

**AFL South Coast**



**BY-LAWS  
2019**

1 April 2019

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## INTRODUCTION

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The following By-Laws have been made by AFL South Coast pursuant to its role to administer Australian Football Competitions in the South Coast region.

## DEFINITIONS

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All capitalised terms not defined in these By-Laws have the same meaning as in the Regulations.

In these By-Laws, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meaning.

**AFLSC** means AFL South Coast Inc

**AFLSC Website** means [www.aflsouthcoast.com.au](http://www.aflsouthcoast.com.au)

**Competition Management Committee** means the Committee established in accordance with AFL NSW / ACT Regulation 2.10

**Host Club** means the first named Club or Team in the official Season Fixture, but not always the venue of the first named Club (i.e. the Host Club), even when the Match is transferred to another venue.

**Junior** means a Player in the nine (9) to twelve (12) years age bracket, or Competition covering this age bracket.

**League** means the administrative body that oversees the AFLSC Seniors, Illawarra Juniors and Shoalhaven Juniors

**Match** means an official match in a Competition conducted by the League.

**Regional Variation** means a change or inclusion to the By-Laws of the Competition as provided for under By-Law 3.3 (A).

**Regulations** means the AFL NSW / ACT Regulations as published for the current season

**Season Fixture means** the official schedule of matches in a Competition as determined by the League prior to the commencement of a season.

**Senior** means a Player over the age of eighteen (18) years, or Player participating in a Competition conducted for players in this age bracket.

**Senior Football** means any game of the code other than Under Age Football

**Services** means Army, Navy and Air Force personnel

**Team** means a Club's team participating in a Match in a Competition conducted by the League.

**Team Sheet** means the list of Players and Officials in Footyweb as required, to participate in a Match.

**Youth** means a player in the thirteen (13) to eighteen (18) years age bracket, or Player participating in a Competition covering this age bracket.

## INTERPRETATION

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In the interpretation of these By-Laws, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these By-Laws;
- (d) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (e) any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these By-Laws shall have the meaning prescribed within the By-Laws; and words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these regulations shall be given their ordinary meaning

## **BY-LAWS**

### **1. AFL NSW/ACT REGULATIONS**

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- (A) All Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials must comply with the Regulations.
- (B) In the event of any inconsistency between the Regulations and these By-Laws, the Regulations will prevail.
- (C) AFL NSW/ACT may suspend any By-Law from operation. Any such suspension shall be advised to Leagues and Clubs in writing and shall remain in force until AFL NSW/ACT determines otherwise.

### **2. CLUB AFFILIATION**

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#### **2.1 Club Affiliation Conditions**

- (A) All Clubs must affiliate with the League in the form and on such conditions as determined by the League and AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.
- (B) Affiliation is granted to a Club by the League on an annual basis.
- (C) To be affiliated with the League, a Club must lodge an application for affiliation or participation, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed affiliation fee, the lodgement of a bond) to the Competition Management Committee and have its application for affiliation or participation approved by the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) The Club affiliation form and the amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee may:
  - a. approve a Club's affiliation application;
  - b. approve the Club's affiliation application on terms and conditions as it reasonably requires;
  - c. approve the Club's affiliation application with a request for further or additional information,

- or amend or revise the application;
  - d. refuse to grant the Club's affiliation application; or
  - e. defer same.
- (F) In determining whether to grant a Club's affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to By-Law 2(E), the Competition Management Committee shall take into account:
- a. the Club's structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long-term planning and development;
  - b. the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of Australian Football;
  - c. the financial health of the Club;
  - d. the behavioural and conduct history of the Club, its Teams, Players, Officials, volunteers and spectators, and the Club's relationships with other Clubs and the League;
  - e. any other matter that the Competition Management Committee deems appropriate.
- (G) In accordance with the Club Participation Agreement, the Competition Management Committee may with prior approval from AFL NSW/ ACT, terminate the Club Participation Agreement at any time after each football season by giving 3 month's written notice to the Club. No reasons are required to be provided by the Competition Management Committee. The Club acknowledges and agrees that the Club Participation Agreement does not create a right or expectation of continued participation in any particular Competitions or any future competition/s administered by AFL NSW/ACT.
- (H) Notwithstanding the above, immediately upon notice where:
- a. the Club unreasonably fails to duly and promptly comply with its Obligation in the Club Participation Agreement;
  - b. if the Club or any of its officers, players, official or volunteers does or permits to be done any act or thing which reflects unfavourably upon the reputation, standing or goodwill of the League or the game of Australian Football or engages in any unbecoming conduct or conduct which is prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the League, the AFL or the playing of Australian Football;
  - c. any event occurs which in the opinion of the League or AFL NSW/ACT materially and prejudicially affects the financial position of the Club or the ability of the Club to duly and promptly observe and perform any of its obligations under this Agreement;
  - d. the League is of the opinion that the Club is otherwise unable to pay its debts as and when they fall due;
  - e. the League is of the opinion that the Club is unable to field a team(s) in a Competition administered by AFL NSW/ACT;
  - f. the Club threatens to or ceases to carry on all or part of its operations or disposes of the whole or any substantial part of its assets.

### **3. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT**

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The Competition Management Committee controls the day-to-day operation of the League's Competitions.

### **3.1 Attendance at Meetings**

The League will determine the number of representatives required in attendance at League meetings for which notice is to be properly given.

### **3.2 Interpretation of the By-Laws**

Where there is a dispute with respect to the interpretation of these By-Laws, the opinion of the Competition Management Committee will prevail and will be final.

### **3.3 Amendments to By-Laws**

(A) Regional variations to these By-Laws may be agreed by the League on the recommendation of the Competition Management Committee in consultation with the Clubs.

### **3.4 Compliance**

(A) All Clubs are required to comply with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements governing their operations, including but not limited to the regulation of their operations and child protection.

(B) Whilst AFL NSW/ACT and the League will provide information, guidance and assistance to Clubs where it is able on issues affecting their governance and operations, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements affecting their operations lies with each Club.

### **3.5 Player Points System**

(A) Clubs must comply with the Player Points System applicable to a Competition or Competitions as prescribed by the League from time to time.

(B) A Player Points System will be regulated by a Player Points System Policy applicable to the relevant competition (see Appendix "D")

(C) The following Competitions currently operate under a Player Points System:

- (i) Men's Premier Division competition.

## **4. LAWS OF THE GAME AND POLICIES**

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### **4.1 Governing Laws & Policies**

(A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.

(B) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League By-Laws and Regulations including:

- a. the Laws of the Game;
- b. the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations;
- c. the National Member Protection Policy;
- d. the National Extreme Weather Policy;
- e. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
- f. the National Gambling Policy;
- g. the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;
- h. the National Coaching Accreditation Policy;



- i. the Anti-Doping Policy;
- j. the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy;
- k. the National Child Protection Policy;
- l. the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications;
- m. the National Age Dispensation Policy – NSW/ACT;
- n. the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT;
- o. the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines
- p. the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations;
- q. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
- r. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases;
- s. these By-Laws.

- (C) To the extent that these By-Laws are inconsistent with any AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation, rule or policy, the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation or policy will prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.

#### **4.2 New Laws of the Game**

- (A) In accordance with Regulation 2.5, the League (and its associated Clubs) must adopt the Laws of the Game as administered and controlled by the AFL and as endorsed by AFL NSW/ACT.
- (B) The introduction of any new Laws of the Game at a National level will be reviewed by AFL NSW/ACT to determine the extent of application of those Laws to each League.
- (C) The AFL NSW/ACT may determine that particular Laws do not apply in the interests of player and game development in the region. The application, or otherwise, of such Laws may vary across Divisions and/or Age Groups.
- (D) A listing of any new Laws, together with details of the application of such Laws, as determined by AFL NSW/ACT, is detailed in Appendix “E”.

#### **4.3 Conduct of Matches – Juniors**

- (A) All Junior & Youth Matches will be conducted according to the principles outlined in the Australian Football Match Policy unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT or as detailed in these By-Laws.
- (B) Key By-Laws and Rules for each Junior and Youth age group are detailed in Appendix “H”.

#### **4.4 Player Aids & Protective Equipment**

- (A) Use of gloves by Players in junior Competitions is prohibited for development purposes. The field umpire may permit or allow the use of a glove(s) by a junior Player in a Match under exceptional circumstances, such as injury.
- (B) No Player shall be permitted to play in a Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself/herself or other Players. The field umpires may at their discretion inspect Players’ equipment either before or at any time during the Match.
- (C) Undergarments in junior Matches, such as Lycra shorts, must be beige or the same colour as club shorts. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) may only be worn with the prior approval of the League. Short sleeved or sleeveless undergarments are acceptable.
- (D) Players who wear spectacles during matches and training must wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses and must be held on securely by a band.

#### **4.5 Alcohol Policy**

- (A) Alcohol is permitted to be sold at a League venue by the Host Club. In such cases the Host Club must have the appropriate liquor licence issued by the relevant authority and consent, if required, of the local council.
- (B) Any Club found to be selling alcohol without a liquor license will be subject to a code of conduct breach notice, and may face financial penalties from the League. A repeated infringement by a Club may result in forfeiture of home games, as well as a report to the police.
- (C) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any League venue.
- (D) Each Club is required to ensure that its members and spectators abide by this By-Law. Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue they must report the matter to the League and advise an Official of the offending member's or spectator's Club, who in turn shall take the necessary action.
- (E) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or spectators fail to adhere to the Official's request, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.
- (F) Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the field of play at any time during the course of a Match. Clubs are required to fix notices to the boundary fence or elsewhere if there is no boundary fence, advising that alcohol is not to be taken onto the field of play.
- (G) Alcohol is not to be consumed by a Club Official either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official Match day role (e.g. timekeeping, ground manager, umpire escort, umpire etc.).
- (H) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, alcohol is prohibited during junior Matches. Where both Senior and Junior Matches are played on the same day at the same venue, League Policy will apply.
- (I) At a ground where a Junior game (e.g. Under 17's) is being played prior to any Senior Grade football, NO alcohol will be permitted to be served from any club canteen or club house until half time in the following game.
- (J) Alcohol is only to be consumed in areas specifically provided for in the Host Club's liquor licence which must be clearly marked.

#### **4.6 Loss of Points**

- (A) Where a Team is determined as losing a Match as a result of a breach of the Regulations or these By-Laws, the Competition points or 'win' for the Match concerned will be credited to the opposing Team.
- (B) Points scored for and against each Team and goals kicked by Players remain unchanged

#### **4.7 Kick-In Rule**

The same football used to score the behind must be utilised for the resultant kick-in, unless otherwise instructed by the field umpire.

#### **4.8 50 Metre Penalties**

- (A) A free kick or a 50-metre penalty may be awarded against a Team if a Player, Official or clearly identifiable supporter of a Team:
  - a. uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
  - b. behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;

- c. intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties; or
- (B) In cases where boundary fencing is not in place, the field umpire may require spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the Match until the request is complied with.
- (C) A player who is granted a 50 metre penalty will not be entitled to play on during the advancement of the 50 metre penalty.

## **5. COMPETITIONS**

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### **5.1 Season**

The football season for Leagues will commence and conclude on the dates prescribed by the Competition Management Committee.

### **5.2 Season Fixture**

The League will prepare a Season Fixture for each grade of Competition for distribution to Clubs prior to the start of the season.

- (A) Other than in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League, the Season Fixture will not be varied once the season has commenced.
- (B) Where a Season Fixture is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division.
- (C) Where the League does regrade a Team(s) after the commencement of a Competition, the Match Ratio (wins and losses) are included in the regraded Competition.
- (D) Each Competition Season Fixture will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.
- (E) Senior Clubs have 4 weeks from the distribution of the Season Fixture to request changes to times and venues. After that time changes to the Season Fixture can only be requested:
  - a. with 4 weeks prior notice and with the affected opponent's agreement; or
  - b. for unforeseen circumstances such as washouts
- (F) Junior Clubs may only seek to change the time and/or venue of a fixtured Match as follows:
  - a. Where it has been agreed to by both competing Clubs; and
  - b. Where it has been agreed to by the Umpires Co-ordinator; and
  - c. Where notice of the requested change has been lodged by the competing Clubs with the Competition Management Committee no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled Match.
- (G) It is at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee to approve or decline any request for a change to the fixture.

### **5.3 Ladder**

A premiership ladder for each Competition shall be maintained in Footyweb throughout the duration of the home and away season as determined by the Competition Management Committee.

## **5.4 Match wins**

- (A) In home and away round Matches:
  - a. Match ratio will be used as the method of determining ladder position;
  - b. Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of Matches played;
  - c. In the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining Match ratio;
  - d. If a scheduled round of Matches is not played, the Club with the bye in that round does not receive a Match win;
  - e. Where more than one Team has the same Match ratio, Clubs will be positioned on the ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against.

## **5.5 Forfeits**

- (A) Any Club unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled is to advise the opposing Club and the League no later than thirty-six (36) hours prior to the scheduled time of the Match or as otherwise prescribed by the League. The Match will be treated as a forfeit and provided an explanation is furnished to the League to its reasonable satisfaction, no sanction or penalty other than those specified in this By-Law will be imposed.
- (B) If there is a forfeit the Host Club must inform the Competition Management Committee as soon as reasonably practical.
- (C) Should a Club forfeit a Match without the required notice, a fine of up to \$1,000.00 may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee. This will not apply to a Junior team that attends a venue with the intention to play a Match but finds it has insufficient numbers for the Match to proceed as a competition Match.
- (D) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Match, the League will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be invoiced for the full amount.
- (E) Subject to By-Law 5.5 (D), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play 20 minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, the opposing Club may claim the Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.
- (F) All Clubs must field a senior grade Team in the home and away Competition unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Management Committee. Should a Club play in a reserve grade fixture and subsequently forfeit their senior grade Match in the same round, that Club will not be awarded any points for the reserve grade Match and will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as the Competition Management Committee may determine in its absolute discretion.
- (G) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced.
- (H) For Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into Footyweb.
- (I) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Match will be determined as follows:
  - a. Juniors / Youth Competitions: In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible Club's Team will be awarded zero (0) points for and sixty (60) points against. The non-forfeiting or eligible Club's Team will be awarded sixty (60) points for and zero (0) points against.

- b. Senior Competitions (under 18's and over): a one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) point win to the Club's Team who did not forfeit the Match.

(J) Competition Ladders will be adjusted accordingly by the League.

## **5.6 Results of Matches**

Results of matches will be determined by the League in accordance with the Laws of the Game in its absolute discretion.

## **5.7 Other Matches**

(A) No Club shall arrange or play in any match other than matches outlined in the Season Fixture schedule without the prior approval of the Competition Management Committee.

(B) By-Law 5.7 (A) does not apply to any pre-season trial or practice match.

## **6. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

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### **6.1 Participation**

(A) Competition representative Teams shall participate in inter-league Matches as directed by the League and sanctioned by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

(B) The League shall have first call on the services of all Players for its representative Matches and representative training sessions. Any Player who does not make himself/herself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Matches, without the written approval of the Competition Management Committee, may automatically be suspended for the next two (2) Matches in which the Player's Club is participating immediately subsequent to the representative Match concerned.

(C) Any Player who declares himself/herself unavailable because of injury or illness must make themselves available for a medical examination by a medical practitioner of the League's choice.

(D) Any Player who fails to attend a scheduled representative training session of which he/she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Competition Management Committee. If in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee the Player's explanation is unacceptable, such Player may be dealt with as the League thinks fit.

(E) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competition Management Committee, Players selected in a representative Team will not be permitted to play with their Club on the same weekend of the representative Match concerned. Any Player who takes part in a Match in violation of this By-Law shall be liable for further disqualification. The Team with which the Player participates for may lose any Competition points gained and his/her Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).

(F) Any player selected in a representative team must be a registered player with a club in that region.

### **6.2 Venue Selection**

(A) Where the League schedules a representative Match to be played, the Competition Management Committee shall select a venue taking into consideration the standard of playing surface and facilities, ground hire costs and the ability to charge admission.

- (B) The League may allocate catering rights to the Host Club or any other Club which is prepared to undertake all ground management duties for the Representative Match. Any gate takings will be used by the League to offset staging costs.

### **6.3 Offences in Interleague Matches**

Player Reports in an inter-league/ representative Match or in a Match between clubs of different leagues will be dealt with as provided for in Regulation 11 of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations.

## **7. UNIFORM AND LOGO REGULATIONS**

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### **7.1 Changes to Club Names and Logos**

The process relating to the approval of Club names and logos including any changes to Club names and logos is governed by the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations.

### **7.2 Uniform Design**

- (A) New Clubs are required to submit complete details of the proposed colour and design of its uniform to the Competition Management Committee for approval. Once approved, such Club has exclusive rights to its uniform design.
- (B) Existing Clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their uniforms design for prior written approval of the Competition Management Committee.

### **7.3 Jumper Numbers**

- (A) Players of each Team must play in their Club uniform as registered with the League and wear numbers on the back of their jumpers corresponding to the numbers shown on the Club's Team Sheet.
- (B) All numbers must be whole numbers between 1 and 99 inclusive and recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. No Players from the same Team are permitted to wear the same number in a Match.
- (C) Numbers must be between 20cm and 28cm in height and in plain font.

### **7.4 Uniform Clashes**

- (A) To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour the Competition Management Committee will determine what uniforms shall be worn by either team.

### **7.5 AFL NSW/ACT and Club Approved Suppliers**

AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo in accordance with Regulation 14 of the AFLNSW/ACT Regulations.

### **7.6 Sponsor's Logos / Approved Suppliers**

- (A) A Club Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) Jumpers worn by Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast and must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (C) Jumpers worn by Clubs may have the League or Club logo on the left breast and must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.

- (D) In accordance with the terms of the partnership between the League and WaveFM, the WaveFM logo must be placed on all AFL South Coast Seniors and Illawarra Junior Clubs' playing shorts for any new orders placed.
- (E) A Club Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion and provided:
  - a. The logo does not exceed 39cm<sup>2</sup> with a maximum width of 7cm; and
  - b. The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee will consider any other proposals for the display of Club or sponsors logos on Player's uniforms.

## **8. TEAMS**

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The requirements on Team nominations and the provisions for divisionalisation, joint ventures or Club alliances (if applicable) will be determined by the League in its absolute discretion.

### **8.1 Team Nominations - Senior**

- (A) Senior Team nominations are due to be submitted in writing to the League by no later than 6 weeks prior to the date on which the first round is proposed to be played, or other date as specified by the League.
- (B) The acceptance of late Senior Team nominations is at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee and will include regard for the impact on competition structures and will also incur a late nomination fee of \$500.
- (C) Should a Club withdraw a nominated team from a competition where they have been already accepted, the following financial penalties will apply to the club at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee:
  - a. If prior to the commencement of the season, a maximum fine of \$1000; or
  - b. If after the commencement of the season, a maximum of \$1500.

### **8.2 Team Nominations – Junior & Youth**

Junior and Youth team nominations are to be in accordance with the League Policy in Appendix "F"

### **8.3 Joint Ventures – Junior & Youth**

- (A) The purpose of a Joint Venture is to allow two (2) clubs to come together and enter one (1) or multiple teams where neither club can field a standalone team.
- (B) Any application for a Joint Venture must:
  - a. be submitted in writing to the League no later than 21 days prior to the date on which the first round is to be played; and
  - b. contain the following minimum details:
    - i. The names of the Clubs involved
    - ii. The competition level or age group
    - iii. The name of the proposed team
    - iv. The number of registered players being contributed to the team by each Club
    - v. The name and contact details of the Head Coach and Team Manager
    - vi. Details of which jersey(s) will be worn

vii. Details of the preferred home game venue(s)

- (C) Notwithstanding By-Law 8.3(B), the Competition Management Committee may accept the lodgement of a late Joint Venture application if there are extenuating circumstances, and if that application does not result in significant impact on the fixture process.
- (D) The approval of any Joint Venture application is at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee.
- (E) If a Joint Venture is approved by the Competition Management Committee, the Clubs involved are, within 14 days of that approval, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding ('MOU') that covers the items referred to in By-Law 8.3(B) together with additional relevant matters including:
  - a. when and where training will be conducted
  - b. best and fairest voting arrangements
  - c. end of season awards presentation arrangements
  - d. supply of equipment
  - e. expense approval / sharing arrangements
  - f. terms under which the Joint Venture may be dissolved
- (F) Where a JV is applicable to a junior team where players in that team may also be eligible to play in a Senior competition, those junior players are only able to play senior football for the club from which they originated.
- (G) Standard home and away and finals eligibility rules apply to any Joint Venture.

#### **8.4 Multiple Teams in Junior or Youth Age Groups**

- (A) Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same competition, after the initial 3 rounds no Player shall be permitted to play for more than one team (excluding younger players who play up), in the same competition during the season.
- (B) Splitting of Players into multiple teams of the same age group must be finalised after the initial 3 rounds, after which a Player cannot be moved to another team.
- (C) Clubs are to adhere to the following when splitting players in an age group into multiple teams:
  - a. Teams / Players are not to be graded; and
  - b. For age groups up to and including U13s, teams are to be either:
    - i. of similar makeup of ability; or
    - ii. based on an age split.
  - c. For age groups over U13s, teams are to be of similar makeup of ability.

#### **8.5 Under 12s+**

- (A) The U12's+ is a tier within the under 13's structure which is designed to accommodate teams that are wholly or predominately made up of lower age players and who are struggling to meet the minimum numbers required for a team.
- (B) A lower age player is a player who would be eligible to play in an age group equivalent to or lower than an under 12's competition.
- (C) The following conditions apply to entry of a team into this competition:
  - a. The ratio of registered under 12's players to under 13's players in the team must be 75% or greater.



- b. The maximum number of under 13's players allowed to be registered to the team is 3 boys and 1 girl.
  - c. Any under 13's player registered to the team must be of commensurate ability to the rest of this tier. For example, the player should not be a representative player, Academy player or Best & Fairest winner or runner up.
- (D) Any Club that has entered a team into the under 12's+ and under 13's competition, is unable to play any under 13's player in the under 12s+ competition.
- (E) National AFL policy applies to players seeking to play up in the under 13s competition.
- (F) It is at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee to:
- a. Determine the conditions of entry into the under 12's+ competition; and
  - b. Grant a team admission to the under 12's+ competition in accordance with those conditions.

## **9. PLAYER NUMBERS & ELIGIBILITY**

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### **9.1 Number of players – Senior Men's Competitions**

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty-two (22).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a team equals eighteen (18) Players
- (C) If one or both Teams have eighteen (18) Players or less listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on field at the start of the Match shall be sixteen (16) Players per Team, unless both Teams agree in consultation with the Umpires to start with either seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) 'on field' Players.
- (D) If both Teams have more than eighteen (18) Players listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on-field at the start of the Match shall be eighteen (18) Players.

### **9.2 Minimum Number of Players – Senior Men's Competitions**

- (A) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team to commence and complete a Match is fourteen (14).
- (B) Instances of non-compliance with By-Law 9.2(A) will be deemed to be a forfeit by the relevant Team.

### **9.3 Number of players – Senior Women's Competitions**

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty (20).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field equals sixteen (16) Players
- (C) If one or both Teams have sixteen (16) Players or less listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on field at the start of the Match shall be fourteen (14) Players per Team, unless both Teams agree in consultation with the Umpires to start with either fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) 'on field' Players.

### **9.4 Minimum Number of Players – Senior Women's Competitions**

- (A) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team to commence and complete a Competition Match is:

- a. fourteen (14) for a Premier Division Match; or
- b. twelve (12) for Division 1 and lower Division Matches

(B) Instances of non-compliance with By-Law 9.4(A) will be deemed to be a forfeit by the relevant team

### 9.5 Number of players – Junior and Youth Competitions

(A) The following Table sets out the minimum and maximum number of Players that can be on-field and the maximum number of players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for any Junior or Youth age Match.

Age Group	Minimum Number (for Match)	Maximum on Field	Maximum on Team Sheet
U9	6	16	24
U11	9	16	20
U12 mixed	9	16	20
U12 girls	6	16	20
U13	9	16	22
U14 girls	9	16	22
U15	9	16	22
U17	9	18	24
U17s girls	9	16	22

(B) Teams must have the minimum number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a Match to constitute an official Match.

(C) During school holidays minimum player numbers and ground sizes may be reduced after agreement between Umpires and Coaches of both Club's Teams. During school holidays, the minimums below can be reduced by up to two (2) Players.

(D) To encourage maximum participation where the two Teams do not have the same number of Players, Clubs must borrow or loan available Players up to the maximum on-field number for that age group or division. If as a result of a Coach not accepting Players, the Team loaning additional Players will be able to play additional Players up to the maximum on-field number. The maximum number of Players on the Team Sheet still applies.

(E) Other than as outlined in Rule 9.4 (D) or in the case of a send-off, Player numbers at all times must be equal.

(F) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the field umpire, the Opposition Coach and the ground manager must be advised accordingly. The other Club's Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). When a Player returns to the field, in such circumstances the same process applies in reverse.

### 9.6 Minimum Age of Players

(A) The minimum age of players to participate in competitions is as per Regulation 4.7.

(B) Any application for dispensation under Regulation 4.7 is to be in writing on the form prescribed by the League.

### 9.7 Home & Away Eligibility – Senior Men's Competition

(A) During the Men's home and away season, any player who has played eight (8) or more matches in Premier Division is not permitted to drop back more than one grade (i.e. seniors to thirds)

- (B) If a team is scheduled for a bye or has its fixture washed out or cancelled, no player who was in that team the previous week can play in a lower grade.
- (C) In the case of playing a catch up match which was originally postponed due to weather, any player who played in a club's higher grade the previous week to the catch up match is ineligible for selection

## **10. FINALS**

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### **10.1 Finals Structure**

The Competition Management Committee will determine the structure of the finals series for each Competition upon release of the Competitions Season Fixture and prior to the first home and away Match of the season.

### **10.2 Venue Selection**

The Competition Management Committee will determine the venues for finals series Matches in its absolute discretion.

### **10.3 Match Duration**

The duration of finals Matches will be as determined by the League in accordance with By-Law 11.5.

### **10.4 Match Conditions**

Subject to By-Laws 10.3 and 10.5, all other Match conditions applicable to the home and away season will apply to all finals Matches.

### **10.5 Drawn Finals**

In the event of a drawn finals Match, the following procedure will apply:

- (A) The goal umpires will confirm the scores;
- (B) The field umpires will re-commence the Match for a further duration of five (5) minutes (plus time on) and the Teams will not change ends;
- (C) The siren will sound after the initial period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes (plus time on) is to be played;
- (D) If the Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute (plus time on) period, the Match will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound; and
- (E) The coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren at the end of normal Match time. The coach will not be able to address the team further during extra time.

### **10.6 Emergency Umpires**

Emergency Umpires, when appointed to officiate, shall have the power to order Players from the field as well as the ability to report Players.

### **10.7 Player Eligibility - Seniors**

- (A) The following player eligibility provisions shall apply to the finals series:
  - a. Men's Premier Division - a player must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season for his Club.

- b. Men's Division 1 & 2 - a player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games in the current season in either Division 1 or Division 2 for his Club.
  - c. Premier & Division 1 Women's - a player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games in the current season for her Club.
- (B) A Player is only permitted to play in one finals Match for his Club on any given weekend or round unless determined otherwise by the League pursuant to this By-Law 10.7.
  - (C) Subject to By-Laws 10.7 (D), 10.7 (E) and 10.7 (F), any senior men's player who has played in a combined total of ten (10) or more home and away matches in any higher men's division(s), shall not be eligible to play finals matches in a lower division.
  - (D) Where a Club has multiple senior men's teams, or multiple senior women's teams, playing in finals on the same weekend, a player must still meet the requirements of By-Law 10.7(A) to be eligible to play in any of those finals
  - (E) Where a club has a Lower Division team playing in a Final on the same weekend that the club has a higher grade team which has earned a week off in its final series (i.e. won through to a subsequent final) the AFL South Coast Competition Management Committee has the power to give an exemption from Bylaw 10.7 for up to two (2) players, however the following restrictions will apply:
    - a. The player/s will be ineligible to play in the higher grade Final the following week, except in exceptional circumstances where the approval of the Competition Management Committee will be required

To be considered, the application must be received by 12pm Thursday prior to the scheduled match.

*NOTE: The spirit of this By-law is to allow a player who will not be selected in the higher grade Final the following week the opportunity to play in a lower grade Final. (Had the higher grade team been playing in a Final that weekend, the player would be eligible to play in the lower grade Final so the club should not be penalised for the higher grade team winning through to a subsequent final).*

- (F) On application by a Player's Club, the Competition Management Committee may vary the number of qualifying Matches required:
  - a. where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away Matches; or
  - b. where a Player misses a significant number of Matches due to serious injury or pregnancy (more than six (6) consecutive Matches), transfers in employment; or
  - c. under other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Competition Management Committee.

NOTE: Any transfer in employment should follow three (3) calendar months of continuous employment preceding the transfer date with the existing employer, unless otherwise approved by the League.

### **10.8 Player Eligibility – Junior & Youth**

- (A) Where a player is playing in only one age group in finals, the player must have played a minimum of 4 regular season matches for the team that has made the finals.
- (B) Where a player is playing in two age groups in finals, the player must have played a minimum of 50% of regular season matches for each team in each age group that has made the finals.

- (C) If a player is ineligible to play in finals in age group due to By-Law 10.8(A) or (B), the player may apply to the Competition Management Committee for dispensation where genuine reasons exist for the player having been unable to meet the criteria e.g. serious injury. An application for dispensation must:
  - a. Be in writing; and
  - b. Provide proper details and evidence of the reasons for the player being unable to meet the criteria; and
  - c. Be received by the Competition Management Committee at least 7 calendar days prior to the first scheduled finals match.
- (D) A player who plays up in two teams in the same age group, where both those teams have qualified for finals, can only play in the team for which the most games were played, or if an equal number of games were played in each, the one that 50% was first reached.

### **10.9 Club Eligibility**

- (A) If any Club is financially in arrears to the League at a period of seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled match of the finals series, teams of that Club shall be ineligible to compete in finals series matches.
- (B) In the event that this occurs, teams placed next on the respective competition table shall fill the place of the ineligible team.
- (C) For the purpose of this By-Law, Clubs which are under a financial arrangement with the League and are up to date with the payments of that arrangement shall be considered financial.

### **10.10 Provision of Officials**

During finals series Matches, non-competing Clubs may be required (as determined by the Competition Management Committee) to provide personnel to assist with event and ground management duties including as gatekeepers, timekeepers, interchange stewards, scoreboard attendants and with other operational requirements.

### **10.11 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights**

- (A) Catering and gate receipt rights for finals Matches will be determined by the League.
- (B) The host Club will be responsible for all expenses incurred in relation to the game day management of any finals matches or as determined to by the League.
- (C) For Senior competition finals, the hosting Club shall be responsible for obtaining a liquor licence where necessary and no other club shall be permitted to take alcohol into the ground.
- (D) The hosting Club will be responsible for provision of new footballs for each final.

## **11. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

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### **11.1 Match Day Paperwork**

- (A) Where online facilities are not utilised, paper documents as prescribed by the League in By-Law 11.1 will be provided.

<p><b>Team Sheets Retained by Clubs unless otherwise directed by the League</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four (4) copies for Senior Matches, or three (3) copies for Junior / Youth Matches, produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One (1) handed to the umpires thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start time of the Match (not applicable to Junior / Youth Matches)</li> <li>○ One (1) handed to <u>opposition</u> team manager</li> <li>○ One (1) <b>retained by Club</b> team manager</li> <li>○ One (1) provided to <u>ground manager / Timekeeper</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Team Sheet must include the name of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coach</li> <li>○ Team Manager</li> <li>○ Runner(s)</li> <li>○ First Aid Official</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Team Managers to update quarter by quarter scores and goal scorers on Ground Manager's copy of the Team Sheet at the conclusion of the Match (goal scorers not applicable to Junior / Youth Matches)</li> <li>• Each Club to verify each other's list and each to sign off each Club's copies. Both Clubs to retain.</li> <li>• Umpires sign the ground manager's copy after completing end of Match duties.</li> <li>• Clubs must retain for 4 weeks after the season and be able to present if required <b>within seven (7) days</b> or as determined by the League</li> </ul>
<p><b>FootyWeb Entry of Match Results / Goal Kickers &amp; Best Players</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following to be entered on FootyWeb by 7:00pm (or 10:00pm for night games) after completion of the match, with a \$100 fine to apply for failure to do so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Designated Host Club must enter quarter by quarter scores, final match results, their goal kickers and best players</li> <li>○ Away club to enter their goal kickers and best players on Footyweb</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal umpire Score Cards</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed score cards to be retained by the Club for the season</li> </ul>
<p><b>Send Off Form and timekeepers Card</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided to the Timekeeper / Ground Manager.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Match Report Completed by Umpires</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umpires to record Match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility or as required by the League.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Umpire Review Completed by Coaches</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where required by the League submission to Umpire Manager via online facility or as determined by the League.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Umpire Best and Fairest Votes completed by Umpires</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umpires to submit via online facility or as determined by the League.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Umpire Notice of Report sheet</b></p>	<p>The process to be used by the Umpires to submit Notice of Report is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Verbally advise the League Committee Umpire Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match; and</li> <li>b) Verbally advise the Ground Manager and a representative from the reported players Club that a 'Notice of Report' will be lodged; and</li> <li>c) Umpires to submit via online facility.</li> </ol>

**In the event of a forfeit**

- **No Umpire Votes should be taken**
- **No goal umpire cards to be kept**
- **Record result on Footyweb noted as a forfeit (as per By-Law 5.5)**

- (B) Clubs must advise AFLSC Football Operations of games not played by 7:00pm Sunday
- (C) Failure to meet with the requirements of By-Law 11.1 may make the HOST Club liable to a fine.

**11.2 Team Sheet**

- (A) The official Team Sheet for each Match must contain:
- a. the name and jumper number of each Player;
  - b. the name of the Coach: and
  - c. the name of each Team Official.
- (B) A copy of the official Team Sheet is to be provided by each Club to:
- a. The timekeeper / Ground Manager, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores and goal-scorers (goal scorers not applicable to Juniors / Youth) at the conclusion of the Match and returned to the League Office with the relevant Match paperwork; and
  - b. The opposing Club.
- (C) Player and Official names on Team Sheets are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (D) Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition team manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half commences.
- (E) Players included on the Team Sheet but not in attendance at the Match venue at the commencement of the Match must be removed from the Team Sheet before the Match commences. No amendments may be made to any Team after the half time interval.
- (F) Where a Team Sheet is altered under 11.2(D) or (E), FootyWeb team records are to be updated accordingly by 7.00pm (or 10.00pm for night Matches) after completion of the Match to ensure consistency with that amended Team Sheet.
- (G) Goals not listed on the Team Sheet at the time it is received at the League shall not be credited to a Player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- (H) Clubs providing incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet or FootyWeb records may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match (with a score of sixty (60) to nil (0)).

**11.3 Identification Checks**

- (A) Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's team manager to confirm the identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision, or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day, the following procedure must be followed:

- a. The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet;
  - b. The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League;
  - c. The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence **within three (3) working days** of receiving an official request from the League, otherwise all Match wins gained by that Team in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing Team.
  - d. The Umpire is to include details of any such query in the match report.
- (B) Should any Player fail to comply with either a request pursuant to By-Law 11.3 (A), or assist in the provision of false identification of the Player, the Player may be subject to disciplinary process pursuant to the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Ground Manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee in accordance with these By-Laws.

#### **11.4 Match Times**

- (A) Starting time of all Matches will be advised when the Season Fixture is released. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion.
- (B) For Junior / Youth Matches the competing Clubs may vary the times by mutual agreement subject to the Competition Management Committee receiving notification at least seven (7) days before the initial scheduled starting time. A shorter time period may apply if determined by the League, but a fee as determined by the League may be payable, by the Club requesting any such change.
- (C) Any Team failing to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine. At that point, at the field umpire's discretion, they may commence play.
- (D) Matches must start and finish on time. If a Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, the Ground Manager and field umpires will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter time, half time and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following Match can commence as scheduled.
- (E) Subject to By-Law 11.4 (F) and (G), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play twenty (20) minutes after the scheduled time, the opposing Club's Team may claim the Match as a forfeit, to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.
- (F) If the start of a Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Match is rescheduled by the Competition Management Committee or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (G) If the minimum Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of a Junior / Youth Match, but Players sufficient for minimum numbers are expected to arrive, then a scratch Match will be played. In such circumstances, the scratch Match shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each Team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. If minimum numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the first quarter, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the scratch Match then becomes an official Match. The scores at the time when the Match becomes an official Match will stand. If minimum numbers are not available at the end of the first quarter, the Match remains a scratch Match and the Team with less than the minimum number of Players forfeits the Match.
- (H) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Match, the field umpire must report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for investigation.



## 11.5 Match Duration

- (A) The duration of quarters and breaks for all home and away Matches will be determined by the League.
- (B) The following table sets out the duration of quarters and breaks for all Senior Competition Divisions.

Division		Duration (minutes)				
		Quarter	¼ Break	½ Break	¾ Break	Time On
Men	Premier	25	5	15	5	Nil
	Division 1	20	5	12	5	Nil
	Division 2	18	5	12	5	Nil
Women	Premier	18	5	12	5	Nil
	Division 1	15	5	10	5	Nil

- (C) The following table sets out the duration of quarters and breaks for all Junior and Youth Ages.

Age Group	Duration (minutes)				
	Quarter	¼ Break	½ Break	¾ Break	Match Total
U9	12	4	4	4	60
U11	12	4	4	4	60
U12	12	4	4	4	60
U12 girls	12	4	4	4	60
U13	15	4	7	4	75
U14 girls	12	4	4	4	60
U15	15	4	7	4	75
U17	20	4	10	4	98
U17s girls	15	4	7	4	75

- (D) For Matches where time on is to be implemented, the following is to apply:
- To indicate the commencement of the time added period, the field umpire shall blow his/her whistle and raise one arm above his/her head. To indicate that the time added period has elapsed, the field umpire shall raise one arm above the head.
  - Where the field umpire fails to signal the completion of the time added period, or the timekeepers fail to hear his/her whistle or see his/her signal, the timekeepers must restart the clock when the ball is clearly back in play.
  - In the case of a goal or behind being scored, the time added is that which elapses between the time that the goal umpire first signals the goal or behind and:
    - the bouncing of the ball or ball up by the Umpire in the centre (after a goal); or
    - the ball being brought back into play (after a behind).
- (E) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule signal is given by the field umpire until the field umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.
- (F) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal time off as outlined in By-Law 11.5 (D) a.
- (G) For Matches where time on is not applicable, the following will apply:
- The clock is only to be stopped for the blood rule or when a Player is replaced using the stretcher with the procedure as follows:

- (i) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule signal is given by the field umpire until the field umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.
- (ii) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal time off as outlined in By-Law 11.5 (D) a.

## **11.6 Incomplete Match**

If a Match is unable to commence or conclude within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed) the following shall apply:

- (A) Match not commenced: The result of a Match shall be determined by the League.
- (B) Prior to half time:
  - a. If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall depart from the field.
  - b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30-minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- (H) Half Time & beyond:
  - a. If the Half Time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the field, or in the case of Half Time, not return to the field.
  - b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30-minute period, the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match.
  - c. The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- (D) Determination of Match not able to proceed:
  - a. Unless otherwise determined by the League, a field umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed.
  - b. A field umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy.
- (E) Recommencing Play: Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match and By-Law 5.5 shall apply.
- (F) The League may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals of Matches as reasonably required.

## **11.7 Sirens**

- (A) Timekeepers are to sound the siren as follows:
  - a. Senior Competition Matches:

- i. As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of a Match and after half-time – Once;
    - ii. Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and start of the third quarter – Once;
    - iii. Two minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
    - iv. One minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;
    - v. Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.
  - b. Junior and Youth Matches:
    - i. Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match – Once;
    - ii. Two minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
    - iii. One minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;
    - iv. Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.
- (B) Clubs must also have available an emergency sounding device in the event of the failure of the siren/sounding device.

### **11.8 Extreme Weather & Other Events**

- (A) From time to time the League may vary the playing conditions due to adverse weather.
- (B) Umpires and Clubs should be aware of the dangers of allowing play to proceed or continue during dangerous or extreme weather (e.g. thunder/electrical storms, lightning or hail), or other life-threatening events. In these instances, the Match should be suspended by the field umpire, or the ground manager, until such time as it is deemed safe to resume playing.
- (C) The Lightning 30/30 Rule calls for play to be stopped when the lightning/thunder ratio reaches 30 seconds or less. The ratio is the time between when lightning is seen and thunder is heard is less than 30 seconds. This means that lightning is 10kms away and the next strike has a 'significant risk' of hitting people. Play should not commence until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or thunder.

### **11.9 Wet Weather Procedures**

- (A) Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, Clubs are to advise the League as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Matches to be considered.
- (B) Where a venue to which a Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.
- (C) Where a Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the Host Team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next Match between the two Clubs concerned will be reversed to compensate for the loss of the home ground privilege.
- (D) Where neither venue is available:
  - a. The League will make every effort to reschedule the Match to an alternative venue. Clubs whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their venue available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the Host Team responsibilities will be assumed by the Host Team as nominated in the fixture.

- b. The League shall make every attempt to schedule a venue that is most convenient to the home club. Where the league has advised of an alternate playing venue, the competing clubs are expected to comply with the venue change. Failure to do so will be deemed as a forfeit. Should both clubs fail to comply, both clubs will be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- (E) If a Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Competition Management Committee will decide whether or not the Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.
- (F) Should it appear likely that more than one Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Competition Management Committee may postpone or cancel all Matches for that round.
- (G) Postponements will only occur where wet weather contingencies have been scheduled into the original planning prior to season commencement. Postponed matches will be scheduled to the next available wet weather round. If a wet weather round is not available, the timing of the match will be determined by the League in consultation with the clubs (determined within one week of postponement).
- (H) If any Match is cancelled, the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 5.5 (A) and such Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Competition Management Committee will determine player eligibility for finals.
- (I) The Club named first on the official Season Fixture is the Host Club and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Matches are adhered to.
- (J) Each Club is required to have procedures in place which enable them to contact their Players and Officials at short notice regarding any changes to scheduled Matches.

#### **11.10 Ground Marking**

- (A) The following lines must be clearly marked:
  - a. Goal-squares, boundary lines, centre square;
  - b. Arc at each end of the ground, 3 metre centre circle (with intersecting line), 10 metre centre circle (with intersecting line);
  - c. Interchange Gates should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equal distance on either side not be less than 50 metres apart for the interchange Players and Team Officials of each Club;
  - d. The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.
- (B) A Coach's line, 5 metres in length, should be marked 1 metre in from the fence / fence line, or if no fence line, 3 metres from the boundary. It should be marked in front of the Coach's box / area. No Official or bench Player is allowed to stand in front of this line during play.
- (C) Ground markings for Junior Matches should be marked in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy.

#### **11.11 Goal Post Pads**

Padding must be provided on all fixed goal and behind posts to a height of at least 2.5 metres from the ground

### 11.12 Scoreboard

A suitable scoreboard with numbers and Team names clearly visible to Players, Umpires and spectators must be in operation for all Competition Matches.

### 11.13 Change rooms

- (A) Separate and adequate changing facilities and showers must be provided for each Club and the Umpires
- (B) These rooms must be presented in a clean and tidy condition at the commencement of each Match.

### 11.14 Timekeeping Facilities

A table and seating with an unobstructed view of the playing area must be provided for Club timekeepers together with a suitable time clock and a sounding device which can be clearly heard at any location on the playing surface.

### 11.15 Ground Sizes for Junior & Youth Ages

- (A) Where ground space allows, the following field sizes are to be used in Junior & Youth Matches:

Age Group	Length	Width
U9	90	80
U11	110	90
U12 mixed	120	90
U12 girls	90	80
U13	Full length	Full width
U14 girls	110	90
U15	Full length	Full width
U17	Full length	Full width
U17s girls	Full length	Full width

- (B) The size of a ground for a Match may be reduced by agreement between the competing Clubs' coaches, where it is considered to be in the best interests of the players participating, e.g. where player numbers are low or ground conditions poor.

### 11.16 Match Footballs

- (A) The following table sets out the size and brand of footballs to be used in all Senior Competition Matches.

Division		Size	Brand
Men	Premier	5	Sherrin Match or Sherrin Kookaburra Brand
	Division 1	5	Sherrin Match or Sherrin Kookaburra Brand
	Division 2	5	Sherrin Match or Sherrin Kookaburra Brand
Women	Premier	4	Sherrin Match
	Division 1	4	Sherrin Match

- (B) The following table sets out the size and type of footballs to be used in Junior and Youth Matches

Age Group	Size	Type	Brand for Leather
U9	2	Synthetic	N/A

U11	3	Leather or synthetic	Sherrin Match
U12 mixed	3	Leather	Sherrin Match
U12 girls	3	Leather or synthetic	Sherrin Match or Burley Match
U13	4	Leather	Sherrin Match
U14 girls	3	Leather or synthetic	Sherrin Match
U15	5	Leather	Sherrin Match
U17	5	Leather	Sherrin Match
U17s girls	4	Leather	Sherrin Match

- (C) For any Matches that commence prior to 3.00pm, the colour of the football is to be red. For any Matches that commence at or after 3.00pm, the colour of the football is to be yellow.
- (D) A new, unused football is to be provided by the host Club for use in all Men's Premier Division Matches. The host Club is to ensure that a second ball in suitable match condition, is available for each Men's Premier Division Match in the event of damage to or loss of the primary ball.
- (E) Two footballs in suitable match condition are to be provided by the host Club for all:
- a. Senior Men's Division One (1) and Division Two (2) Matches
  - b. Senior Women's Premier Division, Division One (1) and Division Two (2) Matches
  - c. Junior and Youth Matches.
- (F) For the purpose of this By-Law, "suitable match condition" means:
- a. The ball has only had limited use, is clean and has no discernible scratches or damage to its surface;
  - b. The ball has retained its proper shape and colour;
  - c. All branding and writing on the ball is clearly visible and legible.

#### **11.17 Spirit of the Game Rule – Junior & Youth Ages**

- (A) This rule applies:
- a. To all competition Matches for ages up to and including Under 17s; and
  - b. Where the score differential between teams, at half time or three-quarter time, is equal to or exceeds:
    - i. Ninety (90) points for Youth ages (Under 13 to Under 17); or
    - ii. Sixty (60) points for Junior ages (Under 11 & Under 12)
- (B) This rule does not apply where the score differential is reached in the last quarter.
- (C) Where the score differential has reached that stated in By-Law 11.17(A), the Goal Umpires are to confer and notify the Field Umpire(s) at the end of the relevant quarter.
- (D) The Field Umpire is to:
- a. Instruct the Goal Umpires and any scoreboard attendants to cease further recording of any scores for the remainder of the Match; and
  - b. Advise both teams' Coaches of this.
- (E) The Match shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play, with the Coaches encouraged to even-up the skill levels of the teams.

- (F) The official recorded result for the Match shall be scores of each team at the time the Spirit of the Game Rule was applied.

### 11.18 Post Game – Junior & Youth Ages

At the end of a game all Players and Coaches should gather in the centre of the ground and shake hands.

## 12. CLUB MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

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### 12.1 Coaches

- (A) The minimum requirements for Coach Accreditation are either a “Level 1” or “Foundation Coach” accreditation as applicable.
- (B) Restrictions applied to Suspended Players and Coaches are outlined in the AFL NSW / ACT Regulations.
- (C) Coaches must be easily identifiable. In Junior and Youth competitions, Coaches must wear a vest as detailed in Appendix “G”.

### 12.2 Ground Manager

- (A) The Host Club must appoint a ground manager (or designate the following tasks to a nominated person(s) who will be responsible for the Match day requirements and Match paperwork for the day).
- (B) The ground manager must introduce him/herself to the Umpires and Officials of the visiting Club on arrival and acquaint them with the ground facilities as well as provide details of the closest emergency medical facilities. Should the ground manager be replaced during the day, the newly appointed person should immediately inform both the Umpires and both Clubs accordingly.
- (C) Prior to the commencement of play, the ground manager must identify compliance of the Host Club with the Sports Trainers Policy as outlined in By-Law 12.9.
- (D) Prior to the commencement of play in each Match, the ground manager should distribute the following paperwork provided by the League unless submission of any of the Match Day paperwork is completed online by the Umpires.

Scorecards	To Club goal umpires
Send Off Form	To the Timekeeper
Timekeepers Card	To the Timekeeper
Envelope	To the field umpires
Umpires Match Report	To the field umpires
Best & Fairest Vote Slips	To the field umpires

- (E) The ground manager should also have on hand an Umpire Reporting Booklet for Club Umpires wishing to make any reports, where an on-line system is not being used.
- (F) At the completion of each Match, the ground manager should collect all the following documentation unless the tasks for Umpires are completed on-line.

From Umpires	From Timekeepers
Sealed Envelope (Note 1)	Completed Team Lists (Note 2)
Umpire Player Report Form (if any)	Send Off Form
Goal umpire scorecards	Timekeepers Card & Scorecard

*Note 1: The Umpires Sealed Envelope will include a copy of each Clubs Team Sheet, the Umpires Match Report & Best & Fairest Voting Slip. This envelope is to remain sealed.*

*Note 2: The ground manager should ensure that each Club has entered the quarter-by-quarter scores; best Players and the goals scored by Players on their Team Sheets/ lists. The tally of goals entered for Players must equal the number of goals scored by the respective Teams.*

- (G) The ground manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue.
- (H) At the end of the Match, the ground manager should collate all paperwork and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League by no later than the designated time.
- (I) It shall be the ground manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Host Club inputs all results and Player information (i.e. Team lists, goal kickers & best Players) of all the days Matches into the Footyweb on-line results system by the League designated time on the day of the Match.
- (J) The Ground Manager must be easily identifiable to all in attendance at the ground and wear a vest as detailed in Appendix "G".

### **12.3 Team Managers**

- (A) Each Club shall appoint a team manager for each Team it fields in the Competition. It shall be the team manager's responsibility to ensure that his/her Team's Players and Officials comply with the requirements specified in these By-Laws and with any request reasonably made by the Umpires officiating in a Match in which their Team is participating.
- (B) Each team manager shall introduce themselves to the Umpires prior to a Match for identification and to ensure that the Team Sheets are handed in on time (no later than 30 minutes or as designated by the League prior to the scheduled start time). The team managers should also arrange for the Team Sheets to be exchanged with the opposition Club at this time.
- (C) Each team manager is to ensure that at the conclusion of the Match, the goal kickers and best Players for their respective Teams, and quarter by quarter scores, are noted on the official Team sheet, which is held by the timekeeper.
- (D) It shall be the team manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Club waits on the Umpires at the conclusion of each Match to ascertain whether or not any reports of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match or to receive the "all clear".
- (E) Team Managers must be easily identifiable. In Junior and Youth competitions, Team Managers must wear a vest as detailed in Appendix "G".

### **12.4 Team Runner**

- (A) The sole duty of the team runner is to deliver messages to his or her Club's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so. Umpires shall ask Runners to leave the field if they remain on the playing surface for an unnecessarily long period of time as determined by the umpire.
- (B) The team runner must be clearly identifiable by wearing a vest as detailed in Appendix "G".
- (C) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the official team runner.



- (D) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of one (1) team runner. Team runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.

### **12.5 Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers**

- (A) For Senior Competition Matches, Clubs may utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers per Team.
- (B) For Junior and Youth Competition Matches, Clubs may utilise a maximum of two (2) water carriers, and one (1) medical support person.
- (C) These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured Players or to provide Players with water. They must not be used to deliver messages to Players.
- (D) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be clearly identifiable by wearing a vest as detailed in Appendix "G".
- (E) Umpires will ask any Trainer/Medical/water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform. Umpires shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players.
- (F) Water carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the League.

### **12.6 Umpires Escort**

- (A) For each Match, the Host Club must appoint a suitable person to act as an escort for the Umpires (ideally the ground manager or appointee). The Umpires escort is to escort the Umpires (including Club Umpires) to and from the venue at the commencement of and conclusion of each quarter and at the commencement and conclusion of the match as designated by the League.
- (B) An Umpire exclusion zone should be implemented at quarter and three-quarter time encompassing the centre square. The Umpires Escort is to stand with the Umpires during the quarter and three-quarter time intervals and arrange for water to be provided to the Umpires, if required.
- (C) The Umpires Escort is expected to be identifiable as required by the League.
- (D) Any Umpire Escort provided is expected to assist in providing and/or obtaining details of any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct immediately after completing his/her duties in liaison with/at the request of the Umpires or ground manager.

### **12.7 Timekeepers**

- (A) The Host Club must provide a timekeeper for each Match.
- (B) The away Club is entitled to also appoint or supply a timekeeper for each Match.
- (C) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game, these By-Laws and AFL NSW / ACT Regulations and as otherwise specified by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (D) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for attention.

- (E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Match in which they officiate. The quarter by quarter scores are also to be recorded on each Club's Team Sheet.
- (F) Timekeepers are also required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field umpires in accordance with By-Law 15.1 or 15.2, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such Players may resume playing (if applicable). It is the Club of the offending Players responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the Umpires decision to send off a Player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling Umpire.
- (G) The field umpire(s) shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a Match.

**12.8 Officials on the Bench**

In addition to the maximum number of game day officials as provided in By-Laws 12.4 to 12.5 each Team is permitted other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play as follows.

- (A) Senior Competitions - Each Team is permitted a maximum of four (4) other Officials.
- (B) Junior & Youth Competitions - Each team is permitted to have the Coach, Team Manager, First Aid Officer, one (1) team runner and two (2) water carriers on the bench area inside the ground during play.

**12.9 Injury Treatment**

- (A) All Clubs must comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia.
- (B) It is the Host Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate injury treatment processes are in place on Match days. The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services including ambulance, medical centres and hospitals must be available for use in an emergency.
- (C) The League has adopted the AFL Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy ("Sports Trainers Policy"). All Clubs must comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (D) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (E) The Host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all Matches for which it is the Host Club.
- (F) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the Sports Trainers Policy at any Match as follows:

Age Group	Minimum Competency	Recommended
Junior (U9 to U12)	First Aid Certificate	Qualified Sports Trainer
Youth (U13 to U17)	Emergency Response Coordinator	Qualified Sports Trainer
Senior	Emergency Response Coordinator	Qualified Sports Trainer

- (G) An Emergency Response Coordinator must hold a current certificate and must be clearly identifiable by wearing a vest as detailed in Appendix "G".
- (H) The visiting Club should confirm with the ground manager prior to the commencement of each Match that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this By-Law. In the event that the Host Club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the visiting Club agrees, the Match will be postponed or rescheduled. Any decision to replay a postponed

Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Competition Management Committee within seven (7) days of the scheduled Match.

- (I) The Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (J) In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Match a delayed start of 20 minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following the Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Matches following.
- (K) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply.
- (L) If a Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the Host Club will forfeit the Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.
- (M) The Sports Trainers Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with medical or higher level allied health qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupations they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:
  - a. Nurse;
  - b. Physiotherapist;
  - c. A certified Sports Trainer;
  - d. St John Officer;
  - e. Paramedic;
  - f. Medical Doctor.
- (N) The Host Club must ensure there is:
  - a. a stretcher in good condition located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of each match; and
  - b. proper ambulance access to the field of play, if necessary; and
  - c. an appropriately and adequately stocked first aid kit.
- (O) The first aid official should be located alongside or as near as practical to the ground manager. Where more than one Match is being played at any one time, a first aid official must be supplied for each game.

## **12.10 Concussion**

- (A) Management of concussion should be in accordance with the Management of Concussion in Australian Football which can be found at: [www.aflcommunityClub.com.au/index.php?id=66](http://www.aflcommunityClub.com.au/index.php?id=66)
- (B) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials, and where applicable, the Player's Parents / Guardian.
- (C) Any Player who is suspected of having a concussion:
  - (i) must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and
  - (ii) must not be allowed to return to play in the same Match or participate in the same practice session. Initial decisions regarding potential incidents of concussion should be

made by a medical doctor or, if there is no medical doctor in attendance, the head trainer.

- (D) Decisions regarding return to play after a concussive injury (a disturbance of brain function) should only be made by a medical officer with experience in concussive injuries. A Player who has suffered concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must not be allowed to return to training or playing until and unless the Player has received a formal medical clearance which has been provided to the Club.

### **12.11 Match-Day Safety Check**

A representative of all competing Clubs is required to conduct a Match day health and safety check prior to the commencement of the first Match and at any other time during the day if conditions change. The representatives must complete the checklist online via the JLT app. If a Club is unable to complete the checklist online they are to complete a manual JLT checklist. Completed checklists are to be retained by Host Clubs for a period of seven (7) years for future reference by the League or its insurers if so required.

## **13. UMPIRES**

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### **13.1 Appointments**

The League or delegate will appoint official Umpires to all Matches as available and the names of the appointed Umpires will be issued to participating Clubs prior to each Match.

### **13.2 Availability**

All members of the Umpires' panel must make themselves available to the League for appointment as a field, boundary or goal umpire as required. All Umpires must conform to the By-Laws and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the Competition Management Committee.

### **13.3 Umpire Requirements**

Umpires must attend at the ground before the official starting time of the Match and must be on the field correctly attired a minimum of ten (10) minutes before the scheduled Match start time.

### **13.4 Field and Goal Umpire Numbers**

- (A) A minimum of two field umpires are required in order for a Match to commence unless determined otherwise by the League. These must be accredited Umpires or registered Club field Umpires (or a combination).
- (B) In the event that two Umpires are not available, the Match will be cancelled and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.
- (C) Where two field Umpires commence a Match and for any reason one of the field umpires is unable to complete the Match the remaining field umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.
- (D) As a minimum, two goal umpires are required prior to a Match commencing. These can be accredited Umpires, Club goal umpires or a combination of both. Should two Umpires not be available, the Match must not to commence and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.

### 13.5 Umpires' Fees

The Umpires' fees for the ensuing season will be determined by the Competition Management Committee and communicated to all Clubs no later than February in the year the season in which they are applicable.

### 13.6 Payment of Umpires

- (A) Appointed Umpires are to sign the Umpires' Match Report prior to the commencement of their scheduled Match.
- (B) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in By-Law 5.5 (G), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.
- (C) **Seniors** - The following applies to payment of umpires for Senior Competition Matches:
  - a. Payments will only be made to those umpires who sign the Match Report.
  - b. Umpires will be paid by direct deposit to their nominated bank account.
  - c. Clubs will be invoiced for the appropriate fee based on actual attendance of officially appointed umpires.
- (D) **Juniors** - Payment to umpires officiating a Junior or Youth Match is to be made by the Host Club following the conclusion of the Match. The ground manager is to advise the Umpires of the process for receiving payment.

### 13.7 Umpire's Match Report

- (A) At the conclusion of each Match, the field umpire(s) shall provide a report to the Competition Management Committee on the prescribed Umpires Match Report form by 7pm Sunday of the weekend of the match. All Umpires, including Club field umpires, are required to sign the Match Report. Umpire payments will only be paid to those Umpires who sign the Match Report, unless using the online report facility.
- (B) The field umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting online.

### 13.8 Club Report on Umpires

To assist the League in its assessment of Umpires, Clubs may at their discretion, provide a report on the Umpire(s) performance to the League. Such report must be provided on the form as prescribed by the League.

### 13.9 Minimum Umpire Age

- (A) Subject to By-Law 13.9 (B), the Competition Management Committee will determine the minimum age of field and boundary and goal umpires (Official or Club Umpires) for all open age and under age Competitions.
- (B) The age of a field umpire of a Junior Match must be:
  - a. a minimum of fourteen (14) years old, unless agreed otherwise by the AFLNSW/ACT Umpiring Department; and
  - b. at least two (2) years older than the age group being officiated unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age for an Under 13 Match.

### 13.10 Club Umpires

- (A) From time to time each Club is required to provide suitable persons for the League Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the Club Umpire commitment for the season prior to the start of the season as designated.
- (B) Where the League has not appointed official field umpires or accredited Club Umpires, it shall be each Club's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the Match.
- (C) Club field umpires must be registered and accredited in accordance with League requirements.
- (D) Club field umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork (i.e. Umpires Match Report (which they are to sign)) and Best & Fairest Votes.
- (E) Each competing Club is responsible for the payment of their own Club Umpires, or in the case of one Club providing both Club Umpires, the payment of one of the Club Umpires.
- (F) Where Official goal umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing Club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal umpire to officiate.
- (G) Where Official Boundary Umpires have not been appointed by the League, the following rules shall apply:
  - a. Premier Division - the home Club is required to supply 2 boundary umpires where the League is unable to appoint both boundary umpires, or 1 boundary umpire where the league has only appointed 1 boundary umpire. A match should not commence until there are two boundary umpires in place. If a League appointed boundary umpire does not turn up to a match without prior warning, and the home Club cannot find a suitable boundary umpire, the field umpire is to throw the ball up 20 metres from the boundary line where the ball left the field of play.
  - b. All other grades - the home Club is to supply 2 boundary umpires where the League is unable to appointment them. If boundary umpires cannot be supplied by the home Club, the field umpire is to throw the ball up 20 metres from the boundary line where the ball left the field of play.
- (H) Official field umpires shall have the power to overrule decisions by Club goal and/or boundary umpires and remove them should they consider that such Club umpires are not competent to carry out the required duties.
- (I) Payment of Club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the Competition Management Committee. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet.
- (J) Club Umpires are to be attired / equipped as follows:
  - a. Club field umpires – attired in a 'green umpire shirt', black shorts and runners or football boots and equipped with a suitable whistle;
  - b. Club boundary umpires – attired in white shirt, club shorts, runners or football boots and equipped with a suitable whistle.
  - c. Club goal umpires – attired as in a uniform approved by the League and equipped with two white flags.

### **13.11 Reporting of Players and Officials**

- (A) Umpires may report to the League any Player or Official who, during the progress of a Match or within the immediate proximity of the ground on the day of the Match, commits a reportable offence. The procedure for making and lodging such a report shall be as specified by the Laws of the Game and by the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.
- (B) For the purposes of Section 3 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, registered field, registered boundary and/or registered goal umpires are permitted to report Players. Unregistered Club field umpires, Club boundary and goal umpires are not permitted to report Players.
- (C) All reporting Umpires are required to reference the Offence Grade Template as outlined in clause 5.2(b) of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT when lodging a report.

### **13.12 Approaching Umpires**

- (A) No person, except as listed in By-Law 13.12 (B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary and goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.
- (B) The excepted persons referred to in By-Law 13.12 A above include:
  - a. AFL NSW/ACT staff;
  - b. Ground manager, including any designated assistant, umpire escort;
  - c. Umpire Manager.

## **14. CONDUCT – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

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### **14.1 Prescribed Penalties**

A prescribed penalty system will operate in the Competitions in accordance with Appendix “A” of these By-Laws.

### **14.2 Code of Conduct**

- (A) Clubs agree to comply with the Regulations and Code of Conduct through affiliation.
- (B) Players and Coaches agree to comply with the Code of Conduct through the Online Registration in Footyweb.
- (C) Clubs are required to ensure that all Club’s Players, Officials, Coaches, administrators and parents receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.
- (D) Parents, Officials and Coaches are bound by the By-Laws, including the relevant Code of Conduct in the By-Laws, as issued from time to time, irrespective of whether they have signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct.

### **14.3 Power to Investigate**

- (A) The Competition Management Committee may investigate or nominate a person (League designate) to investigate any matter which it considers relevant to whether a person may have committed a Reportable Offence or a Code of Conduct Breach.
- (B) Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Competition Management Committee in By-Law 14.3 (A), the League designate may investigate any matter:

- a. of his/her own motion; or
- b. on the basis of video evidence; or
- c. upon the written request of an authorised officer of a Club pursuant to By-Law 14.8; or
- d. upon the written request of either an authorised officer of a Club or a non-aligned individual pursuant to By-Law 14.2.

#### **14.4 Co-operation**

- (A) For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this By-Law, a person shall if requested by the Competition Management Committee:
- a. fully co-operate with the investigation;
  - b. truthfully answer any questions asked; and
  - c. provide any document in that person's possession or control requested by the investigating person.

#### **14.5 Failure to Co-operate**

A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 14.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, is deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and may be referred to the Tribunal by the League for determination.

#### **14.6 Interpretation**

For the purposes of this By-Law, a reference to the League designate shall be read as a reference to the League and/or any person nominated by the League to conduct an investigation on the basis of video evidence or otherwise. The League designate may report a person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal following their investigation of a matter. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him or her and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

#### **14.7 Power to Report**

- (A) If the League designate is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the League Designate may report such person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.
- (B) Report where Notice of Report not completed – Juniors
- a. This Rule applies where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season (i.e. yellow and/or red cards), but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report in any sending off. Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one Match playing suspension. The League will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player and the Tribunal Chairperson as soon as reasonably practical following the Match of the referral.
  - b. Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by this Rule, the Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request the



automatic suspension be referred to the Tribunal for hearing. The Tribunal may impose such conditions on the Player as it deems appropriate, pending the hearing. The Tribunal may, after the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension (including increasing the suspension), or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate.

#### **14.8 Citings by Clubs**

- (A) Where a Club wishes to lodge a complaint against a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be noted on the appropriate League Incident Referral Form (see sample Appendix 'B') which must be lodged in writing with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises. An Incident Referral Form must be submitted for each citing. An intermediate advice on the incident form may be initially emailed with the written lodgement to follow as required.
- a. This By-Law provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of Umpires.
  - b. A serious incident for definition is a matter which may draw a base sanction of more than two (2) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 2018, or as otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.
- (B) In the event a Club requests extra time to prepare the Incident Referral Form, the Competition Management Committee may, after receiving a notice of intent within the time requirements of By-Law 14.8 (A), extend the deadline to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.
- (C) After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with By-Law 14.8 (A), the citing Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.
- (D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a \$500 (with \$250 non-refundable) citing fee which may be forfeited should the Competition Management Committee deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the League's bank account.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his or her rights (via Club Secretary or President) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.
- (F) A Club may request the Competition Management Committee to review footage of an incident by submitting a non-refundable fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250). The Competition Management Committee may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the Competition Management Committee decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.
- (G) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Code of Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 14.8 (A) to 14.8 (C) above.

#### **14.9 Appointment and Role of Tribunal**

- (A) A panel of independent Tribunal members shall be appointed annually by the League in accordance with the requirements in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (as the case may be).

- (B) The Tribunal shall hear the following matters in accordance with the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (as the case may be):
- a. reports by Umpires against Players or Officials participating in League Competitions, pre-season or practice Matches;
  - b. such other matters (including citations by Clubs) as may be referred to it by the League;
  - c. referrals pursuant to By-Law 14.8;
  - d. any other matter as appropriate.

#### **14.10 Tribunal Hearings**

- (A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under Competition Tribunal Rules 2.8 and 2.9 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT.
- (B) Legal representatives are permitted to attend Tribunal hearing's, but are not permitted to act as a Player, Official or umpire advocate unless agreed to by the Tribunal Chair.
- (C) The Tribunal has jurisdiction over any Player whether registered, unregistered or ineligible as the case may be.

#### **14.11 Report of Junior Players**

The procedures for handling of reports of Junior Players 9 to 12 year's old and any subsequent disciplinary processes will be determined by the League.

#### **14.12 Player and Official De-registration**

The League and Clubs must comply with the AFL Player and Official Deregistration Policy (where applicable).

#### **14.13 Club Websites**

- (A) Any Club that operates or having operated on its behalf a website, blog or social media account representing the Club and its activities ("Club Website"), agrees that it is prohibited from publishing, displaying or otherwise disseminating on the Club Website any content, information, images or other form of communication that is inappropriate, offensive or damaging to the reputation of a Player, Official, Club, the League or AFL NSW/ACT ("Offending Material"), including by providing links to other websites that may contain Offending Material.
- (B) Any Club that is found to be in breach of By-Law 14.13 (A) as determined by the League or the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion, must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach remove the Offending Material, confirm in writing to the League that it has done so and shall be liable to sanctions as is deemed appropriate by the League or Competition Management Committee in their absolute discretion.

#### **14.14 Media / Statements**

- (A) Conduct occurring in Media or public forums is governed by the Code of Conduct.
- (B) Only authorised and approved personnel may make public statements regarding League matters.

- (C) For the By-Laws, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media or social media.
- (D) A Club whose Official or Player has made a statement contrary to the provisions of By-Law 14.14 (A), or 14.14 (B) in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the Competition Management Committee or Conduct Committee which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and forfeit past or future Match points.

## **15. ORDER OFF RULE**

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### **15.1 Yellow Card**

- (A) A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game may be ordered from the field of play for a period of fifteen (15) minutes. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a yellow card.
- (B) At the discretion of the field umpire, a Player may be ordered from the field of play for a period of fifteen (15) minutes and not be reported. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a yellow card.
- (C) A Player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining the approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.
- (D) For the purposes of this By-Law, a yellow card will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field of play for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only. E.g. a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- (E) Unless determined otherwise by the Competition Management Committee, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card:
  - a. For Senior Competition Matches, cannot be replaced for the duration of the send-off period.
  - b. For Junior and Youth Matches, can be replaced immediately.

### **15.2 Red Card**

- (A) A Player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game twice in the same Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in By-Law 15.2 (B) below), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include but are not limited to where a Player:
  - a. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire;
  - b. Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire;
  - c. Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;
  - d. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person;

- e. Commits an act of misconduct - if the Umpire is of the opinion the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.
- (C) A Player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.
- (D) Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a red card cannot be replaced at any stage of the remainder of the game.
- (E) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be issued with red card and can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.

### **15.3 Recording of Send Offs**

- (A) When a Player is sent off from the field of play in accordance with By-Law 15.1 or 15.2, the Umpire will show the appropriate yellow or red card to the timekeeper who will in turn acknowledge the send-off by showing the same colour card to the Umpire.
- (B) Timekeepers are required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field of play and determine when such Players may resume playing in the Match, or be replaced in the Match (whichever is applicable). It is the offending Player's Club's responsibility to obtain approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match

## **16. APPEALS**

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### **16.1 Appeal Process**

Any Player, Official, Umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision relating to these By-Laws may appeal to the League and / or AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with the appeal procedures as outlined in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines and AFL NSWACT Regulations, as the case may be.

## **17. FINANCE**

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### **17.1 Fees**

- (A) The Competition Management Committee will prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items.
- (B) Clubs will be levied an annual licence fee, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective competitions.
- (C) Licence fees and other relevant charges will be levied on an annual basis each season.

### **17.2 Fines**

- (A) The League will determine a schedule the fines that may to be imposed for specific operational breaches of the By-Laws as follows.

<b>Breach</b>	<b>Fine</b>
<b>Code of Conduct</b>	

<i>Code of Conduct breach as per AFL NSW/ACT Regulations Appendix A</i>	\$500 or \$750 or \$1,000
<i>Statement breach</i>	Maximum \$1,000
<b>Administration</b>	
<i>Any administration breach – no warnings</i>	\$100 to \$500
<b>Match Day</b>	
<i>Maximum of 2 warnings for any match day breach in a season</i>	\$0
<i>Each additional breach</i>	\$50 fine per breach

- (B) Notwithstanding 17.2 (A), the Competition Management Committee may impose such sanctions as it sees fit.
- (C) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the Competition Management Committee or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the Player's or Official's Club or, in the case of an Umpire, the Umpires Association, is responsible to pay the fine to the League.

### **17.3 Outstanding Accounts**

- (A) Except as provided for under By-Law 17.3 (B), any Club which is in arrears to the League for a period more than sixty (60) days from the date of the invoice, will be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its Teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.
- (B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Competition Management Committee may in its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

### **17.4 Dishonoured Cheques**

Any Club which pays an account to the League by an instrument which is not honoured by its bank or other institution upon presentation, shall automatically be fined fifty dollars (\$50) on each occasion.

### **17.5 Club Finances**

- (A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League by 31 January each year, or as otherwise designated by the League in the Club Licence Agreement or Club Participation Agreement, a Financial Statement or Profit and Loss Statement of its operations for the previous season.
- (B) Each Club shall provide the League with a Club Budget for the ensuing season by the 31 January each year or as otherwise designated by the League.

### **17.6 Insurance**

- (A) Each Club is covered by the League's compulsory insurance cover with JLT Sport under the AFL's National Risk Program. All Players and Officials of a Club will have minimum cover for public and products liability, association liability (subject to the Club being an incorporated body), personal accident and non-Medicare medical.

- (B) Each Club may elect higher levels of cover directly through JLT Sport. Specific details of cover shall be provided to Clubs each year and can also be viewed at <https://afl.jltsport.com.au/>

## **18. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER IMAGES GUIDELINES**

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### **18.1 Recording of Images**

The Guidelines in Appendix C are designed to assist Clubs, Officials, Players, families and supporters in dealing with the use of electronic and other images in Matches.

## **19. AWARDS**

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### **19.1 Awards Presentation**

Each season, the Competition Management Committee shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.

### **19.2 Best & Fairest Eligibility**

Any Player who has been suspended for any offence in the home and away season will not be eligible to win a Competition Best and Fairest award.

## **20. GENERAL**

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### **20.1 Resolution of disputes within Clubs**

- (A) Unless criminal in nature, issues or disputes arising within Clubs are in the first instance to be resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Club Constitution and to the reasonable satisfaction of the members of that Club in a timely and appropriate manner.
- (B) All Clubs and their members have a responsibility to participate in the Club's dispute resolution processes subject to the Club's Constitution.
- (C) If the matter is unable to be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties a Club may seek the assistance of the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) All persons involved in any dispute must act in a genuine attempt to resolve the dispute.

### **20.2 League Colours**

The official colours of the League will be as designated by the League. The design of the League's representative jumpers is the responsibility of the Competition Management Committee.

### **20.3 Matters not provided for**

The Competition Management Committee may regulate any matters not provided for in these By-Laws in its sole and absolute discretion.

## **Appendix “A” – PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS**

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### **Introduction**

The League has adopted the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines for the purposes of dealing with Reportable Offences. Section 5 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines contains grading templates for various classifications of offences and outlines the prescribed penalties which can be offered to reported Players (where applicable).

The system will not apply to Officials who are reported. Those Reports will be heard by the Tribunal.

### **Procedure**

Umpires shall report and charge Players in the usual manner. The reporting Umpire shall complete the Player Report Form template and forward it to the League by 10.00 am on the Monday immediately following the Match (where reasonably practicable).

Once the Player Report Form and Report Template has been received, the League’s Football Operations Co-ordinator will process the report and decide whether:

1. the offence by the Player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System;  
or
2. the Report should be referred to the Tribunal for determination.

If the offence and/or Player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System, the prescribed penalty shall be offered to the Player (via the Club) on the Monday following the Match in which the Player was reported.

The Player (either directly or via the Club) shall notify the League of the acceptance or refusal to accept the set penalty by no later than 4.00pm on the Tuesday following the Match in which the Player was reported (or at a later date as reasonably prescribed by the League if the prescribed penalty was provided later than Monday). If accepted, the penalty shall be recorded against the player’s record kept by the League. If the prescribed penalty is rejected the Report shall be referred to the Tribunal for hearing at a time to be advised the League.

**Appendix "B" – INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM**

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TO: AFLSC Football Operations Coordinator  
E mail  
Fax

I, the undersigned give notice I wish to refer an incident which may constitute a Reportable Offence under the Laws of the Game or a Breach of the Code of Conduct.

Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Match: \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_

Venue: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) involved (please state offending person/s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Reportable Offence or Code of Conduct Breach:

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Type of Reportable Offence/ Infringement (s):

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**Note:**

The spirit of a Citing By-law is to provide a means for the investigation of serious incidents which occur behind the play or which go unnoticed by the umpires.

A serious incident for definition is a matter that may draw a base sanction of three or more matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines - NSW/ACT, or as otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee based on the recommendation of the investigating officer. See over for suggested grading Table.

With all citing submissions at least one witness statement should be included.

Vicinity at Venue:

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Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Other relevant information:

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Where a Classifiable Offence, as defined under 5.3 (a) of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT is the reason for the citing use the table below to indicate the level of conduct alleged.

	Impact	Area struck	Tick suggested
Intentional Conduct	High	High/Groin	
		Body	
	Medium	High/Groin	
		Body	N/A
	Low	High/Groin	N/A
		Body	N/A
Careless Conduct	High	High/Groin	
		Body	N/A
	Medium	High/Groin	N/A
		Body	N/A
	Low	High/Groin	N/A
		Body	N/A

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Umpire / Umpires Observer / Umpires Coach / Club Official / Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Circle)

**This form is to be completed and lodged, along with the deposit in accordance with the League By-Laws**

<b>League use only:</b> Lodged with League on ____ / ____ / ____ at ____ (time)
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## Appendix “C” – RECORDING OF IMAGES

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- (A) This Appendix governs the recording of images, video and/or audio by way of electronic or any other means (recording) of League activities where used by or for the use of or on behalf of Clubs and/or for, by or on behalf of their Officials (recorder). It must be read in conjunction with relevant Codes of Conduct and the Registration Terms and Conditions. Where this Appendix is inconsistent with specific provisions in the Registration Terms and Conditions, such specific provisions of the Registration Terms and Conditions will prevail.
- (B) This Appendix sets out the terms and conditions on which such recording can take place, seeking to balance the reasonable expectations of privacy by the participants and the reasonable use of such recordings for legitimate purposes.
- (C) In this Appendix, participant means all Players, Club appointed Umpires and Team Officials, and does not include spectators and officially appointed Umpires.
- (D) The law surrounding the taking of recordings, particularly of minors, is complex. AFL NSW/ACT takes this issue very seriously and the provisions below are designed to assist Clubs, Officials, Players, families and supporters, as stakeholders, to deal with this complex issue. However, these provisions are not legal advice, and all stakeholders must make their own enquiries. Whilst AFL NSW/ACT will provide information, guidance and assistance on these issues, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) provisions lies with individual stakeholders, as appropriate.
- (E) When a person enters private land, they consent to any requirements that the property owner may impose on them. This may include restrictions, including prohibitions on the making of a recording of events held on their land. There is nothing, however, to prevent a person from making a recording from outside of the borders of private land, regardless of the property owner’s preferences. In the absence of conduct that is offensive or threatening and unlikely to interfere with the public enjoyment of a public place, there is nothing to prevent a person from making a recording of minors in public places.
- (F) It is thus not generally illegal to make a recording of minors at sporting events, but a common-sense approach needs to be taken.
- (G) Persons making a recording and persons using such recordings must be mindful of the complex issues surrounding privacy.
- (H) Unless consent is specifically withdrawn, by reason of the Registration Terms and Conditions, the Player’s image in any form or medium is able to be used for general marketing and promotional activities.
- (I) These provisions seek to strike a balance between concerns regarding privacy and the reasonable use of such images
- (J) Recordings may only be used within the spirit of the game and within the Laws of the Game and consistent with the Code of Conduct.
- (K) By agreeing to the Registration Terms and Conditions, the participant irrevocably consents to the use of participant’s footage and likeness for competition management and administrative purposes
- (L) The recorder may only record Matches and other AFL related activities such as practice Matches, training and drills (**activity** or **activities**) for legal, instructional, Coaching and promotional purposes (**the accepted purposes**) and must not record activities for commercial, indecent, inappropriate or illegal purposes.

- (M) Subject to the direction and supervision of the League, and the direction or ruling by the relevant Conduct Committee or Tribunal, such recording may be used for legitimate purposes in Code of Conduct investigations and/or Tribunal hearings.
- (N) The recorder must inform the Ground manager (where appointed), the Coach and/or Team manager of the Club and any Club (**other Club**) whose participants are involved in the activity to be recorded, before the recording is commenced. The other Club may not object to the recording being made. The Coaches and/or Team managers must use their best endeavours to inform participants, and the parents and guardians of all participants who are minors, of the recording.
- (O) If a copy of the recording is requested by an official of the other Club (the requestor), the recorder must provide a copy within 3 working days after being provided by the requestor with suitable media on which to copy the recording. The requestor shall pay the amount identified in Table 1. The League may request a copy of the recording and advise the recorder of the media on which it wishes to receive the recording and such copy shall be provided to the League without charge within 3 working days.
- (P) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall provide a copy of the recording to any other party except with the written consent of both Clubs.
- (Q) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall post, stream or otherwise share the recording, including on the internet or social media. The recording may be shared for instructional, Coaching, Tribunal /Code of Conduct purposes but only by the Club, the other Club or the League. Except where used for the accepted purposes, none of the Applicant, the requestor or the League may make any other form of publication of the recording.
- (R) The requestor and the League may only use the recording for the purposes outlined in the clause above.
- (S) A recording may be used for promotional purposes unless the consent of the parent or guardian of any Players who are minors for the use of such recording has been withdrawn prior to its use (informed consent).
- (T) Where informed consent is required, it is the sole responsibility of the party who is required to obtain the informed consent to obtain such informed consent.
- (U) The provisions of this document apply to recordings however and by whomever made or obtained.
- (V) Table 2 sets out various activities and how they are covered by this Appendix. However, the Table is for guidance only, and if there is any discrepancy between the Table and this Appendix, the provisions of this Appendix prevail.
- (W) Breach of the terms of this Appendix, or the spirit of the game or the Code of Conduct is an act of Misconduct under the Laws of the Game, and will be dealt with pursuant to the By-laws accordingly.

**Table 1**

Amount to be paid by the requestor pursuant to Clause (O) - \$40

**Table 2**

<b>Consent of participants not required</b>	<b>Prior consent to use not required but consent may be withdrawn prior to use</b>	<b>Prohibited</b>
Instruction* Coaching* Tribunal/Code of Conduct*  <i>* no post, stream or otherwise sharing of the recording, including on the internet, social media</i>	Promotional (for example, use in Club newsletter, Club Annual report, Club social media or by the League.	Commercial Illegal Inappropriate Indecent



# **AFL NSW/ACT Player Points System Policy**

**AFL South Coast Men’s Premier Division - 2019**

**1 April 2019**

## AFL South Coast Men's Seniors Premier Division

### PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY

#### 1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. AFL NSW/ACT believes that ensuring competitions are competitively balanced is critical to safeguarding the ongoing viability and sustainability of competitions and clubs. Even and fair competitions lead to increased interest and provide a better experience for stakeholders, which leads to stronger competitions and clubs.
- 1.2. The objectives of this Player Points System Policy (PPS Policy) are to:
  - a. Assist the equalisation of competitions and enhance competitive balance;
  - b. Improve the sustainability of community clubs by curbing the inflationary nature of player payments as a result of player movement;
  - c. Promote player loyalty and junior development; and
  - d. Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
    - i. Capping the need to fundraise money for player payments;
    - ii. Providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level; and
    - iii. Providing resources and education.
- 1.3. This PPS Policy sets out the rules and principles in relation to a Player Points System which applies to specified AFL NSW/ACT Competition/s in order to achieve the above objectives.

#### 2. DEFINITIONS

**Competition Management Committee** means the Committee established in accordance with AFL NSW/ACT Regulation 2.10.

**AFL** means the Australian Football League (ACN 004 155 211).

**AFL South Coast** means the Australian Football League currently known as 'AFL South Coast' comprising of senior men's and women's competitions conducted by AFL NSW/ACT in the Illawarra and South Coast regions including Home and Away Matches and Finals Series matches.

**AFL NSW/ACT** means AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited (ABN 53 086 839 385).

**Category** means the Player Points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a Player.

**Club** means a Club affiliated to the League with teams participating in a Competition.

**Competition** means any Australian Football Competition conducted and organised within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

**First Home and Away Match** means the first official Competition Match for the home and away Season of a Competition.

**Football Operations Manager** means the League's Football Operations Manager or Football Operations Coordinator responsible for administering the League's Competitions as the case may be.

**Footyweb** means the AFL Competition Management System & Membership Database implemented for Competitions within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

**Junior** means Players up to and under the age of 18 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

**Juniors or Junior Competition** means Competitions up to and including Junior Players.

**League (or Leagues)** means AFL South Coast which is governed by or affiliated to AFL NSW/ACT.

**League Equalisation Panel** means the Competition Management Committee or the independent equalisation panel established by the relevant League or Leagues to administer the PPS Policy prescribed for a Competition.

**Match** means any football match played between or directly or indirectly involving any club or Independent School, including without limitation any practice match, competition match, representative match or exhibition match.

**National Player Transfer Regulations** means the AFL's rules and regulations, as issued from time to time, regulating the transfer of players between clubs.

**NEAFL** means the North East Australian Football League competition run by the AFL consisting of teams from Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**Player** means a Player registered with a Club.

**Player Membership Details** means a Player's individual details provided for on the Footyweb system.

**Player Points Allocation** means the total number of points allocated to an individual Player in a Senior Team taking into consideration the Player Points Category that applies to each Player and any additional points or deducted points in accordance with this PPS Policy.

**PPS Policy** means this Player Point System as amended by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

**Season** means the community football season between first competitive Match until Grand Final of a Competition.

**Season of Service** means when a Player has played a minimum of five (5) senior or reserves matches in one (1) Season for a particular Club in the relevant League (excluding service for a Club's team when participating in a higher tier of competition such as the NEAFL). A Player who has completed a Season of Service is eligible for a reduction of one (1) point should they play for the same community Club in the following Season(s) in accordance with this PPS Policy.

**Senior Competition** means the men's open age senior competition of a League.

**Senior Team** means the men's open age team representing a Club in a Senior Competition.

**Tier 1 Community Leagues** means AFL Sydney Premier Division, AFL Canberra 1st Grade, Farrer FNL Seniors, Riverina FNL Seniors, Hume FNL Seniors, Black Diamond Cup, QAFL, QFA Division 1, NTFL and any senior community competition affiliated to AFL Victoria, the SANFL or the WAFC.

**Total Team Points** means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.

### **3. TOTAL TEAM POINTS**

- 3.1. The allocation of Total Team Points caps for each Senior Team is subject to the assessment of the relevant League Equalisation Panel, in its ultimate discretion, subject to clause 3.2 below.

- 3.2. The relevant League Equalisation Panel:
- a. Will consider all applications from Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy;
  - b. May allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Clubs in accordance with this PPS Policy, and in consideration of existing unique local conditions to meet the objectives of this PPS Policy.
  - c. Will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club for the following Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 3.3. In considering the Total Team Points allocation for each Senior Team, the following may be considered by the relevant League Equalisation Panel:
- a. The location of a Club and the size of the population within its region vis a vis other Clubs (which may impact a Clubs ability to be competitive against other Clubs).
  - b. The level of success a Senior Team has achieved (e.g. multiple premierships) including their ability to retain players with players attracting a one point deduction each Season with the Club.
  - c. A Senior Team's lack of competitiveness over a sustained period a (e.g. low ladder finish over multiple seasons).
  - d. Additional points may be added to teams where a Club is unable to field a competitive U18 or U19 side due to geographic and demographic factors, or does not have aligned junior youth teams (such as University Clubs).
  - e. Each League will implement a process in relation to assessment of Club's submissions regarding a Team Total Points cap and an individual Player's Points Allocation.
- 3.4. The base Total Team Points allocation for all Senior Teams is outlined in Appendix B.
- 3.5. Leagues and Clubs acknowledge that:
- a. For each Match, a Club must ensure that the Total Team Points allocation is calculated based on the maximum number of Players allowed to participate in a Senior Competition and this should be consistent for each Match within a Season.
  - b. A Club must list the maximum number of Players allowed for its Senior Team on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points for each Match.
- 3.6. Leagues will make every attempt to communicate the allocation of each Club's Total Team Points for the following Season in accordance with this PPS Policy by 1 December in each Calendar year (or such other date as determined by the relevant League).

#### **4. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each Club:

- 4.1. Must determine each individual Player's Player Points Allocation for its Senior Team in accordance with this PPS Policy, including any additions or deductions applicable to each Player in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- 4.2. Must submit to the League the Player Points Allocations for each Player by the deadline of 1 March and in the form prescribed by the League. Any subsequent Player Point Allocation must be prior to the Player's first Match of the Season;
- 4.3. Acknowledges that if the Club does not follow this procedure and plays a Player for a Senior Team in a Match in any League, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into Footyweb, that Club will be subject to a subsequent enforcement penalty



or disciplinary sanction (including loss of Competition Points) as determined by AFL NSW/ACT or the League in accordance with this PPS Policy;

- 4.4. Must ensure that for each Match the Senior Team does not exceed the Club's Total Team Points, noting however that Clubs may recruit above their allocated Total Team Points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation for each Match;
- 4.5. May make an application to the League for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. for unique local circumstances). The application is to be in writing via the Football Operations Manager.

## **5. PLAYER POINTS CATEGORIES AND ALLOCATION**

- 5.1. Each League will liaise with its Clubs to ensure that Total Team Points and Player Point Allocations are entered into the Footyweb System prior to any Player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- 5.2. As part of the Player Point Allocation process, the League may provide the opportunity for Clubs to seek a reassessment of any Player's Player Point Allocation by the League Equalisation Panel. Any reassessment against a Player Point Allocation should be made to the League's Football Operations Manager no later than five (5) days before the Player's first Senior Home and Away Match of the Season.
- 5.3. A Player's Category and the subsequent Player Points Allocation will be determined by that Player's playing history and achievements and is structured in a way to promote Player development, loyalty, and retention.
- 5.4. Each Player expected to play in a League will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as detailed in Appendix A.
- 5.5. A Club that has a Player that does not meet any of the Player Categories will need to apply to the League for determination by the League Equalisation Panel of the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation, the League Equalisation Panel will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the Player's movement.
- 5.6. For the purpose of a Player Points Allocation, a playing coach or playing assistant coach is classified as a Player and will be assessed in accordance with this PPS Policy and Appendix A.
- 5.7. A Player playing in a Match under an Interchange Agreement as detailed at clause 3.9 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a permit Player) will be assessed on the same basis as a transferred Player.
- 5.8. A Club may make an application to the League for a reassessment by the League Equalisation Panel in accordance with clauses 6.3 and 7.

## **6. DEDUCTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS**

- 6.1. Once a Player's Player Points Allocation has been determined, a reduction of one (1) point will apply for each 'Season of Service' with that Player's Club (minimum five (5) senior matches per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the Player reaches no less than one (1) point (this is the minimum number of points a Player can have). For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player is eligible for underage football at their Club, they must play five (5) senior matches to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.
- 6.2. Where a Player qualifies in more than one Category based on their playing history in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) Seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply (Category 1 – Home Players excluded).

- 6.3. The League may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual Player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history or circumstances. Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a Player to the League Equalisation Panel. The determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the League Equalisation Panel.

## **7. ENFORCEMENT**

- 7.1. Clubs are required to submit to the League's Football Operations Manager as prescribed by the League the individual Player Points Allocations in accordance with this PPS Policy. The League will review and enter the final individual Player Points Allocations into Footyweb.
- 7.2. Player Points Allocations will be managed via Footyweb. Footyweb will not permit a Club to enter a Senior Team into an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Senior Team's permitted Total Team Points cap for a Match.
- 7.3. Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised by AFL NSW/ACT or the League in accordance with clause 8.
- 7.4. The potential penalties or sanctions may include (without limitation):
- a. Fines;
  - b. Termination or suspension of a Club's licence or affiliation;
  - c. Loss of premiership points (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
  - d. Suspension from a Senior Team's participation in the finals (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
  - e. Player/Official suspensions – for those Players/Officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
  - f. Suspension or ban on registration of players;
  - g. Any other sanction or penalty considered appropriate by the League.
- 7.5. AFL NSW/ ACT or the relevant League may enforce the terms of this PPS Policy and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the Club alleged to have infringed this PPS Policy:
- a. reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
  - b. notice of possible sanctions; and
  - c. the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.
- 7.6. In applying any enforcement provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, the League shall take into consideration whether the breach was assessed as:
- a. Unintentional – where a Club had not been provided with accurate information;
  - b. Interpretive – where a Club had reasonably applied the PPS Policy;
  - c. Intentional – where a breach had occurred with little or no regard to the relevant requirements.
- 7.7. All appeals against a decision to apply a provision under this PPS Policy will be heard by the League Equalisation Panel and will be final and binding;
- 7.8. AFL NSW/ACT and the Leagues will review this PPS Policy annually and amendments and variations may be made from time to time.

**APPENDIX “A”**

**1. PLAYER CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS**

Category 7	7 points	AFL Player	Minimum one (1) AFL match in any of the previous three (3) Seasons.
Category 6	6 points	State League Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, SANFL	Minimum five (5) senior matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
Category 5	5 points	TAC Cup	Minimum five (5) matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
		State League Tier 2 - NEAFL, TASFL	Minimum five (5) senior matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons
Category 4	4 points	Premium Community Player	Minimum 5 senior games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons in a Tier 1 Community League
Category 3	3 points	Senior Community Player	Played the same or more senior (or highest division) than reserves (or non-highest division) matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons (excluding Tier 1 Community Leagues). For clarity, this includes any players from the AFL Sydney Platinum Seniors (formerly Division One) competition.
			Played more reserves than seniors matches in a Tier 1 Community League (excluding matches for a Club's third or subsequent teams).
		Transferred Junior	Player recruited from an U19's or younger competition and does not meet the Home Player definition.
Category 2	2 points	Development Community Player	Played more reserves (or non-highest division) than senior (or highest division) matches in the previous Season (excluding Tier 1 Community Leagues).
Category 1	1 point	Home Player	Played forty (40) or more matches at the aligned junior club up to and including U18 competition or younger.
			Player who has only played at that Club.

## 2. PLAYER CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – POINTS ALLOCATION		
ADDITIONAL PENALTY PLAYER POINTS	Additional 1 point	If Player transferring from another community club and will be competing against their former club (does not include Category 2 Development Community Player)
		If Player transferred to three or more community clubs in past thirty-six (36) months. <i>Note: Does not include Players moving on permit (e.g.: VFL, TAC Cup NTFL or Local Interchange).</i>
DEDUCTIONS FOR PLAYER POINTS	Deduct 1 point	For each Season of Service to the Club (minimum five (5) senior or reserves matches per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the Player reaches one (1) point. <i>#Note: if the Player is eligible for underage football at that club, it must be five (5) senior matches to meet the criteria for a year of service.</i>
	Revert to 1 point	Where Player is returning to their home Club.
		Where Player has not played in the previous thirty-six (36) months.
Maximum of 3 points	Players at a university aligned Club who are currently enrolled at that university (and have not previously played senior football with another Club within the League).	

### 3. LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT
1) League Equalisation Panels may reassess an individual Player’s points classification where the Panel deems in its ultimate discretion that the prescribed points allocation is inappropriate based on the Player’s playing history or exceptional circumstances.
2) Where a Player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history in the previous three (3) seasons, the category with the highest points will apply (Note: Home Players are excluded).
3) Any Player that does not meet any of the prescribed point categories will need to apply to the League Equalisation Panel who will determine the appropriate points allocation in its ultimate discretion.
4) The League Equalisation Panel may take into account the following in determining whether or not the imposition of the additional point is appropriate in the circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature and location of the Player’s employment;</li> <li>• The principle place of residence of the Player’s family members;</li> <li>• The principle place of residence of the Player’s partner or spouse;</li> <li>• The Player’s previous history and/ or relationship with the Club; and</li> <li>• Any other factors deemed appropriate by the assessment panel in its absolute discretion (e.g. serious injury).</li> </ul>

### 4. TOTAL TEAMS POINTS ALLOCATIONS

TOTAL TEAM POINTS ALLOWANCES / REDUCTIONS #	Small Population Base	Additional points to team allocation where the club is located in a region with low population base.
	Ladder Position	Additional points to team allocation if team did not qualify for finals in previous Season or has been promoted from previous Season.
		Reduction in points to team allocation for multiple premierships in defined number of Seasons.
		Additional points to team allocation if finished in bottom three of competition and not relegated.
Junior Pathway	Additional points to team allocation where a club has no U18/19 or younger underage sides aligned (MOU in place) to it, and not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a club is aligned with a university and the team is based around Players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.	

## **APPENDIX “B”**

The base Total Team Points allocation for Senior Teams in the AFL South Coast Men’s Premier Division Competition will be capped as follows for the 2019 Season:

38 points – Figtree Kangaroos, Kiama Power, Shellharbour City Suns, Wollongong Bulldogs and Wollongong Lions

40 points – Bomaderry Tigers and Northern Districts Tigers

## APPENDIX "C"

### SENIOR AND JUNIOR CLUB PATHWAYS

<b>Senior Club</b>	<b>Junior Clubs</b>
Bomaderry Tigers	Bomaderry Tigers J AFC, Shoalhaven GIANTS J AFC, Bay & Basin Bombers J AFC
Dapto City Stallions	Albion Park Crows J AFC
Figtree Kangaroos	Figtree Kangaroos J AFC
Kiama Power	Kiama Power J AFC
Northern Districts Tigers	Northern Districts Tigers J AFC
Nowra Albatross Vikings	Shoalhaven GIANTS J AFC, Bay & Basin Bombers J AFC
Port Kembla Blacks	Port Kembla Eagles J AFC
Shellharbour City Suns	Shellharbour Swans J AFC, Albion Park Crows J AFC
Ulladulla Dockers	Ulladulla Dockers J AFC, Bay & Basin Bombers J AFC
Wollongong Bulldogs	N/A
Wollongong Lions	Wollongong Lions J AFC

**Appendix “E” – COMMUNITY FOOTBALL LAWS OF THE GAME CHANGES & INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2019**

<b>Rule Change/Interpretation and Application</b>	<b>Senior Men</b>	<b>Senior Women</b>	<b>Masters / Youth / Juniors</b>
<p><b>Traditional playing positions at Centre Bounce</b>  <i>Implementation of a traditional set up at centre bounces. Clubs must have players inside both 50 metre arcs, with one player required to be inside the goal square. 18 per side = 6/6/6 (6 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)  17 per side = 6/5/6 (6 forwards/ 5 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)  16 per side = 5/6/5 (5 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)  15 per side = 5/5/5 (5 forwards/ 5 centre (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)  14 per side = 5/4/5 (5 forwards/ 4 centres/ 5 backs)  The sanction for non-compliance shall be a free kick.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p><b>Kick-In from a behind (no kick required)</b>  <i>For kick-ins from a behind, a player will no longer need to kick to themselves to play on out of the goal square. Additionally, following a behind, the player on the mark will be positioned 10 metres from the top of the goal square (currently 5 metres).  Existing By-Laws in junior competitions requiring a defender to bring the ball back into play after the goal umpire has waived the flag for a behind should remain in place.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>Marks/Free kicks within 9m of own goal</b>  <i>For all defenders who take a mark or gain a free kick within 9 metres of their own goal, the player on the mark for the attacking team will be brought in line with the top of the goal square.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>Runners and Water Carriers</b>  <i>Team runners can only come on the field of play after a goal has been scored and they must exit before the re-start of play.  Water carriers are not allowed to come on the field during live play.</i></p>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<p><b>Umpire Contact</b>  <i>Players will be prohibited from setting up behind the umpire at each centre bounce/ball up. Free kicks may also be paid by a non-controlling field umpire.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>50-Metre Penalty</b>  <i>Stricter on the infringing player, allowing the player with the ball to advance the mark by 50 metres without the infringing player delaying the game. In addition, the player with the ball will be able to play on during the advancement of the 50 metre penalty. The priority for community umpires is to effectively manage the game, whilst increasing the speed of game is a secondary consideration. This is consistent with the existing practice where a community umpire may not pay advantage after a reportable offence has occurred to ensure effective management of the game and player safety.</i></p>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<p><b>Kicking for Goal post-siren (ability to commence off line of kick)</b>  <i>A player who has been awarded a mark or free kick once play has ended will now be able to kick across their body using a snap or check-side kick. The player shall dispose of the ball directly in line with the player on the mark and the goal.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>Marking Contests (hands in the back rule repealed)</b>  <i>‘Hands in the Back’ rule interpretation to be repealed, allowing a player to place their hands on the back of their opponent to protect their position in a marking contest but not to push the player in the back.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>Ruck contests (Prior Opportunity)</b>  <i>A ruck who takes possession of the ball while contesting a bounce, ball up or boundary throw in will not be regarded as having had prior opportunity. Where</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>



*there is uncertainty over who is the designated ruck, the ruck for each team will continue to nominate to the field Umpire.*

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## 2019 Team Nomination Process – Juniors

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This process is established in accordance with 8.2 of the AFL South Coast By-Laws.
- 1.2. The fixturing process can be heavily impacted by last-minute changes by Clubs to team nominations. A single such change can have wide reaching implications on the balance of the entire fixture, not just the age group relevant to the nomination. It has flow-on effect to the alignment of teams for home games or travel purposes. It can change all game start times, the need for byes, the ability of a venue to cater for extra games, and perhaps most notably, the general balance of the fixture. Typically in this situation, the fixturing needs to be started over to ensure the proper balance of home vs away games and in the frequency of teams playing each other.
- 1.3. With the continuing growth of the competition, including new age groups, it's no longer viable to make last-minute changes to team nominations (except in some rare circumstances) so there is need to build some tighter parameters and timelines around the process.

### 2. REGISTRATION NUMBERS

- 2.1. Reference to registration numbers in this document refers to the actual number of registered players in FootyWeb in an age group. It is not to be based on estimated registration numbers.

### 3. INDICATIVE TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 3.1. For the 2019 season, Clubs will be required to complete and submit an ***Indicative Team Nomination Form*** to the AFL South Coast Football Operations Co-ordinator **28 days prior** to the date on which the first round is to be played.
- 3.2. The purpose of the Indicative Team Nomination is to:
  - a) Allow the AFL to commence fixture planning (e.g. looking at what the likely team numbers will be for each club and in each age group); and
  - b) Provide a formal mechanism for each Club to review its registration progress and identify age groups that it needs to target for additional registrations, or look at possible mergers.
- 3.3. The *Indicative Team Nomination Form* will require Clubs to nominate teams as follows:
  - a) **'Definite yes'** team nominations. That is, where registration numbers in an age group already meet or exceed the minimum number of players required for a match to proceed (i.e. 9 players);

- b) **'Probable'** team nominations. That is, where registration numbers in an age group are within 3 or less than the minimum number of players required for a match to proceed. So, if a Club has 6, 7 or 8 registered in an age group at the time of this nomination, this would be a "Probable" team nomination.
- c) **'Possible'** team nominations. That is, where registration numbers in an age group are more than 3 below the minimum number of players required for a match to proceed. So, if a Club has 5 or less players registered in an age group at the time of this nomination, this would be a "Possible" team nomination (unless the Club has already decided not to enter a team in that age group which would be indicated by a "Definite no").
- d) **'Definite no'** team nominations. That is, where a Club already knows that it will not achieve the required registrations to be entering a team in a particular age group.

#### 4. FINAL TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 4.1. For the current season, Clubs will be required to complete and provide a **Final Team Nomination Form** to the *AFL South Coast Football Operations Co-ordinator 14 days prior* to the date on which the first round is to be played.
- 4.2. Once submitted, there is no option for subsequent changes to this, unless that proposed change:
  - a) Has a beneficial impact on the fixturing of the relevant age group, e.g. where a bye could be neatly replaced with a team and that game can be easily slotted into the existing fixture; AND
  - b) Has no impact on the fixturing of other age groups, including game start times.
- 4.3. At the time of final nominations, Clubs may only nominate a team in an age group where the Club has:
  - a) Already achieved registration numbers in that age group that meet the minimum number of players required for a match to proceed (i.e. 9 players); OR
  - b) Produced proper evidence to the AFL that such registrations will be achieved prior to the first game e.g. where the Club is waiting on a player transfer confirmation that will lead to the minimum number being achieved. However, just hoping to achieve extra registrations in the last two weeks prior to season start is not sufficient to satisfy this.
- 4.4. The obvious downside to a strict cut-off date is the potential for some players to miss out if they don't register in time, where those registrations would have resulted in a change to team nominations. However, this needs to be weighed against the wider implications these last-minute changes have on the fixture and on all other Clubs. It won't be an issue where it's clear that a Club already has, or will achieve, sufficient numbers for a team by the cut-off date. This should be the case for the bulk of a Club's teams. There will typically only be one or two teams per Club where this may still be uncertain 14 days out. It will therefore be incumbent upon Clubs to identify those teams at the earliest possible time and then push for registration of players prior to the Final Team Nomination cut-off date. The Indicative Team Nomination process is designed to assist Clubs with this.

#### 5. NO RELIANCE ON PLAYERS PLAYING-UP

- 5.1. In nominating teams, Clubs are NOT to rely on players "playing-up" to achieve the minimum registration numbers required for a team nomination. The purpose of this is to

avoid forfeits as it will become increasingly difficult to keep the “away” Club’s teams together each round. For those Clubs that have two ovals in operation this season, there will also be the scenario of different age groups being played concurrently, which again may limit the options for players to play up.

## **6. JOINT VENTURES (TEAM MERGERS)**

6.1. Potential joint ventures involving different Clubs should be given consideration by the Clubs prior to, or at the time of, the Indicative Team Nominations. *The Indicative Team Nomination Form* will highlight this as a reminder. That will provide a minimum of two weeks prior to Final Team Nominations for Clubs to reach agreement on the terms of the merger and have the merger determined by the Competition Management Committee (‘CMC’).

6.2. The requirements for Joint Ventures are detailed in By-Law 8.3.

## **7. NOMINATION FORMS**

7.1. Indicative and final team nominations are to be submitted by Clubs on the prescribed AFLSC forms.

7.2. The AFL will send these forms to the Clubs no later than 10 days prior to their due submission date.

7.3. The nomination forms will also provide Clubs the opportunity to provide additional information relevant to the fixturing process, e.g. any specific club fixture requests.

## Appendix “G” – OFFICIALS & TEAM SUPPORT STAFF DRESS REQUIREMENTS



### Officials & Team Support Staff Dress Requirements

As required by By-Law 12, all listed team officials are wear vests, as detailed in the tables below, for the duration of any Match for which they are officiating.

#### Seniors

Role	Colour of Vest	Wording on Vest (Must be clearly visible in white)
Ground Manager	Yellow	GROUND MANAGER
Runner	Pink	RUNNER
Water Carrier	Sky Blue	WATER OR WATER CARRIER
Trainer	White	TRAINER

#### Juniors & Youth

Role	Colour of Vest	Wording on Vest (Must be clearly visible in white)
Ground Manager	Yellow	GROUND MANAGER
ERC	Orange	ERC
First Aid	Red	FIRST AID
Coach	Blue	COACH
Runner	Pink	RUNNER
Water Carriers (max 2)	Light Blue	WATER or WATER CARRIER
Team Manager	Maroon	MANAGER or TEAM MANAGER