

AFL Hunter Central Coast - Juniors



BY-LAWS 2020 – JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

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Introduction

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

Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

League refers to the AFL Hunter Central Coast Junior competitions

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

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the melee matrix grading system notified to all Clubs prior to the start of the home and away season, as updated or superseded from time to time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interpretation

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

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

BY-LAWS

1. AFL NSW/ACT REGULATIONS

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

2. CLUB AFFILIATION

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

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

3. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

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

3.1 Attendance at Meetings

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

3.2 Interpretation of the By-Laws

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

3.3 Amendments

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

3.4 Compliance

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

4. LAWS OF THE GAME AND POLICIES

4.1 Governing Laws and Policies

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.

- (B) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League By-Laws and Regulations including:
- a. the Laws of the Game;
 - b. the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations;
 - c. the National Member Protection Policy;
 - d. the National Extreme Weather Policy;
 - e. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
 - f. the National Gambling Policy;
 - g. the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;
 - h. the Anti-Doping Policy;
 - i. the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy;
 - j. the Working With Children Policy;
 - k. the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications;
 - l. the National Age Dispensation Policy – NSW/ACT;
 - m. the National Coaching Accreditation Policy
 - n. the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT;
 - o. the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines;
 - p. the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations;
 - q. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
 - r. these By-Laws.
- (C) To the extent that these By-Laws are inconsistent with any AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation, rule or policy, the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation or policy will prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.

4.2 Conduct of Matches – Juniors

All Junior & Youth Matches 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 these By-Laws.

Specific Age Group Rules for all competitions will be outlined in Appendix D. Such rules will be read in conjunction with the Laws of Australian Football document to determine playing conditions for all matches. Mercy Rule:

- (A) A Mercy rule is to be applied to all competition age groups
- (B) For Youth Girls Competitions and Boys/Mixed Competitions Under 14 and below, the Mercy Rule will come into effect when the score differential equals or exceeds sixty (60) points
- (C) For Under 15/16/17 Boys Competitions, the Mercy Rule will come into effect when the score differential equals or exceeds ninety (90) points
- (D) 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.
- (E) The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires and Scoreboard attendants to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match
- (F) The match will continue for the remainder of the allocated time in accordance to the mercy rule equalisation measures outlined in 4.2 (G) & (I).
- (G) If a Team leads by 60 points or more at half time or three-quarter time (90 points U14,U15 & U17 Boys), 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.

- (H) +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.
- (I) 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.
- (J) Coaches may be required by the Board to explain any circumstance in which there is evident failure to achieve competitive balance post the Mercy Rule By-Law being triggered.
- (K) Non-compliance with the spirit and application of the Mercy Rule By-Law is an act of Misconduct under the AFL Laws Law 21.2.2(cc) and non-compliance may lead to a formal warning or referral to the Tribunal particularly where there is recurrent noncompliance.
- (L) The official recorded score shall be: Losing team: The score of the losing team at the time the Mercy Rule was applied. Winning team: The score of the losing team at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, PLUS the margin as described in (B) or (C) as applicable

4.3 Player Aids & Protective Equipment

- (A) Use of gloves by Players in junior Competitions is prohibited for development purposes. The field umpire may permit or allow the use of a glove(s) by a junior Player in a Match under exceptional circumstances, such as injury.
- (B) No Player shall be permitted to play in a Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself/herself or other Players. The field umpires may at their discretion inspect Players' equipment either before or at any time during the Match.
- (C) NOT APPLICABLE
- (D) Players who wear spectacles during matches and training must wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses and must be held on securely by a band.
- (E) Compression garments are permitted to be worn under shorts and Guernsey's. It is preferable that they be beige or the same colour as club shorts. Compression shorts must not be longer than the top of the knee and compression tops must be sleeveless. Exemptions to this rule may be sought for medical or religious reasons. Written approval from the Competition Management Committee is required for any exemption prior to a compression garment being worn. The field umpires at their discretion may request evidence of an exemption to be provided prior to a player wearing long length compression garments being allowed on the field of play

4.4 Alcohol Policy

- (A) 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 spectators abide by this By-Law. Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue they must report the matter to the League and advise an Official of the offending member's or spectator's Club, who in turn shall take the necessary action.
- (D) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or spectators fail to adhere to the Official's request, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

(E) 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.

4.5 Loss of Points

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

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

4.6 Kick-In Rule

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

4.7 50 Metre Penalties

A free kick or a fifty (50) metre penalty may be awarded against a Team if a Player, Official or clearly identifiable supporter of a Team:

- a. uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
- b. behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
- c. intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.
- d. Players may not play on during the advancement of any 50 metre Penalty and must wait until the field Umpire signals time back on (variation from 2020 Laws of the Game).
- e. Where a 50-metre penalty is not applicable in the Age Group rules, the penalty metres applicable for that age group shall be applied.

4.8 Spectator Distance from Boundary

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

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

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to "Traditional playing positions at Centre Bounce" does not apply for youth and junior Football.

4.10 Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to "Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)" does not apply for youth and junior Football

4.11 Player Movement

- (A) Local Interchange Permits will only be approved under the following circumstances:
- a. A player wishes to play up an age group and the player's 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.
 - b. A player wishes to also play Senior Football for the same club.
 - c. A player who is registered to play Senior Football who is age eligible to play Junior Football.
 - d. Approval to play is subject to the approval of both clubs and the Competition Management Committee
- (B) AFL Academy Permits.
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) Player Movement Policy. In addition to the National Transfer Regulations, the following will apply for all transfers:
- a. The Competition Management Committee's consent must be obtained for any transfer
 - b. A maximum of two (2) player movements from a Club to the proposed new Club will be considered in a single age group in a single season, unless the approval of the Competition Management Committee is given. Approval will only be given in exceptional circumstances
 - c. A maximum of three (3) player movements from a Club to the proposed new Club will be considered across all age groups in a single season, unless the approval of the Competition Management Committee is given. Approval will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
 - d. Where a Club provides in writing to the Competition Management Committee that they have elected not to enter a team in an age group and do not seek to form an Alliance or Joint Venture in that age group, provisions (b) & (c) will not apply in the consideration of approval for transfer.
 - e. 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.
- (D) 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.

5. COMPETITIONS

5.1 Season Fixture

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

5.2 Ladder

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

5.3 Match wins

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

5.4 Forfeits

- (A) Any Club unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled is to advise the opposing Club and the League no later than midday the day prior to the Match or as otherwise prescribed by the League. The Match will be treated as a forfeit and, provided an explanation is furnished to the League to its reasonable satisfaction, no sanction or penalty other than those specified in this By-Law will be imposed.
- (B) If there is a forfeit the Host Club must inform the Competition Management Committee as soon as reasonably practical.
- (C) Should a Club forfeit a Match without the required notice, a fine of up to one thousand (1,000) dollars may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee.

- (D) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Match, the League will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be responsible to reimburse the League.
- (E) Subject to By-Law 5.4 (D), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, the opposing Club may claim the Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.
- (F) NOT APPLICABLE
- (G) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced.
- (H) For Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into Footyweb for the purposes of player eligibility. Entry of a Team is to be completed within seven (7) days of the match being forfeited.
- (I) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Match will be determined as follows:
 - a. In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible Club's Team will be awarded zero (0) points for and the equivalent of a mercy rule win, either sixty (60) or ninety (90) points against, depending on the age group involved. The non-forfeiting or eligible Club's Team will be awarded sixty (60) or ninety (90) points for and zero (0) points against.
- (J) Competition Ladders will be adjusted accordingly by the League.

5.5 Results of Matches

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

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.

5.6 Other Matches

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

6. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

6.1 Participation

- (A) Competition representative Teams shall participate in inter-league Matches as directed by the League and sanctioned by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.
- (B) The League shall have first call on the services of all Players for its representative Matches and representative training sessions. Any Player who does not make himself/herself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Matches, without the written approval of the Competition Management Committee, may automatically be suspended for the next two (2)

Matches in which the Player's Club is participating immediately subsequent to the representative Match concerned.

- (C) Any Player who declares himself/herself unavailable because of injury or illness must make themselves available for a medical examination by a medical practitioner of the League's choice.
- (D) Any Player who fails to attend a scheduled representative training session of which he/she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Competition Management Committee. If in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee the Player's explanation is unacceptable, such Player may be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (E) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competition Management Committee, Players selected in a representative Team will not be permitted to play with their Club on the same weekend of the representative Match concerned. Any Player who takes part in a Match in violation of this By-Law shall be liable for further disqualification. The Team with which the Player participates for may lose any Competition points gained and his/her Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty (250) dollars.
- (F) Any Player selected in a representative team must be a registered Player with a Club participating in Competitions of that League.
- (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.

6.2 Venue Selection

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

6.3 Offences in Interleague Matches

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

7. UNIFORM AND LOGO REGULATIONS

7.1 Changes to Club Names and Logos

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

7.2 Uniform Design

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

7.3 Jumper Numbers

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

7.4 Uniform Clashes

- (A) To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, the following provisions will apply:
 - a. Subject to 7.4 (A) a. the Host Team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark-brown, blue, green etc.) whilst the away Club's Team will play in white shorts.
 - b. Where the Host Club play in white shorts as its primary playing uniform, the away Team must play in any colour shorts, other than white.
 - c. Where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour as determined by the Competition Management Committee, the away Club's Team must wear a clash jumper as approved by the Competition Management Committee.

7.5 AFL NSW/ACT and Club Approved Suppliers

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

7.6 Sponsor's Logos / Approved Suppliers

- (A) Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) Jumpers worn by Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast and must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (C) Jumpers worn by Clubs may have the League or club logo on the left breast and must not to exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (D) Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion and provided:
 - a. The logo does not exceed 39cm² with a maximum width of 7cm; and
 - b. The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.
- (E) Any alternate request will be assessed by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.

8. TEAMS

- (A) The requirements on Team nominations and the provisions for divisionalisation, joint ventures or Club alliances (if applicable) will be determined by the League in its absolute discretion.
- (B) The League reserves the right to impose sanctions on Clubs for late submissions of team nominations or 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 teams in an age group and that competition is a divisionalised competition, a team will be placed in each division. Where a club enters more than two teams, the Competition Management Committee will decide where the third team is placed.
- (F) Any Club that has one team in a divisionalised competition will have that team placed in the most appropriate competition to ensure competitive football.
 - a. 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.
- (G) Where a club has two (or more) teams in a single competition, the Competition Management Committee has the right to ensure that the teams are evenly matched.
- (H) Any Clubs that propose to merge, form an alliance, or enter in to some other form of arrangement, save for Joint Venture teams (which are subject to specific provisions under these By- Laws), must obtain the prior approval for such arrangement from the Competition Management Committee when seeking Affiliation.
- (I) 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).
- (J) 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 By Law 9.4) 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
- (K) 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.
- (L) Any Joint Venture will be for the term of one season and all players will remain a registered player for their original club.
- (M) 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.

9. PLAYER NUMBERS

9.1 Number of players – Senior Men’s Competitions – NOT APPLICABLE

9.2 Minimum Number of Players – Senior Competitions (Men’s and Women’s) – NOT APPLICABLE

9.3 Number of players – Senior Women’s Competitions – NOT APPLICABLE

9.4 Number of players – Junior and Youth Competitions

(A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for any Team in a Match is outlined in By-Law 9.4 (E)

(B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a team is outlined in By-Law 9.4 (E)

(C) Teams must have the minimum number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a Match to constitute an official Match as outlined in By-Law 9.4 (E).

(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 maximum on-field number for that age group or division. If as a result of a Coach not accepting Players, the Team loaning additional Players will be able to play additional Players up to the maximum on-field number. The maximum number of Players on the Team Sheet still applies.

(E) The following table shows the on-field minimum and on field maximum number of Players by age group and where appropriate by Division within an age group. During school holidays minimum player numbers and ground sizes may be reduced after agreement between Umpires and Coaches of both Club’s Teams. Additionally, during school holidays, the minimums below can be reduced by two (2) Players.

Summary Table

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

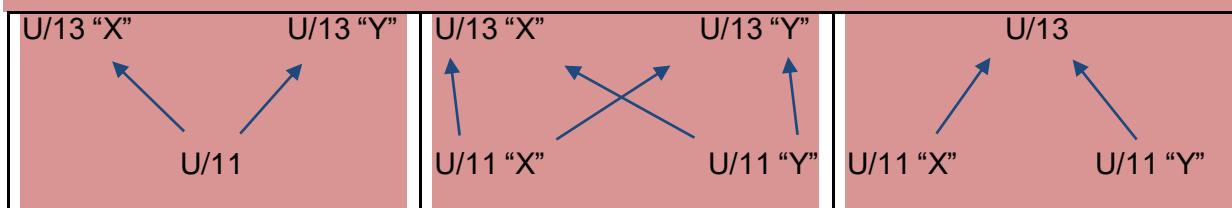
(F) Other than as outlined in By-Law 9.4 (D) or in the case of a send-off, Player numbers at all times must be equal.

(G) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the field umpire, the Opposition Coach and the ground manager must be advised accordingly. The other Club’s Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). When a Player returns to the field, in such circumstances the same process applies in reverse.

(H) 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.

- (I) 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)



- (J) 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.
- (K) 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.
- (L) 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".

10. FINALS

10.1 Finals Structure

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

Format for all finals series:

Week 1 – (A) 1v4 (B) 2v3

Week 2 – Winner A v Winner C

Mercy Rule does not apply in Finals Series

10.2 Venue Selection

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

10.3 Match Duration

The duration of finals Matches will be as determined by the League in accordance with By-Law 11.5.

The Duration of finals Competition Matches will be as per regular season matches, with provision for extra time for drawn finals in accordance with By Law 10.5

10.4 Match Conditions

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

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 By Law 9.4 (E), 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 Bylaw 9.4 (L) where both teams have player numbers above "Maximum on field Numbers".

10.5 Drawn Finals

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

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

10.6 Emergency Umpires

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

10.7 Player Eligibility

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

- (A) The League will determine the eligibility provisions prior to the commencement of the Season Fixture.
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.

- d. 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, By Law 10.7 (A) (c) does not apply.
- e. 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.
- f. Where a club has a team in each Division or Conference of an age group, once a player has played three (3) 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.
- g. Where a player is given an exemption to participate in a lower Division or Conference, that player will no longer be eligible to play in the higher Division or Conference.

10.8 Provision of Officials

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

10.9 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights

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

11. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Match Day Paperwork

(A) Where online facilities are not utilised, paper documents as prescribed by the League in By-Law 11.1 will be provided:

<p>Team Sheets Retained by Clubs unless otherwise directed by the League</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four (4) copies produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One (1) handed to <u>opposition</u> team manager ○ One (1) retained by Club team manager ○ One (1) provided to <u>ground manager / Timekeeper</u> ○ One (1) provided to the umpires prior to the commencement of the match. The Umpire completing the online reporting shall retain their copies of the Team Sheet until the end of the season • The Team Sheet must include the name of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coach ○ Team Manager ○ Runner(s) ○ First Aid Official • Each Club to verify each other's list and each to sign off each Club's copies. Both Clubs to retain. • Umpires sign the ground manager's copy after completing end of Match duties. • Clubs must retain for four (4) weeks after the season and be able to present if required within seven (7) days or as determined by the League
<p>Goal umpire Score Cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Host Club must enter results on Footyweb or as required by the League within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
<p>Send Off Form and timekeepers Card</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided to the Timekeeper.

Match Report Completed by Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record Match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility or as required by the League.
Umpire Review Completed by Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where required by the League submission to Umpire Manager via online facility or as determined by the League.
Umpire Best and Fairest Votes completed by Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to submit via online facility or as determined by the League.
Umpire Notice of Report sheet	Umpires to record any notice of report using the online facility. The Umpires Coordinator shall also be notified via SMS or Phone of any report
In the event of a forfeit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Umpire Votes should be taken • No goal Umpire cards to be kept • Record result on Footyweb noted as a forfeit 	

11.2 Team Sheet

- (A) The official Team Sheet for each Match must contain:
- the name and jumper number of each Player;
 - the name of the Coach: and
 - the name of each Team Official.
- (B) A copy of the official Team Sheet is to be provided by each Club to:
- the timekeeper, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores and goal-scorers at the conclusion of the Match and returned to the League Office with the relevant Match paperwork; and
 - the opposing Club.
- (C) Player and Official names on Team Sheets are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (D) Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition team manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half commences. **No Player can be added to the team sheet after the match has commenced, if the original team sheet submitted already contains "Maximum match day numbers" (i.e. a player's name cannot be deleted to add another player after the commencement of the match).**
- (E) Players included on the Team Sheet but not in attendance at the Match venue at the commencement of the Match must be removed from the Team Sheet before the Match commences. No amendments may be made to any Team after the half time interval.
- (F) NOT APPLICABLE
- (G) Clubs providing incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match with a forfeit score applied.

11.3 Identification Checks

- (A) Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's team manager to confirm the identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision, or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day, the following procedure must be followed:
- The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet;
 - The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League;

- c. The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within **three (3) working days** of receiving an official request from the League, otherwise all Match wins gained by that Team in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing Team.
- (B) Should any Player fail to comply with either a request pursuant to By-Law 11.3 (A) or assist in the provision of identification of the Player, the Player may be subject to disciplinary process pursuant to the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the ground manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee in accordance with these By-Laws.

11.4 Match Times

- (A) Starting time of all Matches are as outlined in the Season Fixture. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the Competition Management Committee in writing in its absolute discretion.
- (B) For Junior Matches the competing Clubs may vary the times by mutual agreement subject to the Competition Management Committee 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) Any Team failing to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine. At that point, at the field umpire's discretion, they may commence play.
- (D) Matches must start and finish on time. If a Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, the ground manager and field umpires will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter time, half time and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following Match can commence as scheduled.
- (E) Subject to By-Law 11.4 (F) and (G), 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.
- (F) If the start of a Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Match is rescheduled by the Competition Management Committee or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (G) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Match, the field umpire must report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for investigation.
- (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 of Players forfeits the Match.

11.5 Match Duration

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

Match Duration & Breaks during matches shall be as follows:

Summary 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

Timekeepers shall sound a siren One (1) Minute prior to the scheduled completion of each break. 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

11.5 (B) to (D) – NOT APPLICABLE

- (E) For Matches where time on is not applicable, the following will apply:
- a. The clock is only to be stopped for the blood rule or when a Player is replaced using the stretcher with the procedure as follows:
 - (i) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule, 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.
 - (ii) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal time off as outlined in By-Law 11.5 (B) a.

11.6 Incomplete Match

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

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

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

11.7 Sirens

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

11.8 Extreme Weather

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

11.9 Wet Weather Procedures

- (A) Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, Clubs are to advise the League as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Matches to be considered.
- (B) Where a venue to which a Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.
- (C) Where a Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the Host Team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next Match between the two Clubs concerned will be reversed to compensate for the loss of the home ground privilege.
- (D) Where neither venue is available, the League will make every effort to reschedule the Match to an alternative venue. Clubs whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their venue available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the Host Team responsibilities will be assumed by the Host Team as nominated in the fixture.

- (E) If a Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Competition Management Committee will decide whether or not the Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.
- (F) Should it appear likely that more than one Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Competition Management Committee may postpone or cancel all Matches for that round.
- (G) If any Match is cancelled, the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 5.3 (A) and such Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Competition Management Committee will determine player eligibility for finals.
- (H) The Club named first on the official Season Fixture is the Host Club and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Matches are adhered to.
- (I) Each Club is required to have procedures in place which enable them to contact their Players and Officials at short notice regarding any changes to scheduled Matches.

11.10 Ground Marking

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

11.11 Goal Post Pads

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

11.12 Scoreboard

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

11.13 Change rooms

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

11.14 Timekeeping Facilities

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

12. CLUB MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

12.1 Coaches

- (A) The minimum requirements for Coach Accreditation are either a “Level 1” or “Foundation Coach” accreditation as applicable.
- (B) Restrictions applied to Suspended Players and Coaches are outlined in the Regulations.
- (C) Each Coach must be correctly attired in the Blue “Coach” bib for all Junior matches.

12.2 Ground Manager

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

Scorecards	To Club goal umpires
Timekeepers Report	To the Timekeeper
Community Concussion Guidelines (on the Concussion App)	To the ERC/First Aid
Community Football Head Injury Assessment Form	To the ERC/First Aid

- (E) The ground manager should also have on hand an Umpire Reporting Booklet for Club Umpires wishing to make any reports, where an online system is not being used.
- (F) At the completion of each Match, the ground manager should collect all the following documentation unless the tasks for Umpires are completed online.

From Timekeepers
Completed Team Lists
Timekeepers Report

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

- (H) At the end of the Match, the ground manager should collate all paperwork and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League by no later than the designated time.
- (I) Finally, it shall be the ground manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Host Club:
 - a. NOT APPLICABLE
 - b. Inputs all results and Player information (i.e. Team lists and jumper numbers) of all the days Matches into the Footyweb online results system, by 12pm Monday.
 - c. Upload match day paperwork of all the days Matches into the online facility provided, by 12pm Monday.

12.3 Team Managers

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

12.4 Team Runner

- (A) The sole duty of the team runner is to deliver messages to his or her Club's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so. Umpires shall ask runners to leave the field if they remain on the playing surface for an unnecessarily long period of time as determined by the Umpire.
- (B) The team runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League.
- (C) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the official team runner.
- (D) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of one (1) team runner. Team runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.
 - a. No team runners are permitted on the field in Under 9's or Under 10's Mixed or Youth Girls games due to coaches being permitted to coach on field.
 - b. In the case whereby a coach is unable to coach from the field due to medical reasons a nominated official can complete this role, provided they are on the team sheet.
- (E) Runners are permitted to enter the field at any stage throughout the match (variation from 2020 AFL Laws of the Game).

12.5 Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers

- (A) Clubs may utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers per Team.
- (B) These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured Players or to provide Players with water. They must not be used to deliver messages to Players. These personnel may enter the field at any stage during play (variation from 2020 AFL Laws of the Game).
- (C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be dressed as approved by the League.
- (D) Umpires will ask any Trainer/Medical/water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform. Umpires shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players.
- (E) 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)
- (F) The Field Umpire has the power to ask any Non-Players to leave the field at any time at their absolute discretion.

12.6 Umpires Escort

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

12.7 Timekeepers

- (A) The Host Club must provide a timekeeper for each Match.
- (B) The away Club is 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, these By-Laws and Regulations and as otherwise specified by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (D) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for attention.

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

12.8 Officials on the Bench

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

12.9 Players seeking to play up a Competition Age Group (Juniors)

- (A) Players are permitted to play up an age group as long the Player is not displacing a registered Player to whom that age group applies. 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 the higher age group.
- (B) The responsibility for the decision to play a Player above their registered age group rests with the Players' Club.
- (C) Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level.

12.10 Injury Treatment

- (A) All Clubs must comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia.
- (B) It is the Host Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate injury treatment processes are in place on Match days. The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services including ambulance, medical centres and hospitals must be available for use in an emergency.
- (C) The League has adopted the AFL Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy ("Sports Trainers Policy"). All Clubs must comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (D) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (E) The Host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all Matches for which it is the Host Club.
- (F) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the Sports Trainers Policy at any Match as follows:
 - a. Junior (Under 12s and below): First Aid Certificate
 - b. Youth and Seniors (Under 13s and over): Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) Certificate
- (G) The visiting Club should confirm with the ground manager prior to the commencement of each Match that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this By-Law. In the event that the Host Club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the visiting Club agrees, the Match will be postponed or rescheduled. Any decision to replay a postponed Match

must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Competition Management Committee within seven (7) days of the scheduled Match.

- (H) The Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (I) In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Match a delayed start of twenty (20) minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following the Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Matches following.
- (J) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply.
- (K) If a Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the Host Club will forfeit the Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of two hundred (200) dollars.
- (L) The Sports Trainers Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with medical or higher-level allied health qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupation's they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:
 - a. Nurse;
 - b. Physiotherapist;
 - c. A certified Sports Trainer;
 - d. St John Officer;
 - e. Paramedic;
 - f. Medical Doctor.
- (M) The Host Club must ensure there is:
 - a. A "scoop" or similar stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of each match.
 - b. ensure proper ambulance access to the field of play, if necessary and
 - c. an appropriately and adequately stacked first aid kit.
- (N) The first aid official should be located alongside or as near as practical to the ground manager. Where more than one Match is being played at any one time, a first aid official must be supplied for each game.

12.11 Concussion

- (A) Management of concussion should be in accordance with the Management of concussion in Australian Football which can be found at: <http://www.aflcommunityClub.com.au/index.php?id=66>
- (B) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials, and where applicable, the Player's Parents / Guardian.
- (C) Any Player who is suspected of having a concussion:
 - a. must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and
 - b. must not be allowed to return to play in the same Match or participate in the same practice session. Initial decisions regarding potential incidents of concussion should be made by a medical doctor or, if there is no medical doctor in attendance, the head trainer.
- (D) Ground Managers must have a copy of the following at the timekeepers table:
 - a. Community Concussion Guidelines (or copy on the Concussion App)
 - b. Community Football Head Injury Assessment Form
 - c. Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool (CRT) App (on a match officials phone)

- (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.

12.12 Match-Day Safety Check

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

12.13 Match Officials Identification

All match officials must be identifiable as per the table below;

Mandatory

Match Official	Bib Colour
Coach	Blue
Team Manager	Maroon
Ground Manager	Gold
Medical (First Aid)	Pink
ERC	Red

Recommended:

Match Official	Bib Colour
Runner	Pink
Water Carrier	White
Goal Umpire	White
Boundary Umpire	White

- (A) 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.
- (B) Any officials not wearing the above colour bibs will not be allowed on the field from round 4 onwards.

13. UMPIRES

13.1 Appointments

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

13.2 Availability

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

13.3 Umpire Requirements

Umpires must attend 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.

13.4 Field and Goal Umpire Numbers

- (A) A minimum of two field umpires are required in order for a Match to commence unless determined otherwise by the League. These must be registered League appointed Umpires or Club appointed Umpires (or a combination of both).
 - a. 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 Bylaw 13.9). Should this not occur, the Match will be cancelled and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.
- (C) Where two (2) field umpires commence a Match and for any reason one (1) of the field umpires is unable to complete the Match the remaining field umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.
- (D) As a minimum, two (2) goal umpires are required prior to a Match commencing. These can be League appointed or Club Appointed umpires or a combination of both. Should two Umpires not be available, the Match must not to commence and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.

13.5 Umpires' Fees

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

13.6 Payment of Umpires

- (A) Appointed Umpires are to sign the Umpires' Match Report prior to the commencement of their scheduled Match.
- (B) The HOST club is responsible for all umpire payments in cash at the conclusion of the match.
- (C) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in By-Law 5.4 (G), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.

13.7 Umpire's Match Report

- (A) At the conclusion of each Match, the field umpire(s) shall provide a report to the Competition Management Committee on the prescribed Umpires Match Report form. All Umpires, including Club field umpires, are required to sign the Match Report. Umpire payments will only be paid to those Umpires who sign the Match Report, unless using the online report facility.
- (B) The field umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting slip via the online Umpires Match report form
- (C) The Umpires' Match Report form and best and fairest voting slip will be placed in the envelope provided and sealed and submitted to the League as designated with the Match day paperwork, unless using the online report facility.

13.8 Club Report on Umpires

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

13.9 Minimum Umpire Age

- (A) Subject to By-Law 13.9 (B), the Competition Management Committee will determine the minimum age of field and boundary and goal umpires (both League and Club appointed Umpires) for all open age and under-age Competitions.
- (B) The age of a League or Club appointed field umpire of a Junior Match must be:
 - a. a minimum of fourteen (14) years old, unless agreed otherwise by the AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department; and
 - b. 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.

13.10 Club Umpires

- (A) From time to time each Club is required to provide suitable persons for the League Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the Club Umpire commitment for the season prior to the start of the season as designated.
- (B) Where the League has not appointed official field umpires or accredited Club Umpires, it shall be each Club's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the Match. Club field umpires are to be attired as approved by the League.
- (C) Club field umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork (i.e. Umpires Match Report (which they are to sign)) and Best & Fairest Votes.
- (D) Each competing Club is responsible for the payment of their own Club Umpires, or in the case of one Club providing both Club Umpires, the payment of one of the Club Umpires.
- (E) Where Official goal and boundary umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing Club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal and boundary umpire to officiate. Club goal umpires must be equipped with two white flags and attired in a uniform as approved by the League and Club boundary umpires must be attired as approved and equipped with a suitable whistle
- (F) Official field umpires shall have the power to overrule decisions by Club goal and/or boundary umpires and remove them should they consider that such Club Umpires are not competent to carry out the required duties.
- (G) Any person officiating as a club goal or boundary Umpire in a Match is to adhere to the Code of Conduct as it applies to an Official, and, in addition, is to refrain from engaging in any form of coaching of, or instruction to Players in the course of the Match other than for the purpose of conducting umpiring duties.
- (H) Payment of Club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the Competition Management Committee. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet.
- (I) 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.

13.11 Reporting of Players and Officials

- (A) Umpires may report to the League any Player or Official who, during the progress of a Match or within the immediate proximity of the ground on the day of the Match, commits a reportable offence.

The procedure for making and lodging such a report shall be as specified by the Laws of the Game and by the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT.

- (B) For the purposes of Section 3 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, registered field, registered boundary and/or registered goal umpires are permitted to report Players. Unregistered Club field umpires, Club boundary and goal umpires are not permitted to report Players.
- (C) All reporting Umpires are required to reference the Offence Grade Template as outlined in clause 5.2(b) of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT when lodging a report.

13.12 Melees

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

13.13 Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in By-Law 13.13 (B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary and goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.
- (B) The excepted persons referred to in By-Law 13.13 A above include:
 - a. AFL NSW/ACT staff;
 - b. Ground manager, including any designated assistant, umpire escort;
 - c. Umpire Manager.

Other persons excepted under this by law are:

- Members of the Board
- Parents of the Umpires
- Club Umpire Ambassador

When acting in the capacity of that role

14. CONDUCT – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

14.1 Prescribed Penalties

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

14.2 Code of Conduct

- (A) Clubs agree to comply with the Regulations and Code of Conduct through affiliation.
- (B) Players and Coaches agree to comply with the Code of Conduct through the Online Registration in Footyweb.

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

14.3 Power to Investigate

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

14.4 Co-operation

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

14.5 Failure to Co-operate

A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 14.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, is deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and may be referred to the Tribunal by the League for determination.

14.6 Interpretation

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

14.7 Power to Report

- (A) If the League designate is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the League Designate may report such person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.
- (B) Report where Notice of Report not completed – Juniors
 - a. 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.

- b. 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.

14.8 Citings by Clubs

- (A) Where a Club wishes to lodge a complaint against a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be noted on the appropriate League Incident Referral Form (see sample Appendix 'B') which must be lodged in writing with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises. An Incident Referral Form must be submitted for each citing. An intermediate advice on the incident form may be initially emailed with the written lodgement to follow as required.
 - a. This By-Law provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of Umpires.
 - b. A serious incident for definition is a matter which may draw a base sanction of more than three (3) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT 2020, or as otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.
- (B) In the event a Club requests extra time to prepare the Incident Referral Form, the Competition Management Committee may, after receiving a notice of intent within the time requirements of By-Law 14.8 (A), extend the deadline to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.
- (C) After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with By-Law 14.8 (A), the citing Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.
- (D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a five hundred (500) dollar citing fee which may be forfeited should the Competition Management Committee deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the League's bank account. The Competition Management Committee will, at its absolute discretion, determine whether the fee will be reimbursed in part or full to the Club lodging the citing at the conclusion of the matter.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his or her rights (via Club Secretary or President) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.
- (F) A Club may request the Competition Management Committee to review footage of an incident by submitting a fee of two hundred and fifty (250) dollars, such fee which is only refundable if the matter results in an outcome as requested by the Club. The Competition Management Committee may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the Competition Management Committee decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.
- (G) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Code of Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 14.8 (A) to 14.8 (C) above.

14.9 Appointment and Role of Tribunal

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

14.10 Tribunal Hearings

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

14.11 Report of Junior Players

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

14.12 Player and Official De-registration

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

14.13 Club Websites

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

14.14 Media / Statements

- (A) Conduct occurring in Media or public forums is governed by the Code of Conduct.
- (B) Only authorised and approved personnel may make public statements regarding League matters.

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

15. ORDER OFF RULE

15.1 Yellow Card

- (A) A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game may be ordered from the field of play for a period 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 By-Law, 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) Unless determined otherwise by the Competition Management Committee, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

15.2 Red Card

- (A) A Player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game twice in the same Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in By-Law 15.2 (B) below), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include but are not limited to where a Player:
 - a. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire;
 - b. Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire;
 - c. Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;
 - d. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person;
 - e. Commits an act of misconduct - if the Umpire is of the opinion the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.
- (C) A Player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.
- (D) Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a red card can be replaced after a period 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) For the purposes of this By-Law, a red card will result in the Player concerned being unable to be replaced for a total period 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

- (F) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be issued with red card and can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.
- (G) All red cards are reportable offences and a Notice of Report must be submitted to the League.

15.3 Recording of Send Offs

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

15.4 Team Yellow & 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:

- a. 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.
- b. Should subsequent cards be forthcoming, the process outlined in By- Law 15.4 (a) shall be repeated, and the team will be deducted competition points.

15.5 Sledging & Audible Obscenities

This Bylaw provides for a "No Tolerance" attitude toward the use of audible obscenities, regardless of whom the obscenity is directed at (including at no other person). Should an umpire witness audible obscenities on the field (including by or to a Coach, Official or Spectator), the umpire must send that person from the field using a Yellow or Red card as deemed appropriate and that person must be reported under the Laws of the Game.

"Sledging" may be described as insulting language or verbal intimidation. Sledging is not appropriate in Junior Football Matches. There is a "No Tolerance" attitude toward sledging in this league and these By Laws will reflect this attitude. An Umpire may give a warning to a player or players observed to be sledging and where possible, inform both captains of this warning as soon as reasonably practicable. After a warning has been given, the following sanctions shall apply:

(A) A player who sledges another player, regardless of whether the warning was given to that player previously, will be ordered from the field using a Yellow Card.

(B) For the purposes of this By Law, sledging will be deemed an act of Misconduct and shall be reported under the Laws of the Game accordingly.

(C) This Bylaw also applies to the case of any sledging by or to any Coach, Official or Spectator.

16. APPEALS

Any Player, Official, Umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision relating to these By-Laws may appeal to the League and / or AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with the appeal procedures as outlined in the

State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT, the State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines and AFL NSWACT Regulations, as the case may be.

17. FINANCE

17.1 Fees

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

17.2 Fines

- (A) The League will determine a schedule of fines that may be imposed for specific operational breaches of the By-Laws as follows.

Breach	Fine
Administration	
Club changing official game times or dates without the agreement of the opposing Club & Competition Management Committee seven (7) days prior or as agreed	\$100
Club deliberately advertising for Players at schools designated as a feeder school to another Club as defined by the Recruitment & Marketing Policy	\$500
Clubs not represented at League Endorsed Education Sessions as required	\$100
Club playing suspended, unregistered, over age or any other ineligible players	\$100 plus loss of match
Code of Conduct Breach	\$500
Forfeiting a match without prior notification	\$100
Public Statements Breach	\$1000
Withdrawal of a team within 14 days of competition commencement	\$250
Withdrawal of a team within 7 days of competition commencement	\$500
Match Day	
More than one player in the same jersey number (per breach)	\$20
Failure to begin quarter as directed by umpire	\$50
Failure to advise of match not commenced – Host Club	\$50
Failure to complete & distribute team sheets on game day as directed	\$30
Incorrectly attired Coach or Team Manager (Per Breach)	\$25
Runner, Water Carrier or Trainer removed from field by Umpire	\$50
Commencing match without ERC or First Aid official	\$200

- (B) Notwithstanding 17.2 (A), the Competition Management Committee may impose such sanctions as it sees fit.
- (C) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the Competition Management Committee or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the Competition Management Committee.
- (C) Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the Player's or Official's Club or, in the case of an Umpire, the Umpires Association, is responsible to pay the fine to the League.

17.3 Outstanding Accounts

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

17.4 Dishonoured Cheques

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

17.5 Club Finances

- (A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League by 30 November each year, or as otherwise designated by the League in the Club Licence Agreement, a 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.

17.6 Insurance

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

18. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER IMAGES GUIDELINES

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

19. AWARDS

- (A) Each season, the Competition Management Committee 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 each competition. 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. The Board will also award an overall Club of the year award, across all competitions.

20. GENERAL

20.1 Resolution of disputes within Clubs

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

20.2 League Colours

The official colours of the League will be as designated by the League. The design of the League's representative jumpers is the responsibility of the Competition Management Committee.

20.3 Matters not provided for

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

20.4 Amendments to By-Laws

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

Appendix “A”

PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS



Introduction

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

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

Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix "B"

INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

TO: [Insert League]
E mail
Fax]

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

Round: _____ Match: _____ vs _____

Venue: _____ Date: _____

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

Reportable Offence or Code of Conduct Breach: _____

Type of Reportable Offence/ Infringement (s): _____

Note:

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

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

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

Vicinity at Venue: _____

Quarter: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Other relevant information: _____

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

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

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

Print Name: _____ Club: _____ (if applicable)

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

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

(Please Circle)

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

League use only: Lodged with League on ____ / ____ / ____ at ____ (time)
--

Appendix “C” – Recording of Images

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

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

Table 1

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

Table 2

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

Appendix “D” – Modifications/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
	Central Coast Under 13's Local Variation (2020 only): Standard Field size where possible. For grounds with a full length or width less than a standard field size, the full field shall be used.	
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 6 – 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 7 – 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

Appendix “E” – Melee Matrix

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

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

Appendix H – 2020 Season COVID Guidelines

1. Overview of Document

- a. These guidelines have been established to provide stakeholders with an overview of the changes that have been implemented for the 2020 season of Community Club Football, which resumes in the form of a reduced length season from 17 July 2020 after being postponed from 20 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given a number of rules will apply for this shortened 2020 season only, an addendum to the Bylaws was deemed more appropriate than Bylaws changes that will be required to be reversed at the end of the season.
- b. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the following pre-existing documents:
 - i. [Laws of Australian Football](#)
 - ii. [AFL NSW/ACT Regulations 2020](#)
 - ii. [National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#)
 - iii. [State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines](#)
 - iv. League specific documents such as:
 - A. Bylaws
 - B. Player Points System Policy
 - C. Player Payment Rules
 - D. Player Interchange Agreements
- c. In the event there is a conflict between the pre-existing documents outlined in 1(b), these Guidelines shall prevail.
- d. The Covid-19 2020 Community Football Guidelines is an evolving document and may be subject to change at any time, by the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT.
- e. This document is intended as a guideline for the administration of all junior and senior community club competitions within NSW/ACT and is not intended to be exhaustive. To the extent that these Guidelines are silent in relation to a matter, the CEO NSW/ACT or their nominee, may determine such matter at their absolute discretion.

2. COVID Safety Compliance

- a. Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring all relevant Club personnel familiarise themselves with the AFL NSW/ACT [Return to Contact Training, Competition & Auskick Protocols](#), as well as all State Government restrictions and protocols relating to community sport.
- b. Clubs must appointment a minimum of one (1) COVID Safety Officer, who must complete the free 20 minute [COVID-19 infection control training](#), submit the certificate of completion to their league administrator, and be responsible for ensuring all COVID protocols are adhered to, including taking an attendance register.
- c. It is recommended that Clubs encourage all participants to download the COVID-SAFE App.

3. Positive Case Implications

- a. If there is an occurrence of a positive case of COVID-19 at your club, the health authorities, your clubs COVID Safety Officer and the League Administrator should all be notified and the process detailed in [Positive COVID Case Response Plan](#) should be followed.
- b. Cancellation or Suspension of Matches - If a team is unable to participate in a designated fixture due to COVID-related medical reasons, the club must submit to the Competition Management Committee any available evidence (i.e. number of players affected, medical certificates etc.).
- c. In such circumstances, the Competition Management Committee will determine the outcome of the match in line with league specific by-laws.
- d. Such determination will factor in minimum player numbers, squad availability, player eligibility and notification timeframes as a basis for decision.

4. Fee Structures

- a. Club Insurance - AFL NSW/ACT have absorbed the full cost of insurance for all teams and have maintained the Silver Level upgrade for personal injury cover.
- b. Team Levies & Affiliation Fees - All Managed League affiliation fees have been confirmed as 60% of previously communicated figures (40% discount). Service and affiliation fees charged to Affiliated leagues are also 60% of previously communicated figures (40% discount), with these leagues encouraged to pass on any savings to clubs that has occurred as a result of the reduced season length.

5. Registration, Transfers and Player Movement

- a. Registration / Permission to Play - All existing AFL NSW/ACT Regulations will be enforced, along with the existing [National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#), and the [National Player and Official National Deregistration Policy](#).

- b. COVID-19 Transfers and Permit Processes - The following processes will apply for the duration of the 2020 community football season:
- i. Transfer Periods
 - A. Pursuant to Regulation 3.7.1 of the Regulations, a Transfer Request may be lodged between 1 November to 30 November or 1 February to 30 June in each calendar year.
 - B. In respect of the ACT, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia only, the Transfer Period from 1 February 2020 to 30 June 2020 will be extended to 31 July 2020. The Transfer Periods will not change for South Australian, Tasmania and Victoria.
 - C. Transfers will be permitted into and out of the ACT, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian from 1 February 2020 and up to and including 31 July 2020. Transfers will not be permitted into or out of South Australia, -Tasmania or Victoria after 30 June 2020.
 - ii. COVID-19 Type 2 Permit
 - A. A new national COVID-19 Type 2 Permit was introduced from 22 June 2020 to allow the movement of players (on loan) in circumstances where their League or Club is not participating in an Australian football competition in the 2020 season.
 - B. Where a player's Club or League either does not submit any teams or does not otherwise participate in the 2020 community football season, that player will be eligible to apply for a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit no later than 31 July 2020. In such circumstances, the COVID-19 Type 2 Permit will allow the player to move to another club for the duration of the 2020 community football season and that player will then revert back to their original Club on 1 November 2020.
 - iii. The differences between the COVID-19 Type 2 Permit and a normal Type 2 Permit (Local Interchange Permit) are as follows:
 - A. A normal Type 2 Permit requires an Interchange Agreement between the relevant Leagues. There is no requirement for an Interchange Agreement for a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit.
 - B. A normal Type 2 Permit is available to players in all Leagues and Clubs provided that an Interchange Agreement is in place. A COVID-19 Type 2 Permit is only available to a player where the player's League or Club is not participating in the 2020 season.
 - C. The timings for a normal Type 2 Permit are determined in accordance with the relevant Interchange Agreement. A player must apply for a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit by 31 July 2020.
 - D. In the event a player moves from a Club not participating in the 2020 season, to a Club where a local interchange agreement also exists, it is assumed the Permit is a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit unless specifically stated otherwise, with the player to be treated as any other player in the league including finals eligibility.
6. **Representative Football**
- a. In 2020 there will be no Representative Football due to travel, time and budgetary restrictions.
7. **Player Points System**
- a. There is no change to the previously communicated Player Points System
 - b. Refer to league bylaws for any adjustments to number of matches required to qualify for a season of service deduction.
8. **Player Payments**
- a. Allowable Player Payments for 2020 have been adjusted to be \$28,000 for Riverina FL Clubs, \$25,000 for Farrer FL Clubs, and \$0 for AFL Canberra Clubs with the exception of Tuggeranong and Gungahlin who each have Allowable Player Payments of \$10,000 to be allocated to 2020 listed NEAFL Players only.
9. **Finals Qualification**
- a. In line with the reduced season length, finals qualification will be altered on a league by league basis. Please refer to individual league bylaws for updated qualification criteria.
10. **Finals Structure**
- a. In line with reduced season length, the structure of finals series games may be altered. Please refer to individual league bylaws for updated structures.
11. **Tribunals**
- a. The [State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines](#) have been amended, with a change made to the classification of Dangerous Tackles.
 - c. All leagues will conduct tribunals online in 2020, with further detail on the process identified here.
 - d. All existing penalties yet to be served will continue in full.
12. **Club Compliance**

a. Please refer to this link for a Club Compliance requirements for the 2020 season.