



Victorian Amateur Football Association

Amateur Status Guidelines

The VAFA defines an **AMATEUR** as follows:

An Amateur is one who does not receive or agree to receive, either directly or indirectly, any remuneration or reward whatsoever (whether by match payments or expenses or otherwise) in respect to their participation as a player, in the Victorian Amateur Football Association.

Receive or agree to receive – remuneration or reward may not be offered in an immediate sense or at some point in the future at an unspecified time.

Directly or indirectly - remuneration or reward may not be offered to the individual player or any person associated with that individual.

Remuneration or reward – examples of what is permissible or not permissible as a reward or remuneration refer to table below.

The spirit of the “Amateur” definition will always prevail and each case will be looked at individually on its own merits. Any payment, reward, or benefit that might induce a person to play with a VAFA club will be regarded as a breach of the definition of amateur status. The examples below are provided as a guide, but clubs should always seek guidance from the VAFA as to whether a situation is within, or in breach of, the definition. If such guidance is not sought before the event, a club will not be able to complain after the event if it is found, notwithstanding technical reliance on the examples below, that a given situation is not within the spirit of the definition.

	<i>Permissible</i>	<i>Not Permissible</i>
<i>Employment</i>	Clubs, or any person or entity associated with a club, may assist with and/or facilitate a full time or part time employment opportunity for a player, provided the terms and conditions of such employment are consistent with current commercial practices.	Employment cannot be linked to the operations of the club e.g. physiotherapy, fitness/conditioning or working behind the bar or canteen. This applies in a direct or indirect sense as defined above. Employment cannot be dependent on playing for the club.

Awards	Players may receive awards from sponsors relevant to match day performance. Awards must be non-monetary and not exceed the value of \$100. It is expected that these awards be shared.	
<i>Paid non-Playing coaches and paid non-Playing Assistant coaches</i>	Clubs may pay non-Playing coaches and non-Playing Assistant coaches.	Any paid Head coach or paid Assistant coach is not permitted to play for any team of the Club (eg a paid coach of the senior team cannot play in the Reserves or Thirds, or vice versa).
<i>Playing Head Senior coaches</i>	<p>Playing Head Senior coaches may be reimbursed by the Club for <u>out of pocket expenses</u> actually incurred in connection with the coaching services (not exceeding a total of \$2,500 per season) upon production of documentation evidencing the expenses incurred. Where dual Coaches are employed, the reimbursement of expenses up to \$2,500 is an aggregate sum to be shared between them.</p> <p>This reimbursement is only available to Head Senior coaches, and not to playing coaches of Reserves, Thirds, Club XVIII or Under-Age teams.</p>	<p>Playing coaches cannot be offered or receive any <u>remuneration</u> for coaching or playing in the VAFA.</p> <p>(For the avoidance of doubt, “remuneration” in this Guideline refers to any fee or payment in addition to the permitted reimbursement of out of pocket expenses).</p>
<i>Playing Assistant coaches (of a team in any VAFA Grade)</i>	Assistant coaches may play for any team provided they do so as an “Amateur” (refer to VAFA definition above).	Playing Assistant coaches cannot be offered or receive any remuneration OR reimbursement of expenses.
<i>Interchange Players</i>	Tier 1 players (e.g. VFL, TAC Under 18 and other State Leagues) who are also registered players with a VAFA club and have nominated that club as their interchange club by no later than April 30 each year are eligible to play in the VAFA when released from their Tier 1 club, subject to amateur status in the VAFA being	Any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses from the Tier 1 club which is linked to participation as a player in the VAFA competition (eg match payments when playing on interchange in the VAFA) shall be deemed to be a breach of the player’s amateur status.

	observed (refer to VAFA definition above).	VAFA clubs may not contribute, directly or indirectly, to funding an interchange player's contract with the Tier 1 club (whether as a player, coach or any other role).
Expenses	<p>Costs directly associated with playing for the club e.g. club related uniforms excluding personal attire (e.g. boots), insurance, membership, or out of pocket costs incurred as a result of football injuries sustained whilst representing the club, provided these are paid to all players.</p> <p>Meals after training may be paid for by the club provided they are provided to all players and not to individuals or a specific group of players.</p>	Any expenses not directly associated with playing for the club. This includes the provision of services in-kind e.g. building, landscaping, professional services, fuel, other travel related expenses or accommodation. They are all examples of expenses that are not permitted.
Player Sponsorships	Players are able to source player sponsorships to offset their annual membership provided all funds are directed towards the club.	
Education fees		Education fees cannot be paid for or subsidised either directly or indirectly as per above description of the word "Amateur".
Juniors Coaching	Registered VAFA players are able to coach football at their aligned junior club or school for a commercially acceptable fee.	<p>Appointment cannot be dependant on playing for the senior club.</p> <p>Payments for all positions other than as Head coach (eg Assistant coaches, coaching Director etc...) are not permitted.</p>

PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF AMATEUR STATUS

130A. If a Club or player is found by the Independent Integrity Division (or by the Board following an appeal to it from a decision of the Independent Integrity Division) to have breached the conditions relating to Amateur Status, the penalty to be imposed shall be determined by the Board. Such penalty may comprise any or all of the following:-

- (a) In relation to a club-
 - (i) Loss of premiership points earned in the games played while the Club was so in breach;
 - (ii) Demotion of the Club up to two sections;
 - (iii) Loss of premiership points for the following season;
 - (iv) A fine not exceeding \$5,000; or
 - (v) Suspension from any or all home and away and finals matches in a season or seasons.

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- (b) In relation to a player, suspension for such period as the Board deem appropriate.

Provided that, if a club or player voluntarily admits prior to 1 July 2011 that it or he has breached such conditions, the Board may, in its discretion, determine that no penalty be imposed.”