

AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited



**REGULATIONS
&
BY-LAWS**

15th December 2015

AFL NSW/ACT REGULATIONS & BY-LAWS

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INTRODUCTION

The following regulations and by-laws have been made by the AFL NSW/ACT COMMISSION LIMITED pursuant to its object to administer and promote Australian Football in the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

AFLNC Conditions:

The Administration Committees of AFL North Coast shall be known as the Junior Competition Management Committee and the Senior Competition Management Committee as outlined in the Charter of Operation.

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

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

AFL NSW/ACT means AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited

Appeals Board means the panel constituted in line with section 4 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.

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

Club means a club affiliated to the League participating in Competitions conducted and organised by the League

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

Competition means any Australian football competition conducted by AFL NSW/ACT or an Affiliated League

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

Junior means Competitions up to and including Under 17. Players must be eligible to play in specific age groups as of 1 January in each year. It is acknowledged that some U17 competitions may be operated under senior by-laws

Juniors – Junior Competition means Competitions up to and including Under 17. Players must be eligible to play in specific age groups as of 1 January in each year

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

League means an AFL NSW/ACT affiliated league that is currently conducting or may in the future conduct an Australian Football Competition within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory

Match means any football Match played between or directly or indirectly involving any Club or defined Independent School, including without limitation any practice Match, trial Match, representative Match or exhibition Match

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

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

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

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

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

Tribunal means the tribunal constituted under the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, as amended from time to time

Umpire means field, boundary, goal and emergency Umpire

INTERPRETATION

In the interpretation of these regulations, unless the context requires otherwise:

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

PART A REGULATIONS

1. AFFILIATION CONDITIONS

Any Australian football league, the membership of which includes any club or clubs in NSW or the ACT, may apply to affiliate with AFL NSW/ACT. Such affiliation shall be subject to the following conditions:

1.1 League Constitution

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

1.2 Laws of the Game

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

1.3 Contact Details

The League shall submit to AFL NSW/ACT in each year;

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

1.4 Affiliation and Licence Fees

The League shall agree to pay an annual affiliation fee as determined from time to time by AFL NSW/ACT.

1.5 Insurance

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

1.6 Appointment of Umpires

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

1.7 Sponsorship / Marketing Affiliation

The League shall acknowledge and agree that:

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

AFL NSW/ACT major sponsors or Licensees, unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT.

1.8 Application of Competition Rules

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

1.9 Club Affiliation and Licence Agreement with League

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

1.10 Refusal or Cancellation of Affiliation

Any League which fails to comply with this Regulation 1, either in whole or part, may be refused application for affiliation or have its affiliation cancelled.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION

Each League must agree to adopt and use the uniform system of registration of players set out in these Regulations.

2.1 Player Registration

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

2.2 Registration Documentation

- (A) All player registrations must be submitted electronically via Footyweb by the player or, where the player is Under 18 years of age as of 1 January in the year of registration, the registration must be submitted by the player's parent or legal guardian.
- (B) For the registration to be active, the club must accept the player's registration.
- (C) Any club who registers a player without the player's consent may be subject to an investigation by the Administration Committee.
- (D) Documentation evidencing proof of age in the form of an original birth certificate, photo licence, passport, immunisation booklet or student identification may be requested by the League at any time. Failure to produce such documentation may lead to the player's registration being refused or cancelled.

2.3 Register of Players

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

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

2.4 Dual Registration

No player shall be permitted to be registered with more than one club at the same time except as provided for under the National Player Transfer Regulations and Regulation 3 below or in special circumstances as determined by the League with which he/she is registered.

2.5 Closing Date for Registrations and Transfers

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

2.6 Misleading and Incorrect Information

- (A) Any player who knowingly submits incorrect information or who intentionally fails to disclose information on any registration form or transfer application may be subject to the following penalties as determined by the League in its absolute discretion:
 - a. De-registration; and/or
 - b. Up to four (4) weeks suspension; and
 - c. may also be deemed an ineligible player for any Matches in which he/she has played.
- (B) Any Club Official or Club that is party to a breach of this Regulation shall be dealt with by the League as it deems fit.

2.7 Unregistered and Ineligible Players

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

3. PLAYER TRANSFERS

3.1 Player Transfers

All player transfers must be processed through Footyweb.

3.2 Transfers between Clubs

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

3.3 Transfers between Leagues

Procedures for the transfer of players between AFL NSW/ACT Leagues will be in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

3.4 Interstate Transfers

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

3.5 Interchange Agreements

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

3.6 No Transfer Required

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

3.7 Appeals Board – Domestic Transfers Only

- (A) An Appeals Board will be established by the Administration Committee to hear and determine all appeals relating to the refusal of Domestic Transfers.
- (B) The Appeals Board shall be appointed each year by the League and shall consist of a panel of at least three (3) and no more than five (5) members, each of whom shall not be an Official of any Club playing in the League.
- (C) The Appeals Board shall hold office for one (1) year. Each member may be reappointed for further terms of office.
- (D) A Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be appointed by the League.
- (E) At any sitting of the Appeals Board, a minimum of two (2) members shall constitute a quorum and where possible, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall preside.
- (F) For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeals Board referred to in this section 3.7 and section 3.8 will rule on appeals on domestic transfers only.

3.8 Refused Domestic Transfer

- (A) Requests for a Domestic Transfer can only be refused by the player's registered Club if the player:
 - a. is indebted to the Club;
 - b. is in possession of Club property (e.g. jumper) that needs to be returned; and/or
 - c. wishes to withdraw their transfer application. Clubs can only submit this as a reason for refusal where the player has signed the forms as required by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.
 - d. Is a contracted player to their registered club
- (B) The transferor Club must clearly state the reason(s) why the transfer is refused and must simultaneously provide supporting documentation.
- (C) Where a transferor Club refuses to transfer a player, the player may lodge an appeal in writing, together with a \$100 bond (of which \$20 is not refundable), to the League within five (5) business days from receipt of refusal.
- (D) Upon advice from the League that an appeal has been lodged the transferor Club has five (5) business days to lodge the same bond outlined in Regulation 3.8(C) to the League for the matter to be heard by the Appeals Board. The Appeals Board will hear the matter within five (5) business days of both bonds being lodged. Should the transferor Club fail to lodge the bond within five (5) business days then the transfer will automatically be granted by the League.
- (E) Bond monies may be forfeited at the discretion of the Appeals Board if it deems either the appeal or the refusal to be frivolous. If the transferor Club does not lodge a bond in the time stipulated then the transfer shall be automatically granted by the League.
- (F) Where, since the refusal of a transfer, the transferor Club and the player have come to an agreement, the transfer will take effect when the League receives either the original transfer form or a second transfer form, which has been suitably endorsed by the transferor club.
- (G) Where the Appeals Board is satisfied that the transferor Club does not have reasonable grounds for refusing the player a transfer, the Appeals Board may grant the transfer.
- (H) The determination of the Appeals Board will be binding upon the player and Club and an unsuccessful transfer application will not be renewed during the season in which the transfer was sought, provided always that where a material change in relevant circumstances occurs later, the player may apply to the Appeals Board for a review by way of re-hearing.
- (I) The Appeals Board must report to the Administration Committee any circumstances of which it may become aware which may suggest that false or misleading information has been provided to the Appeals Board by a party at or in connection with the hearing of any appeal.

3.9 Refused Interstate Transfers and Transfers between Leagues

Refused transfers for players wishing to transfer between AFL NSW/ACT Leagues or interstate will be dealt with in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

3.10 Student Permits

- (A) Subject to Regulation 3.10 (D) below, a player who transfers to another Club to attend an educational institution on a full-time and continuous basis may, during official semester vacations / school holidays, receive a permit to play with his immediate former Club subject to written endorsement from the current Club, the former Club and their respective Leagues.
- (B) The permit application is to be endorsed by those outlined above in Regulation 3.10 (A) prior to 1 July in a given year.
- (C) The permit period lasts until the player ceases his commitments at the educational institution and is subject to any relevant regulations of any of the parties, including participation in finals.
- (D) In order to be eligible for a Student Permit under this Regulation, the player must provide a school or university calendar which sets out vacation periods.

3.11 Match Day Permits

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

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

3.12 State League Player Trial Permit

- (A) A player registered with a Community League Club may obtain a permit to trial with a State League Club under the following conditions:
 - a. The permit of all players under this By-Law must be approved by the Administration Committee and the NEAFL Manager, and the players Community Club.

- b. A player is only permitted to play with one club on any weekend or round
- c. A player may only be granted a permit to one (1) State League Club per season
- d. A player is eligible to trial in up to six (6) State League games per season with the one (1) State League Club.
- e. A Community League Club can only permit one (1) player to each State League Club on any given weekend or round
- f. For each trial game a player's weekly match payments and/or contract with their current club must be honoured by the State League Club
- g. Games played on permit shall count towards finals eligibility for both the State League and Community Club.

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

3.13 Leagues / Clubs Disbanding / Amalgamating

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

3.14 General

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

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

4. CLUB TRANSFERRING

- (A) Clubs desiring to transfer to another League must first obtain the permission of that League to join it, and if the permission is granted the Club must lodge a written application to transfer with its current League which shall be required to deal with such application. Should the Club's current League fail to determine the application within 60 days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer automatically to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.
- (B) If any League is seeking a Club(s) from any other League, then the inviting League must notify the Secretary of the current League of such Club(s) at least 14 days prior to the invitation to the Club(s). Any Club(s) that accepts the League's invitation must provide its current League with no less than fourteen (14) days notice of its intention to transfer to another League. Should the Club's current League fail to determine the application within 60 days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer automatically to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.
- (C) Leagues must obtain the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT prior to affiliating with any newly formed Club.
- (D) In the event of a Club being refused permission to transfer to or join another League, the Club may appeal to AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with Regulation 9 below.
- (E) In the event of a League disbanding, the Clubs affiliated with that League will be transferred to another League as directed by AFL NSW/ACT.
- (F) Any League or Club may appeal a decision made by AFL NSW/ACT pursuant to Regulation 4 (E) in accordance with Regulation 9 below.

5. COACHES AND OFFICIALS

5.1 Coaches to be Registered and Accredited

- (A) All competition Coaches must be registered in Footyweb.
- (B) It is compulsory for all competition Coaches to be accredited to at least Junior Level 1 and/or Youth Level 1 by July 1 in the year of competition.
- (C) The League may revoke a Coach's permit to coach at any time.

5.2 Unregistered and Unaccredited Coaches

- (A) Any Coach not accredited, not registered or registered based upon incorrect information shall be deemed to be an ineligible Coach. Any Club which allows an ineligible Coach to officiate during a Match may lose all Match points and / or be fined up to \$100 for each Match in which such Coach has officiated.
- (B) In addition to any other penalties, ineligible Coach(es) and/or Club(s) responsible for engaging an ineligible Coach may also be liable for suspension or deregistration at the sole discretion of the League.
- (C) When an allegation has been made against any Club for engaging an ineligible Coach the Club shall be responsible for the appearance of the Coach at any investigation conducted by the League.

5.3 Suspended Players / Coaches / Officials

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

5.4 Working with Children Policy

Any person who has not complied with the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation as it applies to them, is in breach of these by-laws and regulations. All Coaches and Team Managers must obtain a Working with Children Clearance, whether or not they would otherwise be exempted under the Regulations of the Child Protection Legislation as not requiring a check by reason of their being a parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates. All Working With Children Checks must be completed by 30th June in each season.

6. DISQUALIFICATIONS – PERSONS NOT TO ACT

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

7. TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES

As a condition of AFL NSW/ACT affiliation, Leagues must adopt the procedures set out in the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, as amended from time to time, for any disciplinary related matter.

8. OFFENCES IN INTER-LEAGUE MATCHES

In the event of a player being reported in an inter-League Match or in a Match between Clubs of different Leagues, the Independent Tribunal of the League with which the player is registered shall hear the charge.

9. APPEALS

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited adopts the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT including in respect of “Section 4 - Competition Appeal Rules” such that players, coaches, officials, spectators, administrators and any other people reasonably connected to AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited are required to comply with those Guidelines.
- (B) Any registered player, Club or League may appeal to its Appeals Board where constituted or where no such body exists, to AFL NSW/ACT against a decision of his/her/its governing body, including any decision arising out of these Regulations and By-Laws (where applicable).
- (C) All appeals, whether against a tribunal finding or against a decision in section 9 (B) above, will be conducted in accordance with Section 4 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.
- (D) The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

10. DOMESTIC MATTERS

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

11. AFL NSW/ACT COMPETITION BY-LAWS

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

12. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS

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

13. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

AFL NSW/ACT shall have the power to decide any matters not provided for in these Regulations.

PART B BY-LAWS

14. CLUB AFFILIATION

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

AFLNC Conditions:

The League will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the basis upon which clubs affiliate with AFL North Coast. This Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed by clubs on an annual basis and is to be completed and returned to the League a minimum of three (3) weeks before the competition is due to commence. Clubs failing to comply with this timeframe may be excluded from the competition by the League.

15. COMPETITION ARRANGEMENTS

15.1 Fixture

- (A) Following receipt and acceptance of club affiliation applications, the league shall prepare a schedule of matches (fixture draw) for each grade of competition and distribute same to clubs prior to the season. Other than in exceptional circumstances as approved by the League, these fixture draws will not be varied once the season has commenced.

AFLNC Conditions:

The League shall prepare a schedule of matches (“the draw”) for each grade of competition and distribute the same to the Clubs at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the season.

Competing clubs may agree to vary the date and/or times of any given match or matches within a round. The proposed amended date and/or time must be advised in writing to both the League and the Umpires appointment designate at least fourteen (14) 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.

- (B) Each competition fixture draw shall consist of a series of home and away premiership matches followed by a finals series.

15.2 Match Times

- (A) Starting time of all matches will be advised when the fixture draw is released. The starting times may be varied at the discretion of the Administration Committee.

AFLNC Conditions:

Matches in the Junior competition are to be played on a Sunday unless varied using 15.1(A) above.

- All Under 11 matches shall commence at 9:30am, concluding at or before 10:30am.
- All Under 13 matches shall commence at 10:45am, concluding at or before 11:55am.
- All Under 15.5 matches shall commence at 12:15pm.

- (B) Matches must start and finish on time. If a start is late, 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, half and three quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following match can commence on time.

AFLNC Conditions:

- All Under 11 matches shall be played over four (4) quarters of ten (10) minutes.
- All Under 13 matches shall be played over four (4) quarters of twelve (12) minutes.
- All Under 15.5 matches shall be played over four (4) quarters of fifteen (15) minutes.
- In all grades, the quarter and three quarter intervals shall be four (4) minutes, and the half time interval shall be ten (10) minutes.

Time on is not played in AFL North Coast.

- (C) If for any reason a team is not ready to commence play twenty (20) minutes after the appointed time, the opposing club may claim the match as a forfeit. If however the start of a match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and by mutual agreement between the competing clubs the match is still played, the clubs must agree on a shortened time of play to ensure that any following matches will not be delayed.
- (D) For Juniors such matches where teams do not have the minimum numbers at the scheduled start time but Players are still due to arrive, the game shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. No time-on will be allowed for the home and away matches.
- (E) If for any reason a club should not finish a match, the Field Umpire must report the matter to the Administration Committee for investigation.

15.3 Match Duration

- (A) The duration of quarters for all Home and Away matches will be as defined by the League and for matches where time on is played 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 umpire fails to signal the completion of the time added period, or the timekeepers fail to hear his/her whistle or see his/her signal, the timekeepers are to 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 the bouncing of the ball in the centre (after a goal) or 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 umpire until the 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 and on as detailed above.
- (B) 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 umpire until the 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 and on as detailed above.

15.4 Warning Sirens

- (A) Timekeepers are to sound the siren as an indicator to players and officials as follows:
- a. As umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of the game and after half-time - Once
 - b. Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the match and start of the third Quarter – Once
 - c. Two minutes prior to scheduled starting time of all quarters – Twice
 - d. One minute prior to scheduled starting time of all quarters – Once
 - e. Scheduled starting time of all quarters – Once

15.5 Ladder

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

15.5.1 Even Number of Teams and/or Even Number of Games Played

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

15.5.2 Uneven Number of Teams and/or Uneven Number of Games Played

- (A) The teams will be positioned in the order of club’s “Winning Percentage” or “Match Ratio” in place of total premiership points accrued. A Club’s match ratio will be the percentage of wins against matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one club has the same “Match Ratio” those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs.

- (B) The premiership ladder will not count cancelled matches as matches played and thus 'Match Ratio' is only affected by the number of games played where a win, loss or draw can be affected.

AFLNC Conditions:

Equal Positions on Ladder at end of Season

In the event of Clubs tying for any position at the conclusion of the home and away season after taking into account premiership points/match ratios (whichever is applicable) and percentages, then such additional match or matches as the League shall determine necessary shall be played prior to the commencement of the final series to determine the positions the Clubs shall occupy on the premiership ladder.

No points shall be awarded for a bye.

15.6 Premier Team

The Premier Team for the season shall be the team which wins the Grand Final in each respective competition.

15.7 Forfeits

- (A) Any club unable to play a match for which it is drawn is to advise the opposing club and the League no later than the defined time on the Friday prior to the match concerned. The match will then be treated as a forfeit and provided a satisfactory explanation is furnished to the League, no penalty other than those specified in this by-law will be imposed.

AFLNC Conditions:

Any Club unable to play a match in any grade for which it is drawn is to advise the opposing Club, Umpire Co-ordinator, and the Football Operations Co-ordinator in writing no later than 12:00pm on the Friday prior to the match concerned. Advice between clubs is to be made President to President.

Where a forfeit is notified by a visiting club within the required notice period, the Administration Committee may elect to impose a fine which will be payable by the forfeiting club and paid to the home club as reimbursement of canteen trade. The amount of the fine will be \$50 per age group that is forfeiting. The League will invoice the forfeiting club for the fine and then either reduce this amount from the home club's affiliation fees or pass the money received on if all affiliation fees have been paid.

Where one (1) team appears for a match with less than the minimum number of players (see Rule 17.7) and the opposing team is unable to share sufficient players for the minimum number to be achieved by both teams, the match shall proceed but shall be recorded as a forfeit against the team that did not have the minimum numbers.

- (B) Should a club forfeit a match without the required notice, a fine of up to \$1000 may be imposed at the discretion of the Administration Committee.
- (C) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed umpires prior to them attending a forfeited match, the League will pay the umpires and the forfeiting club will be invoiced for the full amount.

- (D) If for any reason a team is not ready to commence play 20 minutes after the appointed commencement time for a match, the opposing club may claim the match as a forfeit.
- (E) All clubs must field a senior grade team in the home and away competition unless otherwise arranged with the Administration Committee. Should a club play in a reserve grade fixture and subsequently forfeit their senior grade match in the same round, that club will not be awarded any match points for the reserve grade fixture and shall be liable to disqualification or such other penalty as the Administration Committee may determine.
- (F) A team shall forfeit a match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a match already commenced.
- (G) Where a forfeit occurs the result will be determined in accordance with the League requirements.
 - a. The team receiving the forfeit shall submit a team sheet for the purpose of player eligibility for finals

15.8 Match Wins

In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible team will be awarded the lowest points for and the highest points against scored in the round in their grade/age group. The non-forfeiting or eligible team will be awarded the highest points for and the lowest points against scored in the round in their grade/age group. Ladders will be adjusted accordingly.

15.9 Adverse Weather

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

AFLNC Conditions:

Postponement of Matches

The League may postpone any match in the event of a significant forecast unfavourable weather event which may jeopardise the safety of players should matches proceed as scheduled. A decision to postpone a match, matches, or entire round shall be given in writing to the clubs and Umpires' Association not later than 5:00pm on the day prior to the commencement of the match or such other time as the League may determine in the case of home and away matches and at any time prior to the commencement of finals series matches. Any match which the League determines shall be postponed shall be played on such date as is fixed by the League.

- (B) In the case where there is lightning during a match the umpire has the authority to delay the match where they believe the conditions have become unsafe.

15.10 Wet Weather Procedures

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

- (B) Where a ground to which a match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in liaison 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 ground, that club will assume the home 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 ground is available, the League will make every effort to move the fixture to an alternative venue. Clubs whose grounds are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their ground available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the home team responsibilities will be assumed by the home team as nominated in the fixture.
- (E) If a match is not played because neither ground nor an alternative venue is available, the Administration 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 not be played, the Administration Committee may postpone or cancel all matches for that round.
- (G) In the event that any match is cancelled, the match does not contribute to either team's "Match Ratio" as per by-law 15.5.2 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 Administration Committee will decide on player eligibility for finals.
- (H) Each club is required to have procedures in place, which will enable them to contact their players, and officials to notify them at short notice of any changes to scheduled matches.

15.11 Other Matches

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

16. FINALS

16.1 Finals Structure

The Administration Committee will use specified guidelines as determined by the League to determine the length of any finals series upon release of the Competition Season Fixture prior to the first home and away match.

AFLNC Conditions:

For competitions comprising up to and including ten (10) teams:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Match 1 | First Semi Final | Team 3 v Team 4 |
| Match 2 | Second Semi Final | Team 1 v Team 2 |
| Match 3 | Preliminary Final | Winner match 1 v Loser match 2 |
| Match 4 | Grand Final | Winner match 2 v Winner match 3 |

The above format may also be adopted where one age group only has in excess of ten (10) teams and adopting a different Finals format for this competition only would cause logistical difficulties for the participating clubs.

For competitions comprising more than ten (10) teams:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Match 1 | Elimination Final | Team 4 v Team 5 |
| Match 2 | Qualifying Final | Team 2 v Team 3 |
| Match 3 | First Semi Final | Winner match 1 v Loser match 2 |
| Match 4 | Second Semi Final | Team 1 v Winner match 2 |
| Match 5 | Preliminary Final | Winner match 3 v Loser match 4 |
| Match 6 | Grand Final | Winner match 4 v Winner match 5 |

In consultation with the clubs, the Administration Committee may elect to conduct an alternate event or events (e.g. Lightning Premiership) for the teams that do not qualify for the Finals Series in one or more age groups.

16.2 Venue Selection

The Administration Committee shall determine the venues for finals series matches on an annual basis.

AFLNC Conditions:

The process for selecting venues is documented in the Finals Venue Selection Policy.

16.3 Match Duration

Finals Match Duration shall be as determined by the League. By law 15.3 (A) shall apply for time on.

AFLNC Conditions:

Finals match duration shall be the same as during the home and away season. Time on is not played in Finals matches in AFL North Coast (see rule 15.3(B)).

16.4 Match Conditions

Except as per 16.3 and 16.5 all other match conditions applicable for the Home and Away season will apply to the finals.

AFLNC Conditions:

The scheduled playing day and match commencement times can be adapted for Grand Final matches by the League to enable the Grand Finals for the Junior and Senior competitions to be staged on the same day and at the same venue.

16.5 Drawn Finals

- (A) In the event of a drawn game in any finals match the following will apply:
- a. Goal Umpires will confirm the scores.
 - b. Field Umpires will re-commence the game for duration of five minutes (plus time on). The teams will not change ends. (i.e. they will run the same way they did in the final quarter)
 - c. The siren will sound, the teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes (plus time on) is played.
 - d. If the game is still drawn after the second 5 minute (plus time on) period the game will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound.
 - e. At no stage before or during extra time are coaches permitted to address players.

16.6 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.

16.7 Player Eligibility

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

AFLNC Conditions:

The eligibility provisions are documented in the Finals Player Eligibility Policy.

- (B) A player is only permitted to play in one finals match for his club on any given weekend unless determined otherwise by the League in rule 16.7.
- (C) Any player who has played in a total of 50% or more of home and away matches of a higher grade or grades shall not be eligible to play final matches in a lower grade unless the higher and lower grades are played on the same day (as defined by the League).
- (D) On application by a player's club, the Administration Committee may vary the number of qualifying games required where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away matches or where a player misses a significant number of matches due to serious injury, transfers in employment, or under other exceptional circumstances. Such transfer in employment should follow three (3) calendar months of continuous employment preceding the transfer date with the existing employer, unless otherwise approved by the League.

16.8 Provision of Officials

During finals series matches, non-competing clubs may be required (as determined by the Administration Committee) to provide personnel to assist with ground management tasks such as gatekeepers, timekeepers, interchange steward and scoreboard attendants etc.

16.9 Catering Rights

Catering rights for finals matches will be determined by the League

17. TEAMS

17.1 Number of players – Senior Competitions

The number of on field and interchange players for each competition shall be determined by the Administration Committee.

17.2 Number of players – Under Age Competitions

(A) Subject to by law 17.4 the number of on field and interchange players for each competition shall be as below or as determined by the Administration Committee.

- a. Maximum number of players that can be listed on the team sheet / list is twenty two (22).
- b. If both teams have eighteen (18) players or less listed on the team sheet / list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be sixteen (16) players on the field, unless both teams agree to start with seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) 'on field' players.
- c. If both teams have more than eighteen (18) players listed on the team sheet / list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be eighteen (18) players.

17.3 Minimum Number of Players (ex Juniors)

The minimum number of on field players required for a team to commence a competition match shall be fourteen (14).

17.4 Minimum Age of Players

- (A) The minimum age for players to participate in competitions is as follows:
- a. Senior Grade Competitions - fifteen (15) years of age
 - b. Under 18's Competitions - fourteen (14) years of age
- (B) The Administration Committee will consider any exemption to the minimum age upon receipt of an application from the player's club endorsed with the consent from the player's parents/guardians.

AFLNC Conditions:

To participate in the Under 11 competition a player must be turning eight (8) in the year of the competition. The minimum age for all other age groups shall be governed by Rule 23.6(C) Playing Up an Age Group.

17.5 Team Sheet / List

- (A) For each match, three (3) copies of an official team list containing player's names and jumper numbers and the names of team officials is to be prepared by each competing team. One copy is to be handed to the Field Umpires prior to the commencement of the game as designated by the league. The second copy is to be given to the timekeeper, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores and goal-scorers at the conclusion of the game and returned to the League Office with the match paperwork. The third copy is to be exchanged with the opposition club.

AFLNC Conditions:

Team sheets must be generated from Footyweb.

The original copy, duly completed and signed by the Team Manager together with any match permit, is to be delivered to the Field Umpires not later than ten (10) minutes before the commencement of the game.

Each club is to verify the other team's list and each club is to sign off both copies.

- (B) Team Lists are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (C) Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team List up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the Field Umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team List provided that the opposition Team Manager is advised. Such players must be included on the Team List before the second half commences.
- (D) Players included on the Team List but not in attendance must be removed from the Team List before the second half commences. No amendments may be made to any team after the half time interval.

AFLNC Conditions:

The away club must ensure that the team list in the Footyweb system accurately reflects the names of the players who played in the match by 4:00pm on the day of the match.

- (E) Goals not listed on the Team List at the time it is received at the League shall not be credited to a player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- (F) Clubs providing incorrect Team Lists may be liable to lose the match concerned.

AFLNC Conditions:

Clubs are required to retain the team sheets that have been signed by both clubs for the duration of the season and must be able to present them within 7 days if required.

17.6 Signature Checks

In the event that there is a question on the authenticity of a player listed on a team sheet / list on match day, at the request of either Team Captain, the Field Umpire shall at the earliest opportunity (before the match, quarter interval or after the match) request a player to provide his full name and address and his signature. Should any player fail to comply with this request, he shall on a report to the League be dealt with as that Body deems fit. It shall be the responsibility of the Ground Manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Administration Committee in accordance with these by-laws.

AFLNC Conditions:**17.7 Number of players – Junior competition**

The following table shows the on field minimum number, match number and on field maximum number by age group.

| Age Group | Minimum players on the field | Maximum players on the field | Maximum players on team sheet | Maximum registrations per team |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Under 11 | 9 | 15 | 19 | 21 |
| Under 13 | 9 | 18 | 22 | 24 |
| Under 15.5 | 10 | 18 | 22 | 24 |

In under age competitions, in order to ensure a game goes ahead whenever possible, if a club has less than the minimum number of players on its team list and the other club has sufficient players to supply the first club with players to meet the minimum number requirement, they are compelled to do so. In this situation the game will be considered a competitive fixture with both clubs vying for premiership points. Players that join the other club for this match are required to remain with that team for the duration of the game, with any goals scored or votes received will be recorded for them.

In under age competitions, on field numbers must be equal at all times. The only exception to this rule is where a player in one team receives a red card and that team is required to play with one player short for fifteen (15) minutes (see rule 22.2(D)).

18. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

The club named first on the official fixture draw shall be the home club. Home clubs are responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for matches are made.

18.1 Ground Marking

- (A) The following lines must be clearly marked.
 - a. Goal-squares, boundary lines, centre square
 - b. Arc at each end of the ground, 3 metre centre circle (with intersecting line), 10 metre centre circle (with intersecting line)
 - c. Interchange area. The interchange area, comprising two short lines across the boundary line 15 metres apart, should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equidistant on either side not less than 50 metres apart for the interchange players and team officials of each club.
- (B) The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.
- (C) A coach's line should be marked comprising 5 metres in length and 1 metre in from the fence / fence line. It should be marked in front of the coach's box / area. No official or bench player is allowed to stand in front of this line during play.

18.2 Goal Post Pads

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

18.3 Scoreboard

A suitable scoreboard with numbers and team names clearly visible to players and spectators must be in operation for all matches.

18.4 Change rooms

Separate and adequate changing facilities and showers must be provided for each club and the umpires and these rooms must be presented in a clean and tidy condition at the commencement of each match.

18.5 Timekeeping Facilities

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

18.6 Footballs

Two footballs of a suitable standard must be provided for use in each match. Standards and requirements for all grades of competition will be determined by the League.

AFLNC Conditions:

The home club must supply one (1) red, leather match football of a standard considered satisfactory by the field umpire. In the event that any match time is amended such that the match is played under lights, a tan coloured leather ball is to be used.

For the purpose of this By-law the approved footballs are T.W. Sherrin and Ross Faulkner. Footballs used in Under 11 and Under 13 are to be size 3, and in Under 15.5 are to be size 4.

In adverse weather conditions, the competing clubs may agree to the use of wet weather synthetic footballs. Any such decision can be made prior to the start of the match, or at any of the breaks between quarters. In the event that the two Team Managers are unable to reach an agreement the final decision shall be made by the umpires.

18.7 Emergency Medical Arrangements

- (A) The League has adopted the AFL Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (Sports Trainers Policy). All Clubs are required to comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (B) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (C) The host club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all games for which it is the host club.
- (D) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the policy at any match. These qualifications are:
 - a. Junior First Aid Certificate
 - b. Youth and above Emergency Response Coordinator Certificate
- (E) The visiting club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each game that the host club is able to comply with the requirements of this Rule. In the event that the host club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the visiting club agrees, the game will be postponed or rescheduled.
- (F) Any decision to replay a postponed match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Administration Committee within seven days of the scheduled match. In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the game a delayed start of 20 minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following the match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of games following.
- (G) The game may proceed if the visiting club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (H) If the visiting club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the game, then the visiting club may claim a forfeit. The Rules in relation to forfeits will apply. If a game is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the host club will forfeit the match and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.
- (I) The Sports Trainers Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with medical or higher level allied health

qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupations they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy

- a. Nurse
 - b. Physiotherapist
 - c. A certified Sports Trainer
 - d. St John Officer Paramedic
 - e. Doctor
- (J) A stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of the days play. The home club is also to ensure that it can promptly facilitate ambulance access to the field of play if necessary.

18.8 Concussion

- (A) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their officials.
- (B) The guidelines in this rule on concussion are based on a position statement on the management of concussion in Australian Football by the AFL Medical Officer's Association.
- (C) The guidelines should be adhered to at all times. Decisions regarding return to play after concussive injuries should only be made by a medical doctor with experience in concussive injuries
- (D) Any Player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must not be allowed to return to play in the same game or train in the same practice session.
- (E) A concussed Player must not be allowed to return to training or playing before having a formal medical clearance provided to the Club.

18.9 Match-Day Safety Check

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

19. CLUB OFFICIALS AND DUTIES

19.1 Ground Manager

- (A) The home club must appoint a Ground Manager (or designate the following tasks to a nominated person(s) who will be responsible for the match day requirements and match paperwork for the day). The Ground Manager should 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 inform both the umpires and visiting club of the change.
- (B) Prior to the commencement of play, the Ground Manager must identify compliance of the home club with the Sports Trainers Policy as described in Rule 18.7.
- (C) Prior to the commencement of play, the Ground Manager should distribute the following paperwork, which has been provided by the League.

For each match:

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

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

- (D) At the completion of each match, the Ground Manager should collect the following;

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

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

AFLNC Conditions:

The Umpires Match Report, Best & Fairest Voting Slip, and Notice of Report (where applicable) are to be submitted via the online facility by 6:00pm on the day of the match.

Note 2: The Ground Manager should ensure that each club has entered the quarter-by-quarter scores; best players and the goals scored by players on their team lists. The tally of goals entered for players must equal the number of goals scored by the respective teams.

- (E) The Ground Manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue as specified in Attachment 'A' of these by-laws.

- (F) At the end of the day 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.
- (G) Finally, it shall be the Ground Manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the home club:
 - a. Either SMS or telephones the results of all the days matches to the required person(s), prior to 5.30 pm (or as defined by the Administration Committee) on the day concerned (this is not required for matches played on Saturday or if the results have been input into "Footyweb" for matches played on Sunday)

AFLNC Conditions:

Each club is to forward match details, including results, best players, and goal kickers for all matches played by the club in that round by email to the Football Operations Co-ordinator by 6:00pm on the day of the match to assist with the preparation of information to be supplied to the media.

- b. Inputs all results and player information (i.e. team lists, goal kickers & best players) of all the days matches into the Footyweb on-line results system by the League designated time on the day of the match.

AFLNC Conditions:

The away club must ensure that the team list in the Footyweb system accurately reflects the names of the players who played in the match by 4:00pm on the day of the match.

The home club must ensure that full details, i.e. results, team lists, goal kickers & best players are entered into Footyweb by 6:00pm on the day of the match.

19.2 Team Managers

- (A) Each club shall appoint a Manager for each team it fields in the competition. It shall be the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that his or her teams' players and officials comply with the requirements specified in these by-laws and with any request reasonably made by the umpires officiating in a 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 goalkickers 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".

19.3 Team Runner

- (A) The sole duty of the official Team Runner or Runners is to deliver messages to players of his club and then leave the field immediately having done so.
- (B) The Team Runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League.

AFLNC Conditions:

The Team Runner must wear a shirt or vest as supplied by the League, with their respective Club name and the word "Runner" clearly marked. If the League supplied shirt or vest is lost or destroyed the Club must replace the item to the same standard and design at its own cost.

- (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 two (2) Runners. Only one runner per team shall be allowed on the field of play at any one time. Runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.

19.4 Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers

- (A) Clubs are permitted to utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers per team.
- (B) These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured players or to provide players with water. They must not be used to deliver messages to players.
- (C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each team must be dressed as approved by the League.

AFLNC Conditions:

Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each team must wear a shirt or vest as supplied by the League, with their respective Club name and the word "First Aid" clearly marked. If the League supplied shirt or vest is lost or destroyed the Club must replace the item to the same standard and design at its own cost.

- (D) Umpires will ask any Trainer/Medical/Water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform.
- (E) Water Carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the League.

AFLNC Conditions:

Minimum age of water carriers will be:

- Under 11: twelve (12) years of age.
- Under 13 and Under 15.5: thirteen (13) years of age.

19.5 Umpires Escort

- (A) For each match, the home club must appoint a suitable person to ensure the safety of umpires (ideally the Ground Manager or appointee). The Umpires

Escort is to escort the umpires (including club umpires) to and from the Grounds as designated by the League:

AFLNC Conditions:

The Umpires' Escort is to escort the umpires:

- From their assembly point on the field to their change rooms at half time.
- From their change rooms to the centre of the field after the half time break.
- From their assembly point on the field to their change rooms at the conclusion of the match.

- (B) In addition, 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 as per the guidelines in 24.2 of these By-Laws.

AFLNC Conditions:

The Umpires' Escort is to approach the umpires in the middle of the ground at both quarter time and three quarter time to discuss any concerns the umpires have with the behaviour of team officials and/or spectators. The Umpires' Escort is to relay these concerns to the Ground Manager to take the appropriate action.

19.6 Timekeepers

- (A) Each club is to appoint a Timekeeper where possible. Home clubs must provide a Timekeeper whilst away clubs are encouraged to supply one. The Timekeepers are to perform the duties as set out in the AFL Laws of the Game, these By Laws and as otherwise specified by the Administration Committee from time to time.

AFLNC Conditions:

- (i) The home Club shall supply at least one (1) clock for the use of the Club timekeeper. The timer on a smartphone (or similar) is not an appropriate substitute for a timer clock.
- (ii) At each ground upon which League matches are to be played there shall be a bell or siren of the type approved by the League. The operation of such bell or siren shall be under the control of the timekeepers appointed to the game. The bell or siren shall be operated in accordance with By-Law 15.4 and the AFL Laws of the Game.
- (iii) The Timekeepers are to be located equidistant between the home and away team benches, unless the ground has a clock that clearly shows the time elapsed within the quarter and is easily read from the location of the home and away team benches.

- (B) 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 Administration Committee for attention.

- (C) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each game in which they officiate. The quarter by quarter scores are also to be recorded on each club's team sheet.
- (D) Timekeepers are also required to record the time that players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such players may resume playing (if applicable). It is the club of the offending players responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the umpires decision to send off a player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling umpire.
- (E) The field umpire(s) shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a match.

19.7 Officials on the Bench

In addition to the maximum number of trainers, other medical staff and water carriers, interchange players and team runner/s there will be a maximum of 4 other officials allowed on the bench area inside the ground during play.

19.8 Club Umpires

- (A) From time to time each club is required to provide suitable persons for the League Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the Club Umpire commitment for the season prior to the start of the season as designated.

AFLNC Conditions:

Club field umpires, where appointed, shall be required to have completed the AFL Club Umpire Program. Club field umpires are to be attired in a Trainee Umpire vest which shall be supplied by the League. Payment for Club Umpires shall be at the discretion of the club and will not be reimbursed by the League.

- (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.
- (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.

AFLNC Conditions:

Club goal umpires should be attired in a white top.

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) Payment of club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the providing clubs or as determined by the Administration Committee. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the umpire's attendance sheet.

20. UNIFORMS AND LOGO REGULATIONS

20.1 Uniform Design

- (A) New clubs shall be required to submit complete details of the proposed colour and design of its uniform to the Administration Committee for approval. Once approved, such club shall have exclusive rights to its uniform design.
- (B) Existing clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their uniform design for approval by the Administration Committee before use.

AFLNC Conditions:

The sole arbiter on uniform clashes shall be the Administration Committee.

20.2 Jumper Numbers

Players of each team must play in their club uniform as registered with the League and wear numbers on the back of their jumpers corresponding to the numbers shown on the Team List. All numbers must be whole numbers between 1 and 99 inclusive. No two players or more from the same team are permitted to wear the same number.

20.3 Sponsor's Logos / Approved Suppliers

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT Official suppliers are elected as the only supplier licensed to use the AFL NSW/ACT Logo.
- (B) Jumpers worn by Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast. Club jumpers and shorts with the AFL NSW/ACT logo may only be obtained from the AFL NSW/ACT official suppliers.
- (C) Sponsor's logo as approved by the League may be worn either on the front or back of players' jumpers as follows:
 - a. Front – The logo must be positioned on the left breast, directly opposite the AFL NSW/ACT logo. It is not to exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
 - b. Back – The logo must be positioned and centred underneath the player number. It is not to exceed 12cm high and 24cm wide.
- (D) Sponsor's logo as approved by the League may be worn on shorts as follows:
 - a. The logo must not exceed 39 square cm with a maximum width of 7cm. The logo must be placed on the front of the right leg.
- (E) The Administration Committee will consider any other proposals for the display of club or sponsors logos on player's uniforms.

20.4 Inspection of Equipment

No player shall be permitted to play in a match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself or other players. The Field Umpires may at their discretion inspect players' equipment either before or at any time during the match.

20.5 Club Names and Club Logos

- (A) New clubs shall be required to submit complete details of the proposed club name and club nickname and design of its club logo to the Administration

Committee for approval. Once approved, such club shall have exclusive rights to its club name, club nickname and club logo.

- (B) Existing clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their club name, club nickname and club logo design for approval by the Administration Committee before use, such approval to be granted or withheld at the sole discretion of the Administration Committee.

20.6 AFL Marks and Logos

For the purposes of this by-law refer to the definition of “**AFL Marks**” in the Definitions section of these Rules.

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

21. UMPIRES

21.1 Appointments

The League or designate will appoint official umpires to matches as available and the names of the appointed umpires will be to clubs prior to the match as designated by the League.

AFLNC Conditions:

Umpires in the AFL North Coast Junior Competition shall be appointed by the AFL North Coast Umpires' Association.

21.2 Availability

All members of the umpires' panel must make themselves available to the League for appointment as a field, boundary or goal umpire as required. All umpires must conform to the rules and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the Administration Committee.

21.3 Umpire Requirements

Umpires should be at the ground as designated by the League before the official starting time of the match and must be on the field correctly attired at least ten minutes before such starting time.

AFLNC Conditions:

Umpires should be at the ground no less than thirty minutes before the official starting time of the match.

21.4 Field Umpire Numbers

- (A) As a minimum, two field umpires are required prior to a match commencing unless determined otherwise by the League. These can be accredited umpires, registered club field umpires or a combination of both. Should two umpires not be available, the match is to be cancelled and the matter referred to the Administration Committee for determination.
- (B) Where two field umpires commence a match and for some reason one field umpire is unable to complete a match, the remaining field umpire may continue to control the match as a single umpire if another suitable umpire is not available to take the place of the unfit umpire.

AFLNC Conditions:

Should the official umpire(s) be unable to complete a match and a suitable substitute umpire be unavailable, further play in the match shall be abandoned and the matter referred to the Administration Committee for determination.

21.5 Umpires' Fees

The umpires' fees for the ensuing season shall be decided by the Administration Committee and communicated to the clubs no later than February in the year the season in which they are applicable.

21.6 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.

- (B) In the event of a match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in by-law 15.7 (E), no payment shall be due to the affected umpires.

21.7 Umpires' Match Report

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

AFLNC Conditions:

The Umpires Match Report, Best & Fairest Voting Slip, and Notice of Report (where applicable) are to be submitted via the online facility by 6:00pm on the day of the match.

21.8 Club Report on Umpires

To assist the League in its assessment of umpires, clubs may at their discretion, provide a report on the umpire(s) performance to the League. Such report should be provided on the prescribed form as designated by the league.

21.9 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 National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.
- (B) In terms of Section 3 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, Registered Club Field Umpires are permitted to report players - but non-registered club field umpires, club boundary and goal umpires are not permitted to do so.
- (C) All reporting umpires are required to reference the Offence Grade Template as outlined in 5.2 (b) of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT when lodging a report.

21.10 Minimum Umpire Age

The Administration Committee shall determine the minimum age for all open age and under age League competitions field, boundary and goal umpires (official or club umpires).

21.11 Field Umpires – Juniors

- (A) It is recommended that the age of a controlling Field Umpire of a match be a minimum of two (2) years older than the nominated age group when officiating. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age for an Under 11 game.

- (B) A free kick or a 50 m penalty may be awarded against a Player, Official or Spectator who:
- a. uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an umpire;
 - b. behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an umpire;
 - c. intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.

AFLNC Conditions:

21.12 Approaches to Umpires

No coach or Club official shall be permitted to speak to the umpires during the progress of the match.

Only the Club captain shall be permitted to enter into the centre square and speak to the umpires during the intervals of a match. All team addresses shall be given outside the centre square.

The umpires are to report any breach of this rule to the Football Operations Co-ordinator who will table the report with the Administration Committee which will consider possible sanctions to be imposed upon the individual(s) and club.

If the coaches of both teams agree that the umpires' consistent interpretation of the rules is creating concerns for player safety they may approach the Ground Manager with these concerns. Following such an approach, the Ground Manager is to discuss the matter with the umpires at the next break between quarters.

22. ORDER OFF RULE

22.1 Yellow Card

- (A) A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the laws of the game shall be ordered from the field for a period of fifteen minutes. In this instance an umpire will hold up a yellow card.
- (B) At the discretion of the field umpire, a player may be ordered from the field for a period of fifteen minutes and not be reported. In this instance an umpire will hold up a yellow card.
- (C) A player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending players club is responsible for obtaining the all clear from the timekeepers for such player to resume playing.
- (D) For the purposes of this rule, a yellow card will result in the player concerned remaining off the field for a flat period of fifteen minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. E.g. a player sent off five minutes before half time would be permitted to resume playing ten minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- (E) Unless determined otherwise by the Administration committee all players who are ordered from the field with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

22.2 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 22.2 (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 are defined as where a player or official;
 - a. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an umpire
 - b. Attempts to make contact with or strike an umpire
 - c. Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire
 - d. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person
 - e. Commits an act of misconduct - if the umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature
- (C) A player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending player is not permitted to sit on the bench, or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the match.
- (D) Unless otherwise determined by the Administration Committee all players who are ordered from the field with a red card can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed. The offending player's club is responsible for obtaining the all clear from the timekeepers for the replacement player to resume playing.

- (E) For the purposes of this rule, a red card will result in the player concerned being unable to be replaced for a flat period of fifteen minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. E.g. a player sent off five minutes before half time would not be permitted to be replaced until ten minutes after the third quarter commenced.

22.3 Recording of Send Offs

- (A) When a player is sent off 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 and shall be the sole judges as to when such players may resume playing, or be replaced (whichever is applicable). It is the offending player's club's responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such players to resume playing.

23. LAWS AND POLICIES

23.1 Laws of the Game

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, League Competition matches shall be played under the Laws of Australian Football as laid down by the Australian Football League.
- a. Use of gloves by Players in junior competition is not allowed. This is to encourage the development of ball handling skills. Umpires have discretionary power to allow the use of a glove(s) in special circumstances such as injury.

23.2 Kick-In Rule

The same football, as that used to score the behind, must be utilised unless otherwise instructed by the field umpire.

23.3 Loss of Points

Where a team loses a match through violation of the rules or these by-laws, the competition points or 'win' for the match concerned shall be credited to the opposing team. Points scored for and against each team and goals kicked by players shall be credited in the normal manner.

23.4 Infectious Diseases Policy

- (A) All League Competition Clubs are to comply with section 22 of the Laws of Australian Football in parallel with the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases (H.I.V. and Hepatitis B).
- a. AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases includes:
- b. Clubs should strongly recommend to all players and officials that they be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- c. Clubs should ensure that their dressing rooms are clean and tidy, with particular attention to hand basins, toilets and showers. Spitting and/or urinating in the team areas must not be permitted.
- d. Trainers are to be instructed to wipe all blood away from players' faces or limbs if they have been injured.
- e. Soiled towels should be discarded and clean towels should be available to avoid re-use or sharing of bloodied material. Appropriate containers need to be accessible for storing soiled towels.
- f. Jumpers soiled with blood should be changed at the earliest opportunity.
- g. Trainers should wear protective gloves when dealing with a bleeding wound.
- h. Players with wounds that are bleeding profusely are to leave the field for treatment and will not be permitted to resume playing until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered.
- (B) Field umpires who observe a bleeding player are empowered to stop play and send a player from the field for treatment if in their opinion such action is warranted. Such player shall leave the field immediately through the interchange area. The replacement player may enter the field of play while the

bleeding player is in the process of leaving the field and should do so through the interchange area also. The umpire shall wait until the replacement player has reached his position on the field before restarting play. If there is any undue delay in the replacement player entering the field of play, the umpire may restart play at his/her discretion.

23.5 AFL Vilification & Discrimination Policy

The League will at all times adhere to the AFL Vilification & Discrimination Policy.

23.6 Conduct of Games – Juniors

All Junior & Youth Matches and/or Competitions will be conducted according to the principles and guidance of the Junior Football Match Guide.

AFLNC Conditions:

(A) Girls' Participation

The Junior Football Match Guide states (in part):

“AFL members will exclude females who reach fourteen (14) years of age as at January 1 in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a ‘female competition’.

Definition – A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the players are female.”

(B) Player exemptions

The Administration Committee will consider any exemption to the maximum age upon receipt of an application from the player's club endorsed with the consent from the player's parents/guardians. This includes applications for girls who have reached the maximum age permitted under the Junior Football Match Guide and wish to continue playing in a boys' competition. Such application is to be in writing, and is to detail the exceptional circumstances upon which the application is based. The applicant is not permitted to play with the club until such time as the Administration Committee has made a favourable determination.

Note: Exemptions for minimum age are covered at rule 17.4. Exemptions for Finals eligibility are covered at rule 16.7.

(C) Playing Up an Age Group

Other than in exceptional circumstances, players are expected to prioritise playing in their own age group over playing in an older age group, e.g. a player who is 10 years of age is expected to play more matches in the Under 11s than they do in the Under 13s. This rule applies equally to players in the Under15.5 competition who wish to also play in the Under 18 competition.

A player may not play up more than one age group, i.e. an Auskick registered child may not play in an Under 13 team, an Under 11 player may not play in an Under 15.5 team.

(D) Multiple teams

Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same age group, after the initial three (3) rounds no player from that age group shall be permitted to play for more than one (1) team in that age group. Younger players who 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 of those teams. From this point, they may only play for that team in the older age group.

(E) Joint ventures

- a. The formation of joint venture teams between clubs may be approved 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 same. The Competition Management Committee may reject, approve or approve on terms and conditions the proposed joint venture team.
- c. Within seven (7) days of the decision by the Competition Management Committee the decision is to be advised to the Board for endorsement. The Board may request further information from the Competition Management Committee and/or the clubs with respect to the application and will, after consideration of the application, endorse or vary the decision of the Competition Management Committee.
- d. 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.
- e. A joint venture team will not be able to be entered into any competition until such time as it is approved by the Board.
- f. 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.

(F) Mercy Rule

- a. The Goal Umpires are to inform the Field Umpire at half time or three quarter time, where the score differential between the teams equals or exceeds a set amount.
- b. For Under 11 and Under 13 the mercy rule will come in to effect when the score differential equals or exceeds sixty (60) points.
- c. For Under 15.5, the mercy rule will come in to effect when the score differential equals or exceeds ninety (90) points.
- d. The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires and any scoreboard attendants to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.
- e. 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.
- f. The official recorded result for the match shall be:
 - Losing team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied;
 - Winning Team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, plus a margin equal to the points differential.
- g. The Mercy Rule does not apply during the Finals Series.

24. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

24.1 Prescribed Penalties

A prescribed penalty system will operate in the League competition in accordance with attachment "C" to these By-Laws.

24.2 Code of Conduct

Clubs are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct as per attachment "A" and the Code of Conduct Guidelines and Disciplinary Procedures as per attachment "B" to these By-Laws. Clubs are required to ensure that all club members receive a copy of the Code of Conduct. The Code relates to regulating the conduct and behaviour of players, officials, club administrators, parents and spectators (supporters).

24.3 Power to Investigate

- (A) The Administration Committee may investigate or nominate a person to investigate any matter which it considers relevant to whether or not a person may have committed a Reportable Offence or a Code of Conduct Breach.
- (B) Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Administration Committee by by-law 24.3 (A), a nominee may investigate any matter:
 - a. of his own motion; or
 - b. on the basis of video evidence; or
 - c. upon the written request of an Authorised Officer of a Club as per by-law 24.8 (Citings by Clubs) or
 - d. upon the written request of either an Authorised Officer of a Club or a non aligned individual as per by-law 24.2 (Code of Conduct).

24.4 Co-operation

- (A) For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this Rule, a person shall upon request by the Administration Committee:
 - a. fully co-operate;
 - b. truthfully answer any questions asked; and
 - c. provide any document in that person's possession or control requested by the Investigating person

24.5 Failure to Co-operate

A person who fails to observe and comply with Rule 24.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be liable to either a sanction or referral to the tribunal as determined by the League in it's absolute discretion.

24.6 Interpretation

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

24.7 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.

a. Report where Notice of Report not completed - Juniors

i. This Rule applies where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season, 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.

ii. 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.

24.8 Citings by Clubs

(A) Where a club wishes to lodge a complaint against a player or official for an "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be noted on the appropriate League Incident Referral form (see sample Appendix D) and must be lodged in writing with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises. An intermediate advice, on the incident form may be initially emailed with the written lodgement to follow as required.

(B) Any such complaint must be accompanied by a \$300 (with \$150 not refundable) citing fee which may be forfeited should the Administration Committee deem the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the League's bank account.

(C) The Administration Committee shall decide whether or not the matter should be referred to the Independent Tribunal for consideration.

The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his rights (may be via Club Secretary) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.

24.9 Appointment and Role of Tribunal

- (A) A panel of independent tribunal members shall be appointed annually by the League. The Independent Tribunal shall hear the following matters in accordance with the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT (refer to AFL NSW/ACT Regulations).
 - a. reports by umpires against players or officials participating in League competition, pre-season or practice matches
 - b. such other matters (including citings by clubs) as may be referred to it by the League
 - c. referrals pursuant to by-law 24.8

24.10 Tribunal Hearings

- (A) A reporting umpire, the reported person and a representative of the reported person's club shall attend a hearing at a time and place specified by the Administration Committee.
- (B) The procedures to be followed should a reported person be unable to attend the hearing are set out in the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and must be adhered to.
- (C) Should the reporting umpire be unable to attend, the Administration Committee may defer the hearing in which case the reported player or official may continue to play or act until such time as the hearing is held.
- (D) Should any of the above persons be unable to attend a hearing the Administration Committee may allow appropriate communication devices such as telephones, video links etc to be utilized to proceed with the tribunal hearing.

24.11 Tribunals - Juniors

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

24.12 Player and Official De-registration

The League adheres to the AFL Player and Official Deregistration Policy.

AFLNC Conditions:

24.13 Imposition of Suspensions

- (A) For the purpose of these Rules, a "match" shall mean a competition match of the same age group or grade in which the player committed the offence, and shall also include as the one match, the matches in all age groups or grades in that same round for which the player would, but for the suspension be eligible, whether played on the one day or not. Any suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition match following the suspension for which the player would, but for the suspension, be eligible.

- (B) A Player is ineligible to play in any representative match or AFL NSW/ACT whilst under suspension. In addition to this, representative matches do not count towards part of the suspension.
- (C) Competition games which are forfeited, washed out or for any other reason not played shall not be counted for the purpose of reckoning a period of suspension.

25. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

25.1 Participation

- (A) Competition representative teams shall participate in inter-league matches as directed by the League from time to time.
- (B) The League shall have first call on the services of all players for its representative matches and representative training sessions. In accordance with AFL NSW/ACT Regulations, any player who does not make himself available or declines selection for such training sessions and matches, without the consent of the Administration Committee, may automatically be suspended for two (2) club competition matches subsequent to the representative match concerned.
- (C) Any player who declares himself unavailable because of injury or illness must be prepared to undergo 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 has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Administration Committee. If in the opinion of the Administration Committee the player's explanation is unacceptable, such player may be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (E) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Administration Committee, players selected in a representative team will not be permitted to play with their club on the same weekend of the representative match concerned. Any player who takes part in a match in violation of this by-law shall be liable for further disqualification. The team with which he played may lose any premiership points gained and his club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).

25.2 Venue Selection

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

26. AWARDS

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

AFLNC Conditions:

Best & Fairest

- (A) The fairest and best player in the home and away matches of each age group as adjudged by the field umpires throughout the season shall receive the Best and Fairest Award.
- (B) The field umpire(s) shall provide to the Football Operations Co-ordinator his or her idea of the three fairest and best players in the match in order of preference by 6:00pm on the day following the match.
- (C) The player adjudged fairest and best shall receive three votes, the player adjudged second fairest and best shall receive two votes and the player adjudged third fairest and best, one vote.
- (D) At the end of the home and away matches in each season the votes are to be counted by a League appointed official. In recognition of the fact that teams may have been drawn to play varying numbers of matches across the season, the tallied votes will be divided by the number of games played by each team to determine an average points per game. The player receiving the highest average points per game is to receive the Best and Fairest Award.
- (E) In the case of two or more players receiving an equal average points per game (to two decimal points), each shall be declared the joint winner and each of such players shall receive the Best and Fairest Award.
- (F) In the event of there being a tie for the runner up to the Award, each player shall be declared the joint runner-up.
- (G) Any player who has been disqualified for an offence in a match in which votes have been cast shall be ineligible to receive the award or runners up trophy in that season.
- (H) The League shall instruct umpires that votes are to be awarded to the players adjudged by the umpires to be the fairest and best players on the day irrespective of whether such players have been found guilty of an offence in a match during that season and irrespective of whether any of such players have been reported on the day.
- (I) Any reference in this By-law to a player having been found guilty of an offence shall mean an offence as described in the Laws of the Game published by the Australian Football League.
- (J) A player who has been found guilty of an offence, or who has elected to accept an automatic suspension in a match in which votes are cast in any of the age groups of the League shall be ineligible to win the respective medal in any age group of the League in that season, except in the instance of a time wasting offence(s).
- (K) Votes allocated to a player who shall be determined to have been an unregistered player during the course of any game, shall be disregarded in so as that player is concerned.
- (L) Players playing on permit are not eligible to receive votes towards any League awards.

- (M) The provisions of this By-law shall similarly apply to the awarding of trophies for the fairest and best players who are in the youngest age bracket within that age group (e.g. a player who is Under 10 and playing in the Under 11 competition). This award shall be called the “Rising Star” and will be awarded in each age group.

Grand Final Best on Ground

The best player on the ground from each team as adjudged by the appointed panel of judges in each Grand Final shall be awarded the “Best on Ground” medallion.

27.0 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

27.1 Administration Committee

The Administration Committee shall control the day-to-day operation of the League competition.

27.2 Attendance at Meetings

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

27.3 Fees

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

27.4 Fines

- (A) Where a club, player, official or umpire has been fined by the Administration Committee or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within 14 days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the Administration Committee.
- (B) Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the player's or official's club or in the case of an umpire, the Umpires Association, shall be responsible to pay the fine to the League.

27.5 Outstanding Accounts

- (A) Except as provided for under by-law 27.5 (B), any club which is in arrears to the League for a period in excess of 60 days from the date of the invoice, shall be ineligible to receive any competition points which may be accrued by its teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.
- (B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Administration Committee may in its discretion, place a club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

27.6 Dishonoured Cheques

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

27.7 Club Finances

- (A) Each member club shall be required to furnish to the League by 31st January each year, or as designated, an Audited Financial Statement of its operations for the previous season.
- (B) Each member club shall provide the League with a Club Budget for the ensuing season by the 31st January each year or as designated.

AFLNC Conditions:

Any club that is not financial with the League by seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of the first semi final shall be ineligible to compete in finals series matches and the Administration Committee will promote the next highest ranked sides to replace the defaulting club in the finals.

27.8 Insurance

Each member club is covered by the League's compulsory insurance cover with JLT Sport under the AFL's National Risk Program. All registered players and officials of a member club will have minimum cover for public and products liability, association liability, personal accident and non-Medicare medical. Each Club has the option of taking up higher levels of cover directly with JLT Sport.

Specific details of cover shall be provided to clubs each year and can also be viewed at www.jltsport.com.au/Afl/

AFLNC Conditions:

27.9 Proof of Communication

Wherever these By-laws provide for a time limit for lodgement of any communication the onus of proof of such lodgement is on the initiating Club.

28. GENERAL

28.1 League Colours

The official colours of the League shall be as designated. The design of the League's representative jumpers shall be the responsibility of the Administration Committee.

AFLNC Conditions:

The official colours of the League are wattle, bottle green, and white.

28.2 Interpretation of the By-Laws

Where agreement is unable to be reached involving a question of interpretation of these by-laws, the opinion of the Administration Committee shall be taken and acted upon and its decision shall be final.

28.3 Matters not provided for

In the event of any question arising which is not provided for in these by-laws, the opinion of the Administration Committee shall be taken and acted upon and its decision shall be final.

28.4 Suspension of By-Laws

On the recommendation of the Administration Committee, the League may where necessary, suspend any additional by-law that the league included beyond these by-laws, from operation. Any such suspension shall be advised to member clubs in writing and shall remain in force until the League decides otherwise.

28.5 Amendments to By-Laws

By-laws where the League has been provided the capacity to determine regional variation may be amended by the League on the recommendation of the Administration Committee in consultation with the clubs.

28.6 Club Websites

- (A) Any Club that operates or having operated on its behalf a website 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 deemed by the League or the Administration Committee to be inappropriate, offensive or damaging to the reputation of the Club, the League or AFL NSW/ACT Commission Ltd ("Offending Material"). This includes providing links to other websites that may contain Offending Material.
- (B) Any Club found to be in breach of by-law 28.6 (A), must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach by the League or Administration Committee remove the Offending Material, confirm to the Commission that it has done so and shall be liable to a sanction as is deemed appropriate by the Administration Committee or the Commission in its absolute discretion.

28.7 Appeals

Any player, official, umpire or club who feels aggrieved by any decision involving these by-laws may appeal to the League in accordance with the appeal procedures as determined by the league. In the absence of an appointed Appeals process for the League the provisions under Rule 9 (Appeals) of the Regulations may be used.

AFLNC Conditions:

Rule 9 (Appeals) of the Regulations is adopted by AFL North Coast. Appeals shall be heard by the AFL NSW/ACT Appeal Board.

28.8 Statements

- (A) Statements on policy or any matter affecting the League may only be made by persons approved by or authorised by the league to make such statements.
- (B) Any person or Club breaching Rule 28.8 may be referred to the Administration Committee for determination as the league thinks fit.
- (C) Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, any other person, Club, Administrator or the League shall be subject to the following provisions:
 - a. The Administration Committee may investigate any such person for breach of this Rule and refer the matter in accordance with the Tribunal or Code of Conduct process;
 - b. Alternatively, the Administration Committee may deal with the matter as it thinks fit.
- (D) A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 28.8 (A), or 28.8 (C) in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the Administration Committee or Conduct Committee which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and forfeit past or future match points.

Attachment “A”

1. CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, officials and spectators are bound:

- (A) To take all reasonable steps to prevent the game from being brought into disrepute.
- (B) Not to engage in any Doping Practice as defined by the AFL’s Anti Doping Code (refer to AFL Anti Doping Code).
- (C) Not to do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another player on the ground of the religion, sexual orientation, disability, race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the person (refer to Vilification and Discrimination Policy).

2. PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

A player must:

- (A) Play by the rules – the rules of your Club and the laws of the game.
- (B) Attend training sessions and matches at times advised by the Club. If unable, for a valid reason to do so, players will inform the Club as soon, as is practical.
- (C) Act respectfully toward the officials and players of their own and opposing Clubs.
- (D) Respect and follow the directions of coaching staff, match and club officials.
- (E) Treat all players with respect, as you would want them to treat you.
- (F) Act respectfully towards match officials at all times. Abusive language is unacceptable.
- (G) Avoid individual or collective behaviour, which may reasonably be held by spectators to be offensive.
- (H) Avoid all acts likely to incite spectators to violence or disorder.
- (I) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club or the League. Abide by the By-Laws, (Rules & Regulations) and the Competition Rules of the League.
- (J) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs.
- (K) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- (L) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

3. PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- (B) Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- (C) Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- (D) Never ridicule mistakes or losses Supporters are there to support not downgrade.
- (E) Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires, administrators and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- (F) Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- (G) Never publicly criticise umpires, rather raise personal concerns with club officials in private
- (H) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- (I) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs.
- (J) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (K) Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- (L) Abusive language is unacceptable.
- (M) No parent, spectator or supporter may enter the field of play in any sanctioned competition match unless granted permission by an Official to do so.
- (N) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

4. COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- (B) Teach fair play and good sportsmanship
- (C) Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- (D) Be reasonable in demands, setting goals and expectations at an attainable level.
- (E) Maintain a current knowledge of the rules of the game.
- (F) Teach and interpret the laws of the game to the players.

- (G) Never ridicule players.
- (H) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- (I) Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.
- (J) Ensure that all players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
- (K) Ensure that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention and that doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
- (L) Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of my players.
- (M) Display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practice fair play.
- (N) Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.
- (O) Abide by the By-Laws, (Rules & Regulations) and the Competition Rules of the League.
- (P) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (Q) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs
- (R) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club or to the League.
- (S) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

5. ADMINISTRATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- (B) Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport not just as players but also as coaches, umpires and administrators.
- (C) Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- (D) Establish that qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and specific skill technique provide adequate supervision.

- (E) Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- (F) Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the rules.
- (G) Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- (H) Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- (I) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- (J) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club or the League.
- (K) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (L) Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- (M) Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- (N) Ensure all parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, medical staff and players, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- (O) Abide by the By-Laws, (Rules & Regulations) and the Competition Rules of the League.
- (P) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

6. OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Display fairness and uniformity in applying the rules.
- (B) Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- (C) Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- (D) Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- (E) The health and safety of the players must be the most important reason to be weighed in during the decision making process.
- (F) Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the rules.
- (G) Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.

- (H) Ensure you remain up to date with any rule changes and/or interpretation of rules as laid down by the AFL
- (I) Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
- (J) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (K) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

Attachment “B”

Code of Conduct Guidelines and Disciplinary Procedures

The League Code of Conduct (“Code of Conduct”) is in place to assist in ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all players, officials and supporters in particular it relates to their conduct and behaviour. Clubs are required to ensure that all members receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.

1. Guidelines

1.1 The Code of Conduct shall not conflict in any way with the rules governing “Reportable Offences” (19.2 of Laws of Australian Football), The League Order-Off Rule (By-Law 22.0)” or “Citations (By-Law 24.8)”. On-field offences shall be solely governed as such. A charge made for a reportable offence will take priority over a reported breach of the Code of Conduct (in the same incident). As such, an individual may not be penalised under the Tribunal/Prescribed Penalty system and the Code of Conduct, it must be one system or the other.

1.2 Any player, official or supporter bringing a club into disrepute, irrespective of the cause, shall be entitled to one warning for what would be considered a ‘Level 1’ breach. Further such indiscretions or a more serious violation that warrants a stronger response or remedy commensurate with the seriousness of the breach of the Code of Conduct shall be dealt with in the following manner:

A ‘complaint’ may be made by:

1.2.1 An authorised club official on behalf of the club and any of its members

1.2.2 The Administration Committee directly

1.2.3 Officiating umpires (on Umpire Match Report Form)

1.3 All complaints shall be referred to the Administration Committee. Complaints directly to the League will be accepted within three business days of an alleged indiscretion.

1.4 Any breach reported will be initially assessed by the Administration Committee. Where the Administration Committee is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Code of Conduct breach, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the Administration Committee may impose a Level 1 breach; or refer the matter to the Conduct Committee for hearing and determination. The Administration Committee may also dismiss a complaint or dismiss a complaint and determine it to be frivolous.

1.5 Should the Administration Committee or Conduct Committee determine a complaint made by a club or club official to be frivolous, a fee of \$100 will be imposed upon that club.

1.6 Individuals and Clubs will be notified via their Club President in writing of any case to answer and the time and date of a convened hearing. Those requested to attend a convened hearing into the matter are compelled to attend or have a representative attend in their place.

1.7 The following is indicative of the form of response that may occur:

| Breach | Description | Remedy | Referred |
|---------|---|--|-------------|
| Level 1 | Minor Indiscretion | Individuals name recorded; counselling, mediation or apology if appropriate; official warning | Usually Not |
| Level 2 | More serious infraction or repetition (within 3 years) | Suspended sentence or loss of membership rights; possibly the assigning of the individual to a mentor program by the League; counselling, mediation or apology as necessary; suspended fine for club | Yes |
| Level 3 | Serious Infraction or 'third strike' (third Level 1 or second Level 2 within 3 years) | Any of the above; OR potential suspension or removal of membership rights of an individual; fines and/or loss of competition points to a club/team | Yes |

1.8 Indiscretions may be accounted for partly by an individual and partly by the club in which they are related to. As such penalties may potentially be apportioned to either an individual or club or shared. Clubs may be held partially responsible for the conduct of members and non-member supporters.

Promoting the Code of Conduct

1.9 All members must be given a copy of the Code of Conduct.

1.9.1 All players must be given a copy and sign (via registration form)

1.9.2 All coaches must be given a copy and sign (re-registration required each year)

1.9.3 All officials must be given a copy and sign the block 'Club Officials Code of Conduct Form' each year. Form should be submitted before Round 1. Those who cite and sign the form are to include committee, runners, team managers, match day officials and any other recognised support persons.

1.9.4 A copy must be available on each Club's website

1.9.5 A copy must be in a prominent position in the following locations: on canteen wall, in front of canteen; in the home and visitors change rooms; and at entrances to public toilets.

1.9.6 The League will provide clubs with an initial supply of A4 signs and a large corflute sign to be displayed outside a club's canteen.

Code of Conduct Sign-Off

1.10 Players, officials and parents of Under 18 players are expected to sign off on the following key statements regarding behaviour and expectations involved supporting the Code of Conduct via their registration form or the 'Club Officials Code of Conduct Form':

Player

- I hereby agree that I am bound by the rules, by-laws and policies of the club, the league and the AFL NSW/ACT Commission as amended from time to time
- I acknowledge that my failure to adhere to these rules may result in deregistration
- I declare that this information is true and correct.
- I have received and understand my responsibilities under the League's Code of Conduct.

Parents/Caregivers

- I hereby consent to the registration of my child with this League.
- I acknowledge that I have been provided with and understand the Code of Conduct of this League. I hereby agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey the Code of Conduct and all rulings made by the League that relate to me. I understand that the League may withdraw or suspend my child's registration to play in this League shall I fail to comply with the Code of Conduct and/or any rulings of the League shall I breach these Codes.

Coaches

- I hereby agree that I am bound by the rules, by-laws and policies of the club, the league and the AFL NSW/ACT Commission as amended from time to time.
- I acknowledge that my failure to adhere to these rules may result in deregistration.
- I declare that the information is true and correct.
- I have received and understand my responsibilities under the League's Code of Conduct.

Club Officials

- By signing this form I acknowledge that I have received and understand my obligations under the League's Code of Conduct as an official of an affiliated club. I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and by-laws that govern this competition.

Ground Manager Responsibilities

1.11 In maintaining the League's Code of Conduct, the Ground Manager shall:

1.11.1 Liaise with club officials as requested (from either the home or visiting club) to help identify and find details for the alleged offender(s), those affected and any witnesses.

1.11.2 Where an incident appears to represent a minor breach, the Ground Manager may issue a warning to any person that they may be close to breaching the Code of Conduct.

1.11.3 Where a formal complaint is warranted, the Ground Manager shall advise the affected club to submit a formal complaint to the Administration Committee and follow the guidelines as described in paragraph 1.2 of the Code of Conduct Guidelines.

1.11.4 They shall ensure that appropriate signage (provided by the League) is maintained and clearly visible at the venue's canteen and in each change-room.

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

1.12.1 Identify and obtain the details of any supporter, member or non-member spectator that they believe to be an offender or witness to a breach.

1.12.2 Identify and obtain the details of any club official or member that they believe to have been involved in a reportable offence where the umpire has not been able to ascertain the individual's identity.

1.13 Club Officials must co-operate in assisting the Ground Manager upon request to identify and obtain details for any member or supporter belonging to their club. Where it is believed that a Club Official has not co-operated appropriately, it will be considered a Level 2 breach.

2. Conduct Committee

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

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

2.3 The Conduct Committee will meet on the first Wednesday evening after all relevant parties can be notified of the hearing date and time and any formal investigations completed.

3. Scope and Powers of the Conduct Committee

3.1 The Conduct Committee will operate under the same processes and rules as the Tribunal and section 24.9 – 24.11 of the by-laws

3.2 Decisions may be appealed under the same processes and rules of the Tribunal (as per 18.6 of the by-laws).

3.3 The tribunal representative will chair all Conduct Committee hearings and ensure tribunal procedures are followed.

3.4 The Conduct Committee has the power to dismiss or change the grading of a breach, as well as postpone a hearing as they deem necessary in relation to the evidence produced.

3.5 Penalty options at the disposal of the Conduct Committee may include:

3.5.1 Appoint a mentor to an individual for a time nominated by the Conduct Committee and/or undergo some form of remedial counselling.

3.5.2 Impose that the individual must participate in a remedial program (e.g. Club Umpiring for a period of time determined by the Conduct Committee).

3.5.3 Ask for an apology to be given.

3.5.4 Enforce a process of mediation between aggrieved parties with particular outcomes to be achieved.

3.5.5 Revoke a player or coach's registration to play/coach for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee.

3.5.6 Revoke a child's/associated player's position to play for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee in the case of a parent/spectator.

3.5.7 Ban an individual from admission to any recognised League event and venue.

3.5.8 Ban an individual from holding any post as an official, administrator or committee person in the League.

3.5.9 Deduct Club of the Year Award points for the season in which the indiscretion has taken place.

3.5.10 Impose a fine on a club (may be up to but not exceeding \$1000).

3.5.11 Impose the loss of 'competition points' upon a team/club.

3.5.12 Impose a suspended penalty of any of the above.

Per By-Law 2.22: A third violation/breach of the League's Code of Conduct within three years in any capacity as player, coach, official and/or spectator will bring about an automatic revocation of the player's permit to play and/or coach's permit to coach for a time to be determined by the Conduct Committee.

3.6 Penalties may be imposed in any combination of the above guidelines.

3.7 Failure to comply with any penalty handed down by the Conduct Committee may result in a greater penalty being determined for the individual/club.

Attachment “C”



AFL NSW/ACT COMMISSION LIMITED PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS

Introduction

The League has adopted the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT for the purposes of dealing with reportable offences. Section 5 of the National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT contains grading templates for various classifications of offences and outlines the prescribed penalties which can be offered to reported players (where applicable).

The system will not apply to officials who are reported. Those reports will be heard by the tribunal.

Procedure

Umpires shall report and charge players in the usual manner. The reporting umpire shall complete the player report template and forward to the League by 10.00 am on the Monday following the match.

Once the Player Report Form and Report Template has been received the League Operations Co-ordinator will process the report and decide whether or not the offence and player is suitable for determination under the prescribed penalty system or if the report should be referred to the tribunal.

If the offence and/or player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System, the prescribed penalty shall be offered to the club/player on the Monday following the match in which the player was reported. Club/player shall notify the League of the acceptance or refusal to accept the set penalty no later than 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the match in which the player was reported. If accepted, the penalty shall be recorded against the player's record kept by the league. If the prescribed penalty is rejected the report shall be referred to the tribunal for hearing at a time to be advised the League.

Appendix "D"

INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

TO: Football Operations Co-ordinator

E-mail:

Fax:

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

- (i) that is not subject of a Notice of Report under By-Law 11.14 and:
- (ii) which may constitute a Reportable Offence or Breach of Code of Conduct

Round:

Match: vs.....

Venue: Date:.....

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

.....

Type of Infringement:

Vicinity on Ground:

Quarter: Time of Incident:

Other relevant information:

.....

.....

.....

.....

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Print Name: Club:.....(if applicable)

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

Umpire / Umpires Coach / Club Official / Other.....(Please Circle)

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

League use only:

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