



FEMALE FOOTBALL GIPPSLAND BYLAWS



Female Football Gippsland (ABN 95 305 602 473)

LAST UPDATED March 2024

Competition By-Laws

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Introduction

The following By-Laws have been adopted by Female Football Gippsland (ABN 95 305 602 473). Female Football Gippsland consists of competitions in the Youth Girls (Under 18s) and Womens (Open Age).

These by-laws are to be read in conjunction with the AFL Victoria Country Handbook, AFL Victoria Rules & Policies and the AFL Junior Match Day Policy.

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:

Association means Female Football Gippsland (ABN 95 305 602 473)

Club means the incorporated entity entering their teams in each age group of the Female Football Gippsland competitions.

Finals Match means any match that is not a home and away match and features only teams who have qualified to play during the home and away season.

Competition Match means any match sanctioned within a competition whether it is played during the home and away season or during the finals.

Home & Away Match means any match played during the regular season and is not a finals match.

Host Club means the first named Club or Team in the fixture, but not always the ground of the first named Club (i.e. the Home Club), even when the Match is transferred to another ground.

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

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

Team Sheet means a list of Players and nominated Officials, as required, to participate in a Competition Match.

Interpretation

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

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

BY-LAWS

1. AFL VICTORIA AFFILIATION

- (A) Female Football Gippsland is affiliated with AFL Victoria.
- (B) All Associations, Clubs, Players and Officials must comply with the AFL Victoria Rules & Regulations.
- (C) In the event of any inconsistency between the AFL Victoria Rules and Regulations and these By-Laws, the AFL Victoria Regulations will prevail.
- (D) AFL Victoria may, suspend any by-law from operation. Any such suspension shall be advised to Clubs in writing and shall remain in force until AFL Victoria determines otherwise.

2. CLUB AFFILIATION

- (A) All Clubs must affiliate with Female Football Gippsland in the form, and on such conditions, determined by the Association and in accordance with the Association Constitution.
- (B) Affiliation is granted to a Club by the Association on an annual basis upon payment of the Association affiliation fee.
- (C) The Club affiliation form and the amount of any affiliation fee are to be prescribed by the Association.
- (D) The Association may at any time require a Club to show cause why its affiliation or participation should not be suspended, withdrawn or terminated, or subject to such terms

and conditions as Association proposes. If the Club fails to respond adequately to the Association's request to the Association's satisfaction, the Association may proceed to suspend, withdraw or terminate the Club's affiliation or impose such terms and conditions on the Club's affiliation as the Association deems appropriate.

- (E) Notwithstanding, and in addition to By-Law 1 (D), where a Club fails to uphold the standards required for affiliation or participation of a Club with the Association, or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the Club's affiliation or participation with the Association, the Association may suspend, withdraw or terminate the Club's affiliation, or impose such terms and conditions on the Club for its ongoing affiliation or participation with the Association, as the Association sees fit.

3. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

The Association appointed administrator(s) control the day-to-day operation of the Association's Competitions.

3.1 Attendance at Meetings

Each of the Clubs shall provide One Delegate to Association Meetings.

3.2 Interpretation of the By-Laws

Where there is a dispute with respect to the interpretation of these By-Laws, the view of the Association will prevail and will be final.

3.3 Amendments to By-Laws

- (A) These By-Laws may be amended by the Association in consultation with the Committee.
- (B) Any amendments to these by-laws must be made by special resolution at a duly convened meeting. The requirement for a by-law to pass is a successful vote of at least a 51% majority where attendees at the meeting constitute a quorum. Twenty-One (21) days' notice must be given of any amendment requests.

3.4 Legal 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 Victoria and the Association 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

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Competition Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.
- (B) The 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 Competition Match under exceptional circumstances such as injury.
- (C) No Player shall be permitted to play in a Competition Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to themselves or other Players. The field Umpires may at their discretion inspect Players' equipment either before or at any time during the Competition Match.
- (D) Undergarments worn in junior Competition Matches, such as Lycra shorts, must be tan or black coloured. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) may only be worn with the prior approval of the Association. Short sleeved or sleeveless are acceptable.
- (E) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL Victoria and Association By-Laws and regulations including:
 - a. the Laws of the Game;
 - b. the AFL Junior Match Football Match Policy for Youth Girls;
 - c. the AFL Victoria Country Handbook;
 - d. the National Age Dispensation Policy;
 - e. the National Player Transfer Regulations;
 - f. the National De-Registration policy
 - g. the National Member Protection Policy;
 - h. the National Extreme Weather Policy;
 - i. the Infectious Disease Policy
 - j. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;

- k. the Anti-Doping Policy;
- l. the AFL Trainers Policy;
- m. the AFL Social Media Engagement Policy
- n. the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policies;
- o. the AFL Victoria Smoke Free and Alcohol Management Policy;
- p. the State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines AFL Victoria;
- q. the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines;
- r. AFL Victoria Code of Conduct; and
- s. these By-Laws.

(F) To the extent that these By-Laws are inconsistent with any AFL or AFL Victoria regulation, rule or policy, the AFL or AFL Victoria regulation or policy will prevail to the extent of that consistence.

4.1.1 Alcohol Policy

- (A) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any Association venue.
- (B) 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 Association and advise an Official of the offending members or spectators Club, whom in turn shall take the necessary action and remove the alcohol and the spectator, if necessary, from the venue.
- (C) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or spectators fail to adhere to their official's request the Club will be in breach of the Code of Conduct.
- (D) In accordance with the AFL Junior Match Policy Alcohol, where both Senior and Junior Matches are played on the same day at the same venue, alcohol is not permitted to be sold or consumed whilst junior matches are being played.

4.1.2 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.

4.3 50 Metre Penalties

A free kick, a 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; or
- (D) 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.

4.4 Loss of Points

- (A) Where a Team is determined as losing a Competition Match as a result of a breach of the Regulations or these By-Laws, the Competition points or 'win' for the Competition Match concerned will be credited to the opposing team.
- (B) Points scored for and against each Team and goals kicked by Players shall be credited in the normal manner.

4.5 Scoring

- (A) Youth Girls and Womens competitions will hold score in accordance with the Australian Rules Laws of Game.

5. COMPETITIONS

5.1 Season

The football season for the Association will commence and conclude on the dates prescribed by the Association.

5.2 Season Fixture

The Association will prepare a schedule of Competition Matches (Season Fixture) for each grade of Competition for distribution to Clubs prior to the start of the season.

- (A) Other than in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Association, the Season Fixture will not be varied once the season has commenced.
- (B) The Association will release the fixture on or before the prescribed date. This date may vary contingent upon Clubs submitting their number of competing teams before the cut-off date.

- (C) Each Competition Season Fixture will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.
- (D) The Finals format will be decided by the Committee prior to the season commencing.

5.3 Ladder

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

Clubs are required to submit their required paperwork by no later than 9:00am on the Monday immediately following a weekends fixture. The results, goal scorers and any other relevant information are to be uploaded to the Association's relevant PlayHQ page by the Host Club's Team Manager no later than 8pm on the day of the fixture. To ensure this is done in a timely manner, match day paperwork must be submitted to the Association's nominated email address or by any other method as prescribed by the Association.

5.4 Match wins

- (A) In home and away round Matches:
 - a) Match wins 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 the resultant ladder positioning;
 - (i) If a Team is scheduled to have a Bye in any particular round, no win nor percentage will be recorded to that Club for that round;
 - d) Where more than one Team has the same number of wins after a season is complete, Teams will be positioned on the ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against.

5.5 Forfeits

Any Club unable to play a Competition Match for which it is scheduled is to advise the opposing Club and Association no later than mid-day the day prior to the Competition Match or as otherwise prescribed by the Association ("required notice"). The Competition Match will be treated as a forfeit and provided an explanation is furnished to the Association to its reasonable satisfaction, no sanction or penalty other than those specified in this By- Law will be imposed. The following bylaws are applicable in the event of a forfeit:

- (A) If there is a forfeit on match day, without the required notice as outlined above, the host Club must inform Association and the opposition Club as soon as reasonably practicable.

- (B) Should a Club forfeit a Competition Match without the required notice, a fine of up to \$500 may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Association.
- (C) Where the Association is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Competition Match, the Association will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be invoiced for the full amount.
- (D) If for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play 20 minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Competition Match, the opposing Club may claim the Competition Match as a forfeit, unless exceptional circumstances outside of the club's control arise and are communicated as soon as possible.
- (E) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Competition Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Competition Match already commenced.
- (F) For Competition Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into PlayHQ.
- (G) 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 sixty (60) points against. The non-forfeiting or eligible Club's Team will be awarded sixty (60) points for and zero (0) points against.
- (H) Competition Ladders will be adjusted accordingly by the Association.

5.6 Other Matches

No Club shall arrange or play in any Competition Match other than the official fixture schedule without the prior approval of the Association.

5.7 Ages

To be eligible to play in the respective age groupings the following limits apply.

- (A) All players playing in the Youth Girls competition must be 15 to 18 by the end of that season's calendar year.
- (B) Youth Girls players cannot be turning 19 during the year unless they receive dispensation in accordance with the AFLs National Age Dispensation Policy.
- (C) Girls who turn 14 in the competition year can apply for a Special Permit to play once they have turned 14 years of age, which is to be signed off by the parents and the club.
- (D) The FFG Women's is an Open Age competition.
- (E) Any Youth Girls player looking to play in the Women's competition must gain approval from parents, the club and the league prior to that weekends game.

- (F) Players Under the age of 16 are unable to play in a Women's senior competition as per the AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines.

5.8 Ball Sizes

Game day footballs must be supplied by the home team and must adhere to the following specifications:

Youth Girls – Size 4 Leather- Red

Women's – Size 4 Leather- Red

6. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

6.1 Participation

- (A) Competition representative Teams shall participate in Representative Matches as directed by AFL Victoria from time to time.
- (B) AFL Victoria and the Association maintain absolute discretion over the process for selecting players and coaches to ensure the utmost integrity of the selection process.

6.2 Offences in Representative Matches

Player Reports in a representative Match or in a Match between clubs of different Associations will be addressed in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

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 Victoria 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 Association 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 Association.

7.3 Jumper Numbers

- (A) Players of each Team must play in their Club uniform as registered with the Association 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 Club Team are permitted to wear the same number in a Competition Match.
- (C) Numbers must be between 20cm and 28cm in height and in plain font.

7.4 Uniform Clashes

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

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

7.5 AFL Victoria and Club Approved Suppliers

AFL Victoria approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL Victoria logo. AFL Victoria may also, from time to time, stipulate that its affiliated Clubs also bare the logo of a major partner. For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs must contact the Association or AFL Victoria to ascertain the correct logo of both AFL Victoria and its associated partners.

7.6 Sponsor's Logos / Approved Suppliers

- (A) Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Association in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Association 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.

- (C) The Association will consider any other proposals for the display of Club or sponsors logos on Player's uniforms.

8. TEAMS

- (A) The requirements on Team nominations, joint ventures or Club alliances (if applicable) will be determined by the Association.
- (B) The minimum registration requirement for a team to be nominated into any age group within the Association will be 13 players. Any Club seeking to submit a team for the purposes of competing in the Association in any season with less registrations than the minimum number of 13 will not be accepted by the Association.
- (C) The Association will stipulate the due dates for submissions of any of the above. The provisions of the AFL Victoria Country Handbook will also prevail in the event of any inconsistency.
- (D) Any new club/s wishing to join the FFG Women's or Youth Girls competition must follow the process outlined by AFL Victoria. At the leagues end of year meeting or SGM, clubs will vote on whether to accept the new club to the competition. For a new club to be accepted into FFG they require a successful vote of at least a 75% majority from member clubs.
- (E) As per the AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations the Association must notify AFL Victoria of its intention to accept the new club not before 1st August and by no later than 5.00pm 1st December. In exceptional circumstances, the Head of AFL Victoria may waive the new club deadline of 5.00pm 1st December at their discretion.

9. PLAYER NUMBERS

9.1 Number of players – Female Football Gippsland Youth Girls Competition

- (A) Both competing Teams must have equal players on the field to constitute a Match.
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Competition Match is twenty-eight (28).
- (C) In the event that one or both teams have less than eighteen (18) players, but more than the minimum number to constitute a forfeit, the Team with the higher number of players must lend the opposing team any number of players that will ensure both Teams have equal numbers to a maximum of 18.
- (D) There is no requirement upon the Team with more players to provide to the opposing team players to have on the interchange bench unless otherwise agreed between both Teams.
- (E) If both Teams have more than eighteen (18) Players listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on-field at the start of the Competition Match shall be eighteen (18) Players.

- (F) If a Team suffers an injury, and that injured player is removed from the game, leaving her Team short on numbers, the opposing Team must provide a top up player or players as is necessary to ensure an equal number of players on the field for both sides.
- (G) A Team with less than 12 players will result in a forfeit against that Team, and the Team who did not constitute the forfeit will be awarded Match Points and a sixty (60) points to zero (0) win. In the event of a forfeit for numbers, teams are encouraged to play a game featuring equal numbers from both sides as agreed to by both Teams but for no competition points.

9.2 Minimum Number of Players – Female Football Gippsland Womens Competition

- (A) Both competing Teams must have equal players on the field to constitute a Match.
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Competition Match is twenty-five (25).
- (C) In the event that one or both teams have less than eighteen (18) players, but more than the minimum number to constitute a forfeit, the Team with the higher number of players must lend the opposing team any number of players that will ensure both Teams have equal numbers to a maximum of 18.
- (D) There is no requirement upon the Team with more players to provide to the opposing team players to have on the interchange bench unless otherwise agreed between both Teams.
- (E) If both Teams have more than eighteen (18) Players listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on-field at the start of the Competition Match shall be eighteen(18) Players.
- (F) If a Team suffers an injury, and that injured player is removed from the game, leaving his Team short on numbers, the opposing Team must provide a top up player or players as is necessary to ensure an equal amount of players on the field for both sides.
- (G) A Team with less than 12 players will result in a forfeit against that Team, and the Team who did not constitute the forfeit will be awarded Match Points and a sixty (60) points to zero (0) win. In the event of a forfeit for numbers, teams are encouraged to play a game featuring equal numbers from both sides as agreed to by both Teams but for no competition points.

9.3 Evening Up

Should one or both teams have less than eighteen (18) players, but more than the minimum number to constitute a forfeit, the Team with the higher number of players must lend the opposing team any number of players that will ensure both Teams have equal numbers to a maximum of 18. The Opposing team must accept those players to ensure maximum participation in the game. Should the opposition club refuse to accept any players to even up, they revoke their right to have even

numbers on the ground and the Team with the higher number of players can play with up to 18 on the field.

10. FINALS

10.1 Finals Structure

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

10.2 Venue Selection

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

10.3 Match Duration

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

10.4 Match Conditions

Subject to By-Laws 10.3 and 10.5, all other Competition Match conditions applicable to the home and away season will apply to all finals Competition Matches. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the requirement to even up numbers during Finals Matches in the same manner required of teams during the Home & Away matches.

10.5 Drawn Finals

In the event of a drawn finals Competition Match, the following procedure will apply:

- (A) The goal Umpires will confirm the scores;
- (B) The field Umpires will re-commence the Competition Match 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 Competition Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute period, the Competition 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.

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

- (A) To be eligible to play finals for any Team, subject to By-Law 10.7(C), a player must have played no less than four (4) home and away Competition Matches for that team, in that competition, within that year.
- (B) Players who miss a Competition Match due to a clash with Representative Football commitments on the same day as a Competition Match will have one game credited as played for their Youth Girls team at club level.
- (C) On application by a Player's Club, the Association may vary the number of qualifying Competition Matches required where a Player misses a significant number of Competition Matches due to serious injury (more than six (6) Matches) or under other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Association.

10.8 Provision of Officials

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

10.9 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights

Catering and gate receipt rights for finals Competition Matches will be determined by the Association. All monies taken at the gates and from competitions staged in conjunction with the finals series will be received by the Association and dispersed in accordance with any prior agreements.

The Association will make all necessary arrangements for the proper collection of any such money.

11. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Match Day Paperwork

- (A) Clubs must provide and complete all match day paperwork as prescribed by the Association and AFL Victoria prior to the commencement of the season.
- (B) Clubs must submit all their match day paperwork by no later than 9:00am on the Monday immediately following a weekend's fixture.
- (C) Unless otherwise prescribed, match day paperwork must be submitted to the nominated Association by the date specified in 11.1(B).

11.2 Team Sheet

- (A) The official Team Sheet for each Match must be submitted using PlayHQ no later than the night immediately preceding a Competition Match.
- (B) The Team Sheet must contain each Player's name, player identification number and jumper number and the name of each Team Official.
- (C) A copy of the official Team Sheet is to be provided by each Club to:
 - a. The Umpire; and
 - b. The Opposing Club.
- (D) At the conclusion of the Competition Match, the Association must have to it submitted all relevant paperwork as prescribed prior to the commencement of the season.
- (E) Player names on Team Sheets/ lists are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (F) 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.
- (G) Players included on the Team Sheet but not in attendance at the Competition Match venue at the commencement of the Match must be removed from the Team Sheet before the match commences. But for any requirement for a player to lawfully change jumper during a match, no amendments may be made to any Team after the half time interval.
- (H) Goals not listed on the Team Sheet at the time it is received at the Association shall not be credited to a Player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- (I) Clubs providing incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet may be subject to disciplinary sanctions to be determined by the Association.

11.3 Match Times

- (A) Starting time of all Competition Matches will be advised when the fixture draw is released. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the Association in its absolute discretion. The standard, default times are to be considered as 12pm for Youth Girls and 1pm for Womens matches.
- (B) For Competition Matches the competing Clubs may vary the times by mutual agreement subject to the Association receiving notification at least seven (7) days before the initial scheduled starting time. A shorter time period may apply if determined by the Association, but a fee as determined by the Association 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. If for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play 20 minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Competition Match, the opposing Club may claim the Competition Match as a forfeit.
- (D) Competition Matches must start and finish on time. If a Competition Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Competition 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 Competition Match can commence as scheduled.
- (E) If the start of a Competition Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Competition Match is rescheduled by the Association or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (F) If the minimum Player numbers are not available 20 minutes after the scheduled commencement of a Competition Match 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 first quarter, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly but the Match will remain a scratch Match. The Team with less than the minimum number or Players forfeits the Match.
- (H) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Competition Match, the field Umpire must report the matter to the Association for investigation.

11.4 Match Duration

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

- (C) 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).
- (D) Youth Girls Matches will consist of four (4) fifteen (15) Minute Quarters with a three (3) minute break for Quarter Time, ten (10) minute break for Half Time and five (5) minute break for Three Quarter Time.
- (E) Womens Matches will consist of four (4) fifteen (15) Minute Quarters with a three (3) minute break for Quarter Time, ten (10) minute break for Half Time and five (5) minute break for Three Quarter Time.

11.5 Incomplete Match

If a Competition 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 rules and procedures shall apply:

- A) Match not commenced: The result of a Match shall be determined by the Association.
- B) Prior to half time:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 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.
 - iii. 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:
 - i. If a Match Unless otherwise determined by the Association, a Field Umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed.
 - ii. A Field Umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as 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 Association may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals of Matches as reasonably required.

11.6 Sirens

Timekeepers are to sound the siren as an indicator to Players and Officials as follows:

- (i) As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of a Competition Match and after half-time – Once;
- (ii) Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Competition Match and start of the third quarter – Once;
- (iii) Two minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
- (iv) One minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;
- (v) Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.

11.7 Mercy Rule

The Association recognises that in Junior Sport it serves no purpose to inflict heavy losses on teams.

- (A) Where a margin exceeds 60 points at a half time or a three-quarter time break during a Youth Girls fixture, the game will be a win for the side who leads by that margin. No further scores will be added to the scoreboard.
- (B) In the event that a match is awarded a win to a team who has reached the necessary thresholds in by-law 11.7(A), for the purposes of tallying goals kicked by players, or best and fairest votes for best players on the ground, those tallies or calculations are only to be taken up until the relevant break where the match has been determined as resulted by mercy rule. Clubs may record goals for their own purposes separately.
- (C) The remainder of the game will be played as a “friendly” game, where Coaches can do what they like to make the game fun and enjoyable with the emphasis on giving the less experienced players the opportunity to play a more active role in the match, e.g. swap players between teams, play additional numbers on the ground, etc.
- (D) The winning margin for percentage purposes shall not exceed 60 points in Youth Girls.

11.8 Wet Weather Procedures

- (A) Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, Clubs are to advise the Association as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Competition Matches to be considered.
- (B) Where a venue to which a Competition Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the Association will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Competition Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.
- (C) Where a Competition Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the home Team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next Competition 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 Association will make every effort to reschedule the Competition Match to an alternative venue. Clubs whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the Association by making their venue available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the home Team responsibilities will be assumed by the home Team as nominated in the fixture.
- (E) If a Competition Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Association will decide whether or not the Competition Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.
- (F) Should it appear likely that more than one Competition Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Association may postpone or cancel all Competition Matches for that round.
- (G) If any Competition Match is cancelled, the Competition Match does not contribute to either team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 5.5 (A) and such Competition Match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away Competition Matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Association will determine player eligibility for finals.
- (H) Each Club is required to have procedures in place, which will enable them to contact their Players, and Officials to notify them at short notice of any changes to scheduled Competition Matches.
- (I) The Club named first on the official fixture draw is the home Club and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Competition Matches are adhered to.

11.9 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, 3 metre centre circle (with intersecting line), 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 not be less than 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 5 metres in length and 1 metre in from the fence / fence line. 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 Competition Matches should be marked in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy.

11.10 Goal Post Pads

Padding must be provided on all goal and behind posts to a height of at least 2.5 metres from the ground.

11.11 Scoreboard

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

11.12 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 Competition Match.

11.13 Ground Inspection

- (A) Ground inspections must be performed prior to the commencement of the day's play. If there are multiple matches on the one ground for the day, only one (1) report is required to be completed before commencement of the first match of the day. The report shall be filled in by the first named team
- (B) The home club must ensure that the playing service is appropriate for play, which includes ground lines clearly marked, access to toilets, grass cut and with a clearway for an ambulance to attend the ground.

11.14 Modified Rules:

(A) Youth Girls

The Following will apply in Youth Girls in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy;

- (i) No Limit on bounces throughout the game.
- (ii) Last touch out of bounds between the 50 metre arcs will be a free kick against the team who was last to touch the ball. Inside the 50 metre arcs, there will be a ball up by the umpire inside the field of play.
- (iii) Marks will be paid for kicks that travel at least 10 metres.

(B) Womens

- (i) Last touch out of bounds between the 50 metre arcs will be a free kick against the team who was last to touch the ball. Inside the 50 metre arcs, there will be a ball up by the umpire inside the field of play.

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) Coaches must attain, and have provided to their Club, a valid Working With Children check.

12.2 Team Managers

- (A) Each Club shall appoint a manager for each Team it fields in the Competition. It shall be the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that his or her Teams' Players and Officials comply with the requirements specified in these By-Laws and with any request reasonably made by the Umpires officiating in a Competition Match in which their Team is participating.
- (B) Each Team Manager shall introduce themselves to the Umpires prior to a Competition Match for identification and to ensure that the Team lists/ sheets are handed in on time (no later than 30 minutes or as designated by the Association prior to the scheduled start time).

The Team Managers should also arrange for the Team Sheets to be exchanged with the opposition Club at this time.

- (C) Each Team Manager is to ensure that at the conclusion of the Competition Match, the goal kickers and best Players for their respective Teams are noted on the official Team list/ sheet, which is held by the timekeeper.
- (D) It shall be the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Club waits on the Umpires at the conclusion of each Competition Match to ascertain whether or not any reports of Players or Officials have arisen from the Competition Match or to receive the "all clear".

12.3 Team Runner

- (A) The sole duty of the official Team runner is to deliver messages to players of his Club and then leave the field immediately having done so.
- (B) The Team runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the Association.
- (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. Runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.

12.4 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.
- (C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be dressed as approved by the Association.
- (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.
- (E) Water carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the Association which is ten (10) years of age.
- (F) Injured players, who are either playing or not playing during a Competition Match, are not to fulfil any of these roles for their team.
- (G) Only one water carrier is permitted on the field for each club at any time during play. The sole duty of a water carrier shall be to convey water to players and to immediately leave the playing arena.

12.5 Timekeepers

- (A) The home Club must provide a timekeeper for each Competition Match.
- (B) The away Club is entitled to also appoint or supply a timekeeper for each Competition Match.
- (C) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the AFL Laws of the Game, these Regulations and By-Laws and as otherwise specified by the Association 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 Competition Match if it occurs during the second half. The field Umpire(s) shall report the matter to Association for attention.
- (E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Competition Match in which they officiate. The quarter-by-quarter scores are also to be recorded on each Club's Team Sheet.
- (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 Players 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 Competition Match.

12.6 Officials on the Bench

In addition to the maximum number of trainers, other medical staff and water carriers, interchange Players and Team runner/s, each Team is permitted a maximum of four (4) other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play.

12.7 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 medical procedures 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 and have gates unlocked for emergency vehicle access.

- (C) The Association 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 Competition Matches for which it is the host Club.
- (F) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the policy at any Competition Match as follows:
 - a. Youth and Seniors (Under 13s and older): Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) Certificate
- (G) The visiting Club should confirm with the Host Club prior to the commencement of each Competition 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 Competition Match will be postponed or rescheduled.
- (H) The Competition Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (I) Any decision to replay a postponed Competition Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Association within seven days of the scheduled Competition Match. In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Competition Match a delayed start of 20 minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following Competition Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Competition Matches following.
- (J) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Competition Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply.
- (K) If a Competition Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the host Club will forfeit the Competition Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.
- (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 occupations they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:
 - I. Nurse;
 - II. Physiotherapist;
 - III. A certified Sports Trainer;
 - IV. Emergency Response Coordinator
 - V. Professional recognised and accredited medical officer

- VI. Paramedic;
 - VII. Doctor.
- (M) A stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of the days play. The home Club must ensure that it can promptly facilitate ambulance access to the field of play if necessary.
- (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.

12.10 Concussion

- (A) Management of concussion should be in accordance with the Management of concussion in Australian Football.
- (B) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials and where applicable the Player's Parents / Guardian.
- (C) Any Player who is suspected of having a concussion:
- (i) must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and
 - (ii) must not be allowed to return to play in the same Competition 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.
- (C) 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.

12.11 Pregnant Players

AFL statement on pregnant players per the 2024 National Community Football Policy Handbook;

- (A) The AFL respects the rights of women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or the carer of a child to participate in Australian Football and is committed to providing support to assist them to do so. The AFL prohibits any actions that may amount to discrimination against a player because of the Player's pregnancy, breastfeeding or status as the carer of a child.
- (B) While many sporting activities are safe for pregnant women, there may be risks that apply to some women during pregnancy. Those risks will depend on the nature of the sporting

activity and the pregnant woman's circumstances. The AFL respects and supports the rights of pregnant players who, in consultation with medical professionals, elect to continue to participate in Australian Football competitions, provided that at all times the health and wellbeing of the Player and their unborn child is paramount.

Club and Player Responsibility

- (A) All Players should agree to, as soon as possible after becoming aware that they are pregnant, and on an ongoing basis throughout their pregnancy, obtain and disclose to their Club Coach regular medical advice which sets out the Player's doctor's opinion regarding:
- (i) the risks associated with participating in the Australian Football competition and associated training and events while pregnant;
 - (ii) taking into account their individual circumstances, whether it is safe for the player to continue participating in the Australian Football competition and associated training and events; and
 - (iii) any other information that the doctor considers relevant.
- (b) The Club may seek additional information about a Player's pregnancy as reasonably required.
- (c) All information provided by a Player about her pregnancy must be kept strictly confidential unless the express consent of the Player is provided. Announcements regarding the Player's pregnancy should only be made in consultation with the Player.
- (d) It is recommended that:
- (i) after a Player becomes aware that they are pregnant, the Player should receive medical clearance and sign an insurance declaration form (prescribed by the AFL from time to time) prior to participation; and
 - (ii) Clubs ensure that all pregnant Players are advised that the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program may not cover them while pregnant.

13. UMPIRES

13.1 Appointments

- (A) The association will endeavour to have association field umpires at all games.
- (B) Where not possible, the expectation is to have 1 umpire from each team who will cover their clubs defensive end of the ground.
- (D) Should a club not be able to provide a umpire, they must communicate this with the opposition prior to game day.
- (E) Clubs are to provide a goal umpire for each game.

13.2 Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in By-Law 13.12 (B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary and goal) prior to, or after the conclusion of a Match or leaving the playing arena.
- (B) The excepted persons referred to in By-law 13.12 A include:
 - a. AFL Victoria staff;
 - b. Team Manager, including any designated assistants;
 - c. Any relevant Umpire Association appointed Umpire Manager.

14. CONDUCT – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

14.1 Set Penalties

Set Penalties as per AFL Victoria Country Handbook will operate in the competition.

14.2 Code of Conduct

- (A) Clubs agree to comply with the AFL Victoria Country Handbook and the AFL Victoria Code of Conduct through affiliation.
- (B) Players and Coaches agree to comply with the Code of Conduct through the Online Registration in PlayHQ.
- (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 the By-Laws, as issued from time to time, irrespective of whether they have signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct.

14.3 Investigations

All investigation for breach of the Code of Conduct must adhere to the AFL Victoria Country Handbook under section 5.0 Unbecoming Conduct.

This process will be managed differently if the claim falls under Vilification and Discrimination Policy (Section 9.0 of the Handbook) to which the conciliation process(9.5) will be undertaken.

14.4 Co-operation

- (A) For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this By-Law, a person shall if requested by the Association:
- 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 Association and may be referred to the Tribunal by the Association for determination.

14.6 Tribunal Hearings

- (A) An independent Tribunal Panel will be appointed by the Association.
- (B) A reporting Umpire, the reported person and a representative of the reported person's Club shall attend a hearing at a time and place specified by the Association.
- (C) All Tribunal hearings will be held in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

14.7 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 Association or AFL VICTORIA ("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 14.7 (A) as determined by the Association in its absolute discretion, must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach remove the Offending Material, confirm in writing to the Association that it has done so and shall be liable to sanctions as is deemed appropriate by the Association in its absolute discretion.

15. ORDER OFF RULE

15.1 Yellow Card

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

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 Competition 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 Competition Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include 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) Unless otherwise determined by the Association in its ultimate discretion, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a red card can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15)

minutes has elapsed. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the replacement Player to resume playing.

- (D) For the purposes of this By-Law, a red card will result in the Player concerned being unable to be replaced for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only. E.g. a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would not be permitted to be replaced until ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- (E) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be issued with red card can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.

15.3 Recording of Send Offs

- (A) 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 Competition Match, or be replaced in the Competition Match (whichever is applicable). It is the offending Player's Club's responsibility to obtain approval from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing in the Competition Match.

16. APPEALS

Any Player, Official, Umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision relating to these By-Laws may appeal to the Association or AFL Victoria in accordance with the appeal procedures as outlined in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

17. FINANCE

17.1 Fees

- (A) The Association will prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items. At the AGM they will provide audited financial statements for the previous season
- (B) Association Clubs will be levied an annual competition affiliation fee, payable to the Association, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective competitions.
- (C) Competition affiliation fees and other relevant charges will be levied on an annual basis each season.

17.2 Fines

- (A) The Association will determine a schedule the fines that may to be imposed for specific operational breaches of the By-Laws prior to the commencement of a competition season.

17.3 Outstanding Accounts

- (A) Except as provided for under By-Law 17.3 (B), any Club which is in arrears to the Association 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, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.
- (B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Association 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 Association provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

17.4 Insurance

- (A) Each Club is covered by the Association's compulsory insurance cover with Marsh 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, personal accident and non-Medicare medical.
- (B) Insurance levies will be invoiced and payable to AFL Victoria.
- (C) Each Club may elect higher levels of cover directly through Marsh. Specific details of cover shall be provided to Clubs each year.

18. AWARDS

- (A) Each season, the Association 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.

19. GENERAL

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

19.2 Association Colours

The official colours of the Association will be as designated by the Association.

19.3 Matters not provided for

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