

Victorian Basketball League Inc.
(Trading as the Big V Basketball)



BY-LAWS

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DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In these By-laws, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and expressions have the following meanings.

"Annual General Meeting" means the Annual General Meeting of the member Associations held in accordance with the Constitution.

"Basketball Australia" means Basketball Australia Incorporated.

"Basketball Victoria" means the Basketball Victoria Incorporated.

"Big V" means the trading name of the Victorian Basketball League Inc. otherwise known as the VBL.

"Big V fixture" means a basketball game which is part of the Big V or any fixture designated by the Board 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 Referee Commissioner and/or a Referee.

"Board" means the Executive.

"By-laws" means these By-laws of the Big V as amended from time to time.

"Chief Executive Officer" means the person who holds the position of CEO of the Big V from time to time.

"Competition Manager" means the person who holds the position of Competition Manager.

"Association" means the Club which has been granted membership as per the Constitution.

"Association compliance system" means the arrangement by which points are accumulated by Associations for breaches of the By-laws and a fine is imposed.

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

"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.

"Constitution" means the Constitution and statement of purpose of the Victorian Basketball League as amended from time to time.

"Delegate" means the nominated delegate of any Big V Association.

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

"Finals" means the series of games as determined by the Board, played at the Big V Basketball By-laws

completion of the regular Big V season by the Associations to determine the team which becomes the champion 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 By-laws.

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

"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.

"League" means the Victorian Basketball League Inc. otherwise known as the VBL or Big V.

"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.

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

"Referees Commissioner" means a person appointed by the Board to manage matters relating to 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 5.1.1 of these By-laws.

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

"Special General Meeting" means all General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting of the member Associations held in accordance with the Constitution.

"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.

"NBL" means the National Basketball League of Australia.

"Venue audit checklist" 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 and independent body that delivers high quality dispute resolution.

"**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 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 whole 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 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-wide basketball competition for senior players in Victoria in the most professional manner and to the highest standard possible;
- (b) Provide a basketball pathway for Associations and players, coaches and technical officials to develop their skills to the best that their abilities allow, with the possibility of progressing 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 a bridge 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 named State Championship while those below are named 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 named Victorian Youth Championship while those below are named Youth League 1, Youth League 2, etc. or as otherwise decided by the Board. 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 By-laws

In general the By-laws apply to all divisions, there are some differences and where this is the case it is noted in the By-laws.

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, including newly entered teams, should play in divisions in which they are competitive on court and sufficiently resourced to maintain teams;

- (b) Divisions are not governed by numbers – that is, there are no limits on the number of teams that should be in each division, rather, the size of each division is flexible to cope with those teams that have the capacity to compete in those divisions;
- (c) Where appropriate, the Board 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:

State championship teams

- a) Promotion and entry of teams in State Championship division require a formal application in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - 1. Associations team performance record and pathway;
 - 2. Associations team roster/s;
 - 3. Associations governance and management of operations;
 - 4. Historical working relationship and communication with competition management;
 - 5. Financial management and performance;
 - 6. Promotion and marketing of associations teams (including game day presentation);
 - 7. Historical attendances;
 - 8. Venue standard.

The team that wins the division one championship will be promoted provided they meet the above guidelines.

The Board sub committee will review the application and can request further information before inviting the applicant to an interview to expand on the application.

The Board sub committee will make a recommendation to the Board to either accept or reject the application with the association/s being informed prior to the AGM.

All other teams

- b) Promotion of teams will be on the basis of a team winning the grand final of their division or formal application.

The process for formal application is:

- 1. By the end of August each year the CEO will call for expressions of interest from those Associations interested in having any of their teams competing in a higher division in the following season;

2. Associations wishing to compete will submit an expression of interest by the date set by the CEO;
3. A Board sub-committee of three (including the CEO) will review each applicant, seek input and provide feedback on the following areas:
 - i. Playing strength, current and proposed;
 - ii. Game promotion;
 - iii. Administration (Association to office);
 - iv. Ability to meet financial commitments.
4. After interview, each applicant will then be required to submit a proposal for promotion, based on feedback received;
5. The Board sub-committee will review each proposal and make a recommendation to the Board;
6. The Board is empowered to decide on which teams will be accepted for promotion. These will be informed prior to the AGM of the League and an announcement of same made at the AGM.

Relegation

State championship teams

- c) The team that finishes bottom of the State Championship division will be relegated.

All other teams

- d) Relegation will be on the basis of a team finishing on the bottom of their division ladder, formal application or on the recommendation of the Board.

The process for formal application is:

1. An Association may apply for relegation of any of its teams based on its own assumptions about future playing strength, financial capacity or other reasons;
2. The Board may decide to relegate a team based on failure to meet the League guidelines as set out in 2.3.1 of these By-laws;
3. In all cases, a Board sub-committee of three (including the CEO) will review all team's performance, and in consultation with the teams, make recommendations to the Board on teams that should be relegated;
4. The Board is empowered to decide on which teams will be relegated, teams will be informed prior to the AGM of the League and with a formal announcement made at the same AGM.

(c) Considerations in divisional restructures

In cases where circumstances are such that the Board determines that a restructure of divisions shall occur between seasons, the relative position of teams that would otherwise have been promoted or relegated as a result of their on court performance shall be taken into account.

PART 2 – LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

2.1 By-laws

2.1.1 Establishment

These By-laws are provided to each member Association and are framed to ensure the smooth operation of the Big V during the Big V season. The By-laws may change from season to season subject to 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 By-laws may be amended only by approval of BV and a majority of Associations at the AGM or Special General Meeting, with proposals for amendments being submitted as special business in accordance with the Constitution.

2.1.3 Management and appeal

The CEO of the League shall in the first instance interpret and apply the By-laws and make decisions based on them.

The Board shall act as a final point of appeal for decisions made by the CEO in relation to the By-laws.

2.1.4 Items not provided for

The Board shall have the power to decide on any questions not provided for in the By-laws.

2.2 Penalties

2.2.1 League penalties

The Board may impose penalties upon individual players, Associations, members of Associations or technical officials as it sees fit. Penalties may be in the form of fines, championship points, suspension or disqualification from Big V fixtures or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Board from time to time. All penalties will be notified in writing to all Associations by the CEO.

The CEO is empowered to impose fines for non-compliance with the By-laws and as specified below in 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5.

2.2.2 Association compliance system

The Association compliance system is a mechanism for the CEO and Board to maintain League standards and ensure compliance of all Associations with the expectations of these By-laws.

Throughout these By-laws points are referred to in brackets after certain clauses and paragraphs. These points are the basis of the Association compliance system. Where the CEO detects a breach of these By-laws they will apply the appropriate indicated points to that breach. As an Association accumulates points they shall be fined in accordance with the level of fines as approved by the members at the AGM or a Special General Meeting.

The points are cumulative throughout the season.

The point levels are defined below:

20 points within the season*:	automatic fine
Further 20 points (total 40):	additional fine
Further 20 points (total 60)	additional fine
Further 20 points (total 80)	additional fine
Further 20 points (total 100)	additional fine

* For this purpose, the season will be defined as the operational year between AGMs of the League.

Where an Association incurs a point penalty the CEO will inform the Association of the penalty and they will have the right to appeal as detailed in these By-laws.

Should an Association exceed 100 points in a given season the Board 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 nominated player to attend All-Star game;
- (b) Failure of nominated player to attend All-Star game (slam dunk or 3 point shootout);
- (c) Failure to respond to any administrative requests within deadlines;
- (d) Failure by an Association representative to attend AGM, Special General Meeting or any Big V meeting sanctioned by the Board as 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% fine refunded to the visiting team);
- (b) Where the visiting team forfeits (70% fine refunded to the home team);

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

2.2.5 Changes to venue/fixture

- (a) An administrative fee (fine) per change after the final fixture is published.

2.2.6 Payment of fines

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

Where League issued invoices 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 Board empowered to take action.

2.2.7 Appeals

Associations may lodge an appeal, in writing through the CEO, within seven (7) days of the fine being notified. Appeals relating to decisions made by the CEO shall be referred to the Board for consideration. The decision of the Board will be final.

2.3 Member Conduct

2.3.1 Member Review

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

Notwithstanding this, the Board, in respect of these By-laws shall review Associations where their performance is such that the financial and operational integrity of the League may be negatively affected.

The following issues shall automatically provide cause for such a review:

- (a) Playing strength to the extent that that a team's game win percentage drops to 20% or less;
- (b) Game conduct and promotion where there is a significant and repeated infringement of the appropriate By-laws;

- (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 deadlines are consistently not being met;
- (e) Playing facilities to the extent that there is a significant and repeated failing in regard to the Big V venue criteria and where bona fide efforts are not being made to correct these failings;
- (f) Financial commitments where such commitments are not being met within specified time frames and where penalties have not been complied.

2.3.2 Conduct detrimental or prejudicial to Big V

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

This will include:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike behavior
Any Association, coach, player, Association support staff (including cheerleaders and courtside announcers) or technical official that acts in an unsportsmanlike manner may be referred to the BV or VBRA Tribunal;
- (b) Disorders
The behaviour of players, coaches, management 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 BV 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 who is found by the Board to have pursued and/or harassed technical officials before, during, or after a game will be subject to similar penalties.

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 Board is empowered to impose a fine or recommend expulsion, in the event that any adverse media comment is reported, and after investigation is proven. The Board, have discretion with respect to the amount of fine to be imposed;

(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 BV or VBRA Tribunal;

(e) Language

Coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, players and technical officials (including public announcers) 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 BV or VBRA Tribunal;

(f) Code of conduct

Each player, coach and technical official is required to be familiar with and to abide by the relevant Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct on a continuing basis.

2.4 League finance

2.4.1 Budgets

The Board, through the Treasurer, will present to the Associations a financial budget for the coming season. This budget will be presented for approval by the Associations at the AGM.

Each member Association is expected to develop an annual financial budget which is to be made available to the CEO upon request and which will be held in strictest confidence. (20 points)

The Board has the responsibility to ensure the financial viability of member 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 Board is empowered to assist with the development of member 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

A new member Association entry fee will be established at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution.

2.4.3 Annual management fee

An annual administration fee applicable for teams entering each division will be established at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution. 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.

2.4.4 Application for entry

Once an application for entry has been accepted within the competition structure and team fees have been approved by the members at the AGM an Association is liable for a minimum of 50% of the entry and annual management (team) fee. If an Association withdraws a team after the fixture has been finalised a forfeit fee for each game of the season will also apply.

2.4.5 Un-financial Association

An un-financial Association, on the recommendation of the CEO and with the approval of the Board, will not be permitted to participate in the AGM or Big V competition.

An Association will be deemed un-financial when it has accounts outstanding to Big V (including entry fee, management fee or fines monies or part thereof) upon which the date specified for payment has expired (refer to 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 major sponsor of the Big V or BV. The Board will notify all Associations annually who are the major sponsors;
- (c) Where, prior to notification of the major sponsors, an Association has entered into a sponsorship agreement with an Association sponsor whose business is in direct competition with the 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 major sponsor(s);

- (d) The 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 Board;
- (e) The Big V may arrange its own sponsorship;
- (f) League sponsorship money 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 majority of member Associations.
- (g) Except as otherwise approved by the Board, an Association shall display such signage as directed by the CEO in support of the Big V major sponsor(s),(refer to 3.3.2 (b));
- (h) Penalty for non-compliance, if proven, shall be such penalty as deemed appropriate by the Board.

2.5.2 Big V trademark (logo)

- (a) The 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 from time to time.

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 CEO which will not be unreasonably withheld.

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

PART 3 - ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Member Associations

Only Associations admitted as members to the Victorian Basketball League may

compete in the Big V competition. Eligibility and membership details are contained in the 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 CEO 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 venues providing less than satisfactory equipment and services may be submitted by an Association or technical official to the CEO. The CEO may refer such a report to the Board for its consideration. This may result in fines or re-fixturing away from the venue of the offending Association;
- (c) Satisfactory 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 fixture;
 - 6. A score bench to seat a minimum of four technical officials, with possession arrow and foul lights affixed (refer 7.5.12);
 - 7. A game ball and a spare 'blood' ball (refer 7.5.6);
 - 8. Adequate change room facilities for visiting teams and referees (refer 7.5.2 & 6.3.3);
 - 9. A courtside announcer for each home game (refer 7.5.11);
 - 10. Floor wipers (refer 7.5.10);
 - 11. Any other reasonable equipment requested in writing by the Big V;

12. Statisticians to record game statistics (refer 7.5.12).

- (d) Associations must comply with the League issued venue audit checklist and return a completed checklist to the Competition Manager prior to the commencement of each Season;
- (e) Approval for use of a venue other than that used by the Association in the prior season must be sought prior to the commencement of each new Big V season.

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 CEO; (15 points)
- (b) Each Big V venue shall display signage in respect of Big V sponsors as provided by and in a manner requested by the CEO; (15 points) **(new)**
- (c) Each Big V venue shall display the Australian national flag such that it is clearly visible during all games. (10 points)

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 Competition Manager.

3.4.2 Home team uniform

The team designated as the home team for any Big V fixture is entitled to wear its chosen uniform, but both Associations share the responsibility to achieve an acceptable contrast. The onus is on the visiting team to take note of the home Association advice so as to achieve this.

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 accordance with the Style Guide.

3.4.7 Team bench dress code

Overall standards

All team staff shall be required to dress in a way that clearly distinguishes them as part of the team and from other game night staff.

The best description of the standard for non-playing staff would be business casual. The best description for playing staff would be playing uniform. The practical implications of this 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 of some type and the jacket must be either an Association tracksuit jacket or other jacket that fits the general description of business casual wear.

Denim, shorts or track suit pants are not acceptable for Coaches and their Assistants.

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

Team managers

Recognising that team managers have differing responsibilities this 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 full tracksuit, that is, matching top and bottom. The tracksuit top must carry Association branding.

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

Obviously in warmer weather a tracksuit bottom and Association polo shirt are suitable.

Players

Players must arrive to the game wearing either an Association branded polo-shirt or jacket and black dress pants. The other option is an Association branded tracksuit or in the warmer weather Association branded tracksuit pants and an Association branded polo-shirt.

Other team staff

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

Squad players

Squad Players not participating in the game may sit with the team provided they are dressed to the same standard as the coaching staff or in a full team tracksuit as per the team manager. If they are not dressed to this standard, they should be seated as 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.

3.5.2 Crowd attendance

The official attendance number must be entered on the game day form.

PART 4 - TEAM ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Team content

4.1.1 Restricted player limit

(a) Teams competing in the State Championship division are limited to a maximum of three (3) players who are restricted players. No more than two players from either category A or B are allowed (refer 5.1.1(a)). Following is a list of how the make-up of restricted players may be comprised;

	Category A	Category B	Category C
Option 1	2	0	1
Option 2	0	2	1
Option 3	1	1	1
Option 4	0	1	2
Option 5	0	0	3
Option 6	1	0	2

(b) Teams competing in the Victorian Youth Championship or Youth League divisions may not include restricted players;

(c) Teams competing in all other divisions are limited to no more than one (1) restricted player. However, for these divisions and at the discretion of the CEO, one additional player who is not a citizen of a country within the FIBA Oceania region may be approved to be registered as a non-restricted player where the CEO is satisfied that the following principles have been applied:

1. The recruitment of the player by the Association will not unduly affect the balance of the competition;
2. All requests must be lodged in writing by the Association at least fourteen (14) days prior to the game in which the Association wishes such a player to play.

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 three criteria will define a restricted player:

Category A

A player who is not a citizen of a country within the FIBA Oceania region is a Category A player.

Category B and C

Any player who is a citizen of a country within the FIBA Oceania region and last played in the season immediately preceding the current Big V Season in a Euro League team or any top division of a competition in the countries listed below shall have their category determined by the following playing time criteria.

A player who averaged greater than 50% of available court time is a Category B player.

A male player who averaged between 25% and 50% of available court time is a Category C player.

A female player who averaged between 35% and 50% of available court time is a Category C player.

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	New Zealand	Yugoslavia
France	Poland	
Germany	Russia	

- (b) 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 then the player would be treated as a restricted player;

- (c) 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. However, the player will require a FIBA special player licence.

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, B or C;
- (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.

5.1.3 Restricted player procedures

- (a) Each Association shall notify the Competition Manager, on a Big V Import 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 4.1.1, the Association will nominate, in writing to the Competition Manager seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the finals, which restricted players will compete for that Association in the season's finals. The category mix in 4.1.1 must be adhered to. No subsequent amendment to the restricted player nomination list will be permitted under any circumstances;
- (c) The Competition Manager must be notified in writing of the replacement of a restricted player and the restricted player being replaced, prior to them participating in a Big V game;

- (d) Registration requirements for restricted players are as for any Big V player and in addition 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 naturalization must lodge certificate of Australian citizenship with the Competition Manager prior to participating in the Big V as a non-restricted player.

5.2 Registration

- (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 registration system. A team that plays an unregistered player will forfeit the game (20 points);
- (b) No player may register to compete in the competition unless they are capable of qualifying for the finals series. Under special circumstances the CEO may accept the registration outside this period; such a registration must not affect the fairness of competition within the division;
- (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; (20 points)
- (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 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 Manager 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 Junior Championships or Australia on official national duties at national camps or playing for Australia 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 Manager at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the finals and the details of games missed 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.

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;
- (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.

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 complete before registering 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;
- (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;

- (c) Clearance from a non-Australian Association
For clearances where the player last played 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.

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 By-law 5.5 (a), may apply in writing to the Competition Manager at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the finals for permission to play in the finals. Applications subsequent to that deadline 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 CEO 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 at the earlier of 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 statement 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 also be referred to the CEO for further action as may be determined appropriate in such circumstances, including but not limited to a fine, compliance points penalty, or forfeit final series.

PART 6 - ADMINISTRATION OF REFEREES AND JUDICIARY

6.1 Referee administration

6.1.1 Referees Commissioner

The Board shall appoint a Referees Commissioner to supervise the scheduling, administration and development of Referees in conjunction with Victorian Basketball Referees Association (VBRA).

6.1.2 Appointment of Referees

Appointment of Referees will be made by the Big V Referees Commissioner.

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 reports 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 Manager 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 playing rules described in these By-laws;
- (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 Competition Manager any activity associated with the fixture in which they officiate which they may deem as unsportsmanlike or unprofessional.

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 Manager.

6.3 Home Association obligations to referees

6.3.1 Referee liaison officer

Associations are to have a liaison person at every game that will look after the reasonable needs of the referees. (10 points) They are also 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. (20 points)

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 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 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; (5 points)
- (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 during a fixture for the referees.

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. (10 points)
Home Associations are to ensure that they are invited to the post game function and treated as guests. (5 points)

6.4 Referee finance

6.4.1 Referee payments

The League via the Referees Commissioner is responsible for match and travel expense payments. These payments will be as approved by the Board 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 approved budget on application to the CEO.

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 themself;
- (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 CEO or Board. The Investigations Officer will operate within the parameters of their role as detailed in 6.5.2;
- (d) All protests and complaints shall be referred in the first instance to the CEO;
- (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. (20 points)

6.5.2 League investigations officer

- (a) As required the Board 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 Board or CEO;
- (b) Where a situation, or complaint, requiring investigation is referred to the CEO, action will only be taken where a formal written complaint or application is received requesting an investigation is sent to the CEO before any investigation will be instigated;
- (c) If deemed necessary the matter will be referred to the Investigations Officer by the CEO for investigation;
- (d) The Board or CEO 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 CEO. 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 CEO 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 CEO or Board;
- (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 CEO 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 Board's direction the Competition Manager will determine the fixtures for the regular season and for finals, with fixtures will be drawn up to be as fair, both competitively and economically, as possible. Double headers will be fixtured wherever possible;
- (b) Strong preference of the League is for regular season games to be scheduled on weekends. Associations may make requests for midweek games to the Competition Manager; the visiting team has the overall right of refusal;
- (c) League games shall not commence earlier than 6:00pm on a Saturday and 12:00noon on a Sunday nor commence later than 8:30pm on a Saturday and 3:00pm on a Sunday without the express permission of the CEO. Such permission shall not unreasonably be withheld.

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 Manager 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 Manager 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 Manager will attempt to issue to Associations a copy of the official fixtures for the forthcoming 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 a penalty in the form of a fine may be applied by the CEO.

7.1.6 Game abandonment

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

The final decision as to whether the game is abandoned lies with the Competition Manager. If the Competition Manager cannot be contacted, this decision may be made by the CEO. If neither the Competition Manager nor the CEO 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 CEO at their discretion and after consultation with the Referees, Game Commissioner and Competition Manager may determine the actions to be followed. This decision can include rescheduling of games that have no commenced and replaying of games that have commenced.

7.1.7 Team withdrawal

Should a team for some reason withdraw from the competition prior to the completion of the regular season, the Competition Manager shall determine the fairest way to adjust the competition so that 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 not less than twenty (20) minutes on the playing court.

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; (10 points)
- (b) When all players, team officials and referees have been announced, prior to all finals games and games where home association chooses to do so the Australia national anthem will be played by the Court Announcer or sung by a performer. (10 points) 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 and be communicated by the home Association to the visiting team;
- (e) Both teams must be present on court for the introductions. Any team failing to appear will be subject to penalty or further action that may be appropriate in such circumstances including but not limited to a fine, compliance points, or loss of competition points.

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) shall apply to all Big V games unless otherwise directed by the Competition Manager. 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 so on 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 Manager. 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 Manager.

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 Manager 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 it will be approved by the Competition Manager.

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 Referees Commissioner 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. (10 points) The Game Commissioner must be easily identifiable and is responsible for, among other things:

1. Game timing;
2. Game statistics collection for both teams, score sheet and MVP voting form for both teams;
3. Video recording of the game;
4. Compliance with uniform By-laws;
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 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 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); (10 points)

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 CEO.

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, match preview, League provided competition reviews and previews, ladders and season fixture, together with any other content requested by the CEO from time to time. (10 points) 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. (5 points)

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. (10 points) 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 CEO. (10 points)

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. 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 altered 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; (10 points)
- (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 is 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 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 recognise official guests to the audience as a whole;
- (g) 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 referees 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.
5. 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 Board 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 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 Board.

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; (10 points)
- (b) The home Association is responsible for recording the statistics of the game and providing this information to both teams and to the Competition Manager in accordance with the following: (10 points)
 - 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;
 - 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 of the score sheet 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;
- (b) The video, in original format or saved in another suitable format is to be uploaded by close of business Wednesday following the weekend's games and to be retained for at least fourteen (14) days after the match. A copy of the game video is to be made available in a convenient format to the CEO, Referees Commissioner or visiting team upon request within this period;
- (c) The video recording must cover the whole game and may not be edited. Game breaks, including quarter and three quarter time, must be recorded together with the first minute of the half time break and one minute after the game full time; (20 points)
- (d) Associations must ensure that the games are competently recorded in that they are clear and focused.

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 must be emailed and/or uploaded as directed by the Competition Manager; (10 points)
- (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; (5 points)
- (c) The originals of the score sheet, game box score, and MVP voting forms from each coach and game day form must be mailed to the League office no later than Monday after the game. (5 points)

7.5.16 Post game hospitality

To promote good sportsmanship, the League requires that each home Association hosts a post-match function 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; (20 points)
- (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 officials' names, 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; (10 points)
- (b) Change uniforms in the event of a colour clash with the home team uniforms, i.e. the home team has choice of uniform colour; (15 points)
- (c) Complete the MVP voting form in accordance with the post-game procedure (refer 7.5.15);
- (d) Attend the post-game hospitality of the home Association. (15 points)

7.7 Protest procedures

7.7.1 Protest

Any Team desiring to lodge a protest (as defined by FIBA) in respect to any match, must lodge such a protest in writing with the CEO 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.

7.7.2 Notification of protest

Upon receipt of a protest, the CEO 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 related 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 CEO;
- (b) Notwithstanding clause 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
- (c) the game with a score of zero (0) points to twenty (20);
- (d) When play in a fixture commences 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 fixture 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) Two teams with equal win/loss results will be determined in accordance with FIBA rules;
- (c) More than two teams with equal win/loss results will be determined in accordance with FIBA rules;
- (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 Board and published at the AGM 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 fixture in order to meet Season timing objectives;
 4. Best of three finals series shall always be played on a Saturday (Week 1), Saturday (Week 2) 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;
 6. Associations, that for reasons of venue unavailability or clashes, cannot host a final set for their venue, may forfeit the right to a home final completely at the discretion of the CEO and subject to the appeal to the Board.
- (b) A draft finals schedule will be drawn up as soon as is practicable by the Competition Manager following the completion of the Big V regular season games. Such a schedule will take account of fixturing requests of the Associations involved. The draft schedule will then be referred to the Associations involved for comment prior to finalisation. The finals fixtures will then be finalised and provided to all Associations;
- (c) Appropriate seating should be reserved for Big V representatives. The CEO 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 CEO.

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 (MVP automatically takes an All-Star 5 position);
- (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 21 as of the end of the calendar year, previous winners are ineligible;
- (d) Rising star, based on age, with player under 21 as of the end of the calendar year, previous winners are ineligible;
- (e) Defensive player of the year;
- (f) 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 enough games to qualify for finals.

A Grand Finals MVP will be awarded in each division.

Referees appointed to each division's Grand Final series will be awarded the Referee of the Year Award.

8.1.2 Game by game voting

The coach of each team shall award votes after each game; awarding ten (10) votes to players of either team, with a maximum of five (5) votes to be awarded to any individual player.

The Competition Manager 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

At the conclusion of the home and away rounds, the top ten vote getters in each non-statistical award category will be issued to each team head coach and captain, who will then vote (3, 2, 1) for their best three players, with three votes to the best player. Coaches and captains are prohibited from voting for players and coaches from their own team.

In the event of a tie, two trophies will be awarded.

8.2 Use of Illegal Drugs

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

8.3 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;
- (b) Any spectator who uses obscene, profane or objectionable language in a manner which, in the opinion of the referees, is so 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.

8.4 Promotion/Media

8.4.2 Game promotion

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

8.5 Big V All Star Game

- (a) The CEO on direction of the Board may implement the staging of All-Star games;
- (b) Associations may not unreasonably prevent a player/or coach from participating in any official Big V All-Star game.