

2023 Rule	Section Heading	2024 Amendment	Reason
6.2.2(B)(ii)	Interpretation of Rules	Removal of: (ii) subject to any right of appeal provided by law.	Align with National Policy Handbook Rights of Appeal.
6.3.5(C)	Club Code of Conduct Responsibilities	Addition of: (C) A Controlling Body may request that a club demonstrates compliance with the Rule 6.3.5(B).	Hold clubs accountable to taking measures in ensuring their members are aware of the Code of Conduct.
6.4(A)(iii)	Compliance	Replace: Australian Football Match Policy; with AFL Participation Framework	Australian Football Match Policy is being replaced by the AFL Participation Framework.
6.6.1(B)	AFL Commitment	Addition of: (in red) The AFL is committed to promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of all Children and Young People <i>as defined under State or Territory child safeguarding legislation.</i>	Provides definition for Children and Young People
6.6.2(A)(i)	Minimum Standards for Leagues & Clubs	Replace: Child Protection Legislation; with child safeguarding legislation	Updated with correct terminology
6.6.2(C)	Minimum Standards for Leagues & Clubs	Rewrite: (in red) (A) <i>The following persons</i> must obtain a Working With Children Check Clearance, even if they are exempt under the Rules of the <i>child safeguarding legislation</i> as not requiring a check by reason of them being a Parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates; (i) <i>Coach, including any assistant Coach;</i> (ii) <i>Team Manager;</i> (iii) <i>Any person acting in a role as outlined in Section 16.3 of the Policy Handbook.</i>	Updated with correct terminology and expanded upon persons required to obtain a WWCC to increase child safeguarding measures and align with National Football Policy.
6.7(A)(iii)	Public Health & Legislation Compliance	Addition of: Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 (NSW)	For clubs to be aware of their legislative obligations around preventing Smoking/Vaping while hosting a sporting event (match day, training etc).

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7.7(A)	Club Participation Agreements	<p>Addition of (ii): (in red)</p> <p>(A) In accordance with Club affiliation requirements under Rule 8.1, in order for the Club to participate in a Competition each League must have an annually executed Club Participation Agreement with each of its Clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) in the form prescribed by AFL NSW/ACT; (ii) by no later than seven (7) days prior to the first home and away match of the season of the competition to which the Agreement applies, or by such other time as prescribed by the Controlling Body. 	Sets a due date for the Club Participation Agreement that clubs can be held to account.
7.10(B)	League Awards	<p>Addition of (i) & (ii): (in red)</p> <p>(A) A Player will not be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award, where that player has received a suspension for one or more matches in the home and away season for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a reportable offence; or (ii) a policy breach offence arising from the conduct of that player during a match. 	Provides further clarity on what offences will make players ineligible for League Best and Fairest Awards.
8.7.3	AFL Logo & Approved Suppliers	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>(A) The suppliers listed in Table 2 are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers in NSW and ACT to use the AFL logo, including the AFL NSW/ACT logo.</p>	Provides further clarity that the AFL Logo includes the AFL NSW/ACT logo.
8.7.6(A) Numbers	Jersey Design	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>A jersey may also have a number on the front of the jersey (as per Right Breast logo)</p>	Allows for numbers to also be printed on the front of the jersey. The addition of numbers on the front will provide another reference point to identify players.
8.7.6(A) Logos Right Breast	Jersey Design	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Every Jersey must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast.</p> <p>The logo must not be less than 6cm x 6cm and not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.</p> <p>No other logo is permitted on the right breast.</p>	<p>Addition of minimum dimensions for the AFL NSW/ACT logo for clearer specifications.</p> <p>Addition of dimensions and placement of optional number on front of jersey.</p>

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		A club may place a playing number on the front of the jersey immediately below the AFL NSW/ACT logo, and the combination of both must not exceed 8cm in width and 16cm in height.	
8.7.6(A) Logos Left Breast	Jersey Design	Addition of: (in red) A sponsor logo must not exceed 8cm height and 16cm width. If a jersey has both a club logo and a sponsor logo on the left breast, the club logo must be on top and the combination of both must not exceed 16cm in width and 16cm in height	An increase from 15cm to 16cm to be align with the club logo maximum dimensions. Addition of placement of logos when a club logo and sponsor logo are both printed on left breast as well as maximum combined height.
8.11(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Club Alcohol Compliance	Addition of: Where a Club is permitted to sell alcohol under a liquor license, the Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) must ensure that it complies with Responsible Service of Alcohol ('RSA') requirements under State or Territory legislation, including ensuring that the sale and service of alcohol is undertaken by persons holding current RSA accreditation; and(ii) is also responsible for controlling the behaviour of those consuming alcohol.	Sets out more detailed requirements and responsibilities of clubs when serving alcohol.
8.11(C) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Club Alcohol Compliance	Addition of: At the request of the Controlling Body, a Club must produce a copy of the following within seven (7) days, or other period specified by the Controlling Body; <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Liquor license;(ii) RSA accreditation.	Provides Controlling Body ability to request documentation to assist with record keeping, investigations etc.
8.11(D)	Club Alcohol Compliance	Changed from (B) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 8.11 (B) and (C)
8.11(E)	Club Alcohol Compliance	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (E) in 2024. Addition of: (in red) Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue it must:	Introduction of new 8.11 (B) and (C) Sets out more detailed requirements and responsibilities of clubs when serving alcohol

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) take immediate steps for the alcohol to be removed from the venue; and (ii) advise an Official of the offending member's or Supporter's Club (if not the Host club), who in turn must assist with any steps to remove the alcohol from the venue; and (iii) report the matter to the Controlling Body. 	
8.11(F)	Club Alcohol Compliance	Changed from (E) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Introduction of new 8.11 (B) and (C)
8.11(G)	Club Alcohol Compliance	Changed from (F) in 2023 to (G) in 2024.	Introduction of new 8.11 (B) and (C)
8.11(H)	Club Alcohol Compliance	<p>New wording: Alcohol sales and consumption is prohibited at all times during Under Age Competitions.</p>	Restructured 8.11(F), splitting across two rules, 8.11(H) & (I), to provide further clarity.
8.11(I)	Club Alcohol Compliance	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Where both Senior Competitions and Under Age Competitions are played on the same day at the same venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) alcohol service or consumption is prohibited during the course of any Under Age Match; and (ii) League Policy will apply as to when alcohol service or consumption may commence after all Under Age Matches have concluded. 	Restructured 8.11(F), splitting across two rules, 8.11(H) & (I), to provide further clarity.
8.11(J)	Club Alcohol Compliance	Changed from (G) in 2023 to (J) in 2024.	Introduction of new 8.11 (B), (C) and (H)
8.11(K)	Club Alcohol Compliance	Changed from (H) in 2023 to (K) in 2024.	Introduction of new 8.11 (B), (C) and (H)
8.11(L) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Club Alcohol Compliance	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>A Controlling Body may, at any time, report a Club to the relevant authorities, including the Police or the relevant gaming and liquor administrative body, where it considers a Club may have breached its liquor license requirements.</p>	Stating a fact to make it apparent to clubs that Controlling Body may elevate matters outside of the AFL NSW/ACT disciplinary/compliance processes.

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<p>8.17 <i>*New Rule*</i></p>	<p>Representations to the Controlling Body</p>	<p>New Section: Any representations made to a league in relation to any aspect of these Rules, including any matters relating to disputes or interpretation of the Rules, are only to be made via the nominated Club Delegate or a Club Executive Committee member.</p> <p>Guidance Note: Only nominated Club Delegates and Club Executive Committee members are permitted to contact the Controlling Body directly. Any other person must contact their Club who will then contact the Controlling Body via the appropriate channels. The Controlling Body is not obliged to respond to representations made to them by other persons.</p>	<p>Provides clear instructions that only club committee members are to contact league staff. Also provides for league staff to only deal with matters that have been brought to them via the correct club delegates.</p>
<p>9.2</p>	<p>Disqualification – Persons Not to Act</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Any person who has been refused a Transfer or Permit to play or has been suspended, stood down or deregistered shall not hold any on field position with any League or Club until the Transfer or Permit is granted, or the period of suspension, stand down or de-registration has expired or is removed by the Controlling Body imposing the suspension or de-registration.</p>	<p>Inclusion of stood down persons not to act. When persons are stood down, the missed time is factored into any pending suspension and therefore are to be treated the same as a suspended person.</p>
<p>9.4.1(A)</p>	<p>Ground Manager</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Prior to any Match taking place the Host Club must appoint a Ground Manager for the Match to undertake the responsibilities detailed in this Rule.</p>	<p>This is to ensure a person is appointed and available to perform the role of Ground Manager for each Match, start to finish, on a Match day.</p>
<p>9.4.1(C)</p>	<p>Ground Manager</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) The Ground Manager’s Matchday responsibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, those detailed in Table 5.</p>	<p>The responsibilities listed in Table 5 are a summary of the key responsibilities of a Ground Manager, however the nature of the role of Ground Manager may result in them being required to perform duties outside of the ones details in Table 5 from time to time.</p>
<p>Table 5</p>	<p>Ground Manager Responsibilities</p>	<p>Addition of: Determine Whether a Match Should Commence</p>	<p>An important decision-making scenario for a Ground Manager, the inclusion of these links in Table 5 make it easier for GM’s to navigate to the decision making</p>

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		<p>Links to: Refer to Rule to 15.8.4 – Match Unable to Commence Refer to Rule 14.4(F) – Minimum Number of Players</p>	process/appropriate Rule when referring to Rules Document.
Table 5	Ground Manager Responsibilities	<p>Addition of: Determine if a Match is to Recommence or be Abandoned Following a Significant Delay Links to: Refer to Rule 15.8.5 – Significant Delay to a match (Table 29 – Determining if a match is to recommence)</p>	An important decision-making scenario for a Ground Manager, the inclusion of these links in Table 5 make it easier for GM's to navigate to the decision making process/appropriate Rule when referring to Rules Document.
9.5.3(B)(v)	Team Manager	<p>Addition of: (in red) (v) waiting on the Umpires at the conclusion of each Match to ascertain whether or not any Reports and/or Incident Referrals of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match or to receive the "all clear".</p>	Holding the Team Manager accountable for ascertaining whether any Reports AND/OR Incident Referrals have or will be lodged by the umpires so the Club/Player/Official are aware and can prepare evidence prior to receiving Notice of Charge from Controlling Body on Monday.
9.5.5(A)	Runners	<p>Changing to: (in red) Each Team is permitted to use one (1) runner in any Match.</p>	Previously allowed for a maximum of two (2), however a majority of leagues in NSW/ACT only allow for one (1).
9.5.5(B) <i>Removal of Rule</i>	Runners	<p>Removal Of: Except during quarter breaks, only one (1) runner per team shall be allowed on the field of play at any one time whilst a match is in progress.</p>	Rule not applicable as the maximum amount of Runners permitted is now one (1).
9.5.5(B)	Runners	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (B) in 2024.	Removal of 9.5.5(B)
9.5.5(C)	Runners	Changed from (D) in 2023 to (C) in 2024.	Removal of 9.5.5(B)
9.5.5(D)	Runners	Changed from (E) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Removal of 9.5.5(B)
9.5.5(E)	Runners	Changed from (F) in 2023 to (E) in 2024.	Removal of 9.5.5(B)
9.5.5(F)	Runners	Changed from (G) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Removal of 9.5.5(B)
9.5.5(G) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Runners	<p>Addition Of: If the designated runner is unable to continue to undertake their responsibilities for the remainder of Match, they may be replaced and: (i) the replacement runner must be registered on the official Team Sheet; and (ii) the Ground Manager informed.</p>	This rule outlines the procedure for replacing the one (1) Runner if they are unable to continue in their role during a match due to injury, sickness, emergency etc.

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9.5.5(H)	Runners	Addition of: (in red) Suspended, stood down or deregistered Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the runner.	Stood down players are to be treated as a Suspended Person.
9.5.7 <i>*New Rule*</i>	Team Officials Registration on Team Sheet	Addition Of: All persons undertaking official duties in a Match must be registered on the official Team Sheet for that Match in PlayHQ.	It is important all persons undertaking official duties are registered on the official Team Sheet in PlayHQ incase of any incidents that arise from the match.
10.11(C) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Powers & Duties of Umpires	Addition Of: The following Umpires may report a player or official for a reportable offence as per Law 22.2.1 of the Laws of Australian Football: (i) League appointed or club appointed field umpire; (ii) League appointed boundary or goal umpire; (iii) League appointed Emergency Umpire.	Clearly sets out what Umpires may lodge a report.
10.11(D)	Powers & Duties of Umpires	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 10.11(C)
10.11(E)	Powers & Duties of Umpires	Changed from (D) in 2023 to (E) in 2024.	Introduction of new 10.11(C)
10.13(B)(v)	Approaching Umpires	Addition of: (in red) the Team Manager, but only for the purpose of; (a) confirming the score of a Match where the Mercy Rule under Rule 15.2.8 may apply and only during a quarter break; (b) ascertaining, in accordance with Rule 9.5.3(v), whether there are any reported Players or Officials.	Previously only allowed for the Team Manager of a Junior Team to approach an Umpire in the case of the Mercy Rule applying. No allowed for a Team Manager of both Junior and Senior matches to approach an Umpire for the purpose of ascertaining whether there are any reported players or officials.
11.1.6(A)	Multiple Registrations or Profiles	Removal of: (in red) A Player must not be registered with more than one Club at the same time <i>except as provided for under Part B of the Policy Handbook, or otherwise in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League with which the Player is registered and approved by AFL NSW/ACT.</i>	Removed scope for there to be any exceptions to this Rule as there should not be any circumstance that a player is registered with more than one club.

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11.1.6(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Multiple Registrations or Profiles	Addition of: A Player seeking to play at a new Club must not register with that Club, including creating a new PlayHQ profile in order to register, until such time as a Transfer request has been submitted and approved in accordance with relevant Transfer Rules.	Reiterating that Players may only register with a new club after they have transferred to that club in line with the National Transfer Rules. Creating a new PlayHQ profile to circumvent the Transfer process is a Policy Breach and also creates an administrative burden.
11.1.6(C)	Multiple Registrations or Profiles	Changed from (B) in 2023 to (C) in 2024.	Introduction of 11.1.6(B)
11.2.1(E)(ii)	Junior Player Age Eligibility	Changed to: (in red) A Junior Player may play up a Junior age group, or in a Senior Grade, subject to the following: (i) the Player must always first commit to playing in the eligible age Junior group most closely aligned to their age, unless otherwise approved by the Controlling Body ; and	Changed from “should” to “must” always first commit to playing in eligible Junior age group. Minimise scope for players to choose not to play in their true age group, ensuring those lower age groups aren’t left short handed due to players only playing in grades higher than what they are eligible.
11.2.2(B)(iv)	Dispensation to Play Up	Addition of: (in red) the Player is not displacing an age eligible Player in a junior age group , as detailed in Rule 11.2.1(E);	Further clarity on type of age group.
11.2.2(D) <i>Removal of Rule</i>	Dispensation to Play Up	Removal of: Rule 12.2(E) applies to an appeal of a determination of the CMC made under Rule 11.2.2	A determination of a CMC in regards to a dispensation request to play-up is not appealable under section 26.1 of the Policy Handbook.
11.2.5(C)	Player Eligibility to Move Between Senior Grades	Changed to: (in red) During the home and away Rounds, a Senior Player is ineligible to drop back more than one Grade once that Player has played five (5) or more highest available Grade in a higher Grade matches in the Competition in that season.	Re-phrased to account for competitions where there are more than three grades e.g played more than 5 matches in Division Two, ineligible to play Division Four.
11.2.6(A)	Club Request for Proof of Player Eligibility	Addition of: (in red) If, on the day of a Match , a Club considers it has reasonable grounds to question an opposing Player's eligibility to participate in a Match, the Team Managers of both Teams are to meet and endeavour to resolve the matter at the time by production and review of any Player identification record and/or review of relevant PlayHQ records.	Prompts clubs to resolve the matter on the day of a match. The League should only be involved when the matter can’t be resolved on the day in line with Rule 11.2.6(B).

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11.2.6(B)(iii)	Club Request for Proof of Player Eligibility	Addition of: (in red) (iii) the Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League by no later than 5.00pm on the next business day following the Match;	Prescribes a time frame in which the matter needs to be reported to the League to ensure a timely resolution.
11.2.6(D)	Club Request for Proof of Player Eligibility	Changed to: (in red) If the League considers that a Club's request for proof of Player eligibility was made without reasonable grounds, or was frivolous, the League may request a further explanation from the Club making the request and may, in its absolute discretion, impose a penalty on that Club in the form of a fine of up to five hundred (500) dollars.	Increase maximum fine from \$100 to \$500 to minimise amount of frivolous requests made to the League.
11.3(B), (C) & (D) <i>Removal of Rules</i>	Transfers	Removal of Rules 11.3(B), (C) & (D)	Rule 11.3(A) states that Section 3 of the National Policy Handbook applies. Removing Rule 11.3(B),(C) & (D), removes duplication and any potential conflict in wording as it's all covered in the Policy Handbook.
11.3(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Transfers	Addition of: Where a person is seeking to apply for a late transfer in accordance with Section 3.2(b)(v) of the Handbook, the application must be made on the <i>Late Transfer Application</i> form, and all evidence relied upon in support of the application must be provided at the time of lodgement.	Details Late Transfer Application process for AFL NSW/ACT in conjunction with Policy Handbook Clause 3.2(b)(v)
11.4.4(A)	Student Permit	Change to: A Student Permit may be approved where there is no Interchange Agreement in place between Leagues and allows for this type of Permit.	Removed the requirement for there to be an Interchange Agreement in place as this is incorrect protocol.
11.4.4(B)(v)	Student Permit	Addition of: (in red) (v) must be made on the Student Permit Form and submitted by no later than seven (7) days prior to the first Match the player is seeking to play in.	Specifies the time frame in which a Student Permit Form must be submitted.
11.4.4(B)(vi) & (vii) <i>Removal of Rules</i>	Student Permit	Removal of Rules 11.4.4(B)(vi) & (vii)	Student Permit Rules have been reviewed and refined for the 2024 season.

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11.4.4(C) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Student Permit	Addition of: Before the Player can play in a Match for the Destination Club, the Student Permit must: (i) be approved in writing by the Source and Destination Clubs and the Source and Destination Leagues involved; and (ii) entered and approved in PlayHQ.	Specifies requirements to be met prior to a Player playing a match on a Student Permit
11.4.4(D) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Student Permit	Addition of: It is the responsibility of the Destination Club to ensure that written approval for a Student Permit is obtained from all parties referred to in 11.4.4(C)(i).	Specifies it is the sole responsibility of the Destination Club to obtain the required signatories.
11.4.4(E) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Student Permit	Addition of: No Student Permit may be lodged after 30 June of the season to which it applies.	Aligns with the Transfer Application Period.
11.4.4(F)	Student Permit	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.4.4 (C) and (D)
11.4.4(G)	Student Permit	Changed from (D) in 2023 to (G) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.4.4 (C) and (D)
11.4.4(H) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Student Permit	Addition of: Where a Player is seeking to play for their former Junior Club, and is also seeking to play in a senior competition for a Senior Club: (i) the player must meet all relevant eligibility criteria under these Rules to play in a senior competition; (ii) the player may only play for a Senior Club that is aligned to the former Junior Club under an approved Aligned Junior Club pathway; and (iii) as part of the approval process under Rule 11.4.4(C)(i), written approval must be obtained from both the Destination Junior and Senior Clubs.	Outlines requirements for player seeking to play Junior and Senior football under a Student Permit.
11.4.4(I)	Student Permit	Changed from (E) in 2023 to (I) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.4.4 (C), (D) & (H)
11.5(A) & (B)	False or Misleading Information	Amend reference to Section 3.2(c) of the Policy Handbook to 3.3(c)	Incorrectly referenced in 2023 Rules
11.6(A)(iii)	Ineligible Players	Addition of: (in red) (iii) does not meet the minimum age requirements under the Rules or the	Added language to cover those players participating in an age group for which they do not meet minimum age

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		<i>Policy Handbook and does not have an approved dispensation application as per Rule 11.2.2;</i>	requirement but have approval from the Controlling Body to do so.
11.6(D) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Ineligible Players	Addition of: Where a match result is overturned in accordance with 11.6(B): (i) the result of the match will be determined in accordance with Rule 16.5.3 as a forfeit in favour of the opposing team; (ii) best and fairest votes and goals kicked by the non-offending team will be maintained; and (iii) best and fairest votes and goals kicked by the offending team will be determined by the CMC.	Details how the Controlling Body are to record the result of Match that has been overturned due to a team fielding an ineligible player.
11.6(E)	Ineligible Players	Changed from (D) in 2023 to (E) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.6(D)
11.6(F)	Ineligible Players	Changed from (E) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.6(D)
12.2(B)	Competition Management Committee (CMC) Decisions	Removal of “or person”	Refer new Rule 8.17 Representations to the Controlling Body.
12.2(D)	Competition Management Committee (CMC) Decisions	Removal of “or person”	Refer new Rule 8.17 Representations to the Controlling Body.
12.2(E)	Competition Management Committee (CMC) Decisions	Addition of: (in red) The decision of a CMC will be final and binding and will not be appealable unless allowed for under Section 26.1 of the <i>Policy Handbook</i> .	AFL NSW/ACT appeals process is guided by Policy Handbook.
12.5(A)(iv) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Competition Grades	Addition of: (iv) the ranking of competition Grades where applicable; and	Requirement of competitions to be ranked to ensure eligibility rules are clear and enforceable.
12.5(D)	Competition Grades	Changed to: (in red) Mixed grade Junior competitions are only allowed up to and including Under 14s.	To align with updated Participation Framework and Junior Rules.
12.6(C)	Regrading of Teams	Changed to: (in red) Where the League regrades a Team in accordance with Rule 12.6(A), the Team’s Match Ratio will be determined in accordance with the League’s regrading system	Less specific to give League’s scope to determine appropriate system for their local conditions.

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13.2(A)(i)	Club Requests for Fixture Changes	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>(i) with fourteen (14) days prior notice and with the affected opponent’s agreement and subject to umpire availability; or</p>	Reduce timeframe from four (4) weeks to 14 days, this is more realistic with actual fixture change practices. Also addition of requirement for umpires to be available for requested change to be approved.
14.1(A)	Team Nominations	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>The nomination process for a Club to enter a Team in a Competition, including any team nomination fees payable, will be determined by the CMC in its absolute discretion.</p>	
14.2(B)	Joint Venture Teams	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>The formation of a joint venture Team will only be allowed to proceed where it is in the best interests of the Competition.</p> <p>The purpose of a JV is to allow two (2) clubs to come together and enter one (1) or multiple teams under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Where neither club can field a standalone team; or (ii) To develop a pathway where in the short term neither club can establish a pathway on a standalone basis. 	Provide further clarity on the conditions that need to met for a Joint Venture to be approved.
14.3(A)	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Where a Club enters more than one (1) team in a Junior or Youth Grade in the same Competition, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Club has three (3) rounds to finalise its Player allocation to those Teams; (ii) unless 14.3(A)(iii) applies, the Club must ensure that the allocation of Players to those Teams results in Teams that are evenly matched; (iii) a Club may apply in writing to the CMC for approval of an alternative method of allocating players to Teams. 	Provide further scope for a club to allocate players based individual circumstances.
14.3(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Any application by a Club under 14.3(A)(iii):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) must be lodged with the CMC no later than fourteen (14) days prior to round one (1) of the Season; 	Sets out process for application under new Rule 14.3(A)(iii)

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		<p>(ii) must detail the rationale for the method proposed including how this will maximise the experience and retention of all players and is in the best interests of the Competition as a whole; and</p> <p>(iii) will be approved or declined by the CMC in its absolute discretion.</p>	
14.3(C)	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	Changed from (B) in 2023 to (C) in 2024.	Introduction of new 14.3(B)
14.3(D)	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 14.3(B)
14.3(E)(i)	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	<p>Changed from (D) in 2023 to (E) in 2024.</p> <p>Addition of: (in red) Unless otherwise approved under Rule 14.3(B), if after five (5) Rounds, it is evident to the CMC that there is significant disparity in the evenness of the Teams from a Club, the CMC may:</p> <p>(i) direct the Club to make changes to the Teams to ensure they are evenly matched;</p>	<p>I Introduction of new 14.3(B); and</p> <p>(i) Provides further clarity on why the CMC may ask a club to make changes to team.</p>
14.3(F)	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	Changed from (E) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.6(B)
14.3(G)	Club Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition	Changed from (F) in 2023 to (G) in 2024.	Introduction of new 11.6(B)
14.4(G)	Number of Player in a Team – Senior Competitions	<p>Addition of: (in red) If for any reason during the course of a Match a Team has less than the “Minimum Number of Players for a Match” as per Table 14:</p> <p>(i) the Match is to continue and the Team has fifteen (15) minutes to ensure the minimum number of Players is reinstated; and</p> <p>(ii) if the Team is unable to comply with the requirement in Rule 14.4(G)(i) it</p>	Specifies correct procedure in the event a team goes below minimum number of players during a match, which is that the match is to continue for the 15 minute period.

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		will be deemed to have forfeited the Match.	
15.2.8(B)	Mercy Rule – Junior Competitions	Regardless of the actual Match score, the official final winning margin between Teams in a Junior Competition Match cannot exceed: (i) sixty (60) points for all Grades up to and including Under 13's ; (ii) seventy-five (75) points for Under 14's to Under 18's.	Align with points awarded for receiving a forfeit as per new Rule 16.5.3.
15.3.2(A)(i)	Uniform Clashes	Removal of: (in red) (A)(i) subject to Rule 15.3.2(ii), the Host Team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark-brown, blue, green etc.) whilst the away Club's Team will play in white shorts, or shorts that are of reasonable contrast to the Host Team's shorts;	White is not always the most practical colour and therefore new minimum requirement calls for shorts that are of reasonable contrast to the Host Team's shorts.
15.3.3 Table 20	Undergarments & Other Items	Addition of: (in red) Hair Bands / Ribbons - Permitted as long as no hard component (e.g. plastic, metal). thin, unobtrusive and in black or club colour.	Addition of Hair Ribbons as a permitted item to be worn in game and removal of colour requirements.
15.5.1 Table 22	Ground Marking 50m Arc	Removal of: (in red) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As illustrated in Diagram 1 of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>. • The fifty (50) metre arc is not to intersect with the centre square. If a ground is less than one hundred and fifty (150) metres in length the arc to be reduced by 5m intervals (e.g 45m or 40m) until it no longer intersects with the centre square.; and • the Club is to clearly mark, at both ends of the arc, the actual number of metres the arc is from the goals (e.g. 45). 	Marking the actual number of metres the arc is from the goal is best practice but not a requirement.
15.5.4(C)	Scoreboard	Addition of: (in red) The correct score should be confirmed by the Goal Umpires with the Ground Manager at the end of each quarter and updated accordingly.	To align with 8.2.4(d) of the Laws of Australian Football which states Goal Umpires are responsible for confirming correct scores at the end of each quarter.
15.7.1 Table 26	Table 26 – Team Sheet Requirements	Rewording of: (in red) Distribution of Team Sheet	Administrative change

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	Pre-Match	Each Team is to print four (4) copies of their Team Sheet and distribute prior to the Match by the Team Manager as follows:	
15.7.2(A)(iii) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Recording of Match Results	Addition of: (iii) yellow and red cards issued to Players for both teams.	Allows for Leagues to easily track yellow and red cards issued to players via PlayHQ reporting.
15.7.2(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Recording of Match Results	Addition of: Should the Host Club not receive the required information as per 15.7.2(A) from the away Club, the Host Club is required to notify the League by 9.00am on the first business day following the Match.	Allows for timely action to be taken by League Staff in retrieving missing paperwork and creates extra incentive for Away clubs to submit paperwork.
15.7.2(C)	Recording of Match Results	Changed from (B) in 2023 to (C) in 2024.	Introduction of new 15.7.2(B)
15.7.2(D)	Recording of Match Results	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 15.7.2(B)
15.7.3 Table 27	Table 27 – Umpire Matchday Record Requirements	Addition of: (in red) If there is any difference in the two score cards at any interval , the goal Umpires are to consult with the Team Managers from both Clubs and the Timekeeper to determine and agree on the correct score.	Dictates that score discrepancies must be resolved prior to the next quarter commencing.
15.8.1(A)	Match Start Times	Rewording of: (in red) Matches must start on time and be in accordance with the duration specified in Table 28.	Previously the Rule read “Matches must start and finish on time” however did not specify what finishing on time meant. This rewording provides a clear duration of when a match must be completed within.
15.8.5 Guidance Note	Significant Delay in a Match	Addition of: <i>The ‘remaining time scheduled for a match’ is to be determined with regard to the duration of the match as per Table 28.</i>	Provides correct reference point for Field Umpires and Grounds Managers when determining remaining time scheduled for the match.
15.8.5 Table 29	Table 29 - Determining if Match is to Recommence	Addition of: Delay in Starting or During the First Half (see Guidance Note under 15.8.5(A) regarding ‘remaining time scheduled for a match’).	Provides correct reference point for Field Umpires and Grounds Managers when determining remaining time scheduled for the match.
15.8.5 Table 29	Table 29 - Determining if	Addition of: Delay at or After Half Time	Provides correct reference point for Field Umpires and Grounds Managers when

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	Match is to Recommence	(see Guidance Note under 15.8.5(A) regarding ‘remaining time scheduled for a match’).	determining remaining time scheduled for the match.
15.11(B)	Cancelled Matches	Removal of: (B) A CMC decision made under Rule 15.11(A) is final and binding and is not subject of any appeal rights under these Rules or the Policy Handbook	Not required as this is covered by the Appeal Right rules stipulated in the Rules and National Policy Handbook.
15.11(B)	Cancelled Matches	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (B) in 2024.	Removal of Rule 15.11(B)
16.5.1(A)	Notice of Forfeit	Addition of: (in red) Where a Team is unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled: (i) the Club of that Team is to advise the opposing Club, Umpire Manager and the League no later than 6:00pm the day prior to the Match, or as otherwise prescribed by the League; (ii) the Match will be treated as a forfeit; (iii) the forfeiting club will be fined three hundred (300) dollars, unless the Controlling Body determines there are exceptional circumstances not to do so; and (iv) the club receiving the forfeit can claim one hundred and fifty (150) dollars in compensation from the League.	Previously the deadline for the notice was midday. The extension to 6:00pm gives clubs more time to confirm player numbers, and hopefully reduce the chance of a forfeit occurring. There was also no prescribed penalty for a forfeit, only guidance that the forfeiting club may fined up to 1,000 dollars at the absolute discretion of the CMC. The addition of (iii) and (iv) provides a clear outcome in the event of a forfeit.
16.5.1(B)	Notice of Forfeit	Addition of: (in red) Should a Club fail to provide notice in accordance with Rule 16.5.1(A): (i) the forfeiting club will be fined five hundred (500) dollars, unless the Controlling Body determines there are exceptional circumstances not to do so; and the club receiving the forfeit can claim two hundred and fifty (250) dollars in compensation from the League.	Where a club fails to provide Notice prior to the 6:00pm deadline the fine and compensation amounts are doubled. Provides incentive for clubs to provide advice in a timely manner.
16.5.3	Table 30 – Score for Forfeit	Changed to: Junior Competitions: - Up to and including Under 13 = 60 points to Non-forfeiting team.	For Junior Competitions, the alignment of Forfeit scores with Mercy Rule winning margins to ensure receiving a forfeit is not more advantageous than winning by the Mercy Rule.

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		<p>- Agre Groups Under 14 to Under 18 = 75 points to Non-forfeiting team.</p> <p>Senior Competitions:</p> <p>- All Senior Grades = Average of the points scored by the winners of the other matches (in the same grade) in the round of that Competition.</p>	<p>For Senior Competitions, ensures the winning score is reflective of the competition in which the team plays.</p>
16.5.6(A)	Forfeit of a Higher Grade	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>Should a Club play in a reserve or lower Grade fixture and subsequently forfeit a higher Grade Match on the same weekend, that Club will not be awarded any points for the reserve or lower Grade Match and will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as the CMC may determine in its absolute discretion.</p>	<p>Accounts for Clubs who field more than two grades (i.e Seniors, Reserves and Third Grade)</p>
16.5.7(B) <i>Rule Removal</i>	Additional Costs for Forfeiting Club	<p>Removal of:</p> <p>Where a Club forfeits a Match, the opposing Club may, within twenty-eight (28) days of the forfeited Match, claim an amount of up to two hundred (200) dollars from the forfeiting Club to cover the loss of gate or canteen revenue where it is able to demonstrate such loss as a result of the forfeit.</p>	<p>This is now covered in Rule 16.5.1(A)(iv) and Rule 16.5.1(B)(ii).</p> <p>Leagues may vary these amount to suit local conditions.</p>
16.5.8(A) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Forfeit of a Finals Match	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Where a Team forfeits a Finals Match:</p> <p>(i) that Team will be ineligible to participate in any further Matches for the duration of the Finals.</p> <p>(ii) The Controlling Body, in its absolute discretion, may fine the Club an amount up to one thousand (1,000) dollars.</p>	<p>Previously no Rules specific to Forfeiting a Finals Match and it's affect on progression (i.e team who forfeits Qualifying Final does not get second chance and progress to Semi Final).</p> <p>Forfeiting of a Final has significant impact on the competition and therefore CMC is provided scope to impose a higher fine.</p>
16.6(A)	Results of an Incomplete or Delay-impacted Match	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Subject to Rule 16.5.2 and Rule 16.6(B), where a Match that has commenced is unable to be completed within the time scheduled for the Match, or where it has been shortened due to a significant delay, the result will be determined in accordance with Table 31.</p>	<p>Provides clarity around when a match that has commenced must be completed by.</p>
16.6 Table 31	Table 31 – Determining the	<p>Addition of 'Match Type' Column:</p> <p>- Home and Away Match</p>	<p>Provides how the result of a match is determined in the event less than the</p>

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	Result of a Delayed / Incomplete Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finals match (other than Grand Final) - Grand Final - All Matches 	<p>equivalent of one half of a Finals match or Grand Final Match has been played.</p> <p>As Finals matches can not end in a draw the procedure differs from a Home and Away match.</p>
16.6(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Results of an Incomplete or Delay-impacted Match	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Where a finals Match has commenced and less than one half of the equivalent of the match has been played, the CMC will determine, in consultation with the clubs involved, if the match is able to be rescheduled prior to the result being determined in accordance with Table 31.</p>	Further detail on process to be followed in the event less less than one half of the equivalent of a finals Match has been played.
17.6(A)(iii)	Drawn Finals Match	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>(iii) the siren will sound after the first period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes, plus time on where time on applies, is to be played, following which the siren will sound.</p>	17.6(A) now split into two Rules, one which details normal Drawn Final procedure and the other which details procedure if game is still drawn after the second period of extra time. In both circumstances the siren will sound at the conclusion of the second period.
17.6(B)	Drawn Finals Match	<p>Reformatted to:</p> <p>If the game is still drawn after the second five (5) minute period of extra time, the Umpires and Goal Umpires will consult to confirm the scores, and if the scores still remain tied, the following will apply:</p> <p>(i) the teams will reset their position (not changing ends) with a centre bounce/ball up to recommence play; and</p> <p>(ii) play will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound signalling the end of the Match; and</p> <p>(iii) the first team to score a point or goal will be the winner.</p>	<p>Previously included in 17.6(A) as (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii).</p> <p>Reformatted to make clearer the additional procedure should the game still be drawn at the conclusion of the second period of extra time.</p>
17.6(C)	Drawn Finals Match	Changed from (B) in 2023 to (C) in 2024.	Introduction of new 17.6(B)
17.6(D)	Drawn Finals Match	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 17.6(B)
17.7(A)	Finals Match Unable to Commence	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>Where a finals series has commenced and where a scheduled finals Match is unable to commence for any reason other than a forfeit, the CMC will</p>	Wording changed from unable to “be played” to “commence” due to confusion around what constituted a match being able to be played.

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		determine, in consultation with the clubs involved, if the match is able to be rescheduled.	
17.7(E)	Finals Match Unable to Commence	Changed to: (in red) Where it becomes evident that the entire finals series of a Competition grade will be unable to be played for any reason, and where it is not practicable to reschedule that series, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion, make a decision to cancel that finals series.	Rephrased to remove ambiguity in how this Rule is applied.
17.7(F)	Finals Match Unable to Commence	Changed to: (in red) If a Grand Final Match is unable to commence for any reason, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion, determine whether or not a premiership is to be awarded on an alternative basis.	Wording changed from unable to “be played” to “commence” due to confusion around what constituted a match being able to be played.
17.8(A)	Club Finals Eligibility	Changed to: In accordance with Rule 8.4.3, a Club may be ineligible to play finals Matches where it has any outstanding accounts to the league.	Remove duplication as conditions are set-out in Rule 8.4.3 Outstanding Accounts.
19.2(G)	Player Selection and Participation	Changed to: (in red) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the CMC, Players selected in a representative Team will not be permitted to play with their Club on the same weekend of the representative Match where the representative Club Match is played earlier than a Club representative Match;	Players are must prioritise Representative Football over Club football. Rule previously worded incorrectly.
24.1.1(C) Guidance Note	Yellow Card	Addition of: (in red) <i>Guidance Note: The time the player is sent in one quarter is the same time the player may resume in the next quarter. For example, if a Player was sent off at the 13 minute mark of the second quarter, the Player would not be permitted to resume playing in the Match until 13 minutes into the third quarter.</i> <i>This also applies where a card is issued in the final quarter of a finals match that goes into extra time. Any time remaining under the card is to be served in the extra time period(s).</i>	Further clarity around order off process during a Drawn Finals match.

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24.1.1(H) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Yellow Card	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Any yellow card issued to a Player is to be recorded by the Player’s Club on the official team sheet at the end of the Match and the Host Club must enter the details of the yellow card in PlayHQ in accordance with Rule 15.7.2.</p>	Allows for Leagues to easily track yellow and red cards issued to players via PlayHQ reporting.
24.1.1(I) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Yellow Card	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>A yellow card may be issued by an Umpire to a Team Official and will apply to that Official in the same manner as it would to a Player.</p>	<p>Previously where a Team Official was reported they would be ordered from the field for the duration of the match regardless of receiving a red or yellow card under 24.1.2(H).</p> <p>New procedure allows for an Official who receives a Yellow Card to return to performing their duties in the same manner a Player would.</p>
24.1.2(H)	Red Card	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>An Official may be issued with a red card by an Umpire and reported for a breach of the Laws of Australian Football and in such instances will automatically be ordered from the field and cannot return for the duration of the match but can be replaced immediately.</p>	<p>New process specific to Red cards which allows for the Team Official to be replaced immediately.</p> <p>Team Official Roles such as Water Carriers and Trainers contribute to risk mitigation during a match and therefore it could pose a safety issue should a team be without a Team Official for any amount of time during a match.</p>
24.1.2(J) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Red Card	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Any red card issued to a Player is to be recorded by the Player’s Club on the official team sheet at the end of the Match and the Host Club must enter the details of the red card in PlayHQ in accordance with Rule 15.7.2.</p>	Allows for Leagues to easily track yellow and red cards issued to players via PlayHQ reporting.
25.2.2(A)	Umpire Report	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>Subject to Rule 25.2.2(C), if an Umpire reports a Player or Official for a Reportable Offence, the Umpire is to inform, where practicable, the Player or Official that they have been reported either:</p>	<p>Removal of words “during a match” as a Reportable Offence can occur outside of a match in line with Rule 25.1(D)(ii).</p> <p>Inclusion of words “where practicable” as a Report is still valid in the event the Reported Person is not informed on the day of the match, refer Rule 25.2.2(D).</p>
25.2.2(D)	Umpire Report	<p>Changed to:</p> <p>If an Umpire believes that a Player or Official may have committed a Reportable Offence but did not report</p>	Administrative change to clear up ambiguities and conflicts with existing Rules.

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		<p>that Player or Official at the time of the Match:</p> <p>(i) the Umpire must, as soon as practicable on the day of that Match, but by no later than 5.00pm on the next business day after that Match, complete and lodge a <i>Notice of Report</i> with the relevant Controlling Body via OfficialsHQ; and</p>	
25.2.2(E) <i>Removal of Rule</i>	Umpire Report	<p>Removal of:</p> <p>In completing a Notice of Report, an Umpire is required to reference the Offence Grade Template as outlined in Appendix Three.</p>	<p>Not a specific requirement for an Umpire Report to be valid.</p> <p>Umpires should reference the Offence Grade Template to guide the content of their report, and they receive education on this process. However, it is the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO who determine the grade of the offence.</p>
25.2.2(E)	Umpire Report	Changed from (F) in 2023 to (E) in 2024.	Removal of Rule 25.2.2(E)
25.2.2(F)	Umpire Report	Changed from (G) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Removal of Rule 25.2.2(E)
25.2.3(A)	Club Citing	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Subject to Rule 25.2.3(B), if a Club has evidence that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, and the Player or Official has not been reported by the Umpire for that offence, the Club may complete and lodge a <i>Notice of Citing</i> with the relevant Controlling Body.</p>	Addition of new Rule 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Club Citing	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>A Club may only lodge a <i>Notice of Citing</i> under Rule 25.2.3(A) for a Reportable Offence, that is:</p> <p>(i) a Classifiable Offence with a Base Sanction of at least two (2) Matches.</p> <p>(ii) a Direct Tribunal Offence; or</p> <p>(iii) a charge of Misconduct where the Controlling Body considers the Low-level Offence sanction is inappropriate</p>	<p>The Controlling Body will only process a Notice of Citing that results in a minimum early guilty plea offer sanction of one (1) match.</p> <p>It was determined the time and resources used by Clubs and Controlling Body in processing a Notice of Citing that results in a reprimand is too great.</p>
25.2.3(C)	Club Citing	Changed from (B) in 2023 to (C) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(D)	Club Citing	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(D)	Club Citing	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>On application by a Club to the Controlling Body by no later than 5.00pm</p>	Previously stated the application was to be submitted to the CMC. However the Club Citing process is to be managed by

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		on the next business day following the Match, an extension of the time for lodgement of a <i>Notice of Citing</i> may be approved by the Controlling Body , but only where the Controlling Body is satisfied the Club has provided evidence there are exceptional circumstances to justify this.	the Controlling Body and only elevated to the CMC to resolve any disputes.
25.2.3(E)	Club Citing	Changed from (D) in 2023 to (E) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(F)	Club Citing	Changed from (E) in 2023 to (F) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(G)	Club Citing	Changed from (F) in 2023 to (G) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(H)	Club Citing	Changed from (G) in 2023 to (H) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(I)	Club Citing	Changed from (H) in 2023 to (I) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.3(I)	Club Citing	Changed to: (in red) A <i>Notice of Citing</i> in accordance with Rule 25.2.3(A) may not be withdrawn by the Club after it has been lodged, unless the withdrawal is approved by the Controlling Body.	Provides scope for the Controlling Body to have discretion as to whether a Notice of Citing can be withdrawn.
25.2.3(J)	Club Citing	Changed from (I) in 2023 to (J) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(B)
25.2.4(A)	Review of Footage	Changed to: (in red) A Club may request the Controlling Body to review footage of an incident where it considers the footage shows a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence.	Previously stated the application was to be submitted to the MRP. However the Review of Footage request process is to be managed by the Controlling Body in consultation with the MRP or MRO.
25.2.4(B)	Review of Footage	Changed to: (in red) A request by a Club for a review of footage must be submitted to the relevant Controlling Body by no later than 5.00pm on the first business day following the Match the incident arises from.	Reworded to remove reference to the MRP to align with 25.4.2(A).
25.2.4(E)	Review of Footage	Addition of: (in red) Following review of the footage, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may determine to: (i) proceed with the issuing of a <i>Notice of Charge</i> in accordance with Rule 25.4 ; or (ii) not proceed with a <i>Notice of Charge</i> .	Addition of Controlling Body and MRO to align with Rule 25.4.1
25.2.4(F)	Review of Footage	Addition of: (in red) Where the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO determines to proceed with a	Addition of Controlling Body and MRO to align with Rule 25.4.1

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		<i>Notice of Charge</i> , the Controlling Body is, within one (1) business day of this, to:	
25.2.5	Executive Officer Report	Changed to: (in red) If an Executive Officer considers a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, the Executive Officer may refer the matter for further investigation in accordance with Rule 25.3.3.	Removed the need for an Executive Officer to lodge a Notice of Report. The OfficialsHQ platform only allows Umpires allocated to a match to submit a Notice of Report. Therefore, it is most practicable for an EO to refer the matter to the AFL for further investigation. Previous wording could make an Executive Officer Report invalid without a Notice of Report being submitted.
25.3.1	Initial Assessment of a Report	Removal of: (in red) As soon as practicable after the Controlling Body receives a <i>Notice of Report</i> under Rule 25.2.2 or Rule 25.2.5 , or a <i>Notice of Citing</i> under Rule 25.2.3 , or a <i>Review of Footage</i> request under Rule 25.2.4 , the Controlling Body must undertake an assessment to determine if:	Due to new Executive Officer Report process which is now referred direct to further investigation.
25.3.3(A)	Further Investigation	Changed to: (in red) The Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may investigate any incident reported under Rule 25.2 using reasonable measures to obtain further evidence , to assess whether a Reportable Offence has been committed.	Now references Rule 25.2, to ensure all incidents Reported are able to be investigated. Previously was limited to incidents which occurred during a match.
25.3.3(B)	Further Investigation	Addition of: (in red) All Players, Officials and Clubs are to cooperate with an investigation under this Rule, including the provision of any footage taken of a Match as requested by the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO.	Further clarification of what constitutes cooperating with an investigation to ensure Clubs are aware that they must not withhold footage.
25.3.3(C) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Further Investigation	Addition of: Failure by a Person or Club to comply with Rule 25.3.3(B) will be considered to be a Policy Breach and dealt with in accordance with Rule 26.	Allows Controlling Body to proceed with a Policy Breach in the event a Party does not cooperate with an investigation.
25.2.3(D)	Further Investigation	Changed from (C) in 2023 to (D) in 2024.	Introduction of new 25.2.3(C)
25.4.2(A)	Low Level Offence	Removal of: (in red) Where a Reportable Offence is deemed under Rule 25.4.1 to be a Low-Level Offence, no grading of the offence is required, and the sanction for the	There are more considerations to be made in regards to grading of a Low Level Offence throughout Appendix Three which are not included in Table 2.

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		offence is to be in accordance with Table 2 of Appendix Three.	
25.4.2(B)	Low Level Offence	Removal of: (in red) Following determination of the relevant sanction for a Low-Level Offence, a Notice of Charge is to be issued in accordance with Rule 25.5 and, unless otherwise determined in accordance with these Rules, the Notice of Charge is to specify the applicable sanction from Table 33.	Removing duplication as this is covered in Rule 25.5
25.4.3(A)	Classifiable Offence	Removal of: (in red) Where a Reportable Offence is deemed under Rule 25.4.1 to be a Classifiable Offence, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO is to grade the offence in accordance with Clause 4 of Appendix Three – Reportable Offences.	Remove any limitations caused by referring to a specific Clause within Appendix Three.
25.4.3(B)	Classifiable Offence	Removal of: (in red) Following the grading of a Classifiable Offence, a <i>Notice of Charge</i> is to be issued in accordance with Rule 25.5 and, unless the matter is to be referred to the Tribunal in accordance with Rule 25.4.3(D), the <i>Notice of Charge</i> is to prescribe the sanction applicable under the <i>Classifiable Offence Grading Matrix</i> in Clause 4.1 of Appendix Three.	Remove any limitations caused by referring to a specific Clause within Appendix Three.
25.4.3(C)(iii)	Classifiable Offence	Changed to: The Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may refer a Classifiable Offence, including a Classifiable Offence (Auditory), directly to the Tribunal on the basis that: (iii) the offending Player or Official has a bad Reportable Offence record in accordance with Appendix One, Clause 3(d) of the Policy Handbook	Removed redundant wording which was duplicated from the Policy Handbook.
25.2.5 *New Guidance Note*	Direct Tribunal Offence	Addition of: Guidance Note: The AFL NSW/ACT Senior Competition Tribunal Hearings are usually held online on Wednesday’s from 6:00pm. The AFL NSW/ACT Junior Competition Tribunal Hearings are usually held online on Thursday’s from 6:00pm	Provides Reported Person’s with an expected day and time for Tribunal Hearings.

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25.4.6(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Reportable Offence in a Grand Final or Special Round	Addition of: The Controlling Body, MRP, MRO or Tribunal, as applicable, may apply at its absolute discretion, a loading of up to one hundred percent (100%) in relation to the base sanction for any Auditory Offence committed toward an Umpire during a Community Umpiring Week.	This is a round where Community Umpires are to be celebrated for their contribution to the game and receives significant promotion at National, State, League and Club level. Any abuse towards an Umpire during this round is in complete contradiction of the purpose of the round and has heightened potential to bring the sport into disrepute.
25.4.8(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Multiple Reportable Offences	Addition of: Where a Person has been found or plead guilty to two Classifiable Offences in the previous 12 month period, for any subsequent Classifiable Offence the Controlling Body will not offer a reduced sanction in an early guilty plea offer.	Deter Person’s from reoffending.
25.5.2(i)	Issuing and Form of a Notice of Charge	Addition of: (in red) (i) date and approximate time of the incident;	Less restrictive wording to ensure Notice of Charge remains valid.
25.6.1(B)	Early Guilty Plea Offer	Addition of: (in red) The <i>Notice of Charge</i> to the reported Person and their Club will, where applicable , detail any early guilty plea offer.	There are instances where a Notice of Charge will not be required to offer an early guilty plea offer (e.g Direct Tribunal Referral or Multiple Reportable Offences in last 12 months)
25.7.1(A)	Documents	Changed to: (in red) All documents associated with a Reportable Offence must be retained by the Controlling Body for a period of ten (10) years, including:	Most documentation is stored on a personal computer or cloud service and therefore should be easier to store documents for ten (10) plus years.
25.7.1(A)(vi) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Documents	Addition of: (in red) (vi) Deregistration documentation	Additional documentation to be held on file to allow clubs and leagues to easily retrieve deregistration status of Persons.
26.1(A)	What is a Policy Breach?	Changed to: (in red) A policy breach occurs when a Party fails to comply with a requirement established under the AFL’s policy structure, including:	Previous wording included “may arise” and “follow” and have been amended to remove ambiguity.
26.2(A)	Identifying and Reporting a Policy Breach	Changed to: (in red) An alleged policy breach may be identified in two ways: (i) directly by the Controlling Body; or (ii) by another person who has reasonable cause to believe that such a breach has occurred.	Restructure of the Rule to set-out who can identify a Policy Breach and differentiate the process that applies to each.

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<p>26.2(B) <i>*New Rule*</i></p>	<p>Identifying and Reporting a Policy Breach</p>	<p>Addition of: Where an alleged policy breach is identified directly by a Controlling Body, the requirements of Rule 26.2.1 do not apply, however all other requirements of Rule 26 will apply as if a Complaint has been made.</p>	<p>A Notice of Complaint is used by a Person to inform the Controlling Body of a Policy Breach. This Rule is to confirm that a Controlling Body is not required to submit a Notice of Complaint, in the same manner as a Person, to proceed with a Policy Breach that they have identified.</p>
<p>26.2.1(A)</p>	<p>Complaint Procedure</p>	<p>Changed to: (in red) Except where stated otherwise in this Rule 26.2, the process for a person making a complaint is detailed in Table 34.</p>	<p>Removed reference to complaints being limited to an alleged breach of the Rules, including the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct. What a complaint can be lodged for is covered in Rule 26.1</p>
<p>26.2.1 Table 34</p>	<p>Complaint Procedure</p>	<p>Changed to: (in red) Timeline for submitting a complaint - Unless otherwise specified in a particular Rule, a <i>Notice of Complaint</i> is to be submitted by no later than 5.00pm on the third (3rd) calendar day after the occurrence of the alleged breach.</p>	<p>There are subsequent Rules that allow the Controlling Body to allow for a complaint to be submitted later than 3rd Business day.</p>
<p>26.2.1(B)</p>	<p>Complaint Procedure</p>	<p>Changed to: (in red) The Controlling Body may allow for a complaint to be submitted up to 30 days after the alleged breach where there is evidence of exceptional circumstances as to why it was not practicable for the complaint to have been made by the required day and time.</p>	<p>Previously allowed for Controlling Body to allow for a complaint to be submitted “outside the specified timeframe”. To ensure Complaints can be dealt with in a timely manner, a limit has now been placed on how late a complaint can be lodged under exceptional circumstances.</p>
<p>26.2.2(A)</p>	<p>Complaint for Vilification or Safeguarding Children</p>	<p>Changed to: (in red) Where a complaint relates to an alleged Prohibited Conduct breach as defined in Section 10 of the Policy Handbook, the reporting party is to and submit a <i>Notice of Complaint – Prohibited Conduct</i> form, together with any supporting evidence, to the Controlling Body by no later than 30 days after the alleged breach.</p>	<p>To ensure Complaints can be dealt with in a timely manner, a limit has now been placed on when a complaint for Prohibited Conduct must be lodged by.</p>
<p>26.2.2(C) <i>*New Rule*</i></p>	<p>Complaint for Vilification or Safeguarding Children</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Where a complaint relates to an alleged breach of Section 11 of the Policy Handbook (Safeguarding Children and Young People), the reporting party is to submit a complaint as per Rule 26.2.3 as soon as practicable, however there is no time limitation on this.</p>	<p>Outlines process for submitting a Complaint for a breach of Section 11.</p>

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<p>26.2.4 <i>Rule Removed</i></p>	<p>Offending Party Right to Respond to Complaint</p>	<p>Removal of: Unless determined otherwise by the Controlling Body, any Party named as the offending Party in a complaint lodged under Rule 26.2.1 has the right to:</p> <p>(i) be provided by the Controlling Body with a copy of the Complaint as well as any evidence submitted in support of the Complaint; and</p> <p>(ii) provide a respond to the Complaint to the Controlling Body within any timeframe determined by the Controlling Body.</p>	<p>Removal of duplication and contradiction. The Offending Party is provided the right to respond to the Complaint during the Investigation process outlined in Rule 26.3.2.</p>
<p>26.3.2(B)</p>	<p>Investigation of a Complaint</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Where an investigation is commenced in accordance with Rule 26.3.2(A), the Controlling Body or CMC must notify the Party subject of the complaint that an investigation is being undertaken and afford that Party the opportunity to submit any evidence they have in response to the complaint within any timeframe determined by the Controlling Body.</p>	<p>Previously no timeframe was listed, this new wording means a timeframe for response will be set and provides flexibility to the Controlling Body to determine what that will be based on circumstances.</p>
<p>26.3.2(C)(iv) <i>*New Rule*</i></p>	<p>Investigation of a Complaint</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) A Party subject of, or relevant to, an investigation, must:</p> <p>(iv) provide any footage taken of a Match as requested by the Controlling Body or CMC.</p>	<p>Failure to provide footage taken of a Match will now result in a further Policy Breach.</p>
<p>26.4(A)</p>	<p>Determining a Policy Breach</p>	<p>Changed to: (in red) In determining a complaint for a policy breach, the Controlling Body or CMC, as applicable, may:</p> <p>(i) where it considers there is sufficient evidence to confirm determine that a policy breach has occurred and proceed with the issuing of a <i>Notice of Breach</i> in accordance with Rule 26.5.</p> <p>(ii) where it considers there is no or insufficient evidence to confirm the complaint is untrue, has no merit or is frivolous, or where there is insufficient evidence to confirm a policy breach has occurred, dismiss the complaint and notify the complainant and subject Party accordingly; or</p>	<p>Simplifying the rule to read clearer and place less limitations on application.</p>

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		(iii) where it considers a <i>Notice of Breach</i> is not an appropriate means of resolving a policy breach, determine an alternative process for resolution of the matter.	
26.5.4(A)	Response to a Notice of Breach	Addition of: (in red) The Party subject of the <i>Notice of Breach</i> must respond in the manner, and by no later than the prescribed time and date, as specified in the <i>Notice of Breach</i> , or by other such time and date where agreed to by the Controlling Body where it is satisfied there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.	Specifying that only in exceptional circumstances will an extension be considered.
26.5.4(C)	Response to a Notice of Breach	Removal of: (in red) Where a Party declines to enter an early guilty plea, or fails to respond to a Notice of Breach as required, the Controlling Body will refer the matter to the Tribunal to be dealt with in accordance with Rule 27 .	There is a different approach if a Party fails to respond to a Notice of Breach, which is detailed in 26.5.4(D).
26.5.4(D) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Response to a Notice of Breach	Addition of: Where a Party fails to respond to a Notice of Breach as required, the Controlling Body may: (i) apply the Early Guilty Plea penalty without referring the matter to the Tribunal; or (ii) refer the matter to the Tribunal to be dealt with in accordance with Rule 27 and that Person will not be entitled to any reduction to the sanction available with the Early Guilty Plea penalty.	This is the same process followed should a Party fail to respond to a Notice of Charge and will allow for a timelier resolution of matters.
26.6.1	Documents	Changed to: (in red) All documents associated with a Policy Breach must be retained by the Controlling Body for a period of ten (10) years.	Most documentation is stored on a personal computer or cloud service and therefore should be easier to store documents for ten (10) plus years.
28.2.1(A)(i)	Grounds for Appeal	Addition of: (in red) a Player, Official, Club or Controlling Body may appeal to the Appeal Board on one or more of the following grounds: (i) the decision involved an error of law that had a material impact on the Tribunal’s decision;	To allow the Appeal Board to determine whether an error of law had a material impact on a decision. Current wording could be interpreted that any error in law would constitute a successful Appeal.
28.2.3	Timeframe for Appeal	Addition of:	Provide clarity on what is considered the Tribunal’s decision.

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New Guidance Note		<i>Guidance Note: The determination of a Tribunal is the decision delivered verbally by the Tribunal at the end of the hearing, not reference to the Minutes of Tribunal sent at a later date.</i>	
28.2.3(A)(iii) <i>Rule Removed</i>	Timeframe for Appeal	Removal of: (iii) where an appeal relates to a failure to make a decision when the decision ought reasonably to have been made, no earlier than twenty-eight (28) days after the relevant request was made for a determination.	This is not a ground for Appeal under the Policy Handbook.
28.2.4(A)	Appeal Fee	Changed to: (in red) The appeal fee, as allowed for under Section 26.1(c)(i)(B) of the Policy Handbook , is one thousand (1,000) dollars and must be paid to the Controlling Body on lodgement of the appeal.	More definitive language - changed from “is payable” to “must be paid”.
28.2.4(B), (C), (D), (E) <i>Rules Removed</i>	Appeal Fee	Rules removed and replaced with the below 28.2.4(B) and (C)	Removes duplication as AFL NSW/ACT follows same process outlined in the Policy Handbook.
28.2.4(B)	Appeal Fee	Replaced with: Section 26.4(d) of the Policy Handbook applies in relation to the refund or otherwise of the appeal fee on determination of the matter by the Appeals Board.	Removes duplication as AFL NSW/ACT follows same process outlined in the Policy Handbook.
28.2.4(C)	Appeal Fee	Replaced with: Section 26.4(e) of the Policy Handbook applies in relation to the refund or otherwise of the appeal fee where the appeal is abandoned by the Appellant.	Removes duplication as AFL NSW/ACT follows same process outlined in the Policy Handbook.
28.3.6(B)	Review of Evidence by Appeal Board	Changed to: (in red) The Appeal Board must have regard to any record of the proceeding before the Tribunal or other body against whose decision an appeal is made, including a record of any evidence taken in a Tribunal hearing.	Ensures the Appeals Board can not make a determination without regarding the proceeding and all available evidence available to the body who made the decision being appealed.
28.4.3(A)	Abandoning an Appeal	Changed to: Section 26.4(e) of the Policy Handbook applies	Previously had the rule written out, but now references the Policy Handbook to ensure consistency in process and remove duplication.

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28.3.3(B) <i>Rule Removed</i>	Abandoning an Appeal	Removal of: If an Appellant abandons an appeal during the conduct of the Appeal Board hearing, no part of the appeal fee paid by the Appellant under Rule 28.2.4 will be refunded.	Not required as Rule now refers to the process as per the Policy Handbook.
29 and 29.4	Proscribed Conduct	Heading Changed to: Proscribed Conduct	Changed from “Prohibited” to “Proscribed” conduct to differentiate from Section 10 Prohibited Conduct matters.
30.1(B) <i>Rule Removed</i>	Sanctions for Reportable Offence	Removal of: Where a matter proceeds to the Tribunal, the Tribunal is to determine sanctions in accordance with the Section 25.4 of the Policy Handbook.	Removal of duplication as this is already stated in Rule 27.1.4
30.2 Table 35 Item (xi)	Table 35 – Disciplinary Sanctions Table	Changed to: (in red) (xi) Imposing a fine on a Club of up to \$2,500 for a first offence.	Increased from \$1,000 to allow appropriate sanctions to be imposed based on specific circumstances.
30.2 Table 35 Item (xii)	Table 35 – Disciplinary Sanctions Table	Changed to: (in red) (xii) Imposing a fine on a Club of up to \$5,000 for a subsequent offence.	Increased from \$2,500 to allow appropriate sanctions to be imposed based on specific circumstances.
30.3(L)	Suspension of a Person	Changed to: (in red) <i>Where a suspension carries over to a subsequent season, a person who was suspended in a Junior Competition in the previous season and has graduated to a Senior Competition in the subsequent season, must serve the suspension in the Senior Competition.</i>	Removes ambiguity about when the suspension can be served in the Senior season.
30.3(L) Guidance Note	Suspension of a Person	Addition of: Guidance Note: <i>A person suspended in a Junior Competition may not serve any part of their suspension in a Senior Competition within the same Competition year in which they were suspended. For example, a person suspended in an Under 17s competition in 2023 is unable to serve their suspension in a Senior Competition until the commencement of the 2024 season.</i>	Previously could be interpreted as the suspension could be served within the Senior Competition in the same Competition year if the Junior Competition concluded prior to the Senior Competition.
30.3(Q)	Suspension of a Person	Removal of: (in red) A suspended person may not play or play or perform any football Official duties on matchday for the duration of their	Remove scope to provide leniency to a Suspended Person.

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		suspension unless the Controlling Body, Tribunal or Appeal Board orders otherwise.	
30.3(S)	Suspension of a Person	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>A suspended Person will not be eligible to play in a representative match and the representative fixture will not count as part of the suspension for any person who may have been eligible to have played or officiated in a representative Match.</p>	Under no circumstances will a suspended person be eligible to play in a representative fixture.
30.3(T)	Suspension of a Person	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Where a person is suspended as a result of an offence arising in a representative fixture match, any matches of the suspension that are unable to be served during the representative fixture shall carry over and apply to the Competition in which the person usually participates.</p>	Reworded to provide specificity to the application of the rule.
34(D)	Social Media & Media Statements	<p>Changed to: (in red)</p> <p>A Club whose Official or Player has made a statement contrary to the provisions of this Rule 34, or in the case of any other person with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the Controlling Body which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) dollars and forfeit past or future Match points.</p>	Increased from \$1,000 to allow appropriate sanctions to be imposed based on specific circumstances.
Appendix Three 3.1(C) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Sanction for a Low-Level Offence	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Any act of Misconduct, that is not deemed to be Serious Misconduct, is to have the sanction applied as per 3.1(A) and 3.1(B), unless the Controlling Body determines that the Low-level Offence sanction is inappropriate and in this circumstance the Controlling Body may impose a sanction of either a 2 Match or 3 Match suspension, with the relevant Person entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction applicable in Table 2 (Classification Table) with an Early Guilty Plea (i.e. a 2 Match suspension reduced to a 1 Match suspension with an Early Guilty Plea).</p>	Previously this provision was only written into Table 6 – Additional Considerations. Relocated it into the Low-Level Offence section for easier reference.

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Appendix Three 4.3(A)	Contact	<p>Addition of: (in red) High Contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the top of the shoulders.</p>	Further clarification on actual contact point.
Appendix Three 5(B)	Classifiable Offence (Auditory)	<p>Addition of: (in red) Where the Classifiable Offence (Auditory) has been graded as directed at an Umpire, an additional one (1) Match penalty may be added to the Base Sanction where it is considered by the Controlling Body, MRP, MRO, or other person responsible for grading the offence, that the offending Player or Official has been unremorseful or unrepentant in relation to the auditory offence.</p>	Intention of this provision is for an instance where a Player or Official has been sent off for Umpire Abuse and continues to verbally complain or abuse the umpire after they've been issued a Yellow or Red card.
Appendix Three 5 Table 5	Classifiable Offence (Auditory) Grading Matrix	<p>Conduct types Changed to: (in red) 1) Threatening 2) High-level Abusive/Obscene/Insulting 3) Low-level Abusive/Obscene/Insulting</p>	<p>Previously the conduct types were: 1) Threatening 2) Abusive/Obscene 3) Insulting</p> <p>There was overlap in the definitions of Insulting and Abusive/Obscene which created issues. Now conduct involving that language will be graded based on the delivery of the language.</p>
Appendix Three 5(C)	Classifiable Offence (Auditory)	<p>Changed to: (i) Threatening – language that conveys an intention to cause bodily harm or cause someone to feel vulnerable or at risk. (ii) High-level and Low-level Abusive / Obscene / Insulting – includes rude, shocking or offensive language which may abuse, insult or offend any person or group. In grading whether Abusive, Obscene or Insulting language is High-level or Low-level, the following factors will be considered: (a) the tone of the language; (b) the extent of aggression in the language; (c) the actual or potential hurt caused by the language; the body language of the offending Person.</p>	Updated definitions and factors to be considered for grading.

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<p>Appendix Three 5(G) <i>*New Rule*</i></p>	<p>Classifiable Offence (Auditory)</p>	<p>Addition of: In respect of a charge under Appendix Three Clause 5(F) or a charge graded by a Controlling Body, MRP or MRO as Threatening language directed at Another Person of Loud Volume, if only the minimum prescribed sanction (set out in Table 5 above) is sought, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO will, at its discretion, specify that minimum prescribed sanction and the Player may enter an Early Guilty Plea and accept the sanction without the matter being referred directly to the Tribunal. If the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO does not specify that the minimum prescribed sanction is sought, the charge will be referred to the Tribunal and the charged Player will not have the option to enter an Early Guilty Plea.</p>	<p>Align with AFL Tribunal Guidelines.</p>
<p>Appendix Three 6</p>	<p>Table 6 – Additional Considerations Table</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Striking (Intent) - Notwithstanding any other part of these Rules or the <i>Policy Handbook</i>, the fact that an act of striking occurred behind the play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or elbow is usually consistent with the strike being intentional. Further, where a Player intends to forcefully push or fend an opposition Player off the ball (including to gain separation for the purpose of contesting the ball) and the effect is that the Player commits the Reportable Offence of Striking, the strike will usually be graded as Intentional.</p>	<p>Align with AFL Tribunal Guidelines.</p>
<p>Appendix Three 6</p>	<p>Table 6 – Additional Considerations Table</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Rough Conduct (Dangerous Tackles): (iv) whether the Person being tackled is slung, driven or rotated into the ground with excessive force (for example, a run down tackle where the tackled player is driven into the ground with excessive force).</p>	<p>Align with AFL Tribunal Guidelines.</p>
<p>Appendix Three 6 <i>*New*</i></p>	<p>Table 6 – Additional Considerations Table</p>	<p>Addition of: (in red) Rough Conduct (Smotherers) - Where a Player elects to leave the ground in an attempt to smother the football, any reasonably foreseeable high contact</p>	<p>Align with AFL Tribunal Guidelines.</p>

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		with an opponent that is at least Low Impact will be deemed to be Careless at a minimum, unless the Player has taken all reasonable steps to avoid that high contact and/or minimise the force of that high contact (for example, by adopting a body position that minimises the force of the high contact).	
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