

AFL (NSW/ACT) COMMISSION LIMITED

&

[AFL INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS]



2026 RULES

Version 1.0

Version	Date	Rule	Update

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Part A - GENERAL

1 INTRODUCTION

- (A) These Rules form part of the AFL's regulatory structure and operate alongside AFL national policy, including:
- (i) the *National Community Football Policy Handbook* ('the *Policy Handbook*');
 - (ii) the *Junior Rules Program Handbook* which overarches the conduct of Junior football; and
 - (iii) the *Laws of Australian Football* which establishes the laws for the conduct of Competition Matches.
- (B) The Rules provide for:
- (i) regulation of matters at a state / territory level or League level that are not otherwise covered by national policy;
 - (ii) variation to national policy where such variation is necessary for the proper conduct of community football at a State / Territory level or League level; and
 - (iii) inclusion of State / Territory level or League level procedural requirements that support aspects of, and compliance with, national policy.

2 APPLICATION

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT is responsible for the organisation, promotion and administration of Australian Football throughout NSW and the ACT and accordingly has jurisdiction over all Affiliated Leagues in NSW and the ACT including the relevant Competitions.
- (B) These Rules have been made by AFL NSW/ACT and by [AFL Independent Schools] pursuant to its role to administer Competitions in the [Greater Sydney region].

3 OBJECTIVES

- (A) The Rules intend to:
- (i) promote, develop and protect Australian Football in NSW and the ACT by ensuring that the appropriate standards and conduct apply;
 - (ii) ensure that the Leagues and Competitions are regulated in a consistent and co-ordinated manner across NSW and the ACT;
 - (iii) operate congruently with national policy and align Leagues and Schools to this.

4 AFL NSW / ACT OBLIGATIONS

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT will:
- (i) comply with the Rules;
 - (ii) ensure that the Rules operate congruently with AFL national policy;
 - (iii) ensure compliance by Leagues with the Rules; and
 - (iv) provide appropriate education and training to those who manage and implement the Rules.

5 DEFINITIONS & INTERPRETATION

5.1 Definitions

- (A) Definitions relevant to the Rules are in Table 1.

(B) Unless otherwise defined in Table 1, or elsewhere in these Rules, terms used in these Rules have the same meaning as defined in the *Policy Handbook*.

Table 1 – Rules Definitions

TERM	MEANS
ACT	The Australian Capital Territory
Academy	GWS GIANTS Academy or Sydney Swans Academy
Affiliation Agreement	The agreement between AFL NSW/ACT and a League outlining the rights and obligations of the parties including the benefits and services provided to a League of affiliation with AFL NSW/ACT and AFL NSW/ACT's requirements for affiliation.
AFL Marks	AFL logos, AFL School logos, the AFL NSW/ACT logo, trade names and other Intellectual Property, registered or unregistered owned by the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT (whichever is applicable).
AFL NSW/ACT	AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd (ACN 086 839 385)
Age Group	Any or all of the nine (9) to eighteen (18) years age brackets, as the case may be.
Aligned Junior School	Where Seniors and Juniors exist under the same Constitution, or where a League approved pathway exists between separate Senior and Junior Schools that establishes a clear pathway for junior players to transition to senior grades.
Appellant	The Person or party seeking to appeal a decision under Rule 28 , and where applicable, includes an Appellant's representative.
Appendix	An appendix to these Rules.
Child	All children and young people under the age of eighteen (18)
Child Protection Legislation	Legislation covering child protection and child wellbeing services nationally and in NSW or ACT (as the case may be), including the <i>Children's Guardian Act 2019</i> in NSW and the <i>Children and Young People Act 2008</i> in ACT.
School Integrity Officer	A person appointed by a School in accordance with Rule 8.10
School Participation Agreement	The terms and conditions agreed between both a School and a League with respect to a School's participation in the League's Competitions in the form as prescribed by AFL NSW/ACT.
Chairperson	The Chairperson of the Appeals Board as appointed in accordance with Rule 28.1.2
Code of Conduct	The AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct in Appendix One or as issued from time to time.
Community League School	All teams directly comprising Schools within an Australian Football Competition, other than the AFL Competition or State Leagues.
CMC	A Competition Management Committee established in accordance with Rule 7.6 .
Competition	Any Australian Football Competition conducted and organised by AFL NSW/ACT or a League
Competition Management Platform	PlayHQ
Constitution	The constitution of an incorporated association as required under the NSW <i>Associations Incorporation Act 2009</i> or the ACT <i>Associations Incorporation Act 1991</i> .
Controlling Body	A League or AFL NSW/ACT This definition does not apply in relation to the AFL Sydney Juniors Competition for the purposes and interpretation of Rule 30.3
Delegate	A member of a School who has voting rights on behalf of the School at a League meeting (generally a member of the School's Executive Committee)

Deregistration	Means removal of the registration or Accreditation of a Player or Football Official in line with Section 7 of the <i>Policy Handbook</i> (Deregistered has the same meaning).
Destination League	The League to which a Player or School is Transferring
ERC	Emergency Response Coordinator
Executive Officer	The Head of AFL NSW/ACT or their delegate.
Field of Play	The area of the field inside the boundary line, goal line and behind line.
Fixture	The official schedule of matches established by the League in accordance with Rule 13.1 .
Grade	A defined level of a Competition, based on gender and age for Junior Competitions (e.g. Mixed Under 13's) or based on gender and the standard of football for Senior Competitions (e.g. Women's Division 1).
Holiday Period	A semester or term break for an educational institution and does not include a Public Holiday, Pupil Free Day or Study Vacation unless that falls within the semester or term break.
Host School	The first named School or Team in each Round of the official Season Fixture.
Intellectual Property	All company and business names, trade names, trademarks, logos, symbols, emblems, designs or other indicia, inventions, patents, trade secrets, processes and any other intellectual property whatsoever (including copyright), registered or unregistered, currently owned and in existence or to be developed in the future by the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT.
Junior	An adjective describing any competition grade up to and including under 18s or as defined by the League with State Body approval.
League	An AFL NSW/ACT managed or affiliated League which operates or conducts a Competition within NSW and/or the ACT.
Match	A match in a Competition conducted by the League, and as appropriate and as applicable, includes practice matches.
MRO	Match Review Officer
MRP	Match Review Panel
NSW	The state of New South Wales.
Official	A person undertaking official duties for a School, including a School committee member, a ground manager, a timekeeper, an umpire escort, a coach, an assistant coach, a team manager, a trainer, ERC, first aid person or QMP, a runner, a water carrier.
Official Team Sheet	The official printed listing of Players and Officials participating in a Match as lodged by each competing School with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of any Match in accordance with Rule 15.7.1 .
Parent	The parent or legal guardian of any Player under the age of 18 years.
Player Payment Rules	The player payment rules adopted by a League and approved by AFL NSW/ACT to regulate the level of payments and benefits to a School's Players, as issued by the League from time to time.
Player Points System	The community School sustainability <i>Player Point's System Policy</i> approved by AFL NSW/ACT and implemented by a League with respect to a Competition or Competitions, as issued from time to time.
PlayHQ	The Competition Management Platform used by AFL NSW/ACT and Leagues to manage Player registration and competitions.
Policy Handbook	The <i>National Community Football Policy Handbook</i> .

QMP	Qualified Medical Professional as defined by Section 15.3(b)(iv) of the <i>Policy Handbook</i> .
Rules	These Rules.
RMC	The Rules Management Committee established in accordance with Rule 6.2.1
Senior	An adjective describing any Competition Grade that is under 18s or over, or as defined by the League with State Body approval.
Source League	The League from which a Player or School is transferring.
Student Permit	A permit in accordance with Rule 11.4.4 .
Supporter	A person who attends a Competition conducted and organised by AFL NSW/ACT or a League who is not a Player or Official, but who may include a Parent.
Team	A School's team participating in a Competition conducted by the League.
Tribunal	A Tribunal constituted by a League under Rule 27 .
Umpire	A field, boundary, goal or emergency umpire whether League or School appointed.

5.2 Interpretation

- (A) In the interpretation of the Rules, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith:
- (i) words importing the singular will be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
 - (ii) words importing persons will be deemed to include all bodies and associations, incorporated or unincorporated and vice versa;
 - (iii) headings are included for convenience only and will not affect the interpretation of the Rules;
 - (iv) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation;
 - (v) a reference to a “day” is a calendar day unless it is deemed otherwise for a particular Rule;
 - (vi) a reference to a “business day” means a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, that is not a designated Public Holiday in the relevant location, and if not otherwise specified in the Rules, a business day ends at 5.00pm;
 - (vii) words, terms and phrases not otherwise defined in these Rules will be given their ordinary meaning; and
 - (viii) the Rules includes the Rules as amended, varied, supplemented or replaced from time to time and any Appendix, schedule, attachment, annexure or exhibit to the Rules or that document.

6 GOVERNING POLICY & COMPLIANCE

6.1 The Policy Handbook

- (A) The *National Community Football Policy Handbook* (“the *Policy Handbook*”) provides a national policy framework covering:
- (i) Eligibility & Registration;
 - (ii) Member Protection & Integrity;
 - (iii) Health & Safety;
 - (iv) Disciplinary.
- (B) Unless varied in accordance with these Rules, the provisions of the *Policy Handbook* apply.

6.2 The Rules

6.2.1 Rules Management Committee

- (A) The AFL NSW/ACT Rules Management Committee ('RMC') is responsible for:
- (i) ensuring the Rules achieve the stated objectives;
 - (ii) overseeing the drafting of the generic Rules;
 - (iii) interpretation of any Rules in accordance with [Rule 6.2.2](#);
 - (iv) annual review and update of the generic Rules in accordance with [Rule 6.2.3](#);
 - (v) repeal of or amendment to any League variation under [Rule 6.2.4](#) where that variation is inconsistent with the objectives of the Rules;
 - (vi) amendment or repeal of a Rule in accordance with [Rule 6.2.5](#);
 - (vii) suspension of any Rule in accordance with [Rule 6.2.6](#);
 - (viii) review and determination of any matter that is referred to it in accordance with the Rules.
- (B) The RMC shall consist of at least three (3) of the following positions:
- (i) Community Football Operations Manager, AFL NSW/ACT;
 - (ii) Manager – ACT & Southern NSW;
 - (iii) Manager – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW;
 - (iv) Community Football Manager – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW;
 - (v) Community Football & Competition Manager (of any region);
 - (vi) Other Persons as determined by the Community Football Operations Manager, AFL NSW/ACT.
- (C) Where the RMC is required to determine a matter in accordance with these Rules, no person may sit on the RMC for a matter where that person was involved in the decision under review.

6.2.2 Interpretation of Rules

- (A) A League or CMC may seek the advice of the RMC in relation to the interpretation or application of a particular Rule prior to making a determination of a matter.
- (B) Where there is a dispute with respect to the interpretation of the Rules, the opinion of the RMC will prevail and will be final unless otherwise specified in these Rules.
- (C) Any binding interpretation of the Rules made by the RMC will be circulated to all Leagues.

6.2.3 Generic Rules

- (A) The AFL NSW/ACT generic Rules will be published and distributed to Leagues prior to the commencement of each season and are to be used as the framework for establishing the Rules for the League.
- (B) A League may make variations to the generic Rules in accordance with [Rule 6.2.4](#).

6.2.4 League Variations to the Rules

- (A) Variations to the generic Rules may be agreed by the League:
- (i) as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of League and the regulation of its affairs; and
 - (ii) on the recommendation of the CMC in consultation with the Schools; and
 - (iii) on the approval of AFL NSW/ACT.

- (B) Where a League variation made in accordance with Rule 6.2.4(A) differs from the AFL NSW/ACT generic Rule, the League variation will apply.
- (C) AFL NSW/ACT may determine and advise Leagues, at the time of distribution of the generic Rules, that select Rules must not be subject of any League variation.
- (D) Prior to commencement of any competition to which the Rules apply, or by other timeline specified by AFL NSW/ACT, a League must:

Guidance Note: Any League variation must be identified by highlighting the text in this colour.

- (i) insert all agreed League variations into the Rules document and highlight these as variations in the manner specified by AFL NSW/ACT;
 - (ii) publish the complete varied Rules document on its website in a publicly accessible location; and
 - (iii) provide an electronic copy of its complete varied Rules document to AFL NSW/ACT.
- (E) If a League fails to meet the requirements of Rule 6.2.4(D):
 - (i) the AFL NSW/ACT Generic Rules will apply until such time as the League complies; and
 - (ii) the RMC will determine the constraints of any Rules that require completion by a League for a competition to proceed.
- (F) If, following the commencement of any competition to which the Rules apply, a League determines that it is necessary to make a further variation to the Rules to ensure the fair and proper conduct of a competition, the League must first seek the approval of AFL NSW/ACT to do so.
- (G) AFL NSW/ACT, in its absolute discretion, may not approve a League variation where it is clearly inconsistent with the objectives of AFL national policy or these Rules.

6.2.5 AFL NSW/ACT Amendments

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT may, from time to time, amend or repeal any of the Rules as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of AFL NSW/ACT and the regulation of its affairs and to notify all Leagues of any such amendment.
- (B) Where an amendment is made under Rule 6.2.5(A), all Leagues are required to update their respective Rules and republish these within seven (7) days together with notification of this to Schools.

6.2.6 Suspension of Rules

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT, in its absolute discretion, may suspend any Rule from operation.
- (B) Any such suspension of a Rule shall be advised to Leagues and Schools in writing and shall remain in force until AFL NSW/ACT determines otherwise.

6.3 Code of Conduct

6.3.1 Establishment of Code of Conduct

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT will establish, and amend from time to time as is necessary, a Code of Conduct in accordance with the objectives of [Rule 6.3.3](#).
- (B) The Code of Conduct forms part of the AFL NSW/ACT Rules
- (C) The provisions of [Section 9](#) of the *Policy Handbook* also apply.
- (D) The Code of Conduct may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or procedures as imposed by a League or School, provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms of the Code of Conduct.

6.3.2 Application of Code of Conduct

- (A) The Code of Conduct applies to the conduct and behaviour of Schools, Players, School Officials, Supporters, Parents, League Officials and Umpires, and:
 - (i) applies to all forms of Australian Football under AFL NSW/ACT's jurisdiction;
 - (ii) continues to apply to a participant even after that participant's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that participant breached this Code of Conduct while a current participant; and
 - (iii) does not limit or restrict the application of the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT Rules, the *Policy Handbook* or other National AFL policy.
- (B) The Code of Conduct does not govern Reportable Offences, the Order-Off Rule, or Citations and an individual must not be penalised under both the Reportable Offences provisions and the Code of Conduct.

6.3.3 Objectives of Code of Conduct

- (A) The Code of Conduct aims to:
 - (i) promote and strengthen the reputation of Australian Football in NSW and the ACT by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders; and
 - (ii) ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants and stakeholders and deter conduct that could impair confidence in the honest and professional conduct of Matches or in the integrity and good character of its participants.

6.3.4 Agreement to Code of Conduct

- (A) Schools agree to comply with the Rules and Code of Conduct through affiliation.
- (B) Players agree to comply with the Code of Conduct through the online registration process in PlayHQ.
- (C) Coaches agree to comply with the [Coaches Code of Conduct](#) as part of the annual coaching accreditation and registration under [Section 6](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.
- (D) Players, Officials, Coaches and Supporters, including Parents, are bound by the Rules and Code of Conduct irrespective of whether they have received or signed the Code of Conduct.
- (E) Any breach of the Code of Conduct by an individual or School will be dealt with by the relevant Controlling Body as a breach of policy in accordance with [Rule 26](#).

6.3.5 School Code of Conduct Responsibilities

- (A) Under the Code of Conduct, Schools are responsible for the behaviour and conduct of its Players, Officials, Coaches and Supporters.

Guidance Note: *it is incumbent upon a School to take immediate action to remediate any Code of Conduct matter that has been reported to it (e.g. via the Ground Manager). Any such remedial action taken by the School will be taken into consideration by the Controlling Body in any investigation of a complaint and any sanctions that may apply.*

- (B) Schools are required to ensure that all School's Players, Officials, Coaches, administrators and Parents of Junior Players receive a copy of the Code of Conduct prior to the start of each season or at the time of registration.
- (C) A Controlling Body may request that a School demonstrates compliance with the Rule 6.3.5(B).

6.4 Compliance

- (A) All Leagues, Schools, Players and Officials agree to comply with the Rules as well as any other Laws, Regulations, Policies and Guidelines established by the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT, including:
- (i) the [National Community Football Policy Handbook](#);
 - (ii) the [Laws of Australian Football](#);
 - (iii) the [Junior Rules Program Handbook](#);
 - (iv) the [Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football](#);
 - (v) the [AFL Gender Diversity Policy Community Football](#);
 - (vi) the [AFL Gender Diversity Policy Elite Football](#);
 - (vii) the [Australian Football Anti-Doping Code](#);
 - (viii) the [AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct](#);
 - (ix) the AFL NSW/ACT Player Points System Policy;
 - (x) the AFL NSW/ACT School Participation Agreement;
 - (xi) the AFL NSW/ACT Hearing Procedures;
 - (xii) the [AFL NSW/ACT Coaching Box Card Policy](#).
- (B) Each League, School, Player, Coach, Official and supporter acknowledges that in order to meet the stated objectives of the Rules, their terms must be strictly complied with and their spirit and intent honoured and AFL NSW/ACT has the right to invoke a disciplinary process to enforce and encourage such compliance.

6.5 Disputing a Decision

- (A) A person, including a School, School Official, Player or School member, must adhere to a decision made by AFL NSW/ACT, the League, the RMC or the CMC, and not publicise in any form, including in media or social media, information that:
- (i) ignores, is contrary to, or misconstrues the decision made;
 - (ii) is false or misleading in respect of the decision made; or
 - (iii) is unreasonable or excessive criticism of the decision made or of any person who made or communicated the decision.

6.6 Safeguarding Children and Young People

6.6.1 Commitment Statement

Refer to [Sections 11.1\(a\)](#) and [11.2](#) of the Policy Handbook for AFL and Controlling Body commitment to safeguarding Children and Young People.

6.6.2 Minimum Standards for Leagues & Schools

- (A) All Leagues, Schools and persons must comply with:
- (i) [Section 11](#) and [Appendix 6](#) of the *Policy Handbook*;
 - (ii) Any AFL NSW/ACT Child Safeguarding policy, as introduced or amended from time to time, relating to the Child Safe Scheme and associated child safe standards.
 - (iii) Applicable child safeguarding legislation
- (B) Each School and League must ensure its board (or committee) members are familiar with, and adhere to, the reporting procedures under [Section 11.5](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

Guidance Note: *it is strongly recommended that each School appoints someone to the role of Child Safeguarding Officer. This person is responsible for ensuring School compliance in relation to all Child Safeguarding policies, and is also the nominated point of contact within the School for any incidents to be reported.*

6.6.3 Working With Children Check

- (A) The following persons must obtain a Working With Children Check Clearance, even if they are exempt under relevant child safeguarding legislation as not requiring a check by reason of them being a Parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates;
 - (i) Coach, including any assistant Coach;
 - (ii) Team Manager;
 - (iii) Any person acting in a role as outlined in [Section 15.3](#) of the *Policy Handbook (First Aider and Sports Trainers)*.
- (B) All Working With Children Check clearances must be valid and effective for the duration of any period the person is working with children.
- (C) Each School must:
 - (i) maintain an up to date Working With Children Check Register; and
 - (ii) provide a copy of this to the League or AFL NSW/ACT within seven (7) calendar days following a request by the League or AFL NSW/ACT.

Guidance Note: *A School may download a template of the Working With Children Check Register from the Office of the Children's Guardian website [resources section](#).*

6.7 Public Health & Legislation Compliance

- (A) Whilst undertaking any community football related activity in NSW/ACT, all Leagues, Schools, Players, Officials and supporters are required to adhere to all requirements established under:
 - (i) The NSW Public Health Order;
 - (ii) The ACT Public Health Directions;
 - (iii) [Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 \(NSW\)](#)
 - (iv) Any additional directives that AFL NSW/ACT mandates from time to time in accordance with Rule 6.6(B).
- (B) To address any impact of a Public Health Order or Direction on its Competitions, AFL NSW/ACT may, as is required from time to time, issue directives to Schools and Leagues that are necessary for the fair, proper and safe conduct of those Competitions.
- (C) Any directives issued by AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with Rule 6.7(B) will be:
 - (i) communicated to all Leagues as soon as implemented; and
 - (ii) attached to these Rules as an Appendix.

6.8 Matters Not Provided For

The RMC may regulate any matters not provided for in the Rules in its sole and absolute discretion.

Part B - STAKEHOLDERS

7 LEAGUES

7.1 League Governance Structure

- (A) Each League in NSW and ACT will fall under one of the following governance structures:
- (i) AFL Managed League; or
 - (ii) Affiliated League.

7.2 AFL Managed Leagues

- (A) Under an AFL managed League model, AFL NSW/ACT assumes responsibility for all aspects of:
- (i) League Governance under an incorporated association;
 - (ii) Financial management, including League management costs;
 - (iii) Competition management including provision of necessary staff resources;
 - (iv) Management of the disciplinary process.

7.3 Affiliated Leagues

7.3.1 *Not Applicable*

7.3.2 *Not Applicable*

7.3.3 *Not Applicable*

7.3.4 *Not Applicable*

7.3.5 *Not Applicable*

7.3.6 *Not Applicable*

7.3.7 *Not Applicable*

7.4 League Insurance

- (A) It is the responsibility of each School to ensure that players are adequately covered by insurance

7.5 League Sponsorship / Marketing Agreements

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

Guidance Note: *AFL NSW/ACT's major sponsors or partners provide, in part, the financial resources for AFL NSW/ACT to promote, develop and administer Australian Football in NSW and the ACT.*

7.6 Establishment of a Competition Management Committee ('CMC')

- (A) The League shall establish a CMC to control the day-to-day management of the League's Competitions including the application and enforcement of the Rules.
- (B) A CMC shall consist of at least three (3) persons selected from the following positions:
- (i) League Chair/ President (if applicable);
 - (ii) Community Football Operations Manager – NSW/ACT (AFL NSW/ACT employee);

- (iii) Community Football Operations Coordinator – NSW/ACT (AFL NSW/ACT employee);
- (iv) Manager – ACT & Southern NSW (AFL NSW/ACT employee)
- (v) Manager – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW (AFL NSW/ACT employee)
- (vi) Community Football Manager – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW (AFL NSW/ACT employee);
- (vii) Community Football & Competition Manager (AFL NSW/ACT employee);
- (viii) Competition Coordinator (AFL NSW/ACT employee); or
- (ix) Other persons as delegated by the League.

(C) A CMC member must take appropriate steps to ensure they do not place themselves in a situation where there may be an actual or potential conflict of interests in the determination of a matter before the CMC.

Guidance Examples: A CMC member who is also member of a particular School should recuse themselves from any determination of a matter by the CMC that is specific to that particular School (e.g. a disciplinary matter). A CMC member who made, or was involved in, the original decision of a matter that is now under review by the CMC may participate in the CMC in so far as presentation of facts and rationale for the decision, but should not cast a vote in the CMC's determination of the matter.

7.7 School Participation Agreements

- (A) In accordance with School affiliation requirements under [Rule 8.1](#), in order for the School to participate in a Competition each League must have an annually executed School Participation Agreement with each of its Schools:
- (i) in the form prescribed by AFL NSW/ACT;
 - (ii) by no later than seven (7) days prior to the first home and away match of the season of the competition to which the Agreement applies, or by such other time as prescribed by the Controlling Body.
- (B) Upon request by AFL NSW/ACT, a League must produce a copy of any or all School Participation Agreements within seven (7) calendar days.

7.8 League Disbanding or Amalgamating

7.8.1 Not Applicable

7.8.2 Not Applicable

7.9 League Colours

A League may prescribe official colours to be used for the League's representative football Teams, stationery and marketing.

7.10 Not Applicable

8 SCHOOLS

8.1 School Affiliation

8.1.1 Affiliation of a New School

- (A) A new School seeking to affiliate with a League and participate in the League's Competitions, must:
- (i) submit a new School application for affiliation to the League in the form prescribed by the League;
 - (ii) Not Applicable

- (B) The League must:
 - (i) Not Applicable
 - (ii) obtain the prior written approval of AFL NSW/ACT prior to affiliating any newly formed School.
- (C) Where approval is given to affiliate a new School, the School must complete and sign a School Participation Agreement prior to any of the School's Teams participating in the League's Competitions.

8.1.2 Affiliation of an Existing School

- (A) To participate in the League's Competitions, a School must apply to affiliate with the League:
 - (i) Not Applicable
 - (ii) in the form and on such conditions as determined by the League and AFL NSW/ACT from time to time pursuant to a School Participation Agreement; and

Guidance Note: Unless the League has an alternative affiliation application form, the School Participation Agreement is the primary document for existing Schools to complete on an annual basis as its application to affiliate with the League. The League may impose any relevant conditions on an individual School, or on all Schools, within the School Participation Agreement.

- (iii) Not Applicable

8.1.3 Affiliation Application Fee

- (A) The League will prescribe the amount of any affiliation application fee payable by a School to affiliate with the League.
- (B) Not Applicable

8.1.4 Determination of Affiliation Application

- (A) Not Applicable
- (B) Not Applicable

8.1.5 Termination of Affiliation Agreement

- (A) In signing a School Participation Agreement, a School acknowledges and agrees that this does not create a right or expectation of continued participation in any particular Competitions or any future Competition/s administered by AFL NSW/ACT.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable

8.2 School Incorporation & Governance

- (A) Not Applicable
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable

8.3 School Fees

8.3.1 School Affiliation Fee

- (A) Schools will be levied an annual affiliation fee, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective Competitions.

- (B) At least 28 days prior to the commencement of the season, the League will determine and notify the Schools of:
 - (i) the rate of the affiliation fee; and
 - (ii) how the affiliation fee will be charged to Schools and the timing of this.

8.3.2 Other Fees or Charges

The League may, in its absolute discretion, determine any additional fees or charges that are to be payable by Schools to offset the operational costs of the Competition.

8.4 Not Applicable

8.5 School Insurance Requirements

8.5.1 Not Applicable

8.5.2 Not Applicable

8.6 School Name & Logo

- (A) A new School must submit details of its proposed name, nickname and/or School logo to the CMC for prior approval, with such approval to be determined at the absolute discretion of the CMC.
- (B) An existing School must submit details of any proposed variation of its name, nickname or School logo design to the CMC for approval before use, with such approval to be determined at the absolute discretion of the CMC.

8.7 School Uniform

8.7.1 School Uniform Obligations

- (A) A School's playing uniform is fundamental to a School's identity and consists of a jersey, playing shorts and socks.
- (B) Each School:
 - (i) must have a minimum of one (1) playing uniform;
 - (ii) may have multiple playing uniforms; and
 - (iii) all playing uniforms must be approved by the League.
- (C) All Players participating in a Match must:
 - (i) play in the School's playing uniform as registered with and approved by the CMC; and
 - (ii) where a School has multiple approved playing uniforms or a Joint Venture Team uniform, all wear matching jersey, shorts and socks.
- (D) A School must have a sufficient number of:
 - (i) approved playing uniforms available for all players participating in a Competition Match; and
 - (ii) spare playing uniforms available in the event of damage to or blood on a player's uniform in the course of a Match.

8.7.2 Approved School Uniform

- (A) A School seeking to change any part of an existing approved uniform, or a new School seeking approval for its uniform or a School seeking approval for an additional uniform must lodge a *School Uniform Design Approval Form* with the CMC and have this approved prior to any Player wearing the uniform in a Competition Match.

- (B) In reviewing any application made under Rule 8.7.2(A), the CMC will consider a range of factors, including:
- (i) any possible clash of a proposed uniform with a competing School;
 - (ii) the requirements of these Rules;
 - (iii) any other factors it considers relevant.
- (C) Following its review, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion:
- (i) accept the proposed uniform design;
 - (ii) conditionally accept the proposed uniform design;
 - (iii) request changes be made to the proposed uniform design with resubmission of the application;
 - (iv) reject the proposed uniform design.

Guidance Note: An example of conditional acceptance is where a particular design is relevant to a themed round and therefore is to be worn only in that themed round.

- (D) A School may have more than one approved uniform.

8.7.3 AFL Logo & Approved Suppliers

- (A) The suppliers listed in Table 2 are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers in NSW and ACT to use the AFL logo, including the AFL NSW/ACT logo.
- (B) No other business or organisation is entitled to use AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and/or League logos

Table 2 – AFL NSW/ACT Approved Apparel Suppliers

Supplier Companies	
Aceit Sport	JS Sports (Belgravia)
ISC Teamwear	S-Trend Sportswear

Guidance Note: Any NSW or ACT School uniform or School merchandise that incorporates the AFL logo (e.g. AFL NSW/ACT logo, or a League logo), can only be purchased from one of the suppliers listed in Table 2.

8.7.4 Other Logos on Playing Uniforms & School Merchandise

Guidance Note: The Rules relating to the placement and approval of logos on playing uniforms seek to balance the importance of maintaining the integrity of a School's identity against the need to visually recognize those who contribute valuably to a School.

- (A) In assessing a School application under [Rule 8.7.2](#), the CMC will have regard for the nature, content and placement of any logos on a uniform and will not approve the following:
- (i) tobacco or vaping company logos, images or text;
 - (ii) explicit, discriminatory, obscene or offensive logos, images or text;
 - (iii) alcohol or gambling logos, images or text on Junior Player uniforms;
 - (iv) any logo, image or text that promotes illegal activity or that the CMC considers may bring the game into disrepute.

Guidance Note: Reference to "alcohol" in this Rule, as it applies to Junior Player uniforms, is aimed at alcohol manufacturers and images of alcohol. It is not intended to bar sponsorship arrangements with local pubs or Schools, however imaging used in such a sponsorship arrangement must still meet the requirements of this

- (B) There are no limitations on the number, size or placement of logos on any School merchandise that is not part of a playing uniform, however Schools are to ensure that the type of logos on any School merchandise does not contravene the items referred to in 8.7.4(A)(i) to (iv).

8.7.5 Legal Approval for Artwork, Logos & Images

- (A) Prior to submitting any application under [Rule 8.7.2](#), a School must ensure that it has legal approval for the use of any artwork, logo or other image that it intends to include as part of the uniform.

Guidance Note: Examples of artworks, logo or other image that require legal approval include Indigenous artwork, Defence Force emblems and company logos.

8.7.6 Jersey Design

- (A) Jersey design must comply with Table 3.
- (i) Any design component not referenced in Table 3 must be submitted to the CMC for review and approval at its ultimate discretion.

Table 3 – Jersey Design

Component	Requirement	
Style	AFL style jerseys (as worn at elite level football). Jerseys must have either no sleeves or full-length sleeves. Tee-shirt style sleeves are not permitted in Competition Matches.	
Numbers	Each jersey must have a number on the back and the number must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A whole number between one (1) and ninety-nine (99) inclusive. • Between 20cm and 28cm in height. • In plain font and in a colour that contrasts with the primary jersey colours. • Recognisable from one hundred (100) metres and unobscured by a logo or artwork of any kind. <p>A jersey may also have a number on the front of the jersey (as per Right Breast logo)</p>	
Logos	Right Breast (AFL Logo)	Every Jersey must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast. The logo must not be less than 6cm x 6cm and not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size. No other logo is permitted on the right breast. A School may place a playing number on the front of the jersey immediately below the AFL NSW/ACT logo, and the combination of both must not exceed 8cm in width and 16cm in height.
	Left Breast (School / Sponsor Logos)	A jersey may have a School logo and/or one sponsor logo on the left breast. A School logo must not exceed 8cm height and 8cm width. A sponsor logo must not exceed 8cm height and 16cm width. If a jersey has both a School logo and a sponsor logo on the left breast, the School logo must be on top and the combination of both must not exceed 16cm in width and 16cm in height
	Front Neck-vee (apparel supplier logo)	An approved AFL NSW/ACT supplier may place its logo on the front of the jersey just below the neck-vee. The size of the logo will be specified in the supplier Agreement.

	Front of Jersey	<p>A sponsor logo on any other part of the front of a jersey is generally not permitted.</p> <p>The CMC may, in its absolute discretion, consider an application by a School for a logo to be placed on the front of a jersey in some circumstances.</p> <p>An application for a logo on any other part of the front of a jersey will only be considered by the CMC if it is centred and does not exceed 15cm height and 30cm width.</p>
	Back of Jersey	<p>A jersey may have up to two logos on the back.</p> <p>If only one logo, this may be placed above or below the number.</p> <p>If two logos, one must be placed above the number and one below the number.</p> <p>A logo above the number must be centred and not exceed 8cm height and 25cm width.</p> <p>A logo below the number must be centred and not exceed 15cm height and 30cm width.</p>

8.7.7 Shorts Design

(A) Shorts design must comply with Table 4.

Table 4 – Shorts Design

Component	Requirement	
Style	AFL style shorts (as worn at elite level of football).	
School Name	Either Side	Shorts may have the School name or nickname placed down one or both side of the shorts. This must not exceed 6cm width.
Logos	Left Front Thigh	<p>Shorts must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the left thigh. This logo must not exceed 6cm height and 7cm width.</p> <p>Shorts may also have the School logo on the left thigh. This logo must not exceed 6cm height and 7cm width and is to be placed above the AFL NSW/ACT logo.</p> <p>Shorts may also have the Supplier logo on the left thigh. This logo is not to exceed the size specified in the supplier agreement and is to be placed below the AFL NSW/ACT logo.</p>
	Right Front Thigh	Shorts may have up to two sponsor / School logos placed on the right thigh. The combined size of the two logos must not exceed 6cm height and 11cm width.
	Back of Shorts	Shorts may have up to two logos on the back, one on the bottom of each leg. Each logo must not exceed 6cm height and 7cm width.

8.7.8 Socks Design

(A) Socks must be AFL style socks (as worn at elite level of football).

Guidance Note: Shorter style AFL socks, as worn at the elite level, are permitted providing there is a reasonable component (10cm or more) of the sock visible above the ankles (not just anklet sports socks), and they must be consistent with the School uniform & colours as worn by all players.

8.8 School Contact Details

- (A) By 31 March each year, Schools must ensure that School details are updated in PlayHQ including a list of the names, addresses and contact details of the officers (including the President and Secretary).

8.9 Attendance at League Meetings

- (A) The League will determine a schedule of meetings for Schools to attend that enable the business of the League to be properly conducted.
- (B) The League is to provide sufficient notice to each School of any meeting arranged in accordance with this Rule and each School is entitled to have one School Delegate present at any such meeting.
- (C) Each School is to make proper effort to ensure that a School Delegate is in attendance at all League meetings.
- (D) Any School Delegate attending a meeting under this Rule must have the authority to represent the School's position on a matter including, where applicable, the right to vote on a motion on the School's behalf.
- (E) In addition to a School Delegate, the League will determine the number of any additional School persons entitled to attend a League meeting in a non-Delegate capacity.

Guidance Note: For clarity, Rule 8.9 applies to both online and in-person meetings.

8.10 School Integrity Officer

- (A) Each School must appoint a School Integrity Officer who is responsible for ensuring compliance by the School, its Players and Officials with the Rules, Policies and Guidelines referred to in [Rule 6](#).
- (B) The School Integrity Officer:
 - (i) Not Applicable
 - (ii) will act as the primary point of contact for all School related integrity and compliance matters.
- (C) If a School does not appoint a School Integrity Officer, the School President will be deemed to have assumed this role.

8.11 School Alcohol Compliance

- (A) For the purpose of this section, reference to "Under Age" means any age group up to and including under 18s.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any League venue and it is the responsibility of each School to take reasonable measures to ensure that its members and Supporters abide by this Rule.
- (F) Should a Ground Manager find that alcohol has been brought to the venue it must:
 - (i) take immediate steps for the alcohol to be removed from the venue; and
 - (ii) advise an Official of the offending member's or Supporter's School (if not the Host School), who in turn must assist with any steps to remove the alcohol from the venue; and
 - (iii) report the matter to the Controlling Body.
- (G) Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the Field of Play at any time during the course of a Match, including during quarter breaks and the Host School is responsible for enforcement of this.

(H) Alcohol is not to be consumed by a School Official either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official Match day role (e.g. timekeeping, Ground Manager, Umpire escort, Umpire etc.).

(I) Alcohol sales and consumption is prohibited at all times during Under Age Competitions.

(J) Not Applicable

(K) Not Applicable

(L) Not Applicable

(M) Not Applicable

8.12 Not Applicable

8.13 Not Applicable

8.14 Not Applicable

8.15 Proof of Communication

Wherever the Rules provide for a time limit for a communication, including lodgement of any document, the onus of proof of such communication or lodgement is on the initiating School.

8.16 Not Applicable

8.17 Representations to the Controlling Body

(A) Any representations made to a league in relation to any aspect of these Rules, including any matters relating to disputes or interpretation of the Rules:

- (i) are only to be made via the nominated School Delegate or a School Executive Committee member; and
- (ii) must be in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct requirements set out in these Rules and the *Policy Handbook*.

Guidance Note: Only nominated School Delegates and School Executive Committee members are permitted to contact the Controlling Body directly. Any other person must contact their School who will then contact the Controlling Body via the appropriate channels. The Controlling Body is not obliged to respond to representations made to them by other persons (e.g. players, parents, coaches).

9 OFFICIALS

9.1 Conduct of Officials

(A) Whilst in attendance at a community football event, irrespective of whether they are acting in an official capacity at that event or not, all School Officials are:

- (i) required to adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times; and
- (ii) responsible for ensuring the adherence of its School's Players and Supporters to the Code of Conduct and should seek to immediately address any identified behaviour that may be considered a breach of this.

9.2 Disqualification – Persons Not to Act

Any person who has been refused a Transfer or Permit to play or has been suspended, stood down or Deregistered shall not hold any on field position with any League or School until the Transfer or Permit is granted, or the period of suspension, stand down or Deregistration has expired or is removed by the Controlling Body imposing the suspension or Deregistration.

9.3 Coaches

9.3.1 Coach Eligibility

- (A) To Coach in a Competition Match, a Coach must be eligible, registered and accredited in accordance with [Section 6](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.
- (B) Any Coach not eligible, accredited or registered, or registered based upon incorrect information, is ineligible to coach a School's team in a Competition Match.
- (C) Any School who engages or permits an ineligible Coach to officiate during a Competition Match may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including the loss of Competition Match points and / or a fine determined by the relevant Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.
- (D) An ineligible Coach may also be liable to disciplinary sanctions including a fine, suspension, Deregistration or ban on registration as determined by the relevant Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.
- (E) Where a complaint submitted in accordance with [Rule 26](#) relates to a School engaging an ineligible Coach, the School is responsible for the appearance of the Coach at any investigation or hearing conducted by the relevant Controlling Body.
- (F) Each School is to ensure that a person who is ineligible to Coach as a result of a disciplinary sanction or Deregistration, must not:
 - (i) display signs of Coaching, which includes communicating in any form before or during the Match with any Player, any assistant Coach, or any Team officials including the Team manager, runners, water carriers and/ or trainers;
 - (ii) enter the playing arena at any stage during the Match; or
 - (iii) be within twenty-five (25) metres of the team's interchange bench during a Competition Match.

9.3.2 Coach Code of Conduct

- (A) [Section 9.3](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.
- (B) A Coach may be subject to suspension or Deregistration in accordance with these Rules and/or the *Policy Handbook*.

9.3.3 Coach Identifiable

- (A) A Coach of a Junior Team must be attired in accordance with [Rule 9.5.2](#) or as required by the League.
- (B) Any Coach of a Junior Team who fails to comply with this requirement may be referred to the CMC who may impose any relevant sanctions at its absolute discretion.

9.3.4 No Dual Team Official Role

- (A) Any person designated on the Team Sheet as the Coach or Assistant Coach for a Match must not undertake any other Team Official roles including those of runner, water carrier, first aid or trainer.

Guidance Note: *The purpose of this Rule is to prevent a Coach or Assistant Coach assuming another team official role to enter the Field of Play during a match and potentially coach players from on field.*

9.4 Ground Officials

9.4.1 Ground Manager

- (A) Prior to any Match taking place the League must appoint a Ground Manager for the Match to undertake the responsibilities detailed in this Rule.
- (B) A Ground Manager must be readily identifiable by the wearing of a yellow bib that has the words "Ground Manager" clearly visible.

(C) The Ground Manager’s Matchday responsibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, those detailed in Table 5.

Table 5 – Ground Manager Responsibilities

Category	Specific Responsibilities
Risk Management Compliance	<p>Check the Field of Play and general conditions and complete the Marsh Match Day Checklist</p> <p>Guidance Note: <i>The Ground Manager is responsible for regular checks of the Field of Play on matchday to ensure it remains safe and suitable to play on, and the checklist is to be redone anytime the Ground Manager considers there to be a change to the Field of Play that may impact the safety of Players and Officials (e.g. if raining heavily and the field becomes boggy throughout the day as more matches are played).</i></p>
Equipment & Ground Setup	<p>Ensure all equipment necessary for conducting a Match is available before the Match.</p> <p>For Junior Competitions on reduced field sizes, ensure the ground is set-up properly for each Match including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusting the field size (e.g. with cones) to the specified size for the age group (see Rule 16.5.2); • The movement and placement of goal posts and padding (where applicable); and • Marking the interchange area (e.g. with cones). <p>Ensure that both Teams are aware where the interchange area is.</p>
Rules & Laws	<p>Ensure the following are readily available (online or hardcopy) for all Matches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Rules; • the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>; • the <i>Policy Handbook</i>; and • the <i>Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football</i>.
Timekeeping	<p>Ensure the availability of a competent timekeeper for each Match.</p> <p>Ensure timekeeping equipment and a back-up timer and siren are available.</p>
Umpires	<p>Check the availability of field, goal and boundary Umpires.</p> <p>Provide Goal Umpires with flags and score cards.</p> <p>Ensure an Umpire Escort is available to conduct duties as detailed in Rule 9.4.3.</p> <p>Ensure water is provided for the Umpires at each break.</p> <p>Ensure the field Umpire reviews both Team Sheets for inclusion of all jumper numbers and then sign the sheets plus the score cards.</p> <p>Ensure a spare set of Yellow and Red cards is available.</p> <p>Ascertaining from the Umpires immediately following the conclusion of the Match whether or not any Reports and/or Incident Referrals of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match.</p>
Officials Identification	<p>Ensure team officials are properly attired and identifiable as per Rule 9.5.2 and Table 8.</p>
Injury Management	<p>Ensure at least one Sports Trainer, AFL First Aider or QMP with Appropriate Minimum Qualifications, as defined by Section 15.3 of the <i>Policy Handbook</i>) is present for each Match in accordance with Rule 21.2 and Section 15.2 of the <i>Policy Handbook</i>.</p> <p>Ensure a stretcher and a first aid kit are readily accessible at all times.</p> <p>Provide assistance to injury management officials as needed with contacting an ambulance and safe access for an ambulance to the venue and Field of Play.</p>

	<p>In any case where a stretcher or ambulance is required, ensure a Match does not resume until the injured person has been safely removed from the field.</p> <p>Determine whether any delay to a Match caused by an injury, requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alteration to the duration of any quarter to ensure the Match is still able to be completed within the specified time as per Rule 15.8.5; or • a Match to be abandoned in which case the result of the Match is to be determined in accordance with Rule 16.6.
Matchday Paperwork	Ensure adherence to Matchday paperwork requirements in accordance with Rule 15.7 .
Scoring	<p>Check the accuracy of the scoreboard with goal Umpires at the end of each quarter and instruct the scoreboard attendant to correct any inaccuracy in the score displayed.</p> <p>For Junior Competitions ensure the Mercy Rule, where applicable, is applied in accordance with Rule 15.2.8.</p>
Complaints & Attendee Conduct	<p>Receive any formally submitted complaint from a School Official or other person:</p> <p>(i) Manage, in consultation with other available School Officials, any attendee behaviour that is contrary to the <i>Code of Conduct</i> (not including on-field reportable offences) and make a record of this.</p> <p>(ii) Determine if a complaint is practicably able to be resolved at the time (except where it involves a complaint of vilification or a safeguarding children issue).</p> <p>Where a complaint cannot be resolved:</p> <p>(i) obtain as much immediate information as possible of the situation including the names and contact details of any witnesses;</p> <p>(ii) determine whether the Police need to be called; and</p> <p>(iii) complete and submit the applicable <i>Notice of Complaint</i> form to the League in line with Rule 26.</p>
Dangerous Weather or Conditions	Identify any conditions (e.g. extreme weather as defined in Section 17 of the <i>Policy Handbook</i>) that may place attendees at significant risk and determine if a Match in progress is to be suspended or abandoned.
Determine Whether a Match Should Commence	<p>Refer to Rule to 15.8.4 – Match Unable to Commence</p> <p>Refer to Rule 14.4(F) – Minimum Number of Players</p>
Determine if a Match is to Recommence or be Abandoned Following a Significant Delay	Refer to Rule 15.8.5 – Significant Delay to a match (Table 30 – Determining if a match is to recommence)
Abandoned Match	<p>For any Match that has been abandoned prior to or after commencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the reasons for the Match being abandoned ; and • Within 24 hours, inform the League of the details of the abandoned Match including the reasons for the abandonment so the result of the Match can be determined by the CMC.

9.4.2 Timekeepers

- (A) The League must provide a Timekeeper for each Match to undertake the responsibilities detailed in this Rule.
- (B) Not Applicable

(C) Where practicable, the Timekeeper should be positioned in an equally accessible location for both Teams.

(D) A Timekeeper is to perform the duties as set out in the *Laws of Australian Football* and in Table 6.

Table 6 – Timekeeper Responsibilities

Category	Specific Responsibilities
Quarter Duration	<p>Keep the time for each quarter in accordance with the quarter duration specified in Rule 15.8.2 for the relevant Grade and sound the siren at the conclusion of the quarter.</p> <p>Where time-on is applicable to a Match, record on a timecard or timesheet the time taken to play each quarter</p>
Break Duration	<p>Keep the time for each break between quarters in accordance with the break duration specified in Rule 15.8.2 for the relevant Grade and sound the siren in accordance with the “Sirens” section in this Table.</p>
Record Keeping	<p>Ensure that a copy of all timekeeping records are retained by the School for the duration of the current Season and are provided to the League within three (3) business days upon request.</p>
Scoring	<p>Record the scores of each Match in which they officiate</p> <p>Guidance Note: <i>the score recorded by the Timekeeper will become a determining factor if there is a score discrepancy between the Goal Umpire score cards (see Table 27).</i></p>
Sirens	<p>Sound the siren as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once - As Umpires enter the Field of Play prior to the start of a Match and after half-time. Once - Five (5) minutes prior to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the scheduled starting time of the Match; and ▪ the start of the third quarter (unless the prescribed break duration for the Grade is 5 minutes or less) Twice - Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter. Once - One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter Once - Scheduled starting time of each quarter (as the umpire holds the ball in the air) *Once - At the end of each quarter <p>*Keep siren on until satisfied the Field Umpire has heard the siren by raising both arms in the air and blowing the whistle.</p>
Red or Yellow Cards	<p>Acknowledge the Umpire’s decision to send off a Player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling Umpire</p> <p>Record the time that Players who are ordered off leave the field and be the sole arbiter on when a Player may return to the field in accordance with Rules 24.1.1 or 24.1.2.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the offending Player’s School to obtain the all-clear from the timekeeper for a Player to resume playing.</p>
White Cards	<p>Be responsible for noting the time and quarter of any white card or subsequent red card issued and to which Coaching Box, and a record of all cards issued must be listed on the official timecard in line with the Rule 10.14.5.</p>
Timekeeping Disputes	<p>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.</p>

	The field Umpire shall report the matter to the CMC for attention.
Dismissal of a Timekeeper	The field Umpire shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a Match, and in such instance may request the Host School provide an alternative Official to fulfil the required duties.

9.4.3 Umpire Escort

- (A) For each Match, the League must appoint a suitable person to act as an escort for the Umpires (often the Ground Manager).
- (B) The Umpire Escort is to escort the Umpires:
- (i) From their change-rooms to the centre of the field prior to the commencement of a Match.
 - (ii) From their assembly point on the field to their change room at half time.
 - (iii) From their change room to the centre of the field after the half time break.
 - (iv) From their assembly point on the field to the change room at the conclusion of the Match.
- (C) An Umpire exclusion zone should be implemented at quarter, half time and three-quarter time encompassing the centre square.
- (D) The Umpire Escort is to:
- (i) stand with the Umpires during the quarter and three-quarter time intervals, and half time where the umpires do not leave the field;
 - (ii) arrange for water to be provided to the Umpires, if required;
 - (iii) Ensure that the only persons to approach an Umpire are those entitled to, as listed in [Rule 10.13](#) and [Table 11](#).
- (E) The Umpire Escort is expected to be identifiable as required by the League.
- (F) Any Umpire Escort provided is expected to assist in providing and/or obtaining details of any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct immediately after completing their duties in liaison with/at the request of the Umpire or Ground Manager.
- (G) Failure to provide an identifiable Umpire Escort will be deemed a breach of these Rules and the School may be sanctioned at the discretion of the CMC.

9.5 Team Officials / Staff

9.5.1 Number Allowed on Bench

- (A) A Team competing in a Match is allowed the number of School Officials on the bench inside the ground during the Match as prescribed in Table 7:

Table 7 – Number of Team Officials on Bench

Official	Number Allowed	Specific Requirements
Head Coach	1	See Rule 9.3
Assistant Coach	2	See Rule 9.3
Team Manager	1	See Rule 9.5.3
Trainers / First Aid / QMP	2	See Rule 9.5.4
Runners	1	See Rule 9.5.5
Water Carrier	4	See Rule 9.5.6

9.5.2 Team Officials Attire

- (A) Team Officials are to be attired as follows:

- (i) Must wear an identification bib or shirt as detailed in Table 8;
- (ii) Must wear enclosed footwear and in the case of Runners and Water Carriers, must wear runners or football boots.
- (iii) Must not wear singlets or a team jersey (unless a playing Coach) or other football jersey.

Table 8 – Team Officials Identification Requirements

Official	Applies to (Junior / Senior)	Colour of Bib / Shirt	Wording on Bib / Shirt
Coach	Junior	Blue	COACH
Assistant Coach	Junior	Blue	COACH
Team Manager	Junior	Maroon	TEAM MANAGER or MANAGER
Trainer	Both	White	TRAINER
QMP / First Aid	Both	Red	FIRST AID
Runner	Both	Pink	RUNNER
Water Carrier	Both	Light Blue	WATER or WATER CARRIER

(B) The field umpire will ask any Team Official on the field without the correct attire to leave the field and not return until they are correctly attired.

9.5.3 Team Manager

- (A) A School is to appoint a Team Manager for each Team it fields in the Competition.
- (B) The Team Manager is responsible for:
 - (i) ensuring their Team’s Players, Officials and supporters comply with the requirements of the Rules and with any request reasonably made by the Umpire officiating in a Competition Match in which their Team is participating;
 - (ii) the management and alteration of Team Sheets and PlayHQ records as detailed in [Rule 15.7.1](#);
 - (iii) ensuring that, at the conclusion of the Match, the match scores, goal kickers and best Players for their Team are recorded on the Official Team Sheet, which is held by the Ground Manager;
 - (iv) obtaining the “all clear” from the timekeeper in relation to the expiry of any time penalty imposed on a player under a yellow or red card;
 - (v) ascertaining from the Ground Manager at the conclusion of the Match whether any Reports and/or Incident Referrals of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match.

9.5.4 Sports Trainer / AFL First Aider / QMP

- (A) A Sports Trainer, QMP or AFL First Aider:
 - (i) must meet the appropriate minimum qualifications as per [Section 15.3](#) of the *Policy Handbook*;
 - (ii) is to register as a “Medical Officer” in PlayHQ as per [Section 15.4](#) of the *Policy Handbook*;
 - (iii) is only permitted onto the field during play to attend to an injured Player, Official or Umpire;
 - (iv) must not be used to deliver messages to a Player;
 - (v) may enter the field at any stage during play where it is evident that a Player, Official or Umpire is injured;
 - (vi) may speak to an Umpire to assist the Umpire determine whether a Match should be halted whilst the injured Player or Official is being attended to, or for the purpose of treating the Umpire where the Umpire is the injured person.

9.5.5 Runners

- (A) Each Team is permitted to use one (1) runner in any Match.
- (B) The sole duty of the runner is to deliver messages to their School's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so.
- (C) The Umpire shall ask a runner to leave the field if the runner remains on the playing surface for an unnecessary period of time as determined by the Umpire.
- (D) A runner is not required to enter the field via the interchange area and is permitted to enter the field at any stage throughout the match.
- (E) For any Match played on a full field, and other than where attending to an injured player, a runner must not be within the fifty (50) metre arc when a Player is preparing to bring or bringing the football back into play after a behind is scored, and an umpire may award a free kick to the opposition Team where this occurs.
- (F) A runner must remain a reasonable distance from play at all times and an Umpire may award a free kick to the opposition Team where the Umpire considers that a runner is encroaching on or interfering with play, regardless of whether that is accidental or not.
- (G) A runner must remain a reasonable distance away from all Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires to allow them to Umpire the Match without interference.
- (H) If the designated runner is unable to continue to undertake their responsibilities for the remainder of the Match, they may be replaced and:
 - (i) the replacement runner must be registered on the official Team Sheet; and
 - (ii) the Ground Manager informed.
- (I) Suspended, stood down or Deregistered Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the runner.
- (J) The runners' names must appear on the official Team Sheet.
- (K) A runner must be at least fourteen (14) years of age unless otherwise approved by the Controlling Body.

9.5.6 Water Carriers

- (A) The sole duty of the water carrier is to deliver water to their School's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so.
- (B) A water carrier must not be used to deliver messages to Players.
- (C) The Umpire will ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to Players and is to include details of this in the Umpire Match Report.
- (D) A water carrier may enter the field at any stage during play.
- (E) For any Match played on a full field, a water carrier must not be within the fifty (50) metre arc when a Player is preparing to bring or bringing the football back into play after a behind is scored, and an umpire may award a free kick to the opposition Team where this occurs.
- (F) A water carrier must remain a reasonable distance from play at all times and an Umpire may award a free kick to the opposition Team where the Umpire considers that a water carrier is encroaching on or interfering with play, regardless of whether that is accidental or not.
- (G) A water carrier must remain a reasonable distance away from all Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires to allow them to Umpire the Match without interference.
- (H) Water carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the relevant Controlling Body.

9.5.7 Team Officials Registration on Team Sheet

- (A) All persons undertaking official duties in a Match must be registered on the official Team Sheet for that Match in PlayHQ.

10 UMPIRES

10.1 Umpire Eligibility and Accreditation

- (A) [Section 6](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to the accreditation and eligibility of an Umpire.
- (B) Leagues and Schools must ensure that all Umpires appointed to a Match meet the requirements set out in [Section 6](#) of the *Policy Handbook* and these Rules.

10.2 Umpire Minimum Age Requirements

- (A) Subject to Rule 10.2(B), the minimum age of field and boundary and goal Umpires (both League and School appointed Umpires) for all Senior and Junior Competitions is as per Table 9.

Table 9 – Minimum Age of Umpires (as at 31 December of the year prior to the Competition Year)

Umpire Role	Field	Boundary	Goal
Under 8	Twelve (12)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Under 9	Twelve (12)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Under 10	Twelve (12)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Under 11	Twelve (12)	Twelve (12)	Twelve (12)
Under 12	Thirteen (13)	Twelve (12)	Twelve (12)
Under 13	Fourteen (14)	Twelve (12)	Thirteen (13)
Under 14	Fifteen (15)	Twelve (12)	Fourteen (14)
Under 15	Sixteen (16)	Twelve (12)	Fifteen (15)
Under 16	Sixteen (16)	Twelve (12)	Sixteen (16)
Under 17	Sixteen (16)	Fourteen (14)	Sixteen (16)
Under 18	Sixteen (16)	Fourteen (14)	Sixteen (16)
Under 19	Sixteen (16)	Fourteen (14)	Sixteen (16)
Seniors	Sixteen (16)	Fourteen (14)	Sixteen (16)

- (B) The relevant Controlling Body or umpiring group may appoint a field Umpire to a higher age group than that specified in the table above but only where it determines that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that warrant such permission being granted.

Guidance Note: *In assessing whether there are exceptional and compelling circumstances, a Controlling Body and Umpiring Group must have regard to the Umpire’s physical capability, experience, skill level and social maturity along with any child safeguarding considerations.*

10.3 Appointment of Umpires

- (A) The League or League’s delegate will appoint official Umpires to all Matches as available and the names of the appointed Umpires will be issued to the League at least one (1) calendar day prior to the first Match of each round

Guidance Note: *Where all Matches are unable to filled with league appointed umpires, the League should endeavour to provide the Schools with as much notice of this as possible so Schools can make arrangements for School umpires to officiate.*

- (B) Any senior field, senior boundary or senior goal Umpire coach:
- (i) shall be eligible to be appointed to any practice match or home and away Match as required;
 - (ii) shall not be eligible to be appointed to a senior representative fixture Match;

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

(C) Not Applicable

10.4 Number of Field Umpires for a Match

- (A) A minimum of two (2) field Umpires are required in order for a Match to commence unless determined otherwise by the League and these must be registered League appointed Umpires or School appointed Umpires (or a combination of both).
- (B) Except where determined otherwise by the League in accordance with 10.4(A), where two (2) Umpires are not available, the Match will not proceed and the matter referred to the CMC 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) If for any reason, none of the field Umpires who commenced the Match are able to complete the Match and there is no other accredited Umpire available:
 - (i) the competition Match will be stopped and the result determined in accordance with [Rule 16.6](#);
 - (ii) the League is to be notified of this via the Umpire Match Report;
 - (iii) Teams may proceed with a scratch match for the remaining duration of time that was allocated to the competition Match, with the provision by one or both Teams of a person to umpire that scratch match.

10.5 Number of Goal Umpires for a Match

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

10.6 School Umpires

10.6.1 School Field Umpires

- (A) From time to time each School may be required to provide suitable persons to umpire Matches, and prior to the season, the League will advise Schools of the expected School Umpire commitment for the season.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Where the League has not appointed official field Umpires or accredited School Umpires, it shall be each School's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the Match.
- (D) School field Umpires, where appointed for a Match, are to be attired as approved by the League.
- (E) Not Applicable
- (F) Not Applicable
- (G) Not Applicable

10.6.2 School Goal and Boundary Umpires

- (A) Where Official goal and boundary Umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing School must be prepared to provide a suitable goal and boundary Umpire to officiate.

- (B) Each School is to ensure the competency of any person who accepts appointment as a goal or boundary Umpire.
- (C) School goal Umpires must be equipped with two white flags, a scorecard and pen, and attired in a uniform as approved by the League.
- (D) School boundary Umpires must be attired as approved by the League and equipped with a suitable whistle.
- (E) Official field Umpires shall have the power to:
 - (i) overrule decisions by School goal and/or boundary Umpires; and
 - (ii) remove them should they consider that such School Umpires are not competent to carry out the required duties.
- (F) Payment of School goal and boundary Umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Schools or as determined by the CMC.

10.7 Umpire Match Report

- (A) At the conclusion of each Match, the field Umpire must, via OfficialsHQ:
 - (i) complete and provide an Umpire Match report to the League; and
 - (ii) for home and away season Matches, complete the Best and Fairest Player voting.
- (B) If it is not practicable for an Umpire to complete the requirements of Rule 10.7(A) immediately following the Match, the requirements must be met by no later than 5.00pm on Monday after the Match. For weekday Matches, this must be met by no later than 5.00pm of the next business day.
- (C) If the requirements of Rule 10.7(A), or Rule 10.7(B) where applicable, are not met:
 - (i) payment of the field Umpires for a Match may be withheld until such time as the relevant information is submitted; and
 - (ii) the League may also choose not to allocate one (1) or more future Matches to the responsible Umpire.

10.8 Umpire Responsibilities

- (A) In addition to any other requirements under the Rules:
 - (i) all members of the Umpires' panel must make themselves available to the League for appointment as a field, boundary or goal Umpire as required;
 - (ii) any Umpire who is unavailable for appointment on a particular day is to provide seven (7) calendar days notice of this to the League in the manner prescribed by the League, or in the case of illness, at the earliest practicable time to the League;
 - (iii) all Umpires must conform to the Rules and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the CMC and/or Tribunal;
 - (iv) all appointed Umpires must, at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled Match start time, be correctly attired and ready to go on the field.

10.9 Umpire Fees & Payment

- (A) The Umpires' fees for each season will be determined by the Controlling Body and communicated to all Schools no later than February in the year of the season in which they are applicable.
- (B) The process for payment of the Umpires will be determined by the League.
- (C) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in [Rule 16.5.7](#), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.

10.10 Umpire Uniform Branding

- (A) Subject to this Rule, a League has the right to display partner or sponsor branding on Umpire uniforms.
- (B) A League must seek approval from AFL NSW/ACT for an agreed area on the umpiring uniform shirt for the purpose of promotion of any AFL NSW/ACT community umpiring partner.
- (C) Each League must submit all Umpire uniform designs to AFL NSW/ACT for approval which will not be unreasonably withheld.
- (D) Each League must ensure that on-field umpiring uniforms comply with the following design requirements:
 - (i) all umpiring uniform shirts and shorts must display the AFL NSW/ACT logo in accordance with Table 10;
 - (ii) only a supplier approved by the AFL may reproduce the Umpire AFL logo;
 - (iii) on-field umpiring shirts and shorts may have sponsor logos in compliance with Table 10;

Guidance Notes: AFL NSW/ACT approved apparel suppliers are licensed and authorized as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo. A current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved apparel suppliers can be found on the AFL NSW/ACT website.

- (iv) on-field umpiring shorts may have the apparel supplier logo in compliance with Table 10.

Table 10 – Umpire Uniform Logo Requirements

Uniform Location	What Logo is Allowed	Size (must not exceed)
Shirt right breast	AFL NSW/ACT logo	8cm width and 8cm height
Shirt left breast	Sponsor logo	8cm width and 8cm height
Shirt front mid-region	Sponsor logo	28.5cm width and 8.5cm height
Shirt rear	Sponsor logo	30cm width and 13cm height
Shirt front neck-vee	Apparel supplier logo	7cm in width and 3cm height
Shirt sleeve (either or both)	Sponsor logo	12cm width and 8cm height
Shorts left thigh	AFL NSW/ACT logo	8cm width and 8cm height
Shorts right thigh	Sponsor logo	8cm width and 8cm height

- (E) The same principles detailed in [Rule 8.7.4\(B\)](#) apply to the nature and content of a logo on an Umpiring uniform.

10.11 Powers & Duties of Umpires

- (A) The field Umpire has the power to order replacements for any boundary or goal Umpire.
- (B) The field Umpire has the power to consult with, and if necessary, overrule a goal or boundary Umpire where, in the field Umpire's opinion, an obvious error has occurred, and no third party is permitted to be involved in any such consultation (notwithstanding the *Laws of Australian Football*).
- (C) The following Umpires may report a player or official for a reportable offence as per Law 22.2.1 of the Laws of Australian Football:
 - (i) League appointed or School appointed field umpire;
 - (ii) League appointed boundary or goal umpire;
 - (iii) League appointed Emergency Umpire.

- (D) All goal and boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the field Umpire prior to the commencement of the Match and restrict all communications with the field Umpires to matters arising directly from Umpire duties.
- (E) Any person officiating in a Match as a field, goal or boundary Umpire, is to:
- (i) act in a professional manner;
 - (ii) adhere to the *Code of Conduct* as it applies to an Official;
 - (iii) refrain from barracking for or giving support to a Team;
 - (iv) refrain from making comments to Officials or Supporters other than for the purposes of fulfilling responsibilities as an Umpire;
 - (v) refrain from engaging in any form of coaching of, or instruction or advice to Players other than for the purpose of fulfilling responsibilities as an Umpire.

Guidance Notes: *This provision relates to Competition Matches. A field umpire may provide some degree of helpful instruction to players in a non-competition (development) Age Group, particularly to clarify the rules of the game where players are still learning how to play.*

10.12 Emergency Umpires

- (A) Emergency Umpires, when appointed to a Match by the League, shall have the power to order Players, Coaches and Officials from the field as well as the ability to report Players, Coaches and Officials.

10.13 Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in Table 11, shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary or goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.

Table 11 – Who can approach an Umpire

Role	When/Criteria	Purpose
1. A full-time AFL NSW/ACT staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who is not otherwise participating in the Match as a Player, Coach or Team Official (ii) Before or after the match, at match breaks and when requested to assist the umpire at any other point in the match/on the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Support the Umpire (ii) Provide appropriate and relevant feedback (iii) Protect the Umpire's during breaks and before, after and between matches
2. The Umpire Escort (who must be appropriately identifiable on the day)	(i) As outlined in Rule 9.4.3	(i) To fulfil the duties outlined in Rule 9.4.3
3. The Ground Manager, including	(ii) As outlined in Rule 9.4.1 , Table 5	(ii) To fulfil the duties outlined in Rule 9.4.1 and Table 5

any designated assistant (who must be appropriately identifiable on the day)			
4. Umpire Manager and/or Umpire Coach	(i)	Before or after the match, at match breaks and when requested to assist the umpire at any other point in the match/on the day.	(ii) Support the Umpire (iii) Provide appropriate and relevant feedback (iv) Protect the Umpire's during breaks and before, after and between matches
5. Team Manager	(i)	Only at a quarter break	(i) To confirm the score of a Match where the Mercy Rule in Rule 15.2.8
6. One (1) captain from each competing team as designated on the Official Team Sheet (Senior Competitions only)	(i)	At quarter breaks or any appropriate break in play, at the approval of the Umpire	(i) To confirm/clarify whether a Player on their team has been reported (ii) To clarify a rule or decision made by the Umpire, only for the purposes of providing feedback to their team
7. The Team captain, vice-captain or Team runner	(i)	At any time during at Match	(i) For the purposes of requesting a headcount in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football
8. The Team captain	(ii)	At a quarter break	(ii) For the purpose of seeking clarity as to why a white or red card was issued in line with Rule 2.5(B) of the <i>Coaching Box Card Policy</i>

10.14 Abuse of Umpires

10.14.1 Umpire Welfare & Safety

(A) The Controlling Body may, at any time, implement any reasonable measures or Rules aimed at:

- (i) reducing the occurrence of Umpire abuse in community football;
- (ii) protecting the safety and welfare of Umpires; and
- (iii) providing an inclusive environment for Umpires.

(B) All Schools are to commit to the safety and welfare of Umpires and are to co-operate with the Controlling Body in implementing and adhering to any measures established under Rule 10.14.1(A).

10.14.2 Definition of Umpire Abuse

For the purpose of [Rule 10.14](#), *abuse* includes any language, terminology or behaviour intended to insult, offend, intimidate, threaten or harm an Umpire.

10.14.3 Action Against a Person for Umpire Abuse

- (A) Subject to Rule 10.14.3(B), any person identified as having abused an Umpire will be subject to the *Reportable Offence* process under [Rule 25](#), the *Policy Breach* process under [Rule 26](#), or the *Prohibited Conduct* process under [Section 10](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, as is applicable to the circumstance.
- (B) Any adult identified as having abused an Umpire under the age of 18 years may be referred to AFL Integrity for investigation into potential breach of the *Safeguarding Children and Young People* policy under [Section 11](#) of the *Policy Handbook* and/or the *Member Protection* policy under [Section 9](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

10.14.4 Action Against a School for Umpire Abuse

Guidance Notes: In accordance with [Rule 6.3.5](#) a School is responsible for the behaviour and conduct of its players, officials, coaches and spectators. The purpose of this Rule 10.14.4 is to incentivise Schools to address behavioural issues that may be arising within a certain Team or playing group.

- (A) Not Applicable
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable

10.14.5 AFL NSW/ACT Coaching Box Card Policy

- (A) The [AFL NSW/ACT Coaching Box Card Policy](#) is established in accordance with [Rule 10.14.1](#) and sets out the objectives and application of a process aimed at addressing unacceptable behaviour directed at umpires from the Coaching Box Area.

10.15 School Feedback Report on Umpiring

- (A) No person other than an Umpire Coach is to approach any Umpire during or immediately following a Match to voice any concerns or other feedback regarding the umpiring.
- (B) Schools may provide a feedback report to the League on the Umpires performance in a Match which will be used by the League and AFL NSW/ACT in its assessment of Umpire performance including areas for potential focus.
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable

11 PLAYERS

11.1 Player Registration

11.1.1 Registration Requirements

- (A) Subject to any variation in these Rules, a Player seeking to play Australian football and/or participate in a Competition must be registered in accordance with [Section 3.1](#) and [3.2](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.
- (B) The League agrees to apply and enforce the uniform system of registration of Players as set out in the *Policy Handbook* and the Rules.
- (C) Registration is for the period of one season only, and a Player must re-register each season.
- (D) A School must not register a Player without the Player's consent, or in the case of a Player under the age of 18 years, without consent of the Players parent or guardian.
- (E) A player must not be registered or re-registered under an assumed name unless such assumed name and the reason for its necessary use is notified to and accepted by the League and the person's legal name and current address are submitted to the League at the time of registration.

(F) Not Applicable

11.1.2 Not Applicable

11.1.3 Registration Period

- (A) The registration period in respect of each season commences on 1 October immediately preceding the season.
- (B) Subject to any Transfer Rules, new Player registrations will be accepted until the end of the home and away series in the season in which the Player intends to play.

11.1.4 Matchday Registration

- (A) As per [Rule 11.1.1](#), a Player must be registered with the School prior to being eligible to play in a Match.
- (B) Players must be registered before the end of Round 3 for each competition season. Any player not registered but written on a team sheet after Round 3 will be deemed ineligible

11.1.5 Not Applicable

11.1.6 Multiple Registrations or Profiles

- (A) A Player must not be registered with more than one School at the same time.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Where a Player is identified as having more than one Player profile in PlayHQ the details of the Player's profiles are to be provided to the League who will initiate steps to merge the profiles.
- (D) Where a Player has a duplicate profile that has the effect of circumventing a suspension, Deregistration or Transfer, that Player will be deemed ineligible and the Controlling Body may also deal with the matter as a Policy Breach by that Player and any other Person where applicable.

11.2 Player Eligibility

11.2.1 Age Eligibility

- (A) A Player must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age by 31 July in the year of the relevant season to be eligible to be registered in accordance with [Section 3.1\(b\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

Guidance Notes: A Player younger than this requirement may still register and participate in Auskick.

- (B) Subject to these Rules, a Player may only play in a Competition age group or grade if they are eligible to do so based on the age criteria specified in Table 12.
- (C) Subject to Rule 11.2.1(E), a Player may only play in a Senior Grade Competition where the Player is a minimum of 16 years of age as at 31 December of the year immediately prior to the Competition year.
- (D) Subject to Rule 11.2.1(A), the Player's minimum age to participate in a Competition age group or grade is to be taken as at 31 December of the year immediately prior to the Competition year.

Table 12 – Age Eligibility for Junior Age Groups & Senior Grades

Age Group / Grade	Minimum Age to Participate in Age Group (age as at 31 December of the year prior to the Competition Year)	Year Group in the Competition Year
Year 3 & 4	Year 2	Years 3 and 4
Year 5 & 6	Year 4	Years 5 and 6
Year 7 & 8	Year 6	Years 7 and 8
Year 9 & 10	Year 8	Years 9 and 10
Opens	Year 10	Years 11 and 12

- (E) A Junior Player may play up a Junior age group, or in a Senior Grade, subject to the following:
- (i) the Player must meet the ‘minimum age to participate in an age group’ as specified in Table 12, or have been granted dispensation in accordance with Rule 11.2.2;
 - (ii) the Player must always first commit to playing in the eligible Junior age group most closely aligned to their age, unless otherwise approved by the Controlling Body; and
 - (iii) Not Applicable

11.2.2 Application to Play Up

- (A) For any Player who is younger than the ‘minimum age to participate in an age group’ as specified in [Table 12](#), and who wishes to participate in a higher age group or a Senior Grade, the Player’s School must;
- (i) complete and lodge an [Application to Play in a Higher Age Group Form](#) with the CMC together with any evidence to support the application; and
 - (ii) obtain approval from the CMC prior to the Player playing in a higher Competition age group, otherwise the Player will be deemed to be an ineligible Player in accordance with [Rule 11.6](#).

Guidance Notes: A Player younger than the minimum age specified in Rule 11.2.1(A), is not eligible to register as a Junior Player and is therefore not eligible to apply under this provision.

- (B) In assessing an application made under Rule 11.2.2(A), the CMC will give consideration to the actual age differential between the Player and the age group or Senior Grade they seek to play in, together with any evidence submitted with the application that demonstrates:
- (i) any exceptional circumstances for the Player playing at a higher level;
 - (ii) it is clearly in the football development interests of the Player to play at a higher level;
 - (iii) the Player’s ability to compete safely and adequately at the higher age level, including evidence of their physical capacity, experience, skill level and social sense;
 - (iv) the Player is not displacing an age eligible Player in a junior age group, as detailed in Rule 11.2.1(E);
 - (v) Not Applicable
 - (vi) it does not jeopardise the viability of the Player’s current age eligible team being able to continue to participate in the Competition.

Guidance Notes: Where assessing a Player under the “football development interests” Rule, a CMC could consider, for example, where the Player is part of a talent pathway program (e.g. Academy) and where a coach in that program has provided a written confirmation to the League that it is in the Player’s development interests to be allowed to play in the higher Grade and any conditions around that (e.g. limited number of Matches or Match time).

- (C) In making a determination of an application made under Rule 11.2.2(A), the CMC may, in its absolute discretion:
- (i) grant dispensation unconditionally for the duration of the season;
 - (ii) grant dispensation subject to specific conditions;

Guidance Notes: An example of a specific condition of approval could be to limit the number of Matches a Player is initially approved for (e.g. three Matches), with review at the end of those Matches to ensure that any continued approval meets the objectives of this Policy.

- (iii) request additional information prior to granting or declining an application;

- (iv) decline an application.

Guidance Note: A Player may apply for dispensation to play in a Competition age group below their applicable age group on the basis of a 'or for 'physical size considerations'. 'Physical size considerations' is measured on a Player's body mass index ('BMI') or the Player's height being below the 5th percentile for the Player's age group.

11.2.3 Dispensation to Play Down

- (A) Subject to any variation specified in these Rules, [Section 4](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.
- (B) To make an application under [Section 4.1](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, a Player's School must:
 - (i) complete and lodge an [Age Dispensation to Play Down Application Form](#) with the CMC together with the required evidence to support the application; and
 - (ii) obtain approval from the CMC prior to the Player playing in a lower Competition age group, otherwise the Player will be deemed to be an ineligible Player in accordance with [Rule 11.6](#).
- (C) In addition to the relevant factors listed in [Section 4.2](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the CMC will also have regard to evidence demonstrating that the participation of the Player in a lower age group does not adversely impact the safety of other Players in that age group.
- (D) In addition to the determination options provided for under [Section 4.1\(d\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the CMC may also determine to approve an application subject to specific conditions.
- (E) If a Player's dispensation application to play down is declined by a CMC in accordance with Part B [Section 4.1\(d\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the Player may seek to appeal the decision in accordance with [Rule 28.2](#).

11.2.4 Gender Eligibility & Diversity

- (A) Not Applicable
- (B) Where the CMC has determined, in accordance with [Rule 12.5](#), that a junior age group is classified as a boys only age group or a girls only age group, the following applies:
 - (i) no male player is eligible to play in a girls only age group; and
 - (ii) no female Player is eligible to play in a boys only age group.
- (C) Where a Player identifies as transgender or non-binary, the *AFL Gender Diversity Policy – Community Football* applies.

11.2.5 Not Applicable

11.2.6 School Request for Proof of Player Eligibility

- (A) If, on the day of a Match, a School considers it has reasonable grounds to question an opposing Player's eligibility to participate in a Match, the Team Managers of both Teams are to meet and endeavour to resolve the matter at the time by production and review of any Player identification record and/or review of relevant PlayHQ records.
- (B) Where a matter is unable to be resolved in accordance with Rule 11.2.6(A), the following is to apply:
 - (i) the Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Official Team Sheet;
 - (ii) the signed Team Sheet is to be photographed by the Ground Manager, with the photograph to be sent to the League;
 - (iii) the School requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League by no later than 5.00pm on the next business day following the Match;

- (iv) The Player's School 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.
- (C) Should any School, Official or Player fail to comply with a request pursuant to Rule 11.2.6(B) or fail to assist in the provision of identification of the Player, the School, Official or Player may be subject to the Policy breach process as per [Rule 26](#).
- (D) If the League considers that a School's request for proof of Player eligibility was made without reasonable grounds, or was frivolous, the League may request a further explanation from the School making the request

11.3 Not Applicable

11.4 Not Applicable

11.5 False or Misleading Information

- (A) Subject to any variation specified in these Rules, [Section 3.10](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to Player Registration, Transfers or Permits.
- (B) In addition to the sanctions referenced in [Section 3.10](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion, also determine to:
 - (i) suspend a Player from participation in one or more Matches;
 - (ii) impose a sanction on any School Official found to be involved in the provision of false or misleading information.

11.6 Ineligible Players

- (A) An ineligible Player includes a Player who:
 - (i) is not properly registered in accordance with the Rules or the *Policy Handbook* including where 11.1.6(D) applies;
 - (ii) has registered or transferred on the basis of false or misleading information;
 - (iii) does not meet the minimum age requirements under the Rules or the *Policy Handbook* and does not have an approved dispensation application as per [Rule 11.2.2](#);
 - (iv) exceeds the age limit for any Junior Grade, unless given dispensation under [Rule 11.2.3](#);
 - (v) has failed to provide proof of identity or age in accordance with the Rules;
 - (vi) plays in a higher or lower Grade contrary to the Rules or any determination of a CMC;
 - (vii) Not Applicable
 - (viii) Not Applicable
 - (ix) is suspended from playing by way of a sanction invoked under these Rules or the *Policy Handbook*;
 - (x) is a Deregistered Player or Official;
 - (xi) has incurred a concussion and has not complied with all stages of the [Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football](#).
- (B) Any School that fields an ineligible player in a Match (including in a finals Match) may be subject to disciplinary sanctions to be imposed by the CMC including but not limited to:
 - (i) If the School won the Match: the loss of the relevant Competition Match and associated Competition Match points with the result of the match determined in accordance with [Rule 16.5.3](#) as a forfeit in favour of the opposing team;

- (ii) If the School did not win the Match: the deduction of the equivalent of Competition Match points for one Match;
 - (iii) Not Applicable
 - (iv) any additional conditions as reasonably determined by the CMC.
- (C) Only under exceptional circumstances will the sanction under 11.6(B) not include the loss of the relevant Match or Matches.
- (D) Where Sections 11.6(B)(i) or 11.6(B)(ii) is applied:
- (i) best and fairest votes and goals kicked by the non-offending team will be maintained; and
 - (ii) best and fairest votes and goals kicked by the offending team will be determined by the CMC.
- (E) Any Player, Official or School, who the CMC determines in its absolute discretion, was knowingly involved with allowing an ineligible Player to compete in a Competition Match may, in addition to any sanction applied under Rule 11.6(B):
- (i) in the case of a Player or Official, be subject of suspension and may also be subject of Deregistration; or
 - (ii) in the case of a School, suspension or termination of the School Participation Agreement.
- (F) If a complaint has been made against a School with respect to fielding an ineligible Player, the School must ensure that its Players and Officials attend and cooperate with any relevant investigation conducted by the CMC.

Part C – COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

12 COMPETITIONS

12.1 Minimum Standards

- (A) Schools must comply with the minimum standards applicable to a Competition or Competitions as prescribed by the League from time to time.
- (B) The League will determine which Competitions operate under minimum standards.
- (C) If a School fails to meet the relevant minimum standards of a Competition or Competitions, the CMC may impose disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to expulsion or relegation from the relevant Competition.

12.2 Competition Management Committee (CMC) Decisions

- (A) The League's CMC is established in accordance with [Rule 7.6](#).
- (B) A School seeking a determination of the CMC in accordance with these Rules, must make any such request in writing.
- (C) A CMC may request that a School or person provide further information to assist its review and determination of a matter, and that School or person must co-operate with any such request.
- (D) The CMC is to make decisions in an efficient and transparent manner, and where practicable, will provide the applicant School with its decision in writing.
- (E) The decision of a CMC will be final and binding and will not be appealable unless allowed for under [Section 26.1](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

12.3 Not Applicable

12.4 Conduct of Junior Competitions

- (A) All Junior Competitions will be conducted according to the provisions of the [Junior Rules Program Handbook](#) unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT or as detailed in the Rules.

12.5 Competition Grades

- (A) Subject to these Rules, the League will determine, in accordance with any relevant AFL Policy, the Competition Grades for the season including;
 - (i) any Junior Age Groups available and, subject to Rule 12.5(C), whether each Age Group is boys only, girls only or mixed gender Age Groups;
 - (ii) which, if any, Junior Age Groups are development age groups;

Guidance Note: A development age group is one where matches are not played for points and is designed to assist junior players learn the game in a non-competition, modified rules environment.

- (iii) any Senior Grades available
 - (iv) the ranking of competition Grades where applicable; and
 - (v) which Teams are eligible to participate in each of those Grades.
- (B) Not Applicable
 - (C) Not Applicable
 - (D) Table 14 details the Competition Grades and rankings that have been determined by the League for the current season.

Table 14 – Current Season Competition Grades

League	Competition	Age Group / Grade (include whether mixed, female only, male only)	Rank
<i>AFL independent Schools Competition</i>	<i>Girls Competitions</i>	<i>Opens Division 1</i>	<i>1</i>
		<i>Opens Division 2</i>	<i>2</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 1</i>	<i>3</i>
		<i>Opens Division 3</i>	<i>4</i>
		<i>Opens Division 4</i>	<i>5</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 2</i>	<i>6</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 3</i>	<i>7</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 4</i>	<i>8</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 1</i>	<i>9</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 2</i>	<i>10</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 3</i>	<i>11</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 4</i>	<i>12</i>
		<i>Year 5/6 Divisions 1-4</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Boys Competitions</i>	<i>Opens Division 1</i>	<i>1</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 1</i>	<i>2</i>
		<i>Opens Division 2</i>	<i>3</i>
		<i>Opens Division 3</i>	<i>4</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 2</i>	<i>5</i>
		<i>Year 9/10 Division 3</i>	<i>6</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 1</i>	<i>7</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 2</i>	<i>8</i>
		<i>Year 7/8 Division 3</i>	<i>9</i>
		<i>Year 5/6 Divisions 1-4</i>	<i>10</i>

12.6 Regrading of Teams

- (A) As part of a Competition structure, a League may establish a system for the regrading of Teams at a particular interval during the home and away season.
- (B) A League must, at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the commencement of a Competition, advise all participating Schools of any regrading system established in accordance with Rule 12.6(A)
- (C) Where the League regrades a Team in accordance with Rule 12.6(A), the Team’s Match Ratio will be determined in accordance with the League’s regrading system.

13 FIXTURE

13.1 Preparation of Fixture

- (A) The League will determine dates, locations and times of all Competition Matches in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) The League will prepare the Season Fixture for each Grade of Competition for distribution to Schools prior to the start of the season.
- (C) Other than in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League, the Season Fixture will not be varied once the season has commenced.

- (D) Where a Season Fixture is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division.
- (E) Each Competition Season Fixture will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.

13.2 School Requests for Fixture Changes

- (A) Not Applicable
- (B) Schools may only seek to change the time and/or venue of a fixtured Match where:
 - (i) it has been agreed to by both competing Schools; and
 - (ii) where it has been agreed to by the Umpire Co-ordinator; and
 - (iii) where notice of the requested change has been lodged by the competing Schools with the CMC no later than 5 days prior to the scheduled Match.
- (C) Not Applicable

14 TEAMS

14.1 Team Nominations

- (A) The nomination process for a School to enter a Team in a Competition, including any team nomination fees payable, will be determined by the CMC in its absolute discretion.
- (B) Not Applicable

14.2 Joint Venture Teams

- (A) The CMC may allow the formation of a joint venture Team between Schools to maximise the participation opportunity for Players to play in a Competition.
- (B) The formation of a joint venture Team will only be allowed to proceed where it is in the best interests of the Competition. The purpose of a JV is to allow two (2) Schools to come together and enter one (1) or multiple teams under the following conditions:
 - (i) Where neither School can field a standalone team; or
 - (ii) To develop a pathway where in the short term neither School can establish a pathway on a standalone basis.
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) Not Applicable
- (F) The terms of a Joint Venture Agreement will be for one (1) season only, at which time the Joint Venture Agreement will expire or be deemed to expire.

14.3 School Entering Multiple Teams in a Junior Competition

- (A) Where a School enters more than one (1) team in a Junior Grade in the same Competition, the following applies:
 - (i) the School has three (3) rounds to finalise its Player allocation to those Teams;
 - (ii) unless 14.3(A)(iii) applies, the School must ensure that the allocation of Players to those Teams results in Teams that are evenly matched;
 - (iii) Not Applicable
- (B) Not Applicable

- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) Not Applicable
- (F) Not Applicable
- (G) Not Applicable

14.4 Not Applicable

14.5 Number of Players in a Team - Junior Competitions

- (A) The CMC will determine the minimum and maximum number of Players allowed per Team for Junior Competitions and detail this in Table 17.

Table 17 – Number of Players Allowed in a Team - Junior Competitions

Competition	Grade	Minimum Number of Players for a Match	Maximum Number of Players	
			On a Team Sheet	On Field
Girls Competition	Year 7/8 Division 1	9	Unlimited	12
	Year 7/8 Division 2			
	Year 7/8 Division 3			
	Year 7/8 Division 4			
	Year 9/10 Division 1	12	Unlimited	14
	Year 9/10 Division 2			
	Year 9/10 Division 3			
	Year 9/10 Division 4			
Opens Division 1	14	Unlimited	16	
Opens Division 2	12	Unlimited	16	
Opens Division 3				
Opens Division 4				
Boys Competition	Year 5/6 Division 1-4	9	Unlimited	12
	Year 7/8 Division 1	13	Unlimited	16
	Year 7/8 Division 2			
	Year 7/8 Division 3			
	Year 9/10 Division 1	13	Unlimited	16
	Year 9/10 Division 2			
Year 9/10 Division 3				
Opens Division 1	16	22	18	
Opens Division 2	13	Unlimited	16	
Opens Division 3				

- (B) Teams must have the “Minimum Number of Players for a Match”, as per Table 17, available at the scheduled commencement of a Competition Match to constitute an official Match, and subject to Rule 14.5(C), where a Team has less than the minimum number of Players:
 - (i) that Team will be deemed to have forfeited the Match;
 - (ii) a scratch match may still proceed to allow player participation, with the Coaches encouraged to even-up the skill levels of the Teams.

- (C) If the “Minimum Number of Players for a Match” as per Table 17 are not available at the scheduled commencement of Junior Competition Match, but Players sufficient for minimum numbers are expected to arrive before the end of the first quarter, the following is to apply:
- (i) a scratch Match will commence with reduced Player numbers on each Team;
 - (ii) Teams must still have equal numbers on the field;
 - (iii) scores will be recorded by the goal Umpires;
 - (iv) if minimum numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the first quarter, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the scratch Match then becomes an official Match;
 - (v) the scores at the time when the Match becomes an official Match will stand;
 - (vi) if minimum numbers are not available by the end of the first quarter, the Match remains a scratch Match and the Team with less than the minimum number of Players forfeits the Match.
- (D) Not Applicable

14.6 Even On-field Numbers – Junior Competitions

- (A) On-field Player numbers must be equal at all times other than:
- (i) in the case of a Red Card send-off where the Rules disallow a replacement for a period of time; or
 - (ii) in the case of a Yellow Card send-off where there is no available replacement Player; or
 - (iii) Not Applicable
 - (iv) where team numbers are adjusted in accordance with the mercy rule under [Rule 15.2.8](#).
- (B) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the following applies:
- (i) the field Umpire, the Opposition Coach and the Ground Manager must be advised accordingly;
 - (ii) the other School’s Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even; and
 - (iii) if the injured Player then returns to the field, the same process applies in reverse.
- (C) If a Player has to leave the field for any reason other than injury, blue or yellow card and cannot return to the field, causing the team to go below minimum numbers, the Match may proceed but it will be considered a forfeit by the team who goes under the minimum number.
- (D) Where both teams cannot agree on the number of players for a Match, the team with the lower number of players will play all their players on the field (no bench).

14.7 Even Up Rule – Junior Competitions

- (A) To encourage maximum participation where the two Teams do not have the same number of available Players, the rules in Table 18 apply.

Table 18 – Even Up Rules - Junior Competitions

Grades	Requirements
All Grades	<p>Teams must always play with an even number of players on the field (unless Mercy Rule has been applied).</p> <p>It is the responsibility of coaches, in consultation with the Ground Manager, to agree to the number of players on the field, depending on the number of available players for each team and the minimum and maximum on-field numbers, as prescribed by the rules.</p>

If schools cannot agree on the number of players on the field, the team with the lower number of players must play all their players (no bench).

Guidance Note: In Year 9/10 Division 2, Team A arrives with 14 players and Team B arrives with 17 players. As both teams are above minimum numbers; a Competitive Match will be played. Both teams must play with an even number of players on the field. Coaches can agree to play 13 v 13 or 14 v 14 and this must be communicated to the Ground Manager to communicate to the Field Umpires. If Team A and Team B cannot agree, the match will be 14 v 14 and Team A will play without a bench.

(B) Not Applicable

14.8 Player Movement (Year 7-Opens Competitions)

14.8.1 Restricted Player Lists

- (A) Restricted Player Lists (RPL) are used to manage the movement of players between teams where a School has more than one team in the same age for Year 7/8 to Opens Competitions. Players on the RPL cannot:
- (i) Play down into a lower division team under any circumstances
 - (ii) Play across teams where the School has more than one team in the same division under any circumstances
- (B) For a School that has:
- (i) Two (2) or more teams in the same age group but different divisions, an RPL is only required for the highest division team
 - (ii) Two (2) or more teams in the same age group and the same division, a RPL is required for both teams
- (C) The minimum number of restricted players to be listed is 6 (six)
- (D) Any player listed on an RPL is only permitted to play in the highest division offered at their School when playing up into a higher age group

Guidance Note: Where a School has Year 9/10 Division 1 and Opens Division 2, any player lists on the RPL for Year 9/10 Division 1 is permitted to play Division 2 in Opens, as this is the highest division offered at the School

- (E) The School must lodge their applicable RPL with the league by 5:00pm before Round 1 via email
- (F) A School's RPL may be updated during the season by application to the CMC
- (G) The RPL must include:
- (i) All players who have been selected for the current or upcoming season in the GWS GIANTS Academy (top 24 players only) and Sydney Swans Academy
 - (ii) Where the School has more Academy number than the minimum number (6), all Academy Players must be listed on the RPL
 - (iii) Where a School has fewer Academy players than the minimum number (6), the School is required to include additional players as per the following provisions
 - (a) Development Players
 - (b) Previous years Academy players
 - (c) Any other player identified as a talented player by the School

- (H) It is the responsibility of the School and its officials to manage their Restricted Player Lists and ensure compliance within the provisions of Rule 14.8.1
- (I) Any team found to have played a player listed on the RPL from a higher age group or division will have the following applied:
 - (i) The team will be deemed to have forfeited the match

15 MATCHES

15.1 Laws of Australian Football

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

15.2 AFL NSW/ACT Match Laws

15.2.1 Kick-in Rule

- (A) Subject to Rule 15.2.1(B), the same football used to score the behind must be utilised for the resultant kick-in, unless otherwise instructed by the field Umpire.
- (B) Senior Competitions are to have an additional football of appropriate quality behind each set of goals and a Player is permitted to use this ball in the event the ball from in play is not easily accessible (e.g. no longer in the venue).

15.2.2 50 Metre Penalties

- (A) Players may not play on during the advancement of any 50 metre Penalty and must wait until the field Umpire signals time back on (variation from the Laws of the Game).
- (B) Where a 50-metre penalty is not applicable in the Age Group rules, the penalty metres applicable for that Age Group shall be applied.
- (C) In addition to any Report that may be made, a free kick or a fifty (50) metre penalty may be awarded against a Team if a Player, Official or clearly identifiable Supporter of a Team:
 - (i) uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
 - (ii) behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
 - (iii) intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing their duties.

15.2.3 Starting Positions at Centre Bounces

Guidance Note: Refer to Law 13.1 and Diagram 2 in the *Laws of Australian Football*. This applies to Senior Competition Grades only.

- (A) The Law in the *Laws of Australian Football* relating to “Centre Bounces – Starting Positions” does not apply to Junior Competition Grades.
- (B) Based on a Team’s on-field playing numbers, the number of Players in recommended for each area of the field will be as per Table 19.

Table 19 – Player Number Starting Positions

Per Team	Forwards	Centres	Backs
18	6	6 – Maximum 4 in square	6
17	6	5 – Maximum 4 in square	6
16	5	6 – Maximum 4 in square	5
15	5	5 – Maximum 4 in square	5

14	5	4 – Maximum 4 in square	5
13	5	3 – Maximum 3 in square	5
12	4	4 – Maximum 4 in square	4

15.2.4 Location of Mark at Kick In

The Law in the *Laws of Australian Football* relating to “Location of The Mark at Kick Ins” does not apply to a Junior Competition Grade where a reduced size field is used.

15.2.5 Player Standing the Mark

The Law in the *Laws of Australian Football* relating to “Player Standing the Mark” does not apply to Junior Competition Grades.

15.2.6 Out of Bounds

- (A) Where Boundary umpires have not been designated to a Match, and when the ball goes out of bounds, the field Umpire will bring the ball back in 5m from the boundary line and a ball-up will apply.
- (B) The last touch interpretation as introduced by the AFL for 2026 will not apply to Junior Grades up to and including U12’s and Masters.

15.2.7 Removing a Team from the Field of Play

- (A) No person, including any Coach or School Official, may remove, or cause to be removed, a Team from the Field of Play before the official completion of the Match.
- (B) Breach of this Rule is, for an Official, a Reportable Offence, to be dealt with by the Tribunal pursuant to the Rules as an act of Serious Misconduct under Law 22.2.2(bb).
- (C) Breach of this Rule by a person other than an Official, is a breach of the Code of Conduct, to be dealt with by the prescribed disciplinary process.

15.2.8 Mercy Rule - Junior Competitions

Guidance Note: *The purpose of the Rule is to instill in Coaches and Players of Junior Teams that it serves no beneficial purpose to inflict massive losses on an opposition Team. The Rule provides a mechanism to limit the final winning margin of any Junior Match, and where that capped margin is reached during a Match, requires the Coaches to implement strategies to equalise the competitive balance of the Teams for the benefit of all participants.*

- (A) The provisions of this Mercy Rule apply to all Junior Competition home and away Matches, but do not apply to finals Matches.
- (B) Regardless of the actual Match score, the official final winning margin between Teams in a Junior Competition Match cannot exceed:
 - (i) **sixty (60) points** for all Grades
 - (ii) **Not Applicable**
- (C) Where the score differential between Teams at the end of the first (1st), second (2nd) or third (3rd) quarter equals or exceeds the points margin specified in Rule 15.2.8(B) for the relevant Grade, the requirements of [Table 20](#) apply.

Table 20 – Mercy Rule Requirements

Component	Requirements
Score Check	The Umpires and Team Managers are to check the scores with the Goal Umpires at the end of the quarter to confirm that the maximum margin has been achieved.
Scoreboard	<p>Scoring on the scoreboard is to cease at the end of the quarter that the margin is achieved, and the score on the scoreboard is to be adjusted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the trailing team’s score is to be retained; and ▪ the leading team’s score is to be calculated and recorded by adding the maximum margin specified in Rule 15.2.8(B) to the trailing team’s score. <p><i>[Example: if at the end of the third quarter, the score of an Under 15s boys match is 125 to 32, the trailing Team’s score is to be recorded on the scoreboard as 32 and the leading Team’s score is to be recorded as 107 (i.e. 32 + 75).]</i></p>
Goal Umpire Scoring	<p>The goal umpires are to continue to score the Match as usual and submit score cards to the Ground Manager at the end of the Match.</p> <p><i>[Guidance Note: The purpose of this is to assist the League determine whether the on-field equalisation requirements of the Mercy Rule have been applied.]</i></p>
Entry of Scores in PlayHQ	<p>Each Team’s total score is to be recorded in PlayHQ by the home School as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for the losing Team – that Team’s actual score at the end of the quarter that the margin was achieved; and ▪ for the winning Team – by adding the maximum margin specified in Rule 15.2.8(B) to the losing Team’s score. <p><i>[Example: if the score at the end of the 2nd quarter of an Under 13s mixed match is 83 to 12, the losing Team’s score is to be entered as 12 and the winning Team’s score is to be entered as 72 (i.e. 12 + 60).]</i></p>
Umpire Match Report	<p>The field Umpire is to note in the Umpire Match Report that the Mercy Rule was invoked and end of the quarter that it was invoked at.</p> <p>A copy of the goal umpire scorecards is to be submitted with the Umpire Match Report.</p>
On-field Equalisation Requirements	<p>It is incumbent on the Coaches of both Teams to implement measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ equalize the on field competitive balance of the Match; and ▪ allow for improved participation in the Match for the Players of the losing team. <p>The League may prescribe particular requirements in relation to the on-field equalisation measures to be taken.</p> <p>Any equalisation measure should look to maximise the number of players on the field, but no more than the maximum number of players on field allowed for under Table 17.</p> <p>Where an equalisation measure results in an uneven number of Players in each Team on the field, the Umpires must be notified of this so that the headcount Rule is not unnecessarily invoked.</p> <p>Examples of measures that may be taken by coaches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loaning additional players to the losing team • Reduction in numbers of players from the winning team on the field (-2 players from the field) • Team position experimentation • Player rotations • Introduce a certain number of kicks by a team before a goal can be scored

Coach Responsibilities	Schools and Coaches may be required by the CMC to explain any circumstance in which there is evident failure to take equalisation measures or achieve a competitive balance between the Teams.
Non-Compliance	Non-compliance with this Mercy Rule will be dealt with by the CMC as a potential breach of policy by the School and any Officials involved.

- (D) Where the maximum margin specified in Rule 15.2.8(B) is not attained until the fourth (4th) quarter, the same principles and method as detailed in the “Entry of Scores in PlayHQ” in Table 20 apply.

15.2.9 Supporter Distance from Boundary & Goals

- (A) Where the Field of Play has no fence around it, supporters are to remain a minimum distance of:
- (i) three (3) metres from the boundary line;
 - (ii) five (5) metres from the behind and goal posts.
- (B) The field Umpire may require Supporters to provide more space beyond the boundary or goals and may refrain from recommencing the Match until the request is complied with.

15.2.10 Persons Allowed on Field of Play

- (A) Only Players, Umpires, medical staff (trainers, QMP’s or first aiders), runners and water carriers are permitted on the field during the course of play, including any period of delay in play caused by an injury to a Player and their presence on the field must be in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) During an unscheduled delay caused by an injury to a Player, the Ground Manager may enter the field to determine from medical staff the Players condition, whether an ambulance is to attend and the likely duration of such delay.
- (D) Where a player is injured and it has been determined by medical staff that the player is not to be moved

Guidance Note: *Development age groups are non-competition ages groups like under 9’s where no there is no formal scoring, result or ladder maintained.*

pending the arrival of an ambulance, the parents or guardians of an injured junior player, or the spouse or partner of an injured senior player, are allowed to enter the Field of Play to provide support to that player.

15.2.11 Procedure for Stopping Play (Injured Player)

- (A) In the event a Player is clearly injured and being attended to by a trainer on the Field of Play, the field Umpire will only stop play when:
- (i) the ball is within one kick of the injured Player and heading in the direction of that injured Player; or
 - (ii) where an ambulance is required or where a stretcher is required in accordance with [Law 7.3](#) of the *Laws of Australian Football*

Guidance Notes:

1. a field Umpire will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes one kick, any dispute in regard to this from a Player or Official may constitute a free kick in accordance with Law 18.8.2 of the *Laws of Australian Football* or a Reportable Offence in accordance with Law 22.2.2 of the *Laws of Australian Football*
2. a field Umpire may also stop play at any time, at their discretion, where it is evident a Player has suffered a serious and/or distressing injury.

Guidance Note: *Any incursion onto the field during the course of play by an unauthorised person is a serious offence and will be managed accordingly.*

- (B) If play is stopped under Rule 15.2.11(A), play can only recommence once:
- (i) the injured player has been assisted away from play as directed by the Umpire; or
 - (ii) in the event a stretcher is required, once the player has been removed from the Field of Play in accordance with [Law 7.3.2](#) of the Laws of Australian Football.
- (C) Once it is determined that play may recommence, the field Umpire shall recommence play as follows depending on the circumstances:
- (i) where the football was in dispute at the time play was stopped, by throwing up the football;
 - (ii) where the football was out of bounds at the time play was stopped:
 - (a) where boundary Umpires are appointed, by directing the boundary Umpire to throw the football in; or
 - (b) where boundary Umpires are not appointed, in accordance with [Rule 15.2.6](#);
 - (iii) where a Player had possession of the football at the time play was stopped, by awarding a Free Kick to the Player; or
 - (iv) where a Player had been awarded a Free Kick or a Mark at the time play was stopped, by allowing the Player to dispose of the football.

15.2.12 Pre-match Warm-up

- (A) When Teams enter the Field of Play for the start of the Match, they may only warm up at the end of the field closest to their interchange bench.

15.2.13 Interchange Process

- (A) In accordance with [Law 7.2](#) of the Laws of Australian Football, the following procedure shall apply to the interchange of Players during a Match who are listed on the Team Sheet:
- (i) Unless an ambulance is required or a stretcher is required in accordance with [Law 7.3](#) of the Laws of Australian Football, the Players intending to interchange shall leave and enter the Playing Surface through the Interchange Area;
 - (ii) Where a Player does not leave or enter the Playing Surface as specified in 15.2.13(A)(i), this will be reported to a field Umpire and the following shall apply:
 - (a) The field Umpire shall stop play at the first available opportunity;
 - (b) A field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the nearest player of the opposing Team; and
 - (c) A fifty (50) metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded.

15.2.14 Nomination of Ruck

The restart of play without a nominated ruck interpretation as introduced by the AFL for 2026 will not apply to Junior Grades up to and including U17.

15.3 Player Match Attire & Protective Equipment

15.3.1 Match Uniform

- (A) A Player is required to wear an approved School uniform in any Match as prescribed by [Rule 8.7](#).
- (B) Where a Player is not attired for a Match in an approved School uniform:
- (i) the field umpire, at their discretion, may request the Player leave the Field of Play until such time as the Player is correctly attired;
 - (ii) the field umpire is to include details of the incorrectly attired Player in the Umpire Match Report; and

- (iii) the CMC may, in its absolute discretion, deal with the matter as a potential breach of policy under these Rules.
- (C) Each Player must wear a number on the back of their jersey that corresponds to the number listed on the School's Team Sheet and no Players from the same Team are permitted to wear the same number at any time during a Match.
- (D) If a player is required to change a jersey during a match (e.g. due to damage to, or blood on, a jersey), the following is to apply if the replacement jersey has a different number on it:
 - (i) the Team Manager is to notify Ground Manager immediately;
 - (ii) the Ground Manager is to note the change of the Player's number on the official team sheet and the time of the Match of this occurred;

Guidance Note: *The Player's original number must still remain visible on the team sheet.*

- (iii) The Team Manager is to notify the opposition team immediately following notification to the Ground Manager;
- (iv) At the next quarter time interval in the match, the Ground Manager is to notify the field umpire of the change to a Player's jersey.

15.3.2 Uniform Clashes

- (A) To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, the following provisions will apply:
 - (i) Not Applicable
 - (ii) Not Applicable
 - (iii) where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour as determined by the CMC, the away School's Team must wear a clash jumper as approved by the CMC.
- (B) The CMC may, in consultation with the Schools involved, determine any other measure necessary to avoid a clash of uniform between Teams in a Match.

15.3.3 Undergarments & Other Items

- (A) Table 21 prescribes what undergarments and other items are permitted, or not permitted, to be worn in a Match.

Table 21 – Undergarments & Other Items in Matches

Item	1)	Permitted or Not
Undergarments	2)	Undergarments, such as lycra shorts or compression garments, including socks, are permitted to be worn under shorts and jerseys as follows:
	3)	<p>Undergarments worn under shorts must be skin tone, black or the same colour as School shorts and must not be longer than the top of the knee.</p> <p>Undergarments worn under jersey must be sleeveless unless the jumper being worn is long sleeve or the undergarment is the same colour as the jersey.</p> <p>Compression socks must be worn under playing socks and must be skin tone, black or the same colour as School socks. Compression socks must not be longer than the bottom of the knee.</p> <p>Exemptions to the length of undergarments worn may be sought from the CMC for medical, religious or other reasons.</p> <p>Written approval from the CMC is required for any exemption prior to the undergarment garment being worn.</p>

	The field Umpire, at their discretion, may request evidence of an exemption to be provided prior to a Player, who is wearing long length undergarments, being allowed on the Field of Play.
Tee Shirts	Not permitted unless worn under a long sleeve jersey.
Football Boots	Football boots must be worn. Metal stops are not permitted.
Runners / Sneakers	Not permitted
Hats, Caps, Beanies	Not permitted
Gloves	Not permitted, unless medically prescribed to protect an injury and approved by the CMC.
Arm Bands	Black tape arm bands are permitted where worn to commemorate a deceased person. Other colour tape arm bands are permitted in line with an appropriate themed event.
Wrist Bands	Not permitted, other than medical tape for an injury.
Hair Bands / Ribbons	Permitted as long as no hard component (e.g. plastic, metal).
Bobby Pins	Not permitted
Jewellery	Not permitted and must be removed, unless it is fixed permanently. The School of a Player with permanently fixed jewellery must apply to the CMC for approval for the Player to wear the jewellery, and must detail what measures are proposed to be taken to ensure the jewellery does not lead to increased risk of injury to the Player, or other Players.
Spectacles	Refer to Section 16.6 of the <i>Policy Handbook</i> . The School of any Player wearing spectacles in a Match is to advise the CMC of this and provide evidence to show that the spectacles meet relevant safety requirements.

15.3.4 Protective Equipment

- (A) [Sections 16.1](#) to [16.5](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.
- (B) For the purposes of Rule 15.3.4(A), the Controlling Body as referred to in the *Policy Handbook* will be AFL NSW/ACT.

15.4 Not Applicable

15.5 Ground Preparation & Setup

15.5.1 Ground Marking

- (A) For any Grade where a Match is played on a full-size field, the ground is to be clearly marked with lines in white or other easily discernible colour as detailed in Table 23.

Guidance Note: Where chemicals (e.g. weed killer) are used with or without paint to curb grass growth on a Field of Play, the Ground Manager is to ensure that it is not creating a trip hazard for participants due to any resultant significant surface variation.

Table 23 – Ground Marking Requirements

Part of Ground	Line Marking Requirement
Boundary Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Law 3.2(b) of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>. The line must be at least three (3) metres in from any fence
Goal Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Law 3.4 of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>. It is also recommended that a short line be marked fifteen (15) metres out from the “kick-off line” (end of the goal square) to assist Players and Umpires with the Location of the Mark at Kick-in Law.
Centre Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Law 3.5(a) of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>.
Centre Circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Law 3.5(b) of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>. Law 3.6 of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i> provides for the League to allow relocation of the centre circle if it the centre location is in unsuitable condition.
Goal Line & Behind Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal Line – a straight line to be marked between the goal posts Behind Lines – a straight line to be marked between each behind and goal post
50m Arc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As illustrated in Diagram 1 of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i>. The fifty (50) metre arc is not to intersect with the centre square. If a ground is less than one hundred and fifty (150) metres in length the arc to be reduced by 5m intervals (e.g 45m or 40m) until it no longer intersects with the centre square.
Interchange Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unless otherwise specified by a League, one interchange area fifteen (15) metres wide.
Coach Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Coach’s line should be marked comprising five (5) metres in length and one (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.
Spectator Exclusion Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the Field of Play has no fence around it, it is recommended that the School also mark lines to denote spectator exclusion areas as per Rule 15.2.9.

15.5.2 Ground Size

(A) The playing surface dimensions for Senior Grade Matches are to be in accordance with [Law 3.2\(a\)](#) of the *Laws of Australian Football*.

(B) The field sizes to be used in Junior Competition Matches are to be in accordance with Table 24.

Table 24 – Junior Competition Field Dimensions

Grade		Maximum Length (Metres)	Maximum Width (Metres)
Girls	Year 7/8	120	95
	Year 9/10	Full Ground (Min. 140)	Full Ground (Min. 90)
	Opens	Full Ground (Min. 140)	Full Ground (Min. 90)
Boys	Year 5/6	120	95
	Year 7/8	Full Ground (can be reduced based on player numbers)	Full Ground (can be reduced based on player numbers)
	Year 9/10	Full Ground (Min. 140)	Full Ground (Min. 90)
	Opens	Full Ground (Min. 140)	Full Ground (Min. 90)

- (C) For Matches played on a field of smaller dimensions as specified in Table 24, boundaries are to be marked with cones placed no more than five (5) metres apart
- (D) Where an exceptional circumstance results in an available ground being smaller than the field size for one or more Grades as specified in Table 24:
 - (i) for age groups of Under 13 or below, the field size is to be as close to the specified size as the ground space allows, but no smaller than 75% of the ground size specified in Table 24; or
 - (ii) in all other circumstances, an alternative venue with the correct ground size is to be sought.

Guidance Note: Schools are to make all reasonable efforts to play matches on the correct size field. This Rule is only intended to be used where a field becomes unavailable due to damage or wet weather closure or other exceptional situation. It is not to be used where it is simply convenient to a School to play on a smaller field.

- (E) Where both teams have less than the maximum number of Players, the Coaches of the two teams, in consultation with the Ground Manager and Umpire, may agree to reducing the field size from that specified in Table 23.

15.5.3 Goal / Behind Posts

- (A) Table 25 establishes key requirements for the setup of goal and behind posts for a Match.

Table 25 – Goal and Behind Post Requirements

Post Attribute	Requirement
Post Height	Where goal and behind posts are fixed, the minimum and maximum heights are to be in accordance with Law 3.3.1 of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i> . Guidance Note: The recommended height for posts for venues that host local and regional level competitions are 10m for goal posts and 6.6m for behind posts. For State level facilities, the recommended heights are 12m for goal posts and 8m for behind posts.
Post Placement	All goal and behind posts are to be placed in a straight line with a distance of six point four (6.4) metres between each post.
Post Padding	All fixed goal and behind posts are to be padded in accordance with Law 3.3.2 of the <i>Laws of Australian Football</i> .

15.5.4 Scoreboard

- (A) Where possible and practical, a suitable scoreboard with numbers and Team names clearly visible to Players, Umpires and Supporters must be in operation for all Matches.
- (B) As a minimum standard, the scoreboard should identify teams as “Home” and “Away”.
- (C) The correct score is to be confirmed by the Goal Umpires with the Ground Manager at the end of each quarter and updated accordingly.

15.5.5 Timekeeping Facilities / Equipment

- (A) Where a Timekeeping box is not available at a venue, a table and seating with an unobstructed view of the playing area must be provided for School timekeepers, and where practicable, should be positioned in an equally accessible location for both Teams.
- (B) The following must also be provided:
 - (i) a suitable time clock or timing device;
 - (ii) a siren in working condition that can be clearly heard at any location on the playing surface; and
 - (iii) a backup sounding device readily available in the event of the failure of the siren.

15.5.6 Change Rooms

- (A) Where possible and practical, separate changing facilities and showers must be provided for each Team and the Umpires for a Match.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) These rooms must be presented in a clean and tidy condition at the commencement of each Match.
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) Where a venue does not have change rooms available, the League is to notify any attending School and Umpires of this at least two calendar (2) days before any scheduled Match at the venue.

15.6 Match Footballs

- (A) Unless otherwise agreed by AFL NSW/ACT in writing, the size, type and brand of footballs to be used in Competition Matches is specified in Table 26.

Table 26 – Match Football Size & Type

Grade		Size	Type	Brand
Boys	Year 5/6	3	Leather	Sherrin Match
	Year 7/8	4	Leather	Sherrin Match
	Year 9/10	5	Leather	Sherrin Match
	Opens	5	Leather	Sherrin Match
Girls	Year 7/8	3	Leather	Sherrin Match
	Year 9/10	4	Leather	Sherrin Match
	Opens	4	Leather	Sherrin Match

- (B) The colour of the football to be used in a Match is:
 - (i) **red**, for any Match that commences prior to 3.00pm;
 - (ii) **yellow**, for any Match that commences at or after 3.00pm, or any Match commencing at or after 2.30pm where the lighting conditions are poor as determined by the Ground Manager in consultation with the Field Umpire.
- (C) The League must make available at least two footballs of a *suitable standard* and correct size for each Competition Match.
- (D) For the purposes of Rule 15.6(C), a football of *suitable standard* is a new ball, where that is mandated by the League under Rule 15.6(D) for a particular Grade, or otherwise it is used ball where that ball:
 - (i) has only had limited use, is clean and has no discernible scratches or damage to its surface;
 - (ii) has retained its proper shape and colour;
 - (iii) has all branding and writing on the ball clearly visible and legible; and
 - (iv) can be inflated to the correct limit.
- (E) Note Applicable
- (F) AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers, as published on the AFL NSW/ACT website, are the only companies authorised to use the AFL logo on footballs for NSW and ACT Competition Matches.

15.7 Match Day Paperwork / Records

15.7.1 Team Sheets

- (A) The School of a Team that is competing in a Match is required to complete a Team Sheet in accordance with the requirements detailed in Table 27.

- (B) Each School is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of its own School's Team Sheets.
- (C) Any School that provides a late, incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet, including the PlayHQ Team Sheet records, may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the School's Team be recorded as losing the Match with scores determined under [Rule 16.4](#).

Table 27 – Team Sheet Requirements

Match Stage	Requirements
Pre-Match	<p><i>Preparation of Team Sheet</i></p> <p>A Team Sheet is required to be prepared by each School prior to every Match via PlayHQ.</p> <p>A Team Sheet must accurately reflect the list of all Players and Officials participating for the School's Team in a Match and must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The name of each Player participating (in alphabetical order by surname); ii. The jersey number of each Player participating; iii. The designated captain of the team; and iv. The name of all Team Officials participating, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Coach b. Assistant Coach (if applicable) c. Team Manager d. Runner(s) e. Trainers / QMPs / First Aid Officials f. Water Carriers <p>Any person not listed on the Team Sheet must not participate in the Match as a Player or Official.</p>
	<p><i>Distribution of Team Sheet</i></p> <p>Each Team is to ensure the Team Sheet is correct and up to date on PlayHQ. Where changes are required, this must be printed and distributed to the Ground Manager prior to the match. If PlayHQ is correct, there is no requirement to print a team sheet.</p>
During Match	<p><i>Alteration of Team Sheet</i></p> <p>Team Officials must make a proper effort to ensure the accuracy of a Team Sheet prior to the commencement of a Match and make immediate amendments to it where it is known at the time that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. a person listed on the Team Sheet will not be participating in the Match; or ii. a person not listed on the Team Sheet will be participating in the Match. <p>A Team Sheet may only be amended during a Match to add or delete Players or Officials in accordance with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. any such amendment must be made as soon as the Team Manager becomes aware a person will or won't be participating in a Match, but by no later than the siren to commence the third quarter; ii. all copies of the Team Sheet must be amended, with priority given to amendment of the Official Team Sheet first which must be done in the presence of the Ground Manager; and iii. any amendment is to be handwritten in pen. <p>No alterations or additions may be made to a Team Sheet after the siren to commence the third quarter has sounded, other than for the purposes of recording scores and best Players post-Match in accordance with this Rule.</p>

	<p>Where the Player Points System Policy applies to a Match, it is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that any amendment to the list of Players on the Team Sheet takes into account the requirements of that Policy and the cap that applies to the Team.</p> <p>Players Arriving Late</p> <p>No player, who arrives after the siren to commence the third quarter has sounded, may take the field.</p> <p>Players arriving late, but prior to the siren to commence the third quarter, may take the field providing their name and jersey number have been added to all copies of the Team Sheet in accordance with this Rule.</p> <p>Recording of Match Scores on the Team Sheet</p> <p>Each School's Team Manager, or a person nominated by the Team Manager, is to keep a record of the quarter-by-quarter scores, and goal kickers, on the Team copy of the Team Sheet (which will be transposed to the Official Team Sheet at conclusion of the Match).</p>
Post Match	<p>Updating of PlayHQ Team Sheet</p> <p>Where an Official Team Sheet is altered in accordance with these Rules, the PlayHQ team sheet records are to be updated by the School by 7.00pm (or 10.00pm for night Matches) after completion of the Match to ensure that the altered Official Team Sheet and PlayHQ records properly reconcile.</p>

15.7.2 Recording of Match Results

- (A) Except where Rule 15.7.2(B) applies, the League must enter the following in PlayHQ by close of business of the first business day following the Match:
- (i) quarter by quarter scores and final Match results; and
 - (ii) unless otherwise specified by the League, goal kickers and best Players for both teams.
 - (iii) yellow and red cards issued to Players for both teams.

Guidance Note: the entry of goal kickers and best players for Junior Matches may be prescribed by the League as optional.

- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable

15.7.3 Umpire Matchday Records

- (A) Table 28 establishes the matchday record requirements of the Umpires.

Table 28 – Umpire Matchday Record Requirements

Record	Requirements
Goal Umpire Scoring & Score Cards	<p>Score cards are required to be completed by both goal Umpires for every Competition Match.</p> <p>The League may prescribe the form of the score card to be used.</p> <p>At each quarter interval during a Match and following completion of the Match, the goal Umpires are to meet on the ground to compare and reconcile their score cards.</p> <p>If there is any difference in the two score cards at any interval, the goal Umpires are to consult with the Timekeeper to determine and agree on the correct score.</p>

	<p>The Team Managers from both Schools may be consulted if the correct score can not be agreed upon by the Umpires and the Timekeeper.</p> <p>Once the score cards are reconciled at the conclusion of the Match, scorecards are to be signed by both goal Umpires and then immediately provided to the Ground Manager.</p>
Send Off Form / Timekeepers Report	These are to be provided to the Ground Manager at the conclusion of the Match.
Umpire Match Report	Immediately following completion of the Match, the field Umpire (regardless of whether a League appointed Umpire or a School Umpire) is to complete an Umpire Match Report in accordance with Rule 10.7 .
Umpire Notice of Report	<p>In addition to the requirements of Rule 25.2.2, if an Umpire has reported a Player or Official, the Umpire is to also undertake the following at the earliest practicable time following the Match:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. verbally notify the League Umpire Coach / Coordinator of the Report; ii. verbally notify the Ground Manager that a <i>Notice of Report</i> will be lodged; <p>Guidance note: failure to comply with this requirement does not invalidate a <i>Notice of Report</i>.</p>
Forfeit During Match	<p>Where a forfeit of a Match occurs after the Match has commenced, an Umpire Match Report should be completed detailing any reasons provided for the forfeit.</p> <p>No score cards or best and fairest votes are required to be submitted.</p>

15.7.4 Not Applicable

15.8 Match Times & Duration

15.8.1 Match Start Times

- (A) Matches must start on time and be in accordance with the duration specified in Table 29.
- (B) The starting time of a Match;
 - (i) is as outlined in the Season Fixture;
 - (ii) may be varied by the League and/or CMC, in its absolute discretion, by notice to the Schools involved.
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Where a Team fails to enter the Field of Play after receiving a second warning from the Umpire, the Umpire is to include this in the *Umpire Match Report* and the School of the Team may be sanctioned at the absolute discretion of the CMC.

15.8.2 Match & Quarter Duration

- (A) The duration of quarters and breaks for all home and away Matches will be determined by the League and prescribed in Table 29.

Table 29 – Duration of Quarters & Breaks for All Grades

Grade	Duration (Minutes)					
	Quarter Length	¼ Break	½ Break	¾ Break	Time On (Y/N)	Match Total
Girls Competition: Year 7/8 (All Divisions) Year 9/10 (All Divisions) Opens Division 2-4	10	4	5	4	N	53
Girls Competition: Opens Division 1	12	4	5	4	N	61
Boys Competition: Year 5/6 (All Divisions)	10	4	5	4	N	53
Boys Competition: Year 7/8 (All Divisions)	15	4	5	4	N	73
Boys Competition: Year 9/10 (All Divisions) Opens Division 2-3	16	4	5	4	N	77
Boys Competition: Opens Division 1	20	5	10	5	Y (17 mins on, finals only)	100

- (B) If a Match commences after its scheduled start time or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, [Rule 15.8.5](#) applies.

15.8.3 Time On

- (A) Where time on is played in a Competition Match, [Law 10.6](#) of the *Laws of Australian Football* applies.

- (i) The timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for timing when:

- (a) Directed to do so by the field umpire by blowing the whistle and raising one arm above their head
- (b) The goal umpire first signals that a goal has been scored
- (c) The goal umpire first signals that a behind has been scored

- (ii) The Timekeepers shall recommence the clock when:

- (a) Directed to do so by a field umpire by blowing the whistle and raising one arm above their head
- (b) The football is thrown up by the field umpire after a goal has been scored
- (c) The football is brought back into play after a behind has been scored

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

- (C) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule or where a stretcher is required, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule or stretcher signal is given by the field Umpire until the field Umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.

Guidance Note: This rule applies to all Matches, including those where no time-on is played. Where a stretcher or ambulance is required, the Umpire and Ground Manager may need to have consideration to Rule 15.8.5 if the requirement for a stretcher or ambulance results in a significant delay to the Match.

15.8.4 Match Unable to Commence

- (A) Subject to [Rule 16.5.2](#), where a Match is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of either Team:
 - (i) the field Umpire is to notify the League, including any reasons for which the Match was unable to commence; and
 - (ii) the CMC will determine whether the Match is to be rescheduled, or the result of the Match.

15.8.5 Significant Delay in a Match

- (A) Where, for any reason, a Match is subject of a significant delay in starting, or during a Match, the field Umpire in consultation with the Ground Manager will determine whether, following resolution of the delay, the Match can proceed within the remaining time scheduled for the Match.

Guidance Note: The term “significant delay” is not formally defined in these Rules. It is intended to refer to a delay arising from something uncommon that impacts the ability of the competing teams to complete a full quarter or more of the Match. It will usually arise where an injury results in the need for an ambulance to be called, or where extreme and dangerous weather such as lightning or hail occurs. It is not intended to cover minor delays due to the like of players being escorted off the field due to blood or other common injury. The ‘remaining time scheduled for a match’ is to be determined with regard to the duration of the match as per Table 28.

- (B) In making a determination under this Rule, the field Umpire and Ground Manager will have regard for:
 - (i) the length, or expected length, of the delay;
 - (ii) the health and safety of Players;
 - (iii) what adjustments to the Match can fairly and practicably be made;
 - (iv) the provisions of Table 30.

Table 30 – Determining if Match is to Recommence

Circumstance	Requirements
Delay in Starting or During the First Half	<p>In order to proceed with the Match, the field Umpire and Ground Manager are to be satisfied that the equivalent of one half of the Match, including any time already played, is able to be completed within the remaining time scheduled for the Match (see Guidance Note under 15.8.5(A) regarding ‘remaining time scheduled for a match’).</p> <p>To enable completion of the equivalent of one half of the Match within the remaining time scheduled for a Match, the field Umpire and Ground Manager may make an adjustment to the length of quarter breaks or to the length of a quarter providing that the length of a quarter is no less than five (5) minutes.</p> <p>If it is determined by the field Umpire and Ground Manager that the equivalent of one half of the Match is unable to be completed, the Match is not to recommence and the result of the Match is to be determined in accordance with Table 34.</p>
Delay at or After Half Time	<p>In order to recommence a Match, the field Umpire and Ground Manager are to be satisfied that the equivalent of at least half of one quarter can be completed within the remaining time scheduled for the Match (see Guidance Note under 15.8.5(A) regarding ‘remaining time scheduled for a match’).</p> <p>If it is determined by the field Umpire and Ground Manager that at least half of one quarter is unable to be completed, the Match is not to recommence and the result of the Match is to be determined in accordance with Table 34.</p> <p>Guidance Note: It is important to provide a prescriptive measure so that teams cannot dispute whether a match should resume or not depending on whether they are winning</p>

	<i>or losing. If a quarter is usually 20 minutes duration, half of one quarter will be 10 minutes.</i>
Last Match of the Day	Where the delayed Match is the last scheduled Match of the day, and where the lighting conditions would allow for the continuation of that Match beyond its schedule finish time, the field Umpire and Ground Manager may determine that additional time, not exceeding 20 minutes, is to be added where that additional time allows for the equivalent of one half of the Match, including time already played, to be completed.
Finals Match	Where the delayed Match is a Finals Match, the Ground Manager may, after consultation with the League, alter the start and finish times of Matches in order to complete a Match provided there are no significant impacts on the remaining matchday fixture.
Junior Competition Match	Where it has been determined in accordance with this Rule that a Competition Match involving Junior Teams is unable to recommence, the Teams may, by agreement between Coaches, play out any remaining scheduled time as a scratch Match for the benefit of participation of the Players. This is only to occur where it is deemed safe for Players to return to the field. No further scoring, however, is to be recorded.

- (C) Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play:
- (i) [Rule 16.5.2](#) shall apply; and
 - (ii) the field Umpire is to report the matter to the League for investigation.
- (D) Where a Match is unable to recommence, the result of the Match is to be determined in accordance with [Table 34](#).

15.9 Ground Closures

- (A) Where a ground at which a Match is scheduled to be played becomes unavailable due to adverse weather conditions or any other reason, the home School is to advise the League as early as it becomes aware of the likelihood of the ground closure to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Matches to be considered.

Table 31 – Change of Venue Procedure

Reason for Closure	Actions/Exemptions
1. Where a ground has been closed by the local Council, no Competition Match is to be played on that ground.	Unless the home School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has a written agreement with the local Council that allows it to override the ground closure; and (ii) In making its decision on the use of the ground, has followed any risk assessment process expected as part of that agreement with the local Council
2. Where the League determines to cancel the entire Round due to multiple ground closures or any other circumstances at their ultimate discretion	(i) The League will cancel the entire Round with no reschedule options if no available fixture dates are available and notify the School's accordingly
3. Where neither the Host School nor the opposing School's venue is available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The League will make every effort to reschedule the Match to an alternative available venue (ii) Other Schools whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their venue available to minimize the likelihood of cancellations;

4. For Regular season matches, where a change of venue is required due to any of the above clauses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The League is to communicate this to schools prior to 5:00pm Thursday (for Friday matches) and 12:00pm Friday (for Saturday matches) (ii) Schools are expected to comply if the following criteria applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There is less than 1 hour time difference to the original fixture b. The venue is within 20-minute drive of the original venue (iii) Where the above criteria does not apply (e.g. multiple hour time difference or significant venue change), both schools must agree in writing to the change in venue
5. For Regular season matches, where a ground is closed by council or a School, and no other suitable venues are available	(i) The League will determine whether the match is to be re-scheduled or cancelled
6. For Finals series matches, where a change of venue is required due to any of the above clauses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The league is to provide as much notice as possible to participating Schools and Umpires (ii) The competing Schools are expected to comply with this (iii) Failure to comply with this by a school will be deemed a s Forfeit; and (iv) Should both Schools fail to comply, the higher ranked school will progress to the subsequent round of finals
7. For Finals series matches, where a ground is closed by council or a School, and no other suitable venues are available	(i) The higher ranked school will progress to the subsequent round of finals

(B) Each School 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.

15.10 Postponed Matches

(A) Where it has been agreed by the League that a Match is to be postponed for any reason, the competing Schools have two (2) weeks from the date of postponement to reach agreement, and notify the League, on the rescheduling of the Match, including:

- (i) the date and time the Match is to be played
- (ii) the venue at which the Match is to be played.

Guidance Note: Both Schools are to co-operate with each other and with the League to agree on an available date and venue for the Match to be rescheduled, including options such as playing midweek or playing on a date set aside as a wet weather round.

(B) Not Applicable

(C) Where Schools are unable to reach agreement in accordance with Rule 15.10(A), the Schools are to advise the League of this, together with any reasons either School has in relation to the matter, and the CMC will then determine whether the Match is deemed to be:

- (i) a cancelled Match, in which case, [Rule 15.11](#) will apply; or

- (ii) a forfeit in accordance with [Rule 16.5.3](#) where it is considered by the CMC that a School has not made best endeavours to reschedule the Match or does not have reasonable grounds to decline playing the Match.

Guidance Note: Reasonable endeavours include proof of communication between Schools with proposed date, time and venue as well as proof as to why one or both Schools were unable to meet the requirements of 15.10(A)

15.11 Cancelled Matches

- (A) Subject to [Rule 16.5](#), if any Match is cancelled in accordance with the Rules:
 - (i) the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to [Rule 16.3](#); and
 - (ii) Not Applicable
- (B) Not Applicable

15.12 Not Applicable

16 MATCH RESULTS

16.1 Determination of Match Results

Results of Matches will be determined in accordance with the *Laws of Australian Football* and these Rules. The CMC will determine any dispute in relation to the result of a Match.

16.2 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 CMC.

16.3 Match Wins

- (A) Unless otherwise specified by the League, in home and away round Matches:
 - (i) Match ratio will be used as the method of determining ladder position;
 - (ii) Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of Matches played;
 - (iii) in the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining Match ratio;
 - (iv) if a scheduled round of Matches is not played, the School with the bye in that round does not receive a Match win;
 - (v) where more than one Team has the same Match ratio, Schools will be positioned on the ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against.

16.4 Not Applicable

- (A) A League may establish an E-Points System in respect of any Junior Competition that it manages.
- (B) Any E-Point deduction will be determined and applied by the League after the completion of each round in accordance with Table 32;

16.5 Forfeits

16.5.1 Notice of Forfeit

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

- (i) the School of that Team is to advise the opposing School, Umpire Manager and the League no later than 6.00pm the day prior to the Match, or as otherwise prescribed by the League;
- (ii) the Match will be treated as a forfeit;
- (iii) Not Applicable
- (iv) Not Applicable

(B) Not Applicable

16.5.2 Unable to Commence or Complete Match

(A) If for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, or if a Team fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced:

- (i) the opposing School may claim the Match as a forfeit, to be determined by the CMC; and
- (ii) Not Applicable

(B) Not Applicable

(C) Not Applicable

16.5.3 Forfeit Results

(A) In the event of a forfeit, the non-forfeiting Team will be declared the winner of the Match and the final score of the Match will be determined in accordance with Table 33.

Table 33 – Score for Forfeit

Grade		Score to Forfeiting Team (Points)	Score to Non-forfeiting Team (Points)
Girls & Boys	All Competitions	Zero (0)	Sixty (60)

(B) The League remains responsible for entry of the correct score in PlayHQ.

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

16.5.4 Entry of Team Sheets

- (A) For Matches where there is a forfeit, the forfeiting School must not enter a Team Sheet in PlayHQ and should it do so may be subject of sanctions by the CMC in its absolute discretion.
- (B) The non-forfeiting School may enter a Team into PlayHQ for the purposes of player eligibility, provided this is completed prior to the scheduled commencement time of the forfeited Match.

16.5.5 Multiple Forfeits by a School in a Season

(A) Should a School's Team forfeit three (3) matches in the same Grade in a Competition in the one season, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion:

- (i) disqualify the Team from that Grade in the Competition for the duration of the season; and
- (ii) Not Applicable

16.5.6 Not Applicable

16.5.7 Not Applicable

16.5.8 Forfeit of a Finals Match

(A) Where a Team forfeits a Finals Match:

- (i) that Team will be ineligible to participate in any further Matches for the duration of the Finals.
- (ii) Not Applicable

16.6 Results of an Incomplete or Delay-impacted Match

- (A) Subject to [Rule 16.5.2](#) and Rule 16.6(B), where a Match that has commenced is unable to be completed within the time scheduled for the Match, or where it has been shortened due to a significant delay, the result will be determined in accordance with Table 34.

Table 34 – Determining the Result of a Delayed / Incomplete Match

Circumstance	Match Type	Result
Where less than the equivalent of one half of the Match has been played	Home and Away Match	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.
	Finals Match (other than Grand Final)	If the match is unable to be rescheduled the Match result will be determined in accordance with Rule 17.7(B)(ii)
	Grand Final	If the match is unable to be rescheduled the Match result will be determined in accordance with Rule 17.7(B)(iii)
Where the equivalent of one half or more of the Match has been played	All Matches	Where a Match is able to resume after a significant delay, the result will be based on the final score of the Match at the conclusion of play. Where a Match is unable to resume for any reason including after a significant delay, the score at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final score, with the result of the Match based on this, unless otherwise determined by the CMC in accordance with any other provision of these Rules.

- (B) Where a finals Match has commenced and less than one half of the equivalent of the match has been played, the CMC will determine, in consultation with the Schools involved, if the match is able to be rescheduled prior to the result being determined in accordance with [Table 34](#).

17 FINALS

17.1 Finals Structure

The League and/or CMC 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 Match of the season.

17.2 Venue Selection

- (A) The League and/or CMC will determine the venues for finals series Matches in its absolute discretion.
- (B) Where School venues are available and suitable to the standard of competition and division, the highest ranked school at the end of the Home & Away season will have priority to host finals series Matches
- (C) Where Schools do not have a School venue or the School venue is unavailable or not suitable, a neutral venue will be allocated to the school and will act in lieu of a school venue for finals venue allocation

17.3 Not Applicable

17.4 Not Applicable

17.5 Match Conditions

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

17.6 Drawn Finals Match

- (A) In the event of scores being equal at the end of a finals Match, the following procedure will apply:
 - (i) the goal Umpires will confirm the scores;
 - (ii) While Goal Umpires are confirming scores, players are to remain on the field and team officials and players on the bench are to remain off the field
 - (iii) the field Umpire will re-commence the Match to play extra time, initially for a further duration of five (5) minutes, plus time on where time on applies, and the Teams will not change ends;
 - (iv) the siren will sound after the first period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes, plus time on where time on applies, is to be played, following which the siren will sound.
- (B) If the Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute period of extra time, the Umpires and Goal Umpires will consult to confirm the scores, and if the scores still remain tied, the following will apply:
 - (i) the teams will reset their position (not changing ends) with a centre bounce/ball up to recommence play; and
 - (ii) play will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound signalling the end of the Match; and
 - (iii) the first team to score a point or goal will be the winner.
- (C) The coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren at the end of normal Match time, but will not be able to address the team further during extra time.
- (D) For a Grand Final where the scores are less than six (6) points the difference with two (2) minutes remaining in the final quarter, an announcement is to be made by the Ground Manager that Supporters are not to enter the Field of Play after the final siren until the goal Umpires have confirmed the final score.

17.7 Finals Match Unable to Commence

- (A) Where a finals series has commenced and where a scheduled finals Match is unable to commence for any reason other than a forfeit, the CMC will determine, in consultation with the Schools involved, if the match is able to be rescheduled.
- (B) If, under Rule 17.7(A), it is determined that:
 - (i) a Match is able to be rescheduled, the CMC will fixture it accordingly and notify the Schools of this as soon as practicable; or
 - (ii) a Match, other than a Grand Final, is unable to be rescheduled for any reason, the Match will be deemed to have been played, with the Team that is positioned higher on the ladder being declared the winner of the Match; or
 - (iii) a Grand Final Match is unable to be rescheduled for any reason, the Match will be recorded as having no result.
- (C) Where a finals series is yet to commence, but where it is evident that one or more finals Matches may be unable to be played for any reason other than a forfeit, the CMC:

- (i) may, in its absolute discretion, alter the structure or fixturing of the finals series where it is required to ensure the viability of the finals series; and
 - (ii) notify all relevant Schools of any such alteration as soon as practicable.
- (D) If, under Rule 17.7(C), it is necessary to reduce the number of participating finals Teams, those Teams that qualified lowest on the ladder will be eliminated first.
- (E) Where it becomes evident that the entire finals series of a Competition grade will be unable to be played for any reason, and where it is not practicable to reschedule that series, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion, make a decision to cancel that finals series.
- (F) If a Grand Final Match is unable to commence for any reason, the CMC may, in its absolute discretion, determine whether or not a premiership is to be awarded on an alternative basis.

17.8 Not Applicable

17.9 Not Applicable

18 OTHER MATCHES INCLUDING PRACTICE MATCHES

- (A) No School shall arrange or play in any Match other than Matches outlined in the Season Fixture without the prior approval of the League and/or CMC.
- (B) For any practice Matches involving two different Schools the following provisions will apply:
- (i) a Practice Match Request Form, as designated by the League, shall be completed and submitted to the League by midday the Tuesday before the practice Match;
 - (ii) where a practice match is being organised involving Schools from different Leagues or a carnival involving multiple Schools is being organised, the School hosting the event will be required to submit the Practice Match Request Form;
 - (iii) Not Applicable
 - (iv) Not Applicable
 - (v) in all practice matches, the Umpire may report players as per the *Laws of Australian Football*;
 - (vi) Not Applicable

19 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

19.1 Player Eligibility

- (A) Any Player selected in a representative Team must be a registered Player with a School participating in a Competition of that League.
- (B) The RMC may, in its absolute discretion, establish any provisions that ensure consistency across competing Leagues in Player eligibility criteria for participation in a representative Team.

19.2 Player Selection and 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.
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) Not Applicable

(F) Subject to Rule 19.1, the League will determine the process for selection of Players in the representative Team.

(G) Not Applicable

19.3 Match Venue & Catering

(A) Where the League schedules a representative Match to be played, the League 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 School or any other School which is prepared to undertake all ground management duties for the Representative Match.

19.4 Cost of Representative Event

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

(B) Not Applicable

19.5 Representative Team Uniform

(A) The League will determine the design of the League's representative Team's Match uniform.

(B) Any Match uniform must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the jersey and shorts as prescribed for a School uniform in [Table 3](#) and [Table 4](#).

19.6 Competition Rules

(A) The CMC will determine any specific rules that apply to the Representative Competition, including but not limited to, registration of players and teams, fixture, match rules, disciplinary provisions, umpire appointments. Where no such rules are provided, the relevant provisions of the AFL NSW/ACT Rules will apply.

(B) Where it is determined that the disciplinary processes prescribed by [Rule 25](#) and [Rule 27](#) will apply to the Representative Competition, reference to 'School' in those Rules also extends to mean 'Representative Team' where applicable.

Part D – HEALTH & SAFETY

20 RISK MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

- (A) In order to ensure the safety of participants and manage the risk associated with matches of Australian Football, the Ground Manager must:
- (i) complete the [Marsh AFL Match Day Checklist](#) prior to the commencement of the first Match of the day, as well as at any other time during the day if conditions change to an extent that may impact the safety of participants
 - (ii) retain completed checklists for a period of seven (7) years for future reference by the League or its insurers if so required.
- (B) Not Applicable

21 INJURY MANAGEMENT

21.1 Injury Management Policy

- (A) [Section 15](#) of the *Policy Handbook* establishes the requirements for School and League compliance with ensuring the presence of appropriately qualified persons at each Match and training session.

21.2 Matchday Injury Treatment Resources

- (A) The League must ensure at least one appropriately qualified person, as per [Section 15](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, is present for the duration of each Match.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) Not Applicable
- (F) Not Applicable

21.3 Concussion

- (A) The [Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football](#) applies.

21.4 Active Bleeding

- (A) [Law 24](#) of the [Laws of Australian Football](#) applies.

22 PREGNANT PLAYERS

- (A) [Section 20](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

23 SUN/UV PROTECTION & EXTREME WEATHER

- (A) [Section 17](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to the assessment and management of extreme weather conditions.

Guidance Note: Refer to [Section 17.3](#) of the *Policy Handbook* for the 30/30 Lightning Safety Guideline

- (B) [Rule 15.9](#) applies where ground closures result from wet or extreme weather.
- (C) [Section 18](#) of the *Policy Handbook* outlines the risks of sun and ultraviolet (UV) light exposure while participating in Australian Football and the responsibility of a School, Official, Player, Parent and Spectator with respect to those risks.

Guidance Note: [Sports Medicine Australia's "Extreme Heat Policy"](#) provides some valuable guidance for Leagues and Schools on how to determine whether a Match is safe to proceed taking into account the temperature and humidity, as well as strategies for helping manage Matches being played in hot conditions.

Part E – DISCIPLINARY & APPEALS

24 MATCH OFFENCES

24.1 Order Off Rule

24.1.1 Yellow Card

- (A) Subject to Rule 24.1.1(B), a player who commits a Reportable Offence may be ordered from the Field of Play by an Umpire under a yellow card.
- (B) At the discretion of the field Umpire, the Player ordered from the field under a yellow card may be reported.
- (C) A Player ordered off under a yellow card is;
 - (i) required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area;
 - (ii) to be seated with the Ground Manager;
 - (iii) to be accompanied by an adult Team Official for Junior Competitions;
 - (iv) not permitted to resume playing in the Match for:
 - (a) subject to Rule 24.1.1(C)(iv)(b), a period of **fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes**, excluding breaks between quarters; or
 - (b) for matches with a quarter duration less than fifteen (15) minutes, an amount of time equivalent to **one quarter**, as detailed in [Table 29](#), of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters; and
 - (v) not permitted to enter the Field of Play for the duration of the penalty period, including breaks between quarters.
- (D) The penalty period will commence once the offending Player has left the Field of Play.
- (E) The offending Player's School is responsible for obtaining approval from the Ground Manager for the Player to resume playing in the Match at the end of the relevant penalty period.
- (F) All Players who are ordered from the Field of Play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.
- (G) Any yellow card issued to a Player is to be recorded by the Ground Manager on the official team sheet at the end of the Match and the League must enter the details of the yellow card in PlayHQ in accordance with [Rule 15.7.2](#).
- (H) A yellow card may be issued by an Umpire to a Team Official and will apply to that Official in the same manner as it would to a Player.

24.1.2 Red Card

- (A) A Player or Official, as applicable, shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match by the field Umpire under a red card where the Player or Official commits:
 - (i) two yellow card offences in the same Match; or
 - (ii) two Reportable Offences in the same Match for separate incidents; or
 - (iii) a single Reportable Offence that is considered a serious breach of the *Laws of Australian Football*; or
 - (iv) a third white card offence in accordance with the [AFL NSW/ACT Coaching Box Card Policy](#).
- (B) A Player or Official ordered off under a red card:
 - (i) is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area;

- (ii) is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the Field of Play at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match; and
 - (iii) is not permitted to return to participate in the match in any capacity.
- (C) Unless otherwise determined by the CMC in its ultimate discretion, a Player who is ordered from the Field of Play under a red card can be replaced after:
- (i) subject to Rule 24.1.2(C)(ii), a period of **fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes**, excluding breaks between quarters; or
 - (ii) for matches with a quarter duration less than fifteen (15) minutes, an amount of time equivalent to **one quarter**, as detailed in [Table 29](#), of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters.
- (D) The penalty period will commence once the offending Player has left the Field of Play.
- (E) The offending Player's School is responsible for obtaining approval from the Ground Manager for the replacement Player to commence playing at the end of the penalty period.
- (F) An Official ordered from the field can be replaced immediately.
- (G) All red cards are Reportable Offences and a *Notice of Report* must be submitted by the field Umpire in accordance with [Rule 25.2.2](#).
- (H) Any red card issued to a Player is to be recorded by the Ground Manager on the official team sheet at the end of the Match and the League must enter the details of the red card in PlayHQ in accordance with [Rule 15.7.2](#).

24.1.3 Blue Card (Junior Competitions only)

- (A) A Junior Player who displays unsportsmanlike behaviour or is deemed to require a "cool off" at the discretion of the field Umpire may be ordered from the Field of Play by an Umpire under a blue card.
- (B) A Player ordered off under a blue card is;
- (i) required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area;
 - (ii) not permitted to resume playing the Match for a period of ten (10) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters;
 - (iii) required to sit at the Ground Manager or Timekeeper table, or with an adult Team Official for the duration of the penalty period; and
 - (iv) not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the Field of Play at any time (including breaks) for the duration of the penalty period.
- (C) The ten (10) minute penalty period will commence once the offending Player has left the Field of Play.
- (D) The offending Player's School is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the Player to resume playing in the Match at the end of the ten (10) minute penalty period.
- (E) All Players who are ordered from the Field of Play with a blue card can be replaced immediately.
- (F) The reporting Umpire or Umpire Coach may review the blue card conduct during or post-match and determine it constitutes a Reportable Offence and submit a Notice of Report in accordance with [Rule 25.2.2](#).

24.2 Melees

- (A) A melee is defined in [Law 1.1](#) of the *Laws of Australian Football*.
- (B) Individual Players engaging in a melee may be reported by an umpire under the *Laws of Australian Football*

- (C) A School whose Players or Officials engage in a melee may be subject of disciplinary action and sanctions
- (D) The field Umpire is to record the details of the melee in the Umpire Match report including:
 - (i) the approximate time of a match that the melee occurred;
 - (ii) the approximate duration of the melee;
 - (iii) the number of Players involved from each Team, or if the exact number is not able to be stated, the approximate number of Players involved from each Team;
 - (iv) the number of Officials involved from each Team, or if the exact number is not able to be stated, the approximate number of Officials involved from each Team;
 - (v) the number of Umpires, including any emergency Umpire, who had to intervene in the melee;
 - (vi) an assessment of the level of aggression displayed by Players and/or Officials during the melee.
- (E) Not Applicable

25 REPORTABLE OFFENCES

25.1 What is a Reportable Offence?

- (A) A Reportable Offence occurs when a Player or Official is alleged to have committed any of the offences set out in [Law 22.2.2](#) of the *Laws of Australian Football*.
- (B) The listing of offences in [Law 22.2.2](#) is a non-exhaustive list and additional offences may be classified by AFL NSW/ACT under these Rules.
- (C) For the purposes of this Rule 25, an Official includes any person listed in [Rule 9.3](#) and [Rule 9.5](#).
- (D) A Reportable Offence may occur:
 - (i) during a Match; or
 - (ii) on the day of the Match and within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is conducted.
- (E) A Reportable Offence may be a:
 - (i) Low-Level Offence – one that does not require grading;
 - (ii) Classifiable Offence – one that requires grading; or
 - (iii) Direct Tribunal Offence – one that is referred directly to the Tribunal for a hearing and determination.

25.2 Making a Report (of a Reportable Offence)

25.2.1 Methods for Making a Report

- (A) A Player or Official who is alleged to have committed a Reportable Offence may be reported via:
 - (i) Umpire report as per [Rule 25.2.2](#);
 - (ii) Not Applicable
 - (iii) Review of Footage as per [Rule 25.2.4](#);
 - (iv) Not Applicable

25.2.2 Umpire Report

- (A) Subject to Rule 25.2.2(D), if an Umpire reports a Player or Official for a Reportable Offence, the Umpire is to inform, where practicable, the Player or Official that they have been reported either:
 - (i) immediately following the relevant incident;

- (ii) before the commencement of the quarter following the relevant incident; or
 - (iii) if the relevant incident occurs in the final quarter, as soon as reasonably practicable after the completion of the Match.
- (B) The Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or School Officer of a report where it is impractical to inform the reported Player or Official.
- (C) The Umpire must, as soon as practicable after completion of the Match, but by no later than 10.00am on the next business day after that Match or, for weekday Matches, by no later than 5.00pm of the next business day, complete and lodge a *Notice of Report* with the relevant Controlling Body via OfficialsHQ or in any other such manner as allowed by the Controlling Body.
- (D) If an Umpire believes that a Player or Official may have committed a Reportable Offence but did not report that Player or Official at the time of the Match:
- (i) the Umpire must, as soon as practicable on the day of that Match, but by no later than 10.00am on the next business day after that Match, complete and lodge an *Incident Referral Form* with the relevant Controlling Body and
 - (ii) the relevant Controlling Body must, as soon as practicable following receipt of the *Incident Referral Form*, notify the reported Player or Official's School of the report.
- (E) Unregistered School field Umpires, School boundary Umpires and School goal Umpires are not permitted to lodge a *Notice of Report*, but are permitted to lodge an *Incident Referral Form* in accordance with [Section 22.1\(b\)\(i\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* and/or [Section 25.2.2\(D\)\(i\)](#) of these Rules if they consider a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence.
- (F) An Umpire Coach or Umpiring Co-ordinator in attendance at a Match as an observer has the authority to report a Player or Official in accordance with this Rule.

25.2.3 Not Applicable

25.2.4 Review of Footage

- (A) A School may request the Controlling Body to review footage of an incident where it considers the footage shows a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence. The footage must show the incident in its entirety, and no part of the incident should be obstructed or off-screen.
- (B) A request by a School for a review of footage must be submitted to the relevant Controlling Body by no later than 5.00pm on the first business day following the Match the incident arises from.
- (C) A Review of Footage request must be submitted for each separate incident.
- (D) A School making a request under this Rule must, within the time specified in 25.2.4(B):
- (i) complete and lodge the prescribed *Request for Review of Footage* form together with the footage relied upon; and
 - (ii) where available, provide any medical evidence to support the School's grading of "impact".
- (E) Not Applicable
- (F) The Controlling Body must, as soon as practicable upon receipt of the *Review of Footage*, notify the reported Player or Official's School of the submission and provide the Player or Official's School with a copy of the footage.
- (G) Following review of the footage, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may determine, in line with Rule 25.4 to:
- (i) proceed with the issuing of a *Notice of Charge* in accordance with [Rule 25.4](#); or
- (H) not proceed with a Notice of Charge if not satisfied based on the evidence provided that a Reportable Offence was committed in line with Rule 25.3.4.

25.2.5 Not Applicable

25.2.6 Not Applicable

25.3 Assessing a Reportable Offence

25.3.1 Initial Assessment of a Report

- (A) As soon as practicable after the Controlling Body receives a *Notice of Report* under [Rule 25.2.2](#), or a *Review of Footage* request under [Rule 25.2.4](#), the Controlling Body must undertake an assessment to determine if:
- (i) it is satisfied there is evidence a Reportable Offence has been committed and can proceed directly to classification and grading of the offence under [Rule 25.4](#); or
 - (ii) further investigation of the Reportable Offence is required as per [Rule 25.3.3](#); or
 - (iii) the Reportable Offence is to be dismissed as per [Rule 25.3.4](#).

25.3.2 Match Review Panel ('MRP')

The Controlling Body may appoint a Match Review Panel ('MRP'), made up of no less than three (3) suitably qualified persons, or a Match Review Officer ('MRO') comprising only one (1) suitably qualified person, to conduct or assist with an assessment under [Rule 25.3.1](#).

25.3.3 Further Investigation

The Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may use reasonable measures to establish the facts of a report made under [Rule 25.2](#), to assess whether a Reportable Offence has been committed.

- (A) All Players, Officials and Schools are to cooperate with an investigation under this Rule, including the provision of any footage taken of a Match as requested by the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO.

Guidance Note: Reasonable measures may include:

- Reviewing the evidence provided and requesting additional information from the School
- Determine that all relevant evidence has been provided and make a determination accordingly
- Provide details of the Reported Person's response to relevant parties to take into consideration in relation to statements or evidence already provided

- (B) Failure by a Person or School to comply with Rule 25.3.3(B) will be considered to be a Policy Breach and dealt with in accordance with [Rule 26](#).
- (C) On completion of any investigation under this Rule, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO is then to determine:
- (i) if it is satisfied a Reportable Offence has been committed and a *Notice of Charge* is to be issued in accordance with [Rule 25.5](#); or
 - (ii) if the Reportable Offence is to be dismissed in accordance with [Rule 25.3.4](#).
- (D) If in the course of any investigation, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO identifies that further Reportable Offences have been committed and have not been reported, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may proceed to issue a Notice of Charge in respect of that finding.
- (E) If in the course of any investigation, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO identifies actions constituting a Policy Breach, the matter can be referred for review under [Rule 26.2\(A\)\(ii\)](#).

25.3.4 Dismissal of a Report

- (A) After assessment and completion of any investigation, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may dismiss a matter if it considers there to be insufficient evidence of a Reportable Offence occurring
- (B) Where a matter is dismissed in accordance with Rule 25.3.4(A):

- (i) the Controlling Body is to notify the reported person's School of this as soon as practicable after the decision is made: and
- (ii) this decision is not able to be:
 - (a) reviewed by the Controlling Body even where additional information is provided by the School; and
 - (b) appealed under [Rule 28](#) of these Rules or [Section 26](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

25.4 Classification & Grading of Reportable Offence

25.4.1 Classification and Grading of a Reportable Offence

- (A) Unless otherwise stated in this Rule, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO is to determine the classification and grading of the offence, in accordance with Appendix A (attached to the rules document)

25.4.2 Not Applicable

25.4.3 Multiple Reportable Offences

- (A) Where a Person commits multiple reportable offences in a Match each reportable offence is to be classified and graded separately;
- (B) Not Applicable

25.5 Notice of Charge

25.5.1 Purpose of a Notice of Charge

- (A) A *Notice of Charge* is issued to the reported Person and their School to detail the particulars of a Reportable Offence, any penalties that apply to the offence, the reported Person's rights and the process to be followed.

25.5.2 Issuing and Form of a Notice of Charge

- (A) Where a *Notice of Charge* is to be issued under these Rules, the Controlling Body must, as soon as practicable, send the *Notice of Charge* to the reported Person and their School.
- (B) A *Notice of Charge* must contain the following particulars:
 - (i) date and approximate time of the incident;
 - (ii) a description of the incident;
 - (iii) the charge and classification of the offence;
 - (iv) the grading of the offence where applicable;
 - (v) the sanctions applicable, including early guilty plea offer, or direct Tribunal referral;
 - (vi) the reported Person's rights;
 - (vii) the reported Person's or School's response requirements.

25.5.3 Withdrawing a Notice of Charge

- (A) [Section 22.3\(b\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies in relation to the withdrawal of a *Notice of Charge*.

25.6 Early Guilty Plea

25.6.1 Not Applicable

25.7 Reportable Offences Record Keeping

25.7.1 Documents

- (A) All documents associated with a Reportable Offence must be retained by the Controlling Body for a period of ten (10) years, including:
- (i) Notice of Report if not issued via OfficialsHQ;
 - (ii) Notice of Charge;
 - (iii) Witness statements;
 - (iv) Footage of the incident;
 - (v) Tribunal determination;
 - (vi) Deregistration documentation

25.7.2 Record of Reportable Offences

- (A) [Section 22.5](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to the recording of Reportable Offences.
- (B) Where a Person is found guilty of or accepts a sanction under a Notice of Charge and that Person is not registered in the Competition Management Platform, the Person must register in the Competition Management Platform within seven (7) days of the sanction being accepted or the Tribunal determination (as applicable) so that Rule 25.7.2(A) can be complied with.

26 POLICY BREACHES

26.1 What is a Policy Breach?

- (A) A policy breach occurs when a Party fails to comply with a requirement established under the AFL's policy structure, including:
- (i) the *Policy Handbook*;
 - (ii) the Rules;
 - (iii) the AFL NSW/AFL Code of Conduct;
 - (iv) the AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct;
 - (v) any of the policies listed in [Rule 6.4](#).
- (B) For the purpose of Rule 26, a *Party* means a School, Coach, Official, Player, School member, parent or guardian of a Player, spectator of a Match or any other person reasonably connected to Australian Football and within the purview of these Rules or the *Policy Handbook*.
- (C) Subject to [Rule 26.2.2](#), a policy breach that is deemed to be a Reportable Offence is to be dealt with under [Rule 25](#).

26.2 Reporting a Policy Breach

- (A) An alleged policy breach may be identified in two ways:
- (i) directly by the Controlling Body; or
 - (ii) by another person who has reasonable cause to believe that such a breach has occurred.
- (B) Where an alleged policy breach is identified directly by a Controlling Body, the requirements of Rule 26.2.1 do not apply, however all other requirements of Rule 26 will apply as if a Complaint has been made.

26.2.1 Complaint Procedure

- (A) Except where stated otherwise in this Rule 26.2, the process for a person making a complaint is detailed in Table 36.

Table 36- Complaint Procedure

Complaint Procedure	
How to make a complaint	Complete a <i>Notice of Complaint</i> form and attach all supporting evidence to be relied upon. Guidance Note – <i>it is the Complainant’s responsibility to gather all witness statements and relevant evidence and submit this with the Notice of Complaint.</i>
Who to submit the complaint to	If the complaint relates to a School, School Official, Player, Parent / Guardian or supporter , submit to the Controlling Body. If the complaint relates to a League or a League Official , submit to the Executive Officer or Community Football Operations Manager of AFL NSW/ACT. If the <i>Notice of Complaint</i> has been submitted online in the League’s prescribed format, it will be received by the League and the AFL NSW/ACT Community Football Operations team.
Timeline for submitting a complaint	Unless otherwise specified in a particular Rule, a <i>Notice of Complaint</i> is to be submitted by no later than 5.00pm on the third (3rd) calendar day after the occurrence of the alleged breach.

- (B) The Controlling Body may allow for a complaint to be submitted up to 14 days after the alleged breach where there is evidence of exceptional and compelling circumstances as to why it was not practicable for the complaint to have been made by the required day and time.
- (i) The Complainant must make reasonable efforts to ensure the Controlling Body is notified of their intent to submit a *Notice of Complaint* by the third (3rd) calendar day
- (C) Subject to Rule 26.2.1(D), a complaint lodged with the Controlling Body under Rule 26.2.1(A) will be dealt with in accordance with these Rules.
- (D) Where the Controlling Body considers that a complaint relates to a potential breach of [Sections 11, 13 or 14](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the Controlling Body may refer to the complaint to the AFL for management in accordance with [Section 23](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.
- (E) A complaint submitted in accordance with Rule 26.2.1(A) may not be withdrawn by the submitting School or person after it has been submitted unless otherwise approved by the Controlling Body.

26.2.2 Complaint for Vilification or Safeguarding Children

- (A) Where a complaint relates to an alleged Prohibited Conduct breach as defined in [Section 10](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the reporting party is to and submit a *Notice of Complaint – Prohibited Conduct* form, together with any supporting evidence, to the Controlling Body by no later than 30 days after the alleged breach.
- (B) Any Complaint made under Rule 26.2.2 is to be managed by the Controlling Body in accordance with [Section 10](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.
- (i) Any determination by the Controlling Body is to be used as a guide to the School to determine disciplinary process
- (C) Where a complaint relates to an alleged breach of [Section 11](#) of the *Policy Handbook* (Safeguarding Children and Young People), the reporting party is to submit a complaint as soon as practicable, however there is no time limitation on this.

26.3 Assessing a Notice of Complaint

26.3.1 Assessing and Investigating a Complaint

- (A) [Section 23.2](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies in relation to assessing and investigating a complaint.

26.4 Determining a Policy Breach

- (A) [Section 23.3](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies in determining a Policy Breach. .

26.5 Notice of Breach

26.5.1 Issuing a Notice of Breach

[Section 23.4](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies for issuing a Notice of Breach. Any sanction imposed is to be used as a guide for Schools to guide disciplinary process.

26.5.2 Withdrawing a Notice of Breach

- (A) [Section 23.4\(c\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies in relation to the withdrawal of a *Notice of Breach*.

26.5.3 Response to a Notice of Breach and Early Guilty Plea

[Section 23.5](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies in relation to responding to a Notice of Breach and entering an Early Guilty Plea.

26.6 Record of Policy Breach

- (A) Subject to Rule 26.6(B), [Section 27.2](#) of the *Policy Handbook* will apply in relation to recording of Policy Breaches.
- (B) Where a Person is found guilty of or accepts a sanction under a Notice of Breach and that Person is not registered in the Competition Management Platform, the Person must register in the Competition Management Platform within seven (7) days of the sanction being accepted or the Tribunal determination (as applicable) so that Section 26.6.2(A) can be complied with.

27 TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

27.1.1 Not Applicable

27.1.2 Not Applicable

27.1.3 Not Applicable

27.1.4 Not Applicable

27.1.5 Not Applicable

27.1.6 Not Applicable

28 APPEALS

28.1 Appeal Board

28.1.1 Function of Appeal Board

The function of the Appeal Board is to hear and determine appeals as allowed for under [Section 26.1\(a\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* or where allowed for under these Rules.

28.1.2 Appeal Board Panel

[Section 26.2](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.2 Appeal Lodgement

28.2.1 Grounds for Appeal

- (A) Where the right to appeal a decision to the Appeal Board is allowed for under the *Policy Handbook* or these Rules, a Player, Official, School or Controlling Body may appeal to the Appeal Board on one or more of the Appeal Grounds specified in [Section 26.1\(b\)\(i\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

28.2.2 Notice of Appeal

- (A) A *Notice of Appeal* must:
- (i) be in writing via a [Notice of Appeal](#) form;
 - (ii) lodged with the Executive Officer of the Controlling Body within the timeframe specified in Rule 28.2.3;
 - (iii) specify the Appeal Ground(s) relied upon by the Appellant and supporting submissions in respect of the Appeal Ground(s); and
 - (iv) attach confirmation of payment of the appeal fee as per [Rule 28.2.4](#).

28.2.3 Timeframe for Appeal

- (A) The Appellant must lodge a *Notice of Appeal* by:
- (i) Not Applicable
 - (ii) where an appeal relates to a determination other than a Tribunal determination, no later than 5.00pm on the third (3) business day following the relevant determination being made.

28.2.4 Not Applicable

28.2.5 Appeal Board may Dismiss Appeal

- (A) [Section 26.1\(e\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to the right of the Appeal Board to dismiss an Appeal without a hearing.

28.3 Appeal Hearings

28.3.1 Appeal Hearing Date & Place

- (A) Except where the Appeal Board dismisses an appeal under [Rule 28.2.5](#), upon receipt of a valid *Notice of Appeal*, the Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall:
- (i) fix the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal as soon as reasonably practicable; and
 - (ii) advise all parties with an interest in the appeal in writing of those particulars.
- (B) The Appeal Board is empowered to meet when and where it considers necessary, having regard to a fair and efficient resolution of the appeal.
- (C) The Appeal Board, through the Executive Officer can vary the date, time or place of the specified hearing and upon doing so must immediately provide all parties with an interest in the appeal written notice of the variation.

28.3.2 Composition of Appeal Board for Hearing

[Section 26.3\(a\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.3.3 Representation and Costs

- (A) [Section 26.3\(b\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to representation at an appeal.
- (B) [Section 26.3\(i\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies to costs.

28.3.4 Attendance at Appeal Board Hearing

[Section 26.3\(c\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.3.5 General Conduct of Appeal Board Hearing

- (A) Other than provided for in this Rule 28.3.5, [Section 26.3\(d\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.
- (B) The hearing before the Appeal Board shall be:
 - (i) inquisitorial in nature; and
 - (ii) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matters permits.
- (C) In the hearing and determination of an appeal, the Appeal Board shall decide all questions of law and fact and without limitation, shall determine the meaning of any words.

28.3.6 Review of Evidence by Appeal Board

- (A) Other than provided for in this Rule 28.3.6, [Section 26.3\(e\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.
- (B) Not Applicable
- (C) The Appeal Board may require the Parties to provide a written submission to the Appeals Board in accordance with a timeframe determined by the Appeals Board.

28.3.7 Onus and Standard of Proof

[Section 26.3\(f\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.3.8 Adjournments

[Section 26.4\(c\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.4 Appeal Outcomes

28.4.1 Decision of Appeal Board

[Section 26.4\(a\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.4.2 Person to Serve Sanction Until Appeal is Determined

[Section 26.4\(b\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.4.3 Abandoning an Appeal

[Section 26.4\(e\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.4.4 Validity of Appeal and Hearing

[Section 26.4\(f\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

28.4.5 Exhaust Appeal Rights

[Section 26.4\(g\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies.

29 PROSCRIBED CONDUCT

29.1 Contact Intended to Mislead

A Person issued with a *Notice of Charge* or *Notice of Breach*, that Person's representative or any Person acting in concert with a Person issued with a *Notice of Charge* or *Notice of Breach*, must not contact, or procure another Person to contact, a Person who may be required to give evidence before the Tribunal, where that contact is intended to or may otherwise mislead the Tribunal or unfairly affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing.

29.2 Public Comment and Criticism

[Section 27.5](#) of the *Policy Handbook* applies in relation to public comments and criticism.

30 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

30.1 Sanctions for Reportable Offence

(A) Sanctions for a classifiable Reportable Offence are detailed in Appendix A of this rules document

Guidance Note: *In determining appropriate sanctions for a policy breach, the Controlling Body or CMC is to have regard for the nature and severity of each breach. Where there are multiple confirmed breaches arising from an incident, the League or CMC may determine to impose sanctions for each individual breach, or may impose one set of sanctions that apply to the amalgamation of all breaches.*

30.2 Sanctions for Policy Breach

(A) Where a policy breach is established, the Controlling Body, CMC or RMC, as applicable, may impose one or more of disciplinary sanctions detailed in Table 37.

Table 37 – Disciplinary Sanctions Table

Item No	Sanction
(i)	Suspending a Player or Official from participation in one or more Matches, where any such suspension operates in accordance with Rule 30.3 .
(ii)	Suspending a person from holding any post as an Official, administrator or committee person for a defined period.
(iii)	Banning a person from holding any post as an Official, administrator or committee person.
(iv)	Requiring an individual to undertake specific Official duties for a period of time.
(v)	Requiring a written apology, including in any terms or manner specified.
(vi)	Requiring mediation between parties including on specified conditions.
(vii)	Requiring that the individual participate in an education, remedial or counselling program.
(viii)	Appointing a mentor to an individual for a period of time.
(ix)	Imposing an official warning on a School or individual.
(x)	Imposing a fine on a School of up to \$2,500 for a first offence.
(xi)	Imposing a fine on a School of up to \$5,000 for a subsequent offence.
(xii)	Imposing the loss of Competition points upon a Team.
(xiii)	Imposing a suspension on a Team from participation in one or more Matches, including a finals Match.
(xiv)	Deducting School of the Year Award points for the season in which the indiscretion has taken place.
(xv)	Suspending or terminating the School Participation Agreement.
(xvi)	Amending the terms of the School Participation Agreement.
(xvii)	Requiring immediate rectification of a School policy, system or process that led to, or contributed to, the breach.
(xviii)	Requiring a remedial action plan to be submitted by a School.

(xix)	Requiring notification to all School members of the requirements of a Rule or AFL Policy.
(xx)	Imposing a suspended penalty of any of the above.
(xxi)	Imposing any other sanction as determined by the Controlling Body with the prior approval of the RMC.

- (B) A sanction has immediate effect unless otherwise notified by the Controlling Body or CMC, as applicable.
- (C) In determining sanctions, the Controlling Body may also take into account:
- (i) any acknowledgement by a School or individual of a breach prior to the issuing of a Notice of Breach;
 - (ii) the extent of any remorse shown by a School or individual to whom a policy breach applies;
 - (iii) the extent of any corrective actions taken, prior to the issuing of a Notice of Breach, by a School or individual to whom a breach applies;
 - (iv) the number of policy breaches by a School or individual in the past three (3) years.
- (D) Where a breach of policy matter proceeds to the Tribunal, the Tribunal is to determine sanctions in accordance with the [Section 25.4\(a\)\(ii\)\(B\)](#) of the *Policy Handbook*.

Guidance Note: Under [Section 25.4](#) of the *Policy Handbook*, the Tribunal has discretion to impose sanctions for a policy breach “on any terms and conditions” except for Deregistration of a person. In determining such sanctions, the Tribunal may have regard to one or more of the sanctions listed in Rule 30.2.

30.3 Suspension of a Person

- (A) The provisions of this Rule 30.3 apply to the suspension of a person for a Reportable Offence or a policy breach under these Rules.
- (B) A Person suspended by a Controlling Body is, for the period of the suspension, or while the suspension remains unserved, prohibited from playing or participating in a Match conducted by the Controlling Body imposing the suspension and a Match conducted by any other Controlling Body.
- (C) The suspension will apply to the Grade in which the person played, or was officiating in, immediately prior to such suspension or disqualification.
- (D) For the purposes of this Rule 30.3, a ‘Match’ shall mean a competition Match of the same Grade in which the person committed the offence, and shall also include as the one Match, the Matches in all Grades in a particular round for which the person would, but for the suspension be eligible, regardless of whether all Matches in that round are played on the one day or not.

Guidance Note: The effect of this Rule (D) is that a Player cannot count towards his/her suspension matches in more than one grade in each round, even if he/she regularly ‘doubles up’ and/or in circumstances where the Player or Official also participates in another Competition under a Permit.

- (E) Where a suspension is expressed as one or more Matches, the suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition Match following the suspension for which the person would, but for the suspension, be eligible to participate in.
- (F) Where a suspension for a policy breach is expressed as a period of time, the period shall commence from the time the penalty is pronounced and conclude at midnight on the last day of the period, unless the Controlling Body, Tribunal or Appeal Board orders otherwise.
- (G) A suspension will apply to all Matches other than pre-season or off-season Matches unless otherwise determined by the Tribunal in exceptional and compelling circumstances.
- (H) A person suspended may not serve the suspension in:

- (i) any pre-season or off-season Matches but may participate in such Matches unless otherwise determined by the Controlling Body; or
 - (ii) any practice or trial matches but may participate in such Matches unless otherwise determined by the Controlling Body.
- (I) Unless otherwise determined by a Controlling Body, a person suspended may not serve the suspension in any cancelled Matches.
 - (J) A Person suspended may not serve the suspension in a round where the Person's Team in the relevant Grade has a bye
 - (K) A person suspended during a split round may not serve the suspension in that same round in another Grade, including representative football.
 - (L) Where a suspension carries over to a subsequent season, a person who was suspended in a Junior Competition in the previous season and has transitioned to a Higher Age Group or Senior Competition in the subsequent season, must serve the suspension in the Competition most aligned to their age.
 - (M) Not Applicable

Example: A player, who is 14 turning 15 in the season, and was suspended in an under 15's match, moves to a new competition that has under 14s and under 16s, will serve the remaining period of suspension in the under 16s in the new competition (as they are not eligible to play under 14s).

Guidance Note:

A person suspended in a Junior Competition may not serve any part of their suspension in a Senior Competition within the same Competition year in which they were suspended. For example, a person suspended in an Under 17s competition in 2025 is unable to serve their suspension in a Senior Competition until the commencement of the 2026 season.

Example: A player who is suspended at the end of the season in an Under 17s competition but also plays in a Senior First Grade Competition which has not yet concluded is unable to serve any part of their suspension in the subsequent First Grade Competition matches for the remainder of the 2026 season, regardless of whether their Under 17s competition has finished.

- (N) Where a suspension carries over to a subsequent season, a person who was suspended must be registered in that subsequent season prior to any matches or period being counted toward the suspension, unless otherwise determined by the CMC.
- (O) A person, other than a Player suspended for a Reportable Offence, may not communicate with any Football Official on matchday for the duration of their suspension.
- (P) A person, other than a Player suspended for a Reportable Offence, may not enter the playing area or School change rooms at any Match on matchday for the duration of their suspension.
- (Q) A suspended person may not play or perform any football Official duties on matchday for the duration of their suspension.

Guidance Note: For example, a suspended Player cannot perform the role of runner or assistant coach for the duration of the suspension. Equally, a suspended Official, who is also a registered Player, cannot play for the duration of the suspension. However, a suspended person can perform other unofficial duties such as working in the canteen or bar.

- (R) Unless otherwise specified by the relevant Controlling Body in exceptional and compelling circumstances, a suspended Person will not be eligible to coach or perform any football Official duties in representative football if the representative fixture occurs while the Person is serving the suspension.

- (S) A suspended Person will not be eligible to play in a representative match and the representative fixture will not count as part of the suspension for any person who may have been eligible to have played or officiated in a representative Match.
- (T) Where a person is suspended as a result of an offence arising in a representative fixture match, any matches of the suspension that are unable to be served during the representative fixture shall carry over and apply to the Competition in which the person usually participates.
- (U) Where the Controlling Body or Tribunal imposes a sanction on a person that prevents the person from participating in a Match, the person must serve that sanction pending the determination of any appeal.
- (V) [Law 22.4](#) of the *Laws of Australian Football* will apply in conjunction with this Rule 30.3 in relation to all persons suspended by the Controlling Body or Tribunal or Appeal Board.

Part F - MISCELLANEOUS

31 AFL MARKS AND LOGOS

- (A) Schools and the League must not make use of AFL Marks without the prior written consent of the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT which consent may be given or withheld at the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT's discretion (reasonably exercised).
- (B) Schools of the League, Leagues and Associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or Leagues controlled by AFL NSW/ACT must submit details of any proposed use of AFL Marks to AFL NSW/ACT prior to any use thereof including use for advertising or promotional purposes.
- (C) Schools and the League acknowledge that the AFL and AFL NSW/ACT are the owners of the AFL Marks and of the goodwill attaching to the AFL Marks and agree that the AFL Marks must remain vested in the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT and agree not to challenge the validity or ownership of the AFL Marks.
- (D) Schools and the League must not register any trade marks, company or business names, logos, symbols, emblems, designs, or other indicia using the AFL Marks or any component thereof.
- (E) Schools and the League agree not to alter the AFL Marks in any way nor to affix, incorporate or use the AFL Marks, in connection with or as part of another trade mark, distinctive mark, name, brand or thing.
- (F) Schools and the League recognise the great value of the AFL Marks and acknowledge the goodwill attached thereto and that all rights, title and interest therein including the copyright thereto vests in and belongs to AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT.
- (G) Schools and the League agree that they will not at any time do any act, matter or thing intended to or which might otherwise have the effect of interfering with, restricting, limiting or challenging the proprietary rights of AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT in and to the AFL Marks.

32 APPROVED SUPPLIERS

- (A) AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo and identified in [Rule 8.7.2](#) and [Table 2](#).
- (B) The current list of AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers is on the AFL NSW/ACT website and [Table 2](#).

33 BROADCASTING RIGHTS

- (A) In this Rule, the term “broadcast” means any service (by whatever means or process) which is or in the future becomes a content service for the purposes of the Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth) and includes, but is not limited to any internet or online service, any television or radio transmission or any service making available to any member of the public (simultaneously with or consecutively to any other member of the public) text, sounds or images.
- (B) Each School acknowledges and agrees that the League and AFL NSW/ACT has the exclusive right to authorise the public broadcast of all matches played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League.
- (C) Schools shall not participate in any match played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League which is broadcast by any provider of a broadcast other than a provider of a broadcast authorised or approved by the League.
- (D) Where a School is the ground hirer or occupier of a venue at which matches are played in the Competition or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT;
 - (i) it shall use its best endeavours to provide any provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT with access to the necessary facilities required for the provision of the broadcast of matches played in the Competition and shall use its best endeavours to provide assistance to any provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT and its servants and agents as is necessary to ensure that the League or AFL NSW/ACT fulfils, to the

maximum extent possible, its obligations to the provider of a broadcast authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT; and

- (ii) where it is within the School's control, it shall not permit, allow or assist any other person to permit or allow the admission into the venue of any equipment used in the provision of a broadcast including television and video cameras, on a day when any match in the Competition/s or such other Competition is played at the venue, save as permitted by the preceding Rule and save as is otherwise specifically authorised by the League or AFL NSW/ACT.
- (E) Where a School is not the ground hirer or occupier of the venue at which the School plays its home matches in the Competition, or such other Competition/s conducted by the League or AFL NSW/ACT, the School shall use its best endeavours to ensure that the ground hirer or occupier of such venue complies with the provisions of this Rule.

34 SOCIAL MEDIA & MEDIA STATEMENTS

- (A) The following applies to the use of social media and media statements:
- (i) [Section 12](#) of the *Policy Handbook*;
 - (ii) the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
 - (iii) any relevant provisions of these Rules.
- (B) Only persons authorised or approved by the Controlling Body may make public statements regarding League matters.
- (C) For the Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media or social media.
- (D) A School whose Official or Player has made a statement contrary to the provisions of this Rule 34, or in the case of any other person with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the School, may be referred to the Controlling Body which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) dollars and forfeit past or future Match points.

35 RECORDING & USE OF IMAGES & FOOTAGE

- (A) All persons must comply with:
- (i) the terms and conditions of registration; and
 - (ii) any AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT Policy relating to the recording and use of images and footage as published from time to time; and
 - (iii) Any relevant state and national legislation relating to the recording and use of images and footage.

FORM / TEMPLATE LINKS

All forms and templates can be found on the Policies and Forms section of the League website.

Forms must be submitted in line with the proscribed format and conditions, including by a Person as defined within the relevant Rule.

Form / Template	Rule	Link (if applicable)
Application to Play in a Higher Age Group Form	11.2.2	Application to Play Up
Age Dispensation to Play Down Application Form	11.2.3	Application to Play Down
Fixture Change Request	13.2	
Notice of Appeal	28.2.2	Policy Handbook Template
Notice of Complaint	26.2.1	Notice of Complaint
		Policy Handbook Template
Request for Review of Footage	25.2.4	Review of Footage
Uniform Design Approval Form	8.7.2	
Notice of Complaint - Prohibited Conduct	26.2.2	Policy Handbook Template
Working With Children Check Register	6.6.2	

APPENDICES

Number	Appendix Name
Appendix One	AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct
Appendix A	Sanctions (Reduced due to season length)

This *Code of Conduct* is established under Rule 6.3 of the *AFL NSW/ACT Rules* and is intended to ensure Australian Rules football is a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone. All players, officials, parents and supporters are expected to abide by the *Code of Conduct*. Any person who fails to comply with the *Code of Conduct* will be subject of disciplinary proceedings for a breach of policy under Rule 26 of the *AFL NSW/ACT Rules*.

PART A General Code of Conduct Requirements

Any person (including Umpires) involved in Australian Rules community football must:

1. Comply with:
 - (i) this *Code of Conduct*;
 - (ii) the *AFL NSW/ACT Rules* (“the Rules”);
 - (iii) the *AFL Community Football Policy Handbook* (“the *Policy Handbook*”);
 - (iv) the *Laws of Australian Football*; and
 - (v) any other rules or policy formally approved and/or adopted by the AFL from time to time.
2. Comply with:
 - (i) any direction given or procedure imposed by the Controlling Body in accordance with the Rules or the *Policy Handbook*; and
 - (ii) any sanction imposed by the Controlling Body or Tribunal under the Rules or *Policy Handbook*.
3. Comply with all relevant laws including anti-discrimination and child protection laws.
4. Prioritise the safety and welfare of children.
5. Respect the spirit of fair play and behave accordingly, and participate in Competition Matches in accordance with the *Laws of Australian Football* and the *Rules*
6. Be ethical, fair, honest and respectful in all dealings with other people.
7. Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences.
8. Recognise that AFL is an inclusive environment and respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion, and never engage in any act of vilification or discrimination toward anyone.
9. Recognise and respect the significant contribution of volunteers in our game.
10. Respect and use appropriately the facilities and equipment made available for administration, coaching, training, Competition Matches and events, including facilities and equipment provided by the opposing teams.
11. Never ridicule any mistake or loss and understand that everyone makes mistakes.
12. Never engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation or verbal abuse, including sledging and abusive language, toward another person.
13. Never engage in any type of inappropriate physical force or contact either on or off the field and condemn the use of inappropriate physical force or contact in any form by another person.
14. Never make a threat of physical force or contact toward another person or undertake actions that may incite physical force or contact toward another person.
15. Never publicly criticise a participant – raise any concerns you have with your School’s officials.
16. Never engage in conduct that is unethical, unbecoming or likely to cause harm to the reputation of the game of Australian Football, the AFL, the League or the School into disrepute.
17. Never take part in any form of harassment or bullying including via the use of social media.
18. Never make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Schools, Umpires, Officials, the League or the AFL. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, online postings (including social media such as, but not limited to Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs).

PART B Code of Conduct Toward Community Football Umpires

LIKE players and coaches:	✓ Umpires are people and are critical participants in our game.
	✓ Umpires have different levels of skill and experience and do the best they can.
	✓ Umpires will make many good decisions during a Match and they may also make mistakes or decisions that others don't agree with.
UNLIKE players and coaches:	* Umpires, including those under the age of 18, have frequently been subject of unacceptable abuse from people, often adults.

Any person involved in Australian Rules community football must:

1.	Never	Never abuse an Umpire [NOTE: Abuse is defined in the Rule 10.14 as including any language, terminology or behaviour intended to insult, offend, intimidate, threaten or harm an Umpire.]
2.		Never argue with, ridicule or dispute a decision of an Umpire.
3.		Never approach an Umpire unless you are a person authorised to do so under the Rules.
4.		Never make intentional contact with an Umpire on or off the field.
5.		Never publicly criticise an Umpire - raise any concerns you have with your School's officials.

Any person involved in Australian Rules community football should:

6.	Do	Respect the critical and very difficult role that Umpires have in our game.
7.		Support and encourage all Umpires.
8.		Always consider the welfare and safety of our Umpires.

PART C National Community Football Policy Handbook Provisions

In addition to Part A and Part B above, any person involved in Australian Rules community football is bound by the below *Policy Handbook* clauses, as well as any other Policy outlined by the Controlling Body.

Section 9- Member Protection	9.1- Responsibilities of a Person
	9.2- General Code of Conduct
	9.3- Coach Code of Conduct
	9.4- Additional Responsibilities of a School
Section 11- Safeguarding Children and Young People and Appendix 6- Children & Young People Safe Practices	Section 11.3- Responsibilities of a Person
	Section 11.4- Prohibited Conduct
Section 12- Social Media	Section 12.3- Behavioural Standards on Social Media
	Section 12.4- Prohibited Conduct on Social Media

Table 1 – Classifiable Offence Grading Matrix

Conduct	Contact Area	Impact	Base Sanction (Matches)
Intentional	High/Groin/Chest	Severe	2
		High	
		Medium	1
		Low	
	Body	Severe	2
		High	
		Medium	1
		Low	
Careless	High/Groin/Chest	Severe	2
		High	
		Medium	Reprimand
		Low	
	Body	Severe	2
		High	
		Medium	Reprimand
		Low	

A Reprimand is defined as a formal warning issued to a Player for committing a Reportable Offence or Policy Breach

Table 2 – Classifiable Offence (Auditory) Grading Matrix

Conduct	Directed At	Volume	Base Sanction (Matches)
Threatening	Umpire*	Any	2
	Another Person	Loud	2
		Medium or Low	1
High-level abusive / obscene / insulting	Umpire	Loud	2
		Medium or Low	
	Another Person	Loud	2
		Medium or Low	1
Low-level abusive / obscene / insulting	Umpire	Loud	2
		Medium or low	1
	Another person	Loud	1
		Medium or low	Reprimand

Table 3 – Reportable Offence Classification

Classification	Reportable Offence Type
Low-level Offence	Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip
	Careless Contact with an Umpire
	Disputing Decision of an Umpire
	Engaging in a Melee
	Instigator of a Melee
	Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal
	Not Leaving the Playing Surface
	Obscene Gesture
	Pinching
	Prohibited Boots, Jewellery or Equipment
	Scratching
	Shaking, Climbing or Interfering with Goal or Behind Post
	Spitting at Another Player
	Staging
	Time Wasting
	Tripping
	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player
	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire
	Wrestling
	Any other act of low-level misconduct which is not a classifiable or direct tribunal offence
Classifiable Offence	Charging
	Forceful front-on contact
	Headbutt or Contact Using Head
	Kicking
	Kneeing
	Rough Conduct
	Striking
	Tripping
	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Eye Region
	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face
Classifiable Offence (Auditory)	Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language
	Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language towards or in relation to an Umpire
Direct Tribunal Offences	Attempting to Strike an Umpire

	Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire
	Eye Gouging
	Intentional Contact with an Umpire
	Spitting on Another Person
	Stomping
	Striking an Umpire
	Serious Misconduct

Table 4 – Impact Assessment Table

Matters for Consideration		Criteria
Degree of Actual Impact	Low	<p>Player: Minimal or no impact on the Match - the Player continued to play the majority of the Match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.</p> <p>Person (other than Player): Person continued in their relevant capacity in relation to the Match for the majority of the Match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.</p>
	Medium	<p>Player: 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 and/or may miss one Match.</p> <p>Person (other than Player): Clearly some impact on the Person, and/or the Person was prevented from continuing in their official capacity in relation to the Match for a lengthy period of time, and/or some possible lower level ongoing treatment(s) required.</p>
	High	<p>Player: Major impact on the Player, and/or the Player was unable to participate in the remainder of the Match, and/or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and/or may miss some Matches.</p> <p>Person (other than Player): Major impact on the Person, and/or the Person was unable to continue in their official capacity in relation to the Match for the remainder of the Match, and/or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and/or likely to miss some Matches.</p>
	Severe	<p>Person (including Player): Major impact and serious injury to the Person, and/or likely to miss a significant number of Matches.</p>
Force & Injury		<p>The extent of force and, in particular, any injury sustained by the Person who was offended against (as set out in the relevant Medical Report).</p> <p>The absence of injury does not preclude the classification of Impact as Low, Medium, High or Severe.</p>
Potential to Cause Injury		<p>Low Impact is the minimum impact required for a Classifiable Offence which requires more than just negligible impact. However, the potential to cause injury may result in an upgrade to the level of Impact, including from negligible to a higher level of Impact.</p> <p>Strong consideration is to be given to the potential to cause injury, particularly in relation to the following conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. intentional strikes, such as those with a swinging clenched fist, raised forearm or elbow;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. high bumps, particularly with significant head contact and/or momentum; iii. any head-high contact with a Player who has their head over the ball, particularly when contact is made from an opponent approaching from a front-on position; iv. forceful round arm swings that make head-high contact to a Player in a marking contest, ruck contest or when tackling; v. any contact that occurs when the victim Person should not reasonably be expecting or is not reasonably prepared for contact (i.e. contact off the ball); vi. any dangerous tackle
Distance From Ball	Strong consideration is to be given to the distance the incident occurs from the ball and the expectation of contact of the victim Person (especially in the case of intentional strikes)
Additional Impact	<p>Consideration is to be given not only to the impact between the offending Person and the victim Person, but also any other impact to the victim Person as a result of that impact.</p> <p>Guidance Note: <i>For example, where a victim Person as a result of the impact from an offending Person is pushed into the path of a fast-moving third Person, the impact to the victim Person may be classified as High or Severe Impact, even though the level of impact between the victim Person and offending Person was only Low or Medium Impact.</i></p>
Body Language	The body language of the offending Person in terms of flexing, turning, raising or positioning the body to either increase or reduce the force of impact

Table 5 – Additional Considerations Table

Offence Type	Additional Considerations	
Striking / Kicking	Interpretation	<p>Striking and kicking are interpreted in accordance with their ordinary meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a strike would usually be by hand, arm or elbow and would generally not apply to other contact using the body. ii. a kick is generally applied to contact by foot or leg.
	Negligible Impact	<p>A strike or kick requires more than negligible impact to be a Classifiable Offence.</p> <p>Where a strike or kick does not have more than negligible impact, it is open to a Controlling Body to charge a Person with Striking or Kicking under Table 5 (Low-level Offences) where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, the intention of the Person was to commit a Reportable Offence. Where no contact is made, a Controlling Body may charge a Person with an Attempt to Strike or Kick, which are both Low-level Offences.</p>

Striking	Intent	Notwithstanding any other part of these Rules or the <i>Policy Handbook</i> , the fact that an act of striking occurred behind the play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or elbow is usually consistent with the strike being intentional. Further, where a Player intends to forcefully push or fend an opposition Player off the ball (including to gain separation for the purpose of contesting the ball) and the effect is that the Player commits the Reportable Offence of Striking, the strike will usually be graded as Intentional.
	Impact	Notwithstanding any other part of these Rules or the <i>Policy Handbook</i> , any Careless or Intentional strike which is of an inherently dangerous kind and/or where there is a potential to cause an injury (such as a strike with a raised elbow or forearm) will usually not be classified as Low Impact even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low. Such strikes will usually be classified at a higher level commensurate with the nature and extent of the risk of injury involved. Strong consideration will also be given to the distance the incident occurs from the ball and the expectation of contact of the victim Player.
Misconduct	Interpretation	Misconduct has a wide meaning and generally is any conduct which would be reasonably regarded as unacceptable or unsportsmanlike or where it has the effect or potential to prejudice the reputation of any Person, Club or Controlling Body or to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute.
	Serious Misconduct	Acts of Serious Misconduct will be referred directly to the Tribunal. Guidance Note: <i>Generally, for conduct to constitute Serious Misconduct, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO will consider that a sanction of at least 4 Matches is appropriate as a sanction for that conduct.</i>
	Sanctions	Any other act of Misconduct will be a Low-level Offence unless the Controlling Body determines that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the Low-level Offence sanction is inappropriate; and ii. the act of Misconduct is not Serious Misconduct, <p>In this circumstance the Controlling Body may impose a sanction of either a 2 Match or 3 Match suspension, with the relevant Person entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction applicable in Table 2 (Classification Table) with an Early Guilty Plea (i.e. a 2 Match suspension reduced to a 1 Match suspension with an Early Guilty Plea).</p>

<p>Forceful Front-on Contact</p>	<p>Assessment of</p>	<p>Bumping or making contact that is at least Low Impact to an opponent from front-on when that opponent has their head down over the ball is a Reportable Offence.</p> <p>Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed Careless except where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the Player was contesting the ball and it was reasonable for the Player to contest the ball in that way; or ii. the contact was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Player which could not reasonably be foreseen, <p>in which case such conduct will not constitute a Reportable Offence.</p> <p>A Player may bump another Player's body from side-on but any contact forward of side-on will be deemed to be front-on.</p> <p>A Player with their head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purposes of this provision.</p>
<p>Rough Conduct</p>	<p>Interpretation</p>	<p>Rough Conduct is interpreted widely and may be any contact which is unreasonable in the circumstances.</p> <p>It is a Reportable Offence for a Person to intentionally or carelessly engage in Rough Conduct against another Person which is unreasonable in the circumstances.</p> <p>Without limiting the wide interpretation of Rough Conduct, regard will be had to the following recognised forms of Rough Conduct.</p>
	<p>High Bumps</p>	<p>A Person will be guilty of Rough Conduct where, in the bumping of another Person (whether reasonably or unreasonably), the Person causes contact that is at least Low Impact to be made with any part of his or her body to that Person's head or neck.</p> <p>Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, except where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the Person was contesting the ball and it was reasonable for the Person to contest the ball in that way; or ii. the contact to the other Person's head or neck was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Person which could not be reasonably foreseen, <p>in which case such conduct will not constitute a Reportable Offence.</p> <p>The purpose of this provision is to, as far as practicable, minimise the risk of head injuries to Persons and this purpose must be front of mind for all Persons and will guide the application of the provision.</p> <p>For the purposes of this provision, head clashes that occur when a Person has elected to bump are circumstances that can reasonably be foreseen.</p> <p>Players will ordinarily be liable if they elect to bump if not contesting the ball.</p>

	Bump to the Body	<p>Where a bump is not classified as a “high bump”, a Person may still be guilty of Rough Conduct if the Person’s conduct was unreasonable in the circumstances.</p> <p>In determining whether a bump was unreasonable in the circumstances the following factors will be considered (without limitation):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. whether the degree of force applied by the Person bumping was excessive for the circumstances; ii. whether the Person being bumped was in a vulnerable position; and iii. whether the Person could reasonably expect the contact having regard to the Person’s involvement in play or ability to influence the contest.
	Dangerous Tackles	<p>The application of a tackle may be considered Rough Conduct where the tackle is unreasonable in the circumstances.</p> <p>In determining whether the application of a tackle constitutes a Reportable Offence and whether the tackle is Careless or Intentional, the following factors will be considered (without limitation):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. whether the tackle consists of more than one action, regardless of whether the Person being tackled is in possession of the ball; ii. whether the tackle is of an inherently dangerous kind, such as a spear tackle or a tackle where a Player is lifted off the ground; iii. whether the Person being tackled is in a vulnerable position (for example, arm(s) pinned) with little opportunity to protect themselves; or iv. whether the Person being tackled is slung, driven or rotated into the ground with excessive force (for example, a run down tackle where the tackled player is driven into the ground with excessive force).
	Contact Below the Knees	<p>Under the Laws of the Game, making contact with an opponent below the knees is prohibited.</p> <p>A Person who keeps their feet is vulnerable to serious injury from other Persons who lunge, dive or slide toward them and make contact below the knees.</p> <p>This provision aims to protect such Persons from the risk of foreseeable injury.</p> <p>A Person may be guilty of Rough Conduct if the Person makes contact below the knees of another Person and does so in a manner which is unreasonable in the circumstances.</p>

		<p>It is not a defence that the Person who made contact below the knees was contesting the ball or was first to the ball.</p> <p>The primary responsibility of Persons with respect to contact below the knees is to avoid the risk of foreseeable injury.</p> <p>In determining whether contact below the knees is unreasonable in the circumstances, the following factors will be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the degree of momentum and/or force involved in the contact; ii. whether the Person causes contact below the knees by sliding with their foot, feet, knee or knees in front of them; iii. whether the other Person was in a position that was vulnerable to contact below the knees (for example, standing over the ball or approaching from the opposite direction); and iv. whether the Person making contact had any realistic alternative ways of approaching the contest or situation. <p>Where contact is not made below the knees of the other Person but to another part of that Person's body, a Person may still be guilty under the general definition of Rough Conduct for making unreasonable contact by sliding or dropping in to another Person with their knees or feet first</p>
	Smotherers	Where a Player elects to leave the ground in an attempt to smother the football, any reasonably foreseeable high contact with an opponent that is at least Low Impact will be deemed to be Careless at a minimum, unless the Player has taken all reasonable steps to avoid that high contact and/or minimise the force of that high contact (for example, by adopting a body position that minimises the force of the high contact).
Contact With an Umpire	Intentional Contact	Contact with an Umpire that is aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful will be deemed intentional and the Person will be referred directly to the Tribunal. In determining the sanction for Intentional Contact with an Umpire, the Tribunal must have regard to the number of elements of the offence (aggressive, forceful, demonstrative and/or disrespectful) which are established.
	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact	Where contact with an Umpire is not aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful but could otherwise be regarded as intentional, it will be classified as Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire which is a Low-level Offence.

	Careless Contact	<p>A charge of Careless Contact with an Umpire is a Low-level Offence. In determining whether the contact was careless, the following factors will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. whether contact occurs at a centre bounce or ball up; ii. whether the Person has set up behind the Umpire; iii. whether the Person has taken a path that intersects the Umpire's exit line from a stoppage; iv. the force of the contact; v. whether the Umpire's decision making is impeded; vi. whether the Umpire goes to ground as a result of the contact; vii. any mitigating factors (for example, effort to avoid contact, offline bounce or throw, pushed by opponent into Umpire's path). <p>A Player may also be charged with the offence of Careless Contact with an Umpire by pushing or holding another Person into an Umpire or their direct path.</p>
Melee	Engaging in a Melee	<p>A Melee is defined as an incident involving three or more Persons who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another and which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the Controlling Body.</p> <p>In determining if a Person's conduct constitutes Engaging in a Melee, the following factors will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the duration the Person is involved in the Melee; ii. the vigour applied by the Person; iii. whether the Melee occurs at a break in play, particularly at quarter breaks and half time; iv. whether the Person contributed to an escalation of the Melee; and v. the role of the Person (for example, Player or Football Official). <p>Where a Person's conduct results in retaliatory action which leads to a melee, that Person's conduct may constitute a Reportable Offence of Instigator of a Melee.</p> <p>The Reportable Offence of Instigator of Melee is separate to the Reportable Offence of Engaging in a Melee and a Person may be found guilty of both Reportable Offences.</p>

Staging	Interpretation	<p>Staging includes excessive exaggeration of contact in an unsportsmanlike manner.</p> <p>In determining whether a Person's conduct constitutes the Reportable Offence of Staging, the following factors will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. whether the conduct affected, or was likely to affect, the Umpire decision-making; ii. whether the conduct incited a melee; and/or iii. whether the conduct was in the spirit of the game.
Tripping	Interpretation	<p>Tripping is interpreted in accordance with its ordinary meaning. In determining whether a Person's conduct constitutes the Reportable Offence of Tripping, the following factors will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. how fast the opponent was moving; ii. whether the trip was by hand or by foot/leg; and iii. whether contact was made with a swinging motion
	Extent of Contact	<p>To constitute a Classifiable Offence, Tripping requires more than negligible impact. Where a trip does not have more than negligible impact, it is still open to the Controlling Body or Tribunal to charge a Person with Tripping under Table 5 where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, a Reportable Offence was committed. Where no contact or minor contact is made, the Panel can charge a Person with an Attempt to Trip, which is a Low-level Offence</p>

