

AFL Hunter Central Coast – Seniors



BY-LAWS 2020 – SENIOR COMPETITIONS

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Introduction

The following By-Laws have been made by AFL Hunter Central Coast pursuant to its role to administer Australian Football Competitions in the Hunter Central Coast Region.

Definitions

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

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

AFL Hunter Central Coast refers to the League and may also be referred to as AFL HCC

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

Competition Management Committee means the body that controls the management of the League Competition and shall consist of any two (2) from the following positions or otherwise designated by the League:

- Chairman of the Board;
- Football Operations Manager or Coordinator;
- Community Football Manager;
- Regional Manager (Northern NSW);
- State Manager – Football Operations (AFL NSW/ACT);
- Their nominees

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

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

League refers to the AFL Hunter Central Coast Senior Competitions

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

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the melee matrix grading system notified to all Clubs prior to the start of the home and away season, as updated or superseded from time to time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interpretation

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

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

BY-LAWS

1. AFL NSW/ACT REGULATIONS

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

2. CLUB AFFILIATION

- (A) All Clubs must affiliate with the League in the form and on such conditions as determined by the League and AFL NSW/ACT from time to time pursuant to a Club Participation Agreement.
- (B) Affiliation with the League and participating in League Competitions is granted to a Club by the League on an annual basis.
- (C) To be affiliated with the League and participate in League's Competition(s), a Club must lodge a signed application for affiliation or participation, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed affiliation fee, the lodgement of a bond) to the Competition Management Committee and have such application approved by the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) The amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee may:
 - a. approve a Club's affiliation application;
 - b. approve the Club's affiliation application on terms and conditions as it reasonably requires;
 - c. approve the Club's affiliation application with a request for further or additional information, or amend or revise the application;
 - d. refuse to grant the Club's affiliation application; or
 - e. defer same.
- (F) In determining whether to grant a Club's affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to By-Law 2(E), the Competition Management Committee shall take into account:
 - a. the Club's structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long-term planning and development;
 - b. the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of Australian Football;
 - c. the financial health of the Club;
 - d. the behavioural and conduct history of the Club, its Teams, Players, Officials, volunteers and spectators, and the Club's relationships with other Clubs and the League
 - e. any other matter that the Competition Management Committee deems appropriate.
- (G) In accordance with the Club Participation Agreement, the Competition Management Committee may with prior approval from AFL NSW/ ACT, terminate the Club Participation Agreement at any time after each football season by giving 3 month's written notice to the Club. No reasons are required to be provided by the Competition Management Committee. The Club acknowledges and agrees that the Club Participation Agreement does not create a right or expectation of continued participation in any particular Competitions or any future competition/s administered by AFL NSW/ACT.

- (H) Notwithstanding the above, immediately upon notice where:
- a. the Club unreasonably fails to duly and promptly comply with its Obligations in the Club Participation Agreement;
 - b. if the Club or any of its officers, players, official or volunteers does or permits to be done any act or thing which reflects unfavourably upon the reputation, standing or goodwill of the League or the game of Australian Football or engages in any unbecoming conduct or conduct which is prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the League, AFL NSW/ACT or the playing of Australian Football;
 - c. any event occurs which in the opinion of the League or AFL NSW/ACT materially and prejudicially affects the financial position of the Club or the ability of the Club to duly and promptly observe and perform any of its obligations under this Agreement;
 - d. the League is of the opinion that the Club is otherwise unable to pay its debts as and when they fall due;
 - e. the League is of the opinion that the Club is unable to field a team(s) in a Competition administered by AFL NSW/ACT;
 - f. the Club threatens to or ceases to carry on all or part of its operations or disposes of the whole or any substantial part of its assets.

3. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

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

3.1 Attendance at Meetings

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

3.2 Interpretation of the By-Laws

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

3.3 Amendments

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

3.4 Compliance

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

4. LAWS OF THE GAME AND POLICIES

4.1 Governing Laws and Policies

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.
- (B) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League By-Laws and Regulations including:

- a. the Laws of the Game;
- b. the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations;
- c. the National Member Protection Policy;
- d. the National Extreme Weather Policy;
- e. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
- f. the National Gambling Policy;
- g. the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;
- h. the Anti-Doping Policy;
- i. the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy;
- j. the Working With Children Policy;
- k. the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications;
- l. the National Age Dispensation Policy – NSW/ACT;
- m. the National Coaching Accreditation Policy
- n. the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT;
- o. the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines;
- p. the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations;
- q. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
- r. these By-Laws.

- (C) To the extent that these By-Laws are inconsistent with any AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation, rule or policy, the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation or policy will prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.

4.2 Not Applicable

4.3 Player Aids & Protective Equipment

- (A) **Not Applicable**

- (B) No Player shall be permitted to play in a Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself/herself or other Players. The field umpires may at their discretion inspect Players' equipment either before or at any time during the Match.

- (C) **Not Applicable**

- (D) Players who wear spectacles during matches and training must wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses and must be held on securely by a band.

- (E) Compression garments are permitted to be worn under shorts and Guernsey's. It is preferable that they be beige or the same colour as club shorts. Compression shorts must not be longer than the top of the knee and compression tops must be sleeveless. Exemptions to this rule may be sought for medical or religious reasons. Written approval from the Competition Management Committee is required for any exemption prior to a compression garment being worn. The field umpires at their discretion may request evidence of an exemption to be provided prior to a player wearing long length compression garments being allowed on the field of play.

4.4 Alcohol Policy

- (A) Alcohol is permitted to be sold at a League venue by the Host Club. In such cases the Host Club must have the appropriate liquor licence issued by the relevant authority and consent, if required, of the local council.
- (B) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any League venue.
- (C) Each Club is required to ensure that its members and spectators abide by this By-Law. Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue they must report the matter to the League

and advise an Official of the offending member's or spectator's Club, who in turn shall take the necessary action.

- (D) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or spectators fail to adhere to the Official's request, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.
- (E) Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the field of play at any time during the course of a Match. Clubs are required to fix notices to the boundary fence or elsewhere if there is no boundary fence, advising that alcohol is not to be taken onto the field of play.
- (F) Alcohol is not to be consumed by a Club Official either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official Match day role (e.g. timekeeping, ground manager, Umpire escort, Umpire etc.).
- (G) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, alcohol is prohibited during junior/youth Matches. Where both Senior and Junior/Youth Matches are played on the same day at the same venue, League Policy will apply.
Should Junior/Youth and Senior matches be played on the same day at the same venue, Alcohol must not be sold or consumed for a period of thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the last Junior/Youth match of the day.
- (H) Alcohol is only to be consumed in areas specifically provided for in the Host Club's liquor licence which must be clearly marked.
The league has adopted an Alcohol Management Club Policy as per Appendix "F" of these By-Laws, including the adoption of the Good Sports Program.

4.5 Loss of Points

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

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

4.6 Kick-In Rule

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

4.7 50 Metre Penalties

A 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:

- a. uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
- b. behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
- c. intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.
- d. Players may not play on during the advancement of any 50 metre Penalty and must wait until the field Umpire signals time back on (variation from 2020 Laws of the Game).

4.8 Spectator Distance from Boundary

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

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

- (A) Players must start in traditional playing positions at centre bounces.
- (B) Each Team must have Players starting inside both 50 metre arcs, with one player inside the goal square
- (C) Based on a Team’s on-field playing numbers, the number of Players in each area of the field will be as follows:
 - (a) 18 per Team = 6/6/6 (6 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)
 - (b) 17 per Team = 6/5/6 (6 forwards/ 5 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)
 - (c) 16 per Team = 5/6/5 (5 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)
 - (d) 15 per Team = 5/5/5 (5 forwards/ 5 centre (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)
 - (e) 14 per Team = 5/4/5 (5 forwards/ 4 centres/ 5 backs)

4.10 Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to “Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)” is applicable for all AFL Hunter Central Coast Senior Competitions

4.11 Minimum Age of Players

- (A) The minimum age for players to participate in Competition Matches is sixteen (16) years of age as at 1st January preceding the commencement of the season
- (B) The Competition Management Committee may consider the request for a player to participate in Competition Matches who are fifteen (15) years of age as at 1st January preceding the commencement of the season. For such a request to be considered, the player’s club must endorse such a request and the written consent from the player’s parent/guardian must be provided.

4.12 Local Interchange Permits

Players still eligible to participate in the AFL Hunter Central Coast Youth Under 17’s Competitions (Male and Female) may be granted a Local Interchange Permit to play in the AFL Hunter Central Coast Senior Competition subject to the following:

- a. AFL Hunter Central Coast Seniors By-Law 4.11 (Minimum Age of Players) is satisfied.
- b. Clubs can only request a Local Interchange Permit from their designated pathway club. For players involved in a Joint Venture Youth Team, the players club is based on the last standalone team in which the player was registered for. See below for a list of Pathway Clubs.
- c. Any requests for Permits to Clubs outside of the Pathway are to be referred to the Competition management Committee for their consideration.
- d. Clubs seeking to use players under this arrangement shall submit a “2. Local Interchange Permit” for approval by the Respective Youth Club and the League.

Pathway Clubs

Senior Club	Youth Pathway Club
Cardiff	Cardiff
Gosford	Gosford, Peninsula, Niagara Park Ourimbah
Killarney Vale	Killarney Vale
Maitland	Maitland
Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook
Nelson Bay	Nelson Bay, Port Stephens (Male Only)
Newcastle City	Newcastle City
Port Stephens	Port Stephens (Female Only)

Singleton	Singleton
Terrigal Avoca	Terrigal Avoca, Saratoga
The Entrance Bateau Bay	The Entrance Bateau Bay
Wallsend – West Newcastle	Wallsend – West Newcastle, Newcastle City
Warners Bay	Warners Bay
Wyong Lakes	Wyong Lakes, Northern Lakes

4.13 Interchange between AFL Hunter Central Coast and AFL Sydney Clubs

In terms of the National Player Transfer Regulations and Regulation 5.5, AFL Hunter Central Coast and AFL Sydney will enter into a Local Interchange Agreement that shall be approved by both Leagues. Details of such agreement shall be placed on the League Website and distributed to clubs before the commencement of the season.

5. COMPETITIONS

5.1 Season Fixture

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

5.2 Ladder

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

5.3 Match wins

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

- a. Competition Points will be used as the method of determining ladder position;
- b. Four (4) Competition Points will be awarded for a match win;
- c. Two (2) Competition Points will be awarded for a draw;
- d. Zero (0) Competition Points will be awarded for a loss;
- e. Where more than one Team has the same number of Competition Points, Teams will be positioned on the ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against.

5.4 Forfeits

- (A) Any Club unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled is to advise the opposing Club and the League no later than midday the day prior to the Match or as otherwise prescribed by the League. The Match will be treated as a forfeit and, provided an explanation is furnished to the League to its reasonable satisfaction, no sanction or penalty other than those specified in this By-Law will be imposed.
- (B) If there is a forfeit the Host Club must inform the Competition Management Committee as soon as reasonably practical. Should a Club forfeit four (4) matches in the same competition in the one season, that team may be disqualified from the competition, and take no further part in that competition. The club concerned may also be fined an amount as determined by the Board, not exceeding \$1,000.00
- (C) Should a Club forfeit a Match without the required notice, a fine of up to one thousand (1,000) dollars may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) 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.
- (E) Subject to By-Law 5.4 (D), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, the opposing Club may claim the Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.
- (F) All Clubs must field a senior grade Team in the home and away Competition unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Management Committee. Should a Club play in a reserve (or lower grade) grade fixture and subsequently forfeit their senior grade Match on the same weekend, that Club will not be awarded any points for the reserve grade Match and will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as the Competition Management Committee may determine in its absolute discretion.
- (G) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced.
- (H) For Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into Footyweb for the purposes of player eligibility. Entry of a Team is to be completed within seven (7) days of the match being forfeited.
- (I) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Match will be determined as follows:
 - a. Not Applicable.
 - b. In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, a one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) point win to the Club's Team who did not forfeit the Match.
 - c. Where ineligible players have been found to have taken part in a match, the result of the match will be deemed to be equal to a forfeit.
 - d. Where the home team is in receipt of a forfeit, the club is eligible for the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) compensation, in the case that a "Scratch Match" is not played in the place of the scheduled fixture. Should the home team be the forfeiting team, the away team is not entitled to compensation.

e. Where the forfeit is not advised by midday on the day prior to the match, the forfeiting team shall be responsible for any and all umpire fees for allocated umpires, unless those umpires are able to be redeployed to another fixture.

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

5.5 Results of Matches

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

5.6 Other Matches

(A) No Club shall arrange or play in any match other than Matches outlined in the Season Fixture schedule without the prior approval of the Competition Management Committee.

(B) For Senior practice matches the following provisions will apply:

- a. A Practice Match Request Form, as designated by the League, shall be completed and submitted to the League by mid-day the Tuesday before the practice match;
- b. Where a senior practice match is being organised involving Clubs from different League's or a carnival involving multiple Clubs is being organised, the Club hosting the event will be required to submit the Practice Match Request Form.
- c. A Team Sheet using the prescribed template as provided by the League is to be used to list the names and jumper numbers of Players for the match;
- d. All Players must be either registered on Footyweb or be a Prospective Player prior to taking the field;
- e. In all practice matches, Umpires may report players as per the Laws of the Game.
- f. A Person suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal may still participate in practice/training Matches with his registered Club however such Matches will not count as part of the Person's suspension or disqualification
- g. The League will determine the fees payable to League appointed Umpires where a Club or Clubs request the appointment of League Umpires for a practice match.

(C) Not Applicable

5.7 Player Points System Policy (PPS)

- (A) The League has prescribed a PPS which is outlined in "Appendix D". Each Club must submit the proposed points allocation for each Player to the League by the date as prescribed by the League for verification and assessment by the League Equalisation Panel
- (B) Each Player's final points allocation will be uploaded into Footyweb by personnel appointed by the League
- (C) A Club's team for a Competition Match must comply with the Player Points System applicable for the relevant competition. A club who does not comply with the Player Points System may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.
- (D) A Club, Official or Player who provides false or incorrect information may be subject to disciplinary sanctions imposed by the League

6. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

6.1 Participation

(A) Competition representative Teams shall participate in inter-league Matches as directed by the League and sanctioned by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

- (B) The League shall have first call on the services of all Players for its representative Matches and representative training sessions. Any Player who does not make himself/herself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Matches, without the written approval of the Competition Management Committee, may automatically be suspended for the next two (2) Matches in which the Player's Club is participating immediately subsequent to the representative Match concerned.
- (C) Any Player who declares himself/herself unavailable because of injury or illness must make themselves available for a medical examination by a medical practitioner of the League's choice.
- (D) Any Player who fails to attend a scheduled representative training session of which he/she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Competition Management Committee. If in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee the Player's explanation is unacceptable, such Player may be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (E) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competition Management Committee, Players selected in a representative Team will not be permitted to play with their Club on the same weekend of the representative Match concerned. Any Player who takes part in a Match in violation of this By-Law shall be liable for further disqualification. The Team with which the Player participates for may lose any Competition points gained and his/her Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty (250) dollars.
- (F) Any Player selected in a representative team must be a registered Player with a Club participating in Competitions of that League.

6.2 Venue Selection

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

6.3 Offences in Interleague Matches

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

7. UNIFORM AND LOGO REGULATIONS

7.1 Changes to Club Names and Logos

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

7.2 Uniform Design

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

7.3 Jumper Numbers

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

7.4 Uniform Clashes

- (A) To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, the following provisions will apply:
 - a. Subject to 7.4 (A) a. the Host Team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark-brown, blue, green etc.) whilst the away Club's Team will play in white shorts.
 - b. Where the Host Club play in white shorts as its primary playing uniform, the away Team must play in any colour shorts, other than white.
 - c. Where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour as determined by the Competition Management Committee, the away Club's Team must wear a clash jumper as approved by the Competition Management Committee.
 - d. The Competition Management Committee has the ability to allocate the home team to wear white shorts and the away team to wear coloured shorts in any match at their absolute discretion.
 - e. White shorts are not mandatory for AFL Hunter Central Coast Women's teams
 - f. Should an AFL Hunter Central Coast Women's team elect to wear white shorts for away fixtures, design of such shorts must be approved by the Competition Management Committee

7.5 AFL NSW/ACT and Club Approved Suppliers

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

7.6 Sponsor's Logos / Approved Suppliers

- (A) Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.
 - a. Front of Jersey – The Logo must be positioned on the left breast. It is not to exceed 15cm in width and 6cm in depth.
 - b. Back of Jersey – The logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath the player number (or both). The size of the logo must not exceed 6cm in height and 20cm in width if placed above the number and/or 10cm in height and 30cm in width if underneath the number.
- (B) Jumpers worn by Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast and must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (C) Jumpers worn by Clubs may have the League or club logo on the left breast and must not to exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (D) Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion and provided:
 - a. The logo does not exceed 70cm² with a maximum width of 11cm; and
 - b. The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.

- (E) Any alternate request will be assessed by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.

8. TEAMS

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

8.1 Clubs with Multiple Teams in the same Competition

- (A) Players are to be allocated to the Clubs respective teams via a draft process, with teams to be evenly divided based on talent
- a. The procedure for such a draft is to be approved by the Competition Management Committee.
 - b. The team lists must contain an equal number of players across teams, with an acceptable variance of one (1) player.
- (B) The Club is to provide the League with team lists a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the competition.
- (C) Players drafted in the first fifteen (15) players for each team shall not be entitled to play for the Club's other team in the same competition (including finals).
- (D) Players drafted after the first fifteen (15) players for each team (i.e. Player 16 or thereafter) are eligible to play for either team, subject to By Law 8.1 (E) to (H).
- (E) Players are entitled to play only one (1) Senior Competition match per round, noting that where a player is also eligible to play Youth Football they are eligible to play in the Junior Grade(s) they are eligible to participate in.
- (F) Once a player eligible to play for either team as per By Law 8.1 (D) has played nine (9) matches for one team, they are ineligible to play for the other team(s) during finals.
- a. Should any player not have played nine (9) matches for either team, eligibility for finals shall be determined by the greatest number of matches played for a team (Finals Eligibility rules apply).
 - b. In the case of a player with equal matches played in two teams, the player will be eligible to play in only the team in which they were drafted (Finals Eligibility rules apply).
- (G) The League will provide a finals eligibility team list for any qualified team. No player movement is permitted between teams during finals.
- (H) Players from a Youth competition are eligible to play for either team in the Senior Competition in any match during the season (Finals eligibility rules apply).

9. PLAYER NUMBERS

9.1 Number of players – Senior Men's Competitions

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty-two (22).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a Team is eighteen (18) Players
- (C) Not Applicable

- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) The maximum of twenty-two players shall be allocated as follows;
 - a. Black Diamond Cup – Eighteen (18) on field players plus four (4) interchange players
 - b. Black Diamond Plate – Sixteen (16) on field players plus six (6) interchange players
 - (i) For Black Diamond Plate fixtures, if both teams agree, the maximum number of on-field players can be increased to eighteen (18)
 - c. Black Diamond Shield – Sixteen (16) on field players plus six (6) interchange players
 - (i) For Black Diamond Shield fixtures, if both teams agree, the maximum number of on-field players can be increased to eighteen (18)

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

- (A) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team in a Match is as follows:
 - a. Black Diamond Cup Men’s – Fourteen (14) Players
 - b. Black Diamond Cup Women’s – Fourteen (14) Players
 - c. Black Diamond Plate Men’s – Fourteen (14) Players
 - d. Black Diamond Plate Women’s – Twelve (12) Players
 - e. Black Diamond Shield – Fourteen (14) Players

Further to By-Law 5.4 (E), if for any reason a team has less than the minimum on-field the Team has fifteen (15) minutes to ensure the minimum number of Players is reinstated.

- (B) Instances of non-compliance with By-Law 9.2(A) will be deemed to be a forfeit by the relevant Team.

9.3 Number of players – Senior Women’s Competitions

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty-two (22).

- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a team is sixteen (16) Players.

(C) Not Applicable

(D) Not Applicable

9.4 Not Applicable

9.5 Player Eligibility

- (A) When a team has a bye in a higher grade, only two (2) players who participated the higher grade in the previous weekend’s fixture are eligible to participate for the lower grade the following week.
- (B) During the Home and Away season, if a club has Senior teams playing on separate days of the same weekend, players are only permitted on both days if the subsequent match is in a higher grade (e.g. if a player plays Black Diamond Cup on a Saturday, they are not permitted to play Black Diamond Plate or Black Diamond Shield on Sunday)
- (C) Any requests for variation to By Law 9.5 are to be referred to the Competition Management Committee for their consideration.

10. FINALS

10.1 Finals Structure

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

- (A) Format for a four (4) team finals series
Week 1 – (a) Team 3 v Team 4; (b) Team 1 v Team 2
Week 2 – (c) Loser (b) v Winner (a)
Week 3 – Winner (b) v Winner (c)
- (B) Format for a five (5) team finals series
Week 1 – (a): Team 4 v Team 5; (b): Team 2 v Team 3; Team 1 v Bye
Week 2 – (c): Loser (b) v Winner (a); (d): Team 1 v Winner (B)
Week 3 – (e): Loser (d) v Winner (c)
Week 4 – Winner (d) v Winner (e)
- (C) Format for a six (6) team finals series
Week 1 – (a): Team 3 v Team 6; (b): Team 4 v Team 5; Team 1 & 2 v Bye
Week 2 – (c): Team 1 v Lowest ranked winner; (d): Team 2 v Highest ranked winner
Week 3 – Winner (c) v Winner (d)
- (D) Format for an eight (8) team finals series
Week 1 – (a): Team 1 v Team 4; (b): Team 2 v Team 3; (c) Team 5 v Team 8; (d): Team 6 v Team 7
Week 2 – (e): Loser (a) v Winner (c); (f): Loser B v Winner D
Week 3 – (g): Winner (a) v Winner (f); (h): Winner (b) v Winner (e)
Week 4 – Winner (g) v Winner (h)

10.2 Venue Selection

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

10.3 Match Duration

The duration of finals Matches will be as follows (refer to By-Law 11.5 for home and away season match duration).

- (A) The duration of finals Competition Matches shall be as follows:
 - a. Black Diamond Cup Men's – twenty (20) minutes plus time on
 - b. Black Diamond Plate & Shield Men's – eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
 - c. Black Diamond Women's Cup & Plate – eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- (B) For matches where time on is to be implemented, the following is to apply:
 - a. To indicate the commencement of the time added period, the field umpire shall blow his/her whistle and raise one arm above his/her head. To indicate that the time added period has elapsed, the field umpire shall raise one arm above the head.
 - b. Where the field umpire fails to signal the completion of the time added period, or the umpires fail to hear his/her whistle or see his/her signal, the timekeepers must restart the clock when the ball is clearly back in play.
 - c. In the case of a goal or behind being scored, the time added is that which elapses between the time that the goal umpire first signals the goal or behind and:
 - i. The subsequent ball up by the Umpire in the centre of the ground after a goal; or
 - ii. the ball being brought back into play after a behind

(C) In the event of a Player being replaced under the Blood Rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the Blood Rule signal is given by the field umpire until the Field Umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.

(D) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the stretcher signal is given by the field umpire until the Field Umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.

10.4 Match Conditions

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

10.5 Drawn Finals

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

- (A) The goal umpires will confirm the scores;
- (B) The field umpires will re-commence the Match to play extra time, initially for a further duration of five (5) minutes (plus time on) and the Teams will not change ends;
- (C) The siren will sound after the initial period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes (plus time on) is to be played;
- (D) If the Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute (plus time on) period of extra time, the Match will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound; and
- (E) At no stage before or during extra time are Coaches permitted to address Players.
- (F) For a Grand Final where the scores are less than six (6) points the difference with two (2) minutes remaining in the final quarter, an announcement is to be made to the Goal Umpires to confirm the final score before spectators enter the field of play.

10.6 Emergency Umpires

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

10.7 Player Eligibility

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

To be eligible to play in a finals fixture:

- (A) Black Diamond Cup Men's & Women's competition – A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season for their club.
- (B) Black Diamond Plate Men's & Women's competition – A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season for their club, subject to By Law 10.7 (D) & (E) as appropriate.
- (C) Black Diamond Shield competition – A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season in the Black Diamond Shield competition for their club.

- (D) Where a Club fields two (2) Women's teams in different competitions – To be eligible to participate in the Black Diamond Plate Women's competition finals, A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season in the Black Diamond Plate Women's competition for their club.
- (E) Where a Club fields three (3) Men's teams in different competitions, the order of eligibility shall be Black Diamond Cup, Black Diamond Plate followed by Black Diamond Shield (in that order) and Finals Eligibility shall be as follows:
- a. Black Diamond Cup – A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season for their club.
 - b. Black Diamond Plate – A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season in either Black Diamond Plate or Black Diamond Shield
 - c. Black Diamond Shield – A player must have played a minimum of four (4) home and away competition matches in the current season in Black Diamond Shield for their club
- (F) Where a player plays more than one Competition Match on the same day/weekend during the home and away season, only the Competition Match in the highest grade will be counted towards finals eligibility.
- (G) Where a club fields two (2) teams (Men's or Women's) and has both teams playing in finals on the same weekend, a player must only have played four (4) home and away matches in the current season with their club to be eligible to play in that weekend's finals match.
- (H) Where a club fields three (3) Men's teams and has all teams playing in finals on the same weekend, a player must only have played four (4) home and away matches in the current season with their club to be eligible to play in that weekend's finals match.
- (I) Where a player has played a total of nine (9) or more home and away Competition matches of a higher grade or grades in the season, that player shall not be eligible to play finals series matches in a lower grade or grades unless that club has teams playing finals matches in multiple competitions on the same weekend.
- (J) A player who has missed six (6) or more consecutive home and away competition matches in a higher grade through injury may, upon provision of supporting medical documentation, be permitted to play lower grade finals matches for their club despite not having qualified for that competition. An application for such consent to play must be approved by the Competition Management Committee.
- (K) A player is only permitted to play in one Senior finals Match for their club on any given weekend or finals round unless determined otherwise by the Competition Management Committee.
- (L) On Application by a Player's Club, the Competition Management Committee may vary the number of qualifying Matches required for:
- (a) where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away Matches or;
 - (b) where a Player misses a significant number of Matches due to serious injury or pregnancy (more than six (6) consecutive matches), transfers in employment, or;
 - (c) under other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Competition Management Committee. Any transfer in employment should follow three (3) calendar months of continuous employment preceding the transfer date with the existing employer, unless otherwise approved by the League.

10.8 Provision of Officials

During finals series Matches, non-competing Clubs may be required (as determined by the Competition Management Committee) to provide personnel to assist with event and ground management duties

including as gatekeepers, timekeepers, interchange stewards, scoreboard attendants and with other operational requirements.

10.9 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights

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

- (A) The League shall charge a fee for catering rights and will have authority to limit the prices of any articles as it sees fit. The Board shall determine any fee at the time of tendering such rights.
- (B) The catering club(s) shall have sole responsibility for the supply of food, soft drinks and alcohol, along with the operation of a raffle. No other person or club shall be permitted to take alcohol into the ground. No products which conflict with AFL (NSW/ACT) sponsor products are to be sold.
- (C) The catering club shall also be responsible for obtaining a liquor licence where necessary and for the engagement and payment of licenced security personnel as may be required under the Liquor Act from time to time.
- (D) The League will determine if a gate will be charged for finals matches, and the conditions applicable to such.

10.10 Club Eligibility

If a club is financially in arrears to the League seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the finals, the teams of such club(s) shall be ineligible to compete in finals series matches. In such an event the teams placed next on the respective competition table(s) shall take the place of the ineligible team(s).

11. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Not Applicable

11.2 Team Sheet

- (A) The official Team Sheet for each Match must contain:
 - a. the name and jumper number of each Player;
 - b. the name of the Coach: and
 - c. the name of each Team Official.
- (B) A copy of the official Team Sheet is to be provided by each Club, no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time to:
 - a. the timekeeper, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores, six (6) best players and goal-scorers at the conclusion of the Match and returned to the League Office with the relevant Match paperwork;
 - b. the opposing Club.
 - c. a copy retained for club records
 - d. the Field Umpires
 - e. where the match is being live streamed, to the commentators
- (C) Player and Official names on Team Sheets are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (D) Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition team manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half commences. No Player can be added to the Team Sheet after the match has commenced if the original Team Sheet submitted already contains twenty-two (22) players (i.e. a player's name cannot be deleted to add another player after the commencement of a match)

- (E) Players included on the Team Sheet but not in attendance at the Match venue at the commencement of the Match must be removed from the Team Sheet before the Match commences. No amendments may be made to any Team after the half time interval.
- (F) Goals not listed on the Team Sheet at the time it is received at the League **may** not be credited to a Player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- (G) Clubs providing incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match (with a score of one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) for Senior competitions).

11.3 Identification Checks

- (A) Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's team manager to confirm the identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision, or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day, the following procedure must be followed:
 - a. The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet;
 - b. The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League;
 - c. The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within three (3) working days of receiving an official request from the League, otherwise all Match wins gained by that Team in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing Team.
- (B) Should any Player fail to comply with either a request pursuant to By-Law 11.3 (A) or assist in the provision of identification of the Player, the Player may be subject to disciplinary process pursuant to the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the ground manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee in accordance with these By-Laws.

11.4 Match Times

- (A) Starting time of all Matches are as outlined in the Season Fixture. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the Competition Management Committee in writing in its absolute discretion.
- (B) **Not Applicable**
- (C) Any Team failing to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine. At that point, at the field umpire's discretion, they may commence play.
- (D) Matches must start and finish on time. If a Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, the ground manager and field umpires will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter time, half time and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following Match can commence as scheduled.
- (E) If the start of a Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Match is rescheduled by the Competition Management Committee or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (F) **Not Applicable**
- (G) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Match, the field umpire must report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for investigation.

11.5 Match Duration

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

- (a) Quarters:
 - Black Diamond Cup Men's – twenty-five (25) minutes (no time on)
 - Black Diamond Cup Women's – twenty (20) minutes (no time on)
 - Black Diamond Plate Men's and Women's – twenty (20) minutes (no time on)
 - Black Diamond Shield – twenty (20) minutes (no time on)
- (b) Breaks:
 - Quarter Time – shall not exceed five (5) minutes
 - Half Time – shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes
 - Three-Quarter time – shall not exceed five (5) minutes

(B) Not Applicable

(C) Not Applicable

(D) Not Applicable

(E) For Matches where time on is not applicable, the following will apply:

- a. The clock is only to be stopped for the blood rule or when a Player is replaced using the stretcher with the procedure as follows:
 - (i) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule or where a stretcher has been called, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule or stretcher signal is given by the field umpire until the field umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.

11.6 Incomplete Match

Subject to By-Law 5.5 (Forfeits) if a Match is unable to commence or conclude within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed) the following shall apply:

(A) Match not commenced: The result of a Match shall be determined by the League.

(B) Prior to half time:

- a. If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall depart from the field.
- b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30-minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.

(C) Half time & beyond:

- a. If the half time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the field, or in the case of half time, not return to the field.
- b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a thirty (30) minute period, the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match.
- c. The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.

(D) Determination of Match not able to proceed:

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

- b. A field umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed when lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy.
- (E) Recommencing Play: Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match and By-Law 5.5 shall apply.
- (F) The League may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals of Matches as reasonably required.

11.7 Sirens

- (A) Timekeepers are to sound the siren as follows:
- a. As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of a Match and after half-time – Once;
 - b. Five (5) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and start of the third quarter – Once;
 - c. Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
 - d. One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;
 - e. Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.
 - f. At the expiration of the game clock at the end of each quarter – until such time that the umpires have indicated that they have heard the siren by raising both arms in the air
- (B) Clubs must also have available an emergency sounding device in the event of the failure of the siren/sounding device.

11.8 Extreme Weather

- (A) From time to time the League may vary the playing conditions due to adverse weather.
- (B) Umpires and Clubs should be aware of the dangers of allowing play to proceed during dangerous or extreme weather, such as thunder, electrical storms, lightning or hail. The Match should be terminated by the field umpire, or the ground manager, in the instance of dangerous weather such as if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. In the case of lightning, the AFL Lightning policy (appendix G) is to apply.

11.9 Wet Weather Procedures

- (A) Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, Clubs are to advise the League as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Matches to be considered.
- (B) Where a venue to which a Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.
- (C) Where a Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the Host Team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next Match between the two Clubs concerned will be reversed to compensate for the loss of the home ground privilege.
- (D) Where neither venue is available, the League will make every effort to reschedule the Match to an alternative venue. Clubs whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their venue available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the Host Team responsibilities will be assumed by the Host Team as nominated in the fixture.
- (E) If a Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Competition Management Committee will decide whether or not the Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.

- (F) Should it appear likely that more than one Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Competition Management Committee may postpone or cancel all Matches for that round.
- (G) If any Match is cancelled, the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 5.3 (A) and such Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Competition Management Committee will determine player eligibility for finals.
- (H) The Club named first on the official Season Fixture is the Host Club and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Matches are adhered to.
- (I) Each Club is required to have procedures in place which enable them to contact their Players and Officials at short notice regarding any changes to scheduled Matches.
- (J) Should a Competition Match be transferred, the following Wet Weather Compensation is to apply:
 - (a) Where a match is transferred to a venue which is part of another host club's day:
 - (i) The host club will run a canteen in exchange for use of the facility and set up of the ground
 - (ii) The nominated home club on the fixture will pay 50% of appointed umpire fees (note: does not include club umpire fees)
 - (iii) The League will pay 50% of the umpire fees (note: does not include club umpire fees)
 - (b) Where a match is transferred to a venue where the home club is able to run a canteen:
 - (i) The League will pay the host club \$100 for the use of the facility and equipment
 - (ii) The nominated home club will have the ability to run a canteen at the venue
 - (iii) The nominated home club will retain responsibility for umpire payments

11.10 Ground Marking

- (A) The following lines must be clearly marked:
 - a. Goal-squares, boundary lines, centre square;
 - b. Arc at each end of the ground, three (3) metre centre circle (with intersecting line), ten (10) metre centre circle (with intersecting line);
 - c. Interchange Gates should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equal distance on either side be not less than fifty (50) metres apart for the interchange Players and Team Officials of each Club;
 - d. The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.
- (B) A Coach's line should be marked comprising five (5) metres in length and 1 metre in from the fence / fence line or if no fence line, two (2) metres out from the boundary. It should be marked in front of the Coach's box / area. No Official or bench Player is allowed to stand in front of this line during play.
- (C) **Not Applicable**
- (D) Where a fence is not provided at a venue, an area of five (5) metres clearance is to be provided behind the goals, clearly defined by a marked line, collapsible cones, or a combination of the two.

11.11 Goal Post Pads

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

11.12 Scoreboard

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

11.13 Change rooms

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

11.14 Timekeeping Facilities

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

11.15 Footballs

- (A) The Home club must provide two footballs (Match Ball and a spare) for use in each competition match. Subject to AFL NSW/ACT Regulation 14.1, the standards and requirements relating to footballs are as follows:
 - (a) Black Diamond Cup Men's – a new "KB – Size 5" Sherrin Football is to be used.
 - (b) Black Diamond Plate & Shield Men's – a new or used "KB – Size 5" Sherrin Football is to be used
 - (c) Black Diamond Cup & Plate Women's – a new or used "Match – Size 4" Sherrin Football is to be used
- (B) For all matches commencing after 2.45pm, a Yellow "Veg Tan" football is to be used. For all matches commencing earlier than this time, a Red football is to be used. In both instances, the football must satisfy the standards set out in By Law 11.15 (A)
- (C) All Competition Match Footballs are to be purchased through the league
- (D) Match Footballs used in Competition Matches must include the AFL Hunter Central Coast League Logo, and where applicable the AFL Hunter Central Coast Sponsor Logo unless otherwise directed by the League
- (E) The spare match ball must only have been used for a maximum of two matches previously. Should a spare match ball be required, it is to be replaced by the original match ball (if available) at the earliest practical opportunity.
- (F) In the case of the use of a used match ball as outlined in By-Law 11.15 (A) (b) and (c); the ball must only have been used for a maximum of two matches previously

12. CLUB MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

12.1 Coaches

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

12.2 Ground Manager

- (A) The Host Club must appoint a ground manager (or designate the following tasks to a nominated person(s) who will be responsible for the Match day requirements and Match paperwork for the day).
- (B) The ground manager must introduce him/herself to the Umpires and Officials of the visiting Club on arrival and acquaint them with the ground facilities as well as provide details of the closest emergency medical facilities. Should the ground manager be replaced during the day, the newly appointed person should immediately inform both the Umpires and both Clubs accordingly.
- (C) Prior to the commencement of play, the ground manager must identify compliance of the Host Club with the Sports Trainers Policy as outlined in By-Law 12.10.
- (D) Prior to the commencement of play in each Match, the ground manager should distribute the following paperwork provided by the League.

Scorecards	To goal umpires
Send Off/ Timekeepers Form	To the Timekeeper
Umpires Match Report	To the field umpires

(a) Fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of each match the ground manager shall ensure that the team sheets for both teams have been delivered to the Umpires and timekeepers and follow up with clubs as required

- (E) Not Applicable
- (F) At the completion of each Match, the ground manager should collect all the following documentation:

From Timekeepers
Completed Team Lists (Note 1)
Timekeepers Report

Note 1: The ground manager should ensure that each Club has entered the quarter-by-quarter scores; best Players and the goals scored by Players on their Team Sheets/ lists. The tally of goals entered for Players must equal the number of goals scored by the respective Teams.

- (G) The ground manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue. (see clause 10 of Appendix A of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations).

(H) At the end of the Match, the ground manager should collate all paperwork and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League by no later than the designated time. The following paperwork shall be scanned or photographed and uploaded via the Leagues online submission program (Cognito Forms) no later than 12pm Monday:

- (a) Umpires Attendance sheet
- (b) Timekeeper Cards
- (c) Team Sheets – Timekeepers copy showing goalkickers and best players

- (I) Finally, it shall be the ground manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Host Club:
 - (a) As directed by the League, either SMS or telephones the results of all the day's Matches to the Football Operations Manager within ten (10) minutes of the match being completed, unless the match was live scored on Footyweb.
 - (b) Inputs all results and Player information (i.e. Team lists, goal kickers & best Players) of all the days Matches into the Footyweb online results system by 7.00pm (10.00pm for night matches) on the day of the match.

12.3 Team Managers

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

12.4 Team Runner

- (A) The sole duty of the team runner is to deliver messages to his or her Club's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so. Umpires shall ask Runners to leave the field if they remain on the playing surface for an unnecessarily long period of time as determined by the Umpire.
- (B) The team runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League.
- (C) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the official team runner.
- (D) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of one (1) team runner. Team runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.
 - (a) The Team Runner's name must appear on the team sheet
 - (b) The team runner must be at least fourteen (14) years of age
- (E) Runners are permitted to enter the field at any stage throughout the match (variation from 2020 AFL Laws of the Game).
- (F) The Team Runner for Black Diamond Cup must wear the league supplied pink top (with the club's name, number and the word "Runner" clearly marked on the back), league supplied pink Runners Shorts (Black Diamond Cup only) or club football shorts (other competitions) and either running shoes or football boots. The team runner for all other competitions matches may act as described in By-Law 12.5. The Competition Management Committee reserves the right to vary uniform requirements from time to time.

12.5 Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers

- (A) Clubs may utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers per Team.
- (B) These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured Players or to provide Players with water. They must not be used to deliver messages to Players. These personnel may enter the field at any stage during play (variation from 2020 AFL Laws of the Game).
 - (a) In competitions other than Black Diamond Cup Men's, personnel are also permitted to deliver messages
- (C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be dressed as approved by the League, comprising of a league supplied sky-blue shirt (with club name and number on the back), club shorts (all must be the same) and runners or football boots. Trainers may also wear white cricket pants.

- (D) Umpires will ask any Trainer/Medical/water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform. Umpires shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players in Black Diamond Cup Men's fixtures.
- (E) Water carriers must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
- (F) Coaches, or suspended Players and Officials are not permitted to act as trainers, other medical staff or water carriers.

12.6 Umpires Escort

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

12.7 Timekeepers

- (A) The Host Club must provide a timekeeper for each Match.
- (B) The away Club is required to provide a timekeeper for Black Diamond Cup Men's fixtures and is encouraged to also appoint or supply a timekeeper for each Match in other grades.
- (C) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game, these By-Laws and Regulations and as otherwise specified by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (D) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for attention.
- (E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Match in which they officiate. The quarter by quarter scores are also to be recorded on each Club's Team Sheet. The timekeepers are also encouraged to Live Score the match via Footyweb.
- (F) Timekeepers are also required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such Players may resume playing(if applicable). It is the Club of the offending Player's responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the Umpires

decision to send off a Player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling Umpire.

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

12.8 Officials on the Bench

In addition to the maximum number of game day officials as provided in By-Laws 12.3 to 12.5 each Team is permitted a maximum of four (4) other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play.

12.9 Not Applicable

12.10 Injury Treatment

- (A) All Clubs must comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia.
- (B) It is the Host Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate injury treatment processes are in place on Match days. The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services including ambulance, medical centres and hospitals must be available for use in an emergency.
- (C) The League has adopted the AFL Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy ("Sports Trainers Policy"). All Clubs must comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (D) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (E) The Host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all Matches for which it is the Host Club.
- (F) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the Sports Trainers Policy at any Match as follows:
 - a. Junior (Under 12s and below): First Aid Certificate
 - b. Youth and Seniors (Under 13s and over): Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) Certificate
- (G) The visiting Club should confirm with the ground manager prior to the commencement of each Match that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this By-Law. In the event that the Host Club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the visiting Club agrees, the Match will be postponed or rescheduled. Any decision to replay a postponed Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Competition Management Committee within seven (7) days of the scheduled Match.
- (H) The Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (I) In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Match a delayed start of twenty (20) minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following the Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Matches following.
- (J) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply.
- (K) If a Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the Host Club will forfeit the Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of two hundred (200) dollars.

- (L) The Sports Trainers Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with medical or higher-level allied health qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupation's they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:
- a. Nurse;
 - b. Physiotherapist;
 - c. A certified Sports Trainer;
 - d. St John Officer;
 - e. Paramedic;
 - f. Medical Doctor.
- (M) The Host Club must ensure there is:
A "scoop" or similar stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of each match.
- a. ensure proper ambulance access to the field of play, if necessary and
 - b. an appropriately and adequately stacked first aid kit.
- (N) The first aid official should be located alongside or as near as practical to the ground manager. Where more than one Match is being played at any one time, a first aid official must be supplied for each game.

12.11 Concussion

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

12.12 Match-Day Safety Check

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

13. UMPIRES

The League shall oversee and administer umpiring and will enter into an agreement with the Newcastle Central Coast Umpires Association (NCCUA) (i.e. "The Agreement") in relation to the supply of umpiring services, the conditions under which those services are supplied and reasonable reimbursement for the supply of such service.

13.1 Appointments

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

- (A) The Agreement mentioned in By-Law 13 shall as far as possible provide for the supply of Umpires for competition matches
- (B) In the event of there being insufficient umpires for any match, and unless otherwise arranged, clubs are required to provide Umpires as per below
 - (a) Club Field Umpire: Both Clubs
 - (b) Club Boundary Umpires: Home Club
 - (c) Club Goal Umpires: Home Club
 - (d) All club umpires must be correctly attired and equipped to fill these roles

13.2 Availability

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

13.3 Umpire Requirements

Umpires must attend the ground and report to the Ground Manager no less than sixty (60) minutes before the official starting time of the Competition Match and must be ready to enter the field, correctly attired at least ten (10) minutes before such starting time

13.4 Field and Goal Umpire Numbers

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

13.5 Umpires' Fees

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

13.6 Payment of Umpires

- (A) Any reimbursement of expenses of umpires shall be the responsibility of the home club. Any such payment shall be considered to be for reasonable expenses incurred and must not be any less than the amount shown in the Umpires Agreement and paid at the conclusion of their appointed Competition Match
- (B) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in By-Law 5.4 (G), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.

13.7 Umpire's Match Report

- (A) At the conclusion of each Match, the field umpire(s) shall provide a report to the Competition Management Committee on the prescribed Umpires Match Report form. All Umpires, including Club field umpires, are required to **complete** the Match Report.
- (B) The field umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting via the online Umpires Match Report Form.
- (C) All officiating umpires must sign the Umpires Attendance sheet, including Club Appointed Umpires

13.8 Club Report on Umpires

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

13.9 Minimum Umpire Age

- (A) The Competition Management Committee will determine the minimum age of field and boundary and goal umpires (both League and Club appointed Umpires) for all open age and under-age Competitions.
 - (a) Field Umpire – Sixteen (16) years of age
 - (b) Boundary Umpire – Fourteen (14) years of age
 - (c) Goal Umpire – Sixteen (16) years of age
 - (d) Any requests for League or Club appointed Umpires below the minimum age to officiate in a Competition Match are to be made to the Competition Management Committee. The Competition Management Committee will seek the feedback of Umpires Coaches and the AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department before approving such requests.
- (B) Not Applicable

13.10 Club Umpires

- (A) From time to time each Club is required to provide suitable persons for the League Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the Club Umpire commitment for the season prior to the start of the season as designated.
- (B) Where the League has not appointed official field umpires or accredited Club Umpires, it shall be each Club's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the Match. Club field umpires are to be attired as approved by the League.
- (C) Club field umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork (i.e. Umpires Match Report (which they are to sign)) and Best & Fairest Votes.
- (D) Each competing Club is responsible for the payment of their own Club Umpires, or in the case of one Club providing both Club Umpires, the payment of one of the Club Umpires.
- (E) Where Official goal and boundary umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing Club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal and boundary umpire to officiate. Club goal umpires must be equipped with two white flags and attired in a uniform as approved by the League and Club boundary umpires must be attired as approved and equipped with a suitable whistle
 - (a) Should Club boundary umpires not be provided as required, it is the home club's responsibility to throw the ball back into play on all occasions

- (F) Official field umpires shall have the power to overrule decisions by Club goal and/or boundary umpires and remove them should they consider that such Club Umpires are not competent to carry out the required duties.
- (G) Any person officiating as a club goal or boundary Umpire in a Match is to adhere to the Code of Conduct as it applies to an Official, and, in addition, is to refrain from engaging in any form of coaching of, or instruction to Players in the course of the Match other than for the purpose of conducting umpiring duties.
- (H) Payment of Club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the Competition Management Committee. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet.
- (I) Club field Umpires must complete the Club Umpires Footyweb registration as well as any prescribed Club Umpire training prior to umpiring their first match.
- (J) Should two 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 Competition Management Committee for determination.
- (K) Club Field Umpires are not permitted to umpire more than two (2) competition matches on the same day.

13.11 Reporting of Players and Officials

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

13.12 Melees

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

13.13 Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in By-Law 13.13 (B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary and goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.

- (B) The excepted persons referred to in By-Law 13.13 A above include:
- a. League and AFL NSW/ACT staff;
 - b. Ground manager, including any designated assistant, umpire escort;
 - c. Umpire Manager.
 - d. AFL HCC Umpire Coach or Match day coach.
 - e. Competing team Captain (as listed on the team sheet)

14. CONDUCT – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

14.1 Prescribed Penalties

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

14.2 Code of Conduct

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

14.3 Power to Investigate

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

14.4 Co-operation

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

14.5 Failure to Co-operate

A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 14.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, is deemed to have engaged in

conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and may be referred to the Tribunal by the League for determination.

14.6 Interpretation

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

14.7 Power to Report

(A) If the League designate is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the League Designate may report such person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

(B) Not Applicable

14.8 Citings by Clubs

- (A) Where a Club wishes to lodge a complaint against a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be noted on the appropriate League Incident Referral Form (see sample Appendix 'B') which must be lodged in writing with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises. An Incident Referral Form must be submitted for each citing. An intermediate advice on the incident form may be initially emailed with the written lodgement to follow as required.
- a. This By-Law provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of Umpires.
 - b. A serious incident for definition is a matter which may draw a base sanction of more than three (3) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 2020, or as otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.
- (B) In the event a Club requests extra time to prepare the Incident Referral Form, the Competition Management Committee may, after receiving a notice of intent within the time requirements of By-Law 14.8 (A), extend the deadline to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.
- (C) After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with By-Law 14.8 (A), the citing Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.
- (D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a five hundred (500) dollar citing fee which may be forfeited should the Competition Management Committee deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the League's bank account. The Competition Management Committee will, at its absolute discretion, determine whether the fee will be reimbursed in part or full to the Club lodging the citing at the conclusion of the matter.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his or her rights (via Club Secretary or President) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.
- (F) A Club may request the Competition Management Committee to review footage of an incident by submitting a fee of two hundred and fifty (250) dollar such fee which is only refundable if the matter

results in an outcome as requested by the Club. The Competition Management Committee may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the Competition Management Committee decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.

- (G) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Code of Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 14.8 (A) to 14.8 (C) above.

14.9 Appointment and Role of Tribunal

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

14.10 Tribunal Hearings

- (A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT and State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.
- (B) Legal representatives are permitted to attend Tribunal hearing's, but are not permitted to act as a Player, Official or Umpire advocate unless agreed to by the Tribunal Chair.
- (C) The Tribunal has jurisdiction over any Player whether registered, unregistered or ineligible as the case may be.

14.11 Not Applicable

14.12 Player and Official De-registration

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

14.13 Club Websites

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

14.14 Media / Statements

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

15. ORDER OFF RULE

15.1 Yellow Card

- (A) A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game may be ordered from the field of play for a period of fifteen (15) minutes. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a yellow card. At the discretion of the field Umpire, the Player may not be reported.
- (B) A Player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining the approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.
- (C) For the purposes of this By-Law, a yellow card will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field of play for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only. E.g. a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- (D) Unless determined otherwise by the Competition Management Committee, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

15.2 Red Card

- (A) A Player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game twice in the same Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in By-Law 15.2 (B) below), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include but are not limited to where a Player:
 - a. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire;
 - b. Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire;
 - c. Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;
 - d. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person;
 - e. Commits an act of misconduct - if the Umpire is of the opinion the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.
- (C) 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 Competition Management Committee 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) For the purposes of this By-Law, 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.
- (F) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be issued with red card and can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.
- (G) All red cards are reportable offences and a Notice of Report must be submitted to the League.

15.3 Recording of Send Offs

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

16. APPEALS

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

17. FINANCE

17.1 Fees

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

17.2 Fines

- (A) The League will determine a schedule of fines that may be imposed for specific operational breaches of the By-Laws. Such fines are as articulated in the League's "Club of the Year" program or as otherwise indicated within these by-laws
- (B) Notwithstanding 17.2 (A), the Competition Management Committee may impose such sanctions as it sees fit.
- (C) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the Competition Management Committee or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the Competition Management Committee.

- (D) Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the Player's or Official's Club or, in the case of an Umpire, the Umpires Association, is responsible to pay the fine to the League.

17.3 Outstanding Accounts

- (A) Except as provided for under By-Law 17.3 (B), any Club which is in arrears to the League for a period more than sixty (60) days from the date of the invoice, will be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its Teams and ineligible to play finals Matches, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.
- (B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Competition Management Committee may in its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.
- (C) Except as provided for under By-Law 17.3 (B), if any club is financially in arrears to the League at a date which is seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the finals, the teams of such club(s) shall be ineligible to compete in finals series matches. In such an event, teams placed next on the respective competition table(s) shall take the place of the ineligible team and so forth.
- (D) If any club is in arrears to the League for a period of thirty (30) days from the due date, the club's representatives shall be ineligible to vote at any league meeting.

17.4 Dishonoured Cheques

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

17.5 Club Finances

- (A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League by 30 November each year, or as otherwise designated by the League in the Club Licence Agreement, the following documents
- (a) Profit and Loss Report
 - (b) Balance Sheet
 - (c) Benchmarking Survey
 - (d) Evidence of compliance with the Department of Fair trading requirements for Incorporated Bodies (i.e. copy of Form 12)
 - (e) Licence agreement for the upcoming season
 - (f) Details of Club Officials for next season
- (B) Each Club shall provide the League with a Club Budget for the ensuing season by 31 January each year or as otherwise designated by the League.

17.6 Insurance

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

18. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER IMAGES GUIDELINES

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

19. AWARDS

Each season, the Competition Management Committee shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.

19.1 Club Championship Trophy

- (A) A Perpetual trophy shall be awarded to the club that accrues the greatest number of points in the Club Championship
 - (a) Points will be accrued on the basis of on-field results as follows:
 - (i) Senior Men’s Grade – Six (6) points for each win; three (3) points for each draw
 - (ii) Women’s Grade – Four (4) points for each win; two (2) points for each draw
 - (iii) Second Men’s Grade – Two (2) points for each win; one (1) point for each draw
 - (b) Where a club has only two (2) teams in their respective competitions, a ten percent (10%) weighting will be added to their total.
 - (c) A club must have a minimum of two (2) teams to be eligible for the Club Championship Award
 - (d) Where a club has more than three (3) teams participating in various competitions, the highest two Men’s Grades and the highest Women’s Grade results shall be used to calculate the Club Championship Award

19.2 Best & Fairest Award

- (A) A medal will be presented each year to the Best & Fairest player in each grade competition. The medals shall be known as:
 - (a) The Black Diamond Cup Men’s Medal shall be known as “The Elliott – Davey Medal”.
 - (b) The Black Diamond Cup Women’s Medal shall be known as “The AFL Hunter Central Coast Black Diamond Cup Women’s Best & Fairest”.
 - (c) The Black Diamond Plate Men’s Medal shall be known as “The Granland Medal”.
 - (d) The Black Diamond Plate Women’s Medal shall be known as “The AFL Hunter Central Coast Black Diamond Plate Women’s Best & Fairest”.
 - (e) The Black Diamond Cup Men’s Reserves Medal shall be known as “The Chris Arnold Medal”.
- (B) The winners of the Best & Fairest Medals shall be determined by votes cast by Field Umpires on a 3-2-1 basis for the best, second best and third best players in each home and away match. At the conclusion of each Competition Match, the Field Umpires shall allocate their votes using the on-line Matchday Paperwork.
- (C) In the event that two or more players have been awarded the same number of votes at the end of the home and away series, no count back is to be applied and the players concerned declared Joint Winners and each will be awarded a Best & Fairest Medal.
- (D) Should a player be found guilty and suspended (via tribunal or prescribed penalty) of any on-field offence arising out of a Competition Match during the current season for which Best & Fairest Votes are cast by the Umpires, they shall be ineligible to receive any League Best & Fairest Award.
- (E) Where a player has moved to another club within the same competition within the same season, their points will be carried over and combined with any votes received at the new club (in the same grade)

19.3 Leading Goal Kickers

- (A) The League shall maintain records of goal-kickers in each grade of competition from the information recorded on the club team lists, which are returned to the League following each match throughout the season. The goal-kicking award for each grand shall be presented to the player who scores the greatest number of goals during the home and away Competition Matches. Goals not recorded on club team lists may not be added to a player's tally if subsequently disclosed
- (B) Where a player has moved to another club within the same competition within the same season, their goals will be carried over and combined with any goals kicked for the new club in the same grade.
- (C) The trophy awarded to the Leading Goalkicker in the Black Diamond Cup Men's Competition shall be known as the "Maurice Goolagong Trophy"

19.4 Premiership Awards

- (A) A Premiership Trophy shall be presented to the winning club in the Grand Final of each grade of the Competition.
- (B) The Premier Club in each grade shall also receive a premiership pennant suitably inscribed and manufactured in their club colours.
- (C) A maximum of thirty (30) Premiership Medallions shall be presented to the players/officials of the Premiership winning team

19.5 Best Player in Grand Final

- (A) A Medallion shall be presented to the players adjudged as the best player in the Grand Final of each competition. The field umpires, or a person or person(s) appointed by the Football Operations Manager, will decide the winning player in each respective grade.
- (B) The Best Player in Grand Final Medallions shall be known as follows:
 - (a) Black Diamond Cup Men's Best Player in Grand Final shall be known as "Garry McBain Medal"
 - (b) Black Diamond Cup Women's Best Player in Grand Final shall be known as "Black Diamond Cup Women's Grand Final Best on Ground"
 - (c) Black Diamond Plate Men's Best Player in Grand Final shall be known as 'Steve Smith Medal'
 - (d) Black Diamond Plate Women's Best Player in Grand Final shall be known as "Black Diamond Plate Women's Grand Final Best on Ground"
 - (e) Black Diamond Cup Men's Reserves Best Player in Grand Final shall be known as "Bill Best Medal"

19.6 Representative Player of the Year

- (A) The Representative Men's & Women's Player of the Year will be awarded at the League's annual award dinner.
- (B) The winner will be adjudged by the Representative Coaching Panel and will be based upon performance, training and leadership during the Leagues representative commitments scheduled in a given season.

19.7 Rising Star Award

- (A) The Rising Star Award will be awarded, for both Men and Women in both Cup and Plate competitions based on the following criteria:

- (a) Must be Under 21 years of age as at 1 January in the year of the award;
 - (b) Must have played no more than ten (10) senior Competition Matches prior to the season in question;
 - (c) Must play a minimum of six (6) senior Competition Matches during the year.
- (B) The Black Diamond Cup & Black Diamond Plate Coaches for both Men's and Women's Competitions (who cannot vote for players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Competition Management Committee will vote on 5-4-3-2-1 basis from a list of nominees provided to them by the Football Operations Manager. The nominee who receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

19.8 Team of the Year

- (A) Each year the Black Diamond Cup Men's Coaches (who cannot select players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Competition Management Committee will select the following to be adjudged as members of the "Black Diamond Cup Men's Team of the Year".
- (a) Twenty-Two (22) players, (eighteen (18) on field players plus four (4) interchange)
 - (b) Coach
 - (c) Umpire
- (B) Each year the Black Diamond Cup Women's Coaches (who cannot select players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Competition Management Committee will select the following to be adjudged as members of the "Black Diamond Cup Women's Team of the Year".
- (a) Twenty-Two (22) players, (sixteen (16) on field players plus six (6) interchange)
 - (b) Coach
- (C) Each year the Black Diamond Plate Men's Coaches (who cannot select players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Competition Management Committee will select the following to be adjudged as members of the "Black Diamond Plate Men's Team of the Year".
- (a) Twenty-Two (22) players, (eighteen (18) on field players plus four (4) interchange)
 - (b) Coach
 - (c) Umpire
- (D) Each year the Black Diamond Plate Women's Coaches (who cannot select players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Competition Management Committee will select the following to be adjudged as members of the "Black Diamond Plate Women's Team of the Year".
- (a) Twenty-Two (22) players, (sixteen (16) on field players plus six (6) interchange)
 - (b) Coach
- (E) To be eligible for inclusion in the team of the year, players must have played at least 50% of the scheduled home and away Competition Matches.

19.9 Volunteer of the Year Award

- (A) The League shall present an award to the most outstanding Volunteer. Each club shall request to submit a nomination of one person they consider most worthy of selection and the reasons for the nomination. The Board of Management shall make the final decision on the winner.
- (B) The award shall be known as the "James J Arnold Clubperson of the Year".
- (C) The winner of the "James J Arnold Clubperson of the Year" will also be the League's nomination for the AFL NSW/ACT Volunteer of the Year.

19.10 Rookie of the Year

- (A) The Rookie of the Year Award will be awarded, for both Black Diamond Cup and Plate (Men and Women) based on the following criteria:

- (a) Must be Under 21 years of age as at 1 January in the year of the award;
- (b) Must not have played any Senior (First Team) games in any competition prior to 1 January in the year of the award.

(B) The Black Diamond Cup Men's & Women's Coaches and Black Diamond Plate Men's & Women's Coaches (who cannot vote for players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Competition Management Committee will vote on 5-4-3-2-1 basis from a list of nominees provided to them by the Football Operations Manager for their respective competitions. The nominee who receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

19.11 Club of the Year Award

The League may arrange a monetary award each season to clubs which are considered to have conducted its affairs during the season in the most efficient and lawful manner conducive to the best administrative practices of a football club within the League.

19.12 Coaches MVP

The winners of the Black Diamond Cup and Black Diamond Plate Men's and Women's Coaches MVP Award shall be determined by votes cast by coaches on a 3-2-1 basis for the best, second best and third best players in each home and away match. Coaches are to provide votes for their match day opponents players. At the conclusion of each Competition Match the coaches shall allocate their votes and forward to the Football Operations Manager

19.13 Miscellaneous

The Board of Management may determine not to award any of the above awards or determine to present additional awards from season to season.

19.14 Awards Dinners

All Clubs are required to fill one table per team at the League's annual awards night.

20. GENERAL

20.1 Resolution of disputes within Clubs

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

20.2 League Colours

The official colours of the League will be **Black, White & Teal**. The design of the League's representative jumpers is the responsibility of the Competition Management Committee.

20.3 Matters not provided for

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

20.4 Amendments to By-Laws

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

20.5 Competition Management Committee

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

20.6 Attendance at Meetings

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

20.7 Football Record

- (A) The weekly "Football Record", if published, shall be considered an official publication of the League and any or all notices contained therein shall be accepted as official.
- (B) Each Club, on request from the Football Operations Manager or other person authorised by the Competition Management Committee, must supply an up to date player list for its Senior team in jumper number order, for publishing in the Football Record. Players must play in the jumpers as set out in such list.
- (C) Each Club shall supply content for its allotted space, if provided, in the Football Record, by a time set by the Competition Management Committee.

20.8 Failure to Adhere to By-Laws

Breach of any of the By-Laws will be penalised, via the Club of the Year process or as otherwise decided by the Competition Management Committee.

Appendix “A”

PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS



Introduction

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

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

Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix "B"

INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

TO: AFL Hunter Central Coast
Michael.gray@afl.com.au and lauren.francis@afl.com.au

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

Round: _____ Match: _____ vs _____

Venue: _____ Date: _____

Person(s) involved (please state offending person/s): _____

Reportable Offence or Code of Conduct Breach: _____

Type of Reportable Offence/ Infringement (s): _____

Note:

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

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

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

Vicinity at Venue: _____

Quarter: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Other relevant information: _____

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

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

Impact Guidelines

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

Print Name: _____ **Club:** _____ **(if applicable)**

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Umpire / Umpire Observer / Umpire Coach / Club Official / other _____

(Please Circle)

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

League use only:

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

Appendix “C” – Recording of Images

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

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

Table 1

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

Table 2

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

Appendix “D” – Player Points System Policy

1. OBJECTIVES

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT believes that ensuring competitions are competitively balanced is critical to safeguarding the ongoing viability and sustainability of competitions and clubs. Even and fair competitions lead to increased interest and provide a better experience for stakeholders, which leads to stronger competitions and clubs.
- (B) Player Points System Policy (PPS Policy)
- a. Assist the equalisation of competitions.
 - b. Promote player loyalty and junior development.
 - c. Improve the sustainability of Community Clubs.
 - d. Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
 - i. Capping the need to fundraise money for player payments;
 - ii. Providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level; and
 - iii. Providing resources and education.
- (C) This PPS sets out the rules and principles in relation to a Player Points System which applies to specified AFL NSW/ACT Competition/s in order to achieve the above objectives.

2. DEFINITIONS

Administration Committee means and shall consist of any two (2) of the following positions, the League Football Operations Manager, League Football Operations Coordinator, Community Football Manager, Regional Manager or State Football Operations Manager, or their nominees.

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

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

Black Diamond Cup means the Senior Competition based in the Hunter Central Coast region administered by the League, currently known as the ‘Black Diamond Cup’.

Category means the Player Points Category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a Player.

PPS Policy (PPS) means this Player Point System as amended by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

Club means a Club affiliated to a League with teams participating in a Competition.

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

First Home and Away Match means the first official Competition Match for the home and away Season of a Competition.

Footyweb means the AFL Competition Management System & Membership Database implemented for Competitions within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

Football Operations Manager means the League’s Community Football Manager, Football Operations Manager or Football Operations Coordinator responsible for administering the League’s Competitions as the case may be.

Home Player means a player who has played 40 games for an aligned junior club up to and including U17 (excluding games played under permit), has only played football at that Club or has not played any football for 3 or more full seasons.

Junior means Players up to and under the age of 17 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

Juniors or Junior Competition means Competitions up to and including Junior Players.

League (or Leagues) means AFL Hunter Central Coast Incorporated which is affiliated to AFL NSW/ACT.

League Equalisation Panel means the Administration Committee or the independent equalisation panel established by the relevant League or Leagues to administer the PPS Policy prescribed for a Competition.

Match means any football match played between or directly or indirectly involving any club, including without limitation any practice match, competition match, representative match or exhibition match.

National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations means the AFL’s rules and regulations, as issued from time to time, regulating the transfer of players between clubs.

Player means a Player registered with a Club.

Player Membership Details means a Players individual details provided for on the Footyweb system.

Player Points Allocation means the total number of points allocated to an individual Player in a Senior Team taking into consideration the Player Points Category that applies to each Player and any additional points or deducted points in accordance with this PPS.

Season means the community football season between first competitive Match until Grand Final of a Competition.

Season of Service means a Season where a Player has played a minimum of five (5) senior or reserves games in one Season for a particular Club. A Player who has completed one (1) Seasons of Service is eligible for a reduction of one point per season thereafter should they play for the same community Club in the following Season(s) in accordance with this PPS.

Senior Competition means the Premier men’s open age senior competition within the League.

Senior Team means the men's open age team representing a Club in a Senior Competition.

Total Team Points means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team for each Season in accordance with this PPS.

3. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES, TOTAL TEAM POINTS & HOME PLAYERS

3.1 Total Team Points:

AFL NSW/ACT, the League and Clubs acknowledge that:

- (A) The base Total Team Points allocation will be capped for Black Diamond Cup teams as outlined in Appendix B.
- (B) For each Match, a Club must ensure that the Total Team Points allocation is calculated based on the maximum number of Players allowed to participate in a Match for that Competition and this should be consistent for each Match within a Season, within each Competition. A Club must list the maximum number of Players allowed for its Black Diamond Cup Team on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points for each Match.

3.2 Home Players

AFL NSW/ACT, Leagues and Clubs acknowledge that:

- (A) For each Match, a club must ensure that it's Black Diamond Cup team includes a minimum of twelve (12) home players on its team list.

3.3 League Equalisation Panel

The relevant League Equalisation Panel:

- (A) May reassess an individual player's points classification where the panel deems in its ultimate discretion that the prescribed points allocation is inappropriate based on the player's playing history.
- (B) May reassess an individual player's classification as a "Home Player" where the panel deems in its ultimate discretion that the classification is inappropriate based on the player's playing history.
- (C) May take into account the following in determining whether or not the imposition of additional points is appropriate in the circumstances:
 - a. The nature and location of the player's employment;
 - b. The principle place of residence of player's family member/s;
 - c. The principle place of residence of the player's partner or spouse;
 - d. The player's previous history and/or relationship with the Club; and
 - e. Any other factors deemed appropriate by the Equalisation Panel in its absolute discretion.
- (D) Will make a recommendation to the League regarding Total Team Points and Home Player requirements for each Black Diamond Cup Team for each Club for the following Season in accordance with this PPS.

3.4 League Responsibility

The League will make every attempt to communicate the allocation of each Club's Total Team Points and Home Player requirement to each Club for the following Season in accordance with this PPS by 1 December in each Calendar year (or such other date as determined by the League).

4. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Club:

- (A) Must determine each individual Player's Player Points Allocation and Home Player status for its Black Diamond Cup Team in accordance with this PPS Policy, including any additions or deductions applicable to each Player in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- (B) Must submit to the League the Player Points Allocations and Home Player Status for each Player by the deadline and in the form prescribed by the League which in all cases must be

prior to the Player's first Match of the Season;

- (C) Acknowledges that if the Club does not follow this procedure and plays a Player for a Black Diamond Cup Team in a Match in any League, who has not had their Player Points Allocation, or Home Player status approved and entered into Footyweb, that Club be subject to a subsequent enforcement penalty or disciplinary sanction (including loss of Competition Points) as determined by the League in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- (D) Must ensure that for each Match the Black Diamond Cup Team does not exceed the Club's Total Team Points, noting however that Clubs may recruit above their allocated Total Team Points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation for each Match;
- (E) Must ensure that for each Match the Black Diamond Cup team includes a minimum of twelve (12) Home Players;
- (F) May make an application to the League for the allocation of additional Total Team Points and/or reduce Home Player requirements in accordance with this PPS (i.e. for unique local circumstances). The application is to be in writing via the Football Operations Manager. The application will be referred to the League who will make a determination of an application at their absolute discretion.

5. PLAYER POINTS CATEGORIES, HOME PLAYER STATUS AND ALLOCATION

- (A) Each League will liaise with its Clubs to ensure that Total Team Points and Player Point Allocations are entered into Footyweb prior to any Player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- (B) As part of the Player Point Allocation process, the League may provide the opportunity for Clubs to seek a reassessment of any Player's Player Point Allocation or Home Player Status by the League Equalisation Panel. Any reassessment against a Player Point Allocation or Home Player Status should be made to the League's Football Operations Manager no later than 5 days before the Player's first Senior Home and Away Match of the Season (Refer to Appendix "C").
- (C) A Player's Category and the subsequent Player Points Allocation and Home Player status will be determined by that Player's playing history and achievements and is structured in a way to promote Player development, loyalty and retention.
- (D) Each Player expected to play in a League will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation and Home Player status as detailed in Appendix A.
- (E) A Player playing in a Match under an Interchange Agreement as detailed at clause 3.9 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a permit Player) will be assessed on the same basis as a transferred Player.
- (F) A Club may make an application to the League for a reassessment by the League Equalisation Panel in accordance with clauses 6(C) and 7.
- (G) A Player's Player Points Allocation will only be determined when that Player transfers and registers to a Club, with only standard deductions occurring for each Season of Service thereafter. For the avoidance of doubt, annual reassessment will not occur unless in accordance with clause 5(B) and 6(C).

6. DEDUCTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS/HOME PLAYER STATUS

- (A) Once a Player's Player Points Allocation has been determined, a reduction of one (1) point will apply for each 'Season of Service' with that Player's Club (minimum five (5) senior games per Season) after their first 'Season of Service', until the Player reaches no less than one (1) point (this is the minimum number of points a Player can have). For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player is eligible for underage football at their Club, they must play five (5) senior games to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.
- (B) Where a Player qualifies in more than one Category based on their playing history in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) Seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply (Category 1 – Home Players excluded).
- (C) The League may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual Player's Player Points Allocation and/or Home Player status where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history or circumstances. Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a Player to the League Equalisation Panel. The determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the League Equalisation Panel.

7. THE LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL

- (A) The allocation of Total Team Points caps and Home Player Requirement for each Black Diamond Cup Team will be assessed and determined by the League following recommendation from the respective League Equalisation Panel in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) In considering the Total Team Points allocation, or Home Player requirement for each Black Diamond Cup Team, the following may be taken into account by the League Equalisation Panel:
 - a. Small Population Base
 - i. Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points where the Club is located in an area with a low population.
 - b. Ladder Position
 - i. Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points if the Black Diamond Cup team did not qualify for finals the previous season or has been promoted from the previous Season.
 - ii. A reduction in points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points for any team that has won multiple premierships in a defined number of Seasons.
 - iii. Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points if that team finished in the bottom three of the Competition and was not relegated.
 - c. Junior Pathway
 - i. Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points where a Club has no standalone U17 or younger underage teams aligned to it, and is not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a Club is formally aligned to a University or the Defence Force and the team is based around players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.

8. ENFORCEMENT

- (A) Clubs are required to submit to the League's Football Operations Manager as prescribed by the League the individual Player Points Allocations and Home Player Status in accordance with this PPS. The League will review and enter the final individual Player Points Allocations into Footyweb.
- (B) Player Points Allocations will be managed via Footyweb. Footyweb will not permit a Club to enter a Senior Team into an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Senior Team's permitted Total Team Points cap for a Match.
- (C) At present Footyweb is not capable of managing the Home Player requirement and as such each club and the League is required to manually monitor this.
- (D) Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations or Home Player Status, the Club may be penalised by the League in accordance with this clause 8.
- (E) The potential penalties or sanctions may include (without limitation):
 - a. Fines;
 - b. Termination or suspension of a Club's licence or affiliation;
 - c. Loss of premiership points (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
 - d. Suspension from a Senior Team's participation in the finals (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
 - e. Player/Official suspensions – for those Players/Officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
 - f. Suspension or ban on registration of players;
 - g. Any other sanction or penalty considered appropriate by the League.
- (G) The League may enforce the terms of this PPS and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the Club alleged to have infringed this PPS:
 - a. reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
 - b. notice of possible sanctions; and
 - c. the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.
- (H) In applying any enforcement provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS, the League shall take into consideration whether the breach was assessed as:
 - a. Unintentional – where a Club had not been provided with accurate information;
 - b. Interpretive – where a Club had reasonably applied the PPS;
 - c. Intentional – where a breach had occurred with little or no regard to the relevant requirements.

- (I) All appeals against a decision to apply a provision under this PPS will be heard by the League Equalisation Panel and will be final and binding.
- (K) AFL NSW/ACT and the Leagues will review this PPS Policy annually and amendments and variations may be made from time to time.

APPENDIX “A”

1. PLAYER CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

PLAYER CATEGORIES			
Category 7	7 Points	AFL Player	Minimum of 1 AFL Game in any of the previous 3 seasons.
Category 6	6 points	State League Tier 1 – VFL, WAFL, SANFL	Minimum 5 senior games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
Category 5	5 points	State League Tier 2 – NEAFL, TASFL	Minimum 5 senior games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
		NAB League (National U18's)	Minimum 5 games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
Category 4	4 points	Premium Community Player	Minimum 5 senior games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons in a Tier 1 Community League.
Category 3	3 points	Senior Community Player	Played the same or more senior (or highest division) than reserves (or non-highest division) games in any of the current or previous 3 Seasons.
		Transferred Junior	Player recruited from an U19's or younger competition and does not meet the home player definition.
Category 2	2 points	Development Community Player	Played more reserves (or non-highest division) than senior (or highest division) games in the previous Season. (excluding Tier 1 Community Leagues.
		Defence Force Personnel	Any Player who is currently posted to the Williamstown RAAF Base or the Lone Pine Army Barracks in Singleton
Category 1	1 point	Home Player	Played 40 or more games at the aligned junior club up to and including U18 competition.
			Has only played at that club.
			Has not played any football for 3 or more full seasons.

DEFINITIONS	
State League Tier 1	VFL, WAFL, SANFL.
State League Tier 2	NEAFL, TASFL
Tier 1 Community Leagues	AFL Sydney Premier Division, AFL Canberra 1 st Grade, Farrer FL Seniors, Riverina FL Seniors, Hume FL Seniors, Black Diamond Cup, QAFL, QFA Division 1, NTFLL, any senior community competition affiliated to AFL Tasmania, AFL Victoria, the SANFL or the WAFC and any State League player not meeting category 5 definition.
Junior Aligned Clubs	Where seniors and juniors exist under the same constitution, and/ or as determined by AFL NSW/ACT. Senior clubs can have multiple junior aligned clubs and junior clubs could have multiple senior aligned clubs. This is to ensure that appropriate and practical player pathways exist. The list of junior aligned clubs are outlined in this document.

2. PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS

POINTS ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS		
ADDITIONAL PLAYER POINTS	Additional 1 point	If player transfers from another community club and will be competing against their former club (does not include Category 2 Development Community Player).
		If player transfers to three or more community clubs in past 36 months. Does not include players moving on permit (e.g.: VFL, TAC Cup, NTFL or Local Interchange).
	Additional 2 points	If player played junior football with a AFL Hunter Central Coast Juniors club in the previous 3 seasons and is playing for a AFL Hunter Central Coast Senior club not in that <u>junior clubs pathway</u> .
If the player has played junior football with a AFL Hunter Coast Juniors club for less than 3 seasons, and played more matches for a junior club that is not in the AFL Hunter Central Coast club's youth pathway.		
PLAYER POINTS DEDUCTIONS	Deduct 1 point	For each season of service to the club, after 1 season served, (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per season), until the player reaches 1 point. #Note: if the player is eligible for underage football at that club, it must be 5 senior games to meet the criteria for a year of service.
	Deduct 1 Point	Where a player seeks to transfer from one Black Diamond Cup club to another, should the destination club of the player be three (3) or more positions lower on the previous season's Black Diamond Cup ladder than the source club, the player may be eligible for a one (1) point deduction upon request to the League Equalisation Panel.
	Deduct 2 points	Where a player transfers from a club in the Black Diamond Cup competition to a club that was promoted from a lower division in the previous season.
	Revert to 2 points	Senior playing coach who does not meet Category 1 criteria.
	Revert to 1 point	Where player is returning to their home club.

3. LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT	
1) League Equalisation Panels may reassess an individual Player's Points Allocation where the Panel deems in its ultimate discretion that the prescribed points allocation is inappropriate based on the Player's playing history.	
2) Where a Player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history in the previous 3 Seasons, the category with the highest points will apply, hence the use of the flow chart (Note: Home Players are excluded).	
3) Any Player that does not meet any of the prescribed point categories will need to apply to the League Equalisation Panel who will determine the appropriate points allocation in its ultimate discretion.	
4) The League Equalisation Panel may take into account the following in determining whether or not the imposition of the additional point is appropriate in the circumstances:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The nature and location of the Player's employment; b. The principle place of residence of Player's family members; c. The principle place of residence of the Player's partner or spouse; d. The Player's previous history and/ or relationship with the Club; and e. Any other factors deemed appropriate by the assessment panel in its absolute discretion.

4. TOTAL TEAMS POINTS ALLOCATIONS

TOTAL TEAM POINTS ALLOWANCES / REDUCTIONS #	Small Population Base	Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points where the Club is located in a region with a low population base.
	Ladder Position	Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points if the Team did not qualify for finals in the previous Season or has been promoted from the previous Season.
		A reduction in points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points allocation for any Team that has won multiple premierships in a defined number of Seasons.
		Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points allocation if that Team finished in the bottom three of Competition and was not relegated.
	Junior Pathway	Additional points may be allocated to a Club's Total Team Points where a Club has no standalone U17 or younger underage teams aligned to it, and is not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a Club is formally aligned to a University or the Defence Force and the team is based around players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.
Minimum Points Allocation	The Minimum total Teams Points Allocation allowed for a club shall be 28 points.	

5. SENIOR/JUNIOR CLUB ALIGNMENT

15 SENIOR CLUB	16 ALIGNED JUNIOR CLUB
Cardiff Hawks	Cardiff Hawks
Gosford Tigers	Gosford Tigers, Niagara Park Ourimbah Dockers, Peninsula Swans
Killarney Vale Bombers	Killarney Vale Bombers, The Entrance Bateau Bay Blues (for transfers prior to the 2014 season)
Lake Macquarie Dockers	Lake Macquarie Dockers, Wallsend-West Newcastle Swans (for transfers prior to the 2018 season)
Maitland Saints	Maitland Saints
Muswellbrook Cats	Muswellbrook Cats
Nelson Bay Marlins	Nelson Bay Marlins, Port Stephens Power
Newcastle City Blues	Newcastle City Blues
Singleton Roosters	Singleton Roosters
Terrigal-Avooca Panthers	Terrigal-Avooca Panthers, Saratoga Hawks
The Entrance Bateau Bay Blues	The Entrance Bateau Bay Blues
Wallsend-West Newcastle Swans	Wallsend-West Newcastle Swans, Newcastle City Blues (until 2020)
Warners Bay Bulldogs	Warners Bay Bulldogs
Wyong Lakes Magpies	Wyong Lakes Magpies, Northern Lakes Power

APPENDIX “B”

The base Total Team Points allocation for Senior team in AFL Hunter Central Coast Black Diamond Cup will be capped as per the below;

Points	Clubs
28	Newcastle City & Terrigal Avoca
33	Cardiff
37	Singleton
38	Killarney Vale, Warners Bay, Maitland & Wyong Lakes
40	Gosford and Nelson Bay
45	Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, The Entrance Bateau Bay, Wallsend - West Newcastle

Note: Where a Club does not participate in Black Diamond Cup, the base Total Team Points allocation is intended as a guide only and will not be enforced.



APPENDIX "C"

PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATION REVISION REQUEST

.....(Club) hereby request the AFL Hunter Central Coast Equalisation Panel to review the Points allocated to the following player as per Clause 5(B) of the AFL NSW/ACT Community Club Sustainability Program Policy – AFL Hunter Central Coast (PPS):

Player Name:

Player Address:

Date of Birth:

Player History – (Include Footyweb Printout)

Juniors

Table with 2 columns: YEAR PLAYED, CLUB

Seniors

Table with 2 columns: YEAR PLAYED, CLUB

Player Points Allocation

Points Allocated by AFL HCC

Club Calculation

Table with 2 columns for calculation items: Player Category, Points Allocated, Additional Player Points, Player Points Deductions, Player Point Allocation

Home Player Status

Has the player been granted Home Player Status Yes / No

Club Request

Empty text box for Club Request

Club Comments to Support Request

Empty text box for Club Comments to Support Request

(Include any documents to support your request including proof of address, employment etc if applicable)

Submitted by:

Club Position Held:

Date:/...../20....

Appendix “E” – Melee Matrix

AFL Hunter Central Coast, in keeping with other leagues across AFL NSW/ACT, have instigated a By-Law with the intended outcome of reducing the number of Melee’s occurring during matches. In the instance of a Melee occurring, which in the opinion of the Field Umpire(s) is worthy of noting in the Umpires Match Report, will result in a fine to the club by way of loss of Club of the Year Points. Each activation point will equate to the loss of one (1) Club of the Year Point.

Melee Matrix			
Melee Details	Activation Points	Home Team	Away Team
Players actively involved from ONE team			
6 or less	10		
7-9 players	20		
10-12 players	40		
13 or more players	60		
Officials involved from ONE team			
No officials involved	0		
2 or less manhandling own players	10		
3 or more manhandling own players	20		
2 or less manhandling opposition players	40		
3 or more manhandling opposition players	60		
	Total Points		

Appendix “F” – Alcohol Management Club Policy

AFL Hunter Central Coast (AFLHCC) acknowledges its role in promoting healthy environment standards amongst the AFLHCC Member Clubs and supporters. AFLHCC Clubs are required to have in place appropriate Alcohol Management Policies.

AFLHCC shall provide relevant reference points to assist Members establish and / or maintain their own rules and process to deal with the issue of Alcohol Management within Australian Football.

ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT CLUB POLICY

This policy aims to provide a basis for the responsible management of alcohol by the club. The club recognises the importance in holding a liquor license in the value it adds to the club, enabling it to generate income and hold social functions, but in doing so the club also accepts the responsibilities and expectations of the community in strictly adhering to the liquor licensing laws.

Serving Alcohol

Alcohol will be served according to the requirements of the club's liquor licence and in accordance with the safety and wellbeing of patrons.

- The club will maintain a current liquor licence.
- The liquor licence will be displayed at the bar.
- Persons under the age of 18 years are not permitted to serve alcohol.
- Only Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) trained members/bar staff will be permitted to serve alcohol.
- The club will discourage excessive or rapid consumption of alcohol.
- Alcoholic drinks will be served in standard drink measures.
- The club will display posters on liquor license regulations and education.
- Promoting the responsible use of alcohol
- The club will actively demonstrate its attitude relating to the responsible use of alcohol.
- The club will not advertise, promote or serve alcohol at junior events or activities.
- The club will educate club members and supporters about the alcohol policy.
- The club will pursue non-alcohol sponsorship and revenue sources.
- The club will provide at least one alcohol-free social events for Junior club's.
- Alcohol advertising will only appear at the bar.
- The club will not promote alcohol through 'cheap drink' strategies, such as happy hours.

Intoxicated patrons

- Alcohol will not be served to any person who is intoxicated.
- Servers will follow procedures, provided in their training, for dealing with and refusing alcohol to intoxicated patrons.
- Intoxicated patrons will be asked to leave the club.
- Intoxicated persons will be refused entry into the club.

Underage drinking

- Alcohol will not be served to persons under the age of 18 years.
- Staff will request proof of age, where appropriate.
- Only photographic ID will be accepted.

Safe Transport

- Bar staff shall encourage members and visitors to make alternate safe transport arrangements if they are considered to exceed .05 blood alcohol concentration.
- Telephone calls will be made free of charge to arrange a taxi or other transport.
- Contact telephone numbers for taxi services will be displayed at the bar.
- In specific cases, where a designated driver who has been nominated by the club and that person has accepted the responsibility to drive others home safely, will be provided non-alcoholic drinks free of charge by the club.

Fundraising, Functions and Prizes

- Promotions such as drink promotions, drinking competitions and all-inclusive cover charges should not be conducted on club premises.
- The club will not promote or provide alcohol or drink vouchers for player awards.
- Prizes for raffles and fundraising will not have an alcohol focus.
- The club will use food or canteen awards rather than alcohol as prizes for player performance.
- The club will monitor and ensure any club trips, particularly end of season player trips, strictly adhere to responsible behaviour and alcohol consumption in accordance with the principles of this policy.

Food

- The club will wherever possible actively promote and sell food whenever alcohol is available.

Bar Management

- A list of all RSA trained club members will be displayed near the bar. The list will also highlight RSA trained committee members.
- Non and low alcoholic alternative drinks will be available at all times.
- Tap water will be provided free of charge from the bar.
- An incident register will be maintained to record any incidents that may occur in relation to compliance with this policy and the operation of the social rooms bar.
- Bar staff will not be permitted to drink alcohol while serving behind the bar.

Club Committee Responsibilities

- The presence of committee members is essential to ensure the operation of the bar and policy compliance. At least two duty committee members who are RSA trained are required to be present at all club functions when the bar is open.

Key responsibilities of the duty committee members are to:

- Meet visiting police, cooperate and assist with any inquiries.
- Ensure the admission of members and guests and completion of the visitor's book.
- Compliance in respect of persons under 18 years of age on premises.
- Ensuring intoxicated people are refused service and are asked to leave the premises.
- Ensuring strict compliance with the club policy in accordance with the key provisions of the Liquor Licence.
- Recording any incidents in the incident register.

Non-compliance

All club committee members will enforce the alcohol management policy and any non-compliance will be handled according to the following process;

- Explanation of the club policy to the person/people concerned, including identification of the section of policy not being complied with.
- Continued non-compliance with the policy should be handled by at least two committee members who will use their discretion as to the action taken, which may include asking the person/ people to leave the club facilities or function.

Promoting the “Alcohol Management Policy”

The club will promote the alcohol management policy regularly by;

- Distributing a copy to all club members.
- Displaying a copy of the policy in the club social rooms.
- Periodic announcements to members at functions.

The club recognises the importance of educating club members, particularly players in the benefits of implementing an alcohol management policy and will endeavour to provide information to assist this process and will become involved in the Good Sports Program.

Policy Review

To ensure this policy continues to be relevant for club operation and that it reflects both community expectations and the provisions of the Liquor Control Reform Act, the policy will be reviewed annually.

Appendix “G” – Lightning Guidelines

1. Introduction

AS1768-2007 Lightning Protection Standard was published on 10 January 2007.

Section 1.2 states that “Compliance with the recommendations contained in this Standard will not necessarily prevent damage or personal injury due to lightning, but will reduce the probability of such damage or injury occurring”.

3.3.1 Under Precautions and Personal Safety notes “In the absence of specific information from weather radar, a lightning location system, or a specialized warning device” then “the 30/30 safety guideline should be used.”

2. Procedures

When lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to an AFL match the following procedures are applicable:

(a) Access to Bureau of Meteorology

(i) Lead Up Prior to Match Day

- The proactive plan should commence in the days before the activity, where weather forecasts provide important warning of possible thunderstorm activity.
- The league will monitor weather forecasts commencing Tuesday prior to schedule matches using the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website. Note should be taken off any warnings posted.
- The league will continue to monitor the BOM site in the days leading up to the match.
- On the day prior to match if any threat of lightning is predicted the Football Operations Co-ordinator will contact the Duty Forecaster of the BOM in the relevant state of venue and request a verbal update. BOM contacts are distributed to all clubs prior to the start of the Season.

(ii) Match Day

- Increased awareness of lightning risk should continue on the match day until the activity has finished.
- If the threat continues into game day the Football Operations Co-ordinator should contact or meet the Ground Manager to discuss the situation.
- They should check the BOM website then contact the Duty Forecaster at the relevant BOM to determine the situation.
- The competing club representatives should be contacted in order to explain the situation to them.
- Regular updates must be sought from the BOM in the period leading up to the match commencement time, involving the Ground Manager, competing Clubs and an umpire.
- Teams and officials should proceed to the venue unless otherwise directed.
- If lightning is predicted within no less than 10km of the match venue at the scheduled starting time the game commencement time may be delayed by up to 60 minutes.
- This decision to delay or suspend play as well as resume play will be based on information obtained from the BOM. The Football Operations Manager must be contacted to discuss, Ground Manager, Club representatives and an Umpire will be involved.

(iii) Training (Club Responsibility)

- A club official should monitor forecasts and particularly warnings, through the Bureau of Meteorology, in the lead up to outdoor training sessions.
- If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant coaching, rehabilitation and training staff and provide updates on a regular basis.
- A decision to delay, suspend or resume training should be made in consultation with relevant coaching and administration staff.
- If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car.

- They must not shelter under or near trees.
- Once the storm's path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30minutes elapsed before returning to training.

(b) No Access to Bureau of Meteorology

The most basic level of warning involves observation of the weather in the local area.

1.1.a.1. 30 / 30 Rule

- **Lightning 30/30 rule:** If it takes less than 30 seconds to hear thunder after seeing the flash, lightning is near enough to pose a threat; after the storm ends, wait 30 minutes before resuming outdoor activities
- The **"30/30" rule** serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activities. The overall principle is to seek shelter when the lightning activity is too close.
- The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm system is travelling.
- A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard.