

TALLANGATTA & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSES & MODEL RULES FOR AN INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION.

February 2015.

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981

Section 5(b)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

1. The name of the proposed incorporated association is **TALLANGATTA & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED.**
2. The purpose for which the proposed incorporated association is established are:-

In furtherance of and not in limitation of powers expressed or implied elsewhere in this constitution and these rules it is expressly declared that the league may exercise and perform the following powers and duties:

- a) To affiliate and co-operate with AFL Victoria Country or other controlling body for the time being in Victoria of the Australian National Game of Football.
- b) To promote, control, manage and encourage the Australian National Game of Football, physical fitness, recreation and athletes throughout the North Eastern Victoria and Southern New South Wales areas and (in co-operation with similar bodies) Victoria in general, and to take steps as the League from time to time may see fit to improve the standard of umpiring, including steps for the training, coaching and general control of umpires.
- c) Subject to the Constitution and these Rules to settle all questions, protests or disputes on any matter relating to the Australian National Game of Football.
- d) To arrange control and manage Football Matches and Competitions between Clubs as defined and to frame and from time to time alter and amend rules and regulations to govern any such matches and competitions.
- e) To arrange Football Matches between Clubs or combinations of Clubs and teams representing the League or Clubs, or combinations of Clubs of other Associations or Leagues.
- f) To frame laws relating to the Australian National Game of Football or otherwise and to co-operate with or affiliate with or become a member of other bodies formed for similar purposes with a view to arranging for uniform of laws relating to the said game or otherwise.
- g) To arrange the time and place and conditions under which all matches promoted by the League shall be played.
- h) To raise money by subscription, percentage or other from the League Clubs or the players thereof as the league may from time to time determine.
- i) To assist (pecuniary or otherwise) League Clubs and to recognise the services of and/or to assist (pecuniary or otherwise) present or past members or registered players of Clubs as the League may from time to time determine.
- j) To hear and determine upon all allegations or complaint or charge involving a breach of the League Rules and Regulations or the Laws of the Game, or in respect of any matter affecting the interests of the Game of the League which may be made against any League Club, or against any playing member, official or member thereof, or against any member of the League with full power to inflict fines or penalties by way of suspension, expulsion, or otherwise for breach if any of the League Rules and Regulations or of the Laws of the Game or otherwise and the decision of the League shall be final.
- k) To hear and determine upon all disputes and matters relating to or arising out of the League Rules and Regulations or the Laws of the Game in which League or any of the League Clubs shall be concerned or which having been submitted to the League by any other body, is considered by the League to be a dispute or matter proper in the interests of the game to be determined upon.
- l) To interview the position of any Club or Clubs represented on the League.
- m) To invest the monies of the League not immediately required for any of its objects in such manner as may from time to time be determined.

- n) To draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Bills of Lading, Warrants, Debentures and other negotiable or transferable instruments.
- o) To lease or acquire by purchase or otherwise any freehold or leasehold land in the geographical area covered by the League required for carrying out the objects of the League or any of them.
- p) To layout, construct, equip, maintain and alter any grounds for football or other athletic sports or pastimes necessary or convenient for the purposes of the League.
- q) To construct, erect, maintain and alter any buildings, houses, club premises or works which may be required for the purposes of the League and to furnish and equip the same in such manner as may be necessary or convenient for such purpose.
- r) To acquire by purchase, lease, exchange or otherwise, land, buildings and hereditaments of any tenure or description situated within the boundaries of the League and its neighbourhood, and any estate or interest herein and any rights or licences over or connected with land so situated and to turn the same to account as may seem expedient.
- s) To borrow or raise money or secure the payment of money in such manner as the League shall think fit.
- t) To sell, improve, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any part of the real or personal property of the League.
- u) To render assistance (pecuniary or otherwise) to any other League or body promoting the interests of any form of manly sport and to any patriotic and/or charitable institutions or bodies.
- v) To acquire, establish, print and publish newspapers, periodicals, books and leaflets or other literary work that the League may think desirable for the promotion of its objects.
- w) If so authorised by resolution passed by a two thirds majority at a General Meeting of the League:
 - (i) To undertake and execute any trust or trusts the undertaking of which may seem desirable.
 - (ii) To establish (or aid therein) administer, subsidise or support any institutions, provided or other similar funds, trusts and measures calculated to benefit injured, retired, other registered players, employees of the League or of any such persons or the dependants or connections of any such persons or for the insurance of any players or employees.
 - (iii) To vest any property or funds of the League, or the administration of any such institutions, funds, trusts or measure as contemplated by (ii) above in any Trustee or Trustees and whether incorporated or not and to determine and declare the trusts, terms and conditions governing any such Trustee or Trustees in the exercise of such office.
 - (iv) As and when occasion may arise to remove any such Trustee and;
 - (v) To appoint a new Trustee or Trustees in the place or stead of any Trustee who may resign, cease to reside within the boundaries of the League, become unfit for or incapable of carrying out the duties of his office as Trustee be removed or die;
 - (vi) To delegate all or any of its powers to any committee or committees, consisting of one or more persons, and whether members of the League or not, and in particular (but without limiting the generality of this clause) to delegate to an independent or other tribunal the hearing and adjudication of all such protects, complaints, questions, disputes, charges relating to the League of its officers, a League Club or its registered players or officers as the League may from time to time determine and to make rules and regulations for the regulation and procedure of any such Tribunal or other Committee.
 - (vii) To cancel or amend any such delegation as aforesaid.

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981 – SCHEDULE 3

MODEL RULES FOR AN INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

NAME

1. The name of the incorporated association is **TALLANGATTA & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED**. (In these rules called “the Association”).

INTERPRETATION

2. In this constitution and these rules unless inconsistent with the context or otherwise qualified the words and expressions hereinafter set out shall have the meanings hereto attached, the words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, the words importing bodies (including Clubs) shall include the components officials and/or players thereof and words importing officers shall include the persons for the time being acting as such officers.

ACT:

Means The Association's Incorporation Act 1981 (Victoria) or any other statutory amendment or modification thereof.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

Means the Executive and two delegates from each of the League Clubs.

COUNCIL:

Means the Australian National Football Council

DELEGATE:

Means a representative appointed in writing under the hand of the President or General Manager of the body to be represented or duly authorised proxy of such delegate.

EXECUTIVE:

Means the President, the Senior Vice President, two Junior Vice Presidents, and General Manager together with five independent members (being in addition to the President, the Senior Vice President and two Junior Vice Presidents and the General Manager.

GAME:

Means the Australian National Game.

GROUND:

Means all the area (including buildings) within the outer fences of the site reserved for any match.

INDEPENDENT:

Means not being an officer, Senior Coach or player of a League Club.

LEAGUE:

Means the Tallangatta & District Football League.

OFFICER:

Means any person who holds the role of President, Vice President, General Manager or Treasurer of any affiliated Club.

OFFICIAL:

Includes but is not limited to an officer, coach, assistant coach, trainer, runner, employee or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of the club or Team.

SEASON:

At all times the word "Season" shall mean the current Season of League and each Season shall commence on the first day of January and end on the thirty first day of December of that year.

TRIBUNAL:

Means the Independent Tribunal appointed under this Constitution and Rules.

FINANCIAL YEAR:

The Financial Year of the League shall end on the thirty first day of October in each and every year.

UMPIRE:

Means any Field, Goal or Boundary Umpire appointed by the League to officiate at any match of the League or under its control.

GENERAL MANAGER:

Means the person appointed as fulfilling that role and includes Secretary and or Treasurer where the role of Secretary or Treasurer is not separately represented.

V.C.F.L.: means the Victorian Country Football League. Now known as AFL Victoria Country.

NAME

3. The name of the league shall be "Tallangatta & District Football League"

AFFILIATION

4. The league shall each year affiliate with AFL Victoria Country, or any other body recognised by the Council and which it is within the powers of the League to affiliate.

COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE

5. The league shall comprise;
- a) During such time as they may fulfil their financial and other obligations to the League and be registered with the League in compliance with these rules now existing Tallangatta and District Football Clubs of Barnawartha, Dederang/Mt. Beauty, Kiewa-Sandy Creek, Mitta United, Tallangatta, Thurgoona, Beechworth, Chiltern, Rutherglen, Wodonga Saints, Wahgunyah and Yackandandah and/or such additional Clubs as may from time to time be determined. Each League Club so registered shall be a member of the League and shall be represented by two Delegates nominated in writing before first April in each year but such Club shall be entitled to appoint two alternate delegates in writing who may act in the stead of the Delegates of the Club at any meetings of the League or Committee at which such Club is otherwise not fully represented.
 - b) Five independent members.
 - c) The President, Vice President, two junior Vice Presidents and the General Manager from time to time.
 - d) Life members.

REGISTRATION

- 6.
- a) Each Club comprised in the League shall be registered annually as a League Club and shall field A, B, and (unless in each particular case expressly otherwise decided by a two thirds majority of the Committee) C & D Grade teams (unless Club indicates differently) in the respective League Competition. Such registration shall expire upon:
 - (i) The acceptance by the league of the resignation of the club.
 - (ii) The exclusion of the club from the league by special resolution, or
 - (iii) The conclusion of the business of registration at the next Annual Meeting but no League club shall be refused registration except by a special resolution carried by a three fourths majority.
 - (b) The expiration of the registration of a League shall not affect:

- (i) Any prior disqualification or penalty imposed by the League or Tribunal.
- (ii) Any prior obligation or liability to the League or to a League Club.
- (iii) The continued exercise of the previous rights, authorities and powers of the League over such Club and/or its officers and players in respect to any of the matters mentioned in (a) and (b) above in respect of clearances, or in respect of any act, matter or thing arising prior to such expiration.

FORM OF APPLICATION

7. An application for registration as a League Club shall be in writing signed on behalf of the Club applying by the President or delegates or Secretary thereof, and shall include the following particulars:
- a) The name and headquarters of such club;
 - b) The name and address of the President, delegates, Secretary and Treasurer of such Club.
 - c) The proposed colours of such club.
 - d) The situation and size of the home ground or grounds of such club.

Such application (together with a fee of fifty dollars) shall be lodged with the General Manager on or before the first Sunday in December of the year previous to the commencement of the Season. Provided that in special cases and upon payment of an increased fee of one hundred dollars the Committee may by special resolution decide to accept an application at a later date. No new Club shall be accepted for registration except by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those attending and entitled to vote at the Annual or a Special General Meeting.

OFFICE BEARERS

- 8.
- a) The executive of the League shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by the duly appointed delegates (not exceeding two) from each of the Clubs affiliated with the League.
 - b) The Office-Bearers of the League shall be appointed save for the General Manager by the delegates from the Executive and shall consist of a President, one Senior Vice President and two Junior Vice Presidents (all of whom must be independent members) and the General Manager together with five additional members. Any vacancies occurring in the Office Bearers shall be filled at any meeting of the League. Any retiring Office Bearer shall be entitled to present himself for re-election.
 - c) The President shall have control of all meetings. In the President's absence the Senior Vice President or one of the Junior Vice Presidents shall take the chair and shall be entitled to a casting vote only.

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

9. At each Annual General Meeting of the League there shall be elected five (5) independent members of the Executive who shall be eligible for election to and to hold any office in the League. Any vacancies occurring in the Independent Members shall be filled at any meeting of the League.

LIFE MEMBERS

10. The league may at any Annual General Meeting, provided 21 days notice in writing has been given by ballot as an honorary Life Member any person who has rendered ten years service to the League as a delegate or official or any person who has played 300 or more A grade matches in the T.D.F.L. Life Members shall be presented with a membership a medallion by the league.

GENERAL & SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

11. The persons entitled to take part and vote at General Meetings and Special General Meetings shall be each member of the Executive. [The President shall have a casting vote] and the two delegates from each affiliated Club.
- a) General Meetings may be called by the President, any two Executive Officers or the General Manager by advising all the members entitled to be present not less than two days before the date thereof.
 - b) Special General Meetings may be summoned by the direction of the Committee or President or of two Executive Officers or by the General Manager within fourteen days at latest of receipt by him of a requisition in writing stating the purposes for which the meeting is required signed by a majority of those comprising the Committee. Except by the unanimous consent of a meeting of which all Clubs entitled to direct representation are represented and all Executive Officers are present no business shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting other than that for which the meeting is held.
 - c) Every person entitled to take part therein shall be entitled to notice of any General Meeting but the accidental omission to give or non-receipt of any such notice to or by any person shall not invalidate any resolution passed at a meeting to which the notice related.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 12.
- a) Those entitled to be present shall be any financial member of any affiliated Club and the Executive.
 - b) Those entitled to vote for the election of the Executive at the Annual General Meeting shall be the duly appointed Delegates of each affiliated Club who shall each be entitled to one vote.
 - c) Those entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the business of the Annual General Meeting other than the election of the Executive shall be the duly appointed Delegates of each affiliated Club and each member of the Executive, except the General Manager.
 - d) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the first week of December in each year.
 - e) The business of the Annual General Meeting (unless otherwise agreed to by a three fourth majority) shall be conducted in the following order after the General Manager has informed the meeting the date those entitled to attend were advised and the nominations of those in attendance or their proxies are received
 - (i) Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting and of Special General Meetings held subsequent thereto.
 - (ii) Receipt and consideration of annual report and balance sheet for the past year.
 - (iii) Application of league clubs for previous year for registration.
 - (iv) Applications from other Clubs for registration as League Clubs
 - (v) Amendments of the Constitution and Rules according to notice.
 - (vi) Election of Executive.
 - (vii) Election of 5 independent Members.
 - (viii) Appointment of the Independent Tribunal of up to seven (7) members.
 - (ix) Any special business specified by order of the Committee in notice of meeting or in the annual report.
 - (x) Any other business that may be brought forward.
 - (xi) Where the office of Treasurer is not filled by the General Manager, a Treasurer.
 - (xii) Appointment of an Auditor.

NOTICE AND CONTENT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

13.

- a) The General Manager of the Association, at least 14 days, or if a special resolution has been proposed at least 21 days, before the date fixed for holding a General Meeting of the Association, must cause to be sent to each member of the Association, a notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- b) Notice may be sent;
 - (i) By prepaid post or facsimile/email transmission to the address appearing in the register of members.

PRESIDING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

14. The President, or in the president's absence, the Vice-President, shall preside as chairperson at each General Meeting of the association.

- a) If the President and the Vice-President are absent from a General Meeting, or are unable to preside, the members present must select one of their number to preside as Chairperson.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETINGS

15. The person presiding may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place.

- a) No business may be conducted at an adjourned meeting other than the unfinished business from the meeting that was adjourned.
- b) If a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given in accordance with rule 13.
- c) Except as provided in sub-rule 14(b), it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be conducted at an adjourned meeting.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

16. All business that is conducted at a Special General Meeting and all business that is conducted at the Annual General Meeting, except for business conducted under the rules as ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting, are deemed to be special business.

MANNER OF DETERMINING WHETHER RESOLUTION CARRIED

17. If a question arising at a General Meeting of the Association is determined on a show of hands: A declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has been:

- a) Carried; or
- b) Carried unanimously; or
- c) Carried by a particular majority; or
- d) Lost; and
- e) An entry to that effect in the minute book of the Association is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, that resolution.

PROXIES

18. Each member is entitled to appoint another member as a proxy by notice given to the Chairman no later than 30 minutes before the commencement time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.

- a) The notice appointing the proxy must be:
- b) For a meeting of the association convened under sub-rule 43(g), in the form set out in appendix 2; or
- c) In any other case, in the form set out in appendix 3.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

19. The General Manager of the Association must cause to keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each General Meeting, and each Executive meeting, together with record of the names of persons present at all meetings

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

20. Except for the requirement in rule 13, any notice that is required to be given to a member, by on behalf of the Association, under these Rules may be given by:
- a) Sending it by prepaid post or facsimile/ email transmission to the address appearing in the register of members.

METHOD OF VOTING AND QUORUM

- 21.
- a) No item of business may be conducted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these Rules to vote is present at the time when the meeting is considering that item.
 - b) Twelve persons (being entitled under these Rules to vote at a General Meeting) constitute a quorum for the conduct of the business of a General Meeting.
 - c) If, within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a General Meeting, a quorum is not present:
 - (i) In the case of a meeting convened upon the request of members, the meeting must be dissolved; and
 - (ii) In any other case, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairperson at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
 - d) If at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members personally present (being not less than 6) shall be a quorum.
 - e) At all meetings of the League voting on any issue shall be by show of hands of those entitled to vote unless secret ballot be requested by the delegates from at least three member Clubs present at the time and place of the meeting.
 - f) Any vote shall be carried by a simple majority of those entitled to vote at the meeting unless otherwise stated in these Rules or the Act.

MEETING PLACE

22. Unless in special cases otherwise determined by the executive officers all General and Committee Meetings of the League shall be held at Sandy Creek or such other venue as appropriate on dates to be notified by the General Manager.

MANAGEMENT OF LEAGUE

23. Subject to any directions special or general of the Annual or of a Special General Meeting and to any delegation of powers to the Independent Tribunal the general management and control of the League shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Executive and two delegates nominated by each Club. Clubs failing to have two delegates at each meeting of the League shall be fined \$50.00 per delegate not in attendance at each and every meeting.

REVENUE OF THE LEAGUE

24. The revenue of the League shall consist of:

- a)
 - (i) All registration affiliation protest and other fees.
 - (ii) All fines imposed under the constitution and rules.
 - (iii) The gross gate and other receipts including season tickets from or in connection with any semi-final, final premierships representative or other League match played by the League provided that the League by Special Resolution may permit the gate and other receipts of representative matches to be retained by the host Club either absolutely or upon such terms as to the payment of expenses (including travelling by the visiting Club) as may be determined and;
 - (iv) All other monies (including levies as herein provided) payable to the League;
- b) The committee may enter into such financial arrangements with any football authority or authorities as may deem advisable to share in gate receipts with such authority or for the payment by or to the League of a fixed sum in lieu of the share of gate receipts in connection with any match arranged by the Committee and such authority.
- c) The committee shall have power at any time to make equal levies or calls upon the Clubs of the League in order to meet the League liabilities and each League Club shall be responsible for the prompt payment of such levy.
- d) Any Club failing to pay any levy or call made under paragraph (3) above within fourteen days of notification by the General Manager thereof may be dealt with as the League may see fit.

EXPENSES OF THE LEAGUE

25.

- a) The expenses of the league shall consist of:
 - (i) Affiliation fees with other bodies.
 - (ii) Audit fees, bank charges, depreciation of capital assets and operating expenses not directly incurred on behalf of the Club
 - (iii) All Tribunal expenditure.
 - (iv) Finals expenditure.

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

26. The League Executive shall investigate all off field incidents, not otherwise referable to an Investigation Officer of AFL Victoria Country, referred to it and shall have power to deal with each incident as they see fit.

BY-LAWS

27. The committee may make rules neither inconsistent with nor repugnant to the spirit of the Constitution of the Rules for the purpose of giving full effect to the objects of the League and the laws of the game.

ADMENDMENTS Etc.

28.

- a) The Rules and/or statement of purposes of the association may only be altered, added to or rescinded by a special resolution of the association.
- b) A resolution of the association is a special resolution if it is passed by a majority of not less than three fourths of such members of the association as being entitled under the rules of the association so to do, vote in person or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy at a General Meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution was given in accordance with the rules.
- c) The public officer shall within one month after the passing of a special resolution altering the statement of purposes or the rules, lodge with the registrar notice in writing of the special resolution setting out particulars of the alteration together with a declaration signed by at least two members of the committee of the association to the effect that the special resolution was passed in accordance with the Act, or as required

by the Act.

ACCOUNTS

29. The General Manager shall cause true accounts to be kept:

- a) Of the assets of the League.
- b) Of the sums of money received and expended by the League and the matter in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place.
- c) Of the credits and liabilities of the League.
- d) And to supply regular statements of affairs to the Member Clubs.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

30. At the Annual General Meeting in every year there shall be presented to the League a duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of the profit or loss for the past year. Statement so made shall show arranged under the most convenient heads, the amount of gross income distinguishing the several sources from which it has been derived and the amount of gross expenditure distinguishing the expenses of the establishment, salaries and other like matters. Every item of expenditure, fairly chargeable against the year's income shall be brought into account so that a just balance of profit and loss may be laid before the meeting in cases where any item of expenditure which may in fairness be distributed over several years has been incurred in any one year the whole amount of such item shall be stated with a statement of what portion of such expenditure has been charged against the income of the year.

ANNUAL REPORT

31. At each Annual General Meeting the balance sheet so presented shall be accompanied by a report of the General Manager upon the general state of the League and a report of the Trustees of the Tallangatta League Trust Fund or any other Trust Fund created under the constitution and Rules.

AUDIT

32. The accounts of the League shall be audited in November.

RULES

33. The Rules of AFL Victoria Country shall apply in all matters not provided for in these Rules (See Constitution 4).

RESCINDING BY-LAWS OR MOTIONS

34. No by-laws agreed to and no motion carried during the current season at a committee meeting may be rescinded without notice of motion in writing having been given and then only if two thirds of those present vote in favour. But if all the members of the committee are unanimous such by-law or motion may be rescinded without any such notice.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

35.

- a) The General Manager shall keep and maintain a Register of Members.
- b) The Public Officer or Secretary of the Clubs enumerated in rule 5(a) shall provide the Public Officer of the Association with a copy of their respective membership registers.
- c) The Register shall show the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each member and the register shall be available for inspection by members at the address of the public officer.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

36.

- a) The officers of the Association shall be managed by a Committee of Management constituted as provided in Rule 2 hereof.
- b) Each League Club as enumerated in Rule 5(a) hereof shall appoint two delegates in writing under the hand of the President or Secretary of the Club to be represented or duly authorised.
- c) The five independent members of the Committee of Management shall be appointed by the Club Delegates at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the Annual General Meeting after the date of their election but is eligible for re-appointment or election.
- e) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office the Committee may appoint one of its members to the vacant office and the member so appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of his appointment.
- f) Each member of the Committee shall subject to these Rules hold office until the Annual General Meeting next after the date of his election but is eligible for re-election.
- g) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an ordinary member of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office subject to these Rules until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of his appointment.

VACANCY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

37. For the purposes of these Rules the office of an Officer of the Association or of a member of the Committee becomes vacant if the officer or member:

- a) Cease to be a member of the Association;
- b) Becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Companies (Victoria) code; or
- c) Resigns his office by notice in writing given to the General Manager; or
- d) Who is absent without leave from two (2) consecutive meetings.

SEAL

38.

- a) The common seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the General Manager.
- b) The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Committee and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Committee or of one member of the Committee and of the Public Officer of the Association.

CANCELLATION

39. The Association shall be dissolved in the event of adequate funds not being available for the administration of the Association or upon the vote of three quarters majority of members present at such Special General Meeting convened to consider such questions and upon such a resolution being passed all assets and funds of the organisation on hand shall after the payment of all expenses and liabilities be handed over to such registered and exempted charity or charities as a simple majority of the members at the Special General Meeting so convened or as a subsequent Special General Meeting may decide and provided however that such charity or charities are approved by the Commissioner of Taxation under s 78(1)(a)(ii) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 as amended.

INSPECTION OF ASSOCIATION BOOKS

40. All books and books of account of the Association shall be available for inspection by members.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

- 41.
- a) A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Association upon any member.
 - (i) either personally or
 - (ii) by sending it by post to the member at his address shown in the Register of Members.
 - (iii) electronically to the email address last notified to the Association by the member.
 - (iv) by facsimile to the last notified facsimile address by the member.
 - b) Where a document is properly addressed pre-paid and posted to a person as a letter the document shall unless the contrary is proved be deemed to have been given to the person two (2) days (excluding Sunday) from the date it was posted.

DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- 42.
- a) Subject to these Rules, if the Executive is of the opinion that a member has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the Association, the Board may by resolution.
 - (i) Suspend that member from membership of the Association for a specified period; or
 - (ii) Expel that member from the Association
 - b) A resolution of the Board under sub-rule (a) does not take effect unless:
 - (i) At a meeting held in accordance with sub-rule (c), the Board confirms the resolution; and
 - (ii) If the member exercises a right of appeal to the Association confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.
 - c) A meeting of the Committee to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under sub-rule (a) must be held not earlier than 14 days, and not later than 28 days, after notice has been given to the member in accordance with sub-rule (d).
 - d) For the purposes of giving notice in accordance with sub-rule 42(c), the General Manager must, as soon as practicable, cause to be given to the member a written notice:
 - (i) Setting out the resolution of the Committee and the grounds on which it is based; and
 - (ii) Stating that the member, or its representative, may address the Committee at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after the notice has been given to that member; and
 - (iii) Stating the date, place and time of that meeting; and
 - (iv) Informing the member that it may do one or both of the following:
 - 1) Attend that meeting
 - 2) Given to the Executive before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking revocation of the resolution; and
 - (v) Informing the member that, if at that meeting, the Committee confirms the resolution, it may, not later than 48 hours after that meeting, give the General Manager a notice to the effect that it wishes to appeal to the Association in General Meeting against the resolution.
 - e) At the meeting of the Executive to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under sub rule (a), the Executive must:

- (i) Give the member, or its representative, an opportunity to be heard;
 - (ii) Give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member; and
 - (iii) Determine by resolution whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.
- f) If at the meeting of the Executive, the Executive confirms the resolution, the member may, not later than 48 hours after that meeting, give the Chairman a notice to the effect that it wishes to appeal to the Association in General Meeting against the resolution.
- g) If the chairman receives a notice under sub-rule 42(f), he or she must notify the Board and the Board must convene a General Meeting of the Association to be held within 21 days after the date on which the Chairman received the notice.
- h) At a General Meeting of the Association convened under sub-rule 42(g):
 - (i) No business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - (ii) The Board may place before the meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution; and
 - (iii) The representative of the member must be given an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (iv) The members present must vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
 - (v) A resolution is confirmed if, at the General Meeting, not less than two-thirds of the members vote in person, or by proxy, in favour of the resolution. In any other case, the resolution is revoked.

DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

43.

- a) The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between:
 - (i) A member and another member; or
 - (ii) A member and the Association.
- b) The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.
- c) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- d) The mediator must be:
 - (i) A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (ii) In the absence of agreement:
 - 1) In the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the Board of the Association; or
 - 2) In the case of a dispute between a member and the Association, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).
- e) A member of the association can be a mediator.
- f) The mediator cannot be a representative of a member who is a party to the dispute.
- g) The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- h) The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must:
 - (i) Give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (ii) Allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (iii) Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process

- (iv) The mediator must not determine the dispute.
 - (v) If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.
- j) If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

RULE – ADMINISTRATION

SEASON

1. The actual playing of matches during the season shall commence and end on such respective dates in each year as the Committee shall decide.

COLOURS

2. The official colours of the League shall be Blue and Gold. Each Club must register its colours and uniforms at the beginning of the season and they shall not be changed without the approval of the Committee.

ADDITION

3. In the event of two Clubs applying to register similar colours, preference shall be given to the Club whose colours are currently worn in Home and Away matches in the T.D.F.L.

UNIFORMS

4. The uniforms to be worn by all players in the representative team shall be prescribed from time to time by the Committee.
 - (a) A uniform shall be provided by the Committee for the use of each player in a representative team and shall be returned to the General Manager within 3 days after the match for which it was provided.
 - b) Any player failing to return such uniform or appearing on the playing field in such match not dressed in the uniform prescribed for the team may be fined by the Committee such amount as the Committee may determine.

BUSINESS OF COMMITTEE

5.
 - (a) Unless otherwise agreed to by a two thirds majority the business of Committee shall be taken in the following order:
 - (i) Reading and confirmation of Minutes.
 - (ii) Matters arising from Minutes.
 - (iii) Reports from each of the following:
 - (1) President
 - (2) General Manager
 - (3) Other, as required
 - (iv) General correspondence and matters arising there from.
 - (v) Protests, appeals etc.
 - (vi) General Business; League Club or other.
 - (b) The Committee shall regularly meet during the football season and at such other times as the President directs, but, for sufficient reason the Committee or the President may adjourn or dispense with the meeting in any particular week.
 - (c) Any question may be placed in writing by the General Manager with the consent of the President before the individual members of the Committee without any meeting being held. If within 7 days two thirds of such members concur in writing a decision on any such question, such decision as a resolution of the Committee and shall be inserted by

the General Manager in the Minute Book as a resolution.

GENERAL MANAGER

6.

- a) The Executive have entered into an agreement with AFL North East Border, to select and appoint a General Manager of the League whose terms and conditions of appointment shall be as determined by the committee.
- b) The person appointed General Manager shall not be a delegate or an executive member of any league club nor have held any such position in the twelve months immediately preceding his appointment.
- c) If the person selected as General Manager has held or holds a position within the League contrary to clause 49 (b) then that appointment may be ratified by the committee of management at the Annual General Meeting of the League notwithstanding clause 49 (b).
- d) The General Manager's duties shall include:
 - (i) Attending all General and Committee Meetings and at all times promptly and efficiently carrying out the direction of such meeting or of the President.
 - (ii) Keeping proper and complete Minutes of all Meetings and true and correct records of all matches, fines and disqualifications and other activities of the League.
 - (iii) Summoning meetings as and when so directed by the President or Executive Officers or as required by the articles or Rules.
 - (iv) Keeping all records, books and papers of the League and subject to the directions of the Committee and/or President conducting the correspondence and general business of the League.
 - (v) Reporting on matters relative to the financial affairs of the League and when necessary to report to the League thereon.
 - (vi) Acting (if so required) as a team or match manager or as a General Manager to any sub-Committee or to the Tribunal.
 - (vii) Also as otherwise required by the Committee an Annual Report and a full and correct Balance Sheet (duly audited) or Statement showing the financial position of the League as the case may be.
 - (viii) Performing all such other duties as may reasonably be required by a General Manager.

BANKING ACCOUNT

7.

- a) All monies of the League shall as soon as may be convenient after being received be paid into such bank as the Committee from time to time determines.
- b) All cheques drawn on or Electronic financial transactions where available from such account shall be signed by the General Manager, and a member of the executive duly authorised by the League or any two of them.
- c) The General Manager shall have power to expend on behalf of the Committee a sum not exceeding \$300.00- for immediate expenses but subject thereto no expenditure shall be incurred without sanction of the Committee. All payments above \$50.00- shall be made by cheque or Electronic transfer.
- d) Every payment for immediate expenses under provisions of this clause shall be reported to the Committee at the next meeting.

DELEGATES

8.

- a) The Club may appoint a deputy in place of any of its delegates for any particular meeting in which case notice in writing or email of such appointment must be given to the General Manager of the League before such deputy may act.
- b) A Club may change its delegates in which case notice in writing or email of such change must be given by such Club to the General Manager before such change may take effect.

- c) If a club appoints a deputy or changes a delegate(s) then notice of such appointment or change as the case may be must be notified in writing or by email by the club to the General Manager of the League not less than thirty minutes before the appointed meeting. In the event that no such notice is received by the General Manager by the appointed time then the deputy or delegate(s) as the case may be may not vote on any issue at that meeting.
- d) Delegates shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting unless he shall sooner be changed by his Club as provided for in paragraph (ii) hereof or resign or be removed from office by Special Resolution of the League or be suspended for misconduct by the Tribunal or Investigation Committee.

ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

9.

a) HOME AND AWAY MATCHES

- (i)
 - (1) The league shall conduct a series of 18 (or such number as the committee of management shall from time to time determine) Home and Away matches for all grades to determine which of the clubs shall be entitled to complete in the further elimination and finals matches to be arranged to decide the premiership.
 - (2) The Club on whose ground the match is being played shall be deemed the "Home Club" and shall be entitled to all the gate receipts. The Home Club shall be responsible for payment to umpires, officials and other match expenses.
 - (3) The league shall supply to all affiliate clubs a list of exact locations and addresses of grounds where matches are to be played 14 clear days prior to the commencement of each playing season.
 - (4) All fixtures shall be in the hands of the General Manager.
- (ii) Such Home and Away matches shall be arranged so that each Club plays an equal number of matches (each match won earning four points, each tie - two points) and so that each club where possible plays half of its matches on its home ground.
- (iii) If at the end of the home and away matches two or more clubs have scored an equal number of points then the relative positions of each club shall be determined by the percentage of points scored for and against such club or if in the opinion of the committee this is under the circumstances impracticable then in such other way as the committee may direct.
- (iv) Not later than the 31st January of each year the General Manager after consulting each club shall conduct a draw of fixtures for the ensuing season.

b) FINALS MATCHES

At the conclusion of the Home and Away matches the first five Clubs on the premiership list ("the list") shall play off for the premiership under the Final Five System ("the system").

- (i) First Weekend;
 - Elimination Final – Sunday
The Club placed fourth on the list shall play the Club placed fifth on the list.
The loser of the Elimination final shall be eliminated from the finals series.
 - Qualifying Final – Saturday
The club placed second on the list shall play the club placed third on the list.
- (ii) Second Weekend;
 - First Semi Final – Sunday
The winner of the Elimination final shall play the loser of the Qualifying Final.
The loser of the First Semi Final shall be eliminated from the finals series.
 - Second Semi Final – Saturday

The club placed first on the list shall play the winner of the Qualifying Final.

- (iii) Third Weekend;
Preliminary Final

The winner of the First Semi Final shall play the loser of the Second Semi Final.
The loser of the Preliminary Final shall be eliminated from the finals series.

- (iv) Fourth Weekend;
Grand Final

The winner of the Second Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final.

- ba) Finals starting times;

All finals matches will commence at the times as advised by the Committee.

- bb) Tie in Finals Series Matches

In the event of a tie in a final series match extra time shall be played.

- (i) Extra time shall consist of two halves each of five minutes duration with time on played and shall commence as soon as possible following completion of normal time, allowing for a three minute break between the completion of normal time and the commencement of extra time.
- (ii) Teams shall maintain the same ends as at the completion of normal time and shall exchange ends after the first five minute period.
- (iii) In the event that scores are level following extra time the teams shall change ends again. The first team to score shall be declared the winner.
- (iv) The rules relating to time on shall remain the same as in normal playing time.
- (v) Coaches and other Club staff other than those permitted to enter the arena during normal time, shall not enter the arena or address players during any period(s) of extra time.

- bc) Arrangement of grounds for finals series matches;

The finals series matches shall be played upon such ground or grounds as shall be determined by the Committee.

FAIREST AND BEST TROPHY

10.

- a) An award shall be made each season to the fairest and best player in League home and away matches to be determined as follows: The field umpires of each Home and Away round match shall deliver to the Home Club Secretary in a sealed envelope immediately after the game their idea of the three fairest and best players in the match umpired by them to be numbered in order of preference in a sealed envelope, the player judged to be the fairest and best afield shall receive (3) votes, the player judged to be the 2nd fairest and best afield (2) votes and the player judged to be the 3rd fairest and best afield (1) vote. The Home Club Secretary shall forward the voting envelope to the League General Manager by first post.
- b) At the end of the final round of Home and Away matches each season the votes shall be counted and the player receiving the largest number of votes shall receive the award.
- c) In the event of an equal number of votes, each of those players shall receive the award.
- d) Any player who has been found guilty by the League Tribunal of an offence during the period of competition for this trophy shall be ineligible to receive the award.

FAILURE TO FULFIL ENGAGEMENTS

11.

- a) Should any Club fail to fulfil its engagements to play in any Premiership match the League may disqualify from further premiership matches or otherwise deal with such Club as it thinks fit.
- b) For the purpose of deciding any percentage the AFL Victoria Country rule percentage

when Club forfeits, shall apply.

- c) Any Club failing to fulfil its engagements shall pay all Umpires expenses relative to the said fixtures.

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

12.

- a) At the Annual General Meeting the selection Committee for the following season shall be appointed and failing appointment within 28 days of the first Home and Away round of games the Committee shall appoint the Representative Teams selection Committee for that season. The selection committee shall attend matches as appropriate and whose choice shall extend to all registered players of the League.
- b) If any person selected to play in any representative team fails to take the field in the match for which he was so selected he may be disqualified from playing in the next match for premiership points in which his club is engaged.
- c) In all cases under paragraph (b) of this Rule it shall be sufficient to answer:
 - (i) That the General Manager receive from the player not less than two clear days from the date of the match a written explanation of his inability to play satisfactory to the Committee.
 - (ii) That the General Manager receive within two days after the date of the match a medical certificate that player was unfit owing to illness or injury to play where required before a match to go before a League appointed Medical Practitioner.
- (d) In case of a registered playing coach of any Club it shall not be sufficient explanation under paragraph (c) that business affairs prevented him from playing.
- (e) The Committee may continue with Home and Away matches notwithstanding any representative fixture on the same day. No player selected for a representative team shall take part in a Home and Away match on the same day

GROUND EQUIPMENT

13.

- (a) Home Clubs shall be responsible for the due appointment and the provision of a suitable bell or siren and all other usual and suitable equipment and failing therein shall be reported and be subject to the same procedure and penalties as provided in the case of Club not ready to commence play.
- (b) At each Home and Away match the Home Club shall provide the following footballs:
 - (i) "Senior" grade - 2 new balls of first grade quality.
 - (ii) "Reserve" grade – 1 used ball of 1st grade quality.
 - (iii) "U17" grade - 1 good quality second hand ball.
 - (iv) "U14" grade - 1 good quality all weather appropriately sized ball.

In the event of a dispute as to the selection of the ball or its general condition the Field Umpire of the match shall have the right to select the ball.

- (c) Each Home Club shall have a suitable stretcher available for accident cases.
- (d) Each club shall ensure that the visiting team and its players from each grade have the following facilities:
 - (i) Separate change rooms to the Home Club.
 - (ii) Showers with hot and cold running water sufficient for all grades.
 - (iii) Lighting in the change rooms and showers.
- e) If a visiting club believes the visitor's change rooms or the facilities in the change rooms are substandard that club may set out in writing to the League details of the deficiency in

the facilities. The League may require the League Investigating Officer to attend and inspect those change rooms and facilities and report to the League and make recommendations to the League to improve the facilities. The League shall then write to the Home Club requesting it undertake the works referred to in the Investigating Officer's Report within such period of time, being not less than four weeks as the League directs. If the Home Club fails to undertake and complete the works within the period stipulated or such extension as the League may grant, then the League shall cause a letter to be sent to the Home Club advising that Home Club that until the works referred to in the Investigating Officer's Report are undertaken and completed the Home Club's delegates shall not be permitted to vote at any meeting of the League on any issue.

HOME AND AWAY MATCHDAY REQUIREMENTS

TIME OF PLAYING

14.

- (a) Commencement: Unless otherwise expressly determined by resolution passed by a majority of the Committee.
 - (i) "Senior" grade matches shall start at 2.15 pm.
 - (ii) "Reserves" grade matches or curtain raisers shall start at 12.30pm.
 - (iii) "U17" grade first round matches shall start at 10.40am.
 - (iv) "U14" grade matches commence at 9.10am.
 - (v) All competing teams to be on the ground 4 minutes before the schedule time of starting both the first and third quarters.
- (b) Late Teams: Clubs not ready to commence play at the appointed time or exceeding the prescribed intervals during the game as reported on the official time sheet, may be dealt with by the Committee in a summary way and shall in the absence of reasonable excuse be liable to a fine not exceeding \$50 for the first offence, to be increased by \$50 for each and every subsequent offence during the season to a maximum of \$200 per offence. Teams entering the ground 5 minutes or more after the required time shall be liable to a fine of double value for that offence to a maximum of \$400 per offence.
- (c) Length of Quarters: Subject to the provisions of any by-laws made under the authority of sub-clause (ii) of this Rule all matches shall be played in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Laws of the game.
 - (i) The duration of quarters shall be as follows -
 - "Senior" grade - 20 minutes plus time on.
 - Interval at quarter time 5 minutes
 - Half time 20 minutes
 - Three quarter time 7 minutes
 - "Reserve" grade - 20 minutes of time. No time on.
 - Time is to be divided if necessary to complete the game by 2.10 pm.
 - (ii) The duration of quarters in "U17" grade matches shall be 20 minutes with no added times.
 - (iii) "U14" grade shall play quarters of 15 minutes with no added time.
 - (iv) In "Reserve", "U17" and "U14" grade matches, if a stretcher is required on the ground "time on" shall not be added from when the Umpire calls "A stop to play". The time clock should continue to run throughout any stoppage for a stretcher on the ground.
- (d) If due to special circumstances the start of a match is delayed for 20 minutes or more or if the weather conditions become so exceptionally bad as to make the continuation of play a serious danger to the health of the players or in the case of a curtain raiser which starts more than 15 minutes after the appointed time. The members of the Committee present or the field umpire if so deemed necessary shall have power to equally shorten, either all the quarters or any two of them, provided that if only two be shortened then they shall be the first and second or third and fourth provided further that not more than

10 minutes shall be taken off any one quarter.

TEAM SHEETS

15.

- (a) Each Club must prepare team sheets in triplicate in all grades. The original of all team sheets must be presented to the Central Umpire on match day, one for timekeeper and one for opposition club.
- (b) Each club shall prior to the playing of a Home and Away, final series or any match promoted, controlled or managed by the League in which the Club is engaged give to a responsible official of the opposing Club a team sheet in respect of each grade, listing the names of all players of the Club (who at the time of notification are registered players of the League indicating the number prescribed by the Club pursuant to 8 a) hereof in respect to each such player), the coach, the official runner, club umpire escort, the official trainers of the team and any other official participating in the match.
- (c) All team sheets must be completed in alphabetical order or a fine as determined by the Committee shall be applied.
- (d) All day and/or area permit forms in respect of any player shall be sighted by a responsible official of the opposing Club and signed by such official prior to the commencement of such game.
- (e) All team sheets are to be signed by a responsible official of the Club.
- (f) The secretary of the home Club shall forward to the General Manager of the League a copy of each team sheet along with a report of the match with the umpires after each match.

COMMUNICATION OF GAME RESULTS

16. The home club shall cause to be electronically forwarded to the General Manager of the League so as to reach the General Manager not later than 5.45pm on the day of the match the following:

- (a) Team Sheets of both participating Clubs; the form and contents of which shall comply with the AFL Victoria Country laws of Australian Football (Administrative Provisions).
- (b) Quarter by quarter scores of each Club including:
 - (i) the number of goals and identity of each player who kicked those goals;
 - (ii) each clubs six (6) best players
 - (iii) Any notice or report lodged by an umpire alleging conduct which may constitute a 'reportable offence' within the meaning given by the AFL Victoria Country Rules.

TIME KEEPERS AND SCORERS

17.

- (a) Duties and powers - see AFL Victoria Country Handbook Incorporating the rules and regulations of the Victorian Country Football League as adopted by AFL Victoria Country.
- (b) Except in such cases as the Committee may otherwise decide each Club competing in a Home and Away match shall appoint a competent time keeper who is to also act as official scorer and such appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Committee.
- (c) In all matches other than Home and Away matches, time keepers and official scorers shall be appointed by the committee.

ENTERING ARENA

18.

- (a) No trainer, non-playing Club official or unauthorised person shall enter upon the playing arena during a match except:

- (i) Trainers and other authorised Club officials during the quarter time and three quarter time intervals.
 - (ii) Approved trainers when and for so long as is necessary to attend an injured player or to replace such player.
 - (iii) Medical practitioners, members of St. Johns Ambulance or other approved first aid attendants when and for so long as necessary to attend an injured player.
 - (iv) Delegate of each competing Club (in company) where they in case of emergency mutually agree it is necessary to confer with the Umpire.
 - (v) The Clubs official runner notified on the team sheet.
 - (vi) The Clubs official water carriers notified on team sheet.
- (b) The registered coach (or where such coach is a player then one Club official in his stead) as well as not more than six trainers or affiliated officials from each competing Club and any approved independent first aid attendants interchange stewards may be permitted to occupy fixed seats between the inside arena and the boundary line.
- (c) Umpires shall report any infringement of this rule.
- (d) Each player who enters the arena must prior to so entering, have his name entered on a team sheet complete with the number of Guernsey in which he plays.
- (e) Each team Official shall wear when on the playing area a uniform or other form of identification, (such as an armband) as determined by the League from time to time.

QUALIFICATIONS

19.

(a) GENERALLY

- (i) No person shall be qualified to play in any League representative team unless he is qualified to play for a League Club in matches played under the auspices of the League.
- (ii) No person shall be qualified to play for a League Club in any match played under the auspices of the League –
 - (1) Who is not for the time being a duly registered playing member of such Club and the holder of a permit to play.
 - (2) Who is under any disqualification or who has not paid any fine imposed by any competent authority (including any association affiliated with the League or with an AFL affiliated body). A record of such disqualification or fine (as far as known) shall be kept by the League and shall be available for inspection by all officials at any time.
 - (3) Who has played during the current season 9 or more home and away matches with any Victorian Football League First, Reserve or Third grade Club or any Victorian Football Association First or Second Division, First Reserve or Third grade Club. Except when a player is returning to a T.D.F.L. Club with which he has previously played then providing all the clearances and necessary permits are obtained on or before 30th June in that year then this player is eligible to play regardless of the number of games played during the current season with any A.F.L. or V.F.L First, Reserve or Third grade Club.
 - (4) A reported player may continue to play with his Club until his case is heard by the Independent Tribunal and any suspension that may be given shall date from the date of the Tribunal's decision.
 - (5) Unless he is the holder of all required clearances and permits.
- (iii) Any player leaving this League to play unaffiliated football without obtaining a clearance or permit shall be disqualified for 12 months and this suspension shall commence from the date of application to return to the Tallangatta & District Football League.

(b) TO PARTICIPATE IN FINALS MATCHES:

- (i) No player shall be eligible to play in finals matches in the "Senior" grade of the League unless he has played in at least 2 Home and Away matches in any grade for his Club during the current season and no player in other grades shall be eligible to play in their finals matches unless he has played in 4 Home and Away matches during the current season in that grade.
- (ii) Where a player has participated in not more than 8 matches in the "Senior" grade of the League and not less than 4 matches in the "Reserve" grade he shall be eligible to participate in the "Reserve" grade finals matches.
- (iii) Where a player has played not more than 8 matches in the League's "Senior" and "Reserve" grades combined and not less than 4 matches in the "U17" grade he shall be eligible to participate in the "U17" grade finals matches.
- (iv) If a Club has "Senior", "Reserve" and "U17" grade teams playing in finals on the same weekend the provisions regarding the playing of 8 games shall not apply.
- (v) Any "U17" grade player that has played in 4 Home and Away matches with "U17" grade shall be eligible for finals matches with the "Reserve" grade.
- (vi) Any U14 grade player that has played in 4 Home and Away matches with the U14 grade is eligible for U14 finals matches. Any Tallangatta and District Football League U14 registered player that has qualified to play U14 finals is eligible to play in U17 finals matches.

PENALTY FOR PLAYING UNQUALIFIED PLAYER

20.

- a) If any Club has protested against a Home and Away or other match for the premiership being awarded to another Club on the ground that the latter Club has in such match played an unregistered or otherwise unqualified person then the protest is upheld on such ground then the latter Club shall lose the match and may be fined and otherwise dealt with as may be thought fit, but in a Home and Away match the points scored for the Club will not be counted in allocating percentages pertaining to that game of the Home and Away round.
- b) In determining any question of qualifications of players the onus of proof of eligibility shall rest on the player protested against.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

21.

- a) Any Club in doubt as to the eligibility of a player may state a case in writing to the Committee for a ruling which remaining in force shall be binding on all parties concerned.
- b) Committee shall have power to deal as provided by these Rules with any Club official or player responsible for any false statements.
- c) Any player who plays either in the League or in any other body without the necessary clearance or permit shall be disqualified for a period of 12 months.
- d) For a player to be eligible to participate in "U17" grade matches he must not have reached the age of 17 years before the 1st day of January in the year for which he desires to register.
- e) For a player to be eligible to participate in "U14" grade matches he must not have reached the age of 14 years before the 1st day of January in the year in which he desires to register.

- f) Applications for first registration of players in "U17" and "U14" grade may need to be accompanied by a birth certificate or statutory declaration if requested.

PENALTY FOR PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

22.

- (a) If the Executive decides such player is eligible and at a later date it is found that the circumstances have altered or that incorrect statements were made in support of the case submitted such decision may be reviewed by the Executive and if the Executive is satisfied that any such incorrect statements were wilful then it shall deprive any such Club of any premiership point or match won with the assistance of such player and award such points or match to the opponents.
- (b) Any Club playing a player who is found to be ineligible under these Rules to play, the Club concerned shall be deprived of any premiership points or match won with the assistance of such player while ineligible and such points or match shall be awarded to their opponents.
- (c) Unless a permit is first in writing obtained from the General Manager to play an over-aged player no Club can keep premiership points won when an over-aged player is found to have played in games won by that Club.

EXPELLED PLAYERS

23.

- (a) The League Club which has expelled or suspended a player from its ranks shall forward to the General Manager within one week of such expulsion or suspension the name of the player together with particulars of the offence for which he was expelled or suspended.
- (b) The player will have the right to appeal to the League Tribunal.
- (c) No Club shall be allowed to play that player until his appeal has been finally decided.

REGISTRATIONS, CLEARANCES AND PERMITS

24. All players, clubs, officials and the League shall adhere to the AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations relating to player Registration, Clearances and Permits as in force from time to time. .

PROTESTS, DISPUTES AND CHARGES

25.

- (a) Procedure to be adopted: All charges against players and all protests shall be in writing containing particulars of the charge or ground of protest and be signed by the person making the charge or by the President, a Delegate or Secretary of the Protesting Club.
- (b) No such charge or protest shall be entertained unless the foregoing provisions of the Rule have been complied with.
- (c) All such charges and protests shall be referred by the General Manager to the Tribunal or the Investigating Officer.
- (d) On the hearing of any charges against a player for an offence alleged to have been committed in any match the Tribunal shall not be restricted in the evidence it may hear in reaching a decision of the official reports. A Delegate of any Club of which the player or Official concerned on any charge is a member may be allowed to appear before the Tribunal and assist the person charged at the hearing by asking relevant questions of the various witnesses and shall have the right of summing up the evidence in favour of the person charged. Such Delegate shall be an accredited Delegate or a Committeeman of the Club having a written authority from the Club to be present.
- (e) The order-off Rule shall be used in all grades. "U17" and "U14" grades to abide by the AFL Victoria Country Rules on Order off. "Senior" and "Reserve" grades - Players who

are ordered off must stay off for a minimum and maximum of 15 minutes per offence. After the second or further offence the player must be reported. A player ordered off cannot be replaced.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

26.

(a) Composition and Powers:

(i)

- (1) The League shall follow the rules and regulations relating to the establishment, jurisdiction and procedure of an Independent League Tribunal as contained in the AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations from time to time. Where there is any inconsistency in this rule or the AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations the AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations shall prevail.
- (2) The League shall each year appoint and (to the extent of its own jurisdiction) delegate to a Special Committee (to be known as the Independent Tribunal) consisting of up to seven (7) but not less than three (3) independent persons any of the following matters:
 - (3) Disputes, Protests and differences between the League.
 - (4) Protests, complaints and charges, whether by or against or concerning Clubs.
 - (5) Appeals by the League Club or person concerned against the decision of the League Club.
 - (6) Disputes, protests and charges in connection with matches played under the jurisdiction of the League.
 - (7) Complaints of charges made under these Rules of the Laws of the game against any players, officials, or other persons.

- #### **(ii)**
- The Tribunal and/or the members thereof, once duly appointed shall continue to hold office and to have the sole jurisdiction to deal with all matters duly delegated to it as above until the next Annual General Meeting of the League, until otherwise expressly determined by a two thirds decision at a Special General Meeting of the League.

(b) Protests

- (i) Protests involving disputed matches must be lodged in writing with the General Manager of the League not less than two clear days following the match in dispute (Sunday excluded). The onus of proof of lodgement within the time is on the Club protesting.
- (ii) The protesting Club must furnish a deposit of \$500 and in the event of the Club losing such protest it shall forfeit the deposit or part thereof at the discretion of the Tribunal. In the event of loss the Club can appeal to the AFL Victoria Country Regional Appeals Board.
- (iii) In the event of any such appeal to the Appeal Board any fresh evidence to be submitted shall be supplied to the League General Manager and to the opposing Club at least 48 hours before the scheduled date of hearing.

(c) Administration:

Persons from among its own members and casual vacancies in the Tribunal shall forthwith be:

(i)

- (1) The Tribunal shall appoint its own chair filled by the Committee but the Tribunal may continue to function notwithstanding any such casual vacancies. Three members shall form a quorum.
- (2) The League shall appoint if required three proxy members to act in the absence due to unavailability or illness to members.

- (3) The League General Manager shall act as Secretary to the Tribunal in the absence of the appointed Tribunal Secretary.
- (ii) The Tribunal shall meet on Wednesday evenings or on such day as determined by the Tribunal and may if it sees fit direct the reasonable travelling expenses or part thereof of any official or player attending before it to be defrayed out of League funds.
 - (iii) The Tribunal may in dealing with any matters delegated to it impose such loss of premiership points, disqualification and fines as it may deem expedient.
 - (iv) The regulation of the proceedings of the Tribunal including all matters relating to form and nature and admissibility of evidence is vested in the Tribunal. Tribunal may act on facts within the personal knowledge of any of its members and may accept umpires and other officials reports as prima facie evidence of the allegations included therein.
 - (v) If at any stage of the hearing of any matter the Tribunal orders an adjournment it may also order any player whose qualification to play is in issue or any player upon whom disqualification may in such matter be imposed to abstain from playing in any League Club team or League Representative team until the Tribunal finally disposes of such matter and while such order is in force such player shall not be qualified to play in any such team.
 - (vi) The Tribunal may summarily deal with and fine or disqualify any official or player who in their opinion is guilty at a meeting of wilfully misleading the Tribunal improper or unseemly language or conduct or failing to conform to the reasonable directions of such meeting.
 - (vii) All fines and disqualifications imposed by the Tribunal shall be recorded by the General Manager who shall also notify the Tribunal of all other disqualifications of which he may have notice.
 - (viii) All reasonable expenses of the tribunal shall be payable out of the league funds.

NON-ATTENDANCE BEFORE COMMITTEE OR TRIBUNAL

27. Any player or umpire or official of the League or a League Club who shall neglect or refuse to attend before the Tribunal or any Committee to which he may have been summoned or refusing to answer or answering falsely any question allowed by the Chairman shall be fined or otherwise dealt with as the Tribunal or Committee shall think fit.

UMPIRES

- 28.
- (a)
 - (i) Dressing Rooms: Umpires dressing rooms at grounds shall be kept clear of all persons except the umpires, their trainers, umpires coaches and representatives of the Umpires Appointment Board and no visit shall be permitted before, through or after the match by any persons other than the Delegates of the competing Clubs at the conclusion of the match as provided for in these rules.
 - (ii) Appointment Finals Matches: The appointment of umpires for finals matches shall be made by the duly recognized umpiring association appointed from time to time by the League or by a committee comprising the President and General Manager.
 - (iii) Each Home Club shall supply to the officiating umpires for each match in each grade, the approved form to enable each umpire to complete a player report.

CLUB UMPIRES POLICY

- (b) In instances when the AFL North East Border Umpires is unable to fill Central Umpire appointments for Reserves, Under 17's & Under 14's matches each club shall supply a club umpire and the two umpires appointed shall umpire in tandem.
 - (i) The TDFL Umpires Co-Coordinator shall attempt to fill any vacancies for Senior matches with impartial umpires from within the TDFL Volunteer Club Umpire group.
 - (ii) If Impartial Volunteer Umpires cannot be sourced then each participating club shall

- appoint one club umpire and the two umpires thus appointed shall umpire in tandem.
- (iii) Each Volunteer Senior umpire shall be entitled to be paid half the scheduled umpires fee as determined by the AFL NEB Umpires for any match umpired (less any applicable deductions such as administration or insurance).
 - (iv) The Tallangatta and District Football League Umpires match report form will be used to indicate if only one umpire took charge of any match.
 - (v) In the event of one participating club not supplying an umpire then the match may proceed with only one central umpire who shall be entitled to be paid the full match fee.
 - (vi) The home club will be responsible for payment of the Umpires fees.
 - (vii) These fees can be paid direct to the umpire on the day of the game with the details included on the match report form.
 - (viii) If payment is not made in accordance with sub-rule (vi), the T.D.F.L. will invoice the responsible club for the umpire's fee plus an administration fee of \$5.00. Such invoices will be payable within 7 days. Late payments will incur a further \$5.00 fee for each seven days that they are unpaid.
 - (ix) At the completion of the Home and Away series of matches, any club with outstanding club umpire fees (including any service fees) incurred under this policy shall not be eligible to participate in finals matches.

MISCELLANEOUS BETTING

29.

- a) No official, central umpire, boundary umpire or goal umpire, time keeper or official scorer in any premiership match may make any bet on either team contesting a match in which he is officiating.
- b) The League if it is satisfied upon an enquiry that any such bet has been made may if it thinks fit order such match to be replayed.

UNPAID FINES

30. No official or player fined by any competent authority of the league shall act or play in any match under the auspices of the League until such fine has been paid, remitted or cancelled. Any club failing to pay any fine recorded against it by the League within 14 days of demand shall be disqualified until such fines are paid.

OVER AGED PLAYERS

31.

- a) No over aged players are permitted in the Tallangatta and District Football League.
- b) Exemption to the above ruling is as follows;

The Tallangatta and District Football league executive may at their discretion grant a player permission to play down an age level where a legitimate reason exists such as the identification of a disability or impairment (physical or intellectual) physical capacity or disability. Players seeking exemption need to provide relevant medical evidence for assessment by the controlling body. If no relevant medical evidence can be provided, the controlling body will determine the application for exemption as it sees fit, fully considering the circumstances presented.

The identification of a disability or impairment (physical or mental) does not automatically entitle a player to be considered for over age status.

Where an exemption is sought the following procedures shall apply;

- (i) Written application shall be provided by the club outlining in detail the issues faced by the player.

In cases where the player is currently registered with the club making the application.

The club's application should be presented to the executive for consideration at the AGM prior to the commencement of the following season.

In all other cases application is to be lodged at least 4 weeks prior to any exemption being

granted.

- (ii) The club will arrange for appropriate supporting documentation such as a medical certificate/assessment identifying the disability/disadvantage etc for that player by an appropriately qualified medico e.g. doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist, paediatrician, to be provided to the executive.
- (iii) A football assessment conducted by a member of the executive or their nominee which may include a visit to the club at training prior to approval being granted. This is to be arranged by the club.

The league executive would be the final arbiter in the decision about whether to allow a player to be granted over age status. The executive reserves the right to further examine the player during the course of the year and over turn any decision. Opposition clubs are encouraged to provide a written assessment regarding the player's suitability based on their observations of the player during the course of the season.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

32.

- a) Seniors: A Senior side shall consist of 21 players, 18 who shall be on the playing arena and 3 interchange players. Applies to all Home and Away and Finals matches.
- b) Reserves: A Reserves side shall consist of 21 players, 18 who shall be on the playing arena and 3 interchange players. Applies to all Home and Away and Finals matches. Under the equalisation rules coaches can agree to play with 22 players using 4 interchange players.
- c) Thirds / Under 17's: A side shall consist of 22 players, 18 who shall be on the playing arena and 4 interchange players. Applies to all Home and Away and Finals matches. If one side does not have enough players to fill a complete side then the coaches shall agree to play with an even number of players on the arena under the equalisation agreement.
- d) Fourths / Under 14's: 18 players shall be on the playing arena, there shall be no restriction on the number of interchange players. If one side does not have enough players to fill a complete side then the coaches shall agree to play with an even number of players on the arena under the equalisation agreement.

SEND OFF

33. In all grades the AFL Victoria Country send off rules shall apply.

Yellow Card- The player is ordered off the ground for 15 minutes of playing time.

Red Card - The player is ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match.

A Red carded player can be replaced after 20 minutes of playing time.

FOURTHS OUT OF BOUNDS

34.

- a) If a kicked ball lands and then goes out of bounds within the 50 metre arc the central umpire shall throw the ball up 10 metres in from the boundary, level with the spot where the ball crossed the line. The only exceptions would be in an instance where a free kick is awarded for deliberate out of bounds or when the ball is kicked out on the full. If the ball is touched or hand balled and then goes out of bounds a ball up will result
- (b) If the ball is kicked and goes out of bounds between the two 50 metre arcs then a free kick will be awarded against the team which kicked the ball out. The ball does not have to go out on the full. If the ball goes out of bounds other than by a kick then the central umpire shall throw the ball up 10 metres from the boundary, level with the spot where the ball crossed the line.

TRAINERS & WATER CARRIERS

35.

- a) Prior to the commencement of each season all clubs are required to submit to the league a list of all trainers and the qualifications held by each. A trainer contact person shall be nominated by each club.
- b) Each club shall pay a registration fee as determined by the Committee to the League per registered trainer. These fees are to be paid prior to the start of the season and shall be passed on by the League to the T.D.F.L. Trainers Association for the ongoing operation of the trainers association in providing trainer development and training.
- c) Trainers must be suitably qualified to the level as determined by the league and T.D.F.L. Trainers Association, and produce proof of such qualification before a trainers entry pass will be allocated.
- d) All trainers shall be attired in a uniform approved by the league and trainers association, all trainers shall exhibit a number on the rear of their respective shirts and jackets. All trainers shall be registered on their respective team sheets with their number also registered.
- e) Official club Runners, Trainers & Water Carriers rules and regulations are covered under A.F.L. Victoria Country Rule 17 which all clubs shall comply with in relation to these officials.
- f) Clubs are permitted to utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, water carriers and other medical staff on the playing field at any time.
- g) Umpires will ask any trainer and water carrier to leave the playing field if they do not have the compliant uniform, trainers and water carriers are not able to return to the playing field unless they have the compliant uniform.
- h) Trainers and water carriers must perform their duty and return from the field as soon as they have completed their on field duty, umpires will ask trainers and water carriers who do not perform their duty to vacate the field immediately. Trainers and water carriers are not permitted to deliver messages to players.
- i) Water carriers shall not be younger than 12 years old to deliver water in seniors, reserves and U/17 grade games and 10 years old for U/14 games.

CLUB COLOURS

- 36.
- a) Each Club shall have exclusive right to wear such colours approved by the Committee from time to time. No club shall alter its colours without the approval of the Committee.
 - b) All club uniforms must support A.F.L. Victoria Country branding as determined by licensing agreements from time to time. (Rule 26)
 - c) All club uniforms must support T.D.F.L. branding as determined by the League committee from time to time.
 - d) Clubs may add additional logos / sponsorship advertising at the discretion of the Committee.

SPONSORS LOGOS ON CLUB GUERNSEYS

- 37.
- Each club shall submit a Guernsey design each time they wish to revise the sponsor logos on their club Guernsey. All club Guernsey's shall include T.D.F.L. logo, AFL Victoria country logo and other league sponsorship logo that the Committee requires. The Committee shall determine the size and location of all logos.

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