# AFL (NSW/ACT) COMMISSION LIMITED

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# AFL SYDNEY JUNIORS

# 2021 RULES

**Version 1.1**

| Version | Date | Rule | Update |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | 25/3/20 | 6.6 | YOUTH GIRLS RPL – RESTRICTIONS REVIEWED |
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# 1 GENERAL

## 1.1 Introduction

The following Rules have been made by AFL NSW/ACT and by AFL Sydney pursuant to its role to administer Australian Football Competitions in the Sydney Region.

## 1.2 AFL NSW / ACT Jurisdiction & Obligations

(A) AFL NSW/ACT is responsible for the organisation, promotion and administration of Australian Football throughout New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Accordingly, it has jurisdiction over all Affiliated Leagues in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory including the relevant Competitions.

(B) AFL NSW/ACT will:

(i) comply with the Rules and ensure that the Rules are not inconsistent with AFL national regulations and policies;

(ii) ensure compliance of the Rules by Leagues;

(iii) investigate any complaint about a breach of the Rules by a League or Club;

(iv) impose disciplinary sanctions against a League or Club within its jurisdiction found to have breached the Rules; and

(v) provide appropriate education and training to those who manage and implement the Rules.

## 1.3 Objectives & Application

(A) These Rules specify the Rules applicable for the conduct of the Leagues in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

(B) The objectives of the Rules are to:

(i) promote, develop and protect Australian Football in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory by ensuring that the appropriate conduct and standards apply;

(ii) ensure that the Leagues and Competitions are regulated in a consistent and co-ordinated manner across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory; and

(iii) align Leagues with AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules.

## 1.4 Definitions

Rules highlighted ORANGE are specific to AFLSJ.

**Academy** means the QBE Sydney Swans Academy and/or GWS Giants Academy.

**Affiliation Agreement** means the agreement between AFL NSW/ACT and a League outlining the rights and obligations of the parties including the benefits and services provided to a League of affiliation with AFL NSW/ACT and AFL NSW/ACT's requirements for affiliation.

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

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

**Age Group** means any or all of the nine (9) to eighteen (18) years age brackets, as the case may be.

**Appeals Board** means the state Appeals Board of AFL NSW/ACT appointed to determine an appeal in accordance with Rule 14.1.

**Appeals Board Panel** means the AFL NSW/ACT state Appeals Board Panel constituted in accordance with Rule 14.1.

**Australian Football Match Policy** means the AFL policy for the conduct of Australian Football for players aged five (5) to eighteen (18) years as issued and amended from time to time.

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

**Chair** means the Chair of the Appeals Board as appointed in accordance with Rule 14.1.

**Chief Executive Officer or CEO** means the Head of AFL NSW/ACT or their nominee.

**Child Protection Legislation** means legislation covering child protection and child wellbeing services nationally and in NSW or ACT (as the case may be).

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

**Club Integrity Officer** means the person appointed in accordance with Rule 4.6.

**Club Participation Agreement** means the terms and conditions agreed between both a Club and a League with respect to a Club's participation in the League's Competitions in the form as prescribed by AFL NSW/ACT.

**Coach** means any individual appointed, engaged or employed to coach a Club's team, as well as any individual acting in such capacity, whether formally appointed or not, as well as assistant Coaches, whether formally appointed or not, who act in such capacity.

**Code of Conduct** means the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct in Appendix "A", or as issued from time to time.

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

**Competition** means any Australian Football Competition conducted and organised by AFL NSW/ACT or a League.

**Competition Management Committee or CMC** means the Committee established in accordance with Rule 8.1.

**Conduct Committee** means an independent committee appointed by a League, in accordance with the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines, whose duties are to determine and enforce matters relating to the Code of Conduct.

**Constitution** means the Constitution of AFL NSW/ACT.

**First Aid Official** means a person who meets the minimum qualifications/competencies as outlined in Rule 9.9.3 for the Age Group for which they have been appointed as First Aid Official.

**Football Bodies** means the State and Territory Bodies affiliated with the AFL that administer AFL at State and Territory levels (namely AFL NSW/ACT, AFL (Northern Territory), AFL (Queensland), South Australian National Football League, AFL (TAS), AFL (Victoria), and West Australian Football Commission) and the various Australian Football leagues located in each State and Territory, including both community level and elite level leagues.

**Footyweb** means the AFL Competition Management System & Membership Database implemented for Competitions.

**Foundation Coach Accreditation** means the base AFL Coach Accreditation level, previously known as Level 1 Coach Accreditation.

**Grade** means a level, within a Competition, based on age for Under Age Competitions and based on the quality of football in Senior Competitions.

**Ground Manager** means the Official responsible for ensuring that match day rules are observed.

**Head Coach** means either the "primary", "senior" or "head coach" of a team.

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

**Injury Management Policy** means the AFL policy titled The Management of Medical Emergencies & Injuries in Community Australian Football

**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.

**Interchange Agreement** means the term as defined by the AFL's National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

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

**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 managed or affiliated league which operates or conducts a Competition within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

**Local Interchange Permit** means the term as defined by the AFL's National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

**Match** means an official match in a Competition conducted by the League, and as appropriate and as applicable, includes practice matches and training.

**Match Day Permit Agreement** means the term as defined by the AFL's National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

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

**National Age Dispensation Policy** means the AFL's National Age Dispensation Policy as issued from time to time.

**National Coaching Accreditation Policy** means the AFL's National Coaching Accreditation Policy as issued from time to time.

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

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

**National Player and Official Deregistration Policy** means the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy regulating the Deregistration procedures as issued from time to time.

**National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations** means the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations regulating the transfer of players between clubs as issued from time to time.

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

**Notice of Appeal** means a Notice of Appeal lodged in accordance with Rule 14.2.

**Official** means any person assuming an official role on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) of a Club of the controlling body, including any Club Umpire, President, Club Committee member, Coach or assistant Coach, team manager or assistant team manager, runner, trainer, interchange steward, water carrier, Ground Manager, or person officiating in any capacity on match day.

**Parent** means the parent or legal guardian of any Player under the age of 18 years.

**Player** means a player registered with a Club and includes an unregistered or ineligible Player.

**Player Payment Rules** means the player payment rules adopted by a League and approved by AFL NSW/ACT to regulate the level of payments and benefits to a Club's Players, as issued by the League from time to time.

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

**Prescribed Penalty System** means the Prescribed Penalty System as set out in Appendix "B".

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

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

**Regional Variation** means a change or inclusion to the Rules of the Competition as provided for under Rule 2.5.

**Reportable Offence** means a Reportable Offence within the meaning of the Laws of the Game.

**Rules** means the AFL NSW/ACT & AFL Sydney Juniors 2021 Rules.

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

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

**State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines** means the AFL's State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines, as issued from time to time, which have been formally amended and adopted by AFL NSW/ACT to cover any Disciplinary Matter or conduct with which the Disciplinary Committee is empowered to deal with, which is not a Reportable Offence.

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

**State League** means a Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 League as described in the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

**State League Player Trial Permit** means a permit treated in the same way as a Match Permit although authorisations are required including from the League and Players Community Club.

**Student Permit** means a permit to allow a Player to participate in a match with their original Football Club (being the club they were registered with prior to be cleared to their current Club) during registered school holidays, semester vacations or other designated times.

**Supporter** means a person who attends a Competition conducted and organised by AFL NSW/ACT or a League who is not a Parent, Player or Official.

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

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

**Temporary Transfer** means the term as defined by the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

**Tribunal** means the tribunal constituted by a League under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines or State & Territory Disciplinary Guidelines NSW/ACT as the case may be.

**True Age** means a Player who, as of midnight on 31 December prior to the relevant season of the year, is of the prescribed age.

**Umpire** means the field, boundary, goal and emergency umpire whether League or Club appointed.

**Under Age** means Junior and Youth Players

**Under Age Competition** means Juniors and Youth, and Junior Competitions and Youth Competitions

**Working With Children Check** means a requirement for people who work or volunteer in child-related work in accordance with Child Protection legislation.

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

### 1.5 Interpretation

In the interpretation of the Rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

(i) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;

(ii) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of the Rules;

(iii) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;

(iv) any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of the Rules shall have the meaning prescribed within the Rules; and

(v) words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in the Rules shall be given their ordinary meaning.

### 1.6 COVID-19 Compliance

(A) All Leagues, Clubs, Players, Officials & Supporters are required to strictly adhere to all COVID-19 health and safety requirements, whilst undertaking any football related activity in NSW/ACT, established under:

(i) The NSW Public Health Order;

(ii) The ACT Public Health Directions; and

(iii) Any additional COVID-19 safety Rules that AFL NSW/ACT mandates from time to time.

(B) Breach of the aforementioned Orders /Directions/Regulations occurring in the course of any football related activity in NSW/ACT, will also be considered to be an act of Misconduct under the Laws of the Game and will be dealt with accordingly, as well as by any other disciplinary action under the Rules.

## 2 LAWS AND POLICIES

### 2.1 Governing Laws & Policies

(A) Except where otherwise as provided for in the Rules, Matches shall be played under the Laws of Australian Football as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.

(B) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League Rules, Regulations, Policies and Guidelines, including:

| Category | Document |
|---|---|
| Rules & Match Management | The Rules |
| | Laws of Australian Football |
| | Australian Football Match Policy |
| Eligibility, Registration & Transfers | National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations |
| | National Player and Official Deregistration Policy |
| | National Age Dispensation Policy |
| | AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines |
| | National Coaching Accreditation Policy |
| Member Protection & Integrity | Australian Football Member Protection Policy |
| | National Vilification and Discrimination Policy |
| | Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy |
| | AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct |
| | Gender Diversity Policy |
| | National Sexuality & Pregnancy Guidelines |
| | National Gambling Policy |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Australian Football Anti-Doping Code |
| Health & Safety | The Management of Concussion in Australian Football |
| | National Extreme Weather Policy |
| | The Management of Medical Emergencies & Injuries in Community Australian Football |
| Communications | National Social Media Engagement Policy |
| | AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications |
| Investigation, Disciplinary & Hearings | National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines |
| | State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines |
| | State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT |

## 2.2 Laws of the Game

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

## 2.3 Amendments to Rules

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

## 2.4 Suspension of Rules

AFL NSW/ACT may suspend any Rule from operation. Any such suspension shall be advised to Leagues and Clubs in writing and shall remain in force until AFL NSW/ACT determines otherwise.

## 2.5 Regional Amendments

(A) Regional Variations to the Rules may be agreed by the League:

(i) as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of League and the regulation of its affairs; and

(ii) on the recommendation of the CMC in consultation with the Clubs.

(B) Regional Variations will be identified under the given Rule they affect.

(C) Where the Regional Variation differs from the AFL NSW/ACT generic Rule, the Regional Variation will be applied.

## 2.6 Compliance

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

## 2.7 Notice and Disciplinary Sanctions

### 2.7.1 Disciplinary Sanctions

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

(i) reasonable and sufficient notice of each and every particular of the alleged breach or breaches;

(ii) notice of possible sanctions; and

(iii) the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to that alleged breach or breaches.

### 2.7.2 Exclusion of Liability

AFL NSW/ACT may excuse:

(i) a League, Club, Player, Official or Supporter from liability if that party ought reasonably and fairly be excused, wholly or partly, from that liability on such terms as AFL NSW/ACT thinks fit; and

(ii) a Player or Official from liability in consideration of the Player's co-operation and assistance in establishing a breach of the Rules by any League, Club or Official.

## 2.8 Conduct of Under Age Competitions

All Under Age Competitions will be conducted according to the principles outlined in the Australian Football Match Policy unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT or as detailed in the Rules.

## 2.9 Alcohol Policy

(A) Alcohol is permitted to be sold at a League venue by the Host Club. In such cases the Host Club must have the appropriate liquor licence issued by the relevant authority and consent, if required, of the local council.

(B) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any League venue.

(C) Each Club is required to ensure that its members and Supporters abide by this Rule. Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue it must report the matter to the League and advise an Official of the offending member's or Supporter's Club, who in turn shall take the necessary action.

(D) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or Supporters fail to adhere to the Official's request, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

(E) Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the field of play at any time during the course of a Match. Clubs are required to fix notices to the boundary fence or elsewhere if there is no boundary fence, advising that alcohol is not to be taken onto the field of play.

(F) Alcohol is not to be consumed by a Club Official either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official Match day role (e.g. timekeeping, Ground Manager, Umpire escort, Umpire etc.).

(G) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, alcohol is prohibited during Under Age Competitions. Where both Senior Competitions and Under Age Competitions are played on the same day at the same venue, League Policy will apply.

(H) Alcohol is only to be consumed in areas specifically provided for in the Host Club's liquor licence which areas must be clearly marked.

## 2.10 AFL NSW/ACT Match Laws

### 2.10.1 Kick-in Rule

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

(B) Senior Competitions are to have an additional football of appropriate quality behind each set of goals. Players are permitted to use this ball in the event the ball from in play is not easily accessible (e.g. no longer in the venue).

### 2.10.2 50 Metre Penalties

(A) In addition to any Report that may be made, a free kick or a fifty (50) metre penalty may be awarded against a Team if a Player, Official or clearly identifiable Supporter of a Team:

(i) uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;

(ii) behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;

(iii) intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing their duties.

(B) Players may not play on during the advancement of any 50 metre Penalty and must wait until the field Umpire signals time back on (variation from the Laws of the Game).

(C) Where a 50-metre penalty is not applicable in the Age Group rules, the penalty metres applicable for that Age Group shall be applied.

**2.10.3 Traditional Playing Positions at Centre Bounces – Senior Competitions**

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) NOT APPLICABLE

**2.10.4 Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)**

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to "Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity) does not apply for Under Age Competitions.

**2.10.5 Location of Mark at Kick In**

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to "Location of The Mark at Kick Ins" only applies to Under Age Competitions where a full size field is used.

**2.10.6 Player Standing the Mark (Lateral Movement)**

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to "Player Standing the Mark" does not apply to Under Age Competitions.

**2.10.7 Head Count – Under Age Competitions**

(A) Occasions where an uneven number of Players (except where a send-off has occurred) include:

(i) A late arrival of a Player(s) who enters the field without the other Club being advised;

(ii) A miscommunication within a Team at quarter breaks; or

(iii) Where a Player returns to the field after injury treatment and the other Team, who may have removed a Player, is not advised.

(B) To prevent errors, where such situations occur, the Ground Manager, as well as the other Team, must be advised of such actions.

(C) The Captain or acting Captain or team runner of a Team may at any time during a Match request that the field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

(D) The maximum number of Players permitted on the playing surface at the same time is as originally agreed between the Coaches, the field Umpire and Ground Manager prior to the commencement of the Match, subject to the application of Rule 6.4 and Rule 6.5. Where a request is made under the preceding Rule, the field Umpire shall:

(i) stop play at the first available opportunity;

(ii) call into line within the centre square the Players of both Teams who are at the time on the playing surface and count the number of Players;

(iii) upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the playing surface and then recommence play at the position on the playing surface where the field Umpire stopped play; and

(iv) as soon as practicable after the Match, report to the CMC that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team and the number of Players actually counted.

(E) Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the playing surface, the following shall apply:

(i) the field Umpire shall award a free kick to the Captain or acting Captain of the opposing Team, which should be taken at the centre circle or where the play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;

(ii) a 50-metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the free kick was awarded; and

(iii) the score of the Team shall then be the score at the commencement of the quarter when the Player count was requested.

(F) Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has a permitted number of Players on the playing surface, in addition to the provisions of the AFL Laws of the game the following shall apply:

(i) If the field Umpire is of the opinion that the request was made primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall issue a yellow card to the Captain or acting Captain who

requested the Player count and may report the Captain or acting Captain who requested the count for time wasting under Law 22.2.2(x).

### 2.10.8 Sledging & Intimidation – Under Age Competitions

(A) "Sledging" may be described as insulting language or verbal intimidation. "Intimidation" can include mocking comments, gestures or actions. In the Rules, intimidation also includes attempts to intimidate.

(B) Sledging and intimidation is not appropriate. The League has a "no tolerance" attitude toward sledging and intimidation, and the interpretation and application of the Laws and the Rules will reflect this "no tolerance" attitude.

(C) An Umpire may give a warning to a Player or Players sledging or intimidating another Player or Players or any other person and where possible, will inform both captains of the warning as soon as reasonably practicable after issuing such a warning.

(D) A Player who sledges or intimidates another Player or Players or any other person shall, whether or not a warning has been given to that Player or any other Player, be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter or for the remainder of the Match if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.

(E) For the purposes of the Rules, sledging and intimidation will be deemed to be an act of Misconduct under the Law 22.2.2(cc).

(F) The Rules in relation to sledging and intimidation will apply in addition to the Laws, including the Laws in relation to the use of an obscene gesture (Law 22.2.2(w)) and using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language (Law 22.2.2(v)).

(G) The Rules also apply, as appropriate, to the sledging or intimidation of and /or by any Official.

### 2.10.9 Removing Players from the Field of Play

(A) No person, including any Coach or Club Official, may remove, or cause to be removed, a Team from the field of play before the official completion of the Match.

(B) Breach of this Rule is, for an Official, a reportable offence, to be dealt with by the Tribunal pursuant to the Rules as an act of Misconduct under Law 22.2.2(cc).

(C) Breach of this Rule by a person other than an Official, is a breach of the Code of Conduct, to be dealt with by a Conduct Committee.

(D) The President or the President's delegate of the Club concerned shall also attend the Tribunal or Conduct Committee.

(E) The Tribunal or Conduct Committee may fine a Club or impose such penalty as the Tribunal or Conduct Committee thinks fit, in the event of a breach of this Rule.

### 2.10.10 Supporter Distance from the Boundary

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

(B) The preferred distance from the boundary for non-enclosed venues is a minimum of three (3) metres, as per the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines (2019), all Supporters are to remain beyond this distance at all times during game play.

### 2.10.11 Interchange

(A) No Player may take the field before the Player being replaced has left the field.

(B) Interchanging of Players is permitted at any time throughout the Match. However, interchange can only occur through an appropriately marked interchange area. It should be clearly understood by both Teams prior to the commencement of the Match where the defined interchange area is located. The interchange area is to be the only portion of the ground's perimeter through which Players may enter the field.

(C) Placement of the interchange ground markings should be on the same wing, generally at an equal distance from the two (2) Coaching groups (no less than 10 metres and no greater than 50 metres apart). In the Under 9 - Under 12 age groups, both Teams are allowed to set up interchange gates on the wing (marked by low level orange cones) to be used through the course of the Match.

#### 2.10.12 Audible Obscenities

The CMC has a “no tolerance” attitude toward the use of audible obscenities, and the interpretation and application of the Laws and the Rules will reflect this “no tolerance” attitude. Players who use audible obscenities, regardless to whom they are directed, will be removed from the playing field for a period of time and issued with a Blue card (refer Rule 15.1). If the obscenity is directed at the Umpire, the Player shall be reported.

# 3 LEAGUES

## 3.1 League Management Structure

Within AFL NSW/ACT management of Leagues falls within three categories:

(i) Managed Leagues

(ii) Partly Managed Leagues and

(iii) Affiliated Leagues

The provisions of management of the Leagues are different. Apart from agreed Regional Variations at a League level the Rules are consistent.

## 3.2 Affiliated League Requirements

### 3.2.1 Affiliation & Services Agreement

Each League must have in place a current Affiliation and Services Agreement with AFL NSW/ACT, unless directly managed by AFL NSW/ACT.

### 3.2.2 Affiliation & Services Fee

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

### 3.2.3 Incorporation Requirement

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

### 3.2.4 Application of Rules

In the event of any inconsistency between the Constitution of an Affiliated League and the Constitution of AFL NSW/ACT or the Rules, then the Constitution of such League will be invalid to the extent of such inconsistency.

### 3.2.5 Refusal or Cancellation of Affiliation

Any League which fails to comply with the Rules, either in whole or part, may be refused application for affiliation or have its affiliation suspended or terminated by AFL NSW/ACT in its absolute discretion in accordance with the Affiliation Agreement.

### 3.2.6 League Contact Details

By 31 January each year, each Affiliated League must submit to AFL NSW/ACT:

(i) a list of the names, addresses, telephone and email addresses of its Officials; and

(ii) the League Members register.

### 3.2.7 Club Contact Details

By 31 March each year, each Affiliated League must ensure that each Club’s contact details are updated on Footyweb and PlayHQ. This includes a list of the names, addresses and contact details of the Club’s Office Bearers (including the President and Secretary).

### 3.3 League Insurance

Each League must ensure that its Players, Officials and Clubs, as a condition of affiliation to the League, are insured under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program.

### 3.4 League Sponsorship / Marketing Agreements

(A) AFL NSW/ACT's major sponsors or partners provide in part the financial resources for AFL NSW/ACT to develop, implement and support the development of Australian Football generally and specifically in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory; and

(B) The League will not enter into any contract, arrangement, agreement or understanding with any corporation/person for the supply, endorsement, approval or sponsorship of goods or services of the type provided by or associated with the operations of AFL NSW/ACT major sponsors or partners, unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT in writing.

### 3.5 Club Participation Agreements

Each League must have a Club Participation Agreement with each of its Clubs, in the form prescribed by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

## 4 CLUBS

### 4.1 Club Affiliation

#### 4.1.1 Affiliation Requirement

(A) All Clubs must affiliate with the League in the form and on such conditions as determined by the League and AFL NSW/ACT from time to time pursuant to a Club Participation Agreement.

(B) Affiliation with the League and participating in League Competitions is granted to a Club by the League on an annual basis.

#### 4.1.2 Approval of New Clubs

A League must obtain the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT prior to affiliating any newly formed Club.

#### 4.1.3 Affiliation Application & Fee

(A) To be affiliated with the League and participate in the League's Competition(s), a Club must lodge a signed application for affiliation or participation, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed affiliation fee, the lodgement of a bond) to the CMC and have such application approved by the CMC.

(B) The amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the CMC from time to time.

#### 4.1.4 Determination of Application

(A) The CMC may:

(i) approve a Club's affiliation application;

(ii) approve the Club's affiliation application on terms and conditions as it reasonably requires;

(iii) approve the Club's affiliation application with a request for further or additional information, or amend or revise the application;

(iv) refuse to grant the Club's affiliation application; or

(v) defer same.

(B) In determining whether to grant a Club's affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to Rule 4.1.4(A), the CMC shall take into account:

(i) the Club's structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long-term planning and development;

(ii) the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of Australian Football;

(iii) the financial health of the Club;

(iv) the behavioural and conduct history of the Club, its Teams, Players, Officials, volunteers and Supporters, and the Club's relationships with other Clubs and the League;

(v) any other matter that the CMC deems appropriate.

#### 4.1.5 Termination of Agreement

(A) In accordance with the Club Participation Agreement, the CMC may with prior approval from AFL NSW/ ACT, terminate the Club Participation Agreement at any time after each football season by giving three (3) month's written notice to the Club. No reasons are required to be provided by the CMC. The Club acknowledges and agrees that the Club Participation Agreement does not create a right or expectation of continued participation in any particular Competitions or any future Competition/s administered by AFL NSW/ACT.

(B) Notwithstanding the above, the League may terminate the Club Participation Agreement with a Club immediately upon notice where:

(i) the Club unreasonably fails to duly and promptly comply with its obligation in the Club Participation Agreement;

(ii) if the Club or any of its Officers, Players, Officials or volunteers does, or permits to be done, any act or thing which reflects unfavourably upon the reputation, standing or goodwill of the League or the game of Australian Football or engages in any unbecoming conduct or conduct which is prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the League, the AFL or the playing of Australian Football;

(iii) any event occurs which in the opinion of the League or AFL NSW/ACT materially and prejudicially affects the financial position of the Club or the ability of the Club to duly and promptly observe and perform any of its obligations under this Agreement;

(iv) the League is of the opinion that the Club is otherwise unable to pay its debts as and when they fall due;

(v) the League is of the opinion that the Club is unable to field a Team in a Competition administered by AFL NSW/ACT;

(vi) the Club threatens to or ceases to carry on all or part of its operations or disposes of the whole or any substantial part of its assets.

### 4.2 Club Incorporation & Governance

(A) Each Club must be incorporated, either as an incorporated association or a company.

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

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

### 4.3 Club Insurance Requirements

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

(B) Each Club may elect higher levels of cover directly through Marsh (formerly 'JLT Sport'). Details of cover shall be provided to Clubs each year and can also be viewed at https://sport.marshadvantage.com.au/afl/.

(C) Each Club is required to register annually under the National Risk Protection Programme and obtain a Certificate of Currency.

## 4.4 Club Contact Details

By 31 March each year, Clubs must ensure that Club details are updated in Footyweb including a list of the names, addresses and contact details of the officers (including the President and Secretary).

## 4.5 Attendance at Meetings

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

## 4.6 Club Integrity Officer

(A) Each Club must appoint a Club Integrity Officer who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable Rules by the Club, its Players and Officials and to the Club, it's Players and Officials including but not limited to the National Member Protection Policy, the Code of Conduct, Anti-Doping Policy, child safety and child protection, including Child Protection Legislation, alcohol and illicit drug use.

(B) The Club Integrity Officer will act as the primary point of contact for all Club related integrity matters.

## 4.7 Club Name & Logos

(A) All Club names, nicknames and logos are subject to approval by the League in its absolute discretion.

(B) Clubs must submit details of its proposed name, nickname and and/or Club logo to the CMC for prior approval.

(C) Existing Clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of its name, Club nickname and/or Club logo design to the CMC for approval before use, such approval to be granted or withheld at the sole discretion of the CMC.

## 4.8 Club Uniforms

### 4.8.1 Wearing of Uniform

(A) Players of each Team must play in their Club uniform as registered with and approved by the League.

(B) An approved Club uniform consists of a jumper, shorts and socks.

### 4.8.2 Design & Approval

(A) New Clubs are required to submit complete details of the proposed colour and design of its uniform to the CMC for approval. Once approved, such Club has exclusive rights to its uniform design.

(B) Existing Clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their uniform design for prior written approval of the CMC.

### 4.8.3 Approved Suppliers

(A) AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo in accordance with Rule 16.2.1.

(B) Approved supplier details can be found on the AFL NSW/ACT website.

### 4.8.4 Jumper Numbers

(A) Players must wear numbers on the back of their jumpers corresponding to the numbers shown on the Club's Team Sheet.

(B) All numbers must be whole numbers between one (1) and ninety nine (99) inclusive and recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. No Players from the same Team are permitted to wear the same number in a Match.

(C) Numbers must be between 20cm and 28cm in height and in plain font.

### 4.8.5 AFL NSW ACT Logo on Uniforms

(A) Jumpers worn by Players must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo, which must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size, on the right breast.

(B) Shorts worn by Players must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo, which must not exceed 39cm$^2$ with a maximum width of 7cm on the left thigh.

#### 4.8.6 League / Club Logos on Uniforms

Jumpers worn by Players may have the League or Club logo, which must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size, on the left breast.

#### 4.8.7 Sponsors Logo on Uniforms

(A) A sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as per the following table, or as approved by the CMC in its ultimate discretion:

| Logo Position | | Logo Size |
|---|---|---|
| Front of jumper | the logo must be positioned on the left breast | must not to exceed 15cm in width and 6cm in depth |
| Back of jumper | the logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath the Player number (or both) | if placed above the number - must not exceed 6cm in height and 20cm in width |
| | | if underneath the number - must not exceed 10cm in height and 30cm in width |

(B) A sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the CMC in its absolute discretion and provided:

(i) The logo does not exceed 70cm2 with a maximum width of 11cm; and

(ii) The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.

(C) Any alternate request will be assessed by the CMC in its ultimate discretion.

#### 4.8.8 Uniform Clashes

To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, the following provisions will apply:

(i) Subject to Rule 4.8.8(ii), the Host Team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark-brown, blue, green etc.) whilst the away Club's Team will play in white shorts;

(ii) Where the Host Club play in white shorts as its primary playing uniform, the away Team must play in any colour shorts, other than white;

(iii) Where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour as determined by the CMC, the away Club's Team must wear a clash jumper as approved by the CMC.

### 4.9 Club Transferring

#### 4.9.1 Club Request to Transfer

(A) Clubs seeking to transfer to or from any League not affiliated with AFL NSW/ACT must first refer the matter to AFL NSW/ACT.

(B) Clubs seeking to transfer to another AFL NSW/ACT Affiliated League must first seek the permission of that League to join it.

(i) If permission is granted by the proposed new League, the Club must lodge to its current League a written application to transfer from its current League which shall be required to deal with such application. Should the Club's current League reject that application or fail to consider the application within sixty (60) days of lodgement, the Club may refer the matter to AFL NSW/ACT.

(ii) If permission is granted by both the proposed new League and the Club's current League, the transfer will proceed. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the current League.

(iii) If permission is not granted by the proposed new League, the matter should be referred to AFL NSW/ACT for determination.

(iv) In all circumstances a copy of the application for transfer must be lodged with AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.

(C) If any League is seeking a Club(s) from any other League, then the inviting League must notify the Secretary of the current League of such Club(s) at least fourteen (14) days prior to the invitation to the Club(s). Any Club(s) that accepts the League's invitation must provide its current League with no less than fourteen (14) days' notice of its intention to transfer to another League. Should the Club's current League fail to determine the application within sixty (60) days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer automatically to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.

(D) A League must obtain the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT prior to affiliating any newly formed Club.

#### 4.9.2 League Refuse Request for Club to Transfer

In the event of a Club being refused permission to transfer to or join another League, the Club may appeal to AFL NSW/ACT Appeals Board in accordance with Rule 14.2.

#### 4.9.3 League Disbanding

In the event of a League disbanding, the Clubs affiliated with that League will be transferred to another League as determined by AFL NSW/ACT in its absolute discretion.

#### 4.9.4 Appeals

Any League or Club may appeal a decision made by AFL NSW/ACT pursuant to Rule 14.2.

### 4.10 Proof of Communication

Wherever the Rules provide for a time limit for lodgement of any communication the onus of proof of such lodgement is on the initiating Club.

### 4.11 Resolution of disputes within Clubs

(A) Issues or disputes arising within Clubs are in the first instance to be resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Club Constitution and to the reasonable satisfaction of the members of that Club in a timely and appropriate manner.

(B) All Clubs and their members have a responsibility to participate in the Club's dispute resolution processes subject to the Club's Constitution.

(C) If the matter is unable to be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties a Club may seek the assistance of the CMC.

(D) All persons involved in any dispute must act in a genuine attempt to resolve the dispute.

## 5 PLAYERS

### 5.1 Registration

#### 5.1.1 Registration Requirements

(A) Each League agrees to apply and enforce the uniform system of registration of Players as set out in the Rules

(B) Individuals must be registered in accordance with the Rules in order to be eligible to play in a Competition Match with a Club

(C) Clubs must not register a Player without the Player's consent, or in the case of a Player under the age of 18 years, without consent of the Parent.

(D) Subject to Rule 5.1.4, online registration forms must be completed prior to a Player taking part in a Competition Match

(E) For the registration to be active, the Club must accept the Player's registration.

### 5.1.2 Registration Timeframe

(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 Registration & Transfer Regulations.

### 5.1.3 Process for Registration

(A) All Player registrations are to be lodged through Footyweb, or any other system as determined by AFL NSW/ACT or the AFL from time to time.

(B) All Player registrations must be lodged by the Player or, where the Player is under 18 years of age at the time of registration, by the Parent

(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.

### 5.1.4 Match Day Registration

(A) Registration of a Player on match day may be granted to a prospective Player subject to:

(i) The Player not requiring a Transfer or Permit from another Club;

(ii) Full registration details are subsequently entered into Footyweb by 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the relevant Competition Match;

(a) The Player's name, address, birth date are noted on the back of the team sheet; and

(b) The opposing Club's Team manager is informed that a new Player is being registered.

(B) Should the Player later be found to be ineligible, Rule 5.1.8 will apply.

### 5.1.5 Documentation

(A) Documentation evidencing proof of age in the form of an original birth certificate, photo licence, passport, original Baptism or similar certificate, 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.

(B) On request from the CMC, the Club must provide copies of documentation in Rule 5.1.5(B) within three (3) working days of the request.

(C) Violation of Rule 5.1.5(C) may result in a Player being disqualified and any dispensations withdrawn.

### 5.1.6 Misleading or 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:

(i) De-registration for a defined period of time; or

(ii) Suspension from participation in a match or matches.

(B) In addition to Rule 5.1.6(A) above, the League may also retrospectively deem or determine that the Player was ineligible for any Competition Match in which they have played.

(C) Any Club Official or Club that is party to a breach of this Rule may be sanctioned by the League in its absolute discretion.

### 5.1.7 Dual Registration

No Player can be registered with more than one Club at the same time except as provided for under the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations, or otherwise in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League with which the Player is registered and approved by AFL NSW/ACT.

### 5.1.8 Unregistered & Ineligible Players

(A) Any player not properly registered, or any Player registered based upon incorrect or insufficient information on the registration application will be deemed to be ineligible.

(B) Any Club that fields an ineligible player in a Match (including in a finals Match) may be subject to disciplinary sanctions to be imposed by the League including but not limited to:

(i) the loss of the Competition Match and associated Competition Match points;

(ii) a fine of up to one thousand (1,000) dollars for each Competition Match in which such player has played: and

(iii) any additional conditions as reasonably determined by the League.

(C) Only under exceptional circumstances will the sanction under 5.1.8(B) not include the loss of the relevant Match or Matches.

(D) Any ineligible Player, Official and/or Club who the League determines in its absolute discretion was knowingly involved with allowing an ineligible Player to compete in a Competition Match in accordance with this Rule may be liable for suspension or deregistration in addition to any sanction applied under 5.1.8(B).

(E) If an allegation has been made against a Club with respect to fielding an ineligible Player, the Club must ensure that its Players and Officials attend and cooperate with any relevant investigation conducted by the League.

## 5.2 Eligibility

### 5.2.1 Minimum Ages

(A) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, Junior Players must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age by 31 July in New South Wales and 30 April in the Australian Capital Territory in the year of the relevant season in order to be eligible to be registered.

(B) Players must be eligible to play in the specific Age Group of the relevant Competition as of 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

(C) The minimum age for Players to participate in a Competition is as follows:

(i) Senior/Open Grade Competitions – sixteen (16) years of age.

(ii) Under 18's and 19's Competitions – sixteen (16) years of age.

(iii) Under 17's Competitions – fifteen (15) years of age; and

(iv) All other Under Age Competitions – two (2) years below the relevant Age Group (i.e., a Player turning thirteen (13) years of age on or after 1 January is eligible to play in an Under 15's Competition). For a full breakdown of the minimum age requirements for all age groups refer to Appendix "I"

### 5.2.2 Playing Up (Under Age Competitions)

(A) Subject to any dispensation requirements under Rule 5.2.3, a Player is permitted to play up an Age Group as long as the Player is not displacing a registered Player to whom that Age Group applies and would otherwise have been available to play.

(B) This rule does not apply to a Player who has been selected in an Age Group above their registered age group and only plays in that higher Age Group during the Season.

### 5.2.3 Dispensation to Play Up

(A) Any Player younger than the minimum age specified in Rule 5.2.1(C) and Appendix "I", who wishes to participate in an older Competition, must;

(i) complete and lodge a Form 2.4 Age Dispensation Application Form with the CMC; and

(ii) obtain approval from the CMC prior to playing in an older Competition or will otherwise be deemed to be an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 5.1.8

(B) In determining that a player should play in a higher Age Group than the one determined by the Player's chronological age:

(i) Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher Age Group; and

(ii) the decision whether a Player should play up beyond the two-year age span should be based on the advantages to be gained by the Player.

(C) It is at the absolute discretion of the CMC to approve or refuse an application under this Rule.

#### 5.2.4 Dispensation to Play Down an Age Group

(A) A Player seeking dispensation to play down in a lower Age Group must;

(i) complete and lodge a Form 2.4 Age Dispensation Application Form with the CMC; and

(ii) obtain approval from the CMC prior to playing in a lower Age Group or will otherwise be deemed to be an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 5.1.8.

(B) The CMC will determine an application for dispensation under this Rule in accordance with the National Age Dispensation Policy.

#### 5.2.5 Female Participation

(A) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, the AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines and subject to the AFL Gender Diversity Policy, girls up to and including 14 years of age may choose to play in mixed-gender Competition where the maximum age of male Players is no greater than 14 years of age (i.e. Under 14's only), or a female only Competition.

(B) Subject to Provision 3.9 of National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations, the Australian Football Match Policy and any applicable legislation, a player 15 years of age or older shall not be eligible to participate in both a male Competition (or Competitions) and a female Competition (or Competitions) concurrently or interchangeably.

#### 5.2.6 Pregnancy

(A) In accordance with the AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines it is recommended that pregnant women wanting to participate in Australian Football consult with their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport and ensure that they make informed decisions about participation.

(B) AFL NSW/ACT disclaims any liability for any injury or complication sustained by a pregnant woman in the course of an Australian Football Match.

#### 5.2.7 Finals Eligibility

A Player's eligibility to participate in any finals Match will be determined in accordance with Rule 10.9.

#### 5.2.8 Best & Fairest Eligibility

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

#### 5.2.9 Identification Request

Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility to participate in a Match may do so in accordance with Rule 9.2.5.

### 5.3 Transfers & Permits

#### 5.3.1 Transfer Requirements

All Player transfers must be processed through Footyweb and in accordance with National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations.

#### 5.3.2 24 Month Rule

In accordance with 3.17 of the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations, a player who has not played competitive football in the previous 24 months and wishes to play at another Club can apply for registration with that Club at any time.

### 5.3.3 Interchange Agreements

In accordance with 3.11 of the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations, Leagues may enter into Interchange Agreements to enable the movement of Players between such Leagues other than as provided for in the Rules.

### 5.3.4 Permits

The various permit types available are:

(i) Local Interchange Permit;

(ii) Match Day Permit;

(iii) Temporary Transfer;

(iv) Student Permit;

(v) State League Player Trial Permit.

Refer to Appendix "H" for a description summary of each Permit type.

### 5.3.5 Clubs Transferring, Amalgamating or Disbanding

(A) In the event of the transfer of a Club from one League to another, the following applies:

(i) All registered Players of that Club shall be transferred with the Club to the new League.

(ii) 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.

(iii) This process must be completed in Footyweb.

(B) If a Player's Club has disbanded or amalgamated, the Player must obtain a transfer from his/her League prior to playing with another Club.

### 5.3.6 League Amalgamating or Disbanding

If a Player's League has disbanded, the Player must obtain a transfer from AFL NSW/ACT prior to playing with another Club.

## 5.4 Player Aids & Protective Equipment

### 5.4.1 Dangerous Items

(A) No Player shall be permitted to play in a Match wearing apparel or protective equipment or jewellery which may cause injury to themselves or other Players.

(B) The field Umpire may at their discretion inspect Players' equipment either before or at any time during the Match.

### 5.4.2 Undergarments (Including Compression Garments)

(A) Undergarments, such as lycra shorts or compression garments, are permitted to be worn under shorts and jumpers as follows:

(i) Undergarments worn under shorts must be skin tone or the same colour as Club shorts and must not be longer than the top of the knee.

(ii) Undergarments worn under jumpers must be sleeveless unless the jumper being worn is long sleeve.

(B) Exemptions to Rule 5.4.2(A) may be sought from the CMC for medical, religious or other reasons.

(C) Written approval from the CMC is required for any exemption prior to the undergarment garment being worn.

(D) The field Umpire, at their discretion, may request evidence of an exemption to be provided prior to a Player, who is wearing long length undergarments, being allowed on the field of play.

### 5.4.3 Spectacles

Spectacles worn by Players during matches and training must be of plastic frames and lenses and must be held on securely by a band.

### 5.4.4 Gloves

(A) Use of gloves by Players in Under Age Competitions is prohibited for development purposes.

(B) The field Umpire may permit or allow the use of a glove by Under Age Players in a Match under exceptional circumstances, such as injury.

## 5.5 Player Movement

### 5.5.1 Player Distribution Pathway

(A) Players in the Under 9 to Under 18 Age Groups are free to transfer between Clubs prior to the season commencing (round 1), provided they have not re-registered with their former Club (the former Club), subject to the restrictions as provided in the Rules.

(B) Registration with a Club does not include where the Player is playing with that Club pursuant to a permit only, or any similar arrangement.

(C) Following the commencement of the season (round 1), Players are only free to transfer after CMC approval.

(D) The process of transfer requires the Player wishing to transfer to request a transfer, from the existing Club, including reasons for such a request. If consent is provided, the new Club will register the Player accordingly. If consent is not provided the matter can be referred to the CMC for determination.

(E) A Player playing for a Club without transfer consent will result in the loss of Match ratio and percentage awarded while the infringement of the Rules continues.

(F) Transfers not officially approved by the CMC will result in penalties to the Teams and Clubs involved in accepting and playing a non-approved Player.

(G) Where a Club does not seek prior approval of a transfer from the CMC, any Match ratio will be forfeited if the transfer is not subsequently approved.

(H) Clubs to which the Players are transferring (the new Club) are only permitted a maximum of three (3) Players from the one particular former Club Team to the new Club, unless the former Club allows more than three (3). In circumstances where the former Club agrees to allow more than three (3) Players, the approval of the CMC must also be obtained by the new Club prior to the transfer.

(I) The maximum number of Players that may transfer from a former Club to the new Club, across all Teams and Age Groups, including the circumstances covered by Rule 5.5.1, is five (5), unless the former club allows more than five (5). In circumstances where the transfer of five (5) Players pursuant to Rule in 5.5.1 to the new Club means that all are eligible to play in the same age group competition in the new season, the approval of the CMC must be obtained prior to the transfer being completed.

(J) Rule 5.5.1 (H) and (I) do not apply where the former Club does not field a Team in the Age Group of the Players concerned and the former Club has informed the CMC that they will not be fielding a Team in the Age Group. For the purposes of this Rule, a Team in the Age Group of the Players concerned includes a combined Team of a number of Clubs, where there is an agreement by the former Club to field its Players in or refer its Players to the combined Team.

(K) Approval under Rule 5.5.1 will only be given in exceptional circumstances. An example of where approval is likely to be given is where a Player moves residential location as a result of a Parent or Guardian being relocated by their existing employer, or a player moving schools.

### 5.5.2 Academy Distribution

(A) This Rule applies where QBE Sydney Swans Academy and Giants Academy Players transfer before or during the season.

(B) If as a result of a transfer the number of QBE Sydney Swans Academy and Giants Academy Players in a Club age group will exceed the maximum Academy number as determined in Rule 5.5.2 (C) for the relevant age group or division that transfer will be revoked by the CMC, with notice to the Club. Any such revocation will be applied on the basis of last in time registration being revoked.

(C) The maximum Academy number by age for the purposes of Rule 5.5.2 (B) is eight (8) Players for all age groups from Under 11 to Under 18 inclusive. Where any age group competition spans a two (2) year age

period the limit under Rule 5.5.2 is increased to twelve (12) Players, but with a maximum of eight (8) only being allowed in the top age period of that two (2) year age group competition.

(D) If a Club is already at the designated maximum Academy number no further transfers will be allowed. The CMC may, permit the transfer where the Team did not finish in the top four Teams in the previous home and away season or the transfer would not otherwise have an adverse effect on the competition.

(E) Competition points will be forfeited in the event a Team exceeds the designated maximum Academy number on Match day, unless the transfer(s) is approved as provided in the Rules, such approval being given prior to the relevant Match.

(F) Transfer of QBE Sydney Swans Academy and Giants Academy and AFL NSW ACT Women's Academy Players in any one season is, in any event, limited to a maximum of two (2) Players per club, unless agreed to or otherwise by the, CMC.

(G) For the purpose of determining the designated maximum Academy number of Players allowed to transfer the QBE Sydney Swans Academy, Giants Academy and AFL NSW ACT Women's Academy will provide a list of Players as at the end of March from the previous season with a final list in (February). Determining maximum Academy number will be based on the lists provided by the Academies.

(H) The designated maximum Academy number as referred to in Rule 5.5.2 (C) will be calculated based on all Players on the Club list. This will include Players registered for the new season as well as un-renewed registrations from the previous season.

#### 5.5.3 Academy Regional Permits

Note: The purpose of the following Rule is to provide Academy Players outside of AFL Sydney Juniors the opportunity to extend football time in the AFL Sydney Juniors Competition. It will be administered according to the requirements of, and the spirit of this stated purpose.

(A) Academy Regional Permit Approval:

(i) An age group can only hold one (1) permit Player at a time and a restriction for the season of two (2) permitted Players per Team. Each Player may seek a maximum of three (3) Permits for the Season.

(ii) A permit will not be granted for the four (4) Rounds leading into finals.

(iii) A permit needs to be requested seven (7) days prior to the Match requiring the permit.

(iv) A Permit will not to be provided to a Team that already has excess local Academy Players.

(v) Any approval by the CMC will consider Player numbers with the nominated Team. If it appears that a local Player is likely to be displaced due to the permit, it will be rejected. This will be completed by reviewing Player numbers in previous Rounds prior to the request.

(B) All disputes involving Permits are to be referred to and determined by the CMC.

## 6 TEAMS

### 6.1 Team Nominations

(A) The requirements for Team nominations will be determined by the League in its absolute discretion.

(B) The League reserves the right to impose sanctions on Clubs for late submissions of team nominations or withdrawal of team nominations past a predetermined date.

(C) Clubs nominating Teams for entry into the Under 9's to Under 18's Competitions must have registered at least seventy-five (75) % of the minimum number of Players (as set out in the Rules) in that Team by the date set down by the CMC as the closing date for nomination of Teams. These numbers must not include anticipated 'play up' Players.

## 6.2 Joint Ventures

(A) The CMC allows, subject to conditions, the formation of joint venture Teams between Clubs to maximise the participation of, and the opportunities for Players to play in the Competition, particularly in Under Age Groups.

(B) The formation of joint venture Teams and Joint Venture Agreements, and such arrangements, will only be allowed to proceed where they are in the best interests of the development of the Competition.

(C) Clubs proposing joint venture Teams must make a written application to the CMC, setting out the background to the proposed joint venture, and the reasoning and justification for same.

(D) The CMC may reject, approve or approve on terms and conditions the proposed joint venture Team and Joint Venture Agreement. Such Joint Venture Agreement should, to the maximum extent possible, be in accordance with the Joint Venture Agreement Template as approved from time to time by the CMC.

(E) The terms of a Joint Venture Agreement will be for one (1) year only, at which time the Joint Venture Agreement will expire or be deemed to expire. A further application will need to be made for a Joint Venture Agreement for any subsequent season.

(F) A joint venture Team will not be able to be entered into any Competition until such time as the Joint Venture Agreement for that Team is approved by the CMC.

## 6.3 Multiple Teams in Under Age Competitions

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) NOT APPLICABLE

(D) NOT APPLICABLE

(E) NOT APPLICABLE

(F) Should a Club field more than one (1) Team in the same age competition or division, Clubs must make every endeavour to form evenly Matched Teams, with representative and Academy listed Players split evenly between Teams. If in the opinion of the CMC the Teams are not evenly Matched, the Club will be directed to make changes to Teams, usually by the end of round 6 or even sooner. This may also include additional Players being listed on the Team RPL.

## 6.4 Number of Players – Senior Competitions

NOT APPLICABLE

## 6.5 Number of Players – Under Age Competitions

(A) The minimum and maximum number of Players per Team for Under Age Competitions is as follows:

**Western Sydney**

| Age Group | Min # | Max. on field | Max. Interchange |
|---|---|---|---|
| U9 - U10 | 9 | 12 | Unlimited |
| U11 - U12 | 12 | 15 | 6 |
| U13 – U17 | 13 | 16 | 6 |

**Sydney Harbour**

| Age Group | Min # | Max. on field | Max. Interchange |
|---|---|---|---|
| U9 - U10 | 9 | 12 | Unlimited |
| U11 - U12 | 12 | 15 | 6 |
| U13 – U17 | Division 1 & 2 - 15<br>Division 3 - 13 | 16 | 6 |

**Female Football – All Regions**

| Age Group | Min # | Max. on field | Max. Interchange |
|---|---|---|---|
| U10 | 9 | 12 | Unlimited |
| U12 | 9 | 12 | 6 |
| U14 | 9 | 15 | 6 |
| U16 – U18 | 12 | 16 | 6 |

(B) Teams must have the minimum number of Players, as detailed in Rule 6.5(A), available at the scheduled commencement of a Competition Match to constitute an official Match. Where a Team has less than the minimum number of Players:

(i) That Team will be deemed to have forfeited the Match;

(ii) A scratch match may still proceed to allow player participation, with the Coaches encouraged to even-up the skill levels of the Teams.

(C) During school holidays minimum Player numbers can be reduced by two (2) Players.

(D) JUNIOR AGES (U8-U12): To encourage maximum participation where the two Teams do not have the same number of Players, Clubs **must** borrow or loan available Players up to the maximum on-field number for that Grade. Players must be rotated so that no single player plays more than one (1) quarter per match for the opposition team.

(E) YOUTH AGES (U13-U18): To encourage maximum participation where the two Teams do not have the same number of Players, Clubs **may** borrow available opposition Players up to the maximum on-field number for that Grade. If as a result of a Coach not accepting the Players offered, the Team loaning additional Players will be able to play with such additional Players up to the maximum on-field number. If the coach accepts the players, they must be rotated so that no single player plays more than one (1) quarter per match for the opposition team.

(F) Rules 6.5(D) and 6.5(E) do not apply in finals series matches.

(G) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the field Umpire, the Opposition Coach and the Ground Manager must be advised accordingly. The other Club's Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even. If the injured Player returns to the field, the same process applies in reverse.

(H) Other than in the case of a send-off, or where Rule 8.7.5 is applied, on-field Player numbers must be equal at all times.

### 6.6 Restricted Player Lists (Under 11- Under 18)

(A) In the event that a Club has more than one Team in the Under 11's to Under 18's age groups, the Restricted Player List (RPL) is used to manage the movement of Players between teams. This Rule also applies where a Club has more than one Team in the same age group, but in different Regions (i.e. White v Red, or Western Sydney v Harbour) or more than one team in the same age group and division (i.e. 2 x Under 17-1 teams).

(B) By the Monday following Round 2, a minimum of:

(i) **Mixed Teams and Boys - Sydney Harbour** – Thirteen (13) names (12 for Under 11 and Under 12 Teams only) are to be submitted. For the purposes of this Rule, the Restricted Player List players are TPP and Academy Players. Where there are more than Thirteen (13) such Players belonging to one Team, all names must be submitted.

(ii) **Mixed Teams and Boys - Western Sydney** – Ten (10) names (9 for Under 11 and Under 12 Teams only) are to be submitted. For the purposes of this Rule, the Restricted Player List players are TPP and Academy Players. Where there are more than Thirteen (13) such Players belonging to one Team, all names must be submitted.

(iii) **Youth Girls Teams** - Twelve (12) names (9 for Under 12YG Teams only) are to be submitted. For the purposes of this rule, the Restricted Player List players are TPP and Academy Players. Where there are more than Twelve ( 12 ) such players belonging to one team, all names must be submitted.

(iv) Where more than one Club Team is graded in the same division, by the Monday following Round 2, a minimum of eight (8) names and six (6) per Team are to be submitted respectively by Sydney Harbour and Western Sydney.

(v) Following Round 2, the **QBE Sydney Swans Academy and Giants** may nominate up to twelve (12) Players maximum per Academy with a limit of two Players per Team, from any one Club, for dispensation from being listed on an RPL. These nominated Players will be identified in the same location as the RPL Lists.

The essential criteria the Academy Managers will use to determine who should receive dispensation is the development level of the Player(s) concerned. All requests for dispensation must be received prior to Round 6. Players granted dispensation are included when assessing Academy limits under Rule 5.5.2.

**Number of Restricted Players to be listed – All competitions**

| | UNDER 11 – 12 | | UNDER 13 - 18 | | YOUTH GIRLS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| # Teams | Harbour | West | Harbour | West | U12YG | U14-U18YG |
| 1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 12 |
| 3+ | See 6.6(c) | See 6.6(c) | See 6.6(c) | See 6.6(c) | See 6.6(c) | See 6.6(c) |

(C) Where three (3) or more Club Teams are graded in the same division a minimum of eight (8) names per Team are to be submitted.

(D) Players on the Restricted Player List cannot play down in their lower division Team or any age group under any circumstances unless agreed otherwise by the CMC

(E) Players on the Restricted Player List cannot play across teams where the Club has more than one team in the same division under any circumstances unless determined otherwise by the CMC. This Rule also applies where a Club has more than one Team in the same age group, but in different Regions (i.e. White v Red, or Western Sydney v Harbour)

(F) Should a Club have a Team in more than two divisions, the Restricted Player List only applies to the top division.

(G) Any Player who has played 5 or more combined Matches in any Under 19 Competition or higher during the course of the season will automatically be added or be deemed to be added to the Restricted Player List. It is the responsibility of the Club of the Player concerned to advise the CMC as a soon as possible that a Player should be added to the Restricted Player List by reason of this Rule.

(H) It is the responsibility of the Coach, Team Manager and ultimately the Club to manage their Player lists to ensure compliance with the provision of the Rules.

### 6.7 Player Movement Between Teams (In Season)

(A) Bylaw 6.7 applies to youth boys age groups Under 11 – Under 17 only. Youth girls age groups are not affected by this bylaw.

(B) Once a player has played Six (6) or more games in a higher age group, or higher division – they will be ineligible to participate in any lower age group or lower division.

(C) Where a club has more than one team in the same age group - once a player has played Six (6) or more games in one team, they will be ineligible to participate in the other team(s). This Rule also applies where a Club has more than one Team in the same age group, but in different Regions (i.e. White v Red, or Western Sydney v Harbour)

(D) Where a club has more than one team in the same division - once a player has played Six (6) or more games in one team, they will be ineligible to participate in the other team(s). This Rule also applies where a Club has more than one Team in the same age group, but in different Regions (i.e. White v Red, or Western Sydney v Harbour)

(E) RPL lists will be amended every Monday following the weekends round. Players are therefore eligible to participate in multiple divisions on the same day in which they reach six (6) games.

(F) It is the responsibility of the Club of the Player concerned to advise the CMC that a Player should be added to the Restricted Player List by reason of this Rule.

(G) Bylaw 6.7 does not apply across Junior & Senior competitions (i.e. 6 games in an Under 19 competition does not make the player ineligible for U17)

### 6.8 Players seeking to play with more than one Club

(A) Subject to the exceptions that apply in Rules 6.7, this Rule applies where a Player from a Club wishes to also play with another Club within AFL Sydney Juniors (at the same time). The following applies:

(i) This will only be allowed if the participation is with a Club that has a different age structure and the original Club does not have a Team in that age group. The Player is permitted to play only where he/she plays up a level with the second Club;

(ii) The Player will be required to be registered with both Clubs. This must be advised to the CMC to system authorise;

(iii) Approval to play is subject to the agreement of both Clubs, and the CMC. This includes any requirements set by the original Club /CMC around such matters as Representative participation;

(iv) To encourage the playing of AFL in the wider community, this Rule 9.4 does not apply to Players registered with Independent Schools as provided by Regulation by the CMC, save that to allow the Player to play for the School, the Club is to provide a permit for the Player to play with the School;

(v) Academy Players are exempted from this Rule where they obtain an Academy Player Permit. The issuing of a Permit will be subject to the conditions set out in Rule 6.8 (A) v.a to 6.8 (A) v.b

(a) The Academy, on behalf of a Player, must apply for an Academy Player Permit if the Academy deems it appropriate for that Player to obtain additional Match time. Application for the Permit can be accessed from the CMC and needs to be approved by the following parties in conjunction with the Player's parents:

1. Academy Manager /Operations Manager
2. Registered Club's President
3. Permit Club's President

(b) The Permit is for one season only.

(c) Factors such as the Player's level of physical maturity, stage of development and/or level of talent must be considered and approved by the Permit Club's President and parents to determine the appropriate age group before the Player is permitted to play. Apart from physical assessment, the capacity of the Permit Club and Team in terms of numbers need to be considered by the Regions and the CMC. Engagement and signoff by all stakeholders is essential.

(d) An email request from Academy Manager / Operations Manager is sent to all parties (providing seven (7) days to respond). If acceptable by all parties, the CMC is to be advised for processing a Permit.

(e) The Player must fulfil all playing and training commitments with his or her Registered Club before being permitted to play with the Permit Club. Failure to fulfil this requirement may result in a Permit being withdrawn.

(f) If a Player leaves the Academy, then the Permit is automatically withdrawn.

(g) The Player under Permit will not train with the Permit Club under normal circumstances. The exception may be where Academy requirements prevent a Player from attending normal registered Club training. Players cannot train four (4) nights a week plus play on Saturday and Sunday.

(h) The provisions of AFL Sydney Juniors Rules 5.5.1 (B) and 5.5.1 (D) apply.

### 6.9 Club Alliance Teams

(A) The CMC allows, subject to conditions, Clubs to form an alliance to enter multiple joint Teams across multiple age groups, to maximise the participation of, and the opportunities for Players to play in the Competition, particularly in the Youth age groups – known as a Club Alliance.

(B) Clubs proposing a Club Alliance must make a written application to the CMC, setting out the background to the proposed arrangement, and the reasoning and justification for same, as specified in the Club Alliance Guidelines. The CMC may reject, approve or approve on terms and conditions the proposed Club Alliance. All Clubs must comply with the Club Alliance Guidelines, including by lodgement of the Club Alliance Application as approved from time to time by the CMC.

(C) Club Alliance agreements will continue until dissolved by mutual consent of the participating Clubs, or at the direction of the CMC, with a minimum notice of twelve (12) months. Potential triggers for CMC dissolution are detailed in the Club Alliance Guidelines. For pathway certainty, in the usual course, Teams within a Club Alliance are expected to remain on an alliance basis through to maturity (of Youth football).

(D) Each year, Clubs must report on the age group numbers for incoming Teams within the Club Alliance arrangements and must submit updated details as required in the Club Alliance Guidelines (limited to the "New Team Advice",) detailing the participation and pathway benefits that necessitate a joint Team for each relevant age group, adhering to the timelines specified. The CMC reserve the right to disallow the formation of a new Team within an existing Club Alliance where pathway benefits are not evident or there is deemed excessive risk of competitive imbalance.

(E) A Club Alliance Team will not be able to be entered into any competition until such time as the Regional Committee, subject to CMC oversight, has provided an approval covering that Team.

(F) Formation of Club Alliances will only be allowed to proceed where they are in the best interests of the development of the Competition.

### 6.10 Divisionalisation

The decision of the CMC as to the number of Teams and divisions (if any) and their composition in any Competition, including any decision to re-divisionalise or not, and any decision flowing from same is, a matter for the CMC. No appeal lies pursuant to Rule 16, save where it can be shown that there was a demonstrable lack of good faith by the CMC.

(A) In the event of any team(s) being moved / removed from the competition, the following procedure will take effect to allow the competition to proceed:

(i) Teams moving up a division will have results deleted and will commence the new division with a points ratio, match ratio and for/against ratio of zero. Teams are therefore eligible for finals based off games they have played in their new division. See Appendix "N" Reward E Point for more information.

(ii) Teams moving down a division will have results deleted and will commence the new division with a points ratio, match ratio and for/against ratio of zero. Teams are therefore eligible for finals based off games they have played in their new division. See Appendix "N" Reward E Point for more information.

(iii) Teams removed from the competition will have their existing results removed from the competition ladder.

(B) In the event of any team(s) being added to the competition, the CMC will determine an appropriate procedure to allow the competition to proceed, with respect to Rule 8.7.2

# 7 CLUB & TEAM OFFICIALS

## 7.1 Club Officials

### 7.1.1 Conduct

Club Officials are:

(i) required to adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times irrespective of whether they are acting in an official capacity at a community football related event or not; and

(ii) responsible for ensuring the adherence of its Club's Players and Supporters to the Code of Conduct and should seek to immediately address any identified behaviour that may be considered a breach of this.

### 7.1.2 Officials on Bench

Are outlined in Appendix L, Youth and Junior age bylaws

## 7.2 Coaches

### 7.2.1 Registration Requirements

All Coaches must be registered in Footyweb in accordance with the National Coaching Accreditation Policy.

### 7.2.2 Accreditation Requirements

(A) All Head Coaches must have, as a minimum, Foundation Coach accreditation applicable to the Grade that they are coaching.

(B) In addition to Rule 7.2.2(A), Leagues may impose additional accreditation requirements on Coaches for specific Competitions.

(C) The League may revoke or suspend a Coach's approval or authorisation to coach a Club's team at any time in its absolute discretion.

### 7.2.3 Unregistered or Unaccredited Coaches

(A) Any Coach not accredited or not registered, or registered based upon incorrect information, is ineligible to coach a Club's team in a Competition Match.

(B) Any Club who engages or permits an ineligible Coach to officiate during a Competition Match may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including the loss of Competition Match points and / or a fine determined by the League in its absolute discretion.

(C) An ineligible Coach may also be liable to disciplinary sanctions including a fine, suspension, deregistration or ban on registration as determined by the League in its absolute discretion.

(D) When an allegation has been made against any Club for engaging an ineligible Coach the Club is responsible for the appearance of the Coach at any investigation or hearing conducted by the League.

(E) Each Club is to ensure that an ineligible Coach must not:

(i) Display signs of Coaching, which includes communicating before or during the game to any Player, any assistant Coach, or any Team officials including the Team manager, runners, water carriers and/ or trainers;

(ii) Enter the playing arena at any stage during the match; or

(iii) Be within twenty-five (25) metres of the team's interchange bench during a Competition Match.

### 7.2.4 Coach Identifiable

Coaches of Junior and Youth Teams must be readily identifiable by the wearing of a vest as prescribed by the League (see Appendix "F").

### 7.2.5 On Field Coaching – Auskick and Junior Football

(A) In Auskick, Under 9's and Under 10's, one Coach from each Team may advise the Team from inside the field of play as per Appendix K of the Rules.

(B) The Field Umpire shall have the power to move the Coach back or order the Coach from the field completely and to ask any non-Players to leave the field of play.

(A) If a Coach makes a comment not consistent with the purposes of Coaching the Field Umpire will advise the Coach accordingly. The Ground Manager will also be advised at the next break or sooner, if able. Should inappropriate comments continue the Coach may not be able to carry out the on-field Coaching task in the following round, at the discretion of the CMC.

### 7.3 Ground Manager

(A) The Host Club must provide a Ground Manager for each Match to undertake the responsibilities detailed in this Rule.

(B) The Ground Manager must be readily identifiable by the wearing of a vest as prescribed by the League (see Appendix "F")

(C) The Ground Manager's Match day responsibilities include:

| Category | Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| **Equipment & Ground Set-up** | • Ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the Match is available before the Match.<br>• For Under Age Competitions, ensure the ground is set-up properly for each Match including:<br>  ○ Adjusting the field size (e.g. with cones) to the specified size for the age group;<br>  ○ The movement and placement of goal posts and padding (where applicable); and<br>  ○ Marking the interchange area (e.g. with cones).<br>• Ensure that both Teams are aware where the interchange area is. |
| **Rules & Compliance** | • Ensure the following are readily available for all Matches:<br>  ○ A current online copy or hardcopy of the Rules; and<br>  ○ A current online or hardcody Laws of the Game; and<br>  ○ A spare set of Yellow and Red cards. |
| **Timekeeping** | • Ensure the availability of a competent timekeeper for each Match.<br>• Ensure timekeeping equipment and a back-up timer are available. |
| **Umpires** | • Check the availability of field, goal and boundary Umpires.<br>• Provide drinks for the field Umpires at each break.<br>• Ensure an Umpire Escort is available to conduct duties as detailed in Rule 7.7.<br>• Ensure the field Umpire reviews both Team Sheets for inclusion of all jumper numbers and then sign the sheets (noting that both Clubs are to retain both Club's Team Sheets) plus the score cards. |
| **Officials Identification** | • Where applicable seek to ensure Coaches, Team managers, boundary Umpires, goal Umpires, runners, water carriers, trainers and First Aid Officials wear their identification bib or appropriate uniform as described in the Rules on Match day (see Appendix "F"). |
| **Injury Management** | • Before the commencement of the Match, identify compliance with the Injury Management Policy as described in Rule 9.9.2 and Rule 9.9.3.<br>• Ensure a stretcher and a first aid kit are readily accessible at all times.<br>• In appropriate circumstances, ensure that the field Umpire is aware that a stretcher is needed on the field, noting that the field Umpire shall then stop play at the first opportunity. The Ground Manager should also ensure that a phone is available to call an ambulance if required. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • In the event of a possible serious injury (e.g. neck injury), dissuade any First Aid Official from moving the injured Player and to wait for an ambulance.<br>(i) The Match must not continue until the Player has been safely removed from the field.<br>(ii) If the Match is abandoned the results of the Match are to be determined in accordance with Rule 9.4. |
| **Match day Paperwork** | • Oversee Match day paperwork requirements in accordance with Rule 9.2.<br>• Retain the Official Team Sheets (see Rule 9.2.1).<br>• Where the online Match day paperwork system is not being used, collate all paperwork at the end of the Match and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League by no later than the designated time. |
| **Complaints & Conduct** | • Receive any formally submitted objections, protests or complaints from Officials of Clubs.<br>• Keep a check on the behaviour of all Officials and Supporters and to issue warnings for any misconduct or behaviour that is contrary to the spirit of the game. Note: This process should be completed by Officials of the Club involved after the Ground Manager has advised an Official of that Club. Note: It is not intended that a Ground Manager should be confrontational or assume direct responsibility for behaviour management. In the event that behaviour is deemed reportable, the Ground Manager must obtain signed statements from witnesses and obtain any other relevant material, such as any electronic recording. Such reports must be substantiated in this manner.<br>• Provide an electronic report to the CMC of any substantiated misconduct by Supporters or Club Officials within twenty-four (24) hours of the Match's completion. |
| **Scores** | • Check the accuracy of the scoreboard with goal Umpires at the end of each quarter and instruct the scoreboard attendant to correct any inaccuracy in the score displayed.<br>• If the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule is invoked, record the actual score of both Teams at that time and ensure the field Umpire is advised at the end of the Match of that score and the time when the Rule was applied (i.e. half, three quarter or full time). If there is a scoreboard, ensure that the scoreboard records the score at the time scoring stopped (i.e. at half or three-quarter time) adjusted so that the trailing Team's score is retained, and the leading Team's score is recorded on the scoreboard at sixty (60) points greater than the losing Team's score. |
| **Dangerous Weather** | • In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other potential life-threatening events, suspend or terminate the Match.<br>• If a Match is unable to be completed due to dangerous weather,<br>(i) the result of the Match is to be determined in accordance with Rule 9.4; and<br>(ii) the League notified of this within 24 hours of the Match being abandoned. |
| **Postponed or Abandoned Match** | • In the event of a postponed or abandoned Match, inform the League in writing of the specific reasons for postponement or abandonment of any Matches within 24 hours. |

## 7.4 Team Managers

(A) Each Club shall appoint a manager for each Team it fields in the Competition.

(B) It shall be the Team manager's responsibility to ensure that their Teams' Players and Officials comply with the requirements specified in the Rules and with any request reasonably made by the Umpire officiating in a Competition Match in which their Team is participating.

(C) The club appointed Team manager is responsible for the management and alteration of Team Sheets and Footyweb records as detailed in Rule 9.2.1 and Rule 9.2.2.

(D) Each Team manager shall introduce themselves to the Umpire prior to a Match for identification and to ensure that the Team Sheets are handed in on time (no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, or as designated by the League). The Team manager should also arrange for the Team Sheets to be exchanged with the opposition Club at this time.

(E) Each Team manager is to ensure that at the conclusion of the Match, the goal kickers and best Players for their respective Teams are noted on the official Team sheet, which is held by the Ground Manager or timekeeper.

(F) 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".

(G) A Team manager must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League in accordance with Appendix "F".

### 7.5 Trainers / First Aid / Water Carriers

(A) Clubs may utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other First Aid Officials and water carriers per Team.

(B) These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured Players or to provide Players with water. They must not be used to deliver messages to Players. These personnel may enter the field at any stage during play (variation from AFL Laws of the Game).

(C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be dressed as approved by the League.

(D) Any trainer, First Aid Official and water carrier must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League in accordance with Appendix "F".

(E) The Umpire will ask any Trainer or First Aid Official or 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. The Umpire shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players.

(F) Water carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the League.

### 7.6 Runners

(A) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of two (2) runners.

(B) Only one runner per team shall be allowed on the field of play at any one time.

(C) The sole duty of the Team runner is to deliver messages to their Club's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so.

(D) The Umpire shall ask runners to leave the field if they remain on the playing surface for an unnecessarily long period of time as determined by the Umpire.

(E) Runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area and are permitted to enter the field at any stage throughout the match (variation from 2021 AFL Laws of the Game).

(F) A Team runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League in accordance with Appendix "F".

(G) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the Team runner.

(H) The team runners' names must appear on the team sheet.

(I) A team runner must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.

### 7.7 Umpire Escort

(A) For each Match, the Host Club must appoint a suitable person to act as an escort for the Umpires (ideally the Ground Manager or appointee).

(B) The Umpire Escort is to escort the Umpires:

(i) From their change-rooms to the centre of the field prior to the commencement of a Match.

(ii) From their assembly point on the field to their change room at half time.

(iii) From their change room to the centre of the field after the half time break.

(iv) From their assembly point on the field to the change room at the conclusion of the Match.

(C) An Umpire exclusion zone should be implemented at quarter and three-quarter time encompassing the centre square. The Umpire 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.

(D) The Umpire Escort is expected to be identifiable as required by the League.

(E) 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 their duties in liaison with/at the request of the Umpire or Ground Manager.

### 7.8 Timekeepers

(A) The Host Club must provide a timekeeper for each Match.

(B) The away Club is entitled to also appoint or supply a timekeeper for each Match.

(C) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game and the Rules as otherwise specified by the CMC from time to time.

(D) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field Umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field Umpire shall report the matter to the CMC for attention.

(E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Match in which they officiate.

(F) Timekeepers are also required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field Umpire, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such Players may resume playing (if applicable). It is the Club of the offending Player's responsibility to obtain the all-clear from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the Umpire's decision to send off a Player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling Umpire.

(G) The field Umpire shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a Match.

### 7.9 Disqualification – Persons Not to Act

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

### 7.10 Working With Children

(A) All persons must comply with the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation.

(B) All Coaches and Team Managers must obtain a Working With Children Check Clearance, even if they are exempt under the Rules of the Child Protection Legislation as not requiring a check by reason of them being a Parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates.

(C) All Working With Children Check clearances must be valid and effective by 1 April each year.

(D) Each Club must maintain a current Working With Children Register in accordance with Child Protection Legislation.

# 8 COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

## 8.1 Competition Management Committee (CMC)

(A) Each League shall establish a CMC (or equivalent) to control the day to day management of the League's Competitions including the application and enforcement of the Rules.

(B) A CMC shall consist of at least two (2) of the following positions:

(i) League Chair/ President (if applicable);

(ii) State Community Football Manager (AFL NSW/ACT employee);

(iii) Regional Manager (AFL NSW/ACT employee);

(iv) Regulatory Lead (AFL NSW/ACT employee);

(v) Community Football & Competition Manager (AFL NSW/ACT employee);

(vi) Competition Coordinator (AFL NSW/ACT employee); or

(vii) Other persons as delegated by the League.

## 8.2 Interpretation of the Rules

(A) Where there is a dispute with respect to the interpretation of the Rules, the opinion of the CMC will prevail and will be final.

(B) Any binding interpretation of the Rules made by the CMC with be circulated to all affiliated Clubs.

## 8.3 Competition Grades

NOT APPLICABLE – Refer to Appendix K for Competition Grades

## 8.4 Minimum Standards

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

(B) The League will determine which Competitions operate under minimum standards.

(C) If a Club fails to meet the relevant minimum standards of a Competition or Competitions, the CMC may impose disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to expulsion or relegation from the relevant Competition.

## 8.5 Competition Equalisation

### 8.5.1 Player Points / Player Payments System

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

## 8.6 Fixture

### 8.6.1 Preparation of Fixture

(A) The League will determine dates, locations and times of all Competition Matches in its ultimate discretion.

(B) The League will prepare Season Fixture for each Grade of Competition for distribution to Clubs prior to the start of the season.

(C) Other than in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League, the Season Fixture will not be varied once the season has commenced.

(D) Where a Season Fixture is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division.

(E) Each Competition Season Fixture will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.

**8.6.2 Club Requests for Fixture Changes**

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) Junior Clubs may only seek to change the time and/or venue of a fixtured Match as follows:

(i) Where it has been agreed to by both competing Clubs; and

(ii) Where it has been agreed to by the Umpire Co-ordinator; and

(iii) Where notice of the requested change has been lodged by the competing Clubs with the CMC no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled Match or rescheduled date, whichever is earlier.

## 8.7 Competition Results

### 8.7.1 Determination

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

### 8.7.2 Ladder

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

(A) AFL Sydney Juniors website will display updated ladders, showing Match ratio and percentages to decide placement of Teams on the ladder, for each grade. All tables will include percentages calculated in accordance with the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule 8.7.5

(B) No Results or Ladders are maintained or displayed for Under 8 - Under 10 competitions.

### 8.7.3 Match Wins

(A) In home and away round Matches:

(i) Match ratio will be used as the method of determining ladder position;

(ii) Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of Matches played;

(iii) In the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining Match ratio;

(iv) If a scheduled round of Matches is not played, the Club with the bye in that round does not receive a Match win;

(v) Where more than one Team has the same Match ratio, Clubs will be positioned on the ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against.

### 8.7.4 Forfeits

(A) Where a Team is unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled:

(i) NOT APPLICABLE

(ii) the Match will be treated as a forfeit.

(iii) Any forfeit (if known in advance) must be advised to the CMC, the opposing Club's Administrator and the Umpire Manager thirty-six (36) hours prior to the scheduled time of the Match. If an Umpire turns up to a Match because of late or non-notification of a forfeit, the forfeiting Team is liable for the whole amount of the Umpire's fees (shared equally in the case of a double forfeit). If a scratch Match is played, the Umpire fees are paid as per Appendix J – Umpire Fees 2020

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) If for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match:

(i) the opposing Club may claim the Match as a forfeit to be determined by the CMC; and

(ii) the Club of the forfeiting Team may also be fined an amount as determined by the CMC, and such fine will be paid to the host club

(D) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Match if it fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced.

(E) Any Club with a Team deemed to have forfeited a Match in accordance with this Rule is, within 24 hours of the Match, to provide the CMC with a written explanation for the Team's inability to play or complete the Match.

(F) If an explanation is not provided in accordance with Rule 8.7.4(E), or the explanation is not to the CMC's reasonable satisfaction, an additional sanction or penalty other than those specified in this Rule may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the CMC.

(G) Should a Club forfeit four (4) matches in the same Grade in a Competition in the one season:

(i) That team may be disqualified from that Grade and take no further part in that Competition for the duration of the season; and

(ii) The Club concerned may also be fined an amount as determined by the CMC, not exceeding one thousand (1,000) dollars, in addition to any other fine or sanction applicable under this Rule.

(H) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Match, the League will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be responsible to reimburse the League.

(I) NOT APPLICABLE

(J) For Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into Footyweb for the purposes of player eligibility, provided this is completed no later than seven (7) days following the forfeited Match.

(K) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Match will be determined as follows:

| **Grade or Age Group** | **Score applicable to Team forfeiting or playing ineligible players awarded the Loss** | **Score applicable to Other Team awarded the Win** |
|---|---|---|
| Juniors | Zero (0) points | Sixty (60) points |
| Youth Girls | Zero (0) points | Sixty (60) points |
| Youth Boys | Zero (0) points | Ninety (60) points |

(L) Where a forfeit is applied, Competition Ladders will be adjusted accordingly by the League.

### 8.7.5 Ten (10) Goal Equalisation - Under Age Competitions

(A) The purpose of this Rule is to encourage Coaches, once a sixty (60) points lead is reached during a Match, to appreciate that it serves no purpose to inflict massive losses on their opposition but rather at that point in time to revert to experimenting with Players playing in different positions and to even-up the skill levels of the Teams.

(B) This Rule applies to home and away Matches in all Under Age Competitions, but does not apply to finals.

(C) Subject to the requirements of this Rule, Matches on Match day will proceed as a normal Match for the remaining Match period.

(D) The maximum winning margin for all Matches is sixty (60) points

(E) Whilst the actual final scores are recorded for administration purposes, the final scores are adjusted and recorded by the League so that no final margin will be greater than sixty (60) points.

(F) If a Team leads by sixty (60) points or more at half time, three quarter time or at the end of the Match, the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule is triggered. The Field Umpires will confirm via the Match report what the score was at this time.

(G) If a Team leads by sixty (60) points or more at half time or three-quarter time, it is the obligation of both Coaches to equalize the on field competitive balance of the Match, firstly by adjusting Player numbers so the trailing Team has 2 extra Players on-field (referred to as “+2”). This is mandatory. +2 is achieved by the trailing Team fielding extra Players from their bench, where available. If sufficient interchange Players are not available, the opposition Coach must elect to either loan a Player or Players or remove Players from the field. The result is the trailing Team must have 2 extra Players on-field at all times. Rule 2.9.5 (A) (adjustment where injury and no adjustment to numbers where there is a send-off) continues to apply, subject to the application of +2 as appropriate.

(H) If required, additional measures are to be taken to achieve on field balance, including but not limited to Team position experimentation, Player rotations, Player sharing or moving to +3. The Coaches must cooperate to achieve this aim.

(I) Coaches may be required by the CMC to explain any circumstance in which there is evident failure to achieve competitive balance post the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule being triggered.

(J) Non-compliance with the spirit and application of the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule is an act of Misconduct under the AFL Laws Law 21.2.2(z)(cc) and non-compliance may lead to a formal warning or referral to the Tribunal, particularly where there is recurrent non-compliance.

(K) If there is a scoreboard, the scoreboard records the score at the time the scoring stopped (i.e. at half or three-quarter time), adjusted so that the trailing Team’s score is retained, and the leading Team’s score is recorded on the scoreboard at sixty (60) points greater than the losing Team’s score. No further scoring on the scoreboard is permitted.

#### 8.7.6 Regrading of Team

Regrading of teams, or Re-Divisionalising of teams will take place, inline with the Rule 6.10

#### 8.7.7 Loss of Points for Breach

(A) Where a Team is determined as losing a Match as a result of a breach of the Laws of the Game or the Rules, the Competition points or 'win' for the Match concerned will be credited to the opposing Team.

(B) The team receiving the win shall:

(i) Be attributed a "win".

(ii) Have its "points for" increased by the average of the points scored by the winners of the other matches in the round of that Competition.

(iii) Have no points added to its "points against".

(C) The team losing the game team shall:

(i) Be attributed a "loss".

(ii) Have no points added to its "points for".

(iii) Have its "points against" increased by the average of the points scored by the winners of the other matches in the round of that Competition.

#### 8.7.8 Reward E Points

(A) Reward E Points has the objective of raising the quality of the match day environment, shifting the focus away from a winning at all costs approach. Reward E Points is reward focused, as a lack of good behaviour can have a direct impact on a Team's ladder position. It is in every Club's interest to ensure that measures are in place to ensure good conduct occurs on and off the field.

(B) It is important to acknowledge that an appropriate response to issue management is only one part of Reward E Points. Beyond the management of behavioural issues, an improved and more enjoyable environment for all can reflect in a Club's capacity to retain Players and recruit volunteer support. Great Clubs have great cultures.

(C) In Reward E Points, Wins and Losses on Match day are supplemented by "Points" that reward a Club for good behaviour. Yellow and Red cards, Reports and Code of Conduct breaches may result in a forfeiture of reward points and ultimately have an impact on a Team's position on the ladder. It provides a "Reward" that all Clubs can avail themselves of.

(D) In addition to the normal "Win" and "Loss" points that are currently allocated through Footyweb, Reward E Points are allocated after each round, thereby promoting a positive environment for all, at all Matches.

(E) Provisions for the Allocation and deduction of Reward E Points are detailed in Appendix I.

### 8.8 Other Matches Including Practice Matches

(A) No Club shall arrange or play in any Match other than Matches outlined in the Season Fixture without the prior approval of the CMC.

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) For Junior practice Matches, all Player's names must be listed on a Team Sheet and submitted to the Ground Manager before the commencement of the practice match.

## 9 MATCH DAY MANAGEMENT

### 9.1 Host Club Responsibilities

#### 9.1.1 Appoint a Ground Manager

(A) The Host Club must appoint a Ground Manager to undertake the responsibilities detailed in Rule 7.3.

(B) The Ground Manager must introduce themself 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.

(C) Should the Ground Manager be replaced during the day, the newly appointed person should immediately inform both the Umpires and both Clubs accordingly.

### 9.1.2 Match Day Risk Management Check

(A) The Host Club is required to conduct a risk management safety check prior to the commencement of the first Match of the day, as well as at any other time during the day if conditions change.

(B) The Host Club must complete the Marsh Match Day Checklist and have this reviewed and signed by the competing Club at the time of any inspection undertaken.

(C) Completed checklists are to be retained by Host Clubs for a period of seven (7) years for future reference by the League or its insurers if so required.

### 9.1.3 Injury Treatment Resources

(A) The Host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance, for all Matches, to the Injury Management requirements detailed in Rule 9.9.

(B) The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services including ambulance, medical centres and hospitals must be available for use in an emergency.

### 9.1.4 Officials Identification

(A) The League will determine bibs or apparel for individuals in official roles as detailed throughout Rule 7 and Appendix "F".

(B) All named Officials are required to wear such identification during Matches. Failure to wear these bibs may result in a fine and/or the loss of Match ratio.

## 9.2 Match Day Paperwork/Records

### 9.2.1 Team Sheets

(A) Clubs are required to comply with the Team Sheet requirements detailed in the following Table.

| Match Stage | Requirements |
|---|---|
| **(i) Pre-match** | • A Team Sheet is required to be prepared on FootyWeb by each Club prior to every Match.<br>• The Team Sheet must include:<br>  ○ The name and jumper number of each Player, in alphabetical order; and<br>  ○ The name of all Team officials, including:<br>  – Coach<br>  – Assistant Coach (if applicable)<br>  – Team Manager<br>  – Runner(s)<br>  – Trainers / First Aid Officials<br>  – Water Carriers<br>• Three (3) copies of each Team's Team Sheet are to be printed and distributed prior to the Match by the Team Manager as follows:<br>  ○ One (1) provided to the Ground Manager / Timekeeper ("Official Team Sheet")<br>  ○ One (1) handed to the opposition Club's Team Manager<br>  ○ The third copy is to be retained by the Club Team Manager<br>[Note: The Umpires are to refer to the **Official Team Sheet** for the purposes of fulfilling any of their match-day requirements |
| **(ii) During Match** | • Players or Officials included on the Team Sheet who do not participate in the Match must be crossed off the Official Team Sheet before the Match commences (where practicable) but by no later than half time of the Match.<br>• Alterations or additions may be made to the Players listed on Official Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition Club's Team Manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half of the Match commences. No player arriving after half time may take the field.<br>• No alterations or additions may be made to the Official Team Sheet after the end of the half time interval of the Match (other than for the purposes of recording scores and best players post-Match).<br>• At the half time interval of the Match, each Club's Team Manager is to check each other's Official Team Sheet and sign off on this to verify its accuracy.<br>• As a matter of proper record keeping, any alterations or additions made to the Primary Team Sheet should also be made on the other two copies of the Team Sheet (i.e. the Team Managers' copies).<br>• Each Club's Team Manager is to keep a record of the quarter by quarter scores, and goal kickers, on their copy of the Team Sheet (which will be transposed to the Official Team Sheet at conclusion of the Match). |
| **(iii) Post-match** | • At the conclusion of the Match, the Team Managers from each Team are to record the following on the **Official Team Sheet**:<br>○ quarter by quarter scores; and<br>○ the Team's goal scorers; and<br>○ the Team's best players.<br>*[Note: Goal scorers and best players are optional for Junior / Youth Matches]*<br>• Goals not listed on the **Official Team Sheet** at the time it is received by the League shall not be credited to a Player's tally.<br>• The field Umpires are to:<br>○ sign each **Official Team Sheet** (i.e. Ground Manager's copy) after completing end of Match duties.<br>○ photograph the **Official Team Sheets** and both Score Cards in preparation for the Umpire Match Report (see viii below). |
| **(iv) Team Sheet Compliance** | • Where an official Team Sheet is altered under 9.2.1(A)(ii), FootyWeb team sheet records are to be updated by the Club by 7.00pm (or 10.00pm for night Matches) after completion of the Match to ensure that the altered **Official Team Sheet** and FootyWeb records properly reconcile.<br>• Each Club is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of its own Club's Team Sheets.<br>• Any Club that provides an incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet (including FootyWeb Team Sheet records) may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match with scores determined under Rule 8.7.4 as if the Match was a forfeit.<br>• Clubs must:<br>○ retain all Team Sheets for a period of at least four (4) weeks after the Season (including Finals) concludes; and<br>○ be able to produce these, if required, to the League within three (3) days or other timeframe as determined by the League. |

### 9.2.2 Entry of Match Results

| Record | Requirements |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| **FootyWeb** | • The designated Host Club is to enter the following in FootyWeb **by 7:00pm** (or 10:00pm for night games) of the day of the Match:<br>o Quarter by quarter scores and final Match results; and<br>o Goal kickers for both teams; and<br>o Best players for both teams.<br>*[Note: goal kickers and best players are optional for Junior / Youth Matches but if recorded on the Official Team Sheet are to be entered in FootyWeb]*<br>• The Club will incur a one hundred (100) dollar fine for failure to comply with this requirement. |

### 9.2.3 Umpire Documentation

| Record | Requirements |
|---|---|
| **Goal Umpire Score Cards** | • Score Cards are required to be completed by both goal Umpires for every Competition Match.<br>• At each Quarter interval and following completion of the Match, the goal Umpires are to meet on the ground and compare and reconcile their Score Cards.<br>• If there is any difference in the two Score Cards, the goal Umpires are to consult with the Team Managers from both Clubs and the Ground Manager to determine and agree on the correct score.<br>• The Score Cards are to be signed by both goal Umpires once reconciled at the conclusion of the Match. Following this, the Score Cards are to be immediately provided to the Ground Manager.<br>• Clubs must:<br>o retain all Score Cards for a period of at least 4 weeks after the Season (including Finals) concludes; and<br>o be able to produce these, if required, to the League within three (3) days, or other timeframe as determined by the League. |
| **Send Off Form / Timekeepers Card** | • These are to be provided to the Timekeeper / Ground Manager. |
| **Umpire Match Report** | • Immediately following completion of the Match, the field Umpire (regardless of whether a League appointed Umpire or a Club Umpire) is to complete an Umpire Match Report via the online facility or as required by the League.<br>• All sections of this Match Report are to be properly completed and must include:<br>o Details of any issues / incidents;<br>o The Umpires Best and Fairest Votes;<br>o A photocopy of both Official Team Sheets;<br>o A photocopy of both goal Umpire Score Cards;<br>• Details of any request by a Club under Rule 9.2.5 for identification of a Player. |
| **Umpire Notice of Report** | • The process to be used by an Umpire to submit a Notice of Report is as follows:<br>o Verbally advise the League Umpire Coach / Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match; and<br>o Verbally advise the Ground Manager and a representative from the reported players Club that a 'Notice of Report' will be lodged; and |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ○ Submit details of the Report via online facility |
| **Coaches Review of Umpiring** | • Club Coaches are entitled and encouraged to lodge feedback on Umpire performance via the online feedback form or other mechanism as determined by the League.<br>• Club Coaches are NOT to approach any Umpire during the course of a game, or immediately following a game, to voice any concerns. |

#### 9.2.4 Forfeit Records

(A) In the event of a forfeit, the following is to occur in relation to Match day paperwork.

| Record | Requirements |
|---|---|
| **FootyWeb** | • The result is to be recorded as a forfeit in Footyweb with scores to be determined in accordance with per Rule 8.7.4.<br>• Only the team receiving the forfeit may enter a Team Sheet in FootyWeb in accordance with Rule 8.7.4. |
| **Umpire Match Report** | • No Umpire Match Report or Best and Fairest Votes are to be submitted |
| **Score Cards** | • No Score Cards are to be submitted (the final scores are determined by Rule 8.7.4). |

#### 9.2.5 Player Identification Check

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

(i) The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet;

(ii) The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League;

(iii) The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within three (3) working days of receiving an official request from the League, otherwise all Match wins gained by that Team in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing Team.

(B) Should any Player fail to comply with a request pursuant to Rule 9.2.5(A), or fail to assist in the provision of identification of the Player, the Player may be subject to disciplinary process pursuant to the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.

(C) It is the responsibility of the ground manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the CMC in accordance with the Rules.

### 9.3 Match Times & Duration

#### 9.3.1 Start Times

(A) Starting time of all Matches are as outlined in the Season Fixture. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the CMC in writing in its absolute discretion.

(B) For Under Age Matches the competing Clubs may vary the times by mutual agreement subject to the CMC receiving notification at least seven (7) days before the initial scheduled starting time. A shorter time period may apply if determined by the League, but a fee, as determined by the League, may be payable by the Club requesting any such change.

(C) Where a Team fails to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire, the Umpire is to:

(i) include this in the Umpire Match Report (and the Club of the Team may be issued with a fine at the absolute discretion of the CMC); and

(ii) determine, at their discretion, whether the match is to proceed taking into account the forfeit provisions detailed in Rule 8.7.4.

(D) Matches must start and finish on time. If a Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, the Ground Manager and field Umpire will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter time, half time and three-quarter time and, if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following Match can commence as scheduled.

(E) If the start of a Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Match is rescheduled by the CMC or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.

(F) If the minimum Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of an Under Age Match, but Players sufficient for minimum numbers are expected to arrive, the following is to apply:

(i) A scratch Match will be commence to be played with reduced Player numbers on each Team;

(ii) Teams must still have equal numbers on the field;

(iii) Scores will be recorded by the goal Umpires;

(iv) If minimum numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the first quarter, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the scratch Match then becomes an official Match;

(v) The scores at the time when the Match becomes an official Match will stand;

(vi) If minimum numbers are not available by the end of the first quarter, the Match remains a scratch Match and the Team with less than the minimum number of Players forfeits the Match.

(G) Unless Rule 9.3.1(E) applies, if a Team is unable to commence play (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, Rule 8.7.4(C) will apply.

### 9.3.2 Match Duration

(A) The duration of quarters and breaks for all home and away Matches will be determined by the League and are summarised in the Appendix K

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) Where a possible serious injury occurs to a Player and the Umpire calls a halt to play, the Match will not continue until First Aid Officials have removed the Player from the field. If the Match is abandoned and the playing time of the Match played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the time the match was abandoned. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner, the Match will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.

### 9.3.3 Sirens

(A) The Host Club must provide a siren that is clearly audible to Players and field Umpire for each match.

(B) The Timekeeper is to sound the siren as follows:

| When | Number |
|---|---|
| As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of a Match and after half-time | Once |
| Five (5) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and start of the third quarter | Once |
| Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter | Twice |
| One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter | Once |
| Scheduled starting time of each quarter (as the umpire holds the ball in the air) | Once |
| At the expiration of the game clock at the end of each quarter | Once & until such time that the Umpires have indicated that they have heard the siren by raising both arms in the air |

(C) The Host Club must also have available an emergency sounding device in the event of the failure of the siren/sounding device.

## 9.4 Incomplete Match

(A) Subject to Rule 8.7.4 if a Match is unable to commence or conclude within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed) the following shall apply:

| When | Requirement |
|---|---|
| Match not commenced | The result of a Match shall be determined by the League |
| Prior to half time | • If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall depart from the field.<br>• If the Match is unable to recommence within a thirty (30) minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team |
| Half time & beyond | • If the half time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the field, or in the case of half time, not return to the field.<br>• The scores at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match.<br>• The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team. |

(B) Determination of Match not able to proceed:

(i) Unless otherwise determined by the League, a field Umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed.

(ii) A field Umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed when lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is being conducted, in line with the National Extreme Weather Policy.

(C) Recommencing Play: Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match and Rule 8.7.4 shall apply.

(D) If, for any reason, a Team cannot or does not complete a Match, the field Umpire must report the matter to the CMC for investigation.

(E) The League may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals of Matches as reasonably required.

(F) During the Finals the Ground Manager may after consultation with League alter the start and finish times of Matches in order to complete a Match provided there are no significant delays to Match day.

## 9.5 Adverse Weather

### 9.5.1 Responsibilities

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

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

vicinity of the playing field. In the case of lightning, Section 4 of the National Extreme Weather Policy is to apply.

### 9.5.2 Procedure

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

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

(C) NOT APPLICABLE

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

(E) The League shall make every attempt to schedule a venue that is most convenient to the Host Club. Where the league has advised of an alternate playing venue, the competing clubs are expected to comply with the venue change. Failure to do so will be deemed as a forfeit. Should both clubs fail to comply, both clubs will be deemed to have forfeited the match.

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

(G) NOT APPLICABLE

(H) If any Match is cancelled, the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to Rule 8.7.4 (A) and such Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the CMC will determine player eligibility for finals.

(I) NOT APPLICABLE

(J) The decision on any postponement of a finals game rests with the CMC. If a Finals Match is postponed, it will be replayed, unless otherwise determined by the CMC

### 9.5.3 Wet Weather Check – Procedures

(A) A central communication point that all stakeholders within the League refer to for details of ground closures during inclement periods on Match day is available at wetweathercheck.com (wet weather website).

(B) Clubs and the CMC will directly update and effect changes on the Wet Weather website as required.

(C) The Wet Weather Policy located on the AFLSJ website outlines the timeline requirements and process, including the criteria for determining a round being declared a complete washout in a Region.

(D) Postponed Matches should be played, providing the duration of the competition will permit. Clubs have seven (7) days to agree on replaying a postponed Match and they must notify the CMC of the details of any agreement or their inability to agree to replay the Match. Postponed Matches are expected to be replayed within 4 weeks of a postponed Match. In the event that the Clubs are unable to agree on replaying the Match, the CMC will determine whether the Match should be abandoned, Where the Match is abandoned, Match ratio applies.

(E) For instances (other than a complete washout) where advice of grounds closures is received by a Club AFTER 5:00pm on the Friday evening, or 12.00pm for Friday night Matches, the Host Club will be responsible for advising the CMC, and with concurrence, advising Match postponements to the Umpire Manager and the Secretary/Club Administrator of all Clubs scheduled to play at that ground.

(F) Where a Local Government policy on ground usage requires the governing body/association and not an individual Club (Host) to adjudicate on and to administer matters of grounds being suitable for play, the CMC will approve a supplementary process for dealing with the issue of postponements and cancellations.

## 9.6 Ground Preparation

### 9.6.1 Ground Sizes

(A) Where available ground space allows, the field sizes should be inline with Appendix K

(B) Where the available ground space does not allow a field size as specified, the field size is to be as close to the specified size as the ground space allows.

(C) Where both teams have less than the maximum number of Players, the Coaches of the two teams, in consultation with the Ground Manager and Umpire, may agree to reducing the field size from that specified in Appendix K

#### 9.6.2 Ground Marking

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) Ground markings for Junior Matches should be marked in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy.

#### 9.6.3 Goal Post Pads

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

#### 9.6.4 Scoreboard

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

(B) As a minimum standard, the scoreboard should identify teams as “Home” and “Away”.

(C) The correct score should be confirmed with the Ground Manager at the end of each Quarter and updated accordingly.

#### 9.6.5 Timekeeping Facilities / Equipment

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

#### 9.6.6 Change Rooms

NOT APPLICABLE

### 9.7 Match Footballs

(A) Two footballs of a suitable standard must be provided for use in each Competition Match.

(B) The standards and requirements relating to footballs for all Competitions will be determined by the League.

(C) AFL NSW/ACT’s approved suppliers are the only companies authorised to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo on footballs. The current list of AFL NSW/ACT official Match ball supplier(s) and approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.

(D) Match Footballs for each age group can be found in Appendix K

### 9.8 Ground Access

#### 9.8.1 Allowed on Field of Play

Only Players, Umpires, trainers, First Aid Officials, runners and water carriers are permitted on the field during the course of play (except where otherwise specified by the CMC).

### 9.9 Injury Management

#### 9.9.1 Infectious Diseases

All Clubs must comply with the Infectious Diseases Guidelines as issued by Sports Medicine Australia.

#### 9.9.2 Injury Management Policy

(A) The League has adopted *The Management of Medical Emergencies in Community Australian Football Policy* (‘Injury Management Policy’). All Clubs must comply with this Policy.

(B) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Injury Management Policy.

### 9.9.3 Injury Treatment

(A) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the Injury Management Policy at any Match as follows:

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

(B) The visiting Club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each Match that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this Rule.

(C) If the Host Club is unable to comply with these requirements, the Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Injury Management Policy.

(D) If neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Match a delayed start of twenty (20) minutes may be applied to allow the Clubs time to source appropriate resources under the Injury Management Policy. If there are additional fixtures following the Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Matches following.

(E) If appropriate resources under the Injury Management Policy are unable to be sourced by either Club, then, if the visiting Club agrees, the Match will be postponed or rescheduled. Any decision to replay a postponed Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the CMC within seven (7) days of the scheduled Match.

(F) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit and the provisions of Rule 8.7.4 will apply.

(G) If a Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official, the Host Club will forfeit the Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of two hundred (200) dollars.

(H) The Injury Management 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:

(i) Nurse;

(ii) Physiotherapist;

(iii) A certified Sports Trainer;

(iv) St John Officer;

(v) Paramedic;

(vi) Medical Doctor.

(I) The First Aid Official should be located alongside or as near as practical to the Ground Manager. Where more than one Match is being played at any one time, a First Aid Official must be supplied for each game.

(J) If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player should not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the First Aid Official.

### 9.9.4 Equipment & Ambulance Access

(A) The Host Club must ensure there is:

(i) A “scoop” or similar stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of days play;

(ii) ensure proper ambulance access to the field of play, if necessary; and

(iii) an appropriately and adequately stocked first aid kit.

### 9.9.5 Concussion Management

(A) Management of concussion should be in accordance with the Management of Concussion in Australian Football.

(B) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials, and where applicable, the Parent(s).

(C) Any Player who is suspected of having a concussion:

(i) must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and

(ii) must not be allowed to return to play in the same Match or participate in the same practice session.

(D) Initial decisions regarding potential incidents of concussion should be made by a medical doctor or, if there is no medical doctor in attendance, the head trainer.

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

### 9.9.6 Reporting of Particular Injuries

If any of the following injuries occur during a Competition Match, the Club of the Player or Players involved is required to report the incident to the League within 24 hours of the occurrence of the injury or from when the Club first becomes aware of the injury:

(i) Where a Player is assessed as having been concussed, including any circumstance where a Club does not become aware of this until after the Match has been completed;

(ii) Any injury that requires the attendance of an Ambulance.

## 9.10 Penalties for Match Day Breaches

The following Table establishes the penalties that apply to a Club in respect of particular Match Day breaches:

| Category | Breaches | Rule Link | Penalty |
|---|---|---|---|
| Officials | Ground Manager not identifiable | 7.3 | XX |
| | Coach not correctly attired | 7.2.4 | XX |
| | Team runners, water carriers and trainers / First Aid Officials not correctly attired | 9.1.4 | XX |
| | Timekeeper not supplied | 7.8 | XX |
| Pre-Match | Team Sheets incorrectly completed | 9.2.1 | XX |
| | Team Sheets not distributed | 9.2.1 | XX |
| | Ground not set up properly | 9.6 | XX |
| | Umpires change room not clean | 9.6.6 | XX |
| | Correct footballs not available | 9.7 | XX |
| During Match | Failure to meet time – Match commencement or Quarter commencements not on time (< 5 mins late) | 9.3.1<br>9.3.2 | XX |
| | Failure to meet time – Match commencement or Quarter commencements not on time (> or = 5 mins late) | 9.3.1<br>9.3.2 | XX |
| | Players not in correct uniform | 4.8.1 | XX |
| | Umpire Escort not provided | 7.7 | XX |
| | Number of Officials in Team box or area more than allowed | 7.1.2 | XX |
| | Siren not available, operational or audible | 9.3.3 | XX |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Alcohol policy breached | 2.9 | XX |
| | Scoreboard not in operation or not accurate | 9.6.4 | XX |
| | Goal post pads not provided or not as specified | 9.6.3 | XX |
| | Stretcher not available | 9.9.4 | XX |
| Post Match | Match results not entered as required in FootyWeb | 9.2.2 | XX |
| | Failure to report a specified injury to the League | 9.9.6 | XX |

# 10 FINALS

## 10.1 Finals Structure

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

(A) Where the number of Teams in the competition is six (6) to eleven (11) Teams, the top placed four (4) Teams will participate. Where there is a cross sub region fixture structure in the draw, application to extend the number of finals Teams may be determined by the CMC prior to Round 10, and the CMC will Clubs of the the number of Teams to participate in and, if appropriate, the format of the Final Series, by no later than Round 12. A cross sub region fixture is where Teams from different sub regions (example Western Sydney and Sydney Harbour Clubs) are scheduled to predominately play each other in their sub region, with a limited element of cross over Matches to reduce travel.

(B) Where the number of Teams in the Competition exceeds eleven (11) Teams, then the top placed six (6) Teams will participate.

Format of the finals for four (4) Teams:

Week 1 (A) 1v2 Week 2 (C) Loser A v Winner B Week 3 Winner A v Winner C

(B) 3v4

Format of the finals for six (6) Teams:

Week 1 (A) 1v2 (B) 3v6 (C) 4v5

Week 2 (D) Winner A v lowest winner of B and C (E) Loser A v highest winner of B and C

Week 3 Winner D v Winner E

(C) The Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule 5.10 does not apply during the finals series.

## 10.2 Venue Selection

The CMC will determine the venues for finals series Matches in its absolute discretion

## 10.3 Provision of Officials

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

## 10.4 Catering & Gate Receipt Rights

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

## 10.5 Match Duration

The duration of finals Matches will be in accordance with Rule 9.3.2 unless other determined by the League.

### 10.6 Match Conditions

Unless otherwise specified in the Rules, all other Match conditions applicable to home and away season Matches will apply to all finals Matches.

### 10.7 Drawn Finals

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

(i) The goal Umpires will confirm the scores;

(ii) The field Umpire will re-commence the Match to play extra time, initially for a further duration of five (5) minutes, plus time on where time on applies, and the Teams will not change ends;

(iii) The siren will sound after the initial period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes, plus time on where time on applies, is to be played;

(iv) If the game is still drawn after the second five (5) minute period, the siren will sound, concluding the period, and the Golden Point Rule will apply;

(v) **Golden Point Rule:** After the goal Umpires have consulted, and confirm both teams remain tied, teams will reset their position (not changing ends) with a centre bounce/ball up to recommence play. Play will continue until the next score, goal or behind, with the first team to score, the winner;

(vi) At no stage before or during extra time are Coaches permitted to address Players;

(B) For a Grand Final where the scores are less than six (6) points the difference with two (2) minutes remaining in the final quarter, an announcement is to be made by the Ground Manager that Supporters are not to enter the field of play after the final siren until the goal Umpires have confirmed the final score.

### 10.8 Club Eligibility

(A) If any Club is financially in arrears to the League at a period of seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled Match of the final series, teams of that Club shall be ineligible to compete in finals series Matches.

(B) In the event that this occurs, teams placed next on the respective Competition table shall fill the place of the ineligible team.

(C) For the purpose of this Rule, Clubs which are under a financial arrangement with the League and are up to date with the payments of that arrangement shall be considered financial.

### 10.9 Player Eligibility

(A) The League in its ultimate discretion may determine Player eligibility requirements for finals Matches and publish these in Appendix "G".

(B) Clubs are responsible for ensuring all Players meet eligibility requirements to participate in finals Matches.

(C) Any Club that fields an ineligible player in a finals Match may be subject to disciplinary sanctions to be imposed by the League in its absolute discretion including, but not limited to, the loss of the finals Match.

## 11 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

### 11.1 Player Eligibility

Any Player selected in a representative team must be a registered Player with a Club participating in Competitions of that League.

### 11.2 Participation

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) NOT APPLICABLE

(D) NOT APPLICABLE

(E) NOT APPLICABLE

(F) NOT APPLICABLE

### 11.3 Venue

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

### 11.4 Offences

For Player Reports in an inter-league/ representative Match or in a Match between clubs of different leagues, the charge shall be heard by the independent Tribunal of the League with which the Player is registered.

### 11.5 Costs

NOT APPLICABLE

## 12 UMPIRES

### 12.1 Appointment of Umpires

#### 12.1.1 League Responsibility

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

#### 12.1.2 Approved Umpires

(A) Each League must ensure that all Umpires appointed by the League and/or Club are from a panel of Umpires that are approved by AFL NSW/ACT through the national Umpire registration process.

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

(C) NOT APPLICABLE

(D) Should no appointed Field Umpire be present by the scheduled time of commencement of play, both Team Coaches are to decide upon an acceptable replacement/s who may share duty for the duration of the Match. However, should the appointed Umpire or any other Umpire appointed for the day arrive during the course of the Match, that Umpire may take control as soon as possible. Rule 12.1.3 (D) also applies.

#### 12.1.3 Number Per Match

(A) Two Field Umpires are expected in order for a Match to commence, with the exception of Under 9 & 10 matches. These must be accredited Umpires or registered Field Umpires (or a combination).

(B) Where two (2) field Umpires commence a Match and for any reason one (1) of the field Umpires is unable to complete the Match the remaining field Umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.

(C) As a minimum, two (2) goal Umpires are required prior to a Match commencing. These can be League appointed or Club Appointed umpires or a combination of both. Should two Umpires not be available, the Match must not to commence and the matter referred to the CMC for determination.

#### 12.1.4 Minimum Age

(A) NOT APPLICABLE

(B) Any requests for League or Club appointed Umpires below the minimum age to officiate a Competition Match are to be made to the CMC. The CMC will seek the feedback of Umpire Coaches and the AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department before approving such requests.

(C) The age of a League or Club appointed field Umpire of a Junior Match must be:

(i) a minimum of fourteen (14) years old, unless agreed otherwise by the AFLNSW/ACT Umpiring Department; and

(ii) at least two (2) years older than the Age Group being officiated unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age for an Under 13 Match.

#### 12.1.5 Club Report on Umpires

NOT APPLICABLE

#### 12.1.6 Emergency Umpires

NOT APPLICABLE

## 12.2 Club Umpires

(A) 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.

(B) 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.

(C) Any person officiating as a club goal or boundary Umpire in a Match is to adhere to the Code of Conduct as it applies to an Official, and, in addition, is to refrain from engaging in any form of coaching of, or instruction to Players in the course of the Match other than for the purpose of conducting umpiring duties.

(D) Payment of Club goal and boundary Umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the CMC. Club goal and boundary Umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet for the purposes of payments.

(E) Should two (2) field Umpires (either official or club) not be available, the Competition Match is not to commence and the details of the events occurring are to be forwarded to the CMC for determination.

(F) Club field Umpires are not permitted to umpire more than two (2) Competition matches on the same day.

## 12.3 Umpire Responsibilities

#### 12.3.1 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 CMC.

#### 12.3.2 Attendance & Attire

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

#### 12.3.3 Match Report

(A) At the conclusion of each Match, the field Umpire shall provide an Umpire Match Report to the League via the online facility. If it is not practicable for an Umpire to complete the Report immediately following the Match, the Report must be submitted by no later than 7.00pm (10.00pm for night game) on the day of the match.

(B) The field Umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting online.

## 12.4 Fees & Payment

#### 12.4.1 Determination of Fees

The Umpires' fees for the ensuing season can be found in Appendix J

#### 12.4.2 Payment

(A) Umpire payments will only be paid to those Umpires who sign the Match Report, unless using the online report facility.

(B) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in Rule 8.7.4(H), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.

(C) The process for payment of the Umpires will be determined by the League.

## 12.5 Umpire Uniform Branding

(A) Subject to this Rule 12.5, a League:

(i) has the right to display partner or sponsor branding on Umpire uniforms;

(ii) may have a formal written agreement with an Umpires' Association which grants rights to that Umpiring Association to brand parts of the Umpiring uniform.

(B) Each League must provide AFL NSW/ACT with an agreed area on the umpiring uniform shirt for the purpose of promotion of an AFL NSW/ACT community umpiring partner.

(C) Each League must submit all Umpire uniform designs to AFL NSW/ACT for approval which will not be unreasonably withheld.

(D) Each League must ensure that on-field umpiring uniforms comply with the following design requirements:

(i) All umpiring uniform shirts and shorts must display the AFL NSW/ACT logo. AFL NSW/ACT approved apparel suppliers are licensed and authorized as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo. A current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved apparel suppliers can be found on the AFL NSW/ACT website.

(ii) Any apparel supplier logo should be front mid neck on the shirt and not exceed 7cm in width and 3cm height.

(iii) Only the provider approved by the Australian Football League under the National Uniform Supply Program may reproduce the Umpire AFL logo.

(iv) On-field umpiring shirts and shorts must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo and may have sponsor logos in compliance with the following:

| Shirt Location | What is Allowed | Size |
|---|---|---|
| Shirt right breast | AFL NSW/ACT logo | must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height |
| Shirt left breast | Sponsor logo | must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height |
| Shirt front mid-region | Sponsor logo | must not exceed 28.5cm width and 8.5cm height |
| Shirt rear | Sponsor logo | must not exceed 30cm width and 13cm height |
| Shirt sleeve | Sponsor logo | must not exceed 12cm width and 8cm height |
| Shorts left thigh | AFL NSW/ACT logo | must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height |
| Shorts right thigh | Sponsor logo | must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height |

## 12.6 Approaching Umpires

(A) No person, except as listed in Rule 12.6(B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary or goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.

(B) The excepted persons referred to in Rule 12.6(A) above include:

(i) AFL NSW/ACT staff

(ii) Ground Manager, including any designated assistant.

(iii) Umpire escort.

(iv) Umpire Manager.

(v) Team captain, vice-captain or Team runner, but only for the purposes of requesting a headcount in accordance with Rule 2.9.7.

## 12.7 Powers and Duties

(A) Where required, the field Umpire may ask Supporters to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the Match until the request is complied with.

(B) Each Club is to ensure the competency of any person who accepts appointment as a goal or boundary Umpire. The field Umpire has the power to order replacements for any boundary or goal Umpire. The field Umpire has the power to consult with, and if necessary, overrule a goal or boundary Umpire where, in the field Umpire's opinion, an obvious error has occurred. No third party is permitted to be involved in any such consultation (notwithstanding the Laws of the Game).

(C) All goal and boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the field Umpire prior to the commencement of the Match and restrict all communications with the field Umpires to matters arising directly from Umpire duties. Goal and boundary Umpires shall act at all times in a professional manner and refrain from barracking for or giving support to a Team and giving advice or making comments to the Players, other Officials or Supporters.

### 12.8 Supplementary Umpires – Club Supplied

(A) A Goal Umpire must be provided by each competing Team and is required to be dressed in a uniform that is clearly identifiable. A Goal Umpire Bib is required and Goal Umpires must have a set of white flags and scorecard.

(B) Boundary Umpires are to be supplied by the competing Clubs for Under 13's to Under 18's age groups. Boundary Umpires are required to be dressed in a Boundary Umpire bib (refer Rule 12.13) to assist in recognition by the Field Umpire and use an audible whistle.

(C) For the Under 13's and Under 14's, the Boundary Umpire will recover the Match ball at the point of exit, give the ball to the Field Umpire who will toss the ball into the air ten (10) metres from the boundary line.

(D) For Under 15's to 18's, if the first throw in of a ball is deemed inadequate by the Field Umpire, the Field Umpire will throw the ball into the air ten (10) metres from the boundary line.

(E) In the case that a Team does not provide a suitable Boundary Umpire, a member of that Team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. Where neither Team provides a Boundary Umpire, the attacking side will throw the ball in. Where a Team has not provided a Boundary Umpire, it will be noted on the appropriate Match day paperwork

## 13 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### 13.1 League Requirements

Leagues must adopt the procedures set out in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines, the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct including the Incident Referral form and the Prescribed Penalty System as issued from time to time, for any disciplinary related matters.

### 13.2 Prescribed Penalties

A prescribed penalty system will operate in the Competitions in accordance with Appendix "B" of the Rules.

### 13.3 Code of Conduct

(A) Clubs agree to comply with the Rules and Code of Conduct through affiliation.

(B) Players and Coaches agree to comply with the Code of Conduct through the Online Registration in FootyWeb.

(C) Clubs are required to ensure that all Club's Players, Officials, Coaches, administrators and Parents receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.

(D) Parents, Officials and Coaches are bound by the Rules, including the relevant Code of Conduct in Appendix "A" of the AFL NSWACT Rules, as issued from time to time, irrespective of whether they have signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct.

## 13.4 Investigation

### 13.4.1 Power to Investigate

(A) The CMC may investigate or nominate a person ('League designate') to investigate any matter which it considers relevant to whether a person, or a Club as the case may be, may have committed a Reportable Offence or a breach of any Rule or policy.

(B) Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the CMC in Rule 13.4.1(A), the League designate may investigate any matter:

(i) of their own motion; or

(ii) on the basis of video evidence; or

(iii) upon the written request of an authorised officer of a Club pursuant to Rule 13.8; or

(iv) upon the written request of either an authorised officer of a Club or a non-aligned individual pursuant to Rule 13.3.

### 13.4.2 Cooperation

(A) For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this Rule, a person shall if requested by the CMC:

(i) fully co-operate with the investigation;

(ii) truthfully answer any questions asked; and

(iii) provide any document in that person's possession or control requested by the investigating person.

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

### 13.4.3 Interpretation

For the purposes of this Rule, 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.

### 13.4.4 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, photographic evidence or otherwise, the League Designate may report such person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. Should video or photographic evidence be available, the Competition Management Committee can offer the reported person a Prescribed Penalty however if the offence is of serious nature and no video or photographic evidence is available the Football Operations Manager may refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Independent Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

(B) Report where Notice of Report not completed – Under Age Competitions

(i) This Rule applies where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season (i.e. yellow and/ or red cards), but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report in any sending off. Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one Match playing suspension. The League will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player and the Tribunal Chairperson as soon as reasonably practical following the Match of the referral.

(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.

(C) The failure of an Umpire to inform a Player or Official of the Report does not invalidate the making of the Report.

(D) Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made. It is a breach of the Rules for

such reported Player, Official or any other Player or Official to seek to or speak to the Umpire about a Report other than an apology. Any Player or Official who otherwise seeks to or speaks to the Umpire may be referred by the CMC to the Tribunal to deal with as the Tribunal thinks appropriate.

(E) In completing and lodging a Notice of Report, the Umpire will utilise the online Umpire Match Report process to document any reports. In such cases, the Umpire will, on the day, advise the Clubs and ensure that the proper notice of a Report is provided verbally. When the Report is processed by the Match Review Panel, full and complete details will be provided from the Umpire Match Report system to the Club of the reported Player.

(F) As soon as practicable after the completion of the Match, the reporting Umpire shall:

(i) Provide advice to an Official from each Team. Each Team shall be responsible for the attendance of an Official at the end of the Match in question in order to receive such advice and to be given an "all clear" from the Ground Manager. In the event of no such Official attending, the Reporting Umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Rule.

(ii) Verbally advise the Umpire Manager of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match, by 8.00pm on Match day or 10.00am next day where a night Match is played.

(G) Where a reportable offence as prescribed by the Rules is alleged to have occurred, the Match Review Panel may refer the reportable offence to the Tribunal for hearing where the alleged reportable offence is alleged to have been committed by a Player or Official.

## 13.5 Vilification & Discrimination Reports

(A) Where a complaint as provided in the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy is lodged, as a result of alleged prohibited conduct, and a Notice of Report is made in relation to the same incident (by either the Umpire or as otherwise provided in accordance with the Rules), the CMC may defer the formal offer of a Prescribed Penalty or referral of the Report to the Tribunal until such time as the procedures provided under the Policy are completed.

(B) The Player or Official concerned may continue to participate in any Matches until such time as the Prescribed Penalty offer is made or the hearing of the Report to the Tribunal or hearing of the Complaint as provided for in the Rules is heard and determined.

## 13.6 Match Offences by Players or Officials

### 13.6.1 Reporting of Players or Officials

(A) Umpires may report to the League any Player or Official who, during the progress of a Match or within the immediate proximity of the ground on the day of the Match, commits a reportable offence. The procedure for making and lodging such a report shall be as specified by the Laws of the Game and by the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.

(B) For the purposes of Section 3 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, registered field, registered boundary and/or registered goal Umpires are permitted to report Players. Unregistered Club field Umpires, Club boundary and goal Umpires are not permitted to report Players.

(C) All reporting Umpires are required to reference the Offence Grade Template as outlined in clause 5.2(b) of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT when lodging a report.

### 13.6.2 Reporting of Junior Players

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

### 13.6.3 Melees

(A) If an incident occurs prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time interval) or following the completion of a Competition Match involving **three (3) or more players and/or officials per team** and if, in the opinion of the CMC, such incident is likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the Competition, AFL or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Club/s involved in such incident shall be sanctioned by the CMC by way of a fine calculated in accordance with the Melee Matrix grading system as defined by the League (refer to Appendix "E").

(B) Any amount payable by a Club, under this Rule, shall be paid by the Club to the League within fourteen (14) days.

(C) Individual players may still be reported under the Laws of Australian Football.

## 13.7 Order Off Rule

### 13.7.1 Yellow Card

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

(B) A Player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining the approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.

(C) For the purposes of this Rule, a yellow card will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field of play for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only. For example, a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.

(D) The fifteen (15) minutes will commence once the player has left the field of play.

(E) All Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

### 13.7.2 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 Rule 13.7.2(B), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.

(B) Serious breaches include, but are not limited to, where a Player:

(i) Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire;

(ii) Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire;

(iii) Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;

(iv) Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person;

(v) Commits an act of misconduct - if the Umpire is of the opinion the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

(C) A Player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.

(D) Unless otherwise determined by the CMC in its ultimate discretion, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a red card can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the replacement Player to resume playing.

(E) The fifteen (15) minutes will commence once the player has left the field of play.

(F) For the purposes of this Rule, a red card will result in the Player concerned being unable to be replaced for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only, e.g. a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would not be permitted to be replaced until ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.

(G) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be ordered from the field (regardless of whether they have been issued a red or yellow card) but can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.

(H) All red cards are reportable offences and a Notice of Report must be submitted to the League.

### 13.7.3 Recording of Send Offs

(A) When a Player is sent off from the field of play in accordance with this Rule, the Umpire will show the appropriate yellow or red card to the timekeeper who will in turn acknowledge the send-off by showing the same colour card to the Umpire.

(B) Timekeepers are required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field Umpires, leave the field of play and determine when such Players may resume playing in the Match, or be replaced in the Match (whichever is applicable). It is the offending Player's Club's responsibility to obtain approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.

## 13.8 Citings By Clubs

### 13.8.1 Grounds for Citings

(A) This Rule provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of the Umpires.

(B) A serious incident for the purposes of this Rule is a matter which may draw a base sanction of no less than four (4) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 2021, or as otherwise determined by the CMC, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.

### 13.8.2 Lodgement Requirements & Citing Fee

(A) Where a Club wishes cite a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence that meets the provisions of Rule 13.8.1, such complaint ("a citing") must be made by completion and lodgement of the AFL NSW/ACT *Form 6.1 - Citing Incident Referral Form*.

(B) The Citing Incident Referral Form must be lodged with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises.

(C) A Citing Incident Referral Form must be submitted for each separate citing.

(D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a five hundred (500) dollar citing fee which may be forfeited should the CMC deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Citing Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or manually deposited to the League's bank account. The CMC will, at its absolute discretion, determine whether the fee will be reimbursed in part or full to the Club lodging the citing at the conclusion of the matter.

### 13.8.3 Additional Time Request

(A) A Club may seek an extension of time to complete and lodge a Citing Incident Referral Form as per Rule 13.8.2. Any such request must be made by completion and lodgement of the AFL NSW/ACT *Form 6.2 - Citing Notice of Intent Form* by no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises.

(B) In the event that a Club requests extension of time in accordance with 13.8.3(A), the CMC may, after receiving a Citing Notice of Intent Form, extend the deadline for lodgement of the Citing Incident Referral Form to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.

(C) The citing Club may request an additional extension of time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.

### 13.8.4 Lodgement of Incidents – Non-Reportable Offences

For the League to investigate a Match day incident that is not a reportable offence, clubs must advise the League by midday on the third business day following the Match. The CMC may alter this deadline in its absolute discretion.

### 13.8.5 Review of Footage

A Club may request the CMC to review footage of an incident by submitting a fee of two hundred and fifty (250) dollar such fee which is only refundable if the matter results in an outcome as requested by the Club. The CMC may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the CMC decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.

#### 13.8.6 Determination of Citing

(A) The CMC shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of their rights (via Club Secretary or President or their nominee) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.

(B) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 13.8.1 to Rule 13.8.3 above.

### 13.9 Tribunal

#### 13.9.1 Appointment

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

#### 13.9.2 Tribunal Hearings

(A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.

(B) Should the reporting Umpire be unable to attend the hearing, the CMC may defer the hearing in which case the reported Player or Official may continue to play or act until the hearing is held.

#### 13.9.3 Role

(A) The Tribunal shall hear the following matters in accordance with the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines (as the case may be):

(i) reports by Umpires against Players or Officials participating in League Competitions, pre-season or practice Matches;

(ii) such other matters (including citings by Clubs) as may be referred to it by the League;

(iii) referrals pursuant to Rule 13.8;

(iv) any other matter as appropriate.

#### 13.9.4 Hearings

(A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.

(B) Should the reporting Umpire be unable to attend the hearing, the CMC may defer the hearing in which case the reported Player or Official may continue to play or act until the hearing is held.

### 13.10 Player & Official Deregistration

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

### 13.11 Club Websites & Media Statements

#### 13.11.1 Websites

(A) Any Club that operates, or having operated on its behalf, a website, blog or social media account representing the Club and its activities ("Club Website"), agrees that it is prohibited from publishing, displaying or otherwise disseminating on the Club Website any content, information, images or other form of communication that is inappropriate, offensive or damaging to the reputation of a Player, Official, Club, the League or AFL NSW/ACT ("Offending Material"), including by providing links to other websites that may contain Offending Material.

(B) Any Club that is found to be in breach of Rule 13.11.1(A) as determined by the League or the CMC in its absolute discretion, must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach remove the Offending

Material, confirm in writing to the League that is has done so and shall be liable to sanctions as is deemed appropriate by the League or CMC in their absolute discretion.

**13.11.2 Media Statements**

(A) Conduct occurring in Media or public forums is governed by the Code of Conduct.

(B) Only authorised and approved personnel may make public statements regarding League matters.

(C) For the Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media or social media.

(D) A Club whose Official or Player has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 13.11.2 (A), or 13.11.2(B) in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the CMC or Disciplinary Committee which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) dollars and forfeit past or future Match points.

## 13.12 Report of Junior Players

In reference to Rule 13.6.2, AFL Sydney Juniors has a set of procedures for players in the U9-U10 Compeitions.

(A) Under 9 –Under 10

(i) Subject to these Rules, Players reported in the Under 9's to Under 10 age groups will have the Report adjudicated by their Club. The following previsions will apply:

(a) A Prescribed Penalty may be offered. A decision to accept or reject the Prescribed Penalty offered or to proceed to a club hearing must be confirmed by the Club to the CMC within 24 hours of the offer of the Prescribed Penalty, or as directed by the CMC. If the Prescribed Penalty offer is rejected, then a Club Committee hearing is to be held.

(b) Where no Prescribed Penalty is offered, or a Prescribed Penalty is offered and is rejected, a Club Committee hearing will be held. The Club Committee will comprise the Club President, the Football Manager, the Coach, and an AFL Sydney representative if required. The decision of the Club Committee is to be unanimous. Such hearing must be held within three (3) days of the advice of a report, unless agreed to by the CMC. In the case of a Prescribed Penalty offer being rejected, then the hearing must be held within seven (7) days of the receipt by the CMC of notice of the rejection of the Prescribed Penalty offer. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Matches until the Club Committee has dealt with the Report. Where the Code of Conduct Committee agrees on a decision, the Club will provide to the CMC a statement in writing (or electronically) in the form of the template at Appendix "H" of the outcome of the Report and any action taken within five (5) days of the hearing.

(B) If a decision is not agreed by the Committee, the Report is to be referred by the Club to the AFL Sydney Tribunal for hearing. The Club will provide its referral to the CMC in writing (or electronically) within two (2) days of the failure of the Committee to agree to a decision. The Tribunal may hear the Report itself, or refer the Report to a Conduct Committee for hearing. The Tribunal or the Conduct Committee, where the matter is so referred to it, must hear the Report, where possible within three (3) days of receipt of the Report by the CMC. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Matches until the Tribunal or, where applicable, the Conduct Committee, has heard the Report.

(C) Where it deems it appropriate, the CMC may refer any Code of Conduct hearing to a Conduct Committee and where it does so the hearing of any Report will be heard by the Conduct Committee and not by the Club

(D) of the Player concerned. In such circumstances, the Conduct Committee will, so far as it is able, act in accordance with Rules 13.12 (A) and 13.12 (B).

(E) Where a Club fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rules 13.12 (A) and 13.12 (B) the CMC may impose a fine of two hundred dollars ($200) on the Club.

## 13.13 Team Yellow/Red/Blue Cards

(A) Where a Player is sent off with a Yellow and/or Red Card (including a Blue Card that is upgraded by the CMC to a Yellow Card as a reportable offence) and that Player is the third Player from that Team to be sent off in the season, the Player shall automatically receive a one Match playing suspension, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off. The League will

inform the Club President or delegate of the Player as soon as reasonably practical following the Match of the referral

(B) "Send-off" for the purposes of the preceding Rule only applies to a "send-off" for a reportable offence under the Laws. For the avoidance of doubt, a Blue Card send-off does not count towards the number of "send-off" cards for a Team unless the Blue Card is upgraded by the CMC to a Yellow Card as a reportable offence.

(C) Where a Player is sent off and that Player is the fourth or subsequent offence for a Player from that Team to be sent off in the season, the Player shall automatically receive a two (2) Match playing suspension, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off. The League will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player as soon as reasonably practical following the Match of the referral.

(D) In addition to the preceding Rules, where any Player or Players from the same Team are sent off during the course of a season and the number of Players sent off for a breach of any of those Laws is three or more, irrespective of whether the send-off is a Yellow, Red or Blue Card, the CMC will then be required to meet with Club representatives (including the President and the Coach(s) of the Team concerned) within seven – ten (7 – 10) days of such advice to seek an appropriate explanation of action being taken to address and resolve apparent behavioural issues. Within seven (7) days of the meeting, the CMC shall advise the club of the outcome of the meeting for such action as the CMC deemed appropriate.

# 14 APPEALS

## 14.1 Appeals Board

### 14.1.1 Appeals Board Panel

The Appeals Board Panel must consist of:

(i) a Chair being a member of the legal profession; and

(ii) a Panel of not more than four (4) persons who in the opinion of the CEO (or delegate) possess the appropriate qualifications.

### 14.1.2 Appointment of Appeals Board Members

(A) The CEO (or delegate) may from time to time appoint persons to the Appeals Board, including the Chair.

(B) Save and except where the CEO (or delegate) otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Appeals Board Panel if that person, in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment:

(i) has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club; or

(ii) has been a Coach or assistant or specialty Coach of a Club; or

(iii) has been a Player of a Club; or

(iv) has been an employee of the AFL or a Club;

(C) If for any period and for any reason a member is absent or unable to attend a hearing of the Appeals Board, the CEO (or delegate) may appoint a person who in his/her opinion is a suitable replacement.

A member of the Appeals Board may resign by providing notice in writing to the CEO (or delegate).

The CEO (or delegate) may remove a member of the Appeals Board at any time in their absolute discretion.

### 14.1.3 Appeals Board Powers

(A) The Appeals Board is empowered to meet when and where it considers necessary, having regard to a fair and efficient resolution of the appeal.

(B) The Appeals Board has the power to make any determination it considers necessary including a decision to set aside the original decision which is appealed against or to impose any extra or different penalty, or to remit the matter back to the Tribunal for determination in accordance with the Appeals Board's decision.

#### 14.1.4 Appeals Board Obligations

(A) The Appeals Board will:

(i) to the extent that the rules of natural justice require, provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for an appeal;

(ii) provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;

(iii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and

(iv) make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.

(B) If the appeal is an appeal from a decision of a Tribunal, the Appeals Board shall hear that appeal as on the basis of the evidence before that Tribunal and determine whether or not one or more of the Grounds have been established.

(C) The Appeals Board may have regard to the record of the proceeding before the Tribunal or other body against whose decision an appeal is made, including a record of any evidence taken in a Tribunal hearing.

(D) The Appeals Board may, subject to the Rules, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

(E) The hearing before the Appeals Board shall be:

(i) inquisitorial in nature; and

(ii) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matters permits.

(F) The Appeals Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

(G) The question on appeal before the Appeals Board must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeals Board.

### 14.2 Appeals

#### 14.2.1 Right of Appeal

(A) Any registered Player, Official, Club or League may appeal or apply to the Appeals Board in accordance with and on the grounds set out in the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules and policies including:

(i) the Rules;

(ii) AFL National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;

(iii) State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines;

(iv) State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines;

(v) National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;

(vi) National Player Registration and Transfer Rules; and

(vii) National Age Dispensation Policy.

(B) In the event that the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules and policies do not outline the grounds for appeal or application to AFL NSW/ACT, the grounds set out in Rule 14.2.2 apply.

#### 14.2.2 Grounds of Appeal

(A) A Player, Official, Club and/or the League, may only appeal to the Appeals Board in respect of a decision made by a League (including a determination of a Tribunal with respect to a decision of a League) on one or more of the following grounds:

(i) that there was an error of law;

(ii) that the decision was so unreasonable that no League or Tribunal (as the case may be) acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;

(iii) the classification of the level of the offence was manifestly excessive or inadequate; or

(iv) that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate, (each, a **Ground**).

(B) For the avoidance of doubt, the Grounds in Rule 14.2.2(A) do not override the grounds, if any, set out in the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules or policies.

#### 14.2.3 Timeframe for Appeal Lodgement

A registered Player, Official, Club or League:

(i) may appeal a determination of a Tribunal to the Appeals Board in accordance with the timeframe prescribed in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines (as the case may be); and

(ii) may appeal a determination (other than a Tribunal determination under Rule 14.2.3(A)(i)) to the Appeals Board within ten (10) days of the relevant determination being made (including a failure to act or make a decision when the decision ought reasonably to have been made, which cannot be before twenty-eight (28) days after the relevant request for a determination).

#### 14.2.4 Procedure For Lodgement

(A) Notice of an Appeal is brought by lodging a written notice with the CEO (or delegate). The Notice of Appeal must:

(i) be in writing;

(ii) lodged with the CEO (or delegate);

(iii) state the grounds of appeal and any submissions in respect of the Chair's decision to be made under Rule 14.2.4(C); and

(iv) include full details of the event precipitating the appeal together with any information which might assist in its consideration.

(B) Prior to convening and fixing the time of an appeal hearing, the appellant must provide payment to AFL NSW/ACT of:

(i) the sum of five hundred (500) dollars towards the costs of the appeal, which is not refundable in any circumstances; and

(ii) an additional sum of five hundred (500) dollars which shall be dealt with as follows:

(a) Where an appeal is successful, this payment will be refunded by AFL NSW/ACT within 30 days of notice to the AFL NSW/ACT by the Appeals Board of its decision in accordance with Rule 14.3.5; and

(b) Where an appeal is not successful, this payment will not be refunded, unless the matter involves a monetary sanction and the Appeals Board determines that it would be manifestly unjust and unfair not to refund the whole or part of the payment in which case such amount as may be determined by the Appeals Board will be refunded.

(C) The CEO (or delegate) will refer the matter to the Chair of the Appeals Board for consideration at the earliest opportunity. Where the Chair decides that an appeal has reasonable prospects of success, an Appeals Board Panel will be convened and the hearing will be held in accordance with Rule 14.3.2.

#### 14.2.5 Onus and Standard of Proof

The appellant bears the onus of establishing the grounds of the appeal on the balance of probabilities.

### 14.3 Hearings

#### 14.3.1 Composition for Hearing

On any occasion when an appeal is brought before the Appeals Board, there shall be an Appeals Board appointed to determine the appeal which shall sit as the Appeals Board and shall comprise three (3) persons being:

(i) a Chair; and

(ii) two (2) persons from the Appeals Board Panel.

#### 14.3.2 Hearing Procedure

(A) Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Appeal and the required sums outlined in Rule 14.2.4(B) the CEO (or delegate), in consultation with the Chair, shall:

(i) fix the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal as soon as reasonably practicable; and

(ii) advise all parties with an interest in the appeal in writing of those particulars.

(B) The Appeals Board, through the CEO (or delegate) can vary the date, time or place of the specified hearing and upon doing so must immediately provide all parties with an interest in the appeal written notice of the variation.

(C) All parties to the appeal shall attend and appear before the Appeals Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where a party fails to attend before the Appeals Board, the Appeals Board may hear and determine the appeal in that party's absence or have the unavailable party available by phone or video link should the need arise.

(D) The Parties must provide written submission to the Appeals Board in accordance with the timeframe as determined by the Appeals Board.

#### 14.3.3 Representation

At any hearing before the Appeals Board a person may:

(i) appear in person; or

(ii) subject to leave of the Appeals Board, be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chair directs.

#### 14.3.4 Questions of Law & Fact

In the hearing and determination of an appeal, the Appeals Board shall decide all questions of law and fact and without limitation, shall determine the meaning of any words.

#### 14.3.5 Decisions

(A) The Appeals Board shall, where practicable make the formal announcement of the appeal at the conclusion of the hearing and AFL NSW/ACT shall inform the parties in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter.

(B) The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

#### 14.3.6 Reasons

The Appeals Board is not obliged to give reasons for a decision.

#### 14.3.7 National Guidelines

Unless provided for in the Rules, any hearing before the Appeals Board will be conducted in accordance with the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines (as the case may be).

#### 14.3.8 Matters Not Provided For

The Appeals Board shall have the power to decide any matters not provided for in this Rule 14 to the extent that such matters arise during the course of any hearing.

## 15 FINANCE

### 15.1 League Budget

The CMC will prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items.

## 15.2 Fees

### 15.2.1 Club Affiliation

(A) Clubs will be levied an annual licence fee, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective competitions.

(B) Licence fees and other relevant charges will be levied on an annual basis each season.

### 15.2.2 Other Fees or Charges

The League may determine, in its absolute discretion, any additional fees or charges that are to be payable by Clubs to offset the operational costs of the Competition.

## 15.3 Fines

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

| Breach | Fine |
|---|---|
| **Administration** | |
| Club changing official Match times or dates without agreement from the opposing Club and having not advised the Umpire Manager **seven (7) days** beforehand or as agreed. | $100 |
| Club deliberately advertising for Players from schools designated as a feeder school to another Club as defined by the CMC or Regional Committee (deemed poaching). | $250 |
| Club not represented at preseason League education sessions as designated. | $100 |
| Club playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age Players. Should a Team be found guilty of three (3) of any of the above in any one season<br><br>Any Player playing under another name other than their own. | $100 plus loss of Match ratio. $250 and the Team withdrawn from the competition.<br><br>$250 plus loss of Match wins. Max $500 per breach. |
| Club wishing to interview or approach a Player from another Club, with a view to having that Player transfer to and play in one of its Teams, must first advise the Club Secretary with which the Player is registered in writing and a copy must be sent to the CMC at least **seven (7) days** prior to any approach. | Max $200 |
| Code of Conduct Breach. | Max $500 |
| Forfeiting a Match without correct prior notification. | $100 |
| Statement breach. | Max $1000 |
| Reports on Development Grades/Junior By-Laws – Club failure to comply with the time limits. | $100 |
| Reports on Development Grades/Junior By-Laws – Regional Committee failure to comply with the time limits. | $100 |
| Withdrawal of a nominated Team within fourteen (14) days of competition commencement. | $250 |
| Withdrawal of a nominated Team within seven (7) days of competition commencement. | $500 |
| Withdrawal of team after start of competition | $1,000 |

| Match Day | |
|---|---|
| Each Player must have a number on their jersey and such number must be listed on the Team sheet. More than one Player wear a jersey bearing the same number. | $20 per breach |
| Failure of Team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from Umpire. | $50 |
| Failure of advice of Match day forfeit or washout by Host club. | $50 |
| Failure to complete Team Sheets - Completion on Match day in accordance with By-Law 14 | $30 |
| Incorrectly attired Coach / Team Manager / Team Runner/ Boundary Umpire / Goal Umpire/First Aid Official (non-wearing of appropriate bib or uniform as provided for by the By-Laws) –2nd breach and each subsequent breach. | $25 |
| Team Runners, Water Carriers and Trainers deemed to be contravening their duties will be sent from field of play after receiving one (1) verbal warning from the Umpire. Failure to comply. | $50 |
| Team does not provide suitable Boundary Umpire– 2nd breach and each subsequent breach. | $50 |
| Starting or playing a Match without a First Aid Official (as defined). | Max $200 |

NOTE: Match day breaches are dealt with under Rule 9.10.

(B) Notwithstanding 15.3(A), the CMC may impose such sanctions as it sees fit.

(C) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the CMC or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the CMC.

(D) Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the Player's or Official's Club is responsible to pay the fine to the League.

## 15.4 Club Finance

### 15.4.1 Outstanding Accounts

(A) Except as provided for under Rule 15.4.1(B), any Club which is in arrears to the League for a period more than sixty (60) days from the date of the invoice, will be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its Teams and ineligible to play finals Matches, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.

(B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the CMC may in its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

### 15.4.2 Dishonoured Payments

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

### 15.4.3 Financial Statements

(A) The League may, where it has concern at any time regarding a Club's solvency or financial administration, request that the Club provide Financial Statements.

(B) A Club must provide the requested Financial Statements within seven (7) days of the request by the League.

#### 15.4.4 Club Budget

(A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League by 31 January each year, or as otherwise designated by the League in the Club Licence Agreement, a copy of its Fair Trading Return, or Financial Statement or Profit and Loss Statement of its operations for the previous season.

(B) Each Club shall provide the League with a Club Budget for the ensuing season by 31 January each year or as otherwise designated by the League.

## 16 MISCELLANEOUS

### 16.1 AFL Marks and Logos

(A) Clubs and the League must not make use of AFL Marks without the prior written consent of the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT which consent may be given or withheld at the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT's discretion (reasonably exercised).

(B) Clubs of the League, Leagues and Associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or Leagues controlled by AFL NSW/ACT must submit details of any proposed use of AFL Marks to AFL NSW/ACT prior to any use thereof including use for advertising or promotional purposes.

(C) Clubs and the League acknowledge that the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT are the owners of the AFL Marks and of the goodwill attaching to the AFL Marks and agree that the AFL Marks must remain vested in the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT and agree not to challenge the validity or ownership of the AFL Marks.

(D) Clubs and the League must not register any trade marks, company or business names, logos, symbols, emblems, designs, or other indicia using the AFL Marks or any component thereof.

(E) Clubs and the League agree not to alter the AFL Marks in any way nor to affix, incorporate or use the AFL Marks, in connection with or as part of another trade mark, distinctive mark, name, brand or thing.

(F) Clubs and the League recognise the great value of the AFL Marks and acknowledge the goodwill attached thereto and that all rights, title and interest therein including the copyright thereto vests in and belongs to AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT.

(G) Clubs and the League agree that they will not at any time do any act, matter or thing intended to or which might otherwise have the effect of interfering with, restricting, limiting or challenging the proprietary rights of AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT in and to the AFL Marks.

### 16.2 Approved Suppliers

#### 16.2.1 AFL NSW/ACT Approved Apparel Suppliers

(A) AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo.

(B) The current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.

### 16.3 Broadcasting Rights

(A) In this Rule 16.3, the term "**broadcast**" means any service (by whatever means or process) which is or in the future becomes a content service for the purposes of the Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth) and includes, but is not limited to any internet or online service, any television or radio transmission or any service making available to any member of the public (simultaneously with or consecutively to any other member of the public) text, sounds or images.

(B) Each Club acknowledges and agrees that the League and AFL NSW/ACT has the exclusive right to authorise the public broadcast of all matches played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League.

(C) Clubs shall not participate in any match played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League which is broadcast by any provider of a broadcast other than a provider of a broadcast authorised or approved by the League.

(D) Where a Club is the ground hirer or occupier of a venue at which matches are played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT it shall use its best endeavours to provide any provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT with access to the necessary facilities required for the provision of the broadcast of matches played in the Competition and shall use its best endeavours to provide assistance to any provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT and its servants and agents as is necessary to ensure that the League or AFL NSW/ACT fulfils, to the maximum extent possible, its obligations to the provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT.

(E) Where a Club is the ground manager or occupier of a venue at which matches are played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT, where it is within the Club's control, it shall not permit, allow or assist any other person to permit or allow the admission into the venue of any equipment used in the provision of a broadcast including television and video cameras, on a day when any match in the Competition/s or such other Competition is played at the venue, save as permitted by the preceding Rule and save as is otherwise specifically authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT.

(F) Where a Club is not the ground manager or occupier of the venue at which the Club plays its home matches in the Competition, or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT, the Club shall use its best endeavours to ensure that the ground manager or occupier of such venue complies with the provisions of this Rule 16.3.

### 16.4 Electronic and Other Images Guidelines

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

### 16.5 Awards Presentations

(A) Each season, the CMC shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.

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

### 16.6 Matters Not Provided For

The CMC may regulate any matters not provided for in the Rules in its sole and absolute discretion.

## 17 APPENDICES

A. AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct
B. Prescribed Penalty System
C. Incident Referral Form
D. Recording of Images
E. Melee Matrix
F. Officials & Team Support Staff Dress Requirements
G. Finals Eligibility
H. Permit Types
I. Minimum Age Player Eligibility Breakdown
J. Umpires Fees 2021
K. Youth and Junior By Laws
L. Conduct Committee Report
M. Reward E-Points
N. Player Dispensation Form
O. Playing in a Higher Age Group
P. Supplementary Code of Conduct – Codes of Behaviour

# Appendix "A" - AFL NSW/ACT CODE OF CONDUCT

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

**(2) This Code of Conduct:**

(a) forms part of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations and applies to the conduct and behaviour of Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials;

(b) applies to all forms of Australian Football under AFL NSW/ACT's jurisdiction;

(c) continues to apply to a participant even after that participants association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that participant breached this Code of Conduct while a current participant; and

(d) does not limit or restrict the application of the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT Rules and Regulations and the State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines, National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines, Member Protection Policy, AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy or Anti-Doping Policy.

**(3) The Scope of the Code of Conduct**

(a) The Code of Conduct does not govern Reportable Offences, the Order-Off Rule, or Citations.

(b) Where an incident may constitute both a Reportable Offence or a breach of the Code of Conduct, the charge of a Reportable Offence will take precedence. An individual must not be penalised under both the Prescribed Penalty System and the Code of Conduct.

(c) The Code of Conduct may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or procedures as imposed by a League or Club, provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms of this Code of Conduct.

(d) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour and conduct of its Players, Officials, Coaches and Supporters.

**(4) Players and Officials**

Each Player and Official must:

(a) Not bring the game of Australian Football, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League or the Club into disrepute;

(b) Participate in Competition Matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;

(c) Respect the spirit of the Laws of Australian Football and fair play, and behave accordingly;

(d) Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, administrators, Officials, Parents and Supporters;

(e) Never to argue with or dispute a decision of an Official. If a Participant disagrees with a decision, they should deal with their dispute in accordance with the relevant Rules, Regulations, Policies and Determinations;

(f) Control their emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse of or swearing at or in the vicinity of others, sledging Players and/or Coaches or behaviour that deliberately distracts or provokes an opponent;

(g) Comply with the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules and Regulations including the National Member Protection Policy, the League By-Laws and this Code of Conduct;

(h) Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;

(i) Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences, and behave accordingly;

(j) Cooperate with their Club Officials, Coaches and team-mates;

(k) Participate for their own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of their teammates, Coaches and Club Officials;

(l) Comply with and observe the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy including respecting the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion;

(m) Not engage in conduct that is (in AFL NSW/ACT's reasonable opinion), unethical, unbecoming or likely to cause harm to the reputation of the Participant, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT, the League, the Club or Australian Football;

(n) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;

(o) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as, but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs);

(p) Use appropriately the facilities and equipment made available for administration, coaching, training, Competition Matches and events, including facilities provided by the opposing teams; and

(q) Comply with and observe the AFL Anti-Doping Code and any relevant Illicit Drugs policies.

**(5) Parents and Supporters**

Each Parent and Supporter must:

(a) Support the participants and enjoy the Match;

(b) Encourage participation, but don't force it;

(c) Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning;

(d) Not ridicule mistakes or losses;

(e) Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and Supporters. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated;

(f) Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time;

(g) Not publicly criticise Umpires and instead raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private;

(h) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your Coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks;

(i) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs;

(j) Not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or Supporter;

(k) Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by Supporters, Coaches, Officials or Players;

(l) Not use abusive language;

(m) Not to enter the field of play in any sanctioned Competition Match unless granted permission by an Official to do so;

(n) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;

(o) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs).

**(6) Notice and Disciplinary Process**

**(a)** AFL NSW/ACT, a League including via the Competition Management Committee or the Conduct Committee may enforce the terms of this Code of Conduct and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have infringed this Code of Conduct:

(i) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;

(ii) notice of possible sanctions; and

(iii) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

(b) Any alleged breaches must be dealt with upon receipt of a written 'complaint' issued by:

(i) An authorised Club Official on behalf of the Club and any of its members;

(ii) The Competition Management Committee directly;

(iii) Officiating Umpires (on Umpire Match Report Form).

(c) Any alleged breach will be initially assessed by the Competition Management Committee. The League may in its absolute discretion taking into account all the available evidence either:

(i) Commence the process in accordance with clause 4(A) and, impose disciplinary sanctions thereafter, in its discretion;

(ii) refer the matter to the Conduct Committee for determination in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines; or

(iii) dismiss the complaint including determining such complaint to be frivolous.

(d) Should the League or Conduct Committee determine a complaint made by a Club or Club Official to be frivolous, a fee of $100 may be imposed upon that Club.

(e) Individuals and Clubs will be notified via their Club President (or delegate) in writing of any case to answer and the time and date of a convened hearing. Those requested to attend a hearing must attend or have a representative attend in their place.

**(7) Disciplinary Sanctions**

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

(b) AFL NSW/ACT, a League or Conduct Committee may impose any of the following disciplinary sanctions:

(i) Appointing a mentor to an individual for a period of time;

(ii) Requiring that the individual participate in a remedial program or counselling;

(iii) Requiring a written apology;

(iv) Requiring mediation between parties including on specified conditions;

(v) Revoking a Player, Umpire or Coach's registration for a period of time;

(vi) Revoking a child's/associated Player's position to play for a period of time in the case of a Parent/Supporter;

(vii) Banning or prohibiting an individual from admission to any recognised League event and venue;

(viii) Banning an individual from holding any post as an Official, administrator or committee person in the League.

(ix) Deducting Club of the Year Award points for the season in which the indiscretion has taken place;

(x) Imposing a fine on a Club (up to $1,000 per first offence);

(xi) Imposing the loss of Competition points upon a Team/Club;

(xii) Imposing a suspended penalty of any of the above.

(c) The following is indicative of the process and available sanctions:

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

(d) As such sanctions may potentially be apportioned to either an individual or Club or both as determined by the League or Conduct Committee,

(e) Clubs are liable for the conduct and behaviour of its Players, Officials and Supporters.

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

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

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

**(8) Conduct Committee**

(a) The Conduct Committee is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the League or CMC may from time to time refer.

(b) The League or CMC shall appoint the Conduct Committee of not less than three members which may consist of a combination of the following:

(i) a representative from the independent Tribunal Panel,

(ii) a representative from the CMC or nominee(s), and/or

(iii) an independent Club President.

(c) Where reasonably practicable, the Conduct Committee will meet on the first Wednesday evening after all relevant parties can be notified of the hearing date and time and any formal investigations completed. Alternatively, where reasonably practicable the Conduct Committee may determine the matter by documentation and submissions.

**(9) Scope and Powers of the Conduct Committee**

(a) The Conduct Committee is governed by the same procedures applying to the Tribunal as outlined in League By-Laws and the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines.

(b) The Tribunal representative will chair all Conduct Committee hearings and ensure Tribunal procedures are followed.

(c) 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.

**(10) Ground Manager**

(a) In maintaining the Code of Conduct, the Ground Manager shall:

(i) 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;

(ii) Where an incident appears to represent a minor breach, issue a warning to any person that they may be close to breaching the Code of Conduct;

(iii) Where a formal complaint is warranted, advise the affected Club to submit a formal complaint to the Competition Management Committee and follow the procedures as described in paragraph 1.2 of these Code of Conduct Disciplinary Procedures;

(iv) Ensure that appropriate signage (provided by the League and clearly visible at the venue's canteen and in each change-room.

(b) The Ground Manager will also assist the Umpires upon request to:

(i) Identify and obtain the details of any Supporter, member or non-member Supporter that they believe to be an offender or witness to a breach; and

(ii) 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.

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.

**(11) Promoting the Code of Conduct**

(a) A copy of this Code of Conduct must be available on each Club's website.

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

(c) The League will provide Clubs with an initial supply of A4 Code of Conduct signs and a large corflute sign to be displayed outside a Club's canteen.

(d) All Clubs are required to ensure that all members, Players, Officials, Coaches and Parents of Under 18 Players receive a copy of or accept at registration this Code of Conduct. Irrespective of whether a copy is provided, all Club persons have obligations under the Code of Conduct.

**(12) Liability for Supporter Conduct**

(a) A Club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its Supporters, whether at home or away Matches.

(b) Each person at a Match must comply with the Supporter Code of Behaviour. It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure the Supporter Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all Supporters.

## Appendix "B" – PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS

### Introduction

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

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

### Procedure

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

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

(A) the offence by the Player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System; or

(B) the Report should be referred to the Tribunal for determination.

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

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

## Appendix "C" – CITING INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

This form is to be used for any citing in accordance with Rule 13.8 of the AFL NSW/ACT Rules. The form must be lodged with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises, together with the citing fee payable (if being lodged by a Club).

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

A serious incident for definition is a matter that may draw a base sanction of no less than four matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, or as otherwise determined by the CMC based on the recommendation of the investigating officer. See over for suggested grading Table.

# PART A: Citing Details

| Match Details | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Round** | **Match Date** | **Venue** |
| | | |
| **Age Group / Division** | **Home Team** | **Away Team** |
| | | |

| Cited Person(s) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **Player or Official** | **Jersey Number or Role** | **Club** |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| Details of Alleged Incident(s) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Time of the incident(s) | | Quarter | |
| The vicinity at venue where the incident(s) occurred | | | |
| A summary of what is alleged to have occurred | | | |

| Supporting Evidence Attached | |
|---|---|
| List the evidence attached in support of the citing, e.g.<br>(A) signed statement(s) from complainant and/or witness(es)<br>(B) video or photographs of the event(s) | |

## PART B: Classification of Offence

| Classification of Offence | |
|---|---|
| Type of reportable offence | |

| Where a Classifiable Offence, as defined under 5.3 (a) of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, is the reason for the citing use this table to indicate the level of conduct alleged | Conduct | Impact | Contact Area | Tick Suggested |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Intentional Conduct | High | High / Groin | ☐ |
| | | | Body | ☐ |
| | | Medium | High / Groin | ☐ |
| | | | Body | ~~N/A~~ |
| | | Low | High / Groin | ~~N/A~~ |
| | | | Body | ~~N/A~~ |
| | Careless Conduct | High | High / Groin | ☐ |
| | | | Body | ~~N/A~~ |
| | | Medium | High / Groin | ~~N/A~~ |
| | | | Body | ~~N/A~~ |
| | | Low | High / Groin | ~~N/A~~ |
| | | | Body | ~~N/A~~ |

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

## PART C: Signatory & Payment

| Signatory | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name of Person Lodging Form** | | **From (Club name, Umpire, etc)** | |
| **Email** | | **Phone** | |
| **Signature** | | **Date** | |

| Payment Method | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cheque Attached** | ☐ | | |
| **EFT** | ☐ | **EFT Receipt No** | |
| **Other** | ☐ | **Details if Other** | |

| LEAGUE USE ONLY | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Lodged Date** | | **Time** | |

## Appendix "D" – RECORDING OF IMAGES

(A) This Appendix governs the recording of images, video and/or audio by way of electronic or any other means (recording) of League activities where used by or for the use of or on behalf of Clubs and/or for, by or on behalf of their Officials (recorder). It must be read in conjunction with relevant Codes of Conduct and the Registration Terms and Conditions. Where this Appendix is inconsistent with specific provisions in the Registration Terms and Conditions, such specific provisions of the Registration Terms and Conditions will prevail.

(B) This Appendix sets out the terms and conditions on which such recording can take place, seeking to balance the reasonable expectations of privacy by the participants and the reasonable use of such recordings for legitimate purposes.

(C) In this Appendix, participant means all Players, Club appointed Umpires and Team Officials, and does not include Supporters and officially appointed Umpires.

(D) The law surrounding the taking of recordings, particularly of minors, is complex. AFL NSW/ACT takes this issue very seriously and the provisions below are designed to assist Clubs, Officials, Players, families and Supporters, as stakeholders, to deal with this complex issue. However, these provisions are not legal advice, and all stakeholders must make their own enquiries. Whilst AFL NSW/ACT will provide information, guidance and assistance on these issues, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) provisions lies with individual stakeholders, as appropriate.

(E) When a person enters private land, they consent to any requirements that the property owner may impose on them. This may include restrictions, including prohibitions on the making of a recording of events held on their land. There is nothing, however, to prevent a person from making a recording from outside of the borders of private land, regardless of the property owner's preferences. In the absence of conduct that is offensive or threatening and unlikely to interfere with the public enjoyment of a public place, there is nothing to prevent a person from making a recording of minors in public places.

(F) It is thus not generally illegal to make a recording of minors at sporting events, but a common-sense approach needs to be taken.

(G) Persons making a recording and persons using such recordings must be mindful of the complex issues surrounding privacy.

(H) Unless consent is specifically withdrawn, by reason of the Registration Terms and Conditions, the Player's image in any form or medium is able to be used for general marketing and promotional activities.

(I) These provisions seek to strike a balance between concerns regarding privacy and the reasonable use of such images

(J) Recordings may only be used within the spirit of the game and within the Laws of the Game and consistent with the Code of Conduct.

(K) By agreeing to the Registration Terms and Conditions, the participant irrevocably consents to the use of participant's footage and likeness for Competition management and administrative purposes

(L) The recorder may only record Matches and other AFL related activities such as practice Matches, training and drills (**activity** or **activities**) for legal, instructional, Coaching and promotional purposes (**the accepted purposes**) and must not record activities for commercial, indecent, inappropriate or illegal purposes.

(M) Subject to the direction and supervision of the League, and the direction or ruling by the relevant Conduct Committee or Tribunal, such recording may be used for legitimate purposes in Code of Conduct investigations and/or Tribunal hearings.

(N) The recorder must inform the Ground manager (where appointed), the Coach and/or Team manager of the Club and any Club (**other Club**) whose participants are involved in the activity to be recorded, before the recording is commenced. The other Club may not object to the recording being made. The Coaches and/or Team managers must use their best endeavours to inform participants, and the Parents of all participants who are minors, of the recording.

(O) If a copy of the recording is requested by an official of the other Club (the **requestor**), the recorder must provide a copy within 3 working days after being provided by the requestor with suitable media on which to copy the recording. The requestor shall pay the amount identified in Table 1. The League may request a copy of the recording and advise the recorder of the media on which it wishes to receive the recording and such copy shall be provided to the League without charge within 3 working days.

(P) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall provide a copy of the recording to any other party except with the written consent of both Clubs.

(Q) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall post, stream or otherwise share the recording, including on the internet or social media. The recording may be shared for instructional, Coaching, Tribunal /Code of Conduct purposes but only by the Club, the other Club or the League. Except where used for the accepted purposes, none of the Applicant, the requestor or the League may make any other form of publication of the recording.

(R) The requestor and the League may only use the recording for the purposes outlined in the clause above.

(S) A recording may be used for promotional purposes unless the consent of the Parent of any Players who are minors for the use of such recording has been withdrawn prior to its use (informed consent).

(T) Where informed consent is required, it is the sole responsibility of the party who is required to obtain the informed consent to obtain such informed consent.

(U) The provisions of this document apply to recordings however and by whomever made or obtained.

(V) Table 2 sets out various activities and how they are covered by this Appendix. However, the Table is for guidance only, and if there is any discrepancy between the Table and this Appendix, the provisions of this Appendix prevail.

(W) Breach of the terms of this Appendix, or the spirit of the game or the Code of Conduct is an act of Misconduct under the Laws of the Game, and will be dealt with pursuant to the By-laws accordingly.

**Table 1**

| Provisions | Amount |
|---|---|
| Amount to be paid by the requestor pursuant to Clause (O) | Forty (40) dollars |

**Table 2**

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

## Appendix “E” – MELEE MATRIX

NOT APPLICABLE

## Appendix "F" – OFFICIALS & TEAM SUPPORT STAFF DRESS REQUIREMENTS

As required by Rule 9.1.4, all listed team officials are wear vests or shirts, as detailed in the tables below, for the duration of any Match for which they are officiating.

### Under Age Competitions (including Junior Development Age Groups)

| Role | Colour of Vest / Shirt | Wording on Vest<br>(Must be clearly visible in white) |
|---|---|---|
| **Ground Manager** | Yellow | GROUND MANAGER |
| **Medical/ERC** | Pink | MEDICAL |
| **Coach** | Blue | COACH |
| **Runner** | Pink | RUNNER |
| **Water Carriers** | White | WATER or WATER CARRIER |
| **Boundary Umpire** | White | BOUNDARY UMPIRE |
| **Goal Umpire** | White | GOAL UMPIRE |
| **Team Manager** | Maroon | MANAGER or TEAM MANAGER |

## Appendix "G" – PLAYER FINALS ELIGIBILITY

The following provisions are made in accordance with Rule 10.9.

(A) Any request to vary the application of Appendix G is to be made to the CMC, but such variation will only be applied by the CMC in the most extenuating circumstances for example, where a Player misses a significant number of Matches due to serious illness, injury or pregnancy (more than 6 Matches). Such request must be supported by a doctor's certificate or other acceptable evidence and a One Hundred-dollar ($100) deposit fee (refundable in whole or in part at the discretion of the CMC). Dispensation applications must, unless the CMC otherwise agrees, be made to the CMC at least seven (7) days before the finals begin. The CMC may impose such additional or other terms or conditions on the approval as it considers appropriate.

(B) To play in finals, a Players' registration must have been approved and the Player must have played at least four (4) Matches during that season within the Team that they wish to play for, such Matches having been recorded in Footyweb.

(C) If a Youth Girl Player plays a minimum of four (4) Matches in a mixed age group/division she will be eligible to play Finals in that age group/division, even if she has played a greater number of Matches in a higher Youth age group/division.

(D) With respect to all competitions, any Player who plays more Matches in an older age group or higher Division than in a younger age group or lower division is ineligible for finals in the younger age group or lower division. This Rule applies across the oldest age group in AFL Sydney Juniors into AFL Sydney.

(E) If a Player participates in all Matches in both age groups or divisions, and where the older Age Group or higher Division has more Matches due to byes in the lower age group or division, section (D) does not apply.

(F) Players referred to in section (D) playing in Under 19's or Senior Teams in AFL Sydney must play in the Club's highest division Team.

(G) Players may participate in multiple finals games, provided they are eligible as per bylaws 6.7 - Player movement between teams (In Season), Section (B) & Section (D).

(H) Presentations to be made on Grand Final day are determined by the umpires and as agreed to by the CMC.

## Appendix "H" – PERMIT TYPES

The description of each Permit Type below should be read in conjunction with the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations and Rule 5.3 of the Rules.

| Permit | Application | Club Approval | Finals Impact | League Approval |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Local Interchange Permit** | A permit allowing a player to play for a Club (other than the one to which the player is registered) subject to home Club approval via Footyweb<br>Player can play with both Clubs subject to League Rules | Yes | Nil | Subject to completion of an Interchange Agreement for inter-League only |
| **Match Day Permit *** | A permit allowing a player to play a single match for a Club (other than the one to which the player is registered) but which does not require home Club approval via Footyweb | Not required | Cannot play for recipient Club | Yes |
| **Temporary Transfer** | A transfer for player who has temporarily transferred to or from the Northern Territory Football League for a maximum of one (1) season in accordance with the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations | Yes | Nil | Subject to completion of an Interchange Agreement |
| **Student Permit **** | A permit to allow a Player to participate in a match with their original Football Club (being the club they were registered with prior to be cleared to their current Club) during registered school holidays, semester vacations or other designated times.<br>Treated the same was as a Local Interchange Permit | | | |
| **State League Player Trial Permit ***** | A permit treated in the same way as a Match Permit although authorisations are required as noted below | | | |

### * Match Day Permits

A Player registered with a League Club may play with another League Club (in the same League) under the following conditions:

(A) The interchange of all players under this Regulation must be approved by the League Competition Management Committee;

(B) The Player only plays with one Club on any weekend or round;

(C) The Footyweb permit system shall be the facility used to activate such interchanges (A Match Permit);

(D) Competition Matches played on Match permit do not count towards finals eligibility with either Club;

(E) 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 permit is to allow a Club with surplus Player(s) on a given Competition Match day to give these Player(s) a Competition Match of football with another club as well as allow a Player to trial with another Club which is playing in a higher grade or division

### ** Student Permits

(A) Subject to (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 approval from the current Club, the former Club and their respective Leagues.

(B) The permit application (AFL NSW/ACT PERMIT FOR STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME) is to be approved by those outlined in (a) above 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.

### *** State League Player Trial Permit

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

(A) The permit of all Players under this Regulation must be approved by the Administration Committee, the NEAFL Manager and the 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 Competition Matches per season with the one (1) State League Club;

(E) A Community League Club can only permit one (1) Player to each State League Club on any given weekend or round;

(F) For each trial-Match a Player's weekly Match payments and/or contract with their current Club must be honoured by the State League Club;

(G) Competition Matches played on permit shall count towards finals eligibility for both the State League and Community Club.

## Appendix "I" – MINIMUM AGE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY BREAKDOWN

The below table should be read in conjunction with Rule 5.2.1 and 5.2.3 of the Rules

| Age Group | Year of Birth | |
|---|---|---|
| | Eligible to Play | Dispensation Required |
| Senior Grade | 2004 or older | 2005 or younger |
| Under 19 | 2002 | 2005 or younger |
| | 2003 | |
| | 2004 | |
| Under 18 | 2003 | 2005 or younger |
| | 2004 | |
| Under 17 | 2004 | 2006 or younger |
| | 2005 | |
| Under 16 | 2005 | 2008 or younger |
| | 2006 | |
| | 2007 | |
| Under 15 | 2006 | 2009 or younger |
| | 2007 | |
| | 2008 | |
| Under 14 | 2007 | 2010 or younger |
| | 2008 | |
| | 2009 | |
| Under 13 | 2008 | 2011 or younger |
| | 2009 | |
| | 2010 | |
| Under 12 | 2009 | 2012 or younger |
| | 2010 | |
| | 2011 | |
| Under 11 | 2010 | 2013 or younger |
| | 2011 | |
| | 2012 | |
| Under 10 | 2011 | 2014 or younger |
| | 2012 | |
| | 2013 | |
| Under 9 | 2012 | |
| | 2013 | |
| | 2014* | |

**Minimum Age ACT** Born on or after 30/04/2014
**Minimum Age NSW** Born on or after 31/07/2014

*subject to minimum age

# Appendix "J" – UMPIRES FEES 2021

| | Regular Season | |
|---|---|---|
| | One Umpire | Two Umpires |
| Under 9 | $25 | $20ea |
| Under 10 | $25 | $20ea |
| Under 11 | $35 | $25ea |
| Under 12 | $50 | $30ea |
| Under 13 | $60 | $40ea |
| Under 14 | $70 | $50ea |
| Under 15 | $75 | $55ea |
| Under 16 | $80 | $60ea |
| Under 17 | $85 | $65ea |
| Under 18 | $85 | $65ea |

| | Semi & Prelim | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | One Umpire | Two Umpires | Boundary | Goal |
| Under 9 | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* |
| Under 10 | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* |
| Under 11 | $35 | $25ea | *n/a* | $15ea |
| Under 12 | $50 | $30ea | *n/a* | $15ea |
| Under 13 | $60 | $40ea | $25ea | $20ea |
| Under 14 | $70 | $50ea | $30ea | $25ea |
| Under 15 | $75 | $55ea | $35ea | $25ea |
| Under 16 | $80 | $60ea | $35ea | $25ea |
| Under 17 | $85 | $65ea | $40ea | $30ea |
| Under 18 | $85 | $65ea | $40ea | $30ea |

| | Grand Finals | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | One Umpire | Two Umpires | Boundary | Goal |
| Under 9 | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* |
| Under 10 | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* | *n/a* |
| Under 11 | $45 | $35ea | *n/a* | $15ea |
| Under 12 | $60 | $40ea | *n/a* | $15ea |
| Under 13 | $70 | $50ea | $30ea | $25ea |
| Under 14 | $80 | $60ea | $35ea | $25ea |
| Under 15 | $85 | $65ea | $40ea | $30ea |
| Under 16 | $90 | $70ea | $40ea | $30ea |
| Under 17 | $95 | $75ea | $45ea | $35ea |
| Under 18 | $95 | $75ea | $45ea | $35ea |

**Late arrival of umpire**

Should an Umpire arrive late to an appointed Match, then the level of payment will be made on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata calculation is on the basis of whole quarters officiated during the Match.

**Standby Appointment**

Where an Umpire takes control of a Match that is underway (due to another Umpire's non-arrival) then the minimum fee payable will be pro-rata to the whole quarters officiated during the Match.

**Review Process**

The key components of the Umpire Review Process are:

(A) Completion of the Umpire's Review Form for Under 9's to Under 12's inclusive is compulsory, with non-compliance of a correctly completed form incurring a fine (i.e. non-submission/umpire identification or completing person's identification not provided). With Under 13's to Under 17's inclusive, completion of the Umpire's Review form is strongly encouraged but is currently not compulsory.
(B) An online process enables Coaches via the web at a more convenient time after the Match to complete his or her views and provide constructive feedback.
(C) Preseason Training and access to the necessary link on the website will be provided.
(D) It is expected that a Coach will complete the online form by 9.00am on the Tuesday following a Match.
(E) A review of feedback and comments by the Umpire Manager and any necessary follow up actions.

**Summary**

The aim of this process is to provide meaningful assessment of our Junior Umpires. To alleviate the "heat of battle" responses and to give a Coach time to consider a constructive review, the timing for completion of the review is extended. The CMC seeks to deliver an acceptable level of competency for all Umpires. This can only be achieved if Club Coaches and management of Junior Teams are prepared to provide constructive comment in their assessment of an Umpire's performance.

# Appendix "K" – YOUTH AND JUNIOR BYLAWS

| Rule | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Playing Field (Min-Max)** | 100m (L) x 80m (W) | 100m (L) x 80m (W) | 100-140 (L) x 75-95 (W) | 100-140 (L) x 75-95 (W) | Full Field | Full Field | Full Field | Full Field |
| **Ball Size** | Size 2 - Synthetic | Size 2 - Synthetic | Size 3 Leather | Size 3 Leather | Size 4 - Leather | Size 4 - Leather | Size 5 - Leather | Size 5 - Leather |
| **Player Allocation** | Min - 9<br>Max - 12<br>Bench - Unlimited | Min - 9<br>Max - 12<br>Bench - Unlimited | Min - 12<br>Max - 15<br>Bench - 6 | Min - 12<br>Max - 15<br>Bench - 6 | Min - 15 (Div1&2)<br>13 (Div 3 + West Syd)<br>Max - 16<br>Bench - 6 | Min - 15 (Div1&2)<br>13 (Div 3 + West Syd)<br>Max - 16<br>Bench - 6 | Min - 15 (Div1&2)<br>13 (Div 3 + West Syd)<br>Max - 16<br>Bench - 6 | Min - 15 (Div1&2)<br>13 (Div 3 + West Syd)<br>Max - 16<br>Bench - 6 |
| **Playing Times** | 4 x 10 Mins Quarters 4/5/4 intervals | 4 x 10 Mins Quarters 4/5/4 intervals | 4 x 13 Min Quarters 4/5/4 Intervals | 4 x 13 Min Quarters 4/5/4 Intervals | 4 x 15 Min Quarters 4/5/4 Intervals | 4 x 15 Min Quarters 4/5/4 Intervals | 4 x 15 Min Quarters 4/5/4 Intervals | 4 x 16 Min Quarters 4/5/4 Intervals |
| **Smothering, Sheparding, Barging and Fending** | X | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Tackling** | Modified Tackle | Modified Tackle | As per the laws of the game | | | | | |
| **Zones** | 3 Zones - Only Forwards can score | 3 Zones - Only Forwards can score | As per the laws of the game | | | | | |
| **Starting and Restarting Play** | No Full possession allowed from ruck<br>As per match policy | | | | As per the laws of the game | | | |
| **Out of Bounds** | Last Kick - Ball given to nearest opponent<br>Off hands or body - Ball up 5m from Boundary | | | | Ball Up - Field umpire<br>10m from Boundary | | Boundary Throw In<br>As per laws of the game | |
| **Marking (Distance)** | Any Distance | Any Distance | 10m | 10m | 15m | 15m | 15m | 15m |
| **Run and Bounce** | 10m & 1 Bounce | 10m & 1 Bounce | 15m & 2 Bounces | 15m & 2 Bounces | As per the laws of the game | | | |
| **Distance Penalties** | 10m | 10m | 25m | 25m | 50m - As per laws of the game | | | |
| **Kicking off the ground** | **X**<br>Unless accidental | **X**<br>Unless accidental | **X**<br>Unless accidental | **X**<br>Unless accidental | As per the laws of the game | | | |
| **Deliberate out of bounds** | Not Applied | Not Applied | Not Applied | Not Applied | Not Applied | Not Applied | Not Applied | Not Applied |
| **Playing On & Advantage** | X | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **# of Umpires - Field** | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| **Boundary** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply |
| **Goal** | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply |
| **Officials allowed (Max.8) *allowed on Field** | Coach*, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner | Coach*, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner | Coach, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner<br>4 x Water carrier | Coach, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner<br>4 x Water carrier | Coach, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner<br>4 x Water carrier | Coach, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner<br>4 x Water carrier | Coach, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner<br>4 x Water carrier | Coach, Ass. Coach<br>Manager, Runner<br>4 x Water carrier |

| Rule | U10 Youth Girls | U12 Youth Girls | U14 Youth Girls | U16 Youth Girls | U18 Youth Girls |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Playing Field (Min-Max)** | 100m (L) x 80m (W) | 100-140 (L) x 75-95 (W) | 120 – Full (L) x 95 – Full (W) | Full Field | Full Field |
| **Ball Size** | Size 2 - Synthetic | Size 3 Syn/Leather | Size 3 - Leather | Size 4 - Leather | Size 4 - Leather |
| **Player Allocation** | Min - 9 | Min - 9 | Min – 9 | Min - 12 | Min - 12 |
| | Max - 12 | Max - 12 | Max – 15 | Max - 16 | Max - 16 |
| | Bench - Unlimited | Bench - 6 | Bench – 6 | Bench - 6 | Bench - 6 |
| **Playing Times** | 4 x 10 Mins Quarters | 4 x 13 Min Quarters | 4 x 15 Min Quarters | 4 x 15 Min Quarters | 4 x 16 Min Quarters |
| | 4/5/4 intervals | 4/5/4 Intervals | 4/5/4 Intervals | 4/5/4 Intervals | 4/5/4 Intervals |
| **Smothering, Sheparding, Barging and Fending** | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Tackling** | Modified Tackle | As per the laws of the game | | | |
| **Zones** | 3 Zones. Only Forwards can score | As per the laws of the game | | | |
| **Starting and Restarting Play** | No Full possession allowed from ruck. | | As per the laws of the game | | |
| **Out of Bounds** | Last Kick – Ball given to nearest opponent Off hands or body – Ball up 5m from boundary | | Ball Up 10m from boundary | As per the laws of the game | |
| **Marking (Distance)** | Any Distance | 10m | 15m | 15m | 15m |
| **Run and Bounce** | 10m & 1 Bounce | 15m & 2 Bounces | As per the laws of the game | | |
| **Distance Penalties** | 10m | 25m | As per the laws of the game | | |
| **Kicking off the Ground** | **X** (unless accidental) | | As per the laws of the game | | |
| **Deliberate out of bounds / Rushed Behind** | Not Applied | | | | |
| **Playing On & Advantage** | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **# of Umpires – Field** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| **Boundary** | N/A | N/A | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply |
| **Goal** | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply | Club to supply |
| **Officials allowed (Max.8)** | Coach*, Ass. Coach Manager, Runner | Coach*, Ass. Coach Manager, Runner 4 x Water carrier | Coach*, Ass. Coach Manager, Runner 4 x Water carrier | Coach*, Ass. Coach Manager, Runner 4 x Water carrier | Coach*, Ass. Coach Manager, Runner 4 x Water carrier |

## U9s and U10s Specific Rules

(A) Zones

Players will be instructed to by the Umpire to stay in their correct position.

(i) The field is divided into three (3) zones: forwards, centres and backs. The Players are rotated through the zones in each Match to ensure that all Players experience the different field positions. Four (4) distinguishable markers (low domes) are placed on the sideline and across the ground to mark the zones. Coaches are to agree that cones are appropriate (size and softness).

(ii) The forwards are the only Players who can kick a score. These Players are marked with a clearly identifiable armband indicating that they are the forwards. Should a centre-zone or backs Player kick the ball through the goal posts, no score is recorded and it is treated like any other out of bounds.

(iii) It is important to realise that the marking of zones is to help both the Players and the Umpire understand where Players should be. It is not a 'taboo' marker but an indication that a Player is close to the end of the zone. In essence there is a little 'grey area' where a Player may dispose of a ball just over the zone line. The Umpire will communicate with the Players and attempt to ensure that the use of the 'grey area' is kept to a minimum. The use of armbands by the forwards helps the umpire identify where a Player is intended to be.

(iv) Players are unable to take full possession of the ball at the start of play (ball up/centre bounce) or the recommencement of play around the ground. In fact, the Umpire will use different Players from the zone where the play is in to contest the bounce.

(v) The interchange gate for these age groups is marked by smaller witch's hats and is the area that the Team will use to move Players from and onto the ground.

(B) Starting and Restarting Play

(i) A ball up is conducted between 2 centre Players of similar height as nominated by the Umpire. The Umpire should nominate different pairs of Players for subsequent ball ups after goals are scored.

(ii) Only 3 centre line Players attend centre bounces (20 m clearance from all other Players). The Umpire is to enforce a similar 20 m clearance for field ball ups.

(iii) No full possession is allowed.

(iv) The full possession Rule is applied as follows:

(a) A Player contesting the ball up may not grab the ball and play on; and The Player must knock, palm or punch the ball to a teammate or open ground, and may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another Player or hit the ground.

(C) Modified Tackling

(i) A Player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the Player with the ball (That is, push back the Player in the back).

(ii) If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the Umpire feels the Player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball.

(iii) A Player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.

(iv) The Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the Player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the Player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.

(v) The Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a Player's hands by an opponent.

(vi) A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a free kick.

(vii) There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition Player in possession of the ball to the ground.

(viii) Players cannot:

(a) knock the ball out of an opponent's hands

(b) push the Player in the side

(c) steal the ball from another Player

(d) smother an opponent's kick or shepherd an opponent

(e) deliberately pull or grab the hair of an opponent

**Appendix "L" – CONDUCT COMMITTEE REPORT**

# CONDUCT COMMITTEE

# REPORT

**[details of game/incident]**

**[date of incident}**

**[location of incident]**

Signature:
[name of member]
Conduct Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Conduct Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Conduct Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Conduct Committee

**FOR DISTRIBUTION:**

**Club** [if and as required]

**Club** [if and as required]

**Umpires/Umpire Co-ordinator** [if and as required]

**Regional Development Manager** [insert]

[INSERT NAME OF REGION] **Regional Committee**

**AFL Sydney Juniors** [insert names]

Date: 202

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CONDUCT COMMITTEE

FORMAT OF INVESTIGATION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS

RULING - ADJUDICATION

**Conduct Committee**

The Conduct Committee was appointed by AFL Sydney Juniors [INSERT NAME OF REGION] Regional Committee to investigate and adjudicate on [describe incident etc the subject of the Conduct Committee ("the incident").

The Conduct Committee appointed was independent of the incident and comprised the following:

- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]
- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]
- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]

The duties of the Conduct Committee:

(A) Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters that may be referred to it from time to time by the CMC or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Tribunal.

(B) Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in Match wins. If any penalty is imposed on a Club by way of a fine, it shall not exceed the sum of five hundred Dollars ($500).

(C) Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Regional Committee. Subject to the overall supervision of the CMC, such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the Conduct Committee shall be final in all cases.

**Format of Investigation**

The Conduct Committee referred to and utilised the AFL Players' Code of Conduct in conjunction with specific clauses from the Bylaws [delete or insert any other material specifically referred to, as appropriate].

The Conduct Committee gathered information and held a formal meeting/inquiry at [insert time] on [insert date], at [location].

In attendance were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Conduct Committee | As detailed above |
| [name of Club, if relevant]. | [name and position of any representatives of Club] |
| [name of Club, if relevant]. | [name and position of any representatives of Club] |
| [name of any person whose conduct is the subject of the Conduct Committee, Club and any position held, if appropriate] | [name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and position] |
| [name of other relevant persons attending/appearing, such as Umpires, and any relevant position they hold] | [name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and any position held] |
| [names of witnesses, Club and any position they may hold, if applicable] | |

This Report will not detail all the information collated and submitted during the course of the investigation.

All letters, documents and supporting evidence gathered/submitted during the investigation will be placed on the Conduct Committee – [insert Region] file and kept with League records.

This report summarises the Conduct Committee findings, recommendations and ruling (adjudication) on the incident

**Findings**

(B) [insert specific findings made by the Conduct Committee as a result of its adjudication]

**Recommendations**

The Conduct Committee submits the following recommendations to the [insert name of Region] Regional Committee for implementation and/or action:

## Appendix "M" – REWARD E-POINTS

**Objective**

The system is reward focused. As a lack of good behaviour can have a direct impact on a Team's ladder position, it is in every Club's interest, to ensure measures are in place to ensure good conduct occurs on and off the field.

It is very important to acknowledge that an appropriate response to issue management is only **one** part of the objective of the initiative. Beyond the management of any issues, a **better and more enjoyable environment for all** could reflect in a Club's capacity to retain Players and recruit volunteer support. Great clubs do have great cultures.

Reward E Points is a system where Wins and Losses, on Match day, are supplemented by "Reward E Points" that reward a Team can accumulate for good behaviour Yellow and Red cards, Reports and Code of Conduct breaches may result in a forfeiture of reward points and ultimately have an impact on a Team's position on the ladder. It provides a "Reward" that all Clubs can avail themselves of.

**How does it work?**

In addition to the normal "Win" and "Loss" points that are allocated, through Footyweb, Reward E Points are allocated, thereby assuming a really positive environment for all, at all Matches.

A sample Premiership ladder during the season may look like this:

| | Played | Won | Lost | Draw | Bye | Forfeits | | F & A Pts | | % | Points | %Points | Match Ratio |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Points Value | | 8 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 4 | | | | | | |
| | P | W | L | D | B | FF | FA | F | A | % | Pts | % Pts | %Won |
| Samples | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Club A | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 486 | 192 | 253.13 | 48 | 100 | 100 |
| Club B | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 420 | 209 | 200.96 | 36 | 90 | 80 |
| Club C | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 319 | 301 | 105.98 | 32 | 80 | 60 |
| Club D | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 335 | 360 | 93.06 | 32 | 80 | 60 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sort C | | Sort A | Sort B |

(A) Each Winning Team would be allocated with Eight (8) Premiership Points.
(B) Each Losing Team would be allocated with Four (4) Premiership Points.
(C) Six (6) Premiership Points would be given to each participating Team if the Match ends in a draw.
(D) Eight (8) Premiership Points would be given to a Team receiving a Forfeit
(E) Four (4) Premiership Points would be given to a Team Giving a Forfeit

The final position of a Team on a Ladder, as seen in the example, is determined by the following Calculations, in the order:

(A) Sort A – Firstly, Points Ratio of Points earned Win/Loss and Reward Points) against Points available.
(B) Sort B – Secondly, by the Match Ratio of Wins against Matches Played and
(C) Sort C - If needed a third sort by For and Against Percentages

**The example above does not account for non allocation of Reward E Points**

The conditions under which a Team would not be granted Reward E Points are below

## Reward E Points Table 2021

| Condition | Outcome |
|---|---|
| **Yellow Card and Red Card Reports**<br><br>Acceptance of Prescribed Penalty Offers (PPO) | If found Guilty at a Tribunal non-allocation of two (2) Reward E Points<br><br>Non-allocation of two (2) Reward E Points |
| **Blue Card Category 1**<br><br>Calm Down. When a Player becomes "overheated", "overexcited" or angry in his or her behaviour, just short of a Yellow Card, and may possibly offend the Laws or Bylaws, the Umpire may give a Blue Card.<br><br>Where a Player offends for a second time, the Player will be given a Yellow Card | Reward E Points not affected<br><br>Non-allocation of one (1) Reward Point |
| **Blue Card Category 2** – Other<br><br>A review of this category may be made by the<br><br>CMC and the Umpire Manager post-match | **For Swearing**<br><br>(A) Obscene language directed at any individual – non-allocation of one (1) Reward E Point<br>(B) Insulting, personal language directed clearly at the umpire – Non-allocation of one (1) Reward E Point<br>(C) Swearing through frustration not directed at anyone – no non-allocation of Reward E Points. If Repeated, non-allocation of one (1) Reward E Point<br><br>**For Abuse**<br><br>(A) Directed at an umpire – non-allocation of one (1) Reward E Point<br>(B) Directed elsewhere – warning, then non-allocation of one (1) Reward E Point<br><br>**For Rough Conduct / Inappropriate Conduct**<br><br>(A) Warning, then non-allocation of one (1) Reward E Point, unless reportable |
| **Club Reports** | With U11 and U12's where a Club Conduct Committee is actioned, the attending representative of the Umpire Group or CMC will determine any adjustment to Reward E Points.<br><br>Maximum of non-allocation of two (2) Reward E Points |
| **Outcomes of Code of Conduct Hearing** (Not Club Reports) | A penalty imposed by a panel may incur a non-allocation of up to two (2) Reward E Points maximum |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Crowd Behaviour** - generally | A matter referred to a Conduct Committee established by the CMC may incur non-allocation of two (2) Reward E Points maximum |
| General Warnings issued by the CMC<br>(Example - seeking appropriate apologies) | May incur non-allocation of two (2) Reward E Points maximum |
| Failing to adhere to the principles of 10 goal equalisation rule (5.10). Determined by CMC | First infraction E Points allocated (warning)<br>2nd and subsequent– Two (2) E Points deducted, or penalty as determined by CMC. |
| Umpire report of poor sideline behaviour by spectators or officials. Determined by CMC | First infraction E Points allocated (warning)<br>2nd and subsequent – Two (2) E Points deducted, or penalty as determined by CMC. |

- Crowd Behaviour - Where during a Match the Umpire believes that the behaviour of the Spectators for a Team is inappropriate, in actions and words, the Umpire at the next break will advise the Ground Manager to address the behaviour for it to be stopped. If the behaviour does not stop after the break, or returns later, the Umpire will report such behaviour in the Match Report for review by the CMC for determination of the non-allocation of Reward E Points

- Where a specific individual is involved, the Umpire will at the next break advise the Ground Manager to address the behaviour for it to be stopped. If the behaviour does not stop after the break, or returns later, the Umpire will report such behaviour in the Match Report and the CMC and Umpire Manager will determine the allocation of Reward E Points.

Points apply to all Players, Coaches, Volunteers, Clubs and Spectators alike.

- Each participating Team may incur non-allocation of a maximum of four (4) Reward E Points per Match for any Rule breach.

- No Yellow Card infringement appeal is permissible. The CMC will continue to review all Yellow and Red cards issued by Umpires, understanding that Umpires involved are of varying levels of experience. Where the CMC and the Umpire Manager believe that a Yellow or Red card was not appropriate in the circumstances, then this will be removed from the record of the Team/Player, and the Umpire will be provided with the necessary education.

- It is anticipated that non-allocation of Reward E Points would normally be resolved weekly, after any Tribunals or PPO's are completed. Sometimes where delays occur in resolving matters, the weekly update on Reward E Points will be noted.

- Matters that occur in the last home & away Match round, will not be subject to the non-allocation of Reward E Points.

- Where Reward E Points are not awarded, Ladders will be automatically updated prior to the next scheduled fixtures for that team.

## Appendix "N" – PLAYER DISPENSATION FORM

The _____Football Club makes an Application for

Player's Full name:_____

Address:_____

for dispensation to play in (Age division):_____

Players Date of Birth:____/_____/2020

Club must include on Club letterhead the Player's full playing history and details of the Player's disability, including a certificate signed by a Sports Physician or Pediatrician, stating the basis for and reasons to support the request for the Player to play down a Competition age group and the qualifications of the person providing the Certificate.

This Application is made by the Club on behalf of the abovenamed Player by:

SIGNED: _____DATE: _____/_____/20_____

This Application is made by the Club and my request and all information supplied is true and correct.

PARENT /GUARDIAN NAME:_____

SIGNED:_____DATE:_____/_____/20_____

---

NOTE: Player must not play in a lower Competition age group until written approval is received by the Club.

Email this Application and supporting documents/Certificate to: **bob.robinson@afl.com.au**

This Dispensation Application, if approved, is valid for the current Season only.

NOTE; Player must not play in a lower Competition age group until written approval is received by the Club.

**For Sydney Juniors Use Only:**

**Date Received:_____/_____/ 20___**

**1 Certificate Received: YES/NO**

**2 Supports Application for Dispensation: YES/NO**

**3 Application Granted: YES/NO**

**Any Conditions/provisos?**
_____

**4 If further information required, what?**_____

_____

## Appendix "O" – PLAYING IN A HIGHER AGE GROUP

**AFL Sydney Juniors Application for Player Exemption**

**Playing up an Age Level Consent Form**

The AFL's Australian Football Match Policy states the following, in relation to minors playing up an age level:

*The AFL policy acknowledges the principle role of the parent or guardian in determining that a player should play in a higher age competition than the one determined by the player's chronological age. Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level. The decision whether a player should play up beyond the two-year age span should be based on the advantages to be gained by the player.*

Should any minor seek to play up an age level, as a result of the unavailability of an age appropriate group, that minor requires the consent of a parent or legal guardian to be able to do so.

Each player seeking an exemption to play up an age level will be individually assessed by [Enter League] staff, based on their size, social maturity, skill and ability.

In order to apply for exemption to play up and age level, the following Playing Up an Age Level Consent Form must be completed and submitted to the AFL Sydney CMC. No player is to commence playing up an age level until written confirmation of the exemption is provided to the Parent/Guardian, by AFL Sydney.

**Parent/Guardian Consent**

I _____ , being the parent/legal guardian of _____ (player's name), seek player exemption and provide consent, for my child to play up in the _____ age level in the 2019 season, with the _____ Club, during the 2018 Season.

**1. Indemnity Clause**

**1.1** This consent is provided on the understanding that the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT, AFL Sydney and the _____ Football Club will ***not*** be liable for ***any*** injury to my child (named above) or anybody else, as a result of their participation in the older playing age group. I also agree that in the event my child is injured, I will not bring any claim, legal or otherwise, against all of those parties identified above, in respect to that injury or damage.

**1.2** Furthermore, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT, AFL Sydney and the _____ Football Club, as well as any of their officers, servants and agents from and against any liability or cost which all of those identified above incur, concerning any claim or action arising, directly or indirectly, from my child's participation in the activities.

**1.3** I agree that the laws of NSW will apply as the case may be.

**1.4** I acknowledge that my child has the physical capacity and social maturity which enables them to compete adequately at the higher playing age level.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Legal Guardian)

Name: _____Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Relationship to Player: _____Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

**Endorsement by Club President**:_____(Name)

Signed:_____Date:_____/_____/_____

In providing this endorsement the Club President acknowledges that the player seeking exemption is known to the Club. The President further acknowledges that the Club has taken reasonable steps to assure officials that the child has the physical capacity and social maturity which enables them to compete adequately at the higher playing age level.

Once completed, this Application for Exemption is to be retained by AFL Sydney, and respective Football Club for compliance purposes.

## Appendix "P" – SUPPLEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

### Players Code of Conduct

Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct on Match day and during training or other Club activities:

(A) Play in accordance with the Laws including by (but not limited to):
- (i) not striking, kicking, kneeing, stomping on, charging, scratching, tripping, spitting at, wrestling, pinching another person (or attempting to do so), or any other inappropriate or unsporting behaviour;
- (ii) refraining from rough conduct or forceful contact such as head butting, eye-gouging or making contact to the face of an opponent (or attempting to do so); and
- (iii) abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening, inappropriate or obscene language, communication or behaviour.

(B) Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
- (v) accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
- (vi) accepting directions and requests made by the Coach and other Officials without argument; and
- (vii) encouraging Team mates to behave in a like manner.

(C) Encourage a safe, friendly and fun environment for all Players, Officials, Parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
- (i) controlling your temper and playing attitude;
- (ii) not sledging, bullying and other inappropriate discriminatory behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
- (iii) focussing on your own performance and play as a Team member;
- (iv) applauding good play and the achievements of other Players, including the opposition;
- (v) not voicing criticism of or ridiculing others, including via social media;
- (vi) consulting your Team Manager or Coach regarding any disagreement with a decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour;
- (vii) respecting the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs; and
- (viii) accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

#### *Notes for Players*

(A) Play in accordance with the Laws.

(B) Never argue with an Official. If you disagree with a decision, you should ask the Team Manager to raise the matter at an appropriate time.

(C) Control your temper. Verbal abuse of Officials and sledging other Players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.

(D) Never engage in any type of unnecessary physical activity, either on or off the field.

(E) Work equally hard for you and your Team. The Teams performance will benefit, and so will yours.

(F) Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether by your Team or the opposition.

(G) Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.

(H) Co-operate with your Coaches, Team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.

(I) Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of your Teammates, not to please anyone else.

(J) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnic background, or ability.

(K) Don't take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information see the National Member Protection Policy.

(L) Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

(M) Do not by your actions or words bring the AFL, the League, your Club or the game into disrepute. Breach of the Player's Code of Conduct may result in you being reported or referred to a Conduct Committee.

### Parents and Supporters/Spectators Code of Conduct

Parents and supporters/spectators are bound by the following Code of Conduct on Match day and during training or other Club activities:

(A) Support the Team by behaving in a positive fashion including by (but not limited to):
  (i) providing only positive feedback and recognition for the efforts of Players and Officials;
  (ii) refraining from instructing, coaching or distracting any Player during play or training;
  (iii) encouraging participation, enjoyment and performance equally.

(B) Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
  (i) accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
  (ii) accepting directions and requests made by the Coach and other Officials without argument; and
  (iii) encouraging other parents and supporters/spectators to behave in a like manner.

(C) Encourage a beneficial environment for all Players, Officials, Parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
  (i) controlling your temper and refraining from disruptive behaviour;
  (ii) refraining from aggressive barracking, bullying and other inappropriate behaviour, as well as unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
  (iii) applauding good play and the achievements of all Players, including from the opposing Team;
  (iv) not voicing criticism of or ridiculing others in public - especially via social media;
  (v) consulting the Team Manager or Coach regarding any disagreement with a decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour;
  (vi) recognising and respecting the efforts of all participants, including volunteers;
  (vii) respecting the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs; and
  (viii) accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

***Notes for Parents and Supporters***

(A) Enjoy the game in accordance with the Laws;
(B) Never argue with any Umpire or Official. If you disagree with a decision, you should ask the Team Manager to raise the matter at an appropriate time;
(C) Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether made by your Team or the opposition;
(D) Co-operate with the Coaches, all Players and the Team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game or competition;
(E) Enjoy being a spectator;
(F) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnic background, or ability.
(G) Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

***Breach of the Code of Conduct, including any of the following provisions, may result in referral to the Conduct Committee***

(A) do not engage in abusive, insulting, threatening, inappropriate or obscene language, communication or behaviour;
(B) do not lose your temper or engage in verbal abuse of any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators;
(C) do not engage in sledging any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators, or deliberately distract or provoke any participants;
(D) do not engage in any type of unnecessary physical activity involving any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators;
(E) do not approach or seek to engage with the Umpires;
(F) do not enter the field, except as allowed by the Ground Manager during quarter breaks and following the conclusion of the game;
(G) do not take part in any form of bullying, including via the use of social media:
(H) do not make detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any Match Officials, Umpires, Players, Officials or any policy decisions of the Club, the Regions or AFL Sydney Juniors;
(I) do not by your actions or words bring the AFL, the League, your Club or the game into disrepute.

**Official's Code of Conduct**

The Officials of all Clubs are bound by the following Official's Code of Conduct on Match day and during training or other club activities:

(A) Officiate in accordance with the role to which you are appointed including by (but not limited to):
   (i) acquiring a proper knowledge of and abiding by the Laws and Rules (and, where appropriate) applying them honestly, uniformly and fairly;
   (ii) refraining from destructive or exaggerated feedback and commentary on the efforts of Players and other Officials;
   (iii) encouraging participation, enjoyment and performance equally.

(B) Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
   (i) accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
   (ii) refraining from approaching the Umpires (except when acting as Ground Manager - or if a Goal, or Boundary Umpire, limited to assisting the Field Umpire as requested);
   (iii) accepting directions and requests made by Ground Managers and other authorised Officials without argument; and
   (iv) encouraging other Officials to behave in a like manner.

(C) Encourage a safe, friendly and fun environment for all Players, Officials, Parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
   (i) taking steps to ensure Coaches, Boundary and Goal Umpires, First Aid and other Officials understand their respective responsibilities and respect the need for fair play in sport;
   (ii) controlling your temper and refraining from disruptive behaviour;
   (iii) refraining from unnecessary interference, all bullying and other inappropriate behaviour and any unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
   (iv) applauding good play and the achievements of all Players including from the opposing Team;
   (v) avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others, including via social media;
   (vi) recognising and respecting the efforts of all participants, including other volunteers;
   (vii) consulting the Ground Manager regarding any disagreement with a Match day decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour on Match day;
   (viii) addressing early (and assisting other Officials in highlighting and dealing with) any misconduct and other inappropriate behaviour;
   (ix) respecting (and ensuring the safety of) the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs; and
   (x) accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

(D) Promoting the health of your club and the Competition including by (but not limited to):
   (i) being a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance;
   (ii) involving others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football;
   (iii) creating pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, Umpires and administrators;
   (iv) appointing, training and developing qualified and competent Coaches and Officials;
   (v) helping Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and to improve the standards of Coaching and officiating;
   (vi) seeking continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies;
   (vii) being consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
   (viii) condemning deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promoting fair play and appropriate sports behaviour;
   (ix) placing the health and safety of the Players as the most important reason to be weighed during the decision-making process;
   (x) ensuring you remain up to date with any changes and/or interpretation of Laws and Rules; and
   (xi) using common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the Match' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws of the Game.

***Notes for Officials***

(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 for the ability level of the participants.

(D) Appoint, train and develop qualified and competent Coaches and Officials.

(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 Laws and 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) Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

(K) Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

(L) Ensure all Parents, Coaches, sponsors, Officials, First Aid Officials and Players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.

(M) Abide by the Rules (including any requirements or restraints applying to any official role such as a Boundary or Goal Umpire).

(N) Display fairness and uniformity in applying the Rules.

(O) Be honest in your assessment of situations.

(P) Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.

(Q) Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.

(R) The health and safety of the Players must be the most important reason to be weighed during the decision-making process.

(S) Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the Match' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws.

(T) Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.

(U) Ensure you remain up to date with any Law changes and/or interpretation of Laws.

(V) Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.

(W) Where acting as a Boundary or Goal Umpire, act at all times in a professional manner, do not barrack or give support to a Team, give advice or make comment to the Players, other Officials or spectators, and under no circumstances approach the Field Umpire, except in relation to your Umpiring duties.

***Breach of the Code of Conduct, including any of the following provisions, may result in referral to the Conduct Committee or the Tribunal***

(A) do not engage in abusive, insulting, threatening, inappropriate or obscene language, communication or behaviour;
(B) do not lose your temper or engage in verbal abuse of any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators;
(C) do not engage in sledging any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators, or deliberately distract or provoke any participants;
(D) do not engage in any type of unnecessary physical activity involving any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators;
(E) do not approach or seek to engage with the Umpires, except when acting as Ground Manager - or if a Goal, or Boundary Umpire, limited to assisting the Field Umpire as requested);
(F) do not enter the field, except when performing official on field activities;
(G) do not take part in any form of bullying, including via the use of social media:
(H) do not make detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any Match Officials, Umpires, Players, Officials or any policy decisions of the Club, the Regions or AFL Sydney Juniors;
(I) do not by your actions or words bring the AFL, the League, your Club or the game into disrepute.

***Coaches Code of Conduct and Role of the Coach***

The Coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The Coach interfaces with all groups involved within a Club and assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the Match, both today, and in particular with Coaches of junior Teams, in the future. It is essential that every Coach be aware of this unique position and so conduct themselves in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position.

All Coaches, whether accredited or not, are bound by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, as well as the Rules, including the specific Rules governing Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures.

**Coaches Code of Conduct**

Coaches are bound by the Official's Code of Conduct. In addition, Coaches are bound by the following Coaches Code of Conduct on Match day and during training or other Club activities:

(A) Coach in accordance with the Laws and Rules including by (but not limited to):
- (i) ensuring Players coached conduct themselves within the limits and the spirit of the Laws and Rules;
- (ii) removing from play (by send-off direction or otherwise) immediately any Player coached who participates in conduct which breaches the Laws or Rules;
- (iii) anticipating conduct that warrants, and exercising appropriately, the power to direct a Player coached to come off the field during a Match or training;
- (iv) dealing with Players coached honestly, uniformly and fairly;
- (v) restricting Match day coaching communications to runners (or otherwise in accordance with the age group Rules) and otherwise refraining from active Coaching from the sidelines;
- (vi) refraining from open and audible commentary on the effort or performance of the other Team's Players, Coach and other Officials; and
- (vii) ensuring injured Players are protected and given prompt and competent first aid and medical attention and health policies (such as for concussion) are strictly applied.

(B) Respect the Umpires, Ground Managers, opposing Coaches and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
- (F) requiring Team and supporter acceptance of decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
- (G) supporting the role of the Ground Manager including by providing appropriate directions to any Player, parent, supporter or Team Official;
- (H) encouraging parents, supporters and Team Officials to behave in a like manner.

(C) Encourage a beneficial environment for all Players, Officials, parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
- (i) taking the lead in promoting fair play, good sportsmanship and the encouraging recognition for of good role models;
- (ii) keeping up to date with practical training methods and good Coaching theory;
- (iii) developing your Players' skills, fitness and good character in equal measure with Team development;
- (iv) encouraging others to recognise and applaud good play and the achievements of all Players, including the opposition;
- (v) setting reasonable and attainable demands, goals and expectations;
- (vi) not voicing criticism of or ridiculing Players and those assisting or playing against you;
- (vii) ensuring Players and parents appreciate that regular attendance at training and on Match day, together with private practice, is an essential part of Player development;
- (viii) co-opting assistance from and supporting the efforts of the Ground Manager and other Match day Officials; and
- (ix) fostering respect for self and others including for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.

***Notes for Coaches***

(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 setting demands, goals and expectations.
(E) Maintain a current knowledge of the Laws, the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical, and abide by those Laws and Rules.
(F) Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
(G) Never ridicule Players.
(H) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, and not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, ethnic background, or ability.
(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 First Aid attention and that any 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 your Players.

(M) Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.
(N) Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
(O) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any Match Officials, Umpires, Players, volunteer or any policy decisions of the Club, the Region, AFL Sydney Juniors or the AFL.

***Coach and Administrators***

(A) Remember the Coach is a representative of the Club's administration and therefore it is important that Coaches conduct themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
(B) Support the administration policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be resolved privately in a composed manner.
(C) Adhere to Club policy in both letter and spirit.
(D) Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

***Coach and Umpires***

(A) Treat the Umpire with the utmost good faith and respect.
(B) Introduce the Umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the Match and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
(C) Instruct Officials, Players and spectators that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the Match, nor the intervals within a Match, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
(D) Restrain any Official, Player or spectator from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
(E) Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
(F) Never criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
(G) Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

***Coach and Supporters/Spectators***

(A) Encourage spectators to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either Team for good, fair play.
(B) Ensure that spectators do not interfere with the Match or encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
(C) Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with spectator's behaviour and request the Club administration to act in a manner to diffuse any possible problems.

***Coach and Parents***

(A) At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the Coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the Coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the Coaches guidelines.
(B) Request parents support the Coach in any disciplinary action the Coach is required to undertake.
(C) Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the Coach, the Club's Officials, the Umpires, volunteers and the opposition Officials, Players and spectators.
(D) Request that if a parent has a problem with the Coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the Coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to Club administration.

***Breach of the Code of Conduct, including any of the following provisions, may result in referral to the Conduct Committee or the Tribunal***

(A) do not engage in abusive, insulting, threatening, inappropriate or obscene language, communication or behaviour;
(B) do not lose your temper or engage in verbal abuse of any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators;
(C) do not engage in sledging any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators, or deliberately distract or provoke any participants;
(D) do not engage in any type of unnecessary physical activity involving any participants including Umpires, Officials, Players or spectators;
(E) do not approach or seek to engage with the Umpires, except as allowed b the Rules;
(F) do not take part in any form of bullying, including via the use of social media:

(G) do not make detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any Match Officials, Umpires, Players, Officials or any policy decisions of the Club, the Regions or AFL Sydney Juniors;
(H) do not by your actions or words bring the AFL, the League, your Club or the game into disrepute.

## RESOURCE LINKS

NOT APPLICABLE