Administrator will write to a player advising the reason why and forward a copy to both Clubs or Teams.

6.10 Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with by the AFL Gippsland Commission.

6.11 If the clearance is approved, the player will then receive a letter advising that the clearance has been approved and copy is forwarded to both Clubs/Teams.

NOTE: Clearance By-Law breaches carry a club penalty of \$200 per offence.

7. CONDUCT OF GAMES

7.1 The WGFNC adheres by the rules as stated in Netball Australia's Official Rule Book, as well as Netball Victoria's competition regulations.

7.2 The length of quarters varies depending upon the age of players. The WGFNC determines the length of quarters prior to the season commencing.

11 & Under

Commence 8:00 am

4 x 10 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st and 3rd quarter & 3 minutes at half time.

13 & Under

Commence 9: 00 am

4 x 10 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st and 3rd quarter & 3 minutes at half time.

15 & Under

Commence at 10:00 am

4 x 10 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st and 3rd quarter & 3 minutes at half time.

17 & Under

Commence at 11:00 am

4 x 12 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st and 3rd quarter & 3 minutes at half time.

D Grade

Commence at 12 noon on second court.

4 x 12 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st and 3rd quarter & 3 minutes at half time.

C Grade

Commence at 12 noon

4 x 12 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st and 3rd quarter & 3 minutes at half time.

B Grade

Commence at 1:10 pm

4 x 15 minute quarters

3 minute break at 1st & 3rd quarter and 5 minute break at halftime.

A Grade

Commence at 2.25 pm

4 x 15 minute quarters

3 minute break at 1st & 3rd quarter and 5 minute break at half time.

7.3 Fixtures will be arranged for all competitions indicating venues and times. Copies will be forwarded to Clubs and Teams prior to the season commencing.

7.4 Only one match will be played at a time except where D Grade will play alongside C Grade.

7.5 Each Club must provide a suitably qualified primary carer to be courtside at each match.

8. SCORING & TIMEKEEPING

8.1 The Home Team will provide the Official Scoresheet as obtained from MyNetball.

8.2 Clubs must ensure all teams are finalised by the Friday morning prior to each round, allowing the home team to print them in preparation for the upcoming round of matches.

8.3 It is the home team's responsibility to ensure score sheets and brief rundown of matches are sent to Competition Co-ordinator within the required time as determined by the co-ordinator prior to the commencement of each season.

8.4 Home teams are to provide a scorer and the away team is required to provide a time keeper for each match.

8.5 The scorers and time keepers must sit together for the duration of the game in a designated area outside the sideline and level with the centre circle.

8.6 One (1) official scoresheet will be used for each game. This Scoresheet will list the complete names (both given and surname) of all players intending to take the court. This Scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter and the game score. A record of centre passes must also be kept and provided if requested by an umpire.

- a) Any player that is not named on the official scoresheets by the beginning of the first quarter are not permitted on the court and may not take any part in the match. Any player who has taken the court will be deemed an ineligible player and the offending team will have forfeited the match.

8.7 At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by;

(a) The captains of both competing teams, and

(b) The scorers

(c) The officiating umpires only sign the score sheet to state they have officiated that game.

Penalty: Clubs will receive a warning for incorrect score sheets. Repeat offenders may receive fines, with the amount to be determined by AFL Gippsland.

8.8 If a scorer, Team or Club believes the score sheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest.

8.9 A team wishing to protest must:

(a) Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Committee of the intention to protest.

(b) Lodge the protest in writing with the WGFNC Administrator within 48 hours of the game being played.

8.10 The Administrator will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.

West Gippsland Football Netball Competition- By-laws – Updated 12th December 2019

9. UMPIRES

9.1 All umpires, that officiate A and B grade matches must possess at a minimum a C grade badge.

9.2 Umpires who regularly umpire for a particular club must be added to the club database via mynetball to allow for accreditation checks.

10. PLAYERS QUALIFICATION

10.1 Players shall only be permitted to play in a higher section or age group (*refer to by-law 3.1*).

10.2 Once a player has played a maximum of six (6) games in a higher grade they must remain in that grade.

10.3 Juniors playing in 15 and 17 & Under cannot over qualify for senior grades, however they are not to play more than 2 matches per round. Please see by law 11.4 regarding finals eligibility.

10.4 Any player who has played a Victorian Netball League (VNL) match in the current season will only be permitted to play in A Grade for her home club in the WGFNC.

10.5 Should a team win a match with an ineligible player, four points will be awarded to the opposing team. An ineligible player is defined by: 1. A player who is not a current Netball Victoria member (ie has not paid their VNA) 2. A player who has not been registered for a Netball Victoria 'Day Pass' 3. A player who has qualified in a higher grade and played in a lower grade (as per 10.2) 4. A player who requires a transfer and has not received it.

11. FINALS

11.1 Netball and football will follow the same format for finals which will be determined by Netball Victoria and AFL Gippsland.

11.2 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.

a) For 11 & Under and D Grades, points may be replaced with win percentage in the event not all clubs enter teams in these grades.

11.3 Players must play one third of the home and away playable rounds in that season with their Club to be eligible to participate in finals. Players named on the score sheet & who have taken the court will be deemed to have played that game.

11.4 Any senior player once qualified in a grade (as per 10.2) is ineligible to play in a lower grade. A 15 & Under and 17 & Under player, once qualified is a senior grade is ineligible to play in a lower senior grade, however they are still eligible to play in their junior grade providing that have played one-third of the seasons games.

11.5 A player who has played in more than one senior grade during the home and away season may only become eligible to play in the lower grade final if they have played an equal number or more in the lower grade than the higher grades combined total.

11.6 Teams may request special consideration should they have injured or absent players during a final series. Please note requests may not be granted. All requests must be in writing.

11.7 Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that game.

11.8 The rules listed in Conduct of Games also apply for finals. The starting time of finals games may alter slightly and will be determined by Netball Victoria and AFL Gippsland.

11.9 Drawn games – this will only apply during finals

- A draw after full time:
- Two (2) minute break – team changes & substitutions can be made during this time
- Game commences for appropriate length as per information below

- A one (1) minute break will take place at half time – team changes and substitutions can be made during this time. Teams change ends
- If after this time the score is still a draw (scorers to observe), a visual sign is to be held up for umpires and benches to see, play continues as normal until one team has a two (2) goal lead. No whistles or sirens are to be used to indicate the end of the extra time, the clock should now be stopped.
- Stoppages for injury, illness and/or blood will apply during the drawn game. This stoppage will be up to 30 seconds for the player to leave the court and to allow for the substitutions and team changes to be made.
- Length of extra time will be determined as follows:
 - 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

11.10 Netball Victoria and AFL Gippsland will determine awards for premiers and runners-up.

12. FORFEITS

12.1 In the event a team forfeits prior to the game clock starting, games shall only be awarded to players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.

12.2 A forfeit fine determined by the Netball Victoria and AFL Gippsland will be imposed and must be paid before the next game of the offending team.

12.3 3 forfeits in one season will see the offending team removed from the competition, fines will apply. All fines must be paid prior to re-entry into the competition.

12.4 Please refer to competition by-law 10.3 for forfeit calculations.

13. CANCELLATIONS / ABANDONMENT

13.1 Games may be stopped in consultation with Umpires and officials from both clubs.

13.2 When games are cancelled on account of 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.

13.3 Four (4) points can only be awarded for fully completed games.

13.4 If play is abandoned before half time the teams take two (2) premierships points each, or the game is rescheduled by agreement of two (2) officials from both clubs.

(i) In the event a finals match has been stopped before half time, play may be recommenced at any stage provided it allows a minimum of five (5) minutes each way to determine the result of the match.

NOTE: It is at the discretion of the AFL Gippsland Commission or WGFNC Operations Coordinator to determine how long the remaining periods of the match will be, taking into account any matches that may need to follow in the days proceedings.

(ii) If extreme weather or serious injury is responsible for the non-completion of a finals match that has been stopped before half time, then the club that finished highest on the ladder at the end of the home and away season will be deemed to have won the match.

13.5 If a game is stopped after half time the current score stands as the final score.

13.6 In the event a game is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to a maximum of twelve players, for each team.

13.7 Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, Netball Victoria and AFL Gippsland will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

14. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

14.1 The competition appointed Representative will organise representative squad trials.

14.2 Trials will be conducted under the following conditions:

- (a) All selected/invited players shall be informed in writing of the date, time and place trials are to be held.
- (b) Notice of trials will be at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the trials.

14.3 Team Selection Panels

(a) Advisory Committee shall recommend the appointment of Representative team officials and selectors for each team which shall be made up of Team Coach and two other selectors. AFL Gippsland and Netball Victoria will finalise appointments based on recommendations or shall seek other candidates should the need arise.

(b) Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel.

14.4 All Players shall be notified of the team selections within seven (7) days of the final trial.

14.5 There will be a minimum of 2 trials. Players are required to attend a minimum of 2 trials.

14.6 The selector's decision shall be final.

14.7 Team Support Staff

(i) Team Support Staff will be appointed by WGFNC. Team officials will include but not limited to, coach, team manager, umpires and suitably qualified primary carer.

(ii) Team Support Staff will be appointed prior to trials.

(iii) All coaches must have a minimum Foundation Coaching Accreditation.

(iv) All umpires must have a minimum C Badge.

(v) All team support staff must provide copies of current Working With Children Checks, update the register to show your association with the WGFNC, no one is exempt from providing this, failure to provide copies of relevant documents will result in not being appointed.

15. BEST AND FAIREST

15.1 Both umpires to confer and select 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best and Fairest Players on the court. Vote Cards MUST be signed by BOTH UMPIRES.

A penalty of \$20 per card will be incurred by both clubs in the event that the umpires fail to sign the card. Players voted for on the card are not to lose their points (votes).

16. TRIBUNAL

16.1 The WGFNC will have a Tribunal to deal independently with disputes and reports. The Tribunal will consist of three independent people sourced by the WGFNC in conjunction with AFL Gippsland & Netball Victoria.

16.2 All reports must be lodged with the Competitions Operations Coordinator within 48 hours of incident and in writing four (4) days after the match and shall be reviewed by the Tribunal before the next official game. A fee of \$50 (fifty dollars) must accompany this report/dispute.

16.3 Any appeal regarding the outcome of Tribunal Meeting will be handed to the Competition Operations Coordinator within 48 hours of the decision. This appeal against the decision of the Tribunal must be accompanied by a fee of \$500 (five hundred dollars) and contain new evidence. Such appeal to be heard by an outside body.

16.4 Any player suspended by the Tribunal shall not be eligible for League Best and Fairest Player Awards.

17. AWARDS

17.1 All premiership players and the senior coach will receive a medal and club to receive a premiership cup.

18. COURSES, SEMINARS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

18.1 The West Gippsland Football Netball Competition shall provide notification of opportunities for all members to improve their skills by attending courses, seminars and other personal development activities.

18.2 The West Gippsland Football Netball Competition shall encourage and support members who wish to attend appropriate courses, seminars and other personal development activities.

19. ACCREDITATION

19.1 The West Gippsland Football Netball Competition shall ensure that all officials have current appropriate minimum qualifications. Coaching should be no less than Foundation and umpiring no less than completion of theory and level 1. We encourage all umpires and coaches to progress to the next level prior to the commencement of the next season.

19.2 Where minimum qualifications/accreditation standards are not met, the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition shall encourage and support the member/s to achieve the minimum standards. WGFNC will make every effort to appoint an umpire co-ordinator and coach co-ordinator to assist with these goals.

19.3 The West Gippsland Football Netball Competition will not appoint any person to an official position unless that person has achieved the minimum standard qualification/accreditation and where required all appropriate Government legislated checks.

20. RISK MANAGEMENT

20.1 INJURY REPORTING

(a) Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian for players under 18).

(b) Team Managers or primary carers of representative team are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player (or players' guardian for players under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.

20.2 GAME DAY CHECKLIST

(a) A Game Day Checklist must be completed prior to all matches commencing, games and training.

(b) Any hazards identified will be:

(i) Documented

(ii) Rectified if possible

(iii) Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repair is required

20.3 PREGNANCY

As per Netball Australia Member Protection Policy.

20.4 FIRST AID

(a) Clubs will provide their own First Aid Kit.

(b) Primary Carer will maintain the first aid kit supplies. An inventory is to be completed on a weekly basis.

(c) Home Clubs should endeavour to have a designated room or area for the treatment of injuries. The room or area should be kept clean and be accessible at all times.

20.5 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency phone numbers - Ambulance, Police and an Emergency Procedure Plan is to be displayed by the phone and in the First Aid Kit.

20.6 WEATHER

In the case of extreme weather conditions, the Court Supervisor shall determine if matches will commence or continue.

20.7 POLICIES

All clubs are required to adopt policies such as but not limited to, SmokeFree, Responsible Serving of Alcohol, use of illicit and performance enhancing drugs, discrimination and sun and weather protection.

20.8 CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

The WGFNC will adopt Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy and Netball Victoria Codes of Conducts. All Clubs are bound by these codes and will display them where they can be seen clearly by all who frequent the club.

21. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

21.1 The WGFNC will impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to any member that fails to adhere to these Bylaws.

(a) Any member of a Club or Team which does not agree with a penalty or action of the WGFNC made under this By-law, may advise the WGFNC within 48 hours of the penalty or decision being made. The WGFNC may then:

(i) Discuss the issue with the relevant Club or Team and make a decision regarding the matter. The WGFNC shall inform the party/ies involved of their decision either verbally or in writing; or

(ii) Have an informal meeting with the relevant party/ies in order to discuss and resolve the dispute.

The WGFNC decision is final.

21.2 All Clubs will also adopt the following policies, regulations and procedures:

- (a) Netball Victoria Cyber Safety Policy
- (b) Netball Victoria Competition Regulation
- (c) Netball Australia Member Protection Policy
- (d) Constitution

The WGFNC is responsible for determining the appropriate procedure for any dispute.

22. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

Where this By-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the WGFNC is maintained at all times.

Netball Victoria may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these bylaws relating to the WGFNC. This applies to rescheduling of game times for night fixtures and featured rounds.

23. INDEMNITY

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the WGFNC 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.

