



Gaelic Football and Hurling Association Of South Australia



Postal Address: GPO Box 21, Adelaide, South Australia 5001
Grounds: St. Mary's Park, Laura Ave, St. Mary's
Website: www.gaelicfootballsau.com.au

STATE LEAGUE

The men's and women's state league competitions are the premier Gaelic football competitions in South Australia. The season extends from mid-October to mid-March, with the top of the premiership table winning the Jim Farnan (men) and Mna (women) Cups, while the winners of the Grand Finals take away the prestigious Hannigan (men) and Tom Finn (women) Cups. Games are played on either Friday nights or Sunday evenings at St Mary's Park, St Mary's. The best State League players are selected for the SA state teams that compete at the Australasian Championships held annually around Australia and New Zealand.

The accompanying documents outline important information for all clubs such as payment details, Competition Rules and the draw. Please take note of the following important points, discussed in more detail in the attached documents.

Season Format

After many years of splitting the competition into two short seasons, our competition will this year revert to one season and one finals series for the entire summer. The Jim Farnan and Mna Cups will now be awarded to the teams finishing at the top of the premiership table, while the Hannigan and Tom Finn Cups will be awarded to the teams winning the season ending Grand Finals. There will also be a one day Christmas 7-a-side carnival scheduled for the final week of games before Christmas.

Hot Weather Policy

This season will see the introduction of a new Hot Weather Policy, which has been reviewed by Sports Medicine Australia and approved by Australasian Secretary Gerry Roe. The new policy outlines the responsibilities of individuals, teams and the GFHASA, as well as including provisions for cancellation of games on Sundays when forecast temperatures are above 40°C. Please see the Hot Weather Policy for more details.

New Interchange Rule

During last season, interchange changed from only after scores or wides, to any time during the match. This will continue this season. However, following the controversial finish to last season's women's grand final, the committee made investigations into the rules surrounding interchange. As there were no rules associated with minor infringements in the official rule book, the GFHASA committee forwarded recommendations to the Australasian Council to introduce or change the rules. As a result the Australasian Council has introduced an amendment to the existing rule 69(c):

69(c) A team with more than the permissible number of players on the ground during a game will have their score annulled at the time the referee is aware/made aware of this fact. The referee will include details of this in his/her match report. *Minor infringements of the Interchange Rule will not see a team's score annulled. Depending on circumstances, the referee can issue the player/s concerned with a noting or yellow card.*

Sideline officials will be directed to notify the referee in the case of a minor infringement of the interchange rule. Except in the case of a major infringement, notification should occur at the next break in play. Annulment of the score should only occur where there has been a major infringement of the interchange rule, such as where a player enters the field early and has an actual physical impact on the game before their team mate has left the field. In either case, the referee can use their discretion as to the severity of the infringement.

A full summary of the issues surrounding the women's grand final, mid-season changes to the interchange rule, investigations into rules concerning interchange and the Australasian Council's response, will be forwarded to clubs.

Team Fees

This year clubs will be invoiced the full cost of the entire season in one total amount. This means the affiliation fee, match fees, player registrations and taping will all be combined into one total and become the responsibility of the team, rather than the individual player. This year's total cost per team is:

Affiliation	\$250
Taping	\$160
Player Rego (30 players x \$35)	\$1050
Match fees (14 games x \$110)	\$1540
Total	\$3000

Compared with last year, the affiliation fee has increased by \$50 per team and the taping fee has increased to match last year's average. The registration fee has increased by \$5 per player in line with the Australasian registration increase (which the GFHASA has no control over). The match fees have not changed, but this year 14 games have been included on the invoice rather than 12, as this is a more realistic estimate of the number of games played per team.

At the conclusion of the season, there will be a reconciliation of miscellaneous payments and fees. This will include player registrations below 30 players, taping above and below \$160, payment for match officials, fines, finals match fees, reimbursement of forfeited games etc.

Payment

Payment will only be accepted by **cheque or electronic transfer** e.g. internet banking. This is to ensure there is a record of all payments made to the GFHASA. It is not expected that clubs can pay this amount up-front, rather there will be dates set out when installments are due. These will be:

Sunday September 26	\$250
Sunday October 24 (Round 2)	\$800
Sunday November 21 (Round 6)	\$800
Sunday January 16 (Round 10)	\$800
Sunday February 13 (Round 13)	\$350
Total	\$3000

Continual failure to pay by the due dates (without first consulting the GFHASA Treasurer) will result in the loss of one premiership point.

Cheque payments can be made in person to:

Liz Tyack (Treasurer) – Irish Australians Blues
Karen Rankin (President) – Irish Australians Rovers
David Floreani (Vice President) – Western Ireland
Rachel Brick (Secretary) – Onkaparinga

Electronic transfers can be made into the GFHASA account (*please ensure you state your team name clearly in the comment space and email the secretary letting them know you've paid*):

BSB 105 137 **Account Number** 0552 16240

For any queries please contact the GFHASA Treasurer – Liz Tyack via email er_ferris@yahoo.com.au

Match Officials

All teams are required to supply 3 match officials for the game immediately following theirs. Teams are paid \$7 per official, but fined \$10 for each official they do not supply. Payment will now be credited to that person's team.

Referees

All State League teams that have been in the competition for more than three years must provide at least one referee this summer. Teams without a referee will incur a doubling (\$250) of their affiliation fees, as well as a deduction of one premiership point. All referees must attend the referee's course before being allowed to referee games, so please contact the GFHASA Secretary to register interest in the course.

Bar Duties

Again this summer, *all teams will be rostered to take responsibility for the bar on designated nights*. With match and registration payments no longer being made across the bar, this task is much simpler than in previous years. On average, each club will be rostered on for two nights during the summer, with the committee taking care of finals. ***By the Thursday before the weekend***, teams will nominate a responsible person (known to the committee) to be accountable for operations on that night, although anyone delegated by that team can be on the bar at any time. Responsibilities will include serving at the bar, opening up, closing down and performing a mini-stocktake.

The GFHASA will not be supplying food from the bar, rather rostered teams will have the option of *supplying a food of their choice* (BBQ, chips, hotdogs, rolls, sandwiches etc) as a way of *raising money for their club*.

The bar roster is shown on the draw, the procedure for taking care of the bar can be found behind the bar and if there are any questions regarding the procedure then please contact Bar Coordinator Leanne Higgins (lean_lax@chariot.net.au – 0438 860 251).

Registration

All players are required to fill out a registration form **prior** to their first match. Completed forms can be placed in the box marked *Registration* located on the bar at St Mary's. Teams will still be required to fill-out team sheets each game and players must play the designated number of games (see Season Rules) to be eligible for finals. *It is essential that handwriting is clear and legible when filling out forms.*

If there are any issues that need to be discussed or any further information required, please contact the people below:

Rachael Brick (secretary@gaelicfootballs.com.au)
or Karen Rankin (president@gaelicfootballs.com.au)
or see the website (www.gaelicfootballs.com.au)
and for urgent matters (such as forfeits) Karen Rankin – 0421 460 427



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Bar Operating Procedure

For State League game days, clubs are rostered on to be responsible for operating the bar and providing general assistance for the smooth operation of the day's matches. A Responsible Person known to the committee is accountable for the operations of the bar on their club's rostered day. Under the direction of the Responsible Person, anyone over 18 from within or outside the rostered club can be delegated the responsibility of serving at the bar.

On their rostered night, clubs are also welcome to serve any food they are willing to provide and keep all profits made for their club. The canteen, fridge/freezer and pie warmer are available to serve food from if needed. Only drinks provided by the GFHASA are to be sold.

Please follow the instructions below when your club is rostered on for bar duties:

Before Match Day

- Notify **Leanne Higgins (0438 860 251)** who your Responsible Person will be for your rostered day by the Thursday prior (for both Friday and Sunday games).
- Plan ahead who will take care of the bar, including while your team is playing.
- Organise food to be served.

Open

- Pick up the keys and cash box from the **Tonsley Hotel DRIVE-THRU** (South Road, Clovelly Park).
- If not already open, open the gate, club rooms, change rooms and outside toilets *at least 45 minutes before the first game* is due to start.
- Place float money in the cash register.
- Assist setting up outside chairs, goals, scoreboard etc if required.
- Provide a minimum of three match officials for the first game (but preferably all six)**.**

During Games

- Ensure the bar is attended at all times and serve drinks using the prices provided.
- Drinks must be opened by the person serving before handing to customer, otherwise it's breaching our liquor license**
- If serving food, ensure the float and revenue from food is not mixed with the bar's float or takings.
- NO TABS ALLOWED**
- Do not receive any cash payments from any team or player. Please remind players that all payments are now to be made electronically or by cheque.
- Do not pay any match official or referee. All payments made by the GFHASA will now be electronic i.e. the only money going into or coming out of the cash register should be payment or change from drinks.
- Record the day's scores then call/text/email them to Michael Zaluski (0450 352 789 - zeusorzedz@hotmail.com) after the final game.**

Close

- Ensure all nets, goal pads, cones, scoreboard and chairs are packed away from outside and tidy up any bottles, cans and litter from the oval (encourage teams from the last game to do this).
- Restock bar fridges with excess stock from under the sink and in the back fridge.
- Count money, fill out the Till Balance Sheet then place balance sheet and cash in the cash box.
- Ensure all dishes are cleaned; wipe down benches and tables, place chairs around tables.
- Turn off TV and lights, then turn on alarm (4444 Press AWAY), **lock all doors and the front gate.**
- Return keys and cash box to the Tonsley Hotel.

**** Clubs will not be fined for not supplying match officials for the first match of the day, but will still receive \$7 per match official provided.**



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Hot Weather Policy

The health and safety of members and supporters, is of primary concern to the Gaelic Football and Hurling Association of South Australia.

Our Association acknowledges that skin cancer is a major public health problem in Australia, with two out of every three people requiring treatment for some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Also, that heat exhaustion and heat stroke can be particularly dangerous outcomes of playing sport in hot conditions.

Gaelic Football is a summer sport in South Australia, therefore duty of care for our members in these conditions, is part of our responsibility as an Association. We endeavour to promote our game in a way which allows all players and supporters to participate in the safest conditions possible, with minimum risks related to heat related injuries and illness.

While the GFHASA can promote a certain level of sun and heat protection, minimising the risk of sun and heat related injury and illness, is the combined responsibility of the individual and their teams, as well as the Association. Please familiarise yourself and your team with the guidelines below:

Responsibilities of Individuals:

- Ensure that you are in an appropriate physical state to compete i.e. well hydrated, rested, fed and unaffected by drugs or alcohol.
- Supply and administer the necessary medication to cater for your needs when appropriate and required e.g. ventolin puffer for asthmatics, epilepsy medication, etc.
- Be aware of the GFHASA Hot Weather policies and procedures.
- Communicate with your coach/team manager to keep informed about changes to playing times in hot weather.
- Practice sun-smart behaviour both on and off field e.g. wear appropriate sunscreen, hats (soft brimmed only for players), sunglasses, clothing, etc.

Responsibilities of Teams:

- Provide adequate water drinks for your team to use throughout the game.
- Use the interchange regularly to allow players to have sufficient rest breaks, to prevent heat-related illness or injury.
- Ensure you have sufficient players for the game, to allow for regular interchange and rest breaks.
- Negotiate modified game structure with the opposition team when necessary e.g. 4 x 12 min. quarters instead of 25 minute halves.
- Remain informed and aware of GFHASA Hot Weather Policy & Procedures in extreme weather i.e. deferred games/cancellations etc.
- Stay up to date with the recommendations and guidelines for competing in hot weather, provided by reputable Sport & Recreation Associations e.g. Office of Recreation & Sport, Sports Medicine Australia.
- Seek and use shade facilities during team breaks.
- Coaches and team managers need to exercise their duty of care related to their players who may be unfit, overweight and or physically impaired, when competing in high temperatures.

Responsibilities of the Association:

- Develop and implement hot weather policies and procedures to minimise and prevent heat related injury or illness.
- Stay up to date with the recommendations and guidelines for competing in hot weather, provided by reputable Sport & Recreation Associations eg: Office of Recreation & Sport, Sports Medicine Australia.
- Supply adequate shade for teams and participants, when necessary.
- Provide access to water facilities for teams to use.
- Supply SPF 30+ sunscreen for all members to access.
- Schedule games when possible to avoid the peak ultraviolet period i.e. 10am to 2pm (11am to 3pm daylight saving time) and outside of the hottest period of the day.
- Provide portable shade structures at competitions when needed.
- Encourage senior players, coaches, officials, members in prominent positions, and parents to be Sun Smart role models.
- Consider the reasons for and appropriateness of any rules that prevent the implementation of sun protection strategies.

Postponement/Cancellation/Modification of Games

- For all Gaelic 7's and State League games, when the forecast temperatures in the Advertiser or Sunday Mail is **31°C or above** (or by agreement of both team coaches and the referee if the forecast temperature is lower), games will be played as 4 x 12 min quarters. Alternatively (in the case of cooler night time conditions or a cool change), if agreed by both team coaches and the referee, then games do not need to be played as quarters.
- When **underage** games are scheduled and the temperature is **36°C** or more, games are to be **cancelled**.
- For Sunday games, when the forecast temperature in the Sunday Mail is **36°C or above**, the first scheduled game will be moved to the timeslot after the last game of the day*.
- For Sunday games, when the forecast temperature in the Sunday Mail is **40°C or above**, all games for that day will be **cancelled***. All teams affected will receive one premiership point each, and the scores will be recorded as 0-10 to both teams.
- In the case of extremely hot weather under any circumstances, after consulting with both team coaches, referees have the discretion to cancel games if they believe player's health and safety is at risk.

* Friday night and Gaelic 7's games start after 6:30pm, which means they avoid the hottest part of the day and the period of direct sunlight. For this reason, only Sunday games, where matches can start as early as 3:45pm, are subject to automatic rescheduling or cancellation. However, if prior to either a State League or Gaelic 7's match starting, after consulting with both team coaches, referees will have the discretion to cancel games if they believe players' health and safety is at risk.

This policy was compiled with the guidance of Sports Medicine Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines. For more information see <http://sma.org.au/resources/policies/hot-weather/>

Reviewed by Sports Medicine Australia – September 2010



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2010-2011 Gaelic Football Season Rules

This document is a summary of rules as defined in the GFHA Australasia Rule Book (RB) and GFHASA Bye Laws (BL), along with rules accepted by the GFHASA Committee prior to the 2010-2011 season. For a complete listing of rules, please refer to these documents which are available on the GFHASA website (www.gaelicfootballsau.com.au) or by contacting the Secretary secretary@gaelicfootballsau.com.au.

1. Teams

- 1.1 **Nominations:** Team nominations must be received by the GFHASA Secretary on the team nomination form no later than the dates below.
State League: Friday 20th September.
Gaelic 7's: Sunday 31st October.
- 1.2 **Names:** Team names must be approved by the GFHASA Committee.
- 1.3 **Uniform:** Team uniforms and colours must be submitted for approval by the GFHASA Committee. Should a team change their uniform design they must submit the new design for approval. Goalkeepers shall wear a distinctive jersey.
- 1.4 **Numbering:** Uniforms should have numbers between 1 and 25 and teams submitting new jersey designs from this point forward must also include the player number on the front of the jersey.
- 1.5 **Colour Clash:** Should there be a clash of colours between two teams, the GFHASA Committee shall direct one team to change to colours approved by the GFHASA Committee.
Fine: \$40 minimum for infringing this rule (RB).
- 1.6 **Sponsorship:** Sponsorship is allowed on playing gear subject to the rules in the GFHA Australasia Official Guide (RB).
- 1.7 **Registration:** All players must complete a player registration form before they play their first game.
Penalty: For playing an unregistered player, \$100 fine and loss of the match (RB, BL).

2. Fees

- 2.1 **Team Affiliation:** Each team must pay an affiliation fee as defined below.
State League: \$250
Gaelic 7's: \$100
Exception: Teams participating in the State League competition, who have been in the competition for three or more seasons, that fail to supply a referee must pay double the affiliation fees (BL).
- 2.2 **Player Registration:** Each team must pay a **\$35 registration fee** for each player.
- 2.3 **Match Fees:** Each team must pay a match fee (approximately \$7 per player) as defined below.

State League: \$110

Gaelic 7's: \$70

- 2.4 **Forfeits:** The forfeiting team shall be liable to pay a forfeit fee as defined below. There is no fee for the opposition team (even if a scratch match is played).
State League: \$55 if notice given the previous day or earlier, otherwise full match fee.
Gaelic 7's: \$35 if notice given the previous day or earlier, otherwise full match fee.
- 2.5 **Fines:** The GFHASA reserve the right to charge team fines as outlined in this document.
- 2.6 **Teams in Debt:** Teams that owe significant amounts of money to the GFHASA will be liable for forfeiture of games and withdrawal from the competition.

3. Match Officials

- 3.1 **Goal Umpires/Linesman:** State League teams are required to supply 2 goal umpires and 1 linesman for the game immediately after their own (should there be one). Gaelic 7's teams are only required to supply 1 goal umpire for their own game (although two are recommended). State League teams receive payments for each goal umpire/linesman as defined below.
State League: \$7
Fine: \$10 per official not supplied.
- 3.2 **Referees:** The Association supplies all referees, all of whom must have attended a referee's coaching course and received, or are undergoing, level 1 accreditation (BL). The referee receives payments as defined below.
Accredited Level 1 or higher: \$35
Undergoing Level 1 accreditation: \$30
Penalty: Teams that have been in State League competition for three or more years and have not supplied a referee will be liable to the loss of one premiership point per season, as well as the doubling of affiliation fees as described in 2.1 above.
- 3.3 **Trainer:** A trainer will be present at all games. Players wishing to be strapped can have this done by the trainer with their team charged depending on the amount of tape used (between \$2 and \$6).
- 3.4 **Forfeits:** Only the referee shall be paid when a scratch match is played after a forfeit. Teams are not required to supply goal/umpires and linesman for a scratch match.

4. Playing Rules

- 4.1 **Number of Players:** Teams shall consist of players as defined below:
State League: 13 players on the field and up to 6 reserves/interchange players. In men's football, a team may start and finish a game with a minimum of 11 players. In women's football, a team may start and finish a game with a minimum of 11 players. If both teams have sufficient players and agree, a match can be played as 15-a-side with 6 interchange players. However, if both teams have 18 or more players, the match must be played as 15-a-side unless the Hot Weather Policy is enforced (BL).
Gaelic 7's: 7 players on the field and up to 4 reserves/interchange players. A team may start and finish a game with a minimum of 5 players.
- 4.2 **Starting Times:** Teams must take the field by the appointed start time. A team taking the field more than fifteen minutes after the appointed starting time shall be liable to forfeiture of the game in which case the game shall be awarded to the opposing team.
Fine: \$20 for every five minutes of part thereof. (RB)

- 4.3 **Duration:** The playing time shall consist of two halves as defined below. An interval not exceeding ten minutes shall be allowed at half time following which the teams shall change ends. In grand finals, the playing time will be extended by 5 minutes per half.
State League: 25 minutes
Gaelic 7's: 25 minutes
Exception 1: Matches may be played as 4 quarters as defined in the GFHASA Hot Weather Policy in the case of extreme heat.
Exception 2: A game starting more than 5 minutes late may be reduced by an equivalent time (i.e. A match starting 15 minutes late may be reduced by 5 minutes per half).
- 4.4 **Interchange:** There shall be no limit to the number of substitutions allowed and substitutions can be made at any time. A substitution is not allowed in the case of a player ordered off and all substitutions must be from players on the official list furnished to the referee.
- 4.5 **Team sheets:** Teams must submit team sheets to the referee no later than half time. The team sheet must clearly indicate the number of jersey worn by each player and must include full names. *It is essential that handwriting is clear and legible.*
Fine: \$50 for failing to provide a team sheet. (RB).
- 4.6 **Runners:** Two runners per team are allowed on to the field of play during a game. They must not interfere with play or stay on the ground unnecessarily and must wear a bib to distinguish themselves from players.
- 4.7 **Rules:** All playing rules are as defined in the GFHA of Australasia Rule Book.
Note: Handballing to yourself can only be used to avoid a defender and not as an alternative to a hand-to-toe to avoid the overcarrying/overholding rule.

5. Ladders & Finals

- 5.1 **Points:** A team will receive 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss (RB).
- 5.2 **Equal Points:** In the event that more than one team finishes on the same number of points, placings shall be determined by score difference. A team finishing with a greater difference between its "score for" and "score against" shall be placed higher on the table than the other team(s) on the same number of points.
- 5.3 **Forfeits:** The forfeiting team receives 0 added to their "score for" and 20 added to their "score against". The opposing team receives 20 added to their "score for" and 0 added to their "score against", as well as 2 competition points for the win.
- 5.4 **Eligibility for finals:** *To be confirmed.*
- 5.5 **Extra time in finals:** If scores are level at the end of normal time in a finals match, two five minute halves will be played. This will continue until there is a result.

6. Miscellaneous

- 6.1 **Competitions:** Players may play in both the State League and Gaelic 7's competitions. They may play for a different State League team and a Gaelic 7's team subject to the agreement of the teams.
- 6.2 **Provisional Draw:** Where possible, a provisional draw will be sent to all teams for discussion. Every effort will be made to satisfy team requests for match days and/or times.
- 6.3 **Best Players:** Referees award best player votes (3,2,1) in all games with best players awarded at the GFHASA Presentation Night.
- 6.4 **Policies:** All teams and players must adhere to GFHASA policies (Anti-Discrimination and Harassment, Anti-Doping, Code of Ethics, Junior (underage), Member Protection, Racial and Religious Vilification and Sexual Relations). Refer to GFHASA website (www.gaelicfootballs.com.au) for more information.
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- 6.5 **Payment:** All payments are now to be made by cheque or electronically.
Fine: **One premiership point per season for not paying by the due date unless discussed first with the state treasurer, at the discretion of the GFHASA committee.**
- 6.6 **Bar Duties:** All teams will be rostered on designated nights to be responsible for the bar. Prior to the rostered night, the team will nominate a responsible person (known to the committee), who will be to be accountable for operations on that night, although anyone delegated by that team can be on the bar at any time.
- 6.7 **Goal kicking rule (Gaelic 7's only):** Teams will be limited to 5 goals per team per match. Any goals scored after the fifth goal, will be rewarded one point rather than three (with the exception of penalties).
- 6.8 **Changes:** The GFHASA Committee reserves the right to change any rule herein and is subject to change without notice, although best efforts will be made to communicate any changes to the membership.