

**AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited**



# **REGULATIONS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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

## **DEFINITIONS**

In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

**Affiliation Agreement** means the agreement between AFL NSW/ACT and a League outlining the rights and obligations of the parties including the benefits 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).

**Appeals Board** means the state Appeals Board of AFL NSW/ACT appointed to determine an appeal in accordance with Regulation 16.1.

**Appeals Board Panel** means the AFL NSW/ACT state Appeals Board Panel constituted in accordance with Regulation 16.1.

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

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

**By-Laws** means the Competition By-Laws issued by the League.

**Chair** means the Chair of the Appeals Board as appointed in accordance with Regulation 16.1(a).

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

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

**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 (CMC)** means a committee appointed by a League in accordance with Regulation 2.10, that controls the management of League's Competitions including ensuring compliance with the Regulations and By-Laws.

**Conduct Committee** means an independent committee appointed by a League whose duties are to determine and enforce matters relating to the Code of Conduct.

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

**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.

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

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

**Junior** means Players up to and under the age of 19 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

**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 an Australian Football Competition within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

**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 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 Regulation 16.

**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.

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

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

**Regulations** means these AFL NSW/ACT Regulations including appendixes as issued from time to time.

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

**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.

**Tribunal** means the tribunal constituted by a League under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines or National Disciplinary Tribunal 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 umpires whether League or Club appointed.

## **INTERPRETATION**

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

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

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

## **1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION**

These Regulations specify the regulations applicable for the conduct of the Leagues in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

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

### **1.1 Objectives**

The objectives of the Regulations are to:

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

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

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

## **2. AFFILIATION CONDITIONS**

### **2.1 Affiliation Conditions**

Any Australian Football league, the membership of which includes any club or clubs in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory, may apply to affiliate with AFL

NSW/ACT subject to pre-conditions for affiliation and ongoing compliance with the conditions in Regulation 2.

## **2.2 League Constitution**

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

## **2.3 Affiliation Agreement**

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

## **2.4 League Compliance**

Each League agrees to adopt and comply with these Regulations including Appendixes.

## **2.5 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.

## **2.6 Application of Competition Rules and By-Laws**

Each League agrees to comply with these Regulations and that in the event of any inconsistency between the constitution of such League and the Constitution or Regulations of AFL NSW/ACT, then the constitution and/or by laws of such League will be invalid to the extent of such inconsistency.

## **2.7 League Contact Details**

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

- (a) a list of the names, addresses, telephone and email addresses of its Officials;  
and
- (b) the League Members register.

## **2.8 Club Contact Details**

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

## **2.9 Club Participation Agreement**

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.

## **2.10 Competition Management Committee**

Each League shall establish a Competition Management Committee to control the day to day management of the League's Competitions including the application and enforcement of the Regulations and By-Laws, which shall consist of at least two (2) of the following positions:



- (a) League Chair/ President (if applicable);
- (b) State Manager – Football Operations (AFL NSW/ACT);
- (c) Regional Manager (AFL NSW/ACT);
- (d) Regulatory Manager (AFL NSW/ACT);
- (e) Community Football Manager (if applicable) (AFL NSW/ACT employee);
- (f) Football Operations Manager or Coordinator (if applicable) (AFL NSW/ACT employee); or
- (g) Other persons as delegated by the League.

## **2.11 Club Incorporation**

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

## **2.12 Refusal or Cancellation of Affiliation**

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

## **2.13 Affiliation 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.

## **2.14 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 as arranged by JLT Sport or any substitute policy as arranged or administered by the AFL.

## **2.15 Sponsorship / Marketing Affiliation**

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

## **2.16 Club Names and Club 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 Competition Management Committee 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 Competition Management Committee for approval before use, such approval to be granted or withheld at the sole discretion of the Competition Management Committee.

## **2.17 Appointment of 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) Any senior field, senior boundary or senior goal umpire coach:
  - (i) shall be eligible to be appointed to any practice match or home and away match as required;
  - (ii) shall not be eligible to be appointed to a senior representative fixture match;
  - (iii) shall be eligible to be appointed to any grand final, with the exception of a senior (first grade or equivalent) grand final unless prior written approval has been granted by the State Umpiring Manager or an independent selection panel is in place.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, any other field, boundary or goal umpire coach that formally holds a coaching position with AFL NSW/ACT (for example, but not limited to a state league umpires' coach or assistant coach) are not eligible to be appointed to Senior (first grade or equivalent) representative fixture matches or senior (first grade or equivalent) grand finals.

## **2.18 Appointment of Club Integrity Officer**

Each Club must appoint an Integrity Officer who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable rules and regulations by the Club, it's 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, child safety, alcohol and illicit drug use. The Integrity Officer will act the primary point of contact for all Club related integrity matters.

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

### **3.1 Compliance**

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

### **3.2 Disciplinary Sanctions**

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

- (a) reasonable and sufficient notice of each and every particular of the alleged breach or breaches;
- (b) notice of possible sanctions; and

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

### **3.3 Exclusion of Liability**

AFL NSW/ACT may excuse:

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

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

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

### **4.1 Player Registration**

- (a) Individuals must be registered in accordance with this Regulation 4 in order to be eligible to play in Competition Matches with a Club. Online registration forms must be completed prior to a Player taking part in a Competition Match (unless in accordance with Regulation 4.11(a)).
- (b) All Player registrations are processed through Footyweb, or any other system as determined by AFL NSW/ACT or the AFL from time to time.
- (c) No person will be registered or re-registered under an assumed name unless such assumed name and the reason for its necessary use is notified to and accepted by the League and the person's legal name and current address are submitted to the League at the time of registration. Such information shall be kept confidential by the League.
- (d) Upon a person's registration application being approved, the person shall be deemed a player of that Club until such time as the person has either been granted a transfer to play with another club or a period of twenty-four (24) calendar months has elapsed since the person last played competition football for the Club with which he or she was last registered.
- (e) Players are required to re-register with their existing Club each season through Footyweb. A new registration form is not required to be completed for re-registration.

### **4.2 Registration Documentation**

- (a) All Player registrations must be submitted electronically via Footyweb by the player or, where the Player is Under 18 years of age as of 1 January in the year of registration, the registration must be submitted by the Player's parent or legal guardian.
- (b) For the registration to be active, the Club must accept the Player's registration.
- (c) Clubs must not register a Player without the Player's consent.

- (d) Documentation evidencing proof of age in the form of an original birth certificate, photo licence, passport, 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.
- (e) On request from the Competition Management Committee, the Club must provide copies of documentation in Regulation 4.2(d) within three (3) working days of the request.
- (f) Violation of Regulation 4.2(e) may result in a Player being disqualified and any dispensations withdrawn.

#### **4.3 Dual Registration**

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

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

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

#### **4.5 Misleading and Incorrect Information**

- (a) Any Player who knowingly submits incorrect information or who intentionally fails to disclose information on any registration form or transfer application may be subject to the following penalties as determined by the League in its absolute discretion:
  - (i) De-registration for a defined period of time; or
  - (ii) Suspension from participation in a match or matches.
- (b) In addition to Regulation 4.5(a) above, the League may also retrospectively deem or determine that the Player was ineligible for any Competition Matches in which he/she has played.
- (c) Any Club Official or Club that is party to a breach of this Regulation may be sanctioned by the League in its absolute discretion.

#### **4.6 Unregistered and 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 (including in finals) may be subject to disciplinary sanctions to be imposed by the League including but not limited to the loss of Competition Match points, a fine of up to \$1,000 for each Competition Match in which such player has played and any additional conditions as reasonably determined by the League. Only under exceptional circumstances will the loss of Match points for that Competition Match not apply.

- (c) Any ineligible Player(s), Official(s) and/or Club(s) 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 Regulation may be liable for suspension or deregistration in addition to any loss of Match points and fine(s).
- (d) 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.

#### **4.7 Eligibility of Minors or Juniors**

- (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 Junior Age Competitions – two (2) years below the relevant age group (i.e. thirteen (13) years of age for an Under 15's Competition).
- (d) Subject to Regulation 4.7(a), a Player may seek to play in Competitions outside the minimum ages outlined above via written application to the League submitted by the Player's Club accompanied by written consent of the Player's parent or guardian using the Parent Consent Form prescribed by AFL NSW/ACT. Any such approval may only be granted by the League in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the relevant considerations in the Australian Football Match Policy.

#### **4.8 Players seeking to play down a Competition Age Group**

A Player seeking dispensation to play down in a lower Competition Age Group must obtain a dispensation in accordance with the National Age Dispensation Policy.

#### **4.9 Female Participation**

In accordance with the Australian Football Match 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.

#### **4.10 Pregnancy**

- (a) In Accordance with the Member Protection Policy 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.

#### **4.11 Match Day Registrations – Juniors**

- (a) Registration of a Player on match day may be granted to Prospective Players subject to:
  - (i) Full registration details are subsequently entered into Footyweb by 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the relevant Competition Match;
  - (ii) New Player(s) name, address, birth date are noted on the back of the team sheet; and
  - (iii) 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, Regulation 4.6 will apply.

### **5. PLAYER TRANSFERS**

#### **5.1 Player Transfers**

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

#### **5.2 Interchange Agreements**

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

#### **5.3 No Transfer Required**

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

#### **5.4 Permits**

- (a) 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.

## **5.5 Leagues / Clubs Disbanding / Amalgamating**

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

## **5.6 General**

- (a) Each League must keep a register of all Player Transfer applications in Footyweb.
- (b) A Player or Coach under disqualification by a League or Tribunal may be granted a transfer to a Club in another League during his or her period of suspension but such Player or Coach must serve the remainder of his or her suspension before playing or coaching in Competition Matches with the new Club.
- (c) Notwithstanding anything within these Regulations, Leagues may apply to AFL NSW/ACT accordance with the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations to transfer a Player after 30 June.

## **6. CLUB TRANSFERRING**

- (a) Clubs seeking to transfer to another 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.
- (b) If any League is seeking a Club(s) from any other League, then the inviting League must notify the Secretary of the current League of such Club(s) at least fourteen (14) days prior to the invitation to the Club(s). Any Club(s) that accepts the League's invitation must provide its current League with no less than fourteen (14) days' notice of its intention to transfer to another League. Should

the Club's current League fail to determine the application within sixty (60) days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer automatically to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL NSW/ACT at the same time as lodgement with the League.

- (c) A League must obtain the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT prior to affiliating any newly formed Club.
- (d) In the event of a Club being refused permission to transfer to or join another League, the Club may appeal to AFL NSW/ACT Appeals Board in accordance with Regulation 14.
- (e) In the event of a League disbanding, the Clubs affiliated with that League will be transferred to another League as determined by AFL NSW/ACT in its absolute discretion.
- (f) Any League or Club may appeal a decision made by AFL NSW/ACT pursuant to Regulation 6 (e) in accordance with Regulation 17.

## **7. COACHES AND OFFICIALS**

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

- (a) All Coaches must be registered in Footyweb.
- (b) All Head Coaches must have as a minimum, Foundation Coach Accreditation, applicable to the age group that they are coaching in order to coach a team.
- (c) In addition to Regulation 7.1(b) above, Leagues may impose additional accreditation requirements on Coaches for specific Competitions.
- (d) 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 Unregistered and Unaccredited Coaches**

- (a) Any Coach not accredited or registered or registered based upon incorrect information is ineligible to coach a Club's team in a Competition Match.
- (b) Any Club who engages or permits an ineligible Coach to officiate during a Competition Match may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including the loss of Competition Match points and / or a fine determined by the League in its absolute discretion.
- (c) Ineligible Coach(es) may also be liable for disciplinary sanctions including a fine, suspension, deregistration or ban on registration as determined by the League in its absolute discretion.
- (d) When an allegation has been made against any Club for engaging an ineligible Coach the Club is responsible for the appearance of the Coach at any investigation or hearing conducted by the League.
- (e) Each Club must ensure that persons not eligible to Coach must not:
  - (i) display signs of Coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant Coach or Coaches, runners, water carriers and/ or trainers, before or during the game;



- (ii) enter the playing arena at any stage during the match. If, however, the Coach is a parent of a Player participating in a Juniors or Youth finals match, the Coach may enter the field at the quarter time and three-quarter time breaks but must not address the team; or
- (iii) be within twenty-five (25) metres from the team's interchange bench during a Competition Match.

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

- (a) Any suspended Player, Coach or Official is an ineligible person and will not be allowed to act in any way as a Coach, Umpire, trainer, runner, water-carrier or any official "on field" capacity in any Competition Match for the duration of his/her suspension.
- (b) Any suspended Coach is prohibited from, during the period of suspension, to:
  - (i) displaying signs of Coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant Coach or Coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the match;
  - (ii) entering the playing arena at any stage during the match;
  - (iii) being within twenty twenty-five (25) metres from the teams' interchange bench during the match; or
  - (iv) entering the change rooms before or during the match, including half time.

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

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

## **9. WORKING WITH CHILDREN POLICY**

- (a) All persons must comply with the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation.
- (b) All Coaches and Team Managers must obtain a Working with Children Clearance, whether they are exempt under the Regulations 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.

## **10. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEMS AND OTHER LEAGUE RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS**

- (a) Prior to any League introducing, utilising, or implementing, a Player Points System or Player Payment Rules, the Player Points System or Players Payment Rule must be in a form approved in writing by AFL NSW/ACT.

- (b) In addition to the obligations of a League under Regulation 10(a), no League may introduce, utilise or implement any rule, regulation or other binding provision or direction that relates to or impacts on the registration or transfer of players, competitive balance or equalisation mechanisms in respect of the League's Competitions or the number of teams Clubs may enter or field in the League's Competitions, without the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT.

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

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

## **12. 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). Clubs of the League, Leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or Leagues controlled by AFL NSW/ACT must submit details of any proposed use of AFL Marks to AFL NSW/ACT prior to any use thereof including use for advertising or promotional purposes.
- (b) Clubs and the League acknowledge that the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT are the owners of the AFL Marks and of the goodwill attaching to the AFL Marks and agree that the AFL Marks must remain vested in the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT and agree not to challenge the validity or ownership of the AFL Marks.
- (c) Clubs and the League must not register any trade marks, company or business names, logos, symbols, emblems, designs, or other indicia using the AFL Marks or any component thereof.
- (d) Clubs and the League agree not to alter the AFL Marks in any way nor to affix, incorporate or use the AFL Marks, in connection with or as part of another trade mark, distinctive mark, name, brand or thing.
- (e) Clubs and the League recognise the great value of the AFL Marks and acknowledge the goodwill attached thereto and that all rights, title and interest therein including the copyright thereto vests in and belongs to AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT.
- (f) Clubs and the League agree that they will not at any time do any act, matter or thing intended to or which might otherwise have the effect of interfering with, restricting, limiting or challenging the proprietary rights of AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT in and to the AFL Marks.

## **13. BROADCASTING RIGHTS**

- (a) In this Regulation 15, 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 on-line 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 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 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 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 Regulation 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 Regulation 13.

## **14. FOOTBALLS AND APPROVED SUPPLIERS**

### **14.1 Footballs**

- (a) Two footballs of a suitable standard must be provided for use in each Competition Match. Subject to this Regulation 14, the standards and requirements relating to footballs for all grades of Competition will be determined by the League.
- (b) AFL NSW/ACT's approved suppliers of footballs are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo on footballs. Where applicable, the official Match ball supplier(s) are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo on footballs used in Competition Matches. The current list of AFL NSW/ACT official Match ball supplier(s) and approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.
- (c) Match balls used in Competition Matches must include the AFL NSW/ACT logo, unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ACT in writing.
- (d) Unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ACT in writing, the football sizes to be used in Competition Matches are as follows:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Size</b>
Open Men's	5
Open Women's	4
Boy's Under 15 – Under 19	5
Mixed Under 13 – Under 14	4
Mixed Under 11- Under 12	3
Mixed Under 8 – Under 10	2
Girls Under 15 – Under 18	4
Girls Under 12	3
Girls Under 10	2

#### **14.2 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. The current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.
- (b) Jumpers worn by Players must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo, which must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size, on the right breast.
- (c) Jumpers worn by Players may have the League or Club logo, which must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size, on the left breast.
- (d) Shorts worn by Players must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo, which must not exceed 39cm<sup>2</sup> with a maximum width of 7cm on the left thigh.

#### **14.3 Umpire Uniform Branding**

- (a) Subject to this Regulation 14.3, each League has the right to display partner or sponsor branding on Umpire uniforms.
- (b) Subject to this Regulation 14.3, a League may have a formal written agreement with an Umpires' Association which grants rights to that Umpiring Association to brand parts of the Umpiring uniform.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Each League must submit all Umpire uniform designs to AFL NSW/ACT for approval which will not be unreasonably withheld.
- (e) 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 must comply with the following:
  - a. Include the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast which must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height.
  - b. Any left breast sponsor logo must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height.
  - c. Any front mid-region sponsor logo must not exceed 28.5cm width and 8.5cm height.
  - d. Any rear sponsor logo must not exceed 30cm width and 13cm height.
  - e. Any sleeve sponsor logo must not exceed 12cm width and 8cm height.
- (f) On-field umpiring shorts must comply with the following:
  - (i) Include the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the left thigh which must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height.
  - (ii) Any right thigh sponsor logo must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height.

## **15. DISCIPLINARY AND TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES**

- (a) Leagues must adopt the procedures set out in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT, the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines, the Code of Conduct including the Incident Referral form and the Prescribed Penalty System as issued from time to time, for any disciplinary related matters.
- (b) League Tribunals and Appeals Boards shall be comprised of three (3) persons for any hearing unless exceptional circumstances apply where only two (2) persons are available to sit. In such instances, the Tribunal or Appeals Board Chair must seek consent of both parties for the hearing to proceed, otherwise the hearing will be adjourned.

## **16. APPEALS**

### **16.1 State Appeals Board**

- (a) Members of the State 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 persons who in the opinion of the CEO possess the appropriate qualifications.

(b) Qualifications:

Save and except where the CEO otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Appeals Board Panel if that person:

- (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.

in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment.

(c) Appointment of Appeals Board Members:

The CEO may from time to time appoint persons to the Appeals Board, including the Chair.

(d) Absent Appeals Board Members:

If for any period and for any reason a member is absent or unable to attend a hearing of the Appeals Board, the CEO may appoint a person who in his/her opinion is a suitable replacement.

(e) Resignation:

A member of the Appeals Board may resign by providing notice in writing to the CEO.

(f) Removal:

The CEO may remove a member of the Appeals Board at any time in the CEO's absolute discretion.

(g) 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.

## 16.2 Appeal Procedure

(a) Right of Appeal:

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 regulations and policies including:

- (i) these Regulations;
- (ii) AFL National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;

- (iii) State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines;
- (iv) National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines;
- (v) AFL National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
- (vi) AFL National Player Registration and Transfer Regulation's; and
- (vii) National Age Dispensation Policy.

In the event that the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT regulations and policies do not outline the grounds for appeal or application to AFL NSW/ACT, the grounds set out in Regulation 16.2(b) apply.

(b) Grounds of Appeal – Administrative Decisions:

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**).

For the avoidance of doubt, the Grounds in this Regulation 16(b) do not override the grounds, if any, set out in the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT regulations or policies.

(c) Appeal Procedure:

- (i) A registered Player, Official, Club or League:
  - a. 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 National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines (as the case may be); and
  - b. may appeal a determination (other than a Tribunal determination under 16.2(c)(i)a to the Appeals Board within 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 28 days after the relevant request for a determination).

- (d) Lodgement of Appeals:
- (i) Notice of an Appeal is brought by lodging a written notice with the CEO (or delegate). The Notice of Appeal must:
    - a. be in writing;
    - b. lodged with the CEO (or delegate);
    - c. state the grounds of appeal and any submissions in respect of the Chair's decision to be made under Regulation 16.2(d)(iii); and
    - d. include full details of the event precipitating the appeal together with any information which might assist in its consideration.
  - (ii) Prior to convening and fixing the time of an appeal hearing, the appellant must provide payment to AFL NSW/ACT of:
    - a. the sum of \$500 towards the costs of the appeal, which is not refundable in any circumstances; and
    - b. an additional sum of \$500 which shall be dealt with as follows:
      - 1. 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 Regulation 16.10; and
      - 2. 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.
  - (iii) 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 Regulation 16.3.

### 16.3 Hearing Procedure

- (a) Time for Hearing of Appeal:
- (i) Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Appeal and the required sums outlined in Regulation 16.2(d)(ii) the CEO (or delegate), in consultation with the Chair, shall:
    - a. fix the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal as soon as reasonably practicable; and
    - b. advise all parties with an interest in the appeal in writing of those particulars.
  - (ii) 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.



(b) Attendance:

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.

(c) Submissions:

The Parties must provide written submission to the Appeals Board in accordance with the timeframe as determined by the Appeals Board.

#### **16.4 Obligations of Appeals Board**

(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 these 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.

#### **16.5 Onus and Standard of Proof**

The appellant bears the onus of establishing the grounds of the appeal on the balance of probabilities.

#### **16.6 Representation**

At any hearing before the Appeals Board a person may:

- (a) appear in person; or
- (b) subject to leave of the Appeals Board, be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chair directs.

#### **16.7 Questions of fact and law**

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.

#### **16.8 Powers of appeals Board**

- (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.

#### **16.9 Reasons**

The Appeals Board is not obliged to give reasons for a decision.

#### **16.10 Decision Final**

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. The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

#### **16.11 Matters not provided for**

The Appeals Board shall have the power to decide any matters not provided for in this Regulation 16 to the extent that such matters arise during the course of any hearing.

### **17. DOMESTIC MATTERS**

- (a) Each League has the power to promulgate supplementary by-laws to provide for the effective management of its own affairs, provided that any such supplementary by-laws are not inconsistent with these Regulations.
- (b) If a League seeks to include a regional variation to the By-Laws any such wording change must be appropriately indexed within the structure of the generic AFL NSW/ACT By-Laws.
- (c) In the event of any inconsistency between a League rule or by-law and a provision contained with these Regulations and By-Laws, the latter will prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

### **18. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS**

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

**19. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

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

## 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 spectators;
- (e) Never to argue with or dispute a decision of an Official. If a Participant disagrees with a decision, they should deal with their dispute in accordance with the relevant Rules, Regulations, Policies and Determinations;
- (f) Control their emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse of 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 spectators. 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 spectators, 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/spectator;
  - 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	Yes

		a mentor program by the League; counselling, mediation or written apology; suspended fine for Club	
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 spectator will bring about an automatic revocation or suspension of the Player's eligibility to play and/or Coach's permit to coach for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee in its absolute discretion.
- (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 spectator 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.
- c) Club Officials must co-operate in assisting the Ground Manager upon request to identify and obtain details for any member or supporter belonging to their Club. Where it is believed that a Club Official has not co-operated appropriately, it will be considered a Level 2 breach.

#### **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 Spectator Conduct**

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

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

## Appendix “B”



### PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS

#### **Introduction**

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

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

#### **Procedure**

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

Once the Player Report Form and Report Template has been received the League will process the report and decide whether:

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

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

The Player (either directly or via the Club) shall notify the League of the acceptance or refusal to accept the set penalty no later than 4.00pm on the Tuesday following the Match in which the Player was reported (or 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 by the League.

# Appendix "C"

## INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

TO: [Insert League]  
E mail  
Fax]

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

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

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

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

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

Reportable Offence or Code of Conduct Breach:

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Reportable Offence/ Infringement (s):

\_\_\_\_\_

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### Note:

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

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

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

Vicinity at Venue:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Other relevant information:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

(Please Circle)

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

**League use only:**

Lodged with League on \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (time)