

# Memorandum of Understanding

between



**AFL Victoria  
(AFL Vic)**

**AND**



**Associated Grammar  
Schools of Victoria  
(AGSV)**

## a) DEFINITIONS

- **AFL** – Australian Football League
- **AFL State Affiliates** – AFL Queensland; AFL NSW/ACT; AFL Victoria; AFL Tasmania; AFL Northern Territory; West Australian Football League; South Australian Football League
- **State Talent Competition** – Includes all underage and overage AFL/State Affiliate run talent competitions throughout Australia (i.e. TAC Cup, WAFL Colts, etc.)
- **AFL National Championships** – Includes games played as part of the U16 and U18 National Championships competition.
- **State Academies** – Underage State talent programs that are run in each state and feed into the AFL National Championships
- **National Academy** – An elite national talent program run by the AFL and involving 50-60 of the most talented 17 (Level 1) and 18 (Level 2) year olds in the country.
- **Schools Competition** – Includes all games played as part of a school program or competition
- **Individual Development Plan (IDP)** – Is a document that is developed for each individual in the State and/or National Academy outlining match schedules, and areas of development for that player.

## b) INTRODUCTION

AFL Victoria is the governing body for Australian Football within Victoria. It is responsible for the effective management and development of the game. AFL Victoria manages and conducts the talented player pathway including the TAC Cup and State Academy programs competition to develop talented players. In addition, AFL Victoria conducts participation programs such as Auskick, Coach Education, AFL9's, school programs and uses AFL Player clinics to promote the game.

The Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV) conduct a range of sporting programs, including football, to assist the total development of students attending member schools.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AFL Victoria and the AGSV schools is to assist in the management of players playing in the TAC Cup competition, State Academy program, school competitions and the development of football in the Independent School system.

There is strong evidence that many players are playing (and training) too much football, which can lead to them suffering 'burn out' or sustaining long term injuries. While the AGSV schools and AFL Victoria wish to encourage young men to pursue AFL football to the highest levels, this Memorandum of Understanding has been created so all involved are mindful of the overall development and welfare of players, this being the primary concern of AFL Victoria and the AGSV schools, who aspire to play football at this level.

**c) TO ACHIEVE THIS, AFL VICTORIA AGREES:**

1. To recognise that the primary concern of each AGSV school is the well being and education of each of its students, and will always act in what it believes is the best interests of the students in its care.
2. To recognise and honour the wish of the Heads of AGSV schools to have students attend to their academic and school co-curricular school commitments and to participate in AGSV sporting fixtures.
3. In the best interests of student safety and well being, students play one full competition football match per week except when playing conditions occur under Clause c) section 2 of this MoU. During the AGSV season, this match would be played for their school, in the AGSV competition.
4. To organise TAC Cup competition practice matches with the aim of avoiding clashes with AGSV summer sport. Monitoring of the students study and leisure time between the school and the TAC Cup club must be taken into account in assessing the individual students well being.
5. That in weeks where the players are to play in AGSV matches, such players attend one TAC Cup competition training session for medical screening or light recovery and are to be available for the scheduled training sessions conducted by the school.
6. Through consultation between the school and the TAC Cup competition club, to support players during Term 4 and Term 1 being able to combine both TAC Cup competition trials/ training sessions and school programs and activities.
7. By mid March of each football season to circulate to AGSV schools, via the students, a Player Availability form (as attached Appendix 1) to provide AFL Victoria, the AGSV schools, and parents, agreement as to the availability of the player for TAC Cup competition, State representative trials and AGSV school matches. For those players involved in AFL National or State Academy Programs, this form will be incorporated into the players Individual Development Plan (IDP). The plan is to have the form superseded by the Smartabase system once the functioning of it has been finalised.
8. To liaise with the school regarding the player's performance for school players who are playing in the TAC Cup competition, which will be measured against the player's IDP where possible. There is a Player Performance report available for AGSV players (refer Appendix 3). Alternatively, if a verbal report can be provided and relationships developed this is a preferable means of communication
9. To support the injury diagnosis and treatment of TAC Cup competition registered players advised to the TAC Cup clubs that have been injured during an AGSV school match. Refer to Appendices 5 & 6 for the transfer of information regarding player injuries. This information should be soon superseded by the Smartabase system which is the preferred channel for the AFL and AFL Victoria in regards to the monitoring of player loads and injuries. However, where this is not yet in use, the relevant forms in the appendices will be used

10. Support AGSV schools with development programs aimed at maximising participation and enhancing the environment of school football for the benefit of all players, coaches and umpires and the game in general.
11. Where possible, to make available coaching staff and facilities to assist with the training of AGSV teams.
12. That during the conduct of AFL Victoria Futures (U17) program, no AGSV schools player will be expected to participate if the school for which he plays is engaged in a fixtured AGSV school game including the AGSV Practice Round. AFL Victoria will endeavor, wherever possible, to schedule Futures (U17) matches during times when fixtured AGSV football is not being played. Furthermore, a player who is unable to commit to the Futures program because of the above conditions will not be discriminated against in future AFL Victoria Talent Programs.
13. To forward the TAC Cup competition fixture and Representative team preparation programs, when available, to AGSV schools and to consult with the AGSV Executive Officer regarding the TAC Cup competition fixture. AFL Victoria will promote the APS vs AGSV match within their printed fixture.
14. To endeavour to fixture a TAC Cup competition bye weekend when the APS v AGSV match is scheduled. In the event this cannot be achieved, AFL Victoria will support the selection of TAC Cup competition registered players, playing in the APS vs. AGSV match.
15. In conjunction with the AGSV Executive Officer, to endeavour to organise an AFL venue for the APS vs AGSV match if requested.
16. To organise a personal development opportunity for AGSV coaches to attend if available and willing.
17. To provide information regarding the development of the TAC Girls competition and AFL Vic Female academies as they continue to grow.

**d) TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE AGSV SCHOOLS AGREE:**

1. To recognise and honour the wish of AFL Victoria to have players available for all TAC Cup competition matches excluding those that clash with AGSV schools competition matches (not practice games) and the APS vs. AGSV Representative match.
2. To grant exemptions for their students from AGSV fixtured matches to enable the students to take part in the NAB AFL U16 & U18 Championships which are part of the AFL Victoria Academy Program. Such players will also be available to play in trial matches under the following conditions for such teams, noting that AFL Victoria does not allow players to play two matches in two days.
  - (i) Players in the AFL Victoria U18 Academy program for Vic Metro and Vic Country are required to be available for **both** scheduled trial matches. The scheduling of the first trial match will occur during the April school holidays. The final trial match will be held for both Metro and Country players on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Please note that this trial match will be utilised to finalise a team for the National Championships. As such, only players trying to qualify for that team will be selected. Players who are definite selections for the National Championships will not be required to play in the second trial game for either Metro or Country teams
  - (ii) Players selected in the AFL Victoria U16 Academy programs are required to undergo both physical testing (both country & metropolitan). Where there is a clash between testing and AGSV first XVIII duties then AGSV duties take first priority. Players will be required to play in the one trial game on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. If they are selected in subsequent squads they would then need to be available for a second game & camp over the Queens Birthday long weekend ( no clash with AGSV football). **Players who do not make themselves available for selection under the conditions outlined will not be considered for selection for the NAB AFL Championships program.**
3. To allow TAC Cup competition players to return to their TAC Cup club for medical assessment or light training session earlier in the week (preferably Monday), when the player is not playing in the following week's TAC Cup competition match. In the weeks where there are no AGSV schools matches the players are available to play with their TAC Cup club, such players will not be required to train with their school. Parents and, if required, the family GP should also be considered in the consultation process.
4. To liaise with the TAC Cup club regarding the player's performance for school players who are playing in the AGSV competition, which will be measured against the player's IDP where possible. There is a Player Performance report available for AGSV players (refer Appendix 2). Alternatively, if a verbal report can be provided and relationships developed this is a preferable means of communication
5. To provide information to TAC Cup clubs via the appropriate form (Appendix 4&6) regarding injuries sustained by TAC Cup competition registered players

playing in AGSV school matches and encourage such players to attend their TAC Cup club for further diagnosis and treatment. This information should be soon superseded by the Smartabase system which is the preferred channel for the AFL and AFL Victoria in regards to the monitoring of player loads and injuries. However, where this is not yet in use, the relevant forms in the appendices will be used

6. Where possible, to make available facilities to assist with the training of TAC Cup clubs, particularly pre season.
7. To enable players to play at least two games during AFL Victoria's U16 Carnival held during the Term 1 school holidays.
8. To provide winter and summer sport fixtures to AFL Victoria, and consult with AFL Victoria regarding the winter fixture.
9. To promote the NAB AFL Championship program/games.
10. To make recommendations, regarding talented players playing in junior school teams who may not have been identified by the TAC Cup clubs.

**e) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

1. Where disagreements arise in the interpretation or application of this MoU between a TAC Cup club and an AGSV school, it is agreed that the State Talent Manager for AFL Victoria and the AGSV Executive Officer as well as consultation with the parents will endeavour to resolve the dispute. In the event that that these parties cannot resolve the dispute, it would be the AFL National Talent Manager and the school's Principal or the nominated school's representative to reach an agreement.
2. The respective TAC Cup competition coach / Region Manager, the player and their school's Head of Sport and 1st XVIII coach meet early in the year to plan the year ahead and put the student involved at ease and solve any mixed messages they are receiving from either/ both parties.
3. The AGSV Heads and AFL Victoria recognise the need to work together to educate students and families of students as to the understandings that exist between the AGSV Heads and AFL Victoria.
4. AFL Victoria and AGSV Heads agree to establish a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from both parties to meet periodically to monitor both the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and the general development of football in AGSV schools.

**f) REVIEW**

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed at the end of the 2017 year .

**EXECUTED AS AN AGREEMENT.**

**On behalf of AFL Victoria  
Steven Reaper – CEO**

**Date**

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**On behalf of the Associated Grammar  
Schools of Victoria  
Troy Rowe - Executive Officer**

**Date**

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