AFL (NSW/ACT) COMMISSION LIMITED

&

AFL HUNTER CENTRAL COAST JUNIORS

2021 RULES

Version 1.1

Version	Date	Rule	Update
1.1	17/6/2021	5.5	CHANGED TO THE NEW TRANSFER RULE, ORIGINAL TRANSFER RULE FIRST TABLED WITH CLUBS THAT WAS REJECTED, WAS ACCIDENTALLY PUT IN INSTEAD

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1 GENERAL

1.1 Introduction

The following Rules have been made by AFL NSW/ACT and by AFL Hunter Central Coast pursuant to its role to administer Australian Football Competitions in the Hunter and Central Coast regions].

1.2 AFL NSW / ACT Jurisdiction & Obligations

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

(B) AFL NSW/ACT will:

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

(ii) ensure compliance of the Rules by Leagues;

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

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

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

1.3 Objectives & Application

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

(B) The objectives of the Rules are to:

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

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

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

1.4 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Competition Management Committee or CMC 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;
- Competition Coordinator;
- Community Football and Competition Manager
- Community Football Manager NSW ACT;
- Their nominees

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

Constitution means the Constitution of AFL NSW/ACT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

League means an AFL NSW/ACT managed or affiliated league which operates or conducts a Competition within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Official means any person assuming an official role on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) of a Club of the controlling body, including any Club Umpire, President, Club Committee member, Coach or

assistant Coach, team manager or assistant team manager, runner, trainer, interchange steward, water carrier, Ground Manager, or person officiating in any capacity on match day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rules means the AFL NSW/ACT & [insert League name] 2021 Rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under Age means Junior and Youth Players

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

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

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

1.5 Interpretation

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.6 COVID-19 Compliance

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

(i) The NSW Public Health Order;

(ii) The ACT Public Health Directions; and

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

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

2 LAWS AND POLICIES

2.1 Governing Laws & Policies

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

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

Category	Document
Rules & Match Management	The Rules
	Laws of Australian Football
	Australian Football Match Policy
Eligibility, Registration & Transfers	National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations
	National Player and Official Deregistration Policy
	National Age Dispensation Policy

	AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines
	National Coaching Accreditation Policy
Member Protection & Integrity	Australian Football Member Protection Policy
	National Vilification and Discrimination Policy
	Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy
	AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct
	Gender Diversity Policy
	National Sexuality & Pregnancy Guidelines
	National Gambling Policy
	Australian Football Anti-Doping Code
Health & Safety	The Management of Concussion in Australian Football
	National Extreme Weather Policy
	The Management of Medical Emergencies & Injuries in Community Australian Football
Communications	National Social Media Engagement Policy
	AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications
Investigation, Disciplinary & Hearings	National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines
	State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines
	State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT

2.2 Laws of the Game

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

2.3 Amendments to Rules

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

2.4 Suspension of Rules

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

2.5 Regional Amendments

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

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

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

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

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

2.6 Compliance

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

2.7 Notice and Disciplinary Sanctions

2.7.1 Disciplinary Sanctions

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

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

(ii) notice of possible sanctions; and

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

2.7.2 Exclusion of Liability

AFL NSW/ACT may excuse:

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

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

2.8 Conduct of Under Age Competitions

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

2.9 Alcohol Policy

(A) NOT APPLICABLE.

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

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

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

(E) NOT APPLICABLE.

(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. Should Junior/Youth & Senior matches be played on the same day at the same venue, Alcohol may 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) NOT APPLICABLE.

(I) Alcohol is not permitted to be sold at, taken to or consumed at any Junior Football Match.

2.10 AFL NSW/ACT Match Laws

2.10.1 Kick-in Rule

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

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

2.10.2 50 Metre Penalties

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.10.3 Traditional Playing Positions at Centre Bounces – Senior Competitions – NOT APPLICABLE

2.10.4 Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity) - NOT APPLICABLE

2.10.5 Location of Mark at Kick In

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

2.10.6 Player Standing the Mark (Lateral Movement)

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

2.10.7 Head Count – Under Age Competitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) stop play at the first available opportunity;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) If the field Umpire is of the opinion that the request was made primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall issue a yellow card to the Captain or acting Captain who requested the Player count and may report the Captain or acting Captain who requested the count for time wasting under Law 22.2.2(x).

2.10.8 Sledging & Intimidation – Under Age Competitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.10.9 Removing Players from the Field of Play

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

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

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

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

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

2.10.10 Supporter Distance from the Boundary

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

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

2.11 HCC Juniors Modified Rules

For a breakdown of Hunter Central Coast Juniors modified rules for relevant age groups, refer to Appendix J.

3 LEAGUES

3.1 League Management Structure

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

(i) Managed Leagues

(ii) Partly Managed Leagues and

(iii) Affiliated Leagues

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

3.2 Affiliated League Requirements

3.2.1 Affiliation & Services Agreement

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

3.2.2 Affiliation & Services Fee

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

3.2.3 Incorporation Requirement

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

3.2.4 Application of Rules

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

3.2.5 Refusal or Cancellation of Affiliation

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

3.2.6 League Contact Details

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

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

(ii) the League Members register.

3.2.7 Club Contact Details

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

3.3 League Insurance

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

3.4 League Sponsorship / Marketing Agreements

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

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

3.5 Club Participation Agreements

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

4 CLUBS

4.1 Club Affiliation

4.1.1 Affiliation Requirement

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

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

4.1.2 Approval of New Clubs

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

4.1.3 Affiliation Application & Fee

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

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

4.1.4 Determination of Application

(A) The CMC may:

(i) approve a Club's affiliation application;

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

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

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

(v) defer same.

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

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

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

(iii) the financial health of the Club;

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

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

4.1.5 Termination of Agreement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.2 Club Incorporation & Governance

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

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

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

4.3 Club Insurance Requirements

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

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

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

4.4 Club Contact Details

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

4.5 Attendance at Meetings

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

4.6 Club Integrity Officer

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

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

4.7 Club Name & Logos

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

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

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

4.8 Club Uniforms

4.8.1 Wearing of Uniform

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

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

4.8.2 Design & Approval

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

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

4.8.3 Approved Suppliers

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

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

4.8.4 Jumper Numbers

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

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

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

4.8.5 AFL NSW ACT Logo on Uniforms

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

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

4.8.6 League / Club Logos on Uniforms

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

4.8.7 Sponsors Logo on Uniforms

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.8.8 Uniform Clashes

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

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

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

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

(a) Clash jumper sets will be made available (if required) by the league.

4.9 Club Transferring

4.9.1 Club Request to Transfer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.9.2 League Refuse Request for Club to Transfer

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

4.9.3 League Disbanding

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

4.9.4 Appeals

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

4.10 Proof of Communication

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

4.11 Resolution of disputes within Clubs

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

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

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

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

5 PLAYERS

5.1 Registration

5.1.1 Registration Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

5.1.2 Registration Timeframe

(A) New Player registrations will be accepted until the end of the home and away series in the season in which the Player intends to play.

(B) Player transfer applications will be dealt with in accordance with the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations.

5.1.3 Process for Registration

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

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

(C) No person will be registered or re-registered under an assumed name unless such assumed name and the reason for its necessary use is notified to and accepted by the League and the person's legal name and current address are submitted to the League at the time of registration. Such information shall be kept confidential by the League.

(D) Upon a person's registration application being approved, the person shall be deemed a Player of that Club until such time as the person has either been granted a transfer to play with another Club or a period of twenty-four (24) calendar months has elapsed since the person last played competition football for the Club with which he or she was last registered.

(E) Players are required to re-register with their existing Club each season through Footyweb.

5.1.4 Match Day Registration

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.1.5 Documentation

(A) Documentation evidencing proof of age in the form of an original birth certificate, photo licence, passport, original Baptism or similar certificate, immunisation booklet or student identification may be requested by the League at any time. Failure to produce such documentation may lead to the Player's registration being refused or cancelled.

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

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

5.1.6 Misleading or Incorrect Information

(A) Any Player who knowingly submits incorrect information or who intentionally fails to disclose information on any registration form or transfer application may be subject to the following penalties as determined by the League in its absolute discretion:

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

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

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

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

5.1.7 Dual Registration

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

5.1.8 Unregistered & Ineligible Players

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.2 Eligibility

5.2.1 Minimum Ages

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.2.2 Playing Up (Under Age Competitions)

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

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

5.2.3 Dispensation to Play Up

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.2.4 Dispensation to Play Down an Age Group

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

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

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

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

5.2.5 Female Participation

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

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

5.2.6 Pregnancy

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

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

5.2.7 Finals Eligibility

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

5.2.8 Best & Fairest Eligibility

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

5.2.9 Identification Request

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

5.3 Transfers & Permits

5.3.1 Transfer Requirements

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

5.3.2 24 Month Rule

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

5.3.3 Interchange Agreements

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

5.3.4 Permits

The various permit types available are:

(i) Local Interchange Permit;

(ii) Match Day Permit;

(iii) Temporary Transfer;

(iv) Student Permit;

(v) State League Player Trial Permit.

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

5.3.5 Clubs Transferring, Amalgamating or Disbanding

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

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

(ii) The Secretary or authorised person of the transferor League shall supply a certified list of all registered Players of the Club concerned to the Club's new League.

(iii) This process must be completed in Footyweb.

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

5.3.6 League Amalgamating or Disbanding

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

5.4 Player Aids & Protective Equipment

5.4.1 Dangerous Items

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

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

5.4.2 Undergarments (Including Compression Garments)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(E) It is allowable for players in Under 9 matches to wear full length compression garments (arms and legs), It is preferable that they be beige or the same colour as club shorts.

5.4.3 Spectacles

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

5.4.4 Gloves

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

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

5.5 HCC Juniors Player Movement Rules

(A) Local Interchange Permits will only be approved under the following circumstances:

(i) A player wishes to play up an age group and the players original club does not field teams in the higher age group. That player may for a second club, only where playing up a level for that club.

(ii) A player wishes to also play Senior Football for the same club.

(iii) A player who is registered to play Senior Football who is age eligible to play Junior Football.

(iv) Approval to play is subject to the approval of both clubs and the Competition Management Committee

(B) AFL Academy Permits.

(i) Upon request from the Academy Manager, A Local Interchange Permit or Match Day Permit for a player may be approved under the following circumstances:

(a) The Academy deems it appropriate for a player to obtain additional match time. Approval must be sought from the Players Parents, Academy Manager & both Clubs.

(b) The player must fulfil all commitments to their original club prior to participating in activities of the permit club.

(c) This rule is designed to provide additional playing time where a club has a bye and The Academy deems it appropriate for that player's development.

(C) Club to Club Player movement: In addition to the National Transfer Regulations, the following will apply for all transfers within the AFL Hunter Central Coast junior competition;

(i) A maximum of two (2) net player movements from Club A to Club B are allowable in a single season.

(ii) Any additional player movements between Club A and Club B (beyond those allowable under Rule 5.5 (C) (i) can only be approved under exceptional circumstances by the AFL HCC Board.

(a) Applications for exceptional circumstances must be submitted to the league's competition management committee (CMC) for review in the prescribed form.

(iii) CMC recommendations will then be provided to the AFL Hunter Central Coast Board for final determination (determination will only occur at the monthly Board meeting).

(iv) Any player movements which seek to circumvent 4.11 (C) and are therefore not in the spirit of the bylaw can be rescinded at the CMC discretion.

(v) All player movements are subject to the National Transfer Regulations.

(D) Where a Player is a member of an AFL Academy, the following will apply:

(i) If as a result of transfers, the number of AFL Academy players will exceed 30% of the maximum registrations for the team, the transfer will not be approved by the Competition Management Committee.

(ii) If, during the transfer process, it is not disclosed that the player is an AFL Academy player and it is subsequently found that the player was an AFL Academy player at the time of transfer, the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player, any competition points gained will be forfeited and the transfer will be revoked.

(a) Player movement of AFL Academy members in any one season is limited to two players into a single team, regardless of other provisions in this by law. Provisions regarding players on permit as part of a Joint Venture arrangement are external to this by law.

(b) A Club, its Management, Coaches, Players, Parents of Players or any other person directly or indirectly involved in a club must not solicit a player registered with another club with a view to having a player move to another club. Clubs found guilty of engaging in this practice will be subject to sanction. Clubs must make all stakeholders aware that this practice is unacceptable.

(E) Where a Club has more than one team in a Division or Conference, Players are not able to be interchanged between teams after Round 3 (excluding players from younger age group playing up). This rule does not apply to Under 9/10 Competitions, where player movement is allowed throughout the season.

6 TEAMS

6.1 Team Nominations

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

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

(C) The Board may direct that a Club's team(s) participate in such competitions as Scheduled by the Competition Management Committee. The Competition Management Committee may elect to conduct age groups in Divisions or Conferences where appropriate.

(D) Prior to the commencement of the competition, the Competition Management Committee will call for team nominations by a prescribed date to enable the compilation of a draw. Where Clubs fail to nominate by the prescribed date, the Competition Management Committee may elect to reject any late nominations.

(E) Any Club that has two or more teams in a divisionalised competition, a team will be placed in each division.

(F) Where a club enters three or more teams in an age group and that age group has a divisionalised competition, two of the three teams will be entered into the highest division, with the Competition Management Committee to decide where any subsequent teams are placed.

(G) Any Club that has one team in a divisionalised competition will have that team placed in the most appropriate competition to ensure competitive football.

(i) Should the competition management committee deem regrading of team/s necessary to maintain competitive football, this process will be undertaken in consultation with the clubs involved with the regrading.

(H) Any Club that has two (or more) teams in a single competition, the teams must be evenly matched. The Competition Management Committee has the right to ensure this occurs.

(I) Any Clubs that propose to merge, form an alliance, or enter into some other form of arrangement, save for Joint Venture teams (which are subject to specific provisions under these Rules), must obtain the prior approval for such arrangement from the Competition Management Committee when seeking Affiliation.

(J) When making the decision as to whether to approve, and if so, on what terms and conditions, any such arrangement between Clubs, the Competition Management Committee must take into account the development and best interests of the game in the Region(s).

(K) Clubs nominating teams for entry into all competitions must have registered at least the minimum number of players plus one (1) (as set out in Rule 6.5) in that team by the date set down by the Competition Management Committee as the closing date for nomination of teams. These numbers must only include players who are age appropriate for the competition, not any players playing up from a younger age group

(L) These rules allow, subject to conditions set by the Competition Management Committee in their absolute discretion, the formation of Joint Venture teams between clubs to maximise participation in competitions. The application for, and approval of any such joint venture will be via a prescribed form provided at point of application.

(M) Any Joint Venture will be for the term of one season and all players will remain a registered player for their original club.

(N) Joint Ventures will only be approved where the best interests of both clubs and overall promotion of the sport are considered. No Joint Ventures or movement of players will be permitted without the approval of the Competition Management Committee. The Competition Management Committee reserves the right to reject or alter any Joint Venture arrangement if the best interests of all parties are not considered.

6.2 Joint Ventures

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.3 Multiple Teams in Under Age Competitions

(A) Where a Club enters more than one (1) team in a Junior or Youth Grade in the same Competition, the Club has three (3) rounds to finalise its Player allocation to those teams. During those three (3) rounds a Player may play for any of the Club's teams in that Grade but cannot play for more than one (1) of those teams in a round.

(B) After round three (3) a Player must remain in the same team for the duration of the season including finals.

(C) During the course of the Season, a Club may make application to the CMC to move a Player to another team in that Grade, where the Club can demonstrate that moving that Player will help bring balance to the Club's teams in that Grade. The approval of any such application is at the absolute discretion of the CMC. If the application is approved, the Player must then remain in that team for the duration of the season, including any Finals. Matches played by that Player in the other team will be counted for finals eligibility.

(D) Clubs are to adhere to the following when allocating players in a Grade to its teams:

(i) For Age Groups up to and including Under 13, teams are to be either:

(a) of similar makeup of ability; or

(b) based on an age split where clubs have consulted with Players, Parents and Coaches to determine that a lower age team could compete safely in the Competition Grade.

(ii) For Age Groups over Under 13, teams are to be of similar makeup of ability.

(E) If, in the opinion of the CMC, the Teams are not evenly matched, the Club will be directed to make changes to Teams, usually by the end of round four (4) or even sooner.

6.4 Number of Players – Senior Competitions

NOT APPLICABLE

6.5 Number of Players – Under Age Competitions

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

Age Group	Minimum Players on Field	Team Nomination Number	Match Numbers	Maximum Players on Field	Maximum Players on Team Sheet	Maximum Registration Per Team
U9	6	7	12	12	15	15

U11	9	10	15	15	21	21
U13	12	13	16	18	24	24
U15/17	12	13	16	18	24	24
Youth Girls U10	6	7	12	12	15	15
Youth Girls U11/U12	8	9	12	12	17	17
Youth Girls U13/U14/U15	9	10	15	16	22	22
Youth Girls U16/U17	12	13	15	16	22	22

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

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

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

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

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

(E) The term “Match Number” is defined as the ideal number of on field players per team. Where a team does not have that number of players available, it is compulsory to borrow players from the opposition to achieve this number (where available), up to the Match Number.

(F) Rule 6.5(D) do not apply in finals series matches.

(G) Should a Coach refuse to provide players for the opposition team in this instance, the matter will be reported to the Competition Management Committee for determination in their absolute discretion.

(H) The term “Maximum Players on Field” is defined as the greatest number of on field players per team. Where both teams have any number of players above “Match Numbers”, teams are to come to an agreement regarding on field numbers that are not greater than “maximum players on field” and not less than “match number”. Should no agreement be reached, the game shall be played at “Match Numbers”.

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

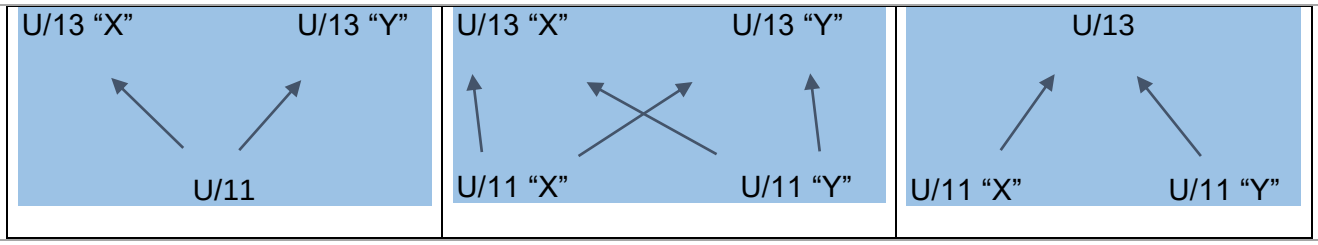
(J) Other than in the case of a send-off, or where Rule 8.7.5 is applied, on-field Player numbers must be equal at all times.

(K) Where a Club has more than one team in an age group, Players are not able to be interchanged between teams after Round 3 without competition management approval (excluding players from younger age group playing up). This Rule does not apply to Under 9/10 Competitions, where player movement is allowed throughout the season.

(i) Requests for movement of players within an age group after round 3 must be submitted to the competition management committee for approval.

(ii) Finals eligibility is subject to Appendix “G”

(L) Where a player is playing up an age group, that player is not restricted to playing for a particular team, should the higher age group (or the lower age group) have multiple teams.



7 CLUB & TEAM OFFICIALS

7.1 Club Officials

7.1.1 Conduct

Club Officials are:

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

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

7.1.2 Officials on Bench

In addition to the maximum number of game day officials as provided in Rules 7.4 to 7.6 each Team is permitted a maximum of four (4) other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play.

7.2 Coaches

7.2.1 Registration Requirements

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

7.2.2 Accreditation Requirements

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

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

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

7.2.3 Unregistered or Unaccredited Coaches

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.2.4 Coach Identifiable

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

7.3 Ground Manager

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

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

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

Category	Responsibilities

Equipment & Ground Set-up	• Ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the Match is available before the Match.
	• For Under Age Competitions, ensure the ground is set-up properly for each Match including:
	  ○ Adjusting the field size (e.g. with cones) to the specified size for the age group;
	  ○ The movement and placement of goal posts and padding (where applicable); and
	  ○ Marking the interchange area (e.g. with cones).
	• Ensure that both Teams are aware where the interchange area is.

Rules & Compliance	• Ensure the following are readily available for all Matches:
	  ○ A current online copy or hardcopy of the Rules; and
	  ○ A current online or hardcopy Laws of the Game; and
	  ○ An Umpires attendance sheet: and
	  ○ A current online or hardcopy of the AFL Community Concussion Guidelines; and
	  ○ A hardcopy of the Community Football Head Injury Assessment form and
	  ○ A spare set of Yellow and Red cards.

Timekeeping	• Ensure the availability of a competent timekeeper for each Match. • Ensure timekeeping equipment and a back-up timer are available.
Umpires	• Check the availability of field, goal and boundary Umpires. • Provide drinks for the field Umpires at each break. • Ensure an Umpire Escort is available to conduct duties as detailed in Rule 7.7. • Ensure the field Umpire reviews both Team Sheets for inclusion of all jumper numbers and then sign the sheets (noting that both Clubs are to retain both Club's Team Sheets) plus the score cards.
Officials Identification	• Where applicable seek to ensure Coaches, Team managers, boundary Umpires, goal Umpires, runners, water carriers, trainers and First Aid Officials wear their identification bib or appropriate uniform as described in the Rules on Match day (see Appendix "F").
Injury Management	• Before the commencement of the Match, identify compliance with the Injury Management Policy as described in Rule 9.9.2 and Rule 9.9.3. • Ensure a stretcher and a first aid kit are readily accessible at all times.

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

7.4 Team Managers

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

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

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

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

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

(F) It shall be the Team manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Club waits on the Umpires at the conclusion of each Match to ascertain whether or not any reports of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match or to receive the "all clear".

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

(H) Arrange the following as applicable: Club Goal Umpire, Club Boundary Umpire, A suitable match ball, correctly attired Runner & Trainers and the First Aid ERC for matches

7.5 Trainers / First Aid / Water Carriers

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

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

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

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

(E) The Umpire will ask any Trainer or First Aid Official or water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform. The Umpire shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players.

(F) The Team Runner, Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers shall be:

- A minimum of 12 Years of Age for matches Under 11 or Under
- A minimum of 13 Years of Age for matches Under 12 or over (Including Youth Girls Divisions)

(G) The Field Umpire has the power to ask any Non-Players to leave the field at any time at their absolute discretion.

7.6 Runners

(A) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of one (1) runner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.7 Umpire Escort

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) An Umpire exclusion zone should be implemented at quarter and three-quarter time encompassing the centre square. The Umpire Escort is to stand with the Umpires during the quarter and three-quarter time intervals and arrange for water to be provided to the Umpires, if required.

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

(E) Any Umpire Escort provided is expected to assist in providing and/or obtaining details of any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct immediately after completing their duties in liaison with/at the request of the Umpire or Ground Manager.

7.8 Timekeepers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.9 Disqualification – Persons Not to Act

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

7.10 Working With Children

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

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

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

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

8 COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

8.1 Competition Management Committee (CMC)

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

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

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

(ii) Community Football Manager NSW ACT;

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

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

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

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

(vii) Other persons as delegated by the League.

8.2 Interpretation of the Rules

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

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

8.3 Competition Grades

The League has determined that the following Competition Grades will apply for the current season.

Competition	Gender	Grade
Hunter U9	Mixed	Under 9
Central Coast U9	Mixed	Under 9
Hunter U11	Mixed	Under 11
Central Coast U11	Mixed	Under 11
Hunter U11 Youth Girls	Female	Under 11
Central Coast U11 Youth Girls	Female	Under 11
Hunter U13	Mixed	Under 13
Central Coast U13	Mixed	Under 13
Hunter U13 Youth Girls	Female	Under 13
Central Coast U13 Youth Girls	Female	Under 13
Hunter Central Coast U15	Male	Under 15
Hunter Central Coast U15 Youth Girls	Female	Under 15
Hunter Central Coast U17	Male	Under 17
Hunter Central Coast U17 Youth Girls	Female	Under 17

8.4 Minimum Standards

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

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

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

8.5 Competition Equalisation

8.5.1 Player Points / Player Payments System – NOT APPLICABLE

8.6 Fixture

8.6.1 Preparation of Fixture

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

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

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

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

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

8.6.2 Club Requests for Fixture Changes

(A) Senior Clubs have 4 weeks from the distribution of the Season Fixture to request changes to times and venues. After that time changes to the Season Fixture can only be requested:

(i) with 4 weeks prior notice and with the affected opponent's agreement; or

(ii) for unforeseen circumstances such as washouts.

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

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

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

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

8.7 Competition Results

8.7.1 Determination

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

Should a team withdraw from the competition after Round 1, matches will be deemed to be a forfeit to their opponents for the remainder of the season. However, should the withdrawal of a team result in an even number of teams in the competition, the Competition Management Committee shall re-organise the competition, in which case any results for completed matches shall stand.

8.7.2 Ladder

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

8.7.3 Match Wins

(A) In home and away round Matches:

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

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

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

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

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

8.7.4 Forfeits

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

(i) the Club of that Team is to advise the opposing Club, Umpire Manager and the League no later than midday the day prior to the Match, or as otherwise prescribed by the League; and

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

(B) Should a Club fail to provide notice in accordance with Rule 8.7.4(A), a fine of up to one thousand (1,000) dollars may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the CMC.

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

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

(ii) the Club of the forfeiting Team may also be fined an amount as determined by the CMC, not exceeding one thousand (1,000) dollars.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(I) All Clubs must field a senior Grade Team in the home and away Competition unless otherwise agreed by the CMC. 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 CMC may determine in its absolute discretion.

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

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

Grade or Age Group	**Score applicable to Team forfeiting or playing ineligible players awarded the Loss**	**Score applicable to Other Team awarded the Win**
Juniors (up to U13)	Zero (0) points	Sixty (60) points
Youth Girls (all)	Zero (0) points	Sixty (60) points
Youth Boys (U15 and U17)	Zero (0) points	Ninety (90) points

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

8.7.5 Equalisation - Under Age Competitions

(A) The purpose of this Rule is to encourage Coaches, once a sixty (60) points lead is reached (for U11 and U13 boys/mixed and all Youth Girls) or ninety (90) points lead (for U15 and U17 boys) during a Match, to appreciate that it serves no purpose to inflict massive losses on their opposition but rather at that point in time to revert to experimenting with Players playing in different positions and to even-up the skill levels of the Teams.

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

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

(D) The maximum winning margin for U11 and U13 boys/mixed and all Youth Girls age group Matches is sixty (60) points, with U15 and U17 boys Matches is ninety (90) points.

(E) The Goal Umpires are to inform the Field Umpire at the next quarter break if the score differential equals or exceeds the Mercy Rule Score.

(F) The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires and Scoreboard attendants to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.

(G) The match will continue for the remainder of the allocated time in accordance to the mercy rule equalisation measures outlined in Rule 8.7.5 (J) & (K).

(H) Whilst the actual final scores are recorded for administration purposes, the final scores are adjusted and recorded by the League so that no final margin will be greater than sixty (60) points or ninety (90) points (where applicable).

(I) If a Team leads by sixty (60) points or ninety (90) points (where applicable) more at half time, three quarter time or at the end of the Match, the Equalisation Rule is triggered. The Field Umpires will confirm via the Match report what the score was at this time.

(J) If a Team leads by sixty (60) points or ninety (90) points or more at half time or three-quarter time, it is the obligation of both Coaches to equalize the on field competitive balance of the Match, firstly by adjusting Player numbers so the trailing Team has 2 extra Players on-field (referred to as "+2"). This is mandatory. +2 is achieved by the trailing Team fielding extra Players from their bench, where available. If sufficient interchange Players are not available, the opposition Coach must elect to either loan a Player or Players or remove Players from the field. The result is the trailing Team must have 2 extra Players on-field at all times. Rule 2.9.5 (A) (adjustment where injury and no adjustment to numbers where there is a send-off) continues to apply, subject to the application of +2 as appropriate.

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

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

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

(N) If there is a scoreboard, the scoreboard records the score at the time the scoring stopped (i.e. at half or three-quarter time), adjusted so that the trailing Team's score is retained, and the leading Team's score is recorded on the scoreboard at sixty (60) points or ninety (90) points greater than the losing Team's score. No further scoring on the scoreboard is permitted.

8.7.6 Regrading of Team

Where the League does regrade a Team after the commencement of a Competition, the Match Ratio (wins and losses) are included in the regraded Competition.

8.7.7 Loss of Points for Breach

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

(B) The team receiving the win shall:

(i) Be attributed a "win".

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

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

(C) The team losing the game team shall:

(i) Be attributed a "loss".

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

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

8.8 Other Matches Including Practice Matches

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

(B) NOT APPLICABLE

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

9 MATCH DAY MANAGEMENT

9.1 Host Club Responsibilities

9.1.1 Appoint a Ground Manager

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

(B) The Ground Manager must introduce themself to the Umpires and Officials of the visiting Club on arrival and acquaint them with the ground facilities as well as provide details of the closest emergency medical facilities.

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

9.1.2 Match Day Risk Management Check

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

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

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

9.1.3 Injury Treatment Resources

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

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

9.1.4 Officials Identification

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

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

9.2 Match Day Paperwork/Records

9.2.1 Team Sheets

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

Match Stage	Requirements

(i) **Pre-match**	• A Team Sheet is required to be prepared on FootyWeb by each Club prior to every Match.
	• The Team Sheet must include:
	  ○ The name and jumper number of each Player, in alphabetical order; and
	  ○ The name of all Team officials, including:
	  – Coach
	  – Assistant Coach (if applicable)
	  – Team Manager
	  – Runner(s)
	  – Trainers / First Aid Officials
	  – Water Carriers
	• Four (4) copies of each Team's Team Sheet are to be printed and distributed prior to the Match by the Team Manager as follows:
	  ○ One (1) provided to the Ground Manager / Timekeeper
	  ○ One (1) provided to Umpires ("Official Team Sheet")
	  ○ One (1) handed to the opposition Club's Team Manager
	  ○ The fourth copy is to be retained by the Club Team Manager

(ii) **During Match**	• Players or Officials included on the Team Sheet who do not participate in the Match must be crossed off the Official Team Sheet before the Match commences (where practicable) but by no later than half time of the Match. • Alterations or additions may be made to the Players listed on Official Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field Umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition Club's Team Manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half of the Match commences. No player arriving after half time may take the field. • No alterations or additions may be made to the Official Team Sheet after the end of the half time interval of the Match (other than for the purposes of recording scores and best players post-Match). • No Player can be added to the team sheet after the match has commenced, if the original team sheet submitted already contains "Maximum match day numbers" (i.e. a player's name cannot be deleted to add another player after the commencement of the match). • At the half time interval of the Match, each Club's Team Manager is to check each other's Official Team Sheet and sign off on this to verify its accuracy. • As a matter of proper record keeping, any alterations or additions made to the Primary Team Sheet should also be made on the other two copies of the Team Sheet (i.e. the Team Managers' copies). • Each Club's Team Manager is to keep a record of the quarter by quarter scores, and goal kickers, on their copy of the Team Sheet (which will be transposed to the Official Team Sheet at conclusion of the Match).
(iii) **Post-match**	• The field Umpires are to: ○ sign Ground Manager's copy after completing end of Match duties.

	○ photograph the **Team Sheets** and both Score Cards in preparation for the Umpire Match Report (see viii below).
(iv) **Team Sheet Compliance**	• Where an official Team Sheet is altered under 9.2.1(A)(ii), FootyWeb team sheet records are to be updated by the Home Club within in 24 hours after completion of the Match to ensure that the altered **Official Team Sheet** and FootyWeb records properly reconcile. • Each Club is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of its own Club's Team Sheets. • Any Club that provides an incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet (including FootyWeb Team Sheet records) may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match with scores determined under Rule 8.7.4 as if the Match was a forfeit. • Clubs must: ○ retain all Team Sheets for a period of at least four (4) weeks after the Season (including Finals) concludes; and ○ be able to produce these, if required, to the League within three (3) days or other timeframe as determined by the League.

9.2.2 Entry of Match Results

Record	Requirements
FootyWeb	• The designated Host Club is to enter the following in FootyWeb **within 24 hours** of the day of the Match: ○ final Match results; and ○ updating of both home and away team sheets. • The Club will incur a one hundred (100) dollar fine for failure to comply with this requirement.

9.2.3 Umpire Documentation

Record	Requirements
Goal Umpire Score Cards	• Score Cards are required to be completed by both goal Umpires for every Competition Match. • At each Quarter interval and following completion of the Match, the goal Umpires are to meet on the ground and compare and reconcile their Score Cards. • If there is any difference in the two Score Cards, the goal Umpires are to consult with the Team Managers from both Clubs and the Ground Manager to determine and agree on the correct score. • The Score Cards are to be signed by both goal Umpires once reconciled at the conclusion of the Match. Following this, the Score Cards are to be immediately provided to the Ground Manager. • Clubs must: ○ retain all Score Cards for a period of at least 4 weeks after the Season (including Finals) concludes; and ○ be able to produce these, if required, to the League within three (3) days, or other timeframe as determined by the League.
Send Off Form /	• These are to be provided to the Timekeeper / Ground Manager.

Timekeepers Card	

Umpire Match Report	• Immediately following completion of the Match, the field Umpire (regardless of whether a League appointed Umpire or a Club Umpire) is to complete an Umpire Match Report via the online facility or as required by the League.
	• All sections of this Match Report are to be properly completed and must include:
	  ○ Details of any issues / incidents;
	  ○ The Umpires Best and Fairest Votes;
	  ○ A photocopy of both Official Team Sheets;
	  ○ A photocopy of both goal Umpire Score Cards;
	• Details of any request by a Club under Rule 9.2.5 for identification of a Player.

Umpire Notice of Report	• The process to be used by an Umpire to submit a Notice of Report is as follows:
	  ○ Verbally advise the League Umpire Coach / Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match; and
	  ○ Verbally advise the Ground Manager and a representative from the reported players Club that a 'Notice of Report' will be lodged; and
	  ○ Submit details of the Report via online facility

Coaches Review of Umpiring	• Club Coaches are entitled and encouraged to lodge feedback on Umpire performance via the online feedback form or other mechanism as determined by the League. • Club Coaches are NOT to approach any Umpire during the course of a game, or immediately following a game, to voice any concerns.

9.2.4 Forfeit Records

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

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

9.2.5 Player Identification Check

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.3 Match Times & Duration

9.3.1 Start Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(G) Subject to Rule 9.3.1 (E), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time, the opposing Club's Team may claim the Match as a forfeit, to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.

(H) If the minimum Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of a Junior Match, but Players sufficient for minimum numbers are expected to arrive, then a scratch Match will be played. In such circumstances, the scratch Match shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each Team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. If minimum numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the scratch Match then becomes an official Match. The scores at the time when the Match becomes an official Match will stand. If minimum numbers are not available at the end of the first quarter, the Match remains a scratch Match and the Team with less than the minimum number or Players forfeits the Match.

9.3.2 Match Duration

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

Age Group	Quarter Length (No Time On)	Quarter Time	Half Time	Three Quarter Time
U9	10 Minutes	4 Minutes	4 Minutes	4 Minutes
U11	15 Minutes	4 Minutes	7 Minutes	4 Minutes
U13	15 Minutes	4 Minutes	7 Minutes	4 Minutes
U15/17	20 Minutes	4 Minutes	7 Minutes	4 Minutes
Youth Girls U10/U11/U12	10 Minutes	4 Minutes	4 Minutes	4 Minutes
Youth Girls U13/U14/U15/U17	15 Minutes	4 Minutes	7 Minutes	4 Minutes

The HOST club and Umpires shall ensure strict adherence to the quarter breaks. Coaches shall give all Quarter Time, Half Time and Three-Quarter Time addresses on the field of play, outside of the centre square

(B) For Matches where time on is to be implemented, the following is to apply:

(i) To indicate the commencement of the time added period, the field Umpire shall blow their whistle and raise one arm above their head. To indicate that the time added period has elapsed, the field Umpire shall raise one arm above the head.

(ii) Where the field Umpire fails to signal the completion of the time added period, or the timekeepers fail to hear their whistle or see their signal, the timekeepers must restart the clock when the ball is clearly back in play.

(iii) 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:

(a) the bouncing of the ball or ball up by the Umpire in the centre (after a goal); or

(b) the ball being brought back into play (after a behind).

(iv) 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.

(v) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field Umpire shall signal time off as outlined in Rule 9.3.2 (B) (i).

9.3.3 Sirens

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

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

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

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

9.4 Incomplete Match

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

When	Requirement
Match not commenced	The result of a Match shall be determined by the League
Prior to half time	(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 thirty (30) minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team
Half time & beyond	(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) The scores 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.

(B) Determination of Match not able to proceed:

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.5 Adverse Weather

9.5.1 Responsibilities

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

(B) Umpires and Clubs should be aware of the dangers of allowing play to proceed during dangerous or extreme weather, such as thunder, electrical storms, lightning or hail. The Match should be terminated by the field Umpire, or the Ground Manager, in the instance of dangerous weather such as if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. In the case of lightning, Section 4 of the National Extreme Weather Policy is to apply.

9.5.2 Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

(I) 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.

9.6 Ground Preparation

9.6.1 Ground Sizes

(A) Where available ground space allows, the following field sizes are to be used in Under Age Matches:

Competition	Age Group	Length (M)	Width (M)
Hunter and Central Coast U9	U9 mixed	100m	80m
Hunter and Central Coast U11	U11 mixed	110m	80m *Can increase by agreement
Hunter and Central Coast U13	U13 mixed	135m	110m *standard size field
Hunter Central Coast U15	U15 boys	135m	110m *standard size field
Hunter Central Coast U17	U17 boys	135m	110m *standard size field
Hunter and Central Coast U11 Youth Girls	U11 female	100m	80m
Hunter and Central Coast U13 Youth Girls	U13 female	110m	80m *If both teams have 13 or more players on the team sheet, the match **must** be played on a standard size field – min 135x110m
Hunter Central Coast U15 Youth Girls	U15 female	110m	80m *If both teams have 13 or more players on the team sheet, the match **must** be played on a standard size field – min 135x110m
Hunter Central Coast U17 Youth Girls	U17 female	135m	110m

			*standard size field

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

(C) Where both teams have less than the maximum number of Players, the Coaches of the two teams, in consultation with the Ground Manager and Umpire, may agree to reducing the field size from that specified in 9.6.1(A).

9.6.2 Ground Marking

(A) The following lines must be clearly marked:

(i) Goal-squares, boundary lines, centre square;

(ii) Arc at each end of the ground, three (3) metre centre circle (with intersecting line), ten (10) metre centre circle (with intersecting line);

(iii) 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;

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

(D) On modified fields ground marking as per 11.10 (A) must be clearly defined, where painted lines are not feasible cones can be used.

9.6.3 Goal Post Pads

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

9.6.4 Scoreboard

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

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

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

9.6.5 Timekeeping Facilities / Equipment

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

9.6.6 Change Rooms

(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.

9.7 Match Footballs

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

(B) Subject to Rule 9.7(E), the standards and requirements relating to footballs for all Competitions will be determined by the League.

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

(D) Match balls used in Competition Matches must include the AFL NSW/ACT logo, unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ACT in writing.

(E) Unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ACT in writing, the football sizes to be used in Competition Matches are as follows:

Competition		Size
Men's	Open	5
Women's	Open	4
Boys Only	Under 15 – Under 19	5
Girls Only	Under 15 – Under 18	4
	Under 12 – Under 13	3
	Under 10 – Under 11	2
Mixed	Under 13 – Under 14	4
	Under 11- Under 12	3
	Under 8 – Under 10	2

9.8 Ground Access

9.8.1 Allowed on Field of Play

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

9.9 Injury Management

9.9.1 Infectious Diseases

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

9.9.2 Injury Management Policy

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

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

9.9.3 Injury Treatment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(H) The Injury Management Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with medical or higher-level allied health qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupations they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:

(i) Nurse;

(ii) Physiotherapist;

(iii) A certified Sports Trainer;

(iv) St John Officer;

(v) Paramedic;

(vi) Medical Doctor.

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

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

9.9.4 Equipment & Ambulance Access

(A) The Host Club must ensure there is:

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

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

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

9.9.5 Concussion Management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.9.6 Reporting of Particular Injuries

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

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

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

9.10 Penalties for Match Day Breaches

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

Category	Breaches	Rule Link	Penalty
Officials	Ground Manager not identifiable	7.3	CMC discretion
	Coach not correctly attired	7.2.4	CMC discretion
	Team runners, water carriers and trainers / First Aid Officials not correctly attired	9.1.4	CMC discretion
	Timekeeper not supplied	7.8	CMC discretion
Pre-Match	Team Sheets incorrectly completed	9.2.1	CMC discretion
	Team Sheets not distributed	9.2.1	CMC discretion
	Ground not set up properly	9.6	CMC discretion
	Umpires change room not clean	9.6.6	CMC discretion
	Correct footballs not available	9.7	CMC discretion
During Match	Failure to meet time – Match commencement or Quarter commencements not on time (< 5 mins late)	9.3.1 9.3.2	CMC discretion
	Failure to meet time – Match commencement or Quarter commencements not on time (> or = 5 mins late)	9.3.1 9.3.2	CMC discretion
	Players not in correct uniform	4.8.1	CMC discretion
	Umpire Escort not provided	7.7	CMC discretion
	Number of Officials in Team box or area more than allowed	7.1.2	CMC discretion
	Siren not available, operational or audible	9.3.3	CMC discretion
	Alcohol policy breached	2.9	CMC discretion
	Scoreboard not in operation or not accurate	9.6.4	CMC discretion
	Goal post pads not provided or not as specified	9.6.3	CMC discretion
	Stretcher not available	9.9.4	CMC discretion
Post Match	Match results not entered as required in FootyWeb	9.2.2	CMC discretion
	Failure to report a specified injury to the League	9.9.6	CMC discretion

10 FINALS

10.1 Finals Structure

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

Where the number of teams in the competition is eight (8) or less teams, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in the finals series. Where the number of teams in the competition is nine (9) or more, the top six (6) placed teams will participate.

Format for a four (4) team finals series

Week 1 – (A) 1v2 (B) 3v4

Week 2 – (C) Loser A v Winner B

Week 3 – Winner A v Winner C

Format for a six (6) team finals series

Week 1 – (A) 3v6 (B) 4v5 (1&2 BYE)

Week 2 – (C) 1 v lowest ranked winner of (A) & (B); (D) 2 v highest ranked winner of (A) & (B)

Week 3 – Winner C v Winner D

Mercy Rule does not apply in Finals Series

10.2 Venue Selection

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

10.3 Provision of Officials

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

10.4 Catering & Gate Receipt Rights

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

10.5 Match Duration

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

10.6 Match Conditions

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

In Finals Matches, the requirement to borrow/loan players in the case of uneven match day numbers shall not apply. Where a team has less than the Match Numbers as shown in Rule 9.3.2 (A), that team will be required to play all present players on the field and may not run an interchange bench. The team with the higher numbers must match the on-field numbers for their opponent and utilise an extended interchange bench as appropriate. Teams are to liaise as per Rule 6.5 (L) where both teams have player numbers above “Maximum on field Numbers”.

10.7 Drawn Finals

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

(i) The goal Umpires will confirm the scores;

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.8 Club Eligibility

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

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

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

10.9 Player Eligibility

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

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

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

11 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

11.1 Player Eligibility

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

11.2 Participation

(A) 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 themself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Matches, without the written approval of the CMC, 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 themselves 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 they have been properly notified must tender an explanation to the CMC. If in the opinion of the CMC 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 CMC, 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 Rule shall be liable for further disqualification. The Team with which the Player participates may lose any Competition points gained and their Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty (250) dollars.

(F) Clubs who do not allow or discourage players from participating in Representative or Talent Programs inclusive or their associated training or games may be subject to sanctions, including the loss of Match points aligned to the subsequent game, or a maximum fine of one thousand (1000) dollars. The CMC will make a determination on such matters, in consultation with the involved Club and relevant representative of the Talent Program.

(G) The Competition Management Committee will schedule Representative Fixtures each season in Age Groups to encourage maximum participation in their absolute discretion.

(H) The Competition Management Committee will appoint Representative Sub-Committees to assist with the administration of the Representative Program. These committees will report to the Competition Management Committee and are not authorised to make decisions on behalf of the Competition Management Committee or the Board.

(I) The Competition Management Committee will produce a document for each representative region (i.e. Hunter, Central Coast or a Combined squad as appropriate) outlining the Selection Policies, Training Requirements, Costs and Locations of the Representative Season prior to the first competition round.

11.3 Venue

(A) Where the League schedules a representative Match to be played, the CMC 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.

11.4 Offences

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

11.5 Costs

Expenses incurred as a result of the Representative Program will be borne by the League except as otherwise determined by the CMC.

12 UMPIRES

12.1 Appointment of Umpires

12.1.1 League Responsibility

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

12.1.2 Approved Umpires

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

(B) Any senior field, senior boundary or senior goal Umpire coach:

(i) shall be eligible to be appointed to any practice match or home and away Match as required;

(ii) shall not be eligible to be appointed to a senior representative fixture Match;

(iii) shall be eligible to be appointed to any final or grand final, with the exception of a senior (first grade or equivalent) final or grand final unless prior written approval has been granted by the State Umpiring Lead or an independent selection panel is in place.

(C) For the avoidance of doubt, any other field, boundary or goal Umpire coach that formally holds a coaching position with AFL NSW/ACT (for example, but not limited to a state League umpires' Coach or assistant Coach) are not eligible to be appointed to Senior (first grade or equivalent) representative fixture matches or senior (first grade or equivalent) finals and grand finals.

12.1.3 Number Per Match

(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).

(i) Non-competitive matches require a minimum of 1 field umpire for the match to commence.

(B) In the event that accredited Umpires or registered Club field Umpires (or a combination) are not available for a match, the two competing clubs, by agreeance, can appoint a club field umpire (provided they meet the requirements of Rule 12.1.4). Should this not occur, the Match will be cancelled and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination. Where two (2) field Umpires commence a Match and for any reason one (1) of the field Umpires is unable to complete the Match the remaining field Umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.

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

12.1.4 Minimum Age

(A) Subject to Rule 12.1.4(C), the minimum age of field and boundary and goal Umpires (both League and Club appointed Umpires) for all open age and Under-Age Competitions is:

(i) Field Umpire – Sixteen (16) years of age

(ii) Boundary Umpire – Fourteen (14) years of age

(iii) Goal Umpire – Sixteen (16) years of age

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

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

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

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

12.1.5 Club Report on Umpires

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.

12.1.6 Emergency Umpires

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

12.2 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) Club field Umpires, where appointed shall be required to have completed the AFL Level 1 accreditation online course.

(C) Club field Umpires are to be attired in a Trainee Umpire vest which shall be supplied by the League.

(D) 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.

(E) Club field Umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork (i.e. Umpires Match Report including Best & Fairest Votes).

(F) Each competing Club is responsible for the payment of their own Club field Umpires, or in the case of one Club providing both Club field Umpires, the payment of one of the Club field Umpires.

(G) 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.

(H) 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.

(I) 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.

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

(K) Club field Umpires must complete the Club Umpires Footyweb registration as well as any prescribed Club Umpire training prior to umpiring their first match.

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

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

(N) For matches involving Under 15/16/17 Boys, in the case that a team does not provide a suitable boundary umpire, a member of the attacking side will throw the ball in. Where a team does not provide a boundary umpire, it must be noted in the Umpires Match Report. For all other matches, the Umpire will restart play as described in the age group rules.

12.3 Umpire Responsibilities

12.3.1 Availability

All members of the Umpires' panel must make themselves available to the League for appointment as a field, boundary or goal Umpire as required. All Umpires must conform to the Rules and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the CMC.

12.3.2 Attendance & Attire

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

12.3.3 Match Report

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

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

12.4 Fees & Payment

12.4.1 Determination of Fees

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

12.4.2 Payment

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

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

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

(D) The HOST club is responsible for all umpire payments in cash at the conclusion of the match.

(i) Umpire payrates as per table below;

Junior Umpire Payment Rates for 2021 AFLHCC Seasons				
Junior Age Group	**Rates Single Field Umpire**	**Rates Two Umpires**	**Rates Three Umpires**	***2021***
	Base Rate (per match)	Base Rate (per match)	Base Rate (per match)	Incentive Payment (per match)
Under 9	$25	$20		$3
Under 11	$35	$25		$3
Youth Girls Under 11	$35	$25		$3
Youth Age Group				
Under 13	$60	$40		$5
Under 15	$70	$50		$5
Under 17	$80	$60	$60	$5
Youth Girls Under 13/15	$60	$40		$5
Youth Girls Under 17	$70	$50		$5
Boundary		$15		$3
Goal		$10		$3

12.5 Umpire Uniform Branding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shorts left thigh	AFL NSW/ACT logo	must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height
Shorts right thigh	Sponsor logo	must not exceed 8cm width and 8cm height

12.6 Approaching Umpires

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

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

(i) AFL NSW/ACT staff

(ii) Ground Manager, including any designated assistant.

(iii) Umpire escort.

(iv) Umpire Manager.

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

(vi) AFL HCC Head Umpire Coach

(vii) Appointed umpire coach or match day coach

(viii) Other persons accepted under this Rule are the following when acting in the capacity of that role:

(a) Members of the Board

(b) Parents of the Umpires

(c) Club Umpire Ambassador

12.7 Powers and Duties

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

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

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

13 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

13.1 League Requirements

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

13.2 Prescribed Penalties

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

13.3 Code of Conduct

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

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

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

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

13.4 Investigation

13.4.1 Power to Investigate

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

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

(i) of their own motion; or

(ii) on the basis of video evidence; or

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

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

13.4.2 Cooperation

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

(i) fully co-operate with the investigation;

(ii) truthfully answer any questions asked; and

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

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

13.4.3 Interpretation

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

13.4.4 Power to Report

(A) If the League designate is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of an investigation, video, photographic evidence or otherwise, the League Designate may report such person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. Should video or photographic evidence be available, the Competition Management Committee can offer the reported person a Prescribed Penalty however if the offence is of serious nature and no video or photographic evidence is available the Football Operations Manager may refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Independent Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

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

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

(ii) Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by this Rule, the Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request the automatic suspension be referred to the Tribunal for hearing. The Tribunal may impose such conditions on the Player as it deems appropriate, pending the hearing. The Tribunal may, after the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension (including increasing the suspension), or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate.

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

(D) Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made. It is a breach of the Rules for such reported Player, Official or any other Player or Official to seek to or speak to the Umpire about a Report other than an apology. Any Player or Official who otherwise seeks to or speaks to the Umpire may be referred by the CMC to the Tribunal to deal with as the Tribunal thinks appropriate.

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

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

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

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

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

13.5 Vilification & Discrimination Reports

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

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

13.6 Match Offences by Players or Officials

13.6.1 Reporting of Players or Officials

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

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

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

13.6.2 Reporting of Junior Players

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

13.6.3 Melees

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

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

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

13.7 Order Off Rule

13.7.1 Yellow Card

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

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

(C) For the purposes of this Rule, a yellow card will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field of play for a total period equivalent to one quarter of the match in 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, should the quarter length be fifteen (15) minutes.

(D) The time period to be served will commence once the player has left the field of play.

(E) Unless determined otherwise by the CMC, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

13.7.2 Red Card

(A) A Player who is reported by a field Umpire or field Umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game twice in the same Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in Rule 13.7.2(B), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) A Player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.

(D) Unless otherwise determined by the 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 equivalent to one quarter of the match has elapsed. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the replacement Player to resume playing.

(E) The time period as per Rule 13.7.2 (D) will commence once the player has left the field of play.

(F) For the purposes of this Rule, a red card will result in the Player concerned being unable to be replaced for a total period equivalent to one quarter of the match in 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, should the quarter length be fifteen (15) minutes.

(G) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be ordered from the field (regardless of whether they have been issued a red or yellow card) but can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.

(H) All red cards are reportable offences and a Notice of Report must be submitted to the League.

13.7.3 Recording of Send Offs

(A) When a Player is sent off from the field of play in accordance with this Rule, the Umpire will show the appropriate yellow or red card to the timekeeper who will in turn acknowledge the send-off by showing the same colour card to the Umpire.

(B) Timekeepers are required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field Umpires, leave the field of play and determine when such Players may resume playing in the Match, or be replaced in the Match (whichever is applicable). It is the offending Player's Club's responsibility to obtain approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.

13.7.4 Team Yellow and Red Cards

Where the number of Yellow and/or Red cards awarded to players in a team reaches three (3) or more cards, the following will apply:

(i) Football Operations staff will inform the club that a team has reached three cards. The Club President and Team Coach will be required to outline steps to the Competition Management Committee to prevent further incidents. This must include a meeting of all Players and Parents, outlining the Code of Conduct responsibilities. A member of the Competition Management Committee must be present at the time of the meeting.

(ii) Should subsequent cards be forthcoming, the process outlined in Rule 13.7.4 (i) shall be repeated, and the team will be deducted competition points.

13.8 Citings By Clubs

13.8.1 Grounds for Citings

(A) This Rule provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of the Umpires.

(B) A serious incident for the purposes of this Rule is a matter which may draw a base sanction of no less than four (4) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 2021, or as otherwise determined by the CMC, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.

13.8.2 Lodgement Requirements & Citing Fee

(A) Where a Club wishes cite a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence that meets the provisions of Rule 13.8.1, such complaint ("a citing") must be made by completion and lodgement of the AFL NSW/ACT *Form 6.1 - Citing Incident Referral Form*.

(B) The Citing Incident Referral Form must be lodged with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises.

(C) A Citing Incident Referral Form must be submitted for each separate citing.

(D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a five hundred (500) dollar citing fee which may be forfeited should the CMC deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Citing Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or manually deposited to the League's bank account. The CMC will, at its absolute discretion, determine whether the fee will be reimbursed in part or full to the Club lodging the citing at the conclusion of the matter.

13.8.3 Additional Time Request

(A) A Club may seek an extension of time to complete and lodge a Citing Incident Referral Form as per Rule 13.8.2. Any such request must be made by completion and lodgement of the AFL NSW/ACT *Form 6.2 - Citing Notice of Intent Form* by no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises.

(B) In the event that a Club requests extension of time in accordance with 13.8.3(A), the CMC may, after receiving a Citing Notice of Intent Form, extend the deadline for lodgement of the Citing Incident Referral Form to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.

(C) The citing Club may request an additional extension of time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.

13.8.4 Lodgement of Incidents – Non-Reportable Offences

For the League to investigate a Match day incident that is not a reportable offence, clubs must advise the League by midday on the third business day following the Match. The CMC may alter this deadline in its absolute discretion.

13.8.5 Review of Footage

A Club may request the CMC to review footage of an incident by submitting a fee of two hundred and fifty (250) dollar such fee which is only refundable if the matter results in an outcome as requested by the Club. The CMC may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the CMC decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.

13.8.6 Determination of Citing

(A) The CMC shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of their rights (via Club Secretary or President or their nominee) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.

(B) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 13.8.1 to Rule 13.8.3 above.

13.9 Tribunal

13.9.1 Appointment

A panel of independent Tribunal members shall be appointed by the League in accordance with the requirements in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or the State& Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines NSW/ACT (as the case may be).

13.9.2 Tribunal Hearings

(A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.

(B) Should the reporting Umpire be unable to attend the hearing, the CMC may defer the hearing in which case the reported Player or Official may continue to play or act until the hearing is held.

13.9.3 Role

(A) The Tribunal shall hear the following matters in accordance with the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines (as the case may be):

(i) reports by Umpires against Players or Officials participating in League Competitions, pre-season or practice Matches;

(ii) such other matters (including citings by Clubs) as may be referred to it by the League;

(iii) referrals pursuant to Rule 13.8;

(iv) any other matter as appropriate.

13.9.4 Hearings

(A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines.

(B) Should the reporting Umpire be unable to attend the hearing, the CMC may defer the hearing in which case the reported Player or Official may continue to play or act until the hearing is held.

13.10 Player & Official Deregistration

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

13.11 Club Websites & Media Statements

13.11.1 Websites

(A) Any Club that operates, or having operated on its behalf, a website, blog or social media account representing the Club and its activities ("Club Website"), agrees that it is prohibited from publishing, displaying or otherwise disseminating on the Club Website any content, information, images or other form of communication that is inappropriate, offensive or damaging to the reputation of a Player, Official, Club, the League or AFL NSW/ACT ("Offending Material"), including by providing links to other websites that may contain Offending Material.

(B) Any Club that is found to be in breach of Rule 13.11.1(A) as determined by the League or the CMC in its absolute discretion, must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach remove the Offending Material, confirm in writing to the League that is has done so and shall be liable to sanctions as is deemed appropriate by the League or CMC in their absolute discretion.

13.11.2 Media Statements

(A) Conduct occurring in Media or public forums is governed by the Code of Conduct.

(B) Only authorised and approved personnel may make public statements regarding League matters.

(C) For the Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media or social media.

(D) A Club whose Official or Player has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 13.11.2 (A), or 13.11.2(B) in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the CMC or Disciplinary Committee which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) dollars and forfeit past or future Match points.

14 APPEALS

14.1 Appeals Board

14.1.1 Appeals Board Panel

The Appeals Board Panel must consist of:

(i) a Chair being a member of the legal profession; and

(ii) a Panel of not more than four (4) persons who in the opinion of the CEO (or delegate) possess the appropriate qualifications.

14.1.2 Appointment of Appeals Board Members

(A) The CEO (or delegate) may from time to time appoint persons to the Appeals Board, including the Chair.

(B) Save and except where the CEO (or delegate) otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Appeals Board Panel if that person, in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment:

(i) has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club; or

(ii) has been a Coach or assistant or specialty Coach of a Club; or

(iii) has been a Player of a Club; or

(iv) has been an employee of the AFL or a Club;

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

(D) A member of the Appeals Board may resign by providing notice in writing to the CEO (or delegate).

(E) The CEO (or delegate) may remove a member of the Appeals Board at any time in their absolute discretion.

14.1.3 Appeals Board Powers

(A) The Appeals Board is empowered to meet when and where it considers necessary, having regard to a fair and efficient resolution of the appeal.

(B) The Appeals Board has the power to make any determination it considers necessary including a decision to set aside the original decision which is appealed against or to impose any extra or different penalty, or to remit the matter back to the Tribunal for determination in accordance with the Appeals Board's decision.

14.1.4 Appeals Board Obligations

(A) The Appeals Board will:

(i) to the extent that the rules of natural justice require, provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for an appeal;

(ii) provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;

(iii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and

(iv) make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.

(B) If the appeal is an appeal from a decision of a Tribunal, the Appeals Board shall hear that appeal as on the basis of the evidence before that Tribunal and determine whether or not one or more of the Grounds have been established.

(C) The Appeals Board may have regard to the record of the proceeding before the Tribunal or other body against whose decision an appeal is made, including a record of any evidence taken in a Tribunal hearing.

(D) The Appeals Board may, subject to the Rules, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

(E) The hearing before the Appeals Board shall be:

(i) inquisitorial in nature; and

(ii) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matters permits.

(F) The Appeals Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

(G) The question on appeal before the Appeals Board must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeals Board.

14.2 Appeals

14.2.1 Right of Appeal

(A) Any registered Player, Official, Club or League may appeal or apply to the Appeals Board in accordance with and on the grounds set out in the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules and policies including:

(i) the Rules;

(ii) AFL National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;

(iii) State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines;

(iv) State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines;

(v) National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;

(vi) National Player Registration and Transfer Rules; and

(vii) National Age Dispensation Policy.

(B) In the event that the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules and policies do not outline the grounds for appeal or application to AFL NSW/ACT, the grounds set out in Rule 14.2.2 apply.

14.2.2 Grounds of Appeal

(A) A Player, Official, Club and/or the League, may only appeal to the Appeals Board in respect of a decision made by a League (including a determination of a Tribunal with respect to a decision of a League) on one or more of the following grounds:

(i) that there was an error of law;

(ii) that the decision was so unreasonable that no League or Tribunal (as the case may be) acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;

(iii) the classification of the level of the offence was manifestly excessive or inadequate; or

(iv) that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate, (each, a **Ground**).

(B) For the avoidance of doubt, the Grounds in Rule 14.2.2(A) do not override the grounds, if any, set out in the relevant AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules or policies.

14.2.3 Timeframe for Appeal Lodgement

A registered Player, Official, Club or League:

(i) may appeal a determination of a Tribunal to the Appeals Board in accordance with the timeframe prescribed in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT or State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines (as the case may be); and

(ii) may appeal a determination (other than a Tribunal determination under Rule 14.2.3(A)(i)) to the Appeals Board within ten (10) days of the relevant determination being made (including a failure to act or make a decision when the decision ought reasonably to have been made, which cannot be before twenty-eight (28) days after the relevant request for a determination).

14.2.4 Procedure For Lodgement

(A) Notice of an Appeal is brought by lodging a written notice with the CEO (or delegate). The Notice of Appeal must:

(i) be in writing;

(ii) lodged with the CEO (or delegate);

(iii) state the grounds of appeal and any submissions in respect of the Chair's decision to be made under Rule 14.2.4(C); and

(iv) include full details of the event precipitating the appeal together with any information which might assist in its consideration.

(B) Prior to convening and fixing the time of an appeal hearing, the appellant must provide payment to AFL NSW/ACT of:

(i) the sum of five hundred (500) dollars towards the costs of the appeal, which is not refundable in any circumstances; and

(ii) an additional sum of five hundred (500) dollars which shall be dealt with as follows:

(a) Where an appeal is successful, this payment will be refunded by AFL NSW/ACT within 30 days of notice to the AFL NSW/ACT by the Appeals Board of its decision in accordance with Rule 14.3.5; and

(b) Where an appeal is not successful, this payment will not be refunded, unless the matter involves a monetary sanction and the Appeals Board determines that it would be manifestly unjust and unfair not to refund the whole or part of the payment in which case such amount as may be determined by the Appeals Board will be refunded.

(C) The CEO (or delegate) will refer the matter to the Chair of the Appeals Board for consideration at the earliest opportunity. Where the Chair decides that an appeal has reasonable prospects of success, an Appeals Board Panel will be convened and the hearing will be held in accordance with Rule 14.3.2.

14.2.5 Onus and Standard of Proof

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

14.3 Hearings

14.3.1 Composition for Hearing

On any occasion when an appeal is brought before the Appeals Board, there shall be an Appeals Board appointed to determine the appeal which shall sit as the Appeals Board and shall comprise three (3) persons being:

(i) a Chair; and

(ii) two (2) persons from the Appeals Board Panel.

14.3.2 Hearing Procedure

(A) Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Appeal and the required sums outlined in Rule 14.2.4(B) the CEO (or delegate), in consultation with the Chair, shall:

(i) fix the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal as soon as reasonably practicable; and

(ii) advise all parties with an interest in the appeal in writing of those particulars.

(B) The Appeals Board, through the CEO (or delegate) can vary the date, time or place of the specified hearing and upon doing so must immediately provide all parties with an interest in the appeal written notice of the variation.

(C) All parties to the appeal shall attend and appear before the Appeals Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where a party fails to attend before the Appeals Board, the Appeals Board may hear and determine the appeal in that party's absence or have the unavailable party available by phone or video link should the need arise.

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

14.3.3 Representation

At any hearing before the Appeals Board a person may:

(i) appear in person; or

(ii) subject to leave of the Appeals Board, be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chair directs.

14.3.4 Questions of Law & Fact

In the hearing and determination of an appeal, the Appeals Board shall decide all questions of law and fact and without limitation, shall determine the meaning of any words.

14.3.5 Decisions

(A) The Appeals Board shall, where practicable make the formal announcement of the appeal at the conclusion of the hearing and AFL NSW/ACT shall inform the parties in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter.

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

14.3.6 Reasons

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

14.3.7 National Guidelines

Unless provided for in the Rules, any hearing before the Appeals Board will be conducted in accordance with the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT and the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines (as the case may be).

14.3.8 Matters Not Provided For

The Appeals Board shall have the power to decide any matters not provided for in this Rule 14 to the extent that such matters arise during the course of any hearing.

15 FINANCE

15.1 League Budget

The CMC will prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items.

15.2 Fees

15.2.1 Club Affiliation

(A) Clubs will be levied an annual licence fee, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective competitions.

(B) Licence fees and other relevant charges will be levied on an annual basis each season.

15.2.2 Other Fees or Charges

The League may determine, in its absolute discretion, any additional fees or charges that are to be payable by Clubs to offset the operational costs of the Competition.

15.3 Fines

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

NOTE: Match day breaches are dealt with under Rule 9.10.

(B) Notwithstanding 15.3(A), the CMC may impose such sanctions as it sees fit.

(C) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the CMC or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the CMC.

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

15.4 Club Finance

15.4.1 Outstanding Accounts

(A) Except as provided for under Rule 15.4.1(B), any Club which is in arrears to the League for a period more than sixty (60) days from the date of the invoice, will be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its Teams and ineligible to play finals Matches, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.

(B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the CMC may in its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

(C) Except as provided for under Rule 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.

15.4.2 Dishonoured Payments

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

15.4.3 Financial Statements

(A) The League may, where it has concern at any time regarding a Club's solvency or financial administration, request that the Club provide Financial Statements.

(B) A Club must provide the requested Financial Statements within seven (7) days of the request by the League.

15.4.4 Club Budget

(A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League by 31 January each year, or as otherwise designated by the League in the Club Licence Agreement, a copy of its Fair Trading Return, or Financial Statement or Profit and Loss Statement of its operations for the previous season.

(B) Each Club shall provide the League with a Club Budget for the ensuing season by 31 January each year or as otherwise designated by the League.

16 MISCELLANEOUS

16.1 AFL Marks and Logos

(A) Clubs and the League must not make use of AFL Marks without the prior written consent of the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT which consent may be given or withheld at the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT's discretion (reasonably exercised).

(B) Clubs of the League, Leagues and Associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or Leagues controlled by AFL NSW/ACT must submit details of any proposed use of AFL Marks to AFL NSW/ACT prior to any use thereof including use for advertising or promotional purposes.

(C) Clubs and the League acknowledge that the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT are the owners of the AFL Marks and of the goodwill attaching to the AFL Marks and agree that the AFL Marks must remain vested in the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT and agree not to challenge the validity or ownership of the AFL Marks.

(D) Clubs and the League must not register any trade marks, company or business names, logos, symbols, emblems, designs, or other indicia using the AFL Marks or any component thereof.

(E) Clubs and the League agree not to alter the AFL Marks in any way nor to affix, incorporate or use the AFL Marks, in connection with or as part of another trade mark, distinctive mark, name, brand or thing.

(F) Clubs and the League recognise the great value of the AFL Marks and acknowledge the goodwill attached thereto and that all rights, title and interest therein including the copyright thereto vests in and belongs to AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT.

(G) Clubs and the League agree that they will not at any time do any act, matter or thing intended to or which might otherwise have the effect of interfering with, restricting, limiting or challenging the proprietary rights of AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT in and to the AFL Marks.

16.2 Approved Suppliers

16.2.1 AFL NSW/ACT Approved Apparel Suppliers

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

(B) The current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are on the AFL NSW/ACT website.

16.3 Broadcasting Rights

(A) In this Rule 16.3, the term "**broadcast**" means any service (by whatever means or process) which is or in the future becomes a content service for the purposes of the Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth) and includes, but is not limited to any internet or online service, any television or radio transmission or any service making available to any member of the public (simultaneously with or consecutively to any other member of the public) text, sounds or images.

(B) Each Club acknowledges and agrees that the League and AFL NSW/ACT has the exclusive right to authorise the public broadcast of all matches played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League.

(C) Clubs shall not participate in any match played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League which is broadcast by any provider of a broadcast other than a provider of a broadcast authorised or approved by the League.

(D) Where a Club is the ground hirer or occupier of a venue at which matches are played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT it shall use its best endeavours to provide any provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT with access to the necessary facilities required for the provision of the broadcast of matches played in the Competition and shall use its best endeavours to provide assistance to any provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT and its servants and agents as is necessary to ensure that the League or AFL NSW/ACT fulfils, to the maximum extent possible, its obligations to the provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT.

(E) Where a Club is the ground manager or occupier of a venue at which matches are played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT, where it is within the Club's control, it shall not permit, allow or assist any other person to permit or allow the admission into the venue of any equipment used in the provision of a broadcast including television and video cameras, on a day when any match in the Competition/s or such other Competition is played at the venue, save as permitted by the preceding Rule and save as is otherwise specifically authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT.

(F) Where a Club is not the ground manager or occupier of the venue at which the Club plays its home matches in the Competition, or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT, the Club shall use its best endeavours to ensure that the ground manager or occupier of such venue complies with the provisions of this Rule 16.3.

16.4 Electronic and Other Images Guidelines

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

16.5 Awards Presentations

(A) Each season, the CMC shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.

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

(C) The League recognises a Club of the Year award for both the Hunter and Central Coast region. The award is determined on specific criteria as devised by the Competition Management Committee. The winning club will receive an award as determined by the Board.

16.6 Matters Not Provided For

The CMC may regulate any matters not provided for in the Rules in its sole and absolute discretion.

17 APPENDICES

A. AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct
B. Prescribed Penalty System
C. Incident Referral Form
D. Recording of Images
E. Melee Matrix
F. Officials & Team Support Staff Dress Requirements
G. Finals Eligibility
H. Permit Types
I. Minimum Age Player Eligibility Breakdown
J. Modifications/Junior Rules

Appendix "A" - AFL NSW/ACT CODE OF CONDUCT

(1) The Code of Conduct aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of Australian Football in NSW and the ACT by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders. It also seeks to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants and stakeholders and deter conduct that could impair confidence in the honest and professional conduct of Matches or in the integrity and good character of its participants.

(2) This Code of Conduct:

(a) forms part of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations and applies to the conduct and behaviour of Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials;

(b) applies to all forms of Australian Football under AFL NSW/ACT's jurisdiction;

(c) continues to apply to a participant even after that participants association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that participant breached this Code of Conduct while a current participant; and

(d) does not limit or restrict the application of the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT Rules and Regulations and the State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines, National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines, Member Protection Policy, AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy or Anti-Doping Policy.

(3) The Scope of the Code of Conduct

(a) The Code of Conduct does not govern Reportable Offences, the Order-Off Rule, or Citations.

(b) Where an incident may constitute both a Reportable Offence or a breach of the Code of Conduct, the charge of a Reportable Offence will take precedence. An individual must not be penalised under both the Prescribed Penalty System and the Code of Conduct.

(c) The Code of Conduct may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or procedures as imposed by a League or Club, provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms of this Code of Conduct.

(d) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour and conduct of its Players, Officials, Coaches and Supporters.

(4) Players and Officials

Each Player and Official must:

(a) Not bring the game of Australian Football, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League or the Club into disrepute;

(b) Participate in Competition Matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;

(c) Respect the spirit of the Laws of Australian Football and fair play, and behave accordingly;

(d) Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, administrators, Officials, Parents and Supporters;

(e) Never to argue with or dispute a decision of an Official. If a Participant disagrees with a decision, they should deal with their dispute in accordance with the relevant Rules, Regulations, Policies and Determinations;

(f) Control their emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse of or swearing at or in the vicinity of others, sledging Players and/or Coaches or behaviour that deliberately distracts or provokes an opponent;

(g) Comply with the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT Rules and Regulations including the National Member Protection Policy, the League By-Laws and this Code of Conduct;

(h) Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;

(i) Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences, and behave accordingly;

(j) Cooperate with their Club Officials, Coaches and team-mates;

(k) Participate for their own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of their teammates, Coaches and Club Officials;

(l) Comply with and observe the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy including respecting the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion;

(m) Not engage in conduct that is (in AFL NSW/ACT's reasonable opinion), unethical, unbecoming or likely to cause harm to the reputation of the Participant, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT, the League, the Club or Australian Football;

(n) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;

(o) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as, but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs);

(p) Use appropriately the facilities and equipment made available for administration, coaching, training, Competition Matches and events, including facilities provided by the opposing teams; and

(q) Comply with and observe the AFL Anti-Doping Code and any relevant Illicit Drugs policies.

(5) Parents and Supporters

Each Parent and Supporter must:

(a) Support the participants and enjoy the Match;

(b) Encourage participation, but don't force it;

(c) Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning;

(d) Not ridicule mistakes or losses;

(e) Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and Supporters. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated;

(f) Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time;

(g) Not publicly criticise Umpires and instead raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private;

(h) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your Coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks;

(i) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs;

(j) Not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or Supporter;

(k) Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by Supporters, Coaches, Officials or Players;

(l) Not use abusive language;

(m) Not to enter the field of play in any sanctioned Competition Match unless granted permission by an Official to do so;

(n) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;

(o) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs).

(6) Notice and Disciplinary Process

(a) AFL NSW/ACT, a League including via the Competition Management Committee or the Conduct Committee may enforce the terms of this Code of Conduct and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have infringed this Code of Conduct:

(i) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;

(ii) notice of possible sanctions; and

(iii) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

(b) Any alleged breaches must be dealt with upon receipt of a written 'complaint' issued by:

(i) An authorised Club Official on behalf of the Club and any of its members;

(ii) The Competition Management Committee directly;

(iii) Officiating Umpires (on Umpire Match Report Form).

(c) Any alleged breach will be initially assessed by the Competition Management Committee. The League may in its absolute discretion taking into account all the available evidence either:

(i) Commence the process in accordance with clause 4(A) and, impose disciplinary sanctions thereafter, in its discretion;

(ii) refer the matter to the Conduct Committee for determination in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines; or

(iii) dismiss the complaint including determining such complaint to be frivolous.

(d) Should the League or Conduct Committee determine a complaint made by a Club or Club Official to be frivolous, a fee of $100 may be imposed upon that Club.

(e) Individuals and Clubs will be notified via their Club President (or delegate) in writing of any case to answer and the time and date of a convened hearing. Those requested to attend a hearing must attend or have a representative attend in their place.

(7) Disciplinary Sanctions

(a) The imposition of a sanction is immediate or as otherwise notified by the party imposing the sanction.

(b) AFL NSW/ACT, a League or Conduct Committee may impose any of the following disciplinary sanctions:

(i) Appointing a mentor to an individual for a period of time;

(ii) Requiring that the individual participate in a remedial program or counselling;

(iii) Requiring a written apology;

(iv) Requiring mediation between parties including on specified conditions;

(v) Revoking a Player, Umpire or Coach's registration for a period of time;

(vi) Revoking a child's/associated Player's position to play for a period of time in the case of a Parent/Supporter;

(vii) Banning or prohibiting an individual from admission to any recognised League event and venue;

(viii) Banning an individual from holding any post as an Official, administrator or committee person in the League.

(ix) Deducting Club of the Year Award points for the season in which the indiscretion has taken place;

(x) Imposing a fine on a Club (up to $1,000 per first offence);

(xi) Imposing the loss of Competition points upon a Team/Club;

(xii) Imposing a suspended penalty of any of the above.

(c) The following is indicative of the process and available sanctions:

Breach	Description	Sanctions	Referred to Conduct Committee
Level 1	Minor breach	Individuals name recorded; counselling, mediation or written apology if appropriate; official warning or reprimand	Usually Not
Level 2	Serious breach or second breach (within 3 years)	Suspended sentence, registration ban or removal of affiliation/ membership rights; the assigning of the individual to a mentor program by the League; counselling, mediation or written apology; suspended fine for Club	Yes
Level 3	Serious breach or 'Third Strike' (third Level 1 or second Level 2 within 3 years)	Any of the above; AND/ OR suspension, registration ban, removal of affiliation/ membership rights of an individual; fines and/or loss of Competition points to a Club/team	Yes

(d) As such sanctions may potentially be apportioned to either an individual or Club or both as determined by the League or Conduct Committee,

(e) Clubs are liable for the conduct and behaviour of its Players, Officials and Supporters.

(f) A third violation/breach of the Code of Conduct within a period of three (3) years in any capacity as Player, Coach, Official and/or Supporter will bring about an automatic revocation or suspension of the Player's eligibility to play and/or Coach's permit to coach for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee in its absolute discretion.

(g) Failure to comply with any penalty or sanction imposed by the Conduct Committee or League may result in further disciplinary sanctions as determined by the Conduct Committee or League in its absolute discretion

(h) If a participant disputes the sanction or purported action taken under this Code of Conduct that party may appeal in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines.

(8) Conduct Committee

(a) The Conduct Committee is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the League or CMC may from time to time refer.

(b) The League or CMC shall appoint the Conduct Committee of not less than three members which may consist of a combination of the following:

(i) a representative from the independent Tribunal Panel,

(ii) a representative from the CMC or nominee(s), and/or

(iii) an independent Club President.

(c) Where reasonably practicable, the Conduct Committee will meet on the first Wednesday evening after all relevant parties can be notified of the hearing date and time and any formal investigations completed. Alternatively, where reasonably practicable the Conduct Committee may determine the matter by documentation and submissions.

(9) Scope and Powers of the Conduct Committee

(a) The Conduct Committee is governed by the same procedures applying to the Tribunal as outlined in League By-Laws and the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines.

(b) The Tribunal representative will chair all Conduct Committee hearings and ensure Tribunal procedures are followed.

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

(10) Ground Manager

(a) In maintaining the Code of Conduct, the Ground Manager shall:

(i) Liaise with Club Officials as requested (from either the home or visiting Club) to help identify and find details for the alleged offender(s), those affected and any witnesses;

(ii) Where an incident appears to represent a minor breach, issue a warning to any person that they may be close to breaching the Code of Conduct;

(iii) Where a formal complaint is warranted, advise the affected Club to submit a formal complaint to the Competition Management Committee and follow the procedures as described in paragraph 1.2 of these Code of Conduct Disciplinary Procedures;

(iv) Ensure that appropriate signage (provided by the League and clearly visible at the venue's canteen and in each change-room.

(b) The Ground Manager will also assist the Umpires upon request to:

(i) Identify and obtain the details of any Supporter, member or non-member Supporter that they believe to be an offender or witness to a breach; and

(ii) Identify and obtain the details of any Club Official or member that they believe to have been involved in a reportable offence where the Umpire has not been able to ascertain the individual's identity.

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

(11) Promoting the Code of Conduct

(a) A copy of this Code of Conduct must be available on each Club's website.

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

(c) The League will provide Clubs with an initial supply of A4 Code of Conduct signs and a large corflute sign to be displayed outside a Club's canteen.

(d) All Clubs are required to ensure that all members, Players, Officials, Coaches and Parents of Under 18 Players receive a copy of or accept at registration this Code of Conduct. Irrespective of whether a copy is provided, all Club persons have obligations under the Code of Conduct.

(12) Liability for Supporter Conduct

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

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

Appendix "B" – PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS

Introduction

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

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

Procedure

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

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

(A) the offence by the Player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System; or

(B) the Report should be referred to the Tribunal for determination.

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

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

Appendix "C" – CITING INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

This form is to be used for any citing in accordance with Rule 13.8 of the AFL NSW/ACT Rules. The form must be lodged with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises, together with the citing fee payable (if being lodged by a Club).

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

A serious incident for definition is a matter that may draw a base sanction of no less than four matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, or as otherwise determined by the CMC based on the recommendation of the investigating officer. See over for suggested grading Table.

PART A: Citing Details

Match Details		
Round	**Match Date**	**Venue**
Age Group / Division	**Home Team**	**Away Team**

Cited Person(s)			
Name	**Player or Official**	**Jersey Number or Role**	**Club**

Details of Alleged Incident(s)			
Time of the incident(s)		Quarter	
The vicinity at venue where the incident(s) occurred			
A summary of what is alleged to have occurred			

Supporting Evidence Attached	
List the evidence attached in support of the citing, e.g. (A) signed statement(s) from complainant and/or witness(es) (C) video or photographs of the event(s)	

PART B: Classification of Offence

Classification of Offence				
Type of reportable offence				
Where a Classifiable Offence, as defined under 5.3 (a) of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, is the reason for the citing use this table to indicate the level of conduct alleged	Conduct	Impact	Contact Area	Tick Suggested
	Intentional Conduct	High	High / Groin	☐
			Body	☐
		Medium	High / Groin	☐
			Body	~~N/A~~
		Low	High / Groin	~~N/A~~
			Body	~~N/A~~
	Careless Conduct	High	High / Groin	☐
			Body	~~N/A~~
		Medium	High / Groin	~~N/A~~
			Body	~~N/A~~
		Low	High / Groin	~~N/A~~
			Body	~~N/A~~

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

PART C: Signatory & Payment

Signatory			
Name of Person Lodging Form		**From (Club name, Umpire, etc)**	
Email		**Phone**	
Signature		**Date**	

Payment Method			
Cheque Attached	☐		
EFT	☐	**EFT Receipt No**	
Other	☐	**Details if Other**	

LEAGUE USE ONLY			
Lodged Date		**Time**	

Appendix "D" – RECORDING OF IMAGES

(A) This Appendix governs the recording of images, video and/or audio by way of electronic or any other means (recording) of League activities where used by or for the use of or on behalf of Clubs and/or for, by or on behalf of their Officials (recorder). It must be read in conjunction with relevant Codes of Conduct and the Registration Terms and Conditions. Where this Appendix is inconsistent with specific provisions in the Registration Terms and Conditions, such specific provisions of the Registration Terms and Conditions will prevail.

(B) This Appendix sets out the terms and conditions on which such recording can take place, seeking to balance the reasonable expectations of privacy by the participants and the reasonable use of such recordings for legitimate purposes.

(C) In this Appendix, participant means all Players, Club appointed Umpires and Team Officials, and does not include Supporters and officially appointed Umpires.

(D) The law surrounding the taking of recordings, particularly of minors, is complex. AFL NSW/ACT takes this issue very seriously and the provisions below are designed to assist Clubs, Officials, Players, families and Supporters, as stakeholders, to deal with this complex issue. However, these provisions are not legal advice, and all stakeholders must make their own enquiries. Whilst AFL NSW/ACT will provide information, guidance and assistance on these issues, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) provisions lies with individual stakeholders, as appropriate.

(E) When a person enters private land, they consent to any requirements that the property owner may impose on them. This may include restrictions, including prohibitions on the making of a recording of events held on their land. There is nothing, however, to prevent a person from making a recording from outside of the borders of private land, regardless of the property owner's preferences. In the absence of conduct that is offensive or threatening and unlikely to interfere with the public enjoyment of a public place, there is nothing to prevent a person from making a recording of minors in public places.

(F) It is thus not generally illegal to make a recording of minors at sporting events, but a common-sense approach needs to be taken.

(G) Persons making a recording and persons using such recordings must be mindful of the complex issues surrounding privacy.

(H) Unless consent is specifically withdrawn, by reason of the Registration Terms and Conditions, the Player's image in any form or medium is able to be used for general marketing and promotional activities.

(I) These provisions seek to strike a balance between concerns regarding privacy and the reasonable use of such images

(J) Recordings may only be used within the spirit of the game and within the Laws of the Game and consistent with the Code of Conduct.

(K) By agreeing to the Registration Terms and Conditions, the participant irrevocably consents to the use of participant's footage and likeness for Competition management and administrative purposes

(L) The recorder may only record Matches and other AFL related activities such as practice Matches, training and drills (**activity** or **activities**) for legal, instructional, Coaching and promotional purposes (**the accepted purposes**) and must not record activities for commercial, indecent, inappropriate or illegal purposes.

(M) Subject to the direction and supervision of the League, and the direction or ruling by the relevant Conduct Committee or Tribunal, such recording may be used for legitimate purposes in Code of Conduct investigations and/or Tribunal hearings.

(N) The recorder must inform the Ground manager (where appointed), the Coach and/or Team manager of the Club and any Club (**other Club**) whose participants are involved in the activity to be recorded, before the recording is commenced. The other Club may not object to the recording being made. The Coaches and/or Team managers must use their best endeavours to inform participants, and the Parents of all participants who are minors, of the recording.

(O) If a copy of the recording is requested by an official of the other Club (the **requestor**), the recorder must provide a copy within 3 working days after being provided by the requestor with suitable media on which to copy the recording. The requestor shall pay the amount identified in Table 1. The League may request a copy of the recording and advise the recorder of the media on which it wishes to receive the recording and such copy shall be provided to the League without charge within 3 working days.

(P) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall provide a copy of the recording to any other party except with the written consent of both Clubs.

(Q) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall post, stream or otherwise share the recording, including on the internet or social media. The recording may be shared for instructional, Coaching, Tribunal /Code of Conduct purposes but only by the Club, the other Club or the League. Except where used for the accepted purposes, none of the Applicant, the requestor or the League may make any other form of publication of the recording.

(R) The requestor and the League may only use the recording for the purposes outlined in the clause above.

(S) A recording may be used for promotional purposes unless the consent of the Parent of any Players who are minors for the use of such recording has been withdrawn prior to its use (informed consent).

(T) Where informed consent is required, it is the sole responsibility of the party who is required to obtain the informed consent to obtain such informed consent.

(U) The provisions of this document apply to recordings however and by whomever made or obtained.

(V) Table 2 sets out various activities and how they are covered by this Appendix. However, the Table is for guidance only, and if there is any discrepancy between the Table and this Appendix, the provisions of this Appendix prevail.

(W) Breach of the terms of this Appendix, or the spirit of the game or the Code of Conduct is an act of Misconduct under the Laws of the Game, and will be dealt with pursuant to the By-laws accordingly.

Table 1

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

Table 2

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

Appendix "E" – MELEE MATRIX

Melee Details		Activation Points	Allocated Points
Players Actively Involved from ONE Team	6 or less players	5	
	7 – 9 players	15	
	10 – 12 players	40	
	13 or more players	60	
Duration of Melee	0 – 30 seconds	5	
	30 – 60 seconds	15	
	60 – 120 seconds	30	
	>120 seconds	60	
Level of Aggression in Melee	Low (minor wrestling, push and shove)	10	
	Medium (wrestling, jumper punches, headlocks)	30	
	High (striking and/or reports)	50	
Umpire Intervention in Melee	Not involved	0	
	1 umpire asking players to break it up	5	
	2 umpires asking players to break it up	10	
	3 umpire or more asking players to break it up	15	
Officials Involved	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	
		Fine	$0.00

Appendix "F" – OFFICIALS & TEAM SUPPORT STAFF DRESS REQUIREMENTS

As required by Rule 9.1.4, all listed team officials are wear vests or shirts, as detailed in the tables below, for the duration of any Match for which they are officiating.

Senior Competitions – NOT APPLICABLE

Under Age Competitions (including Junior Development Age Groups)

Mandatory Bibs

Role	Colour of Vest / Shirt	Wording on Vest (Must be clearly visible in white)
Ground Manager	Yellow	GROUND MANAGER
ERC	Pink	ERC
First Aid	Red	FIRST AID
Coach	Blue	COACH
Team Manager	Maroon	MANAGER or TEAM MANAGER

Recommended Bibs

Role	Colour of Vest / Shirt	Wording on Vest (Must be clearly visible in white)
Runner	Pink	RUNNER
Water Carriers	White	WATER or WATER CARRIER
Goal Umpire	White	GOAL UMPIRE
Boundary Umpire	White	BOUNDARY UMPIRE

All bibs listed above have the names of roles displayed on the bib and will be available for purchase from the league and delivered by round 1.

Any officials not wearing the above mandatory bibs will not be allowed on the field from round 4 onwards.

Appendix "G" – PLAYER FINALS ELIGIBILITY

The following provisions are made in accordance with Rule 10.9.

(A) The League will determine the eligibility provisions prior to the commencement of the Season Fixture.

(i) To play in finals series matches, players' registrations must have been approved in footyweb and they must have played in at least 25% of the scheduled games in that competition during the season for the team they wish to play for. This rule does not take into consideration any matches lost due to wet weather.

(ii) Any club requesting an amendment to a team sheet that has been submitted must be able to prove that a player has played in that game. In this case, an application may be made to the Competition Management Committee. A fee of $50 will be charged for each match that is amended.

(iii) With respect to all competitions, any player who plays more matches in an older age group or higher division is ineligible to participate in the finals for the younger age group or lower division.

(iv) If a player participates in at least 75% of scheduled games in both age groups, and where the player has played more scheduled matches in the higher age group than the lower age group, Appendix "G" (A) (iii) does not apply.

(v) Where a player plays up in two (2) teams in the same age group or division, that player can only play up in one team for the finals series, being the team that the player had played most games for. Should the number of games be equal, the team the player first played 50% for shall be the team that player is eligible for.

(vi) Where a club has a team in each Division or Conference of an age group, once a player has played four (4) matches in the higher division, that player is no longer permitted to play in the lower division, without the prior permission of the Competition Management Committee.

(vii) Where a player is given an exemption to participate in a lower Division or Conference, that player will no longer be eligible to pay in the higher Division or Conference.

Appendix "H" – PERMIT TYPES

The description of each Permit Type below should be read in conjunction with the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations and Rule 5.3 of the Rules.

Permit	Application	Club Approval	Finals Impact	League Approval
Local Interchange Permit	A permit allowing a player to play for a Club (other than the one to which the player is registered) subject to home Club approval via Footyweb Player can play with both Clubs subject to League Rules	Yes	Nil	Subject to completion of an Interchange Agreement for inter-League only
Match Day Permit *	A permit allowing a player to play a single match for a Club (other than the one to which the player is registered) but which does not require home Club approval via Footyweb	Not required	Cannot play for recipient Club	Yes
Temporary Transfer	A transfer for player who has temporarily transferred to or from the Northern Territory Football League for a maximum of one (1) season in accordance with the National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations	Yes	Nil	Subject to completion of an Interchange Agreement
Student Permit **	A permit to allow a Player to participate in a match with their original Football Club (being the club they were registered with prior to be cleared to their current Club) during registered school holidays, semester vacations or other designated times. Treated the same was as a Local Interchange Permit			
State League Player Trial Permit ***	A permit treated in the same way as a Match Permit although authorisations are required as noted below			

* Match Day Permits

A Player registered with a League Club may play with another League Club (in the same League) under the following conditions:

(A) The interchange of all players under this Regulation must be approved by the League Competition Management Committee;

(B) The Player only plays with one Club on any weekend or round;

(C) The Footyweb permit system shall be the facility used to activate such interchanges (A Match Permit);

(D) Competition Matches played on Match permit do not count towards finals eligibility with either Club;

(E) Player cannot play on interchange on a day or weekend when his Club has the bye or is otherwise not playing.

The spirit of this permit is to allow a Club with surplus Player(s) on a given Competition Match day to give these Player(s) a Competition Match of football with another club as well as allow a Player to trial with another Club which is playing in a higher grade or division

** Student Permits

(A) Subject to (D) below, a Player who transfers to another Club to attend an educational institution on a full-time and continuous basis may, during official semester vacations / school holidays, receive a permit to play

with his immediate former Club subject to written approval from the current Club, the former Club and their respective Leagues.

(B) The permit application (AFL NSW/ACT PERMIT FOR STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME) is to be approved by those outlined in (a) above prior to 1 July in a given year.

(C) The permit period lasts until the Player ceases his commitments at the educational institution and is subject to any relevant regulations of any of the parties, including participation in finals.

(D) In order to be eligible for a Student Permit under this Regulation, the player must provide a school or university calendar which sets out vacation periods.

*** State League Player Trial Permit

A Player registered with a Community League Club may obtain a permit to trial with a State League Club under the following conditions:

(A) The permit of all Players under this Regulation must be approved by the Administration Committee, the NEAFL Manager and the Players Community Club;

(B) A Player is only permitted to play with one club on any weekend or round;

(C) A Player may only be granted a permit to one (1) State League Club per season;

(D) A Player is eligible to trial in up to six (6) State Competition Matches per season with the one (1) State League Club;

(E) A Community League Club can only permit one (1) Player to each State League Club on any given weekend or round;

(F) For each trial-Match a Player's weekly Match payments and/or contract with their current Club must be honoured by the State League Club; Competition Matches played on permit shall count towards finals eligibility for both the State League and Community Club.

Appendix "I" – MINIMUM AGE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY BREAKDOWN

The below table should be read in conjunction with Rule 5.2.1 and 5.2.3 of the Rules

Age Group	Year of Birth	
	Eligible to Play	Dispensation Required
Senior Grade	2004 or older	2005 or younger
Under 19	2002	2005 or younger
	2003	
	2004	
Under 18	2003	2005 or younger
	2004	
Under 17	2004	2006 or younger
	2005	
Under 16	2005	2008 or younger
	2006	
	2007	
Under 15	2006	2009 or younger
	2007	
	2008	
Under 14	2007	2010 or younger
	2008	
	2009	
Under 13	2008	2011 or younger
	2009	
	2010	
Under 12	2009	2012 or younger
	2010	
	2011	
Under 11	2010	2013 or younger
	2011	
	2012	
Under 10	2011	2014 or younger
	2012	
	2013	
Under 9	2012	
	2013	
	2014*	

Minimum Age ACT Born on or after 30/04/2014
Minimum Age NSW Born on or after 31/07/2014

*subject to minimum age

Appendix "J" – MODIFICATION/JUNIOR RULES

Zoning – Under 9, Under 10

The modified rules used in these age groups give participants the best opportunity to participate in the game of AFL. An explanation of the zoning rules are as follows:

- The field is divided into three (3) zones: forwards, midfield and backs. These players are to be rotated through all of the zones during each match to ensure that all players are given the opportunity to experience all field positions. Four (4) distinguishable markers are to be placed at the sideline to mark the end of each zone.
- Forwards are the only players who are permitted to kick a score. These players are to wear a clearly identifiable armband to indicate that they are forward players. Should a midfield zone player kick the ball through the goal posts, no score shall be acknowledged, and play is to restart in the same fashion as when the ball goes out of bounds.
- It is important to understand that the marking of zones is to help both player and umpire understand where players should be. It is not an 'offside' marker as is the case in Netball, rather an indication that a player is close to the end of a zone. A player shall be given a small amount of leeway over the zone line to dispose of the ball. The Umpire and team coach shall communicate with players and attempt to ensure that the use of any leeway is kept to a minimum.
- Players are unable to take full possession of the ball at the start of play or the recommencement of play around the ground. The umpire should use different players from the zone that play is in to contest the bounce.
- The enjoyment of the players is paramount in the conduct of all matches in these age groups.

Spirit of the Game – Applicable to all age groups

Before the start of play:

- All players, coaches and umpires should gather on the ground and shake hands
- The umpire and coaches should ensure that players are aware of the rules & procedures to be followed in the conduct of the game

The spirit of the game is to give all available players a game of football. Therefore:

- Where difficulty occurs fielding full numbers, both coaches must agree to even up player numbers
- Excess players should be given to the opposition team if they are unable to field the required numbers

The Umpire should at all times:

- Endeavour to apply the rules of the game while preferring to award free kicks to players in preference to calling ball ups
- Understand that the spirit of the AFL junior match rules for each age group is to enable all players to gather possession and that "the player in possession of the ball should be given every opportunity to kick or handball"
- Attempt to involve all players as the opportunities arise, particularly when indicating which players are to receive a free kick in the Junior Age groups (Under 12 and below)

	MIXED/BOYS UNDER 9/10	MIXED/BOYS UNDER 11/12
Ground size	100m x 80m	110m x 80m (Minimum. Can be increased by agreement)
Zones	Ground divided into three equal Zones. Only forwards can score.	Not Applicable
Players	Minimum 6 – Maximum 15 (Maximum 12 on field, Match Number 12)	Minimum 9 – Maximum 21 (Maximum 15 on field, Match Number 15)
Ball	Size 2 (Synthetic or Leather)	Size 3 (Synthetic or Leather)
Quarter Duration	4 x 10 minutes	4 x 15 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 4 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	No Scoring, Ladders or Finals	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	Not Applicable	60 Points
Results	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers
Tackling	Modified Tackling. A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the opponent. The player may not be taken to the ground in the act of tackling.	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle
Bumping	No Bumping	Bumping is allowed
Stealing the Ball	No Stealing the Ball	Stealing the Ball is allowed
Barging	No Barging	Barging is allowed
Smothering	No Smothering	Smothering is allowed
Fend Off	No Fending Off	Fend offs are allowed
Shepherding	No Shepherding	Shepherding is allowed
Bouncing the Ball	1 Bounce Maximum	2 Bounce Maximum
Kicking off the Ground	No Kicking off the Ground (unless accidental)	No Kicking off the Ground (unless accidental)
Ball Ups	Nominated Players of a similar height. Only Centre Players allowed within 20 metres of ball up. All other player to be sent away from the area. No Full Possession from Ball up – Player must knock the ball to a team mate and may not play the ball again until it has either hit the ground or another player has taken possession.	Any Player. Only Centre Players allowed within 20 metres of centre ball up. All other player to be sent away from the area. No Full Possession from Ball up – Player must knock the ball to a team mate and may not play the ball again until it has either hit the ground or another player has taken possession.
Throw In	No Throw in. Free kick to opposition if ball crosses the line from a kick, Ball up 5m in from boundary if off hands	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary
Marking	Any distance, player must show control	10 Metres distance, Player must catch the ball directly
Distance Penalty	25 Metres	25 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	No Free Kick
Coaching	On field Coaching permitted (No Runner Allowed)	Sideline Coaching permitted

	BOYS UNDER 13/14	BOYS UNDER 15/16/17
Ground size	Standard Field Size	Standard Field Size
Players	Minimum 12 – Maximum 24 (Maximum 18 on field, Match Number 16)	Minimum 12 – Maximum 24 (Maximum 18 on field, Match Number 16)
Ball	Size 4 (Leather)	Size 5 (Leather)
Quarter Duration	4 x 15 minutes	4 x 20 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	60 Points	90 Points
Results	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers Permitted by club	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers Permitted by club
Tackling	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Throw In	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary	Throw in by attacking player if no boundary umpires are appointed or available
Marking	As per the Laws of Australian Football	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Distance Penalty	50 Metres	50 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Coaching	Sideline Coaching permitted	Sideline Coaching permitted

	YOUTH GIRLS UNDER 10	YOUTH GIRLS UNDER 11/12
Ground size	80m x 60m (can be increased to 100 x 80m by agreement)	100m x 80m
Zones	Ground divided into three equal Zones. Only Forwards can score	Not Applicable
Players	Minimum 6 – Maximum 15 (Maximum 12 on field, Match Number 12)	Minimum 8 – Maximum 17 (Maximum 12 on field, Match Number 12)
Ball	Size 2 (Synthetic)	Size 3 (Synthetic)
Quarter Duration	4 x 10 minutes	4 x 10 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 4 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 4 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	No Scoring, Ladders or Finals	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	N/A	60 Points
Results	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers
Tackling	Modified Tackling. A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the opponent. The player may not be taken to the ground in the act of tackling.	Modified Tackling. A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the opponent. The player may not be taken to the ground in the act of tackling.
Bumping	No Bumping	No Bumping
Stealing the Ball	No Stealing the Ball	No Stealing the Ball
Barging	No Barging	No Barging
Smothering	No Smothering	No Smothering
Fend Off	No Fending Off	No Fending Off
Shepherding	No Shepherding	No Shepherding
Bouncing the Ball	1 Bounce Maximum	1 Bounce Maximum
Kicking off the Ground	No Kicking off the Ground (unless accidental)	No Kicking off the Ground (unless accidental)
Ball Ups	Nominated Players of a similar height. Only Centre Players allowed within 20 metres of ball up. All other player to be sent away from the area. No Full Possession from Ball up – Player must knock the ball to a team mate and may not play the ball again until it has either hit the ground or another player has taken possession.	Nominated Players of a similar height. Only Centre Players allowed within 20 metres of ball up. All other player to be sent away from the area. No Full Possession from Ball up – Player must knock the ball to a team mate and may not play the ball again until it has either hit the ground or another player has taken possession.
Throw In	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary
Marking	Any distance, player must make reasonable attempt	Any distance, player must show control
Distance Penalty	25 Metres	25 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	No Free Kick
Coaching	On Field Coaching (No Runner Allowed)	On field Coaching permitted for Rounds 1-4, then Sideline Coaching

	YOUTH GIRLS UNDER 13/14/15	YOUTH GIRLS UNDER 17
Ground size	110m x 80m field (Minimum). If both teams have 13 or more players on the team sheet, the match must be played on a standard size field. (Refer to AFL Laws of the game: Standard field is a minimum 135*110)	Standard Field Size (Refer to AFL Laws of the game: Standard field is a minimum 135*110m)
Zones	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Players	Minimum 9 – Maximum 22 (Maximum 16 on field, Match Number 15)	Minimum 12 – Maximum 22 (Maximum 16 on field, Match Number 15)
Ball	Size 4 (Leather)	Size 4 (Leather)
Quarter Duration	4 x 15 minutes	4 x 15 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	60 Points	60 Points
Results	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers is Permitted by club	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers is Permitted by club
Tackling	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle
Bumping	Bumping is allowed	Bumping is allowed
Stealing the Ball	Stealing the Ball is allowed	Stealing the Ball is allowed
Barging	Barging is allowed	Barging is allowed
Smothering	Smothering is allowed	Smothering is allowed
Fend Off	Fend offs are allowed	Fend offs are allowed
Shepherding	Shepherding is allowed	Shepherding is allowed
Bouncing the Ball	2 Bounce Maximum	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Kicking off the Ground	Kicking off the Ground Permitted	Kicking off the Ground Permitted
Ball Ups	Any Player. Only Centre Players allowed within 20 metres of centre ball up. All other player to be sent away from the area. No Full Possession from Ball up – Player must knock the ball to a team mate and may not play the ball again until it has either hit the ground or another player has taken possession.	As per the Laws of Australian Football – Junior Modification (Prior Opportunity)
Throw In	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary	Throw in by attacking player if no boundary umpires are appointed or available
Marking	10 Metres distance, Player must show control	10 Metres distance, direct catch
Distance Penalty	25 Metres	25 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	No Free Kick
Coaching	Sideline Coaching permitted	Sideline Coaching permitted

RESOURCE LINKS

- Age Group Exemption Application Form
- AFL HCC Match Day Paperwork Resources
- AFL HCC/AFL Sydney Interchange Agreement
- AFL HCC Player Movement Request Form (Exceptional Circumstances)