



COMPETITION BY-LAWS 2017

Table of Contents - Index

Topics	Sub-Topics	Bylaw #	Page #
Administration & Finance	Administration Committee	17.1	46
Administration & Finance	Attendance at Meetings	17.3	46
Administration & Finance	Club Finances	17.11 – 17.12	47
Administration & Finance	Club Meetings	17.2	46
Administration & Finance	Dishonoured Cheques	17.10	47
Administration & Finance	Fees	17.4 – 17.6	47
Administration & Finance	Fines	17.7	47
Administration & Finance	Insurance	17.13	48
Administration & Finance	Late Nomination of Teams	17.14	48
Administration & Finance	Outstanding Accounts	17.8 – 17.9	47
Administration & Finance	Withdrawal of Teams	17.15	48
Affiliation	League Affiliation	1.1	8
Awards	Annual League Awards Dinner	16.27	46
Awards	Best & Fairest Players	16.6 – 16.10	44
Awards	Best Player in Grand Final	16.17 – 16.19	45
Awards	Club Championship Trophy	16.1 – 16.5	43
Awards	Leading Goalkickers	16.11 – 16.13	45
Awards	Premiership Awards	16.14 – 16.16	45
Awards	Representative Player of the Year	16.20-16.21	45
Awards	Rising Star Award	16.22 – 16.24	45
Awards	Team of the Year	16.25 – 16.26	46
Club Officials and Duties	Club Umpires	9.49 – 9.58	32
Club Officials and Duties	Ground Manager	9.1 – 9.7	28
Club Officials and Duties	Officials on the Bench	9.48	32
Club Officials and Duties	Team Managers	9.8 – 9.11	29
Club Officials and Duties	Team Runner	9.12 – 9.15	29
Club Officials and Duties	Timekeepers	9.43 – 9.47	31
Club Officials and Duties	Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff & Water Carriers	9.16 – 9.38	29
Club Officials and Duties	Umpires Escort	9.39 – 9.42	31
Code of Conduct		Attachment 'B'	55
Code of Conduct Guidelines & Disciplinary Procedures	Code of Conduct Sign Off	Attachment 'C' 1.9	60
Code of Conduct Guidelines & Disciplinary Procedures	Conduct Committee	Attachment 'C' 2.1 – 2.3	61
Code of Conduct Guidelines & Disciplinary Procedures	Ground Manager Responsibilities	Attachment 'C' 1.11 – 1.13	61
Code of Conduct Guidelines & Disciplinary Procedures	Guidelines	Attachment 'C' 1.1 – 1.8	59
Code of Conduct Guidelines & Disciplinary Procedures	Promoting the Code of Conduct	Attachment 'C' 1.10	60
Code of Conduct Guidelines & Disciplinary Procedures	Scope & Powers of the Conduct Committee	Attachment 'C' 3.1 – 3.7	62

Competition Arrangements	Adverse Weather	5.20 – 5.21	17
Competition Arrangements	Fixture	5.1 – 5.2	13
Competition Arrangements	Forfeits	5.14 – 5.19	16
Competition Arrangements	Ladder	5.12	15
Competition Arrangements	Match Duration	5.7 – 5.10	14
Competition Arrangements	Match Times	5.3 – 5.6	13
Competition Arrangements	Other Matches	5.29	17
Competition Arrangements	Premier Team	5.13	16
Competition Arrangements	Promotion/Relegation	5.30	18
Competition Arrangements	Warning Sirens	5.11	15
Competition Arrangements	Wet Weather Procedures	5.22 – 5.28	17
Definitions			6
Disciplinary Procedures	Code of Conduct	14.3	41
Disciplinary Procedures – Investigations	Co-Operation	14.7	41
Disciplinary Procedures – Investigations	Failure to Co-Operate	14.8	42
Disciplinary Procedures - Investigations	Interpretation	14.9	42
Disciplinary Procedures - Investigations	Power to Investigate	14.4 – 14.6	41
Disciplinary Procedures – Investigations	Power to Report	14.10	42
Disciplinary Procedures - Tribunal	Citings by Clubs	14.11 – 14.12	42
Disciplinary Procedures - Tribunal	Tribunal – Appointment & Role of the Tribunal	14.13	42
Disciplinary Procedures – Tribunal	Prescribed Penalty	14.1	41
Disciplinary Procedures - Tribunal	Tribunal Hearings	14.14	43
Finals	Catering Rights	6.23 – 6.29	22
Finals	Club Eligibility	6.20 – 6.21	22
Finals	Drawn Finals	6.5	19
Finals	Emergency Umpires	6.6	19
Finals	Finals Structure	6.1	18
Finals	Gatekeeping Rights	6.29 - 6.33	23
Finals	Match Conditions	6.4	19
Finals	Match Duration	6.3	19
Finals	NEAFL (Sydney University) Listed Players	6.18 – 6.19	22
Finals	Player Eligibility	6.7 – 6.15	19
Finals	Provision of Officials	6.22	22
Finals	Sydney Swans & GWS Giants 'Top Up' Players	6.16 – 6.17	21
Finals	Venue Selection	6.2	19
General	Amendments to By-Laws	18.5 – 18.8	48
General	Appeals	18.9 – 18.10	49
General	Club Electronic Communication	18.11 – 18.12	49
General	Failure to Adhere to By-Laws	18.13	49
General	Interpretation of By-Laws	18.2	48
General	League Colours	18.1	48
General	Matters not Provided For	18.3	48
General	Suspension of By-Laws	18.4	48

Laws & Policies	AFL Sydney Kick-In Rule	13.2	38
Laws & Policies	Alcohol Policy	13.15 – 13.18	40
Laws & Policies	Anti Doping Policy	13.14	40
Laws & Policies	Anti Gambling & Corruption Policy	13.8 – 13.13	39
Laws & Policies	Infectious Diseases Policy	13.4 – 13.6	38
Laws & Policies	Laws of the Game	13.1	38
Laws & Policies	Loss of Points	13.3	38
Laws & Policies	Player & Official De-Registration Policy	13.19	40
Laws & Policies	AFL NSW/ACT Vilification & Discrimination Policy	13.7	39
Laws & Policies	Women's Specific – Gender of Players	13.20	41
Laws & Policies	Women's Specific – Pregnant Players	13.21	41
Lightning Policy		Attachment 'D'	63
Matchday Requirements	Change Rooms	8.6	27
Matchday Requirements	Emergency Medical Arrangements	8.9 – 8.10	27
Matchday Requirements	Footballs	8.8	27
Matchday Requirements	Ground Markings	8.1 – 8.3	26
Matchday Requirements	Goal Post Pads	8.4	27
Matchday Requirements	Matchday Safety Check	8.11	28
Matchday Requirements	Scoreboard	8.5	27
Matchday Requirements	Timekeeping Facilities	8.7	27
Order Off Rule	Yellow Card	12.1 – 12.5	37
Order Off Rule	Recording of Send Offs	12.12 – 12.13	38
Order Off Rule	Red Card	12.6 – 12.11	37
Players	Interchange of Players (between AFL Sydney Clubs)	4.1	12
Players	Student Permits	4.2 – 4.4	13
Registrations	Age Limits	2.16 – 2.18	10
Registrations	Assumed or Adopted Names	2.7	9
Registrations	Available to Play	2.4	8
Registrations	Closing Date for Registrations	2.5	9
Registrations	Coach to be Registered & Accredited	2.9	9
Registrations	Duplication not Permitted	2.6	9
Registrations	Incorrect Information	2.8	9
Registrations	Players to Register	2.1	8
Registrations	Revocations of Permit to Play/Coach	2.19	10
Registrations	Registration Forms	2.2 – 2.4	8
Registrations	Suspended Coaches	2.14 – 2.15	10
Registrations	Suspended Players/Officials	2.13	9
Registrations	Time for Registration of New Players	2.3	8
Registrations	Unregistered & Ineligible Players/Officials	2.10 – 2.12	9

Representative Football	Participation	15.1 – 15.5	43
Representative Football	Venue Selection	15.6 – 15.7	43
Teams	Minimum Age of Players	7.6	24
Teams	Minimum Number of Players	7.5	24
Teams	No of Players	7.1 – 7.6	23
Teams	No of Players (Senior Men's Competitions)	7.2	23
Teams	No of Players (Under Age Competitions)	7.4	24
Teams	No of Players (Women's Competitions)	7.3	24
Teams	Player Eligibility	7.12 – 7.17	25
Teams	Signature Checks	7.20	26
Teams	Team Lists	7.7 – 7.11	25
Teams	Team Lists for the Football Record	7.21	26
Teams	Team Lists for the Newspaper	7.23	26
Transfers	Appeals	3.7 – 3.11	11
Transfers	Commencement & Closing Date for Transfers	3.6	11
Transfers	Domestic Transfers	3.1	11
Transfers	Interchange Agreements	3.4	11
Transfers	Interstate Transfers	3.3	11
Transfers	No Transfer Required	3.5	11
Transfers	Refused Domestic Transfer	3.12 – 3.18	12
Transfers	Refusal Interstate Transfer	3.19	12
Transfers	Transfers between Leagues	3.2	11
Umpires	Appointments	11.1	35
Umpires	Availability	11.2	35
Umpires	Club Report on Umpires	11.15	36
Umpires	Club Umpires	11.3	35
Umpires	Field Umpire Numbers	11.4 – 11.5	35
Umpires	Minimum Umpire Age	11.18	37
Umpires	Payment of Umpires	11.8 – 11.9	36
Umpires	Reporting of Players & Officials	11.16 – 11.17	36
Umpires	Umpire Fees	11.7	36
Umpires	Umpire's Match Report	11.10 – 11.13	36
Umpires	Umpire Requirements	11.3	35
Uniform & Logo Regulations	AFL Marks & Logos	10.15	34
Uniform & Logo Regulations	Clash of Uniforms	10.4 – 10.5	33
Uniform & Logo Regulations	Club Names & Club Logos	10.13 – 10.14	34
Uniform & Logo Regulations	Inspection of Equipment	10.11 – 10.12	34
Uniform & Logo Regulations	Jumper Numbers	10.3	33
Uniform & Logo Regulations	Sponsors Logos/Approved Suppliers	10.6 – 10.10	33
Uniform & Logo Regulations	Uniform Design	10.1 – 10.2	33
Vilification & Discrimination Policy		Attachment 'A'	50

Definitions

For the purpose of interpretation of these By-Laws (rules), the following definitions shall apply:

“Administration Committee” means and shall consist of any two (2) from the following positions, the Football Operations Manager, the State Football Operations Manager, the Community Football Manager, , the Football Operations Coordinator or their nominees.

“AFL” means the Australian Football League

“AFL Marks” means AFL logos, AFL club logos, the AFL NSW/ACT logo, the AFL Sydney logo, AFL Greater Sydney Juniors logo trademarks, trade names and other intellectual property and copyright, registered or unregistered owned by the AFL and/or the Commission (whichever is applicable).

“AFL NSW/ACT Appeals Board” means that body constituted in accordance with the *“National Match Tribunal Guideline – NSW/ACTs”*, as amended from time to time.

“Club” shall mean a club affiliated to the AFL Sydney participating in competitions conducted and organised by the AFL Sydney.

“Code” means Australian Rules Football

“Commission” shall mean the AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited.

“Footyweb System” means the AFL Competition Management System & Membership Database

“General Manager” shall mean the General Manager of AFL NSW/ACT or his nominee

“Grade” shall mean Division

“Intellectual Property” means all company and business names, trade names, trademarks, logos, symbols, emblems, designs or other indicia, inventions, patents, trade secrets, processes and any other intellectual property whatsoever (including copyright), registered or unregistered, currently owned and in existence or to be developed in the future by the AFL and/or AFL NSW/ACT

“Laws of the Game” means the Laws of Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL, as amended from time to time

“League” means AFL Sydney

“Lower Division Finals” means Division Two, Division Three, Division Four, Division Five & both Womens Division One and Two competitions

“Manager Football Operations” shall mean the AFL Sydney Football Operations Manager

“National Player Transfer Regulations” means the rules and regulations, as amended from time to time, regulating the transfer of players between clubs

“Player” shall mean a player of either the male or female gender. In these By-Laws any reference to the male gender, such as his or himself, shall also be a reference to the female gender.

“Premier Division Finals” means Premier Division, Division One & Under 19’s Divisions 1

“Reportable Offence” has the meaning set out in the *“National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT”*, as amended from time to time.

“Senior Football” shall mean any game of the code other than Under Age Football

“Services” shall mean Army, Navy and Airforce personnel

“State League Club” refers to clubs competing in the North East Australian Football League Eastern Conference who are not AFL club reserves.

“Sydney AFL” shall mean the AFL Sydney competition.

“The / This League” shall mean the competition in which the club competes, i.e. AFL Sydney.

“Tribunal” means the independent tribunal constituted under the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules, as amended from time to time

“Umpires Fees” shall mean the fees payable to accredited umpires for officiating in matches.

“Under Age” shall mean the games played in the Under 19 age competitions of AFL Sydney

“Under 17’s” shall mean a player under the age of 17 years as at 1 January of the season in which the player intends to play.

“Women’s” shall mean club teams, consisting only of female players, which participate in AFL Sydney

INTERPRETATION

In the interpretation of these regulations, unless the 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 the other gender;
- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these regulations;
- (d) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (e) Any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these regulations shall have the meaning prescribed within the particular regulations; and Words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these regulations shall be given their ordinary meaning.

1. Affiliation

League Affiliation

- 1.1 League affiliation forms (Licence Agreement) must be approved by the club's elected committee and executed by the club in accordance with its constitution/rules. The club shall not be deemed affiliated with the league until the executed Licence Agreement is lodged and accepted by the Administration Committee.

2. Registrations

2.1 *Players to Register (Amended 01/02/2014)*

- a) Each player shall, prior to taking the field with a club with which they intend to play, be registered as a player with the League.
- b) All player registrations are processed through Footyweb, or any other system as determined by AFL NSW/ACT or the AFL from time to time.
- c) No person will be registered or re-registered under an assumed name unless such assumed name and the reason for its necessary use is notified to and accepted by the League and the person's legal name and current address are submitted to the League at the time of registration. Such information shall be kept confidential by the League.
- d) Upon a person's registration application being approved, the person shall be deemed a player of that Club until such time as the person has either been granted a transfer to play with another club or a period of twenty-four (24) calendar months has elapsed since the person last played competition football for the Club with which he or she was last registered.
- e) Players are required to re-register with their existing Club each season through Footyweb. A new registration form is not required to be completed for re-registration.

2.2 *Registration Forms (Amended 01/02/2014)*

- a) All player registrations must be submitted electronically via Footyweb by the player or, where the player is Under 18 years of age as of 1 January in the year of registration, the registration must be submitted by the player's parent or legal guardian.
- b) For the registration to be active, the club must accept the player's registration.
- c) Documentation evidencing proof of age in the form of an original birth certificate, photo licence, passport, immunisation booklet or student identification may be requested by the League at any time. Failure to produce such documentation may lead to the player's registration being refused or cancelled.

Time for Registration of New Players

- 2.3 Each new (or archived) player's registration must be entered into the Footyweb system by the Club not later than 9.00am on the day of the player's first match.

Available to Play

- 2.4 Each Club must satisfy itself that any player taking the field in a particular match is listed on the Club's on-line membership database before permitting that player to take the field. At all times, players' availability shall be subject to the approval of the Administration Committee.

Closing Date for Registrations

- 2.5 Player registrations not involving Transfers will be accepted until the end of the home and away series in the season in which the player intends to play. Registrations involving Transfers close on 30th June in the season in which the player intends to play.

Duplication not Permitted

- 2.6 No player shall be registered with AFL Sydney clubs and clubs affiliated with any other senior league or association (except the AFL) at the same time. Dual Registration may occur only in situations outlined in by-law 4.

Assumed Name

- 2.7 No person shall be registered or re-registered under an assumed unless such assumed name, and the reason therefore is notified to the League together with the player's correct name and address at the time of the registration. Such information shall be kept confidential by the League.

Incorrect Information

- 2.8 The intentional omission of any information or incorrect information on any registration form or Transfer application may result in a four (4) week suspension or deregistration for the player concerned and he may be deemed ineligible for any games in which he or she has taken part.

Any club official or club that is party to a breach of this by-law shall be dealt with by the Administration Committee as it deems fit.

Coach to be Registered and Accredited (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 2.9 The Coach of each team must be registered with the League by completing an online registration form via Footyweb no later than 12 midday on the Friday before the first match in which he or she officiates. Any club not abiding with this By-Law shall be fined 50 "Club of the Year" points for each match the subject person remains unregistered. It is compulsory for all coaches to hold a minimum Level 1 senior accreditation.

Unregistered and Ineligible Players/Officials (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 2.10 Any player not registered, any player registered with incorrect information on the registration form or any player that plays but does not meet player eligibility by laws shall be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any club that either knowingly or unknowingly plays an ineligible player may lose all match points and be fined up to \$500 for each match in which such player has played.
- 2.11 Ineligible player(s) and/or official(s) and/or club(s) responsible as per clause (2.10) shall be liable for suspension or deregistration in addition to loss of match points and fine(s). The offending side will also have their score cancelled, however goals kicked by players shall be credited in the normal manner.
- 2.12 When an allegation has been made against any club for playing an unregistered or ineligible player the club shall be responsible for the appearance of the player at any investigation conducted by AFL Sydney and the failure of such player to appear (without reasonable excuse) shall be taken as an admission of the allegation.

Suspended Players/Officials

- 2.13 Any suspended player and/or official will be deemed to be an ineligible person and will not be allowed to act in any way as a trainer, runner, water-carrier or any official "on field" capacity in

any home and away or finals match for the duration of his/her suspension. The suspended player may however be permitted to act as a Registered Club Umpire subject to prior approval being obtained from the Administration Committee.

Suspended Coaches

2.14 Any coach suspended in his/her capacity as a coach will not be permitted to:

- Display visible signs of coaching, which includes communicating to the players, assistant coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game.
- Enter the playing arena at any stage during the match
- Enter the changerooms before or during the game (which includes half time)
- Be in the vicinity of the teams interchange bench

2.15 Should a player be the registered coach and he is suspended as a result of on-field play (other than "offences against an umpire"), he may continue as coach only, which includes being permitted to enter the field of play to address his team in a home and away or finals match at quarter-time, half-time and three-quarter time.

Should the suspension be as a result of an "offence against an umpire", the provisions of By-Law 2.14 will apply.

Age Limits (Amended 01/02/2014)

2.16 A player must be under the age of 19 years as at 1 January in the year of commencement of the season in which he is registered to play in the Under 19 competition.

2.17 The minimum age for senior men's football shall be 17 years, and for under age football shall be 16 years as at 1 January preceding the commencement of the season in which the player intends to play.

2.18 The minimum age for women's football shall be 16 years as at 1 January preceding the commencement of the season in which the player intends to play. Should however any player under the age of 18 years have the option to play Youth Girls football in a local team the following rules will apply:

Any player under the age of 18 years playing in a senior women's team will be ineligible to play in the Youth Girls finals or have any involvement in the Youth Girls Talent Development programs unless:

- a) she has played no more than 5 senior matches; and
- b) she has played at least 5 matches in the Youth Girls Program.

Special consent may be granted to players under these age limits upon written application by the parent or guardian and the club to the AFL Sydney Administration Committee stating the players date of birth and the reasons why an exemption is requested .

Revocation of Permit to Play/Coach

2.19 On the recommendation of the Administration Committee, the Commission may revoke a player's permit to play or a coach's permit to coach at any time.

3. Transfers *(Amended 01/02/2014)*

All transfer of players shall be in accordance with the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations and must be processed through Footyweb

Domestic Transfers (Between AFL Sydney Clubs)

- 3.1 Procedures for the transfer of players between Clubs within the same League (Domestic Transfers) will be in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations and Regulations 3.7 – 3.8.

Transfers between Leagues

- 3.2 Procedures for the transfer of players between AFL NSW/ACT Leagues will be in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

Interstate Transfers

- 3.3 The transfer of players between States shall be in accordance with AFL National Player Transfer Regulations.

Interchange Agreements

- 3.4 AFL Sydney has formally adopted Interchange Agreements with other affiliated Leagues (AFL South Coast, AFL North Coast, Black Diamond etc) to enable the movement of players between these Leagues. Clubs should consult the Football Operations Manager from their respective league as to the specifics of this Agreement.

No Transfer Required

- 3.5 The Transfer provisions of these By-Laws shall not apply to any player who has not been registered with an AFL affiliated league during the past two seasons.

Commencement and Closing Dates for Transfers (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 3.6 There are two periods per season where by transfer applications accompanying new Sydney player registrations can occur:
- 3.6.1 Lodgement commencement date of November 1 and lodgement closing date of November 30
 - 3.6.2 Lodgement commencement date of February 1 and lodgement closing date of June 30

Appeals Board

- 3.7 An Appeals Board shall be established by the Administration Committee to hear and determine all appeals relating to the refusal of Domestic Transfers.
- 3.8 The Appeals Board shall be appointed each year by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission and shall consist of a panel of five members, each of who shall not be an official of any club playing in the AFL Sydney.
- 3.9 The Appeals Board shall hold office for one year. Each member may be reappointed for further terms of office.
- 3.10 A Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be appointed by the Commission.

- 3.11 At any sitting of the Appeals Board, a minimum of two members shall constitute a Panel and where possible, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall preside.

Refused Domestic Transfer

- 3.12 Requests for a Domestic Transfer can only be refused if:
- If the player is under contract to his former club;
 - If the player owes his former club money;
 - If the player retains property belonging to his former club ;
 - If the player no longer wishes to be cleared.
- 3.13 The transferor club must clearly state the reason(s) why the Transfer is refused and provide supporting documentation.
- 3.14 Where a club refuses to clear a player, the player may lodge in writing, together with a \$100 bond, an appeal to the Football Operations Manager within 5 business days from receipt of refusal. Upon advice from the league that an appeal has been lodged the transferor club has 5 business days to lodge \$100 bond to the Football Operations Manager for the matter to be heard by the Transfer Appeals Board. The Transfer Appeals Board will hear the matter within 5 business days of both bonds being lodged. Bond monies may be forfeited at the discretion of the Transfer Appeals Board if they deem either the appeal or refusal to be frivolous. If transferor club does not lodge a bond then the Transfer shall be granted by the league.
- 3.15 Where, since the refusal of a Transfer, the transferor club and the player have come to an agreement, the Transfer will take effect when the League receives either the original Transfer form or a second Transfer form, which has been suitably endorsed by the transferor club.
- 3.16 Where the Transfer Appeals Board is satisfied that the transferor club does not have reasonable grounds for refusing the player a Transfer, the Appeals Board may grant the Transfer.
- 3.17 The determination of the appeal shall be binding upon the player and club and an unsuccessful Transfer application shall not be renewed during the season in which the Transfer was sought. Provided always that where a material change in relevant circumstances occurs later, the player may apply to the Appeals Board for a review by way of re-hearing.
- 3.18 The Appeals Board shall report to the Administration Committee any circumstances of which it may become aware which tend to suggest that false or misleading information has been provided to the Appeals Board at or in connection with the hearing of any appeal.

Refused Intrastate Transfer

- 3.19 Refused transfers for players wishing to transfer between AFL Sydney and other AFL NSW/ACT Leagues or interstate will be dealt with in accordance with the National Player Transfer Regulations.

4. Players *(Amended 01/02/2014)*

Interchange of players (Between AFL Sydney Clubs)

- 4.1 A player registered with an AFL Sydney Club may play with another AFL Sydney Club under the following conditions –
- The interchange of all players under this By-Law must be approved by the Administration Committee

- The player only plays with one club only on any weekend or round
- The club for whom the player will be playing on interchange is to request a match day permit, and receive approval from the player's club and the league, via footyweb, prior to the player taking the field.
- A player cannot play on interchange on a day or weekend when his club has the bye or is otherwise not playing.

The spirit of this By-Law is to allow a club with surplus player(s) on a given match day to give these player(s) a game of football with another club. It is also designed to allow a player to trial with another club which is playing in a higher grade or division.

Student Permits

- 4.2 Subject to 4.4 below, a player who transfers to a another club to attend an educational institution on a full-time and continuous basis may, during official semester vacations / school holidays, receive a permit to play with his immediate former club subject to written endorsement from the current club, the former club and their respective leagues.

The permit application is to be endorsed by those outlined above prior to 1 July in a given year.

The permit period lasts until the player ceases his commitments at the educational institution and is subject to any relevant regulations of any of the parties, including participation in finals..

- 4.3 Students referred to in by-law 4.2 must provide a school or university calendar which sets out vacation periods.
- 4.4 Permits issued under by-laws 4.2 shall apply to home and away matches only. Matches played under such a permit will not be counted towards finals eligibility.

5. Competition Arrangements

Fixture (Amended 14/02/2011)

- 5.1 Following receipt and acceptance of team nominations, the Administration Committee shall determine competition structures, prepare a schedule of matches (fixture draw) for each grade of competition and distribute same to clubs at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the season. Other than in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Administration Committee, these fixture draws will not be varied once the season has commenced.
- 5.2 Each competition fixture draw shall consist of a series of home and away premiership matches followed by a finals series.

Match Times

- 5.3 Starting time of all matches will be advised when the fixture draw is released. The starting times may be varied at the discretion of the Administration Committee.
- 5.4 Matches must start and finish on time. If a start is late, or there is a lengthy delay during the match, the Ground Manager and Field Umpires will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter, half and three quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following match can commence on time.
- 5.5 If for any reason a team is not ready to commence play twenty (20) minutes after the appointed time, the opposing club may claim the match as a forfeit. If however the start of a match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and by mutual agreement between the competing clubs the match is still played, the clubs must agree on a shortened time of play to ensure that any following matches will not be delayed.

- 5.6 If for any reason a club should not finish a match, the Field Umpire must report the matter to the League Administration for investigation.

Match Duration

- 5.7 The duration of quarters for all Home and Away matches will be as follows:

- Premier Division twenty (20) minutes plus time on
- Division One twenty two (22) minutes (no time on)
- Division Two twenty two (22) minutes (no time on)
- Division Three twenty two (22) minutes (no time on)
- Division Four twenty two (22) minutes (no time on)
- Division Five twenty two (22) minutes (no time on)
- Women's Premier Division twenty (20) minutes (no time on)
- Women's Division One twenty (20) minutes (no time on)
- Under 19's Division One twenty (20) minutes (no time on)
- Under 19's Division Two twenty (20) minutes (no time on)

- 5.8 For matches where time on is played the following is to apply (*Amended 01/02/2017*):

- To indicate the commencement of the time added period, the field umpire shall blow his/her whistle and raise one arm above his/her head. To indicate that the time added period has elapsed the field umpire shall again blow his/her whistle and raise one arm above the head.
- Where the umpire fails to signal the completion of the time added period, or the timekeepers fail to hear his/her whistle or see his/her signal, the timekeepers are to restart the clock when the ball is clearly back in play.
- In the case of a goal or behind being scored, the time added is that which elapses between the time that the goal umpire first signals the goal or behind and the bouncing of the ball in the centre (after a goal) or the ball being brought back into play (after a behind).
- In the event of a player being replaced under the blood rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule signal is given by the umpire until the umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.
- In case of a player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal time off and on as detailed above.
- For Premier Division games only, in the case of the ball going out of bounds or out of bounds on the full, the time added is that which elapses between the time that the boundary umpire signals out of bounds and the football is thrown back into play by the umpire or brought back into play by a player.

- 5.9 For matches where time on is not applicable the following will apply:

- The clock is only to be stopped for the blood rule or when a player is replaced using the stretcher with the procedure as follows:
 - In the event of a player being replaced under the blood rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule signal is given by the umpire until the umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.
 - In case of a player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal

time off and on as detailed above.

5.10 Times for quarter, half and three quarter time breaks are as follows:

- Premier Division
 - Quarter Time - Shall not exceed six (6) minutes
 - Half Time - Shall not exceed twenty (20) minutes
 - Three Quarter Time - Shall not exceed six (6) minutes

- All Other Competitions
 - Quarter Time - Shall not exceed five (5) minutes
 - Half Time - Shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes
 - Three Quarter Time - Shall not exceed five (5) minutes

Warning Sirens

5.11 Timekeepers are to sound the siren as an indicator to players and officials as follows:

- As umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of the game and after half-time Once
- Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the match and the start of the third quarter Once
- Two minutes prior to scheduled starting time of all quarters Twice
- One minute prior to scheduled starting time of all quarters Once
- Scheduled starting time of all quarters Once

Ladder

5.12 A premiership ladder shall be maintained for the duration of the home and away matches as follows and as determined by the Administration Committee:

(a) *Even Number of Team and/or Even Number of Games Played*

The teams will be positioned in accordance with total of premiership points accrued (four (4) points will be allocated for a win, two (2) points for a draw and nil (0) points for a loss). Where more than one club has the same "number of premierships points accrued" those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs.

(b) *Uneven Number of Teams and/or Uneven Number of Games Played*

The teams will be positioned in the order of club's "Winning Percentage" or "Match Ratio" in place of total premiership points accrued. A Club's match ratio will be the percentage of wins against matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one club has the same "Match Ratio" those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs.

The premiership ladder will not count cancelled matches as matches played and thus 'Match Ratio' is only affected by the number of games played where a win, loss or draw can be affected.

Premier Team

- 5.13 The Premier Team for the season shall be the team, which wins the Grand Final in each respective competition.

The Minor Premier Team for the season shall be team that finishes on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Home & Away season in each respective competition.

Forfeits (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 5.14 Any club unable to play a match for which it is drawn is to advise the opposing club and the League no later than 8pm on the Friday prior to the match concerned. The match will then be treated as a forfeit and provided a satisfactory explanation is furnished to the League, no penalty other than those specified in this by-law will be imposed.
- 5.15 Where the League is unable to advise the appointed umpires prior to them attending a forfeited match, the League will pay the umpires and the forfeiting club will be invoiced for the full amount.
- 5.16 If for any reason a team is not ready to commence play 20 minutes after the appointed commencement time for a match, the opposing club may claim the match as a forfeit.
- 5.17 All clubs must field a senior grade team in the home and away competition unless otherwise arranged with the Administration Committee. Should a club need to forfeit a match, the clubs lowest Division team is the team that is required to forfeit. Should the club play in a Lower Division fixture and subsequently forfeit a higher Division match in the same round, that club will not be awarded any match points in any Division for that rounds fixtures and shall be liable to disqualification or such other penalty as the Administration Committee may determine.
- 5.18 A team shall forfeit a match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a match already commenced.
- 5.19 Where a forfeit occurs:
- (a) The team receiving the forfeit shall;
 - (i) be attributed a 'win'.
 - (ii) have its "points for" increased by the average of the points scored by the winners of the other matches in the round.
 - (iii) have no points added to its "points against".
 - (iv) submit a team sheet for the purpose of player eligibility for finals.
 - (v) submit invoice to league for \$100 compensation or \$200 if the forfeit is communicated to the league after 8pm Friday (not applicable if practice match played)
 - (b) The forfeiting team shall;
 - (i) be attributed a 'loss'
 - (ii) have no points added to its "points for".
 - (iii) have its "points against" increased by the average of the points scored by the winners of the other matches in the round.
 - (iv) fined \$200 if communicated by the 8pm Friday deadline or fined \$400 if communicated past this deadline (not applicable if practice match played)

Adverse Weather

- 5.20 From time to time the League may vary the playing conditions due to adverse weather.
- 5.21 In the case of adverse weather during a match the umpire has the authority to delay the match where they believe the conditions have become unsafe. In the case of lightning, the AFL's Lightning Policy (refer Attachment "E") is to apply.

Wet Weather Procedures

- 5.22 Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, clubs are to advise the Football Operations Manager as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled matches to be considered.
- 5.23 Where a ground to which a match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the Football Operations Manager will, in liaison with the clubs concerned:
- reschedule the match to the oppositions home ground; if this is not possible
 - reschedule the match to an alternative venue on the same day; if this is not possible
 - reschedule the match to the alternate day on the weekend, subject to approval by both clubs.
 - postpone the match to another date; if this is not possible
 - match will be deemed as cancelled.

Where wet weather affects multiple matches, the priority is to get higher division matches (as per League competition structure) played where possible which may mean that Lower Division matches need to be moved or even postponed.

- 5.24 Where a match is transferred to the opposing club's ground, that club will assume the home team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next match between the two clubs concerned will be reversed to compensate for the loss of the home ground privilege.
- 5.25 Clubs whose grounds are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their ground available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. Where games are transferred to an alternative venue, the home team responsibilities will be assumed by the home team as nominated in the fixture.
- 5.26 Should it appear likely that more than one match in a round may not be played, the Administration Committee may postpone or cancel all matches for that round.
- 5.27 In the event that any match is cancelled, the match does not contribute to either team's "Match Ratio" as per by-law 5.12 (b) and such match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Administration Committee will decide on player eligibility for finals.
- 5.28 Each club is required to have procedures in place, which will enable them to contact their players, and officials to notify them at short notice of any changes to scheduled matches.

Other Matches

- 5.29 No AFL Sydney Club shall arrange or play in any match other than the official fixture schedule without the approval of the Administration Committee. A fine of \$100 will be imposed for each breach of this by-law.

Promotion/Relegation

5.30 Promotion and Relegation will apply on the following basis:

Where a team wins a premiership in Men's Division's 2-5 or Women's Division 1, that team will be eligible for promotion to the next higher division. The Administration Committee may promote that team, or another after consultation with the clubs concerned, provided that club does not have a team already playing in that division.

Should a team be promoted to a higher division, the team that finished last in that division shall be relegated, provided that club does not already have a team playing in that division. Should the bottom team be unable to be relegated the Administration will determine which team will be relegated.

In the Under 19 competitions, the side that wins the premiership in the Division 2 competition will be invited to compete in the Division 1 competition the following year. If that club accepts the invitation, the team that finished last in the Division 1 competition will be relegated to the Division 2 competition the following year.

Admission to the Premier Division will be subject to the club applying in writing and meeting the Premier Division Criteria. Applications will be assessed by the Administration Committee, with successful applicants given twelve (12) months notice prior to entering in the Premier Division.

The Administration Committee is able to continually review all competition structures on an annual basis and allocate teams to competitions as they deem warranted.

6. Finals

Finals Structure

6.1 The Administration Committee will use the following guidelines to determine the length of any finals series upon release of the Competition Season Fixture prior to the first home and away match (The Administration Committee reserves the right to defer from these guidelines in 'lower' divisions on the basis of "scheduling/fixturing purposes"):

(a) Competitions comprising up to eight (8) teams;

Match 1	First Semi-Final	Team 3 v Team 4
Match 2	Second Semi-Final	Team 1 v Team 2
Match 3	Preliminary Final	Winner Match 1 v Loser Match 2
Match 4	Grand Final	Winner Match 2 v Winner Match 3

(b) Competitions comprising nine (9) teams or more;

Match 1	Elimination Final	Team 4 v Team 5
Match 2	Qualifying Final	Team 2 v Team 3
Match 3	First Semi-Final	Winner Match 1 v Loser Match 2
Match 4	Second Semi-Final	Team 1 v Winner Match 2
Match 5	Preliminary Final	Winner Match 3 v Loser Match 4
Match 6	Grand Final	Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 5

The Administration Committee will determine the days the respective finals will be played.

Venue Selection

- 6.2 The Administration Committee shall determine the venues for finals series matches on an annual basis. Factors, which will be taken into consideration in the selection of grounds, include location, condition of the playing surface and facilities, ability to charge admission, catering rights, cost and any special circumstances, which may exist at the time.

Match Duration (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 6.3 Finals Match Duration shall be as follows:

- Premier Division twenty (20) minutes plus time on
- Division One eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Division Two eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Division Three eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Division Four eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Division Five eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Women's Premier Division eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Women's Division One eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Under 19's Division One eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
- Under 19's Division Two eighteen (18) minutes plus time on

By law 5.8 shall apply for time on.

Match Conditions

- 6.4 Except as per 6.3 and 6.5 all other match conditions applicable for the Home and Away season will apply to the finals.

Drawn Finals

- 6.5 In the event of a drawn game in any finals match the following will apply:

- Goal Umpires will confirm the scores.
- Field Umpires will re-commence the game for duration of five minutes (plus time on). The teams will not change ends. (i.e. they will run the same way they did in the final quarter)
- The siren will sound, the teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes (plus time on) is played.
- If the game is still drawn after the second 5 minute (plus time on) period the game will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound.
- At no stage before or during extra time are coaches permitted to address players.

Emergency Umpires

- 6.6 Emergency umpires, when appointed to officiate in finals matches, shall have the power to order players from the field as well as the ability to report players.

Finals Player Eligibility (Amended 01/02/2014) (20/06/2014) (23/06/2015) (27/07/2015) (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 6.7 The following eligibility provisions shall apply to the finals series:

- **Premier Division:**
A player must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season for his club.
- **Men's Divisions 1-3**
A player must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season in either that division, a lower division or the under age competition for his club.

- **Men's Divisions 4**
A player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games in the current season in either that division , a lower division or the under age competition for his club.
- **Men's Divisions 5**
A player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games in the current season for his club team in which he is selected to play in the finals.
- **Women's Premier Division**
A player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away in the current season for her club.
- **Women's Divisions 1**
A player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games in the current season for her club team.
- **Under 19 Division One:**
A player must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season in either that division or the lower Under 19 division for his club.
- **Under 19 Division Two:**
A player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games in the current season for his club team in which he is selected to play in the finals.

Where a player plays more than one match on the same day/weekend during the home and away season, only the match in the highest grade will be counted towards finals eligibility. (This excludes Under 19's players. If a player plays an Under 19 and a senior match on the same day / weekend, this counts as both an Under 19 match and senior match for finals eligibility).

Player Eligibility – General (Amended 01/02/2014) (01/02/2016)

- 6.8 A player is only permitted to play in one finals match for his club on any given weekend.
- 6.9 Subject to By-laws 6.10, 6.11, 6.12 and 6.13:
- i) any senior men's player who has played in a combined total of nine or more home and away matches in any higher men's division(s) (including Sydney Uni NEAFL), shall not be eligible to play final matches in a lower division:
 - ii) any women's player who has played in a combined total of eight or more home and away matches in any higher women's division(s), shall not be eligible to play final matches in a lower division.
 - iii) any U19s Players shall not be eligible to play finals in the U19s competitions if they have played in a combined total of nine or more senior home and away matches. U19s players who play in a total of nine or more U19s Division 1 games shall not be eligible to play finals in U19s Division 2
 - iv) The only exception under this By-law is, where a club has both their highest senior and highest Under 19's team playing in finals on the same weekend, an underage player may play for the Under 19 team even if he has played nine or more games of senior football. The only requirement is that the underage player has also played a minimum of six (6) Under 19's games for U19s Division One and five (5) Under 19's games for U19s Division Two during the home and away season.
- 6.10 Where a club has all senior and under age teams playing in finals on the same weekend, to be eligible to play in any of those finals a player must have played:
- six (6) club home and away matches for men's,
 - five (5) club home and away matches for women's
 - five (5) under age home and away matches and be under the age limit in the case of under age finals
- 6.11 Where a club has multiple consecutively ranked teams playing in finals on the same weekend (eg. Seniors and Reserves, U19s Div One and Two, Women's Premier Division and Division One), clubs may play players one club grade lower than the lowest grade for which they are eligible on a standalone basis in terms of By-Laws 6.7

- 6.12 Where a club has a Lower Division team playing in a Final on the same weekend that the club has a higher grade team which has earned a week off in its final series (i.e. won through to a subsequent final) the Administration Committee has the power to give an exemption from By-law 6.7 for up to two (2) players, however the following restrictions will apply:
- The teams referred to above must be consecutively ranked (e.g. seniors and reserves, U19s Div One and Two, Women's Premier Division and Division One)
 - The player/s will be ineligible to play in the higher grade Final the following week, except in exceptional circumstances where the approval of the Administration Committee will be required

To be considered, the application must be received by 12pm Thursday prior to the scheduled match.

The spirit of this By-law is to allow a player who will not be selected in the higher grade Final the following week the opportunity to play in a lower grade Final. (Had the higher grade team been playing in a Final that weekend, the player would be eligible to play in the lower grade Final so the club should not be penalised for the higher grade team winning through to a subsequent final).

- 6.13 On application by a player's club, the Administration Committee may vary the number of qualifying games required where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away matches; or where a player misses a significant number of matches due to injury or pregnancy (more than 6 matches); or under other exceptional circumstances. To be considered, applications must be received by 12pm Monday prior to the first round of finals and must include the following:
- For service personnel, a signed deployment letter from relevant institution
 - For injuries or pregnancy, a completed AFL Sydney Medical Exemption Request form plus any relevant supporting documentation
 - For exceptional circumstances, a signed letter by the player and club plus any relevant supporting documentation

The approval of exemption requests is at the discretion of the administration committee who may request further information prior to approving or denying an application.

- 6.14 Players who have played for two clubs under a Memorandum of Understanding are only permitted to play finals for the club in which they have played the most Home & Away games during the season, subject to By-Law 6.7. If a player has played an even number of games for both clubs, they may choose which club they play finals for, subject to By-Law 6.7.
- 6.15 Where a club has multiple teams in the same competition playing in finals, a player who has played six (6) home and away matches for one club team will be ineligible to play finals for the other club team.

Sydney Swans and GWS Giants 'Top Up' players and Under Age Representative Players (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 6.16 Sydney Swans and GWS Giants NEAFL 'Top Up', NSW State Academy Series, U18 Allies & U16 National Championship matches will count towards finals eligibility for the players AFL Sydney club.
- 6.17 Under these By-Laws the 'player' is only permitted to play in AFL Sydney Premier Division, Division One or Under 19 Division One Finals.

NEAFL Listed Players (Sydney University and Swans) (Added 01/02/2017)

- 6.18 When the Sydney University NEAFL team is competing in a finals round on the same weekend as the players aligned AFL Sydney Premier Division finals match, if not selected in the NEAFL team, the player will be eligible to play in the AFL Sydney Premier Division match

irrespective of qualification. When the Swans NEAFL team is competing in a finals round on the same weekend as a players aligned AFL Sydney Premier Division finals match, if not selected in the NEAFL team, NEAFL Development Squad (NDS) players will be eligible to play in the AFL Sydney Premier Division match irrespective of qualification.

- 6.19 Subject to By-law 6.18, any player, who is a listed Sydney University NEAFL player (primary or rookie list), must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season for his AFL Sydney aligned club to be eligible to compete in the AFL Sydney Premier Division finals. NDS players must have played a minimum of three (3) home and away games in the current season for his AFL Sydney aligned club to be eligible to compete in the AFL Sydney Premier Division finals.

Club Eligibility

- 6.20 If any club is financially in arrears to the League at a date which is seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the finals then the teams of such club shall be ineligible to compete in finals series matches. In such event the teams placed next on the respective competition table shall take the place of the ineligible team and so forth.
- 6.21 For the purposes of this by-law, clubs, which are under, a financial scheme of arrangements with the League as provided for under by-law 17.9 and are up to date with all payments under that scheme including the current year, shall be considered financial.

Provision of Officials

- 6.22 During finals series matches, non-competing clubs may be rostered to provide personnel to assist with ground management tasks such as gatekeepers, timekeepers, interchange steward and scoreboard attendants etc.

Catering Rights (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 6.23 Catering rights for finals matches will be allocated to clubs in the respective Leagues on a rotational basis.
- 6.24 The League shall charge a fee for the catering rights and will have the authority to limit the prices of any articles it thinks fit. The Administration Committee shall determine the fee at the commencement of the season.
- 6.25 The catering club shall have sole responsibility for the supply of food, soft drinks and alcohol and the operation of a raffle. No other person or club shall be permitted to take alcohol into the ground. No products which conflict with AFL NSW/ACT sponsors products are to be sold.
- 6.26 The catering club shall also be responsible for obtaining a liquor license where necessary.
- 6.27 The catering rosters as from 2017 are as follows.

	Premier Division Finals	Lower Division Finals
2017	North Shore	Randwick City
2018	St George	Balmain
2019	Pennant Hills	Holroyd Parramatta
2020	UTS	Nor West
2021	Manly Warringah	Campbelltown
2022	East Coast Eagles	Western Magic
2023	UNSW/ES	South Coast Thunder
2024	Sydney University	Southern Power
2025	Western Suburbs	South West Sydney
2026		Wollondilly
2027		Camden

2028
2029

Macquarie Uni
Penrith

- 6.28 In respect of the above rosters, where two clubs agree, places may be exchanged on the roster however any club which otherwise declines to participate in its allocated turn shall revert to the end of the list. Any new club admitted to the League shall adopt a position at the end of the roster except at the discretion of the Administration Committee where special circumstances exist.

Gate Keeping Rights (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 6.29 The Administration Committee will determine if a gate will be charged for finals matches.
- 6.30 Gate keeping rights for finals matches will be allocated to clubs on a rotational basis.
- 6.31 The club allocated the gate keeping rights will be required to adhere to the conditions as determined by the Administration Committee. The Gate keeping club will be paid a share of the gate takings as determined by the Administration Committee.
- 6.32 The gate keeping rosters as from 2017 are as follows:

	Premier Division Finals	Lower Division Finals
2017	Pennant Hills	Randwick City
2018	East Coast Eagles	Campbelltown
2019	UNSW/ES	Western Magic
2020	Manly Warringah	Southern Power
2021	Sydney University	South West Sydney
2022	Western Suburbs	Camden
2023	North Shore	Wollondilly
2024	UTS	Macquarie University
2025	St George	Penrith
2026		Holroyd Parramatta
2027		Balmain
2028		Nor West

- 6.33 In respect of the above rosters, where two clubs agree, places may be exchanged on the roster however any club which otherwise declines to participate in its allocated turn shall revert to the end of the list. Any new club admitted to the League shall adopt a position at the end of the roster except at the discretion of the Administration Committee where special circumstances exist.

7. Teams

Number of players

- 7.1 The number of on field and interchange players for each competition shall be determined by the Administration Committee. For the 2017 season the following shall apply:

7.2 Senior Men's Competitions

There will be eighteen (18) on field plus four (4) interchange players for all competitions with the exception of Divisions Four and Five where the following shall apply:

- Maximum number of players that can be listed on the team list is twenty two (22).
- If one, or both, teams have eighteen (18) players or less listed on the team list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be sixteen (16) players on the field, unless both teams agree to start with seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) 'on field' players.

- If both teams have more than eighteen (18) players listed on the team list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be eighteen (18) players.

7.3 Women's Competition *(Amended 01/02/2017)*

There will be eighteen (18) on field plus four (4) interchange players with the exception of Division One where the following shall apply:

- If one, or both, teams have eighteen (18) players or less listed on the team list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be fifteen (15) players on the field, unless both teams agree to start with sixteen (16), seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) 'on field' players.
- If both teams have more than eighteen (18) players listed on the team list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be eighteen (18) players

7.4 Under Age Competitions *(Amended 24/03/2014) (01/02/2015)*

During Home and Away matches, there will be eighteen (18) on field plus four (4) interchange players with the following exception:

- If one, or both, teams have eighteen (18) players or less listed on the team list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be sixteen (16) players on the field, unless both teams agree to start with seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) 'on field' players.
- If both teams have more than eighteen (18) players listed on the team list the number of 'on field' players at the start of the match shall be eighteen (18) players.

Clubs can only include a maximum of eleven (11) players under the age of 17 years of which only two (2) players can be under the age of 16 years (as at 1st January preceding the commencement of the season in which the player intends to play) on their team list for any given match. Under 19 Division Two teams can only include a maximum of eleven (11) players under the age of 17 years (as at 1st January preceding the commencement of the season in which the player intends to play) on their team list for any given match.

During finals there will be eighteen (18) on field plus four (4) interchange players for all under age competitions.

Minimum Number of Players

- 7.5 The minimum number of on field players required for a team to commence a competition match shall be fourteen (14). Should a team commence with fourteen (14) or more players and subsequently have players leave the field during the match, which reduces the team to less than fourteen (14) players, the club will have fifteen (15) minutes to restore the on field numbers back to the minimum (i.e. fourteen (14) players). If this cannot be achieved the match is to be stopped, scores recorded and details forwarded to the Football Operations Manager. The match will subsequently be awarded to the non-offending side as a forfeit as per By-Law 5.19.

Minimum Age of Players (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 7.6 The minimum age for players (as at 1st January preceding the commencement of the season in which the player intends to play) to participate in competitions is as follows:
- Senior Competitions - seventeen (17) years of age
 - Women's Competitions - sixteen (16) years of age*
 - Under 19's Competitions - sixteen (16) years of age

* Refer to By-law 2.18 for further detail

The Administration Committee will consider any exemption to the minimum age upon receipt of an application from the player's club endorsed with the consent from the player's parents/guardians.

Team Lists

- 7.7 For each match, three (3) copies of an official team list containing only player's names competing in the match and their jumper numbers and the names of team officials is to be prepared by each competing team. One copy is to be handed to the Field Umpires at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game. The second copy is to be exchanged with the opposition club at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game. The third copy is to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores, goal-scorers and best players. At the conclusion of the game it is to be handed to the ground manager to be sent to the League Office via email.
- 7.8 Team Lists are to be completed in alphabetical order and contain only those players actually competing in the match.
- 7.9 Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team List up until the commencement of the match by arrangement with the Field Umpires. No amendments may be made to any team list after the commencement of the match.
- 7.10 Goals not listed on the Team List at the time it is received at the League Office shall not be credited to a player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- 7.11 Clubs providing incorrect Team Lists may be liable to lose the match concerned.

Home and Away Season Player Eligibility (Amended 01/02/2014) (23/06/2015) (01/02/2015) (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 7.12 During the Men's and Under Age home and away season any player who has played nine or more matches in one grade is not permitted to drop back more than one grade (i.e. seniors to thirds; reserves to fourths etc)
- 7.13 During the Women's home and away season any player who has played eight or more matches in the higher grade is not permitted to drop back to the club's lower grade
- 7.14 Any Under 19 player who has played twelve or more home and away matches in senior football is ineligible to drop back to Under 19's
- 7.15 During the home and away season where clubs have senior football teams playing on separate days on the same weekend, players are only permitted to play on both days if the second or subsequent match the player plays is in a higher division. (i.e. if a player plays Division Two on Saturday he is permitted to play Division One on Sunday but not Division Three). Where clubs have senior football teams playing on the same day, up to two (2) players are permitted to play in a lower division in a second or subsequent game. For the purposes of clarity, Under 19 competitions are exempt from this By-law. If however an Under 19 player plays a higher senior grade, he is not permitted to play in a lower senior grade.
- 7.16 Clubs who field an U19's Division 1 and an U19's Division 2 team must submit for approval by the Administration Committee prior to the beginning of the home and away season a restricted players list of eleven (11) players who are ineligible to play in U19's Division 2. Remaining listed players will be eligible to play both U19's Division 1 and U19's Division 2 on the same weekend. Clubs can make up to two changes to this list prior to June 30. This rule applies to the home and away season as well as the finals series.
- 7.17 Where a club has two teams in the same competition any player who plays six (6) or more matches for one team is not permitted to then play for the other team.

- 7.18 If a team is scheduled for a bye or has its fixture washed out or cancelled, no player who was in that team the previous week can play in a lower grade. Under 19's are exempt from this rule in that they can return to U19's however they cannot be selected for a lower grade senior team.
- 7.19 In the case of playing a catch up match which was originally postponed due to weather, any player who played in a club's higher grade the previous week to the catch up match is ineligible for selection. Under 19's are exempt from this rule in that they can return to U19's however they cannot be selected for a lower grade senior team. The following exception to rule 7.19 is:
- If a club has two or more teams playing catch up matches, a player can play in a consecutively ranked lower grade (i.e. seniors and reserves, U19 Division One and U19 Division Two) if both the grade they played the previous week and the consecutively ranked lower grade are playing a catch up match on the same weekend.

There are no other exceptions for By-laws 7.18 or 7.19

Signature Checks

- 7.20 At the request of either Team Captain, the Field Umpire shall at the earliest opportunity (before the match, quarter interval or after the match) request a player to provide his full name and address and his signature. Should any player fail to comply with this request, he shall on a report to the AFL NSW/ACT, be dealt with as that Body deems fit. It shall be the responsibility of the Ground Manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League Office. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Administration Committee in accordance with these by-laws.

Team Lists (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 7.21 When requested by the League, each club is required to provide a list of names and jumper numbers (in numerical order) of their players who are likely to play senior grade matches, for publication. These lists must be updated with the League as changes occur. Clubs are to ensure that players wear those jumper numbers listed.

Team Lists for the Newspaper

- 7.22 Premier Division clubs are required to have available to the Administration Committee their selected senior team (in positions) for that weekend's match by 10am Friday prior to the weekend matches. The teams are to be as accurate as possible and include a maximum of twenty five (25) players (18 on field, 4 interchange, and 3 emergencies).

8. Match Day Requirements

The club named first on the official fixture draw shall be the home club. Home clubs are responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for matches are made.

Ground Marking

- 8.1 Goal-squares, boundary lines, 50 metre centre square, 50 metre arc at each end of the ground, 3 metre centre circle (with intersecting line), and 10 metre centre circle (with intersecting line) and an interchange area must be clearly marked. The interchange area comprising two short lines across the boundary line 15 metres apart should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equidistant on either side for the interchange players and team officials of each club.
- 8.2 The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.

- 8.3 A coach's line should be marked being ten (10) metres in length and 1 metre from the boundary line. It should be marked central to the front of the coach's box/ area. No official or bench player is allowed to stand in front of this line during play.

Goal Post Pads

- 8.4 Padding must be provided on all goal and behind posts to a height of at least 2.5 metres from the ground.

Scoreboard

- 8.5 A suitable scoreboard with numbers and team names clearly visible to players and spectators must be in operation for all matches.

Change Rooms

- 8.6 Separate and adequate changing facilities and showers must be provided for each club and the umpires and these rooms must be presented in a clean and tidy condition at the commencement of each match.

Timekeeping Facilities

- 8.7 A table and seating with an unobstructed view of the playing area must be provided for club timekeepers together with a suitable time clock and a sounding device which can be clearly heard at any position on the ground.

If the table is in the open then suitable protection from the weather and rain shall be provided.

Footballs (Amended 01/02/2015) (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 8.8 Sherrin 'KB' Footballs for men's competitions and Sherrin size 4 for women's competitions (with the exception of 2017 where size 4.5 is acceptable for Women's Division 1) are the only football to be used in AFL Sydney matches. The only exception to this is Men's Divisions Four and Five and Under 19's Division Two matches where Sherrin Match size 5 may be used.

For all Premier Division matches a new football (Red for day, Yellow 'Veg Tan' for night – matches starting at 3pm onwards) is to be used. The host club is to provide this football as well as a second ball (spare ball) which is only to be used should the game ball be unable to be retrieved within a reasonable period of time. Should the spare ball need to be used, it should be replaced by the game ball at the earliest practical time. The spare ball should only have been used for a maximum of two games previously.

For all other matches, two suitable used Sherrin footballs shall suffice, with the umpire to determine which ball will be the game ball. A suitable used ball is one that has been used for a maximum of two games previously.

Emergency Medical Arrangements

- 8.9 It is the home club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate medical procedures are in place on match days and that visiting clubs are aware of local arrangements. The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services - ambulance, medical centres, hospitals etc must be available for use in an emergency.
- 8.10 A "scoop" (or similar) stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of the days play. The home club is also to ensure that it can promptly facilitate ambulance access to the field of play if necessary.

Match-Day Safety Check

- 8.11 A representative of all competing clubs is required to conduct a match day health and safety check prior to the commencement of the first game and at any other time during the day if conditions change. The representatives must complete the checklist on the JLT App as evidence that this check has been done.

9. Club Officials and Duties (Amended 01/02/2015)

Ground Manager

- 9.1 The home club must appoint a Ground Manager who will be responsible for the match day requirements and match paperwork for the day. The Ground Manager should introduce him/herself to the umpires and team manager of the visiting teams on arrival and acquaint them with the ground facilities as well as provide details of the closest emergency medical facilities. Should the Ground Manager be replaced during the day, the newly appointed person should inform both the umpires and visiting club of the change.
- 9.2 The Ground Manager is expected to wear a clearly visible jacket provided by the League so that he/she is readily identifiable.
- 9.3 Prior to the commencement of play, the Ground Manager should distribute the following Paperwork for each match, which has been provided by the League.

Scorecards	To goal umpires
Timekeepers Report	To the Timekeeper

- 9.4 At the completion of each match, the ground manager should collect the following;

From Umpires	From Timekeepers	From Team Officials
Team Lists	Timekeepers Report	Completed Team Lists (Note 1)
Goal Umpire scorecards		

Note 1: The Ground Manager should ensure that each club has entered the quarter-by-quarter scores; best players and the goals scored by players on their team lists. The tally of goals entered for players must equal the number of goals scored by the respective teams.

- 9.5 The Ground Manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue as specified in Attachment 'C' of these by-laws.
- 9.6 At the end of the day the Ground Manager should collate the Team Lists, Goal Umpire scorecards and Timekeepers Report and either scan or take a photo of each and email to chris.corby@afl.com.au not later than 7pm on the Sunday following the match.
- 9.7 Finally, it shall be the Ground Manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the home club:
- (a) Telephones, the results of all the days matches to the required person(s), prior to 5.30 pm on the day concerned (this is not required for matches played on Saturday or if the results have been input into "Footyweb" by 5.30pm for matches played on Sunday)
 - (b) Inputs all results and player information (i.e. team lists, goalkickers & best players) of all the days' matches into the Footyweb on-line results system by 7.00pm (10.30 for night matches) on the day of the match.

Team Managers

- 9.8 Each club shall appoint a Manager for each team it fields in the competition. It shall be the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that his or her teams' players and officials comply

with the requirements specified in these by-laws and with any request reasonably made by the umpires officiating in a match in which their team is participating.

- 9.9 Each Team Manager shall introduce themselves to the Umpires prior to a match for identification and to ensure that the team sheets are handed in on time (no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time). The Team Managers should also arrange for the team sheets to be exchanged with the opposition club at this time.
- 9.10 Each Team Manager is to ensure that at the conclusion of the match, the $\frac{1}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ scores, the goalkickers and best players for their respective teams are noted on a copy of their team sheet, and given to the ground manager
- 9.11 It shall be the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the club waits on the umpires at the conclusion of each match to ascertain whether or not any reports of players or officials have arisen from the match or to receive the "all clear".

Team Runner (Amended 01/02/2015)

- 9.12 The sole duty of the official Team Runner is to deliver messages to players of his club and then leave the field immediately having done so. The Runner shall not have any communication device affixed to his body or clothing.
- 9.13 The Team Runner must wear an iridescent pink top with the club's name and the word "Runner" clearly marked on the back. The Runner must also wear (1) iridescent pink shorts or (2) tracksuit pants – which may be either black or pink. Footwear must be either running shoes or football boots. The Administration Committee may vary the uniform requirement for Runners from time to time. One sponsor's logo can be placed below the club's name on the back but not exceed 100mm in height and 300mm in width.
- 9.14 Team Coaches, suspended players/officials are not permitted to act as the official Team Runner.
- 9.15 Each team is permitted to use one (1) Runner only. Runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.

Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 9.16 All AFL Sydney clubs must comply with the National Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (First Aid) with details found on the AFL Sydney website. The following clauses 9.17 – 9.27 provide matchday management direction which is in compliance with this policy.
- 9.17 Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainer Policy.
- 9.18 The home club is responsible for ensuring compliance with the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainer Policy for all games for which it is the home club.
- 9.19 There must be at least one person with the competencies in emergency management procedures and responses in attendance at any game. The visiting club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each game that the home club is able to comply with the requirements of this rule. In the event that the home club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, it should be explored whether the visiting club is able to provide the appropriate resources to comply with these requirements.
- 9.20 In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the game a delayed start of 20 minutes may be applied. If there are games following the match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of games following.

- 9.21 The game may proceed if the visiting club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- 9.22 If the home club has not provided the appropriate resources 20 minutes after the appointed commencement time for the match, the opposing Club may claim a forfeit. The Rules in relation to forfeits will apply.
- 9.23 If a game is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the home Club shall forfeit the match and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.
- 9.24 If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player should not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the First Aid Official (as defined).
- 9.25 The Sports Trainers Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with full medical or higher level allied health qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupations they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy
- Nurse
 - Physiotherapist
 - A certified Sports Trainer St John Officer Paramedic
 - Doctor
- 9.26 In the event that a First Aid Official (as defined) is required on to the playing field, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after being so advised and invite the First Aid Official (as defined) on to the field.
- 9.27 If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player should not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the qualified First Aid Official (as defined).
- 9.28 Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their officials.
- 9.29 The guidelines in this rule on concussion are based on a position statement on the management of concussion in Australian Football by the AFL Medical Officer's Association.
- 9.30 The guidelines should be adhered to at all times. Decisions regarding return to play after concussive injuries should only be made by a medical doctor with experience in concussive injuries.
- 9.31 Any Player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must not be allowed to return to play in the same game or train in the same practice session.
- 9.32 A concussed Player must not be allowed to return to training or playing before having a formal medical clearance provided to the Club.
- 9.33 Clubs are permitted to utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers per team.
- 9.34 These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured players or to provide players with water. Trainers may enter the Playing Surface only after the Goal Umpire has signalled that a Goal or Behind has been scored (for either team), when play has stopped for a stretcher, or for a score review, or after the field Umpire has signalled that play has ended for the quarter. They must not be used to deliver messages to players.

- 9.35 Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each team must be dressed in light blue 'trainer's shirts'. Either black tracksuit pants or club shorts are to be worn (jeans are not permitted), together with running shoes or football boots.
- 9.36 Umpires will ask any Trainer/Medical/Water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform.
- 9.37 Water Carriers shall not be younger than fourteen (14) years.
- 9.38 Team Coaches, suspended players/officials are not permitted to act as trainers, medical support staff or water carriers.

Umpires' Escorts

- 9.39 For each match, the home club must appoint a suitable person to ensure the safety of umpires (ideally the Ground Manager or appointee). The Umpires Escort is to escort the umpires (including club umpires):
- from their change-rooms to the centre of the field prior to the commencement of a match
 - from their assembly point on the field to their change-rooms at half-time.
 - from their change-rooms to the centre of the field after the half time break.
 - from their assembly point on the field to their change-rooms at the conclusion of the match.
- 9.40 In addition, the Umpires Escort is to stand with the umpires during the quarter and three-quarter time intervals and arrange for water to be provided to the umpires, if required.
- 9.41 The Umpires Escort is expected to wear a clearly visible jacket provided by the League so that he/she is more readily identifiable.
- 9.42 Any Umpire Escort provided is expected to assist in providing and/or obtaining details of any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct immediately after completing his/her duties in liaison with/at the request of the Umpires or Ground Manager as per the guidelines in 14.2 of these By-Laws.

Timekeepers

- 9.43 Each club is to appoint a Timekeeper for Premier Division Matches. For all other matches the Home club must provide a timekeeper, whilst away clubs are encouraged to also provide one. The Timekeepers are to perform the duties as set out in the AFL Laws of the Game, these By Laws and as otherwise specified by the Administration Committee from time to time.
- 9.44 In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Administration Committee for attention.
- 9.45 In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each game in which they officiate.
- 9.46 Timekeepers are also required to record the time that players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such players may resume playing (if applicable). It is the offending players club's responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the umpires decision to send off a player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling umpire.

- 9.47 The field umpire(s) shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a match.

Officials on the Bench

- 9.48 In addition to the maximum number of trainers, other medical staff and water carriers, interchange players and team runner/s there will be a maximum of 4 other officials allowed on the bench area inside the ground during play. All officials must be listed on the team list.

Club Appointed Umpires (Amended 01/02/2014) (01/02/2016) (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 9.49 From time to time each club is required to provide suitable persons for the AFL Sydney Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the AFL Sydney Club Umpire commitment for the season by the last Friday of February each year.
- 9.50 A minimum of two umpires are required for a match to commence unless where directed by the League. Where the League has not appointed two official field umpires, it shall be each competing club's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the match (subject to By-law 9.51 below). Should two field umpires not be available (either official or club umpires) the match is not to commence and the details are to be forwarded to the Football Operations Manager.
- 9.51 Where the League has appointed only one official field umpire, only the home team is required to provide a Club Field Umpire. Should the away team provide a Club Field Umpire they will be awarded 50 Club of the Year points. Should there be no official field umpire appointed by the League then both competing clubs would be required to provide a Club Field Umpire as per By-law 9.50
- 9.52 Club Appointed Field Umpires must complete the online Club Umpires Training course and Club Umpires Registration Form prior to officiating their first match. Club Appointed Umpires must then be assessed during a match by a qualified assessor (accredited umpire, accredited umpire coach or accredited opposition coach) and the form signed and returned to the Football Operations Manager.
- 9.53 Club Field Umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork online (i.e. Umpires Match Report and Best & Fairest Votes). It is the home teams responsibility to ensure that this has been completed.
- 9.54 Each competing club is responsible for the payment of their own club umpires, or in the case of one club providing both club umpires, the payment of one, or both of the club umpires.
- 9.55 Club field umpires are to be attired in a 'green umpire shirt', black shorts, black socks and runners or football boots.
- 9.56 Club Goal Umpires
Where official goal umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal umpire. If only one goal umpire has been appointed by the league it is the responsibility of the home club to provide a suitable goal umpire. Club goal umpires must be equipped with two white flags and be attired in a club shirt or white coat

Club Boundary Umpires

Where official boundary umpires have not been appointed by the league, the following rules shall apply:

- Premier Division, Division 1, Division 2, U19s Division 1 and Women's Premiers Division - the home club is required to supply 2 boundary umpires where the league is unable to appoint them – if boundary umpires cannot be supplied by the home club, it is the home teams

responsibility to throw the ball in (i.e. a player from the home team on the field must do this). It is expected that the home club will provide boundary umpires unless there are exceptional circumstances preventing them from sourcing people to fill these positions.

- Division Three, Four and Five, Women's Division One and Under 19's Division Two - the home club must supply 2 boundary umpires where the league is unable to appointment them - if boundary umpires cannot be supplied by the home club the field umpire will have a ball up 20 metres from the boundary line where the ball left the field of play. The field umpires should only be doing a ball up if no boundary umpires can be supplied.

Club boundary umpires must be attired in white shirt, club shorts, runners or football boots and equipped with a suitable whistle.

- 9.57 Official field umpires shall have the power to overrule decisions by club goal and/or boundary umpires and remove them should they consider that such club umpires are not competent to carry out the required duties.
- 9.58 Payment of club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the providing clubs. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the umpire's attendance sheet.

10. Uniforms and Logo Regulations

Uniform Design

- 10.1 New clubs shall be required to submit complete details of the proposed colour and design of its uniform to the Administration Committee for approval. Once approved, such club shall have exclusive rights to its uniform design.
- 10.2 Existing clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their uniform design for approval by the Administration Committee before use.

Jumper Numbers

- 10.3 Players of each team must play in their club uniform as registered with the League and wear numbers on the back of their jumpers corresponding to the numbers shown on the Team List. All numbers must be whole numbers between 1 and 99 inclusive. No two players or more from the same team are permitted to wear the same number.

Clash of Uniforms

- 10.4 Where a clash of jumper colours exists the League will determine the uniforms to be worn by the competing teams.
- 10.5 For the purposes of this by-law, the sole arbitrator on uniforms shall be the Administration Committee.

Sponsor's Logos/Approved Suppliers (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 10.6 AFL NSW/ACT Official suppliers are elected as the only supplier licensed to play the AFL/NSW ACT logo onto club and on-field playing apparel.
- 10.7 Jumpers worn by AFL Sydney Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast. Club jumpers and shorts with the AFL NSW/ACT logo may only be obtained from AFL NSW/ACT's Official suppliers.
- 10.8 Sponsor's logo as approved by the League may be worn either on the front or back of players' jumpers as follows –

- Front – The logo may be positioned on the left breast, directly opposite the AFL NSW/ACT logo and/or in the centre of the jumper (below the AFL NSW/ACT logo). The size of the logo must not exceed 8 cm in size if being placed on the left breast or 200mm wide and 120mm high if placed in the middle of the jumper.
 - Back – The logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath (or both) the player number. The size of the logo must not exceed 60 mm high and 200 mm wide if being placed above the number, or 100 mm high and 300 mm wide, if underneath the number.
- 10.9 Sponsor's logo as approved by the League may be worn on shorts as follows –
- The logo's must not exceed 70 sq cm with a maximum width of 11cm and a maximum depth of 6.3 cm.
 - The logo's can be placed on the front of the right and left leg only.
- 10.10 The Administration Committee will consider any other proposals for the display of club or sponsors logos on player's uniforms.

Inspection of Equipment

- 10.11 No player shall be permitted to play in a match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself or other players. The Field Umpires may at their discretion inspect players' equipment either before or at any time during the match.
- 10.12 Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts (may only be worn with the prior approval of the Administration Committee.

Club Names and Club Logos

- 10.13 New clubs shall be required to submit complete details of the proposed club name and club nickname (e.g. North Shore "Bombers") and design of its club logo to the Administration Committee for approval. Once approved, such club shall have exclusive rights to its club name, club nickname and club logo.
- 10.14 Existing clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their club name, club nickname and club logo design for approval by the Administration Committee before use, such approval to be granted or withheld at the sole discretion of the Administration Committee.

AFL Marks and Logos

- 10.15 For the purposes of this by-law "**AFL Marks**" means AFL logos, AFL club logos, the AFL NSW/ACT logo, AFL Greater Sydney Juniors logo, trademarks, trade names and other intellectual property and copyright, registered or unregistered owned by the AFL and/or the Commission (whichever is applicable).
- (a) Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League, or leagues controlled by the Commission shall not make use of AFL Marks without the prior written consent of the AFL and/or Commission which consent may be given or withheld at the AFL and Commission's discretion (reasonably exercised). Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by the Commission shall submit details of any proposed use of AFL Marks to the Commission prior to any use thereof including use for advertising or promotional purposes.
- (b) Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by the Commission acknowledge that the AFL and Commission are the owners of the AFL Marks and of the goodwill attaching to the AFL Marks and agree that the AFL Marks shall remain vested in the AFL and/or Commission and agree not to challenge the validity or ownership of the AFL Marks.

- (c) Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by the Commission shall not register any trade marks, company or business names, logos, symbols, emblems, designs, or other indicia using the AFL Marks or any component thereof.
- (d) Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by the Commission agree not to alter the AFL Marks in any way nor to affix, incorporate or use the AFL Marks, in connection with or as part of another trade mark, distinctive mark, name, brand or thing.
- (e) Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by the Commission recognise the great value of the AFL Marks and acknowledge the goodwill attached thereto and that all rights, title and interest therein including the copyright thereto vests in and belongs to AFL and/or Commission.
- (f) Clubs of the League, leagues and associations affiliated or directly associated with the League or leagues controlled by the Commission agree that they will not at any time do any act, matter or thing intended to or which might otherwise have the effect of interfering with, restricting, limiting or challenging the proprietary rights of AFL and/or Commission in and to the AFL Marks.

11. Umpires

Appointments

- 11.1 The League will appoint official umpires to matches as available and the names of the appointed umpires will be provided by the League to clubs by 5pm, Thursday prior to the match.

Availability

- 11.2 All members of the umpires' panel must make themselves available to the League for appointment as a field, boundary or goal umpire as required. All umpires must conform to the rules and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the Administration Committee.

Umpire Requirements

- 11.3 Umpires should be at the ground no less than sixty minutes before the official starting time of the match and must be on the field correctly attired at least ten minutes before such starting time. At the end of the game, one umpire must input paperwork online. This includes; umpires match report and Best & Fairest votes.

Field and Goal Umpire Numbers (Amended 01/02/2017)

- 11.4 As a minimum, two field umpires are required prior to a match commencing. These can be accredited umpires, registered club field umpires or a combination of both. Should two umpires not be available, the match is not to commence and the matter referred to the Administration Committee for determination.
- 11.5 Where two field umpires commence a match and for some reason one field umpire is unable to complete a match, the remaining field umpire may continue to control the match as a single umpire if another suitable umpire is not available to take the place of the unfit umpire.
- 11.6 As a minimum, two goal umpires are required prior to a match commencing. These can

be accredited umpires, club goal umpires or a combination of both. Should two umpires not be available, the match is not to commence and the matter referred to the Administration Committee for determination.

Umpires' Fees

- 11.7 The umpires' fees for the ensuing season shall be decided by the Administration Committee no later than 31st December in the year preceding the season in which they are applicable..

Payment of Umpires

- 11.8 Appointed umpires are to sign the umpires' Match Report prior to the commencement of their scheduled match. Clubs will be invoiced for the appropriate fee based on actual attendance of officially appointed umpires.
- 11.9 In the event of a match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in by-law 5.15, no payment shall be due to the affected umpires.

Umpires' Match Report (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 11.10 At the conclusion of each match, the field umpire(s) shall provide a report to the Administration Committee on the prescribed umpires match report form online.
- 11.11 The field umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting online.
- 11.12 Umpires appointed by the League are required to complete the online Umpires Match report no later than 7pm Sunday of the weekend of the match.
- 11.13 The Goal Umpire scorecards and Team Lists will be provided to the Ground Manager to send electronically to the League by 7pm Sunday.

Club Appointed Umpires

- 11.14 Refer By Law 9.49 – 9.58

Club Report on Umpires

- 11.15 To assist the League in its assessment of umpires, clubs may at their discretion, provide a report on the umpire(s) performance to the League. Such report should be provided on the prescribed form, duly signed by the team Coach or Captain and forwarded to reach the Manager Football Operations at the League Office during the week following the match concerned.

Reporting of Players and Officials

- 11.16 Umpires may report to the League any player or official who, during the progress of a match or within the immediate proximity of the Arena on the day of the match, commits a reportable offence. The procedure for making and lodging such a report shall be as specified by the Laws of the Game and by the National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT.
- 11.17 In terms of National Match Tribunal Guidelines NSW/ACT Section 3.1, Registered Club Field Umpires are permitted to report players - but non-registered club field umpires, club boundary and goal umpires are not permitted to do so.

Minimum Umpire Age

11.18 For all open age and under age AFL Sydney competitions, all field, boundary and goal umpires (official or club umpires) are required to be no younger than fourteen (14) years as at 1st January.

12. Order Off Rule

Yellow Card

- 12.1 A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the laws of the game shall be ordered from the field for a period of fifteen minutes. In this instance an umpire will hold up a yellow card.
- 12.2 At the discretion of the field umpire, a player may be ordered from the field for a period of fifteen minutes and not be reported. In this instance an umpire will hold up a yellow card.
- 12.3 A player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending players club is responsible for obtaining the all clear from the timekeepers for such player to resume playing.
- 12.4 For the purposes of this rule, a yellow card will result in the player concerned remaining off the field for a flat period of fifteen minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. E.g. a player sent off five minutes before half time would be permitted to resume playing ten minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- 12.5 All players who are ordered from the field with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

Red Card

- 12.6 A player who has been given a yellow card by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the laws of the game twice in the same match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed below) shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match. In this instance an umpire will hold up a red card.
- 12.7 Serious breaches are defined as where a player or official;
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an umpire
 - Attempts to make contact with or strike an umpire
 - Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire
 - Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person
 - Commits an act of misconduct - if the umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature
- 12.8 A player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending player is not permitted to sit on the bench, or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the match.
- 12.9 All players who are ordered from the field with a red card can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed. The offending players club is responsible for obtaining the all clear from the timekeepers for the replacement player to resume playing.
- 12.10 For the purposes of this rule, a red card will result in the player concerned being unable to be replaced for a flat period of fifteen minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. E.g. a player sent off five minutes before half time would be permitted to be replaced until ten minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- 12.11 Any player who is issued with a red card shall also be reported by the field umpire(s)

Recording of Send Offs

12.12 When a player is sent off the umpire will show the appropriate yellow or red card to the timekeeper who will in turn acknowledge the send off by showing the same colour card to the umpire.

12.13 Timekeepers are required to record the time that players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such players may resume playing, or be replaced (whichever is applicable). It is the offending players club's responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such players to resume playing.

13. Laws & Policies

Laws of the Game

13.1 Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, AFL Sydney Competition matches shall be played under the Laws of Australian Football as laid down by the Australian Football League. The Commission may alter, vary, delete or add to these rules on the recommendation of the Administration Committee.

AFL Sydney Kick-In Rule

13.2 The Laws of Australian Football 2017 Law 13 shall apply with the following provision:

- The same football, as that used to score the behind, must be utilised unless otherwise instructed by the field umpire.

Loss of Points

13.3 Where a team loses a match through violation of the rules or these by-laws, the competition points or 'win' for the match concerned shall be credited to the opposing team. Points scored by the offending team will be cancelled however goals kicked by players shall be credited in the normal manner.

Infectious Diseases Policy

13.4 All AFL Sydney Competition Clubs are to comply with section 22 of the Laws of Australian Football in parallel with the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases (H.I.V and Hepatitis B).

13.5 AFL NSW/ACT Code of Practice for infectious diseases includes:

- Clubs should strongly recommend to all players and officials that they be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- Clubs should ensure that their dressing rooms are clean and tidy, with particular attention to hand basins, toilets and showers. Spitting and/or urinating in the team areas must not be permitted.
- Trainers are to be instructed to wipe all blood away from player's faces or limbs if they have been injured.
- Soiled towels should be discarded and clean towels should be available to avoid re-use or sharing of bloodied material. Appropriate containers need to be accessible for storing soiled towels.
- Jumpers soiled with blood should be changed at the earliest opportunity.
- Trainers should wear protective gloves when dealing with bleeding wound.

- Players with wounds that are bleeding profusely are to leave the field for treatment and will not be permitted to resume playing until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered.
- 13.6 Field umpires who observe a bleeding player are empowered to stop play and send a player from the field for treatment if in their opinion such action is warranted. Such player shall leave the field immediately through the interchange area. The replacement player may enter the field of play while the bleeding player is in the process of leaving the field and should do so through the interchange area also. The umpire shall wait until the replacement player has reached his position on the field before restarting play. If there is any undue delay in the replacement player entering the field of play, the umpire may restart play at his/her discretion.

AFL NSW/ACT Vilification & Discrimination Policy

- 13.7 The AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited and AFL Sydney adhere to the AFL NSW/ACT Vilification & Discrimination Policy as per attachment “A” to these By-Laws.

Anti Gambling & Corruption Policy

- 13.8 This policy shall apply to all games of football played or organised under the auspices of AFL Sydney or AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited.
- 13.9 A person must not, directly or indirectly, participate or engage in or assist any other person, corporation or entity to engage in the following conduct:
- a) Bet, gamble or wager on any aspect of any Match or on any event connection with any Match (“Event”);
 - b) Induce or encourage any other person, corporation or entity to bet, gamble or wager on any aspect of any Match or on any Event;
 - c) Contrive or attempt to contrive the result of a Match in exchange for any bribe, benefit or reward;
 - d) Disclose or provide any information about the Teams playing in any Match (including the actual or likely composition of the Team, Players injuries, the form of Players and tactics) unless such information is already in the public domain or given in a bona fide media interview;
 - e) Being a Player, Coach or Assistant Coach fail to perform on their merits, or induce or encourage any Player, Coach or Assistant Coach not to perform on their merits, in any Match for any reason whatsoever.
- 13.10 Any person who directly or indirectly, formally or informally receives an approach from any other person, corporation or entity, to engage in any conduct prohibited by this By-Law, must with 24 hours of first receiving such approach, advise and provide a written statement containing full details of such approach to the Football Operations Manager.
- 13.11 This By-Law shall not apply to any bet, gamble or wager which has the prior written approval of the Football Operations Manager.
- 13.12 For the purposes of this By-Law (13.8 - 13.11 inclusive), “person” includes a Club, any social Club associated with the Club, Player, Coach, Assistant Coach or Coaches, trainer, runner, Officer, Club Medical Officer or other medical staff, or any servant, agent, employee or volunteer of a Club where such servant, agent, employee or volunteer has any role in the administration of a Club including without limitation involvement in the preparation for or playing of any Match.

- 13.13 Any person who does not fully and strictly comply with the provisions of this By-Law, shall be dealt with in such manner as the Administration Committee in its absolute discretion think fit and without limiting their power it may:
- a) Impose a monetary sanction; and/or;
 - b) Prohibit a person from competing in or attending the AFL Sydney competition for any period of time; and/or
 - c) Require a person to attend counselling or any course in relation to responsible gambling.

Anti Doping Policy

- 13.14 The AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited and AFL Sydney will follow the AFL Anti-Doping Code as amended from time to time by the AFL. Where financial penalty is incurred in the form of penalty points the Administration Committee will fine \$100 for each penalty point imposed by the AFL policy.

Alcohol Policy

- 13.15 Alcohol is permitted to be sold at AFL Sydney ground by the host club. In such cases the host club must have the appropriate liquor licence issued by the relevant authority and consent, if required, of the local council.
- 13.16 Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any AFL Sydney ground.

Each club is required to ensure that their members and spectators abide by this By-Law. Should a host club find that alcohol has been brought to the ground they are to advise an official of the offending members or spectators club, whom in turn shall take the necessary action.

Should the club fail to act, or the club members or spectators fail to adhere to their official's request the club will be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

- 13.17 Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the field of play at any time. Clubs are required to fix notices to the boundary fence or elsewhere if there is no boundary fence, advising that alcohol is not to be taken onto the field of play.
- 13.18 Alcohol is not to be consumed by a club person either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official matchday role (i.e. timekeeping, ground manager, umpire escort, club umpire etc).

Player & Official De-Registration Policy

- 13.19 The League adheres to the AFL Player and Official De-registration Policy.

Women's Specific Policy

Gender of Players

- 13.20 All players who participate in the Women's competition must be female. Transgender women who have established their identity as females and are living as women in their everyday lives are eligible to play.

Pregnant Players

- 13.21 Players who are pregnant are not permitted to play. (It should be noted that AFL insurances do not cover this).

14. Disciplinary Procedures *(Amended 01/02/2015)*

Prescribed Penalties

- 14.1 A prescribed penalty system will operate in the AFL Sydney competition. Refer part 5 of the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT*.
- 14.2 The deadline for entering an early plea as per 3.6 of the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT* is 3pm on the Tuesday following the match.

Code of Conduct

- 14.3 Clubs, Players, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators (supporters) are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct as per attachment “B” and the Code of Conduct Guidelines and Disciplinary Procedures as per attachment “C” to these By-Laws. Clubs are required to ensure that all Club members receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.

Investigations

Power to Investigate

- 14.4 The power to investigate and procedure to be followed is set out in part 3 of the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT*.
- 14.5 The Football Operations Manager may also investigate or nominate a person to investigate any matter which he considers relevant to whether or not a person may have committed a Reportable Offence or a Code of Conduct Breach.
- 14.6 Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Football Operations Manager in by-law 14.4, he or his nominee may investigate any matter:-
- (i) of his own motion; or
 - (ii) on the basis of video evidence; or
 - (iii) upon the written request of an Authorised Officer of a Club as per by-law 14.11 (Citings); or
 - (iv) upon the written request of either an Authorised Officer of a Club or a non aligned individual as per 14.2 (Code of Conduct): or
 - (v) in accordance with the *National Investigation Guidelines*.

Co-operation

- 14.7 For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this Rule, a person shall upon request by the Football Operations Manager:-
- (a) fully co-operate with the Football Operations Manager;
 - (b) truthfully answer any questions asked by the Football Operations Manager; and
 - (c) provide any document in that person's possession or control requested by the Football Operations Manager.

Failure to Co-operate

- 14.8 A person who fails to observe and comply with Rule 14.6 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner which is in any respect 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 AFL Sydney and shall be liable to either a sanction or referral to the tribunal as determined by the Football Operations Manager in his absolute discretion.

Interpretation

14.9 If the Football Operations Manager is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of a citing, investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the Football Operations Manager will follow the procedure set out in part 3 of the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT* (see especially part 3.2(e)). Should video evidence be available, the Administration Committee can offer the reported person a Prescribed Penalty however if the offence is of serious nature or no video evidence is available the Football Operations Manager will refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against the person and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

Power to Report

14.10 If the Football Operations Manager is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of a citing, investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the Football Operations Manager may report such person. Should video evidence be available, the Administration Committee can offer the reported person a Prescribed Penalty however if the offence is of serious nature or no video evidence is available the Football Operations Manager will refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the independent Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against them and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

Citings by Clubs

14.11 The process for a citing by a Club and the outcome of any such citing is set out in the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines* (see especially Part 3.3(c) – (e)).

14.12 The Administration Committee, in accordance with Part 3.3(e) of the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT*, shall decide whether or not the person should be reported for a Reportable Offence pursuant to by-law 14.9 and the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration under the Tribunal Rules

Note - The spirit of this by-law is to provide a means for the investigation of serious incidents which occur behind the play or which go unnoticed by the umpires.

Tribunal

Appointment and Role of Tribunal

14.13 The Tribunal shall be appointed and have the role set out in the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT* in relation to:

- reports by umpires against Players or officials participating in AFL Sydney competition, pre-season or practice matches;
- such other matters (including citings by Clubs) as may be referred to it by the General Manager or Administration Committee;
- referrals pursuant to by-law 14.9.

Tribunal Hearings

14.14 Hearings held by the Tribunal shall be in accordance with the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT*

15. Representative Football

Participation

- 15.1 AFL Sydney Competition representative teams shall participate in inter-league matches as directed by the Commission from time to time.
- 15.2 The League shall have first call on the services of all players for its representative matches and representative training sessions. In accordance with AFL NSW/ACT Regulations, any player who does not make themselves available or declines selection for such training sessions and matches, without the consent of the Administration Committee, may automatically be suspended for two (2) club competition matches subsequent to the representative match concerned.
- 15.3 Any player who declares themselves unavailable because of injury or illness must be prepared to undergo a medical examination by a doctor of the League's choice.
- 15.4 Any player who fails to attend a scheduled representative training session of which he / she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Administration Committee. If in the opinion of the Administration Committee the player's explanation is unacceptable, such player may be dealt with as that Committee thinks fit.
- 15.5 Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Administration Committee, players selected in a representative team will not be permitted to play with their club on the same weekend of the representative match concerned. Any player who takes part in a match in violation of this by-law shall be liable for further disqualification. The team with which he played may lose any premiership points gained and his club may be fined up to \$250.

Venue Selection

- 15.6 Where the Commission schedules a representative match to be played in Sydney, the Administration Committee shall select a venue taking into consideration the standard of playing surface and facilities, ground hire costs and the ability to charge admission.
- 15.7 The League may allocate catering rights to the host club or any other club, which is prepared to undertake all ground management duties for the fixture. Any gate takings will be used by the League to offset staging costs.

16. Awards

Each season, the Administration Committee shall arrange for the presentation of the following awards.

Club Championship Trophy

- 16.1 A Perpetual trophy shall be awarded to the AFL Sydney Club that perform best across their top three grades. Points will be accrued on the basis of on-field results as follows:

Senior Grade -	Match ratio x 3
Reserve Grade -	Match ratio x 2
Under 19's/Third Grade/Women -	Match ratio
There are no points awarded for byes	

- 16.2 If club has more than three teams, the results of their top three teams based on the following rankings will be used:

- Seniors
- Reserves

- Under 19's Division One
- Under 19's Division Two
- Thirds
- Womens

- 16.3 If a club has more than one team in a competition, that club will be required to nominate which team is to be included in the Club Championship Award prior to the season commencing.
- 16.4 If a club only has two (2) teams in their respective competitions, a 5% weighting will be added to their total.
- 16.5 A club must have a minimum of two (2) teams to be eligible for the Club Championship Award.

Best & Fairest Players (01/02/2015)

- 16.6 A medal will be presented each year to the Best & Fairest player in each grade of competition. The medals shall be known as;

Phelan Medal	Premier Division
Snow Medal	Division One
Sanders Medal	Division Two
MacFarlane Medal	Division Three
Armstrong Medal	Division Four
Apted Medal	Division Five
Mostyn Medal	Women's Premier Division
James Medal	Women's Division One
Kealey Medal	Under 19 Division One
Hart Medal	Under 19 Division Two

- 16.7 The winners of the Best & Fairest medals shall be determined by votes cast by the field umpires on a 3-2-1 basis for the best, second best and third best players in each home and away match. At the conclusion of each match, such votes shall be sealed in an envelope by the field umpires and handed to the Ground Manager.
- 16.8 In the event that two or more players have been awarded the same number of votes at the end of the home and away series, no count back shall be applied and the players concerned will be declared joint winners and each will be awarded a best & fairest medal.
- 16.9 Should a player be found guilty and suspended for one or more competition match by the tribunal or prescribed penalty for an on-field offence arising out of a competition match during the current season for which best & fairest votes are cast by the umpires, he / she shall be ineligible to receive any League best & fairest award. (i.e. if a player is found guilty but only given a reprimand by the tribunal or accepts a reprimand through the prescribed penalty system, he or she is still eligible to receive any League best & fairest award).
- 16.10 Where a player has moved to another club within the same competition within the same season, his votes will be carried over and combined with any votes received at the new club (in the same grade). However where a club has two sides in the same division and a player plays at some stage for both, his votes will not be combined.

Leading Goal kickers

- 16.11 The League shall maintain records of goal-kickers in each grade of competition from the information recorded on the club team lists, which are returned to the League following each match throughout the season. The goal-kicking award for each grade shall be presented to the player who scores the most number of goals during the home and away matches. Goals not recorded on club team lists shall not be added to a players tally if subsequently disclosed.

- 16.12 Where a player has moved to another club with the same competition within the same season, his goals will be carried over and combined with any goals kicked for the new club (in the same grade). However, where a club has two sides in the same division and a player plays at some stage for both, his goals will not be combined.
- 16.13 The trophy awarded to the Leading Goalkicker in the Premier Division Competition shall be known as the "Stan Milton Medal"

Premiership Awards

- 16.14 A Premiership Trophy shall be presented to the winning club in the Grand Final of each grade of competition.
- 16.15 The Premier Club in each grade shall also receive a premiership pennant suitably inscribed and manufactured in their club colours.
- 16.16 A maximum of thirty (30) Premiership medallions shall be presented to the players/officials of the Premiership winning team

Best Player in Grand Final

- 16.17 A Medallion shall be presented to the players adjudged as the best player in the Grand Final of each competition. The field umpires, or a person or person(s) appointed by the Football Operations Manager, will decide the winning player in each respective grade.
- 16.18 The Medallion awarded to the best player in the AFL Sydney Premier Division Grand Final shall be known as the "Rod Podbury Medal".
- 16.19 The Trophy awarded to the best player in the AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division Grand Final shall be known as the "Deborah Rogers Memorial Trophy"

Representative Player of the Year (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 16.20 The AFL Sydney Representative Player of the Year, from either the Men's or Women's competitions, will be awarded at the League's annual award dinner. The winner will be adjudged by the Representative Coaching Panel and will be based upon performance, training and leadership during AFL Sydney representative commitments scheduled in a given season.
- 16.21 The Trophy awarded to the AFL Sydney Representative Player of the Year shall be known as the "Howarth Trophy".

Rising Star Award (Amended 01/02/2016)

- 16.22 The Rising Star Award will be awarded to the AFL Sydney Premier Division player and AFL Sydney Women's player based on the following criteria:
- Must be Under 21 years of age as at 1 January in the year of the award;
 - Must have played no more than ten (10) senior matches in either the AFL Sydney Premier Division or AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division or equivalent league prior to the season in question;
 - Must play a minimum of six (6) senior matches in AFL Sydney Premier Division during the year for Men's and a minimum of five (5) senior matches for Women's
- 16.23 Eligible players can be nominated by their club, with a weekly winner to be announced. All weekly winners are then eligible to win the award.
- 16.24 The AFL Sydney Premier Division & Women's Coaches (who cannot vote for players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Administration Committee will vote on

5-4-3-2-1 basis from the list of weekly award winners. The nominee who receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

Team of the Year (Amended 01/02/2014)

16.25 Each year the AFL Sydney Premier Division & Women's Premier Division Coaches (who cannot select players from their own club) and other person(s) as appointed by the Football Operations Manager will select the following to be adjudged as members of the "AFL Sydney Team of the Year" and "AFL Sydney Women's Team of the Year"

- Twenty Two (22) players for the men's team, (eighteen (18) on field players plus four (4) interchange), Twenty Four (24) players for the women's team (six (6) interchange)
- Captain
- Coach
- Umpire (men's only)

16.26 To be eligible players must have played at least 50% of the scheduled home and away matches in either the AFL Sydney Premier Division or Women's Premier Division competitions. Women's Division One players involved in the AFL Sydney Representative program may also be considered for the women's team with input from the representative coaching staff

Awards Dinners (Amended 01/02/2014)

16.27 Premier Division clubs are required to fill a minimum of two tables at the League's annual awards night – the Phelan and Mostyn Medal Presentations. Other men's clubs and all women's teams are required to fill at least one table each.

17. Administration and Finance

Administration Committee

17.1 The Administration Committee shall control the day-to-day operation of the AFL Sydney competition.

Club Meetings

17.2 The AFL Sydney clubs may hold meetings from time to time as decided by the Administration Committee.

Attendance at Meetings

17.3 Each club is required to have at least one representative in attendance at League meetings for which notice has been properly given.

Fees

17.4 The Administration Committee shall prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items.

17.5 AFL Sydney clubs shall be levied an annual Licence fee, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective competitions.

17.6 Licence fees and other relevant charges will be levied on a seasonal basis and invoiced monthly to clubs commencing in February of each year, with the final monthly invoice to be issued in July of each year.

Fines

- 17.7 Where a club, player, official or umpire has been fined by the Administration Committee or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within 14 days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the Administration Committee.

Where a fine has not been paid, within three (3) months of the invoice date, the player's or official's club or in the case of an umpire, the Umpires Association, shall be responsible to pay the fine to the League.

Outstanding Accounts

- 17.8 If any club is financially in arrears to AFL Sydney from the preceding year as at the Friday before their first scheduled home and away match of the new season they will be ineligible to receive premiership points or win percentage points (if match ratio is used) for matches played in any grade. Clubs will become eligible to compete as per the by-laws once they have paid all debts that are dated in the preceding year.

For the purposes of this By-Law, Clubs which are under a financial management scheme of arrangements with the league as per by-law 17.9 and are up to date with all payments under that scheme shall be considered financial.

- 17.9 Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Administration Committee may in its discretion, place a club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

Dishonoured Cheques

- 17.10 Any club, which pays an account to the League by an instrument, which is not honoured by its bank or other institution upon presentation, shall automatically be fined \$50 on each occasion.

Club Finances

- 17.11 Each member club shall be required to furnish to the League by 30th November each year an **Audited Financial Statement** of its operations for that season.
- 17.12 Each member club shall provide the League with a **Club Budget** for the ensuing year by the 31st January each year.

Insurance

- 17.13 Each member club is covered by the League's compulsory insurance cover with JLT Sport under the AFL's National Risk Program. All registered players and officials of a member club will have minimum cover for public and products liability, association liability, personal accident, non-Medicare medical and Asset Protection. Each Club has the option of taking up higher levels of cover directly with JLT Sport.

Specific details of coverage shall be provided to clubs each year and can also be viewed at www.jltsport.com.au/afl.

Late Nomination of Teams (Added 01/02/2014)

- 17.14 The acceptance of any late team nominations will be at the discretion of the Administration Committee and will be subject to the competition structures and will also incur a Late Entry Fee of \$500

Withdrawal of Teams (Added 01/02/2014)

17.15 Should a club withdraw a nominated team from a competition where they have been already accepted, the following financial penalties will apply to the club at the discretion of the Administration Committee:

- a) If prior to the commencement of the season, a maximum fine of \$1000,
- b) If after the commencement of the season, a maximum of \$1500.

18. General

League Colours

18.1 The official colours of the AFL Sydney shall be royal blue, gold and red. The design of League's representative jumpers shall be the responsibility of the Administration Committee.

Interpretation of the By-Laws

18.2 Where agreement is unable to be reached involving a question of interpretation of these by-laws, the opinion of the Administration Committee shall be taken and acted upon and its decision shall be final.

Matters not provided for

18.3 In the event of any question arising which is not provided for in these by-laws, the opinion of the Administration Committee shall be taken and acted upon and its decision shall be final.

Suspension of By-Laws

18.4 On the recommendation of the Administration Committee, the Commission may where necessary, suspend any by-law from operation. Any such suspension shall be advised to member clubs in writing and shall remain in force until the Commission decides otherwise.

Amendments to By-Laws

18.5 These by-laws may be amended by the Commission on the recommendation of the Administration Committee in consultation with the clubs.

Review of Decision made by the Football Operations Manager

18.6 Any Player, official, umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision made by the Football Operations Manager involving these by-laws may request the decision be reviewed by the Administration Committee.

18.7 Such a request for review must be lodged in writing together with a \$300 deposit (of which \$150 is non refundable) and must detail the grounds of appeal and include any information which may assist in its consideration.

18.8 The Administration Committee shall, within 7 days of receipt of such request for review, consider whether the review is justified and if so arrange to review the decision within 14 days of its submission. The remaining \$150 appeal deposit shall be forfeited should the Administration Committee consider the appeal to be frivolous.

Appeal of Decision made by Administration Committee

- 18.9 Any Player, official, umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision made by the Administration Committee involving these by-laws may appeal to the AFL NSW/ACT Appeals Board.
- 18.10 Such appeal must be lodged in accordance with Section 4 of the *National Match Tribunal Guidelines – NSW/ACT*.

Club Electronic Communication

- 18.11 Any AFL Sydney Club that operates or having operated on its behalf any form of Electronic Communication (i.e. E-mail, Messaging, Website, Twitter, Facebook, You Tube etc) representing the Club and its activities agrees that it is prohibited from publishing, displaying or otherwise disseminating on this form of Communication any content, information, images or other form of communication that is deemed by the Commission or the Administration Committee to be inappropriate, offensive or damaging to the reputation of the Club, AFL Sydney, AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd or the AFL ("Offending Material"). This includes providing links to other forms of Electronic Communication that may contain Offending Material.
- 18.12 Any Club found to be in breach of this by-law, must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach by the Commission or Administration Committee remove the Offending Material, confirm to the Commission that it has done so and shall be liable to a sanction as is deemed appropriate by the Administration Committee or the Commission in its absolute discretion.

Failure to Adhere to By Laws

- 18.13 Breach of any of the By-Laws will be penalised, unless already specified, via the Club of the Year Program or as otherwise decided by the Administration Committee.

THE AFL SYDNEY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

AFL Sydney (**League**) is committed to fostering and maintaining a sporting environment which promotes understanding, accepts the unique differences of all persons affiliated with or interested in Australian Football, and recognises the need to prohibit certain discriminatory or vilifying conduct. To this end, AFL Sydney has regard to the overarching AFL Vilification Policy, as well as other applicable AFL NSW/ACT Policies including the AFL Member Protection Policy, in setting forth this document which establishes the means of redress for players and officials aggrieved by what they reasonably consider to be vilification or discrimination based on their individuality.

1 Application & Scope of Policy

- 1.1. The League is bound by applicable provisions of State-based legislation as well as the:
- a) *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth);
 - b) *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth);
 - c) *Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986* (Cth); and
 - d) *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) (**Legislation**).
- 1.2. This Policy is consistent with the Australian Football League's Vilification Policy and is not in substitution of the Legislation.
- 1.3 The League will ensure that this Policy is communicated to Participants of the League. It will, also use its best endeavours to ensure that Participants of the League receive vilification and discrimination training as well as promote a safe and inclusive match day environment.
- 1.4 Nothing in this Policy prevents a person lodging a Complaint in relation to vilification or discrimination under the Legislation. In the event a Complaint is made under this Policy the League shall ensure that the parties are informed of their rights and that best endeavours are made to maintain the confidentiality of the Complaints Process unless a properly constituted Tribunal directs otherwise.
- 1.5 This Policy applies to all Clubs that are affiliated with the League.

2 Definitions

In this Policy-

"Complaint" means an allegation, contention or assertion made by a Participant or Participants in relation to the conduct of another Participant or Participants which the first Participant or Participants claim is Prohibited Conduct. Complaints will be either an Intra-Club Complaint or an Inter-Club Complaint.

"Complaints Process" means the procedure outlined in sections 3 to 10 of this Policy.

"Conciliation" means a method of alternative dispute resolution to which a third party (the "conciliator") attempts to facilitate an agreed resolution of the dispute through active input and advice to Participants about the best way to resolve the Complaint.

"Club" means any football Club that is an affiliate of the League.

"Club Complaints Officer" means a person appointed by the Club to oversee this Vilification & Discrimination Policy, the education of Participants, and to liaise with all persons relevant to the Complaints Process to the extent that it involves a Complaint made in respect of a Participant of the Club, and to act in accordance with section 5.2 and 5.3.

"Club Official" includes committee members, coaches, coaching staff, trainers, runners, persons involved in the every-day administration of the Club and any person who may reasonably be perceived to hold an official Club position.

"Engage in Conduct" is defined with reference to the ordinary meaning ascribed to the phrase but also expressly includes use of the internet, Social Media or email to publish or transmit statements or other material.

"League Complaints Officer/s" means either the League CEO, League President, League General Manager or such other person as thought fit and proper to hold the position, having regard to the obligations as set out in section 5 and in the Complaints Process.

"Informal Resolution" means an informal arrangement, understanding or agreement that, in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s or the Club Complaints Officer, has been reached in relation to either an Inter-Club Complaint or an Intra-Club Complaint between the Participant or Participants alleged to have engaged in the Prohibited Conduct and the Participant or Participants alleged to have been the subject of the Prohibited Conduct. Such informal arrangements or agreements may involve an oral apology or a retraction.

"Inter-Club Complaint" means a Complaint by a Participant or Participants from one Club involving an allegation of Prohibited Conduct directed at a Participant or Participants from a second Club.

"Intra-Club Complaint" means a Complaint by a Participant or Participants from one Club involving an allegation of Prohibited Conduct directed at a Participant or Participants from within the same Club.

"Investigation Officer" means an independent person selected by the League in accordance with section 8 of this Policy to investigate a complaint and to provide a recommendation to the League Complaints Officer/s.

"League" means AFL Sydney

"Participate" means to engage in any activity or behaviour which is either directly or indirectly related or reasonably incidental to Australian Football as that term is understood under the Laws of Australian Football.

"Participant" includes a player, spectator, umpire, employee, volunteer to and agent of a Football Club that Participates in the League.

"Prohibited Conduct" means the conduct outlined in section 3 of this Policy.

"Social Media" has the meaning ascribed to it by AFL NSW/ACT, or otherwise refers to what may reasonably be perceived to involve communication involving novel digital formats and platforms including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, instant-messenger and derivations of email.

3 Prohibited Conduct

3.1 Vilification & Discrimination

No League Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the ground of their:

- race;
- religion;
- gender;
- colour;
- sexual preference, orientation or identity; or
- special ability or disability.

4 Appointment of League Complaints Officer/s & Club Complaints Officer

- 4.1 The League shall appoint a League Complaints Officer/s to ensure that any breach of this Policy is responded to in an equitable and prompt manner in accordance with this Policy.
- 4.2 The League shall ensure that all Clubs have a Club Complaints Officer to whom all vilification and discrimination Complaints are directed.
- 4.3 The League Complaints Officer/s is responsible for liaising between Club Complaints Officers, in the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, or with a single Club Complaints Officer, in the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, in an attempt to achieve Informal Resolution of the Complaint.
- 4.4 The Club Complaints Officer and the League Complaints Officer/s shall liaise directly over incidents which in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer or League Complaints Officer/s are contrary to Section 3.

5 Preliminary Resolution Process

- 5.1 In the event that it is alleged that a person subject to section 3.1 has engaged in Prohibited Conduct, a Participant may by 5.00pm on the first working day following the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred, lodge a Complaint with the Club Complaints Officer.
- 5.2 In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer where the Complaint was made shall by 5.00pm on the next working day following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club, lodge the Complaint with the League's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaint's Officer. In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the League Complaints Officer/s shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the League Complaint Officer/s to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution.
- 5.3 In the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution. If an Informal Resolution is not achieved or it is reasonably believed that the Complaint is incapable of an Informal Resolution, the Club Complaints Officer shall as soon as is reasonably practicable lodge the Complaint with the League's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaint's Officer.

- 5.4 In circumstances where in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s a Complaint cannot be resolved by way of Informal Resolution, the League Complaints Officer/s shall proceed to Conciliation in accordance with section 7 below.

6 Confidentiality and Records

- 6.1 Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the Complaints Process. All parties to a Complaint, the League's Complaints Officer, the Club Complaints Officer, any witnesses and the conciliator must all agree to the maintenance of confidentiality. No person involved in the Complaints Process shall publicly comment on any aspect of the Complaints Process without the prior written agreement of all parties.

6.2 The League shall ensure that any documents relating to a Complaint shall remain confidential and be retained for 7 years from the date that the Complaint is made.

7 Conciliation Process

- 7.1 The League Complaints Officer/s shall make every effort to ensure that:

7.1(a)(i) confidentiality is maintained at all times during the Complaints Process and that the outcome of the Complaints Process remains confidential;

7.1(a)(ii) any breach of confidentiality is referred to the League Tribunal no later than 5pm on the next working day following the day that the breach is discovered, with the Tribunal to be convened within 7 days from the day on which the referral is made;

7.1(b) the person alleged to have contravened the Policy is informed of the Complaint, the Complaint Process and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the Complaint;

7.1(c) the President or CEO of the League or his or her Nominee is informed that a Complaint has been received by the League Complaints Officer/s;

7.1(d) statements are obtained from any witnesses identified by the parties to the Complaint;

7.1(e) where available, obtain any other relevant evidence;

7.1(f) any witness statements or any other evidence obtained in the course of conciliating a Complaint is made available to both parties, with an opportunity to comment, as part of the Conciliation process;

7.1(g) a conciliator is appointed to conciliate the Complaint; and

7.1(h) all steps necessary for the Complaint to be conciliated are taken within 10 working days from the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred.

- 7.2 Participants subject to Conciliation who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied at the Conciliation by a Club Official over 18 years of age.

8 Investigation

- 8.1 In circumstances where a Complaint is not resolved in accordance with section 7 above, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the matter to an Investigation Officer to investigate aspects of the allegation or circumstances surrounding the Complaint which, in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, require further investigation to resolve the Complaint.

8.2 The Investigation Officer shall report to the League Complaints Officer/s on any information or evidence obtained in accordance with 8.1. Any information or evidence obtained by the Investigation Officer and provided to the League Complaints Officer/s shall be provided to all parties to the Complaint as part of the Complaint Process.

9 Tribunal Referrals, Process & Appeal

9.1 Following an investigation under section 8, if any, or following a failed Conciliation under section 7, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the Complaint to a League Tribunal for determination. The League Complaints Officer/s shall take all steps necessary to make a decision about the referral of the Complaint to the League Tribunal as soon as is reasonably practicable.

9.2 The League Tribunal will be constituted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the League and the League shall determine who is responsible for prosecuting the Complaint at the Tribunal.

9.3 Where the referral to the League Tribunal is made pursuant to this section 9.1 of this Policy, the Tribunal will hear the Complaint within 5 working days of the Complaint referral being made.

9.4 The League Tribunal has the power to order any reasonable penalties or directions for breaches of this Policy as are allowable under the rules and regulations of the League in force at the time of the hearing.

9.5 Where a party to a Complaint is unsatisfied with the decision made by the League Tribunal, they may ask the Club's Officer to request that the League establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision in accordance with the League's appeal regulations.

10 Club Liability

10.1 If found to have contravened this Policy a Club may be vicariously liable for Prohibited Conduct engaged in by a Participant connected to the Club if the Club is unable to establish that it took reasonable precautions to prevent the Participant from engaging in that Prohibited Conduct.

11 Monitoring and Review of the Policy

11.1 The Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the League's Committee.

12 Policy Commencement

12.1 This Policy will take effect as of 9 November 2012.

Attachment “B”

1.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, officials and spectators are bound:

- (A) To take all reasonable steps to prevent the game from being brought into disrepute.
- (B) Not to engage in any Doping Practice as defined by the AFL’s Anti Doping Code (refer to AFL Anti Doping Code).
- (C) Not to do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another player on the ground of the religion, sexual orientation, disability, race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the person (refer to Vilification and Discrimination Policy).

2.0 PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

A player must:

- (A) Play by the rules – the rules of your Club and the laws of the game.
- (B) Attend training sessions and matches at times advised by the Club. If unable, for a valid reason to do so, players will inform the Club as soon, as is practical.
- (C) Act respectfully toward the officials and players of their own and opposing Clubs.
- (D) Respect and follow the directions of coaching staff, match and club officials.
- (E) Treat all players with respect, as you would want them to treat you.
- (F) Act respectfully towards match officials at all times. Abusive language is unacceptable.
- (G) Avoid individual or collective behaviour, which may reasonably be held by spectators to be offensive.
- (H) Avoid all acts likely to incite spectators to violence or disorder.
- (I) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club or the League. Abide by the By-Laws, (Rules & Regulations) and the Competition Rules of the League.
- (J) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs.
- (K) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- (L) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

3.0 PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- (B) Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- (C) Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- (D) Never ridicule mistakes or losses Supporters are there to support not downgrade.
- (E) Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires, administrators and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- (F) Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- (G) Never publicly criticise umpires, rather raise personal concerns with club officials in private
- (H) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- (I) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs.
- (J) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (K) Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- (L) Abusive language is unacceptable.
- (M) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

4.0 COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- (B) Teach fair play and good sportsmanship
- (C) Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- (D) Be reasonable in demands, setting goals and expectations at an attainable level.
- (E) Maintain a current knowledge of the rules of the game.
- (F) Teach and interpret the laws of the game to the players.
- (G) Never ridicule players.
- (H) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.

- (I) Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.
- (J) Ensure that all players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
- (K) Ensure that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention and that doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
- (L) Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of my players.
- (M) Display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practice fair play.
- (N) Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.
- (O) Abide by the By-Laws, (Rules & Regulations) and the Competition Rules of the League.
- (P) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (Q) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs
- (R) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club or to the League.
- (S) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

5.0 ADMINISTRATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- (B) Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport not just as players but also as coaches, umpires and administrators.
- (C) Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- (D) Establish that qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and specific skill technique provide adequate supervision.
- (E) Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- (F) Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the rules.
- (G) Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- (H) Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.

- (I) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- (J) Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club or the League.
- (K) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (L) Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- (M) Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- (N) Ensure all parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, medical staff and players, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- (O) Abide by the By-Laws, (Rules & Regulations) and the Competition Rules of the League.
- (P) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

6.0 OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (A) Display fairness and uniformity in applying the rules.
- (B) Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- (C) Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- (D) Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- (E) The health and safety of the players must be the most important reason to be weighed in during the decision making process.
- (F) Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the rules.
- (G) Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- (H) Ensure you remain up to date with any rule changes and/or interpretation of rules as laid down by the AFL
- (I) Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
- (J) Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- (K) Do not use information technology to make or post inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the League which is discriminatory or offensive. Information technology includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs).

Attachment "C"

Code of Conduct Guidelines and Disciplinary Procedures

The AFL Sydney Code of Conduct ("Code of Conduct") is in place to assist in ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all players, officials and supporters in particular it relates to their conduct and behaviour. Clubs are required to ensure that all members receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.

1. Guidelines *(Amended 11/11/2008)*

- 1.1 The Code of Conduct shall not conflict in any way with the rules governing "Reportable Offences" (19.2 of Laws of Australian Football), "AFL Sydney Order-Off Rule (By-Law 12)" or "Citations (By-Law 14.6 – 14.10)". On-field offences shall be solely governed as such. A charge made for a reportable offence will take priority over a reported breach of the Code of Conduct (in the same incident). As such, an individual may not be penalised under the Tribunal/Prescribed Penalty system and the Code of Conduct, it must be one system or the other.
- 1.2 Any player, official or supporter bringing a club into disrepute, irrespective of the cause, shall be entitled to one warning for what would be considered a 'Level 1' breach. Further such indiscretions or a more serious violation that warrants a stronger response or remedy commensurate with the seriousness of the breach of the Code of Conduct shall be dealt with in the following manner:

A 'complaint' may be made by:

 - 1.2.1 An authorised club official on behalf of the club and any of its members
 - 1.2.2 The Administration Committee directly
 - 1.2.3 Officiating umpires (on Umpire Match Report Form)

All complaints must be lodged in writing using the "Incident Referral Form"
- 1.3 All complaints shall be referred to the Administration Committee. Complaints directly to the League will be accepted within three business days of an alleged indiscretion.
- 1.4 Any breach reported will be initially assessed by the Administration Committee. Where the Administration Committee is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Code of Conduct breach, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the Administration Committee may impose a Level 1 breach; OR refer the matter to the Conduct Committee for hearing and determination. The Administration Committee may also dismiss a complaint or dismiss a complaint and determine it to be frivolous.
- 1.5 Should the Administration Committee or Conduct Committee determine a complaint made by a club or club official to be frivolous, a fee of \$150 will be imposed upon that club.
- 1.6 Individuals and Clubs will be notified via their Club President in writing of any case to answer and the time and date of a convened hearing. Those requested to attend a convened hearing into the matter are compelled to attend or have a representative attend in their place.

1.7 The following is indicative of the form of response that may occur:

Breach	Description	Remedy	Referred
Level 1	Minor Indiscretion	Individuals name recorded; counselling, mediation or apology if appropriate; official warning	Usually Not
Level 2	More serious infraction or repetition (within 3 years)	Suspended sentence or loss of membership rights; possibly the assigning of the individual to a mentor program by the League; counselling, mediation or apology as necessary; suspended fine for club	Yes
Level 3	Serious Infraction or 'third strike' (third Level 1 or second Level 2 within 3 years)	Any of the above; OR potential suspension or removal of membership rights of an individual; fines and/or loss of competition points to a club/team	Yes

1.8 Indiscretions may be accounted for partly by an individual and partly by the club in which they are related to. As such penalties may potentially be apportioned to either an individual or club or shared. Clubs may be held partially responsible for the conduct of members and non-member supporters.

Promoting the Code of Conduct

1.9 All members must be given a copy of the Code of Conduct.

- All players must be given a copy and sign (via registration form)
- All coaches must be given a copy and sign (re-registration required each year)
- All officials must be given a copy and sign the block 'Club Officials Code of Conduct Form' each year. Form should be submitted before Round 1. Those who cite and sign the form are to include committee, runners, team managers, match day officials and any other recognised support persons.
- A copy must be available on each Club's website
- A copy must be in a prominent position in the following locations: on canteen wall, in front of canteen; in the home and visitors change rooms; and at entrances to public toilets.
- The League will provide clubs with an initial supply of A4 signs and a large corf lute sign to be displayed outside a club's canteen.

Code of Conduct Sign-Off

1.10 Players, officials and parents of Under 18 players are expected to sign off on the following key statements regarding behaviour and expectations involved supporting the Code of Conduct via their registration form or the 'Club Officials Code of Conduct Form':

Player

- I hereby agree that I am bound by the rules, by-laws and policies of the club, the league and the AFL NSW/ACT Commission as amended from time to time
- I acknowledge that my failure to adhere to these rules may result in deregistration
- I declare that this information is true and correct.
- I have received and understand my responsibilities under the League's Code of Conduct.

Parents/Caregivers

- I hereby consent to the registration of my child with this League.
- I acknowledge that I have been provided with and understand the Code of Conduct of this League. I hereby agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey the Code of Conduct and all rulings made by the League that relate to me. I understand that the League may withdraw or suspend my child's registration to play in this League shall I fail to comply with the Code of Conduct and/or any rulings of the League shall I breach these Codes.

Coaches

- I hereby agree that I am bound by the rules, by-laws and policies of the club, the league and the AFL NSW/ACT Commission as amended from time to time.
- I acknowledge that my failure to adhere to these rules may result in deregistration.
- I declare that the information is true and correct.
- I have received and understand my responsibilities under the League's Code of Conduct.

Club Officials

- By signing this form I acknowledge that I have received and understand my obligations under the AFL Sydney Code of Conduct as an official of an affiliated club. I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and by-laws that govern this competition.

Ground Manager Responsibilities

- 1.11 In maintaining the League's Code of Conduct, the Ground Manager's shall:
- a) Liaise with club officials as requested (from either the home or visiting club) to help identify and find details for the alleged offender(s), those affected and any witnesses.
 - b) Where an incident appears to represent a minor breach, the Ground Manager may issue a warning to any person that they may be close to breaching the Code of Conduct.
 - c) Where a formal complaint is warranted, the Ground Manager shall advise the affected club to submit a formal complaint to the Administration Committee and follow the guidelines as described in paragraph 1.2 of the Code of Conduct Guidelines.
 - d) They shall ensure that appropriate signage (provided by the League) is maintained and clearly visible at the venue's canteen and in each change-room.
- 1.12 The Ground Manager should also assist the Umpires upon request to:
- a) Identify and obtain the details of any supporter, member or non-member spectator that they believe to be an offender or witness to a breach.
 - b) Identify and obtain the details of any club official or member that they believe to have been involved in a reportable offence where the umpire has not been able to ascertain the individual's identity.
- 1.13 Club Officials must co-operate in assisting the Ground Manager upon request to identify and obtain details for any member or supporter belonging to their club. Where it is believed that a Club Official has not co-operated appropriately, it will be considered a Level 2 breach.

2. Conduct Committee

- 2.1 The Conduct Committee is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the Administration Committee may from time to time refer.
- 2.2 The Administration Committee shall appoint the Conduct Committee, of not less than three members which may consist of a combination of the following: a representative from the independent Tribunal Panel, a representative from the Administration Committee or its nominee(s) and/or an independent AFL Sydney Club President.
- 2.3 The Conduct Committee will meet on the first Wednesday evening after all relevant parties can be notified of the hearing date and time and any formal investigations completed.

3. Scope and Powers of the Conduct Committee

- 3.1 The Conduct Committee will operate under the same processes and rules as the Tribunal (as per Attachment 'E' and section 14.11 – 14.16 of the AFL Sydney By-laws).
 - 3.2 Decisions may be appealed under the same processes and rules of the Tribunal (as per 18.7 of the AFL Sydney By-laws).
 - 3.3 The tribunal representative will chair all Conduct Committee hearings and ensure tribunal procedures are followed.
 - 3.4 The Conduct Committee has the power to dismiss or change the grading of a breach, as well as postpone a hearing as they deem necessary in relation to the evidence produced.
 - 3.5 Penalty options at the disposal of the Conduct Committee may include:
 - Appoint a mentor to an individual for a time nominated by the Conduct Committee and/or undergo some form of remedial counselling.
 - Impose that the individual must participate in a remedial program (e.g. Club Umpiring for a period of time determined by the Conduct Committee).
 - Ask for an apology to be given.
 - Enforce a process of mediation between aggrieved parties with particular outcomes to be achieved.
 - Revoke a player or coach's registration to play/coach for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee.
 - Revoke a child's/associated player's position to play for a period of time as determined by the Conduct Committee in the case of a parent/spectator.
 - Ban an individual from admission to any recognised AFL Sydney event and venue.
 - Ban an individual from holding any post as an official, administrator or committee person in the AFL Sydney.
 - Deduct Club of the Year Award points for the season in which the indiscretion has taken place.
 - Impose a fine on a club (may be up to but not exceeding \$3000).
 - Impose the loss of 'competition points' upon a team/club.
 - Impose a suspended penalty of any of the above.
- Per By-Law 2.22: A third violation/breach of the League's Code of Conduct within three years in any capacity as player, coach, official and/or spectator will bring about an automatic revocation of the player's permit to play and/or coach's permit to coach for a time to be determined by the Conduct Committee.
- 3.6 Penalties may be imposed in any combination of the above guidelines.
 - 3.7 Failure to comply with any penalty handed down by the Conduct Committee may result in a greater penalty being determined for the individual/club.

Attachment “D” LIGHTNING GUIDELINES

1. Introduction

AS1768-2007 Lightning Protection Standard was published on 10 January 2007.

Section 1.2 states that “Compliance with the recommendations contained in this Standard will not necessarily prevent damage or personal injury due to lightning, but will reduce the probability of such damage or injury occurring”.

3.3.1 Under Precautions and Personal Safety notes “In the absence of specific information from weather radar, a lightning location system, or a specialized warning device” then “the 30/30 safety guideline should be used.”

2. Procedures

When lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to an AFL match the following procedures are applicable:

(a) Access to Bureau of Meteorology

(i) Lead Up Prior to Match Day

The proactive plan should commence in the days before the activity, where weather forecasts provide important warning of possible thunderstorm activity.

- The league will monitor weather forecasts commencing Tuesday prior to schedule matches using the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website. Note should be taken off any warnings posted.
- The league will continue to monitor the BOM site in the days leading up to the match.
- On the day prior to match if any threat of lightning is predicted the Football Operations Co-ordinator will contact the Duty Forecaster of the BOM in the relevant state of venue and request a verbal update. BOM contacts are distributed to all clubs prior to the start of the Season.

(i) Match Day

Increased awareness of lightning risk should continue on the match day until the activity has finished.

- If the threat continues into game day the Football Operations Co-ordinator should contact or meet the Ground Manager to discuss the situation.
- They should check the BOM website then contact the Duty Forecaster at the relevant BOM to determine the situation.
- The competing club representatives should be contacted in order to explain the situation to them.
- Regular updates must be sought from the BOM in the period leading up to the match commencement time, involving the Ground Manager, competing Clubs and an umpire.
- Teams and officials should proceed to the venue unless otherwise directed.
- If lightning is predicted within no less than 10km of the match venue at the scheduled starting time the game commencement time may be delayed by up to 60 minutes.

- This decision to delay or suspend play as well as resume play will be based on information obtained from the BOM. The Football Operations Manager must be contacted to discuss, Ground Manager, Club representatives and an Umpire will be involved.

(iii) Training (Club Responsibility)

- A club official should monitor forecasts and particularly warnings, through the Bureau of Meteorology, in the lead up to outdoor training sessions.
- If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant coaching, rehabilitation and training staff and provide updates on a regular basis.
- A decision to delay, suspend or resume training should be made in consultation with relevant coaching and administration staff.
- If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car.
- They must not shelter under or near trees.
- Once the storm's path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30minutes elapsed before returning to training.

No Access to Bureau of Meteorology

The most basic level of warning involves observation of the weather in the local area.

(i) 30 / 30 Rule

The **"30/30" rule** serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activities. The overall principle is to seek shelter when the lightning activity is too close.

The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm system is travelling.

A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard. G: