



**StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup Competition  
Handbook**

**2026**

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

AFL means the Australian Football League ACN 004 155 211.

AFL Community Concussion Guidelines means the concussion guidelines published by the AFL from time to time, which are currently published via the following link:

<https://play.afl/clubhelp/resources/afl-community-concussion-guidelines#article-0>.

AFL Queensland means AFL Queensland Limited ACN 090 629 342.

AFL Queensland Rules means the *AFL Queensland Community Competition Rules & Procedures*.

AFLQ Website means <https://play.afl/queensland>.

Australian Football means the game played pursuant to the Laws of the Game.

Best on Ground refers to the second round for the Primary Division teams within the Competition.

Club means an Australian Football club that has entered into a licence agreement with AFL Queensland.

Coach means a person holding Australian Football coaching responsibilities at a School.

Community Football means the Australian Football competitions between Clubs, administered by AFL Queensland.

Competition means the StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup competition.

Competition Management means the persons listed at clause 2.2 and any AFL employee delegated by AFL Queensland in their place.

Compliance Lead means the full-time AFL staff member appointed by AFL Queensland to act as 'Compliance Lead' (or equivalent role) for the organisation.

Direct Tribunal Offence means a Reportable Offence specified in section 4 of Appendix One of the National Handbook.

Division refers to the categories within the Competition, determined by school year and gender.

Extended Bench refers to a team having more players on the bench (the interchange) than permitted pursuant to Appendix One.

Gala Day refers to the first round of the Competition (note, referred to as 'Rising Star' for Primary Divisions), during which teams from each Division, representing schools within a designated Region, compete against each other. Teams may play multiple matches during this round.

Hall of Fame means the final round of the Competition for the Primary Division teams.

Handbook means this StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup Competition Handbook 2026.

Incident means any event that resulted in an injury to a Person (or had the potential to result in an injury to a Person), that was not reported by the umpire and which meets the School's threshold to file an Incident Report.

Incident Report refers to the form that Schools are required to complete under their employment obligations when witness to any Incident.

Intentional Classifiable Offence means a Reportable Offence specified in Table 1 of Appendix One of the National Handbook, which is graded as 'Intentional' conduct pursuant to Appendix One, clause 3(a) of the National Handbook.

Laws of the Game means the *Laws of Australian Football* as administered and controlled by the AFL and as set out at <https://www.afl.com.au/about-afl/laws-of-the-game>.

Match Manager means the person or persons appointed by Competition Management to oversee a match and/or venue while the Competition is being played.

National Handbook means the *National Community Football Policy Handbook* published by the AFL and set out at <https://play.afl/clubhelp/resources/national-community-football-policy-handbook>.

North Queensland Championships refers to the round of Competition between the most successful teams in each Division in the NQ Regions.

Notice of Report means the electronic form provided by the Match Manager to an umpire on request, which is to detail an identified Reportable Offence.

NQ Regions means collectively, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Capricornia.

Official means an umpire, Coach, trainer, Team Manager, School Co-ordinator, water carrier, interchange steward, timekeeper, scoreboard attendant, runner or any other match day official appointed by a School.

Person means a School, Official, Player, School staff member, parent or guardian of a Player, spectator of a match or any other person reasonably connected to the Competition.

Play.AFL means the AFL's online coaching platform which incorporates an accreditation portal for Coaches and a library of online training and other resources for all Coaches.

Player means any student who is nominated by their enrolled School to play in the Competition.

PlayHQ means the AFL's online competition management system, currently operated by PlayHQ, designed to assist with the management of competitions and membership data.

Primary Divisions refers to the playing groups identified within primary schools.

Quarter Finals means the Competition round for the Secondary Divisions, as described at clause 9.6 of this Handbook.

Region means one of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Capricornia, Darling Downs, Wide Bay, the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Bayside, Ipswich, Gold Coast or Northern Rivers.

Regional Finals means the Competition round for the Secondary Divisions, as described at clause 9.4 of this Handbook.

Reportable Offence means any reportable offence identified in the Laws of the Game.

Rising Star means the first round of Competition for the Primary Division teams, run as Gala Days. Any reference to Gala Days that is applicable to Primary Divisions within this Handbook may be taken as a reference to the 'Rising Star' round for Primary Divisions.

School means any school which nominates to play in this Competition.

School Co-ordinator means the School staff member appointed to co-ordinate all their nominated teams within the Competition and liaise with AFL Queensland.

Season means the duration of the Competition in each calendar year.

Secondary Divisions means the playing groups identified within secondary schools.

Seeded Teams means teams which have qualified to compete in the Competition via the 'AFLQ Schools of Excellence competition', 'AIC Competition' or 'CaSSSA Competition'.

Semi Finals means the Competition round for the Secondary Divisions, as described at clause 9.7 of this Handbook.

SEQ Regions means collectively, Darling Downs, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Logan-Ipswich, Gold Coast and Northern Rivers.

SEQ Finals means the Competition round for the Secondary Divisions, as described at clause 9.5 of this Handbook.

Team Manager means the School staff member appointed to a specific team within a Division for their School.

Wild Card Playoffs means the Competition round for the Secondary Divisions, as described at clause 9.3 of this Handbook.

## 2. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 Purpose of Competition Management

The Competition Management team is appointed by AFL Queensland for the purpose of facilitating the Competition.

The persons appointed are full-time staff members of the AFL that work specifically in the AFL Queensland school space.

### 2.2 Competition Management

Chanel Fletcher  
Schools Lead - QLD  
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## 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

### 3.1 Competition Management

Competition Management are responsible for:

- (a) The general administration of the Competition, including:
  - (i) distribution of information to Schools;

- (ii) allocating a Match Manager(s) to each venue where a match is being played pursuant to this Handbook;
  - (iii) determining venue availability from Clubs and Schools;
  - (iv) liaising with School Co-Ordinators, Competition Management, other AFL staff, umpires and any other persons involved in the administration of the Competition; and
  - (v) addressing complaints generally and as per this Handbook.
- (b) Promotion of the Competition.
  - (c) Distributing nomination information for the Competition.
  - (d) Acceptance of nominations from Schools.
  - (e) Ascertaining draw requirements.
  - (f) Constructing the Competition draws.
  - (g) Enforcement of Competition rules, including initiation of any investigation and/or disciplinary process outlined in this Handbook.
  - (h) Briefing Match Managers on their responsibilities.
  - (i) Contacting the relevant School if any Incident is reported to confirm report is accurate (and to discuss any further actions required).

### 3.2 Schools

- (a) Prior to each round of Competition, the Team Manager or other School staff member must:
  - (i) With the exception of Gala Days, ensure all Players are registered via PlayHQ (unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to clause 4.3(b)).
 

*Note: If a Player is also registered via PlayHQ for Community Football, that same profile is to be used.*
  - (ii) Ensure all Coaches are accredited and registered via Play.AFL (unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to clause 4.3(b)).
  - (iii) Ensure that all Players are nominated in the correct Division.
  - (iv) If a school intends to forfeit or withdraw from any match, notify Competition Management at least seven (7) days before the scheduled commencement of the match.

*Note: Failure to comply with this deadline will result in a monetary fine up to \$500.*

- (v) Complete a StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup team sheet (will be provided by AFL Queensland), listing the Player's full name, year level, date of birth and guernsey number when PlayHQ isn't in use.

*Note: if there are multiple matches being played in one day, Players and Officials listed on the team sheet must be the same for the whole day. However, roles may be updated throughout the day.*

- (vi) Ensure they travel to each match with a first-aid kit.
- (b) During each round of Competition, the Team Manager or other school staff member must:
- (i) Ensure all teams are accompanied by a staff member who is responsible for that team.
  - (ii) Ensure all Players are correctly attired (i.e. AFL playing shorts, socks and guernseys), and officials (runners, and goal umpires).
- Note: Upon request, AFL Queensland may loan playing uniforms at the cost of cleaning. Runners & goal umpires attire will be available from the Match Manager on the day.*
- (iii) Ensure Coaches, Officials and Players comply with this Handbook.
  - (iv) Ensure any Incidents are reported and cross-check the details of that report with Competition Management if requested.
- (c) With respect to Persons associated with their School, the School must ensure Persons comply with sanctions imposed by AFL Queensland and cooperate with any investigation (including the provision of a statement). A failure to do so may result in AFL Queensland determining the School is ineligible to compete in the Competition.
- (d) Schools must ensure their Players and Officials comply with the AFL Community Concussion Guidelines, including the return to play protocols.

### 3.3 Match Manager

Match Managers must:

- (a) Wear an AFL Queensland polo for easy recognition.
- (b) Prior to each match, confirm:

- (i) umpires' flags, whistles, scoresheets and match results sheets are taken to the venue;
  - (ii) two footballs are available (yellow for games post 4:00pm);
  - (iii) a stretcher is available with Medical/Sports First Aid Officer or host club;
  - (iv) a first aid kit is available.
  - (v) the scoreboard is operational;
  - (vi) a timekeeper is in place with the siren and there is a backup option available (such as a whistle); and
  - (vii) Officials are prepared.
- (c) During each match, ensure:
- (i) The quarters and breaks are run on time.
  - (ii) Scores are monitored and communicated (for example, Match Manager and goal umpires should meet at the end of each quarter to confirm scoring).
- (d) Following the match:
- (i) Compile match results sheets.
  - (ii) Meet with umpires and accept any Notices of Report.
  - (iii) Inform Competition Management immediately if there is any Notice of Report.
  - (iv) Complete and provide any Incident Report to Competition Management.
  - (v) Complete any task required by Competition Management.

## 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

### 4.1 Nominations

- (a) Each School wishing to participate in the Competition must apply by lodging the online form available at [AFLQ Schools Cup](https://play.afl/queensland/schools/aflq-schools-cup) landing page or direct link. <https://play.afl/queensland/schools/aflq-schools-cup>.
- (b) Nominations will open by November of each year and will close when the Competition is at capacity.
- (c) Schools must participate in the Region which is associated with their local government area (**LGA**).

- (d) If a School wishes to play outside of their LGA, they must obtain approval from Competition Management.

## 4.2 School of Enrolment

- (a) In order for a School to nominate a Player, that Player must be enrolled with their School, with the exception of (b) below.

*Note: Schools cannot nominate any Player from any School which it considers a “Feeder School”.*

- (b) With written consent from Competition Management, a School may nominate a Player enrolled in distance education.

- (c) In the event a Player changes their school of enrolment during the Competition, they are no longer eligible to play for their former School.

*Note: For clarity, a Player may play for their new school, provided their new School nominates the Player accordingly.*

## 4.3 Requirement to register on competition management platforms

- (a) Schools must register:

- (i) Team Managers, Players and Coaches on the PlayHQ platform, if they succeed beyond Gala Days within the Competition; and
- (ii) Coaches on the Play.AFL platform (from the start of the finals of the Competition).

- (b) If any Person noted at (a) does not wish to be registered via PlayHQ/Play.AFL, the School must make a written request, on behalf of that Person, to Competition Management which must include reasons for the request. Approval is at Competition Management’s discretion.

## 4.4 Divisions

The table at Appendix One outlines all Divisions within the Competition and the criteria to participate in each Division (i.e. gender and school year).

## 4.5 Female participation (Junior Divisions)

- (a) Co-educational primary schools must use their best endeavours to enter a team into the “Junior Female” Division.

*Note: A female Player cannot play in the Junior Mixed Division if they have played in the Junior Female Division on the same day.*

*Note 2: Any application must be executed by the Player's parent/guardian and Head of Sport or Principal for the relevant School. The application must be granted one (1) week prior to the commencement of the Season.*

#### 4.6 Multiple teams

Schools are encouraged to enter multiple teams within a single Division. Should they do so, teams will be referenced alphabetically (A Team, B Team etc) by standard.

#### 4.7 Ineligible players

(a) For the purpose of this clause, an Ineligible Player is:

- (i) With respect to the rounds beyond Gala Days, a Player who is not registered on PlayHQ (unless they have been granted an exemption pursuant to clause 4.3(b) of this Handbook).
- (ii) A Player who is not listed on the team sheet (see clause 3.2(a)(v) of this Handbook).
- (iii) A Player who is serving a suspension pursuant to this Handbook.
- (iv) A Player who is playing contrary to the AFL Community Concussion Guidelines.
- (v) A Player enrolled in the incorrect school year for the specified Division, unless playing up pursuant to clause 4.8 of this Handbook.
- (vi) A Player playing as part of an Extended Bench, without prior approval from Competition Management.
- (vii) A Player enrolled with an alternate school to the one they are playing for.
- (viii) A player currently serving a suspension in Community Football for:
  - A. an Intentional Classifiable Offence;
  - B. any other Reportable Offence, which has resulted in a sanction of at least three (3) matches; or
  - C. any breach of Part C of the National Handbook, which has resulted in a sanction of at least three (3) matches.

(b) Playing an Ineligible Player will result in:

- (i) the loss of any Competition points;
- (ii) the team being prevented from progressing to the next stage of the Competition; and/or

- (iii) the team being ineligible to win the StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup State Final.

#### 4.8 Playing up

- (a) Players are permitted to play up one (1) Division higher for their gender (or to a “Mixed Division”), provided they:
  - (i) have written consent from their parent/guardian and the Head of Sport/Principal; and
  - (ii) are not displacing any Player who is age eligible and available to play in that Division.
- (b) Clause 4.8(a) does not apply for Players requesting to play up from a Primary Division to a Secondary Division – there is no circumstance where this will be permitted.
- (c) Players are not permitted to play across multiple Divisions in one day.

## 5. INSURANCE

### **Public Liability and Accident Insurance**

**Students participate in the AFL Queensland Schools Cup competition at their own risk. They are responsible for their own personal injury/accident insurance.**

The AFL holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of \$20,000,000 per occurrence to cover its legal liabilities in respect of third-party personal injury or property damage. The AFL expects each school participating in Australian Football programs to procure and maintain public liability insurance to sufficiently cover its own legal liabilities. At its own discretion, each school or individual may want to consider purchasing personal accident insurance providing cover for non-Medicare medical expenses arising from this Australian Football program, or any other school program.

## 6. COMPETITION RULES

### 6.1 Application of other rules and policies to this Handbook

- (a) The Laws of the Game apply to all Divisions unless modified pursuant to this Handbook. In the event of any discrepancy between the Laws of the Game and this Handbook, this Handbook will prevail
- (b) The National Handbook and AFL Queensland Rules do not apply to this Competition unless explicitly stipulated within this Handbook.
- (c) This competition has adopted the seven (7) rule changes for the 2026 season as per the Laws of Australian Rules Football. Refer to Appendix Four for these adjustments.

### 6.2 General match guidelines

Refer to the table at Appendix One for general match guidelines (game times, football sizes, field size etc).

### 6.3 Cards

- (a) Yellow cards
  - (i) Unless clause 6.3(b) or (c) applies, a yellow card is issued by a field umpire if a Player or Official:
    - A. breaches the Laws of the Game (including any Reportable Offence pursuant to Law 22.2.2);
    - B. gives away a free kick in a deliberate, intentional, reckless or undisciplined manner; or
    - C. behaves in a manner that the umpire believes is detrimental to the game.
  - (ii) A yellow card requires the Player/Official to remove themselves from the field/their official role for fifteen (15) minutes.
  - (iii) Where a field umpire identifies that a yellow card is to be issued, they must show the yellow card to the offending Player/Official, point to the interchange area, escort the Player/Official all the way to the interchange area and show the yellow card to the Team Managers and Match Manager.

(iv) The Match Manager will:

- A. acknowledge the issuing of the yellow card;
- B. ensure that the “send off” period of elapsed time is fifteen (15) minutes (excluding breaks between quarters); and
- C. make note of the Player’s number, time of send-off and time of return to the ground.

(v) During a yellow carded Player/Official’s send off period, that Player:

- A. cannot enter the field of play during breaks between quarters;
- B. cannot be replaced by any other Player/Official;
- C. must remain outside of the boundary line; and
- D. in order to return to the field of play, must not cross the line through the interchange area until advised that their send off period has expired.

(vi) Where a Yellow carded Player or their replacement goes back on the field before the fifteen (15) minute period has expired, a count of Players may be called. If that count results in the Yellow carded Player’s team having the incorrect number on the field/, then that team may be penalised by way of:

- A. reversal of match result; or
- B. annulment of score or part thereof.

(b) Red cards

(i) A red card is to be issued where a Player/Official has:

- A. breached law 22.2.2 of the Laws of the Game; and
- B. the umpire is of the reasonable opinion the conduct would be more likely than not to result in a sanction of four (4) or more matches.

(ii) A red card requires:

- A. the Player/Official to remove themselves from the field/their official role for the remainder of the match, including breaks between quarters (for clarity, unless a suspension ensues, they may participate in matches following); and
- B. they may not be replaced for a period of fifteen (15) minutes. However, if the red carded Official is a runner, they cannot be replaced for the entirety of the match.

(iii) Where a field umpire identifies that a red card is to be issued, they must show the red card to the offending Player/Official, point to the interchange area, escort the Player/Official all the way to the interchange area and show the red card to the Team Managers and Match Manager.

(iv) The Match Manager will:

A. acknowledge the issuing of the red card;

B. ensure that the “send off” period of elapsed time is fifteen (15) minutes (excluding breaks between quarters) before the Player/Official can be replaced (unless the red carded Official was a runner, runners cannot be replaced); and

C. make note of the Player’s number, time of send-off and time a Player/Official may replace them.

(v) If a Coach receives a red card, they must vacate the team bench area immediately and spend the remainder of the match in their designated change room or they may leave the venue (note, an exception may be made if there are applicable school rules requiring the Coach to remain supervising the match).

(vi) Any red carded Player/Official must be issued a Notice of Report at the conclusion of the match.

(c) White cards

(i) Where an umpire deems a Coach’s conduct is unacceptable but has not met the threshold for a red card to be issued, that Coach may be issued with a white card.

(ii) If a Coach engages in conduct which would meet the threshold for a third white card to be issued in a single match, that coach will be issued a red card and the process at clause 6.3(b) will be followed.

## 6.4 Modified Laws of the Game

(a) Primary Divisions

The following modified rules will apply for the Primary Divisions only:

(i) A mark is awarded when a Player catches the ball directly from another Player’s kick that has travelled at least 10 metres.

(ii) A Player is only permitted to bounce the ball once.

- (iii) If the ball moves out of bounds from a kick or handball, or if a Player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is awarded to the nearest opponent.
- (iv) Kicking off the ground is not permitted, unless accidental.
- (v) At the umpire's discretion, a penalty can be imposed if they feel a Player has been hindered in any way. Such penalty will be:
  - A. 25 metres for the Primary Female and Primary Mixed Divisions.
- (vi) Players can be ordered to remove themselves from the field at the umpire's discretion.

(b) 10 goal rule – all Divisions

If one team is leading by 10 goals (60 points) or more, at any point during the match, the following will apply to all Divisions:

- (i) The Coach of the leading team will use measures to equalise the on-field competitive balance, including but not limited to team position experimentation and player rotation; and
- (ii) Following each goal, the field umpire will enforce the following measures:
  - A. The trailing team will restart play within the centre circle.
  - B. All Players must be set up in their field positions until possession has been disposed of.
  - C. If the margin is reduced below 10 goals (60 points) following a goal at any stage, the ball will revert to a ball up to restart play.
- (iii) If the winning margin has exceeded 10 goals (60 points) at the conclusion of the match, the margin will be adjusted as if it was 60 points using the losing team's score as the base score.

## 6.5 Interchange

- (a) The interchange area for this Competition will be the marked area parallel to the centre of the field, between the positioned coaches' boxes.
- (b) A Player cannot enter the field as a replacement until the Player they are replacing has left the field through the marked interchange area.
- (c) A Player who does not leave the playing ground through the approved areas shall not be permitted to take further part in the match unless they were taken from the playing ground for medical reasons (in which case they must take at least one quarter off).

## 6.6 Playing uniforms

- (a) All Players must wear matching AFL guernseys, shorts and socks. Playing shorts are not to have pockets of any kind.
- (b) If the School is unable to arrange for specific AFL playing uniforms, they must contact Competition Management who can approve alternative uniforms at their discretion.

## 6.7 Forfeits

- (a) If a team wishes to forfeit, their School must notify Competition Management as soon as possible.
- (b) If the School gives notice of a forfeit within seven (7) days of the relevant team's scheduled match, that School will be fined \$500.00 to cover administrative costs.

*Note: If a forfeit is necessary due to reasons or conditions beyond a School's control (extreme weather conditions, traffic, etc.), this will be taken into consideration before a fine is issued.*

- (c) Where a team forfeits, the opposing team shall progress through to the next stage of the Competition (if progression is an option).

## 6.8 Drawn match

- (a) A draw may occur for Gala Days.
- (b) In the event of a draw during the knockout stages of the Competition (i.e. all stages beyond Gala Days):
  - (i) teams will play three (3) minutes each way with a straight swap over; and
  - (ii) Should there be a further draw, this process will be repeated until there is a winner.

## 6.9 Wet weather

- (a) In the event of wet/inclement weather causing a venue to close, AFL Queensland will use reasonable endeavours to source an alternative venue.
- (b) With respect to clause 6.9(a), if AFL Queensland is unable to source an alternative venue for:
  - (i) The StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup State Final:
    - A. The winner (State Championship) for each Division will be awarded to the team who won their preliminary final by the greatest score margin.

B. If the preliminary final was also unable to be played, the winner will be determined by the School's 'Loyalty' to the Competition, at the discretion of AFL Queensland.

(ii) Any other round - the match will be rescheduled.

## 7. UMPIRES AND OFFICIALS

### 7.1 Umpire appointments

(a) Primary Divisions

Fixture	Appointment by AFLQ	Appointment by School
Rising Star & Best on Ground	1 field umpire	Each team – 1 goal umpire
Hall of Fame	1 field umpires & 2 goal umpires	

(b) Secondary Divisions

Umpire appointments will be made in line with the below table (**Table 1**):

Fixture	Appointment by AFLQ	Appointment by School
Gala Days	1 – 2 field umpires (dependent on division)	Each team – 1 goal umpire
Regional Finals Wild Card SEQ Finals	1 – 2 field umpires (dependent on division)	Each team – 1 goal umpire
Quarter Finals & Semi Finals	1 – 2 field umpires 2 goal umpires	
State Finals	1 – 3 field umpires (dependent on division) 2 goal umpires	

### 7.2 Officials

(a) Each team is entitled to the following Officials:

- (i) One (1) Coach;
- (ii) Three (3) assistant coaches;
- (iii) One (1) Team Manager;
- (iv) One (1) First Aid/Sports Trainer;

- (v) One (1) runner.
- (b) All Officials noted at clause 7.2(a) must wear:
  - (i) appropriate school sport/staff uniform (with the exception of runners, who must wear a pink vest supplied by the Match Manager); and
  - (ii) enclosed footwear.
- (c) All Coaches, including assistant coaches, must be accredited by the Play.AFL platform.
- (d) The role of a runner
  - (i) The role of a runner is to deliver a Coach's message to a Player.
  - (ii) Following that message being delivered, the runner must immediately depart the field.
  - (iii) If an umpire observes a runner being in breach of clause 7.2(d)(ii), they may issue that runner with a yellow card (see clause 6.3(a)).
- (e) Water carriers are permitted in the Competition if:
  - (i) They are a student enrolled or employee at the School for which the team they are carrying water is aligned; or
  - (ii) A water carrier is required pursuant to the *AFL Queensland Extreme Heat Policy*.

## 8. PROGRESSION - PRIMARY DIVISIONS

### 8.1 Gala Days

- (a) Each Region will conduct a Gala Day, which is to be referred to as the 'Rising Star' round.
- (b) Progression beyond the Rising Star Round to the HoF Event (being the 'Hall of Fame'), as described at Appendix Three.

### 8.2 StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup Hall of Fame - Primary

- (a) The AFLQ Schools Cup Hall of Fame will take place over two days.
- (b) AFL Queensland will release a fixture (refer to AFLQ Website).
- (c) The matches will take place across two days, with presentations at the end of day two.

## 9. PROGRESSION – SECONDARY DIVISIONS

*This clause explains the progression for Secondary Divisions in detail. For a visual summary, refer to Appendix Three.*

### 9.1 Gala Days

- (a) Each Region will conduct Gala Days.
- (b) The Competition format for Gala Days is determined by the host Region (i.e. knockout or round robin).
- (c) For a team to progress beyond the Gala Days, they must have played the equivalent of one full match across the Gala Days.

*Note: For clarity, this means where a team has played a shortened match pursuant to the note “\*\*\*” at Appendix One, that team must ensure they have played an equivalent of a full match before progressing.*

- (d) With respect to each Division, the most successful team from each Region will progress as follows:

- (i) SEQ Regions - to the Regional Finals;

*Note: If the most successful team is unable to participate in the Regional Finals, the second placed team will progress. Should the second placed team be unable to participate, the third team will not progress.*

- (ii) NQ Regions – to the North Queensland Championships.

- (e) With respect to each Division within the SEQ Regions, teams that finish second may be invited to participate at the Wild Card Playoffs, this is at the discretion of Competition Management

*Note: If a second placed team has progressed to the Regional Finals pursuant to Clause 8.1(d)(i), only the third placed team will progress to the Wild Card Playoffs, if invited.*

### 9.2 North Queensland Championships

- (a) The format of the Competition is to be determined by AFL Queensland.
- (b) The most successful team in each Division will progress to the StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup State Final.

### 9.3 Wild Card Playoffs

- (a) The Wild Card Playoffs consists of teams who have progressed pursuant to clause 8.1(e) and Seeded Teams.

- (b) The format of the Competition is to be determined by AFL Queensland.
- (c) The most successful in each Division will progress to the Regional Finals.

#### 9.4 Regional Finals

- (a) The Competition format will be knockout, with the fixture being drafted as follows:
  - (i) Gala Day qualifiers will play each other (AFL Queensland will fixture so neighbouring Regions play each other – see AFLQ Website);
- (b) The winner of each match will progress to the SEQ Finals.

#### 9.5 SEQ Finals

- (a) The Competition format will be knockout, with the fixture being drafted by AFL Queensland (AFL Queensland will use their best endeavours to fixture so neighbouring Regions play each other – see AFLQ Website).
- (b) The winner of each match will progress to the Quarter Finals.

#### 9.6 Quarter Finals

- (a) The Competition format will be knockout, with the fixture being drafted by AFL Queensland (AFL Queensland will use their best endeavours to fixture so neighbouring Regions play each other – see AFLQ Website).
- (b) The winner of each match will progress to the Semi Finals.

#### 9.7 Semi Finals

- (a) The Competition format will be knockout, with the fixture being drafted by AFL Queensland (AFL Queensland will use their best endeavours to fixture so neighbouring Regions play each other – see AFLQ Website).
- (b) The winner of each match will progress to the Q Schools Cup State Final.

#### 9.9 StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup State Final - Secondary

- (a) The StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup State Final will take place over two days.
- (b) AFL Queensland will release a fixture (refer to AFLQ Website) based on the Semi Final and North Queensland Championship results.
- (c) The preliminary finals will take place on day one and the finals will take place on day two.

## 10. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

*Please note, any allegations of vilification are addressed at Clause 11 of this Handbook.*

## 10.1 Responsibility of a Person

A Person must:

- (a) make themselves aware of this Handbook and its contents;
- (b) comply with this Handbook and any rules, regulations, by-laws, emergency protocols, and policies formally approved and/or adopted by AFL Queensland with respect to the Competition from time to time, including without limitation, the Laws of the Game;
- (c) Respect the spirit of fair play;
- (d) Be ethical, fair, honest and respectful in all their dealings with other people;
- (e) Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences;
- (f) Prioritise the safety and welfare of children;
- (g) Recognise the essential role that umpires and other Officials play in Australian Football;
- (h) Display and foster respect for umpires and other Officials;
- (i) Comply with all relevant federal and state laws, including anti-discrimination and child protection laws;
- (j) Comply with any direction given or investigative or disciplinary measure or procedure imposed by AFL Queensland in accordance with this Handbook; and
- (k) Comply with a sanction imposed after finding that the Person has committed a Reportable Offence or breached this Handbook.

## 10.2 General code of conduct

Related to the Competition, a Person must not:

- (a) engage in conduct which brings, or is likely to bring, the interests of Australian Football or AFL Queensland into disrepute;
- (b) act in a manner which is, or is likely to be, prejudicial to the interests of Australian Football or AFL Queensland;
- (c) directly or indirectly harass or bully (including cyber bully) any Person;
- (d) make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public (including social media) about another Person or AFL Queensland;
- (e) victimise a person for making a complaint under this Handbook;

- (f) verbally or physically abuse, threaten, assault or engage in violence with another Person, intimidate another Person or create a hostile environment;
- (g) disclose to a person or organisation any information related Australian Football that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature, without the required consent; and
- (h) make a complaint under this Handbook that the Person or AFL Queensland knows to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper.

### 10.3 Coach code of conduct

In addition to the obligations under clauses 10.1 and 10.2, a Coach must:

- (a) be Accredited and registered via Play.AFL;
- (b) be reasonable in the demands made on the time commitment of Players outside of school hours, having regard to their health and well-being;
- (c) use best endeavours to ensure that Players gain equal playing time in matches and that every Player plays a minimum of 50% playing time;
- (d) seek and follow the advice of appropriately qualified health specialists in relation to the participation of injured or ill Players provided that, where such advice is that a Player is fit to play but that advice is inconsistent with any restrictions in this Handbook on the participation of injured or ill players, the restrictions in this Handbook must be complied with;
- (e) keep up to date with the principles of coaching, including skill development and requirements of accreditation;
- (f) display and foster appropriate sporting behaviour, including using best endeavours to procure that Players comply with their obligations under this Handbook;
- (g) display and foster respect for Officials, opponents, parents and spectators; and
- (h) ensure that Players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities.

### 10.4 Alcohol

- (a) Alcohol is not to be consumed in any unlicensed area when and where the Competition is being played.
- (b) The Match Manager is responsible for regulating any alcohol consumption/a Person under the influence of alcohol.

- (c) If any Person is consuming alcohol and evidently supporting a participating School, a representative of that School must assist the Match Manager in directing that Person to the licensed area, cease the consumption of alcohol or to leave the Venue.
- (d) The Police will be contacted if Persons refuse to comply with directions given by the Match Manager.

## 10.5 Smoking/Vaping

- (a) Smoking and vaping are prohibited when and where the Competition is being played.
- (b) The Match Manager is responsible for regulating smoking and vaping.
- (c) If any Person is smoking or vaping and evidently supporting a participating School, a representative of that School must assist the Match Manager in directing that Person to refrain.

## 11. PROCESS FOR STANDARDS OF CONDUCT BREACH

### 11.1 AFL Queensland own-motion investigation

- (a) If AFL Queensland becomes aware any Person(s) may have breached any provision(s) of clause 10 of this Handbook, the Compliance Lead (or anyone they/AFL Queensland appoints) may determine to investigate the matter.
- (b) All Schools must use their best endeavours to require Persons associated with their School to co-operate with an AFL Queensland investigation, including the provision of a statement on request.  
  
*Note, where statements are being obtained from minors, an adult must always be present.*
- (c) As part of the Compliance Lead's investigation, they will obtain a statement from the alleged contravening person.
- (d) If the Compliance Lead is comfortably satisfied the breach occurred, they will impose a reasonable sanction (which may include education, a requirement to participate in mediation, match suspensions or expulsion from the Competition).
- (e) Competition Management will inform the relevant School of the Compliance Lead's finding, including any sanction.
- (f) If the School wishes to challenge the Compliance Lead's finding/the disciplinary action imposed, they may do so by notifying Competition

Management by 5:00pm the business day following the outcome being advised, provided they are able to substantiate one of the following grounds:

- (i) the decision involved an error of law which had a material impact on the decision;
  - (ii) the decision was so unreasonable that no decision maker acting reasonably could have come to that decision, having regard to the evidence before it; or
  - (iii) the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.
- (g) AFL Queensland will then nominate an alternate AFL employee (who had no involvement with the initial investigation and that is equal to or more senior than the Compliance Lead) to:
- (i) confirm there is a prospect of success on the basis of one of the grounds noted at clause 11.1(f);
  - (ii) review the matter in light of one of those grounds; and
  - (iii) either confirm, amend or overturn the Compliance Lead's finding.
- (h) Persons should be aware that where a Player or Official is suspended by AFL Queensland, it is at the discretion of AFL Queensland to apply law 22.4.4 of the Laws of the Game with respect to that Player/Official playing in any other AFL Queensland competition.

## 11.2 Complaints regarding suspected breach

- (a) If any Person is witness to or subject of a Person's breach of any provision of 10 of this Handbook, that person may lodge a written complaint (in any form), within seven (7) days of the breach, to Competition Management or the Match Manager.
- (b) That complaint must provide:
  - (i) the date the alleged breach occurred;
  - (ii) the approximate time it occurred (if during a match, the time within that match be provided);
  - (iii) where the conduct occurred (e.g. at a match or via social media following a match);
  - (iv) who the breach was targeted at (if anyone), and with respect to that Person, where applicable:

- A. their role and playing number within the relevant match (i.e. Player or Official);
- B. their School;
- C. the Division they were playing;
- D. whether they heard/saw the behaviour directed at them; and
- E. whether they are supportive of the complaint being made.

*Note: If the name of the Vilified Person is not known, a description should be provided.*

- (v) Who the alleged contravening person was (**Contravening Person**), and with respect to the Contravening Person, where applicable:
  - (a) their role and playing number within the relevant match (i.e. Player or Official);
  - (b) their School; and
  - (c) the Division they were playing.

*Note: If the name of the Contravening Person is not known, a description should be provided.*

- (vi) Exactly what occurred, including any persons who were witness.

- (c) The Match Manager/Competition Management will gather evidence (such as statements, which may be summarised subsequent to obtaining verbal evidence) from all persons involved, including witnesses and the alleged contravening person, and refer the complaint and evidence to the Compliance Lead.

*Note, when obtaining evidence from minors, an adult must always be present.*

- (d) The Compliance Lead (or anyone they/AFL Queensland appoints) will investigate the complaint (including obtaining a statement from the alleged contravening person if not already obtained) and if comfortably satisfied the breach occurred, will impose a reasonable sanction (which may include education, requirement to participate in mediation, match suspensions or expulsion from the Competition).
- (e) Competition Management will inform the relevant School of the Compliance Lead's finding, including any sanction.
- (f) If the School wishes to challenge the Compliance Lead's finding/the disciplinary action imposed, they may do so by notifying Competition

Management by 5:00pm the business day following the outcome being advised, provided they are able to substantiate one of the following grounds:

- (i) the decision involved an error of law which had a material impact on the decision;
  - (ii) the decision was so unreasonable that no decision maker acting reasonably could have come to that decision, having regard to the evidence before it; or
  - (iii) the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.
- (g) AFL Queensland will then nominate an alternate AFL employee (who had no involvement with the initial investigation and that is equal to or more senior than the Compliance Lead) to:
- (i) confirm there is a prospect success on the basis of one of the grounds noted at clause 11.2(e);
  - (ii) review the matter in light of one of those grounds; and
  - (iii) either confirm, amend or overturn the Compliance Lead's finding.
- (h) Persons should be aware that where a Player or Official is suspended by AFL Queensland, it is at the discretion of AFL Queensland to apply law 22.4.4 of the Laws of the Game with respect to that Player/Official playing in any other AFL Queensland competition.

## 12. VILIFICATION

### 12.1 Prohibited conduct

No Person shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person or group of persons on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

### 12.2 Making a complaint

- (a) If any Person (including an Umpire) considers that another Person has breached clause 12.1, the first Person (**the Complainant**) may submit a complaint via the Match Manager or Competition Management (**Vilification Complaint**).
- (b) The Complainant may make their complaint in writing or verbally, with the Match Manager or Competition Management dictating that verbal complaint.

*Note: If a minor is providing a verbal complaint, a parent/guardian or school supervisor must be present.*

- (c) Complaints must be made within seven (7) days of the Complainant being witness to/subject of the breach. The time limitation may be extended at the discretion of Competition Management, but under no circumstances may exceed thirty (30) days.

### 12.3 Contents of the complaint

The Match Manager is to ensure the Vilification Complaint includes the following details:

- (a) the date the alleged vilification occurred;
- (b) the approximate time it occurred (if during a match, the time within that match be provided);
- (c) where the conduct occurred (e.g. at a match or via social media following a match);
- (d) who the vilification was targeted at (**Vilified Person**), and with respect to the Vilified Person, where applicable:
  - (i) their role and playing number within the relevant match (i.e. Player or Official);
  - (ii) their School;
  - (iii) the Division they were playing;
  - (iv) whether they heard/saw the behaviour directed at them; and
  - (v) whether they are supportive of the complaint being made.

*Note: If the name of the Vilified Person is not known, a description should be provided.*

- (e) Who the alleged contravening person was (**Contravening Person**), and with respect to the Contravening Person, where applicable:
  - (i) their role and playing number within the relevant match (i.e. Player or Official);
  - (ii) their School; and
  - (iii) the Division they were playing.

*Note: If the name of the Contravening Person is not known, a description should be provided.*

- (f) Exactly what occurred, including:
  - (i) what was said (the words must be provided);
  - (ii) how loud it was; and
  - (iii) any Persons who were witness.

## 12.4 Supporting evidence to be obtained

The Match Manager/Competition Management is to arrange for supporting evidence to be obtained, such as:

- (a) statements, including from the Contravening Person. Statements may be taken verbally and dictated.

*Note: when obtaining a statement from a minor, a parent/guardian or School supervisor must be present.*

- (b) Footage.

- (c) Screenshots (where the alleged vilification occurred online).

- (d) The Match Manager/Competition Management will:

- (i) ensure the Vilification Complaint has been detailed in writing (they may dictate a verbal complaint) (**Vilification Complaint**);
- (ii) obtain any statements from persons involved, including from the Contravening Person (they may dictate a verbal statement); and

*Note: When obtaining statements from minors, an adult must be present.*

- (iii) provide the Vilification Complaint and such statements to the Compliance Lead to investigate.

## 12.5 Complaint to be referred for investigation

- (a) Following the Match Manager/Competition Management receiving a Vilification Complaint and any supporting material, they should provide all material to the Compliance Lead.

- (b) As soon as practicable, following the Compliance Lead receiving the Vilification Complaint and any supporting material, the Compliance Lead must:

- (i) notify the Contravening Person of the Vilification Complaint and provide the Contravening Person with an opportunity to respond to the allegation(s) in breach of clause 12 (if they have not already been given such opportunity); and

- (ii) use reasonable measures to establish the facts of the Vilification Complaint.
- (c) If, following completion of the steps at 12.5(b), the Compliance Lead is reasonably satisfied that a breach of clause 12 may have occurred, they will determine whether it is appropriate:
  - (i) The complaint be conciliated (refer to clause 12.7); or
  - (ii) A Notice of Vilification be issued, which may be contested (see clause 12.9).

## 12.6 Confidentiality and public statement

- (a) Subject to clause 12.6(b):
  - (i) The particulars of any Vilification Complaint and any conciliation with respect to such complaint shall at all times remain confidential; and
  - (ii) A Person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint or conciliation at any time prior to, during or after an investigation or conciliation.
- (b) Where a Vilification Complaint is resolved by conciliation, any public statement (including any apology) made concerning the Vilification Complaint and its resolution shall be agreed upon by the parties.

## 12.7 Conciliation process

- (a) The Compliance Lead, with the assistance of the AFL, will determine the arrangements for the conciliation, including the appointment of a conciliator and the date, time and place/forum (e.g. in person or virtually).
- (b) Persons entitled to attend the conciliation are as follows:
  - (i) Person(s) vilified, their parent/guardian and their Team Manager (or that Team Manager's nominated representative);
  - (ii) The Contravening Person, their parent/guardian and their Team Manager (or that Team Manager's nominated representative);
  - (iii) Other person(s) impacted by the Vilification Complaint, whom in the reasonable opinion of the Compliance Lead ought to attend the conciliation;
  - (iv) where the alleged breach of clause 12.1 was not about or did not directly impact a specific person or persons (e.g. the prohibited conduct vilified a group of persons generally without specifying any individual), a representative of that group may attend the conciliation at the invitation

of the Compliance Lead for the purpose of providing a victim impact statement and more generally to provide the perspectives of that group of vilified persons in the conduct of the conciliation;

(v) any AFL employee directly involved in the conduct of the conciliation; and

(vi) conciliator.

(c) Parents/guardians and Team Managers/Team manager nominated representative are not to be advocates or actively participate in the conciliation.

(d) Legal practitioners are not to attend any conciliation (for clarity, if any participant happens to be a legal practitioner they may be present, however, they may not attend in that capacity).

## 12.8 Agreed outcomes at conciliation

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Policy Handbook, the conciliation participants will be at liberty to consider and agree to any outcome or sanction for the Contravening Person, including but not limited to any of the following (or a combination of them):

(i) suspension from playing and/or officiating in matches at any level;

(ii) if reasonably practicable, attendance at or participation in a community service program;

(iii) completion of relevant education;

(iv) the provision of a public apology/apologies.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt:

(i) the person(s) vilified, the Contravening Person and the AFL/the Compliance Lead on the AFL's behalf, must all agree to any outcome or sanction; and

(ii) the conciliation participants may not agree to any outcome that binds or sanctions any Person that is not a conciliation participant.

(c) In their consideration of agreed outcomes and sanctions, the conciliation participants should have regard to the following:

(i) The nature of the vilification and all the circumstances in which it was undertaken, including the setting (e.g. during the course of a match, in a public place, in a private setting);

- (ii) the extent to which the vilification caused offence or hurt to the Vilified Person or others (e.g. was it undertaken in an aggressive or threatening way, did it offend or hurt a large number of people);
- (iii) whether there have been previous vilifications by the Contravening Person;
- (iv) whether the Contravening Person has received any relevant training and education.

## 12.9 No conciliation outcome – Notice of Vilification

- (a) Where the matter has not proceeded to conciliation pursuant to clause 12.5(c)(i), or the Compliance Lead is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation, the Compliance Lead must:
  - (i) Complete a Notice of Vilification and issue it to the Contravening Person's School on behalf of the Contravening Person; and
  - (ii) Provide the Vilified Person's School with a copy of the Notice of Vilification.
- (b) A Notice of Vilification must:
  - (i) Provide details of the conduct that gave rise to the vilification;
  - (ii) Provide evidence supporting clause 12.9(b)(ii);
  - (iii) Set out the sanction prescribed by the Compliance Lead (for example, a suspension or education), unless the Compliance Lead has determined to refer the matter directly to the Review Panel, in which case no prescribed sanction is required; and
  - (iv) Provide a deadline for the School, on behalf of the Vilified Person, to either accept the prescribed sanction or contest the Notice of Vilification before a Review Panel.
- (c) The Compliance Lead may withdraw a Notice of Vilification at any time prior to a Tribunal hearing.
- (d) If a School, on behalf of the Contravening Person, fails to respond to a Notice of Vilification then the Compliance Lead may:
  - (i) Refer the matter to the Review Panel; or
  - (ii) Apply the sanction offered.

## 12.10 Determination by Review Panel

If the determination of a Vilification Complaint has been referred to the Review Panel pursuant to any part of this Clause 12, the process will be invoked as per this Clause 12.10.

### (a) Constitution of the Review Panel

- (i) A Review Panel is to comprise a minimum of three (3) persons who in the opinion of AFL Queensland possesses sufficient knowledge of Australian Football or sporting vilification matters and are sufficiently qualified to competently perform the role of Review Panel member.
- (ii) A Review Panel appointed to review a matter cannot include any person who was involved in assessing or determining that Vilification Complaint that is subject of review.

### (b) Conduct of Review Panel

- (i) Except where otherwise determined by the Review Panel, the review is to be conducted by way of written submissions only.
- (ii) The Review Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to a court of law and may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it determines.
- (iii) The Review Panel may invite written submission from any Person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision.
- (iv) New evidence, that was not available to the Compliance Lead at the time of its determination, will be considered by the Review Panel, but only where the Review Panel is satisfied that the evidence is of sufficient probative value such that, considered with other evidence which was before the Compliance Lead, the Compliance Lead would have reached a different decision.
- (v) The Review Panel must:
  - A. review and determine a matter in an unbiased manner;
  - B. use reasonable endeavours to review and determine a matter as soon as practicable following receipt of all submissions; and
  - C. make a decision that a reasonable review body could honestly arrive at.

### (c) Review Panel's decision

- (i) The Review Panel must be comfortably satisfied a breach of clause 12.1 occurred.
- (ii) A decision of the Review Panel must be determined according to the majority of the sitting Review Panel.
- (iii) The Review Panel is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes under this Handbook.
- (iv) A Person must not make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of a Review Panel decision or of any Review Panel member or any other matter relevant to the Review Panel or a determination made by it.
- (v) A decision of the Review Panel is final and binding.

### 12.11 Effect of sanction on other Competitions

Persons should be aware that where a Player or Official is suspended by AFL Queensland, it is at the discretion of AFL Queensland to apply law 22.4.4 of the Laws of the Game with respect to that Player/Official playing in any other AFL Queensland competition.

## 13. REPORTABLE OFFENCES

### 13.1 Umpire report

- (a) Where an umpire considers that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, the umpire must:
  - (i) Issue that Player/Official with a yellow or red card (see clause 6.3); and
  - (ii) Advise that Player/Official they are on report.
- (b) As soon as practicable after completion of the match, the umpire must:
  - (i) complete a Notice of Report which outlines the Reportable Offence;
  - (ii) grade the Reportable Offence in line with the 'early guilty plea' sanction pursuant to Appendix One of the National Handbook or, if a Direct Tribunal Offence, note the matter will be referred to AFL Queensland (see (c)) (note, with respect to grading the Reportable Offence, they may seek the assistance of the Match Manager); and
  - (iii) advise each Team Manager of the Notice of Report.
- (c) If:
  - (i) The offence was a Direct Tribunal Offence; or

(ii) either Team Manager (both Team Manager for the aggrieved and reported Player/Official) disputes the Notice of Report within:

- A. one hour of the match, if the relevant Player is scheduled to play in the Competition again that week; or
- B. twenty-four (24) hours;

the report will be referred to Competition Management.

(d) Competition Management will arrange for an AFL employee (with competition knowledge) to review the Notice of Report and any other relevant evidence. That employee will make a finding which will be final and binding.

(e) Persons should be aware that where a Player or Official is suspended by AFL Queensland, it is at the discretion of AFL Queensland to apply law 22.4.4 of the Laws of the Game with respect to that Player/Official playing in any other AFL Queensland competition.

## 13.2 No referrals

Schools cannot refer suspected Reportable Offences that are not reported by an umpire to AFL Queensland.

## Appendix One

<b>Division</b>	<b>School year</b>	<b>Team Size</b>	<b>Minimum team numbers</b>	<b>Length of quarters</b>	<b>Quarter time breaks</b>	<b>Maximum ground size</b>	<b>Ball size</b>
<b>Primary Female</b>	Grades 5 and 6	12 a side and 5 interchange**	9 on field***	4 x 12 minute quarters****	4/4/4 minutes	115 – 130m x 75 – 90m	Leather or synthetic size 3
<b>Primary Mixed</b>	Grades 5 and 6	12 a side and 5 interchange** No gender-based requirements	9 on field***	4 x 12 minute quarters****	4/4/4 minutes	115 – 130m x 75 – 90m	Leather or synthetic size 3
<b>Junior Female</b>	Grades 7 and 8	14 a side and 5 interchange**	9 on field***	4 x 15 minute quarters****	5/5/5 minutes	120 - 150m x 90 - 110m	Leather size 3
<b>Junior Mixed</b>	Grades 7 and 8	16 a side and 5 interchange** No gender-based requirements	12 on field***	4 x 15 minute quarters****	5/5/5 minutes	120 - 150m x 90 - 110m	Leather size 4
<b>Youth Female</b>	Grades 9 and 10	16 a side and 5 interchange**	12 on field***	4 x 15 minute quarters****	3/7/3 minutes	Full field as per AFL standards	Leather size 4
<b>Senior Female</b>	Grades 11 and 12	16 a side and 5 interchange**	12 on field***	4 x 15 minute quarters****	3/7/3 minutes	Full field as per AFL standards	Leather size 4
<b>Youth Male</b>	Grades 9 and 10	18 a side and 5 interchange**	14 on field***	4 x 15 minute quarters****	3/7/3 minutes	Full field as per AFL standards	Leather size 5
<b>Senior Male</b>	Grades 11 and 12	18 a side and 5 interchange**	14 on field***	4 x 15 minute quarters****	3/7/3 minutes	Full field as per AFL standards	Leather size 5

<b>Junior Mixed Inclusion*</b>	Grades 7, 8 and 9	12 a side and 4 interchange**	9 on field***	4 x 12 minute quarters****	5/5/5 minutes	120m x 90m	Leather size 3
<b>Senior Mixed Inclusion*</b>	Grades 10, 11 and 12	12 a side and 4 interchange**	9 on field***	4 x 12 minute quarters****	5/5/5 minutes	150m x 110m	Leather size 4

\* Students living with a disability

\*\* No emergencies are permitted unless approved by Competition Management.

\*\*\* If teams drop below the 'Team Size', coaches must arrange for the teams to be 'evened up'. If teams drop below the 'Minimum Team Numbers' in Secondary Divisions this will be a Forfeit but can still be played out.

\*\*\*\* Gala Days may be shortened to accommodate local scheduling requirements.






# Appendix Two



## Appendix Three

# CRITERIA PRIMARY COMPETITION

STATUS		CRITERIA TO QUALIFY
<b>RISING STAR</b>	<b>Term 1 &amp; Term 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominate for AFLQ Schools Cup</li> <li>1x Teacher registered as an AFL Schools Member</li> </ul>
<b>BEST ON GROUND</b>	<b>Term 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved criteria for Rising Star qualification, and;</li> <li>Must have participated in a Rising Star Gala or Competition Management approved carnival/competition</li> <li>Completed an AFL promotional assembly and/or clinic</li> <li>Completed an AFL program - Auskick or Superkick</li> <li>Team coaches registered with AFL coach accreditation system</li> </ul>
<b>HALL OF FAME</b>	<b>Term 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved criteria for Rising Star &amp; Best on Ground qualification</li> <li>Participated in Best on Ground Gala or competition</li> <li>Completed an AFL Sporting Schools Program and/or Teacher Led program</li> </ul>

Competition Management will confirm in writing to schools individual, when status level is achieved.  
Best on Ground and Hall of Fame participation is at the discretion of Competition Management.

### Rising Star Criteria:

- Nominate for AFLQ Schools Cup
- 1 x Teacher registered as an AFL Schools Member

### Best on Ground:

- Achieved criteria for Rising Star qualification
- Must have participated in a Rising Star Gala or competition management approved carnival/competition
- Completed an AFL promotional assembly and/or clinic
- Completed an AFL program - Auskick or Superkick
- Team coaches registered with the AFL coach accreditation system

### Hall of Fame:

- Achieved criteria for Rising Star & Best on Ground qualification
- Participated in Best on Ground Gala or competition
- Completed an AFL Sporting Schools Program and/or teacher led program

## Appendix Four

### **Laws of Australian Football rule adjustments:**

With the AFL's recent announcement of the seven (7) rule changes for the 2026 season, AFL Queensland can confirm it will fully adopt those changes for all AFL Queensland managed competitions in 2026 (unless stated otherwise below). Those changes are as follows (defined terms are as per the *Laws of Australian Football* or *AFL Queensland Community Competition Rules and Procedures*):

- Remove the requirement for a Player to start in the Goal Square at each centre ball-up.
- For Senior Competitions only, introduce a Free Kick for the last disposal Out of Bounds in between the 50m arcs (for clarity, Youth Competitions will remain as per s 17.5(m) of the *AFL Queensland Community Competition Rules and Procedures*).
- At all centre ball-ups, a competing Ruck cannot cross the Centre Circle line and engage with the opposition Ruck, prior to contesting the football.
- Around the ground, the Umpire may restart play without a nominated Ruck being present.
- A shrug in a tackle will be deemed a Prior Opportunity (i.e., as an attempt to evade or fend an opponent).
- A Player must stand if they are within the Protected Area (i.e., within five metres) when a Mark or Free Kick occurs.
- The interpretation of 'reasonable time' for a Player to bring the football back into play from a Behind being scored and the time allowed for a set Kick around the ground. Currently, 'reasonable time' for kick-ins is twelve (12) seconds, whereas around the ground is eight (8) seconds. Players will now be allowed eight (8) seconds in both instances.