

# **AFL NSW/ACT North West**



# **BY-LAWS 2020**

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## **Introduction**

The following By-Laws have been made by AFL North West NSW pursuant to its role to administer Australian Football Competitions in the New England and North West regions.

## **Definitions**

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

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

**AFL Extreme Weather Policy** means the policy that sets out the approach that the League should adopt when assessing extreme weather conditions.

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

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

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

**Melee Matrix grading system** means the melee matrix grading system notified to all Clubs prior to the start of the home and away season, as updated or superseded from time to time.

**Prospective Players (Juniors)** means a person displaying intention to play for a Club up to three (3) days after the initial approach who is not registered yet.

**Prospective Players (Seniors)** means a person displaying intention to play at a club for up to four (4) weeks after initial approach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Interpretation**

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

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these By-Laws;
- (d) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;

- (e) any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these By-Laws shall have the meaning prescribed within the By-Laws; and words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these By-Laws shall be given their ordinary meaning.

## **BY-LAWS**

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

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

### **2. CLUB AFFILIATION**

- (A) All Clubs must affiliate with the League in the form and on such conditions as determined by the League and AFL NSW/ACT from time to time pursuant to a Club Participation Agreement.
- (B) Affiliation with the League and participating in League Competitions is granted to a Club by the League on an annual basis.
- (C) Clubs need only once enter in a Licence Agreement with the League, following acceptance of which they are regarded to be affiliated until such time that agreement is terminated or is significantly amended by the League or rescinded by the Club.
- (D) To be affiliated with the League and participate in League's Competition(s), a Club must lodge a signed application for affiliation or participation, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed affiliation fee, the lodgement of a bond) to the Competition Management Committee and have such application approved by the Competition Management Committee.
- (E) The amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (F) The Competition Management Committee may:
  - a. approve a Club's affiliation application;
  - b. approve the Club's affiliation application on terms and conditions as it reasonably requires;
  - c. approve the Club's affiliation application with a request for further or additional information, or amend or revise the application;
  - d. refuse to grant the Club's affiliation application; or
  - e. defer same.
- (G) In determining whether to grant a Club's affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to By-Law 2(E), the Competition Management Committee shall take into account:
  - a. the Club's structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long-term planning and development;
  - b. the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of Australian Football;
  - c. the financial health of the Club;

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

### **3. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT**

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

#### **3.1 Attendance at Meetings**

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

It is expected that one representative of each Club will be present at any meeting of the League for which notice has been properly given.

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

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

#### **3.3 Amendments**

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

### **3.4 Compliance**

- (A) All Clubs are required to comply with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements governing their operations, including but not limited to the regulation of their operations and child protection.
- (B) Whilst AFL NSW/ACT and the League will provide information, guidance and assistance to Clubs where it is able on issues affecting their governance and operations, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements affecting their operations lies with each Club.

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

### **4.1 Governing Laws and Policies**

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.
- (B) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League By-Laws and Regulations including:
  - a. the Laws of the Game;
  - b. the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations;
  - c. the National Member Protection Policy;
  - d. the National Extreme Weather Policy;
  - e. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
  - f. the National Gambling Policy;
  - g. the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;
  - h. the Anti-Doping Policy;
  - i. the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy;
  - j. the Working With Children Policy;
  - k. the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications;
  - l. the National Age Dispensation Policy;
  - m. the National Coaching Accreditation Policy
  - n. the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT;
  - o. the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines;
  - p. the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations;
  - q. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
  - r. these By-Laws.
- (C) To the extent that these By-Laws are inconsistent with any AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation, rule or policy, the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation or policy will prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.
- (D) The League will consider extraordinary transfer applications within the criteria set by Rule 5.6(C) of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations.

### **4.2 Conduct of Matches – Juniors**

All Junior & Youth Matches will be conducted according to the principles outlined in the Australian Football Match Policy unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT or as detailed in these By-Laws.

### **4.3 Player Aids & Protective Equipment**

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

### **4.4 Alcohol Policy**

- (A) Alcohol is permitted to be sold at a League venue by the Host Club. In such cases the Host Club must have the appropriate liquor licence issued by the relevant authority and consent, if required, of the local council.
- (B) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any League venue.
- (C) Each Club is required to ensure that its members and spectators abide by this By-Law. Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue they must report the matter to the League and advise an Official of the offending member's or spectator's Club, who in turn shall take the necessary action.
- (D) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or spectators fail to adhere to the Official's request, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.
- (E) Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the field of play at any time during the course of a Match. Clubs are required to fix notices to the boundary fence or elsewhere if there is no boundary fence, advising that alcohol is not to be taken onto the field of play.
- (F) Alcohol is not to be consumed by a Club Official either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official Match day role (e.g. timekeeping, ground manager, Umpire escort, Umpire etc.).
- (G) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, alcohol is prohibited during junior Matches. Where both Senior and Junior Matches are played on the same day at the same venue, League Policy will apply.
- (H) Alcohol is only to be consumed in areas specifically provided for in the Host Club's liquor licence which must be clearly marked.

### **4.5 Loss of Points**

Where a Team is determined as losing a Match as a result of a breach of the Laws of the Game, the Regulations or these By-Laws:

- a. the Competition points or 'win' for the Match concerned will be credited to the opposing Team.
- b. Points scored for and against each Team and goals kicked by Players remain unchanged.

#### 4.6 Kick-In Rule

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

#### 4.7 50 Metre Penalties

- (A) A free kick or a fifty (50) metre penalty may be awarded against a Team if a Player, Official or clearly identifiable supporter of a Team:
- uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
  - behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
  - intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.
  - Players may not play on during the advancement of any 50 metre Penalty and must wait until the field Umpire signals time back on (variation from 2020 Laws of the Game).
- (B) Distance penalties awarded in the Women's Competition and the Under 14 age group shall be twenty-five (25) metres.

#### 4.8 Spectator Distance from Boundary

In cases where boundary fencing is not in place, the field umpire may require spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the Match until the request is complied with.

#### 4.9 Traditional playing positions at Centre Bounce – Senior Men's and Senior Women's Competitions

- (A) Players must start in traditional playing positions at centre bounces.
- (B) Each Team must have Players starting inside both 50 metre arcs, with one player inside the goal square
- (C) Based on a Team's on-field playing numbers, the number of Players in each area of the field will be as follows:

18 per Team = 6/6/6 (6 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)  
17 per Team = 6/5/6 (6 forwards/ 5 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)  
16 per Team = 5/6/5 (5 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)  
15 per Team = 5/5/5 (5 forwards/ 5 centre (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)  
14 per Team = 5/4/5 (5 forwards/ 4 centres/ 5 backs)  
13 per Team = 4/5/4 (4 forwards / 5 centres (max 4 in centre square) / 5 backs)  
12 per Team = 4/4/4 (4 forwards / 4 centres / 4 backs)

#### 4.10 Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to "Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity) does not apply for youth and junior Football.

#### 4.11 Boundary Throws

- (A) A boundary throw is performed by an individual standing with their feet parallel to the boundary line, their back to the centre of the playing surface, and with their gaze away from the ground. The

ball is to be thrown in over the individual's head whilst still looking away from the ground.

#### **4.12 Minimum ages – Youth Competitions**

- (A) To be eligible to play in the Under 17 competition a player must be within the range of two (2) years below the relevant age group (i.e. a Player turning fifteen (15) years of age on or after 1 January is eligible to play in the Under 17 Competition).
- (B) The Competition Management Committee will consider applications for exemption to the minimum ages as identified in Regulation 4.7 (iii) and (iv) and in By-Law 4.12 (A) above for players who are within twelve (12) months of being age eligible for any age group or grade.
- (C) Where the Competition Management Committee grants an exemption from the minimum age requirements, the player receiving the exemption is required to wear a green armband/sleeve at all times when on the field or bench for matches played in the age group/grade that the exemption has been granted for. This armband/sleeve is to be worn in such a manner that a minimum of 50% of the player's arm is covered.

#### **4.13 Girls' Participation**

In relation to the participation of girls, the Australian Football Match Policy states:

*“Up to 14 years of age, girls may choose playing in a mixed-gender competition or a female-only competition. Girls can participate in mixed-gender competitions as a 14 year old. However, unless the girl is skilled, confident, and physically capable and has the consent of her coach and parents, this policy recommends that youth girls aged 13 and 14 participate in a structured youth girls competition.”*

#### **4.14 Ineligible Players**

- (A) Instances which may cause a player to be deemed ineligible are as outlined below. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.
  - a. Where a player fails to play the required number of matches to be Finals eligible.
  - b. Where a player has not satisfied the minimum age requirements of a particular age group or grade and has not been granted an age exemption.
  - c. Where a player has exceeded the maximum age of a particular age group.
  - d. Where a player has played up an age group without satisfying the requirements of By-law 12.9.
- (B) In all instances where a player has been deemed to be ineligible the sanctions that may be imposed by the League are as outlined in the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations (4.6(B)).

#### **4.15 Mercy Rule**

A Mercy Rule is in effect for the Under 14 age group. The mercy rule operates in the following manner:

- (A) The goal Umpires and/or scorers are to inform the field Umpires at quarter time, half time or three quarter time where the score differential equals or exceeds sixty (60) points.
- (B) The field Umpires will instruct the goal Umpires and scorers to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.

- (C) Where the Mercy Rule is applied, the Match shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play, with the Coaches mandated to even-up the skill levels and number of Players for both teams.
- (D) The official recorded result for the Match shall be:
  - a. Losing team: the score of the losing team at the time the Mercy Rule was applied.
  - b. Winning team: the score of the losing team at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, plus sixty (60) points.
  - c. This applies equally to matches where the mercy rule differential is exceeded at full time in a match.
- (E) The Mercy Rule does not apply during the Finals Series.

#### **4.16 Ground dimensions**

- (A) The coaches of the two teams are to come together prior to the start of the match and confirm the numbers available to each team.
- (B) Ground dimensions are to be agreed by the two coaches taking into account the age, skill level, and number of players involved.
- (C) Where ground size is reduced the boundary is to be identified with markers. Auskick goal posts or similar are to be used.

### **5. COMPETITIONS**

#### **5.1 Season Fixture**

- (A) The League will determine dates, locations and times of all Competition Matches in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) The League will prepare a Season Fixture for each grade of Competition for distribution to Clubs prior to the start of the season.
- (C) Other than in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League, the Season Fixture will not be varied once the season has commenced.
- (D) Where a Season Fixture is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division.
- (E) Where the League does regrade a Team(s) after the commencement of a Competition, the Match Ratio (wins and losses) are included in the regraded Competition.
- (F) Each Competition Season Fixture will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.

#### **5.2 Ladder**

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

#### **5.3 Match wins**

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

#### **5.4 Forfeits**

- (A) Any Club unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled is to advise the opposing Club and the League no later than midday the day prior to the Match or as otherwise prescribed by the League. The Match will be treated as a forfeit and, provided an explanation is furnished to the League to its reasonable satisfaction, no sanction or penalty other than those specified in this By-Law will be imposed.
- (B) Notice of any Club's inability to play in a scheduled match is to be given to the opposing Club and to the League no later than 5:00pm on the Friday prior to the match concerned.
- (C) If there is a forfeit the Host Club must inform the Competition Management Committee as soon as reasonably practical.
- (D) Should a Club forfeit a Match without the required notice, a fine of up to one thousand (1,000) dollars may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee.
- (E) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Match, the League will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be responsible to reimburse the League.
- (F) Subject to By-Law 5.4 (E), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, the opposing Club may claim the Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.
- (G) All Clubs must field a senior grade Team in the home and away Competition unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Management Committee. Should a Club play in a reserve (or lower grade) grade fixture and subsequently forfeit their senior grade Match on the same weekend, that Club will not be awarded any points for the reserve grade Match and will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as the Competition Management Committee may determine in its absolute discretion.
- (H) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced.
- (I) For Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into Footyweb for the purposes of player eligibility. Entry of a Team is to be completed within seven (7) days of the match being forfeited.
- (J) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Match will be determined as follows:
- a. Juniors / Youth Competitions: In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible Club's Team will be awarded zero (0) points for and sixty (60) points against. The non-forfeiting or eligible Club's Team will be awarded sixty (60) points for and zero (0) points against.
  - b. Senior Competitions (Under 19's and over): a one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) point win to the Club's Team who did not forfeit the Match.

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

## **5.5 Results of Matches**

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

## **5.6 Other Matches**

- (A) No Club shall arrange or play in any match other than Matches outlined in the Season Fixture schedule without the prior approval of the Competition Management Committee.
- (B) For Senior practice matches the following provisions will apply:
- a. A Practice Match Request Form, as designated by the League, shall be completed and submitted to the League by mid-day the Tuesday before the practice match;
  - b. Where a senior practice match is being organised involving Clubs from different Leagues or a carnival involving multiple Clubs is being organised, the Club hosting the event will be required to submit the Practice Match Request Form.
  - c. A Team Sheet using the prescribed template as provided by the League is to be used to list the names and jumper numbers of Players for the match;
  - d. All Players must be either registered on Footyweb or be a Prospective Player prior to taking the field;
  - e. In all practice matches, Umpires may report players as per the Laws of the Game.
  - f. A Person suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal may still participate in practice/training Matches with his registered Club however such Matches will not count as part of the Person's suspension or disqualification.
  - g. The League will determine the fees payable to League appointed Umpires where a Club or Clubs request the appointment of League Umpires for a practice match.
- (C) For Junior practice matches, all Player's names must be listed on a Team Sheet and submitted to the Ground Manager before the commencement of the practice match.

## **6. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

### **6.1 Participation**

- (A) Competition representative Teams shall participate in inter-league Matches as directed by the League and sanctioned by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.
- (B) The League shall have first call on the services of all Players for its representative Matches and representative training sessions. Any Player who does not make himself/herself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Matches, without the written approval of the Competition Management Committee, may automatically be suspended for the next two (2) Matches in which the Player's Club is participating immediately subsequent to the representative Match concerned.
- (C) Any Player who declares himself/herself unavailable because of injury or illness must make themselves available for a medical examination by a medical practitioner of the League's choice.

- (D) Any Player who fails to attend a scheduled representative training session of which he/she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Competition Management Committee. If in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee the Player's explanation is unacceptable, such Player may be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (E) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competition Management Committee, Players selected in a representative Team will not be permitted to play with their Club on the same weekend of the representative Match concerned. Any Player who takes part in a Match in violation of this By-Law shall be liable for further disqualification. The Team with which the Player participates for may lose any Competition points gained and his/her Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty (250) dollars.
- (F) Any Player selected in a representative team must be a registered Player with a Club participating in Competitions of that League.

## **6.2 Venue Selection**

- (A) Where the League schedules a representative Match to be played, the Competition Management Committee shall select a venue taking into consideration the standard of playing surface and facilities, ground hire costs and the ability to charge admission.
- (B) The League may allocate catering rights to the Host Club or any other Club which is prepared to undertake all ground management duties for the Representative Match. Any gate takings will be used by the League to offset staging costs.

## **6.3 Offences in Interleague Matches**

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

# **7. UNIFORM AND LOGO REGULATIONS**

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

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

## **7.2 Uniform Design**

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

## **7.3 Jumper Numbers**

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

## **7.4 Uniform Clashes**

- (A) To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, the following provisions will apply:
- a. Subject to 7.4 (A) a. 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.
  - b. Where the Host Club play in white shorts as its primary playing uniform, the away Team must play in any colour shorts, other than white.
  - c. Where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour as determined by the Competition Management Committee, the away Club's Team must wear a clash jumper as approved by the Competition Management Committee.
  - d. Uniform clashes will be managed by the Competition Management Committee as far as possible through consideration of design proposals under By-law 7.2. Clubs are not required to change shorts colour or provide alternative clash jumpers unless otherwise directed by the Competition Management Committee.

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

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

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

- (A) Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) Jumpers worn by Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast and must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (C) Jumpers worn by Clubs may have the League or club logo on the left breast and must not to exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (D) Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion and provided:
- a. The logo does not exceed 39cm<sup>2</sup> with a maximum width of 7cm; and
  - b. The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.
- (E) Any alternate request will be assessed by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.

## **8. TEAMS**

- (A) The requirements on Team nominations and the provisions for divisionalisation, joint ventures or Club alliances (if applicable) will be determined by the League in its absolute discretion.
- (B) The League reserves the right to impose sanctions on Clubs for late submissions of team nominations or withdrawal of team nominations past a predetermined date.

## **8.1 Clubs with Multiple Teams in an Age Group – Youth Competitions**

- (A) Where a Club fields more than one (1) Team in the same age group, no Player from that age group shall be permitted to play for more than one (1) of these teams after the initial three (3) rounds.
- (B) Younger Players that play up an age group may play for multiple Teams in the older age group until such time as they have played three (3) matches for one (1) of those Teams. From this point the Player may only play for the Team which they have participated on three (3) occasions.

## **8.2 Joint Ventures**

- (A) The formation of joint venture Teams between Clubs may be approved by the Competition Management Committee to maximise the participation of, and the opportunities for, Players to play the game.
- (B) Clubs proposing joint venture Teams must make a written application to the Competition Management Committee, setting out the background to the proposed joint venture, and the reasoning and justification for the same. The Competition Management Committee may reject, approve, or approve on terms and conditions that are specific to the proposed joint venture team.
- (C) A joint venture will be for one (1) year only. A further application will need to be made for a joint venture for any subsequent season.
- (D) The formation of joint venture Teams will only be allowed to proceed where they are in the best interests of the development of the game.

## **9. PLAYER NUMBERS**

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

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty-two (22).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a Team is eighteen (18) Players
- (C) If one or both Teams have eighteen (18) Players or less listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on field at the start of the Match shall be sixteen (16) Players per Team, unless both Teams agree in consultation with the Umpires to start with either seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) ‘on field’ Players.
  - a. If, following the loaning of players as outlined at 9.1 (F), one or both Teams have sixteen (16) Players or less available the duration of quarters can be reduced by a maximum/minimum of five (5) minutes by agreement between the competing clubs to reduce the risk of injury.
- (D) If both Teams have more than eighteen (18) Players listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on-field at the start of the Match shall be eighteen (18) Players.
- (E) Matches are to be played between two (2) Teams of even numbers, with the exceptions being where a player receives a yellow card and there is no other player on the bench to provide a replacement, and when a player receives a red card and cannot be replaced.

- (F) Where one Team has more players than the other, the Team with the greater numbers can loan players to the Team with fewer players. Players that are loaned to the opposition must stay with the opposing Team for a minimum of one quarter and can be swapped at a break between quarters.

## **9.2 Minimum Number of Players – Senior Competitions (Men’s and Women’s)**

- (A) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team in a Match is fourteen (14). In the Women’s grade, the minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team in a Match is twelve (12). Further to By-Law 5.4 (E), if for any reason a team has less than the minimum on-field the Team has fifteen (15) minutes to ensure the minimum number of Players is reinstated.
- (B) Instances of non-compliance with By-Law 9.2 (A) will be deemed to be a forfeit by the relevant Team.
- (C) In all Senior men’s competitions, where the loaning of Players outlined in Rule 9.1 (F) ensures that both Teams achieve the minimum number of on-field Players for a match to commence, the match is played for competition points.
- (D) In this instance, the Team that is able to establish the minimum number prior to the loaning of Players shall receive two (2) competition points, with the outcome of the match to determine the destination of the remaining two (2) points, i.e. two (2) points to the winning Team, one (1) point to each Team for a draw, and zero (0) points to the losing Team.

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

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty-two (22).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a team is sixteen (16) Players.
- (C) Matches are to be played between two (2) Teams of even numbers, with the exceptions being where a player received a yellow card and there is no other player on the bench to provide a replacement, and when a player received a red card and cannot be replaced.
- (D) Where one Team has more players than the other, the Team with the greater numbers is to loan players to the Team with fewer players. Loaning of players must occur to ensure that both teams can achieve minimum numbers and is recommended beyond this point to provide all players of both teams with maximum opportunity to participate. Players that are loaned to the opposition must stay with the opposing Team for a minimum of one quarter and can be swapped a break between quarters.
- (E) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team to commence and complete a Competition Match is twelve (12).
- (F) Where the loaning of Players ensures that both Teams achieve the minimum number of on-field Players for a match to commence, the match is played for competition points.
- (G) In this instance, the Team that is able to establish the minimum number prior to the loaning of Players shall receive two (2) competition points, with the outcome of the match to determine the destination of the remaining two (2) points, i.e. two (2) points to the winning Team, one (1) point to each Team for a draw, and zero (0) points to the losing Team.

## **9.4 Number of players – Junior and Youth Competitions**

- (A) Teams must have the minimum number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a Match to constitute an official Match as outlined in By-Law 9.4 (C).
- (B) To encourage maximum participation where the two Teams do not have the same number of Players, Clubs must borrow or loan available Players up to the maximum on-field number for that

age group or division. If as a result of a Coach not accepting Players, the Team loaning additional Players will be able to play additional Players up to the maximum on-field number. The maximum number of Players on the Team Sheet still applies.

- a. Where the loaning of Players outlined in Rule 9.4(B) ensures that both Teams achieve the minimum number of on-field Players for a match to commence, the match is played for competition points.
- b. In this instance, the Team that is able to establish the minimum number prior to the loaning of Players shall receive two competition points, with the outcome of the match to determine the destination of the remaining two points, i.e. two points to the winning Team, one point to each Team for a draw, and zero points to the losing Team.
- c. The loaning of players is to work on the basis that there are even numbers of players on the field for both teams, with the team that is loaning players able to retain a maximum of two additional players who are to comprise a bench.
- d. Where the retention of two players to form a bench results in the opposition not able to attain the minimum number these players are to be loaned and the match is played without either team having a bench.

(C) The following table shows the on-field minimum and on field maximum number of Players by age group and where appropriate by Division within an age group. During school holidays minimum player numbers and ground sizes may be reduced after agreement between Umpires and Coaches of both Club's Teams. Additionally, during school holidays, the minimums below can be reduced by two (2) Players.

Age Group	Min Numbers	Max. on field	Max. Interchange
Under 14	12	18	4
Under 17	12	18	4

- a. The maximum number of Players that are able to be registered to any Team is equal to the maximum number permitted to take part in a Competition Match, i.e. the maximum on-field number plus the maximum interchange.
- b. Once a Club reaches a point where the maximum registrations for one Team is achieved the Club is asked to consider fielding a second team unless alternate arrangements have been made with the Administration Committee.

- (D) Other than as outlined in By-Law 9.4 (B) or in the case of a send-off, Player numbers at all times must be equal.
- (E) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the field umpire, the Opposition Coach and the ground manager must be advised accordingly. The other Club's Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). When a Player returns to the field, in such circumstances the same process applies in reverse.

## **10. FINALS**

### **10.1 Finals Structure**

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

## 10.2 Venue Selection

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

- (A) Finals are to be hosted by the highest ranking side. Clubs hosting finals shall be required to ensure that the playing surface, ground and catering facilities are to a standard acceptable to the League.
- (B) Where a Club foresees the possibility of being unable to host a final at their usual ground, the Club must inform the League and opposing Club as soon as possible. If the ground cannot be used for the match, the host Club may nominate to the League an alternative venue in their town or a neutral venue (provisions as per By-law 11.9(D)) with regard given to the travel implications for the away Club.
- (C) If these alternatives are not available, the away Club shall host the match as provided in By-law 11.9. If the match cannot be hosted by the away Club, the League may direct (in order of preference):
  - a. for the match time to be changed;
  - b. to use any other suitable venue which can be arranged; or
  - c. to delay the final series by a week.
- (D) In the Women's grade and Youth age groups, finals will be played at a venue hosting a Senior finals match as determined by the League, with consideration to travel and other teams from the same Club playing in finals.

## 10.3 Match Duration

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

Finals matches shall be the same duration as home and away matches, except as the provisions of By-law 10.5 apply for drawn finals.

## 10.4 Match Conditions

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

- (A) Clauses (A) and (B) of By-law 12.9 do not apply in Finals matches.

## 10.5 Drawn Finals

In the event of scores being equal at the end of a finals Match, the following procedure will apply:

- (A) The goal umpires will confirm the scores;
- (B) The field umpires will re-commence the Match to play extra time, initially for a further duration of five (5) minutes (plus time on) and the Teams will not change ends;
- (C) The siren will sound after the initial period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes (plus time on) is to be played;
- (D) If the Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute (plus time on) period of extra time, the Match will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound; and
  - a. In the Women's grade and Youth age groups, for drawn finals these provisions will apply, with the exception that only a single period of five minutes with no time on will be played.

Teams will not change ends after the fourth quarter, and if the match remains drawn at the end of that five minute period, the match will continue until the next score.

- (E) At no stage before or during extra time are Coaches permitted to address Players.
- (F) For a Grand Final where the scores are less than six (6) points the difference with two (2) minutes remaining in the final quarter, an announcement is to be made to the Goal Umpires to confirm the final score before spectators enter the field of play.
- (G) No time on will be played in any periods of extra time required for drawn finals.

## 10.6 Emergency Umpires

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

## 10.7 Player Eligibility

Further to Regulation 4.12, the Competition Management Committee may determine additional Player eligibility requirements in its ultimate discretion provided such are not inconsistent with Regulation 4.12.

- (A) To be eligible for finals matches, a Player must play a minimum of three (3) home and away matches with their Club. League representative matches may be included if necessary.
  - a. Players in the Under 14 competition that have played in a total of 50% or more of home and away matches in the Under 17 competition will be eligible to play final Competition Matches as long as the number of matches played by that individual in the Under 14 competition exceeds 50% of the number of matches played in the Under 17 competition.
  - b. Players in the Under 17 competition that have played in a total of 50% or more of home and away matches in the Senior competition will be eligible to play final Competition Matches as long as the number of matches played by that individual in the Under 17 competition exceeds 50% of the number of matches played in the Senior competition.

## 10.8 Provision of Officials

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

## 10.9 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights

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

- (A) Catering rights for finals matches will be allocated to the host Club, in the first instance. The League may charge a fee for the catering rights and will have the authority to limit the prices of any articles it thinks fit.
- (B) The Competition Management Committee shall determine the fee and such fee should not exceed the amount anticipated to be 25% of the net profit.
- (C) Current practice is that the hosting Club is levied a flat fee of \$300 for catering rights.
- (D) The hosting club shall have sole responsibility for the supply of food, soft drinks and alcohol and the operation of a raffle.
- (E) The hosting club shall be responsible for obtaining a liquor licence where necessary. No other person or club shall be permitted to take alcohol into the ground.

- (F) No products which conflict with AFL NSW/ACT or AFLNW sponsors products are to be supplied.

## **11. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

### **11.1 Match Day Paperwork**

- (A) The Umpires Match Report, Best & Fairest Vote Slip, and Notice of Report (where applicable) are to be submitted via the online facility.

### **11.2 Team Sheet**

- (A) The official Team Sheet for each Match must contain:
- a. the name and jumper number of each Player;
  - b. the name of the Coach: and
  - c. the name of each Team Official.
- (B) A copy of the official Team Sheet is to be provided by each Club to:
- a. the timekeeper, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores and goal-scorers at the conclusion of the Match and returned to the League Office with the relevant Match paperwork; and
  - b. the opposing Club.
- (C) Player and Official names on Team Sheets are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (D) Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition team manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half commences.
- (E) Players included on the Team Sheet but not in attendance at the Match venue at the commencement of the Match must be removed from the Team Sheet before the Match commences. No amendments may be made to any Team after the half time interval.
- (F) Goals not listed on the Team Sheet at the time it is received at the League shall not be credited to a Player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- (G) Clubs providing incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match (with a score of sixty (60) to nil (0) for Juniors and one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) for U19's and Senior competitions).

### **11.3 Identification Checks**

- (A) Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's team manager to confirm the identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision, or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day, the following procedure must be followed:
- a. The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet;
  - b. The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League;

- c. The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within three (3) working days of receiving an official request from the League, otherwise all Match wins gained by that Team in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing Team.
- (B) Should any Player fail to comply with either a request pursuant to By-Law 11.3 (A) or assist in the provision of identification of the Player, the Player may be subject to disciplinary process pursuant to the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the ground manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee in accordance with these By-Laws.

#### **11.4 Match Times**

- (A) Starting time of all Matches are as outlined in the Season Fixture. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the Competition Management Committee in writing in its absolute discretion.
- (B) Competing clubs in Youth and Senior competitions may agree to vary the date, times, and/or venue of any given match or matches within a round. The proposed amended date, venue, and/or time must be advised in writing to both the League and the Umpires appointments designate at least seven (7) days prior to the originally scheduled date or re-scheduled date (whichever is the sooner), and requires the approval of both parties before the clubs can proceed.
- (C) Any Team failing to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine. At that point, at the field umpire's discretion, they may commence play.
- (D) Matches must start and finish on time. If a Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, the ground manager and field umpires will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter time, half time and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following Match can commence as scheduled.
- (E) If the start of a Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Match is rescheduled by the Competition Management Committee or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (F) If the minimum Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of a Junior Match, but Players sufficient for minimum numbers are expected to arrive, then a scratch Match will be played. In such circumstances, the scratch Match shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each Team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. If minimum numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the scratch Match then becomes an official Match. The scores at the time when the Match becomes an official Match will stand. If minimum numbers are not available at the end of the first quarter, the Match remains a scratch Match and the Team with less than the minimum number or Players forfeits the Match.
- (G) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Match, the field umpire must report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for investigation.

#### **11.5 Match Duration**

- (A) The duration of quarters and breaks for all home and away Matches will be determined by the League.

Division or Age Group	Duration (minutes)					Match total where time on nil
	Quarter length	¼ break	½ break	¾ break	Time on	
Under 14	15	3	10	5	N/A	78
Under 17	20	3	10	5	N/A	98
Women's	20	3	10	5	N/A	98
Men's	25	3	10	5	N/A	118

- (B) Matches played in a gala day format where teams play multiple matches on the same day shall be played over four (4) quarters of ten (10) minutes.
- (C) For 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 their whistle or see their 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 11.5 (C) a.
- (F) For 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 11.5 (C) a.
  - b. The clock may be stopped where the umpires believe an unreasonable delay may be experienced, where a football is not available for the immediate restart of the game.
  - c. In the Women's grade and Youth age groups, the clock may be stopped only as provided for in By-law 11.5 (F).

## **11.6 Incomplete Match**

Subject to By-Law 5.4 (Forfeits) if a Match is unable to commence or conclude within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed) the following shall apply:

- (A) Match not commenced: The result of a Match shall be determined by the League.
- (B) Prior to half time:
  - a. If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall depart from the field.
  - b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30-minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- (C) Half time & beyond:
  - a. If the half time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the field, or in the case of half time, not return to the field.
  - b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a thirty (30) minute period, the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match.
  - c. The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- (D) Determination of Match not able to proceed:
  - a. Unless otherwise determined by the League, a field umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed.
  - b. A field umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed when lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy.
- (E) Recommencing Play: Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match and By-Law 5.4 shall apply.
- (F) The League may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals of Matches as reasonably required.

## **11.7 Sirens**

- (A) Timekeepers are to sound the siren as follows:
  - a. As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of a Match and after half-time – Once;
  - b. Five (5) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and start of the third quarter – Once;
  - c. Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
  - d. One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;

e. Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.

(B) Clubs must also have available an emergency sounding device in the event of the failure of the siren/sounding device.

### **11.8 Extreme Weather**

(A) From time to time the League may vary the playing conditions due to adverse weather.

(B) Umpires and Clubs should be aware of the dangers of allowing play to proceed during dangerous or extreme weather, such as thunder, electrical storms, lightning or hail. The Match should be terminated by the field umpire, or the ground manager, in the instance of dangerous weather such as if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field.

### **11.9 Wet Weather Procedures**

(A) Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, Clubs are to advise the League as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Matches to be considered.

(B) Where a venue to which a Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.

(C) Where a Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the Host Team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next Match between the two Clubs concerned will be reversed to compensate for the loss of the home ground privilege.

(D) Where neither venue is available, the League will make every effort to reschedule the Match to an alternative venue. Clubs whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their venue available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the Host Team responsibilities will be assumed by the Host Team as nominated in the fixture.

(E) If a Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Competition Management Committee will decide whether or not the Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.

(F) Should it appear likely that more than one Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Competition Management Committee may postpone or cancel all Matches for that round.

(G) If any Match is cancelled, the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 5.3 (A) and such Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Competition Management Committee will determine player eligibility for finals.

(H) The Club named first on the official Season Fixture is the Host Club and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Matches are adhered to.

(I) Each Club is required to have procedures in place which enable them to contact their Players and Officials at short notice regarding any changes to scheduled Matches.

### **11.10 Ground Marking**

(A) The following lines must be clearly marked:

a. Goal-squares, boundary lines, centre square;

- b. Arc at each end of the ground, three (3) metre centre circle (with intersecting line), ten (10) metre centre circle (with intersecting line);
  - c. Interchange Gates should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equal distance on either side be not less than fifty (50) metres apart for the interchange Players and Team Officials of each Club;
  - d. The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.
- (B) A Coach's line should be marked comprising five (5) metres in length and one (1) metre in from the fence / fence line or if no fence line, two (2) metres out from the boundary. It should be marked in front of the Coach's box / area. No Official or bench Player is allowed to stand in front of this line during play.
- (C) Ground markings for Junior Matches should be marked in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy.

### **11.11 Goal Post Pads**

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

### **11.12 Scoreboard**

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

### **11.13 Change rooms**

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

### **11.14 Timekeeping Facilities**

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

## **12. CLUB MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **12.1 Coaches**

- (A) The minimum requirements for Coach Accreditation are either a "Level 1" or "Foundation Coach" accreditation as applicable.
- (B) Restrictions applied to Suspended Players and Coaches are outlined in the Regulations.

### **12.2 Ground Manager**

- (A) The Host Club must appoint a ground manager (or designate the following tasks to a nominated person(s) who will be responsible for the Match day requirements and Match paperwork for the day).
- (B) The ground manager must introduce him/herself to the Umpires and Officials of the visiting Club on arrival and acquaint them with the ground facilities as well as provide details of the closest

emergency medical facilities. Should the ground manager be replaced during the day, the newly appointed person should immediately inform both the Umpires and both Clubs accordingly.

- (C) Prior to the commencement of play, the ground manager must identify compliance of the Host Club with the Sports Trainers Policy as outlined in By-Law 12.10.
- (D) The Umpires Match Report, Best & Fairest Vote Slip, and Notice of Report (where applicable) are to be submitted by the Umpires via the online facility.
- (E) The ground manager should also have on hand an Umpire Reporting Booklet for Club Umpires wishing to make any reports, where an online system is not being used.
- (F) At the completion of each Match, the ground manager should ensure that the Umpires have access to all required paperwork to facilitate the online submission of match day paperwork.
- (G) The ground manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue. (see clause 10 of Appendix A of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations).
- (H) At the end of the Match, the ground manager should collate all paperwork and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League by no later than the designated time.
- (I) Finally, it shall be the ground manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Host Club:
  - a. As directed by the League, either SMS or telephones the results of all the day's Matches to the required person(s), within two (2) hours of the completion of the match concerned.
  - b. Full results and Player information (i.e. Team lists, goal kickers & best Players) of all the days Matches are entered into the Footyweb online results system by t9:00am on the day following the Match concerned.

### **12.3 Team Managers**

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

### **12.4 Team Runner**

- (A) The sole duty of the team runner is to deliver messages to his or her Club's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so. Umpires shall ask runners to leave the field if they remain on the playing surface for an unnecessarily long period of time as determined by the Umpire.
- (B) The team runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League.

a. Team runners must wear a pink coloured runner bib as supplied and enclosed shoes whilst on the field of play.

- (C) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the official team runner.
- (D) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of one (1) team runner. Team runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.
- (E) Runners are permitted to enter the field at any stage throughout the match (variation from 2020 AFL Laws of the Game).

### **12.5 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. These personnel may enter the field at any stage during play (variation from 2020 AFL Laws of the Game).
- (C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be dressed as approved by the League.

a. Trainers, water carriers and medical support staff must wear the light blue or red bib as supplied and enclosed shoes whilst on the field of play.

- (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. Umpires shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players.
- (E) Water carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the League.

a. Whilst no strict age limit applies to water carriers, it is expected that they will be of an age that allows them to follow directions where required and to move across the field of play in a safe manner.

### **12.6 Umpires Escort**

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

### **12.7 Timekeepers**

- (A) The Host Club must provide a timekeeper for each Match.
- (B) The away Club is entitled to also appoint or supply a timekeeper for each Match.

- (C) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game, these By-Laws and Regulations and as otherwise specified by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (D) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for attention.
- (E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Match in which they officiate. The quarter by quarter scores are also to be recorded on each Club's Team Sheet.
- (F) Timekeepers are also required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, 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 Player's responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the Umpires decision to send off a Player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling Umpire.
- (G) The field umpire(s) shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a Match.

### **12.8 Officials on the Bench**

In addition to the maximum number of game day officials as provided in By-Laws 12.3 to 12.5 each Team is permitted a maximum of two (2) other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play.

### **12.9 Players seeking to play up a Competition Age Group (Juniors)**

- (A) Where a player is age eligible to play in two (2) age groups (including Seniors), or is eligible to play in two (2) age groups due to the awarding of an age exemption (including Seniors), they must play in their own age group before playing in the higher/older age group on all occasions where the two (2) age groups (including Seniors) are drawn to play at a venue in the same town on the same date.
- (B) In the case of joint venture teams, a Player must play in their own age group before playing in the higher/older age group when the joint venture team is drawn to play at a venue in the same town on the same date.
- (C) Clauses (A) and (B) apply for the home and away season only. These clauses do not apply to the Finals series.
- (E) The responsibility for the decision to play a Players above their registered age group rests with the Players' Club in accordance with Regulation 4.7 and By-law 4.12.
- (F) Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level.

### **12.10 Injury Treatment**

- (A) All Clubs must comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia.
- (B) It is the Host Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate injury treatment processes are in place on Match days. The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services including ambulance, medical centres and hospitals must be available for use in an emergency.
- (C) The League has adopted the AFL Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy ("Sports Trainers Policy"). All Clubs must comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.

- (D) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (E) The Host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all Matches for which it is the Host Club.
- (F) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the Sports Trainers Policy at any Match as follows:
  - a. Junior (Under 12s and below): First Aid Certificate
  - b. Youth and Seniors (Under 13s and over): Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) Certificate
- (G) The visiting Club should confirm with the ground manager prior to the commencement of each Match that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this By-Law. In the event that the Host Club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the visiting Club agrees, the Match will be postponed or rescheduled. Any decision to replay a postponed Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Competition Management Committee within seven (7) days of the scheduled Match.
- (H) The Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (I) In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Match a delayed start of twenty (20) minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following the Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Matches following.
- (J) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply.
- (K) If a Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the Host Club will forfeit the Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of two hundred (200) dollars.
- (L) 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 occupation's they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:
  - a. Nurse;
  - b. Physiotherapist;
  - c. A certified Sports Trainer;
  - d. St John Officer;
  - e. Paramedic;
  - f. Medical Doctor.
- (M) The Host Club must ensure there is:
  - a. A "scoop" or similar stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of each match.
  - b. ensure proper ambulance access to the field of play, if necessary and

- c. an appropriately and adequately stacked first aid kit.
- (N) The first aid official should be located alongside or as near as practical to the ground manager. Where more than one Match is being played at any one time, a first aid official must be supplied for each game.

### **12.11 Concussion**

- (A) Management of concussion should be in accordance with the Management of concussion in Australian Football which can be found at: <http://www.aflcommunityClub.com.au/index.php?id=66>
- (B) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials, and where applicable, the Player's Parents / Guardian.
- (C) Any Player who is suspected of having a concussion:
  - a. must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and
  - b. must not be allowed to return to play in the same Match or participate in the same practice session. Initial decisions regarding potential incidents of concussion should be made by a medical doctor or, if there is no medical doctor in attendance, the head trainer.
- (D) Decisions regarding return to play after a concussive injury (a disturbance of brain function) should only be made by a medical officer with experience in concussive injuries. A Player who has suffered concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must not be allowed to return to training or playing until and unless the Player has received a formal medical clearance which has been provided to the Club.

### **12.12 Match-Day Safety Check**

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

## **13. UMPIRES**

### **13.1 Appointments**

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

### **13.2 Availability**

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

### **13.3 Umpire Requirements**

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

Umpires should be at the ground at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match.

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

- (A) A minimum of two field umpires are required in order for a Match to commence unless determined otherwise by the League. These must be registered League appointed Umpires or Club appointed Umpires (or a combination of both).
- (B) In the event that two Umpires are not available, the Match will be cancelled and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.
- (C) Where two (2) field umpires commence a Match and for any reason one (1) of the field umpires is unable to complete the Match the remaining field umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.
- (D) As a minimum, two (2) goal umpires are required prior to a Match commencing. These can be League appointed or Club Appointed umpires or a combination of both. Should two Umpires not be available, the Match must not to commence and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.

#### **13.5 Umpires' Fees**

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

#### **13.6 Payment of Umpires**

- (A) Appointed Umpires are to sign the Umpires' Match Report prior to the commencement of their scheduled Match. Clubs will be invoiced for the appropriate fee based on actual attendance of officially appointed Umpires.
  - a. The League will pay for the umpires based on actual attendance from affiliation fees.
- (B) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in By-Law 5.4 (G), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.
  - a. Where a match is cancelled at late notice, the payment of umpires appointed to that match will be at the discretion of the Executive, with consideration to the notice provided and the imposition placed on the umpires concerned, particularly regarding travel.

#### **13.7 Umpires Match Report**

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

#### **13.8 Club Report on Umpires**

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

### 13.9 Minimum Umpire Age

- (A) Subject to By-Law 13.9 (B), the Competition Management Committee will determine the minimum age of field and boundary and goal umpires (both League and Club appointed Umpires) for all open age and under-age Competitions.
- a. Whilst no age limit exists, field, boundary and goal umpires are expected to be of a suitable age and level of maturity to properly perform their given role.
- (B) The age of a League or Club appointed field umpire of a Junior Match must be:
- a. a minimum of fourteen (14) years old, unless agreed otherwise by the AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department; and
- b. at least two (2) years older than the age group being officiated unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age for an Under 13 Match.

### 13.10 Club Umpires

- (A) From time to time each Club is required to provide suitable persons for the League Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the Club Umpire commitment for the season prior to the start of the season as designated.
- (B) Where the League has not appointed official field umpires or accredited Club Umpires, it shall be each Club's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the Match. 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.
- a. In the Women's grade and Youth age groups, payment is at the discretion of the host club.
- (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
- a. The host Club is to provide both goal Umpires and two boundary Umpires for all matches in the Senior Men's and Women's grades. The away club is entitled to provide one goal Umpire and one boundary Umpire, provided that notice is given to the host club no later than 5:00pm on the day prior to the match concerned.
- b. Where the host club is unable to provide two boundary Umpires in the Senior Men's and Women's grades, a player from the host club is to perform the boundary throw-ins where there is no boundary Umpire, with no requirement for a player from the opposing team to stand out.
- c. Clubs are encouraged to provide a boundary umpire for all matches in the Junior and Youth competitions. Where clubs are unable to provide a boundary umpire, the field Umpires shall adjudicate on boundary line decisions. Except for where a free kick is awarded to resume

play, the Umpire shall call a ball-up 10 metres to 15 metres in from the boundary line following the ball being out of play.

- (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) Any person officiating as a club goal or boundary Umpire in a Match is to adhere to the Code of Conduct as it applies to an Official, and, in addition, is to refrain from engaging in any form of coaching of, or instruction to Players in the course of the Match other than for the purpose of conducting umpiring duties.
- (H) Payment of Club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the Competition Management Committee. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet.

a. In the Women's grade and Youth age groups, payment is at the discretion of the host club.

### 13.11 Reporting of Players and Officials

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

### 13.12 Melees

- (A) If an incident occurs prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time interval) or following the completion of a Competition Match involving **three (3) or more players and/or officials per team** and if, in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee, such incident is likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the Competition, AFL or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Club/s involved in such incident shall be sanctioned by the Competition Management Committee by way of a fine calculated in accordance with the Melee Matrix grading system as defined by the League .
- (B) Any amount payable by a Club, under this By-Law, shall be paid by the Club to the League within fourteen (14) days.
- (C) Individual players may still be reported under the Laws of Australian Football.

### 13.13 Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in By-Law 13.13 (B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary and goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.
- (B) The excepted persons referred to in By-Law 13.13 A above include:
  - a. AFL NSW/ACT staff;
  - b. Ground manager, including any designated assistant, umpire escort;

- c. Umpire Manager.

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

### **14.1 Prescribed Penalties**

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

### **14.2 Code of Conduct**

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

### **14.3 Power to Investigate**

- (A) The Competition Management Committee may investigate or nominate a person (League designate) to investigate any matter which it considers relevant to whether a person, or a Club as the case may be, may have committed a Reportable Offence or a breach of any Regulation, By-law or policy.
- (B) Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Competition Management Committee in By-Law 14.3 (A), the League designate may investigate any matter:
  - a. of their own motion; or
  - b. on the basis of video evidence; or
  - c. upon the written request of an authorised officer of a Club pursuant to By-Law 14.8; or
  - d. upon the written request of either an authorised officer of a Club or a non-aligned individual pursuant to By-Law 14.2 Code of Conduct

### **14.4 Co-operation**

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

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

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

## **14.6 Interpretation**

For the purposes of this By-Law, a reference to the League designate shall be read as a reference to the League and/or any person nominated by the League to conduct an investigation on the basis of video evidence or otherwise.

## **14.7 Power to Report**

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

## **14.8 Citings by Clubs**

- (A) Where a Club wishes to lodge a complaint against a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be noted on the appropriate League Incident Referral Form (see sample Appendix 'B') which must be lodged in writing with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises. An Incident Referral Form must be submitted for each citing. An intermediate advice on the incident form may be initially emailed with the written lodgement to follow as required.
- a. This By-Law provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of Umpires.
  - b. A serious incident for definition is a matter which may draw a base sanction of more than three (3) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 2019, or as otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.
- (B) In the event a Club requests extra time to prepare the Incident Referral Form, the Competition Management Committee may, after receiving a notice of intent within the time requirements of By-Law 14.8 (A), extend the deadline to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.

- (C) After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with By-Law 14.8 (A), the citing Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.
- (D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a five hundred (500) dollar citing fee which may be forfeited should the Competition Management Committee deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the League's bank account. The Competition Management Committee will, at its absolute discretion, determine whether the fee will be reimbursed in part or full to the Club lodging the citing at the conclusion of the matter.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his or her rights (via Club Secretary or President) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.
- (F) A Club may request the Competition Management Committee to review footage of an incident by submitting a fee of two hundred and fifty (250) dollar such fee which is only refundable if the matter results in an outcome as requested by the Club. The Competition Management Committee may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the Competition Management Committee decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.
- (G) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Code of Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 14.8 (A) to 14.8 (C) above.

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

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

#### **14.10 Tribunal Hearings**

- (A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT and State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.
- (B) The use of communication devices within a Tribunal hearing is strictly at the discretion of the Tribunal Chairperson. Consideration is to be given to the circumstances of each particular case, including the seriousness of the charge being determined, the reasons for any person's inability to attend the hearing and the likely significance of that person's evidence to the hearing.

- (C) Legal representatives are permitted to attend Tribunal hearing's, but are not permitted to act as a Player, Official or Umpire advocate unless agreed to by the Tribunal Chair.
- (D) The Tribunal has jurisdiction over any Player whether registered, unregistered or ineligible as the case may be.

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

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

- (A) All reports, irrespective of the age of the player, will be dealt with via the prescribed penalty and Tribunal hearing process.

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

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

#### **14.13 Club Websites**

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

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

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

### **15. ORDER OFF RULE**

#### **15.1 Yellow Card**

- (A) A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game may be ordered from the field of play for a period of fifteen (15) minutes. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a yellow card. At the discretion of the field Umpire, the Player may not be reported.

- (B) A Player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining the approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.
- (C) 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.
- (D) A player ordered from the field with a yellow card cannot be replaced until the specified period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes has elapsed.

## 15.2 Red Card

- (A) A Player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game twice in the same Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in By-Law 15.2 (B) below), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include but are not limited to where a Player:
  - a. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire;
  - b. Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire;
  - c. Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;
  - d. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person;
  - e. Commits an act of misconduct - if the Umpire is of the opinion the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.
- (C) Where a Player is reported for intentionally striking, kicking, kneeing, stomping, eye-gouging or head-butting another person they shall also be ordered from the field through the issuing of a red card.
- (D) A Player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.
- (E) A player ordered from the field with a red card cannot be replaced for the remainder of the match.
- (F) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be issued with a red card and cannot be replaced for the remainder of the match.
- (G) All red cards are reportable offences and a Notice of Report must be submitted to the League.

## 15.3 Recording of Send Off

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

## **16. APPEALS**

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

## **17. FINANCE**

### **17.1 Fees**

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

### **17.2 Fines**

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

<b>Breach</b>	<b>Fine</b>
Late, incomplete or improper match result reporting 12.2(l)	\$50.00
Failure to complete match day ground inspection checklist	\$50.00

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

### **17.3 Outstanding Accounts**

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

#### **17.4 Dishonoured Cheques**

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

#### **17.5 Club Finances**

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

#### **17.6 Insurance**

- (A) Each Club is covered by the League's compulsory insurance cover with JLT Sport under the AFL's National Risk Program. All Players and Officials of a Club will have minimum cover for public and products liability, association liability (subject to the Club being an incorporated body), personal accident and non-Medicare medical.
- (B) Each Club may elect higher levels of cover directly through JLT Sport. Specific details of cover shall be provided to Clubs each year and can also be viewed at [www.jltsport.com.au/Afl/](http://www.jltsport.com.au/Afl/).

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

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

### **19. AWARDS**

- (A) Each season, the Competition Management Committee shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.
- (B) Any Player who has been suspended for any offence in the home and away season will not be eligible to win a Competition Best and Fairest award.
- (C) A medal will be presented to the player determined to be best and fairest in each grade/age group through the home and away matches each year. This will be determined by votes cast by field umpires on a 3-2-1 basis. Should two or more players be tied on votes at the end of the season, no count back shall be applied and the players concerned will be declared joint winners and presented a medal each. Players deemed guilty of a field offence from a competition match in the same season as the award shall be ineligible to receive any such award.
  - a. In the Senior Men's grade, the best and fairest medal shall be known as the Tony Gillies Medal.
- (D) A medal will be presented to the player who scores the most number of goals in each grade/age group during the home and away matches. This shall be determined from the records of the League as entered on the Footyweb system.
  - a. In the Senior Men's grade, the goal kicking medal shall be known as the Gerry Griffiths Medal.
- (E) A trophy will be presented each season to the best player in the Grand Final of each grade/age group, as decided by votes cast by the field umpires.

- a. In the Senior men's grade, the Grand Final best on ground award shall be known as the Graham Nuttall Trophy.
- b. In the Under 17 age group, the Grand Final best on ground award shall be known as the Neil Dunn Trophy.

## **20. GENERAL**

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

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

### **20.2 League Colours**

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

The League colours shall be royal blue and gold.

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

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

### **20.4 Amendments to By-Laws**

The League may from time to time amend or repeal any of these By-Laws as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of League and the regulation of its affairs.

## Appendix “A”

### PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS



#### Introduction

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

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

#### Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

**Appendix "B"**

**INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM**

TO: [Insert League]  
E mail  
Fax]

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reportable Offence or Code of Conduct Breach: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Reportable Offence/ Infringement (s): \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Note:**

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

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

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

Vicinity at Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Other relevant information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

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

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

Impact Guidelines	
Low	Minimal or no impact on the match - the Player continued to play the majority of the match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.
Medium	Clearly some impact on the Player, and / or the Player left the field for a lengthy period of time, and/ or some possible lower level ongoing treatment(s) required.
High	Major impact on the Player, and / or the Player was unable to participate in the remainder of the game, and / or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and / or may miss some matches.
Severe	Major impact and serious injury to the Player, and / or likely to miss a significant number of matches.

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

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

Umpire / Umpire Observer / Umpire Coach / Club Official / other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please Circle)

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

<b>League use only:</b> Lodged with League on _____ / _____ / _____ at _____ (time)
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## Appendix “C” – Recording of Images

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

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

**Table 1**

Amount to be paid by the requestor pursuant to Clause (O) – Forty (40) dollars

**Table 2**

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