



AFL GIPPSLAND

Region By Laws

6 May 2025
Version 1.0

Contents

1.	Definitions	3
2.	Player Points System AFL Gippsland Regional Conditions	3
3.	AFL Gippsland Policy Panel	6
4.	Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Panel – Player Points Re Assessment	7
5.	Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Policy Panel –Total Team Points Assessment	7
6.	Appeals against the AFL Gippsland Policy Panel - Player Points	8
7.	AFL Gippsland Player Payments Rules	8
8.	Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Region – Allowable Player Payment variation under APP Rule 3(a)	8
9.	Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Region–Application under APP Rule 8(d)	9
10.	AFL Gippsland Allowable Player Payments Integrity Reviews	9
11.	Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Policy Panel – Additional matters	9
12.	Minimum Player Age to play in a Competition.....	10
13.	Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications	10
14.	Minimum age to umpire in a competition	10
15.	Interchange (Area) Agreements and Permits	11
17.	Variation Of Time	12
18.	Appeals	12
19.	Notice of appeal	12
20.	Appeal Process.....	13

1. Definitions

Junior League, Club or Competition

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

- Central Gippsland Junior Football League – up to Under 16
- East Gippsland Junior Football Association – up to Under 15
- Ellinbank & District Football Netball League – up to Under 16
- Female Football Gippsland – Underage Divisions
- Gippsland League – up to Under 16
- Omeo & District Football Netball League – Under 16's
- Sale and District Junior Football Association – up to Under 15
- Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition – up to Under 14
- Traralgon and District Junior Football League – up to Under 15
- Warragul and District Junior Football League - up to Under 14
- West Gippsland Junior Football Competition – up to Under 14
- West Gippsland Football Netball Competition – up to Under 16

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

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

2. Player Points System AFL Gippsland Regional Conditions

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

2.1. Definition of a “Home Player” for AFL Gippsland Leagues

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

2.1.1 The player plays 40 or more games over a minimum of 3 seasons at the aligned junior club as set out in **Table 1**.

2.1.2 If having played less than 40 games, has played the majority of their junior football, up to and including the highest grade of underage competition as set out in **Table 1**.

2.1.3 A Player has not played football in any competition for 3 or more full seasons.

Table 1

Junior Club	Aligned Senior Club(s)
Omeo & District FNL Under 16's	Omeo & District FNL Clubs
Bairnsdale Junior Football Club	Bairnsdale Football Netball Club
Buln Buln Junior Football Club	Buln Buln Football Netball Club
Bunyip Junior Football Club	Bunyip Football Club
Catani Junior Football Club*	Catani Football Club
Churchill Junior Football Club	Churchill Football Netball Club
Corner Inlet Junior Football Club	Fish Creek Football Netball Club Foster Football Netball Club Toora Football Netball Club
Dalyston Junior Football Club	Dalyston Football Netball Club
Ellinbank Junior Football Club	Ellinbank Football Club
Garfield Junior Football Club	Garfield Football Club
Glengarry Junior Football Club	Glengarry Football Netball Club
Heyfield Junior Football Club	Heyfield Football Netball Club
Hill End & Grove Rovers Junior Football Club	Hill End Grove Rovers Football Netball Club
Inverloch-Kongwak Junior Football Club	Inverloch-Kongwak Football Club
Kilcunda Bass Junior Football Club	Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club
Koo Wee Rup Junior Football Club	Koo Wee Rup Football Club
Korumburra-Bena Junior Football Club	Korumburra-Bena Football Netball Club
Lang Lang Junior Football Club* <i>Formerly Caldermeade Junior Football Club</i>	Catani Football Club Lang Lang Football Netball Club
Lakes Entrance Junior Football Club	Lakes Entrance Football Netball Club
Lindenow Junior Football Club	Lindenow Football Netball Club
Longwarry Junior Football Club	Longwarry Football Club
Lucknow Junior Football Club	Lucknow Football Netball Club
Maffra Junior Football Club	Maffra Football Netball Club
Meenyan Dumbalk United Football Club	Meenyan Dumbalk United Football Club
Mirboo North Junior Football Club	Mirboo North Football Netball Club
Moe Junior Football Club	Moe Football Netball Club
Morwell Junior Football Club	Morwell Football Netball Club Morwell East Football Netball Club
Nar Nar Goon Junior Football Club	Nar Nar Goon Football Club
Neerim District Junior Football Club	Neerim Neerim South Football Netball Club
Newborough Junior Football Club	Newborough Football Netball Club
Nilma Darnum Junior Football Club*	Nilma Darnum Football Netball Club
Nyora Junior Football Club	Nyora Football Netball Club
Paynesville Junior Football Club	Paynesville Football Netball Club
Orbost Snowy Rovers Junior Football Club	Orbost Snowy Rovers Football Netball Club

Phillip Island Junior Football Club	Phillip Island Football Netball Club
Rosedale Junior Football Club	Rosedale Football Netball Club
Sale City Junior Football Club	Sale City Football Netball Club
Sale Junior Football Club	Sale Football Netball Club
Tarwin Sharks Football Club	Tarwin Football Netball Club
Tooradin Dalmore Junior Football Club	Tooradin Dalmore Football Club
Warragul Industrials Junior Football Club*	Warragul Industrials Football Netball Club
Woodside Junior Football Club	Woodside District Football Netball Club
Yallourn North Junior Football Club	Yallourn Yallourn North Football Netball Club
Yarragon Junior Football Club	Yarragon Football Club
Yinnar Junior Football Club	Yinnar Football Netball Club

(*) Refer to 2.1.14 re. new junior clubs

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's)

- 2.1.4 If the player transfers from a Junior Club to a Senior Club under an MOU approved by AFL Gippsland as set as set out in **Table 2**.
- 2.1.5 MOU's must be approved by AFL Gippsland before being recognised and shall be considered ongoing unless otherwise determined by AFL Gippsland.
- 2.1.6 MOUs approved post October 31st 2023, shall not be applied retrospectively.
- 2.1.7 Where a dispute on the interpretation of an MOU exists, AFL Gippsland shall determine the matter at its absolute discretion.

Table 2

MOU Junior Club	MOU Senior Club(s)
Boisdale Briagolong Junior Football Club	Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club
Drouin Junior Football Club	Drouin Football Club
Leongatha Junior Football Club	Leongatha Football Netball Club
Pax Hill Junior Football Club	Cowwarr Football Netball Club
Stratford Junior Football Club	Stratford Football Netball Club
Trafalgar Junior Football Club	Trafalgar Football Netball Club
Warragul Junior Football Club	Warragul Football Netball Club
Wonthaggi Power Junior Football Club	Wonthaggi Power Football & Netball Club
Wy Yung Junior Football Club	Wy Yung Football Netball Club

Standalone Junior and Senior Clubs

- 2.1.8 Where a player becomes ineligible by virtue of age at a standalone junior club as listed in Table 3 and transfers to a senior club listed in Table 1 or Table 2, the senior club may make application for a ruling from AFL Gippsland to claim a junior "home player" from those former stand-

alone junior club players.

Or

- 2.1.9 Where a player transfers from any standalone junior club listed in Table 3 to any standalone senior club listed in Table 3, they shall be considered a “home player”.

Table 3

Standalone Junior Clubs	Standalone Senior Clubs
Combined Saints Junior Football Club	Boolarra Football Netball Club
College Junior Football Club	Cora Lynn Football Netball Club
Hallora Junior Football Club	Gormandale Football Netball Club
Police Boys Junior Football Club	Poowong Football Netball Club
Poowong-Loch Junior Football Club	Stony Creek Football Netball Club
Nambrok-Newry Junior Football Club	Thorpdale Football Netball Club
Southside Junior Football Club	Traralgon Football Netball Club
TEDAS Junior Football Club	Traralgon Tyers United Football Netball Club
Warragul Blues Junior Football Club	Yarram Football Netball Club
Warragul Colts Junior Football Club (recess)	
Warranor Junior Football Club	
West End Junior Football Club	

- 2.1.10 AFL Gippsland shall provide a 1-point deduction for a season of service for players in Under 18 grades (and East Gippsland Under 17.5) provided that the player has played a minimum of 5 games in that grade. This deduction applies from the 2024 season onwards.
- 2.1.11 Games played on “permit” are not included in these assessments, except for underage matches played on a Compassionate (Spilt Family) or Student living away from home permit under AFL Victoria Country Rules.
- 2.1.12 Where there is any difference or dispute as to whether a player is a “Home Player” then this will be determined by AFL Gippsland in its absolute discretion.
- 2.1.13 A player may have multiple “home clubs”.
- 2.1.14 Senior clubs aligned to new junior clubs (*) should reference 2.1.8 to apply for a ruling to claim a junior “home player”.

3. AFL Gippsland Policy Panel

The Region may appoint persons to a Policy Panel. The panel will be a minimum of three (3) members and will comprise:

- the Region Manager; and
- two members appointed at the discretion of the Region Manager.

4. Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Panel – Player Points Re Assessment

- 4.1. Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL Gippsland Region Manager for reassessment of a player’s points allocation consistent with Section 7.3 of the PPS Policy.
 - within 7 days of the player’s points being reviewed by AFL Gippsland pursuant to the PPS Policy following the PPS value being assigned to that player by the club and league,
 - no later than 14 days after the players PPS allocation for the upcoming season.
- 4.2. The application must address the matters set out in Clause 7.3 of the PPS Policy. All applications must use the template available [here](#).
- 4.3. The Policy Panel will consider the application within 14 days of receipt by the AFL Gippsland Region Manager.
- 4.4. Decisions of the Policy Panel will be by majority vote of the AFL Gippsland Policy Panel.
- 4.5. The Policy Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 4.6. AFL Gippsland will provide written notification to the Club within 7 days of the Policy Panel making its decision.

5. Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Policy Panel – Total Team Points Assessment

- 5.1. AFL Gippsland shall give notice of the allocation of total team points for each affiliated League for the following season by August 31st annually or such other date as determined by the Region.
- 5.2. Clubs may make application in writing to the AFL Gippsland Region Manager for reassessment of their total team points allocation by 31 October and following the Club’s being notified pursuant to the PPS Policy. All applications must use the template available [here](#).
- 5.3. The application must set out the Club’s reasons for seeking reassessment and must particularly address the matters set out in Clause 8.2 of PPS Policy and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.
- 5.4. AFL Gippsland Policy Panel will consider the application within 28 days of receipt by the AFL Gippsland Region Manager.
- 5.5. Decisions of the AFL Gippsland Policy Panel will be by majority vote.

- 5.6. The Policy Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- 5.7. AFL Gippsland will provide a written notification to the club within 7 days of the Policy Panel making its decision.

6. Appeals against the AFL Gippsland Policy Panel - Player Points

As provided under Sections 11.1 and 11.2 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, clubs may appeal a decision of the Policy Panel made under By Law 4 and 5 to the AFL Gippsland Appeal Panel consistent with Section 18 of these By Laws.

7. AFL Gippsland Player Payments Rules

AFL Gippsland have adopted the Player Payment Rules as detailed on the Region website at www.aflgippsland.com.au.

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

8. Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Region – Allowable Player Payment variation under APP Rule 3(a)

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

- 8.1. By 31 October, a Club may make application in writing to the AFL Gippsland Region Manager for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment Cap to apply to that Club for the upcoming season.
- 8.2. The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking an increase in the Allowable Player Payment to apply to that Club and particularly should address the factors set out in Clause 3(a)(iv) of the Player Payment Rules and be accompanied by supporting evidence.
- 8.3. AFL Gippsland Region will consider the application at the next scheduled Region Council meeting.
- 8.4. Decisions of the AFL Gippsland Region will be by majority vote.
- 8.5. AFL Gippsland will provide a written response to the Club notifying the decision and will give reasons for the decision.
- 8.6. The decision of the AFL Gippsland Region is final.
- 8.7. Where an application for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment for the Club is granted, AFL Gippsland will make this decision public.

9. Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Region–Application under APP Rule 8(d)

- 9.1. A Club may at any time make application for a ruling as to whether any payments, considerations, advantages or other benefits constitute a Player Payment, including their value, for the purpose of the Allowable Player Payment Rules.
- 9.2. The application must set out the Club’s reasons for seeking the ruling and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.
- 9.3. AFL Gippsland Region will consider the application at the next scheduled meeting after receipt by the AFL Gippsland Region Manager and any ruling of the Region must be forwarded to the AFL Victoria Football Operations Manager prior to any announcement or approval by the Region.
- 9.4. The ruling may be made public.

10. AFL Gippsland Allowable Player Payments Integrity Reviews

- 10.1. AFL Gippsland may initiate integrity reviews into possible breaches consistent with Rule 9 of the AFL Gippsland Player Payment Rules.
- 10.2. Where an integrity review has occurred and charges are laid against a Club and or player(s) and the charge is found proven at a Hearing of the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee may order that the offending Club or player pay all or part of the costs of the investigation.

11. Jurisdiction of AFL Gippsland Policy Panel – Additional matters

- 11.1. In the absence of an affiliate league having the relevant rule the AFL Gippsland Policy Panel may, in direct consultation with the relevant affiliate league and at the Regions absolute discretion also consider and determine the following matters or alternatively delegate to the affiliated League of that Region to determine.
- 11.2. Minimum Age Player or Umpire applications – refer to By Law 12 and 14 and sections 3 and 6 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (**NCFPH**).
- 11.3. Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications – refer to By Law 13 and section 4 of NCFPH.
- 11.4. Management of any Policy regulations or breaches under the NCFPH, including but not limited to potential Breaches of the Member Protection regulations (Section 9) and Social Media regulations (Section 10) – refer Section 23 of the NCFPH.
- 11.5. Management of the Match Review Regulations for Reportable Offences consistent with section 22.2(b) of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- 11.6. Ineligible Player breaches, Permit Breaches and Special Consideration Permit Applications – refer Clauses 1 and 2 of AFL Victoria Country Rules and Section 3 of the NCFPH.

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

12. Minimum Player Age to play in a Competition

- 12.1. A player's minimum age eligibility to play in a relevant age group of an AFL Gippsland competition is detailed at Section 3.1 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).
- 12.2. Section 3.1(ii) of the NCFPH allows for special consideration permission for individual players, to participate in a higher age group to that specified in the minimum age table detailed at 3.1 (b) of the NCFPH. This permission may be granted by the affiliated League under exceptional and compelling circumstances as detailed in the application form template.
- 12.3. The processes for special consideration permission will be on application and will be assessed considering the needs of existing official competitions and Auskick programs which are relevant to the application.
- 12.4. Any Application must be lodged using the [application form](#) and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent.
- 12.5. Underage applications must be submitted within 14 days of the Club's first home and away match of each season, or a players first match of each season.

13. Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications

- 13.1. AFL Gippsland affiliated leagues may only consider applications from a Club for a player to play in a Competition age group below their applicable age group consistent with the process detailed in Section 4 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- 13.2. AFL Gippsland affiliated leagues may only consider such applications made using the [application form](#) and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent and medical certificate.
- 13.3. Any appeal of an unsuccessful Overage Dispensation application will be heard under the Region Appeal Committee process detailed at Clauses 8.3 and 8.1 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules.
- 13.4. Overage applications must be submitted within 14 days of the Club's first home and away match of each season, or a players first match of each season.

14. Minimum age to umpire in a competition

- 14.1. An Umpires minimum age eligibility to participate in a relevant age group of an AFL Gippsland competition is detailed at Section 6.2 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).
- 14.2. Section 6.2 (c) (iii) of the NCFPH allows for special consideration permission for individual umpires to participate in a higher age group to that specified in the minimum age table detailed at 6.2 (c) (ii) of the NCFPH. This permission may be

granted by the affiliated Local League or Umpiring group (as determined by the Local League) under exceptional and compelling circumstances as detailed in the application form template available [here](#) and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent.

- 14.3. The processes for special consideration permission will be on application and will be assessed considering the needs of existing official competitions which are relevant to the application.

15. Interchange (Area) Agreements and Permits

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

15.1. Permit Conditions

The following Permit conditions must be included in Interchange (Area) Agreements relevant to all AFL Gippsland Leagues:

1. Registered players must be given preference over any permit player.
2. AFL Victoria Country and League finals eligibility criteria shall apply.
3. Player eligibility shall be the responsibility of the club playing the permit player.
4. Permit breaches shall be addressed under AFL Victoria Country Rules ineligible player regulations.

15.2. Special Circumstances

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

16. Management of Investigation Fees

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

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

- 16.1. Where a charge resulting from an Investigation is referred to a league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is not proven at a hearing, the application fee lodged shall be forfeited in full.
- 16.2. Where a charge from an Investigation results in the acceptance of an Early Guilty Plea or is referred to the league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is proven at a hearing;
- (a) the application fee shall be fully refunded and;
 - (b) the offending club shall be fined a sum equal to the costs of the investigation.
- 16.3. Where multiple charges to one or more clubs resulting from an Investigation is referred to the league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and all or some charges are proven at a hearing.
- (a) the total cost of the investigation will be imposed proportionally to the clubs based on charges which are proven.

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

17. Variation Of Time

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

18. Appeals

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

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

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

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

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

19. Notice of appeal

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

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

20. Appeal Process

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

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

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

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

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

The Region Commission or Region Council:

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

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