

**AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited**



**REGULATIONS  
&  
BY-LAWS**

# AFL NSW/ACT REGULATIONS & BY-LAWS

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The following regulations and by-laws have been made by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited (ABN 53 086 839 385) pursuant to its object to administer and promote Australian Football in the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

## **DEFINITIONS**

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

**Administration Committee** means and shall consist of any two (2) from the following positions or otherwise designated by the League:

- Football Operations Manager or Coordinator;
- Secretary;
- Chairman/President;
- Competition Management Committee Member; or
- Their nominees.

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

**AFL Marks** means AFL logos, AFL club logos, the AFL NSW/ACT logo, trade names and other Intellectual Property, registered or unregistered owned by the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT (whichever is applicable).

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

**Appeals Board** means the panel constituted pursuant to the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (as the case may be)

**Australian Football** means the game played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**Australian Football Match Policy** means the AFL guidelines for the conduct of Australian Football for players aged 5-18 years as issued and amended from time to time.

**Coach** means the individual appointed, engaged or employed to coach a Club's team in a Competition.

**Constitution** means the Constitution of the AFL NSW/ACT effective 13 February 2015 or as subsequently amended

**Chief Executive Officer** means the Chief Executive Officer of AFL NSW/ACT or his/her nominee.

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

**Code of Conduct** means the AFL NSW/ ACT Code of Conduct in Appendix C, as amended from time to time.

**Community League Club** refers to all teams directly comprising Clubs within an Australian football competition, other than the AFL, State Leagues or Unaffiliated Leagues.

**Competition** means any Australian football competition conducted and organised by AFL NSW/ACT or the League.

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

**Independent School** means a school that is not a government operated public school.

**Intellectual Property** means all company and business names, trade names, trademarks, logos, symbols, emblems, designs or other indicia, inventions, patents, trade secrets, processes and any other intellectual property whatsoever (including copyright), registered or unregistered, currently owned and in existence or to be developed in the future by the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT.

**Junior** means Players up to and under the age of 17 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

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

**Laws of the Game** means the Laws of Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL, as amended from time to time

**League** means an AFL NSW/ACT governed or affiliated league which operates or conducts an Australian Football Competition within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

**League Equalisation Panel** means the independent equalisation panel established by the League to administer the Player Points System 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.

**Member Protection Policy** means the AFL's Australian Football Member Protection Policy, as amended from time to time, aimed to promote ethical and informed decision-making and responsible behaviours within Australian Football.

**National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT** means the AFL's National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines, as amended from time to time, which have been formally adopted by AFL NSW/ ACT to establish the tribunal and appeal process with respect to disciplinary matters.

**National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT** means the AFL's National Match Tribunal Guidelines, as amended from time to time, which have been formally adopted by AFL NSW/ ACT to establish the tribunal and appeal process with respect to reportable offences.

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

**National Vilification and Discrimination Policy** means the AFL's National Vilification and Discrimination Policy, as amended from time to time, establishing the means to address vilification and discrimination.

**Official** means AFL NSW/ACT, League and Club (as the case may be) employees, servant or agent having official duties in connection with a Match, Competition, League or the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations and By-Laws, including (unless otherwise stated) Club and League Umpires.

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



**Player Points System** means the community club sustainably player point's system policy approved by AFL NSW/ACT and implemented by a League with respect to a Competition or Competitions, as outlined in Appendix E or as amended from time to time.

**Regional Board** means the board established by AFL NSW/ACT pursuant to clause 17 of its constitution.

**Reportable Offence** means a Reportable Offence within the meaning of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time.

**State League Club** refers to clubs competing in the North East Australian Football League who are not an AFL club's reserves team.

**Tribunal** means the tribunal constituted under the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, as the case may be, as amended from time to time.

**Umpire** means the field, boundary, goal and emergency Umpires.

## **INTERPRETATION**

In the interpretation of these regulations, 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 regulations;
- (d) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (a) Any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these regulations shall have the meaning prescribed within the particular regulations; and Words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these regulations shall be given their ordinary meaning.

## **PART A – REGULATIONS**

### **1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION**

These Regulations specify the regulations applicable for the conduct of the Leagues in NSW and the ACT. These Regulations aim to promote the proper conduct and standards of the Leagues.

The Regulations specify the rules and regulations for the administration of the playing, participating, coaching and officiating in football within AFL NSW/ ACT's jurisdiction.

#### **1.1 Objectives**

The objectives of the Regulations are to:

- (A) promote, develop and protect Australian Football in NSW and the ACT by ensuring that the appropriate conduct and standards apply;
- (B) ensure that the Leagues and Competitions are regulated in a consistent and co-ordinated manner across NSW and the ACT; and
- (C) align Leagues with AFL and AFL NSW/ ACT rules and regulations.

#### **1.2 AFL NSW/ ACT Jurisdiction and Obligations**

- (A) AFL NSW/ ACT is responsible for the organisation, promotion and administration of Australian Football throughout NSW and the ACT. Accordingly, it has jurisdiction over all NSW and the ACT Leagues including the relevant Matches and Competitions.
- (B) AFL NSW/ ACT will:
  - (i) comply with these Regulations and ensure that these Regulations are not inconsistent with AFL rules and regulations;
  - (ii) ensure compliance of these Regulations by Leagues;
  - (iii) investigate any complaint about a breach of these Regulations by a League;
  - (iv) impose disciplinary sanctions against a League within its jurisdiction found to have breached these Regulations; and
  - (v) provide appropriate education and training to those who manage and implement these Regulations.

### **2. AFFILIATION CONDITIONS**

#### **2.1 Affiliation Conditions**

Any Australian football league, the membership of which includes any club or clubs in NSW or the ACT, may apply to affiliate with AFL NSW/ACT subject to compliance with the following conditions in Regulation 2.

#### **2.2 League Constitution**

The League must be incorporated pursuant to the relevant legislation in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory and its current constitution lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at all times.

### **2.3 Laws of the Game**

The League must adopt the Laws of the Game as administered and controlled by the AFL and as endorsed by AFL NSW/ACT.

### **2.4 Contact Details**

The League must submit to AFL NSW/ACT each year:

- (A) A list of the names, addresses, telephone and email addresses / fax number of its Officials by 31 January;
- (B) A list of the Clubs and Club teams by 31 March; and
- (C) A list of the names, addresses and contact details of the officers (including the President and Secretary) of each Club by 31 March.

### **2.5 Affiliation and Licence Fees**

The League must pay an annual affiliation fee as determined from time to time by AFL NSW/ACT in its absolute discretion.

### **2.6 Insurance**

The League must ensure that its Officials and Clubs, as a condition of affiliation to the League, are insured under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program as arranged by JLT Sport or any substitute policy as arranged or administered by the AFL.

### **2.7 Appointment of Umpires**

The League must engage Umpires appointed by the League and/or Club from a panel of Umpires to be approved by AFL NSW/ACT.

### **2.8 Sponsorship / Marketing Affiliation**

The League acknowledges and agrees that:

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT's major sponsors or partners provide in part the financial resources for AFL NSW/ACT to develop, implement and support the development of Australian football generally and specifically in the NSW and the ACT; and
- (B) It will not enter into any contract, arrangement, agreement or understanding with any corporation/person for the supply, endorsement, approval or sponsorship of goods or services of the type provided by or associated with the operations of AFL NSW/ACT major sponsors or partners, unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT in writing.

### **2.9 Application of Competition Rules**

The League agrees to be bound by the Constitution of AFL NSW/ACT and these Regulations insofar as they apply to such League and agrees that in the event of any inconsistency between the constitution of such League and the Constitution or Regulations of AFL NSW/ACT, then the constitution and/or by laws of such League will be invalid to the extent of such inconsistency.

### **2.10 Club Affiliation and Licence Agreement with League**

Each League must have an affiliation agreement with AFL NSW/ACT as well as a Club licence agreement with its affiliated Clubs, in the format determined by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

### **2.11 Refusal or Cancellation of Affiliation**

Any League which fails to comply with these Regulations, either in whole or part, may be refused application for affiliation or have its affiliation cancelled or suspended by AFL NSW/ACT in its absolute discretion.

## **3. NOTICE AND DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

### **3.1 Compliance**

Each League, Club, Player and Official acknowledges that in order to meet the stated objectives of these Regulations, their terms must be strictly complied with and their spirit and intent honoured and AFL NSW/ACT has the right to impose disciplinary sanctions to enforce and encourage such compliance.

### **3.2 Disciplinary Sanctions**

AFL NSW/ACT may enforce the terms of these Regulations and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have breached these Regulations:

- (A) reasonable and sufficient notice of each and every particular of the alleged breach or breaches;
- (B) notice of possible sanctions; and
- (C) the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to that alleged breach or breaches.

### **3.3 Exclusion of Liability**

AFL NSW/ACT may excuse:

- (A) a League, Club, Player or Official from liability if that party ought reasonably and fairly be excused, wholly or partly, from that liability on such terms as AFL NSW/ACT thinks fit; and
- (B) a Player or Official from liability in consideration of the Player's co-operation and assistance in establishing a breach of the Regulations by any League, Club or Official.

## **4. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

Each League agrees to apply and use the uniform system of registration of players as set out in these Regulations.

### **4.1 Player Registration**

- (A) Any person wishing to play in Competition Matches with a Club must be registered.
- (B) All Player registrations are processed through Footyweb, or any other system as determined by AFL NSW/ACT or the AFL from time to time.

- (C) No person will be registered or re-registered under an assumed name unless such assumed name and the reason for its necessary use is notified to and accepted by the League and the person's legal name and current address are submitted to the League at the time of registration. Such information shall be kept confidential by the League.
- (D) Upon a person's registration application being approved, the person shall be deemed a player of that Club until such time as the person has either been granted a transfer to play with another club or a period of twenty-four (24) calendar months has elapsed since the person last played competition football for the Club with which he or she was last registered.
- (E) Players are required to re-register with their existing Club each season through Footyweb. A new registration form is not required to be completed for re-registration.

#### **4.2 Registration Documentation**

- (A) All Player registrations must be submitted electronically via Footyweb by the player or, where the Player is Under 18 years of age as of 1 January in the year of registration, the registration must be submitted by the Player's parent or legal guardian.
- (B) For the registration to be active, the Club must accept the Player's registration.
- (C) Clubs must not register a Player without the Player's consent.
- (D) Documentation evidencing proof of age in the form of an original birth certificate, photo licence, passport, immunisation booklet or student identification may be requested by the League at any time. Failure to produce such documentation may lead to the Player's registration being refused or cancelled.

#### **4.3 Register of Players**

Each League, through Footyweb, must keep an up to date register of all Player registrations which includes the following information:

- (A) Full name, address, date of birth and contact telephone number(s); and
- (B) Date the Player registration was granted.

#### **4.4 Dual Registration**

No player can be registered with more than one club at the same time except as provided for under the National Player Transfer Regulations and Regulation 5 below or in special circumstances as determined by the League with which the player is registered.

#### **4.5 Closing Date for Registrations and Transfers**

- (A) New Player registrations will be accepted until the end of the home and away series in the season in which the Player intends to play.
- (B) Player transfer applications will be dealt with in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

#### **AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS -**

- (C) All transfers must be logged and finalised in Footyweb by 5.00pm on Friday prior to the player taking part in a match.

#### **4.6 Misleading and Incorrect Information**

- (A) Any Player who knowingly submits incorrect information or who intentionally fails to disclose information on any registration form or transfer application may be subject to the following penalties as determined by the League in its absolute discretion:
  - a. De-registration; or
  - b. Up to four (4) weeks suspension; and
- (B) In addition to Regulation 4.6(A) above, the League may also be deem or determine that the Player was ineligible for any Competition Matches in which he/she has played.
- (C) Any Club Official or Club that is party to a breach of this Regulation may be sanctioned by the League in its absolute discretion.

#### **4.7 Unregistered and Ineligible Players**

- (A) Any player not properly registered, or any Player registered based upon incorrect or omitted information on the registration application will be deemed to be ineligible. Any Club that either knowingly or unknowingly plays an ineligible player may lose all Match points for that Competition Match and be fined up to \$100 for each Competition Match in which such player has played.
- (B) Any ineligible Player(s), Official(s) and/or Club(s) found by the League to have been involved with allowing a player to compete in a Competition Match in accordance with this Regulation may be liable for suspension or deregistration in addition to any loss of Match points and fine(s).
- (C) If an allegation has been made against a Club for playing an ineligible Player, the Club will be responsible for the appearance of the player at any investigation conducted by the League.

#### **4.8 Eligibility of Minors or Juniors**

- (A) Players must be eligible for to play in the specific age group of the relevant Competition as of 1 January in the year of the relevant season.
- (B) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, the minimum age for Players to participate in a Competition is as follows:
  - a. Senior/ Open Grade Competitions – fifteen (16) years of age (subject to consent of the Player's parents/guardians);
  - b. Under 18's Competitions – fourteen (16) years of age (subject to consent of the Player's parents/guardians); and
  - c. Under 17's Competitions – thirteen (15) years of age (subject to consent of the Player's parents/guardians).
- (C) The Administration Committee may consider any request for an exemption to the minimum age upon receipt of a written application from the Player's Club including written consent from the Player's parents/guardians.

## **5. PLAYER TRANSFERS**

### **5.1 Player Transfers**

All Player transfers must be processed through Footyweb.

### **5.2 Transfers between Clubs**

Procedures for the transfer of players between Clubs within the same League (Domestic Transfers) will be in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations and Regulations 3.7 and 3.8 below.

### **5.3 Transfers between Leagues**

Transfer of players between AFL NSW/ACT Leagues must be in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

### **5.4 Interstate Transfers**

Procedures for the transfer of players between States will be in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

### **5.5 Interchange Agreements**

Neighbouring Leagues may enter into Match Day Permit Agreements (or Interchange Agreements) to enable the movement of players between such Leagues other than as provided for in these Regulations. For Match Day Permit Agreements to be binding, they must be in writing and formally adopted by each League and lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT via Footyweb.

[AFL Riverina Local Conditions:](#)

[Refer to Appendix "F".](#)

### **5.6 No Transfer Required**

The transfer provisions do not apply to any player who has not been registered with a League at any time during the past two (2) seasons.

### **5.7 Appeals Board – Domestic Transfers Only**

- (A) An Appeals Board will be established by the Administration Committee to hear and determine all appeals relating to the refusal of Domestic Transfers.
- (B) The Appeals Board shall be appointed each year by the League and shall consist of a panel of at least three (3) and no more than five (5) members, each of whom shall not be an Official of any Club playing in the League.
- (C) The Appeals Board shall hold office for one (1) year. Each member may be reappointed for further terms of office.
- (D) A Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be appointed by the League.

- (E) At any sitting of the Appeals Board, a minimum of two (2) members shall constitute a quorum and where possible, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall preside.
- (F) For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeals Board referred to in this Regulation 5.7 and Regulation 5.8 will rule on appeals on domestic transfers only.

## **5.8 Refused Domestic Transfer**

- (A) Requests for a Domestic Transfer can only be refused by the Player's registered Club if the player:
  - a. is indebted to the Club;
  - b. is in possession of Club property (e.g. jumper) that needs to be returned; and/or
  - c. wishes to withdraw their transfer application. Clubs can only submit this as a reason for refusal where the player has signed the forms as required by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.
  - d. Is currently a contracted player to their registered club
- (B) The transferor Club must clearly state the reason(s) why the transfer is refused and must simultaneously provide supporting documentation.
- (C) Where a transferor Club refuses to transfer a player, the player may lodge an appeal in writing, together with a \$100 bond (of which \$20 is not refundable), to the League within five (5) business days from receipt of refusal.
- (D) Upon advice from the League that an appeal has been lodged the transferor Club has five (5) business days to lodge the same bond outlined in Regulation 4.8(C) to the League for the matter to be heard by the Appeals Board. The Appeals Board will hear the matter within five (5) business days of both bonds being lodged. Should the transferor Club fail to lodge the bond within five (5) business days then the transfer will automatically be granted by the League.
- (E) Bond monies may be forfeited at the discretion of the Appeals Board if it deems either the appeal or the refusal to be frivolous. If the transferor Club does not lodge a bond in the time stipulated then the transfer shall be automatically granted by the League.
- (F) Where, since the refusal of a transfer, the transferor Club and the player have come to an agreement, the transfer will take effect when the League receives either the original transfer form or a second transfer form, which has been suitably endorsed by the transferor club.
- (G) Where the Appeals Board is satisfied that the transferor Club does not have reasonable grounds for refusing the Player a transfer, the Appeals Board may grant the transfer.
- (H) The determination of the Appeals Board will be binding upon the Player and Club and an unsuccessful transfer application will not be renewed during the season in which the transfer was sought, provided always that where a material change in relevant circumstances occurs later, the Player may apply to the Appeals Board for a review by way of re-hearing.



The Appeals Board must report to the Administration Committee any circumstances of which it may become aware which may suggest that false or misleading information has been provided to the Appeals Board by a party at or in connection with the hearing of any appeal.

## **5.9 Refused Interstate Transfers and Transfers between Leagues**

Refusals of Players wishing to transfer between AFL NSW/ACT Leagues or interstate will be dealt with in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

### **5.10 Student Permits**

- (A) Subject to Regulation 5.10(D) below, a Player who transfers to another Club to attend an educational institution on a full-time and continuous basis may, during official semester vacations / school holidays, receive a permit to play with his immediate former Club subject to written endorsement from the current Club, the former Club and their respective Leagues.
- (B) The permit application is to be endorsed by those outlined above in Regulation 5.10(A) prior to 1 July in a given year.
- (C) The permit period lasts until the Player ceases his commitments at the educational institution and is subject to any relevant regulations of any of the parties, including participation in finals.
- (D) In order to be eligible for a Student Permit under this Regulation, the player must provide a school or university calendar which sets out vacation periods.

### **5.11 Match Day Permits**

- (A) A Player registered with a League Club may play with another League Club (in the same League) under the following conditions:
  - a. The interchange of all players under this Regulation must be approved by the Administration Committee;
  - b. The Player only plays with one Club on any weekend or round;
  - c. The Footyweb permit system shall be the facility used to activate such interchanges (A Match Permit);
  - d. Competition Matches played on Match permit do not count towards finals eligibility with either Club;
  - e. A Player cannot play on interchange on a day or weekend when his Club has the bye or is otherwise not playing.

*The spirit of this rule is to allow a Club with surplus Player(s) on a given Competition Match day to give these Player(s) a Competition Match of football with another club. It is also designed to allow a Player to trial with another Club which is playing in a higher grade or division.*

### **5.12 State League Player Trial Permit**

- (A) A Player registered with a Community League Club may obtain a permit to trial with a State League Club under the following conditions:

- a. The permit of all Players under this Regulation must be approved by the Administration Committee, the NEAFL Manager and the Player's Community Club;
- b. A Player is only permitted to play with one club on any weekend or round;
- c. A Player may only be granted a permit to one (1) State League Club per season;
- d. A Player is eligible to trial in up to six (6) State Competition Matches per season with the one (1) State League Club;
- e. A Community League Club can only permit one (1) Player to each State League Club on any given weekend or round;
- f. For each trial Match a Player's weekly Match payments and/or contract with their current Club must be honoured by the State League Club;
- g. Competition Matches played on permit shall count towards finals eligibility for both the State League and Community Club.

*The spirit of this rule is to facilitate aspiring Community League Player(s) the opportunity to trial with a State League Club.*

### **5.13 Leagues / Clubs Disbanding / Amalgamating**

- (A) In the event of the transfer of a Club from one League to another, all registered Players of that Club shall be transferred with the Club to the new League. The Secretary or authorised person of the transferor League shall supply a certified list of all registered Players of the Club concerned to the Club's new League.
- (B) If a Player's Club has disbanded or amalgamated, the Player must obtain a transfer from his/her League prior to playing with another Club.
- (C) If a Player's League has disbanded, the Player must obtain a transfer from AFL NSW/ACT prior to playing with another Club.

### **5.14 General**

- (A) Each League must keep a register of all transfer applications which contains the following information:
  - a. Player's name and date the application was received by the League;
  - b. Name of the Club/League from which the Player desires to transfer and name of Club/League to which the Player desires to transfer;
  - c. Date the application was forwarded for decision; and
  - d. Date the response was received and decision.
- (B) A Player or Coach under disqualification by a League or Tribunal may be granted a transfer to a Club in another League during his period of suspension but such Player or Coach must serve the remainder of his or her suspension before playing or coaching in Competition Matches with the new Club.

- (C) Notwithstanding anything within these Regulations and By-Laws, Leagues may make provision in their own by-laws for a player to register after 1 July, subject to transfer approval by his/her registered Club/League, where such Player is transferred by the defence force or by their employer of at least 3 months to another branch, department or related entity of the employer company.
- (D) AFL NSW/ACT may, in extenuating circumstances and in consultation with the relevant League, grant a transfer after 1 July of the relevant season.

## **6. CLUB TRANSFERRING**

- (A) Clubs desiring to transfer to another League must first obtain the permission of that League to join it, and if the permission is granted the Club must lodge a written application to transfer with its current League which shall be required to deal with such application. Should the Club's current League fail to determine the application within sixty (60) days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer automatically to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.
- (B) If any League is seeking a Club(s) from any other League, then the inviting League must notify the Secretary of the current League of such Club(s) at least fourteen (14) days prior to the invitation to the Club(s). Any Club(s) that accepts the League's invitation must provide its current League with no less than fourteen (14) days' notice of its intention to transfer to another League. Should the Club's current League fail to determine the application within sixty (60) days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer automatically to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.
- (C) Leagues must obtain the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT prior to affiliating with any newly formed Club.
- (D) In the event of a Club being refused permission to transfer to or join another League, the Club may appeal to AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with Regulation 10 below.
- (E) In the event of a League disbanding, the Clubs affiliated with that League will be transferred to another League as determined by AFL NSW/ACT in its absolute discretion.
- (F) Any League or Club may appeal a decision made by AFL NSW/ACT pursuant to Regulation 6 (E) in accordance with Regulation 11 below.

## **7. COACHES AND OFFICIALS**

### **7.1 Coaches to be Registered and Accredited**

- (A) All Coaches must be registered in Footyweb.
- (B) All Coaches must be accredited to at least Junior Level 1 and/or Youth Level 1 by 1 July in the year of Competition.
- (C) The League may revoke or suspend a Coach's permit or authorisation to coach a Club's team at any time in its absolute discretion.

### **7.2 Unregistered and Unaccredited Coaches**

- (A) Any Coach not accredited or registered, or registered based upon incorrect information is ineligible to coach a Club's team in a Competition Match.
- (B) Any Club who engages or permits an ineligible Coach to officiate during a Competition Match may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including loss of Competition Match points and/ or a fine of up to \$1,000.
- (C) Ineligible Coach(es) may also be liable for disciplinary sanctions including a fine, suspension, deregistration or ban on registration as determined by the League in its absolute discretion.
- (D) When an allegation has been made against any Club for engaging an ineligible Coach the Club is responsible for the appearance of the Coach at any investigation or hearing conducted by the League.

### **7.3 Suspended Players / Coaches / Officials**

- (A) Any suspended Player, Coach or Official is an ineligible person and will not be allowed to act in any way as a Coach, Umpire, trainer, runner, water-carrier or any official "on field" capacity in any Competition Match for the duration of his/her suspension.
- (B) Any Coach suspended in his/her capacity as a Coach will not be permitted to enter the field of play at any stage of a Competition Match that is sanctioned by the League.

### **7.4 Working with Children Policy**

- (A) All persons must comply with the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation.
- (B) All Coaches and team managers must obtain a Working with Children Check clearance, whether or not they would otherwise be exempted under the Regulations of the Child Protection Legislation as not requiring a check by reason of their being a parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates.
- (C) All Working With Children Check clearances must be valid and effective by 30 June each season.

## **8. DISQUALIFICATIONS – PERSONS NOT TO ACT**

Any person who has been refused a transfer or permit to play or has been suspended or de-registered shall not hold any on field position with any League or Club until the transfer or permit is granted, or the period of suspension or de-registration has expired or is removed by the body imposing the suspension or de-registration.

## **9. DISCIPLINARY AND TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES**

Leagues must adopt the procedures set out in the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, as amended from time to time, for any disciplinary related matter.

## **10. OFFENCES IN INTER-LEAGUE MATCHES**

In the event of a Player being reported in an inter-league/ representative Match or in a Match between clubs of different leagues, the independent Tribunal of the League with which the Player is registered shall hear the charge.

## **11. APPEALS**

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT adopts the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT including in respect of “Section 4 – Competition Appeal Rules” and National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT including in respect of “Section 3 – Appeal from Disciplinary Tribunal Decision” such that Players, Coaches, Officials, spectators, administrators and any other people reasonably connected to AFL NSW/ACT are required to comply with those Guidelines.
- (B) Any Player, Club or League may appeal to its Appeals Board where constituted or where no such body exists, to AFL NSW/ACT against a decision of his/her/its governing body, including any decision arising out of these Regulations and By-Laws (where applicable).
- (C) All appeals, whether against a tribunal finding or against a decision in Regulation 11(B) above, will be conducted in accordance with Section 4 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or Section 3 of the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (as the case may be).
- (D) The decision of the Appeals Board will be final and binding on all parties.

## **12. DOMESTIC MATTERS**

- (A) Each League has the power to promulgate supplementary rules or by-laws to provide for the effective management of its own affairs, provided that any such supplementary rules or by-laws are not inconsistent with these Regulations and By-Laws.
- (B) In the event of any inconsistency between a League rule or by-law and a provision contained with these Regulations and By-Laws, the latter will prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

## **13. AFL NSW/ACT COMPETITION BY-LAWS**

Unless agreed to in writing by AFL NSW/ACT each League adopts the By-Laws provided in Part B.

## **14. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS**

In accordance with the Constitution, AFL NSW/ACT may from time to time amend or repeal any of these Regulations as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of AFL NSW/ACT and the regulation of its affairs.

## **15. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

AFL NSW/ACT has the power to decide or determine any matters not provided for in these Regulations.

## PART B – BY-LAWS

### 16. CLUB AFFILIATION

All Clubs must affiliate with the League in the form and on such conditions determined by the League and/or AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

### 17. COMPETITION ARRANGEMENTS

#### 17.1 Fixture

- (A) Following receipt and acceptance of Club affiliation applications, the League will prepare a schedule of Competition Matches (fixture draw) for each grade of Competition for distribution to Clubs prior to the start of the season.
- (B) Other than in exceptional circumstances as approved by the League, these fixture draws will not be varied once the season has commenced.
- (C) Each Competition fixture draw will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.

#### 17.2 Match Times

- (A) Starting time of all Competition Matches will be advised when the fixture draw is released. The starting times may be varied by the Administration Committee in its absolute discretion.

#### 17.2 AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS -

Starting time of all matches will be;

##### Home and Away Matches

Grade:	Starting Time	Length of Qtrs	Time On Added
First	2.10 pm	20 minutes	Yes
Reserve	12.00 noon	20 minutes	No
Third	10.20 am	20 minutes	No

##### Finals

Grade:	Starting Time	Length of Qtrs	Time On Added
First	2.30 pm	20 minutes	Yes
Reserve	11.45am	20 minutes	Yes
Third	9.30 am	20 minutes	Yes

During all finals matches with the exception of the Grand Final, first grade games should be prepared to commence where possible at the earlier starting time of 2.15pm.

- (B) Competition Matches must start and finish on time. If a Competition Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Competition 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 Competition Match can commence as scheduled.

- (C) Subject to By-Law 17.2(D), 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 Competition Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Administration Committee.
- (D) If the start of a Competition Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Competition Match is rescheduled by the Administration Committee or by mutual agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (E) For Juniors Competition Matches where teams do not have the minimum number of Players at the scheduled Competition Match start time, the Competition Match shall commence with reduced and equal Player numbers on each team on the field. No time-on will be allowed for such home and away Matches.
- (F) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Competition Match, the field Umpire must report the matter to the Administration Committee for investigation.

### **17.3 Match Duration**

- (A) The duration of quarters for all home and away Competition Matches will be determined by the League.
- (B) For Competition Matches where time on is to be implemented, the following is to apply:
  - a. 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.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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:
    - i. the bouncing of the ball or ball up by the Umpire in the centre (after a goal); or
    - ii. the ball being brought back into play (after a behind).
  - d. 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.
  - e. In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field Umpire shall signal time off as outlined in By-Law 17.3(B)(a).
- (C) For Competition Matches where time on is not applicable, the following will apply:



- a. 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 17.3(B)(a).

#### **17.4 Warning Sirens**

Timekeepers are to sound the siren as an indicator to Players and Officials as follows:

- a. As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of Competition Match and after half-time – Once;
- b. Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Competition Match and start of the third quarter – Once;
- c. Two minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
- d. One minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;
- e. Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.

#### **17.5 Ladder**

A premiership ladder for each Competition shall be maintained throughout the duration of the home and away season as follows and as determined by the Administration Committee:

##### **17.5.1 Even Number of Teams and/or Even Number of Competition Matches Played**

The teams will be positioned in accordance with the total number of premiership points accrued (four (4) points will be allocated for a win, two (2) points for a draw and nil (0) for a loss). Where more than one team has the same “number of premiership points accrued” those team will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such teams.

##### **17.5.2 Uneven Number of Teams and/or Uneven Number of Competition Matches Played**

- (A) The teams will be positioned in the order of their “Winning Percentage” or “Match Ratio” in place of total premiership points accrued. A team’s Match Ratio will be the percentage of wins against Competition Matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one team has the same “Match Ratio” those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such teams.
- (B) The premiership ladder will not count cancelled Competition Matches as Competition Matches played and thus ‘Match Ratio’ is only affected by the number of Competition Matches played where a win, loss or draw can be affected.

## 17.6 Premier Team

The Premier team is the team which wins the Grand Final in each respective Competition for the season.

## 17.7 Forfeits

- (A) Any Club unable to play a Competition Match for which it is drawn is to advise the opposing Club and the League no later than the predetermined time on the Friday prior to the Competition Match concerned. The Competition 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) Should a Club forfeit a Competition Match without the required notice, a fine of up to \$1,000.00 may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Administration Committee.
- (C) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Competition Match, the League will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be invoiced for the full amount.
- (D) Subject to By-Law 17.2(C), if for any reason a team is not ready to commence play 20 minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Competition Match, the opposing Club may claim the Competition Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Administration Committee.
- (E) All Clubs must field a senior grade team in the home and away Competition unless otherwise arranged with the Administration Committee. Should a Club play in a reserve grade fixture and subsequently forfeit their senior grade Competition Match in the same round, that Club will not be awarded any points for the reserve grade Competition Match and will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as the Administration Committee may determine in its absolute discretion.
- (F) A team shall forfeit a Competition Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Competition Match already commenced.
  - (i) The team receiving the forfeit shall submit a team sheet for the purpose of Player eligibility for finals.
- (G) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Competition Match will be determined as follows:
  - (i) Juniors (under 14s and below): a sixty (60) to nil (0) point win to the team who did not forfeit the Competition Match;
  - (ii) Youth (under 15s-17s): a ninety (90) to nil (0) point win to the team who did not forfeit the Competition Match;
  - (iii) Seniors (under 18s and over): a one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) point win to the team who did not forfeit the Competition Match.

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

### **17.9 Adverse Weather**

- (A) From time to time the League may vary the playing conditions due to adverse weather.
- (B) In the case where there is lightning during a Competition Match, the Umpire has the authority to delay the Competition Match where they believe the conditions have become unsafe.

### **17.10 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 Competition Matches to be considered.
- (B) Where a venue to which a Competition Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Competition Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.
- (C) Where a Competition Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the home team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next Competition 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, the League will make every effort to reschedule the Competition 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 home team responsibilities will be assumed by the home team as nominated in the fixture.
- (E) If a Competition Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Administration Committee will decide whether or not the Competition Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.
- (F) Should it appear likely that more than one Competition Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Administration Committee may postpone or cancel all Competition Matches for that round.
- (G) In the event that any Competition Match is cancelled, the Competition Match does not contribute to either team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 16.5.2 and such Competition Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Competition Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Administration Committee will determine player eligibility for finals.
- (H) Each Club is required to have procedures in place, which will enable them to contact their Players, and Officials to notify them at short notice of any changes to scheduled Competition Matches.

### **17.11 Other Matches**

No Club shall arrange or play in any Competition Match other than the official fixture schedule without the approval of the Administration Committee.

### **17.12 Player Points Systems**

- (A) The League has prescribed a Player Points System which is outlined in "Appendix E".
- (B) Each Club must submit the proposed point's allocation for each Player to the League by the date as prescribed by the League for verification and assessment by the League Equalisation Panel. Each Player's final point's allocation will be uploaded into FootyWeb by personnel appointed by the League.
- (C) A Club's team for a Competition Match must comply with the Player Points System applicable for the relevant Competition, if any. A Club who does not comply with the Player Points System may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.
- (D) A Club, Official or Player who provide false or incorrect information may be subject to disciplinary sanctions imposed by the League.

## **18. FINALS**

### **18.1 Finals Structure**

The Administration Committee will refer to League guidelines to determine the length of any finals series upon release of the Competition Season Fixture and prior to the first home and away Competition Match of the season.

### **18.2 Venue Selection**

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

#### **AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS -**

**18.2** The Administration Committee shall determine the venues for finals series matches on an annual basis taking into consideration the best ground available at the time and the ground selection is not determined by the Minor Premier.

### **18.3 Match Duration**

The duration of finals Competition Matches will be as determined by the League in accordance with By-Law 17.3

### **18.4 Match Conditions**

Subject to By-Laws 18.3 and 18.5, all other Competition Match conditions applicable for the home and away season will apply to all finals Competition Matches.

### **18.5 Drawn Finals**

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

- a. The goal Umpires will confirm the scores;
- b. The field Umpires will re-commence the Competition Match for a further duration of five (5) minutes (plus time on) and the teams will not change ends (i.e. they will kick towards the same goal that they did in the final quarter);
- 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 Competition Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute (plus time on) period, the Competition Match will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound; and
- e. At no stage before or during extra time are Coaches permitted to address Players.

### **18.6 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.

## 18.7 Player Eligibility

- (A) The League will determine the eligibility provisions prior to the commencement of the home & away season.

### AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS

#### 18.7 FARRER FNL Player Eligibility for Finals

18.7.1 A first grade player for the purpose of qualifying in the reserve grade finals shall be one who has actually played in one or more first grade games during the current season. Selection as an inter change player in the first grade side shall be classed as a first grade game for the purpose of qualifying in the lower grades. For the purpose of qualifying for the first grade during the current season a player who has played 25% of available home and away games (4 games) to qualify in either first, reserve or under seventeen grades shall be deemed eligible.

18.7.2 Any player who has represented his club in 50% (8 games) or more available home and away first grade games in a season shall not be eligible to play within a lower grade, and a player other than those referred to above shall play at least 25% of available home and away games (4 games) with the reserve grade or under seventeens before becoming eligible for the finals subject to Rule 16.7.4.

18.7.3 A first grade player must play at least 25% of available home and away games (4 games) with the reserve grade and or under seventeens prior to the start of the final series before he shall be eligible for play in the reserve grade or under seventeens grade finals subject to rules of qualification for each grade. If any club has the first grade, reserve grade and under seventeens or first and reserve grade or reserve and under seventeens playing on the one weekend then all restrictions shall be lifted for players, as between these teams, no player shall play more than one game per weekend during the final series except in the following circumstance.

If a Reserve grade or Under 17's player plays on a Saturday and a 1st Grade player or Reserve Grade player pulls out of the 1st grade side on the Saturday night due to illness or injury a Reserve grade player (who played on Saturday) will be allowed to take his place on the following Sunday.

If a Under 17's player plays on a Saturday and a 1st Grade or reserve grade player pulls on the Saturday night due to illness or injury a Under 17's player (who played on Saturday) will be allowed to take his place on the following Sunday in 1st Grade.

18.7.4 If any Club has the first and reserve grades playing on the one weekend then any player who has played reserve grade on that weekend will be able to play in any remaining reserve grade finals the Club participates in.

18.7.5 All players participating in matches must be recorded on the applicable team sheet. For the purpose of the above rules players who have been recorded on the team sheets will be regarded as having played that match.

18.7.6 To be eligible to play in an under seventeen finals game, a player must fulfil the age conditions and have played the minimum of 25% of available home and away games under seventeen games provided, he has not played any first (1st) grade games throughout the season. In the event of an under seventeen player playing first grade within the current season for his club, he must play 33% of the available home and away games to qualify to play in the Under seventeen finals. After qualifying (playing 33% of available home and away games) he can play UNLIMITED 1st Grade games within the same season.

18.7.7 Players may play in more than one game on the same day at the same ground in the same round. However, this provision will apply;

a.) A player who plays in an under seventeen and a reserve grade game will be deemed to have played an under seventeen and reserve grade game.

b.) A player who plays in an under seventeen and a first grade game will be deemed to have played a under seventeen game and a first grade game.

18.7.8 This special provision will also apply;

If in the home and away matches, a club's reserve grade team shall be playing on a day when its first grade team is not engaged, then in such cases any player who has played in the first grade team in the immediately preceding match of the current season, shall be ineligible to play with the reserve or under seventeen team on that day.

18.7.9 Finals Eligibility - AFL(NSW/ACT) RAMS Players qualifying for Finals

Games played on match permit in the AFL (NSW/ACT) RAMS competition and the NEAFL competition shall count towards finals eligibility for their community club.

## AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS

### 18.8 RIVERINA FL Player Eligibility for Finals

18.7.1 Definition; A first grade player for the purpose of qualifying in the reserve grade finals shall be one who has actually played in one or more first grade games during the current season. Selection as an inter change player in the first grade side shall be classed as a first grade game for the purpose of qualifying in the lower grades. For the purpose of qualifying for the first grade during the current season a player who has played 25% or more available home and away games (4 games) in either first, reserve or under seventeen grades shall be deemed eligible.

18.7.2 Any player who has represented his club in nine or more first grade games in a season shall not be eligible to play within a lower grade, and a player other than those referred to above shall play at least 25% or more available home and away games (4 games) with the reserve grade or under seventeens before becoming eligible for the finals subject to Rule 16.7.4.

18.7.3 A first grade player must play at least 33% of available home & away games (5 games) with the reserve grade prior to the start of the final series before he shall be eligible for play in the reserve grade or under seventeens grade finals subject to rules of qualification for each grade. If any club has the first grade and reserve grade on the one weekend then all restrictions shall be lifted for players, as between these teams, no player shall play more than one game per weekend during the final series except in the following circumstance.

If a Reserve grade or Under 17's player plays on a Saturday and a 1st Grade player or Reserve Grade player pulls out of the 1st grade side on the Saturday night due to illness or injury a Reserve grade player (who played on Saturday) will be allowed to take his place on the following Sunday.

If a Under 17's player plays on a Saturday and a 1st Grade or reserve grade player pulls on the Saturday night due to illness or injury a Under 17's player (who played on Saturday) will be allowed to take his place on the following Sunday in 1st Grade.

18.7.4 If any Club has the first and reserve grades playing on the one weekend then any player who has played reserve grade on that weekend will be able to play in any remaining reserve grade finals the Club participates in.

18.7.5 All players participating in matches must be recorded on the applicable team sheet. For the purpose of the above rules players who have been recorded on the team sheets will be regarded as having played that match.

18.7.6 To be eligible to play in an under seventeen finals game, a player must fulfil the age conditions and have played the minimum of 25% of available home and away games (4 games) for his club in any grade.

18.7.7 Players may play in more than one game on the same day at the same ground in the same round. However, this provision will apply;

- a). A player who plays in an under seventeen and a reserve grade game will be deemed to have played an under seventeen and reserve grade game.
- b). A player who plays in an under seventeen and a first grade game will be deemed to have played a under seventeen game and a first grade game.

18.7.8 This special provision will also apply;

If in the home and away matches, a club's reserve grade team shall be playing on a day when its first grade team is not engaged, then in such cases any player who has played in the first grade team in the immediately preceding match of the current season, shall be ineligible to play with the reserve or under seventeen team on that day.

18.7.9 Finals Eligibility - AFL(NSW/ACT) RAMS Players qualifying for Finals

Games played on match permit in the AFL (NSW/ACT) RAMS competition and the NEAFL competition shall count towards finals eligibility for their community club

- (B) A Player is only permitted to play in one finals Competition Match for his Club on any given weekend or round unless determined otherwise by the League pursuant to this By-Law 18.7.
- (C) Any Player who has played in a total of 50% or more of home and away Competition Matches of a higher grade or grades in the relevant season will not be eligible to play final Competition Matches in a lower grade unless the Matches in the higher and lower grades are to be played on the same day (as defined by the League).
- (D) On application by a Player's Club, the Administration Committee may vary the number of qualifying Competition Matches required where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away Competition Matches or where a Player misses a significant number of Competition Matches due to serious injury, transfers in employment, or under other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Administration Committee. Such 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.

#### **18.8 Provision of Officials**

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

#### **18.9 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights**

Catering and gate receipt rights for finals Competition Matches will be determined by the League

## 19. TEAMS

### 19.1 Number of players – Senior Competitions

The number of on field and interchange Players for each Competition will be determined by the Administration Committee.

#### 19.1 Number of players - AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS

##### Farrer FNL

19.1.1 First grade clubs may use three (3) interchange players during home and away matches and four (4) during finals matches.

19.1.2 Reserve grade clubs may use a maximum of 22 players for the home and away season (maximum 18 or 16 players on the field at any one time). The final matches will consist of 18 players on the field and 4 interchange.

19.1.3 In the event that both clubs are agreeably the Reserve grade may use a maximum of (18) players on the field with (4) interchange players for home and away games. No Under 17's players or Under 16 players are to double up to make the maximum number of players up to (18) on the field.

##### Riverina FNL

19.1.1 First grade clubs may use four (4) interchange players during home and away matches and four (4) during finals matches.

19.1.2 Reserve grade clubs may use a maximum of 22 players for the home and away season (maximum 18 or 16 players on the field at any one time). The final matches will consist of 18 players on the field and 4 interchange.

19.1.3 In the event that both clubs are agreeably the Reserve grade may use a maximum of (18) players on the field with (4) interchange players for home and away games. No Under 17's players or Under 16 players are to double up to make the maximum number of players up to (18) on the field.

### 19.2 Number of players – Under Age Competitions

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

### 19.3 Minimum Number of Players (ex Juniors)

- (A) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a team to commence a Competition Match is fourteen (14).

### **19.3 Teams AFL RIVERINA CONDITIONS**

AFL Riverina Under 17's Competitions (the rules below relates to Under 17 & Under 17's and a half competitions)

19.3.1 Clubs Fielding an under seventeen side (maximum 18 or 16 players on the field at any one time) may have an unlimited number of interchange players for home and away matches. Clubs will field 24 players for finals (18 players on the field at any one time plus 6 interchange).

19.3.2 If any Club is unable to field an under seventeen team of at least 14 eligible players, then and only then that Club may field up to two over age players provided such players are no more than one year older than the eligible age, and the opposing Club's Team Manager and Coach are notified of the names and dates of birth of the over age players prior to the game beginning.

19.3.3 If any Club plays over age players in an under seventeen team without the notification required in Clause (ii) above, any premiership points won by that team will be forfeited.

19.3.4 Over age players will be ineligible to receive any votes in an under seventeen best and fairest award.

19.3.5 Over age players must be indicated on the team sheets by drawing a circle around the player's jumper number.

(B) Instances of non-compliance with By-Law 19.3 will be treated as a forfeit.

### **19.5 Team Sheet / List**

(A) For each Competition Match, each Club must provide three (3) copies of an official team sheet/ list using the Footyweb system.

(B) The official team sheet/ list must contain each Player's name and jumper number and the name of each team Officials.

(C) A copy of the official team sheet/ list is to be provided by each Club to:

a. The field Umpires prior to the commencement of the Competition Match as designated by the League.

b. The timekeeper, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores and goal-scorers at the conclusion of the Competition Match and returned to the League Office with the relevant Match paperwork, and

c. The opposing Club.

(D) Player and Official names on team sheets/ lists are to be completed in alphabetical order.

(E) Alterations or additions may be made to the original team sheet/ list 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/ list

provided that the opposition team manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the team sheet/ list before the second half commences.

- (F) Players included on the team sheet/ list but not in attendance at the Competition Match venue must be removed from the team sheet/ list before the second half commences. No amendments may be made to any team after the half time interval.
- (G) Goals not listed on the team sheet/ list 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/ list may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's team be recorded as losing the Competition Match (with a score of sixty (60) to nil (0)).

## **19.6 Signature Checks**

In the event that there is a question on the authenticity or eligibility of a Player listed on a team sheet / list on Match day, at the request of either Team Captain, the field Umpire shall at the earliest opportunity (before the Competition Match, quarter interval or after the Competition Match) request that the Player provide his full name, address, identification and signature.

- (A) Should any Player fail to comply with a request pursuant to By-Law 19.6(A), 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 Administration Committee in accordance with these By-Laws.

## **20. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

The Club named first on the official fixture draw is the home Club, and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Competition Matches are adhered to.

### **20.1 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 area, comprising two short lines across the boundary line 15 metres apart, should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equidistant on either side not less than 50 metres apart for the interchange Players and team Officials of each Club;
- (B) The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.
- (C) A Coach's line should be marked comprising 5 metres in length and 1 metre in from the fence / fence line. 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.

### **20.2 Goal Post Pads**

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

### **20.3 Scoreboard**

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

### **20.4 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 Competition Match.

### **20.5 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.

### **20.6 Footballs**

- (A) Two footballs of a suitable standard must be provided for use in each Competition Match. Subject to this Regulation 20.6, the standards and requirements relating to footballs for all grades of Competition will be determined by the League.

- (B) AFL NSW/ACT's approved suppliers of footballs are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo on footballs. Where applicable, the official Match ball supplier(s) are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo on footballs used in Competition Matches. The current list of AFL NSW/ACT official Match ball supplier(s) and approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.
- (C) Match balls used in Competition Matches must include the AFL NSW/ACT logo, unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ ACT in writing.
- (D) Unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ ACT in writing, the football sizes to be used in Competition Matches are as follows:
  - a. Open Men's Competitions – Size 5;
  - b. Open Women's Competitions – Size 4;
  - c. Boys Under 17, 18 & 19 Competitions – Size 5;
  - d. Boys Under 15 & 16 Competitions – Size 5;
  - e. Boys Under 13 & 14 Competitions – Size 4;
  - f. Boys Under 11 & 12 Competitions – Size 3;
  - g. Boys Under 8, 9 & 10 Competitions – Size 2;
  - h. Girls Under 18 Competitions – Size 4;
  - i. Girls Under 15 Competitions – Size 4;
  - j. Girls Under 12 Competitions – Size 3;
  - k. Girls Under 10 Competitions – Size 2.

## 20.7 Emergency Medical Arrangements

- (A) 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.
- (B) 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.
- (C) The host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all Competition Matches for which it is the host Club.
- (D) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the policy at any Competition Match as follows:
  - a. Junior (Under 14s and below): First Aid Certificate
  - b. Youth and Seniors (Under 15s and over): Emergency Response Coordinator Certificate
- (E) The visiting Club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each Competition 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 Competition Match will be postponed or rescheduled.
- (F) Any decision to replay a postponed Competition Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Administration Committee within seven days of the scheduled Competition Match. In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Competition Match a delayed start of 20 minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures

following Competition Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Competition Matches following.

- (G) The Competition Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (H) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Competition Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The Regulations and By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply. If a Competition Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the host Club will forfeit the Competition Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.
- (I) 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 Paramedic;
  - e. Doctor.
- (J) A stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of the days play. The home Club must ensure that it can promptly facilitate ambulance access to the field of play if necessary.

## **20.8 Concussion**

- (A) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials.
- (B) The guidelines in this rule on concussion are based on a position statement on the management of concussion in Australian Football by the AFL Medical Officer's Association which can be found here: <http://www.aflcommunityclub.com.au/index.php?id=66>
- (C) Any Player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and must not be allowed to return to play in the same Competition Match or train in the same practice session. Generally, 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 concussed Player 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.

## 20.9 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 Competition 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 home Clubs for a period of seven (7) years for future reference by the League or its insurers if so required.

## 21. CLUB OFFICIALS AND DUTIES

### 21.1 Ground Manager

- (A) The home 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 visiting Club accordingly.
- (C) Prior to the commencement of play, the Ground Manager must identify compliance of the home club with the Sports Trainers Policy as outlined in By-Law 20.7.
- (D) Prior to the commencement of play in each Competition Match, the Ground Manager should distribute the following paperwork provided by the League.

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

The Ground Manager should also have on hand an Umpire Reporting Booklet for Club Umpires wishing to make any reports.

- (E) At the completion of each Competition Match, the Ground Manager should collect the following;

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.*



- (F) The ground manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue as specified in Appendix 'A' of these By-Laws.
- (G) At the end of the Competition 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.
- (H) Finally, it shall be the ground manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the home Club:
  - a. Either SMS or telephones the results of all the days Competition Matches to the required person(s), prior to 5.30 pm (or as defined by the Administration Committee) on the day concerned (this is not required for Competition Matches played on Saturday or if the results have been input into "Footyweb" for Competition Matches played on Sunday)
  - b. Inputs all results and Player information (i.e. team lists, goal kickers & best players) of all the days Competition Matches into the Footyweb on-line results system by the League designated time on the day of the Competition Match.

## **21.2 Team Managers**

- (A) Each Club shall appoint a manager for each team it fields in the Competition. It shall be the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that his or her teams' Players and Officials comply with the requirements specified in these By-Laws and with any request reasonably made by the Umpires officiating in a Competition Match in which their team is participating.
- (B) Each Team Manager shall introduce themselves to the Umpires prior to a Competition Match for identification and to ensure that the team lists/ 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 Competition Match, the goalkickers and best Players for their respective teams are noted on the official team list/ 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 Competition Match to ascertain whether or not any reports of Players or Officials have arisen from the Competition Match or to receive the "all clear".

## **21.3 Team Runner**

- (A) The sole duty of the official Team Runner is to deliver messages to players of his club and then leave the field immediately having done so.
- (B) The Team Runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League.
- (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. Runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.

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

- (A) Clubs may utilise a maximum of six (6) Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers per team.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers for each team must be dressed as approved by the League.
- (D) 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.
- (E) Water Carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the League.

#### **AFL Riverina Condition –**

- (E) Water Carriers need to be 12 years and older to be an approved Water Carrier.

#### **21.5 Umpires Escort**

- (A) For each Competition Match, the home Club must appoint a suitable person to ensure the safety of Umpires (ideally the Ground Manager or appointee). The Umpires Escort is to escort the Umpires (including club Umpires) to and from the Grounds as designated by the League.
- (B) In addition, 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 in accordance with By-Law 26.2.

#### **21.6 Timekeepers**

- (A) The home Club must provide a Timekeeper for each Competition Match.
- (B) The away Club is entitled to also appoint or supply a Timekeeper for each Competition Match.
- (C) The Timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the AFL Laws of the Game, these Regulations and By-Laws and as otherwise specified by the Administration 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 Competition Match if it occurs during the second half. The field Umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Administration Committee for attention.
- (E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, Timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Competition 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, 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 Competition Match.

### **21.7 Officials on the Bench**

In addition to the maximum number of trainers, other medical staff and water carriers, interchange Players and team runner/s, each team is permitted a maximum of four (4) other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play.

### **21.8 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 Competition Match. Club field Umpires are to be attired as approved by the League.
- (C) 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.
- (D) 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.
- (E) Where Official goal and boundary Umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing Club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal and boundary Umpire to officiate. Club goal Umpires must be equipped with two white flags and attired in a uniform as approved by the League and Club boundary Umpires must be attired as approved and equipped with a suitable whistle.
- (F) 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.

- (G) Payment of Club goal and boundary Umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the Administration Committee. Club goal and boundary Umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet.

## **22. UNIFORMS AND LOGO REGULATIONS**

### **22.1 Uniform Design**

- (A) New Clubs are required to submit complete details of the proposed colour and design of its uniform to the Administration 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 uniform design for prior written approval of the Administration Committee.

### **22.2 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 team sheet/ list.
- (B) All numbers must be whole numbers between 1 and 99 inclusive. No Players from the same team are permitted to wear the same number in a Competition Match.
- (C) Numbers must be between 20cm and 28cm in height and in plain font.

### **22.3 AFL NSW/ACT Logo and League/Club Logo**

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo. The current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.
- (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 to exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (D) Shorts worn by clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the left thigh and must not exceed 39cm<sup>2</sup> with a maximum width of 7cm.

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

- (A) Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Administration Committee in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Administration Committee in its absolute discretion and provided:
  - a. The logo does not exceed 39cm<sup>2</sup> with a maximum width of 7cm.
  - b. The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.
- (C) The Administration Committee will consider any other proposals for the display of club or sponsors logos on Player's uniforms.

### **22.5 Inspection of Equipment**

No Player shall be permitted to play in a Competition Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself or other Players. The field Umpires may at their

discretion inspect Players' equipment either before or at any time during the Competition Match.

## 22.6 Club Names and Club Logos

- (A) New Clubs shall be required to submit complete details of the proposed Club name and Club nickname and design of its Club logo to the Administration Committee for approval. Once approved, such Club shall have exclusive rights to its Club name, Club nickname and Club logo.
- (B) Existing Clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their Club name, Club nickname and Club logo design for approval by the Administration Committee before use, such approval to be granted or withheld at the sole discretion of the Administration Committee.

## 22.7 AFL Marks and Logos

For the purposes of this By-Law refer to the definition of “**AFL Marks**” in the Definitions section of these Rules:

- (A) Clubs and the League must not make use of AFL Marks without the prior written consent of the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ ACT which consent may be given or withheld at the AFL and AFL NSW/ ACT's discretion (reasonably exercised). Clubs of the League, Leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by AFL NSW/ ACT must submit details of any proposed use of AFL Marks to AFL NSW/ ACT prior to any use thereof including use for advertising or promotional purposes.
- (B) Clubs and the League acknowledge that the AFL and AFL NSW/ ACT are the owners of the AFL Marks and of the goodwill attaching to the AFL Marks and agree that the AFL Marks must remain vested in the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ ACT and agree not to challenge the validity or ownership of the AFL Marks.
- (C) Clubs and the League must not register any trade marks, company or business names, logos, symbols, emblems, designs, or other indicia using the AFL Marks or any component thereof.
- (D) Clubs and the League agree not to alter the AFL Marks in any way nor to affix, incorporate or use the AFL Marks, in connection with or as part of another trade mark, distinctive mark, name, brand or thing.
- (E) Clubs and the League recognise the great value of the AFL Marks and acknowledge the goodwill attached thereto and that all rights, title and interest therein including the copyright thereto vests in and belongs to AFL and/or AFL NSW/ ACT.
- (F) Clubs and the League agree that they will not at any time do any act, matter or thing intended to or which might otherwise have the effect of interfering with, restricting, limiting or challenging the proprietary rights of AFL and/or AFL NSW/ ACT in and to the AFL Marks.

### **Clash uniforms – AFL Condition Farrer FL**

All Farrer FL clubs will wear coloured shorts at all home competition matches and white club shorts at all away competition matches.

Any clubs breaching this rule will be reported to the Competition Management Committee for consideration.

## **23. UMPIRES**

### **23.1 Appointments**

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

### **23.2 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 rules and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the Administration Committee.

### **23.3 Umpire Requirements**

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

### **23.4 Field Umpire Numbers**

- (A) A minimum of two field Umpires are required in order for a Competition 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 Competition Match will be cancelled and the matter referred to the Administration Committee for determination.
- (C) Where two field Umpires commence a Competition Match and for any reason one of the field Umpires is unable to complete the Competition Match, the remaining field Umpire may continue to control the Competition Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.

### **23.5 Umpires' Fees**

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

### **23.6 Payment of Umpires**

- (A) Appointed Umpires are to sign the Umpires' Match Report prior to the commencement of their scheduled Competition Match. Clubs will be invoiced for the appropriate fee based on actual attendance of officially appointed Umpires.
- (B) In the event of a Competition Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in By-Law 17.7(E), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Competition Match.

### **23.7 Umpires' Match Report**

- (A) At the conclusion of each Competition Match, the field Umpire(s) shall provide a report to the Administration Committee on the prescribed Umpires Match Report form. 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.

- (B) The field Umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting slip.
- (C) The Umpires' Match Report form and best and fairest voting slip will be placed in the envelope provided and sealed and submitted to the League as designated with the Match day paperwork.

### **23.8 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.

### **23.9 Reporting of Players and Officials**

- (A) Umpires may report to the League any Player or Official who, during the progress of a Competition Match or within the immediate proximity of the ground on the day of the Competition 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 National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.
- (B) For the purposes of Section 3 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, Registered Club Field 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 5.2(b) of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT when lodging a report.

### **23.10 Minimum Umpire Age**

- (A) Subject to By-Law 23.10(B), the Administration Committee will determine the minimum age of field, boundary and goal Umpires (Official or club Umpires) for all open age and under age Competitions.
- (B) The age of a controlling field Umpire of a Junior Competition Match should be a minimum of two (2) years older than the nominated age group when officiating. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age for an Under 11 Competition Match.

### **23.11 50 Metre Penalties**

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; or
- c. intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.



## **24. ORDER OFF RULE**

### **24.1 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 Competition 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 Administration Committee, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

### **24.2 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 Competition Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in By-Law 24.2(B) below), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Competition Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include where a Player or Official:
  - 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 that 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 Competition Match.
- (D) Unless otherwise determined by the Administration Committee in its ultimate discretion, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a red card can

be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the replacement Player to resume playing.

- (E) For the purposes of this By-Law, a red card will result in the Player concerned being unable to be replaced 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 not be permitted to be replaced until ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.

### **24.3 Recording of Send Offs**

- (A) When a Player is sent off from the field of play in accordance with this By-Law 24, 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 Competition Match, or be replaced in the Competition Match (whichever is applicable). It is the offending Player's Club's responsibility to obtain approval from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing in the Competition Match.

## **25. LAWS AND POLICIES**

### **25.1 Laws of the Game**

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Competition Matches shall be played under the Laws of Australian Football as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.
- (B) 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 Competition Match under exceptional circumstances such as injury.
- (C) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League rules and regulations including:
  - a. the Laws of the Game;
  - b. the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT;
  - c. the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT;
  - d. the National Player Transfer Regulations;
  - e. the Member Protection Policy;
  - f. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
  - g. the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;
  - h. the Anti-Doping Policy;
  - i. the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations,
  - j. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
  - k. these By-Laws.

### **25.2 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.

### **25.3 Loss of Points**

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

### **25.4 Infectious Diseases Policy**

- (A) All Clubs are to comply with Section 22 of the Laws of Australian Football and the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases (H.I.V. and Hepatitis B).
- (B) AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases provides that:
  - a. Clubs should ensure that all Players and Officials are vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
  - b. Clubs should ensure that their dressing rooms are clean and tidy, with particular attention to hand basins, toilets and showers. Spitting and/or urinating in the team areas is not permitted.
  - c. Trainers must wipe all blood away from Players' faces or limbs if they have been injured.
  - d. Soiled towels should be discarded and clean towels should be made available to avoid re-use or sharing of bloodied material. Appropriate containers need to be accessible for storing soiled towels.
  - e. Jumpers soiled with blood should be changed at the earliest opportunity.
  - f. Trainers should wear protective gloves when dealing with a bleeding wound.
  - g. Players with wounds that are bleeding profusely are to leave the field for treatment and will not be permitted to resume playing until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered.
- (C) Field Umpires who observe a bleeding Player are empowered to stop play and send a Player from the field for treatment if in their opinion such action is warranted. Such Player shall leave the field immediately through the interchange area. The replacement Player may enter the field of play while the bleeding Player is in the process of leaving the field and should do so through the interchange area also. The Umpire shall wait until the replacement Player has reached his position on the field before restarting play. If there is any undue delay in the replacement Player entering the field of play, the Umpire may restart play at his/her discretion.

### **25.5 AFL Vilification & Discrimination Policy**

The League and Clubs agree to comply with the AFL National Vilification & Discrimination Policy.

## **25.6 Conduct of Matches – Juniors**

All Junior & Youth Competition Matches will be conducted according to the principles outlined in the Australian Football Match Policy.

## **26. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **26.1 Prescribed Penalties**

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

### **26.2 Code of Conduct**

Clubs are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct as per Appendix "A" and the Code of Conduct Disciplinary Procedures as per Appendix "B" to these By-Laws. Clubs are required to ensure that all Club members receive a copy of the Code of Conduct. The Code seeks to regulate the conduct and behaviour of Players, Officials, Club administrators, parents and spectators (supporters).

### **26.3 Power to Investigate**

- (A) The Administration Committee may investigate or nominate a person to investigate any matter which it considers relevant to whether or not a person may have committed a Reportable Offence or a Code of Conduct Breach.
- (B) Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Administration Committee in By-Law 26.3(A), a nominee may investigate any matter:
  - a. of his 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 26.8; or
  - d. upon the written request of either an Authorised Officer of a Club or a non aligned individual pursuant to By-Law 26.2.

### **26.4 Co-operation**

- (A) For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this By-Law, a person shall if requested by the Administration 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.

### **26.5 Failure to Co-operate**

A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 26.4 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.

## **26.6 Interpretation**

For the purposes of this clause 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 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.

## **26.7 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 Competition 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 Competition 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.

## **26.8 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 C) and 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.
- (B) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a \$300 (with \$150 non refundable) citing fee which may be forfeited should the Administration Committee deem 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.
- (C) The Administration Committee shall decide whether or not the matter should be referred to the independent Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his rights (may be via Club

Secretary) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.

#### **26.9 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 National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (as the case may be).
- (B) The independent Tribunal shall hear the following matters in accordance with the National Match 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 Competition, pre-season or practice Matches;
  - b. such other matters (including citings by Clubs) as may be referred to it by the League;
  - c. referrals pursuant to By-Law 26.8.

#### **26.10 Tribunal Hearings**

- (A) A reporting Umpire, the reported person and a representative of the reported person's Club shall attend a hearing at a time and place specified by the Administration Committee.
- (B) In the event that a reported person be unable to attend the hearing, the procedures as set out in the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (as applicable) will apply.
- (C) Should the reporting Umpire be unable to attend the hearing, the Administration Committee may defer the hearing in which case the reported Player or Official may continue to play or act until such time as the hearing is held.
- (D) Should any of the above persons be unable to attend a hearing the Administration Committee may allow appropriate communication devices such as telephones or video links to be utilized to proceed with the Tribunal hearing.
- (E) The Tribunal may, in its ultimate discretion, utilize photo or video evidence for the purposes of the hearing.

#### **26.11 Tribunals - Juniors**

Legal representatives are permitted to attend Tribunal hearings, but are not permitted to act in the role of Player, Official or Umpire advocate unless agreed to by the Tribunal.

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

The League and Clubs agree to comply with the AFL Player and Official Deregistration Policy.

## **27. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

### **27.1 Participation**

- (A) Competition representative teams shall participate in inter-league Matches as directed by the League 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. In accordance with AFL NSW/ACT Regulations, any Player who does not make himself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Competition Matches, without the written approval of the Administration Committee, may automatically be suspended for the next two (2) Competition Matches in which the Player's Club is participating immediately subsequent to the representative Match concerned.
- (C) Any Player who declares himself or 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 or she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Administration Committee. If in the opinion of the Administration 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 Administration 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 Competition Match in violation of this By-Law shall be liable for further disqualification. The team with which the Player participates for may lose any premierships points gained and his Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).

### **27.2 Venue Selection**

- (A) Where the League schedules a representative Match to be played, the Administration 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 fixture. Any gate takings will be used by the League to offset staging costs.

## **28. AWARDS**

- (A) Each season, the Administration Committee shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.
- (B) Any Player that has been suspended for any offence in the home and away season will not be eligible to win a Competition Best and Fairest award at Senior or Junior Level.



**AWARDS**  
**AFL RIVERINA Conditions -**

Riverina FNL

- (A) A premiership trophy and a premiership flag will be awarded to the winning club in each grade. These trophies will be:
- a) First Grade – Narrandera Argus / Narrandera Ex Serviceman Cup
  - (ii) Reserve Grade
  - (iii) Third Grade (under seventeen)

- (B) Premiership Medals  
Players in each winning team in each grade in each competition will be presented with an appropriately inscribed premiership medallion.

- (C) Best and Fairest Player Awards  
The Association will award best and fairest player medals to the player adjudged by the umpires to be the best and fairest player during the home and away matches in each grade in each competition. These medals will be:
- (i) First Grade: The Jim Quinn Medal  
Runner up Medal
  - b) Reserve Grade: The Gaynor Medal  
Runner up Medal
  - c) Third Grade: The Lou Brown Medal  
(Under seventeen) Runner up Medal

- (D) Voting Rules
- (i) In the event of a tied vote, all players tying for first place will each receive the best and fairest award.
  - (ii) Any player suspended by the Association during the home and away games for an on field offence will be ineligible to receive a best and fairest award.
  - (iii) The winners of each award will be decided on the votes cast by the field umpire or field umpires if two are appointed to any game.

- (E) Best on field awards for Grand Finals

Medals will be awarded to the player judged to be the best on the field in these grand finals:

- (i) First Grade: The Hutchins Medal
- (ii) Reserve Grade: The Ryan / Stewart Medal
- (iii) Third Grade: The Kohlhagen Medal

- (F) Goal Kicking Award

A Goal Kicking trophy will be awarded to the highest goal kicker in the home and away season in each grade:

- (i) First Grade Stewart Fraser Trophy
- (ii) Reserves Grigg Trophy
- (iii) Under 17's Dalco Trophy

**AWARDS**  
**AFL RIVERINA Conditions continued –**

(G) Minor Premiers

The minor premiers in each grade will be awarded the following trophies:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (i) First Grade | Ron Hutchins Trophy  |
| (ii) Reserves   | Max Croker Trophy    |
| (iii) Under 17s | Phillip Wines Trophy |

**AWARDS**  
**AFL RIVERINA Conditions -**

**Farrer FNL**

(H) A premiership trophy and a premiership flag will be awarded to the winning club in each grade. These trophies will be:

- (i) First Grade; John Yates Trophy
- (ii) Reserve Grade;
- (iii) Third Grade;

(I) Premiership Medals

Players in each winning team in each grade in each competition will be presented with an appropriately inscribed premiership medallion.

(J) Best and Fairest Player Awards

The Association will award best and fairest player medals to the player adjudged by the umpires to be the best and fairest player during the home and away matches in each grade in each competition. These medals will be:

- (i) First Grade: The Gerald Clear Medal
- (ii) Reserve Grade: The Allan Carroll Medal
- (iii) Third Grade: The David 'Sandman' Oehm

Medal

(K) Voting Rules

- I. In the event of a tied vote, all players tying for first place will each receive the best and fairest award.
- II. Any player suspended by the League during the home and away games for an on field offence will be ineligible to receive a best and fairest award.
- III. The winners of each award will be decided on the votes cast by the field umpire or field umpires if two are appointed to any game.

**AFL RIVERINA conditions continued -**

(L) Best on field awards for Grand Finals

Medals will be awarded to the player judged to be the best on the field in these grand finals:

- (i) First Grade: The Schmidt–Nitschke Medal
- (ii) Reserve Grade: Malcolm Levitt Medal
- (iii) Third Grade:

## **29.0 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

### **29.1 Administration Committee**

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

### **29.2 Attendance at Meetings**

The League will determine the number of representatives required in attendance at League meetings for which notice has been properly given.

### **29.3 Fees**

- (A) The Administration Committee will prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items.
- (B) League 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.

### **29.4 Fines**

- (A) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the Administration 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 Administration Committee.
- (B) 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.

### **29.5 Outstanding Accounts**

- (A) Except as provided for under By-Law 29.5 (B), any Club which is in arrears to the League for a period in excess of 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 Administration 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 to be financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

### **29.6 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.

## **29.7 Club Finances**

- (A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League by 31st January each year, or as otherwise designated by the League, 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 31st January each year or as otherwise designated by the League.

## **29.8 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, 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 [www.jltsport.com.au/Afl/](http://www.jltsport.com.au/Afl/)

## **30. GENERAL**

### **30.1 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 Administration Committee.

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

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

### **30.3 Matters not provided for**

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

### **30.4 Amendments to By-Laws**

Regional variations to these By-Laws may be amended by the League on the recommendation of the Administration Committee in consultation with the Clubs.

### **30.5 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 30.5 (A) as determined by the League or the Administration 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 Administration Committee in its absolute discretion.

### **30.6 Appeals**

Any Player, Official, Umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision involving these By-Laws may appeal to the League in accordance with the appeal procedures as prescribed by the Regulations and By-Laws.

### **30.7 Public Statements**

- (A) Only authorised and approved personnel may make public statements regarding League matters.
- (B) Any person or Club alleged to have breached this By-Law 30.7 may be referred by the Administration Committee to the Tribunal for determination as the League thinks fit.
- (C) Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, any other person, Club or the League may be subject to an investigation by the Administration Committee for the matter to be referred to the Tribunal in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
- (D) A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of By-Law 30.7 (A), or 30.7 (C) in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the Administration 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 Competition Match points.

### **30.8 Record**

- (A) Clubs will be required to submit club notes in time for inclusion in the weekly edition of the Official Football Record, published by the League. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$50.00 for the first and second instance in a season. Any further breaches in a season will be judged by the clubs Competition Management Committee.
- (B) Teams list for each team representing the club, such lists showing the correct jumper number together with the given and family name of each player.
- (C) Clubs must also submit appropriate club notes featuring positive comment about their club and football in general.

### **30.9 Match Passes**

(A) The Board shall issue admission passes on special occasions to appropriate persons. Such passes will be collected at the gate to the ground.

(B) The Board will have Life Member badges and Badges of Office for the Board, such badges admitting all bearers to all League games.

## **Appendix “A”**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

This Code of Conduct aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of Australian Football in NSW and the ACT by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders. It also seeks to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants and stakeholders, and deter conduct that could impair confidence in the honest and professional conduct of Matches or in the integrity and good character of its participants.

#### **1. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each Player and Official understands and agrees to:

- (A) Not bring the game of Australian Football, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League into disrepute;
- (B) Participate in Competition Matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;
- (C) Respect the spirit of the Laws of Australian Football and fair play, and behave accordingly;
- (D) Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, administrators, Officials, parents and spectators;
- (E) Never to argue with or dispute a decision of an Official. If a Participant disagrees with a decision, they should deal with their dispute in accordance with the relevant Rules, Regulations, Policies and Determinations;
- (F) Control their emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse of Officials, sledging Players and/or Coaches or behaviour that deliberately distracts or provokes an opponent;
- (G) Comply with the AFL and AFL NSW/ ACT Rules and Regulations including the Member Protection Policy, the League By-Laws and this Code of Conduct;
- (H) Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;
- (I) Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences, and behave accordingly;
- (J) Cooperate with their Club Officials, Coaches and team-mates;

- (K) Participate for their own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of their teammates, Coaches and Club Officials;
- (L) Comply with and observe the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy including respecting the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion;
- (M) Not behave in any way so as to bring themselves, Australian Football, the AFL, AFL NSW/ ACT, the League or the Club into disrepute;
- (N) Not engage in conduct that is (in the AFL NSW/ ACT's reasonable opinion), unethical, unbecoming or likely to cause harm to the reputation of the Participant, the AFL, the AFL NSW/ ACT, the League, the Club or Australian Football;
- (O) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;
- (P) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs);
- (Q) Use appropriately the facilities and equipment made available for administration, coaching, training, Competition Matches and events, including facilities provided by the opposing teams;
- (R) Comply with and observe the AFL Anti-Doping Code and any relevant Illicit Drugs policies; and
- (S) Be responsible for their actions.

## **2. PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each Parent and Supporter understands and agrees to:

- (A) Support the participants and enjoy the Match;
- (B) Encourage participation, but don't force it;
- (C) Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning;
- (D) Never ridicule mistakes or losses;
- (E) Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated;
- (F) Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time;
- (G) Never publicly criticise Umpires and instead raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private;
- (H) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your Coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks;
- (I) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs;



- (J) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable;
- (K) Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players;
- (L) Refrain from using abusive language.
- (M) Not to enter the field of play in any sanctioned Competition Match unless granted permission by an Official to do so;
- (N) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;
- (O) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs);

## **Appendix “B”**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

#### **1. The Scope of the Code**

##### 1.1. This Code of Conduct:

- a) forms part of the AFL NSW/ ACT Regulations and applies to the conduct and behaviour of Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials;
- b) applies to all forms of Australian Football under AFL NSW/ ACT’s jurisdiction;
- c) continues to apply to a participant even after that participants association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that participant breached this Code of Conduct while a current participant; and
- d) does not limit or restrict the application of AFL or AFL NSW/ ACT Rules and Regulations and, in particular, the National Match Tribunal Guidelines, National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines, Member Protection Policy, National Vilification and Discrimination Policy or Anti-Doping Policy.

##### 1.2. The Code of Conduct does not govern Reportable Offences, the Order-Off Rule and/or “Citations.

##### 1.3. Where an incident may constitute both a Reportable Offence and a breach of the Code of Conduct, any charge of a Reportable Offence will take precedence. An individual must not be penalised under both the Tribunal/ Prescribed Penalty System and the Code of Conduct.

##### 1.4. This Code of Conduct may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or ethics, provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms of this Code of Conduct.

#### **2. Categories of Breach**

##### 2.1. There are three categories of breach as follows:

- a) Level 1 – Minor indiscretion;
- b) Level 2 – More serious offence or second Level 1 offence within previous 3 years; and
- c) Level 3 – Serious offence, third or subsequent Level 1 offence within previous 3 years or second or subsequent Level 2 offence within previous 3 years.

##### 2.2. Any Player, Official or supporter bringing a Club into disrepute will be entitled to one warning for a ‘Level 1’ breach.

##### 2.3. Level 2 or Level 3 breaches must be dealt with in the following manner:

A written ‘complaint’ may be made by:

- d) An authorised Club Official on behalf of the Club and any of its members;
- e) The Administration Committee directly;
- f) Officiating Umpires (on Umpire Match Report Form).

##### 2.4. All written complaints shall be referred to the Administration Committee. Complaints directly to the League will be accepted within three (3) business days of an alleged indiscretion.

- 2.5. Any alleged breach will be initially assessed by the Administration Committee. The Administration Committee may in its absolute discretion taking into account all the available evidence either:
- a) impose a Level 1 breach;
  - b) refer the matter to the Conduct Committee for hearing and determination; or
  - c) dismiss the complaint including determining such complaint to be frivolous.
- 2.6. Should the Administration Committee or Conduct Committee determine a complaint made by a Club or Club Official to be frivolous, a fee of \$100 will be imposed upon that Club.
- 2.7. Individuals and Clubs will be notified via their Club President in writing of any case to answer and the time and date of a convened hearing. Those requested to attend a convened hearing into the matter are compelled to attend or have a representative attend in their place.
- 2.8. The following is indicative of the process and available sanctions:

<b>Breach</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Sanctions</b>	<b>Referred</b>
Level 1	Minor Indiscretion	Individuals name recorded; counselling, mediation or written apology if appropriate; official warning or reprimand	Usually Not
Level 2	More Serious Infraction or repetition (within 3 years)	Suspended sentence, registration ban or removal of affiliation/ membership rights; the assigning of the individual to a mentor program by the League; counselling, mediation or written apology; suspended fine for Club	Yes
Level 3	Serious Infraction or 'Third Strike' (third Level 1 or second Level 2 within 3 years)	Any of the above; AND/ OR suspension, registration ban, removal of affiliation/ membership rights of an individual; fines and/or loss of competition points to a Club/team	Yes

- 2.9. As such penalties may potentially be apportioned to either an individual or Club or both as determined by the Conduct Committee, Clubs are liable for the conduct and behaviour of its Players, Officials and supporters.

### **3. Promoting the Code of Conduct**

- 3.1. A copy of the Code of Conduct must be available on each Club's website.
- 3.2. A copy of the Code of Conduct must be in a prominent position in the following locations: on canteen wall, in front of canteen; in the home and visitors change rooms; and at entrances to public toilets.
- 3.3. The League will provide Clubs with an initial supply of A4 signs and a large corflute sign of the Code of Conduct to be displayed outside a Club's canteen.
- 3.4. All Clubs are required to ensure that all members receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.
- 3.5. Clubs must ensure that its Players, Officials, Coaches and parents of Under 18 Players are aware of and understand their obligations under the Code of Conduct.

### **4. Liability for Spectator Conduct**

- 4.1. A Club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its supporters, whether at home or away Matches.

4.2. Each patron at a Match must comply with the Spectator Code of Behaviour. It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure the Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

## **5. Ground Manager Responsibilities**

5.1. In maintaining the Code of Conduct, the Ground Manager shall:

- a) liaise with Club Officials as requested (from either the home or visiting Club) to help identify and find details for the alleged offender(s), those affected and any witnesses;
- b) where an incident appears to represent a minor breach, issue a warning to any person that they may be close to breaching the Code of Conduct;
- c) where a formal complaint is warranted, advise the affected Club to submit a formal complaint to the Administration Committee and follow the procedures as described in paragraph 1.2 of these Code of Conduct Disciplinary Procedures; and
- d) ensure that appropriate signage (provided by the League) is maintained and clearly visible at the venue's canteen and in each change-room.

5.2. The Ground Manager should also assist the Umpires upon request to:

- a) Identify and obtain the details of any supporter, member or non-member spectator that they believe to be an offender or witness to a breach;
- b) Identify and obtain the details of any Club Official or member that they believe to have been involved in a reportable offence where the Umpire has not been able to ascertain the individual's identity; and
- c) Club Officials must co-operate in assisting the Ground Manager upon request to identify and obtain details for any member or supporter belonging to their Club. Where it is believed that a Club Official has not co-operated appropriately, it will be considered a Level 2 breach.

## **6. Conduct Committee**

6.1. The Conduct Committee is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the Administration Committee may from time to time refer.

6.2. The Administration Committee shall appoint the Conduct Committee of not less than three members which may consist of a combination of the following: a representative from the independent Tribunal Panel, a representative from the Administration Committee or nominee(s) and/or an independent Club President.

6.3. Where reasonably practicable, the Conduct Committee will meet on the first Wednesday evening after all relevant parties can be notified of the hearing date and time and any formal investigations completed.

**6.4. Scope and Powers of the Conduct Committee:**

- a) The Conduct Committee is governed by the same the procedures applying to the Tribunal as outlined in By-Law 26 and the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines.
- b) Decisions may be appealed to the Conduct Committee in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines.

- c) The Tribunal representative will chair all Conduct Committee hearings and ensure Tribunal procedures are followed.
- d) The Conduct Committee has the power to dismiss or change the grading of a breach, as well as postpone a hearing as they deem necessary in relation to the evidence produced.
- e) The Conduct Committee may impose any of the following disciplinary sanctions:
  - (i) A written warning;
  - (ii) Issuing a written apology to a certain individual(s) or entity;
  - (iii) Participating in a remedial program or counselling including the appointment of a specified mentor;
  - (iv) Participating in mediation between specified parties including on conditions;
  - (v) Revoking a Player, Umpires or Coach's registration for a period of time;
  - (vi) Revoking a child's/ associated Player's eligibility to play in a Match or Matches for a period of time with respect to a parent, guardian or spectator;
  - (vii) Banning or prohibiting an individual from admission to any recognised League event and/ or venue;
  - (viii) Banning or suspending an individual from holding any position as an Official of a Club or the League;
  - (ix) Deducting Club of the Year Award points for the current or future Season;
  - (x) A fine on a Club (up to \$1,000 for a first offence);
  - (xi) The loss of 'competition points' for a Club's team;
  - (xii) A suspended penalty of any of the above.

6.5. A third violation/breach of the Code of Conduct within a period of three (3) years in any capacity as Player, Coach, Official and/or spectator will bring about an automatic revocation or suspension of the Player's eligibility to play and/or Coach's permit to coach for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee in its absolute discretion.

6.6. Failure to comply with any penalty or sanction imposed by the Conduct Committee may result in further disciplinary sanctions as determined by the Conduct Committee in its absolute discretion.

## **7. Notice and Disciplinary Sanctions**

7.1. AFL NSW/ ACT or a League may enforce the terms of this Code of Conduct and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have infringed this Code of Conduct:

- 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.

7.2. The imposition of a sanction is immediate or as otherwise notified by the party imposing the sanction.

7.3. If a participant disputes the sanction or purported action taken under this Code of Conduct that party may appeal in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines.

## Appendix “C”



### AFL NSW/ACT PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS

#### **Introduction**

The League has adopted the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT for the purposes of dealing with Reportable Offences. Section 5 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 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 to the League by 10.00 am on the Monday immediately following the Match.

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 no later than 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the Match in which the Player was reported. 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 "D"

## INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

TO: Football Operations Coordinator

E-mail:

Fax:

I, the undersigned give notice I wish to refer an incident:-

- (i) that is not subject of a Notice of Report under By-Law 24.8; and
- (ii) which may constitute a Reportable Offence or Breach of Code of Conduct

**Round:** .....

**Match:** ..... vs.....

**Venue:** ..... **Date:**.....

**Player/s involved (please state offending player/s):** .....

.....

**Type of Infringement:** .....

**Vicinity on Ground:** .....

**Quarter:** ..... **Time of Incident:** .....

**Other relevant information:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**How do you rate the seriousness of the incident? (1 = Moderate; 5 = Extreme)**

1	2	3	4	5
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**Print Name:** ..... **Club:**.....(if applicable)

**Signed:**..... **Dated:**.....

**Umpire / 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.

**League use only:**

Lodged with League on ...../...../..... at .....(time)