



VFA NIGHT MATCH POLICY

PREAMBLE

The VFA recognises the opportunities for clubs to play night matches. By playing at night it gives players the opportunity to watch their other teams in action whether it is Under 19, Club XVIII, Thirds or Seniors. It allows the club to showcase their players to school/junior players who normally participate in Saturday sport. Many of the clubs supporters have varied interests and jobs that require their presence on a Saturday afternoon; these people will now have the opportunity to attend a VFA match. Added to this the other VFA clubs who participate in the day are able to go to a VFA match without the stresses of managing or playing with their own team. Whilst there are many benefits, playing at night does have more risks with supporters able to break VFA rules under the cover of darkness. The most obvious of these is the consumption of alcohol. It is therefore important that clubs hosting night matches are more vigilant in their security at the ground.

It is therefore necessary that the VFA has a separate set of criteria for hosting night matches in addition to day matches.

PROCEDURE FOR SENIOR NIGHT MATCHES

1. Prior to any request to the VFA the Home Club must receive consent from the opposition club.
2. A minimum of four weeks prior to the match, the Home Club is to request to the VFA their intention to play a night match.
3. The VFA to respond to the club within five working days.
4. A bond of \$500 payable by the home club and a letter signed by both clubs stating they accept liability for events which occur as a result of the game being played at night time. The bond and letter must be received by VFA administration by 12 noon Thursday, prior to the scheduled match.
5. The Clubs agree to the VFA rules and in particular the VFA's Alcohol Policy
6. Clubs to advise the VFA of what extra procedures are put in place to mitigate the risk of alcohol consumption.
7. The Home Club is to write to the local police advising them that they are hosting a night match. Note: the Clubs are not abrogating and implying some transfer of responsibility from the club to the police.
8. All VFA match day requirements, including a match day manager, must be adhered to.
9. All promotional material on the match is to contain messages that the consumption of alcohol is banned at VFA matches.
10. Both Club Presidents, and their proxies, to reinforce the alcohol messages verbally to the club's players and supporters on the final training night prior to the match.
11. For Saturday night matches, each U19, thirds, reserves and Club XVIII coach is to remind their players after the match that day of the VFA Alcohol Policy.
12. At venues where a social club is in operation during the playing of a night game, VFA spectators, officials and players are not to enter these premises for the purposes of consuming alcohol.

13. If evidence of alcohol abuse is reported or noted the bond will be forfeited immediately and an extra fine may be imposed.
14. Night matches booked for Sportscover Arena will incur a charge of \$400 (excluding the bond) to cover costs including ground manager, lights and cleaning. This will be charged to the club requesting the match.
15. Two brand new yellow Sherrin footballs must be presented to the umpires prior to the match.
16. The ground lights must adhere to the Australian Rules Football Lighting Policy and maintain an average horizontal illuminance (lux) of 150.
17. A club can appeal to the full VAFA Board any alleged breaches that cause the forfeiture of their bond and any other investigation outcomes.

PROCEDURE FOR U19/THIRDS/CLUB XVIII MATCHES

1. Prior to any request to the VAFA the Home Club must receive consent from the opposition club.
2. A minimum of three weeks prior to the match, the Home Club is to request to the VAFA their intention to play a night match.
3. A bond of \$500 and a letter stating the home club accepts liability for events which occur as a result of the game being played at night time rather than day. The bond and letter must be received by VAFA administration by 12 noon Thursday, prior to the scheduled match.
4. The VAFA to respond to the club within five working days.
5. The Clubs agree to the VAFA rules and in particular the VAFA's Alcohol Policy
6. Clubs to advise the VAFA of what extra procedures are put in place to mitigate the risk of alcohol consumption.
7. All VAFA match day requirements, including a match day manager, must be adhered to.
8. All promotional material on the match is to contain messages that the consumption of alcohol is banned at VAFA matches.
9. Both Club Presidents, or their proxies, to reinforce the alcohol messages verbally to the club's players and supporters on the final training night prior to the match.
10. At venues where a social club is in operation during the playing of a night game, VAFA spectators, officials and players are not to enter these premises for the purposes of consuming alcohol.
11. If evidence of alcohol abuse is reported or noted the bond will be forfeited immediately and an extra fine may be imposed.
12. Night matches booked for Sportscover Arena will incur a charge of \$400 (excluding the bond) to cover costs including ground manager, lights and cleaning. This will be charged to the club requesting the match.
13. Two yellow Sherrin footballs of very good condition must be presented to the umpires prior to the match.
14. The ground lights must adhere to the Australian Rules Football Lighting Policy and maintain an average horizontal illuminance (lux) of 100.