

Domestic Season Operations Manual



Domestic Season Operations Manual

Abstract

The Domestic Season Operations Manual is designed to bring all information specific to the Gridiron Queensland Domestic Season into one place. Information that also applies to other activities, such as the Tribunal Policy and the Code of Conduct, will remain a stand-alone document but may be referenced in this manual. This policy works in conjunction with policies adopted under the National Integrity Framework and Gridiron Australia policies.

This policy applies to all persons who are involved with the activities of Gridiron Queensland, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity.

This document will be reviewed season to season to reflect changing circumstances or conditions. Excepting rulings derived from approved General Meeting Resolution, the Gridiron Queensland Management Committee, or delegated authority, reserves the right to render decisions contrary to the provisions of this document if in their opinion, that decision is in the best interest of the league and helping achieve the objectives of the association as per the association's constitution.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Domestic Season Operations Manual

Contents

1 The Affiliation Process	5
1.1 Affiliation Requirements	5
1.2 Affiliation Adoption of Policies	5
1.3 Affiliation Invitation and Application Document	6
2 Team and Player Registration	6
2.1 Member Registration Process	6
2.2 Minimum Registrations	6
2.3 Verification of Date of Birth	7
2.4 Youth and Junior Teams	7
2.5 Membership Transfers and Releases	7
2.6 Poaching	9
2.7 Penalties	9
3 Competition Divisions and Age Requirements	10
3.1 Age Cut-off	10
3.2 Youth Division	10
3.3 Junior Division	10
3.4 Women's Division	11
3.5 SEQ Men's Division	12
3.6 RQ Men's Division	14
3.7 One Game Per Round	14
3.8 Dispensation to play in different Division to Age	14
4 Competition Rules, Season, and Scheduling	16
4.1 Competition Rules	16
4.2 South East Queensland (SEQ) Competition Season	16
4.3 Regional Queensland (RQ) Competition Season	16
4.4 Regular Season Games	16
4.5 Rescheduling and Relocating Games	17
4.6 Minimum Numbers to Commence Game	17
4.7 Games Not Completed	17
4.8 Cancelled Games During Regular Season	17
4.9 Abandoned Games During Regular Season	18
4.10 Disqualification Policy	18
5 Regular Season Results	19
5.1 Tied Games in Regular Season	19
5.2 Recording of Regular Season Results and Competition Points	19
5.3 Regular Season Tie-Breaking Procedure	19
6 Playoffs and Championship Games	20
6.1 Playoff and Championship Eligibility	20
6.2 Tied Games in Post-Regular Season	20
6.3 Cancelled and Abandoned Games in Post-Regular Season	20

Domestic Season Operations Manual

7 Forfeits	21
7.1 Combined Practice in Lieu of Game	21
7.2 Suspicious Forfeits	21
7.3 Penalties Pertaining to Forfeits	21
7.4 Claiming Damages	22
7.5 Team Disqualification	22
7.6 Other Forfeit Penalties	22
8 Adverse Weather	22
8.1 Hot Weather	23
8.2 Wet Weather	23
8.3 Lightning	24
8.4 Fire, Smoke, and Haze	24
9 Affiliate Member Governance	24
9.1 Club Locations	24
9.2 Existing Club Locations and Catchment Areas	25
9.3 Player Equipment and Uniforms	25
9.4 Identified Breaches of Player Equipment	26
9.5 Sideline Staff	26
9.6 Club Apparel	26
9.7 Club Uniform Design	26
10 Hosting	28
10.1 Field and Field Markings	28
10.2 Hydration Stations	28
10.3 First Aid	28
10.4 Change Room Facilities	29
10.5 Chain Crew	29
10.6 Game Officials	30
10.7 Game Day Host	30
10.8 General Facilities	30
10.9 Sponsor Promotion	30
11 Team Sheets	31
11.1 Team Sheets and Change in Procedure	31
11.2 Player Return from Injury or Illness – Requirements for Medical Clearance	31
12 Game Ball Management Procedure	34
12.1 Ball Persons	34
12.2 Kicking Ball and Kicking Tees	34
12.3 Ball Becomes Illegal	34
13 Import Player Participation	35
13.1 Import Player Definition	35
13.2 Exceptions to Definition	35
13.3 Recruitment and The Player/Club Agreement	36

Domestic Season Operations Manual

13.4 Transfer Authorisation	36
13.5 Import Player Declaration	36
13.6 Participation Limitations	36
13.7 Import Player On-Field Identification	37
14 PENALTY PROCEDURES AND APPEAL PROCESS	37
14.1 Penalty Procedure	37
15 Definitions	38

Domestic Season Operations Manual

1 The Affiliation Process

For a club or association to become an affiliated member of GQ Inc. they are required to submit an Affiliation Application in response to an Invitation to Affiliate. A club or association affiliated in the previous season is considered to have an automatic invitation to affiliate for the new season. Any prospective new club or association to the Gridiron Queensland needs be submitted no later than 4 months prior to the commencement of the new season.

1.1 Affiliation Requirements

Affiliation requirements include, but are not limited to:

- proof of club or association incorporation certificate; and
- successful lodgment of the affiliation application with the GQMC before the due date; and
- payment of affiliation fees; and
- adhering to minimum player requirements and registration details; and
- having a functioning club or association administration structure and coaching staff; and
- acceptance and adherence of the rules of Gridiron Queensland and any associated or relevant rules, laws, or statutes from governing bodies ; and
- acceptance of consequences, including financial penalties, for contravention of any rules, directives, by-laws, or other imposed instructions set by the GQMC.

The Invitation to affiliate will be issued after the Annual General Meeting and applications are due within two weeks of issuance, or if applicable, the date set by the GQMC. Completed affiliation applications will be assessed by the GQMC and their decision communicated to the club or association within two weeks of receiving the application. A club or association may appeal a rejected application within one week of receiving notification of the decision as per Gridiron Queensland Inc Constitution.

1.2 Affiliation Adoption of Policies

As part of the affiliation process all members are to adopt and understand the following policies:

1. Domestic Season Operations Manual (this document)
2. GQ Constitution
3. Adopted GA policies (<https://www.gridiron.org.au/policies> including Rules, Sanctions, Member Protection and Risk Management Policies, Concussion Policy)
4. GQ Policies including. but not limited to, Judiciary Policy, Social Media Policy and those of Gridiron Queensland official website (<https://www.gridironqueensland.au>)

1.3 Affiliation Invitation and Application Document

The affiliation document will be sent to all clubs after the AGM and stored on the Gridiron Queensland document and policy repository

Domestic Season Operations Manual

2 Team and Player Registration

2.1 Member Registration Process

All player membership and registration submissions to Gridiron Queensland are to be done online via the RevolutioniseSport platform.

Clubs and associations will be required to setup finance classes that link directly to the correct GQ and GA capitation fee. Registrations are required for all players, coaches, committee members, volunteers, and sideline personnel.

Members will be able to go directly to their club portals and submit registrations for new members or renew past years registrations for returning members.

Note: Please ensure when you are adding members

- Only add members who you have all information (e.g. if they have an invalid Date of Birth the player will not be registered)
- Ensure you are not adding duplicate players into the system. There is very good search functionality. When a player's Name and Date of Birth are entered you are warned about this. Using the same player profile year on year provides GQ and GA with Stats and we can see who the player has played for over the years etc.

2.2 Registrations Numbers

To reduce the likelihood of forfeits, each team must have a minimum number of valid registrations in the division's peak body team of RevolutioniseSport before it is accepted into the competition. The minimum numbers are as follows:

Division	Minimum	Maximum
Youth Division: u8 to u14	4-12	7-20 Refer Appendix
Junior Division:	22	No max
Women's Division:	18	No max
Men's Division:	30	No max

The date and time when registrations are due will be determined by GQMC after the AGM.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

2.3 Verification of Date of Birth

Clubs must inspect and validate a copy of a government issued identification for each member, showing their name and date of birth. Once this document has been sighted and validated the club should verify the date of birth for the member within the league membership database, RevolutioniseSport.

GQMC may request the document to be presented at any stage for the member to continue participating in their respective division.

2.4 Youth and Junior Teams

Gridiron Queensland has a long-standing strategic directive which requires clubs to make genuine and earnest efforts to field teams in Youth and Junior divisions. With the provision for clubs to occupy more than one physical location it is expected that a club will field teams in Youth and Junior divisions for each physical location occupied by a Men's and/or Women's division team.

Should a club fail to field a team in at least the Youth or Juniors division as required in any given season, Gridiron Queensland will engage with the club to design remedial strategies. Such strategies will be clearly defined, documented, and may include mandatory reporting requirements by the club. A club that, to the satisfaction of the GQMC, diligently adopts and adheres to such remedial strategies will be allowed to continue their affiliation regardless of the success of those strategies.

A club that, in the opinion of the GQMC, has not adopted the remedial strategies satisfactorily, and subsequently fails to register at least a Junior or Colts division team, or provide suitable Youth division participation, may have restrictions imposed on them or have their affiliation cancelled.

2.5 Membership Transfers and Releases

A player, coach, or any other member who is registered with an affiliated club or association of GQ Inc. is bound to that club

Where a club or association fields more than one team in a division and one of those teams withdraws from competition after the commencement of the season, the players of the withdrawing team will not be permitted to transfer to another team in the same division of that club or association.

Where a club or association fields more than one team in a division, players will not be permitted to transfer between teams after the commencement of the regular season.

Players or coaches will not be permitted to transfer between clubs or associations once the regular season has commenced unless he/she has been subjected to relocation due to family/work commitments. The GQMC may request independent verification of such circumstances. The GQMC may consider other grounds for transfer on a case-by-case basis at its discretion. The regular season is considered to have commenced at the start of the month prior to the competition's first round.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

A player cannot play in two competitions at the same time for example a player registered in the SEQ competition cannot compete in the RQ competition until the conclusion of their participation in the SEQ season.

2.5.1 Transfer Process

2.5.1.1 Transfer Process – Player not yet registered in Revolutionise

A “Request for Transfer” application should be lodged prior to the commencement of the regular season for the applicable division. Prior clubs will have two (2) weeks to review the transfer application. A club or association may only decline a transfer if they believe that the applicant has not satisfied his/her financial obligation to the club or association or has outstanding gear

2.5.1.2 Transfer Process – Player Registered in Revolutionise

A “Request for Transfer” application should be lodged prior to the commencement of the regular season for the applicable division. Prior clubs will have two (2) weeks to review the transfer application. A club or association may only decline a transfer if they believe that the applicant has not satisfied his/her financial obligation to the club or association or has outstanding gear.

Once the transfer has been approved via email. The clubs will need to create a transfer in revolutionise to move the player from one club to another.

NOTE: Do not create a duplicate person in the system.

2.6 Poaching

No member of an affiliated club\association (or a club\association trying to gain affiliation) may approach another member of a club\association for the purpose of recruitment with an offer or incentive that is not freely available to all. Such as (but not limited to):

- Payment of Fees
- Gifting of Equipment
- Promise of Selection in Representative teams

Allegations of poaching are to be resolved by the Gridiron Queensland Judiciary.

2.7 Penalties

Penalties for Registration Infractions (a player who is not registered or paid for):

- 2 match points per game plus
- \$200 fine per player and/or coach, per game.

For playoffs and finals: \$500 fine per player, per game, PLUS team is ineligible for playoffs the following year.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

3 Competition Divisions and Age Requirements

3.1 Age Cut-off

A player must be no older than the upper age bracket for the respective competition during the calendar year of competition commenced.

For example, an individual who is 18, or will be turning 18 during the year of competition commencement, even if the individual turns 18 after the conclusion of the competition but in same calendar year, is to play in the Men's division and cannot participate in the Junior division.

Note: In exceptional circumstances, dispensation to play in another division (above or below the players age division) may be provided for players aged within one year of the designated brackets – please refer to 3.8 for details.

3.2 Youth Divisions

The Youth division is for male and female players aged 6 to 13 years. This division is focused on introducing and promoting the game. Refer to appendix Football Matrix for individual competitions in this age group. No game results are formally recorded, and no finals or playoffs will be played for u12 and below. Under 14 age group will be the first youth division that includes scoring and championship final.

All players need explicit written parental or guardian consent to participate in the Youth division. Parents must register their child through registration platform to confirm consent. Clubs must not register this age group manually.

3.3 Junior Division

The Junior division is for male and female players aged 14 to 17 years. The championship game for the Junior division will be known as the Junior Sun Bowl.

Being under the age of 18 years old, players need explicit written parental or guardian consent to participate in this division. Clubs must keep this consent on file.

3.3.1 Playing 'up' during the season

A 17-year-old player registered as a Junior, may experience during any regular season round the opportunity to play up into the Men's Division if they are supported in writing by:

- a) their respective club President; and
- b) being under the age of 18 years, their parent or guardian; and
- c) following a suitability and safety assessment, the GQ Director of Coaching or equivalent as nominated by the GQ Management Committee for that season (see 3.8)

Domestic Season Operations Manual

For the round, the Junior Division registered player is electing to play in the Men's Division, the player will not play in their Junior Division game as well, complying with the one game per round rule contained in this policy. (Section 3.8)

This 'playing up' may only occur for a total of two rounds. Upon a third game electing to be played by a Junior Division registered player in the Men's Division, the player's respective club must first upgrade their divisional membership with Gridiron Queensland including the increase in fees for the whole of that season. From the commencement of the third Men's Division game onwards, the player will then be registered as a Men's Division player for the remainder of that season.

3.3.2 Player Ability to Request transfer to Junior Division

If a Junior Division aged player who either:

- a) registered as a Men's Division player at the commencement of the season; or
- b) registered up into the Men's Division upon playing the third Men's Division game

wishes to return to playing in the Junior Division, the player is able to do so. However, in doing so no further playing up into the Men's Division will be available for this player for the remainder of the season, and no refund in registration fees will be applicable.

3.3.3 Player Divisional Finals Eligibility

Any relevant player will need to have registered up, or down a division prior to the commencement of the third last round of the season, to be eligible to play in the finals for that division.

There is no provision for 14,15 or 16-year-old Junior Division registered player to "Play up" in the Men's Division.

3.4 Women's Division

The Women's division is for female players aged 18 and over. There is no provision for male players to play in this division. The Championship game for the Women's division will be known as the Women's Sun Bowl.

Gridiron Queensland in consultation with its Club Delegates and player stakeholders recognise the desire for some Junior aged players to experience the differing facets of the Women's Division to assist in building athletic capabilities for future endeavours; due to athletic capability; or due to personal preference.

3.4.1 Prior to season commencement

At the commencement of a season, a Junior aged player may register as a Women's Division player if they are supported in writing by:

- a) their respective club President; and
- b) their parent or guardian; and
- c) following a suitability and safety assessment by the GQ Director of Coaching or equivalent as nominated by the GQ Management Committee for that season. (see 3.8)

Domestic Season Operations Manual

3.4.2 Junior age playing 'up' during the season

A player registered as a Junior, may experience during any regular season round the opportunity to play up into the Women's Division if they are supported in writing by:

- a) their respective club President; and
- b) their parent or guardian; and
- c) following a suitability and safety assessment, the GQ Director of Coaching or equivalent as nominated by the GQ Management Committee for that season. (see 3.8)

For the round the Junior Division registered player is electing to play in the Women's Division, the player will not play in their Junior Division game as well, complying with the one game per round rule contained in this policy. (Section 3.8)

This 'playing up' may only occur for a total of two rounds. Upon a third game electing to be played by a Junior Division registered player in the Women's Division, the player's respective club must first upgrade their divisional membership with Gridiron Queensland including the increase in fees for the whole of that season. From the commencement of the third Women's Division game onwards, the player will then be registered as a Women's Division player for the remainder of that season.

3.4.3 Player Ability to Request transfer to Junior Division

If a Junior Division aged player who either:

- a) registered as a Women's Division player at the commencement of the season; or
- b) registered up into the Women's Division upon playing the third Women's Division game wishes to return to playing in the Junior Division, the player is able to do so. However, in doing so, no further playing up into the Women's Division will be available for this player for the remainder of the season, and no refund in registration fees will be applicable.

3.4.4 Player Divisional Finals Eligibility

Any relevant player will need to have registered up, or down, prior to the commencement of the third last round of the season, to be eligible to play in the finals for that division.

There is no provision for Youth division players to participate in the Women's division.

3.5 SEQ Men's Division

The South East Queensland (SEQ) Men's division is for male players aged 18 and over. There is no provision for female players to play in this division. The Championship game for the SEQ Men's division will be known as the Men's Sun Bowl.

3.5.1 Junior age Players playing in Men's

Gridiron Queensland in consultation with its Club Delegates and player stakeholders recognises the desire for some Junior aged players to experience the differing facets of the SEQ Men's Division to assist in

Domestic Season Operations Manual

building athletic capabilities for future endeavours; due to athletic capability; or due to personal preference.

3.5.1.1 Prior to season commencement

At the commencement of a season, a Junior aged player who is 17 years old may register as a SEQ Men's Division player if they are supported in writing by:

- a) their respective club President; and
- b) their parent or guardian; and
- c) following a suitability and safety assessment by the GQ Director of Coaching or equivalent as nominated by the GQ Management Committee for that season. (see 3.8)

3.5.1.2 During the season

A player registered as a Junior who is 17 years old, may experience during any regular season round the opportunity to play up into the SEQ Men's Division if they are supported in writing by:

- a) their respective club President; and
- b) their parent or guardian; and
- c) following a suitability and safety assessment, the GQ Director of Coaching or equivalent as nominated by the GQ Management Committee for that season.

For the round the Junior Division registered player is electing to play in the SEQ Men's Division, the player will not play in their Junior Division game as well, complying with the one game per round policy contained in this policy. (Section 3.8)

This 'playing up' may only occur for a total of two rounds. Upon a third game electing to be played by a Junior Division registered player in the SEQ Men's Division, the player's respective club must first upgrade their divisional membership with Gridiron Queensland including the increase in fees for the whole of that season. From the commencement of the third SEQ Men's Division game onwards, the player will then be registered as a SEQ Men's Division player for the remainder of that season.

3.5.1.3 Player Ability to Request transfer to Junior Division

If a Junior Division aged player who either:

- a) registered as a Men's Division player at the commencement of the season; or
- b) registered up into the Men's Division upon playing the third Men's Division game wishes to return to playing in the Junior Division, the player is able to do so. However, in doing so no further playing up into the Men's Division will be available for this player for the remainder of the season, and no refund in registration fees will be applicable.

3.5.1.4 Player Divisional Finals Eligibility

Any relevant player will need to have registered up, or down, prior to the commencement of the third last round of the season, to be eligible to play in the finals for that division.

There is no provision for Youth division players to "play up" in the SEQ Men's division.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

3.6 RQ Men's Division

The Regional Queensland (RQ) Men's division is for male only players aged 18 and over. There is no provision for female players to play in this division. The Championship game for the RQ Men's division will be known as the Men's Reef Bowl.

A player registered as a Junior, may experience during any regular season round the opportunity to play up into the Men's Division if they are supported in writing by:

- a) their respective club President; and
- b) their parent or guardian; and
- c) following a suitability and safety assessment, the GQ Director of Coaching or equivalent as nominated by the GQ Management Committee for that season. (see 3.8)

For the round the Junior Division registered player is electing to play in the RQ Men's Division, the player will not play in their Junior Division game as well, complying with the one game per round policy contained in this policy. (Section 3.8)

There is no provision for Youth division aged players to "play up" in the RQ Men's Competition.

3.7 One Game Per Round

A player, regardless of their division, is only permitted to play one game in any one round. By way of example, if a player registered in the Junior Division wishes to experience a game in the Men's Division, that player can only play the Men's game in that round, and will not play in their Junior Division game.

Players are not permitted to play any more than one game in any one round regardless of differing divisions.

3.8 Dispensation to play in different Division to Age

3.8.1 Purpose and Goals of Dispensation

The goal of GQ dispensation is to ensure that players are placed in the correct and safe division of football to promote, grow and develop the sport of American Football in Qld. Further to this goal, the purpose of dispensation is to allow players to play in a division that suits the player needs, not the needs of the club. It is important for clubs, administration, coaches and players to understand the dispensation process, particularly to play below your age, as this does not just affect the player being assessed but the entire division.

3.8.2 How will the player be assessed?

Dispensation days will be coordinated by GQMC prior to the start of the regular season. Details of the assessment will be provided on the day, however, the intent is to determine the player's suitability in playing up or down a division. This may include, but not limited to, determining the person's ability to block, be blocked, tackle, get tackled, run, and whether the player has the maturity and capacity to play in another division.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

Also, as part of the assessment, each player's height and weight will be noted to check against existing guidelines.

3.8.3 Assessment during the season

Over the course of the season if players who have received dispensation become a cause for concern particularly in relation to injury due to size or strength disparities, GQ reserve the right to amend the player's dispensation status. A combination of match reports, video and reassessment may be used during this process.

There will be a limit of 5 PLAYERS per Club that are able to seek dispensation for Players turning 18 in a Season to play in the Junior Division. There is no Limit on the Amount of 17 year old players applying to play up into Men's Division.

3.8.4 What if the outcome of the assessment is disputed?

Details of the assessment will be provided to GQMC for their review. Although you may raise your concerns with GQMC, there are currently no provisions to appeal the determination.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

4 Competition Rules, Season, and Scheduling

4.1 Competition Rules

All games will be governed by the rules set down by Gridiron Australia except as per the provisions of prescribed local rules or otherwise specified within this section.

Game rules can be found at <https://www.gridiron.org.au/policies> or <https://gridironqueensland.au/governance>

4.2 South East Queensland (SEQ) Competition Season

The regular season will commence in late September. Post-season games (semi-finals and Sunbowl) will be completed by the final Saturday in November or first Saturday in December. These dates are placeholders and subject to change.

4.3 Regional Queensland (RQ) Competition Season

The regular season will commence in late September.

Post-season games will be held on or near the final Saturday in January/early February of the following calendar year. These dates are placeholders and subject to change.

4.4 Regular Season Games

The regular season will consist of “Home and Away” games at venues used by each team within each division. “Home and Away” may be nominal allocations depending on venue availability. Where two teams are playing at a neutral venue, the team listed first on the official draw is considered to be the home team.

Games will generally be played on Saturdays. Sunday and Friday night games will be considered on request and permitted only with agreement by all parties (GQMC, QGOA, both teams, and host venue), and where such application is made at the time of draw formulation or at the discretion of the GQMC under extenuating circumstances.

Games typically will be played at, but not limited to, 11.00am, 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 7.00pm.

Where a game finishes significantly ahead of time, the following game may start early if agreed by both teams, host club, and QGOA officials. No ‘voluntary’ changes to the draw will be permitted once published unless required due to errors, omissions, or instigated by the GQMC at its sole discretion.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

4.5 Rescheduling and Relocating Games

GQMC reserves the right to relocate and reschedule games from venues that have been deemed unsuitable or unusable. Every effort will be made to notify participating teams of the change as soon as possible, and any decision to reschedule and/or relocate games will be made with careful and thorough consideration of the impact to all participants. Teams that are unwilling to travel because of the change will be deemed to have forfeited their game.

4.6 Minimum Numbers to Commence Game

The minimum number of dressed players, in full uniform, for a game to commence is:

- Men's Division: 15
- Women's Division: 12 (for 9-side), 15 (for 11-a-side)
- Junior Division: 15
- Youth Division: 4 (u8), 4 (u10), 5 (u12), 8 (u14)

If during a game a team has their player numbers fall below the maximum number of players permitted on the field during a play (9 or 11), the team may, at their head coach's discretion, continue playing until such time the head coach declares a forfeit, or it is deemed unsafe to continue playing by the QGOA Referee. Both teams must still abide by all rules regarding formations and other participation requirements as set out by IFAF and Gridiron Australia.

4.7 Games Not Completed

During the course of the season games may need to be cancelled or abandoned for reasons of safety, injury, weather, field lighting problems, or other reasons beyond the control of Gridiron Queensland or the host.

These games are determined as either:

- A cancelled game - being a game that has not started; or
- An abandoned game - being a game that has cause to be stopped.

Such games will not be re-scheduled, under any circumstance, unless authorised and initiated by the GQMC and at its sole discretion.

4.8 Cancelled Games During Regular Season

The causes of a cancelled game may be as follows, but not limited to:

- Field of play deemed unsuitable or unsafe by QGOA officials
- Weather has caused the leaseholder or owner to close the field
- Sudden alteration of weather conditions causes concern

Domestic Season Operations Manual

For cancelled games during the regular season, a nil-all draw will be recorded for both teams and competition points for a draw will be awarded. Cancelled games may be rescheduled, if authorised by the GQMC at its sole discretion.

4.9 Abandoned Games During Regular Season

A game can be abandoned for the following reasons, but not limited to:

- Lighting failure at the field
- Weather conditions
- Death or serious injury
- Excess violence/fighting
- Flooding

During regular season:

A game is deemed to be abandoned when in the opinion of the QGOA appointed Referee it cannot be restarted with sufficient time to reach the half time break within 45 minutes of the expiry of normal play time. Standard play time is 150 minutes for a Men's division game and 90 minutes for a Junior, , or Women's division game.

- A game that is abandoned prior to half time will not be considered a game completed. A nil-all draw will be recorded and competition points for a draw will be awarded.
- A game that has reached half time and is subsequently abandoned is considered a game completed with the score at the time of abandonment recorded as the result.
- The start of subsequent games on the schedule will be delayed no more than 30 minutes from the scheduled start times.
- A reschedule of the game will not be permitted unless initiated and authorised by the GQMC and at its sole discretion.

4.10 Disqualification Policy

Any participant disqualified pursuant to the rules will automatically be suspended for one additional game beyond the sanctions specified by rule.

GQMC have the right to send any matter to Judiciary for all on-field incidents, please refer to the rules governing the Match Review Panel and relevant process. A written report is to be lodged within 48 hours of this notice. If upon review of the matter it is the opinion of the judiciary that notice of citation was not made within the 48-hour timeframe, the citation will be dismissed.

In all cases the MRP & Judiciary will ensure all involved parties are advised at the soonest possible opportunity.

A member and/or a club can appeal a disqualification only if it relates to the committing of a Flagrant Foul or Flagrant Unsportsmanlike Conduct. These reviews are heard by the GQ Match Review Panel, in accordance with the Match Review Policy.

5 Regular Season Results

5.1 Tied Games in Regular Season

Games tied at the end of regular game time will not go into overtime and a tied result will be recorded.

5.2 Recording of Regular Season Results and Competition Points

A results and points table will be kept for regular season games. This table will be published at the conclusion of regular season fixture games each week. A simplified points table may be published via various media.

Competition points will be awarded as follows:

- A win will result in two (2) points being awarded to the winning team
- A tie or draw will result in one (1) point being awarded to each team
- A loss will result in zero (0) points being awarded to the losing team

Competition points will be used for ranking of teams in each division, with tie-breaking procedures, as noted below, enforced when applicable.

5.3 Regular Season Tie-Breaking Procedure

In the instance where two or more teams are tied on competition points at the end of the regular season, the following tiebreakers are to be applied in the order indicated to determine table position. The team with the superior result in any of the tie breakers will be awarded the higher ladder position.

For a two-way tie only:

1. Head-to-head win/loss record
2. If still equal; head-to-head points differential with a maximum of 35 points per game
3. If still equal; the greatest number of whole-of-competition wins recorded
4. If still equal; whole-of-season points differential with a maximum of 35 points per game
5. If still equal; coin toss or another random draw facilitated and administered by Gridiron Queensland

For a tie involving more than two teams:

1. Most number of whole-of-competition wins recorded
2. If still equal; whole-of-season points differential with a maximum of 35 points per game
3. If still equal; coin toss or another random draw facilitated and administered by Gridiron Queensland

Domestic Season Operations Manual

6 Playoffs and Championship Games

Playoff game formulation may vary from year to year and by division depending on several factors, including, but not limited to, the number of teams in a division, or the use of 'weighted' competition pools. Such formulation will be communicated to clubs as soon as practical after final nomination by clubs of their participating teams.

The teams competing in divisional championship games are selected through the playoff games. The championship game of each division will be held on a day and time to be decided by the GQMC, with such details published prior to the completion of the regular season.

6.1 Playoff and Championship Eligibility

To be eligible for playoffs or a championship game a player must have participated in at least three regular season games, in the same season, for that team. This must be verifiable by their signature on the weekly team sheet and recorded in the RevolutioniseSport system. Similarly, a player "playing up" to a higher division may qualify to play in a playoff or championship game for that team on the same basis. A player can only play playoff/Sun Bowl/Reef Bowl in the division that they are registered in at the end of the regular season.

Where a team of a regular season game has won by forfeit, or has had their regular season game cancelled, this will count as a game towards playoffs and championship eligibility for all registered players of that team, including any player who is under suspension and is otherwise eligible. A forfeited game does not count towards eligibility to the team who forfeited, including any player who is under suspension in that team.

6.2 Tied Games in Post-Regular Season

In the event of a tied score at the completion of regular time in a playoff game or a championship game, overtime will be played to determine a winner as per game rules.

6.3 Cancelled and Abandoned Games in Post-Regular Season

For post-regular season games that have been cancelled (as defined in section 4.8), but not abandoned, the team finishing the regular season with superior position on the competition table will be awarded the win, unless the GQMC, at its sole discretion, is able to reasonably reschedule the game.

For games that have been abandoned (further to the definition under section 4.9), during post-regular season:

- A game is deemed to be abandoned when in the opinion of the QGOA appointed Referee it cannot be restarted with sufficient time to reach the half time break within 75 minutes of the expiry of normal play time. Standard play time is 150 minutes for a Men's or Junior division game and 90 minutes for a or Women's division game.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

- A game that is abandoned prior to half time will not be considered a game completed. The team with the superior position on the competition table will be considered the winner.
- A game that has reached half time and is subsequently abandoned is considered a game completed with the score at the time of abandonment recorded as the result. In the event of a draw, the team with the superior position on the competition table will be considered the winner.
- The start of subsequent games on the schedule will be delayed no more than 60 minutes from the scheduled start times.
- A reschedule of the game will not be permitted, unless authorised by the GQMC at its sole discretion.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

7 Forfeits

Forfeits will fall into one of four categories.

1. >72 Hours: Where notice is given to the GQMC, in writing, more than 72 hours before the scheduled game time.
2. <72 Hours: Where notice is given to the GQMC, in writing, less than 72 hours before the scheduled game time.
3. Game Time: Where a team has less than the prescribed minimum number of players available at the scheduled time of a game.
4. In Game: Where a team is reduced to a point where they can no longer participate.

7.1 Combined Practice in Lieu of Game

At the discretion of the two teams involved in the forfeit, plus the host club, a combined practice session may be held in lieu of the game forfeited. Participation of the QGOA, and any assigned volunteers, is voluntary at their discretion.

7.2 Suspicious Forfeits

Should the GQMC have concern that a forfeit has been committed outside the spirit of the rules, they may, at their sole discretion, investigate the forfeit. Should such investigation lead the GQMC to believe the forfeit has been committed outside the spirit of the rules, the club committing the forfeit shall be penalised \$1,000 on top of usual forfeiture penalties, and their automatic invitation to affiliate the following year will be revoked; meaning they must present their case to the GQMC and returning clubs for inclusion in the competition.

A club found guilty of committing a forfeit of this nature may appeal the decision to the Gridiron Queensland Inc. Judiciary. All normal provisions of an appeal will apply.

7.3 Penalties Pertaining to Forfeits

	>72 Hours	<72 Hours	Game Time	In Game
GQ Fine	Officials costs if applicable	\$250 + Officials costs if applicable	\$500 + Officials costs if applicable	Nil
Damages to Host Club	Nil	Unrecoverable actual expenditure – venue hire, food spoilage etc. to a maximum of \$200.	Unrecoverable actual expenditure – venue hire, food spoilage etc. to a maximum of \$200.	Nil

Domestic Season Operations Manual

Result to be recorded	35-nil	35-nil	35-nil	The score at the time the game was called, or 35nil, at the discretion of the opposition.
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7.4 Claiming Damages

If eligible, host clubs must file a claim within 48 hours of notice of the forfeit. All such claims are to be directed to the forfeiting club and copied to the GQMC. Failure by the forfeiting team to pay the financial penalty within a reasonable time will result in further sanctions. The GQMC will be the sole adjudicator in determining if a damages claim is reasonable and whether a reasonable time has been given to pay such a claim.

7.5 Team Disqualification

A team (not club) that registers a third forfeit for the season shall be disqualified from the remainder of the season. All future games for that team for the remainder of the season will be recorded as forfeits.

7.6 Other Forfeit Penalties

Any club recording forfeits in the previous season will:

- at the discretion of the GQMC, have their applications to host playoff matches negatively weighted for the current season; and
- be required to present to GQMC their remediation strategies to reduce the chance of future forfeits.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

8 Adverse Weather

Gridiron Queensland recognise that adverse weather conditions present some level of risk that can harm the performance and/or the health of participants. Activities that occur in adverse weather conditions can place participants at risk of injury, illness and in extreme circumstances, even death. The health and safety of members is a paramount concern, and as such, to reduce the risk of injury, manage potentially dangerous weather situations, and meet legal obligations for duty of care, Gridiron Queensland aims to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, and spectators. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear cancellation guidelines for event organisers and coordinators on the occasion of adverse weather conditions.

The GQMC reserve the right to cancel/postpone or alter an event in the interest of participant health and safety. These guidelines aim to assist when managing events in adverse weather conditions and minimise the risk of injury and illness for all participants involved. Please refer to the [American Football Queensland Extreme Heat Policy - May 2024](#) in addition to below.

8.1 Hot Weather

If in the opinion of the QGOA Referee that hot weather conditions warrant such, water breaks may be taken during the course of the game. The Officials should refer to the [American Football Queensland Extreme Heat Policy - May 2024](#)

Either team's Head Coach may petition the officials for such consideration. Such additional water breaks will be limited to natural breaks in the game where possible, such as change of possession, after scores, change of quarter, etc. The timing, frequency and duration of the water breaks will be at the absolute discretion of the officials with regard to prevailing weather conditions. Such water breaks will not extend the maximum time within which a game must be completed. The Referee will make note of provision of additional breaks on match records.

Children that are exposed to activities in warm, hot weather conditions increase their risk of heat illness. Children sweat less and experience less evaporative cooling than adults and consequently have a greater difficulty reducing core body temperature. Sports Medicine Australia recommends ambient temperature is the most effective way of evaluating risk of activities in hot weather for children.

8.2 Wet Weather

In the event a round is impacted by wet weather and to the extent that more than 50% of scheduled games are cancelled due to field closures, and cannot be re-scheduled by the GQMC, then the entire round will be deemed to be cancelled and a draw result will be the outcome for all games, regardless of whether a game was played or not, or whether a forfeit for a game in that round had been recorded prior to the cancellation of the entire round.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

8.3 Lightning

Lightning guidelines are governed by IFAF rules found at myiafoa.org. During such games the QGOA appointed Referee will have the final decision.

8.4 Fire, Smoke, and Haze

If in the opinion of the QGOA assigned Referee, either fire, smoke, or haze conditions warrant such, breaks may be taken during the course of the game. If in doubt whether conditions do warrant such, the officials shall consult with the QMC-assigned Sports Medic for advice, and ultimately err on the side of caution. In the event of immediate danger, the host club's evacuation policy should be followed.

9 Affiliate Member Governance

9.1 Club Locations

This section is to provide guidance to affiliate clubs or associations who are seeking to:

- relocate from their existing site to a new area; or
- occupy additional site(s) beyond current approval; or
- play their games at venue(s) other than their 'home' ground; or
- enter the competition.

9.1.1 Application Process

A club or association wishing to relocate or occupy additional site(s) as per the scope above must provide a written application to the GQMC. This application should include supporting documentation that addresses impacts and benefits to:

- Increased participation
- Improving competitions
- Sustained growth
- Member satisfaction
- Financial viability

The GQMC alone will consider and determine the outcome of the application and will provide feedback to the club or association, and current members, on the outcome of the application and reasons for such an outcome.

9.1.2 Duration of Approval

Once approved to occupy a new or additional site, the approval is effective until the affiliate club or association fails to register a team from that site in any given year of domestic competition. Once so lapsed, the club or association previously in-situ at the site has right of way on that site for a further year of domestic competition before other clubs may seek to occupy that site. The previously in-situ club may waive that right at their discretion, however, the GQMC reserves the right to negate the right of way of the previously in-situ club.

9.1.3 Unsuccessful Applications

An unsuccessful application may be re-submitted no sooner than one week and no later than one month from the closing date of the previous outcome. Once submitted this second application is resolved in the same manner as the first application. If this second application is also rejected no further application may be made prior to the start of the next domestic season.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

9.2 Existing Club Locations and Catchment Areas

The maps below provide a guide to the current club locations and their catchment areas and will be used by the GQMC in determining the outcome of applications.

The areas indicated may also be used by existing clubs to guide recruiting / advertising efforts.

Postcode Allocation

9.3 Player Equipment and Uniforms

The purpose of this section is to stipulate the minimum standard required for team uniforms, sideline uniforms, and club apparel to align to a state-wide standard in representing gridiron.

Irrespective of any provisions in this document, club policies, or any other advice, player equipment must adhere to the IFAF rules and any Gridiron Australia variations.

- Helmets
 - Each team helmet must be of the same colour and in safe working condition.
 - If team helmet decals are used, each team member must have the same decal
 - Individual decals, in addition to team decals, are permitted as follows:
 - Players may affix decals to the helmet that comply with a formal club policy on:
 - personal achievement within the club (hit stickers)
 - championship decals
 - long service recognition sponsorship agreements
 - Decals that have been officially issued by Gridiron Queensland or Gridiron Australia in recognition of representative duty.
 - Decals that represent an import player
 - It is the intent of allowing the above exceptions that the decals are unobtrusive recognitions that do not detract significantly from the uniformity of the helmet.
 - The GQMC or an appointed QGOA official may direct the removal of any decal deemed to be offensive, inappropriate, or not within the spirit of this provision.
 - Abuse of these provisions may result in their rescinding without notice.
 - Each team facemask must be of the same colour.
- Jerseys
 - Jerseys are to be identical in design and detailing.
 - Each team jersey must have a GQ badge on the upper chest on either side.
 - Jersey designs must conform to IFAF rules.
- Pants
 - Each team pant must be the same colour.
 - Each team pant must have the same detailing.
- Socks
 - Each team member must wear the same colour socks.
- Under Gear
 - Under gear, including shirts, singlets, and any other clothing or material worn under the uniform, must be in the primary pants colour of the team.
- Belts
 - If belts are visible, they must be the same colour.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

9.4 Identified Breaches of Player Equipment

As of the commencement of season 2020, in consultation with the QGOA and AGOA, officials will assist in identifying missing or non-compliant safety equipment during the game. Any equipment violation after a snap will be penalised at official's discretion, including warnings, equipment violations and associated penalties. Any prior to the snap may include being sent from the field, delay of game penalties, or the use of a time out to rectify as the situation presents.

9.5 Sideline Staff

Each sideline staff member will wear official team apparel or uniform. Where official team apparel or sideline uniforms are not adopted, sideline staff members are to be respectably attired and as uniform as reasonably possible. Sideline staff, including all volunteers, must wear in-closed footwear.

9.6 Club Apparel

All club dress shirts or polo shirts are able to include a Gridiron Queensland Inc logo. A zip file containing PNG and EPS versions of the GQ logo can be downloaded from:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19CkIHdQBwonDFM-4ZdgQCwoOSnJb7vpO?usp=sharing>

9.7 Club Uniform Design

Clubs are to register their uniform design and colours with Gridiron Queensland in accordance with the provisions of this document. Once registered, a club may not alter their uniform without consultation with, and approval by the GQMC.

No team may use Maroon (state team colour) or White as their primary jersey colour. White as a primary colour is only permitted for "Away" jerseys and these jerseys should be designed as closely as possible to the reverse design of the nominated regular jersey.

Jersey

- Body: 1 x primary colour, maximum 2 x minor or supplementary colours such as side insert/piping/shoulder etc.
- Numbering and/or letterings: maximum 3 colours including shading or outlining.
- Additional requirements as per IFAF rules.

Pants

- Maximum 3 colours (such as insert on side of pant) and should be complimentary to jersey colours

Socks

- Maximum 2 colours and should be complimentary to jersey and/or pants colours

Domestic Season Operations Manual

9.7.1 Encroachment on Existing Registered Colour Set

As the number of participating teams grows it will not remain reasonable or practical to have a unique colour set for each club. Should a team wish to adopt colours that encroach on another team's registered colour set, that team will be required to wear an alternate strip when the two teams meet. The GQMC will be the sole arbiter on whether a colour set is encroaching upon another team.

9.7.2 Colour Register - Current

Club/Team	Helmet	Jersey Primary	Jersey Minor 1 / 2	Pants Primary	Pants Minor	Socks
Logan City Bears	Black	Black	White/ Orange	Black		Black
Moreton Bay Raptors	Pewter	Grey	Black/White	Black		Grey
Bayside Ravens	Purple	Purple	Silver/Black	Black	Purple	Black
Brisbane Rhinos	Pewter	Red	White	Black	White	Black
Sunshine Coast Spartans	White	Orange	White/Black	White	Black	White
Gold Coast Stingrays	White	Columbia Blue	Navy/White	Navy		White
Griffith Uni Thunder	Red	Black	Red/White	Black		Black
Townsville Cyclones	White	Red	White	Red	White	White
Cairns Falcons	Black	Green	White	Green	White	Black
Mackay Mavericks	Silver	Royal Blue	Silver	Silver	Blue	Blue
Rockhampton Wolverines	Black	Yellow	Black	Black		Black
Port City Pirates	Yellow	Blue	Navy/Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue
Mulgrave Vikings	Purple	Purple	White	Black	Purple	Black

Refer Appendix for historical colours.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

10 Hosting

As part of affiliation, clubs and associations will be required to be available to host games. If a club's primary venue is unable to host games, then they should seek alternate arrangements. If alternate arrangements are not endorsed by the GQMC then a financial penalty may be applied.

Clubs may apply to the GQMC for exemption to elements of these standards, which, if granted, must be communicated by the hosting club to all visiting teams prior to any events or games. The GQMC may, at their sole discretion, approve and revoke such exemptions.

10.1 Field and Field Markings

Game fields are to be a minimum of 100m in length and 50m in width to allow for modified 90-yard field and must also include adequate space for team areas on both sides. The playing surface of fields must be such that they won't compromise the safety of participants, with QGOA officials being responsible for determining the suitability of such surfaces.

All fields are to be marked as per IFAF regulations. Gridiron Queensland recognises some clubs being committed to local ground provider requirements. As such, line marking colours are to only be in white, black, or pink. Line markings are to be clearly visible. Each field is to have visible distance markers. Each field is to have installed end zone markers.

Refer to the links below for diagrams regarding the marking of an IFAF standard field and a modified 90yard field. A guide is also included to assist in the process of marking the field. If a contrasting colour (other than white) is required, please consult with the GQMC to assess suitability and for approval.

All found on Gridiron Queensland [website](#).

10.2 Hydration Stations

Each host venue is to have a table and, at a minimum, a 20-litre water container on each sideline. This water container is to be filled prior to kick-off and after the halftime break of each game.

10.3 First Aid

Provision of a sports medic will be the responsibility of Gridiron Queensland. The minimum qualification for the GQMC sports medic is a Level 2 Sports Medic/Trainer. Clubs are to provide a First Aid trained support person to assist the GQMC provided medic – this person should make themselves known to the GQMC sports medic before the game commences, and make themselves available to support/monitor injured players should the medic be required elsewhere. Clubs are to ensure an appropriate location is available for all first aid personnel, including direct, unobstructed access to the field, appropriate shade cover for personnel and any persons being treated, access to water, ice, and unrestricted ambulance access.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

Games are not to commence unless a medic and nominated first aid attendant are available.

In the case of any dispute of opinion with team-based first aid, the GQ supplied medic is the final arbiter in the decision regarding any player's return to the game, subject to IFAF rules and the appointed QGOA Referee for the game.

All injuries and treatments are to be recorded by the GQMC Sports Medic on an Injury Record Form (available within RevolutioniseSport) and recorded in the system to help track injuries and insurance claims. A copy of the written report should be uploaded to the injury report created in RevolutioniseSport.

10.4 Change Room Facilities

Each venue must have:

- clean dry separate change facilities; and
- at least one working clean toilet with door and lock; and
- fully operational door(s) to offer privacy inside the change room; and
- provision for seating so players can dress for their game.

Where available, separate change room facilities should be provided to members of the opposite sex. Members of the opposite sex should not use the change facilities at the same time. It is important for all members of GQ to reduce the risk of possible abuse or misconduct as governed by adoption of Gridiron Australia Member Protection Policies.

If members of the opposite sex are unable to use separate facilities, then teams should encourage players to come pre-dressed before the game. Furthermore, host venue staff, team managers, and coaching staff should make every reasonable effort to ensure that at risk individuals use the change rooms at different times.

10.5 Chain Crew

A chain crew is to be supplied by the host club. Chain crew members must be registered members in RevolutioniseSport, whether or not they belong to the host club. The chain crew must be dressed in clearly identifiable clothing and wear closed-in footwear while on the field or sideline. The host club is responsible for provision of chain crew equipment at games.

Chain crew members are not permitted to smoke or consume any form of alcohol during their period of duty. For safety reasons, coaches, players, and officials should discourage chain crew from being distracted during a game, for example, using a mobile phone.

A QGOA appointed official may require the host club to remove or replace a member of the chain crew if that member fails to perform their duties in a safe manner, or in the event of misconduct, including, but not limited to, swearing or abusive language, distracting players, or acts of bias. The GQMC may impose penalties or sanctions in such circumstances.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

10.6 Game Officials

Game officials will be supplied and contracted by Gridiron Queensland. Clubs and members are to be encouraged to foster the growth of officials and reduce costs by identifying and recommending members who are interested in becoming game officials.

10.7 Game Day Host

The game day host will wear a fluorescent shirt, bib, or other easily identifiable apparel. The game day host will identify himself/herself and the designated Sports Medic to QGOA officials at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off.

Visiting team managers and head coaches are to make themselves available and introduce themselves to the game day host upon arrival to the venue. The game day host will provide any required instructions to the team about change rooms, water stations, health and safety, and confirm the first aid officer on duty.

10.8 General Facilities

Each venue must have the following facilities available:

- Operational canteen/kiosk.
- Accessible public toilets.
- Suitable lighting for night games.
- Suitable goal posts on each end of the field.
- Shade for each team area, including shade for hydration stations.
- Rubbish management.

10.9 Sponsor Promotion

Each affiliated member club or association of Gridiron Queensland Inc. has the right to support their sponsors at their venue. Portable sponsor signage is permitted to be erected under the following conditions:

- It is not offensive to the extent to cause embarrassment to any member of the general public.
- It is not in direct competition or conflict with the host club sponsors.
- It is not in direct competition or conflict with Gridiron Queensland Inc. sponsors.
- It is not in direct competition or conflict with the primary leaseholder of the venue's sponsors.
- It does not contravene any Queensland statute or law.

Clubs or associations must first obtain written approval from the GQMC if any advertising or sponsorship that is to be displayed at games is in direct competition or conflict with Gridiron Queensland Inc. sponsors.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

11 Team Sheets

GQ will issue team sheets on a weekly basis, to be available by the Friday before the weekend's games. The team sheets will be managed through our game management system.

If a name does not appear on the issued team sheet, they are not to take part in the fixture. Any addition of names is strictly forbidden, unless explicitly permitted, in writing, by the GQMC for that round prior to the start of the game.

If the game date or round number is incorrect on a team sheet supplied by the GQMC, the date and/or round number please notify GQMC via committee@gridironqueensland.au

All participants in a fixture, including players and coaches, are to check in to the team sheets against their name. Injured players in attendance may also sign the team sheet for eligibility purposes for playoffs and the championship game. NOTE: Use of approved technology is accepted.

Players who will wear a different jersey number to that on the team sheet must make a note of the number they will be playing in, and a note should be included in the email sent to GQMC when sending through team sheets.

Random inspections and verification of signatures at matches may be conducted by representatives of the GQMC.

Any team sheet not submitted by the stipulated time, or considered not submitted, may incur a penalty as per penalties schedule.

11.1 Team Sheets and Change in Procedure

The GQMC may, at its sole discretion, change or review the procedure for signing and collection of team sheets prior to, or during, the season. In such circumstances, the process and relevant instructions will be communicated to member clubs.

11.2 Player Return from Injury or Illness – Requirements for Medical Clearance

Gridiron is a contact sport where injuries occur on a variety of levels from minor muscular related sprains and strains to fractures to more serious injuries such as those involving the head and/or spine.

This policy provides players, coaches and managers with a process that must be followed for a player who has suffered a significant injury or illness to be medically cleared before they may return to play the game of Gridiron.

This policy is applicable for participants that are injured in games which require a sports trainer / medic to assess if the player can return to the field of play. This policy also extends to participants whom, due to specific injuries and illnesses, have missed at least one (1) competition game, or have been injured at training or other activities.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

11.2.1 When is a Medical Clearance Required?

Circumstances/conditions in which a medical clearance is required include, but is not limited to:

- Where due to an injury or illness, a player has missed games and training for longer than one week (7 days)
- Any form of concussion or suspected concussion (Also see Special Conditions for Concussion / Brain Injury below)
- Any form of unconsciousness, no matter how brief
- Any form of potential cervical (neck) injury
- Broken bones of any sort
- Suspected facial fractures
- Any injury involving the eye which impacts on the participant's vision
- Any form of cardiac (heart) condition
- Hypertension (history of high blood pressure)
- Significant soft tissue injuries (where a player has not recovered to a playing capacity one-week post injury)
- Repeated episodes or exacerbations of already diagnosed medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and epilepsy
- Any player recovering from a significant or potentially contagious illness (e.g. Covid-19, Chicken Pox, Measles, Whooping cough, Glandular fever, influenza or respiratory ailment, etc...)

The above list is not exhaustive and it is expected that coaches / managers will implement a common sense approach when requesting a medical clearance. Many of the above-mentioned conditions can result in the injury or illness continuing or being made worse through physical activity. Additionally, there can be risks presented to other participants when the illness is contagious.

11.2.2 Obtaining a Medical Clearance

If a player meets any of the criteria set out in preceding section, they will be required to obtain a clearance from a medical practitioner (Doctor) to return to the field of play. This medical clearance must be lodged with the team manager or head coach, whom upon receipt of this medical clearance, will communicate to the coaches the approval of the player to return to training and/or playing.

The requirements for medical clearances should not be seen as being onerous or as being overly officious. It is a requirement that players seek professional medical attention for conditions that may cause them further serious health problems in the future.

11.2.3 Special Conditions for Concussion / Brain Injuries

As the governing body for our sport in this country, Gridiron Australia has developed a policy to describe the actions which must be taken by all participants with regard to the management of Concussion. (Please refer to GA Concussion Policy). Relevant sections of that policy are reiterated here – for full details please refer directly to the policy.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

It is important that players suffering a concussion are excluded from contact until sufficient recovery time has elapsed.

- *A player who has been referred to a Trainer (Medic) for assessment, is suspected to have a concussion, has suffered a head injury, or been removed from the game due to an injury timeout will not return to play until they have been assessed and cleared that day by the Trainer (Medic).*
- *If a player is not assessed, a concussion will be assumed and further exclusion provisions will apply.*

The default assumption when a Trainer/Medic does not assess a referred player is that a concussion has occurred.

- *A player who has suffered a loss of consciousness, or been diagnosed with a concussion will not be allowed to return to play (games or contact training) for a period of 10 days unless notification of a written clearance by a Medical Practitioner is provided to GA and the League.*
- *A player who suffers a second or subsequent concussion within a 12-month period will not be allowed to return to play (games or contact training) for 24 days unless notification of a written clearance by a Medical Practitioner is provided to GA and the League.*

GQ supports a “Graduated Return to Play” protocol as recognised by Sports Medicine Australia, and many other sporting bodies in Australia. The written clearance must clearly state that the player is cleared from his / her head injury and is fit to participate in contact sport with no restrictions.

A player who suffers more than two concussions in a 12-month period should seriously consider participating in the sport in ways other than playing - becoming a Coach, Trainer, Administrator, or Game Official are all excellent and fulfilling options.

11.2.4 Privacy Considerations

Medical Clearances will only be distributed to those who need to confirm a clearance. They will not be forwarded to those who only require notification of a clearance.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

12 Game Ball Management Procedure

The purpose of this section is to improve the quality of games and reduce the operational cost through asset management.

The Home Team (not the hosting club, for example Bears V Rhinos at the Ravens field means the Bears are the Home Team) will provide at least three game balls that meet the required standard for a game ball.

These balls will be presented to the referees pre-game and returned to the team by the officials at the conclusion of play. The officiating crew are responsible for the balls coming in and out during the game.

This is based on the following IFAF rules

1-3-2-c; c. Unless provided by the competition authority, the home team shall provide a minimum of three legal balls

PLEASE NOTE: a kicking ball is not permitted at all to be used

1-3-2-l: On fourth down, kicker A1 enters the field with an approved game ball and asks the referee to substitute it for the ball used during the previous down. RULING: Substitution of the ball is not permitted.

If a Home Team does not present at least three legal game balls, this will be reported to GQ and sanctions, including having the game result recorded as a forfeit, may apply.

12.1 Ball Persons

There is no requirement for a ball person to be supplied by a team (GQ will arrange for two ball persons for each playoff and Sunbowl/Reefbowl game). However, if one is available, the ball person must wear closed-in footwear and a hi-visibility vest.

12.2 Kicking Ball and Kicking Tees

Kicking tees must be supplied by each team and be available prior to the start of the game. Players of the kicking team are responsible for the collection of kicking tees from the field after the kick.

12.3 Ball Becomes Illegal

If a ball becomes illegal during play, it will be replaced with another approved game ball at the next quarter time break, charged team timeout, or after a change of possession. Until such time, the remaining game ball will be used unless determined otherwise by a QGOA appointed official.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

13 Import Player Participation

The purpose of this section is to facilitate the enhancement and development of club capabilities through utilisation of foreign playing experience in the domestic competition. The GQ league is still considered amateur and paying members interests are paramount and regulating the utilisation of foreign playing experience to protect competition balance is in the interests of affiliate clubs and Gridiron Queensland.

13.1 Import Player Definition

An import player must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a playing participant; and
- be other than a *permanent resident of Australia*; and
- have playing experience in a football system outside of Australia as per the table below.

The inclusion of any enticements or entitlements is not a determining factor in the definition of an import player.

Tier 1	Tier 2
USA (excluding high school)	Germany
Canada (excluding high school)	Austria
Japan	Sweden
Mexico	Finland
	South Korea
	Great Britain
	Spain
	Serbia
	USA High School
	Canada High School

Import players are permitted for all divisions.

13.2 Exceptions to Definition

Sunset Provisions

- Tier 1 experience of more than 5 years previous is disregarded.
- Tier 2 experience of more than 5 years previous is disregarded.

Special Category Visas, for example, Subclass 444 and bridging Visas

Domestic Season Operations Manual

- Special Category Visa holders fit the commonly understood meaning of the term ‘permanent resident’ as they are entitled to live in Australia indefinitely, in much the same way as an Australian citizen or a permanent Visa holder.
- This includes those individuals who are currently undertaking the application process for permanent residency or citizenship and are entitled to remain in the country until they are assessed, they are exempt from the definition of an import player for the purpose of these rules.

13.3 Recruitment and The Player/Club Agreement

A club is wholly responsible for selection, vetting, and all other due diligence to establish the credentials of any potential recruit. Where an import player has been offered entitlements or benefits in return for their participation, a written agreement should be employed to detail expectations and obligations of both parties.

Gridiron Queensland is not a party to such agreements and should be expressly excluded from any written agreement. Should a player or club agreement be terminated, the availability of any transfer will be as permitted by the relevant instrument of Gridiron Queensland.

Should a player believe he has been unfairly terminated, they may opt to appeal the termination to the GQ Judiciary. All obligations regarding the appeal process will apply. Both parties will be bound by the judiciary decision.

13.4 Transfer Authorisation

Players moving between IFAF-Affiliated leagues may require a transfer application and/or transfer processing fee. Please refer to relevant Gridiron Australia issued documentation for further information. Compliance with transfer processes and payment of associated fees is the responsibility of the club requesting the transfer. Gridiron Queensland does not impose a transfer fee.

13.5 Import Player Declaration

Clubs must identify Import Players on their team rosters and reports accordingly. The form “Gridiron Queensland Import Player Declaration” is to be submitted to Gridiron Queensland prior to the commencement of the regular season. The form can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://gridironqueensland.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Gridiron-Queensland-Import-PlayerDeclaration.pdf>

13.6 Participation Limitations

A team (not club) is permitted to have:

1. up to a maximum of six (6) import players on their roster.
2. a maximum of four (4) import players from Tier 1 football systems.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

3. a maximum of two (2) Tier 1 import players on the field at any time.

In the event a team is reduced by injury during the course of a game to a point they cannot field the minimum number of players required without exceeding the number of Tier 1 import players permitted on the field, they must forfeit the game whereby the regulation regarding in-game forfeiture will apply.

13.7 Import Player On-Field Identification

Tier 1 import players must, at all times while on the field, wear a stipulated 'high-visibility' decal on their helmet which will clearly identify them as a Tier 1 import player.

Gridiron Queensland will be responsible for procurement and issue of such decals. If upon review a Tier 1 import player was on the field at any time without such marking, the game will be forfeited by that team.

A violation of Tier 1 import player limitations is to be handled as a Substitution Rule infraction under the game rules. The GQMC reserves the right to review the provisions of Penalty Assessment and Enforcement during the season should it prove problematic.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

14 Sponsorship

All Affiliate Leagues and Clubs are requested to respect existing GA, GQ and Affiliate League corporate partners. Affiliate Leagues and Clubs cannot enter into arrangements or associate with organisations that conflict with the following sponsors:

1. Any other protected GA or GQ sponsor

All Affiliate Leagues and Clubs are required to seek approval (prior to any new sponsorship agreement) from GQ if the Affiliate League/club anticipates there may be a conflict of interest.

Junior and Youth teams are not permitted to display smoking or alcohol related sponsors on apparel (on-field and off-field apparel). This includes alcoholic beverages, pubs and nightclubs

Any Affiliate League or club who is in breach of a current agreement with the GQ or an Affiliate League's major sponsor (as applicable) in respect to promoting and using a competitor companies' product or services may be liable to a penalty.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

15 Penalty Procedure and Appeal Process

15.1 Penalty Procedure

The Operating Rules set out penalties that may be applied in the event of a breach of these rules. If it is suspected that a breach may have occurred, the following process will be followed, except in the case of Abuse of Officials, and/or on-field and off-field situations that are referred to the Judiciary:

1. Notice of possible breach of Operating Rules (Complaint) to be sent to GQ Secretary, who will forward the complaint to the responsible club within 5 days of receipt.
2. The Responsible Club will have seven days to enter a plea of guilty/not guilty with the GQ Secretary. Any evidence in support of a not guilty plea should be submitted at this time.
3. The GQ Secretary will then circulate the plea, and the original complaint, to the rest of the GQ Committee for review
 - a. If a guilty plea is entered, the GQ Committee will apply penalty per below table.
 - b. If a not guilty plea is entered, and it is determined by the GQ Committee that no breach has occurred, the notice of possible breach shall be rescinded, and the matter considered closed.
 - c. If a not guilty plea is entered, and it is determined that the matter needs to be discussed further, the issue shall be included as an Agenda item to be discussed at the next possible GQ Committee meeting for final resolution.

15.2 Penalties

Listed below are details of penalties and fines at that apply;

RULE / SECTION	PENALTY UNITS
Affiliation	
Late lodgement of licence / affiliation agreements	20
Failure by club to observe, obey or comply with the League constitution or GQ Rules and Procedures	Up to 300
Registration	
Unregistered player	100 & Sanctions
Playing player not cleared or permitted	50 to 300 & Sanctions
Team Sheets	
Team sheets not submitted	10
Player not on the team sheet	20

Domestic Season Operations Manual

Repeat Infringement	+ 20 point per repeat
Club Appointed Umpires	
Failure to provide a club appointed field, goal or boundary umpire	Up to 100
Sponsorship	
Any club who is in breach of a current agreement with the League's major sponsor in respect to promoting & using other companies' products.	Up to 300 and Sanction
Coach & Trainer Accreditation	
Failure to ensure coach/es are appropriately registered and accredited including Working With Children Check.	100

15.3 Penalty Units Value

The unit value for all GQ managed competitions and Affiliate Leagues is \$5.00 per unit.

Domestic Season Operations Manual

16 Definitions

Activity – To encompass all Gridiron Queensland organised events. Including but not limited to competitions, player camps, team selections, trainings, meetings, courses and presentations.

Ambient Temperature - Temperature of the surrounding air, not taking into account humidity or wind in the air

Dehydration - Loss of body water and salts essential for normal body function. Excessive dehydration in a sporting environment may lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Drizzle – To rain gently in fine, mist like drops

Fog - Condensed water vapour in cloudlike masses lying close to the ground and limiting visibility

Frost - A deposit of minute ice crystals formed when water vapour condenses at a temperature below freezing

Heat exhaustion - A form of heat illness characterised by a high heart rate, dizziness, headache, loss of endurance/skill/confusion and nausea

Heat Illness - Occurs with high intensity activity that elevates body temperature and/or prolonged exposure to hot weather

Heat stroke – A form of heat illness with characteristics similar to heat exhaustion in conjunction with dry skin and confusion. Heat stroke may arise in a participant who has not been identified as suffering from heat exhaustion and has persisted in further activity

Intermittent – Stopping and starting at intervals

Lightning - a flash of light in the sky, occurring during a thunderstorm and caused by a discharge of electricity, either between clouds or between a cloud and the earth

Storm - An atmospheric disturbance manifested in strong winds accompanied by rain, snow, and/or other precipitation and often by thunder and lightning

Thunder - The crashing or booming sound produced by rapidly expanding air along the path of the electrical discharge of lightning

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) – is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed (wind chill, and visible and infrared radiation) (usually sunlight) on humans. It is used by industrial hygienists, athletes, and the military to determine approximate exposure levels to high temperature.

GQMC – Gridiron Queensland Management Committee

QGOA – Queensland Gridiron Officials Association

GQ – Gridiron Queensland Inc.

GA - Gridiron Australia

AGOA - Australia Gridiron Officials Association

Domestic Season Operations Manual

17 Appendix: Historic Club Colours

Club/Team	Jersey Primary	Jersey Primary	Jersey Minor 1 / 2	Pants Primary	Pants Minor	Socks
Logan City Bears		Black	White	Black		Black
Logan City Bruins		Black	White/Orange	Black		Black
Western Cougars		Yellow	Black/White	Black		Black
Moreton Bay Raptors		Cardinal Red	Vegas Gold/Black	Vegas Gold		Red
Brisbane Rhinos		Red	Black/White	Red	Black	Red
Logan City Jets		Green	White	Green		Green
Panthers		Pink	Black/White	Black		Black
Rebels		Grey	Black/Red	Black		Black
Steelers		Black	Yellow/White	Black		Black
Jaguars		Yellow	Purple/Black	Black		Black
Toowoomba Vultures	Black	Green	Black/Red	Black		Black
Wildcats		Royal Blue	White/Silver	Silver		White
Western Cougars	Yellow	Yellow	Black/White	Black		Black
USQ Mustangs	Navy	Navy	Gold	Navy	Gold	Navy

Domestic Season Operations Manual

Appendix: Football is Fun Matrix

<p>BOYS & GIRLS & MIXED</p> <p>UNDER 8</p> <p>Introductory</p> <p>10 MINS QTRS</p> <p>GRIDIRON SIZE 45yd x 20yd (endzone to 40yd)</p> <p>5-a-side Min 4 - Max 7 players per team</p> <p>SCORING No scores, no ladders or finals</p> <p>STATS No recording of best players or touchdown leaders. No individual player awards</p> <p>RULES NFL Flag Rules with Variations</p> <p>BLITZING No blitzing</p> <p>PENALTIES No distance penalties, replay the down. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion</p> <p>UMPIRES Club/coach (1)</p> <p>COACH On field</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Tackling ✗ Contact ✗ Deliberate playing best player ✓ Promote fun ✓ Rotate players ✓ Team Touchdown Celebrations
<p>BOYS & GIRLS</p> <p>UNDER 10</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>10 MINS QTRS</p> <p>GRIDIRON SIZE 45yd x 20yd (endzone to 40yd)</p> <p>5-a-side Min 4 - Max 7 players per team</p> <p>SCORING No scores, no ladders or finals</p> <p>STATS No recording of best players or touchdown leaders. No individual player awards</p> <p>RULES NFL Flag Rules</p> <p>BLITZING Blitzing allowed per rule book</p> <p>PENALTIES Penalties per the applied rule books. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion</p> <p>UMPIRES Club (1)</p> <p>COACH On field</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Tackling ✗ Contact ✗ Deliberate playing best player ✓ Promote fun ✓ Rotate players ✓ Team Touchdown Celebrations
<p>BOYS & GIRLS</p> <p>UNDER 12</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>10 MINS QTRS</p> <p>GRIDIRON SIZE 45yd x 20yd (endzone to 40yd)</p> <p>5-a-side Min 8 - Max 15 players per team</p> <p>SCORING Scoring permitted, no ladders or finals</p> <p>STATS No recording of best players or touchdown leaders. No individual player awards</p> <p>RULES IFAF Rules (running clock)</p> <p>BLITZING No blitzing</p> <p>PENALTIES Penalties per the applied rule books. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion</p> <p>UMPIRES Club (2)</p> <p>COACH Sideline</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ No blitzing ✗ Deliberate playing best player ✗ No special teams ✓ Promote fun ✓ Rotate players ✓ Team Touchdown Celebrations ✓ Option of Tackle Or Flag comp
<p>BOYS & GIRLS</p> <p>UNDER 14</p> <p>COMPETITION</p> <p>10 MINS QTRS</p> <p>GRIDIRON SIZE 45yd x 20yd (endzone to 40yd)</p> <p>8-a-side Min 12 - Max 20 players per team</p> <p>SCORING Scoring Permitted, Ladder and Finals</p> <p>STATS No recording of best players or touchdown leaders. No individual player awards</p> <p>RULES IFAF Rules</p> <p>BLITZING Blitzing allowed per rule book</p> <p>PENALTIES Penalties per the applied rule books. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion</p> <p>UMPIRES Association (2-3)</p> <p>COACH Sideline</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promote fun & healthy competition ✓ Rotate players, can have offense and defensive squads ✓ Touchdown celebrations allowed ✓ Special Teams