



Competition

Rules and Bylaws

2015

Note: Pending formal changes to the AFL Sydney Juniors Inc Rules of Association that will result in the replacement of the Board by an Executive Group, references in these Rules and Bylaws to the Executive Group are to be read as references to the Board.

Version 1.01	Effective Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarification on Child Protection Rule 32.4
Version 1.02	Effective Mar 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor change/ clarification to RPL Rule 10.12• Rule 12 Protests and Disputes partly rewritten for clarity• Rule 20.9 – 20.13 Transfers Rewording for clarity
Version 1.03	Effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule 10.5 and Rule 11.2 – Player Numbers - wording clarification• Rule 17.4 Format of Finals Series adjustment due to cross sub region fixturing• Adjustment to minimum players numbers in U11 and U12 in Western Sydney

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1. Definitions

1.1 The following words, where shown, are defined to mean:

Academy	QBE Sydney Swans Academy and/or PM Capital Giants Academy
AFL	Australian Football League
AFL NSW/ACT	AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited
AFL Sydney Juniors	AFL Sydney Juniors Inc.
AFL Sydney Juniors Website	aflsj.com.au
Competition	AFL Sydney Juniors Competition
Development Grades/Junior Rules	Under 9 – Under 12
Executive Group	Executive Group of AFL Sydney Juniors Inc
First Aid Official	The person identified in Rule 19.7/19.8 or Rule 19.10, as the case may be.
Footyweb	Competition Management System
HOST Club	First named Club or team in the fixture, usually, but not always the ground of the first named Club (i.e. the HOME Club), even when the game is transferred to another ground.
ISC	A Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee appointed pursuant to Rule 2.19 or as provided by these Rules
Laws	Laws of Australian Football, as issued by the AFL
Official	“Official” includes any person assuming a responsibility on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) of an affiliated member Club of the controlling body, irrespective of whether or not that person was elected or appointed to a position by or on behalf of the Club. For the avoidance of doubt, “Official” shall include any Coach or assistant Coach, Team Manager or assistant Team Manager, Runner, Trainer, Interchange Steward, “Water Carrier”, Ground Manager, member of a Club’s committee or person officiating in any capacity on match day, including a Club appointed Umpire (Boundary or Goal)
Regional Committee *	The committee appointed by the Executive Group to represent the nominated regional competitions
Reportable Offence	A reportable offence as identified under Law 19 of the Laws
Rules	Competition Rules and Bylaws of AFL Sydney Juniors
Talented Pathway Player (TPP)	A TPP Player is one who is participating in the Greater Western Sydney, Sydney North, Sydney South or Northern Coast Talent Development Squads

* Under the Rules of Association, Sydney Juniors consists of a number of Regions. The Rules of Association are located in the Resource Centre (Reports and Manuals) on the Sydney Juniors website. A Regional Committee is a Committee established by the Executive Group to manage the day to day activities of Junior Football in respect of the Region to which the Committee relates. The Regional Committee Charter of Operations, located in the Regional Resources in the Resource Centre of the Sydney Juniors website, provides both a framework and guidelines for the assistance of Regional Committees for the day to day management of a Regional Committee’s activities. For the purpose of the Rules, the Regional Committee is the committee established by the Executive Group to represent a region.

1.2 Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and visa versa, and words importing the singular include the plural and visa versa.

1.3 References to matters described as being an Executive Group responsibility may as appropriate and, by agreement, be delegated by the Executive Group to a Regional Committee.

2. Conduct

2.1 In the interests of the game of Australian Football, the Executive Group requires all persons to treat all Umpires, Club Officials, Players and spectators, and all related property, with respect. This Rule applies in addition to the specific Rules governing Reports and Disciplinary Procedures.

Protocols

2.2 Appropriate conduct will be achieved through engaging in the following game day protocols:

- Setting a good example, including adherence to the various Codes of Conduct.
- Restraining and counselling Officials, Players and spectators who may be inclined to become over-excited, particularly if they use inappropriate, abusive, threatening or insulting language or physical action.
- Introducing Officials and Players to Umpires prior to the game, and encouraging those same Officials and Players to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires, whatever the result.
- Welcoming Officials, Players and spectators of the opposition team on match day.
- Encouraging opposing teams to shake hands prior to the commencement and also at the end of the game.
- Presenting the ground and Clubroom environment in a professional and welcoming manner.
- Introducing awards for sportsmanship other than for best and fairest.
- Total abstinence from consuming alcohol at matches.
- Total abstinence from any form of drug use.

2.3 Registration is affected by Parents/Players completing an On-line registration form, which includes the Player Code of Conduct (See Rule 2.5 below). Online Registration acceptance of the Terms & Conditions will satisfy the requirement to sign the Code of Conduct. Parents and Players are bound by these Rules, including the relevant Code of Conduct in these Rules, as amended from time to time, irrespective of whether they have in fact signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct. All Coaches and Officials, by reason of their acting in such capacity, are bound by these Rules and the Coaches Code of Conduct and Officials Code of Conduct, as the case may be, as amended from time to time. Spectators are also to abide by these Rules, in particular the Parents and Supporters/Spectators Code of Conduct.

Code Signoff and Acknowledgment

2.4 The Online Registration form for AFL Sydney Juniors includes the Players Code of Conduct and the following key statements regarding behaviour and expectations of Parents and Caregivers (Guardians) under the Terms and Conditions.

For Parents & Caregivers

- I/We hereby consent to the registration of my/our son/daughter with AFL Sydney Juniors Inc.
- I/We acknowledge that I/we have been provided with, and understand, the Code of Conduct of AFL Sydney Juniors Inc. under the Competition Rules and Bylaws (Rules).
- I/We hereby agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey this Code and all rulings made by the Region that relate to me/us, other family members and invited guests.
- I/We understand that the Region may withdraw or suspend my/our son(s)/daughter(s) registration to play in AFL Sydney Juniors Inc. should I/we fail to comply with the Code, the Rules and/or any rulings of the Region.

Players Code of Conduct

2.5 Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct:

- play in accordance with the Laws;
- never argue with an official. If a player disagrees with a decision, you should ask the team manager to raise the matter at an appropriate time;
- control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy;
- never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;
- work equally hard for you and your team. The team's performance will benefit, and so will yours;
- be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether they are made by your team or the opposition;
- treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor;
- co-operate with your coaches, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition;
- participate for your own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of your teammates, not to please anyone else.
- respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion;

- not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information see the National Member Protection Policy;
- be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

Parents and Supporters/Spectators Code of Conduct

2.6 Parents and supporters/spectators are bound by the following Code of Conduct

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses. Supporters/spectators are there to support, not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the Club, or AFL Sydney Juniors.
- Never publicly criticise Umpires, rather raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private.
- Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your Coach, the Players, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter/spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players.
- Abusive language is unacceptable.

Official's Code of Conduct

2.7 The Officials of all Clubs are bound by the following Official's Code of Conduct:

- Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, Umpires and administrators.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- Appoint, train and develop qualified and competent Coaches and Officials
- Help Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of Coaching and officiating.
- Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the Laws and the Rules.
- Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect of the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, or any policy decisions of the Club, AFL Sydney Juniors or AFL.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Ensure all Parents, Coaches, sponsors, Officials, medical staff and Players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- Abide by the Rules (including any requirements or restraints applying to any official role such as a Boundary or Goal Umpire).
- Display fairness and uniformity in applying the Rules.
- Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- The health and safety of the Players must be the most important reason to be weighed during the decision making process.

- Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- Ensure you remain up to date with any Law changes and/or interpretation of Laws.
- See continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
- Where acting as a Boundary or Goal Umpire, act at all times in a professional manner, do not barrack or give support to a Team, give advice or make comment to the Players, other Officials or spectators, and under no circumstances approach the Field Umpire, except in relation to your Umpiring duties.

Role of the Coach

2.8 The Coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The Coach will interface with all groups involved within a Club, and thus assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the game, both today, and in particular with Coaches of junior teams, in the future. It is essential that every Coach be aware of this unique position and so conducts themselves in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position.

2.9 All Coaches, whether accredited or not, are bound by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, as well as these Rules, including the specific Rules governing Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures.

2.10 In these Rules, the words "Coach" means not only a formally appointed Coach, but also all persons acting in such capacity, whether formally appointed or not, as well as assistant Coaches, whether formally appointed or not, who act in such capacity.

2.11 The Coach's Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- Teach fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- Be reasonable in setting demands, goals and expectations.
- Maintain a current knowledge of the Laws, the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical, and abide by those Laws and Rules.
- Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
- Never ridicule Players.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.
- Ensure that all Players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
- Ensure that injured Players are given prompt and competent medical attention and that doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
- Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of Coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of your Players.
- Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any Player, Official, Umpire, volunteer or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, volunteer or any policy decisions of the Club, AFL Sydney Juniors or the AFL.

Coach and Administrators

- Remember the Coach is a representative of the Club's administration and therefore it is important that Coaches conduct themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
- Support the administration in policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be resolved privately in a composed manner.
- Adhere to Club policy in both letter and spirit.
- Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

Coach and Umpires

- Treat the Umpire with the utmost of good faith and respect.
- Introduce the Umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the game and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
- Instruct Officials, Players and spectators that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the game, nor the intervals within a game, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
- Restrain any Official, Player or spectator from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
- Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
- Never publicly criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
- Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

Coach and Supporters/Spectators

- Encourage spectators to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either team for good, fair play.
- Ensure that spectators do not interfere with the game, nor encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with spectator's behaviour and request the Club administration to act in a manner to diffuse any possible problems.

Coach and Parents

- At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the Coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the Coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the Coaches guidelines.
- Request parents support the Coach in any disciplinary action the Coach is required to undertake.
- Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the Coach, the Club's Officials, the Umpires, volunteers and the opposition Officials, Players and spectators.
- Request that if a parent has a problem with the Coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the Coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to Club administration.

Breaches

2.12 Penalties for breaches of the Code of Conduct include:

- Any Player guilty of offensive behaviour, fighting or causing others to fight on the field, should be subject to an immediate 15 minute send off by their Coach, regardless of any action from the Umpires.
- Any Official, Player or spectator breaching a Code of Conduct, may be issued with a warning for a minor breach. Further or more serious breaches may result in dismissal or suspension from participation in Competition/s.

2.13 A breach of the Code may be referred to a Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee (ISC) by the Regional Committee. .

2.14 The following is indicative of the penalties that may be applied by an ISC for breach of the Code of Conduct:

	Level	Remedy
1	Minor indiscretion	Individuals name recorded. Counselling or an apology if appropriate.
2	More serious infraction or repetition	In the case of an individual, the Club shall appoint a mentor for the individual for a period of time nominated by the Regional Committee. For a repeat violation, the Club will be contacted to discuss what executive action will be taken to avert future problems and/or the Club shall appoint a mentor.
3	Serious infraction	Suspension or removal of membership rights of an individual or for a team or Club plus potential loss of game wins and/or fines.

2.15 A breach of the Code of Conduct by a Player or Official may result in the Player or Official being reported pursuant to the provisions of Rule 8.

Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee

2.16 The Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee (ISC) is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the Executive Group or Regional Committee may from time to time refer.

- The Executive Group and the Regional Committee shall appoint a pool of ISC members.
- The ISC shall consist of not less than three (3) members when performing its functions, but may consist of two (2) members with the agreement of the parties. .
- Proxy members may be appointed in the absence of any ISC members.
- Wherever possible, the ISC members should be independent of the junior football structure or at the very least independent of the matter at hand.
- When a conflict of interest arises, that member shall abstain themselves from any deliberations.
- .When referring a matter to an ISC for hearing, the Executive Group or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, shall appoint a Chairperson for that ISC.

2.17 The provisions in these Rules in relation to representation at the Tribunal also apply to all ISC determinations and adjudications.

Duties of the Code of Conduct ISC

2.18 The ISC shall:

2.18.1 Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters (**dispute**) that may be referred to it from time to time by the Executive Group or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal;

2.18.2 Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on a Club by way of a fine, it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00);

2.18.3 Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Executive Group or Regional Committee in the form of the template at Appendix 4.

2.19 Such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the ISC shall be final in all cases.

2.20 The Executive Group is to have overall supervision of all ISC investigations and, subject to appeal as dealt with in these Rules, may vary or amend, including remitting the decision back to the ISC, the determination or decision of an ISC investigation.

2.21 Subject to the Rules, the Regional Committee should make its decision to refer, or not to refer, any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matter **within 10 days** of the matter being referred to the Regional Committee. Subject to the prior approval of the Executive Group, the Regional Committee may extend the time for it to make its decision beyond 10 days of the matter being referred to the Regional Committee.

2.22 The ISC is to determine, in its own discretion, the manner in which any dispute before it is to be conducted, including, without limitation;

2.22.1 whether or not a hearing is to be undertaken, and if so, the timing, location and processes in relation to same;

2.22.2 whether it requires any preliminary meetings or conferences and the terms of same;

2.22.3 the provision or otherwise of and/or exchange of written statements, their content and form, and the manner of their use;

2.22.4 whether oral evidence is required and the manner in which oral evidence is to be heard and considered;

2.22.5 penalties for non attendance at any hearing, preliminary meeting or conference or refusal to comply with the ISC's determinations or directions.

Statements

2.23 AFL Sydney Juniors is bound by and will enforce the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications, a copy of which may be found on the Sydney Juniors website (Resource Centre/Bylaws & Policies).

2.24 For the purpose of these Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media

2.25 Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, and any other person, Club, Regional Committee or AFL Sydney Juniors shall be subject to the following provisions:

2.25.1 In the case of a Player or Official, AFL Sydney Juniors may report such person for breach of this Rule and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination;

2.25.2 In the case of any other person, AFL Sydney Juniors may refer the matter to an ISC for determination;

2.25.3 Alternatively, AFL Sydney Juniors may refer the matter to the Executive Group to be dealt with by the Executive Group as it thinks fit.

2.26 A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 2.26, or in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred by AFL Sydney Juniors to an ISC or to the Executive Group which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and forfeit past or future match ratios.

Function Cards

2.27 As part of the education of volunteers appointed by Clubs to be:

- Runners
- Boundary Umpires
- Goal Umpires
- Water Carriers
- Coaches

Function Cards are to be provided by Clubs to any person seeking to assist by performing these tasks on match day. It is incumbent on Clubs to ensure these “Cards are provided to and understood by the person taking on the task.

2.28 Any person acting in the role of persons identified in Rules 2.27 will be deemed to have been provided with the appropriate Function Card and has read and understood same.

3. Competitions, Clubs and Club Affiliation

Club Affiliation

3.1 To be eligible to enter teams in any of the competitions administered by AFL Sydney Juniors, a Club must be affiliated with AFL Sydney Juniors.

3.2 A Regional Committee must not include any teams of a Club that is not affiliated with AFL Sydney Juniors in any competitions administered by AFL Sydney Juniors.

3.3 Where a Club’s affiliation is on terms and conditions, or is terminated, withheld or suspended by the Executive Group, a Regional Committee must not include any teams of the Club in any competitions administered by AFL Sydney Juniors, where to do so would be a breach of same.

3.4 Affiliation is granted to a Club by the Executive Group on an annual basis, as determined by the Executive Group.

3.5 To be affiliated with AFL Sydney Juniors, a Club must lodge an affiliation form, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed fee, the lodgment of a bond) to AFL Sydney Juniors, and have its affiliation application approved by the Executive Group.

3.6 The affiliation form and the amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the Executive Group from time to time.

3.7 The Executive Group may:

3.7.1 approve a Club’s affiliation application;

3.7.2 approve the Club’s affiliation application on terms and conditions;

3.7.3 remit the Club’s affiliation application to the Club, with a request for further or additional information, or to amend or revise the application;

3.7.4 refuse to grant the Club’s affiliation application; or

3.7.5 defer same.

3.8 In determining whether to grant a Club’s affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to Rule 3.7, the Executive Group shall;

3.8.1 consider the Club’s structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long term planning and development;

3.8.2 consider the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of the game;

3.8.3 consider the financial health of the Club;

3.8.4 consider the behavioral and conduct history of the Club, its teams, Players, Officials, volunteers and spectators, and the Club’s relationships with other Clubs and the Region;

3.8.5 any other matter that the Executive Group considers appropriate.

3.9 The Executive Group may at any time require a Club to show cause why its affiliation should not be suspended, withdrawn or terminated, or subject to such terms and conditions as the Executive Group proposes. If the Club fails to respond adequately to the Executive Group’s show cause request to the Executive Group’s satisfaction, the Executive Group may proceed to suspend, withdraw or terminate the Club’s affiliation or impose such terms and conditions on the Club’s affiliation as the Executive Group deems appropriate.

3.10 Notwithstanding, and in addition to Rule 3.9, where a Club fails to uphold the standards for affiliation of a Club with AFL Sydney Juniors, or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the Club's affiliation with AFL Sydney Juniors, the Executive Group may suspend, withdraw or terminate the Club's affiliation, or impose such terms and conditions on the Club for its ongoing affiliation with AFL Sydney Juniors, as the Executive Group sees fit.

Football Season

3.11 The football season for AFL Sydney Juniors will commence and conclude within the dates prescribed by AFL Sydney Juniors.

Age Groups

3.12 Play will be conducted between teams, comprising of Players who were, as of **midnight on the 31st December** prior to the season, under the ages as prescribed by the Regional Committee and agreed by the Executive Group.

3.13 In preparing draws:

3.13.1 where a draw is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division;

3.13.2 where a Region regrades a team(s) after the commencement of a competition, the Match Ratio (wins and losses) can be moved, but the points for and against should be zero.

Clubs and Teams

3.14 The Executive Group may direct that a Club's teams participate in such competitions as directed by the Executive Group.

3.15 Any Clubs that propose to merge, form an alliance, or enter into some other form of arrangement, save for Joint Venture teams and Club Alliances, which are the subject of specific provisions under these Rules, must obtain the prior approval for such arrangement from the Regional Committee, before the Club or Clubs seek affiliation with AFL Sydney Juniors.

3.16 In making its decision as to whether to approve, and if so, on what terms and conditions, any such arrangement between Clubs, the Regional Committee must take into account the development of and the best interests of the game. The Regional Committee will not approve such arrangements, unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed arrangement is not to the detriment of the game, such as the loss or potential loss of players and facilities, but will positively advance the development of the game in the Region/s. The Regional Committee must inform AFL Sydney Juniors of any such arrangement within 7 days of its approval of any such arrangement.

3.17 The Executive Group exercises supervisory powers over the Regional Committee, and may overrule, rescind, vary or amend any decision of the Regional Committee made pursuant to Rules 3.15 - 3.16.

Match wins

3.18 In minor round matches:

- Match ratio will be used as the sole method of determining ladder position;
- Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of games played;
- 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;
- If a scheduled round is not played, the team with the bye in that round does NOT receive a match win.

3.19 In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible team will be awarded the lowest points for and the highest points against scored in the round in their Age Group or Division (10 goal Rule to apply). The non-forfeiting or eligible team will be awarded the highest points for and the lowest points against scored in the round in their Age Group or Division (10 Goal Rule to apply). Ladders will be adjusted accordingly.

3.20 AFL Sydney Juniors website will display updated tables, showing match ratio and percentages to decide placing of teams on the tables, for each grade. All tables will include percentages calculated in accordance with the 10 goal Rule.

Development Grade/Junior Rules

3.21 Specific Rules for the Development grades and Junior Football are set out in Appendix 2

Age Group Rules

3.22 Specific Age Group Rules are set out in Appendix 3

Youth Girl Rules

3.23 Specific Youth Girl Rules for Under 14 and Under 18 (Sydney Harbour) are set out in Appendix 4

4. Laws of the Game

4.1 As issued by the AFL, the Laws will apply at all matches, except where special provisions are made in these Rules. Where these Rules are inconsistent with the Laws, the Rules will prevail.

5. Field Umpires

General

5.1 It is recommended that all Umpires (Field, Boundary and Goal), be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age.

Appointment & Remuneration

5.2 Field Umpires will be appointed, as far as possible, to all matches by the Regional Umpires Coordinator.

5.3 Should no appointed Field Umpire be present by the scheduled time of commencement of play, both team Coaches are to decide upon an acceptable replacement/s who may share duty for the duration of the game. However, should the appointed Umpire or any other Umpire appointed for the day arrive during the course of the game, that Umpire may take control as soon as possible.

5.4 Rule 16.2 applies where any Field Umpire appointed by the Regional Committee, attends a match that has been forfeited or cancelled and who has not been advised in time to prevent the Umpire's attendance.

5.5 Fees to be paid to Field Umpires will be as set out in Schedule 1. Payment of these fees is to be made by the HOST Club at the conclusion of the match.

Powers & Duties

5.6 The powers and duties of Field Umpires will be in accordance with the Laws and these Rules.

5.7 A free kick or a 50 metre penalty may be awarded where a Player, Official or Spectator:

- Uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.

5.8 Where required, the Field Umpire may ask spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the game until the request is complied with.

Approaching Umpires

5.9 No person, except as listed below, shall approach or talk to an Umpire (Field, Boundary and Goal) during the quarter time, half time or three quarter time interval or when the Umpires are entering or leaving the field/ground.

5.10 The excepted persons referred to at Rule 5.9 include:

- AFL NSW/ACT staff
- Members of the Regional Committee acting in their capacity as a member of the Regional Committee
- Members of the Executive Group
- Ground Manager, including any designated assistants
- Parents of the Umpires
- Club Umpire Ambassador
- Regional Umpire Coordinator.

5.11 Breach of Rule 5.9 is a reportable offence and a breach of the relevant Code of Conduct.

5.12 Each Club must ensure that its Players, Officials and spectators comply with Rule 5.9.

5.13 Any team address must be given outside the centre square.

6. Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires

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

6.2 All Goal and Boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the Field Umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game and restrict all communications with the Field Umpires to matters arising directly from Umpiring duties. Goal and Boundary Umpires shall act at all times in a professional manner and refrain from barracking for or giving support to a Team and giving advice or making comments to the Players, other Officials or supporters.

Goal Umpires

6.3 A Goal Umpire must be provided by each competing team and is required to be dressed in something that is clearly identifiable. A white coat is recommended, Goal Umpires must have a set of white flags and scorecard.

Boundary Umpires

6.4 Boundary Umpires are to be supplied for Under 13's to Under 17's Age Groups and are required to be dressed with a white top to assist in recognition by the Field Umpire(s) and use an audible whistle.

6.4.1 For the **Under 13's** and **Under 14's** (2015 trial), the Boundary Umpire will recover the match ball at the point of exit, give the ball to the Field Umpire who will toss the ball into the air 10 metres from the boundary line

6.5 In the case that a team does not provide a suitable Boundary Umpire, a member of that team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. In the case where neither team provides a Boundary Umpire, the attacking side will throw the ball in. Where a team has not provided a Boundary Umpire, it will be noted on the appropriate match day paperwork.

7. Umpire Categories

7.1 In broad terms, there are two (2) visible categories of Junior Umpires in AFL Sydney Juniors

7.2 "Trainee" umpires are typically new Umpires in training who are learning and developing their umpiring skills. The Trainee Umpire will generally only umpire Under 9's to Under 12's. However, they may umpire higher Age Groups should the Regional Umpire Coordinator believe they are competent to do so. Where possible, a Mentor (allocated by the HOME Club or Regional Umpire Coordinator) shall be available either on or off field depending on the competency of the Umpire to assist with their training and difficult decisions and situations. This Mentor must be approved by the Regional Umpire Coordinator. Where possible, two Trainee Umpires should not umpire together.

7.3 Trainee Umpires will wear a distinctive vest with the words “Trainee” clearly visible on same

7.4 Promotion out of the vest is by agreement between the Regional Umpire Coordinator, the Umpire, and the Umpire’s parents (if appropriate)

7.5 Umpires can be appointed to umpire any official AFL Sydney Juniors game as determined by the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

7.6 Umpires are required to undertake and achieve Level 1 of the National Umpire Accreditation Scheme (NUAS).

8. Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures

Reports by Umpires

8.1 The following is the procedure to be followed for all Reports made by an Umpire on match days. Scope will still exist to comment on other issues (send offs, warnings etc) on the match report document.

8.1.1 This Rule prescribes the procedures for the lodgement and notification of Notices of Report, pertaining to a Reportable Offence, as well as the procedure for dealing with Prescribed Penalties. The following Rules are to apply to Officials, as well as to Players, as appropriate. The Rules for Reports of Players (Development Grades), do not apply to Officials in those Development Grades ie. Reports on such officials are to be dealt with in accordance to Rule 8.

8.1.2 If a Club appointed Umpire witnesses an incident that the Field Umpire(s) has/have not seen, the Club appointed Umpire may refer to the Field Umpire who will determine if a Report is to be made. Only Field Umpires or Regionally appointed Boundary and Goal Umpires may report a Player or Official

Prescribed Penalties (Under 12-17)

8.2 A Prescribed Penalty may be offered by AFL Sydney Juniors, following receipt of a Notice of Report under this Rule 8, to a Player’s Club President or delegate, copied to the Regional Committee Chairperson and Regional Umpire Coordinator, **by 5.00pm Monday following the match** or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practical. Where an offer of a Prescribed Penalty is made **later than 5.00pm Monday following the match**, the time to accept the offer as set out in Rule 8.5 is to be adjusted accordingly by AFL Sydney Juniors. Whether a Prescribed Penalty is offered or not is entirely within the discretion of AFL Sydney Juniors

8.3 When making a Prescribed Penalty offer, AFL Sydney Juniors will make available to the Player’s Club President sufficient details of the report on which basis the Prescribed Penalty offer can be accepted or rejected.

8.4 The following Prescribed Penalties are a **guide only**. In appropriate circumstances, a lesser or greater penalty may be offered.

Prescribed Penalty – One Match suspension

- Wilfully wasting time.
- Unduly interfering with a Player whilst such Player is kicking for goal.
- Disputing the decision of the Umpire.
- Using abusive, threatening or insulting language (low level).
- Shaking a goal post.
- Throwing an opponent.
- Pushing an opponent.
- Attempting to trip by foot or leg or attempting to strike a Player.
- Unduly rough play.
- Refusing to leave the ground after being warned for not wearing the proper uniform.
- Wearing unacceptable equipment.

Prescribed Penalty – Two Match suspension

- **Intentionally trip by foot or leg.**
- Striking a Player.
- Using abusive, threatening or insulting language (medium level).
- Charging an opponent.
- Failing to leave the ground when ordered off (misconduct).

8.5 The Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request that a Report that is the subject of a Prescribed Penalty offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, rather than as a Prescribed Penalty. Such request, subject to Rule 8.2, is to be received by AFL Sydney Juniors **by no later than 4pm on the Tuesday following the match**. If advice to accept a Prescribed Penalty offer or otherwise is not received by that time, the offer will be deemed to be accepted. Where the Prescribed Penalty offer is rejected, AFL Sydney Juniors will inform the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson of the request and the Tribunal will hear and determine the Report.

8.6 Where a Player requests that a Prescribed Offence offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, and the Tribunal is of the opinion that the Prescribed Penalty offer to the Player was reasonable in all the circumstances and does not reduce the Penalty, the Tribunal will impose an extra one match penalty in addition to the penalty offered by AFL Sydney Juniors, or the penalty imposed by the Tribunal, whichever is the greater.

8.7 Alternatively, the Tribunal may impose such additional penalty as in its absolute discretion it deems appropriate, in addition to the penalty it imposes for the Reportable Offence.

8.8 The Tribunal will hear and determine the Notice of Report, and no offer of a Prescribed Penalty will be made where a Player:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire
- Intentionally kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct where the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting the misconduct is serious in nature.

Application of Penalty

8.9 For the purpose of these Rules, a "match" shall mean a competition match of the same Age Group or Division in which the Player committed the offence, and shall also include as the one match, the matches in all grades in a particular round for which the Player would, but for the suspension be eligible, whether played on the one day or not. Any suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition match following the suspension for which the Player would, but for the suspension, be eligible.

8.10 A Player is ineligible to play in any representative match whilst under suspension. In addition to this, representative matches do not count towards part of the suspension.

8.11 Competition games which are forfeited, washed out or for any other reason not played shall not be counted for the purpose of reckoning a period of suspension.

8.12 In the event of a dispute as to the games or matches covered by a suspension, the dispute is to be referred to AFL Sydney Juniors for determination. AFL Sydney Juniors may seek the advice of the Executive Group.

8.13 During the period of any suspension, Players are not permitted within the confines of the playing field, and must not act as runner, water carrier or in any other capacity.

8.14 During the period of any suspension, Officials must not participate in any capacity on match day, whether on the playing field or off the field of play, but may attend a game and observe as a spectator only. Subject to any direction from the Tribunal, the Official may participate in any official capacity at the Club on non-match days.

8.15 Infringement of the above may lead to the imposition of further penalties.

8.16 Subject to any specific direction by the Tribunal, where the Tribunal imposes a suspended sentence, the period of the sentence is suspended, subject to good behaviour by the Player or Official. If the Player or Official is found guilty by the Tribunal of any subsequent offence committed during the period of the suspended sentence or, in the case of a Player, a Prescribed Penalty is offered and accepted which results in a match suspension, the suspended sentence will be added to any sentence imposed by the Tribunal for the subsequent offence or as a result of the Prescribed Penalty.

Action during Match

8.17 Where an Umpire reports a Player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Report:

- At the time of the incident;
- Before the commencement of the next quarter; or,
- Where an incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.

8.18 The Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Reportable Offence.

8.19 An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or an Official of a Team of the Report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.

8.20 Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made. It is a breach of these Rules for such reported Player, Official or any other Player or Official to seek to or speak to the Umpire about a Report. Any Player or Official who seeks to or speaks to the Umpire may be referred by AFL Sydney Juniors to the Tribunal to deal with as the Tribunal thinks appropriate.

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

Completing Notice of Report by the Umpire

8.22 In completing and lodging a Notice of Report, the Umpire will utilise the online Umpire Match Report process available through Google to document any reports. In such cases, the Umpire will, on the day, advise the Clubs and ensure that the proper notice of a Report is provided verbally. When the Report is processed by AFL Sydney Juniors, full and complete details will be provided from the Umpire Match Report system to the Club of the reported Player.

8.23 As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, the reporting Umpire shall:

8.23.1 Provide advice to an Official from each team. Each team shall be responsible for the attendance of an Official at the end of the match in question in order to receive such advice and to be given an "all clear" from the Ground Manager. In the event of no such Official attending, the Reporting Umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Rule;

8.23.2 Verbally advise the Regional Umpire Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match, **by 8.00pm on Match Day or 10.00am next day** where a night match is involved.

Report where Notice of Report not completed

8.24 Rules 8.25 - 8.30 apply where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season, but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report in any sending off.

8.25 Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one match playing suspension.

8.26 Any Player sent off twice in the same match will automatically receive a one match playing suspension, regardless of any and in addition to any further penalty that may be imposed by virtue of any incident that is the subject of the sending off.

8.27 Any Player sent off three times in the one season will automatically receive a two match playing suspension, regardless of any and in addition to any further penalty that may be imposed by virtue of any incident that is the subject of the sending off. Should the Player be sent off any further times during the season, on each occasion the Player shall incur an automatic one match playing suspension, regardless of and in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off.

8.28 Where a Player is sent off a third or further time during the season, AFL Sydney Juniors may, in addition to the above, refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson, **by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match of the referral**. At such hearing, the Tribunal may impose such penalty, in addition to that prescribed above, on the Player as it deems appropriate.

8.29 Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by these Rules, the Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request the automatic suspension be referred to the Tribunal for hearing. The Tribunal may impose such conditions on the Player as it deems appropriate, pending the hearing. The Tribunal may, following the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension, (including increasing the suspension) or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate. Where the Tribunal is of the opinion that the automatic playing suspension was reasonable in all the circumstances, the Tribunal will impose a suspended sentence at least equal to the automatic match playing suspension imposed on the Player, such suspended sentence to remain in force for a period of 12 months from the date of the Tribunal hearing or to the equivalent round in the following season.

8.30 In the above instances, AFL Sydney Juniors will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpire Co-ordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson **by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match the subject of these Rules**.

8.31 Where a Player is sent off and the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report, AFL Sydney Juniors may (where the send off was a Yellow card) and must (where the send off was a red card), refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson and the Tribunal Chairperson, **by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match**.

Team Yellow/Red Cards

8.32 This Rule applies when a Player is sent off and that Player is the third Player from that team to be sent off in the season. The Player shall automatically receive a one match playing suspension, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off. Rules 8.29-8.30 apply.

8.33 This Rule applies when a Player is sent off and that Player is the fourth or subsequent Player from that team to be sent off in the season. The Player shall automatically receive a two match playing suspension, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off. Rules 8.29-8.30 apply

8.34 In addition to the preceding Rules, where any Player or Players from the same team are sent off during the course of a season and the number of Players being sent off for a breach of any of those Laws is three or more, AFL Sydney Juniors, on each occasion will advise the Regional Committee of same, and the Regional Committee will be required to meet with Club representatives (including the President and the Coach(s) of the team concerned) **within 7 - 10 days** of such advice to seek an appropriate explanation of action being taken to address and resolve apparent behavioural issues. **Within 7 days** of the meeting, the Regional Committee shall advise AFL Sydney Juniors of the outcome of the meeting for such action as AFL Sydney Juniors and /or Regional Committee deems appropriate, including referral to an ISC or to the Executive Group.

Report by AFL Sydney Juniors

8.35 If AFL Sydney Juniors is of the opinion that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, AFL Sydney Juniors may report such person and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination or offer such person a Prescribed Penalty. Where the Report is referred to the Tribunal, AFL Sydney Juniors is to inform the Regional Committee of the Report and the Club President **within 24 hours** of the Report being referred to the Tribunal. AFL Sydney Juniors will appoint a person to assume the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal. The Tribunal may, in its sole discretion, dispense with the requirement of a person assuming the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal.

8.36 A Prescribed Penalty may be offered by AFL Sydney Juniors, rather than referring the Report to the Tribunal, to a Player's Club President or delegate, copied to the Regional Committee Chairperson and Regional Umpire Coordinator, as soon as is reasonably practical. Whether a Prescribed Penalty is offered or not is entirely within the discretion of AFL Sydney Juniors.

8.37 When making a Prescribed Penalty offer, AFL Sydney Juniors will make available to the Player's Club President sufficient details of the Report on which basis the Prescribed Penalty offer can be accepted or rejected.
8.38 The provisions of Rule 8.4 apply with respect to whether AFL Sydney Juniors makes an offer of a Prescribed Penalty.

8.39 The Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request that a report that is the subject of a Prescribed Penalty offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, rather than as a Prescribed Penalty. Such request is to be received by AFL Sydney Juniors within **48 hours** of the making of the Prescribed Penalty offer by AFL Sydney Juniors. If advice to accept a Prescribed Penalty offer or otherwise is not received by that time, the offer will be deemed to be accepted. Where the Prescribed Penalty offer is rejected, AFL Sydney Juniors will inform the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson of the request and the Tribunal will hear and determine the Report.

8.40 The provisions of Rules 8.6-8.7 apply to the determination of any penalty by the Tribunal.

Report by Regional Committee

8.41 If the Regional Committee is of the opinion that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, the Regional Committee is to provide AFL Sydney Juniors with sufficient material, (including relevant Reportable Offence pursuant to the Laws and the particulars of same) **no later than 7 days** after the alleged Reportable Offence, to enable AFL Sydney Juniors to consider whether same should be referred to the Tribunal or offer such person a Prescribed Penalty. Where AFL Sydney Juniors refers the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination, AFL Sydney Juniors is to inform the Regional Committee and the Club President of the Report (including relevant Reportable Offence pursuant to the Laws and the particulars of same) **within 24 hours of the Report** being referred to the Tribunal. In the event that AFL Sydney Juniors does not consider that the matter should be referred to the Tribunal or a Prescribed Penalty should be offered, it shall inform the Regional Committee of its decision **within 24 hours**. Where the Report is referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee is responsible for the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal. The Tribunal may, in its sole discretion, dispense with the requirement of a person assuming the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal.

8.42 The provisions of Rules 8.36- 8.39 apply to the making of a Prescribed Penalty by AFL Sydney Juniors and the provisions of Rules 8.6-8.7 apply to the determination of any penalty by the Tribunal.

Tribunal composition, procedures and guidelines

8.43 The Tribunal shall be comprised of such persons as may be appointed by AFL Sydney Juniors and shall enquire into reports by Umpires of any Player or Official of any team participating in a match being conducted by or under the control of AFL Sydney Juniors.

8.44 A Tribunal Rules and Guidelines document is available on the AFL Sydney Juniors website and should be referred to by any person and their advocate **prior** to appearing before the Tribunal. In the event of any inconsistency between the Tribunal Rules and Guidelines document and these Rules, the Tribunal may make its own determination as to which applies, and shall draw the inconsistency to the attention of AFL Sydney Juniors.

8.45 A person qualified as a Legal Practitioner is not permitted to act in the role of Player, Official or Umpire Advocate. The parents/guardians of a reported Player or Official, or a reporting Umpire are not permitted to act in the role of Player, Official or Umpire advocate. Such persons are, however, permitted to attend Tribunal hearings. A Tribunal Member may not act as an advocate or otherwise appear in any capacity before the Tribunal.

8.46 Following the decision of the Tribunal, AFL Sydney Juniors will provide a copy of the Minute of Tribunal finding to the President of the Club and the Regional Chairperson.

Reports on Players (Development Rules Under 9 – Under 11)

8.47 Subject to Rule 8.49, Players reported in the Under 9's to Under 11 Age Groups will have the Report adjudicated by a Code of Conduct Committee of their Club, comprising the Club President, Football Manager and Coach, plus the Regional Umpire Coordinator or nominee. The decision of the Committee is to be unanimous. The **hearing is to be held within three (3) days, where possible**, of the Report. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Competition games until the Committee has dealt with the Report. Where the Committee agrees on a decision, the Club will provide to the Regional Committee and AFL Sydney Juniors a statement in writing (or electronically) in the form of the template at Appendix 8 of the outcome of the Report and any action taken **within five (5) days of the hearing**.

8.48 If a decision is not agreed by the Committee, the Report is to be referred by the Club to the Regional Committee for hearing. The Club will provide its referral to the Regional Committee in writing (or electronically) **within two (2) days** of the failure of the Committee to agree to a decision. The Regional Committee may hear the Report itself, or refer the Report to an ISC for hearing. The Regional Committee or the ISC, where the matter is so referred to it, must hear the Report, where possible **within three (3) days of receipt** of the Report by the Regional Committee. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Competition games until the Regional Committee or, where applicable, the ISC, has heard the Report. Following the hearing, the Regional Committee will provide to the Club and AFL Sydney Juniors a statement in writing (or electronically) of the outcome of the Report and any action taken, **within three (3) days of the hearing**

8.49 Where it deems it appropriate, the Regional Committee may refer any Code of Conduct (Development Rules) hearing to an ISC and where it does so the hearing of any Report (Development Rules) will be heard by the ISC and not by the Club of the Player concerned. In such circumstances, the ISC will, so far as they are able, act in accordance with Rules 8.47 and 8.48.

8.50 Where a Club fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rules 8.47 or 8.48, the Regional Committee may impose a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) on the Club.

8.51 Where the Regional Committee fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rule 8.48, the Executive Group may impose a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) on the Regional Committee.

Reports on Players (Under 12)

8.52 Rules 8.53-8.55 apply where a Player is reported in the Under 12 age group (or otherwise comes before the Tribunal).

8.53 On receipt of the Report, and after considering the age and degree of maturity of the Player and other such factors as AFL Sydney Juniors considers appropriate, AFL Sydney Juniors may, rather than referring the Report to the Tribunal, refer the Report to the Player's Club, to be dealt with in accordance with Rules 8.47 - 8.48, alternatively, AFL Sydney Juniors may refer the hearing of the Report to an ISC to be dealt with as otherwise provided under Rule 8.49.

8.54 If the matter is heard by the Tribunal, the Tribunal may, after considering the age and degree of maturity of the Player and such other factors as the Tribunal determines appropriate for the hearing of the Report, deal with and hear the Report in such manner as the Tribunal thinks fit.

8.55 In dealing with the Report under Rule 8.54, the Tribunal may:

8.55.1 Dispense with the Tribunal processes described in the Tribunal Rules in whole or in part, this may include a direction from the Tribunal that any questions asked of an attending Player are done so by the Tribunal only;

8.55.2 Hear the report in such manner and pursuant to such directions of the Tribunal as appropriate to the circumstances; or

8.55.3 Give directions as appropriate for dealing with or for the hearing of the Report.

Racial and Religious Vilification Reports

8.56 Where a complaint is lodged as provided in AFL Sydney Juniors Vilification and Discrimination Policy (see Rule 33.1 and Appendix 5), as a result of alleged prohibited conduct, and a Notice of Report is made (by either the Umpire (s) or as otherwise provided in accordance with the Rules), AFL Sydney Juniors may defer the formal offer of a Prescribed Penalty or referral of the Report to the Tribunal until such time as the procedures provided under that Policy are completed.

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

Reportable incidents

8.58 Where a reportable offence as prescribed by these Rules has occurred, or is alleged to have occurred, AFL Sydney Juniors may refer the reportable offence to the Tribunal for hearing where the alleged reportable offence is alleged to have been committed by a Player or Official, or to the Regional Committee, in any other case, for the Regional Committee to refer the alleged reportable offence to a Code of Conduct Investigations Subcommittee for determination

9. Send Off/Order Off

9.1 For the purposes of this Rule any send-off will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter excluding breaks between quarters (see Rule 11.10). For example, a Player sent off five (5) minutes before halftime in an Under 13 game would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card

9.2 A Player or Official who breaches any of the Laws twice in the same match for separate incidents, or where there is a serious breach (such as those listed, but not limited to, that in Rule 9.3), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Red card and must report the Player or Official. A Player sent from the field with a red card must leave the field completely and cannot sit with the interchange Players or the Coaches. The Umpire will recommence the game once the Player has left the playing field.

9.3 Serious breaches **include** where a Player or Official:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct, if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

9.4 A Player who receives a Red Card in a match is not prevented from participating in older age matches on the same weekend, although it is expected that Clubs will exercise prudence, as appropriate

Sledging

9.5 "Sledging" may be described as insulting language or verbal intimidation.

9.5.1 Sledging is not appropriate in AFL Sydney Juniors football competitions. AFL Sydney Juniors has a "no tolerance" attitude toward sledging and the interpretation and application of the Laws and these Rules will reflect this "no tolerance" attitude.

9.5.2 An Umpire may give a warning to a Player or Players sledging another Player or Players and where possible, will inform both captains of the warning as soon as reasonably practicable after issuing such a warning.

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

9.5.4 For the purposes of these Rules, sledging will be deemed to be an act of misconduct under the Laws (Law 19.2.2(p)).

9.5.5 The Rules in relation to sledging will apply in addition to the Laws, including the Laws in relation to the use of an obscene gesture (Law 19.2.2(f)) and using abusing, insulting, threatening or obscene language (Law 19.2.2(m)).

9.5.6 These Rules also apply, as appropriate, to the sledging of and /or by any Official.

General

9.6 In all instances, a Player ordered off shall leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area and in the case of a Yellow card can be replaced immediately and for Red Card after 15 minutes. The requirement for evening up of Players (as noted in rule 10.7) does not apply where a Player has been sent off and cannot be replaced. In the case of a Yellow card, the send-off is for a period of time equivalent to one quarter (see Rule 11.10), and the timekeeper shall indicate when the Player is permitted to resume playing. In this case, the Player must sit with the timekeeper.

9.7 In the event of a Player or Official failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, the Player or Official shall be reported for misconduct and the Player or Official's team shall forfeit the match.

9.8 In addition to Players, these rules also apply to Officials, and these Rules will be interpreted appropriately where the behaviour involves an Official or Officials.

Audible Obscenities

9.9 AFL Sydney Juniors has a "no tolerance" attitude toward the use of audible obscenities, and the interpretation and application of the Laws and these Rules will reflect this "no tolerance" attitude. Players who use audible obscenities, regardless to whom they are directed, will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter and may be reported. If the obscenity is directed at the Umpire, the Player shall be reported.

10. Teams

Numbers of Players in Teams

10.1 Player numbers are noted below under Rule 10.8 and 10.9. At all times other than for send – offs, Player numbers on the ground **must** be equal.

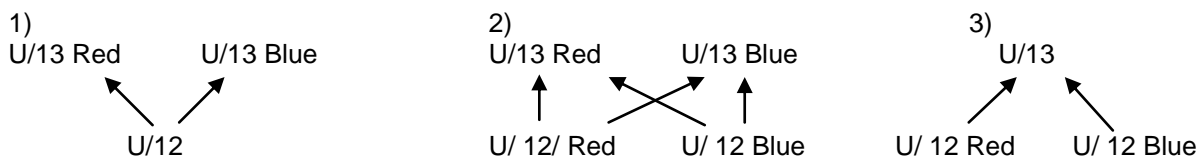
Multiple teams

10.2 Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same age competition or division, after the initial 3 rounds no Player shall be permitted to play for more than one team (excluding younger Players who play up), in the same age competition or division, during the season. Clubs must make every endeavour to form evenly matched teams, with representative and Academy listed players split evenly between teams.

Playing up an age level

10.3. The following examples are acceptable and relate to Players playing up an Age Group (from Under 12's upwards).

Example – Playing up an Age Group during the regular season:



10.4 Splitting of Players into teams of the same Age Group must be finalised after the initial 3 rounds and cannot occur during the season. Division of Players into two (2) teams is a Club responsibility. The Executive Group can provide guidelines only.

Player Numbers

10.5 Teams must have the MINIMUM number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a match to constitute an official match. Where the MINIMUM numbers of Players are not available at the scheduled commencement of play, then Rule 11.2 applies.

10.6 AFL Sydney Juniors strongly recommends that Clubs encourage the participation of Players in the game of AFL. To allow this, teams are encouraged to minimise reserves and to have the highest possible number of Players actually involved in the game on the day.

10.7 If during the course of a game, a Player injured has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that team, the Field Umpire and opposition Coach are to be advised accordingly. The other side is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). For a Player returning to the field, the same process in reverse applies.

10.8 To encourage maximum participation and teams to stand alone in terms of Player numbers, the term Match # specifies the ideal number of on-field Players per team. Where a team does not have the number of Players shown as Match # (and the other team has more than the first team), then it is **compulsory** to borrow/loan available players up to the Match # for all ages and Divisions (where present), except for Division 1

10.9 The following table shows the on field Minimum, Match # and on field Maximum by Age Group for all Regions. For minimum player number games, especially for school holidays, ground sizes can be reduced after agreement from Umpires and Coaches of both teams, to suit the number of Players on each team, ie. agree on an Under 12 sized field. During school holidays, to assist Clubs to field teams, the minimum and match numbers below can be reduced by two (2) Players, as advised by the Regional Committee.

10.9.1 In circumstances where both teams have more than the maximum on field, for an age group, it is compulsory to play all available players up to the maximum, unless otherwise agreed by both Coaches

Age Group	Min	Match #	Max. on field	Max. Interchange
U9 - U10	9	12	12	Unlimited
U11 - U12	Syd Harb – 12 Western Sydney - 10	12	15	6
U13 – U17	Div 1 & 2 - 15	16	18	6
	Div 3 - 13			
	Where no Div - 13	15	18	4
Youth Girls U14	9		15	Unlimited
Youth Girls U18	12		18	Unlimited

Team Nominations

10.10 Clubs nominating teams for entry into the Under 9's to Under 17's competitions must have registered at least 75% of the minimum number of Players (as set out in these Rules) in that team by the date set down by the Regional Committee as the closing date for nomination of teams. This rule only applies to AFL Sydney Juniors competition grade fixtures. These numbers must not include anticipated 'play up' Players.

Restricted Player List (Under 11 to Under 17)

10.11 In the event that a Club has more than one team in the Under 11's to Under 17's Age Group with a divisional structure, the Restricted Player List is used to manage the movement of Players dropping from one (1) team in a division to a lower division of that Age Group. The requirement applies only to "true age" Players, for example, Under 14's or 15's playing in Under 16's is not included.

10.12 **By the Monday following Round 2**, a minimum of ten (10) names (eight (8) for Under 11 and Under 12 teams only) are to be submitted. All recognised Talent Squad Players from the previous season must be included on this list. In the event of more than ten (10) Talent Squad Players belonging to one team, all names must be submitted. For the purposes of this Rule, Talent Squad Players are defined as TPP and Academy Players.

10.12.1 Where more than one club team is graded in the same division, **by the Monday following Round 2**, a minimum of eight (8) names (six (6) for Under 11 and Under 12 teams only) are to be submitted.

10.12.2 Following Round 2, the QBE Sydney Swans Academy and PM Capital Giants Academy may nominate up to 12 players maximum per Academy with a limit of two players per team, from any one Club, for dispensation from being listed on an RPL. These nominated players will be identified in the same location as the RPL Lists. The essential criteria that Academy Managers will use to determine who should receive dispensation, is the development level of the player(s) concerned.

10.13 Players on the Restricted Player List cannot play down in their lower division team under any circumstances.

10.14 Should a Club have a team in more than two Divisions, the Restricted Player List only applies to the top Division.

10.15 Any Player who has played 5 or more games in any Under 19 competition during the course of the season will automatically be added or be deemed to be added to the Restricted Player List. It is the responsibility of the Club of the Player concerned to advise the Regional Committee as a soon as possible that a Player should be added to the Restricted Player List by reason of this Rule.

10.16 It is the responsibility of the Coach, Team Manager and ultimately the Club to manage their Player lists to ensure compliance with the provision of these Rules.

Joint Venture teams

10.17 AFL Sydney Juniors allows, subject to conditions, the formation of joint venture teams between Clubs to maximise the participation of, and the opportunities for Players to play the game, particularly in the youth age groups.

10.18 Clubs proposing joint venture teams must make a written application to the Regional Committee, setting out the background to the proposed joint venture, and the reasoning and justification for same. The Regional Committee may reject, approve or approve on terms and conditions the proposed joint venture team and Joint Venture Agreement. Such Joint Venture Agreement should, to the maximum extent possible, be in accordance with the Joint Venture Agreement Template as approved from time to time by the Executive Group.

10.19 Within seven (7) days of the decision by the Regional Committee referred to in Rule 10.18, the Regional Committee is to forward its decision to the Executive Group together with the material referred to in Rule 10.18. The Executive Group may request further information from the Regional Committee and / or the Clubs with respect to the application and will, after consideration of the application, endorse or vary the decision of the Regional Committee.

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

10.21 A joint venture team will not be able to be entered into any competition until such time as the Joint Venture Agreement for that team is approved by the Executive Group.

10.22 The formation of joint venture teams and Joint Venture Agreements, and such arrangements, will only be allowed to proceed where they are in the best interests of the development of the game.

Club Alliance Teams

10.23 The Executive Group allows, subject to conditions, Clubs to form an alliance to enter multiple joint teams across multiple age groups, to maximise the participation of, and the opportunities for players to play the game, particularly in the youth age groups – known as a Club Alliance.

10.24 Clubs proposing a Club Alliance must make a written application to the Regional Committee, setting out the background to the proposed arrangement, and the reasoning and justification for same, as specified in the Club Alliance Guidelines. The Regional Committee may reject, approve or approve on terms and conditions the proposed Club Alliance. All Clubs must comply with the Club Alliance Guidelines, including by lodgement of the Club Alliance Application as approved from time to time by the Executive Group

10.25 Within seven (7) days of the decision by the Regional Committee referred to in Rule 10.24, the Regional Committee is to forward its recommendation to the Executive Group together with the material referred to in Rule 10.24. The Executive Group may request further information from the Regional Committee and/or the Clubs with respect to the Application and will, after consideration of the Application, endorse or vary the decision of the Regional Committee.

10.26 Club Alliance agreements will continue until dissolved by mutual consent of the participating Clubs, or at the direction of the Regional Committee, with minimum notice of 12 months. Potential triggers for Regional Committee dissolution are detailed in the Club Alliance Guidelines. For pathway certainty, in the usual course, teams within a Club Alliance are expected to remain on an alliance basis through to maturity (of Youth football)

10.27 Each year, Clubs must report on the age group numbers for incoming teams within the Club Alliance arrangements and must submit updated details as required in the Club Alliance Guidelines (limited to the “New Team Advice”,) detailing the participation and pathway benefits that necessitate a joint team for each relevant age group, adhering to the timelines specified. The Regional Committee reserves the right to disallow the formation of a new team within an existing Club Alliance where pathway benefits are not evident or there is deemed excessive risk of competitive imbalance.

10.28 A Club Alliance team will not be able to be entered into any competition until such time as the Regional Committee has provided an approval covering that team.

10.29 The formation of Club Alliances will only be allowed to proceed where they are in the best interests of the development of the game.

Executive Group Supervision

10.30 The Executive Group exercises supervisory powers over the Regional Committee, and may overrule, rescind, vary or amend any decision of the Regional Committee in relation to Joint Venture Teams or Club Alliance Teams made under these Rules.

11. Match Conduct

Match times

11.1 Matches MUST finish on time. If a start is late, then the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide the duration of the breaks at quarter, half and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters.

11.2 If MINIMUM Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of a match, but Players sufficient for MINIMUM numbers are due to arrive, then a scratch match will be played. In such circumstances, the game shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. If MINIMUM numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the first quarter, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the game is an official match. The scores at the time when the match becomes an official match will stand. If Minimum numbers are not available at the end of the first quarter, the match remains a scratch match and the team with less than Minimum numbers forfeits the match. .

11.3 Starting times will be agreed between the HOST Club and Regional Committee and advised as follows:

- As per the draw for all matches.
- Starting times are indicated for all Age Groups at all grounds.

11.4 The competing Clubs may vary the above times, but any alternative agreed to MUST be decided upon at least seven (7) days beforehand, and the Regional Umpire Coordinator must be advised of the variation. A shorter period of time may apply, but a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be payable as determined by the Regional Committee, by the Club requesting the change. A shorter period of time can only apply if agreed upon by all parties including the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

11.5 Failure of a team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine (see Rule 28). At that point, at the Field Umpire's discretion, they may commence play.

11.6 The Regional Committee, as agreed by the AFL Sydney Juniors, may advise alterations to the starting times from time to time.

11.7 When it is necessary for a Player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the Field Umpire/s shall stop play at the first opportunity after being advised that a stretcher is required on the playing ground. Play shall not recommence until the stretcher has left the playing ground and is outside the boundary.

11.8 No time-on will be allowed for the MINOR round matches.

11.9 In the case of a significant loss of playing time, the remaining time allocated for the match will be divided equitably by the Ground Manager and Umpire and the match will recommence and finish on schedule.

Match duration

11.10 Match duration will be

- Under 9/10 4 x 10 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Under 11/12/13/14/15 4 x 15 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Under 17 4 x 17 minute quarters. (no time-on)

11.11 Breaks during the games will be: -

	Under 9/10	Under 11- 17
1/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes
1/2 time	4 minutes	7 minutes
3/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes

11.12 Timekeepers will sound a siren two (2) minutes and then one (1) minute prior to the commencement of each quarter. The HOST Club and Umpires will ensure strict adherence to the quarter breaks.

11.13 Where a possible serious injury occurs to a Player and the Umpire calls a halt to play, the game will not continue until qualified medical personnel have removed the Player from the field. If the game is abandoned and the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled finish time. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner, the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.

11.14 In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, the game may be terminated by the Ground Manager. If the playing time of the game played, is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled finish time. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on a final score and a winner, the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.

Match Day Paperwork

11.15 Match Day documents are to be managed as follows:

<p>Team Sheets <u>Retained by Clubs</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs must use footy web – only record relied upon • 3 copies produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 handed to <u>opposition</u> Team Manager ○ 1 retained by Club Team Manager ○ 1 provided to <u>Ground Manager & retained by Club</u> • The team sheet must include the name of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coach ○ Team Manager ○ Runner(s) ○ First Aid Official • Each Club to verify each others list and each to sign off each Club's copies. Both Clubs to retain. • Umpires sign the Ground Manager copy after completing end of match duties. • Clubs must retain for season and be able to present if required within 7 days
<p>Goal Umpire Score Cards <u>Retained by Clubs</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Home Club must enter results on footy web within 24 hrs of match played • Clubs must advise AFL Sydney Juniors of games not played by Monday midday
<p>Match Report Completed by Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility
<p>Umpire Review Completed by Coaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to Regional Umpires Coordinator via online facility
<p>Umpire Votes Completed by Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where required Umpires to submit via online facility • Only required for Under 13 – Under 17
<p>Umpire Notice of Report sheet</p>	<p>The process to be used by the Umpires to submit Notice of Report is the online Google facility</p>
<p>In the event of a forfeit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Umpire Votes should be taken • No goal umpires cards to be kept • Record result on Footy web noted as a forfeit 	

Removing Players from Field of Play

11.16 No person, including any Coach or Club Official, may remove, or cause to be removed, a team from the field of play before the official completion of the match. Breach of this Rule is, for an Official, a reportable offence, to be dealt with by the Tribunal pursuant to the Rules. Breach of this Rule, by a person other than an Official, is a breach of the Code of Conduct, to be dealt with by an ISC. The President of the Club concerned shall also attend the Tribunal or ISC, as the case may be. The Tribunal or ISC may fine a Club or impose such penalty as the Tribunal or ISC thinks fit, in the event of a breach of this Rule.

12. Protests and Disputes

Other than Players or Officials

12.1 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving persons other than Players or Officials will, if referred to by the Regional Committee as provided for in these Rules, be dealt with by an ISC appointed by the Regional Committee.

12.2 Where in this Rule 12 there is a reference to a decision or action that is required to be made or done by the Regional Committee, the Regional Committee may delegate such decision making in whole or in part to the Regional Chairperson, who may in turn delegate the decision making so delegated in whole or in part to another person.

12.3 An email with details of the incident naming the persons and describing the incident as recounted by eye witnesses must be submitted **by 5:00pm of the Tuesday** following the incident with an Incident Referral Form signed by the President of the reporting Club to the Regional Committee Chairperson and AFL Sydney Juniors. AFL Sydney Juniors will immediately contact the Regional Committee, for the Regional Committee to arrange a meeting to consider the email and Incident Referral Form and determine whether the incident should be referred to an ISC. A hard copy of the Incident Referral Form accompanied by three hundred dollars (\$300.00) 50% refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit must reach AFL Sydney Juniors **by 5:00pm of the Wednesday** following the incident. A copy of the documents referred to above will be sent by AFL Sydney Juniors to the Secretary/President of the Club against whose member(s) or spectator(s) the citing is made.

12.4 In the event that a Club requires extra time to prepare the Incident Referral Form, AFL Sydney Juniors, after receiving a notice of intent within the time requirements of Rule 12.3, may extend same to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.

12.5 After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with Rule 12.4, the citing Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the Club that the proposed citation is directed to. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident.

12.6 If the incident is not referred to an ISC, the Regional Committee will inform both Clubs and furnish the citing Club with their reasons **within seven (7) days** of the report being received.

12.7 An Agreement between Clubs following the issuing of an Incident Referral Form, or the decision of the Regional Committee not to proceed with an ISC does not preclude AFL Sydney Juniors from proceeding with a Code of Conduct hearing as otherwise provided for in these Rules.

12.8 The Executive Group may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements as set out in Rule 12.3 for the submission of the email and/or Incident Referral Form. The Executive Group may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements for the receipt of the deposit as set out in Rule 12.3. No reasons are required to be given by the Executive Group where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by this Rule.

Involving Players or Officials

12.9 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving Players or Officials (including a person who is an Official but is not performing the functions of that office) are to be considered by the Regional Committee, a quorum of which is to be at least three (3) members, unless the Regional Committee has delegated such functions to the Regional Committee Chairperson or delegate.

12.10 A Player or Official may be cited by a Club pursuant to these Rules in circumstances where the Umpire officiating at the game has not reported the Player or Official for breach of the AFL Laws, or where there has been a breach of a Code of Conduct. A Player may also be cited by a Club pursuant to these Rules when not participating in a game but still under the jurisdiction of AFL Sydney Juniors while attending a competition game.

12.11 An email with details of the incident naming the Player or Official and describing the incident as recounted by eye witnesses must be submitted **by 5:00pm of the Tuesday** following the incident with an Incident Referral Form signed by the President of the reporting Club to the Regional Committee Chairperson and AFL Sydney Juniors. A copy is also to be sent at the same time to the Secretary/President of the Club against whose Player or Official the citing is made. AFL Sydney Juniors will immediately contact the Regional Committee for the Regional Committee to arrange a meeting to consider the email and Incident Referral Form and determine whether the incident should be referred to the Tribunal. A hard copy of the Incident Referral Form accompanied by three hundred dollars (\$300.00) 50% refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit must reach AFL Sydney Juniors **by 5:00pm of the Wednesday** following the incident.

12.12 In the event that a Club requires extra time to submit an Incident Referral Form, AFL Sydney Juniors, after receiving a notice of intent within the timing requirements of Rule 12.11, may provide such to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident

12.13 After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with Rule 12.12, a Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the Club that the proposed citation is directed to. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident.

12.14 Subject to Rules 12.12 – 12.13, the matter will then proceed to the Regional Committee, a quorum of which is to be at least three (3) members, unless the Regional Committee has delegated such functions to the Regional Committee Chairperson or delegate to determine whether the incident should be referred to the Tribunal at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the next weekend's round of games, but in any event, **within seven (7) days** of the report being received.

12.15 If the incident is not referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee will inform both Clubs and furnish the citing Club with their reasons **within seven (7) days** of the report being received.

12.16 An Agreement between Clubs following the issuing of an Incident Referral Form, or the decision of the Regional Committee not to proceed with a Tribunal hearing does not preclude AFL Sydney Juniors from proceeding with a Tribunal hearing as otherwise provided for in these Rules.

12.17 If the incident is referred to the Tribunal, the matter will be heard according to the rules governing the Tribunal and be reported by the Tribunal to AFL Sydney Juniors to in turn report to the Clubs and the Regional Committee.

12.18 The Executive Committee may waive the failure of any person or persons, in appropriate circumstances to comply with the time requirements as provided in Rules 12.14 – 12.15. No reasons are required to be given by the Regional Committee where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by those Rules.

12.19 For the purposes of these Rules 12.9 to 12.18 inclusive, AFL Sydney Juniors may, if it so determines and subject to oversight by the Executive Group, assume the powers of the Regional Committee, and where it does so, those Rules will be read accordingly.

12.20 AFL Sydney Juniors may, if it so determines, appoint a person to assume the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal in place of the citing Club, irrespective of whether or not AFL Sydney Juniors has assumed the powers of the Regional Committee pursuant to Rule 12.19.

Extensions of time

12.19 The time limits under this Rule 12 may be further extended in extraordinary circumstances only, by application to the Regional Committee, which is to inform the Executive Group immediately of the request. Any such request is subject to the approval by the Executive Group.

13. Postponements

Rescheduling

13.1 Regions will, except as agreed by the Executive Group, schedule two (2) wet weather rounds during the season as part of the normal draw.

13.2 Postponed matches should be played, providing the duration of the competition will permit. **Clubs have seven (7) days** to agree on replaying a postponed game and they must notify both the Regional Committee and AFL Sydney Juniors of the details of any agreement or their inability to agree to replay the game. Postponed games are expected to be replayed within 4 weeks of a postponed match. In the event that the Clubs are unable to agree on replaying the game, the Regional Committee will determine whether the game should be abandoned, or alternatively direct the Clubs when and where the game should be replayed. Failure by a Club to comply with the direction of the Regional Committee will result in the forfeiture of the game by that Club. Where the game is abandoned, match ratio applies.

13.3 Where appropriate, the Regional Committee may recommend cancellation of a complete round. Where the draw includes a wet weather make-up day and the washout occurs before that day the whole round will be transferred, as is, if ground availability provides. If a second washout occurs and the proximity of the final round does not permit all games to be easily rescheduled, the Regional Committee will make a decision.

13.4 For instances (other than a complete washout) where advice of grounds closures is received by a Club **AFTER 8:00pm on the Friday evening, or 12.00pm for Friday night games**, the HOST Club will be responsible for advising the Regional Committee, and with concurrence, advising match postponements to the Regional Umpire Coordinator and the Secretary of ALL Clubs scheduled to play at that ground.

13.5 Where a Local Government policy on ground usage requires the governing body/association and not an individual Club (HOST) to adjudicate on and to administer matters of grounds being suitable for play, the Regional Committee may recommend to the Executive Group for its approval a supplementary process for dealing with the issue of postponements and cancellations.

Minor Rounds

13.6 Unless a decision on any postponements is made **by 8:00pm Friday evening**, or subsequently, as outlined above, then the decision on play will be made at the grounds by the competing Coaches, and in the event of a dispute, the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide.

13.7 Where advice of a ground closure is received **by 8:00 pm on the Thursday evening** before the scheduled game(s), the Regional Committee will attempt to reschedule the game(s) to an alternate venue within the round. Clubs will be notified of the venue change and normal competition procedures shall apply. ie. if one team does not arrive, then a forfeit win will be given.

13.8 Alternatively, in considering such a decision, the Regional Committee will take all circumstances into account and the propositions put forward by the Clubs concerned. If playing the postponed match is determined as impractical, the Regional Committee shall have the right to consider distribution of the match wins.

Finals Matches

13.9 The decision on any postponement rests with the Regional Committee, or its delegated authority at the grounds. A notice of such postponement will be posted at the ground(s) concerned. If a Finals Match is postponed, it will be replayed, unless otherwise directed by the Regional Committee.

Washouts

13.10 In the event of a WASH OUT ROUND the calculation of match ratio will ensure teams are ranked fairly in the finals series. The match ratio is determined by dividing the number of games won by the number of games played. This figure is multiplied by 100 to calculate a match ratio percentage.

13.11 It is the responsibility of the Host club to advise AFL Sydney Juniors of any washouts of games, although advice may also be provided by the Regional Committee.

14. Allowed on the Field of Play

14.1 Only Players, Umpires, Trainers, First Aid Officials (as defined) and Runners are permitted on the field during the course of play (except where provided for under the Development Rules).

Runners

14.2 In the Under 13's to Under 17's Age Groups, two (2) runners are allowed, but only one on the ground at any one time. In all other Age Groups, only one (1) runner is allowed. The runner is to wear a clearly visible and identifiable coloured top as determined or approved by the Regional Committee. Only runners are permitted to deliver messages to Players and are not to loiter or remain on the field after delivering such messages.

Water Carriers /Trainers

14.3 Each team is allowed four (4) water carriers/trainers (identified by a plain white t-shirt). They should only enter the playing field on the scoring of a goal or when play is at the opposite end of the field. Water carriers/trainers are not to loiter or remain on the field after undertaking their duties.

14.4 Minimum age of water carriers will be:

- Under 12's – 12 years or older
- Under 13's - 17's – 13 years or older

Coaches

14.5 In Auskick, Under 9's and Under 10's, one Coach from each team may advise the team from inside the field of play as per Appendix 3 of these Rules.

14.6 The Field Umpire shall have the power to move the Coach back or order the Coach from the field completely and to ask any non-Players to leave the field of play.

15. Interchange

15.1 No Player may take the field before the Player being replaced has left the field.

15.2 Interchanging of Players is permitted at any time throughout the match. However, interchange can only occur through an appropriately marked interchange area. It should be clearly understood by both teams prior to the commencement of the match where the defined interchange area is located. It is to be the only portion of the ground's perimeter through which Players may enter the field.

15.3 Placement of the interchange ground markings should be on the same wing, generally at an equal distance from the two (2) Coaching groups. In the Under 9 - Under 12 Age Groups, both teams are allowed to set up interchange gates on the wing (marked by low level orange cones) to be used through the course of the game.

16. Forfeits

16.1 A forfeit WILL be claimed against any team that CANNOT field the MINIMUM NUMBER of Players for the relevant Age Group in accordance with rule 10.9 within fifteen (15) minutes after the agreed starting time. The exception to this rule applies in finals (see Rule 17.1.1). If both teams cannot field the minimum number, the result is a non-game. Forfeit details must be listed on the team sheets with the Umpire's signature. The teams may play a scratch match within the remaining allotted time. No votes are to be recorded.

16.2 Any forfeit (if known in advance) must be advised to AFL Sydney Juniors, the opposing Club's Administrator / Secretary and the Regional Umpire Coordinator **36 hours prior to the scheduled time of the match**. If an Umpire turns up to a game, because of late or non-notification of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is liable for the whole amount of the Umpire's fees (shared equally in the case of a double forfeit). If a scratch match is played, the Umpire fees are paid as per normal Regional rules.

16.3 If a forfeit is not known in advance (essentially, it happens on the day) then advice must be provided to AFL Sydney Juniors by the Host club as soon as possible after the forfeit is known.

16.4 For forfeit score calculations, refer to Rule 3.19.

16.5 For the purpose of games played, only the non-forfeiting team may enter a team into Footyweb.

17. Finals Series

Times and Player Numbers

17.1 The intention of this Rule is during the finals series to have the maximum number of Players on the field in accordance with the numbers set out in the table to Rule 10.9. Where a team has less than the match numbers shown under that table, they must play all those Players on the field and are not permitted to run an interchange bench. Evening down of total on-field numbers during the finals series is compulsory.

17.1.1 In finals, minimum numbers must be in attendance prior to the commencement of play, otherwise a forfeit will be given with less than minimum numbers.

17.2 In the event of a draw, additional time to be played for all Age Groups is five (5) minutes each way. The Coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren. The Coach will not be able to address the team and sides will change ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period. If the game is still tied after additional time, teams do not change ends and the game restarts with a centre ball up. The Coach will not be able to address the team. The team to score first will be declared the winner.

17.3 TIME-ON will be allowed for injury in the case of a stretcher being used on the field and also other incidents (e.g. a lost ball) at the Umpire's discretion. Timekeepers are to be notified if this is the case and must be able to record the time-on.

Format of Final Series

17.4 Where the number of teams in the competition is six (6) to eleven (11) teams, the top placed four (4) teams will participate. Where a Regional Committee has employed a cross sub region fixture structure in the draw, application to extend the number of finals teams may be referred by the Regional Committee to the Executive Group prior to Round 10, and the Executive Group will inform the Regional Committee of the the number of teams to participate in and, if appropriate, the format of the Final Series, by no later than Round 12. A cross sub region fixture is where teams from different sub regions (example Sydney South and Sydney North Clubs) are scheduled to predominately play each other in their sub region, with a limited element of cross over games to reduce travel considerations.

Where the number of teams in the competition exceeds eleven (11) teams then the top placed six (6) teams will participate.

Format of the finals for four (4) teams:

Week 1	(A) 1v2 (B) 3v4	Week 2 (C) Loser A v Winner B	Week 3 Winner A v Winner C
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Format of the finals for six (6) teams:

Week 1	(A) 1v2	(B) 3v6	(C) 4v5
Week 2	(D) Winner A v lowest ranked winner of B and C (E) Loser A v highest ranked winner of B and C		
Week 3	Winner D v Winner E		

17.5 The 10 Goal Rule does not apply during the finals series.

Eligibility

17.6 Any request to vary the application of Rules 17.7 to 17.10 inclusive is to be made to AFL Sydney Juniors, but such variation is only to be applied by AFL Sydney Juniors in extenuating circumstances (for example, injury to a Player or illness). Such request must be supported by a doctor's certificate or other acceptable evidence and a \$100 deposit fee (refundable in whole or in part at the discretion of AFL Sydney Juniors). Any dispensation for a non-qualified Player to participate in finals will have to be recorded in Footyweb by AFL Sydney Juniors AFL. Dispensation applications must, unless AFL Sydney Juniors otherwise agrees, be made to AFL Sydney Juniors **at least seven (7) days before the finals begin**. The Executive Group may impose such additional or other terms or conditions on the approval as it considers appropriate.

17.7 To play in finals, Players' registrations must have been approved and they must have played at least four (4) games during that season within the **team** that they wish to play.

17.8 With respect to all competitions, any Player who plays more games in an older Age Group or higher division is ineligible for finals in the younger Age Group or lower division. This rule applies across the oldest age group in AFL Sydney Juniors into AFL Sydney

17.8.1 If a Player participates in all games in both Age Groups or division, and where the older Age Group or higher division has more games due to byes in the lower Age Group or division, this Rule does not apply.

17.9. Players referred to in Rule 17.8 playing in Under 19's or Senior teams in AFL Sydney must play in the Clubs highest Division team.

17.10 A Player who plays up in two (2) teams in the same Age Group (excluding Divisions) can only play in one team during the finals for the duration of the finals series i.e. the one most games were played for, or if equal, the one that 50% was first reached.

17.11 Presentations to be made on Grand Final day are determined by the Regional Committee and as agreed to by the Executive Group.

Umpires

17.12 The Umpires appointed to control finals matches shall be appointed by the Regional Umpires Coordinator and advised to the Regional Committee, prior to the scheduled day.

17.13 The Regional Committee may approve or disapprove the appointments. Where the Regional Committee disapproves any of the appointments, the Regional Committee and Umpire's Coordinator will seek to agree on the list of appointments, subject to the overview of the Executive Group

18. Team Sheets and Results

Completion

18.1 All teams must use the official team sheet as produced from Footyweb. Separate instructions and training is provided on Team Sheet creation via Footyweb.

18.2 Clubs are to produce Team sheets in accordance with Rule 11.13 Match Day Paperwork.

18.3 Both Clubs are to retain their copies of the team sheets and scorecards for all games for a period of at least 4 weeks after the end of the season or as stipulated by the Executive Group and be able to present these within **seven (7) days of request**.

18.4 All Players and interchange Players must be listed with the CORRECT jumper number. The Team Sheet must be signed by the Team Manager or Coach. If a Player plays in a higher Age Group, then the Age Group in which the Player is registered must be listed. (For example: SMITH John, Under 14 on Under 15 Team Sheet).

18.5 Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's Team Manager for identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision, or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day, the following procedure are to be followed:

- The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet.
- The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to AFL Sydney Juniors.
- The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence **within three (3) working days** of receiving an official request from AFL Sydney Juniors otherwise all match wins gained in that grade in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing side.

18.6 At the conclusion of each game, team sheets must be signed by the Field Umpire. The Field Umpire will complete the Match Report and submit via the online facility.

Submission (Documentation and Results)

18.7 The HOST Club at which matches have been played shall collate the results and arrange **for entry into Footyweb within 24 hours of the match being played**. Each Club will retain the responsibility to upload changes to their own team sheets. Clubs must advise AFL Sydney Juniors of any games not played by **midday** on the first working day following the scheduled match.

18.8 At the completion of the MINOR round of matches, AFL Sydney Juniors will provide to the Regional Committee all Umpire best and fairest votes, by Player, for each Age Group. A Player who is found guilty of an offence, which results in a penalty, (other than a reprimand), including an accepted Prescribed Penalty is ineligible to win any AFL Sydney Juniors Best & Fairest Award.

18.9 Team Sheets will be the ONLY acceptable record of the Players who have played. Both Teams are to retain copies of Team sheets and Goal Umpire Score Cards.

18.10 In the Home and Away matches, Team Sheets MUST be in the hands of the Ground Manager before the commencement of a match. Team Sheets handed to the Ground Manager should only include the names of Players that are present at that time, and changes can only be made to Team Sheets up to the end of the quarter time interval. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure all copies are altered accordingly.

18.10.1 Finals Matches – Team Sheets MUST be in the hands of the Ground Manager fifteen minutes before the commencement of a match. Clubs can still make changes to Team Sheets up until the end of the quarter time interval, Team Sheets handed to the Ground Manager should only include the names of players that are present at that time.

18.11 Any person wishing to query the validity of information contained on a team sheet must do so **within 7 days** of the day the match is played.

18.12 It is incumbent on Clubs to ensure that individuals designated to create and update team sheets are aware of exactly what the process is and the consequences of not completing the task correctly. At any time a Club may seek advice from AFL Sydney Juniors on the process. Any Club requesting AFL Sydney Juniors make an adjustment to a team sheet must do so within **twenty one (21) days of the match** concerned being played and must provide a copy of the team sheet concerned. Once finals have commenced, no changes to old team sheets can be made

19. Club Game Responsibilities

HOST Club

19.1 The designated HOST Club is to provide:

Timekeeper	Drinks for the umpires	A SAFETY check of the ground before the first match to remove any rocks, glass, needles or other debris from the playing surface i.e. JLT Match Day Checklist completed
Marked interchange area	Scoreboard/Sounding siren	
Padding for goal and behind posts	Ground Manager	Padding or other protection around structures within three (3) metres of the playing area for example taps, seats, concrete structures
First Aid Official as defined in Rule 19		
Umpire Escort (Normally Ground Manager or appointee)		

Ground Manager

19.2 Ground Manager's match day responsibilities include:

- Ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the game is available before the game.
- To ensure the ground is set-up through the movement and placement of goal posts and padding and the interchange area.
- Ensure a copy of the current AFL Sydney Juniors Rules and a copy of the current AFL Laws are available for all games.
- Have available a spare set of Yellow and Red cards.
- Arrange a timekeeper.
- Check the availability of Field and Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires, and time-keeping Officials.
- Check with Team Managers that Runners, Goal and Boundary Umpires and Coaches are aware of or have their Function Cards.
- Receive any formally submitted objections, protests or complaints from Officials of Clubs.

- Wear a Bib with the title 'Ground Manager' printed on the back so as to be easily identified.
- Provide water for the Field Umpires at each break.
- Where possible, provide the Field Umpires with reasonable refreshments after their game(s).
- Accompany the Umpires on and off the ground and to and from the Umpire's rooms at breaks, or arrange for a responsible person to do so.
- Ensure Umpires review both team sheets for inclusion of all jumper #'s and then sign the sheets (noting that both Clubs are to retain both home and away team sheets plus appropriate score cards).
- Retain the Umpire team sheets.
- Submission of Umpire Match Reports and Player reports will be the responsibility of the Umpires. Arrange payment to Field Umpires as required.
- Ensure that both teams are aware where the interchange area is.
- In appropriate circumstances, ensure that the Field Umpire is aware that a stretcher is needed on the field, noting that the Umpire shall then stop play at the first opportunity. The Ground Manager should also ensure that a phone is available to call an ambulance if required.
- In the event of a possible serious injury (e.g. neck), dissuade any football Official from moving the injured Player and to wait for an ambulance. NOTE: The game will not continue until qualified medical personnel have removed the Player from the field. If the game is abandoned and the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner, the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, terminate the game. NOTE: If the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on a final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- Keep a check on the behaviour of all Officials and spectators and to issue warnings for any misconduct or behaviour that is contrary to the spirit of the game. NOTE: This process should be completed by Officials of the Club involved after the Ground Manager has advised an Official of the offending Club. It is not the intent that a Ground Manager should be confrontational or assume direct responsibility for behaviour management. In the event that an offence is deemed reportable, the Ground Manager must obtain signed statements from witnesses and obtain any other relevant material, such as video footage. Such reports must be substantiated in this manner.
- Provide a faxed or electronic report to AFL Sydney Juniors of any substantiated misconduct by spectators or Club Officials **within twenty-four (24) hours** of the game's completion.
- In the event of a postponed game, inform the Regional Committee in writing of the specific reasons for abandonment of any games.
- Seek to ensure Coaches, Team Managers, Boundary Umpires, Goal Umpires, runners, trainers and medical/first-aid personnel wear their identification bib or appropriate uniform as described in these Rules on match day.
- Before the commencement of the match, identify compliance with the Sports Trainers Policy as described in Rule 19.5 – 19.15

19.2.1 It is recommended that the Ground Manager resources be located on the wing, 5 metres from the field of play, in between Coaches boxes.

19.2.2 The Ground Manager's responsibilities must be performed by a person at least 18 years of age.

Team Manager

19.3 For each team, the Team Manager must provide/arrange the following:

- Goal Umpire (with white coat, flags and scorecard)
- Boundary Umpire (with white top and whistle)
- One football in suitable match condition
- Team sheets (Refer to Rule 11.13)
- Spare whistle
- Official runner shirt that is clearly visible and identifiable as determined or provided for by the Regional Committee
- The First Aid Official (as defined).

19.3.1 Clubs are provided with Coach and Team Manager identification bibs which must be worn by the Coach and Team Manager respectively during match games. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and / or the loss of match ratio.

Injury Treatment

19.4 All Clubs are to comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia, as issued from time to time and as adopted by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all Clubs have a copy of the Australian Dental Regions 'Dislodged Teeth' guidelines available at all games so that dislodged teeth can be best preserved.

Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (First Aid)

19.5 AFL Sydney Juniors has adopted the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (**Sports Trainers Policy**) released by the AFL in 2011. All Clubs in AFL Sydney Juniors are required to comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.6 Training courses are available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.7 The HOST club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of Sports Trainers Policy for all games for which it is the Host Club.

19.8 There must be at least one person with the competencies in emergency management procedures and responses in attendance at any youth (Under 13 – Under 17) game. The non Host club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each game that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this Rule. In the event that the HOST club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the non HOST club agrees, the game will be postponed or rescheduled.

19.8.1 Any decision to replay a postponed match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Regional Committee within seven days of the scheduled match or match ratio applies. In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the game a delayed start of 15 minutes may be applied. If there are games following the match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of games following.

19.8.2 The game may proceed if the non HOST club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.8.3 If the non HOST club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the game, then the non Host Club may claim a forfeit. The Rules in relation to forfeits will apply. If a game is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the HOST Club will lose match ratio for the game and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.

19.9 The Sports Trainer Policy applies to all Youth matches (Under 13 – Under 17).

19.10 At Auskick Centres and Junior matches (up to and including Under 12), the attendance of a person with a current, nationally accredited first aid certificate* will generally satisfy the requirements if a person with a higher level trainer accreditation/qualification is not available.

*Must include assessed competencies HLTF301B (Apply First Aid) or HLTF201 (Provide Emergency Life Support)

19.11 In the event that a First Aid Official is required on the playing field in Youth or Junior games, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after being so advised and invite the First Aid Official (as defined) on to the field.

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

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

- Nurse
- Physiotherapist
- A certified Sports Trainer
- St John Officer
- Paramedic
- Doctor

Concussion Management

19.14 Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Player's Club, and their Officials.

19.14.1 The guidelines in this Rule on concussion are based on a position statement on the management of concussion in Australian Football by the AFL Medical Officer's Association.

19.14.2 The guidelines should be adhered to at all times. Decisions regarding return to play after concussive injuries should only be made by a medical doctor with experience in concussive injuries

19.14.3 Any Player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must not be allowed to return to play in the same game or train in the same practice session.

19.14.4 A concussed Player must not be allowed to return to training or playing before having a formal medical clearance provided to the Club.

Umpire Reviews

19.15 A process of review of umpires is contained in Appendix 1.

Bad Weather

19.16 Umpires and Clubs (in particular Ground Managers) should be aware of the dangers of allowing play during thunder/electrical storms. Play should cease if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. No risks should be taken in this regard.

19.17 When a match is stopped due to these circumstances, the result of the match is to be governed by the Laws rule 10.6.2 Incomplete Match.

Match Day Checklist

19.18 Under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program administered by JLT Sport, a Match Day Checklist must be completed prior to any football activity on match day. This is to be completed and signed by both home and away Clubs and shown to the Umpire prior to commencement of play in the first match of the day.

19.19 A copy of the completed checklist is to be filed and **kept by the home team** for each match conducted and be kept for a **minimum of seven (7) years**.

20. Player Registration

Forms

Note: Registration may only be affected by the Player, Parent or Guardian through Footyweb

20.1 For new Players, a registration form needs to be completed. For returning Players, a registration form update of details is required.

20.2 Every Player for each team must be registered using online registration forms, as approved by the Executive Group.

20.3 Online Registration forms must be completed prior to a Player taking part in a competition activity.

20.4 New Player and correction to existing Player details are to be recorded in the Footyweb database.

20.5 Online Registration forms are retained within Footyweb. However on request from AFL Sydney Juniors, a copy of the document along with proof of date of birth, if requested, must be provided **within 3 working days of the request**.

20.6 Violation of Rule 20.5 may result in a Player being disqualified and any dispensations withdrawn.

20.7 If a Player wishes to play in a team two (2) or more Age Groups higher than the Player's qualified Age Group as recognised by their date of birth, then special dispensation must be obtained from the Regional Committee. As this will require consultation with Club Officials and the Player's parent/guardian, adequate prior notice is required. In such cases, the parents are to complete AFL Sydney Juniors Form 16.

20.8 Subject to the exceptions that apply in Rules 20.8.4 and 20.8.5, this Rule applies where a Player from a Club wishes to also play with another Club within AFL Sydney Juniors (at the same time). The following applies:

20.8.1 This will only be allowed if the participation is with a Club that has a different age structure and the original Club does not have a team in that Age Group. The Player is permitted to play only where he/she plays up a level with the second Club;

20.8.2 The Player will be required to be registered with both Clubs. This must be advised to AFL Sydney Juniors to system authorise;

20.8.3 Approval to play is subject to the agreement of both Clubs and the Regional Committee/s. This includes any requirements set by the original Club /Regional Committee around such matters as Representative participation;

20.8.4 To encourage the playing of AFL in the wider community, this Rule 20.8 does not apply to Players registered with Independent Schools as provided by Regulation by the Executive Group, save that to allow the Player to play for the School, the Club is to provide a permit for the Player to play with the School;

20.8.5 Academy Players are exempted from this Rule 20.8 where they obtain an Academy Player Permit (**Permit**). The issuing of a Permit will be subject to the conditions set out in Rule 20.8.5.1 to 20.8.5.10.

20.8.5.1 The Academy, on behalf of a Player, must apply for an Academy Player Permit if the Academy deems it appropriate for that Player to obtain additional match time. Application for the Permit can be accessed through AFL Sydney Juniors Sydney and needs to be approved by the following parties in conjunction with the Player's parents:

- Academy Manager /Operations Manager
- Registered Club's President
- Permit Club's President
- Both Regional Committees

20.8.5.2 The Permit is for one season only.

20.8.5.3 Factors such as the Player's level of physical maturity, stage of development and/or level of talent must be considered and approved by the Permit Club's President and parents to determine the appropriate Age Group before the Player is permitted to play. Apart from physical assessment, the capacity of the Permit Club and team in terms of numbers need to be considered by the Regions. Engagement and signoff by all stakeholders is paramount.

20.8.5.4 An email request from Academy Manager / Operations Manager is sent to all parties (providing 7 days to respond). If acceptable by all parties, AFL Sydney Juniors is to be advised for processing a Permit.

20.8.5.5 The Player must fulfil all playing and training commitments with his Registered Club before being permitted to play with the Permit Club. Failure to fulfil this requirement may result in a Permit being withdrawn.

20.8.5.6 If a Player leaves the Academy, then the Permit is automatically withdrawn.

20.8.5.7 The Player under Permit will not train with the Permit Club under normal circumstances. The exception may be where Academy requirements prevent a Player from attending normal registered Club training. Players cannot train 4 nights a week plus play on Saturday and Sunday.

20.8.5.8 The provisions of AFL Sydney Juniors Rule 20.10.1 apply.

Academy Local Interchange and Match Day out of Region Permits

Note: The purpose of the following Rule is to provide Academy Players with the opportunity to maximise football time when byes and early forfeits are known. It will be administered according to the requirements of, and the spirit of this stated purpose.

20.8.5.9 Academy Players registered in Regions outside of AFL Sydney Juniors Sydney Harbour or Western Sydney GIANTS Regions may be granted an Academy permit when their team has a scheduled bye in their competition. In addition, if the opposing team offers a forfeit prior to 9.00am on the Thursday preceding the scheduled match, a permit may also be granted.

20.8.5.10 Except for forfeits, applications for permits under this Rule should be made to and approved by the relevant Academy Manager prior to the commencement of each season, Player details and details of bye rounds are to be provided to AFL Sydney Juniors for signoff and approval by the Regional Committee. A "Local Interchange" permit will be issued to cover the dates of the byes

20.8.5.11 Early advice from the Academy Manager needs to be provided with respect to forfeits, and where approved, a "Match Day" permit will be issued. Timing is essential in these cases, so that the permit can be issued before 9.00am on the Friday preceding the scheduled match.

20.8.5.12 Details of both byes and early "forfeits" will have to be confirmed with the permitted Player's league or Region.

20.8.5.13 As this provision is facilitative in nature and purpose, there will be no right of appeal with respect to decisions made under this Rule

20.8.5.14 All disputes involving Permits are to be referred to and determined by the Executive Group.

Same Age Teams in multiple Regions

20.8.6 Where a Club places two or more teams into both the Sydney Harbour and Western Sydney Regions, in the same age group, the Club will nominate a maximum of ten (10) players who will be allowed to play across Regions. These players are to be listed as "Unrestricted Players" and issued with Local Interchange permits. The list is to be supplied to the AFL Sydney Juniors prior to Round 1. Where an unrestricted player suffers a long term injury, the Club may apply to the Regional Committee for a replacement

Transfers

20.9A A transfer is deemed to include inter and intra league Player movements as defined by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission. Transfers cannot be affected before February 1 and after June 30 each year.

20.9B Players in the Under 9 to Under 17 Age Groups are free to transfer between Clubs prior to the season commencing (round 1), provided they have not re-registered with their former Club (the former Club), subject to the restrictions in these Rules.

20.10A Registration with a Club does not include where the Player is playing with that Club pursuant to a permit only, or any similar arrangement.

20.10B Following the commencement of the season (round 1), Players are only free to transfer after Regional Committee approval.

20.10C The process of transfer requires the Player wishing to transfer to request a transfer from the existing Club, including reasons for such a request. Once consent is provided, the new Club will need to register the Player accordingly. If consent is not given, the matter can be referred to the Regional Committee for determination.

20.10D A Player playing for a Club without transfer consent will result in the loss of match ratio and percentage awarded while the infringement of these Rules continues.

20.10E Transfers not officially approved by the Regional Committee will result in penalties to the teams and Clubs involved in accepting and playing a non-approved Player.

20.10F Where a Club does not seek prior approval of a transfer by the Regional Committee, any match ratio will be forfeited in the event that the transfer is revoked

20.11 Clubs to which the Players are transferring (the new Club) are only permitted a maximum of three (3) Players from the one particular former Club team to the new Club, unless the former Club allows more than three (3). In circumstances where the former Club agrees to allow more than three (3) Players, the approval of the Regional Committee must also be obtained by the new Club prior to the transfer.

20.12 Rule 20.11 does not apply where the former Club does not field a team in the Age Group of the Players concerned and the former Club has informed the Regional Committee that they will not be fielding a team in the Age Group. For the purpose of this Rule, a team in the Age Group of the Players concerned includes a combined team of a number of Clubs, where there is an agreement by the former Club to field its Players in or refer its Players to the combined team.

20.13A. Approval pursuant to Rule 20.11 will only be given in exceptional circumstances. An example of where approval is likely to be given is where a Player moves residential location as a result of a Parent or Guardian being relocated by an existing employer, where the Parent has been with that same employer for a period of six (6) months prior to the transfer of employment.

20.13B The maximum number of Players that may transfer from a former Club to the new Club, across all teams and Age Groups, including the circumstances covered by Rule 20,09.01, is five (5), unless the Regional Committee approves of same prior to the transfer.

Academy Transfers

20.13C.1 This Rule applies where **QBE Sydney Swans Academy** and **PM Capital Giants Academy** Players transfer or are transferring to the same team in one Club before or during the season.

20.13C.2 If as a result of transfers the number of QBE Sydney Swans Academy and PM Capital Giants Academy Players will exceed 30% in aggregate of the maximum Team number for that age group (being the aggregate of "Max on field" and the "Max interchange" as set out in rule 10.9), transfers approved by Clubs or automatically by Footyweb in that season will be revoked by AFL Sydney Juniors, with notice to the Club and the Regional Committee. Any such revocation will be applied on the basis of latest in time registration being revoked.

20.13C.3 If a Club is already at the 30% limit before any transfers are sought to be effected, no further transfers will be allowed, unless agreed to otherwise by the Regional Committee, subject to the prior approval of the Executive Group.

20.13C.4 Competition points will be forfeited in the event a team exceeds the 30% limit referred to in the this Rule on match day, unless the team exceeded the 30% limit before any transfer/s, or exceeded the 30% limit after any transfer/s approved as provided in these Rules, such approval being given prior to the relevant match.

20.13C.5 Transfer of **QBE Sydney Swans Academy** and **PM Capital Giants Academy** players in any one season is, in any event, limited to a maximum of two players, unless agreed to or otherwise by the Regional Committee, subject to the approval of the Executive Group.

How this rule works

Example – Under 13 – Max, on field / interchange – 18 / 6

Maximum team number = $24 \times 30\% = 7$ players (the number of players is to be rounded down in all instances where the result is not a whole number)

Proof of Age

20.14 The following documentary proof of age shall be acceptable to AFL Sydney Juniors :

- Original Birth Certificate or Original Extract of Birth
- Passport
- Original Baptism or similar Certificate
- Any original legal document certifying proof of age of applicant, or
- Any other such document as acceptable by AFL Sydney Juniors such as School ID card, Letter from School Principal.

20.15 Only those persons duly authorised by the Executive Group shall be permitted to endorse such applications for sighting of proof of age.

Match Day Registrations

20.16 Match Day Registrations may be granted provided:

- Registration details are to be entered into Footyweb by **5.00pm on the Tuesday** following the game.
- New Player(s) name, address, birth date are noted on the back of the Team Sheet.
- The opposing Team Manager is informed that a new Player is being registered.

20.17 Should the Player later be found to be ineligible, the Player's team will lose match ratio and the Club will be subject to a sanction imposed by the Executive Group.

Executive Group Jurisdiction

20.18 Clubs knowingly playing UNREGISTERED or INELIGIBLE Players or deliberately falsifying documents in any way will be liable to a fine (in addition to the loss of any match ratio), not exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars for each breach, and/or suspension of Club Official(s) and/or the Club from Competition/s.

20.19 In the event of any questions arising that are not provided for in these Rules, the opinion of the Executive Group shall be sought and acted upon and its decision will be final.

Female Participation

20.20 The AFL policy strongly recommends that youth girls aged 13 and 14 years participate in a structured youth girl's competitions. However, if there is no youth girl's competition available, the following applies:

- In accordance with the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)¹, persons aged Under 12 years of age cannot be excluded on the basis of sex or gender identity from participating in a competitive sporting activity.
- Pursuant to section 42(1) of the Act, persons of one gender aged 12 and over can be excluded from participating in competitive sporting activities in which the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant.
- AFL Sydney Juniors will exclude females who reach 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a 'female competition'. A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the Players are female.
- The AFL NSW/ACT Dispensation policy applies to all participants in the game.

¹ The provisions of section 42 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) are essentially replicated in equivalent State legislation
 Note: Please see the AFL National Junior Policy for further details regarding this philosophy

21. Resolution of disputes within Clubs

21.1 The Executive Group requires that all issues or disputes arising within Clubs are to be resolved to the reasonable satisfaction of the members of that Club in a timely and appropriate manner.

21.2 The following outline resolution procedures are recommended by AFL Sydney Juniors to ensure that this objective is able to be achieved, but are subject to the Club's own dispute resolution processes.

21.3 All Clubs and their members have a responsibility to participate in dispute resolution processes.

21.4 Where any member of a Club has an issue or dispute, it shall, where possible, be dealt with as follows:

If the issue is	then the issue should be raised with
Football or team related	Team Manager or Coach
General in nature	Committee Member

21.5 Where the dispute is football or team related and the parties to the dispute cannot resolve the dispute, the Team Manager or Coach should refer the dispute to the Committee through the Football Manager, Secretary or President, as soon as possible.

21.6 In attempting to resolve the dispute, the parties to the dispute should take into account;

21.6.1 the nature and extent of the issue e.g. is it likely to have a wider effect or impact on the Club;

21.6.2 the number of Players or teams affected;

21.6.3 whether a temporary solution or measure is possible;

21.6.4 the expected time before the dispute can be addressed;

21.6.5 what resources may be needed to resolve the dispute.

21.7 The Team Manager or Coach may at any time call on the Committee for assistance.

21.8 Any football or team related issues reported to the Committee, where the Team Manager or Coach has not been given the initial opportunity to resolve the dispute, shall be referred back to the Team Manager or Coach.

21.9 The consent of the Committee must be obtained before any external parties are involved in the resolution of the dispute. Subject to the Club's own procedures, and the overriding requirement of Rule 27, only the Club's President is authorised to make public statements or announcements on behalf of the Club.

21.10 Subject to Rule 21.9, a Club may seek the assistance of the Regional Committee, or the Regional Committee may in turn seek the assistance of the Executive Group, to resolve any dispute.

21.11 All persons involved in any dispute must act in a genuine attempt to resolve the dispute.

22. Coaches

Accreditation

22.1 All Coaches officiating at AFL Sydney Juniors games must be accredited / registered with AFL Coaching certificates. Non-accredited Coaches must attend and complete courses provided by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission during the course of the year of registration.

22.2 Coaches who have coached in the previous year must commence a course in the first half of the season (or early courses, as designated).

22.3 New Coaches appointed in the current year have until the mid year courses to commence accreditation.

22.4 After those dates, Coaches who have failed to comply will not be able to continue coaching unless given Executive Group dispensation.

22.5 An unaccredited Coach not provided dispensation to continue coaching by the Executive Group will not be permitted to:

22.5.1 display visible signs of Coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant Coach or Coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game;

22.5.2 enter the playing arena at any stage during the match. If, however, the Coach is a parent of a Player participating in a finals match, the Coach may enter the field at the quarter time and three quarter time breaks but must not address the team;

22.5.3 be closer than 25 metres from the teams interchange bench during the game;

22.6 Any Coach suspended as a Coach will not be permitted, during the period of suspension, to:

22.6.1 display visible signs of Coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant Coach or Coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game;

22.6.2 enter the playing arena at any stage during the match;

22.6.3 be closer than 25 metres from the teams interchange bench during the game;

22.6.4 enter the change rooms before or during the game, including half time.

Identification

22.7 AFL Sydney Juniors approved Coach identification bibs must be worn by Coaches during match games. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and / or the loss of match ratio.

23. Representative Football

23.1 AFL Sydney Juniors Representative program (Carnival) is presently structured along the following lines, but changes will be made from time to time by the Executive Group as required to reflect its evolutionary development. It is important that the Carnival reflects in part the development of the Regional Representatives program, as much as an opportunity for reward:

- The Carnival will involve Under 13/14/15/17's.
- The Rotation Principal of players, for part of the Carnival at least, is required.
- Details of the Rotation Policy will be provided with Team lists before the Carnival.
- Eight weeks before the determined dates for the Carnival, Regions should commence appointing Coaches and staff.
- Six weeks before the Carnival, non AFL Academy nominated Players may start training as a group.
- The Academies will invite Representative Coaches to attend Academy training to oversee those Players from their Region they may consider for their Representative team. In addition, Academy Coaches will be able to work with the Representative Coaches on up-skilling. It is expected that Representative Coaches will take up the invitations.
- In the two weeks before the Carnival, Academy Players selected in the Representative squad and Non Academy Players can train together. In the last 2 weeks before the Carnival, Academy Players chosen will be excused from Academy requirements.
- Unless otherwise agreed to by the Regional Committee, Representative players selected in the Under 13's Carnival must be "true age" ie. the Player must as of midnight on the 31st December prior to the season, be no more than one year under the prescribed age. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Regional Committee for all other teams, Players may be no more than two(2) years under the prescribed age

24. Uniforms

24.1 These Rules and their implementation are subject to the overall supervision of, and direction by the Executive Group.

24.2 All Players must play in the Club or team uniform as agreed by the Regional Committee. Players must wear different full numbers on the back of each jumper, which are recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. Those numbers must correspond to those on the respective team sheet.

24.3 Where the Club colours and uniform have been approved by the Regional Committee, that Club will have the rights to that colour and uniform in that Region. No other AFL Sydney Juniors Club in that Region may apply to register that colour or uniform.

24.4 The Regional Committee will make provision for Club colours and uniforms in the event that a Club or Clubs are admitted to the Region's competitions where the colours and/or uniforms of two or more Clubs would otherwise be the same.

24.5 If a Club wishes to change its colours or uniform, it must obtain approval from the Regional Committee.

24.6 All Club and team uniforms (jumper, shorts and socks) must be approved by the Regional Committee at the time of team nominations. This is to avoid **uniform** clashes.

24.7 To avoid clashes of uniform, the following provisions will also apply:

24.7.1 one team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark brown etc) whilst the other team will play in contrasting coloured shorts (such as red) or white shorts;

24.7.2 where the HOST Club plays in white shorts, the away team may play in any colour shorts, other than white;

24.8 Where teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour, the AWAY team shall wear a clash jumper.

24.9 Any changes to a Regional Representative uniform must be approved by the Executive Group.

24.10 Jumpers worn by all Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast. Club jumpers and shorts with the AFL NSW/ACT logo may only be obtained from official suppliers.

24.11 Sponsor's logo as approved by AFL Sydney Juniors may be worn either on the front or back of Players' jumpers as follows –

- Front – The logo must be positioned on the left breast, directly opposite the AFL NSW/ACT logo. It is not to exceed 8 cm x 8 cm in size.
- Back – The logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath (or both) the Player number. The size of the logo must not exceed 60 mm high and 200 mm wide if being placed above the number, or 100 mm high and 300 mm wide, if underneath the number.

24.12 Sponsor's logo as approved by AFL Sydney Juniors may be worn on shorts as follows –

- The logo must not exceed 70 sq cm with a maximum width of 11cm and a maximum depth of 6.3 cm.
- The logo must be placed on the front of the right leg.

24.13 Use of gloves by Players in competition is not allowed. This is to encourage the development of handling skills. Umpires have discretionary power to allow the use of a glove(s) in special circumstances such as injury. The Ground Manager must sight a medical certificate where injury exists, and a copy must be sent to AFL Sydney Juniors. For Under 9's and Under 10's only, on days of extreme cold, a plain white T shirt only may be worn underneath the playing jumper.

24.14 Undergarments, such as Lycra shorts, must be beige, black or white. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) may only be worn with the prior approval of the Regional Committee.

25. Finance

Arrears

25.1 If any Club is in arrears to AFL Sydney Juniors for a period of **fourteen (14) days** or more from the statement date, a fee of 10% of the amount owing may be charged for every **fourteen (14) day** period or part thereof that the amount is outstanding. Any such fee shall then become part of the amount outstanding.

25.2 If any Club is in arrears to AFL Sydney Juniors for a period of **fourteen (14) days or more**, that Club's representative(s) shall be ineligible to vote at any Regional Sub Committee meeting.

25.3 If any Club is in arrears to AFL Sydney Juniors or AFL NSW/ACT for a period of **fifteen (15) days or more beyond the date due noted on the invoice**, that Club shall be ineligible for any match ratio earned by any team of that Club whilst that Club is in arrears. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Executive Group may, at its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with AFL Sydney Juniors, for the purposes of these Rules, provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

25.4 If any Club is in arrears at a time **seven (7) days** prior to the date of the finals series commencing, that Club shall be ineligible to compete in that finals series. In the event of this occurring, teams placed next on the premiership ladder at the completion of the home and away matches for the respective Age Groups shall fill the place of the ineligible team.

25.5 If an appeal is made to the Executive Group about an imposed financial penalty, then the Executive Group may, in its discretion, allow for required time frames to be held over until resolution of any appeal.

Funds Management

25.6 The management of funds through AFL Sydney Juniors will include the establishment of a central account in the name of AFL Sydney Juniors Inc. As provided in the AFL Sydney Juniors Rules of Association and the Regional Charter, the funds of the Region will be used only in pursuance of the objects of and for the benefit of the Region.

25.7 Funds and financial transactions will be managed for each Regional Committee separately through the establishment of separate cost centres for each Region. In this way, funds sourced and costs incurred will be quarantined and allocated accordingly. On a regular basis as agreed by the Executive Group, AFL Sydney Juniors will provide the Regional Committees with transaction reports relative to their Region.

Sponsorships

25.8 All sponsorships of Clubs or Regions must be referred in advance in writing for approval by AFL Sydney Juniors. Sponsorships will not be approved for organisations or for products that are not suitable for junior sport. Sponsorship of tobacco, gaming and alcohol products or their retailing will be refused. AFL Sydney Juniors have developed a set of guidelines, which are available from aflsj.com.au, to assist Clubs in determining suitability or otherwise of sponsorships.

26. Rule Amendments

26.1 Changes to these Rules shall commence on their publication in these Rules or, if so stated, on the next full season of football to follow the date of the change.

26.2 The Executive Group, in its absolute discretion, may amend these Rules as required, to take effect from such date of their publication in these Rules, or dates as provided by the Executive Group.

27. Media

27.1 AFL Sydney Juniors is bound by and will enforce the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications, a copy of which may be found on AFL Sydney Juniors website (Resource Centre/Bylaws & Policies).

27.2 For the purpose of these Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media

27.3 Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, and any other person, Club, Regional Committee or AFL Sydney Juniors shall be subject to the following provisions:

27.3.1 In the case of a Player or Official,, the making of a statement in contravention of Rule 27.3 is an act of misconduct pursuant to Law 19.2.2(p) is a reportable offence. AFL Sydney Juniors may report such person for breach of this Rule and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination;

27.3.2 In the case of any other person, the making of a statement in contravention of Rule 27.3 is a breach of the Code of Conduct and AFL Sydney Juniors may refer the matter to an ISC for determination;

27.3.3 Alternatively, AFL Sydney Juniors may refer the matter to the Executive Group to be dealt with by the Executive Group as it thinks fit.

27.4 A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 27.1, or 27.3 in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred by AFL Sydney Juniors to an ISC or to the Executive Group which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and forfeit past or future match ratios.

28. Fines & Penalties

28.1 Where the Executive Group or Regional Committee has fined a Club, Player or Official, any such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of receipt of an invoice from AFL Sydney Juniors. Failure to pay such money within the required time shall result in further action by the Executive Group, including the loss of match ratio.

Schedule - General

28.2 The following Schedule sets out the fines approved by the Executive Group that may to be imposed for specific breaches of these Rules at an Administration and Match Day level:

Breach	Fine
Administration	
Club changing official game times or dates without agreement from the opposing Club and having not advised the Regional Umpire Coordinator seven (7) days beforehand or as agreed	\$100
Club deliberately advertising for Players from schools designated as a feeder school to another Club as defined by the Executive Group or Regional Committee (deemed poaching)	\$250
Club not represented at preseason AFL Sydney Juniors education sessions as designated	\$100
Club playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age Players. Should a team be found guilty of three (3) of any of the above in any one season Any Player playing under another name other than their own	\$100 plus loss of match ratio \$250 and the team withdrawn from the competition \$250 plus loss of match wins Max \$500 per breach
Club wishing to interview or approach a Player from another Club, with a view to having that Player transfer to and play in one of its teams, must first advise the Club Secretary with which the Player is registered in writing and a copy must be sent to AFL Sydney Juniors at least seven (7) days prior to any interview or approach	Max \$200
Code of Conduct Breach	Max \$500
Forfeiting a match without correct prior notification	\$100
Statement breach	Max \$1000
Reports on modified rules Players – Club failure to comply with the time limits	\$100
Reports on modified rules Players – Regional Committee failure to comply with the time limits	\$100
Withdrawal of a nominated team within 14 days of competition commencement	\$250
Withdrawal of a nominated team within 7 days of competition commencement	\$500
Match Day	
Each Player must have a number on their jersey and such number must be listed on the team sheet. Should more than one Player wear a jersey bearing the same number	\$20 per breach
Failure of team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from Umpire/s	\$50
Failure of advice of match day forfeit or washout by Host club	\$50
Failure to complete Team Sheets - Completion on match day in accordance with Rule 18	\$30
Incorrectly attired Coach / Team Manager / Runner/ Boundary Umpire / Goal Umpire/First Aid Official (non wearing of appropriate bib or uniform as provided for by these Rules) – from 2 nd breach	\$25
Runners, Water carriers and Trainers deemed to be contravening their duties will be sent from field of play after receiving one (1) verbal warning from the Umpire. Failure to comply	\$50
Team does not provide suitable Boundary Umpire– after 2 nd breach	\$50
Starting or playing a competition game without the presence at the ground of a First Aid Official (as defined)	Max \$200

28.3 The Executive Group may fine a Club, Player or Official for any breach of these Rules, or subject a Club, Player or Official to such penalty as the Executive Group in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

28.4 In addition to the above, the Executive Group may impose such sanctions (other than by way of a fine) as the Executive Group sees fit

29. Appeals

Who may appeal? Appeals to the Regional Committee

29.1 Any registered Player, Official or Club (the appellant) may appeal against a decision of the Regional Committee. An appeal may be made with respect to the failure of the Regional Committee to make a decision.

29.2 The Regional Committee will constitute a Regional Appeal's Committee consisting of three independent persons to deal with appeals pursuant to this clause.

Lodgement of Appeals

29.3 Appeals under clause 29.1 shall be lodged and heard in accordance with the procedures laid down by the relevant Regional Committee or its duly constituted Regional Appeal's Committee. In the absence of such procedures, an appeal shall be determined pursuant to the procedures set out in Rule 29.4. The Regional Appeal's Committee shall ensure that the appeal procedures laid down in Rule 29.4 are observed.

29.4 Any appeal is to be lodged with the Regional Committee within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision, or in the case of the failure to make the decision, when the decision ought reasonably to have been made and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal, together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$200 deposit. The Regional Appeal's Committee may call for submissions from, or further material by, the parties immediately affected by the original decision appealed against or by the Appeal. The Regional Appeal's Committee shall determine, following the appeal and in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to the Regional Committee. The hearing of the Appeal shall commence within 14 days of the date the appeal was received by the Regional Committee.

29.5 Where the Regional Committee does not have a duly constituted [Regional Appeal's Committee](#), or considers that the Appeal should be dealt with by the Executive Group, the Appeal shall proceed as an appeal to the Executive Group and the Regional Committee will provide the Executive Group with the material referred to in Rule 29.3. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$400 deposit. The Executive Group shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to AFL Sydney Juniors, or whether an additional amount should be paid.

Hearing Procedure

29.6 The Regional Appeal's Committee shall determine the appeal by way of a re-hearing.

29.7 On the hearing, the Regional Appeal's Committee shall;

29.7.1 provide to any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;

29.7.2 hear and determine the appeal in an unbiased manner;

29.7.3 make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at;

29.7.4 proceed in an inquisitorial manner; and

29.7.5 conduct the hearing with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the appeal permits.

29.8 The Regional Appeal's Committee is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

29.9 The Regional Appeal's Committee may, subject to these clauses, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

29.10 The Regional Appeal's Committee shall be empowered to meet when and where it considers necessary.

29.11 The question on appeal before the Regional Appeal's Committee must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Regional Appeal's Committee.

29.12 The Regional Appeal's Committee is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.

Power of Regional Appeal's Committee

29.13 After hearing the appeal, the Regional Appeal's Committee may make such determination as it deems fit, including allowing the appeal in whole or in part, substituting its own decision, vary the original decision (including any penalty) or dismiss the appeal. The Regional Appeal's Committee may impose such terms when making its determination as it deems fit.

Decision Final- Regional Committee

29.14 The Regional Appeal's Committee shall make the formal announcement of the outcome of the appeal at the conclusion of the appeal and shall inform the Regional Committee in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter. The Regional Committee shall inform the affected parties of the outcome of the appeal within 2 days of it being informed by the Regional Appeal's Committee of its decision. Subject to Rule 29.15, the decision of the Regional Appeal's Committee shall be final and binding on all parties and is a decision of the Regional Committee.

Appeals to the Executive Group

29.15 Any registered Player, Official or Club (the appellant) may appeal to the Executive Group against a decision of the Regional Committee, including an appeal against the decision of the Regional Appeal's Committee. An appeal may be made with respect to the failure of the Regional Committee to make a decision. The Regional Committee may appeal the decision of the Regional Appeal's Committee.

29.16 On receipt of an appeal to the Executive Group, the Chairman of the Executive Group will appoint an Executive Group Appeal's Committee, constituting of three Executive Group members, to deal with appeals to the Executive Group pursuant to Rule 29. The Executive Group Appeal's Committee will determine the procedures by which it will determine the appeal pursuant to this Rule, and the decision of the Executive Group Appeal's Committee will, for the purposes of Rule 29, be the decision of the Executive Group.

29.17 Any appeal to the Executive Group is to be lodged with AFL Sydney Juniors (for referral to the Executive Group), within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision, or in the case of the failure to make the decision, when the decision ought reasonably to have been made and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal, together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$400 deposit. The Executive Group shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to AFL Sydney Juniors, or whether an additional amount should be paid.

29.18 Subject to Rule 29.20, the provisions of Rules 29.6 to 29.12 inclusive shall apply to the hearing of the appeal by the Executive Group, save that the word "Executive Group" shall be substituted for the words "Regional Committee" in such Rules. As to Rule 29.6, the Executive Group may determine not to proceed with the hearing of an appeal by way of a re-hearing, but determine the appeal pursuant to Rule 29.20.

29.19 After hearing the appeal, the Executive Group may make such determination as it deems fit, including allowing the appeal in whole or in part, substituting its own decision, vary the original decision (including any penalty), remit the matter back to the appropriate person or body for determination in accordance with the Executive Group's recommendations or dismiss the appeal. The Executive Group may impose such terms when making its determination as it deems fit.

Basis of determining Appeal to Executive Group

29.20 In the event that the Executive Group determines not to proceed with the hearing of the appeal by way of a re-hearing, the Executive Group will consider the appeal on the basis set out below:

29.20.1 An appeal is directed to correcting some error which may have been made in the original determination or hearing and affected its finding. That an aggrieved party considers that the ultimate decision is wrong or a penalty imposed is excessive does not constitute an appealable error;

29.20.2 The Executive Group will only allow an appeal where, after considering the material placed before it, it determines that the appellant may have suffered a substantial injustice or where the Executive Group considers the original decision:

- was not fair or reasonable;
- was against the weight of evidence;
- involved a substantial denial of natural justice, or
- ought to be reconsidered because significant evidence is now available that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing.

Decision Final - Executive Group

29.21 The AFL Sydney Juniors shall inform the affected parties of the outcome of any appeal to the Executive Group within 2 days of the Executive Group's decision. The decision of the Executive Group shall be final and binding on all parties, and is not subject to any appeal.

Appeals from decisions of the Executive Group

29.22 Where the Executive Group makes a decision that is subject to a right of appeal, the appeal is to be heard by the AFL NSW/ACT Appeals Committee.

30. Supervision of the Regional Committees by the Executive Group and Matters not provided for

30.1 Any decision of the Regional Committee, including a failure to make a decision, is subject to the overriding supervision of the Executive Group. The Executive Group may substitute its decision for the decision, or non decision, of the Regional Committee.

30.2 In the event of any question or matter arising that is not provided for in the Rules, the Regional Committee or AFL Sydney Juniors may refer same to the Executive Group for decision, and the decision of the Executive Group shall be taken and acted upon, and its decision shall be final.

31. Conduct Unbecoming, Prejudicial or likely to bring the Game into Disrepute

31.1 Where the Executive Group is of the opinion that a Club or any Official, Player, or other person has contravened the Laws or the Rules, or has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or is prejudicial or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of AFL Sydney Juniors, or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Executive Group may deal with such matter in their absolute discretion as the Executive Group thinks fit, and without limiting their powers, it may:

31.1.1 appoint any person or persons to enquire into any matter, including an ISC;

31.1.2 conduct their own enquiry;

31.1.3 refer the matter to the Tribunal;

31.1.4 Impose any penalty that it deems fit, including but not limited to imposing a monetary penalty, suspension or disqualification or the loss of, or forfeiture of match points or match ratio or any other privileges, benefits or entitlement.

32. Legal (including Statutory) Compliance by Regional Committees and Clubs.

32.1 Regional Committees and Clubs are required to comply with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements governing their operations, including but not limited to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (as amended from time to time) and the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* and *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* (as amended from time to time) (together "the Child Protection Legislation").

32.2 Whilst AFL Sydney Juniors will provide information, guidance and assistance to Regional Committees and Clubs where it is able on issues affecting their governance and operations, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements affecting their operations lies with the Regional Committees and Clubs.

Child Protection Legislation

32.3 The attention of Regional Committees and Clubs is particularly drawn to the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation (as amended from time to time). AFL Sydney Juniors adheres to the AFL National Child Protection Policy

32.4 Any person who has not complied with the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation as it applies to them, or the specific requirements of AFL Sydney Juniors in relation to the Child Protection Legislation, is in breach of these Rules. All Coaches and Team Managers must obtain a Working with Children Clearance, whether or not they would otherwise be exempted under the Regulations of the Child Protection Legislation as not requiring a check by reason of their being a parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates. A breach of this rule is for an Official, a Reportable Offence and for any other person is a breach of the Code of Conduct. Where there is a breach of the Code of Conduct, such person will be referred to an ISC by the Executive Group or Regional Committee, or where a Reportable Offence, such person will be referred by the Executive Group to the Tribunal. The hearing will be conducted as provided for in these Rules, and any penalty may include being unable to act in any capacity at any competition game, including the finals.

33. AFL Sydney Juniors Vilification and Discrimination Policy

33.1 AFL Sydney Juniors adheres to the AFL's Vilification and Discrimination as per Appendix 5 to these Rules. (See also Rules 8.50 - 8.51)

34. Club of the Year

34.1 AFL Sydney Juniors recognises AFL Sydney Juniors Club of the year in each Region. The award is determined on positive and negative points based on specific criteria as determined from time to time by the Executive Group. The winning Club in each Region will be recognised with a specific award. The Executive Group will also award AFL Sydney Juniors Club of the Year.

Schedule 1 – Umpires Fees 2015

Standard Umpire Fees				
	Trainee		Full Rate	
	One	Two	One	Two
Under 9	25	20	25	20
Under 10	25	20	25	20
Under 11	30	20	35	25
Under 12	45	25	50	30
	Full Rate			
	One		Two	
Under 13	60		40	
Under 14	70		50	
Under 15	75		55	
Under 16	80		60	
Under 17	85		65	
Under 14 YG	50		30	
Under 18 YG	70		50	
Boundary	15			
Goal	10			

Semi & Preliminary Finals	
Field Umpires (2 Umpires)	No Change
Field Umpires (3 Umpires)	Under 17 Div 1 & 2 only - Paid at full rate ie.\$65 each
2 x Boundary Umpires	\$15
4 x Boundary Umpires	\$8
Goal Umpires	\$10

Grand Finals	
Field Umpires (2 Umpires)	\$10 increase
Field Umpires (3 Umpires)	Under 17 Div 1 & 2 only - \$10 increase on Semi Finals
2 x Boundary Umpires	\$20
4 x Boundary Umpires	\$10
Goal Umpires	\$15

Late arrival of umpire

Should an Umpire arrive late to an appointed match, then the level of payment will be made on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata calculation is to be on the basis of whole quarters officiated during the game.

Standby Appointment

Where an Umpire takes control of a game that is underway (due to another Umpire's non-arrival) then the minimum fee payable will be pro-rata to the whole quarters officiated during the game.

Appendix 1 – Umpire Review Process

The key components of the Umpire Review Process are:

- Completion of the Umpire's Review form for Under 9's to Under 12's inclusive is compulsory with non-compliance of a correctly completed form incurring a fine (i.e. non-submission/umpire identification or completing person's identification not provided). With Under 13's to Under 17's inclusive, completion of the Umpire's Review form is encouraged but not compulsory.
- An online process enables Coaches via the web at a more convenient time after the game to complete his or her views and provide constructive feedback
- Preseason Training and access to the necessary link on the website will be provided
- It is expected that a Coach will complete the online form by 9.00am on the Tuesday following a match
- A review of feedback and comments by Regional Umpires Coordinator and any necessary follow up actions.

Summary

The aim of this process is to provide meaningful assessment of our Junior Umpires. To alleviate the "heat of battle" responses and to give a Coach time to consider a constructive review, the timing is extended. AFL Sydney Juniors is taking all steps to deliver an acceptable level of competency for all Umpires. This can only be achieved if Club Coaches and management of Junior teams are prepared to provide constructive comment in their assessment of an Umpire's performance.

Appendix 2 Development Grade / Junior Rules

	UNDER 9 UNDER 10	UNDER 11 UNDER 12
1. Playing Field (min.)	110metre x 80 metre (cones or lines to mark zones) Increased by agreement. The field is divided into 3 equal zones	110 metre x 80metre Increased by agreement.
2. Ball Size	Size 2 Ball (synthetic or leather ball by agreement)	Size 3 Ball - Default Ball is a leather football. A synthetic football can only be used by mutual agreement of coaches
3. The Team	9 or 12 Players with any number of reserves. Number of Players on ground must be equal. Team consists of up to 4 equal numbers of forwards, backs and centres. Players remain in position for all of the quarter after which the Players must change zone. Interchange of Players may take place at any time All Players should play at least 3 quarters of the match where possible	12 - 15 Players with up to six reserves Number of Players on ground must be equal. Interchange may take place at any time, but all Players should play 3 quarters.
4. Zones/Positions and transition of the ball	Players will be instructed to by the Umpire to stay in their correct position. When the ball is in transition from the back zone to the forward zone, it must be touched by a Player in the mid zone. Failing this, a free kick will be awarded to the opposition team at the point where the ball entered the end zone.	
5. Scoring	Only forward zone Players can score from within the forward zone. Forward Players are marked with a clearly identifiable armband. Where a non forward scores, a free kick will be awarded to the opposition team at the point where the ball entered the end zone (forward). After a behind, the Player kicking in cannot dispose to themselves	After a behind the Player kicking in cannot dispose to themselves.
6. Playing Time	4 x 10 Minute Quarters	4 x 15 Minute Quarters
7. Starting and restarting play	A ball up is conducted between 2 centre Players of similar height as nominated by the umpire. The umpire should nominate different pairs of Players for subsequent ball ups after goals are scored Only 3 centre line players attend centre bounces (20 m clearance from all other players). The umpire is to enforce a similar 20 m clearance for field ball ups . There is no full possession allowed. The full possession rule is applied as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Player contesting the ball up may not grab the ball and play on; and - The Player must knock, palm or punch the ball to a teammate or open ground, and may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another Player or hit the ground. 	A ball up is contested between 2 centre Players of similar height as nominated by the umpire in the centre of the ground. Only 3 Players from each team shall be closer to the ball up than about 20 metres. The Umpire is to enforce a similar 20m area for field ball ups. No Full possession permitted

8. Scrimmage and field ball ups	Field ball ups are contested by 2 Players of equal size selected by the umpire. Before the ball up, the umpire should clear the area by sending Players back to their positions. No more than 3 Players from each team shall be closer to the ball up than about 20 metres. No Full possession permitted	Field ball ups are contested by 2 Players of equal size selected by the umpire. Before the ball up, the umpire should clear the area by sending Players back to their positions. No more than 3 Players from each team shall be closer to the ball up than about 20 metres. No Full possession permitted
9. Out of Bounds	From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A Player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. If in doubt – ball up 5metres in from boundary. Off hands or body – ball up 5metres in from the boundary. No Full possession permitted.	From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A Player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. If in doubt – ball up 5metres in from boundary Off hands or body – ball up 5 metres in from the boundary. No Full possession permitted.
10. Gaining Possession	A player's prime objective should be to gain possession of the ball (eyes on the ball). Restrained side (shoulder to shoulder) contact is permitted when Players are contesting a loose ball, provided that the ball is within 5 metres. 'Running with' the Player rather than 'running at' the Player must be the intention. Front on contact or contact from behind is strictly prohibited. The ball is possessed by controlling it, catching it, grabbing it, or laying 2 hands on it when it is on the ground.	
11. Tackling	Players can perform a modified tackle. A Player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball (That is push back the player in the back). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the umpire feels the player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball • A Player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball. • The Field Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball. • The Field Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a player's hands by an opponent. • A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a Free Kick. • There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition Player in possession of the ball to the ground. Players cannot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knock the ball out of an opponent's hands 	Full tackling rules as per the Rules of Australian Football apply. No Sling tackle permitted.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • push the player in the side • steal the ball from another Player • smother an opponent's kick • shepherd an opponent 	
12. Smothering	Not permitted	Smothering is permitted
13. Barging	No barging, fending off or chopping past opponents is permitted. A free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent.	Barging and fending off opponents is permitted
14. Shepherding	Not permitted	Shepherding permitted as per the laws of Australian Football.
15. Marking	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any Player who catches it or shows control	A mark is awarded when a Player catches the ball directly from another Player's kick that has travelled at least 10 metres.
16. Distance Run and Bouncing the Ball	A Player running with the ball must bounce it within 10 metres. Only one bounce is permitted. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.	A Player running with the ball must bounce it within 15 metres, only 2 bounces are permitted. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.
17. Penalties (after a mark & free kick)	10m penalty can be applied at the Umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way	25m penalty can be applied at the umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way
18. Kicking Off the Ground	Not permitted unless accidental.	
19. Order off rule	As per Rule 9 of AFL Sydney Juniors By Laws.	
20. Spirit of the Game	Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game. No scores or ladders to be kept.	Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game. 10 Goal Rule
21. Coaches	Coaches allowed on field to teach but no closer than 15 metres from play.	Coaches are not allowed on the field. Messages delivered by a runner who must be an adult or a Player that is mature enough to umpire the game.



Appendix 3 – Youth Girls Under 14 & Under 18 - Sydney Harbour

	UNDER 14	UNDER 18
1. Playing Field (min.)	110 metre x 80metre Increased by agreement	Full Length- (Player/s 15-18) Full Length x 90 metre width (player/s 12 -14)
2. Ball Size	Size 3 Ball leather ball	Size 4 Leather Ball
3. The Team	9 Min 15 Max, with any number of reserves. All Players should play at least 3 quarters of the match where possible	12 Min 18 Max, with any number of reserves. All Players should play at least 3 quarters of the match where possible
4. Scoring	All players may score	
5. Playing Time	4 x 12 Minute Quarters (4/5/4) min intervals	4 x 15 Minute Quarters (4/7/4) min intervals
6. Starting and restarting play	Only centre line Players attend centre bounces (20m clearance/centre square from all other Players). The Umpire is to enforce a similar 20m area for field ball ups. <u>No Full possession permitted</u> Players contesting the ball up may not grab the ball and play on; and a Player must knock, palm or punch the ball to A teammate or open ground, and may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another Player or hit the ground	As per the Laws of Australian Football.
7. Out of Bounds	From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A Player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. If in doubt – ball up 5metres in from boundary. Off hands or body – ball up 5metres in from the boundary. No full possession permitted	As per the Laws of Australian Football.
8. Gaining Possession	A player's prime objective should be to gain possession of the ball (eyes on the ball). Restrained side (shoulder to shoulder) contact is permitted when Players are contesting a loose ball, provided that the ball is within 5 metres. "Running with" the Player rather than "running at" the Player must be the intention. Front on contact or contact from behind is strictly prohibited The ball is possessed by controlling it, catching it, grabbing it, or laying 2 hands on it when it is on the ground. Once the ball is possessed, other Players may apply a wrap tackle (refer to tackling rule)	As per the laws of Australian Football.

<p>9. Tackling</p>	<p>Players can perform a modified tackle.</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the Player with the ball (That is push back the Player in the back).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the Umpire feels the Player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalised for holding the ball • A Player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball. • The Field Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the Player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the Player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball. • The Field Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a player's hands by an opponent. • A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a Free Kick. • There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition player in possession of the ball to the ground. <p>Players cannot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knock the ball out of an opponent's hands • push the Player in the side • steal the ball from another player • bump an opponent (other than in rule 8 above) 	<p>As per the Laws of Australian Football.</p>
<p>10. Smothering</p>	<p>As per the Laws of Australian Football.</p>	
<p>11. Barging</p>	<p>No barging, fending off or chopping past opponents is permitted. A free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent.</p>	<p>No barging through opponents is permitted. Fending off with open hand to the body (provided it is not above the shoulders or in the back) is permitted.</p>
<p>12. Shepherding</p>	<p>As per the Laws of Australian Football.</p>	
<p>13. Marking</p>	<p>A mark is awarded when a Player catches the ball directly from another Player's kick that has travelled at least 10 metres</p>	



14. Distance Run and Bouncing the Ball	A Player running with the ball must bounce it within 15 metres, only 2 bounces are permitted. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.	
15. Kicking off the Ground	Not permitted unless accidental.	As per the Laws of Australian Football.
16. Distance Penalty (after a mark & free kick)	25m penalty can be applied at the Umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way	As per the Laws of Australian Football.
17. Order off Rule	As per Rule 9 of AFL Sydney Juniors By Laws.	
18. Spirit of the Game	Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game.	
19. Coaches	Coaches are allowed on the field from Round 's 1 to 8 only to teach, but no closer to 15 metres from play. Messages delivered by a runner who must be a minimum of 13 years	Coaches are not allowed on the field. Messages delivered by a runner who must be a minimum of 13 years
20. Allowed on Field of Play	Only Players, Umpires, Trainers, Water Carriers, First Aid Officials (as defined) and Runners are permitted on the field during the course of play	
21. 10 Goal Rule	This rule is applied to all Youth Girls fixtures See Appendix 3	
22. Finals Eligibility	See Rules 17.6 – 17.8.1	

Appendix 4 – Age Group Rules

3.1 Auskick

- This grade will not play for competition match ratio.
- Auskick is undertaken as per the rules and regulations set out in the Auskick Handbook and Lesson Cards.
- The two (2) Clubs will play a game as a follow up to the Auskick program. The sides must be of equal size and played under the rules set out in the Aussie Footy Rules handbook. Children must be aged eight (8) and under. The size of the team should ideally be nine (9) a side (i.e. three (3) Players from each team in three (3) zones).
- The playing area shall be approximately half a standard size field. Standard field size is (ninety) 90 metres X sixty-five (65) metres.
- Players must be rotated at the start of each quarter allowing everyone to experience playing as a forward, centre and back.

3.2 Development / Junior Rules – Under 9 - 12

AFL Sydney Junior Development Rules apply (refer Appendix 2).

3.3 Youth Rules

Unless provided for elsewhere in these Rules, teams will play under the Laws of Australian Football (the exception being rule 13.3 – Kick into play after goal umpire signal).

At all times other than for send offs, the numbers of Players on the ground must be equal for each team

3.4 Youth Girls football - Under 14 & Under 18

AFL Sydney Junior Youth Girls Development Rules apply (refer Appendix 3).

Ball Sizes

- Under 13/14 Size 4
- Youth Girls -Under 14 Size 3
- Under 15/16/17 Full size
- Youth Girls -Under 18 Size 4

In the event of wet weather conditions, the Umpire with the agreement of the Coaches, has the discretion to allow the use of a wet weather (synthetic) football.

Spirit of the Game

At the end of a game, all Players, Coaches and Umpires should gather in the centre of the ground and shake hands.

Tackling

Tackling is permitted as per the **Laws of Australian Football**, however, in Under 11's to Under 14's:

- No Player shall be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground via any tackle.

10 Goal Rule

The purpose of this Rule is to encourage Coaches, once an unassailable lead (10 goals/60 points) is reached during a game, to appreciate that it serves no purpose to inflict massive losses on their opposition but rather at that point in time to revert to experimenting with Players playing in different positions and to even-up the skill levels of the teams.

This Rule replaces the previous Mercy Rule and will apply to all Competition Age Groups. Games on match day will proceed as a normal match, for the whole match period. Clubs will enter final scores into Footyweb as normal.

After the game, the match points and percentage will be adjusted to ensure that no winning margin exceeds 10 goals/60 points. This will be completed by a ladder adjustment by AFL Sydney Juniors on the Monday following the fixture games



Appendix 5 - ISC Code of Conduct Report Template

**CODE OF CONDUCT
INVESTIGATION SUB COMMITTEE
REPORT**

[details of game/incident]

[date of incident]

[location of incident]

Signature:
[name of member]
Investigation Sub
Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Investigation Sub
Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Investigation Sub
Committee

FOR DISTRIBUTION:

Club [if and as required]
Club [if and as required]
Umpires/Umpire Co-ordinator [if and as required]
Regional Development Manager [insert]
[INSERT NAME OF REGION] **Regional Committee**
AFL Sydney Juniors [insert names]

Date: 201



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INVESTIGATION SUB COMMITTEE

FORMAT OF INVESTIGATION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS

RULING - ADJUDICATION

Investigation Sub Committee

The Investigation Sub Committee (“ISC”) was appointed by AFL Sydney Juniors [INSERT NAME OF REGION] Regional Committee to investigate and adjudicate on [describe incident etc the subject of the ISC] (“the incident”).

The ISC appointed was independent of the incident and comprised the following:

- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]
- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]
- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]

The duties of the Investigation Sub Committee:

- Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters that may be referred to it from time to time by the Executive Group or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal.
- Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on the Club by way of a fine, it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).
- Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Executive Group or Regional Committee. Subject to the overall supervision of the Executive Group, such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee shall be final in all cases.

Format of Investigation

The ISC referred to and utilised the AFL Players’ Code of Conduct in conjunction with specific clauses from AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Rules and Bylaws .[delete or insert any other material specifically referred to, as appropriate]

The ISC gathered information and held a formal meeting/inquiry at [insert time] on [insert date], at [location].

In attendance were:

Investigation Sub Committee	As detailed above
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[name of Club, if relevant].	[name and position of any representatives of Club]
[name of Club, if relevant].	[name and position of any representatives of Club]
[name of any person whose conduct is the subject of the ISC, Club and any position held, if appropriate]	[name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and position]
[name of other relevant persons attending/appearing, such as Umpires, and any relevant position they hold]	[name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and any position held]
[names of witnesses, Club and any position they may hold, if applicable]	

This Report will not detail all the information collated and submitted during the course of the investigation.

All letters, documents and supporting evidence gathered/submitted during the investigation will be placed on the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee – [insert Region] file and kept with league records.

This report summarises the ISC findings, recommendations and ruling (adjudication) on the incident

Findings

- [insert specific findings made by the ISC as a result of its adjudication]

Recommendations

The ISC submits the following recommendations to the [insert name of Region] Regional Committee for implementation and/or action:

-



Appendix 6 AFL Sydney Juniors Vilification and Discrimination Policy

Introduction

AFL Sydney Juniors supports and endorses the AFL NSW/ACT Vilification and Discrimination Policy (**the Policy**). Where the Policy is inconsistent with this specific AFL Sydney Juniors Vilification and Discrimination Policy (**this specific policy**), this specific policy prevails. Where there is alleged to be a breach of this specific policy, the person alleged to have been vilified may choose to have the complaint dealt with under the Rules or pursuant to this specific policy, the provisions of which are referred to in this specific policy as “the rules”

1. Prohibited Conduct

No person subject to the Rules shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct, which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (**the person vilified**) on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

2. Lodging a Complaint

In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened rule 1, an Umpire, Club or Player may, by 5.00 p.m. on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing (using the “Incident Referral Form” on AFL Sydney Juniors website under the forms tab of “Resources”) with the person appointed from time to time by AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager as the Complaints Officer for the purposes of this rule. The complaint must outline the circumstances of the allegations made against a person.

3. Complaints Officer

The Complaints Officer shall:-

- (i) inform the person alleged to have contravened rule 1 of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it in writing;
- (ii) identify and obtain written statements from any available witnesses;
- (iii) obtain video or other relevant evidence; and
- (iv) arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.

4. Confidentiality and No Public Comment

Subject to Rule 7 below: -

- (i) the particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall at all times remain confidential; and
- (ii) a person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation.
- (iii) the provisions of Rule 27 Statements continue to apply.

5. Conciliator

A conciliation arranged under rule 3 shall be conducted by the nominee of AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager.



6. Attendance at Education Program

(i) Where:-

- a person alleged to have contravened rule 1 attends a conciliation for the first time (other than as a person vilified); and
- the complaint against the person is resolved at conciliation,

the person may, as part of the resolution, be directed by the conciliator and if so directed shall attend an education program approved by the AFL NSW/ACT.

(ii) Where a person employed, engaged or otherwise associated with a Club is required to attend an education program or similar body in another State, the Club shall pay the costs of that person's attendance.

(iii) A person who fails to attend the education program shall be deemed to have contravened this rule.

7. Public Statement

Where a complaint is resolved by conciliation, the only public statement that shall be made concerning the complaint and its resolution shall be that agreed upon by the parties and AFL Sydney Juniors.

8. Unsuccessful Conciliation

Where the Complaints Officer is of the opinion that it is appropriate to do so, whether or not the complaint has been resolved by conciliation, the Complaints Officer may:-

- (i) in the case of a Player or Official, refer the complaint to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence; or
- (ii) in the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the Regional Committee (to be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct Rules)

9. Previous Involvement

- (i) Where a person alleged to have contravened rule 1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as a person vilified), the Complaints Officer may refer the complaint directly to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence in the case of a Player or Official, or directly to the Regional Committee to be dealt with as they see fit in the case of any other person.
- (ii) For the purposes of this rule, conciliation includes a conciliation arranged under rule 1 or such other form of conciliation arranged by the AFL or directly between the parties concerned.

10. Evidence before Tribunal or Chief Executive

In the event that a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this specific policy, no evidence shall be given to or be accepted by that body or the Regional Committee relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to rule 3.

11. AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager

In the event that a Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of these rules, or if the appointed person is for any reason unavailable to act under these rules, the Complaints Officer for the purpose of these rules shall be AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager.

12. Referring Complaint

In any case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, the complaint shall be referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, as soon as practicable.



13. Legal Representation

Where a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this specific policy, the person alleged to have contravened rule 1 may be represented by a legal practitioner.

14. Time Limit

Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this specific policy may be extended by AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager if in the opinion of AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager it is just and equitable to do so.

15. Liability of Club

- (i) In the event that a complaint under this specific policy in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Tribunal or where the Regional Committee determines that a person the subject of a complaint has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be liable for the conduct of the person and shall be liable to a sanction to be determined by the Regional Committee.
- (ii) Rule 15(i) above does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct which contravened this specific policy.

16. Continuous Education

Each Club must:-

- (i) ensure that all of its Players, Coaches, Officials and other employees attend any education program organised and conducted by the AFL; and
- (ii) maintain and keep a written record of all such attendees, (to be signed by each attendee and the President of the Club), and provide a copy immediately upon request to AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager.

17. False or misleading information

A person who:-

- (i) in a complaint lodged under rule 2 or during the conciliation process, provides any information or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead; or
- (ii) falsely accuses a person of breaching Rule 1 shall be liable to a sanction as determined by AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager in his/her absolute discretion.



Appendix 7 – Zoning: (Under 9/10)

This brief guide is for the benefit of parents and other spectators to help them understand what is happening on the field. Modified rules are used in these Age Groups to give participants the best opportunity to participate in the great game of AFL:

- The field is divided into three (3) zones: forwards, centres and backs. The Players are rotated through the zones in each game to ensure that all Players experience the different field positions. Four (4) distinguishable markers (low domes) are placed on the sideline to mark the zones.
- The forwards are the only Players that can kick a score. These Players are marked with a clearly identifiable armband indicating that they are the forwards. Should a centre-zone Player kick the ball through the goal posts, no score is recorded and it is treated like any other out of bounds.
- It is important to realise that the marking of zones is to help both the Players and the Umpire understand where Players should be. It is not a 'taboo' marker but an indication that a Player is close to the end of the zone. In essence there is a little 'grey area' where a Player may dispose of a ball just over the zone line. The Umpire will communicate with the Players and attempt to ensure that the use of the 'grey area' is kept to a minimum. The use of armbands by the forwards helps the umpire identify where a Player is intended to be.
- Players are unable to take full possession of the ball at the start of play (ball up/centre bounce) or the recommencement of play around the ground. In fact, the Umpire will use different Players from the zone that play is in to contest the bounce.
- The interchange gate for these Age Groups is marked by smaller witch's hats and is the area that the team will use to move Players from and onto the ground.

Should you have any questions, ask the Coach (after the game!) or the Manager from your Club and I am sure that they will help.

Just remember, the Players are out there to have fun and the Umpire is a volunteer.



Appendix 8 Club Code of Conduct Report Template/Aid

[CLUB LOGO]	[NAME OF CLUB] Code of Conduct Committee Meeting Minutes Date: [INSERT DATE] Location: [INSERT LOCATION]
Reference:	
Type of Meeting:	[Formal/informal etc]
Chair:	[Name]
Minute Taker:	[Name]
Meeting time:	
Attendees:	[List attendees]
Positions held:	[Name] – [Position]
Issue before the COCC	
[Insert nature of and brief details of reference]	
<u>Minutes</u> [Insert Minutes]	
<u>Outcome</u> Meeting Closed [insert time]	