

Senior Representative Basketball Commission (Big V Basketball)



RULES OF OPERATION

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DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In these Rules of Operation, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and expressions have the following meanings.

"Annual Commission Meeting" (ACM) means the Annual Commission Meeting of the member Associations.

"Appeals Sub Committee" means a committee established by the **Committee** to hear appeals relating to decisions of the GM.

"Association" means the Association, which has been granted membership as per the BASKETBALL VICTORIA Constitution.

"Association compliance penalties" means by which Associations are penalised to ensure compliance for breaches of the Rules of Operation..

"Basketball Australia" (BA) means Basketball Australia Incorporated.

"Basketball Victoria" (BV) means the Basketball Victoria Incorporated.

"Big V" means a Victorian Senior Representative Basketball Competition.

"Big V fixture" means a basketball game, which is part of the Big V or any fixture designated by the Committee from time to time.

"Big V office" or **"League office"** means the premises from which the staff of Big V operates.

"Big V official" means the person who holds the position of BV Referee Appointment Officer, Referee and/or Referee Coach.

"Rules of Operation" means Rules of Operation of the Big V as amended from time to time.

"Coach" means any person who is appointed to coach a Big V team for any season or part thereof.

"Commission" means any Association, which has been granted entry to participate in a Senior Representative competition.

"Committee" means as established under the Senior Representative Commission Charter.

"Committee Members" means as elected at the Annual Commission Meeting or appointed by the Basketball Victoria Board in accordance with the Senior Representative Commission Charter.

"Competition Event Coordinator" means the person who holds the position of Competition Event Coordinator.

"Court announcer" means a person appointed by the home Association to make public announcements in relation to the presentation of a game and be responsible for playing music and where appropriate other audio recordings.

"Delegate" means the person appointed by a Big V Association from time to time.

"Division" means a grade of competition within the overall Big V competition structure.

"Finals" means the series of games as determined by the GM played at the completion of the regular Big V season by the Associations to determine the championship team of each Big V division for that Big V season.

"Game Commissioner" means the person appointed by the home Association to ensure a fixture game is conducted in accordance with the Rules of Operation.

"Game day form" means a document with format specified by the Competition Operations Manager which records relevant information regarding conduct of each game.

"General Manager" means the person who holds the position of GM (by this or such other title as may be designated by the Committee/Basketball Victoria CEO) of the Big V from time to time.

"Home Association" means an Association which is entitled or obliged to stage a Big V game.

"Home game" means a Big V fixture, which an Association is entitled or obliged to stage at its approved home venue.

"Home team" means a team which is named first in a Big V fixture.

"Investigations Officer" means a person appointed by the Committee to investigate matters relating to conduct and any other matters deemed necessary to be investigated by the Committee or GM.

"League" means the Big V Basketball competition..

"MVP voting form" means a League provided document which allows each team Coach to record votes for the purpose of determining a competitions Most Valuable Player (MVP) or other relevant League awards.

"NBL" means the National Basketball League of Australia.

"Player" means a player of a Big V team.

"Referee Appointment Officer" means a person appointed by Basketball Victoria to manage matters relating to the appointment of Referees on its behalf.

"Regular season game" means any Big V game played in the regular home and away season.

"Restricted player" means a restricted player as defined in By-law 5.1.1 of these Rules of Operation.

"Season" means the period in each year determined by the Committee when the Big V competition takes place.

“Special Commission Meeting” means all General Meetings other than the Annual Commission Meeting of the member Associations .

"Style Guide" means a document issued which prescribes how the League’s trademark (logo) is to be used on Association uniforms, other attire and documentation.

"Team" means a team of an Association which participates in the Big V competition.

"Technical official" means any person acting as a score table official, statistician or Referee or Referee coach at any Big V fixture.

“Technical Officials Commission (TOC), formerly the Victorian Basketball Referees Association (VBRA)”, means the Commission responsible for assisting and ensuring officials are appropriately trained, developed, managed, supported and accredited.

“VBRA Tribunal” means a Tribunal process established by the VBRA with respect to Referees to ensure reports concerning the conduct of members of the VBRA (TOC) are dealt with fairly, impartially and consistently.

"Venue audit" means a checklist issued by the League from time to time indicating minimum venue requirements and providing a means for Associations to indicate compliance.

“VCAT” means the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

"Visiting team" means a team which is named second in a Big V fixture.

“Welcome Note” means a document sent from the home Association to the visiting Association to inform them of particular arrangements for their upcoming game.

"WNBL" means the Women’s National Basketball League of Australia.

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Preamble

The competition originated in 1988 and continues to flourish with men's and women's teams playing in separate divisions.

The League commenced under the name of 'The Victorian Women's Conference' in 1987. The men's and women's competitions were run independently as the Country Victorian Invitation Basketball League (CVIBL); the Victorian Basketball League (VBL Inc.) or the Women's Victorian Basketball League (WVBL) until 2000 when they were merged into the VBL. Coincidentally in 2000 and with the support of the VBL and Basketball Victoria, the Big V competition was created, being a conference of the Australian Basketball Association. In 2005, the Big V and VBL competition structure was re-branded as Big V and was brought under common management. Big V is the official senior elite and development state League that provides aspiring local participants the opportunity to develop via its highly competitive standards and well-promoted program.

Drawing on populated provincial centres as well as the metropolitan area of Melbourne, the Big V prides itself in taking its expertise in the development of the sport of basketball to the people in a manner, which identifies the League as truly community based.

1.1.2 Aims

The Big V aims to:

- (a) Conduct a state basketball representative competition for senior and youth players in Victoria in the most professional manner and to the highest standard possible;
- (b) Provide a representative basketball pathway for Associations and players, coaches and technical officials to develop and reach their potential, with the opportunity to progress to national and international levels.

1.2 Competition Structure

The Big V consists of two competition streams: an Association elite stream which provides for Associations' highest level representative teams to compete on a fair basis and a player development stream, which by way of participation age restriction, enables Victoria's best youth players to develop in a competitive environment and provides for transition from junior to senior competition.

1.2.1 Association elite stream

This competition consists of several divisions of both men's and women's open age teams. The highest level of competition is State Championship while those below are Division 1, Division 2, etc. as required to accommodate the total

number of accepted team entries by Associations. Associations may enter one team only of each gender in this stream. Associations who already participate in a level of competition[#] equivalent to or of a higher standard than Big V State Championship are ineligible to enter this stream.

[#] Such competitions would be those in which FIBA Oceania requires a Foreign Player Licence for applicable players.

1.2.2 Player development stream

This competition consists of several divisions of both men's and women's teams consisting of players who must be 23 years of age or younger in the year of competition. To clarify, for a player to be eligible their year of birth must be equal to or later than 23 subtracted from the competition year. For example for the 2015 season eligible players must have been born on January 1 (2015-23=1992) or later. The highest level of competition in this separate age restricted competition is the Victorian Youth Championship while those below are Youth League 1, Youth League 2, etc. or as otherwise decided by the Commission. Associations may enter one team only of each gender in this stream even if the Association does not have a team of that gender entered in the Association elite stream as a means of developing playing strength in order to enter or re-enter that stream, the age restriction still applies.

1.2.3 Conferences

Where appropriate due to the number of teams competing in a division, it may be divided into conferences.

1.2.4 Application of Rules of Operation

The Rules of Operation apply to all divisions. There are some differences and where this is the case it is noted in the Rules of Operation.

1.3 Divisional structure

1.3.1 Principles

Where a competition is played in more than one Division the following principles will be applied:

- (a) Teams re-entering the competition, should play in a division in which they are competitive on court and sufficiently resourced to maintain teams;
 - i. New or existing Associations wanting to enter a new team will submit an annual application for entry in the lowest division applicable to their application with a playing roster and address the guidelines in Rule 1.3.2 (a) by the date set by the GM;
 - ii. A new senior team of an Association playing in a higher-level competition will be exempt from commencing in the lowest division applicable to their application.

- (b) Senior and Youth Leagues 1 and 2 are to have a maximum of 12

teams, with the lower divisions to have an optimal number of teams per gender, with a minimum of 8 teams per division;

- (c) Youth Championship divisions are permitted to have a maximum of 16 teams per division;
- (d) Where appropriate, the Committee will rule on a year to year basis the best means of operating the competition within a division, including home and away games break-up, use of conferences and other variables.

1.3.2 Promotion and relegation

Promotion and relegation systems will be operated in all Big V competitions, according to the following:

Promotion

The team the wins a divisional championship will be promoted provided they meet the following criteria.

- a) Promotion and entry of teams is in accordance with the following criteria:
 - 1. Associations team performance record and pathway;
 - 2. Associations governance and management of operations;
 - 3. Historical working relationship and communication with competition management if applicable;
 - 4. Financial management and performance;
 - 5. Promotion and marketing of associations teams (including game day presentation);
 - 6. Historical attendances if applicable;
 - 7. Venue standard.

Promotion process:

- 1. By the end of August each year the GM or his/her representative will call for entry applications from Associations for the following season and are required to address the guidelines in Rule 1.3.2 (a) and be submitted by the closing date set by the GM:
- 2. An assessment panel with a minimum of three (including the GM or his/her representative) will review each annual entry application, and may seek further information and/or provide feedback in accordance with guidelines in Rule 1.3.2. (a);
- 3. The assessment panel will make a recommendation to the Committee;
- 4. The Committee will approve which teams will be accepted for promotion. These teams will be informed prior to the Senior Representative Commission ACM and a formal announcement will be made at the same ACM.

Relegation

- b) Relegation will be on the basis of a team finishing on the bottom of their division ladder or on the recommendation of the Committee.

Relegation application process

1. An Association may apply for relegation to a lower division of any of its teams based on its own assumptions about future playing strength, financial capacity or other reasons;
2. An assessment panel consisting of a minimum of three (including the GM) will review all team's performance and/or entry application and make a recommendation to the Commissioners on teams that should be relegated or not accepted;
3. The Committee will approve which teams will be relegated or entry applications that will not be accepted, teams will be informed prior to the Senior Representative Commission ACM and a formal announcement made at the same ACM.

(c) Considerations in divisional restructures

If a restructure of divisions occurs between seasons, the relative position of teams that would otherwise have been promoted or relegated in accordance with Rule 1.3.2 (a) (b) and as a result of their on court performance will be taken into account.

PART 2 – LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Rules of Operation

2.1.1 Establishment

These Rules of Operation are provided to each Association and have been developed to ensure the efficient operation of the Big V during the Big V season. The Rules of Operation may change from season to season subject to Rule 2.1.2.

Association delegates should acquaint themselves of all responsibilities contained in this document and ensure that relevant Association personnel are aware of their individual responsibilities and rights.

2.1.2 Variation

The Rules of Operation may be amended only by approval of Basketball Victoria and by a majority of Associations at the Senior Representative Commission ACM or any urgent matters may be considered for adoption by the Committee at the Committee's discretion (refer to Senior Representative Commission Charter 6.2 (f)).

2.1.3 Management and appeal

The GM of the League shall in the first instance interpret and apply the Rules of Operation and make decisions based on them.

The Committee shall act as a point of appeal for decisions made by the GM in relation to the Rules of Operation. Refer to Rule 2.2.7 for appeals.

2.1.4 Items not provided for

The GM shall have the discretion to decide on any questions not provided for in the Rules of Operation.

2.2 Penalties

2.2.1 League penalties

The GM may impose penalties upon individual players, Associations, members of Associations or technical officials as it sees fit. Penalties may be in the form or combination of compliance fees, forfeit, suspension or disqualification from Big V fixtures or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the GM from time to time. The GM will notify all penalties in writing to Associations.

The GM is empowered to impose penalties for non-compliance with the Rules of Operation and as specified below in 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5.

2.2.2 Association compliance penalties

The Association compliance penalties are a mechanism for the GM to maintain League standards and ensure compliance by Associations with a view to meeting the requirements of these Rules of Operation.

Where the GM detects a breach of these Rules of Operation they will apply the appropriate penalty for that breach. As an Association accumulates offences they shall be dealt with in accordance with the level of penalty as approved by the members at the Senior Representative Commission ACM. (Refer to Appendix one (1) Offences and Penalties).

Where an Association incurs a penalty the GM will inform the Association of the penalty and they will have the right to appeal to the Committee in accordance with 2.2.7 of the Rules of Operation.

Should an Association exceed three offences in a given season the GM will investigate the Association performance and decide on an appropriate additional penalty having regard to the nature of the ongoing offences.

2.2.3 Administrative and procedural fines

- (a) Failure of a player, coach or official to participate in an Origin All-Star Series game once confirmed;
- (b) Failure of a player, coach or official to participate in an Origin All-Star Series game (slam dunk or 3 point shootout) once confirmed;
- (c) Failure to respond to any administrative requests within timeline provided;

- (d) Failure by an Association representative to attend Senior Representative Commission ACM or any Big V meeting sanctioned by the Committee requiring compulsory attendance;
- (e) Per person for any breach of the team bench dress code.

2.2.4 Fines for forfeits

In the event of a game being forfeited through non-attendance / withdrawal of a team:

Where a team forfeits a game:

- (a) Where the home team forfeits (75% of the fine refunded to the visiting team);
- (b) Where the visiting team forfeits (70% of the fine refunded to the home team);

In the event that a forfeit does occur the GM will investigate the circumstances.

2.2.5 Changes to venue/fixture

- (a) An Association must secure approval for a fixture change (date, time, and/or venue) from the League prior to contacting the opposition; the opposition may decline the request for a change;
- (b) An administrative fee (penalty) per change after the final fixture is published on the Big V web site will be applied unless the change is made under extenuating circumstances.

2.2.6 Payment of fines

All penalties and charges incurred must be paid within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of account, except when a required date of payment is otherwise advised on the fine notification or agreed.

Where League issued invoice(s) exceeds the nominated trading terms the amount of the invoice will be subject to interest in accordance with VCAT penalty rates until payment is received.

If after a reasonable time period, payment remains outstanding the Association will be declared un-financial, with the GM empowered to take the following action:

- (a) Prior to the entry closing date or the competition commencing, the Association shall be ineligible for entry, participation or progression in the competition;
- (b) If the Association becomes unfinancial during the competition, its team(s) shall cease to earn results until the matter is resolved. When the matter is resolved, the points lost in the unfinancial period cannot be regained.

2.2.7 Appeals

Appeals relating to decisions made by the GM shall be referred to an Appeals Sub Committee established by the Chair of the Committee, for a decision. There shall be no further appeal to the Committee

Associations may lodge an appeal, in writing through the GM, within seven (7) days of the decision being notified with a bond of \$500. If the appeal is proved to be frivolous, at the discretion of the Appeals Sub Committee, the bond shall be forfeited.

Appeal process

An appellant seeking an appeal must submit in writing with the full details of the matter and the decision made by the GM including:

- (a) Ground (s) on which the appeal is made; and
- (b) Reason (s) or circumstances supporting the ground (s) of appeal;

Upon receipt the GM will forward the submission to the Chair of the Committee. The Chair will appoint the members of the Appeal Sub Committee, within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal. The Appeal Sub Committee will determine within seven (7) days of appointment if the Appeal should proceed.

The appellant shall be advised within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the appeal whether the Appeal Sub Committee will grant the appeal.

No appellant has the right to appear before the Appeal Sub Committee. The Appeal Sub Committee will deal with matter/s on written submission only.

If the appeal proceeds the Appeal Sub Committee shall determine the manner in which the appeal shall be heard:

- (a) By way of a full hearing;
- (b) By way of a partial hearing of limited issues only.

The Appeal Sub Committee is not obliged to meet face to face and may deal with the matter/s by phone, video conferencing or email or such other means as the Chair requires.

The Appeal Sub Committee shall have the power to:

- a) Dismiss the appeal;
- b) Uphold the appeal;
- c) Impose any penalties in accordance with these Rules of Operation;
- d) Reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty of the initial decision of the GM in such a manner as it thinks fit.

The Appeal Sub Committee is not obliged to provide a reason for the decision.

At the conclusion of the appeal, the Chair of the Appeal's Sub Committee

shall ensure that the appellant and the GM are informed of the determination of the Appeal Sub Committee.

2.3 Member Conduct

2.3.1 Member Review

Membership of the League shall be subject to the conditions outlined in the Basketball Victoria Constitution.

The Committee, in respect of these Rules of Operation shall review Associations participation and entry application where their performance affects the financial and operational integrity of the league.

The following matters shall automatically provide cause for a review or non-acceptance of entry application:

- (a) Playing strength, when a team's game winning percentage drops to 20% or less;
- (b) Game conduct and promotion, where there is a significant and repeated infringement of the Rules of Operation;
- (c) Media action, where there is a significant failing in the endeavor to promote the Big V in the local community using available and appropriate media;
- (d) Administration, where communication between the Association and the League office staff is unacceptable or where League timelines are consistently not being met;
- (e) Playing facilities, to the extent that there is a significant and repeated failing in meeting the Big V venue criteria and where bona fide efforts are not being made to correct these failings;
- (f) Financial commitments, where commitments are not being met within specified timelines and where penalties have not been complied;
 - i. Associations must be financial 21 days prior to the date of the Annual Commission Meeting (ACM).

2.3.2 Conduct detrimental or prejudicial to Big V

Any Association, coach, player, Association support staff, spectator or technical official (referred to VBRA Tribunal) that behaves in a manner that adversely, or is likely to, adversely affect the Big V in either its promotion or operation may be referred to the Basketball Victoria or VBRA Tribunal.

This will include:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike behavior
Any Association, coach, player, Association support staff (including cheerleaders and courtside announcers), spectator or technical

official that acts in an unsportsmanlike manner may be referred to the Basketball Victoria or VBRA Tribunal;

(b) Disorders

The behaviour of players, coaches, management, spectators and technical officials can have a major effect on crowd behaviour. Any misconduct by such a person or persons that stimulates or encourages crowd disorder, may be referred to the Basketball Victoria or VBRA Tribunal;

(c) Criticism of the Big V, Associations, coaches, players or technical officials is a matter of concern for the League. Any Association member, including coaches, players and management who publicly criticise any of the above persons or bodies will be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental and prejudicial to the Big V and will be liable to penalty.

Furthermore, any Association member or spectator who is found by the GM to have pursued and/or harassed technical officials before, during, or after a game will be subject to similar penalties and may be referred to the Basketball Victoria or VBRA Tribunal.

Associations will be held responsible for any adverse media or public comments of all their members by way of the public address system, game program, multimedia, in a public place or through any forum or media outlet including any form of social media.

The GM is empowered to impose a penalty or recommend expulsion, in the event that any adverse media comment is reported, and after investigation is proven. The GM has the discretion with respect to the amount of fine to be imposed (Refer to Appendix one (1) Offences and Penalties);

(d) Bribery and tampering

Any person who directly or indirectly entices, induces, persuades, or attempts to entice, induce or persuade any player, coach or technical official, management or other person associated with an Association to alter the natural outcome of a Big V game will be deemed to have engaged in conduct detrimental to the Big V may be referred to the Basketball Australia National Integrity Unit, Basketball Victoria or VBRA Tribunal;

(e) Language

Coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, players and technical officials (including public announcers) and spectators must refrain from any profane or objectionable language or music which might be heard by spectators, technical officials or picked up by broadcast microphones in the vicinity of the benches and/or playing court may be liable to penalty the Basketball Victoria or VBRA Tribunal;

(f) Code of conduct

Each player, coach, administrator, supporter and technical official is required to comply with the relevant Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct on a continuing basis.

2.4 League finance

2.4.1 Budgets

The Committee will present an annual budget for review by the Associations at the Senior Representative Commission ACM

Each member Association is expected to develop an annual financial budget which is to be made available to the GM upon request and which will be held in strictest confidence.

The Committee has the responsibility to ensure the financial viability of Associations and may exercise the right to review an Association's financial status to ensure their financial stability and maintain the integrity of the League.

The GM is empowered to assist with the development of Associations who are identified as struggling financially. This assistance may include arranging financial advice, which may be in coordination with Basketball Victoria. The ultimate responsibility for financial stability rests with the individual Association.

2.4.2 Entry fee

An Association entry fee will be established at the Senior Representative Commission ACM.

2.4.3 Annual management fee

An annual administration fee applicable for teams entering each division will be established at the Senior Representative Commission ACM. Associations will be invoiced for installments periodically during the season. The annual management fee may be offset for country Associations with a rebate to compensate for the additional travel expenses incurred on a pro rata basis of a nominal fee in the annual budget.

2.4.4 Application for entry

Once an application for entry has been accepted within the competition structure and the entry and annual fees have been established at the Senior Representative Commission ACM an Association is liable for a minimum of 50% of the entry and annual management fee per team. If an Association withdraws a team after the fixture has been finalised a forfeit fee for each game of the season will apply.

2.4.5 Un-financial Association

An un-financial Association, on the recommendation of the GM and with the approval of the Committee, will not be permitted to participate in the Senior

Representative Commission ACM or Big V competition (refer to Rule 2.2.6).

An Association will be deemed un-financial when it has accounts outstanding to Big V (including entry fee, management fee or fines, other monies or part thereof) when the date specified for payment has expired (refer to Rule 2.2.6).

2.5 Sponsorship and Big V property

2.5.1 Sponsorship

- (a) Subject to this clause, each Association may arrange with a person (for the purposes of this clause the "Association sponsor") its own corporate or other sponsorship, and will be entitled to retain for its own use all moneys paid by an Association sponsor;
- (b) Subject to clause (c), an Association may not enter into or be a party to a sponsorship agreement with an Association sponsor whose business is in direct competition with the business of a person who is/are a sponsor of the Big V or Basketball Victoria. The GM will notify all Associations annually who are the major sponsors;
- (c) Where, prior to notification of the Big V and Basketball Victoria major sponsors, an Association has entered into a sponsorship agreement with an Association sponsor whose business is in direct competition with the Big V or Basketball Victoria major sponsor(s), that Association will not be obliged to terminate the sponsorship agreement, but will not enter into a new sponsorship agreement to renew the existing sponsorship agreement with the Association sponsor, whose business is in direct competition with the Big V or Basketball Victoria major sponsor(s);
- (d) Big V may arrange sponsorship on behalf of the Associations generally. If the Big V arranges sponsorship on behalf of the Associations, the sponsorship moneys will be distributed to the Associations in a manner determined by the Committee;
- (e) The Big V may arrange its own sponsorship;
- (f) League sponsorship funds shall be applied:
 - 1. To reduce the administrative overheads of the league;
 - 2. To subsidise the cost of member Associations' expenses;
 - 3. To service the sponsorship;
 - 4. For such other purposes as approved by the Committee.
- (g) Except as otherwise approved by the Committee, an Association shall display such signage as directed by the GM in support of the Big V major sponsor(s), (refer to Rule 3.3.2 (b));
- (h) Penalty for non-compliance, if proven, shall be such penalty as

deemed appropriate by the GM.

2.5.2 Big V trademark (logo)

- (a) Big V shall have an official trademark (logo);
- (b) Unless otherwise advised, Associations are required to use the trademark (logo) in accordance with the Style Guide;
- (c) An Association must use the Big V trademark (logo) including the major sponsor's name and trademark (logo) on all match programs and promotions as advised.

2.5.3 Broadcast control

The Big V has the exclusive right to market all recordings or broadcasts of games involving Big V teams by way of any technology. As a result, no Association is permitted to sell recordings or broadcasts of its games either domestically or internationally for any purpose without the written agreement of the GM, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

An Association may, produce highlights for promotional non-commercial purposes only.

PART 3 - ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Member Associations

Only Associations affiliated with Basketball Victoria may compete in the Big V competition. Eligibility and membership details are contained in the Basketball Victoria Constitution.

3.2 Big V Association contacts

Each Association is required to appoint a Big V Delegate and Big V administrator, who may be the same person and notify the GM or his/her representative of the appointments. All official Big V communication will be directed from the League office staff to these persons only.

3.3 Venue requirements

3.3.1 Venue requirements

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of the home Association to ensure that all satisfactory equipment necessary for the correct and safe conduct of the game is supplied;
- (b) Reports of Associations providing less than satisfactory venue equipment and services shall be submitted by an Association or technical official to the GM. The GM may refer the report to the Committee for its consideration. This may result in fines or re-fixturing away from the venue of the offending Association;
- (c) Satisfactory venue equipment and services as referred to in (a)

and (b) of this clause shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Properly surfaced floors;
 2. Backboards in good repair, affixed with standard, protective padding and preferably constructed of a transparent material;
 3. Properly secured rings with nets in good condition attached;
 4. Adequate seating for team members, officials and spectators;
 5. Time clocks, including 24 second clocks with a 14 second re-set and a score board visible to all persons participating in the game;
 6. A score bench to seat a minimum of four technical officials, with possession arrow and foul lights affixed (refer Rule 7.5.12);
 7. A game ball and a spare 'blood' ball (refer Rule 7.5.6);
 8. Change room facilities for visiting teams and Referees (refer Rule 7.5.2 & 6.3.3);
 9. A courtside announcer for each home game (refer Rule 7.5.11);
 10. Floor wipers (refer Rule 7.5.10);
 11. Any other reasonable equipment requested in writing by the Big V;
 12. Statisticians to record game statistics (refer Rule 7.5.12).
- (d) Associations must comply with the League issued venue audit and return a completed audit with the annual entry application prior to the commencement of each season;
- (e) Approval for use of a venue other than that used by the Association in the previous season must be sought prior to the commencement of each new Big V season or prior to a game being re-scheduled as a result of unavailability or damage beyond the control of an association.

3.3.2 Venue signage & national flag

- (a) Each Big V venue shall display prominently signage carrying the Big V trademark (logo) as provided by and in a manner requested by the GM;
- (b) Each Big V venue shall display signage in respect of Big V sponsors as provided by and in a manner requested by the GM;
- (c) Each Big V venue shall display the Australian national flag such that it is clearly visible during all games.

3.4 Association uniforms and attire

3.4.1 Uniforms

Associations shall have two uniform sets available for each team; one of which shall be predominantly light while the other shall be of a predominantly dark colour. An association that changes design of a uniform requires prior approval by the GM.

3.4.2 Home team uniform

Both Associations share the responsibility to achieve an acceptable contrast. The visiting team has the **primary** responsibility to ensure it is aware of the home team's uniform and make the necessary changes to achieve the necessary contrast.

3.4.3 Uniform numbers

Numbers used on uniforms must be one of the following 0, 00, 1 -99. The number marking must ensure all technical officials can clearly identify a player's number from both front and behind during on court action.

3.4.4 Player names

It is acceptable for Associations to have the player's surname (or suitable nickname) affixed to the back of the player's uniform.

3.4.5 Uniforms placement of Big V trademark (logo)

All playing uniforms are required to display the official Big V trademark (logo) placed in accordance with the Style Guide.

Playing uniforms without the official Big V trademark will incur a fine per incorrect uniform, per match, until the uniforms are corrected.

3.4.6 Association logos

Where applied to playing uniforms or Association apparel, Association and/or Association sponsor's logos must be placed in accordance with the Style Guide.

3.4.7 Team bench dress code

Overall standards

All team players and non - playing officials shall be required to dress in a way that clearly distinguishes them as part of the team and from other game officials.

The best description of the standard for non-playing officials would be business casual. The best description for players would be playing uniform. The requirements are:

Coaches and assistant coaches

Coaches must wear a collared shirt. If this is a polo shirt then it must be an

Association branded polo. During colder weather it is understandable that this will be covered by a jacket that must be either an Association tracksuit jacket or other jacket that fits the general description of business casual wear.

Denim, shorts or tracksuit pants are not permitted for Coaches and their Assistants.

Shoes must be clean and tidy. Basketball shoes or other runners are not permitted.

Team managers

We recognise team managers have different responsibilities and therefore the bench dress code standard can be modified slightly.

A team manager may wear an Association tracksuit provided it is the same colour as the warm up tracksuit for the players and that it is a complete tracksuit (matching top and bottom). The tracksuit top must display the Association brand/logo.

If the team manager is wearing a tracksuit, runners are permissible.

In warmer weather a tracksuit bottom and Association polo shirt are permissible for the team manager.

Players

Players must arrive and depart the game wearing either an Association brand polo-shirt or jacket or pullover and black dress pants. The alternative option is an Association brand tracksuit or in the warmer weather Association brand tracksuit pants and an Association brand polo shirt.

Other team staff

Other team staff; physiotherapists, doctors etc. must comply with the dress bench code standard for coaches. Any non-playing individuals wishing to be part of the team bench must dress to these standards. If they do not comply with the requirements, they should be seated with spectators, not on the team bench.

Squad players

Squad players not participating in the game may sit on the team bench provided they are dressed in accordance with the bench dress code standard as the coaching staff or in a full team tracksuit as per the team manager. If they are not dressed to either standard, they should be seated with spectators.

3.5 Seating

3.5.1 League officials

Each Association must provide seats for all League officials when advised of their attendance in advance.

The home team can allocate preferential seating for its members and must make every attempt to accommodate the visiting team with suitable seating.

3.5.2 Crowd attendance

The official attendance number must be entered on the game day form and submitted to the league office in accordance with the time line advised.

PART 4 - TEAM ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Team content

4.1.1 Restricted player limit

- (a) Restricted players are divided into two (2) categories to determine playing status. State Championship teams can have a maximum of three (3) restricted players with no more than two (2) players from category A. permitted;
- (b) All other senior divisions can have a maximum of two (2) restricted players with no more than one (1) player from either category A or B.
- (c) Teams competing in the Victorian Youth Championship or Youth League divisions may not include restricted players;

PART 5 - PLAYER ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Player Eligibility

5.1.1 Restricted Players

- (a) For the purpose of determining Big V playing status the following two (2) criteria will define a restricted player:

Category A

A player born outside the Oceania region and is required under the rules of FIBA to hold an annual FIBA Foreign Player Licence;

Category B

An NBL/WNBL player who averaged greater than 50% of available court time in the past NBL/WNBL season;

A player who is an Australian citizen, Permanent Resident or Oceania player and averaged greater than 50% of available court time in the past season with a division one (1) European Club;

Argentina	Greece	Serbia
Australia (NBL/WNBL)	Hungary	Slovakia
Canada – excluding College Programs	Israel	Spain
China	Italy	Turkey
Croatia	Lithuania	USA – excluding College Programs
Czech Republic		Yugoslavia
France	Poland	

Germany	Russia	
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1. The date used to calculate average minutes played in the NBL or WNBL competitions shall be as advised by Basketball Australia. For players returning from an overseas league, average minutes played shall be determined from the season just completed. If minutes played cannot be produced by any player who played in any of the above overseas leagues the player would be treated as a restricted player;
2. For the purpose of this rule, a player who has moved to Australia before their eighteenth birthday and has established residency shall be considered to be an Australian citizen. The player will require a FIBA special player licence for Senior State Championship only.

5.1.2 Unrestricted player status

The principles adopted in categorizing NBL/WNBL or other overseas league players as unrestricted are as follows:

- (a) The player does not rank in restricted player category A or B;
- (b) Players who have played more than 100 Big V elite stream games at the Association, which the player is to be registered. This criterion cannot be used on Category A players;
- (c) If the player is choosing to return to their previous Big V Association before playing in their NBL/WNBL rookie season, they will automatically be classified as unrestricted. A player is not considered to have played in their rookie season if they have played no more than 8 NBL/WNBL games;
- (d) Permanent residents (require approval from BA and a FIBA Oceania Foreign Player Licence);
- (e) Oceania born players (require approval from BA and a FIBA Oceania Foreign Player Licence);
- (f) Players with Refugee status.

5.1.3 Restricted player procedures

- (a) Each Association shall notify the Competition Event Coordinator, on a Big V Foreign Born Player Declaration Form of the names of all restricted players and/or non-restricted players with citizenship other than Australian registered to play in any of their teams, indicating the basis of their restriction and residency status;
- (b) Any restricted player may be replaced by another restricted player during the regular season. Any games in which the replacement-restricted player participates may not be counted towards the original

restricted player's finals eligibility. Should the number of restricted players qualified to play finals exceed the number allowed in Rule 4.1.1, the Association will nominate, in writing to the Competition Event Coordinator seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the finals, which restricted players will compete for that Association in the season's finals. The replacement-restricted player must comply with the category mix in Rule 4.1.1. No subsequent amendment to the restricted player nomination list will be permitted under any circumstances;

- (c) The replacement restricted player must be capable of qualifying for the finals for the application to be considered;
- (d) The Competition Event Coordinator must be notified in writing of the replacement of a restricted player and the restricted player being replaced, by sending an updated Foreign Born Player Declaration Form, prior to them participating in a Big V game;
- (e) Registration requirements for restricted players are as for any Big V player and for non-Australian citizens, applicable Basketball Australia, FIBA and Australian government conditions must be met.

5.1.4 Australian citizenship

A player who gains Australian citizenship through naturalisation must lodge certificate of Australian citizenship with the Competition Event Coordinator prior to participating in the Big V as a non-restricted player.

5.2 Registration

It is the Association's responsibility to ensure the correct registration procedure (online system) is followed and completed (and a confirmation email is received) before playing a player:

- (a) Before any player, coach, assistant coach or manager of any Association team is eligible to participate in the Big V they must be registered via the online system and players must be assigned to each team in which they will participate. A team that plays a ineligible player who is not both registered and assigned to the team will forfeit the game;
- (b) No player from an association may register or play down in a youth division in the competition unless they are capable of qualifying for the finals. Under special circumstances the GM may accept the registration outside this period; such a registration must not affect the fairness of competition within the division. A team that plays a ineligible player down in a youth division that is not capable of qualifying for the finals for the youth division will forfeit the game;
- (c) Registration of a player who is not an Australian citizen will not be considered complete until such procedures have been completed allowing Basketball Australia and where necessary FIBA Oceania to authorise the player to play in writing. A team that plays an

ineligible player that does not have BA or FIBA authorisation will forfeit the game;

- (d) A player's league registration will remain in force from the date of registration in that competition year until 21 days after the last grand final;
- (e) In all divisions, a player must turn at least 14 years of age during the year in which the player seeks to register;
- (f) In addition to registration by the player, a parent of a player who is sixteen (16) years of age or younger at the commencement of the season must complete and sign in the presence of the Association delegate, an indemnification form provided by the Competition Event Coordinator in recognition that the Big V is a senior competition;

5.3 Release for state and national commitments

Any player that misses participation in Big V scheduled games whilst representing their state in National Championships or a country's Nationals on official national duties at national camps or playing for their country shall have those games missed due to such participation, included in the calculations for Big V finals eligibility.

The player must have played a minimum of four (4) games for that Association to be eligible to have the missed games included in the calculations for Big V finals eligibility. Applications must be in writing to the Competition Event Coordinator at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the finals and the details of games missed and a copy of the release for state and/or national commitments must be included, such commitments prior to registration will not be considered in determining eligibility.

5.4 Clearances

5.4.1 Player clearances

Any player who has registered and been assigned to a team of one Big V Association in any one competition year may not transfer to another Big V Association in that same competition year, after one calendar month from round one of the elite stream. Under special circumstances the GM may accept the clearance outside this period; such a clearance must not affect the fairness of competition within the division.

Players who have not registered in the current season can transfer to a Big V Association up until there are insufficient games remaining to qualify for the finals.

Associations must approve clearance requests from players that are not required prior to the player clearance closing date to ensure the player is not disadvantaged and is free to secure an alternative playing opportunity.

Such transfers or transfers across competition years are subject to the approval of the player's original Association and such approval may not be unreasonably withheld. An Association may refuse a player a clearance for any one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) The player has a demonstrated outstanding financial commitment to the Association, holds association property or is under contract to the association;
- (b) The player is a non-Australian citizen on an Association sponsored visa;
- (c) The Association has expended money on behalf of the player in anticipation of that player remaining with the Association in that season.

If an Association rejects the request for a clearance under Rule 5.4.2 on unreasonable grounds or does not respond within 14 days of the request being received, the Association may make the request again **if the receiving Association declines the request for transfer**, unless there are exceptional circumstances the Association will grant the request. **If there is no response within fourteen (14) days it is the applying Association's responsibility to contact the receiving Association including Big V.**

It is the sole responsibility of the destination Association to ensure that the required clearance is obtained before any such player is played.

5.4.2 Clearance process

The process for obtaining a clearance varies depending on where the player is transferring from and the specific procedure may vary. It is the destination Association's responsibility to ensure the correct procedure (either online system or use of hard copy forms) is followed and completed (including email confirmation) before registering or playing a player, the following is provided for guidance:

- (a) **Clearance between Big V Associations**
For clearances between Big V Associations where the player last played in a Big V competition, the destination Association will apply for a clearance on behalf of the player using the online transfer request system irrespective of the time period that has lapsed since the player last registered;
- (b) **Clearance from another Australian Association**
For clearances where the player last played in another Australian senior representative competition, the player will complete a Basketball Australia domestic clearance form and forward it to their former Association for approval irrespective of the time period that has lapsed since the player last registered;
- (c) **Clearance from a non-Australian Association**
For clearances where the player last played (please ensure the correct Association is contacted for the clearance) in a relevant

overseas competition, the destination Association will apply for an international letter of clearance on behalf of the player, via Basketball Australia if appropriate irrespective of the time period that has lapsed since the player last registered.

5.5 Finals qualification

- (a) To be eligible to play in the finals a player must have played a minimum percentage of games for the Association's respective team in that season. For the purpose of this clause:
1. For the player development stream the minimum percentage is 30%;
 2. For the Association elite stream the minimum percentage is 40%;
 3. A game played shall be credited if the player's name appears in the statistics file transmitted to the League and have more than 0.00 in their minutes played column.
- (b) When calculating player's games played and where the number is not a whole number, then the number will be rounded up to the next whole number e.g. 19.1 goes to 20;
- (c) A player, who due to injury/illness fails to qualify for the Big V finals under Rule 5.5 (a), may apply in writing to the Competition Event Coordinator at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the finals for permission to play in the finals. Applications subsequent to that timeline may only request consideration of injury/illness, which has occurred within the fourteen (14) day period prior to the start of the finals. In considering any application the GM shall have regard only to two criteria:
1. Whether the player is a bona-fide player for the team as indicated by the player being registered and assigned to the team prior to the date of injury/illness or commencement of the season;
 2. The validity of the injury or illness preventing the player from otherwise qualifying to play as indicated by submission of a medical certificate with dates the player was medically unfit to play from a suitably qualified medical practitioner.
- (d) If an Association is found to have played an ineligible player in any finals game that team will immediately forfeit that game. The matter will be referred to the GM for further action as may be determined appropriate in circumstances, including but not limited to a fine, penalty, or forfeit final series.

PART 6 - ADMINISTRATION OF REFEREES AND JUDICIARY

6.1 Referee administration

6.1.1 Referee appointments and development

Basketball Victoria shall appoint a Referees Appointment Officer and Development Officers to supervise the scheduling, administration and development of Referees in accordance with Technical Officials Commission (TOC).

6.1.2 Appointment of Referees

Appointment of Referees will be made by the Basketball Victoria Referee Appointment Officer for fixtured league games.

6.2 Obligations of Referees

6.2.1 Behaviour and performance of Referees

Referees shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting their position at all times. Unsatisfactory Referee Evaluation Forms regarding the behaviour or performance of a Referee will be investigated. Such a report shall be made in writing in the first instance to the Competition Event Coordinator who shall take appropriate action and/or refer the matter to the VBRA Tribunal.

6.2.2 Referee obligations

- (a) Big V Referees will enforce the FIBA playing rules and Big V Rules of Operation;
- (b) Referees are required to check the scores, sign the score sheet and then return it to the score table officials or Game Commissioner within 10 minutes of the completion of the game;
- (c) Referees are to report to the Basketball Victoria Referee Appointments Officer any activity associated with the fixture in which they officiate which they may deem as unsportsmanlike or unprofessional within 48 hours of conclusion of the game.

6.2.3 Equipment check

Prior to the start of a game, Referees shall inspect all equipment including the court, basketballs, baskets, backboards and the scorers' and timers' equipment.

Any unsatisfactory game equipment should be reported to the Game Commissioner and to the Big V Competition Event Coordinator.

6.3 Home Association obligations to Referees

6.3.1 Referee liaison officer

Associations are to have a designated person at every game that will look after the reasonable needs of the Referees. They are responsible for the security of the Referees at all times. This includes the entry at the start of the

game, departing and entry at half time, departing at full time, and departure from the venue, if necessary.

6.3.2 Arrival

Referees and Referee coaches are required to sign in at the venue or otherwise make their arrival known to the Game Commissioner or similar. Associations should expect Referees to arrive at least one (1) hour prior to game time.

6.3.3 Referees dressing room

- (a) Home venues shall provide Referees with their own lockable change room or equivalent which should include where possible a shower with exhaust provisions, seating, lockers, or clothes hooks, blackboard/whiteboard and heating facilities. As a minimum, a lockable cabinet or equivalent must be provided for Referees storage;
- (b) A key or code to the Referee dressing room should be readily available to avoid Referees having to stand in corridors;
- (c) Only Referees and Big V officials are permitted in the Referees' dressing room. No other person, including Association officials and persons associated with Associations are permitted in the dressing room without permission of the Referees.

6.3.4 Refreshments for Referees

It is the responsibility of the home Association to ensure that adequate refreshments are made available for the Referees during a fixture.

6.3.5 Amenities

Each Referee or Referee coach and a partner are to be provided free entry, seats and car parking (if required) for games in which they are officiating providing they have notified the home Association of their requirements no later than the Thursday prior to the game. Home Associations are to ensure that they are invited to the post game function and treated as guests.

6.4 Referee finance

6.4.1 Referee payments

The League via the Basketball Victoria Referee Appointment Officer is responsible for match and travel expense payments. These payments will be as approved by the Commissioners in formulating the budget.

6.4.2 Referee accommodation expenses

Where travelling Referees must be accommodated overnight, an Association may be responsible for arranging suitable accommodation and can claim a rebate in accordance with the Referee Accommodation

Reimbursement Policy and nominal figure in the budget on application to the GM.

6.5 Reports and tribunal

6.5.1 General

- (a) It is the duty of Referees in any match to report any person or player who misconduct's themselves within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game;
- (b) An independent tribunal endorsed by Basketball Victoria shall deal with the report. In some cases the League may choose to have an incident investigated by the League Investigations Officer;
- (c) The League may appoint an Investigations Officer who shall investigate any matters referred to them by GM or Commission. The Investigations Officer will operate within the parameters of their role as detailed in Rule 6.5.2;
- (d) All protests and complaints shall be referred in the first instance to the GM;
- (e) Basketball Victoria Tribunal procedures will be used in all cases and circumstances;
- (f) All players and/or team staff must be clear of any penalties imposed by any basketball authority directly or indirectly affiliated with Basketball Australia.

6.5.2 League Investigations Officer

- (a) As required the Committee will appoint an Investigations Officer to investigate matters relating to the conduct of matches, whether before, during or after concerning players, technical officials, spectators, etc. or other matters as deemed necessary to be investigated by the Committee or GM;
- (b) Where a situation, or complaint, requiring investigation is referred to the GM, action will only be taken where a formal written complaint or application is received by the GM, requesting an investigation, before any investigation will be instigated;
- (c) If deemed necessary the matter will be referred to the Investigations Officer by the GM for investigation;
- (d) The Committee or GM can also instigate an investigation without a complaint being made. No other party is authorised to instigate an investigation;
- (e) Associations are to provide the Investigations officer with all materials or items deemed necessary for a decision to be made;

- (f) The Investigations Officer is responsible to only accept or provide information pertaining to the matter being investigated which, in turn, will be provided to the GM. All matters should be referred through this process;
- (g) If the Investigations Officer believes it is necessary to visit an Association or venue then approval is to be obtained from the GM prior to undertaking any such visit;
- (h) The Investigations Officer will not make comments to the media regarding any incident under investigation. All public comment and written reports to Associations will be via the GM or Committee;
- (i) After arriving at a decision the Investigations Officer will forward a report and all relevant items including any Report to the Tribunal, to the GM within seven (7) days of having all items requested being made available.

PART 7 - GAME OPERATIONS

7.1 Fixturing

7.1.1 Scheduling responsibility

- (a) At the GM's direction the Competition Event Coordinator will determine the fixtures for the regular season and for finals that will be as fair, both competitively and economically, as possible. Double headers will be fixtured where possible;
- (b) Strong preference of the League is for regular season games to be scheduled on weekends. Associations may make requests for midweek and/or Friday evening games to the Competition Event Coordinator; the visiting team has the overall right of refusal;
- (c) League games should not commence earlier than 5:00pm on a Saturday and 11:00am on a Sunday nor commence later than 8:00pm on a Saturday and 2:00pm on a Sunday without the express permission of the GM. Such permission shall not unreasonably be withheld where venue availability and travel permits.

7.1.2 Fixturing requests

Each Association shall submit fixture request and venue availability information in a format and at a time specified by the Competition Event Coordinator to allow fixturing to commence.

7.1.3 Draft fixtures

Draft fixtures will be issued to Associations at the earliest possible time and

the Competition Event Coordinator will incorporate changes proposed by Associations where possible and where such changes would not significantly adversely impact other Associations.

7.1.4 Official fixtures

At least four weeks prior to the season's start, the Competition Event Coordinator will attempt to issue to Associations a copy of the official fixtures for the season.

7.1.5 Amendment to fixtures

As a general rule, once released the official fixtures will not be amended. Should an Association require a game to be re-fixtured the GM may apply a penalty in the form of a fine.

7.1.6 Game abandonment

If a game is to be abandoned, the home Association shall contact the Competition Event Coordinator as soon as possible.

The final decision as to whether the game is abandoned lies with the Competition Event Coordinator. If the Competition Event Coordinator cannot be contacted, the GM may make this decision. If neither the Competition Event Coordinator nor the GM can be contacted, the final decision rests with the game Referees.

The following criteria will be used to determine the result for a game that cannot be completed.

- (a) A 20 + point margin will mean that the result will stand at the score line when the game was abandoned, at any point of the game;
- (b) A margin less than 20 points before half time will mean the game is abandoned;
- (c) A margin of 15+ points between half and three-quarter time will mean that the result stands at the score line when the game was abandoned;
- (d) After three-quarter time, the result stands at the score line when the game was abandoned;
- (e) In games that cannot be commenced or other abandoned games the GM at their discretion and after consultation with the Referees, Game Commissioner and Competition Event Coordinator may determine the actions to be followed. This decision can include rescheduling of games that have not commenced and replaying of games that have commenced.

If a game official calls off a game because of bad behaviour of one or both teams, it shall be deemed a forfeit. If the behaviour is, in the opinion of the game officials, primarily that of one team, that team shall be deemed to have

forfeited the game. If the behaviour is, in the opinion of the game officials, that of both teams, both teams shall be deemed to have forfeited the game.

7.1.7 Team withdrawal

Should a team withdraw from the competition prior to the completion of the regular season, the Competition Event Coordinator shall determine the fairest way to adjust the competition to enable teams that have played or are yet to play the absent team are not disadvantaged.

7.2 Door charges

Each Association has the right to set its own door price for its own regular season home games, exhibition, pre-season or finals games.

7.3 Game day timing

7.3.1 Warm up period

There shall be a warm up period of no less than twenty (20) minutes on the playing court prior to the game.

7.3.2 Pre-Game Announcements

- (a) When the warm up clock reaches five (5) minutes it shall be stopped and both teams shall return to their respective benches. The Court Announcer will introduce the players and other team officials individually, starting with the visiting team and then the home team and then finally announcing the Referees, together with any special guests;
- (b) When all players, team officials and Referees have been announced, prior to all finals games and games where the home association chooses to do so the Australia national anthem will be played by the Court Announcer or sung by a performer. All players and officials shall maintain a dignified position during the national anthem;
- (c) On completion of the introductions the clock shall be restarted and the teams may recommence their warm up;
- (d) Any modification to this pre game procedure by the home Association must have the prior approval by the Competition Event Coordinator and be communicated by the home Association to the visiting team;
- (e) Both teams and all team officials must be present on court ten (10) minutes prior to tipoff for the introductions and to complete score sheet formalities. Any team failing to appear as requested by the Game Commissioner will be subject to penalty or further action that may be appropriate in such circumstances including but not limited to a fine, or loss of game..

7.3.3 Game timing

- (a) All Big V matches will consist of four (4) quarters of ten (10) minutes each which shall be fully timed;
- (b) There shall be a break of two (2) minutes duration between the first and the second quarters, and between the third and the fourth quarters. A half time interval of ten (10) minutes shall apply to all Big V games unless otherwise directed by the Competition Event Coordinator. Five (5) minutes of the half time interval must be available to teams for warm ups;
- (c) If the scores are tied at full time, a further five (5) minutes of extra time will be played to decide a winner. If scores remain tied after this period of extra time, another five (5) minutes is to be played and continue until a winner is determined.

7.3.4 Starting time change

- (a) The Game Commissioner shall ensure that the game commences at the time scheduled;
- (b) If an Association wishes to amend a tip-off time after the release of the official fixtures, it must apply in writing with the visiting team's approval to the Competition Event Coordinator. If approved, a penalty in the form of a fine may be applied. No such amendment to tip-off time may take place without the prior approval of the Competition Event Coordinator;
- (c) If a team is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances (for example travel delays), a late start must be approved by the Competition Event Coordinator.

7.3.5 Half time extension

- (a) The duration of the half-time break may be extended by up to 5 minutes (fifteen (15) minutes in total) at the discretion of the home team;
- (b) Half-time extensions beyond fifteen (15) minutes are to be used only in extraordinary cases relating to the recognition of competitive achievements (such as retiring a uniform number or the setting of a significant statistical record);
- (c) Such a half-time extension requires approval from the Competition Event Coordinator and should be requested in writing at least four (4) days prior to the fixture for which it is required. This will enable time for the matter to be discussed with the visiting team;
- (d) The fact that a visiting team does not object to the approval being granted does not necessarily mean that the Competition Event Coordinator will approve it.

7.4 Playing rules

7.4.1 Rules to apply

All Big V games shall be played in accordance with all FIBA playing rules in force from time to time, except for modifications agreed to by member Associations and where necessary endorsed by Basketball Victoria.

7.4.2 Points of emphasis

Prior to the commencement of each season the Basketball Victoria Referee Appointment Officer will advise all Associations of the points of emphasis to be applied by Referees for the coming season.

7.5 Home team responsibilities

7.5.1 Game Commissioner

(a) The home Association is required to appoint a Game Commissioner for each fixtured Big V game. The Game Commissioner must be easily identifiable, not performing any other role at the time and be responsible for, but not limited to:

1. Game timing;
2. Game statistics collection for both teams, score sheet and MVP voting form for both teams;
3. Video recording and uploading of the game;
4. Compliance with uniform Rules of Operation;
5. Compliance with personnel requirements;
6. Compliance with Big V signage and promotion requirements;

(b) The home Association shall display the name of the Game Commissioner on the official game day form and welcome note prior to the commencement of any fixtured game;

(c) The home Association shall ensure that the post-game procedure is executed accurately and completely in accordance with Rule 7.5.15.

7.5.2 Change rooms

A whiteboard (minimum size 900mm x 600mm), lockable change room or lockable cabinets in a change room, are to be provided for the use of the visiting team. (A secure lockable room for storage of personal gear will be accepted).

7.5.3 Access to games

Home Associations are required to give free entry to any person listed on the visiting team list up to a limit of twelve (12) players and four (4) team officials

or who presents a Big V pass as shown on the game pass guide issued by the GM.

7.5.4 Game Program

The home Association is required to produce a printed game program of a reasonable standard which must include team officials' names, players' names, numbers, heights and positions, League provided competition reviews and previews, ladders and season fixture, league's sponsors, together with any other content requested by the GM from time to time. The game program cover shall use the League provided template. Where a visiting team provides details of a naming rights sponsor, this is to be included in the game program.

7.5.5 Pre game procedure

By 5:00pm on the Monday prior to a fixtured game, the home Association must send a welcome note to the visiting Association and a copy to the League office to notify of arrangements for the game, in particular uniform colour to ensure a clash does not occur. This shall be in the League prescribed format and include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Home team uniform colour;
- (b) Home Association contact(s) to receive the visiting team list;
- (c) Times for access to venue and warm up court;
- (d) Contact person on arrival of visiting team;
- (e) Visiting team bench position;
- (f) Home team warm up end;
- (g) Post-game hospitality arrangements.

7.5.6 Balls

The home Association is to provide a match ball and a spare 'blood' ball, both of which are to be of a type specified or approved by the GM.

7.5.7 Option of ends

The home team has the option to choose which end it will attack in the first period and which team bench it will use. This will be notified to the visiting Association by way of the welcome note.

7.5.8 Security of player's bench

At all times, while in the venue, the security of the visiting team is the responsibility of the home Association's Game Commissioner. This includes the security of the player's bench where the visiting team must be sheltered from undue harassment or interference from the fans.

7.5.9 Disruption of game

- (a) Aerosol horns, whistles, vuvuzelas and megaphones may disrupt games and are not permitted at Big V games;
- (b) Other noisemakers such as party horns and percussion instruments are conditionally permitted into the venue subject to the game technical officials being able to effectively officiate the match. Should the use of these items interfere with the audibility of game calls the Referee may stop the match and request their use be discontinued or removed via the Game Commissioner.

7.5.10 Floor maintenance

It is the responsibility of the home Association to ensure that:

- (a) Floor wipers are available during the game to mop dry any wet spots which may be on the floor. Technical officials are not expected to perform this duty. At least two floor wipers (one each end) of at least 10 years of age are to be provided throughout the game, equipped with broom or other suitable style floor wipers. For hygiene reasons, it is not acceptable for children acting as floor wipers to be on hands and knees using cloths/towels;
- (b) No promotions may be conducted by any Association, either pre game or during the half time break, that may involve the introduction of moist or sticky substances to any part of the wooden surface, either within the playing area or on the area surrounding the floor;
- (c) A blood kit in accordance with the Basketball Australia Blood Policy must be available for use as required by a senior Association official.

7.5.11 Court Announcer

It is the objective of the Court Announcer to:

- (a) To play warm-up music prior to each game and appropriate music during all time outs, game breaks and at half time;
- (b) To introduce teams/players/coaches/Referees to the spectators;
- (c) To play national anthem prior to each game in accordance with Rule 7.3.2(b);
- (d) To provide information relative to the state of the game that may not be readily available to the spectators;
- (e) To promote sponsors at appropriate times;
- (f) To provide live reads as advised by the league;
- (g) To recognise official guests to the audience as a whole;
- (h) To provide a legitimate commentary on the game (as detailed below).

Specific guidelines:

1. The Court Announcer is an official of the game and as such visiting teams should be treated in an equal way. Neutrality extends to what is said, not necessarily how it is said. It is reasonable for the Announcer to use more emphasis in their tone in relaying positive information about the home

team in comparison to similar information on the visiting team;

2. There shall be no commentary while either team has possession of the ball in their offensive half (front court), nor after a player has had the ball placed at their disposal while shooting free throws (refer to game limitations - point 3). Likewise, music shall not be played while the Visiting Team has the ball in their front court;
3. Comments that take longer to make, during the course of play, than the time it takes a Team to progress to the halfway point of the court are too long!
4. Game Commentary should be limited to providing the following information at the appropriate times:

- i. Scoring - who scored, three pointers, accumulative individual totals and an occasional mention of assists may be appropriate;
- ii. Foul - Who fouled, numbers of fouls both individual and team. Who is shooting free throws and how many (if required) plus the end result of the attempts;

NOTE: The Referee's call should not be pre-empted in any way. The announcer must wait for the Referees decision and signal - DON'T GUESS. Incorrect information can create confusion and embarrassment to all.

- iii. Violation - name the violation - NOT the player;
 - iv. Time out - which team called it and how many they have had;
 - v. Rebounds, blocks and steals - can be mentioned if required and appropriate, but who made turnovers is generally not appropriate for comment.
4. The Court Announcer is not a cheerleader, barracker, noise generator or game critique. The principal duties are to pass information to the crowd, encourage it, but not incite it. Modifiers, which imply critical analysis should be avoided (e.g. nice try, great block, super shot, etc.) as an editorial description;
 6. Any comment reflecting on the performance of the Referees, either positive or negative, is not allowed. Similarly any criticism of the League or its staff or Commission is not allowed. Critical remarks of any type towards players or coaches are not acceptable (including pre-taped comments played on the PA system);
 7. Appeals to the crowd for noise/support are not permitted. Home teams must generate their crowd support and noise through methods other than the Court Announcer, e.g. team mascots, cheer leaders, etc.;
 8. The Court Announcer should be an official conduit between the game

Referee and the audience in conveying information relative to rule decisions that may not be apparent to the spectators. There are often timing and rule confusions that occur between the Referees and the score table, or between the Referees themselves resulting in game stoppage and consultation. The Court Announcer should be able to clarify these circumstances with the spectators after they have been resolved. This is an important function;

9. The Court Announcer has the duty of playing warm up music prior to games, the pre-game introductions, playing the national anthem in accordance with By-law 7.3.2 and playing appropriate music (no profanity) during all time outs, game breaks and at half time;
10. Recognition of official League sponsors and guests are a part of the Court Announcers duties. These announcements should be limited to pre-game, time out and quarter/half time breaks. The Court Announcer will be obligated to acknowledge any Big V naming rights sponsor and any other Big V major sponsors as authorised by the Committee.

7.5.12 Scoretable and statisticians

- (a) The home Association must provide a score table consisting of at least four, two of which must be at least Level 2 qualified and the remainder shall be at least Level 1 qualified;
- (b) The home Association is responsible for recording the statistics of the game and providing this information to both teams and to the Competition Event Coordinator in accordance with the following:
 - i. Statistics will be recorded using a software program specified by the Big V. Where the software program provides the functionality, live webcasting of the statistics is compulsory. If circumstances prevent webcasting at the game conclusion, a subsequent webcast shall be performed within forty eight (48) hours of the game concluding;
 - ii. Statisticians used by the Association must be Level 1 qualified and a staff of at least two Statisticians must be used for each game;
 - iii. The statistics for the game must be accurate and must reflect the official score sheet when submitted to the League;
 - iv. Where the League provides electronic versions of team files for use, then Associations must use these team files at all times and players must not be manually added unless authorised by the Competition Event Coordinator;
 - v. Statistics in the form of a box score shall be provided to each team immediately at the conclusion of each quarter;

- vi. Following reconciliation of the statistics and score sheet, each team shall be provided with a copy and validated box score

7.5.13 Documented medical procedures

The home Association shall have a documented procedure to follow in the case of serious injury and with which the Game Commissioner is familiar.

7.5.14 Video recording of games

- (a) The home Association must ensure that each game is video recorded for the purpose of, but not limited to:
 - I. Referee development;
 - II. Scouting;
 - III. Tribunal evidence;
 - IV. Statistics collection or review and
 - V. League promotion.
- (b) For the recorded video to be fit for purpose outlined in 7.5.14 (a) the video recording must:
 - I. Be competently recorded to ensure it is clear and in focus;
 - II. Cover the whole game, including player introductions and extend to at least one minute after the game, full time;
 - III. Not be edited;
 - IV. Not be paused during any breaks in play, including timeouts, quarter, half and three quarter time;
 - V. Generally show all players on court and preferably both Referees in the frame, particularly when the ball is in play in the front court;
 - VI. Be recorded at the highest resolution possible, not less than 720p (HD) for State Championship divisions and not less than 480p for all other divisions and
 - VII. Be retained in original format to be available to the GM on request for at least fourteen (14) days after the game.

Note 1: It is recommended that the video camera is placed in an elevated position on the opposite side of the court to the score table, generally in line with the court centre line in order to have an unobstructed view of the whole court surface, score table and both teams benches when panned.

Note 2: Associations may choose to use close up shots and or alternative camera angles particularly when live streaming games. It is recommended that close up shots are not used while the ball is in play.

- (c) A video recording meeting the requirements of 7.5.14 (b) must be uploaded by 5.00pm on the Wednesday following the weekends games:
 - I. To a platform designated by the GM;
 - II. In a single file covering the whole game;
 - III. In a suitable format as directed by the Communication Coordinator.

7.5.15 Post game procedure

It is the responsibility of the home Association to ensure that the following is completed as part of the post-game procedure:

- (a) Within 45 minutes of the game concluding, an electronic version of the game and video file must be emailed and/or uploaded as directed by the Competition Event Coordinator;
- (b) Each Coach is to complete an MVP voting form at the end of each game. Before the game concludes the Game Commissioner or their authorised representative is to provide the form to each coach, with instructions directing the coach where to return form after the game has finished. Each coach is responsible for returning the completed form within ten (10) minutes of the game statistics being made available or earlier if able;
- (c) Upload the score sheet and complete the MVP voting forms from each coach and game day form and if applicable the Referee evaluation form online no later than Tuesday after the game..

7.5.16 Post game hospitality

To promote good sportsmanship, the League requires that each home Association hosts a post-match function that is compulsory to attend based on the following:

- (a) The home team is to provide a post-game function with food of a suitable quality, variety and quantity for consumption at least by players, team officials and Referees;
- (b) Opportunity is to be given for a representative of each team to address the function;
- (c) Players, team staff and match Referees must be ready for post-match function within 20 minutes of game completion or if specified, at the time shown in the welcome note;
- (d) It is the objective of the League that the visiting team and Referees are received and treated as guests;
- (e) Approval for use of a post-game hospitality venue other than the home stadium must be sought prior to the commencement of each new Big V season.

7.6 Visiting team responsibilities

The visiting team shall:

- (a) For game program purposes, submit a complete team list including team (4) officials' names, (12) players' numbers, names, heights and positions by 5:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the game using the League approved format. It shall be submitted to the published contact for the home Association or alternative recipient(s) if specified in the

welcome note;

- (b) The team list should be as accurate as possible and should not require significant variation (of 50% of names of team list) on game day;
- (c) Change uniforms in the event of a colour clash with the home team uniforms, i.e. the home team should wear their preferred uniform (refer to Rule 3.4.2);
- (d) Complete the MVP voting form in accordance with the post-game procedure (refer to Rule 7.5.15);
- (e) Attend the post-game hospitality of the home Association.

7.7 Protest procedures

7.7.1 Protest

Any Team desiring to lodge a protest (as defined by FIBA except no protest may be made concerning a decision by a Referee or Umpire) in respect to any match, must lodge such a protest in writing with the GM within forty eight (48) hours of the match. The parties concerned shall be entitled to attend a meeting at which the protest shall be heard. The GM is not obliged to meet face to face and may deal with the protest by phone, video conferencing or email or such means as the GM requires.

7.7.2 Notification of protest

Upon receipt of a protest, the GM shall immediately notify the opposing team in the match, which is subject to protest.

7.8 Forfeited games

- (a) A forfeit is deemed to occur when insufficient players representing a team are present at the fixtured starting time for a Big V fixture. An Association whose team for any reason fails to appear for or complete any fixtured pre-season, regular or finals game, including overtime, except for acts of God or events beyond such team's control shall be deemed to have forfeited that game and shall be liable to a fine and suffer such additional penalty as shall be deemed appropriate by the GM;
- (b) Notwithstanding Rule 7.1.6, a forfeited game shall not be replayed;
- (c) In the event of a forfeit, the team forfeiting shall be deemed to have lost the game with a score of zero (0) points to twenty (20);
- (d) When a fixtured game has commenced and the game is subsequently abandoned, all players on the score sheet shall be deemed to have participated in the fixture. For the purposes of player finals eligibility, if the game is subsequently replayed, any

player on the score sheet who was on the score sheet for the abandoned game shall only be credited with one game's participation in terms of that fixture;

- (e) When a fixtured game is forfeited, only those players on the score sheet for the team, which, did not forfeit will be deemed to have participated in the fixture.

7.9 Competition ladders

- (a) For the purpose of displaying each division's ladder, teams shall be placed in order of win/loss results;
- (b) If two (2) or more teams have the same win/loss record of all games in the group, the game (s) between the two (2) or more teams shall be decided on classification. If the two (2) or more teams have the same win/loss record of games between them, further criteria will be applied in the following order:
- i. Higher goal difference of the games between them;
 - ii. Higher number of goals scored in the games between them;
 - iii. Higher goal difference of all games in the group;
 - iv. Higher number of goals scored in all games in the group.

If these criteria still cannot decide, a draw shall decide on the classification.

- (c) Where there is an imbalance in the number of games played between two or more teams with equal win/loss results the ladder will be determined by the points differential (points for: points against) of the teams involved across the total games played in the season;
- (d) This is only used for team positions of those teams in or potentially in finals. (Although this may be used for teams that are in threat of relegation).

7.10 Finals

- (a) The format of the finals for each division will be determined by the Big V and published at the Senior Representative Commission ACM prior to the start of each season in accordance with the following:
1. The competition structure;
 2. The finals system should maximise the chance of the top two teams from the home and away season meeting in the grand final of the competition, regardless of number of conferences within the competition;
 3. Best of three shall be the predominant finals system for all Big V competition, to allow all teams to play home finals. Single games in finals series for age restricted competitions may be fixtured in order to meet season timing objectives;
 4. Best of three finals series shall be played on a Saturday or

Sunday (Week 1), Saturday and Sunday (Week 2 – if required) basis – giving the league the maximum opportunity to promote finals between games one and two;

5. Teams finishing higher at the conclusion of the regular season shall have home court advantage for any single game finals series or the right to host week 2 of any best of three finals series, except where a qualifying final has been played as part of the finals system, in which case the winner of the qualifying final will gain home court advantage in any subsequent meeting of the teams. Teams finishing in the same position in conferences, the win /loss record will determine home court;
 6. Associations, that for reasons of venue unavailability or clashes, cannot host a final series for their venue, may forfeit the right to a home final completely at the discretion of the GM and subject to the appeal to the Commission.
- (b) Following the completion of the Big V regular season games the Competition Event Coordinator will request finals venue availability and develop a draft finals schedule as soon as practical. The schedule will take account of fixturing requests of the Associations involved with a preference given to the Home Association. The draft schedule will be referred to the Associations involved for comment prior to being finalised. The finals fixtures will then be finalised and provided to all Associations;
- (c) Appropriate seating should be reserved for Big V representatives. The GM will advise of any required seating no later than the Thursday prior to the game;
- (d) The designated Home Association for a finals game will assume all responsibilities normally associated with a regular season home game unless otherwise directed by the GM.

7.11 Other game provisions

7.11.1 Bench occupation

During the game the bench shall be occupied only by the coach/s, players, trainer/manager squad and development players.

7.11.2 Ejected coach or player

- (a) A Player, coach or assistant coach, upon being notified by a Referee that they have been ejected from the game, must leave the playing area immediately and remain in the dressing room of their team during such suspension until the completion of the game or leave the building;
- (b) The use of messengers and/or telephones or any other electronic media to transmit information from the ejected coach to the bench is in violation of the spirit of this rule and is

subject to appropriate penalties or further action that may be appropriate in such circumstances including but not limited to a fine, suspension, forfeit of match, loss of competition points, or compliance points.

PART 8 - OTHER

8.1 League awards

8.1.1 Award categories

Each Division will be awarded:

- (a) A most valuable player;
- (b) All-star 5 (best five players) based on MVP voting;
- (c) Youth player of the year in all non-age restricted divisions with player under 23 as of the end of the calendar year, previous winners are ineligible;
- (d) Defensive player of the year;
- (e) Coach of the year.

The following statistical categories will be awarded for each division:

- (a) Leading scorer (regular season average);
- (b) Leading rebounder (regular season average);
- (c) Golden hands (total assists + total steals – total turnovers divided by games played);

To be eligible for statistical awards, a player must have played a minimum of 75% of games. In determining the statistical awards, statistics credited to a player for games win which they are ineligible shall be disregarded and that player's season statistics calculated using only those games in which a player is eligible to play.

A Grand Final Series MVP will be awarded in each division.

8.1.2 Game by game voting

The coach of each team shall award votes after each game; awarding three (3), two (2), one (1) vote for each team after the match, via the online form, the winner is decided at the completion of the minor rounds with the player receiving the most votes.

The Competition Event Coordinator shall monitor coach voting and where appropriate (votes not cast in accordance with the criteria or within the spirit of voting), is empowered to request a coach to recast their votes after a game.

The voting will not be published during the season.

8.1.3 End of season voting

MVP

At the conclusion of the regular season the player with the most votes will

be crowned the MVP.

All Star Five (5)

At the conclusion of the regular season, the top twenty players that polled MVP votes will be compiled in a list that will be made available for coaches and captains to select their All Star Five, with the following restrictions:

- a) Must be a mixture of front and back court players (minimum of two (2));
- b) Cannot vote for players in your respective team.

Defensive Player

At the conclusion of the regular season, coaches must nominate one (1) player from their team to be voted on for defensive player of the year.

The list of defensive players will be made available for coach and team captains to allocate votes (three (3) being the best, two (2) and one (1)) to three different players. Coaches and captains are prohibited from voting for their own players.

Youth Player

At the conclusion of the regular season, the top ten (10) under 23 players in each non –age restricted divisions will be made available for each team coach and captain to allocate votes (three (3) being the best, two (2) and one (1)) to three different players. Coaches and captains are prohibited from voting for their own players.

In the event of a tie, two trophies will be awarded with the exception of the all-star five where a count back will be conducted to determine the winner.

The player with the most amount of three (3) votes will be declared the winner, the same process will apply if three (3) votes are tied, it will go to the most two (2) votes and if tied the most one (1) votes if required.

8.2 Use of Illegal Drugs

The Big V will abide by the Anti-Doping Policy of Basketball Australia.

8.3 Integrity

The Big V will abide by the Basketball Australia National Integrity Framework and Basketball Victoria Integrity By-laws.

8.4 Spectator conduct

- (a) Spectators will understand as a condition of entry that they may be asked to leave the venue by the Game Commissioner. This condition of entry must be displayed at the ticket office and/or at entry;
- (b) Any spectator who uses obscene, profane or objectionable language in a manner which, in the opinion of the Referees, is extreme as to render the Referees unable to satisfactorily perform their duties will, at the direction of the Referee, be given one warning by the Game Commissioner. If the same spectator continues to act in a like manner, they will be ejected from the

venue by the Game Commissioner or their representative at the direction of the Referee;

- (c) Any spectator guilty of intentional physical contact with a Referee before, during or after a game will be ejected from the venue by the Game Commissioner or their representative and be liable to further action.

8.5 Promotion/Media

8.4.2 Game promotion

Each Association is required to promote their home games to the best of their ability.

8.6 Big V Origin All Star Series Game

- (a) The GM and the Committee shall determine the Association to host the Origin All-Star Series games;
- (b) Associations may not unreasonably prevent a player/or coach from participating in any official Big V Origin All-Star Series game.

Appendix 1 Offences and penalties

The following table sets out the standard penalties to be applied for a breach of the Rules of Operations.

Offence	Rule reference	Penalty (per offence)
Administrative and procedural fines	2.2.3	\$150
Forfeit Home team Away team	2.2.4	\$1500 \$2000
Change to fixture	2.2.5, 7.1.5. 7.3.4 (b)	\$100
Appeal	2.2.7	\$500 bond
Conduct detrimental or prejudicial to Big V	2.3.2	Subject to the outcome of the BV or VBRA Tribunal
League finance Failure provide a copy of an Association budget on request	2.4.1	\$150
Application for entry Withdrawal of a team	2.4.4	Minimum of 50% of the League Management Fee (entry and annual fee)
Sponsorship and Big V property Non display of signage as directed by the GM	2.5.1	\$150 (per sign)
Venue requirements Failure to provide satisfactory equipment and services	3.3.1	\$150 (per item)
Association uniforms and attire including placement of Big V trademark	3.4	\$100 (per uniform)
Seating Provision of crowd attendance numbers	3.5.2	\$250
Playing an ineligible player Restricted player Unregistered player Uncleared player Unqualified for finals (Including relegated players)	4.1.1, 5.1.1, 5.1.4, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5	Forfeit if game won and/or \$250 if game lost
Unlicensed player		FIBA fine and \$1000
Home Association obligations to Referees	6.3	\$100 (per item)
Game day timing	7.3	\$100 (per item)
Home team responsibilities	7.5	\$100 (per item)
Visiting team responsibilities	7.6	\$100 (per item)
Other game provisions	7.11	Subject to the outcome of

		the BV Tribunal
End of season voting	8.1.3	\$100
Use of illegal drugs	8.2	Subject to BA, ASADA, WADA penalties
Integrity	8.3	Subject to BV, BA and National Integrity outcomes
Spectator conduct	8.4	Subject to the outcome of the BV Tribunal
Big V Origin All Star Series Unreasonable prevention of a player and/or coach from participation	8.6	\$100