



COMPETITION BY-LAWS 2014

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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 Community Football Manager, the Football Operations 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).

“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 the Commission 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 Football Operations Manager of the Commission

“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 & 2 competitions

“Reportable Offence” means a Reportable Offence within the meaning of the Laws of the Game, 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 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 01/02/2014)

- 2.9 The Coach of each team must be registered with the League by completing a Coach's Registration Form which must be lodged with the League no later than 12 midday on the Friday before the first match in which he or she officiates. The club must receive advice that the application is approved prior to such match. 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

- 2.10 Any player not registered, or any player registered with incorrect information on the registration form shall be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any club playing an ineligible player shall lose all match points and be fined up to \$100 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 first 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.

Club Pathway Policy

- 2.20 Any player who is eligible to play in an Under Age competition will be subject to the AFL Sydney Club Pathway Policy. Refer Attachment "G".

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 and AFL South Coast have formally adopted an Interchange Agreement 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

- 3.6 The commencement date for the lodgement of Transfer applications accompanying new Sydney player registrations will be 1st February each year.

The closing date for the lodgement of Transfer applications accompanying new Sydney player registrations will be 30th June each year.

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.
 - A player is a "Listed" player in accordance with the AFL Sydney Under 19's Club Pathway Policy (Under 19's only)
- 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.

State League Player Trial Permit

- 4.5 A player registered with a Community League Club may obtain a permit to trial with a State League Club under the following conditions:
- The permit of all players under this By-Law must be approved by the Administration Committee and the NEAFL Manager, and the players Community Club.
 - A player is only permitted to play with one club on any weekend or round
 - A player may only be granted a permit to one (1) State League Club per season
 - A player is eligible to trial in up to six (6) State League games per season with the one (1) State League Club.
 - A Community League Club can only permit one (1) player to each State League Club on any given weekend or round

- For each trial game a player's weekly match payments and/or contract with their current club must be honoured by the State League Club
- Games played on permit shall count towards finals eligibility for both the State League and Community Club.

The spirit of this rule is to allow aspiring Community League player(s) the opportunity to trial with a State League Club.

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 Division One | twenty (20) minutes (no time on) |
| • Women's Division Two | 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:

- 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.

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

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 10am 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 for the higher Division 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 (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 (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 "I") 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.

- 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 2, 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 ten (10) 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 ten (10) 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 01/022014)

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 Division One	eighteen (18) minutes plus time on
• Women's Division Two	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.

Player Eligibility (Amended 01/02/2014) (Amended 20/06/2014)

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 1-4**
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 5**
A player must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season for his club team in which he is selected to play in the finals.
- **Women's Divisions 1**
A player must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away in the current season for her club.
- **Women's Divisions 2**
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 and 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

Player Eligibility – General (Amended 01/02/2014) (Amended 17/07/2014)

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 6.11, 6.12 and 6.13 any player who has played in a total of nine or more (seven or more for the Women's competitions and ten or more for the Under 19's competitions) home and away matches in a higher division(s) shall not be eligible to play final matches in a lower division or under age competition. The exception under this By-law is:

- i) Where a club has both their highest senior and Under 19's team playing in finals on the same weekend, an under age player may play for the Under 19 team even if he has played 10 or more games of senior football. The only requirement is that the under age player has also played a minimum of five (5) Under 19's games 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, a player must have played six (6) home and away matches with his or her club (five (5) under age home and away matches and be under the age limit in the case of under age finals) to be eligible to play in any of those finals.
- 6.11 Where a club has multiple senior football teams playing in finals on the same weekend, and where these teams are consecutively ranked (based on league competition structure), the only restriction under this By-Law is that -
- Clubs may play players one grade lower (based on league competition structure) than the lowest division for which they are eligible on a stand alone basis in terms of By-Laws 6.7 and 6.10
- 6.12 Where a club has a Lower Division team playing in a Grand Final while the club's higher grade team has already won through to a Premier Division, Division One or Women's Division One Grand Final (i.e. higher grade team won the 2nd Semi-Final and is not required to play in the Preliminary Final on the same weekend as the Lower Division Grand Finals), a player may be exempt from By-law 6.9 subject to approval by the Administration Committee however the following restriction will apply:
- Subject to approval by the Administration Committee, the player will be ineligible to play in the higher grade Grand Final the following week.

The spirit of this By-law is to allow a player who will not be selected in the higher grade Grand Final the following week the opportunity to play in a Lower Division Grand Final (had the higher grade team been playing in the Preliminary Final then the player would be eligible to play in the Lower Division Grand Final so the club should not be penalised for winning a 2nd Semi-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 serious injury; or under other exceptional circumstances.
- 6.14 Players who have played for two clubs under a Memorandum of Understanding are only permitted to play for the club in which they have played the most Home & Away games during the season, subject to By-Law 6.7
- 6.15 A player who, has missed six or more consecutive games through injury will upon provision of supporting medical documentation, be permitted to play in a lower grade of finals for his / her club despite not having qualified for that grade. All applications for such consent to play must be approved by the Administration Committee.
- 6.16 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, GWS Giants 'Top Up' and NSW/ACT Rams players (Added 01/02/2014) (Amended 16/07/2014)

- 6.17 No finals eligibility criteria will apply to the 'player' on the weekends when GWS Giants or Sydney Swans NEAFL side are participating in a finals/home & away match.
- 6.18 Should GWS Giants or Sydney Swans NEAFL sides (and the NSW/ACT Rams side) not be playing then the 'player' would need to have played a minimum of 3 (three) matches with their AFL Sydney club to be eligible to play in AFL Sydney Finals.
- 6.19 Under this By-Law the 'player' is only permitted to play in AFL Sydney Premier Division or Under 19 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 2014 are as follows.

	Premier Division Finals	Lower Division Finals
2014	UNSW/ES	Camden
2015	Sydney University	Macquarie University
2016	Western Suburbs	Penrith
2017	North Shore	Randwick City
2018	St George	Balmain
2019	Pennant Hills	Holroyd Parramatta
2020	UTS	Nor West
2021	Campbelltown	Gosford
2022	Manly Warringah	Blacktown
2023	Sydney Hills Eagles	Illawarra
2024		Southern Power
2025		Moorebank
2026		Wollondilly

- 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.

- 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 2014 are as follows:

	Premier Division Finals	Lower Division Finals
2014	North Shore	Penrith
2015	UTS	Holroyd Parramatta
2016	St George	Balmain
2017	Pennant Hills	Nor West
2018	Campbelltown	Randwick City
2019	Sydney Hills Eagles	Illawarra
2020	UNSW/ES	Gosford
2021	Manly Warringah	Blacktown
2022	Sydney University	Southern Power
2023	Western Suburbs	Moorebank
2024		Camden
2025		Macquarie University
2026		Wollondilly

- 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 2014 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

there will be eighteen (18) on field plus six (6) 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.

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

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 eight (8) 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.

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 returned to the League Office with the matchday paperwork.

- 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.

Player Eligibility (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 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 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). For the purposes of clarity, Under 19 competitions are exempt from this By-law.
- 7.15 During the home and away season Under 19's players are permitted only to play in one Under 19 match each weekend.
- 7.16 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.
- 7.17 When a team has a bye (or is washed out), only two (2) players who played in that team the previous week are eligible to play for the lower grade the following week. In this case players can only play one grade lower. (i.e. a 1st grade player cannot play 3rd grade)

Any requests for variation to this clause are to be referred to the Football Operations Manager.

Signature Checks

- 7.18 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 for the Football Record

- 7.19 Prior to the commencement of each season, 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 in the Football Record. These lists must be updated with the League as changes occur. Clubs are to ensure that players wear those jumper numbers as listed in the Football Record.

AFL Sydney 'Match of the Week'

- 7.20 All Premier Division senior clubs are required to have available to the Administration Committee accurate details of selected side for the weekend's matches, as well as all jumper numbers and any other requested information by 10am Friday prior to weekend matches. Clubs are also required to provide the commentators with a copy of the final team sheet thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the match.

Team Lists for the Newspaper

- 7.21 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

- 8.8 Sherrin 'KB' Footballs for men's competitions and Sherrin size 4.5 for women's competitions are the only football to be used in AFL Sydney matches.

For all Premier Division matches a new football (Red for day, Yellow 'Veg Tan' for night) 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 as provided by JLT Insurance as evidence that this check has been done. Completed checklists are to be retained by home clubs for a period of seven (7) years for future reference by the League or its insurers if so required.

9. Club Officials and Duties

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.

Umpires Match Report (to Club Field Umpires Only)	To the field umpire
Best & Fairest Vote Slips	To the field umpire
Umpires Envelope	To the field umpire
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
Sealed Envelope (Note 1)	Timekeepers Report	Completed Team Lists (Note 2))
Goal Umpire scorecards		

Note 1: The Umpires Sealed Envelope will include a copy of each clubs team sheet, the Umpires Match Report & Best & Fairest Voting Slip. This envelope is to remain sealed.

Note 2: 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 all paperwork and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League Office not later than 12 noon on the first working day following the match.

9.7 Finally, it shall be the Ground Manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the home club:

- (a) SMS results of all matches to the Football Operations Manager within 10 minutes of final match of the day being completed. The Football Operations Manager will then collate the information and forward to designated club officials.
- (b) 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)
- (c) 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 ¼ by ¼ 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 01/02/2014)

- 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 green top with the club's name and the word "Runner" clearly marked on the back. The Runner must also wear (1) iridescent green shorts or (2) tracksuit pants – which may be either black or green. 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 four (4) 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. 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 either white tops or club shirts (the shirts are not to clash with either of the competing clubs jumpers). They are all to wear the same style of top. 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 Umpires (Amended 01/02/2014)

- 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. 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 (excluding the Women's Division One competition as outlined in 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 to a Women's Division One match, 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 Field Umpires must complete the "Club Umpires Training Seminar" and Club Umpires Registration Form prior to officiating their first match. Club Umpire Training Seminars will be held at various times prior and during the season.
- 9.53 Club Field Umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork (i.e. Umpires Match Report (which they are to sign) and Best & Fairest Votes)
- 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 'yellow/black club umpire shirt', black shorts, black socks and runners or football boots.
- 9.56 Where official goal and boundary umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal umpire, whilst the home club is to supply the boundary umpires to officiate. Club goal umpires must be equipped with two white flags and attired in a club shirt or white coat and club boundary umpires must be attired in white shirt, club shorts, runners or football boots and equipped with a suitable whistle. Should boundary umpires not be supplied it is the home teams responsibility to throw the ball back into play on all occasions.
- 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 must be positioned on the left breast, directly opposite the AFL NSW/ACT logo. It is not to exceed 8 cm in size.
 - Back – The logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath (or both) the player number. The size of the logo must not exceed 60 mm high and 200 mm wide if being placed above the number, or 100 mm high and 300 mm wide, if underneath the number.
- 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.

Field Umpire Numbers

- 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.

Umpires' Fees

- 11.6 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

- 11.7 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.
- 11.8 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)

- 11.9 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. All umpires, including Club Field Umpires, are required to sign the Match Report. Umpire payments will only be paid to those umpires who sign the Match Report.
- 11.10 The field umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting slip.
- 11.11 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.

- 11.12 The best and fairest voting slip and the Team Lists (and the umpires match report form where match is officiated by Club Field Umpires only) will be placed in the envelope provided and sealed. The Ground Manager will collect the sealed envelope and return to the League with the Matchday Paperwork.

Club Umpires

- 11.13 Refer By Law 9.49 – 9.58

Club Report on Umpires

- 11.14 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

- 11.15 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 AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules.
- 11.16 In terms of Tribunal Rule 2.1, 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

- 11.17 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 2014 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

Prescribed Penalties

14.1 A prescribed penalty system will operate in the AFL Sydney competition. Refer attachment "D" to these By-Laws.

Code of Conduct

14.2 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

- 14.3 The Football Operations Manager may 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.
- 14.4 Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Football Operations Manager in by-law 14.3, 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 14.9 (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).

Co-operation

- 14.5 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

- 14.6 A person who fails to observe and comply with Rule 14.5 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

- 14.7 For the purposes of this clause a reference to the Football Operations Manager shall be read as a reference to the Football Operations Manager and/or any person nominated by the Football Operations Manager to conduct an investigation video evidence or otherwise. The Football Operations Manager may report such person and 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 him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

Power to Report

- 14.8 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 and 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 him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.

Citings by Clubs

- 14.9 Where a club wishes to lodge a complaint against a player or official for an "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be lodged (using the "Incident Referral Form") with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises.
- 14.10 Any such complaint must be accompanied by a \$300 citing fee, of which \$150 is non-refundable. The remaining \$150 may also be forfeited should the Administration Committee deem the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the "Incident Referral Form" evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the league's bank account.
- 14.11 The Administration Committee shall decide whether or not the player should be reported for a reportable offence pursuant to by-law 14.8 and the matter should be referred to the Independent Tribunal for consideration under Tribunal Rule 1.2.2.
- 14.12 The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his rights and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.
- 14.13 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.

Independent Tribunal

Appointment and Role of Tribunal

- 14.14 A panel of independent tribunal members shall be appointed annually by the Commission. The Independent Tribunal shall investigate the following in accordance with AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules (refer attachment "F" to these By-Laws).
- reports by umpires against players or officials participating in AFL Sydney competition, pre-season or practice matches and;
 - 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 14.8

Tribunal Hearings

- 14.15 A reporting umpire, the reported person and a representative of the reported person's club shall attend a hearing at a time and place specified by the Administration Committee.
- 14.16 The procedures to be followed should a reported person be unable to attend the hearing are set out in the AFL (NSW/ACT) Tribunal Rules and must be adhered to.
- 14.17 Should the reporting umpire be unable to attend, the Administration Committee may defer the hearing in which case the reported player or official may continue to play or act until such time as the hearing is held.

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 -	six (6) points for each win; three (3) points for each draw
Reserve Grade -	four (4) points for each win; two (2) points for each draw
Under 19's/Third Grade/Women -	two (2) points for each win; one (1) point for each draw
- 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 respective 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 10% 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 (01/02/2014)

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
	Women's Division One
	Women's Division Two
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".

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

- 16.19 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.
- 16.20 The Trophy awarded to the AFL Sydney Representative Player of the Year shall be known as the "Howarth Trophy".

Rising Star Award

- 16.21 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 six (6) senior matches in either the AFL Sydney Premier Division or equivalent league prior to the season in question);
 - Must play a minimum of six (6) senior matches during the year.
- 16.22 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.
- 16.23 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)

- 16.24 Each year the AFL Sydney Premier Division & Women's Division One 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,(eighteen (18) on field players plus four (4) interchange)
 - Captain

- Coach
- Umpire

16.25 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 Division One competitions.

Awards Dinners (Amended 01/02/2014)

16.26 Premier Division clubs are required to fill a minimum of two tables at the League's annual awards night – the Phelan and Snow Medal Presentations. Other men's clubs and all women's clubs 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 Except as provided for under by-law 17.9, any club which is in arrears to the League for a period in excess of 60 days from the date of the invoice, shall be ineligible to receive any competition points which may be accrued by its teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.

- 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

Football Record

- 18.1 The weekly "Football Record" shall be considered the official journal of the League and any notices inserted therein by the league should be taken as official and acted upon where necessary.

League Colours

- 18.2 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

- 18.3 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

- 18.4 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

- 18.5 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

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

Appeals

- 18.7 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.
- 18.8 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.
- 18.9 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.
- 18.10 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.
- 18.11 Such appeal must be lodged in accordance with Section 9 of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations

Club Electronic Communication

- 18.12 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.
- 18.13 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

- 18.14 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 Complaints 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 Complaints 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”



AFL SYDNEY PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS



Introduction (Amended 14/02/2011) (Amended 23/01/2012)

AFL Sydney has adopted a prescribed penalty system for reported players. It is intended that such a system may apply to players with a good record and who are reported for minor offences.

Prescribed Penalties will not be offered to the following:

- Players who have been reported for serious offences, i.e:
 - Making, or attempting to make contact with or strikes an umpire;
 - Kicking;
 - Commits an act of misconduct – if the umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature;
 - If a player has been found guilty of the same or more serious offence (5 weeks or more in the past 24 months);
- Officials who are reported

Those reports will be heard by the tribunal.

Procedure

Umpires shall report and charge players in the usual manner. The reporting umpire shall complete the player report template and forward to the Senior Football Operations Manager by 10.00 am on the Monday following the match.

Once the Player Report Form and Report Template has been received, the Senior Football Operations Manager will process the report and decide whether or not the offence and player is suitable for determination under the prescribed penalty system or if the report should be referred to the tribunal.

If the offence and/or player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System, the prescribed penalty shall be offered to the club/player on the Monday following the match in which the player was reported. Club/player shall notify AFL Sydney of the acceptance or refusal to accept the set penalty no later than 3.00pm on the Tuesday following the match in which the player was reported. If accepted, the penalty shall be recorded against the player's record kept by the league. If the prescribed penalty is rejected the report shall be referred to the tribunal for hearing at a time to be advised the AFL Sydney.

Attachment “E”

Tribunal Guidelines – moved to separate document 23/01/2012

Attachment “F”

Tribunal Rules – moved to separate document 23/01/2012

AFL SYDNEY Club Pathway Policy Explanatory Note

This Explanatory Note is designed to aid in the reading of the Pathway Policy so that the overriding purpose in paragraph 1 is achieved.

AFL NSW/ACT agrees in principle that it is important that talented youngsters stay within their local area and play Under 19 / senior football with the Senior Club aligned to their local area. There is currently a set of geographical boundaries that loosely aligns Junior Clubs to Senior Clubs. There is an imbalance as to the number of Junior Clubs associated to each Senior Club. This is due to the historical origins of clubs as AFL NSW/ACT has avoided a formal zoning policy.

Consequently, some level of control or management of development of growth in our club market which is demographically distorted is required, at least in the short to medium term. The demographic distortion, if allowed unchecked, could see the competition being “cannibalised”. This would be, in the short term only, to the benefit of only a few clubs in our competition and, in the long term, to the benefit of none.

Accordingly, AFL Sydney introduced and remains committed to the Pathway Policy (**the Pathway Policy**).

As the junior market continues to develop to reduce that distortion, the need for pathways may evaporate in due course. Accordingly, AFL NSW/ACT continues to monitor the operation of the Pathway Policy. In this regard, and in following this commitment, some of the suggested changes put forward by the Clubs in 2012 have been adopted and the Pathway Policy from 2011 has consequently been amended.

The Pathway Policy for the period 30 September 2013 onwards is **attached**.

The Pathway Policy

The primary benefits of maintaining the Pathway Policy in our market are that the Pathway Policy:

- provides some form of control or management of player movements across the market to support a fragile youth pathway;
- recognises and protects the efforts of Senior Clubs in providing development support to the Junior Clubs in their pathway;
- enhances competition quality;
- provides more effective links between the Clubs in their respective pathways;
- ensures that Senior Clubs continue to actively and enthusiastically assist, support and work with the Junior Clubs in their pathway by ensuring that a Senior Club does not have an automatic right for a junior player to join their club, such that the principles outlined in Player Transition – Youth Football to Senior Football continue to be implemented and developed.

The principle of establishing pathways by its very nature will draw criticism, primarily from those that the proposition is engaged to manage. Some level of control or management of development of growth in our club market which is demographically distorted is required, at least in the short to medium term.

Ultimately, it is important to the process that it is capable of recognising, in some cases, exceptions to the rule. The necessary provision is included within the Pathway Policy.

How will the Pathway Policy work?

The Pathway Policy will work in accordance with the **attached** formal Pathway Policy.

The **attached** formal Pathway Policy is to commence on 1 September 2013, such that the Named List are to be provided by 30 September 2013, with the previous season being the 2011 Season, and supersedes the existing pathway policy from 1 September 2013.

In summary form, and whilst not usurping the words used in the attached Pathway Policy, the structure is:

- Each junior player registered in AFL GSJ, excluding Central Coast & Newcastle, is identified as part of a pathway.
- The pathway is based around the junior player's Junior Club being aligned to the Senior Clubs, being premier division clubs and, possibly, lower division clubs.

The management of junior players coming through the pathway will necessitate Senior Clubs identifying and having a better knowledge of junior players in their area. The cornerstone of the Pathway Policy process requires Senior Clubs, on an annual basis, to assess the potential market of junior players. The process will broadly work as follows:

- All Players are to play within their pathway unless falling within one of the exceptions in paragraph 2, which are broadly:
 - not being on a Named List;
 - being excused from remaining on a Named List.
- A player playing for a Junior Club is bound to the Senior Club along the pathway for the period they are eligible for Under 19's football. This is provided for in the definition of "Player", the operation of the Named List, and paragraphs 2 and 15 of the Pathway Policy.
- Each AFL Sydney club, expecting to have Under 19's team will, at the designated time (September 30), nominate one list of 30 players (the named list). This list will include players from both their existing list of Under 19's players and known Under 17's players coming out (i.e. players that were born in 1997) of the junior football system from Junior Clubs designated to their pathway. This is provided for in paragraphs 5 to 7 of the Pathway Policy.
- Any player 16 years of age (i.e. born in 1997) or younger as at December 31 of the calendar year the named list is lodged is not to be included on the named list, rather they are to play in their pathway once they have played 5 games for their Junior Club. This is provided for in paragraphs 11 and 27 of the Pathway Policy.
- Any existing Under 19's player who has played 5 or more games in the previous season for a Senior Club is automatically included on a Senior Club's named list. This is provided for in paragraphs 9.b and 9.c of the Pathway Policy.
- If the Senior Club has more than one Under 19's team only players who have played 5 or more games in the Premier Cup team in the previous season will automatically be included on the named list. This is provided for in paragraph 9.c of the Pathway Policy.
- The lists essentially become the Senior Clubs' pathway lists. With multiple Senior Clubs in a pathway some players may appear on more than one list. This is provided for in paragraph 16 of the Pathway Policy.

- Players coming out of the junior system must have played at least 5 games in the previous season with that Junior Club in the pathway of the Senior Club in order to become bound to the Senior Club in the pathway. This is provided for in paragraph 10 of the Pathway Policy.
- After these named lists are signed off by all Senior Clubs and AFL Sydney any existing Under 19's players not named can register to play with any club of the player's choice. This is provided for in paragraph 14 of the Pathway Policy.
- On this basis a Senior Club may then build a base beyond the original 30. This is provided for in paragraph 14 of the Pathway Policy.
- The principle is that Under 19's players will not be able to move outside their designated pathway unless agreed to by the Senior Club(s) having named that player on its list. That said there may be some circumstances where that principle should be reviewed. This is provided for in paragraph 18 of the Pathway Policy.
- An appeal process to the AFL Administration Committee for players looking for an exception to sign with a club outside of their pathway will be provided. This is provided for in paragraph 18 of the Pathway Policy. Any decision of that committee is final. This is provided for in paragraph 25 of the Pathway Policy. This is provided for in paragraph 20 to 21 of the Pathway Policy.
- For the sake of absolute clarity, a Young Player can move Junior Clubs at the end of the season.
- The table at the end outlines the pathways applied to the 2014 season.



AFL SYDNEY Club Pathway Policy

INTRODUCTION

Overriding Purpose of the Pathway Policy

1. The overriding purpose of this Pathway Policy is to ensure that a Player plays for and remains with the Junior Club with whom they are registered and plays Under 19's / senior football with the Senior Club that is in the same Pathway as the Junior Club.
2. A Player wishing to play for a Senior Club must play for the Senior Club within the pathway of the Player's Junior Club unless one of the following exceptions apply:
 - a. the player, having been eligible to have his or her name placed on a Senior Club's Named List, is not named on the Named List; or
 - b. the player, having had his or her name placed on a Senior Club's Named List, has their name removed from the Named List by the AFL Administration Committee.

Who does the Pathway Policy apply to?

3. The Pathway Policy applies to all Players registered in AFL GSJ, excluding Central Coast and Newcastle.

Definitions

4. For the purposes of interpretation of the Pathway Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Junior Clubs: means any club which is affiliated within AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Incorporated other than the clubs that participate in Central Coast and Newcastle competitions.

Named List: has the meaning set out in paragraph 5 below.

Player: has the same meaning as that in AFL Sydney Operations Handbook, and is an individual of any age that is registered to play for a Junior Club or a Senior Club.

Pathway: means the pathway that exists between the Junior Clubs and the Senior Clubs shown in the **attached** table.

Proposed Club: has the meaning set out in paragraph 7 below.

Senior Club: means any club affiliated within AFL Sydney with a team in the Premier Division or the Lower Division competitions.

Young Player: has the meaning set out in paragraph 27 below.

NAMED LIST PLAYERS

5. The following provisions apply to the exceptions identified in paragraph 2.a and 2.b.

Provision of the Named List

6. By 5pm on 30 September each year a Senior Club expecting to have an Under 19's team in the following year is to provide a list of names of Players (**Named List**) to the Senior Football Operations Manager, AFL Sydney.
7. For the purpose of paragraph 6, each Senior Club is taken to be "*expecting*" to have an Under 19's team in the following year if that Senior Club had an Under 19's team in the season immediately completed by AFL Sydney as at 30 September.

Who is to be on the Named List?

8. In the Named List, each Senior Club is to set out the names of no more than thirty Players it wishes to include as a player within its club for the coming AFL Sydney season.
9. The Senior Club may include in the Named List a Player that falls within the description of paragraph 8 and:
 - a. that is a known Under 17's Player coming out of a Junior Club; or
 - b. that has played 5 or more games for the Senior Club in the season immediately completed by AFL Sydney as at 30 September; or
 - c. where the Senior Club has more than one Under 19's team, that has played 5 or more games for the Senior Club's Premier Cup team in the season immediately completed by AFL Sydney as at 30 September.
10. For the purpose of paragraph 9a, a Player "*is a known Under 17's Player coming out of a Junior Club*" if the Player was born in 1997, and has played 5 or more games for a Junior Club that is in the same Pathway as the Senior Club.

Who is not to be on the Named List

11. A Player that is 16 years of age (i.e. was born in 1997) or younger is not to be included on the Named List.
12. A Player who has not played a minimum of five matches for a Junior Club the previous year and otherwise does not fall within the provisions of paragraph 9 above is not to be included on the Named List.

Registration of Named List

13. On the first business day after 30 September the Named List last provided to AFL Sydney by the Senior Club is taken to be registered.
14. On the second business day after 30 September any Player not named on a Named List "registered" is entitled to register with any club of the Player's choice, including any Senior Club. That is, the Senior Clubs may build a base beyond the Players identified in its "registered" Named List.
15. Once a Player is named on a Named List that has been "registered", the Player cannot register with any other Senior Club during the year the Named List is "registered", subject to paragraphs 16 and 17 below.
16. It is recognised that Junior Clubs may be in the same Pathway with more than one Senior Club such that a known Under 17's Player coming out of a Junior Club may be eligible to be placed on more than one Named List. In those circumstances, where the Player's name is placed on more than one Named List, the Player can choose to register to play for any Senior Club that has named the Player on its Named List.

17. A Player need not register to play with a Senior Club that has named the Player on its Named List if the AFL Administration Committee agrees in writing to the Player's name being removed from the Named List.

Application to have name removed from a "registered" Named List

18. A Player may apply to the AFL Administration Committee to have the Player's name removed from the Named List provided by a Senior Club at any time.
19. Any application to the AFL Administration Committee must:
- be in writing;
 - be lodged by the Player;
 - set out the reasons why the Player wishes to have their name removed from the Named List; and
 - be served on the Senior Club that has provided the Named List.
20. The AFL Administration Committee must not agree to the removal of a Player's name from a Named List unless:
- the Senior Club that provided the Named List consents; or
 - the Player has moved residential location such that the Player's ability to participate in, train and play for the Senior Club will be adversely impacted to a significant degree; or
 - the Player has moved schools such that the Player's ability to participate in, train and play for the Senior Club will be adversely impacted to a significant degree; or
 - some other matter will adversely impact to a significant degree upon the Player's enjoyment and participation at the Senior Club; or
 - the Player's immediate family (parents and siblings) participate, train or play for another Club (**Proposed Club**) and the Proposed Club agrees that the Player will form part of its Named List.
21. In considering whether to agree to the removal of a Player's name from a Named List, the AFL Administration Committee must take into account:
- the Overall purpose of this Pathway Policy; and
 - the desire of all Senior and Junior Clubs and AFL Sydney to ensure that the competition quality is enhanced; and
 - any alternative solutions put forward by the Senior Club to address the matters, if any, raised by the Player in respect of paragraphs 20b to 20d above.
22. In considering whether to agree to the removal of a Player's name from a Named List, the AFL Administration Committee may take into account:
- the efforts of the Senior Club in providing development support to the Player;
 - the efforts of the Senior Club in providing development support to the Player's Junior Club;
 - the efforts of the Senior Club in ensuring that the principles outlined in Player Transition – Youth Football to Senior Football are being implemented and developed at the Player's Junior Club;
 - the location of any other Senior Club the Player wishes to play for; and
 - any other matter the AFL Administration Committee deems relevant in the interests of the Player's development within AFL NSW/ACT and the interests of AFL NSW/ACT.
23. In determining whether the Player's name is to be removed from a Senior Club's Named List the AFL Administration Committee must not consider what advantage, if any, another Senior Club will afford the Player, including:
- the financial benefits, if any, the other Senior Club could afford the Player;
 - the coaching and support staff of the other Senior Club;
 - the facilities provided by the other Senior Club;
 - the relationship with the Player of persons that participate, train or play at the other Senior Club, other than the Player's immediate family (parents and siblings).

24. On hearing any application to the AFL Administration Committee only the following may appear:
- a. the Player;
 - b. representatives of the Player, including the Player's family;
 - c. representatives of the Senior Club;
 - d. if paragraph 20e above applies, representatives of the Proposed Club.

Decisions of the AFL Administration Committee

25. Any decision of the AFL Administration Committee is, subject to any relevant by-laws, final.

JUNIOR PLAYERS

26. The following paragraphs are not to be read as one of the exceptions to paragraph 2 above.
27. A Player that is 16 years of age as at 1 January or younger and has played 5 games for a Junior Club (**Young Player**), must play for the Junior Club for the entire season.
28. A Young Player may apply to the AFL Administration Committee to be excused from compliance with paragraph 27.
29. Any application to the AFL Administration Committee must:
- a. be in writing;
 - b. be lodged by the Young Player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s);
 - c. set out the reasons why the Young Player wishes to be excused from compliance with paragraph 27; and
 - d. be served on the Junior Club that the Young Player wishes to leave.
30. The AFL Administration Committee must not agree to a Young Player's non compliance with paragraph 27 unless:
- a. the Junior Club that the Young Player wishes to leave (**that Junior Club**) and all the Senior Clubs within the Junior Club's pathway consent; or
 - b. the Young Player has, within the season, moved residential location of more than a 7.5 kilometer radius from the previous residential location such that the Young Player's ability to participate in, train and play for that Junior Club will be adversely impacted to a significant degree; or
 - c. the Young Player has, within the season, moved to a school more than a 7.5 kilometer radius from the previous school such that the Young Player's ability to participate in, train and play for that Junior Club will be adversely impacted to a significant degree; or
 - d. the Young Player's immediate family (parents and siblings) is the head coach for the Under 19/s team of another Club that is in the pathway of the Junior Club which the Young Player will be (if the exemption is granted) playing for and the other Club and the other Junior Club agree that the Young Player can play for it.
31. In determining whether a Young Player can be excused from compliance with paragraph 27, the AFL Administration Committee must take into account:
- a. the overriding purpose of this Pathway Policy; and
 - b. the desire of all Senior and Junior Clubs and AFL Sydney to ensure that the competition quality is enhanced; and
 - c. the desire of all Senior and Junior Clubs and AFL Sydney to ensure that Young Players do not act in a manner that is aimed at defeating the Pathway Policy;
 - d. any alternative solutions put forward by the Junior Club to address the matters, if any, raised by the Young Player in respect of paragraphs 30.b and 30.c above.
32. In determining whether a Young Player can be excused from compliance with paragraph 27, the AFL Administration Committee may take into account:

- a. the efforts of that Junior Club (and any Senior Club within that Junior Club's Pathway) in providing development support to the Young Player;
 - b. the efforts of any Senior Club within that Junior Club's Pathway in providing development support to that Junior Club;
 - c. the efforts of any Senior Club within that Junior Club's Pathway in ensuring that the principles outlined in Player Transition – Youth Football to Senior Football are being implemented and developed at that Junior Club; and
 - d. any other matter the AFL Administration Committee deems relevant in the interests of the Young Player's development within AFL NSW/ACT and the interests of AFL NSW/ACT.
33. In determining whether a Young Player can be excused from compliance with paragraph 27, the AFL Administration Committee must not consider what advantage, if any, another Junior Club or Senior Club within the other Junior Club's pathway will afford the Young Player, including:
- a. the financial benefits, if any, the other Junior or Senior Club could afford the Young Player;
 - b. the coaching and support staff of the other Junior or Senior Club;
 - c. the facilities provided by the other Junior or Senior Club;
 - d. the relationship with the Young Player of persons that participate, train or play at the other Junior or Senior Club, other than the Young Player's immediate family (parents and siblings).

Pathways / Linkages AFL GSJ Clubs to AFL Sydney U19's @ 2014

Pathways	AFL Sydney U19's Clubs	Junior AFL Clubs
1.	Illawarra	Dapto, Albion Park, Nthn Dist, Kiama, Port Kembla, Shellharbour, Wollongong, Southern Highlands, Figtree
2.	St George Southern Power Moorebank	Bangor, Miranda, Heathcote, Cronulla, Ramsgate, Penshurst, Liverpool, Holsworthy
3.	Western Suburbs	Wests, Concord, Bankstown, Drummoyne
4.	Balmain	Drummoyne, Glebe, Nth Ryde,
5.	UNSW-ES	Maroubra, East Sydney
6.	Sydney University	Moore Park, Newtown, Glebe
7.	North Shore Manly Warringah	St Ives, Forest, Willoughby, Manly, Mosman, Pittwater
8.	Sydney Hills Eagles Holroyd Parramatta	Baulkham Hills, Kellyville, Hawkesbury, Hills Lions, Quakers Hill, Holroyd Parramatta, Rooty Hill, St Clair
9.	Pennant Hills Macquarie University	Pennant Hills, Westbrook, Hornsby, North Ryde, Lane Cove
10.	Penrith	Emu Plains, Camden, St Clair, Penrith, Blue Mountains
11.	Macarthur Giants	Wollondilly, South Campbelltown, Ingleburn, Liverpool, South West Tigers, Campbelltown, Southern Highlands,

Attachment 'H'

GWS Giants & Sydney Swans Listed Players (inc Overage Academy Members)

Sydney Swans Overage Academy players and GWS Giants Overage Academy players ('players') will be permitted to play for AFL Sydney clubs subject to the following:

- All 'players' will be allocated an AFL Sydney club at the beginning of the season;
- During the season a 'player' can only play for their allocated AFL Sydney club unless approved by the AFL Sydney Administration Committee. *The spirit of this regulation is to cater for those players who the 'players' club believe would be better suited at a different AFL Sydney club.*
- No permits will be issued to allow a 'player' to play for another AFL Sydney club, should the 'players' allocated club have a bye.

Finals Eligibility

- No finals eligibility criteria will apply on the weekends when GWS Giants or Sydney Swans NEAFL side are participating in a finals/home & away match.
- Should GWS Giants or Sydney Swans NEAFL side not be playing, then the 'player' would need to have played a minimum of 3 (three) matches with their allocated AFL Sydney club to be eligible to play in AFL Sydney Finals.
- Under this By-Law the 'players' are only permitted to play in AFL Sydney Premier Division Finals.

Attachment 'I'

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: