



# Victorian Country AFL Masters

Competition Handbook  
2024



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## Committee Members

|                                     |                 |                                                                                              |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| President                           | Brent Ali       | <a href="mailto:president@viccountrymasters.com">president@viccountrymasters.com</a>         | 0414 521 438 |
| Vice President                      | Rob Williamson  | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@viccountrymasters.com">vicepresident@viccountrymasters.com</a> | 0448 313 680 |
| Secretary                           | Andrea McKenzie | <a href="mailto:secretary@viccountrymasters.com">secretary@viccountrymasters.com</a>         | 0402 824 157 |
| Treasurer                           | Kevin Rigg      | <a href="mailto:treasurer@viccountrymasters.com">treasurer@viccountrymasters.com</a>         | 0408 668 055 |
| Committee Member – Women’s Football | Nicky Porter    | <a href="mailto:womensfooty@viccountrymasters.com">womensfooty@viccountrymasters.com</a>     | 0411 063 067 |



## **Background**

The Game of AFL Masters Australian Football (AFLM), formerly known as Superules and Masters Australian Football, provides the opportunity for players 35 years and over to enjoy the game of Aussie Rules Football in a safe, supportive, family orientated and fun environment.

After first commencing in 1980, the sport is governed by AFLM and its nine member State Associations and is now played by over 119 teams throughout Australia.

AFLM has a national standardised set of modified rules designed to reduce the risks of injury and has the benefit of being acknowledged and supported by the AFL and the Australian Sports Commission.

You will find a welcoming atmosphere at AFLM clubs with an emphasis on family involvement and fun social interaction.

While a good level of fitness is required to enjoy the game fully, training runs once or twice a week without huge time commitments are the order of the day for AFLM.

The big annual event for AFLM is the National Carnival which is rotated among various State venues

Like most sporting organisations, we raise our own funds through a variety of club activities, membership and most importantly sponsorship arrangements.

We rely on these fundraising efforts to continue to exist. Member and sponsor contributions assist with the overall upkeep of the club and keep costs down for our members, thus keeping football for fun accessible by all.

## **Our Trademark**

Football for participants over 35, with modified rules creating a fun environment that supports physically and emotionally strong, fit and healthy players and communities right across Country Victoria

## **Our Philosophy**

Football in an environment that supports physically and emotionally, strong, fit and healthy, players, clubs and families.

## **Purpose**

Victorian Country AFL Masters exists to provide an opportunity for men and women over the age of 35 years to continue playing and enjoying Australian Rules football in a safe, supportive family friendly and fun environment.

## **Our Vision**

To be the most inclusive football competition in Victoria, providing the greatest health and well-being outcomes in sport for people over 35 years of age, by providing a strong, fit, safe and healthy football competition in a fun and relaxed environment

## **Our Values**

*Matship, Fun, Socialisation, Good Health, Encouragement, Commitment and Inclusion*



## PHILOSOPHY OF MASTERS FOOTBALL AND GUIDELINES 2024

The most important aspect of our game is that it is “FOOTBALL FOR FUN”

It is for this reason that there is no ladders, finals or best and fairest in Vic Country AFL Masters football.

1. Egos are left to be left at home.
2. We should recognize good performances and applaud the efforts of both teams and umpires.
3. The game is played for fun and enjoyment by all.
4. Disputing an umpire’s decisions or abuse of any umpires is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
5. On field and off field fighting, violence or bad language is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
6. **Games Selection Criteria** - We obviously need far more players to get through a season than can take the field at the start of any given match, and whilst every player will be given the chance to play, selection cannot help but be influenced by the following:
  - a. paid membership
  - b. attendance at training
  - c. participation in club activities and duties
  - d. willingness to travel to away games
7. The above does not mean that players who cannot train or play regularly will be not welcomed and get a game, however they must be prepared to accept and understand our priorities, just as we understand that at our age there are a variety of factors that prevent some players being available each week.
8. Notwithstanding point 6, every effort will be made to give all players equal time on the ground.
9. Hospitality to visiting teams is very important. Home clubs is required to bring refreshments to all home games. As we partake of other team hospitality during our travels to away games, all players should recognize the importance of returning the favor.
10. New players are always very welcome but should be made fully aware of the Philosophy and Code of Conduct and adhere to what is required of them as a representative of the club , League and AFL Masters.

**Remember at our age, it is not how many games you win, but how many games you play. For this reason, we have modified rules and modified attitudes to playing to minimize the risk of injury and keep us enjoying our great game longer.**



## AFL Masters National Code of Conduct

The AFLM Code of Conduct has been designed to ensure all games are played in the true spirit of Masters "Footy for Fun".

### PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules at all times.
- Never argue with an official; if you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach after the game.
- Control your temper; verbal abuse or racial or religious vilification of other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Be a team player, work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.

### COACHES

- Be reasonable in your demands' consider players' time, energy and enthusiasm levels.
- Avoid over playing the talented players; the just 'average players' players need and deserve equal time. Keep winning in perspective; maximize players' participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Stress safety always; ensure equipment and facilities are safe.
- Consider maturity levels; match up practices schedules, practice activities and degree of competition with maturity levels.
- Develop team respects; for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Recognize the importance of injury; seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the return of injured players to training.
- Keep informed with sound principles of coaching and skill development. Teach fair play, help players understand the responsibilities and implications of freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.

### ADMINISTRATORS/ OFFICIALS

- Ensure equal participation for all; provide equal opportunities for all regardless of ability, size, shape, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that the rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration age, ability and maturity even of the participants.
- Stress enjoyment; remember that players participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Promote fair play, ensure that coaches, officials, sponsored physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Where appropriate modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of participants and their needs. A Promote respect for opponents and condemn unsporting behaviour.

### SPECTATORS

- Applaud good performance and efforts from each team.
- Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect officials' decisions at all times Remember all officials are there for the fun (of the game and are volunteers; as such all should be treated with respect.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials decisions.
- Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Each club state or territory is responsible for the behaviour of their spectators and officials during and at the conclusion of their games.



## AFL Masters Vic Country Complaint Process 2024

1. Procedures of Reporting of Breaches
  - a. Any persons (the complainant) who witness a breach of the AFL Masters Code of Conduct shall report such incident directly to a member of their Club **Executive Committee.**
  - b. All reporting of a breach of the Code of Conduct must be delivered in writing, and a copy forwarded by the Club to [vicepresident@viccountrymasters.com](mailto:vicepresident@viccountrymasters.com) within 48 hours of receipt
2. Investigation Procedures
  - a. Any written report of a breach of the Code of Conduct shall be heard by Club Executive Committee who shall convene a meeting within 21 days to investigate the alleged incident.
  - b. The Club Executive Committee will fully investigate all aspects of the reported incident and must consult with all parties involved
  - c. The Club Executive Committee shall have the power to impose any or all of the prescribed penalties.
  - d. The Club Executive Committee shall report the outcome of their investigations firstly to the offending party, secondly to the complainant, thirdly to all Club Members and fully reported in the Minutes of the next Executive Committee Meeting. The opposition club shall also be informed in writing of the action taken where required.
  - e. The Club Executive Committee have the authority to impose any or all of the prescribed penalties on any complainant if the Committee deems the complainant's report to frivolous, unjust, spiteful or intended to unfairly injure or discriminate against any person or persons.
  - f. In the event an incident requires the intervention of the Vic Country AFL Masters Executive Committee, the League may refer the investigation to a third party, to maintain impartiality
3. Disciplinary Actions and Prescribed Penalties

In all reported cases, the Club Executive Committee shall counsel the offending person(s) and instruct them in the Philosophy of AFL Masters and how they should conduct themselves.
4. Where an incident is considered a minor offence:
  - a. The offending person(s) may be cautioned and receive a warning not to re-offend.
  - b. A Second subsequent breach of a minor nature will be treated as a significant offence.
5. When the incident is considered of a significant offence:
  - a. The offending person(s) will have their membership suspended for a period determined by the Club Executive Committee.
  - b. The offending person(s) will be suspended from playing for a period determined by the Club Executive Committee.
  - c. The offending person(s) not being a member of the club, will be suspended from attending Club games or Functions for a period determined by the Club Executive Committee.
  - d. A second or subsequent breach of a significant nature will be treated as a serious offence.
6. Where the incident is considered a serious offence:
  - a. The offending person(s) will have their membership cancelled indefinitely.
  - b. The offending person(s) will be suspended from playing indefinitely.
  - c. The offending person(s) not being a member of the Club, will be suspended from attending Club games or Functions indefinitely.

**Executive Committee meaning "Individual" Club Executive Committee  
If required Incidents of a significant or serious nature can be referred to Vic Country AFL Masters Executive  
for further reference and consultation.**



**2024 PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT/CONSENT SIGNATURE FORM**

**THIS FORM IS ONLY FOR PLAYERS PLAYING ON A SEASON PERMIT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name)

Of, \_\_\_\_\_ (Full Address)

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of "Insert Name of Your Club" \_\_\_\_\_ Masters Football Club trading as "Insert Name of Your Club" ("The Club"), agree to be bound by the following:

**Code of Conduct**

1. I have read and understand the Philosophy and Codes of Conduct of Vic Country AFL Masters.
2. I agree to conduct myself according to the Philosophy and agree to be bound by the Code of Conduct.
3. I agree not to issue any claims against "The Club", Committee or members now or in the future for any action they may take, or penalty imposed upon me should I breach the Code of Conduct.
4. I agree to indemnify the Club, Committee or members if somebody issues a claim against any of them in connection with injury, loss or damage I suffer or cause.

**Consent**

1. As a member/player I am responsible for the provision of my own Accident, Life, Income Protection and Health Insurance covers.
2. I understand "The Club" from time to time may collect fees for basic insurance cover for the following:
  - a. General Liability: \$20,000,000 any one occurrence
  - b. Products Liability: \$20,000,000 in the aggregate
  - c. Errors & Omissions: \$20,000,000 in the aggregate
3. I understand the above insurances are provided by Vic Country AFL Masters of which "The Club" is a member and are not provided by "The Club" itself. A copy of the League's policy is attached at the end of this document
4. I understand "The Club" is not responsible for processing any Insurance claims or covers for me.
5. I intend to have a great time being a member/player of "The Club" and accept that any risk associated with being a member/player is my responsibility.
6. I agree not to issue any claims against "The Club", Committee or members now or in the future.
7. I agree to indemnify "The Club", Committee or members if somebody issues claims against any of them in connection with injury, loss or damage I suffer or cause.
8. I agree to inspect the playing surface upon which a game I am to participate in is to be played, and if I play I agree to be deemed to accept voluntarily all and any risk associated with playing sport on the playing surface.

**In signing this Code of Conduct form, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above terms and requirements and hereby agree to be bound by all such terms, conditions and requirements.**

Player Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CLUB AND RETURNED TO [secretary@viccountrymasters.com](mailto:secretary@viccountrymasters.com)**

1. Philosophy and Code of Conduct – 2024

- a. We INSERT NAME OF CLUB HERE are committed to the ideals, principles and disciplines of AFL Masters Football as expressed in the above Philosophy and Codes of Conduct.
- b. The Executive Committee of INSERT NAME OF CLUB HERE requires all members, players and supporters to commit to and abide by the Philosophy and Code of Conduct.
- c. The Executive Committee of INSERT NAME OF CLUB HERE agree to abide by the Victorian Country AFL Masters Statement of Purpose and Rules, and will ensure that our Board, our players, members and supporters conduct themselves accordingly

All Club non-playing members and supporters should take time to read the Philosophy and Code of Conduct carefully and acknowledge their commitment by signing the attached **Non-Playing Members Code of Conduct Form** and returning it to the club for filing.

2. Umpire penalties for on field offences

All players are reminded of the **Order Off Rule** that may be imposed by all field umpires and Vic Country AFL Masters.

- i. A **Green Card** penalty being, automatic sent off for the remainder of the current quarter plus the next.
- ii. A **Yellow Card** penalty being, automatic sent off for the duration of the match.
- iii. A **Red Card** penalty being, automatic sent off for the remainder of the match plus automatic suspension for the next game.

3. Insurance, Injury and Member Consent Form – 2024

- a. Due to excessive rise in the cost of insurance cover, the National Board of AFL Masters, in conjunction with all AFL Masters State Associations has made the decision **NOT** to seek personal accident cover or loss of wage insurance for players and officials.
- b. All players and officials are **STONGLY ADVISED** to make provision for their own Accident, Life, Income Protection and Health Insurances to protect themselves in the event of an injury sustained whilst playing in Masters Australian Football.
- c. Consequently, every participant in Vic Country AFL Masters will also be required to Complete an online registration form on the [www.playhq.com](http://www.playhq.com) portal, this **MUST** be completed and received by the club prior to the participant taking the field in any game of football in which the club is involved.

4. Game Day Paperwork Requirements

All clubs are reminded of their obligation to complete and forward the below **MANDATORY** paperwork within 5 business days of the completion of each game. Copies must be emailed to [admin@viccountrymasters.com](mailto:admin@viccountrymasters.com)

- a. PlayHQ game day team sheet (**to be completed on the PlayHQ portal**)
- b. Pre match ground report (copy will also be forwarded with this document), found at <https://au.marsh.com/content/dam/marsh-affinity-2/pacific/documents/afl/match-day-checklist.pdf>
- c. Umpires Instructions as per page 9 of this document

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** ...../...../ 2024

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** ...../...../ 2024





**2024 Umpiring Instructions to be signed by all umpires prior to each game, copy sent to [admin@viccountrymasters.com](mailto:admin@viccountrymasters.com) following each game, hard copies retained by the clubs**

LISTED BELOW ARE MODIFICATIONS TO AFL GENERAL RULES FOR VIC COUNTRY AFL MASTERS 2024

- After a point is scored, Players **MUST** wait for the flags to be waived before kicking in or playing on from the goal square. Players do not need to kick to themselves before leaving the square. Play on is to be called once the Player leaves the square. Opposition players must be 10m from the goal square
- Pay the first free kick and do not allow packs to form. When there are 3 players contesting (either team) with the ball on the ground a ball up shall occur.
- Give the utmost protection to the player in front going for/attacking the ball. This player is to be protected from serious contact. NO sling tackles; NO hip and shoulders; NO high contact; and absolutely NO late contact.
- Shoulder charge and/or Shirtfronts are strictly prohibited. Only bumping from the side is allowed.
- The Player in possession of the ball must be provided reasonable time to dispose of the ball (less emphasis on the tackler). Prior opportunity rule applies.
- A Free Kick is to be paid against any player raising a leg/knee in a marking contest or spoiling from behind. The player in front must be protected from full on contact at all times.
- No 'knees up' are allowed in the ruck contest or marking contests.
- **Enforce** the verbal abuse rule within reason (to an umpire or another player) Green card penalty applies.
- Infringement penalty is 50 metres
- Players cannot play on until advanced 50m and the mark is set
- Ruckman must come from opposite sides of the line for the centre ball up and are allowed to come from any direction in all other ball ups and throw in's. Only one person from either side can contest ruck. Free kick applies for infringements.
- A player in a ruck contest must clear the ball from a contest and not take possession of the ball
- Players are not to make contact with umpires backing out of stoppages
- Where the ball crosses over the boundary, the ball will be thrown up 15-20m in from the boundary line.
- Umpires are to use both signals and verbally advise what penalty the kick is given for.
- Off-the-ball incidents are to be penalised by either officiating field umpire. **This includes** holding of other players around the contest and around the ground ball ups.
- Play the advantage rule if this facilitates continuous play and keeps the game flowing!
- The hands in the back rule has been annulled. Players can place their hands on the back of an opponent to protect their position in a marking contest, but they are not to push the player in the back

The philosophy of AFL Masters football must be adhered to at all times. This is **“FOOTY FOR FUN”**  
 AFL Masters Vic Country recommends that there should be a minimum of two level 2 qualified field umpires umpiring on the day.  
 All umpires who officiate in Vic Country AFL Masters Matches in the Home and Away season are to sign 2 copies of this document. One for each Club.

Umpires \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- A **Green Card** penalty - automatic sent off for the remainder of the current quarter plus the next.
- A **Yellow Card** penalty - automatic sent off for the duration of the match.
- A **Red Card** penalty - automatic sent off for the remainder of the match plus automatic suspension for the next game.



**2024 Non-Playing Member Code of Conduct Signature Form**

**CLUBS TO KEEP COPY FOR THEIR OWN RECORDS AS REQUIRED**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name)

Of, \_\_\_\_\_ (Full Address)

As a member of "Insert Name of Your Club" Football Club trading as the "Insert Name of Your Club" Football Club ("The Club"), agree to be bound by the following.

1. I have read and understand the Philosophy and Codes of Conduct of Vic Country AFL Masters.
2. I agree to conduct myself according to the Philosophy and agree to be bound by the Code of Conduct.
3. I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree not to issue any claims against "The Club", Committee or members now or in the future for any action they may take or penalty imposed upon me should I breach the Code of Conduct.
4. I agree to indemnify the Club, Committee or members if somebody issues claims against any of them in connection with injury, loss or damage I suffer or cause.

In signing this Code of Conduct form, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above terms and requirements and hereby agree to be bound by all such terms, conditions and requirements.

Member Full Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

