Victorian Women’s Football League 2016 Rules and Regulations

Updated: 5th April 2016
# INDEX

1. **INTRODUCTIONS, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS** 5
2. **LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL** 6
3. **AFFILIATION** 6
4. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** 6
5. **TRANSFERS** 7
6. **PERMITS** 7
7. **SEASON** 8
8. **FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS** 8
9. **FIXTURES** 10
10. **GROUNDS** 10
11. **LADDERS** 10
12. **FINALS** 12
13. **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS** 13
14. **CONDUCT OF MATCHES** 14
15. **MATCH TIME FRAMES AND USE OF STRETCHERS** 14
16. **EQUIPMENT** 15
17. **MATCH RESULTS** 16
18. **CONTROL AT MATCHES** 16
19. **LOSS OF POINTS** 16
20. **MATCH CANCELLATION – ADVERSE WEATHER POLICIES** 16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Chapter Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>GROUND INSPECTIONS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>UMPIRES</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SEND OFF RULE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>BREACHES OF LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>BEST AND FAIREST VOTES</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>TIMEKEEPERS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>RUNNERS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>WATER CARRIERS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>TRAINERS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>COACH REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>UNIFORMS</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>AWARDS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>PRESENTATION NIGHT TICKETS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>CLUB ACCOUNTS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>MEETINGS</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>FINES FOR BREACHES</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>EXPULSION, SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION- PLAYERS</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>TRIBUNAL</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>INVESTIGATION OFFICER</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
43. CONDUCT UNBECOMING, PREJUDICIAL OR LIKELY TO BRING GAME INTO DISREPUTE

44. ALTERATION TO REGULATIONS

45. MISCELLANEOUS

46. CODE OF CONDUCT

47. SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICIES

48. AFL VICTORIA POLICIES

49. AMATEUR STATUS

39 APPENDIX 1- Amateur Status Guidelines
1. Introductions

1.1. Definitions
In these Regulations, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith, the following expressions have the following meanings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL</td>
<td>Australian Football League (ACN 004 155 211)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Victoria</td>
<td>Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited (ACN 147 664 579)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club</td>
<td>A Football Club which is a Club Member of AFL Victoria pursuant to the Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>The AFL Victoria Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State League &amp; Talent Manager</td>
<td>The State League &amp; Talent Manager appointed by AFL Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VWFL Competition Manager</td>
<td>The Competition Manager appointed by AFL Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VWFL Operations Coordinator</td>
<td>The Operations Coordinator appointed by AFL Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player</td>
<td>A person eligible to play with a Club pursuant to the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribunal</td>
<td>The Tribunal appointed pursuant to these Regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VWFL</td>
<td>Victorian Women’s Football League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFL Womens</td>
<td>Victorian Football League- Womens Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2 Interpretations
In these Regulations (including any Schedules), unless the subject or context requires otherwise:

a. Words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
b. Words importing any gender shall be deemed to include all other genders;
c. Words importing persons shall be deemed to include all bodies and associations, corporate or unincorporated, and vice versa;
d. The index (if any) and the headings are used for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Agreement;
e. a reference to a thing includes a reference to a part of that thing; and
f. a reference to a document include the document as modified from time to time and any document replacing it.
2. **LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL**

2.1 All games shall be played in strict accordance with the “Laws of Australian Football” as determined by the AFL.

2.2 If a match rule is not covered in the League Regulations, the AFL Laws shall be adopted.

3. **AFFILIATION**

3.1 Each club shall pay as an annual affiliation fee of the sum prescribed by AFL Victoria from time to time.

3.2 An invoice will be issued by AFL Victoria to clubs accompanied by a letter which will outline payment schedule. The full amount of each statement is to be paid in full no later than the prescribed date set by AFL Victoria. In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements, no team of that club will be eligible for match points until the account is remitted in full. Percentages for any game played while ineligible for match points will be calculated on final scores submitted for each game.

3.3 All clubs in the VWFL must have completed the AFL Club Improvement Program. Clubs who have not done so by 1st June will be dealt with as AFL Victoria sees fit.

4. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

4.1 Players of the Victorian Women’s Football League must be of the female gender as verified by the appropriate Victorian State Government documentation.

4.2 Players of the Victorian Women’s Football League must be 16 years of age as of 1st January for the season in which they wish to register.

4.3 A player shall be eligible to play in official matches for the VWFL after the completion of the online registration and subsequent approvals.

4.4 Players under the age of 18yrs as of the 1st January each season must complete a Parental/Guardian Consent form supplied by the League. The form must be completed prior to the players’ first game and kept by the club. The underage consent form is to be presented to the league on request by the Operations Coordinator or competition manager.

4.5 A player that has registered with a club will be regarded as a registered player of the League in the forthcoming season until such time that AFL Victoria determines otherwise.

4.6 Players must seek a transfer from their club to play at a different club regardless of if that club nominates for the ensuing season.

4.7 Any player found to have participated in a match authorized or conducted by the League without the appropriate permit / transfer granted may be dealt with by the AFL Victoria in accordance with Regulation 4.8 and the club whom fielded that player may be dealt with by AFL Victoria in accordance with Regulation 4.8.

4.8 Any club that allows a player to play in any home and away games or finals series where that player is:

(a) not registered with the League; or

(b) not permitted to play with that club; or

(c) is under suspension; or

(d) is not qualified under VWFL regulations

shall be liable to:
(i) a fine for breach not exceeding $1000; and/or
(ii) Disqualification from the competition; and/or
(iii) Loss of 4 premiership points for each match in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams as AFL Victoria deems fit. AFL Victoria may also deal with the player concerned as it deems fit.

4.9 No person shall be qualified to play for a club in any match played under the auspices of the League:

(a) who is not for the time being a duly registered playing member of such club or holder of a permit to play;

(b) who is under any disqualification or who has not paid any fine for breach imposed by any competent authority. A record of such disqualification or fine for breach (as far as known) shall be kept by the League and shall be available for inspection by all officials at any time.

(c) unless she is the holder of all required clearances and permits.

4.10 A reported player may continue to play with her club until her case is heard by the Tribunal and any suspension that may be given shall commence from the date of the Tribunal’s decision. The suspended player is not permitted to play in any division of the VWFL or VFL competition whilst under suspension.

4.11 Any player or club representative who makes any misstatement or misrepresentation in applying for:

(a) registration;

(b) a clearance approval

may be dealt with by AFL Victoria by way of:

(i) a fine for breach not exceeding $1000.00; and/or
(ii) disqualification from the competition; and/or
(iii) loss of 4 premiership points for each match in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams;

5. TRANSFERS

5.1 The VWFL abide by the national transfer rules of the AFL

5.2 All players wishing to seek a transfer must fill out an exit survey before approval will be granted at the VWFL level.

6. PERMITS

6.1 Youth Girl players wanting to play in the VWFL must request their VWFL club to apply for a ‘2. Local Interchange Permit’; this allows the permitted player to play for both clubs for the duration of the permit. (Maximum 5 VWFL games before a Youth Girl is ineligible for Youth Girl Finals, clubs should check their youth girls league by-laws for full information).

Youth Girl players must not apply for:

(a) Match Day Permits
(b) Temporary Transfers
6.2 VWFL players wanting to play in another state out of the official VWFL season should apply for a Transfer. No interstate interchange agreements exists and permits are not allowed.

6.3 Interstate players wanting to play in the VWFL must also apply for a Transfer. No interstate interchange agreements exists and permits are not allowed.

6.4 Players graduating from the Youth Girls Competition to the VWFL must apply for a “Transfer” as per Regulation 5.

7. **SEASON**

7.1 The football season shall commence and conclude on such dates in each year and matches shall be played on such days as AFL Victoria shall decide.

8. **FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS**

8.1 All VWFL divisions shall consist of a maximum of 25 players with a maximum of 18 players from one team being permitted on the field at any time during a quarter.

8.2 A team must consist of a minimum of 14 players before play can commence, except Goldfields, South East and North West Divisions where 12 players are needed and Evening up rules apply as per regulation 8.6.

8.3 **Promotion and Relegation**

(a) The team winning the premiership in any division may be promoted to the next higher division.

(b) The team finishing on the bottom of the ladder in any division may be relegated to the next lower division.

(c) AFL Victoria may decide not to promote a premiership team, or not to relegate a team that finished on the bottom of the ladder if it was deemed detrimental to the VWFL competition for that team to be promoted or relegated.

(d) The promotion or relegation of a team that was not the premiership team or did not finish on the bottom of the division will be by determined by AFL Victoria in consultation with the club involved.

8.4 A club joining the League shall be entitled to participate only in the division determined by AFL Victoria

8.5 Not later than 31 December each year, all clubs must lodge with the League a list of all club office bearers and the number of teams they intend to field, as well as enter this information into footy web.

8.6 **Evening Up Rule – South East, Goldfields and North West Divisions**

a) AFL Victoria expects all team officials to understand and adhere to the *spirit* of this rule, which is, the team that has the greater number of players available shall lend as many players as possible to equalize numbers with the other team so that all players available to participate in that match shall have the opportunity to play in as much of that match as possible. If both teams have full sides, an 18 a side game shall be played.
b) Where one team has between 12 and 18 players and the second team has more players than the first team, both teams shall field the same number of players, therefore an equal number of players shall take the field. Exceptions to this rule apply in certain circumstances - refer to 8.6.e).

c) If a team begins with less than 12 players the match will be forfeited, however a match must still occur as a scratch match.

d) If during a match, a team’s playing numbers drop to below 12 players a forfeit will occur and the match must continue with an equal number of players on the field for both sides.

e) If players are not offered to the team with less than 18 players, then playing numbers must be reduced so that both teams field the same number of players. If players are offered, but not accepted, then the team with the greater number of players is not required to reduce playing numbers, i.e. the evening up rule does not apply.

f) If players are not offered, the team refusing to offer players will have their interchange bench capped at 3 players. The players on the field and the 3 interchange are the only players permitted to participate in the match.

g) Team Managers, particularly from the Team that requires the evening-up rule to apply, must ensure that the process is organized as early as possible and prior to the teams taking the field.

h) Late Arrivals - Should a player arrive late, that player may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:

1. The Team Manager shall inform the Officials of the other Team.
2. The opposition team is to be informed when the players are ready to take the field that the playing numbers of each side are to be increased.
3. Addition to the playing numbers on the field can only be made providing the numbers on the field remain equal for both teams.
4. Where a head count is conducted and uneven playing numbers are evident the scores at the time of the head count shall be noted and the matter referred to the League for determination of the result of the match.

i) Loss of players during the match due to injury or illness - Should a player be removed from the field due to injury or illness and the team has no interchange players, as soon as practicable but no later than at the next quarter break teams should even the playing numbers. In this circumstance a player should be offered to the opposition to top up, if the team has players on the interchange or a player can be removed and rule 8.6.f does not apply.

j) Daily loan of players - When players are loaned, the Team Manager of both teams shall note on the Team Sheet the number of players loaned. Players may be loaned on a quarter by quarter rotating basis or for the whole match as appropriate.

k) Any dispute regarding this rule will be referred to AFL Vic who will determine penalties, if any, to be applied. Penalties may include loss of premiership points and/or score by the offending team and/or the Club of the offending team shall be penalized as AFL Victoria deems fit.

l) The Evening up Rule is not to be applied in Finals.
m) Where a player is ordered off the field by the Field Umpire and there is no replacement available (as per 9.3.4) there is no requirement to even-up the playing numbers on the field.

9. **FIXTURES**

9.1 AFL Victoria shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in each division by preparing fixtures for each team in each division for each season. AFL Victoria may amend a fixture as required.

9.2 AFL Victoria shall conduct a series of at least 12 home and away matches where possible for each division to determine which of the clubs shall be entitled to compete in the Finals Series to be arranged to decide the premierships.

9.3 Should any club fail to fulfil its engagement to play in any premiership match, AFL Victoria may disqualify the club from further premiership matches or otherwise deal with such clubs as it deems fit.

9.4 Any club failing to fulfill its engagement to play shall pay all umpires expenses relative to the said fixture plus an additional fine for breach of $400 at the discretion of AFL Victoria.

9.5 **Alterations**

Clubs desiring to conduct matches on a day or time other than that published by the League in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied:

(a) a Fixture Change Request is forwarded via email to the Operation Coordinator 10 business days prior to the fixture match indicating any alterations to time of commencement, venues or day of the published fixture, including confirmation of the change from the opposition;

(b) request for matches to be fixtured at night are forwarded to AFL Victoria office accompanied with verification the lights at the proposed venue have a minimum lux reading of 100 LUX

10. **GROUNDS**

10.1 Each club shall have a ground approved by AFL Victoria. The Competition Manager shall have power to compel any club to bring its ground up to the required standard set out in the Laws of Australian Football.

10.2 Any club failing to secure the ground originally arranged for a match, shall in lieu thereof, procure another ground ("the emergency ground") and notify the Football Operations Coordinator and the opposing club not later than 5pm on the Monday immediately preceding the match, as to the situation of the ground.

10.3 If a club fail to give notice under Regulation 10.2 it shall forfeit the match unless AFL Victoria deems the change reasonable

11. **LADDERS**

11.1 **Point Allocation and Match Ratio Calculations**

a. In the home and away fixture, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or walkover is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss or bye. Where a club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, four points will be awarded to the opposition club.
In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, the League shall also prepare a match ratio which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.

b. The League shall prepare a weekly ladder for each division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw, loss or bye it shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and in the event that selection for the Finals Series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the Finals Series ahead of a team with lower percentage points.

11.2 The scores used by the League to calculate the points and percentages for each divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores entered into the online match result system.

11.3 In the event of a game being forfeited, the defaulting team shall not include the game in club playing records. The team against whom the forfeiting team was to play shall be awarded match points and shall be entitled to include the game in the records of its players. Scores will be calculated by taking the average winning score and average losing score from matches played in that division during that round and be awarded accordingly.

11.4 Non-Completion of Matches

(a) Failure by any club to play an arranged match as set out in the fixture of the League from time to time shall render the club liable for all umpires expenses relative to the said fixture and a fine for breach of $400.00 unless a satisfactory reason is received by 5.00pm on the Monday following the failure to play the arranged match.

(b) If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the club or clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the officiating umpire, the following procedures shall apply:

(i) Subject to clause (iii) below, if a game is concluded prior to half time and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the teams shall depart the arena and the match will be declared a draw. Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.

(ii) Subject to clause (iii) below, if a game has progressed beyond half time and is unable to proceed with the scheduled time for the match, the teams will depart the arena and the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages. The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.

(iii) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by AFL Victoria at its absolute discretion in any way it sees fit.

(c) If a club with two teams has to forfeit one of their teams, the lower division or team must forfeit. A lower division team cannot play if their senior team has forfeited in the same week.

(d) In the event that a forfeit or bye occurs, no more than 3 players that played in the higher division in the previous week can play in a lower division for that round. In instances where more are required due to lack of numbers, written permission must be requested from AFL Victoria.
12. **FINALS**

12.1 **Arrangements**

(a) On completion of the home and away fixture, the clubs gaining first, second, third and fourth positions on the premiership lists of each division shall form the Final Four, except where altered by AFL Victoria, and shall compete to determine the premiership under the system adopted by AFL Victoria.

(b) All finals matches shall be played on all enclosed grounds to be decided by AFL Victoria and where a charge for admittance can be made.

(c) Participating clubs must submit a list of 35 people including players and staff who will receive free entry to their Final Series matches.

(ii) No refunds will be made for those not attending

12.2 **Draw**

(a) In the event of the scores being tied at the scheduled end of a VWFL Finals Series match, including the Grand Final, the emergency goal umpire or umpire observer is required to confirm to the timekeepers that the scores are tied. The match is then to continue until such time as the next score is recorded then the siren is to be sounded.

(b) In the event that time elapses and a team has a set kick for goal with the opportunity of levelling the scores i.e. the team is one or six points behind, the siren will not be sounded.

(c) If an immediate passage of play resulting from the set kick for goal e.g. mark by a forward, kick off the ground, punched through etc which results in a winning score the siren shall be sounded immediately following the goal umpires signal.

(d) If the set shot results in a winning score (no immediate passage of play resulting) the siren will be sounded immediately, or, if a score from the set shot results in the scores being level the siren shall not be sounded until the next score is recorded.

12.3 **AFL Victoria** shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all Final Series matches.

12.4 **AFL Victoria** shall be responsible for the fixing and collection of all entrances fees at all Final Series matches. AFL Victoria may delegate its authority for the collection of entrance fees from time to time.

12.5 **Finals Uniforms**

(a) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the Finals Series shall wear their registered guernsey and home (coloured) shorts unless this is varied by AFL Victoria or its appointee.

(b) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the Final Series shall use the home team rooms unless this is varied by AFL Victoria or its appointee.

12.6 **Finals Eligibility**

All clubs participating in Final Series matches must be financial with AFL Victoria before the conclusion of the home and away matches. In the event that a participating club is not
financial, AFL Victoria may at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position in the Final Series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the Finals Series.

12.7 Finals Team Lists

All clubs fielding teams in the Finals Series must lodge with AFL Victoria a list as accurate as possible showing the number and name of all permitted players likely to participate in the finals match for inclusion in the record at least 6 days prior to the playing of the first finals series game.

13. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

13.1 To Participate in VWFL Finals Matches
(a) Players must play at least 3 VWFL matches with their Affiliated Club in the home and away season to qualify to play in the finals series for their senior club.

(b) To be eligible to play in the clubs second VWFL team finals matches a player must have played in three home and away matches for that particular division during the current season.

(c) Any player playing 7 or more matches with a club’s first VWFL team in the home and away matches is ineligible to play with that club’s second VWFL team in the finals series.

Rule 13.1 b and c are disregarded where any club fields both VWFL teams in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.

(d) Any player included on an official VFL list can, provided she has qualified under the Rules described in rule 13, return to play with the VWFL in the finals

(e) Any player that plays 7 or more games in any season in the VFL Competitions is ineligible to play any VWFL finals in that season.

(f) VWFL players are not permitted to play more than one VWFL game during the finals series in a weekend

(g) Players that play a second game on the same weekend during the home and away season due to lack of numbers must be noted with an asterisk and AFL Victoria should be informed in writing as to why this occurred by Monday 12pm following the scheduled match.

(h) Where a player participates in more than one VWFL match on any weekend during the home and away season, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played.

13.2 Eligibility of players to play between the VWFL and VFL Womens

(a) In the event that a bye occurs in a VFL division, no more than 3 players that played in the VFL Womens in the previous fixture game can play in a lower division for that round without prior consent from AFL Victoria

(b) A VFL Women’s player is only eligible to play in a VWFL team during a VFL Women’s bye weekend, if they have previously played 1 game for that VWFL division prior to the bye in the current season
14. **CONDUCT OF MATCHES**

14.1 *Match Day Players and Officials*

a) Prior to the commencement of each match, each team of a club shall prepare a “team list” of all players, on-field officials, runners, water carriers and trainers, who are actively involved with the team on that day. All players are to be in numerical order. This list must contain an accurate statement of the players and their numbers allotted for that day. No two players are permitted to play in the same team wearing the same number. Each player, on-field officials, runners, drink carriers and trainers on the team list must sign their usual signature beside their name. The team list shall be produced through the Footy Web online system.

b) Water carriers must be noted on the team sheet and should be wearing a club supplied, fluorescent yellow or vest.

c) At least 15 minutes before the game, team managers must hand to the field umpire of the match the original copies of their team lists.

d) A player whose name appears on the team sheet must take part as a player in the match, either on the ground or as an interchange player.

14.2 *Entering Coaching Boxes (benches)*

(a) No non-playing club official or unauthorized person shall enter the coaches box during a match,

(b) Umpires shall report any infringement of this Regulation.

14.3 *Centre Square*

(a) Coaches are not permitted to enter the centre square while the umpires are there for the duration of the game

(b) Coaching huddles are not permitted inside the centre square during ¼ time or ¼ quarter time breaks.

15. **MATCH TIME FRAMES AND USE OF STRETCHER**

15.1 Unless agreed by both teams and umpires, play must commence no later 30 minutes after the scheduled start time. If play has not commenced by this time, the team responsible for the delay shall forfeit the match.

15.2 Each match shall consist of four 20 minute quarters for all divisions ¼ and ¾ time breaks are 5 minutes and ½ time break is 10 minutes.

15.3 Time on shall be called for interruption of play due to injury as determined by the umpire.

15.4 The umpire may, at their discretion, indicate time on for any other reason.
15.5 Injured Players Requiring Stretcher

Any player who is injured during a match and who, in the opinion of the Club Trainer or Club Physiotherapist, requires the assistance of a Stretcher, shall be attended by Club training staff and a Stretcher as soon as possible so as to ensure the health and safety of a Player.

a) Club Medical Personnel
A stretcher may only be called by the Club Trainer or Club Medical Officer as listed on the Official Team Sheet provided that if the Club Trainer or Club Physiotherapist are unavailable at the time when a Player requires the assistance of a Stretcher, a trainer listed on the Official Team Sheet of the other Club may call for a Stretcher.

b) Stretcher Used
If a stretcher is called for, the Stretcher must be taken to the injured Player by the shortest and most direct route and the Player must as soon as possible upon being attended by the Club training staff, leave the Arena on the Stretcher by the shortest and most direct route.

c) Stretcher Not Used
If the player is assessed by a Club Trainer or Club Physiotherapist as in fact being capable of leaving the Arena without the aid of a Stretcher, then the Player may do so via the interchange gates.

d) General
Without limiting the provisions of this Regulation, a Player for whom a Stretcher is called must leave the Arena immediately upon direction by a field Umpire, unless the Club Trainer notifies the field Umpire that it would be dangerous to do so. On being removed from the Arena by a Stretcher, the Player shall immediately be taken to the Club’s dressing room or medical room for examination and treatment.

e) Player not to resume
A Player for whom a Stretcher is called, even if she does not leave the Arena on the Stretcher, shall not resume playing for a period of 15 minutes of play (excluding the quarter-time, half-time and three quarter time breaks) from the time when the Player left the Arena.

15.6 Breach
If a stretcher is called in accordance with this Regulation and:

a. The Player for whom the Stretcher is called does not leave the Arena as soon as possible after being attended by Club training staff, or
b. The Player for whom the Stretcher is called is not removed from the Arena immediately upon a direction by a field umpire that the Player be so removed save where the Club Medical Officer notifies the field umpire that is would be dangerous to do so; or

c. The stretcher is not taken to the injured Player or the injured Player is not removed from the Arena to the club’s dressing room or medical room by the shortest and most direct route

d. A player resumes playing within a period of 15 minutes of actual playing time (excluding the quarter-time, half-time and three-quarter time breaks) from the time when the Player was removed from the Arena,

the club shall be liable to a sanction as determined by AFL Victoria

16. EQUIPMENT

16.1 The home team shall supply two official VWFL Sherrin match balls (Size 4.5), in good condition. The endorsed VWFL sponsor logo must appear on the match ball when applicable

16.2 The home team shall supply and have in position, suitable goal post padding on all goal and point posts before play can commence in accordance with the laws of Australian Football
16.3 The home team shall clearly mark the ground to specifications as instructed by the Laws of Australian Football before play can commence. The substance used to mark grounds shall be one that meets health and safety requirements.

16.4 The home club shall be responsible for the provision of suitable bell or siren.

16.5 The home team must supply a serviceable stretcher that is in a suitable position beside the boundary for the duration of the match before play can commence.

16.6 The failing of the above requirements therein shall be reported and be subject to the same procedure and penalties as provided in the case of a club not ready to commence play.

17. MATCH RESULTS

17.1 Correctly completed team sheets, goal umpire cards, timekeeper cards, report sheets and incident report forms must be received by the Football Operations Coordinator before 6.00pm following the match via the online jot form system. All documentation must be stored by the home club team manager until November 1st of the competing year.

17.2 The JLT online checklist must be completed prior to the game.

Fine for breach: $50

18. CONTROL AT MATCHES

18.1 Clubs shall be held responsible for the maintenance of order prior to, during and after matches (includes intervals in the match).

18.2 A registered official of a club disputing a decision of an umpire or using abusive language or threatening or insulting language before, during or after a match shall be dealt with as the AFL Victoria deems fit. The offending persons club shall also be liable to sanctions.

19. LOSS OF POINTS

A team shall be deemed to lose 4 premiership points if:

19.1 The home team fails to forward the match results to the Football Operations Coordinator by the required time on a third occasion throughout the season - this includes entering goal kickers, scores and amending team sheets to reflect who actually played.

19.2 A player signs the team sheet and is not in uniform either on the ground or on interchange.

19.3 A player who is not correctly registered plays in a match.

19.4 A player receiving a transfer plays before receiving all levels of approval via the online system.

19.5 A team fails to comply with the Leagues conditions and time frame for the payment of fees.

20. MATCH CANCELLATION – ADVERSE WEATHER POLICIES

20.1 Heat Policy – Match Day
The following shall be adopted when extremely hot conditions are expected to prevail on VWFL practice and in season match days.
In the event that the temperature is considered likely to be greater than 32°C at:

a) the scheduled commencement of a match, or
b) during the course of a match,

20.3 Metro Areas
One of the officiating field umpires shall contact the weather bureau (phone number below) to determine the current temperature in the area where the match is to be played and convey those details to the Umpire Coordinator (phone number below) who will provide direction.

20.4 Country Areas
One of the officiating field umpires is to contact the Umpire Coordinator who will in turn make contact with the weather bureau (restricted number) to determine the current temperature closest to the match location and then convey those details back to the umpire concerned who in turn if necessary will implement the policy as outlined below.

20.5 Should the home club for both metro and country areas have some form of temperature reading device that can be used at ground level, that reading can be accepted as the current temperature on the oval.

20.6 Policy Process
a) Temperature equal to, or greater than 36°C at the scheduled commencement of the game:
   I. A VWFL match shall not commence if the temperature at the scheduled commencement time is equal to or exceeds 36°C.
   II. If the temperature has not dropped below 36°C within 30 minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the match, the match shall be cancelled.

b) Temperature between 32 and below 36°C at the scheduled commencement of the game:
   I. All quarters are to be reduced to 15 minutes duration
   II. Umpires may increase the length of the stoppage following a goal to allow additional player/umpire hydration.
   III. The quarter and three quarter time breaks shall be increased to 10 minutes, with the teams and umpires able to leave the field during the breaks if so desired.
   IV. The half time break shall be increased to 15 minutes.
   V. The competing clubs shall be permitted to increase the number of interchange players by up to 2 additional players, providing that each team can add an equal number of player(s).
   VI. If the temperature exceeds 36°C during the match, the match shall be halted. If the temperature does not drop below 36°C within 30 minutes of the game being halted, the match shall be discontinued and the result determined per the Laws of Australian Football (Law 10.6.2).

c) Temperature below 32°C at the scheduled commencement of the game but dramatically increases during the game:
   I. If the temperature is between 32 and 36°C clauses c), d) and e) from section 2 (above) shall apply.
   II. If the temperature exceeds 36°C during the match, the match shall be halted. If the temperature does not drop below 36°C within 30 minutes of the game being halted, the match shall be discontinued and the result determined per the Laws of Australian Football (Law 10.6.2).

20.7 In the case of extreme weather, for example, severe hail or extreme cold, the following shall apply:

a). VWFL matches – the umpires or competing club captains may determine it’s not safe to commence or continue the match and the match shall be halted for up to 30 minutes. The umpires shall contact (home team to provide access to a mobile or
fixed phone) the AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager and the Umpire Coordinator to advise them of such situations. If the match cannot be recommenced within 30 minutes, the match shall be deemed incomplete and the result determined per the AFL Laws of Australian Football (Law 10.6.2). The AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager may determine to extend this 30 minute limitation should he deem appropriate to do so; such information is to be relayed to the umpires in a timely manner. NOTE: In situations where the clubs do not agree on whether play should be halted, or recommenced, the umpires should make a judgement. Should both clubs agree that conditions are unsafe; the umpires will be responsible for making the final decision as to the match proceeding or being discontinued.

b). Lightning Policy – Match Day
In the event of lightning being present during the course of a VWFL practice or in-season match, the following procedure is to occur:

i. Upon being satisfied that lightning is present in the immediate proximity of the match venue, the field umpires shall stop play and begin to leave the playing surface to return to their umpires’ room whilst directing players and officials to do the same.

c). Policy Process

i. Once in the security of their rooms one of the officiating field umpires shall contact the appropriate AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager and/or Umpire Coordinator as soon as possible to inform them of the situation.

ii. AFL Victoria AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager and/or the Umpire Coordinator shall make contact with the Severe Weather Expert at the Victorian Bureau of Meteorology and seek advice as to when the storm is expected to clear the proximity of the match venue.

iii. AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager and/or the Umpire Coordinator shall relay the information from the Severe Weather Expert to the umpires, and such information is to be used as a guide to determine the appropriate time to resume the match.

iv. The field umpires, following discussions with the AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager and/or the Umpire Coordinator and team managers or captains shall determine when the match is to recommence.

v. If the match is postponed or halted for a period greater than 30 minutes, the match shall be deemed incomplete.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Numbers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL Victoria VWFL Competition Manager</td>
<td>Darren Flanigan 0488 738 333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Victoria Umpire Coordinator</td>
<td>Adrian Fisher 0433 919 262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Temperature Metro</td>
<td>1196 (recorded message)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Temperature Country</td>
<td>Call Adrian Fisher 0433 919 262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. **GROUND INSPECTIONS**

21.1 On the day of any official match arranged by the VWFL, club officials must make a full inspection of the ground on which the match will be played prior to the match commencing.
A representative from each club shall complete the official JLT Match Day Checklist online via the JLT App.

21.2 If any player or official is of the opinion that the venue is unsafe for play for whatever reason, he/she should not sign the team sheet.

21.3 Any player or official, who does not sign the official team sheet, is ineligible to take part in the match for which the team sheet is required.

22. **UMPIRES**

22.1 **General**

(a) At the completion of the match the team managers will collect the goal umpires’ score cards and the timekeepers cards.

(c) AFL Victoria shall appoint the field umpire(s) for each home and away and finals match.

(d) AFL Victoria may appoint goal and/or boundary umpires for a home and away match.

(e) AFL Victoria shall appoint the goal and boundary umpires and an emergency umpire for finals matches.

(i) Field, goal and boundary umpire fees shall be set annually by AFL Victoria.

(iii) In the event of a match not taking place because of a forfeit, the club giving the forfeit must pay all of the umpire fees via AFL Victoria.

(f) Where a person is involved in an incident which may constitute a Reportable Offence an umpire appointed by the League shall report that person and the matter will be referred to the Tribunal for hearing and determination.

(g) Umpires shall wear the uniforms prescribed by AFL Victoria. Umpires shall be on the playing field five minutes before the scheduled starting time of each match. The team manager of a club shall notify the Football Operations Coordinator of any infringement of this Regulation.

(h) The field umpire shall report any breaches of the Rules or Regulations by a club or official of a club to the Football Operations Coordinator via the online form.

(i) Umpires shall be required to attend meetings when notified by the Umpires’ Coordinator. Any umpire not present at roll call may be dealt with by the Umpires’ Coordinator as they deem fit.

22.2 **Goal And Boundary Umpires And Scores**

(a) Teams must supply a goal and boundary umpire for each match unless supplied by AFL Victoria. Goal and boundary umpires must be 15 years of age or over.

(b) If a team fails to supply a boundary umpire or goal umpire, the game shall not commence and the umpire shall direct the offending team’s captain to appoint players from their team, who are on the ground, to fulfil these positions. Players who are instructed to fill the positions of goal or boundary umpire shall not take part in the match. If a team fails to comply with the request of the umpire to supply a goal or boundary umpire, that team shall forfeit the match.
The goal umpires shall record the scores on the cards provided by AFL Victoria and check the scores on the cards between quarters and at the conclusion of the match. Any discrepancy between the scores shall be rectified as soon as possible in consultation with the field umpire. The cards shall be properly completed and signed by the goal umpires. If the goal umpires disagree on the score, but the home team managers score is the same as one of the goal umpires’ scores, this score shall be recognized as the official score of the match. Failing which, any disputes shall be referred for hearing and determination AFL Victoria.

Club goal umpires shall be attired in supplied orange jackets, tradition white coat or VWFL Umpire uniform. Clubs are also responsible for supplying goal umpires with a set of flags and, a pen and goal umpire cards. Club boundary umpires shall, as a minimum, be attired in an orange or green vest, as supplied by AFL Victoria, and as far as practicable, in black shorts or pants (no denim). Any club not having its umpires so attired shall be fined for breach: $50.00.

In all matches, the home club shall be responsible for a scoreboard which shall be in operation throughout the whole game. The scoreboard must be clearly visible to the goal umpires who shall check its accuracy at the conclusion of each quarter. Umpires shall report to the Football Operations Coordinator, online umpire report form, any occasion by which a club fails to operate a scoreboard and a fine for breach of $50.00 shall be imposed by the League.

For all official games, the home club is required to lodge on-line with AFL Victoria the amended team sheet, final scores, best players and goal kickers by not later than 6.00pm on the day of the match or one hour after the match conclusion. Fine for breach: $100.00.

Any club who submits incorrect amended team sheets, final scores, best players and goal kickers to AFL Victoria on-line will be liable to a fine for breach of $25.00 per amendment.

22.3 Official Powers

All umpires appointed by the Umpires’ Coordinator shall have the power to report players, clubs and officials in accordance with such of the Laws of Australian Football, adopted by AFL Victoria from time to time and for any breach of these Regulations.

22.4 Escorts

At all matches the home club shall supply an escort for umpires who shall:

(i) Escort the umpires onto the ground for commencement, from the ground at half time, onto the ground to commence the second half and at the completion of the game;

(ii) The home club is to offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter;

(iii) Remain in the centre of the ground with the umpires during quarter time and three quarter time breaks;

(iv) Show courtesy at all times;

(v) Be over the age of 18 years; and

(vi) Wear approved supplied League blue escort bib or flouro vest supplied by club at all times whilst officiating as an umpires escort.

Fine for breach: $100.00
22.5 **Penalty for Assaulting**

(a) In the event of a player or official of any club being found guilty on a charge of assaulting any umpire appointed to officiate by the Umpires’ Coordinator, the club to which she/he belongs may be dealt with by AFL Victoria by way of:

(i) a fine for breach not exceeding $5000.00; and/or

(ii) disqualification from the competition; and/or

(iii) loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the team played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams.

22.6 **Infectious Diseases**

AFL Victoria will abide by Law 22 Infectious Diseases states in the Laws of Australian Football

23. **SEND OFF RULE**

23.1 **Yellow Card**

A field umpire has the authority to order off the field any player or official who commits “a yellow card” offence (order off - cool off), for behavior detrimental to football. The “yellow card” offence will require the field umpire to order off the field an offending player or official for a period of 10 minutes playing time. No replacement is permitted.

In the event that:

(a) A player or official is issued with two “yellow card” offences in the one (1) game, then the offender shall be reported for misconduct and consequently be deemed to have committed a red card offence.

(b) A player or official is ordered off for a “yellow card” offence and fails to immediately leave the field as directed by the field umpire, then the offender shall be reported for misconduct and consequently be deemed to have committed a “red card” offence.

23.2 **Red Card**

A field umpire has the authority to order off the field any player or official who commits a ‘red card’ offence (order off – stay off) for remainder of the match. No replacement is permitted.

The offending player or official shall take no further part in the match and will be reported for misconduct by the umpires.

23.3 **Order Off Procedures**

Any player or official ordered from the ground will move quickly to the nearest boundary line), depart the playing arena and report the team manager. The field Umpire shall hold aloft the appropriate card to signal that the Player has been ordered off

(a) The team manager will inform the runner when the player or official is allowed to resume playing or officiating.

(b) A player or official ordered off is not required to report to the field umpire prior to resuming play at the expiry of the penalty time.

(c) Failure of an ordered off player or official to depart the playing arena quickly as possible may be interpreted by the field umpire as a deliberate waste of time. In
such cases, the umpire may award a free quick against the offending player

(d) It is the responsibility of the offending player’s runner to seek acknowledgment from the team manager as to when the player is able to return to the field.

23.4 Repeated Order Off Penalties in a Single Match or Across the Season

(a) A player or official who is ordered from the field a second time in one match shall be reported by the field umpire.

(b) The player or official must appear before the Tribunal if a set penalty is not offered or not accepted.

(c) The player or official will also incur an automatic suspension if they receive more than one red card during a season.

(d) An automatic one-match suspension will be incurred by any player or official receiving:

- A second red card in a season;
- A yellow card after receiving a red card in a prior game; or,
- A third yellow card in three separate games; and
- Any subsequent order offs (yellow or red cards) will incur an automatic two-match suspension.

- The penalty will then be double for each subsequent send off.

(e) The penalties incurred by a player sent off more than once are added to any suspension incurred at the Tribunal or through a set penalty system.

(f) The Football Operations Coordinator is to maintain a record of all players and officials ordered off.

23.5 Abuse Towards Umpires

Abuse from coach and/or officials listed on team sheet and/or from the direction of the interchange bench:

i. First Offence:
   Award a free kick to the opposing team and a 25 metre penalty from the place where play was stopped.

ii. Second offence:
   Report and yellow card the offending official.
   Award a penalty free to the opposing team with the resulting free kick to be taken from the goal line.

iii. Subsequent offences (coach):
   If a third abuse offence from the direction of the bench occurs in a given game, the coach will be red carded and team will be asked to replace the coach with another accredited coach. If another accredited coach is not available the game will be forfeited.

iv. If a club is yellow or red carded for umpire abuse twice in a season, the coach will be suspended for 1 premiership match. The replacement coach must be level 1 accredited.

v. If a club is yellow or red carded for umpire abuse for a third time in a season, the coach and club will be requested to attend an AFL Victoria tribunal for sanctioning.

23.6 25 Metre Penalty

A 25 metre penalty shall replace the 50 metre penalty as referred to in section 18 of the Laws of Australian Football.
24. BREACHES OF LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

24.1 Procedures for Breach of Laws of Australian Football

(a) Conditions applied on player for breach of the Laws of Australian Football

The following conditions will apply to a charge laid by an officiating Umpire against a player for a breach of the Laws of Australian Football:

The charge shall be detailed on a report form – Online form

The form shall set out the name of the reported player, her number, particulars of the charge and the part of the field where the offence occurred.

In laying a charge of misconduct the Umpire shall provide details of such charge.

Any Umpire intending to lay a charge shall proceed to complete the requisite report forms without delay.

Umpire informing a player of report:

Where an Umpire reports a player or official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use his or her best endeavours to inform the player or official of the report:

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

The Umpire shall use their best endeavours to inform the person against whom a Reportable Offence has been committed of the report (if applicable).

An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or official of a Team of a report where it is impracticable to inform the player or official who has been reported.

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 the report which has been made.

(b) The provisions of this rule shall apply to all matches including practice matches at which there are officiating Umpires appointed by the Umpiring Department of AFL Victoria. Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, charges failing to be determined by the Tribunal shall be heard at the offices of AFL Victoria on a day and time as determined by AFL Victoria. The Tribunal may alter the date, time and place for hearing any charge, in which case the Clubs and Umpires concerned shall be notified by AFL Victoria of such altered time and place of hearing. The Competition Manager may following written application from a reported player defer a Tribunal Hearing in special circumstances but such player shall be ineligible to play until the charge is determined.

(c) Notwithstanding the fact that any one or more of the conditions required to be fulfilled by this Regulation have not been complied with the Tribunal may at its discretion hear and determine upon any charge falling within its responsibility provided it is satisfied that no substantial miscarriage of justice will occur as a result thereof.

(d) Any Club official or player who publicly comments on the contents of a written report or a charge prior to the determination by the Tribunal shall be liable to a maximum fine of $1000 to be imposed on their Club. Any Club official or player who publicly criticises the decision of the

Page | 23
Tribunal shall be liable to a maximum fine of $1000 to be imposed on their Club. The amount of any fine to be imposed in accordance with this Regulation shall be determined by the Competition Manager, in accordance with the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Offence</td>
<td>Up to $1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Offence</td>
<td>Up to $3000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(e) In the event of a Club making an allegation or complaint or laying a charge against an Umpire for alleged non-compliance with the provisions of this Regulation, AFL Victoria may refer such allegation, complaint or charge to AFL Victoria Umpiring Department for such action as that department may consider appropriate.

(f) Allegations, complaints and charges and the imposition of fines or penalties relating to matches conducted by AFL Victoria or any match promoted, controlled or managed by AFL Victoria, shall be heard and determined by the Tribunal in accordance with these Regulations.

(g) Any official of a Club who uses abusive, threatening or insulting language to an Umpire on the day of a match, or who publicly comments on the performance of an umpire or umpires at any time or otherwise misconducts himself shall be liable to a maximum fine of $1000 to be imposed on his Club. The amount of such fine shall be determined by the Competition Manager.

Breaches of Laws of Australian Football (Optional Penalties)

(h) For certain Reportable Offences a player may elect to accept a severe reprimand as a 1st offence if offered by AFL Victoria. Those offences, as set out in the Laws of Australian Football, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Law Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disputing a decision of an umpire</td>
<td>19.2.2 (e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of an obscene gesture</td>
<td>19.2.2 (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging in time wasting</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (iv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throwing or pushing another player after that player has taken a mark, disposal of the football or after the football is otherwise out of play</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (vi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempting to strike another person</td>
<td>19.2.2 (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg</td>
<td>19.2.2 (j)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intentionally shaking a goal or behind post when another player is preparing to kick or is kicking for goal or after the player has kicked for goal and the ball is in transit</td>
<td>19.2.2 (k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under law 9</td>
<td>19.2.2 (o)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) If the reported player has been previously suspended in the current or preceding season the automatic penalty to apply shall be the following:-
### Offence and Penalty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Offence</td>
<td>2 match suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Offence</td>
<td>Case to be heard before the tribunal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(j) Reportable offence incurring a suspension

For the following offences a player may be offered by AFL Victoria a suspension of Two (2) matches or severe reprimand as a first offence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Law Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Striking another person</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (ii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempting to kick another person</td>
<td>19.2.2 (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (iii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging another person</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (v)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (vii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spitting at or on another person</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that player has their head down over the football</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (xi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging in a melee except where a player’s sole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident</td>
<td>19.2.2 (g) (viii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language</td>
<td>19.2.2 (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling another person</td>
<td>19.2.2 (l)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by a field Umpire</td>
<td>19.2.2 (n)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the reported player carries a suspended sentence from the current or preceding season, the suspended sentence shall be served in addition to the automatic penalty applicable.

(k) If the reported player has been previously suspended in the current or preceding season the automatic penalty to apply shall be the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Offence</td>
<td>3 match suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Offence</td>
<td>Case to be heard before the tribunal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(l) Referring to Tribunal

Umpires shall report and charge players in the manner provided for in these Regulations but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal unless so requested by any one or more of an Umpire who lodges the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or an official of either Club. Such request shall be made in writing delivered or sent by e-mail to the Operation...
Coordinator not later than 12.00pm on the first working day immediately following the match. The Operations Coordinator also has the power to request a player not be eligible to elect to accept an automatic optional penalty for a Reportable Offence and therefore attend the Tribunal.

**Non-compliance by the 12:00pm deadline will result in the automatic penalty being applied.**

All players reported during the conduct of AFL Victoria Final Series are not eligible to elect to accept a suspension for the breaches of the Laws of Australian Football (optional penalties) and a reported player shall have her charge heard before the Tribunal. The Competition Manager may elect to consider a players request for an optional penalty should it be a first offence for that player.

(m) Reports for serious breaches as defined in the Laws of Australian Football Rule 20.2 shall in all cases be determined by the Tribunal. These include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intentionally, recklessly or negligently making contact with or striking an Umpire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempting to make contact with or strike an Umpire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an Umpire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicking another person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act of misconduct if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Repeat Offenders**

(n) All Clubs are to have an appropriate Player Welfare System in place to ensure players understand these Regulations and any other AFL Victoria rules, regulations and by-laws (including Player Rules). Clubs are to provide information on responsible officers and procedures to AFL Victoria each year prior to the start of the upcoming season.

(o) Should a player be reported for a second time (and charge sustained) within 24 months period the competition Manager will forward a letter to the Club concerned outlining the players tribunal history and indicating that the Club and its relevant staff need to address this matter with the player.

(p) Should a player be reported (and charge sustained) for a third time or within 36 months the player concerned will be required to attend a interview with an AFL Victoria appointed officer and the Club will confirm in writing that the Club has spoken to the Player consistent with the policy submitted to AFL Victoria.

(q) Should the player be reported (and charge sustained) for a fourth time AFL Victoria will require the Club and the player concerned to show cause why the player should not be suspended or disqualified from the season.

**Melees**

(r) If an incident occur prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time interval) or following the completion of a VWFL match which involves six (6) or more players, except where a player’s sole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident, and if in the opinion of AFL Victoria such incident is likely to:-

prejudice the interests or reputation of AFL Victoria, or

prejudice the interests or reputation of AFL Victoria competition, or
bring the game of football into disrepute;

Any player involved in such incident shall be reported by AFL Victoria or its appointed nominee for having committed an act of misconduct AFL Victoria or its appointed nominee may report any player or players under this Regulation by providing notice thereof and a summary of material facts in relation thereto, to any such player or players and the Chairman of the Tribunal.

24.3.4 Video Reporting

Video analysis of tapes of all matches played will be assigned after referral from AFL Victoria Umpiring Department or opposition team to evaluate particular incidents that may have occurred during a game.

The State League & Talent Manager and Football Operations Coordinator are appointed as the video review panel on behalf of AFL Victoria to evaluate such referrals and consider whether charges may emanate from such referrals of video analysis.

VWFL Clubs may in writing, also request incidents from such games to be investigated, providing the Clubs lodge the written request no later than 12 NOON on the first working day following each Round.

Should the incident under review be considered a breach of the Laws of Australian Football and reportable, then a Notice of Particulars of Charge Sheet shall be signed by AFL Victoria and the charged player(s) of the Club shall be notified of the charge as well as all other parties in the incident, on the following day which should be generally Tuesday of that particular week.

A Tribunal shall be convened to hear the charge emanating from the video report detailed in the Notice of Particulars of Charge and should be heard as soon as practicable and in most cases, that would be on the Tuesday evening after each Round of matches, but if not, as soon as possible to alleviate any impact on a player or player's club preparation for the next scheduled VWFL match in which the player can participate.

Such cases referred to AFL Victoria Tribunal by the Video Review Panel, will be presented by the appointed AFL Victoria Reporting Officer.

Players may, elect to accept an optional penalty for certain Reportable Offences (as set out in the optional penalties – breaches of the laws structure).

25. BEST AND FAIREST VOTES

25.1 Official VWFL field umpires shall lodge one set of best and fairest votes in all official League home and away matches. Where two League field umpires are officiating in a match, one set of best and fairest votes will be lodged via the online umpire report on behalf of both umpires.

25.2 Three (3) votes will be awarded to the player deemed by the official League field umpires as best player in the match, two (2) votes for the second best player and one (1) vote for the third best player.

25.3 Any player who has been found guilty of a reportable offence in a home and away match will be ineligible to win a best and fairest award.

25.4 The player who received the highest number of votes at the conclusion of the home and away season in each division will win the best and fairest award. In the event of more than one player being on an equal number of votes, dual/multiple awards will be presented.
26. **TIMEKEEPERS**

All clubs are to supply a timekeeper, but only one timekeeping card as supplied by the League shall be used at each venue. The home club shall supply the timecard. Both timekeepers from each club shall sign the timekeepers card on completion of the game clearly showing the appropriate details and their signature and their clubs. No person shall be permitted to act as a timekeeper unless they have attained the age of 18 years. Timekeepers from the home team shall hand the timekeepers card to the team manager on the completion of the game. The team manager will lodge the timekeeper card as per match reporting process.

Fine for breach: $50.00

27. **RUNNERS**

27.1 Each team shall be permitted to use one runner. The runner shall be attired in a yellow vest as supplied by AFL Victoria (which must have the Melbourne Football Club logo) and as far as practicable, in black shorts or pants (no denim).

27.2 The runner shall be allowed to transfer messages to the players from the coach. The runner shall not obstruct the play in any way. The runner must leave the field as soon as they have finished giving messages or instructions to a player.

27.3 No registered player signed on the said match day team sheet can be runner for that match.

28. **WATER CARRIERS**

28.1 Each team shall be permitted to supply up to 4 water carriers inclusive of any registered trainers. Water carriers shall be attired in a fluoro vest which is clearly identifiable with the club name as supplied by the club, and as far as practicable, in black shorts or pants (no denim).

28.2 Water carriers shall be permitted to offer players a drink. Water carriers shall not obstruct the play in any way. Water carriers must stay off the field of play whilst not doing their duties. Water carriers must be positioned around the perimeter of the ground and not in the vicinity of the interchange/coaches box.

29. **TRAINERS**

29.1 Each team must supply at least one registered trainer per match, with no more than 2 registered trainers participating in any match. Trainers shall be attired in the AFL Victoria provided white vest or other white trainer shirt/vest, and as far as practicable, in black pants (no denim).

29.2 The VWFL online trainer registration form with supporting documentation must be received by the Football Operations Coordinator by no later than 4.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the trainer’s first game.

29.3 Trainers must have accreditation as specified by AFL Victoria, and be registered via the online registration form.

29.4 No registered player signed on the said match day team sheet can be trainer for that match.

29.6 Trainers may assist players who are injured whilst on the ground. Trainers must stay off the field of play whilst not attending to their duties.

30. **COACH REQUIREMENTS**

30.1 No person may coach (playing or non-playing) in any matches authorised or conducted by AFL Victoria, unless that person has:
(a) a current accreditation with the Australian Football Coaching Association of Level One Senior standard or higher; and

(b) Completed the online registration as a coach

30.2 A non-playing coach does not require a clearance application to coach any club.

30.3 A non-suspended and accredited coach must be in charge of the team at all times when the team is playing a match and training.

30.4 Any person who purports to coach in any matches authorised or conducted by AFL Victoria without satisfying the requirements of this Regulation may be dealt with as AFL Victoria sees fit.

31. UNIFORMS

31.1 General

a. Each club must register its colours and uniforms at the beginning of the season and they shall not be changed without the approval of AFL Victoria.

b. The teams of each club shall wear their registered club guernseys as approved by AFL Victoria from time to time and at all games. All jumpers must bear the approved AFL Victoria logo at all games. All uniforms shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by AFL Victoria from time to time. Should any club fail to fulfill this Regulation, AFL Victoria may disqualify the club from further premiership matches or otherwise deal with such club as it deems fit.

c. If two clubs compete in the same division and those clubs' colours are the same or similar and are drawn to compete against one another, the away club must change its jumper, upon instruction from the Football Operations Coordinator.

d. In the event of teams whose colours are the same or similar meeting in finals, the club finishing higher on the ladder at the completion of the season will retain its jumper.

e. All teams shall wear their registered club coloured shorts and socks at all games.

f. Players who wear bicycle or lycra shorts extending on the legs below the line of the uniform shorts must wear such shorts which are beige in colour and must not extend below the knee.

g. Players are permitted to wear only VWFL approved glove(s), manufactured for use in Australian Rules Football, in official VWFL matches.

h. Metal boot studs, bobby pins, jewellery and piercings and not permitted to be worn at any time on the field of play.

i. A player on the field of play who is not wearing the correct uniform as per the above Regulation shall be yellow carded by the field umpire.

j. Except with the prior permission of AFL Victoria, clubs fielding multiple teams are to have one set of guernseys for all teams numbered in whole numbers greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits. Every club player should wear a unique playing number.
32. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

32.1 AFL Victoria may select any players registered with the League from time to time to participate in representative matches to represent AFL Victoria.

32.2 Any player selected to participate in representative matches must play for AFL Victoria and any failure to do so shall be dealt with by AFL Victoria as it sees fit.

32.3 If any person selected to play in representative matches fails to take the field in the match for which she was so selected, the matter shall be referred to the Independent Tribunal which may disqualify her from playing in premiership matches for such a period as may be determined.

32.4 In all cases under 32.3 of this Regulation shall be sufficient to answer:

(a) that the Football Operations Coordinator received from the player not less than two clear days before the date of the match a written explanation of her inability to play satisfactory to AFL Victoria

(b) that the Football Operations Coordinator received within two days after the date of the match a medical certificate that the player was unfit owing to illness or injury to play.

32.5 In the case of a registered playing coach of any club it shall not be sufficient explanation under 32.4 that business affairs prevented her from playing.

32.6 AFL Victoria may continue with home and away fixtured matches notwithstanding any representative fixture on the same day. No player selected for a representative team shall take part in a home and away game on the same weekend.

32.7 No person shall be qualified to play in any representative team unless she is qualified to play for a League club in matches played under the auspices of AFL Victoria.

32.8 Appointment of Representative Match Staff

(a) AFL Victoria shall be responsible for the selection and appointment of coaches, trainers, runners and officials for representative matches. The positions of captain, vice captain and leadership groups may be made in consultation and by agreement with coaches.

(b) Representative match staff shall attend meetings as requested by AFL Victoria.

33. AWARDS

33.1 The presentation of awards and trophies shall be decided by AFL Victoria.

34. PRESENTATION NIGHT TICKETS

Each team shall be allotted 5 tickets for the VWFL Presentation Night in each season and shall be invoiced for those tickets in the annual affiliation fees at the prices prevailing from time to time.

35. CLUB ACCOUNTS

35.1 Lodgment of Annual Reports

(a) All clubs shall forward to the Football Operations Coordinator no later than 31 December each year, one copy of their Annual Report. Fine for breach: $200.00

(b) No later than 31 December, all clubs shall forward to the Football Operations Coordinator:
(i) a Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the immediate past year,

(ii) a list of all club office bearers for the coming season.

36. MEETINGS

36.1 Compulsory

AFL Victoria may convene compulsory meeting(s) for club officials as stipulated by the Executive from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: Delegates Meetings, Presidents/Coaches/Team Managers Forum and Finals Participants Meetings.

Fine for breach:  
- First Offence - $100.00
- Second Offence - $200.00
- Third Offence - $300.00 and report to AFL Victoria

Written or verbal apologies for non-attendance at compulsory meetings of the League will not eliminate a fine for breach.

36.2 Representatives

(a) One representative of each club must attend meeting of the League. Such representatives shall be the President or committee member and/or delegate

37. UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

37 No club shall permit any of its officers or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television and all newspapers) in connection with any policies or acts of AFL Victoria without the prior approval of AFL Victoria To do so shall render the club concerned liable to:

(a) a fine for breach at the discretion of the League;

(b) expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the League.

38. FINE FOR BREACHES

38.1 Fines may be imposed by AFL Victoria or the Football Operations Coordinator for non-compliance with or violation of these Regulations.

(a) at the rates specified in regulations

(b) if no rate is specified in at the rate determined by the AFL Victoria

38.2 The value of all penalties shall be determined by AFL Victoria from time to time and may be adjusted by the AFL Victoria at any time.

38.3 Fines are to be paid before the clubs next scheduled game or within 7 days if they are not scheduled to play a game before then. If fines remain unpaid by the set date and no contact has been made with the Competition manager, the club will be ineligible to compete in fixture matches.

38.4 No appeals against fine for breaches by a club shall be heard until the fine for breaches have been paid.
39. POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

All players and officials at all League matches shall be subject to the Policies and Codes of Conduct as issued by AFL Victoria.

40. EXPULSION, SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION - PLAYERS

40.1 Disqualified Players

No player who has been disqualified by any other competition for a breach under the Laws of Australian Football shall be allowed to play with any Club or hold any office or act in any capacity for an Club until such disqualification be removed by the body which made the same or by appeal to AFL Victoria in accordance with these Regulations.

No player shall play with or coach any Club in any other competition while the term of such disqualification lasts. Any player so offending shall be dealt with in accordance with VWFL Regulations. A player disqualified by the Tribunal shall not be allowed to hold any office or act in any capacity for a VWFL Club until the period of disqualification imposed by the Tribunal shall have terminated.

40.2 Infringements

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Regulations, any Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, other Club or VWFL Official or Umpire who in the opinion of AFL Victoria:

a. is in breach of the Laws of Australian Football;

b. has contravened a provision(s) of the Constitution, Player Rules, or any other relevant AFL Victoria rules, regulations or by-laws;

c. has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire;

d. is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute; or

e. acts in a manner which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Victoria or the game of Australian Football;

shall be dealt with by the Tribunal or otherwise as AFL Victoria deems fit.

40.2.2 Any Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club or VFL Official or Umpire who neglects or refuses to attend any Committee, Tribunal, Board or other Meeting of AFL Victoria to which he or she may has been summoned, may be charged with unbecoming conduct and be dealt with by the Tribunal or otherwise as AFL Victoria deems fit.

40.2.3 A Club may allege that a Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire has been guilty of a breach of the Laws of Australian Football or has contravened the provisions of the Constitution, Player Rules, or other AFL Victoria rules, regulations or by-laws or has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a Coach, Player, Trainer, Club Official or Umpire or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Victoria competition by lodging with AFL Victoria a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with AFL Victoria within (2) two working days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless AFL Victoria agrees to extend this period. An extension agreed to by AFL Victoria may be for such period and subject to such conditions as AFL Victoria deems fit.

40.2.4 If AFL Victoria, after investigation of an allegation made is of the opinion that the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire in question may have been guilty of a breach of the Laws of Australian Football or has contravened the provisions of AFL Victoria rules, regulations or by-laws or who has been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Victoria it may either refer the allegation to the Tribunal as hereinafter provided or otherwise determine the
allegation as it deems fit.

40.2.4.1 Where the allegation is referred to the Tribunal, the operations Coordinator shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing before the Tribunal, being a date not later than 21 days after lodgement of the Notice and shall advise the Coach, Player, Trainer, Club Official or Umpire in question of those particulars and forward to the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire in question a copy of the Notice lodged.

40.2.5 The Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it under this Regulation as it deems fit, but in any such proceedings the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire against whom the allegation has been made and his or her representative shall be entitled to appear before the Tribunal.

40.2.6 If the Tribunal decides that the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire in question has been guilty of a breach of the Laws of Australian Football or has contravened the provisions of the Constitution, Player Rules, or other AFL Victoria rules, regulations or by-laws or who has been guilty of conduct which, in the opinion of the Tribunal, is unbecoming to a Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, or that a Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner, Club Official or Umpire has been guilty of conduct which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Victoria it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it deems fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Tribunal may:-

a. impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner or Official in question and/or upon the Club of such Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner or Official;

b. disqualify the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner or Official in question for such period as it deems fit;

c. remove premiership points from a the Club of which the Coach, Player, Trainer, Runner or Official is a member and at its discretion award such points to another Club or Clubs;

d. make adjustments to match scores and percentages; and/or

e. in the case of an Umpire, impose such fine or period of suspension as it deems fit.

40.2.7 The decision of the Tribunal in respect of any allegation brought before it under this Regulation shall be final and binding on all parties.

40.2.8 No player shall play with or coach any team in another competition or play in a representative team of AFL Victoria during a term of suspension.

40.2.9 Clubs and Directors, Office Bearers, Employees and Committee Members of Clubs who, in the opinion of AFL Victoria, have contravened the provisions of AFL Victoria rules, regulations or by-laws or who have been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a Club, Director, Office Bearer, Employee or Committee Member of a Club or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or which is prejudicial to the reputation of the interests of AFL Victoria shall (subject to the provisions of the Constitution) be dealt with as AFL Victoria deems fit.

40.2.10 If pursuant to or in exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution AFL Victoria shall suspend, exclude or forfeit the right of a Club to membership of AFL Victoria competition then such Club shall not be permitted to participate in any match managed, controlled or promoted by AFL Victoria during the period of such suspension, exclusion or forfeiture.
41 TRIBUNAL

41.1 Powers and Appointments

AFL Victoria may from time to time appoint persons to the Tribunal. On any occasion when the Tribunal is required to be convened AFL Victoria or a person authorised by it shall appoint a Chairman and a further person or persons to hear and determine the matter before it. Subject to the provisions of the Player Rules, the rules and regulations and any determinations or decisions from time to time of AFL Victoria, the procedure at any hearing of the Tribunal shall subject to the further matters within the discretion of the person appointed as Chairman.

41.2 At any hearing of the Tribunal:-

a. no person shall be entitled to be legally represented;

b. the hearing shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter permits;

c. the Tribunal may impose such penalties in each case as it in its absolute discretion and thinks fit, including a discretion to impose any additional penalty where a player who is offered an automatic penalty refuses the automatic penalty and proceeds to contest the report before the Tribunal and is found guilty; and

d. as is provided in these Regulations the decision of the Tribunal shall be final and binding.

41.2.1 The Tribunal shall have the responsibility of exercising and shall exercise the powers of AFL Victoria in relation to hearing and determining upon charges made against players, the responsibility of determining all matters referred to it and the inflicting of fines, suspensions or other penalties in relation to charges against such Directors, Players, Coaches, members of training staff or other Club officials or bodies including fines, suspensions or other penalties for unsatisfactory evidence.

41.2.2 The Tribunal shall have all powers necessary or desirable to carry out its responsibilities within the limits of the Constitution and these Regulations.

41.2.3 The Tribunal shall be appointed by AFL Victoria and shall comprise a Chairman (who shall be a member of the legal profession) and such other members as AFL Victoria shall determine. AFL Victoria shall take into account any nominations received from Clubs when determining the members of the Tribunal. A person who will not be eligible for appointment to the Tribunal if:

a. Has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;

b. Has been a coach or assistant or specialty coach of a Club;

c. Has been a player of a club; or

d. Has been an employee of AFL Victoria or Club; in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment.

41.2.4 When dealing with a charge or charges laid by an umpire against a player for a breach of the Laws of Australian Football the Chairman (or the appointed deputy who is a Member of the Tribunal) and one (1) other member shall form a quorum for the Tribunal.

41.2.5 In all cases possible however, three (3) members (including Chairman) shall act as the Tribunal.

41.2.6 When dealing with a charge or charges under Regulation 12.3 hereof a quorum shall comprise the Chairman (or the appointed deputy) and two (2) other members.

41.2.7 The Tribunal will conduct its proceedings as it sees fit and the decisions made and penalties imposed shall be final. Guidelines as to the Tribunal’s procedures when dealing with alleged breaches of the Laws of Australian Football are set out under Regulation 13.7 (Tribunal Procedures).
41.2.8 The Talent Operations Officer shall cause a record to be kept of all proceedings of the Tribunal.

41.3 Tribunal Assistance

Reporting Officer shall have the power to withdraw any charge or matter prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal. The Reporting Officer, shall with the leave of the Tribunal, have the power to amend any charge or statement of any matter to be determined by the Tribunal prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal. The Reporting Officer shall not be a qualified legal practitioner. Unless a party to a charge or a matter brought before the Tribunal requests the attendance of an Umpire at a hearing before the Tribunal, the Reporting Officer may produce and rely upon in evidence, a Statutory Declaration made by an Umpire in relation to such charge or matter and such Statutory Declaration shall constitute prima facie evidence of the facts therein contained.

41.4 Person appearing before Tribunal

Any person who appears before the Tribunal and who in the opinion of the Tribunal has:-

41.4.1 failed to fully cooperate with the Tribunal;
41.4.2 failed to answer any questions asked by the Reporting Officer or the Tribunal;
41.4.3 failed to provide any document in his, her or its possession or control relevant to a matter to be determined by the Tribunal;
41.4.4 provides a less than full and truthful account of matters within his, her or its knowledge; and/or
41.4.5 makes any false or misleading statement or makes a statement calculated to or which is likely to mislead; shall be dealt with by the Tribunal as the Tribunal in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

41.5 Conduct which is unbecoming and prejudicial

41.5.1 Any official of any Club who contacts or procures another to contact a player or person of another Club being a player or person who is or ought reasonably to be regarded as a player or person required to give evidence before the Tribunal on or in respect of a matter directly or indirectly affecting such official’s Club, shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming and prejudicial to the interests of a just and fair hearing. Any such official shall be dealt with by the Tribunal as the Tribunal in its absolute discretion deems fit.

41.5.2 The Tribunal may in addition to any penalty or determination made in respect of an official of a Club under this regulation, impose a penalty on such official’s Club as the Tribunal in its absolute discretion deems fit save where the Club satisfies the Tribunal that such conduct of such official was not entered into with the consent, acquiescence or knowledge of the Club.

41.6 Player Advocates

41.6.1 Clubs are permitted to organise their own non-legally qualified Advocate.
41.6.2 A Players’ Advocate may be removed from office by AFL Victoria at any time.
41.6.3 A Players’ Advocate shall be regarded as an officer of and under the control of the Tribunal.
41.6.4 The duty of a Players’ Advocate shall be to represent a player who has been charged with a breach of the rules, regulations or by-laws of AFL (including Player Rules) or the Laws of Australian Football before the Tribunal if chosen by the player to do so provided he the Players’ Advocate is available for this purpose. A player shall only be entitled to representation from a person as provided for in Regulations above.

41.7 Reporting Officer

AFL Victoria may appoint a person to assist the Tribunal at any hearing. A person so appointed shall be known as the Reporting Officer and shall act to assist the Tribunal in the conduct of proceedings, and specifically but without limitation shall:-

41.7.1 advise the Tribunal of the particulars of the charge or matter before it;
41.7.2 make submissions in relation to the charge or matter before it;
41.7.3 call any persons to give evidence as the Reporting Officer may consider necessary or desirable in the interests of general justice and fairness;
41.7.4 ask questions of any person appearing before the Tribunal;
41.7.5 address the Tribunal by way of summing up prior to any final submissions of the advocate of any person charged or otherwise appearing to be dealt with by the Tribunal and prior to the Tribunal retiring to consider its finding. The Reporting Officer shall with the leave of the Tribunal have the power to amend any charge or statement of any matter to be determined by
the Tribunal prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal. The Reporting Officer shall not be a qualified legal practitioner.

Unless a party to a charge or a matter brought before the Tribunal requests the attendance of an Umpire at a hearing before the Tribunal, the Reporting Officer may produce and rely upon in evidence, a Statutory Declaration made by an Umpire in relation to such charge or matter and such Statutory Declaration shall constitute prima facie evidence of the facts therein contained.

41.8 Umpires Advocate

41.8.1 AFL Victoria may appoint such persons as it considers fit to be Umpires’ Advocates and such persons shall form a panel of advocates.

41.8.2 An Umpires Advocate may be removed from office by AFL Victoria at any time.

41.8.3 An Umpires Advocate shall be regarded as an officer of and under the control of the Tribunal.

41.8.4 The duty of an Umpires Advocate shall be to assist the umpire who has reported a player for a breach of the Laws of Australian Football.

41.9 Tribunal Procedures

The following procedures will generally be adopted by the Tribunal when dealing with a charge or charges by an umpire or umpires against a player for a breach of the Laws of Australian Football:-

41.9.1 Other than in reports for serious breaches there will be no hearing unless a request is made.

41.9.2 Upon assembly and after the Tribunal has selected a Chairman, the Umpire, the Umpire Advocate, the players and their advocates (if any) shall be summoned before the Tribunal. Members of the media may be admitted at the Tribunal’s discretion.

41.9.3 The Tribunal Chairman will ask the charged player if she was number .......... of the ................ Football Club on the day stated and also ask the same question of any other player or players also mentioned in the Umpires Report if those players are in attendance. All except the Umpire and the Umpires Advocate, charged player(s) and all advocates shall retire until recall.

41.9.4 The Umpires brief written report is read by the Chairman, who shall be in possession of team sheets and any other relevant correspondence.

41.9.5 The charged player is then asked to plead “guilty” or “not guilty”. A player may also plead “guilty under provocation” if she desires.

41.9.6 After the player pleads, any available video material is displayed.

41.9.7 The Umpire is then asked to amplify his report and may be questioned by the player and the player’s advocate. The Chairman and members of the Tribunal and the Umpires Advocate may also ask questions as they desire. The Umpire may then call any witnesses.

41.9.8 The other player mentioned in the report is not required to attend the hearing unless she is requested to do so by the reported players club. The other player mentioned in the report, if in attendance, is then asked to give his version and may be questioned by the Tribunal and the charged player(s) advocate and the Umpires Advocate.

41.9.9 Clubs will be fined should a player refuse to attend a Tribunal hearing after being requested by the reported players club (compulsory attendance). Players travelling further than a 120 minute car trip to the venue where the Tribunal has convened, to attend a Tribunal hearing (as a witness) are permitted to give evidence via telephone hookup.

41.9.10 The charged player is then asked to give her version and may be questioned by the Tribunal and the Umpires Advocate.

41.9.11 The player may then call witnesses. The charged player or her advocate calls her first witness. Once a witness is called to give evidence, they must remain in the room until the case is finished. Each witness is asked to give their version of the incident and may be questioned by the advocate(s), and the Tribunal as desired.

41.9.12 After all evidence is given the players advocate is given the opportunity of summing up his case. The Umpires Advocate has the opportunity to some up their case should they desire and when the Tribunal is satisfied that it has all the evidence it needs to enable it to come to a decision, the Tribunal will privately consider the case and make a finding based on what it believes to be the facts.

41.9.13 The Player and her Advocate are then brought back into the room and informed of the verdict. At that time the Tribunal shall hear any further submission from the Advocate in relation to penalty. The Tribunal will then privately consider any penalty and take into account the Player’s past VWFL playing record and/or any current season record in any other competition.
After reaching a decision on the penalty to be imposed, if any, the Player and his Advocate are brought back into the Room and informed of the decision.

41.10 **Appeal Board**

41.10.1 On request AFL Victoria may from time to time convene an Appeal Board and shall appoint persons to the Appeal Board. On any occasion when the Appeal Board is required to be convened by AFL Victoria who shall appoint a Chairman and a further person or persons to hear and determine the matter. The hearing shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter permits. Subject thereto and any provision of the Rules and Regulations in relations thereto, the procedure at any hearing shall be within the discretion of the person appointed as Chairman. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding.

41.10.2 ANY appeal to the Appeal Board and any request that the Appeal Board determine any question. (an “Appeal”) may only be brought if the appellant lodges with the Football Operations Officer a duly completed Notice of Appeal, in the form of an approved AFL Victoria form, signed by the club and accompanied by a deposit of $5,000 by noon the following working day (after the Tribunal Hearing). The deposit may be forfeited should the appeal be considered frivolous or should the defending club not be represented at the hearing. Should the appeal not be frivolous AFL Victoria will return $3,000 to the club. The Football Operations Officer shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing before the Appeal Board, as soon as practicable after lodgement of the Notice of Appeal, and shall advise all parties interested in the Appeal of those particulars.

42. **INVESTIGATION OFFICER**

42.1 Any Complaint received by the Football Operations Coordinator may be first referred to the Investigation Officer, before it is dealt with by the Independent Tribunal or the Complaints Committee, in accordance with these Regulations.

42.2 The Investigation Officer shall investigate any matter which has been deemed relevant by the A to whether or not a person may have committed a reportable incident.

42.3 For the purpose of conducting an Investigation under this Regulation, upon request by the Investigation Officer, any person shall:

(a) fully cooperate with the Investigation Officer;
(b) truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Officer;
(c) provide any document in that person’s possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Officer.

42.4 A person who fails to observe and comply with Regulation 42.3 above or who provides any information or has acted in a manner in any respect is false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion. The Investigation Officer must promptly notify the Football Operations Coordinator of the failure of any person to observe and comply with Regulation 42.3 above.

42.5 The Investigation Officer shall, as soon as practicable, but in any event no later than seven (7) working days after the Investigation commenced, compile a report of the Investigation, including transcripts of all interviews, and submit the report to the Football Operations Coordinator, to be referred to an Independent Tribunal.

42.6 After consideration of the report submitted by the Investigation Officer, at their discretion, the Football Operations Coordinator may refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal.

42.7 If a matter is referred to the Independent Tribunal, then the Complaints Committee shall convene a hearing within ten (10) working days of the date of the referral to consider the
complaint and/or the report of the Investigation Officer, together with all transcripts of all interviews conducted by the Investigation Officer in the course of the Investigation the Independent Tribunal. Shall have full power to request the cooperation of any person in the conduct of its investigation.

42.8 A person who fails to observe and comply with Regulation 42.3 above or who provides any information or has acted in a manner in any respect is false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the AFL Victoria in its absolute discretion.

43. CONDUCT UNBECOMING, PREJUDICIAL OR LIKELY TO BRING GAME INTO DISREPUTE

43.1 Where AFL Victoria is of the opinion that a club or any official, player or member thereof, or member of any other person has contravened the Rules or Regulations of the League or has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation, or interests of the League, or to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, AFL Victoria may deal with any such manner as AFL Victoria in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power, they may;

(a) appoint any person to enquire into any matter;
(b) conduct their own enquiry into any matter;
(c) refer any matter to the Tribunal;
(d) impose any penalty that it deems fit including but not limited to, imposing a monetary penalty or bond, a suspension, a disqualification or providing for the loss of or forfeiture of or premiership points or other privileges, benefits or entitlements.

44. ALTERATION TO REGULATIONS
The Regulations may be amended by AFL Victoria from time to time

45. MISCELLANEOUS

45.1 Club Playing Outside League

Clubs shall not participate in a match involving any football club that is not affiliated with the League outside the fixture arranged by the League during the football season. Clubs desiring to participate in matches involving a football club that is not affiliated with the League at times outside the football season shall first notify the Football Operations Coordinator of their intention and shall not participate in such a match without the prior written approval of the League.

45.2 Communication to the League

All letters and written communications to the League shall be directed to the Operations Coordinator.

46. CODE OF CONDUCT

Competition players must at all times comply with any Codes of Conduct which their affiliated Club and/or AFL Victoria have in force, from time to time.
47. SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

47.1 Any Person who is found to have engaged in, or is suspected of engaging in the unacceptable use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other social networking site, including blogs, in connection with the game of Australian Football in any way, may be dealt with by AFL Victoria as it deems fit, notwithstanding the behaviour did not occur on the playing field.

47.2 Without limiting the operation of this Rule, unacceptable use may involve the Person:

i. Criticizing umpires, players or any other person involved in AFL Victoria/ Victorian Women’s Football League;

ii. Engaging in but not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, racially vilifying or threatening another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including social network sites eg facebook or blogs) and the sending, receiving and/or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a person

iii. Engaging in any other behaviour which the AFL reasonably determines, in its absolute discretion, to have breached this policy.

iv. It is not relevant that the Person making the remarks was not aware that the content could or would be made publicly available.

v. Members must also be aware that postings from their individual accounts, whether done by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner

vi. All members of the VWFL and individual clubs must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the league and/or club will have no control.

This Rule is to be interpreted and applied broadly.

47.3 Procedure

a. VWFL and/or club officials or members who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device. They should then print/ save a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the relevant club representative who will forward the evidence to AFL Victoria

b. All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully in accordance with VWFL rules and regulations and may result in a notification to Police where AFL Victoria or club is legally obliged to do so.

If there is evidence, charges will be laid.

47.4 Penalties

a) A player, official or member covered by these rules will face the tribunal under charges of conduct unbecoming, prejudicial or likely to bring game into disrepute and will be dealt with under rule 43

b) Any player presented before the tribunal for the first or subsequent time on a cyberbullying offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal members will cover the complete range including deregistration.
c) In the case of a non-playing club member being proved to have engaged in harassment or bullying, the club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to AFL Victoria a penalty to be determined by AFL Victoria

48. AFL VICTORIA POLICIES

48.1 The Victorian Womens Football League adopts AFL Victoria Policies including but not limited to:

   a) Laws of Australian Football
   b) National Player Transfer Regulations
   c) AFL Vic Community League Affiliate Regulations
   d) Gender Regulation Policy
   e) AFL Victoria Deregistration Policy
   f) AFL Anti-Doping Code.
   g) AFL Trainers Policy
   h) Member Protection Policy
   i) National Risk Protection Program
   j) AFL Victoria Infectious Diseases Policy
   k) AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy
   l) AFL Victoria Alcohol Management
   m) Vilification Policy


49. AMATEUR STATUS

The Victorian Womens Football League’s players participate as amateur. An Amateur is one who does not receive or agree to receive, either directly or indirectly, any remuneration or reward whatsoever (whether by match payments or expenses or otherwise) in respect to their participation as a player, in the Victorian Women’s Football League. Refer to Appendix 1. For Amateur guidelines
APPENDIX 1

Victorian Women’s Football League (VWFL) Amateur Status Guidelines

In relation to the Victorian Womens Football League AFL Victoria defines an AMATEUR as follows:

An Amateur is one who does not receive or agree to receive, either directly or indirectly, any remuneration or reward whatsoever (whether by match payments or expenses or otherwise) in respect to their participation as a player, in the Victorian Women’s Football League.

Receive or agree to receive – remuneration or reward may not be offered in an immediate sense or at some point in the future at an unspecified time.

Directly or indirectly - remuneration or reward may not be offered to the individual player or any person associated with that individual.

Remuneration or reward – examples of what is permissible or not permissible as a reward or remuneration refer to table below.

The spirit of the “Amateur” definition will always prevail and each case will be looked at individually on its own merits. Any payment, reward, or benefit that might induce a person to play with a VWFL club will be regarded as a breach of the definition of amateur status. The examples below are provided as a guide, but clubs should always seek guidance in writing from AFL Victoria as to whether a situation is within, or in breach of, the definition. If such guidance is not sought before the event, a club will not be able to complain after the event if it is found, notwithstanding technical reliance on the examples below, that a given situation is not within the spirit of the definition.

Clubs and individuals, who are found by AFL Victoria to be in breach of the Amateur Status, will incur a penalty as determined by AFL Victoria, including:

- Loss of Premiership Points earned in the games played while the club was in breach and/ or;
- Loss of Premiership points for the following season and/ or;
- Demotion of the club and/ or;
- A fine not exceeding $5,000
- In the case of the individual, suspension for a period as AFL Victoria deems fit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permissible</th>
<th>Not Permissible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td>Clubs, or any person or entity associated with a club, may assist with and/or facilitate a full time or part time employment opportunity for a player, provided the terms and conditions of such employment are consistent with current commercial practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awards</strong></td>
<td>Players may receive awards from sponsors relevant to match day performance. Awards must be non-monetary and not exceed the value of $60. It is expected that these awards be shared.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Playing Coaches</strong></td>
<td>Playing coaches may be reimbursed by the Club for out of pocket expenses actually incurred in connection with the coaching.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Services (not exceeding a total of $2,500 per season) upon production of documentation evidencing the expenses incurred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>Costs directly associated with playing for the club e.g. club related uniforms excluding personal attire (e.g. boots), insurance, membership, or out of pocket costs incurred as a result of football injuries sustained whilst representing the club, provided these are paid to all players (see scholarship). Meals after training may be paid for by the club provided they are provided to all players and not to individuals or a specific group of players.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Player Sponsorships</td>
<td>Players are able to source player Sponsorships to offset their annual membership provided all funds are directed towards the club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education fees</td>
<td>Education fees cannot be paid for or subsidised either directly or indirectly as per above description of the word “Amateur”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors Coaching</td>
<td>Registered VWFL players are able to coach football at their aligned junior club or school for a commercially acceptable fee for service. Appointment cannot be dependent on the playing for the senior club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Exemption</td>
<td>Proposed scholarships must be approved by the VWFL. Players must have played a minimum of 1 season at the club before being eligible for a scholarship at that club. Total scholarship value (for all club scholarships on offer) must not exceed $2000. Each individual scholarship must not exceed the value of $500. Scholarships to assist those in economic disadvantage outside of the above criteria will be considered, however must be Discounting the value of scholarship benefits is not permitted. When determining the value of benefits, a fair and reasonable price that is consistent with market value must be stated. Scholarships cannot include any player payments or exchange of money to the player.</td>
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</table>
reviewed and approved by the VWFL on a case by case basis

The VWFL will audit clubs regarding the recipients of the scholarships and the criteria under which they were awarded.