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1. ADMISSION CHARGES TO HOME AND AWAY GAMES
   1.1. The Board shall recommend to the member Clubs annually at the Annual General Meeting the admission fees for all home and away matches and, upon a resolution as to admission fees being passed, all Club gatekeepers shall collect such admission fees for each match.
   1.2. All visiting players and officials of 1st and 2nd XVIII teams shall pay admission charges. Club membership tickets admit to home games only.
       Players in relation to 3rd and 4th XVIII matches shall be admitted without charge on the presentation of a ‘players’ pass’, which shall be provided by the SEFNL.
       Official passes shall admit to all home and away matches and finals. These passes shall be issued to Life Members, League Directors and other such officials of the SEFNL or persons as determined by the General Manager.

2. GRADING AND ALLOCATION OF UNDER AGE TEAMS
   2.1. For the purposes of Junior Development, the Board may:
       2.1.1. Direct to member Clubs that 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII teams be graded into appropriate divisions to promote an even competition.
       2.1.2. Approve the ‘loan’ of registered 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII players between Clubs, to provide opportunities for the maximum participation of available players.
       2.1.3. Approve the inclusion of additional 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII teams, on an annual basis, to provide a balanced competition.
   2.2. Second 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII Team
       2.2.1. A. Once a player has played twelve (12) matches in 3rd XVIII, that player is not able to play in 4th XVIII, however a player in 4th XVIII may play in 3rd XVIII at any time regardless of how many matches he has played in 4th XVIII, unless 2.2.1.B. applies;
          B. Where a club is fielding more than one team in the same competition, the teams will be known as Team A and Team B. Once a player has played 10 games in Team A, they are locked into Team A for the remainder of the year, meaning they cannot under any circumstance play in Team B again in that season, which includes home and away and finals matches.
       2.2.2. Subject to 2.2.1 in the event that 3rd and 4th XVIII shall play on different days in the same round (e.g. Friday/Saturday/Sunday), a max of four (4) players may play in both teams.
       2.2.3. Interchange Agreements with Junior Leagues shall apply to both 3rd and 4th XVIII teams.
       2.2.4. Interchange Agreement Finals eligibility – refer to By-Law 6.6.

3. RULES OF FOOTBALL
   All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football (as amended from time to time).

4. HOME AND AWAY SERIES
   4.1. In each season, the Clubs in each Division shall play eighteen (18) matches (or such number and configuration of matches as determined by the Board), hereafter referred to as the ‘home and away’ matches, according to the fixture prepared by the Board each season.
   4.2. In the home and away series, four (4) points will be allotted for a win, four (4) points for a team in whose favour a forfeit, walkover or bye is ruled, two (2) points for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.
   4.3. At the conclusion of each round of home and away matches, the General Manager shall prepare a ladder for each Division, and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, bye or draw, they shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team.
   4.4. 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 the lower percentage points.
4.5. In the event that teams are level on points and percentage at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the higher position on the ladder shall be determined in the following manner:
   a) the team that has scored the most points ‘for’ shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
   b) in the event that the teams cannot be separated as in 4.4.3 (a), the team that has recorded the most ‘away wins’ shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
   c) in the event that the teams cannot be separated, as in 4.4.3 (a) or (b), the affected teams shall compete in a ‘play off’ match under such conditions as the Board deems appropriate.

4.6. The scores used by the SEFNL to calculate the points and percentage for each divisional ladder shall be based on the scores contained in the official Goal Umpires cards.

5. FINALS SERIES

5.1. The control of all finals, including the allocation of grounds, shall be in the hands of the Board.

5.2. At the conclusion of the home and away matches, a finals series will be conducted between the top (5) five teams in each Division (unless otherwise determined by the Board). The finals series shall consist of an Elimination Final and Qualifying Final in the first week and, a first and second Semi-Final in the second week and then a Preliminary Final and a Grand Final in respective weeks.

5.2.1. All finals matches shall be played on days (i.e. Saturday or Sunday) determined by the Board.

5.3. In the event of a draw in any finals match, extra time shall be played.

5.3.1. Where extra time is to be played in a final, two (2) halves of five minutes each, with time on added for 1st XVIII only, shall be played.

5.3.2. In the event of scores being level after the two (2) five minute halves, the process shall continue until there is a result.

5.3.3. At the completion of the fourth quarter and scores are tied, the following shall apply:
   - the teams shall kick to the same ends to those used in the fourth quarter;
   - coaches shall not be permitted to address players between the end of the fourth quarter and the start of extra time or at any change of ends during the playing of extra time.

5.4. The General Manager shall determine the use of changing rooms and the colour of shorts for all finals matches.

5.5. No team may train at a finals venue after the final home and away round of matches, except where the finals venue is the home ground of a competing Club.

5.6. The Board may call for tenders from interested Clubs or groups to host, provide certain works or services for finals.

5.7. All affiliated clubs participating in final series matches must be financial with SEFNL before the conclusion of the home and away matches.

6. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

6.1. To be eligible to play in 1st XVIII finals matches, a player must play in a three (3) home and away matches in any grade for that Club during the current season.

6.2. To be eligible to play in the 2nd XVIII finals matches, a player must play in three (3) 2nd XVIII home and away matches for that Club during the current season and must not have played in ten (10) or more 1st XVIII home and away matches during the current season.

6.3. Where a Club has 1st XVIII and 2nd XVIII teams involved in finals matches on the same weekend, By-Law 6.2 does not apply, save that a player seeking to play in a 2nd XVIII finals match shall have played in at least three (3) home and away matches in either 1st XVIII and/or 2nd XVIII during the current season.

6.4. Where a club is fielding more than one team in the same competition, to be eligible to play in finals for Team A, a player must have played 3 games in Team A, and to be eligible to play in finals for Team B, a player must have played 3 games in Team B.

6.5. To be eligible to play in 3rd XVIII finals matches, a player must play in three (3) 3rd XVIII home and away matches for that Club during the current season.
6.5.1. Any player who has played 10 (ten) games or more by the conclusion of the SEFNL home and away series as a AFL/ VFL Supplementary Player and / or TAC Cup Under 18's player, shall not be eligible to compete in the 3rd or 4th XVIII finals series for his ‘home’ Club in the current season.

6.5.2. Finals Qualifications for players in Armed Forces - Refer AFL Victoria Rule

6.5.3. To be eligible to play in 4TH XVIII finals matches, a player must play in three (3) 4TH XVIII home and away matches for that Club during the current season.

6.6. For the purposes of eligibility, the players and interchange player/s shall be deemed to have competed, whether or not he has taken the field during the match for which he was named, provided they are wearing full uniform and are physically able to take the field. Refer AFL Victoria Rule for TAC Cup Under 18 players.

6.7. TAC CUP and VFL Players – refer to AFL Vic Country Handbook Rule 14 (a) and (b). To be read in conjunction with rule 6.3 above.

6.8. VFL/AFL players must play 6 games or more for their SEFNL club during the home and away season to be eligible to play finals.

6.9. A player who has played twelve (12) or more VFL/AFL games by the conclusion of the SEFNL home and away series, including Senior and/or Reserves, shall not be eligible to compete in Senior or Reserve grade SEFNL finals, irrespective of other qualification criteria.

7. PLAYING TIMES AND CONDITIONS

7.1. Teams must be in position to commence play at the start of each quarter as directed by the field umpire.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

7.2. Home and Away Games

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<th>1/2 Time</th>
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<td>20 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd XVIII</td>
<td>12.20pm</td>
<td>20 min</td>
<td>5 min (4)</td>
<td>10 min (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd XVIII</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>20 min</td>
<td>5 min (4)</td>
<td>10 min (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th XVIII</td>
<td>8.40am</td>
<td>20 min</td>
<td>5 min (4)</td>
<td>10 min (8)</td>
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Note: Numbers in brackets denotes times for Timekeepers to sound warning siren.

7.3. Time On will be played in the 1st XVIII matches only. Time on will only be added in the remaining grades where 7.4 occurs.

7.4. At the direction of the field umpires, the Timekeepers shall stop the clock when a stretcher and/or an ambulance enters the arena for all grades.

7.5. Finals Games

7.5.1. The starting times and conditions of play shall be determined annually by the Board.

7.5.2. Extra time will be played in all grades in the event of a drawn match in all finals games.

8. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

8.1. All 1st XVIII teams shall consist of up to twenty-two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.

8.2. All 2nd XVIII teams shall consist of twenty two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.

8.3. All 3rd XVIII teams shall consist of no more than twenty two (22) named players, and 4th XVIII teams shall consist of not more than twenty four (24) named players; not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time, except for circumstances as listed in 8.4.
8.4. In 3rd and 4th XVIII matches, if one of the teams is unable to field eighteen (18) players at the commencement of the match, both teams shall field a maximum of sixteen (16) players, and the team with sufficient players may have no more than six (6) players on the interchange bench for 3rd XVIII and eight (8) players on the interchange bench for 4th XVIII. This By-Law shall not be applicable for finals matches.

8.5. The minimum number of players in any grade shall be fourteen (14) to constitute a match. Any numbers less than this shall be declared a ‘walkover’.

9. AGE LIMIT

All 3rd and 4th XVIII players must be under the appropriate age before January 1st of the competition year.

The Age Limit for the 3rd and 4th XVIII competition shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of the League. Proof of age shall be deemed to be copies of any document that verifies a player’s date of birth. Such documents shall include:-

a) Birth Certificate
b) Extract of Birth Entry
c) Baptismal Certificate
d) Passport
e) Health Centre Book/Immunisation Card
f) any other ‘official document’ acceptable to the General Manager

9.1. A Statutory Declaration shall not be acceptable as proof of age.

9.2. Within seven (7) days of a written request from the General Manager, a player shall present proof of age to be sighted by the General Manager.

9.3. In the event that the player cannot present his proof of age as in 9.0, the player shall not be permitted to play until such time as it has been presented to the General Manager. Any Club found guilty of playing a player, who is ineligible due to age in the 3rd or 4th XVIII competition, shall automatically forfeit all match points gained in which the player competed, and shall be subject to such other penalty as determined by the Board.

10. PLAYERS IN 1ST XVIII AND 2ND XVIII IN SAME ROUND AND TEAM A AND TEAM B IN SAME ROUND

10.1. Only two (2) 2nd XVIII players may play in the 1st XVIII on the same day.

10.2. Any player named in a 1st XVIII team shall not play in a 2nd XVIII match when games are played on different days in the same round or finals weekend.

10.3. When a club is fielding more than one team in the same competition:

a. That only two Team B players may play in Team A on the same day.

b. Any player named in Team A shall not play in a Team B match when games are played on different days in the same round or finals weekend.

11. MATCH CONDITIONS

11.1. The Board shall have the power to change the venue or day of any match if the assigned ground is considered unfit for play or facilities do not meet minimum standards.

11.2. All matches shall be played on Saturdays, except where the Board sanctions or directs that matches be played on other days.

11.3. Clubs desiring to play on alternative days or at night under lights shall give notice to the General Manager at least 14 days in advance. Clubs requesting alternative days or night matches must have the approval of their opposition prior to seeking approval from the General Manager.

11.4. 3rd and 4th XVIII matches may be played at other mutually agreed times and locations subject to prior approval. A minimum of seven (7) days’ notice is to be given to the General Manager.

11.5. When arranging the match fixture, the Board shall ensure that there is no economic or geographic disadvantage to any team who plays against an additional or supplementary team that has either at the start of the season or at any time during the season has been inserted into the match fixture to cover a bye or regular forfeit and
further the Board shall:

11.5.1. Arrange the home and away fixture so that the senior, reserve and underage teams of any one Club play at the same venue as each other on the day of the match and;

11.5.2. Notwithstanding 11.5 and 11.5.1, and where it is necessary for the proper management of the competition or where exceptional circumstances exist, the Board may, by giving a minimum of seven (7) days' notice to the affected Clubs, schedule a match for any team of any Club at another suitable venue other than what is set out in the published match fixture.

12. COMMENCEMENT DATE

The date of commencement and duration of the season shall be determined by the Board, and shall be presented to the member Clubs no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting of the SEFNL.

13. FIXTURE

13.1. The Draw for the Home and Away matches will be arranged by the Board and be presented to the member Clubs no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting of the SEFNL.

13.2. Should the number of competing teams and the number of home and away matches vary from time to time, the Board shall be empowered to make any necessary alterations to the fixture key to ensure that the teams are not disadvantaged.

14. FOOTBALLS

14.1. The Home Club shall provide footballs as follows:
   a) 1st XVIII - Two new footballs
   b) All other grades - Two footballs, both of which may be used but in good condition

14.2. All footballs shall be red and of full size and of a type and brand approved by the Board prior to the commencement of each season, except for circumstances covered by By-Laws 14.4 and 14.5 below.

14.3. The Field Umpire/s shall have the power to reject a football prior to the commencement of the game, and if it is considered unsatisfactory for match play, the Home Club shall supply a ball of satisfactory quality.

The spare football shall be placed in the care of the Emergency Umpire, where provided, or in the absence of an Emergency Umpire, must be placed in the care of the Interchange Steward during the playing of the match. Whenever night matches have been approved in accordance with these By-Laws, yellow leather footballs of full size and of a type and brand approved by the Board shall be used in all grades.

14.4. In severe or adverse weather conditions, yellow coloured footballs of full size and of a type and brand approved by the Board may be used in all grades subject to the agreement of the captains of the competing teams.


14.5.1. Subject to the agreement of the Captains, prior to the match, footballs may be changed due to wet or muddy conditions. 1st Ball - 1st and 3rd quarters. 2nd Ball - 2nd and 4th quarters.

14.5.2. In finals matches, the Ground Manager shall determine whether footballs will be changed.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

15. UMPIRES ESCORT / PROTECTION

15.1. Umpires shall be escorted from the field to their dressing room by the official runners from both teams, when leaving the ground at half time and final sirens in all grades. This By-Law shall apply to all home and away fixtures, as well as all finals games.

15.2. During the home and away series, it shall be the responsibility of both Clubs to protect all umpires from unnecessary abuse or violence, on and off the field.

15.3. The Home Club shall be responsible for the provision of refreshments to umpires at break of play, and shall where necessary, provide medical assistance.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines
16. OFFICIALS INSIDE FENCE/COACHES BOX

16.1. Only four (4) officials, other than the coach may be in the coaches box, plus suitably attired trainers, and runner, plus interchange players and an Interchange Steward, shall be allowed inside the fence.

16.2. A white line five (5) metres in length shall be marked in front of each coaches box, not less than 1.5 metres from the boundary line.

16.3. All officials listed in 18.1 must remain behind the white line at all times during the course of play.

16.4. Club doctors may enter the playing arena to administer medical assistance.

16.5. Any official, as referred to above, shall not smoke whilst inside the fence at any time during the course of play.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

17. OFFICIAL CLUB RUNNER

17.1. Each Club shall have only one Runner.

17.2. A Club Runner may enter the playing arena during any football match, provided that the Runner:

17.2.1. wears only an approved SEFNL Runners’ uniform, clearly designated as the Club’s Runner, whilst inside the boundary fence and during any match.

17.2.2. enters the playing arena for the purpose of delivering a message or instruction of a coach to a player of the Club or other similar purpose.

17.2.3. exits the playing arena immediately upon fulfilling his task

17.2.4. does not cajole, or in any way attempt to influence the conduct or performance of any player or players present on the playing arena.

17.2.5. does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with any umpire or any player from the opposing Club during any match.

17.3. Refer AFL Victoria Rule – Official Club Runners

17.4. The officiating field umpire, may upon infringement of this By-Law (17.2), order the Runner of the offending Club from the arena. Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire which shall include a Field Umpire, Boundary Umpire, Goal Umpire and Emergency Umpire, shall be referred to the SEFNL’s Independent Tribunal.

17.5. The sole duty of the Runner shall be to confer with the player or players of his/her Club and to immediately leave the playing arena.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

18. TRAINERS / WATER CARRIERS

18.1. Each Club must have a minimum of one (1) AFL Victoria Level One accredited Trainer present during the entire match in which a team is fielded by the Club.

18.2. A qualified Trainer must be registered with the SEFNL League Manager. No approval shall be given unless the person seeking it is qualified as a Level One accredited trainer with AFL Victoria.

18.3. There shall be a maximum number of four (4) Trainers/Water Carriers to be registered for each team.

18.4. No Trainer/Water Carrier shall enter the playing arena unless:

18.4.1. The Trainer/Water Carrier shall during any match wear only an approved SEFNL Trainer/Water Carrier uniform, clearly designated as the Club’s Trainer/Water Carrier, whilst inside the boundary fence and during any match.

18.4.2. The Trainer/Water Carrier is required for medical treatment of an injured player; the replacement of damaged attire of a player or other like purpose.

18.5. No Trainer/Water Carrier shall communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or any player from the opposing Club during any match. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to assist an injured person.

18.6. Trainer/Water Carriers may be stationed at various positions in the area around the playing arena between the
boundary and the fence.

18.7. Trainers/Water Carriers shall be a minimum age of fourteen (14) years old.

18.8. Refer to AFL Victoria Rule – Official Club Trainers/Water Carriers

18.9. The sole duty of a Water Carrier shall be to convey water to players and to immediately leave the playing arena.

18.10. The officiating Field Umpire may, upon infringement of this rule, may order the Trainer or Water Carrier of the offending Club from the arena.

Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire which shall include a Field Umpire, Boundary Umpire, Goal Umpire and Emergency Umpire, shall be referred to the League’s Independent Tribunal.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

19. PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS

19.1. All Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires, Timekeepers, Interchange Stewards and other match officials supplied by a Club shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these By-Laws and the Laws of Australian Football.

20. MATCH OFFICIALS

20.1. Team Manager and Officials

Team Managers and all officials must conduct themselves in accordance with the Team Manager’s Handbook as directed by the League Manager.

20.2. Interchange Steward

20.2.1. The Home Club shall provide an Interchange Steward who shall wear the uniform approved by SEFNL. The Visiting Club may elect to supply an Interchange Steward also. See Team Manager’s Handbook.

20.2.2. During finals matches, both Clubs shall provide an Interchange Steward.

20.2.3. The minimum age for Interchange Stewards shall be fourteen (14) years old.

20.3. Goal Umpires

20.3.1. Goal Umpires provided by Clubs must wear a white coat. At the conclusion of each quarter, the Goal Umpires shall compare scorecards. If they agree at the conclusion of the game, they shall sign the cards.

20.3.2. Final scores must be endorsed in ink on the scorecards. Scorecards must be returned to the Team Manager.

20.3.3. Where Goal Umpires are provided by the Clubs, the Home Club shall supply four (4) Goal Umpires flags, at least 600mm square, at each match.

20.3.4. The minimum age for Goal Umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.

20.4. Boundary Umpires

20.4.1. Boundary Umpires supplied by Clubs must wear white shirt (SEFNL supplied), white shorts, black socks and must possess a whistle.

20.4.2. The minimum age for Boundary Umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.

20.5. Timekeepers

20.5.1. One responsible Timekeeper is to be provided by each Club. The Home Club shall be responsible for the provision of a time clock or stop-watch. This By-Law shall also apply to finals matches, however the SEFNL League Manager may direct that neutral Timekeeper/s be appointed to finals matches.

20.5.2. The matches shall be played in accordance with the starting times and intervals set out in By-Laws 7.1 (home and away), and 7.5 (finals).

(a) A siren, bell or gong, capable of being heard across the ground at its furthest point, shall be sounded prior to the start of each quarter and at the conclusion of each quarter. A back-up or
emergency siren, bell or gong shall be provided for all matches.

(b) Failure by teams to appear at the designated times will constitute a breach of By-Laws.

20.5.3. Timekeepers shall complete the required details on the official SEFNL Timekeeper’s card.

20.5.4. The minimum age for Timekeepers shall be sixteen (16) years old.

20.5.5. The Timekeepers shall be the only people to be located in the Timekeeper’s box or area designated for timekeeping during matches.

20.5.6. The appointed Timekeepers shall have the sole control of match time and no person shall interfere with the timing of a match.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

21. TEAM SHEET

21.1. The Official Team Sheet shall include information as directed from time to time by the SEFNL League Manager.

21.2. Team Sheets will be completed and distributed as directed by the SEFNL League Manager annually.

21.3. The jumper numbers on the official team sheet must be as per the Team List in the Football Record published by SEFNL.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

22. DEMAND FOR PLAYER’S SIGNATURE

The Captain, or his deputy, of any team shall have the power to demand the signature of any opposing player, and in the event of such player refusing to give his signature then the player shall be subject to such penalty as the Board determines.

23. REPORT ON UMPIRES

Each Club shall complete the Report on Umpire/s at the conclusion of each match.

24. COUNT OF PLAYERS

24.1. Refer to Laws of Australian Football.

24.2. A fine of up to $200.00 shall be imposed on the Club calling for the count, if the Board has considered that the count was frivolous. Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

25. PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

25.1. No player or official shall be permitted to play or officiate in a match with apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to themselves or opponents. This shall include:-

25.1.1. Boot studs or plates considered dangerous.

25.1.2. A finger ring, body piercings or any other jewellery.

25.2. A Field Umpire may inspect players’ boots, hands, guards and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time prior to the conclusion of the match. The Field Umpire shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury.

25.3. Specialised protective equipment to be approved prior to use by the General Manager.

26. ALCOHOL – 3rd and 4th XVIII PLAYERS

The Board may disqualify for up to four (4) matches any 3rd XVIII or 4th XVII player who is under eighteen (18) years of age, who drinks alcoholic beverages within the precincts of Clubrooms and grounds.

27. REPRESENTATIVE / INTER-LEAGUE MATCHES

27.1. Clubs must make all players available for representative or inter-league matches and practice sessions.

27.2. Any player who is requested to train or is selected to play and does not make themselves available, may be suspended for up to four (4) Premiership matches for non-appearance, unless declared unfit by a doctor.
appointed by the SEFNL, or provides a reasonable excuse, acceptable to the Board.

27.3. Any suspension or penalty given under 29.2 shall not be subject to appeal.

28. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

28.1. Two (2) short lines across the boundary lines fifteen (15) metres apart shall mark the interchange area. The interchange area shall be located on the centre wing, on the same side of the ground as the Coaches Boxes.

28.2. The home team shall provide the Interchange Steward (except in finals where both teams shall provide an Interchange Steward) with a watch, who shall be responsible for all changes made by both competing teams and shall accurately record the required information on the official card, sign same and return it to the Team Manager at the end of the game.

28.3. The Interchange Steward/s will be seated inside the boundary fence in the interchange area.

28.4. The procedure for the interchange of players shall be as follows:-

28.4.1. The official Runner or Team Manager shall advise the Interchange Steward of the intention to make the replacement of one named player by another named player.

28.4.2. Players shall leave and enter the playing arena through the interchange area during the match, player off first, player on second.

28.4.3. A player who does not leave the playing arena through the approved area, shall not be permitted to take any further part in the match, unless the player is taken from the field on a stretcher, in which case he may be taken from the ground at any point. His replacement must enter the playing field through the interchange area. The injured player may return to the playing field by way of normal interchange.

28.4.4. When it is necessary for a player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the field umpire shall stop play at the first appropriate opportunity after he is advised that a stretcher is on the playing field and play will not commence until the stretcher has left the playing field and is outside the fence.

28.4.5. When a player has been, or appears to have been so seriously injured as to prevent his being removed immediately from the playing field, the steward may approve his replacement prior to leaving the ground.

28.5. The Interchange Steward and Field Umpire shall respectively report any breach of the provisions of this By-Law to the SEFNL General Manager, and the offending player/Club shall be subject to such penalty as determined by the Board.

29. PLAYING FACILITIES

29.1. Each Club shall provide the following playing facilities as a minimum standard, which shall be approved by the Board. The playing surface, markings and provisions for the playing arena shall be as prescribed within the Laws of Australian Football.

29.2. A scoreboard, which shall be operational for each game, with numbers for scores, at least thirty (30) centimetres high.

29.3. Changing rooms with at least (150m²) for home and visiting teams, plus hot and cold water for showers.

29.4. Umpires changing rooms which shall not be less than (20m²) in area, containing a shower area separate from the players area.

29.5. A suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during the matches being played.

29.6. A properly marked playing oval in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, and shall not be marked with limil or lime products. A fine of $2,000.00 and the loss of four (4) Premiership points for all games won on the day will be imposed on any Club found to be using limil or lime products for oval markings.

29.7. The boundary line markings shall be no less than 3.0 metres from the boundary fence.

29.8. A Timekeepers box complete with efficient siren and back-up siren, bell or gong.

29.9. Adequately covered concrete cricket pitches.

29.10. Adequately covered valves or sprinkler heads where underground water reticulation is provided.
29.11. All Clubs to provide a suitable coaches box with seats for the home and visiting teams.

29.12. Suitable fencing around ovals.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

30. CLUB UNIFORM AND COLOURS

30.1. Each Club shall register its uniform and colours with the Board upon affiliation with SEFNL. Each Club shall have an individual uniform/design.

30.2. No Club shall compete in any match in any uniform or colours other than its registered uniform or colours and may only change, modify or alter such registered uniform or colours with the written approval of the Board.

30.3. Home teams shall wear the Club’s registered colour shorts and the away team shall wear white shorts.

30.4. No player shall wear lycra or like fabric bicycle shorts under their football shorts unless they are of a colour approved by the SEFNL General Manager. Where other types of shorts are required on medical grounds, the SEFNL General Manager may approve the wearing of such shorts.

30.5. All uniforms shall carry AFL Victoria endorsed logos on guernseys and/or shorts as required from time to time.

30.6. All club uniforms will have the SEFNL logo placed on the left breast or in a position which has been approved in writing by the General Manager.

30.7. Advertising and logos may be included on Club guernseys and/or shorts, subject to the prior approval of the Board.

30.8. No lace-up guernseys shall be worn.

30.9. Where a clash of uniform occurs, the home team shall wear its registered uniform and the visiting team shall wear an alternative uniform approved by the General Manager.

30.10. Where a clash of uniforms occurs in any finals match, the team that finishes the home and away season higher on the ladder shall wear the Club’s registered uniform and the other Club shall wear the neutral uniform as approved by the General Manager. The General Manager shall have the authority to approve both Clubs wearing a neutral uniform if both Clubs agree to do so in writing.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

31. CANCELLATION OF GAME ONCE STARTED

31.1. In the event that a game does not reach its conclusion, due to factors which may include (but not necessarily be restricted to):

31.1.1. An invasion of the playing arena of which the umpire/s consider it unsafe to continue, and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.

31.1.2. A player or umpire is so seriously injured that it is deemed inappropriate to move him until medical assistance arrives.

31.1.3. If in the opinion of the umpire/s, the playing conditions deteriorate to a level that makes it unsafe to continue.

31.1.4. That if in the course of a night match, the power supply fails.

31.2. Where a 2nd XVIII, 3rd or 4th XVIII match that has been delayed due to the factors in 31.1, play may continue until no more that fifteen (15) minutes beyond the starting time of the next scheduled match.

31.2.1. Where a 1st XVIII match has been delayed due to factors as in 31.1, play may continue until no more than thirty (30) mins beyond the estimated finishing time if in the opinion of the umpire that adequate light permits.

31.3. The minimum amount of playing time to be completed for a match to be considered ‘completed’, shall be one half.

31.4. If the match is deemed to be abandoned prior to the completion of the first half, both teams shall be awarded two (2) Premiership points and will receive the points scored for and against at the abandonment of the game.

31.5. If a match is deemed to be abandoned after the completion of one half of the match, the premiership points shall be awarded to the team leading at the time of the abandonment of the game, notwithstanding, the Board
shall retain the right to over-rule, reverse or amend the result following an investigation into the abandonment of the game.

31.6. Umpires shall award votes for the Best and Fairest Award where a game has completed one half. No votes shall be awarded where a game is abandoned prior to the completion of the first half.

32. NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRE

32.1. In the event of the non-attendance or incapacitation of any Field Umpire appointed, the remaining appointed umpires shall determine who shall replace the absent or incapacitated field umpire. Where (2) Field Umpires have been appointed, it shall be appropriate for the remaining umpire to continue the game on his own.

32.2. In the case where an appointed Field Umpire fails to attend the match and a substitute umpire is chosen, then that substitute Field Umpire shall submit a 3 - 2 – 1 Best and Fairest Vote Card to the General Manager.

32.3. Where an appointed Boundary Umpire or Goal Umpire fails to attend or is incapacitated the home side shall provide a replacement.

33. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

33.1. The Board shall appoint an Independent Tribunal panel annually, either directly or by authority. Three panel members shall comprise one sitting.

33.2. Such persons shall not be directly associated with any member Club of the SEFNL, and shall be thoroughly conversant with the ‘Laws of the Game’, the Rules and By-Laws of the SEFNL, and who, in the opinion of the Board, will be thoroughly capable of handling any charges which may be brought before them. The Board shall interview prospective members prior to appointment.

33.3. Clubs will be responsible to have players or officials involved in any report, to be in attendance at a Tribunal Hearing on the Tuesday night, or such other night as determined by the General Manager, immediately following the match.

33.4. If players or witnesses are not in attendance, without satisfactory explanation to the Tribunal, the Tribunal shall have the power to suspend the offending players or officials or fine the Club of the offending player/s or official/s.

33.5. The General Manager shall have the power to defer any case should it be deemed necessary.

33.6. Tribunal Hearings required as the result of charges laid in a Grand Final shall be conducted no earlier than the second Tuesday after the Grand Final.

33.7. Umpires must attend a hearing before the Tribunal of any report made by he/she.

33.8. If the umpire is unable to attend the hearing, written evidence may be submitted in accordance with AFL Victoria Rules.

33.9. Each affected party must be represented at the hearing by an advocate, as per the AFL Victoria Rules.

33.10. Advocates may be Delegates or Officials of Clubs, but shall not be a member of the legal profession, as per AFL Victoria Rules.

33.11. Video evidence at Tribunal Hearings - Refer to AFL Victoria Rules

33.12. The Board, General Manager or Investigation Officer may recommend that the Tribunal view any video of any part of a match.

33.13. Where a player or official is found guilty of a charge at the Tribunal, the Club shall pay a fine, as prescribed in the Fine Schedule.

33.14. Should a player be found guilty and is suspended, the penalty shall apply to the matches of the Club in the competition where the offence occurred.

33.15. A suspended player and/or official shall not be permitted to play with any team during the period of suspension nor shall he be permitted to act in any official capacity for the Club concerned.

33.16. The Tribunal Procedure shall be in accordance with the AFL Victoria Tribunal Procedure.

33.17. For the application of Prescribed Penalties, refer to AFL Victoria Rules.
34. FINES

34.1. The Board shall be empowered to issue fines in accordance with these Rules and By-Laws.

34.2. All fines stated in these Rules and By-Laws shall be automatically levied, however, Clubs wishing to appeal against such fines shall do so in writing to the Board.

34.3. The Board shall have the power to confirm, reduce, amend or withdraw such fine. The decision of the Board shall be final.

34.4. The Fine Schedule is shown in Appendix 4.

34.5. Failure to Field a Team - when a Club is disadvantaged by another Club forfeiting a match, 50% of the fine is to be paid as compensation to the disadvantaged Club.

35. FOOTBALL RECORD / PUBLICITY

35.1. Each Club shall submit weekly Club Notes and player lists to the ‘Football Record’ by 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the next round of matches.

35.2. Club Notes shall not contain offensive words or subject matter and shall be used to promote the activities of the Club.

35.3. The General Manager shall be the Editor of the ‘Football Record’ on behalf of the Board who shall be the Publisher.

35.4. The General Manager shall have the power to edit or withdraw any Club Notes that are deemed to be detrimental to the interests of the SEFNL.

35.5. The ‘Football Record’ shall be published in such versions, numbers and formats as the Board shall direct.

36. BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS

36.1. The League shall award a medal and trophy for the Best and Fairest player in each grade of the competition each year.

36.2. The voting for the League Best and Fairest Award/s shall be determined as follows:

36.2.1. At the conclusion of each of the home and away matches, the field umpire/s shall award:

- three (3) votes to the player considered to be the best and fairest player in the match
- two (2) votes to the player considered to be the second best and fairest
- one (1) vote to the player considered to be the third best and fairest.

36.2.2. Such votes shall be recorded on a special card provided by the SEFNL, and returned to the General Manager of the SEFNL in the envelope provided for match paperwork.

36.3. The Best and Fairest Awards have been named to honour individuals who have provided outstanding service to the Clubs, league and to football generally.

The Awards for the South East Football Netball League are to be known as follows:-

1st XVIII - 'NORM WALKER MEDAL'
2nd XVIII - ‘BILL WILLIAMSON MEDAL’
3rd XVIII - ‘GEORGE GILMORE MEDAL’
4th XVIII - TO BE DETERMINED

36.4. Any player who is found guilty of a charge by the SEFNL Tribunal or who has taken an optional set penalty during the home and away matches shall not be eligible to win a League Best and Fairest award, during that season.

36.5. In the event of a tie in a Best and Fairest count in any grade, no count-back shall apply, and medals/trophies shall be presented to each of the players involved in such tie.

36.6. The Board shall conduct a Vote Counting Night for each grade, which shall be held no later than the Monday prior to the Grand Final of SEFNL.

36.7. The format and venue shall be determined by the Board annually.
37. OTHER AWARDS

Other awards may be presented annually pursuant to such guidelines and voting system as may be determined by the Board.

38. GOAL KICKING AWARDS

38.1. The leading goal-kicker of each grade shall receive a trophy from the SEFNL.
38.2. The tally of goals shall be determined only in the home and away matches.
38.3. The Board shall have the power to award naming rights to the Goal Kicking Award in any Grade.

39. ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER

An Annual Presentation Dinner may be held with the format and venue to be determined annually by the Board.

40. PREMIERSHIP AWARDS

40.1. The Premiership team of each Grade shall receive a Premiership Cup, a Premiership Pennant and the match football.
40.2. Each player and the coach of the Premiership team in each grade shall receive a ‘Premiership Medal’ at the conclusion of the Grand Final.
40.3. The player nominated as the ‘Best on Ground’ in the Grand Final in each grade shall receive a medal to recognise their achievement, at the conclusion of the Grand Final.

41. COMMUNICATION OF MATCH RESULTS

41.1. Match information and match results shall be communicated to the SEFNL as directed by the General Manager annually.
41.2. Match paperwork shall be forwarded to the League as directed by the General Manager annually.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

42. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

42.1. The Board may award a ‘Recognition of Service’ certificate to persons, organisations or companies who are deemed to have provided outstanding service to the SEFNL.
42.2. The Board shall award a ‘Recognition of Playing Service’ awards to players have played 200, 250 or 300 senior games (1st XVIII and 2nd XVIII), to acknowledge outstanding playing service.

43. PRACTICE MATCHES

43.1. Where pre-season practice matches are played, with official umpires in control, both competing teams in all Grades shall complete a ‘team sheet’ that shall include information as directed from time to time by the SEFNL General Manager.
43.2. Team sheets shall be delivered to the umpire/s prior to the commencement of the game.
43.3. In practice matches, umpires may report players as per the ‘Laws of the Game’.

44. CLEARANCES

44.1. All clearances and transfers must adhere to AFL Victoria’s Transfer Rules and Regulations
44.2. Local Procedures

Clearances shall only be processed in normal office hours, unless by prior arrangement with the SEFNL General Manager.

Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

45. REGISTRATION

45.1. Any player, coach or team official desiring registration with the SEFNL, shall complete an AFL Victoria approved Registration Form, prior to playing, coaching or officiating in a match.
45.2. Each player, coach or team official shall be issued with a Registration Number which must be used on all team sheets and any other match paperwork, as requested by the SEFNL General Manager.

45.3. The Board shall retain the power to withdraw or suspend the registration of any player, coach or team official, who fails to comply with any reasonable request from the Board or who, by his actions, is deemed to have brought the game and the SEFNL into disrepute.

46. MATCH PERMITS

46.1. Refer AFL Victoria Rules and Regulations -

46.2. Local Procedures

   46.2.1. Match Permits / Day Permits shall not be available for players to compete within SEFNL.

   46.2.2. SEFNL shall enter into ‘Local Area Agreements’ with affiliated Junior Bodies for transfer and permit of players within the League.

47. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

47.1. The eligibility of any player to play 1st XVIII football within the SEFNL is governed by the provisions of the Player Points System (“PPS”). This system is set out in Appendix 6.

48. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

Refer AFL VICTORIA Rule

49. APPEALS

Refer AFL VICTORIA Rule

50. ORDER-OFF RULE

Refer to AFL VICTORIA Rule

51. TREATMENT OF BLEEDING PLAYERS

Refer AFL VICTORIA Rule

52. COACH ACCREDITATION

Any player or person desirous of being appointed as Coach of a team in any Grade must have successfully completed the AFL VICTORIA approved Level One Coaching Course, prior to their appointment being approved by the General Manager.

53. DOPING POLICY

Refer AFL VICTORIA Rule

54. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

Refer AFL VICTORIA Rule

55. INVESTIGATION OFFICER

55.1. Annually, the Board shall appoint one or more Investigation Officers (to be sanctioned by the AFL VICTORIA) to deal with matters relating to Unbecoming Conduct under AFL VICTORIA Rule and matters relating to Racial and Religious Vilification complaints.

55.2. A $500.00 deposit will accompany the notice for investigation and will be dealt with as follows:

   55.2.1. The Club requesting the investigation will cover the Investigation Officer’s fees unless the charged player is found guilty at the Independent Tribunal.

   55.2.2. In the case of a complaint being referred to the Independent Tribunal and results in a guilty finding, the club to which the guilty party belongs shall be charged the investigation fee and any other fines that are applicable.
55.2.3. Where the complaint is deemed to be frivolous by the Independent Tribunal or Investigation Officer the $500.00 will be forfeited.

55.2.4. In the event of an appeal, the entire case will be heard as one with the outcome of the appeal determining who will cover the cost of the Investigation Officer’s fees.

56. OFFICIAL LEAGUE FUNCTION

No Club shall conduct a function on the same date as an official SEFNL Function. This shall include, but not be limited to, the Annual Presentation Dinner, SEFNL and/or League Vote Counting Night/s.

57. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

57.1. The aim of this Rule is to keep sport and specifically, Australian Rules Football, out of the legal system. This procedure shall not apply to any matter that is capable of resolution by procedures laid down elsewhere in these Rules / By-Laws or by use of the AFL VICTORIA Rules.

57.2. Where a dispute arises between the Board and Clubs or any player, or between Clubs within the SEFNL, the following procedure shall be followed:

57.2.1. Direct negotiations must take place between the parties within five (5) days of the request of any party.

57.2.2. If, after direct negotiations, the dispute is not resolved, any party after service upon other parties of a notice, that they consider the negotiations have failed, may request within (5) five days that an arbitrator be appointed to resolve the dispute.

57.2.3. In the case of a dispute between Clubs, the Board may intervene and direct that the dispute be referred to an arbitrator.

57.2.4. It shall be the responsibility of the party requesting the appointment of an arbitrator to contact the Institute of Arbitrators, seeking the appointment.

57.2.5. An arbitrator appointed must be a member of the Institute of Arbitrators, and may be a local person if necessary so that costs are minimised.

57.2.6. Any arbitrator appointed by the Institute shall have sole discretion as to the manner, conduct and place of any hearing, and may vary in any way any fine, penalty, decision or determination that caused the dispute. Any decision will be final and binding on any parties to the dispute.

57.2.7. Any fees and expenses for the arbitrator, as negotiated, must be paid on an equal share basis, prior to the hearing.

57.2.8. Members of the legal profession shall be prohibited from representing any party at any hearing, unless the arbitrator grants specific approval.

57.2.9. Any decision of the arbitrator must be implemented within the time frame specified by the arbitrator.

57.2.10. The arbitrator shall be empowered to determine any penalties to be imposed if the arbitrator’s determination remains unfulfilled. This may include financial penalties, de-registration, loss of premiership points or such other penalty as is determined.

58. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION

Refer to AFL VICTORIA Rule

59. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

59.1. Any direction from the Regional Commission, Rule Amendments from AFL Victoria or amendments to the Laws of Australian Football shall automatically be amended.

60. DEFINITIONS AND MEANINGS

60.1. These By-Laws have the same definitions and meanings as are set out in the SEFNL Statement of Rules.

61. WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

Below are the working with children requirements in accordance with legislation and AFL Victoria.
No person may hold the position of a coach, assistant coach, team manager, runner or trainer in any team where a player is under the age of 18 years unless they have;
(i) obtained a current Working with Children Check (WWC)
(ii) Lodged an application for a Working with Children Check (WWC)
(iii) Are a sworn Members of Victoria Police (who are not suspended from duty)
(iv) Are a registered teacher with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (clubs are required to sight the VIT registration)

62. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

62.1. Club Annual General Meetings
All Affiliated Clubs and Associate Members must conduct their AGM prior to 30 November each year.
Penalty - Appendix 4 Fines

62.2. Lodgement of Annual Reports
(a) All Affiliated Clubs and Associate Members shall forward to the league no later than 1 December each year, one copy of their Annual Report.
(b) No later than 1 December, all Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the league:
   (i) a Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet on an official “proforma” supplied by the League for the immediate past year,
   (ii) a list of all club office bearers and their contact details for the coming season are to be loaded into the online competition management system as stipulated by the league. The office bearers that are required to be loaded as a minimum are as follows;
      • President
      • Secretary
      • Registrar
      • Treasurer
      • Clubs may load other roles into the competition management system as they see fit.

Note: Clubs must advise the Operations Manager of changes made throughout the season to the club office bearers and their contact details within 7 days of the change. The club must update their contact details in the competition management system within the above time frames.
Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

63. MEETINGS

63.1. Compulsory
The league may convene compulsory meeting(s) for Club officials as stipulated by the league from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: Club Administrator Courses, Coaches Forums, Presidents Meetings, and Finals Participants Meetings.
Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines

63.2. Representatives
(a) Two representatives of clubs must attend all Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings of the League. Such representatives shall be the President and/or Secretary and/or one other member of the club.
Penalty – Appendix 4 Fines
(b) Representatives may, with the prior approval of the league, appoint another person to attend Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings in their place.