



RDFL
RIDDELL DISTRICT
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2015 RIDDELL DISTRICT FNL

Operations & Information Manual



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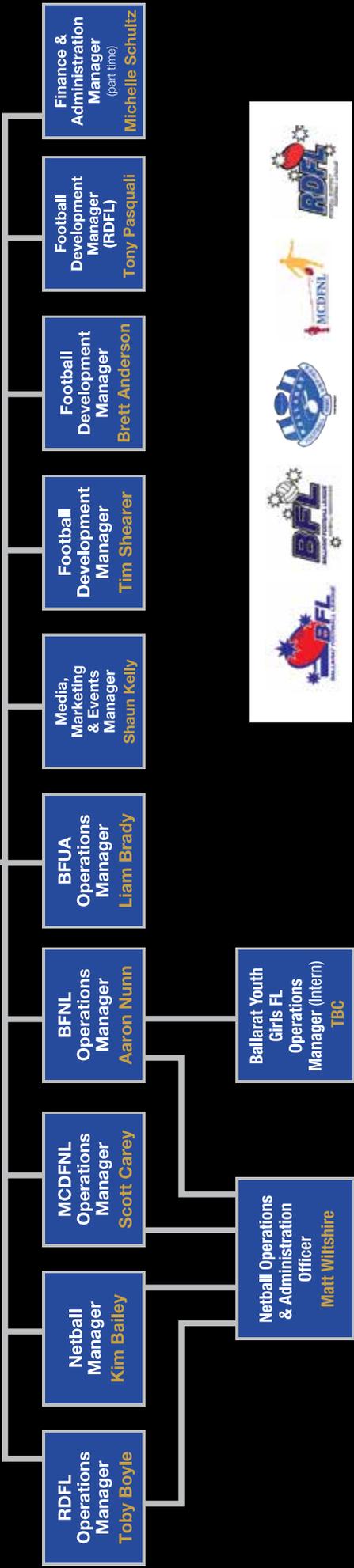
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RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE





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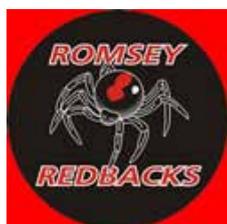


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**SUNBURY KANGAROOS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 477, Sunbury 3429**Home Ground** Melton Recreation Reserve, Reserve Road, Melton 3337

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Allan Walters	allan.walters5@bigpond.com	0400 408 019
Operations	Mick Streiff	mstreiff@broadspoint.com.au	0423 402 606
Secretary	Val Engellenner	vals56@live.com.au	0413 864 437
Treasurer	Des Ploog	ploogs@bigpond.com	0417 588 105
Netball	Val Engellenner	vals56@live.com.au	0413 864 437

**WALLAN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 127, Wallan 3256**Home Ground** Greenhill Reserve, Cnr Northern Highway & Duke Street
Wallan 3256

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Stephen Shepherd	stephen@stanfred.com.au	0407 411 148
Operations	Andrew Astbury	wallanmagpies@gmail.com	0447 564 71
Secretary	Brad Collins	brad.collins.73@gmail.com	0419 427 290
Treasurer	Alysha Shepard	alysha.jade@gmail.com	0432 189 855
Netball	Kate Bishop	kemundy@hotmail.com	0438 319 633



**WOODEND HESKET
FOOTBALL NETBALL**

WOODEND-HESKET FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

Address PO Box 152, Woodend 3442

Home Ground Gilbert Gordon Reserve, Davy Street, Woodend 3442

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Stuart Braddy	president@woodendhesketfnc.org	0417 592 151
JDO	Dale Stacey	dale.stacey@elgas.com.au	0402 054 175
Secretary	Julie Gove	secretary@woodendhesketfnc.org	0411 346 869
Treasurer	Neil LeNepveu	treasurer@woodendhesketfnc.org	0418 123 140
Netball	Jess King	jessicascanlonking@gmail.com	0435 336 861



2015 Senior Club Ground Addresses

CLUB	GROUND NAME	ADDRESS
BROADFORD	Harley Hammond Reserve	Hamilton Street, Broadford 3658
DIGGERS REST	Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve	Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest 3427
KILMORE	JJ Clancy Reserve	Kellys Lane, Kilmore 3764
LANCEFIELD	Lancefield Park	Chauncey Street, Lancefield 3435
MACEDON	Tony Clarke Reserve	37 Waterfalls Road, Macedon 3440
MELTON CENTRALS	MacPherson Park #2	Coburns Road, Melton 3337
RIDDELL	Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve	Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek 3431
ROCKBANK	Ian Cowie Reserve	Westcott Parade, Rockbank 3335
ROMSEY	Romsey Park	Park Lane, Romsey 3434
RUPERTSWOOD	Salesian College #1	Macedon Street, Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY KANGAROOS	Eric Boardman Reserve #3	Mitchells Lane, Sunbury 3429
WALLAN	Greenhill Reserve	Cnr Northern HWY & Duke Street, Wallan 3256
WOODEND-HESKET	Gilbert Gordon Reserve	Davy Street, Woodend 3442

2015 Junior Club Ground Addresses

CLUB	GROUND NAME	ADDRESS
DIGGERS REST	Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve	Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest 3427
EYNESBURY	Ian Cowie Reserve	Westcott Parade, Rockbank 3335
GISBORNE ROOKIES	Gardiner Reserve	Hamilton Street, Gisborne 3437
KILMORE	JJ Clancy Reserve	Kellys Lane, Kilmore 3764
LANCEFIELD	Lancefield Park	Chauncey Street, Lancefield 3435
MACEDON	Tony Clarke Reserve	37 Waterfalls Road, Macedon 3440
MELTON	Blackwood Driver Recreation Reserve	Blackwood Drive, Melton South 3338
MELTON CENTRALS	MacPherson Park #2	Coburns Road, Melton 3337
MELTON SOUTH	Melton Recreation Reserve	Reserve Road, Melton 3337
RIDDELLS CREEK	Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve	Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek 3431
ROCKBANK	Ian Cowie Reserve	Westcott Parade, Rockbank 3335
ROMSEY	Romsey Park	Park Lane, Romsey 3434
RUPERTSWOOD	Salesian College #1 & #2	Macedon Street, Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY LIONS	Eric Boardman Reserve #1 & #2	Mitchells Lane, Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY KANGAROOS	Eric Boardman Reserve #3	Mitchells Lane, Sunbury 3429
WANDONG	LB Davern Reserve	12 Dry Creek Road, Wandong 3758
WOODEND	Racecourse Reserve	Forest Street, Woodend 3442

2015 Senior Club Postal Addresses

CLUB	ADDRESS
BROADFORD	PO Box 189 Broadford 3658
DIGGERS REST	PO Box 120 Diggers Rest 3427
KILMORE	PO Box 202 Kilmore 3764
LANCEFIELD	PO Box 110 Lancefield 3435
MACEDON	PO Box 215 Macedon 3440
MELTON CENTRALS	PO Box 391 Melton 3337
RIDDELL	PO Box 63 Riddells Creek 3431
ROCKBANK	PO Box 893 Melton 3337
ROMSEY	PO Box 174 Romsey 3434
RUPERTSWOOD	PO Box 809 Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY KANGAROOS	PO Box 477 Sunbury 3429
WALLAN	PO Box 127 Wallan 3256
WOODEND-HESKET	PO Box 152 Woodend 3442



2015 Junior Club Postal Addresses

CLUB	ADDRESS
DIGGERS REST	PO Box 26 Diggers Rest 3427
EYNESBURY	1 Ravenswood Avenue Eynesbury 3338
GISBORNE ROOKIES	PO Box 208 Gisborne 3437
KILMORE	PO Box 338 Kilmore 3764
LANCEFIELD	PO Box 108 Lancefield 3435
MACEDON	PO Box 256 Macedon 3440
MELTON	PO Box 367 Melton 3337
MELTON CENTRALS	PO Box 479 Melton 3337
MELTON SOUTH	PO Box 2171 Melton South 3338
RIDDELLS CREEK	PO Box 252 Riddells Creek 3431
ROCKBANK	PO Box 893 Melton 3337
ROMSEY	PO Box 89 Romsey 3434
RUPERTSWOOD	PO Box 809 Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY LIONS	PO Box 434 Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY KANGAROOS	PO Box 295 Sunbury 3429
WANDONG	PO Box 212 Wandong 3758
WOODEND	PO Box 382 Woodend 3442

FEBRUARY

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Tuesday 10th 5:30pm
RDFNL HQ

RDFNL Junior Presidents / Netball Coordinators Meeting
Tuesday 10th
Sunbury Lions JFC @ 7:30pm

MARCH

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 16th
Romsey FNC @ 5:30pm

RDFNL Senior Presidents Meeting
Monday 16th
Romsey FNC @ 7:30pm

RDFNL Senior Netball Coordinators Meeting
Tuesday 17th
Sunbury Kangaroos FNC @ 6:30pm

RDFNL Junior Netball Coordinators Meeting
Tuesday 17th
Sunbury Kangaroos FNC @ 7:30pm

RDFNL Junior Coach / Umpire Forum
Wednesday 25th
Sunbury Lions JFC @ 7:00pm

APRIL

EASTER WEEKEND
Friday 3rd - Monday 6th

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Wednesday 8th
Melton Toyota Showroom @ 5:30pm

RDFNL Season Launch
Wednesday 8th
Melton Toyota Showroom @ 7:00pm

RDFNL v AFL Cairns
Wednesday 8th
Highgate Reserve, Craigieburn @ 4:30pm

RDFNL Senior Season Commences
Saturday 11th

AFLG Tribunal Advocates Training
Wednesday 15th
Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh @ 7:00pm

RDFNL Junior Season Commences
Sunday 19th

ANZAC DAY
Saturday 25th

MAY

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 4th
RDFNL HQ @ 5:30pm

RDFNL Junior Jumper Presentations
Monday 11th
Various Venues

RDFNL v BFNL U18 I/L
Wednesday 13th
Eastern Oval / Melton Rec Res @ 7.00pm

MCDFNL v RDFL U12, U/14 & U/15
Wednesday 13th
Trentham @ 6:00pm

RDFNL v BFNL U/12-U16
Saturday 16th
TBA

RDFNL Senior Jumper Presentation
Thursday 21st
TBA

RDFNL Senior Interleague v Nepean FNL
Saturday 23rd
TBA

RDFNL AFL Vic Metro Champs – Round 1
Wednesday 27th
Highgate Reserve / Away Venue

JUNE

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 1st

RDFNL HQ

RDFNL v WRFL – Under 16
Wednesday 3rd
WRFL @ 6:30pm

RDFNL AFL Vic Metro Champs – Round 2
Saturday 6th
TBA / Away Venue

RDFNL v EDFL / WRFL Under 13 Carnival
Sunday 7th

EDFL

RDFNL AFL Vic Metro Champs – Round 3
Monday 8th
TBA / Away Venue

RDFNL Senior Presidents Meeting
Wednesday 17th
Macedon FNC @ 7:30pm

RDFNL Junior Presidents / Netball Coordinators Meeting
Wednesday 24th
Gisborne Rookies JFC @ 7:00pm

JULY

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 6th
RDFNL HQ @ 5:30pm

RDFNL Senior Netball Meeting
Monday 6th
RDFNL HQ @ 7:30pm

AUGUST

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 3rd
RDFNL HQ @ 5:30pm

RDFNL Junior Presentation Night
Wednesday 12th
abCorp Park @ 6:30pm

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Wednesday 26th
RDFNL HQ @ 5:30pm

SEPTEMBER

Bowen & Ryan Medal
Wednesday 9th
Taylors Lakes Reception Centre @ 6:00pm

RDFNL Junior Grand Final Day
Sunday 13th
McPherson Park

RDFNL Senior Grand Final
Sunday 20th
TBC

OCTOBER

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 5th
RDFNL HQ @ 5:30pm

RDFNL Pre-AGM Meeting (All Clubs)
Monday 26th
Diggers Rest FNC @ 7:30pm

NOVEMBER

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Monday 9th
RDFNL HQ

RDFNL Golf Day
Friday 27th
Eynesbury GC

DECEMBER

RDFNL Executive Meeting
Wednesday 2nd
RDFNL HQ @ 5:30pm

RDFNL AGM
Wednesday 2nd
Sunbury Lions JFC @ 7:30pm

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE



STATEMENT OF RULES

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED**STATEMENT OF RULES****INDEX**

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RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RULES

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RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF RULES
NAME

- 1.1 The name of the incorporated association is **RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.** (in these rules called "the League").

AFFILIATIONS

- 2.1 The League shall be affiliated with Football Victoria and Netball Victoria.

INTERPRETATION

- 3.1 In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Board" means the board of the League as constituted in rule 4.9 herein.

"Financial Year" means year ending on 30th September.

"Affiliated Club" means a club affiliated with the League in accordance with rules 4.3 or 4.7 herein.

"Eligible Club" means a club eligible to apply for affiliation with the League in accordance with rule 4.4 herein.

"Life Members" means all persons named in accordance with rule 4.2 herein.

"Annual Meeting" means a meeting as referred to in rule 11.1 herein.

"Relevant documents" has the same meaning as in the Act.

"Special Resolution" has the same meaning as in the Act.

"Special Meeting" means a meeting referred to in rule 11.7 herein.

"Registered Players" means players registered by the League to participate in matches approved or controlled or organised by the League.

"Official" means any person acting on behalf of an Affiliated Club in relation to these Rules or any By-Laws or any match approved or controlled by the League.

"Member" means a member referred to in rule 4.1 herein.

"The Act" means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and all amendments thereto from time to time.

"The Regulations" means regulations made by the Governor in Council from time to time under the Act.

"General Manager " means the person appointed from time to time pursuant to rule 15 herein.

"Season" means the time from the commencement of the first matches played in accordance with the League's fixture for each division until the completion of all final series matches.

MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The League shall consist of the following members:

- (a) Life Members pursuant to rule 4.2 hereof.
- (b) Affiliated Clubs pursuant to rules 4.3 and 4.7 hereof.
- (c) Members of the Board pursuant to rule 4.8 hereof.

LIFE MEMBERS

- 4.2 (a) The Board may in each financial year confer upon any one person who has rendered outstanding service to the League a Life Membership of the League (herein referred to as "Life Membership").
- (b) All Life Members shall be entitled to:
- (i) free entry to all matches controlled by the League on presentation of their life membership medallion or such other identification as directed by the Board from time to time;
 - (ii) attend all Annual and Special Meetings of the League and speak at such meetings but shall not be entitled to vote.

CLUBS

- 4.3 The clubs affiliated with the incorporated associations known as Riddell District Football Netball League Inc., Riddell District Netball Association Inc. and Riddell District Junior Football League Inc. as at 4th December, 2006, which clubs are listed in Schedule 1 headed "Affiliated Clubs as at 4th December, 2006", shall be Affiliated Club Members of the League.
- 4.4 Any other club seeking membership with the League, which club satisfies the Board of the following, namely, that:
- (i) it is incorporated pursuant to the Act or it is a company incorporated pursuant to the Corporations Act;
 - (ii) its facilities and financial circumstances are of a standard acceptable to the Board;
 - (iii) its name and uniform are acceptable to the Board or will be altered to a uniform acceptable to the Board;
 - (iv) it was a financial member for the previous seasons of the previous league or association with which it was affiliated (if applicable);
-

- (v) it is willing to pay a security bond of up to \$2,000.00 upon being accepted into the League;
- (vi) it is willing to pay an acceptance fee as determined by the Board;

may make a written application to the League for membership as an Affiliated Club.

- 4.5 Every such written application shall be circulated by the General Manager to each member of the League within 30 days after receipt of the written application. The written application will be an item for discussion at any Annual or Special Meeting after receipt of the written application by the League.
- 4.6 All applications by Clubs wishing to become Affiliated Clubs will be voted on at any following Annual or Special Meeting after it has been discussed under rule 4.5 herein.
- 4.7 An applicant club shall become an Affiliated Club and a member of the League upon:
- (i) a majority decision of all members of the League actually attending and entitled to vote at the meeting at which the application is voted upon; and
 - (ii) lodging with the League a security bond (not exceeding \$2,000.00) determined by the Board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 4.8 The members of the Board from time to time shall be members of the League for such time only as they hold office.
- 4.9 The Board of the League shall comprise:
- (a) One President;
 - (b) Two Vice-Presidents;
 - (c) Up to seven (7) Executive Directors;
 - (d) Any Board appointed Appointee pursuant to rule 10.4 (b)

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- 5.1 The General Manager shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the name of each Affiliated Club Member, Life Member and Board Member from time to time and the date of the entry of the name of each member. The register shall be available for inspection by all members upon request to the General Manager.
- 5.2. Each Affiliated Club Member shall within 14 days of a change taking place notify the General Manager of:
- (i) any changes to their Board; and
 - (ii) any changes to the Representative for Annual and Special Meetings of the League.

VOTING RIGHTS

- 6.1 The voting at all Annual and Special General Meetings of the League shall be as follows:
- (a) every Life Member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof but shall not be entitled to vote;
 - (b) every Affiliated Club shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof and shall be entitled to one vote on every resolution or amendment thereof PROVIDED THAT its right to vote is conditional upon it having paid all monies due to the League prior to each respective Annual or Special Meeting;
 - (c) every Affiliated Club that is a single incorporated body comprising senior and junior teams shall be entitled to two votes on every resolution or amendment thereof PROVIDED THAT its right to vote is conditional upon it having paid all monies due to the League prior to each respective Annual or Special Meeting;
 - (e) every individual Board member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof and the League Chairman shall be entitled to one vote on every resolution or amendment thereof on behalf of the Board.

DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- 7.1.1 Subject to these Rules, in respect of any matter not expressly dealt with in the by-laws, if the Board is of the opinion that a member or an official or a registered player of a member has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or an official or a registered player of a member or prejudicial to the interests of the League, the Board may refer the matter to mediation under Rule 8 or resolve to proceed under this rule and resolve to:-

- (a) fine that member; or
-

- (b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
 - (c) expel that member from the League; or
 - (d) deduct match points from that member; or
 - (e) disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.
- 7.1.2 If the matter is referred to mediation but is not resolved by that process, the Board may resolve to:-
- (a) fine that member; or
 - (b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
 - (c) expel that member from the League; or
 - (d) deduct match points from that member; or
 - (e) disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.
- 7.2 A resolution of the Board under rule 7.1.1 does not take effect unless:-
- (a) at a meeting held in accordance with rule 7.3 the Board confirms the resolution; and
 - (b) if the member exercises a right of appeal to the League under this rule, the League confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.
- 7.3 A meeting of the Board to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under Rule 7.1.1 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 rule 7.4.
- 7.4 For the purpose of giving notice in accordance with rule 7.3; the General Manager must, as soon as practicable, cause to be given to the member—a written notice:-
- (a) setting out the resolution of the Board and the grounds on which it is based; and
 - (b) stating that the member may address the Board 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
 - (c) stating the date, place and time of that meeting; and
 - (d) informing the member that the member may do one or both of the following:-
 - (i) attend that meeting;
 - (ii) give to the Board before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution;

- (e) informing the member that, if at that meeting, the Board confirms a resolution to expel a member, the member may not later than 48 hours after that meeting, give the General Manager a notice to the effect that the member wishes to appeal to the League in general meeting against the resolution.
- 7.5 At a meeting of the Board to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under rule 7.1.1 the Board must:-
- (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member, and;
 - (c) determine by resolution whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.
- 7.6 If at a meeting of the Board, the Board confirms a resolution, to expel a member from the League the member not later than 48 hours after that meeting, may give the General Manager a notice to the effect that the member wishes to appeal to the League in general meeting against the resolution.
- 7.7 If the General Manager receives a notice under rule 7.6; he or she must notify the Board and must convene a general meeting of the League to be held within 21 days after the date on which the General Manager received the notice.
- 7.8 At the general meeting of the League convened under rule 7.7:-
- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - (b) the Board may place before the meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution; and
 - (c) the member must be given an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (d) the members present must vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- 7.9 A resolution is confirmed if, at the general meeting, not less than half of the members vote in person, or by proxy, in favour of the resolution. In any other case, the resolution is revoked.
- 7.10 For the purposes of this Rule 7, a member shall be deemed to be responsible for and liable to be penalized for the action and conduct of a registered player or official of a member which relates in any way to these Rules or the By-Laws or any match approved or controlled by the League.

DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

8.1 The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between –

- (a) a member club and another member club; or
- (b) a member club and the League; or
- (c) a member and a registered player or official of that member, where the member has referred the dispute to the League for resolution.

8.2 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.

8.3 If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.

8.4 The mediator must be –

- (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
- (b) in the absence of agreement –
 - (i) in the case of a dispute between a member club and another member club, a person appointed by the RDFL Board.
 - (ii) in the case of a dispute between a member and the League, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).

8.5 A member of the League can be a mediator.

8.6 The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.

8.7 The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.

8.8 The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must –

- (a) give the parties in the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
- (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
- (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.

- 8.9 The mediator must not determine the dispute.
- 8.10 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.

WITHDRAWAL OF AFFILIATION

- 9.1 An Affiliated Club Member may apply to withdraw its affiliation with the League only between 4th September and 34th October in any year by giving notice in writing to the General Manager. Such notification shall be signed by the Executive Members of the Affiliated Club Member concerned and shall contain the reason for its decision to seek withdrawal together with a duly certified Minute of the Meeting of the member at which such decision was made.
- 9.2 The Board shall consider and rule upon any such application within 21 days of receipt of the notice in writing.
- 9.3 In the event the Board objects to the withdrawal application, the General Manager shall advise the Club in writing, of the reasons for its refusal within seven (7) days of that refusal.
- 9.4 Any Affiliated Club Member may within seven (7) days of receipt of the reasons set out in rule 9.3 appeal the decision to Football Victoria.

BOARD

- 10.1 A person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Board of the League if in the opinion of the League members the nominee shall have sufficient skills and experience to promote and further the best interests of the Riddell District FNL.
- All members of the League Board shall be eligible to hold office on a Committee of an affiliated club, or other official position within a Board. (E.g Junior Coach) but no more than 2 RDFNL Board members can hold an official position at the same club, and no more than 4 Board members can hold a position at a club.
- In such instances where the Board considers that a conflict may exist between an item of business and a role that a Board member may hold within a Club, that Chairman may ask for the Board member to be excused for that item of business.
- 10.2 Each Board Member shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiration of his/her term.
- 10.3 Any retiring Board Member shall remain a Board Member and be eligible to vote and speak at all Annual and Special Meetings until the conclusion of the Annual or Special Meeting at which he or she is replaced.
- 10.4 (a) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office of the Board, the Board shall seek nominations to fill such vacancy or vacancies. In accordance with rule 10.11 to 10.15 inclusive, at the next Special

Meeting or at a Meeting called to consider a ballot, the elected person shall hold office for the period of that office, as if it had not been vacated. In the event that no nominations are received within 28 days of that advertisement, the Board shall be empowered to fill such casual vacancy or vacancies and any person(s) so appointed shall serve in that office until the next Annual General Meeting.

- (b) The Board shall have the power to appoint not more than one person to act as a Board member for a term not exceeding two years should it decide in its absolute discretion that the particular skills and expertise of that person warrant his or her appointment as an Board member. Upon the expiration of the term, the Appointee shall be eligible for election at the next Annual General Meeting if upon expiration of the appointed term he/she gives notice in writing to the Board of the intention to seek election to the Board.

POWERS

10.5 The Affairs of the League shall be managed by the Board, constituted as provided in rule 4.9 herein. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies in any position of the Board, the remaining members of the Board may act provided their numbers are sufficient to maintain a quorum at Board meetings.

10.6 The Board, in addition to any specific powers in these rules:

- (a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the League;
- (b) shall, subject to these Rules, The Regulations and The Act, have power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Board to be necessary for the proper management of the business and affairs of the League;
- (c) shall appoint an Auditor from time to time for such time as the Board considers appropriate;
- (d) shall have power to discipline, suspend or expel members, officials of member clubs or registered players in such manner as is provided for in these rules or the by-laws.
- (e) make, amend, substitute or cancel such by-laws as the Board considers necessary for the League to implement from time to time; and
- (f) may delegate specified powers and responsibilities, set out in the by-laws, to the following committees:

A Netball Committee

or any other committee the Board considers necessary in the circumstances.

CALL IN POWER

10.7 Before any:

- (a) delegated committee of the Board;
- (b) independent tribunal; or
- (c) panel.

established under these rules or under the by-laws makes a decision in respect of any matter referred to it in accordance with the rules or by-laws, the Board may direct the relevant committee, tribunal or panel to refer the matter to it for determination, if it appears to the Board:-

- (d) the matter raises a major issue of policy in relation to the activities of the League and the determination of the matter may have a substantial effect on the affairs of the League and/or any of its members; or
- (e) any decision on the matter has been unreasonably delayed or is otherwise disadvantaging one of the parties or the consideration of the matter by the League Board would better facilitate the League in controlling and managing the affairs of the League.

- 10.8 In response to any such direction, the relevant committee, tribunal or panel must comply with the direction without delay and must not proceed further with the matter itself.
- 10.9 For the purposes of these rules upon directing that the matter be remitted to it, the Board of the League shall be entitled to exercise the power of the relevant committee, tribunal or panel and shall adopt the procedures set out in these rules or the by-laws applicable to that committee, tribunal or panel.
- 10.10 Subject only to the rights of any member, set out in rule 7.6 being exercised, any decision made by the Board in respect of a matter remitted to it for determination, shall be final and binding.

ELECTIONS

- 10.11 Any two Affiliated Club Members or the President may nominate any eligible person to stand for the position of a Board member.
- 10.12 Each nomination shall be in the form of Schedule 2 and signed by or on behalf of the Board by the President or on behalf of each of the nominee clubs (through their appropriate representatives) and on that form the nominee shall:
- (i) acknowledge his willingness to stand for the position of which he is being nominated; and
 - (ii) specify the basis of his eligibility to stand for election.
- 10.13 The nominating members, or the President, as the case may be, shall cause the nomination to be lodged with the General Manager at least twenty-eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 10.14 The General Manager shall inform all members of the meeting at which an election is to take place of the candidates for any position on the Board by posting to each of the members of the League the list of candidates' names in alphabetical order in respect of each position to be filled at the meeting at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 10.15 All elections to elect Board Members shall be by ballot unless there shall not be sufficient numbers of candidates to require election, in which case the nominee shall be deemed to be elected to the vacant office.

VACANCY AND REMOVAL

- 10.16 The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if a member of the Board:
- (a) submits his or her resignation in writing to the General Manager; or
 - (b) dies or becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent which interferes with the performance of his/her duties as a Board Member; or
 - (c) is absent without approval from meetings of the Board for more than 3 consecutive months; or
 - (d) holds any office of the League for pecuniary reward.

MEETINGS**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 11.1 Within three (3) months of the end of each financial year the Board shall convene an Annual General Meeting.
- 11.2 The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;

- (b) to receive from the Board reports upon the transactions of the League during the preceding financial year;
 - (c) to elect members of the Board to fill any vacancies in Board offices;
 - (d) to receive and consider a statement submitted by the League containing the following particulars:
 - (i) the income and expenditure of the League during its last financial year;
 - (ii) the assets and liabilities of the League at the end of its last financial year;
 - (iii) the mortgages, charges and securities of any description affecting any of the property of the League at the end of its last financial year; and
 - (iv) in respect of each trust of which the League was trustee during a period, being the whole or any part of the last financial year of the League:
 - (a) the income and expenditure of the trust during the period;
 - (b) the assets and liabilities of the trust during that period; and
 - (c) the mortgages, charges and securities of any description affecting any of the property of the trust at the end of that period.
- 11.3 The Annual General Meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- 11.4 The Annual General Meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.
- 11.5 Only the representatives of Affiliated Club Members for the financial year reported upon shall be eligible to speak and vote at any Annual General Meeting.
- 11.6 A Board Member shall be eligible to speak on all matters raised at an Annual Meeting and shall retain his office in the event of not being re-elected to office or not standing for office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which his term of office was terminated.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 11.7 The General Manager shall convene extraordinary general meetings of the members of the League (to be referred to as Special Meetings) as follows:
- (i) at such times, places and dates nominated by the Board to deal with matters nominated by the Board;
 - (ii) upon receipt by the General Manager of a requisition setting forth

proposed motions for the meeting signed by representatives of at least ten (10) Affiliated Club Members.

- 11.8 If the General Manager does not cause a special meeting to be convened within one month after the date on which a requisition is received by him from the Affiliated Club Members, the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special meeting to be held not later than three months after the date on which the General Manager received the requisition.
- 11.9 A special meeting convened by members pursuant to rule 11.8 shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which Special Meetings are convened by the General Manager and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be reimbursed to the requisitioning members by the League.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 12.1 The General Manager shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the convening of an Annual or Special Meeting, cause to be sent to each member of the League at each member's address appearing in the register of members, a notice by pre-paid post stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 12.2 No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at any Annual or Special Meeting.
- 12.3 A member desiring to bring any business or motions before a meeting must give 14 days notice of the business in writing in the form of Schedule 3 to the General Manager, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next Annual or Special Meeting after receipt of that notice.

BUSINESS OF AND PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 13.1 All business that is transacted at a Special Meeting and all business that is transacted at the Annual Meeting, with the exception of that specially referred to in these rules as being the ordinary business of an Annual Meeting, shall be deemed to be special business.
- 13.2 No item of business shall be transacted at an Annual or Special meeting unless a quorum or members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- 13.3 A majority of members of the League entitled to vote at meetings personally present or represented being members entitled under these rules to vote at Annual and Special Meetings, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at any Annual or Special Meetings.
- 13.4 If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of an Annual or Special Meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to a time and place determined and announced by the Board.

- 13.5 The President, or in his absence, either of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside as Chairman at each Annual or Special Meeting of the League.
- 13.6 If the President and both the Vice-Presidents are absent from any Annual or Special Meetings, the members present shall elect one of the remaining Board members to preside as Chairman at the Meeting. If none of those persons are willing to act as Chairman, the Members may elect a Chairman from the Members present.
- 13.7 The Board of an Annual or Special Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the Meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 13.8 Where a meeting is adjourned for ten (10) days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an Annual or Special Meeting.
- 13.9 Except as provided in rule 13.8 it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- 13.10 A question or motion arising at an Annual or Special Meeting of the League, except as otherwise provided in these Rules, shall be determined on a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll or ballot is demanded, a declaration by the Board that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the League, is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the question or motion.
- 13.11 If at an Annual or Special Meeting a poll or ballot on any question is demanded by not less than two members, it shall be taken at the time and in such manner as the Board may direct and the resolution of the poll or ballot shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question or motion.
- 13.12 Upon any question or motion arising at an Annual or Special Meeting of the League, a member must vote personally by its representative/s. No proxies will be recognised. Where a Member is entitled to 2 votes, each vote must be given by a personally present representative.
- 13.13 In the case of an equality of voting on a question, at an Annual or Special Meeting the Board of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 13.14 (a) A poll or ballot that is demanded on the election of a Board or on a question of an adjournment of the Annual or Special Meeting must be taken immediately upon the demand being made.
- (b) A poll or ballot that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at any time, before the close of the meeting, as the Board may direct.

PROCEEDINGS AT BOARD MEETINGS

- 14.1 The Board shall meet at such places and at such times as the Board may determine from time to time.
- 14.2 Special meetings of the Board may be convened by the President or by any of the members of the Board.
- 14.3 Notice shall be given to members of the Board of any special meeting specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.
- 14.4 Any four members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Board.
- 14.5 No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week unless the meeting was a special meeting in which case, it lapses.
- 14.6 At meetings of the Board:
- (a) the President or in his absence, either of the Vice-Presidents shall preside; or
 - (b) if the President and both Vice-Presidents are absent, one of the remaining members of the Board as may be chosen by the members present shall preside.
- 14.7 Questions arising at a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee appointed by the Board shall be determined on a show of hands or, if demanded by a member, by a poll taken in such manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- 14.8 Each member present at a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee appointed by the Board (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote and, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- 14.9 Notice of each Board meeting shall be given to each member of the Board by communicating the time of the meeting to him at a reasonable time before the meeting.
- 14.10 Subject to rule 14.4 the Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the Board provided a quorum at all times is present.

GENERAL MANAGER

- 15.1 The Board shall appoint a full-time Manager of the League (to be known as "General Manager"), who shall be:
- (i) an employee of the League;
 - (ii) entitled to remuneration and other employment benefits as the Board

- may determine from time to time;
- (iii) The General Manager shall be a non-voting member of the Board and all duly appointed sub-committees of the League;
 - (iv) responsible for the day to day activities of the League under the direction of the Board;
 - (v) responsible for the recording and keeping of all minutes of meetings of the League and the Board, including all duly appointed sub-committees;
 - (vi) responsible for the collection and receipt of all moneys due to the League;
 - (vii) responsible for the custody and maintenance of correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the League with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the League, which accounts and books shall be open to inspection by any member of the League from time to time;
 - (viii) responsible, in consultation with the Board, the appointment of other staff as required.
 - (ix) the Public Officer of the League.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 16.1 A Tribunal Secretary & Tribunal Chairman shall be appointed by the outgoing Board each year prior to the Annual General meeting. The Tribunal Secretary shall be responsible for the selection and notification of Tribunal Members on each occasion it is necessary and shall draw such members from the "list" presented to the Member Clubs at the Annual General meeting of the League. The Tribunal Chairman shall preside on all cases when practicable and available and additional Chairman may be appointed as needed by the Tribunal Secretary.
- 16.2 An independent Tribunal, hereafter referred to as the Tribunal, of three (3) shall be appointed by the Tribunal Secretary to deal with appeals, umpires reports and any other matters referred to it by the Board. A list of the independent Tribunal Members shall be presented at the Annual General meeting of the League. A substitute/s may be appointed to the Tribunal to act when any of the Tribunal Members may be unable to do so. Any Member Club objecting to a person nominated on the "list" referred to in Rule 16.1 may do so at the League Annual General meeting and a vote of Member Clubs present shall determine that persons eligibility.

NOTICES

- 17.1 Any notice required to be given to or served upon the League or the Board shall be addressed to the General Manager at the registered office of the League from time to time and shall be deemed to have been duly served:
- (a) at the time of personal service was effected on the General Manager; or
 - (b) at the time any notice was sent by pre-paid mail to the registered office

of the League would be received in the ordinary course of the post;

whichever is appropriate.

- 17.2 Any notice by the League or Board to any member, player or official of a member shall be posted by pre-paid ordinary mail or sent by electronic media and shall be deemed to have been duly served if addressed to the Secretary of the Member at the time it would ordinarily be received in the post, through electronic communication or in the case of personal service at the actual time service is effected.

CHEQUES

- 18.1 All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed as determined by the Board from time to time.

SEAL

- 19.1 The Common Seal of the League shall be kept in the custody of the General Manager.
- 19.2 The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Board and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Board or of one member of the Board and the General Manager.

ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

- 20.1 These rules and the Statement of Purposes of the League shall not be altered except by special resolution of the members of the League being a three-fourths majority of those attending, entitled to vote and actually voting.

WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION

- 21.1 In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the League, the assets of the League must be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

CUSTODY OF RECORDS

- 22.1 Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the General Manager shall keep in his custody or under his control, all books, relevant documents and securities of the League, which shall be made available within seven days to any member upon request in writing.

FUNDS

- 23.1 The funds of the League shall be derived from annual subscriptions, donations, fees and levies and such other sources as the Board determines from time to time.

FEES

24.1 Each Affiliated Club Member shall pay the prescribed annual subscriptions and other fees and levies of the League on or by the date prescribed from time to time by the Board.

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.**SCHEDULE 1****AFFILIATED CLUBS AS AT 3rd DECEMBER 2014**

(Rule 4.3 of the Statement of Rules)

Broadford Football Club Inc.
Diggers Rest Junior Football Club Inc.
Diggers Rest Football Club Inc.
Eynesbury Junior Football Club Inc.
Gisborne Rookies Junior Football Club Inc.
Kilmore Junior Football Club Inc.
Kilmore Football Club Inc.
Lancefield Football Club Inc.
Lancefield Junior Football Club Inc.
Macedon Football Club Inc.
Macedon Junior Football Club Inc.
Melton Central Football Club Inc.
Melton Central Junior Football Club Inc
Melton Junior Football Club Inc.
Melton South Junior Football Club Inc.
Riddell Football Club Inc.
Riddells Creek Junior Football Club Inc.
Rockbank Football Club Inc.
Romsey Football Club Inc.
Romsey Junior Football Club Inc.
Rupertswood Football Club Inc.
Sunbury Junior Football Club Inc.
Sunbury Kangaroos Junior Football Club Inc.
Sunbury Kangaroos Football Club Inc.
Wallan Football Club
Wandong Junior Football Club Inc
Woodend Junior Football Club Inc.
Woodend/Hesket Football Club Inc.

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.

SCHEDULE 2

BOARD NOMINATION FORM

(Rule 10.12 of the Statement of Rules)

TO: THE GENERAL MANAGER

TAKE NOTICE that the two member Clubs specified below hereby wish to nominate:

(Insert name) _____

for the position as (Insert position) _____

4th NOMINATING CLUB (Name) _____ Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary* _____

2ND NOMINATING CLUB (Name) _____ Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary* _____
(* cross out whichever not applicable)

DATED this _____ day of _____ 20

NOMINEE'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND BASIS OF ELIGIBILITY

I, (insert full name of nominee) _____

of (insert nominee's residential address) _____

the above named nominee hereby state:

1. I am willing to stand for the above position for which I am being nominated.
2. I am eligible to be nominated because (specify Rule 10 eligibility):

SIGNED: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Nominating Members must cause the nomination form duly completed to be lodged with the General Manager at least 28 clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.



RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.

SCHEDULE 3

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING OF THE LEAGUE

(Rule 12.3 of the Statement of Rules)

TO: THE GENERAL MANAGER:

TAKE NOTICE THAT (Insert name of Club)

desires to bring the following business / motion before the next meeting of the League:

(Set out business / motion)

DATED this _____ day of _____ 20____

NAME OF CLUB: _____ Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary* _____

(* cross out whichever not applicable)

NOTE:
This Notice must be lodged with the General Manager not less than 14 days before the meeting at which the Notice will be considered.

Riddell District Football & Netball League Inc. Operational By-Laws

Football:

In accordance with the powers given it under Rule 10.6 e of the Rules of the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated, the Board of Directors has adopted the following By-Laws for the upcoming season.

Operational

1. Interpretation

In these By-Laws, unless the contrary intention appears:

- "League" means the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- "Seniors" are defined as First, Second & Third Eighteen Teams
- "Juniors" are defined as Under 16, Under 14, Under 12 & Under 10
- "Board" means the Board of Directors constituted pursuant to Rule 20.
- "Rules" means the Rules of the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- "Penalty Unit" is defined as \$10.

2. Powers

The League shall, subject to its Statement of Purposes, and to its Rules, comply otherwise with the Laws of Australian Football (released by the AFL) and AFL Victoria Country.

3. Matters not Provided for

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the Rules; in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football Foundation, or the AFL Victoria Country rules, the Board shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter.

4. Admission Prices

Admission prices will be determined by the Board prior to the commencement of each season, with sufficient time for clubs to complete their budgets for the coming year. Disbursement of gate receipts is covered by By-Law 18.

5. Change of Venue

The Fixture Committee consisting of the Director of Operations, Chairman of Directors, Regional General Manager and Operations Manager shall review all match venues on a weekly basis and determine any venue change not later than 5pm on the Wednesday preceding the round of matches. Match programming is covered in By-Law 31.

6. Clearance & Permit Curfew

In accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, the League imposes a clearance & permit curfew. No clearance or permit shall be handled after 5pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following a round of matches unless & except where by exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Regional General Manager or Operations Manager.

7. Club Officials, Notification of Office Bearers & Annual Reports

The Operations Manager shall circulate each year a Club Information Review Form to be completed and returned by a date nominated by the Board. The information on the form will be included in the Season Information Booklet and circulated to all other clubs and members of the media. Clubs must inform the League immediately of any change of personnel after submission of the form or changes of communications details for any individual listed on the form.

All affiliated Clubs must, within fourteen days of the holding of their Annual General Meeting, notify the Operations Manager of the League, in writing, of the names of all office bearers, their address, telephone number(s) and email address. Clubs must also submit to the League a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting by the 31st December. Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report will see the Riddell District Football & Netball League impose a fine of 25 penalty units.

8. Football Guide/Records

Each home club will be allocated an amount of Football Guides/Records for distribution at matches. The Guides should be distributed at the home venues. Each club must supply notes via email (only) to toby@aflgoldfields.com.au prior to 5 pm on the Tuesday preceding each round. The notes must not be of more than 250 words for the senior record and not more than 150 words for the junior record. Notes exceeding this amount may have any text after 250 words (150 for juniors) deleted. Failure to provide such notes will see a fine of 20 penalty units imposed on the offending club/s. The Home club must make arrangements for the allocation of Guides to be collected from the league.

9. Interleague Policy

The Riddell District Football Netball League has a long tradition in the WorkSafe Victorian Country Championships. The League expects all member clubs to support the Interleague campaign and encourage players and officials who are selected to participate. From time to time, the League may approach clubs for the use of its facilities for training and/or matches.

The Match Committee, comprising of four Selectors plus one Chairman of Selectors and the Coach, shall coordinate the selection of the training squad, and from time to time any additions or deletions can be made. All squad members (fit & injured) are expected to attend training unless excused by the coach or a member of the selection panel. Players who fail to attend training without notification or make themselves unavailable for Interleague may incur a suspension of a minimum of one match.

At the discretion of the match committee, allowances may be made for playing coaches and those who have given good service to the RDFNL Interleague campaign in previous years, or to any other player in exceptional circumstances that are approved by the RDFNL Board.

All senior and junior Interleague representatives will be supplied with shorts and socks if selected to represent the league.

10. Jumpers

All jumpers in both Senior and Reserve matches must carry different numbers. Players must be wearing the number that corresponds to the Official League Program and the team sheet. Refer By-Law 113.

11. Submission of Selected Sides

Seniors:

Each club must submit their selected sides in the Senior, Reserve and U/18.5 grades into the system prior to 8:30pm on the Friday night preceding a round of matches. Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the system. Should any player take the field outside the 22 named players and 3 emergencies, a 25 penalty unit fine per player not named will be enforced upon that club unless the club can provide evidence to support a valid reason for the change.

Clubs participating in matches that are scheduled to play on a Sunday will be permitted to submit an extended bench of 10 players (4 interchange plus 6 emergencies) however sides still need to submit all players in position and with jumper numbers. Failure of a Club to correctly submit a side to the system shall result in a fine of 25 Penalty Units.

Juniors:

Each club must submit their completed team lists into the system any time prior to the commencement of their game with enough time to print out and use as the club's official team sheet for match days.

All grades must print off copies of their team sheet from the system. Team sheets must represent a 100% accurate account of the players who take the field on a weekly basis. Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet however these changes must be submitted on the system immediately following each game in time for submission of results deadline. Refer to By-Law 12.

12. Submission of Match Results

All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game. It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to enter the final scores of each game however each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for every match. AWAY clubs can request that the HOME club enter the best players and goal kickers for them and if agreeable it will be the responsibility of the HOME team to ensure all results are entered on time.

The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm.

All final scores, best players and goal kickers must be submitted by this time, clubs failing to meet this deadline shall incur a penalty of 5 penalty units per offence. There is no longer a need for clubs to ring through scores to the league as this service will be provided by each club.

13. Live Scores

For Senior competition football matches only, it will be the responsibility of the HOME club to conduct live scores via the program supplied by the league. Failure of a club to conduct the live scores service (without a valid excuse) shall incur a fine of 10 penalty units.

14. Media Commitments

Each club should attempt to make personnel available to the media as requested in order to aid the promotion of the League.

15. Practice Matches

The League must be notified of all practise matches, including the participating grades, clubs, date, times and venue to ensure Clubs & Players are insured. As outlined in By-Law 33, all Practice Matches must be officiated by Official Umpires. Clubs must ensure local government policies and procedures are followed to ensure booking of all venues and facilities are finalised well in advance to the commencement date of each practice match. It is also the responsibility of each club to place a booking at least 2 weeks prior to any practice match for any required umpires. Umpire bookings placed inside 2 weeks of any practice match cannot be guaranteed they will be filled.

16. Turf Wickets

Clubs with turf wickets bear the responsibility of arranging the wickets to be covered and uncovered throughout the season.

17. Umpires

The Riddell District Football Umpires Association caters for all RDFNL Matches and supplies umpires as negotiated on a year to year basis. The RDFNL shall also have a separate agreement with the Riddell Umpires Association to supply umpires as negotiated on a year to year basis. Please see appendix section for copies of Umpire MOU's.

18. Gate Receipts

The Board shall have power to establish policy from year to year in respect of the disbursement of gate receipts of the finals series matches.

19. Special Arrangements

The Board may in its discretion, make special allowances to affiliated Clubs in the defraying of expenses in conducting the affairs of the League and in so doing, shall honour agreements entered into or arrangements made with affiliated Clubs. The Board shall determine any such special allowances prior to the commencement of any season and advise all affiliated Clubs of any decisions in relation to special allowances and expenses.

20. Duties of League Officers

The Officers of the League appointed pursuant to its Rules, shall carry out such functions and perform such duties as are set out in the Rules and in addition such duties and functions as may be directed by the Board from time to time.

21. Honorarium

Office Bearers of the League shall be entitled to receipt of an Honorarium, such Honorariums to be fixed at a Board Meeting of the League.

22. Other Duties

The Board may in its discretion, delegate any one of its number to perform other duties and functions and if appropriate, may recommend that Honorariums relating to such duties, be fixed at a Board Meeting of the League and shall further have power to appoint from time to time, committees to carry out any of its duties and functions.

23. League Passes

The following outlines what passes entitle bearer to:

Ticket	Admits
• RDFNL Life Members ticket	- bearer & vehicle
• RDFNL Season Pass	- bearer & vehicle to all H&A and Finals
• RDFNL Home & Away Pass	- bearer & vehicle to all H&A only
• AFL Victoria Country Directors Pass	- bearer & vehicle + 1 guest

The following people shall be entitled to a season pass issued by the League. These people shall be entitled to admission free of charge to all matches in the League upon presentation of a season pass for that year to the gatekeepers.

- (i) League Officials
- (ii) Life members of the League
- (iii) Bowen Medallists
- (iv) Scarborough Medallists
- (v) Ryan Medallists
- (vi) Officiating Umpires (refer football rule 23) and Riddell Umpire Association "officially" appointed advisers and observers
- (vii) Netball Umpires
- (viii) League Investigation Officer
- (ix) League Sponsors
- (x) Regional Media
- (viii) Any other person, as determined by the Board.

The Board shall issue each Member Club with twenty five (25) passes, as determined by the Board, for its president, secretary, treasurer and coach or otherwise distribution at their discretion. Each named official shall be entitled to free admission to all games in which the named Club is participating on presentation of this pass during the home and away season only.

24. Life Membership

The major criteria must be service to the League, and such service must incorporate recognisable achievement over a period of time.

25. Smoking / Alcohol

a) Smoking is prohibited within RDFNL Headquarters and at all official RDFNL functions.

Under Section 5RI (1) of the Tobacco Act 1987, Victorian State Legislation, smoking is banned within 10 metres of a sporting venue that is an outdoor public place during an organised underage sporting event in Victoria from April 1, 2014.

This ban also includes training or practice sessions to prepare for participation in an organised underage sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.

b) During any junior matches no alcohol is to be consumed around the ground or within any building constructed and used by the Club including any licensed premises without the written consent from the League which consent if given will only be valid for the year in which it is issued and on the conditions it is issued. The Club shall be liable for any breach of this rule and shall be liable to a penalty of up to \$1000.00 for each breach of the rule.

26. Surplus

In the event a surplus is shown in the accounts at the completion of the season, the League may in its discretion, and prior to the declaration of a dividend, transfer to a Reserve Fund, such sum to be decided by the Board and such Reserve Fund shall be deemed to be the property of the League and any affiliated Club ceasing to be a member of the League shall have no equity in any monies then contained in such Reserve Fund.

27. Dividend

The League shall not declare a dividend in cash form. However funds may be made available for all clubs to finance capital improvements or reduce club affiliation fees from time to time subject to the availability of funds.

28. Affiliation

- The League shall admit such Football Clubs as it may from time to time determine provided such Football Clubs comply or are capable of complying with the Rules and these By-Laws and the Regulations of AFL Victoria Country.
- Each Football Club affiliated with the League during the previous season shall be deemed to be an affiliated member of the League for the following season subject to payment of such affiliation fees as are specified and fixed by the League at its Annual General Meeting and any other outstanding monies due to the League.

29. Affiliation Fee

- Each affiliated Club shall pay to the League such affiliation fee as is fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- Affiliated Clubs neglecting or refusing to pay its affiliation fee; its declared share of any loss that may be incurred; any levy that may be made; or any fine as imposed by the Rules or these By-Laws, and such failure or refusal continues for one month after due notice has been given by the Board, shall be subject to the next following By-Law, be subject to expulsion.

30. Expulsion

A two thirds majority of members of the League present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, may expel such Club from the League or take such other action as it may determine in relation to the Club's affiliation with the League or permit its continued affiliation on such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable.

31. Programming

The Board shall arrange the programming of all matches and shall have the power to re-arrange the order of games and the grounds upon which matches are to be played if at any time, the question of suitability or availability of grounds arises.

32. Fixture Procedure

The Operations Manager, in conjunction with the Director of Operations and Regional General Manager, shall determine the fixture for each season. Each club shall be entitled to make a submission to the League on issues to be taken into consideration, although no guarantee is made that all situations will be catered for. Such submission should be received by the League not later than a date as nominated by the Operations Manager, for the following season. The fixture will be released publicly prior to Christmas each year, for the following season.

Junior clubs are required to notify the League Operations Manager no later than 6 weeks prior to the start of the Junior Season of their team affiliations in Football and Netball. The Operations Manager in conjunction with the Junior Football Directors will devise the junior structure and the junior fixture. Any club who withdraws a team affiliation will not be refunded their affiliation fee and may be liable to other sanctions as deemed by the Board.

33. Other Matches

No affiliated Club shall, without the prior approval of the Board, engage in any match other than those programmed. All pre-season practice matches are to be umpired by official Umpires including Central, Boundary and Goals. Any RDFNL club wishing to take part in any football competition that is not administered by the Riddell District Football & Netball League, must write to the Regional General Manager and Riddell District Football & Netball League Operations Manager seeking approval from the RDFNL Board to compete. This excludes any pre-season competition organised by a club outside the league.

34. Points and Ladder Format

In all matches four points shall be counted for a win and two for a draw. At the conclusion of the minor rounds, if two or more Clubs have gained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs on the Premiership ladder, shall be determined by the percentage of points scored for and against any such Clubs. In the case the RDFNL fixture contains a bye, for the purpose of ladder calculation 4 points will be awarded to the team with the bye in a given round of matches.

Competitions that have an uneven amount of games played by all clubs during the home and away season will be ranked on the ladder by win percentage, then by a percentage of points scored for and against.

35. Forfeiture

If any Club forfeits a match, provided such opposing Club has a completed team sheet, four points shall be awarded to the Premiership score of the opposing Club, which also shall have added to its percentage account, the average number of goals and behinds scored in matches against the defaulting Club during the season. Fines will be imposed by the RDFNL to Clubs who forfeit scheduled fixtures or any scheduled match within the Riddell District Football & Netball League. The following fines will apply

• Senior Football	-	200 penalty units
• Reserves Football	-	150 penalty units
• U/18.5 Football	-	50 penalty units
• Any Junior Football fixture	-	20 penalty units
• A Grade Netball	-	100 penalty units
• B Grade Netball	-	50 penalty units
• C Grade Netball	-	25 penalty units
• 19&U Netball	-	25 penalty units

Juniors

Clubs with more than one team in any age group must play their highest ranked team each week. Therefore clubs cannot forfeit their highest ranked team in any grade if they have players available playing in their other team/s in that age group.

36. Expenses

Any Club which forfeits its engagement, shall on top of any penalty imposed by the league be responsible for the expenses incurred in the arrangements of such match, unless it gives notice to the Operations Manager of the League not less than twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of such match of its notice of intention to forfeit. This will be in addition to the fine imposed by the League. Refer to By-Law 35.

37. Calling off Games

The Riddell District Football Netball League has a fixture committee comprising of the President, Director of Operations, Regional General Manager and the Operations Manager who shall monitor the condition of venues and make a judgement call as to whether matches shall proceed for a given round. Individual matches called off by clubs are deemed as forfeiture and nil points awarded for the fixture. If agreement is reached between clubs to call off a match, it is to be in writing, endorsed by the controlling umpire on the day and forwarded to the League Operations Manager immediately and premiership points shall be shared. For all other matters not catered for in this By-Law, refer to the AFL Laws of the Game in the AFL Victoria Country handbook.

Team sheets must still be submitted for games even in the event that a match is called off. In the event of a forfeit, the opposing team shall submit a team sheet and those players named are deemed to have played in the game. This information is important when determining finals eligibility.

In the event where a suspended player is a representative of the non-forfeiting side, these games shall count as games served in reference to the suspension the player in question has received.

38. Records of Players

Not later than 7pm on the night of a match, all match day paperwork as listed below, must be returned to RDFNL headquarters (or an alternative location nominated by the League). All paperwork of Clubs playing in such matches must be collected by either the home team's delegates or other accredited representative on the day and submitted to the league headquarters. The Home Club shall be responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted to the League by 7pm on the night of a match. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 20 Penalty Units. The following list of match day paperwork will be required for submission:

SENIORS

- Match day checklist
- Team sheets
- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)
- Timekeeper cards
- Goal Umpire cards
- Match result sheets
- Order off cards
- Permits of any kind
- Match day report sheets

JUNIORS

- Match day checklist
- Team sheets
- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)
- Timekeeper cards
- Goal Umpire cards
- Match result sheets
- Order off cards
- Permits of any kind

NETBALL

- Match day checklist
- Scorecards
- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)

39. Scoreboards

Each venue used for RDFNL matches, both senior and junior, must be equipped with an operational scoreboard. Scoreboard attendants must be of a suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job. Scoreboards should operate throughout all games and must be kept as accurate as possible. Clubs must supply scoreboard attendants for each and every game. A fine of 10 penalty units will be issued for each game where the scoreboard fails to be attended and/or operational.

40. Time Clocks

All time clocks displayed to the general public at RDFNL venues must run from zero upward without stopping for time on. A fine of 2.5 penalty units per occasion the clock is not used (or used incorrectly) will be imposed. Time clocks used by timekeepers may count down towards zero (stopping for time on in senior competition only).

41. Board Meeting Format

Correspondence raised by the Regional General Manager & Operations Manager to be restricted only to that which requires a decision from the Board. All other items will be listed, but only raised if questioned. General Business will take place immediately after Correspondence and any Director with an item requiring discussion or a decision should have the Regional General Manager or Operations Manager list it as General Business rather than raise it in the report.

Director's reports will be held at the end of the meeting, and these will be circulated with the meeting notice for review. Director's reports will only report on activity - issues requiring a decision should be listed in General Business. Directors with questions on reports should contact the reporting director, Regional General Manager or Operations Manager. These reports will be duplicated and circulated with minutes.

42. Match Report Sheet

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that umpires fill out and sign off on a match report sheet for each competing team in each football game for seniors down to U/12's and have it inserted in the match day paperwork envelope. Penalty 10 units per offence.

43. Use of Two Footballs

In the event of extreme weather conditions, two footballs may be used in a match with the change of footballs occurring at each quarter time break to ensure no advantage is gained by either club. Both clubs must agree to the use of two footballs. If no agreement is met, only one football may be used.

44. Ground Lighting

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue. The Umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if he/she considers the conditions unsafe.

Prior to a venue being considered suitable for night or twilight games, clubs must apply to the League for permission to host a night or twilight game, and meet criteria as determined by the League.

45. Fundraising

At venues, is the right of the Home Team, however Visiting Teams should be permitted to conduct activities that are internal based and which form a part of a Club's week to week activities. E.g. Best player tickets.

46. Interchange Agreement

On an annual basis, the RDFNL shall enter into an Interchange Agreement with other leagues as it deems necessary. Refer to appendix for the AFL Goldfields and AFL Central Victoria Interchange Agreement applicable to all RDFNL clubs.

47. Outstanding Debt

If a Club has an outstanding debt to the league that exceeds 30 days prior to the 1st official home & away fixture of the season, that club shall not be eligible to earn premiership points from any fixtures until such time as the outstanding debt is settled or a financial re-payment plan is signed off by the Board.

If a Club has an outstanding debt to the league that exceeds 30 days prior to 1st August of the current season, that club shall not be eligible to compete in the final series in any grade unless the outstanding debt is settled a minimum of 7 days prior to the commencement of the finals or a financial re-payment plan is signed off by the Board. Additionally that club shall be ineligible to host a finals match.

If a Club has not settled all outstanding debts to the league by the 1st November of each year, that Club shall forego their Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of the Riddell District Football & Netball League.

Clubs with fines outstanding for a period of four weeks after the invoice date will be fined a further 5 penalty units per week per outstanding fine.

The league reserves the right to grant clubs an extension on settling any outstanding debt provided clubs apply in writing with a valid reason for the extension.

48. Hire of Facilities

The maximum charge for any club charging another Club for the use of their ground & facilities during the home & away season are as follows:

- Junior games: \$50
- Senior game: \$100

If clubs wish to use the social rooms at a venue during or following the completion of their match, then they must approach the venue's President and or venue representative to arrange a price and conditions of use for the social room and facilities.

49. Use of Facilities for Finals

In the event where a club requires the use of another club's facilities for a RDFNL Finals match day, a fee of \$250 per day of use shall be paid to the Home club to account for the cost and use of utilities on that match day.

50. RDFNL Sounding of Siren Policy

The RDFNL understands the importance of keeping to the running sheet for match days (copy of senior and junior running sheets at the front of the Information Booklet) and ensuring all games finish at their scheduled finishing times. Therefore, the following policy must be adhered to for all matches (except Senior football) competing in any RDFNL competition:

- Both Timekeepers must make an assessment of time at half time of every match (except Senior football)
- If it is determined that the match is running behind schedule, the time remaining until the scheduled finishing time shall be split equally in half also factoring in enough time for a three quarter time break (see division of breaks in By-Law 108).
- If further time is lost throughout the second half, regardless of how long the final quarter has been running for, the siren MUST be sounded at the scheduled finishing time.

A penalty of 5 penalty units will apply for clubs who fail to sound the siren at scheduled times as per the official RDFNL running sheet provided to clubs prior to each season.

51. Pre-Match Warm Ups

The Riddell District FNL has an expectation that clubs will avoid the opposing side during their entry onto the ground both at the start of the game and at half time, and during any on-ground "warm up". The Riddell District FNL requires that each club will warm up at opposing ends of the ground, with the clubs using the easternmost Coach's Box to warm up at the eastern end of the ground, and the remaining club (who shall be using the most western of the Coach's boxes) to warm up at the westernmost end of the ground.

It is understood and accepted that when clubs enter the ground they shall do a lap of the centre square, and when doing so they need to ensure they avoid the other side and their warm up area if the opposing side is already at one end of the ground.

This By Law shall apply to the Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 grades. It may also be applied to junior grades of football if an incident arises.

Clubs who breach this policy shall be determined to have acted in a provocative manner, and may be fined up to an amount of \$500. In instances where this By Law is breached and the breach results to a more serious incident (e.g a melee) the offending Club may face more serious charges as determined by the Board.

Disciplinary

52. Codes of Conduct

AFL Victoria Country and AFL Goldfields endorsed codes of conduct for the following, are adopted by the Riddell District Football Netball League.

- Club Official
- Junior Coaches & Team Officials
- Junior Players & Parents and Spectators of Junior Football
- Senior Coaches & Team Officials
- Senior Players & Parents and Spectators of Senior Football

53. Investigations

Investigation procedure is dictated by AFL Victoria Country Rule concerning Unbecoming Conduct in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook. When the League Investigations Officer conducts an investigation in the League he/she shall provide at least 48 hours notice in writing to a club notifying of any interviews. All interviews will be conducted at League Headquarters, or at a place to be determined by the Investigations Officer.

54. Investigation Fees

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (Unbecoming Conduct) the required fee of \$500 shall be lodged, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the league.

The following policy will be enforced by the league for investigations:

- a) When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200, and the balance of \$300 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
 - b) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200 and the balance of \$300 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
 - c) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$300 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.
- **Note:** The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$300. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$300 and which will be negotiated with the Riddell District Football Netball League accordingly. In such instances, the Riddell District Football Netball League will adjust the amount of \$300 to the revised amount in the above case.

55. Tribunal

The Riddell District Football Netball League will have all match report hearing heard at the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal, held on the Tuesday following a round of matches at RDFNL Headquarters or Saxon House, Ballarat. Investigations hearings may commence from 6.00 pm, Under age cases commence at 6:00pm and senior cases may commence from 7:00pm.

If clubs wish to apply for a set penalty then the club must notify the Operations Manager by 12 noon on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested. After 12 noon, it will be assumed the club is happy to take the set penalty if it is available to be taken. Either club, the reporting Umpire or the Riddell District Football Netball League may request the hearing proceed, prior to 12 noon on the Monday.

Tribunal will not commence a new case after 10.30pm with any pending cases held over until a later night. Club attire or smart casual attire must be worn at all tribunal cases. Clubs not represented at Tribunal hearings shall incur a fine of 25 Penalty Units in addition to any fine imposed by the Independent Tribunal. The RDFNL will provide a TV and a couch in the foyer for those waiting to attend a case. Wednesday nights will be used as a backup night for cases overflowing to the next day in any given week.

• Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations may be accepted if any party to a report (ie. the reported player, the player allegedly offended against and the reporting umpire), is unable to attend owing to work or study commitments, or in the case of illness or injury.

Note: A "letter" submitted as evidence will not suffice, and the Statutory Declaration must be signed by a certified signatory (E.g Justice of Peace, Police Officer, etc) and date stamped at least 12 hours earlier than the scheduled start time for a tribunal case.

Providing the Riddell District Football Netball League is notified as early as possible after the report (no later than 12pm Monday), and that such Statutory Declaration is lodged with the Riddell District FNL no later than 12 hours prior to start time on the day of the hearing, the Statutory Declaration may be accepted.

Any Statutory Declaration submitted must set out:

- The reason for the missing party's inability to attend the hearing if the person cannot attend the Tribunal on the scheduled night.
- A full description of the incident (or incidents) being the subject of the report. This must include – Time of incident (e.g. early in 3rd quarter), location of incident (e.g right side wing), location of ball, any provocation, details of incident (e.g. blow with right hand), force of blow, result of impact / collision / blow, etc.

Any reported player who fails to attend or fails to submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined above, or fails to give notice as above, may have the charge or charges heard in their absence. Similarly, any witness who fails to attend or submit a Statutory Declaration or fails to give notice as above, may be dealt with as the Tribunal sees fit. Any such non-attendance may result in action as determined by the Tribunal, and can include fines upon a Club or the suspension of the player.

Any reported player, witness or umpire who has a legitimate request for an early hearing e.g. work or study commitments, must submit such request by telephone to the Riddell District FNL as early as possible, and no later than 12 noon on the day of the hearing.

- **Advocates / Appearance**

The Riddell District Football & Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness bring along a Club Advocate with them to the hearing.

The Riddell District Football Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness, and their advocates, do dress in an appropriate manner (minimum of smart casual or Club attire) that recognizes and respects the sanctity of the Tribunal.

No tracksuits or hats will be allowed into the tribunal.

- **Video/DVD Evidence**

If clubs wish to use their own video/DVD evidence they must provide a signed Statutory Declaration, which certifies that the video/DVD has not been altered or tampered with. League video evidence does not require a statutory declaration to be used as part of any tribunal case or investigation.

Note: Reporting and Tribunal procedures and rules not covered in these By-Laws are annexed to that of AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

56. Independent Tribunal and Appeal Board

An Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board, (The Tribunal), comprising up to 12 members, shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. Three members of such Tribunal shall form a quorum. Nominations for membership of the Tribunal and Appeals Board shall be advertised and intending nominee's names shall be forwarded to the Operations Manager seven days prior to the first meeting of the Board after the AGM.

57. Tribunal Duties

The Tribunal shall deal with and decide protests, disputes, and charges against Clubs, players, officials, and office bearers of Clubs and to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such protests, disputes or charges as they think fit.

58. Match Review Panel

A Match Review Panel, comprising up to 5 members, shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. The Match Review Panel is an independent panel of members who shall be asked to review incidents raised by clubs and Umpiring Associations from official league video evidence and asked to determine if a specific player or players in question may have a case to answer to under AFL Victoria Country rules (as stipulated on the AFL Victoria Country report form).

59. Tribunal & Match Review Panel Membership

The members of the Tribunal and Match Review Panel shall not hold any other office in the League, nor be an official of any Club affiliated with the League, nor have been an official of any Club affiliated with the League for a period of 12 months. Any person wishing to become a member of the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal or Match Review Panel must have not played for a period of 24 months. A person may not be a member of both the Tribunal and Match Review Panels at the same time.

60. Unsatisfactory Evidence

The Tribunal shall have the power to fine any player or official who, in the opinion of the Tribunal, does not present his/her evidence in a satisfactory manner.

61. Representation

If desired, any Club or player concerned in any protest or charge, may be represented by a delegate or representative, provided such delegate or representative is not a qualified member of the legal profession. Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook "Tribunal Procedure Information".

62. Decisions Final

Notwithstanding any appeals to the AFL Victoria Country Appeals Board, the Tribunal's decisions and penalties shall be final and such penalties may extend beyond its term of office.

63. Optional Penalties

Optional penalty for players reported for some field offences, and the guidelines for their implementation are annexed in the AFL Victoria Country handbook:

- If a player has accepted the optional penalty in the current or preceding season he must front the tribunal if reported again in that time frame, unless in special circumstances approval is provided by the Riddell District Football Netball League for a further set penalty to be applied.
- Umpires shall report and charge players in the manner provided for in these regulations but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal unless so requested by one or more of the umpires who lodged the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or an official of either club. Such request shall be made in writing and emailed to the Operations Manager no later than 12.00 Noon on the Monday immediately following the match. If the tribunal subsequently finds the charge sustained it shall have the power to impose such penalty as it deems fit.

64. Sustained Reports

A Club who, in a grade, has six (6) sustained reports for the season shall show the League why they should not be suspended from the League.

65. Lack of Quorum

In the absence of a Quorum at a meeting of the Tribunal, or if for any other reason it is unable to meet, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their Club until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal. In the event of a member of the Tribunal reporting a player or an official of a Club, such person charged shall be dealt with by the officers of the League.

66. Player Unavailability for Tribunal Hearing

In instances where a charged player is unable to attend a scheduled hearing of the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal, he/she shall be ineligible to play until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal.

67. Guilty Verdict Fee for Independent Tribunal Hearing Outcomes

Any club whose player is found guilty of an offence by the Independent Tribunal, shall be fined \$100.00 per guilty offence in addition to any other penalty handed down by the Independent Tribunal.

68. Player Melee

a) Member Clubs are to instruct their officials, coaches and players that on field behaviour is to be such that the game of football is played in a fair manner that does not bring their Club or the RDFNL into disrepute.

b) Umpires are to report any melees that occur on the ground on the official match report sheet, which will attract a fine of \$50.00 plus GST for the first offence and \$100 plus GST for the second offence and \$200.00 plus GST for each additional offence. More than 3 persons of any Club running into a skirmish will be classified as a melee. Runners, water carriers and trainers are not to get involved in any disturbances.

c) A melee is described as any act of jumping into packs, scragging, wrestling or running from set positions to become involved in a skirmish. League officials are to report any infringement of the above Rule that they witness to the League General Manager who will ensure the appropriate fine is apportioned.

69. Reports Resulting from Match Review

The Match Review Panel shall have the power to lay a report following the analysis of RDFNL footage that has been raised with the league from any club or Umpiring Association. The Match Review Panel shall follow AFL Victoria Country rules when laying a report from video footage. The RUA shall provide an advocate to prosecute all Match Review Panel cases that have been referred to the tribunal and at no point shall a member of the Match Review Panel be present during a tribunal case. The two systems shall remain independent of each other.

70. Using Video Evidence in Tribunal Cases

Where video evidence is available from a Riddell District Football Netball League authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL Victoria Country guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non - Riddell District Football Netball League video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than 10am on the day of the hearing and such video must be delivered to the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than Noon on the scheduled day of the tribunal hearing. The video evidence MUST also be accompanied by a signed statutory declaration confirming that the footage provided is true and correct and has not been altered in any way (excluding slow motion footage). Video evidence received after this time, unless agreed to by the league, will not be accepted as evidence in the case.

A member of the RDFNL Board, Regional General Manager or Operations Manager and the RUA General Manager or RUA Chairman have the right to lay a report and/or request an investigation based on video footage presented to them.

71. Club Umpire Reporting Powers

Under AFL Victoria Country Rules and RDFNL By-Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a RUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an "officially accredited" Umpire, and therefore can report or send off players at their discretion. Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the RUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

It is further worth noting the following rules from the AFL Victoria Country Rules Handbook to clear up any confusion – In the AFL Victoria Country Rule Book the definition of an umpire includes all field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match.

Volunteer Club Umpires shall register with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager and Players can be umpires if there are insufficient numbers of umpires available. Therefore once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are "official umpires" they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire.

To ensure that your Volunteer Club Umpires are registered as Volunteer Club Umpires and that they have the full power as outlined above, all Clubs must ensure that these Volunteers do complete the official AFL Victoria Country Clearance/Registration Form – circling the Registration field, and then write at the top of this form "CLUB UMPIRE". The League shall then register these Umpires with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager as a Club Umpire. Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Country Insurance Policy.

72. RDFNL Board Members/Umpires Observer Power to Report

Where a RDFNL Board Member or Umpires Observer is in attendance at an RDFNL fixtured match they shall have the same powers of reporting offences as the appointed umpire.

Note: In addition to the above, any official RUA Umpires Observer/coach at any League game also has the power to report players/officials and due process will be followed under AFL Victoria Country Rules.

73. Comments in the Media

Any Club Member (player or official) found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards a member of the Riddell District Football & Netball League (RDFNL), AFL Victoria Country (AFL Victoria Country) or Riddell Umpires Association (RUA) shall be fined an amount at the discretion of the Board. The RDFNL Board shall decide appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to a fine being handed down.

74. Teams not Breaking From the Huddle

When the single siren is blown to indicate the end of a break the club/s not breaking from the huddle will be fined 5 penalty units per occasion with clubs to be named on the umpires match report sheet.

75. Leaving Playing Field

Senior, Reserve & Third Grade (Under 18.5) sides, shall be permitted to leave the playing field during the half time interval - including the Finals Series. Junior grade sides must remain on the field at ½ time, except under extreme weather conditions. Clubs leaving the playing field inappropriately shall be liable to a fine of 20 penalty units for all Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 teams and a fine of 10 penalty units shall apply to all Junior teams. Failure of Clubs to return to the playing field by the specified time will result in a fine of 2 Penalty Units per Minute being applied.

76. Late Appearance

Clubs who fail to appear on the playing arena at the scheduled time shall receive a fine of 2.5 penalty units per minute. The offence shall be recorded by the officiating Umpire on the match report sheet following the match and the club will be informed of their fine by the Operations Manager.

77. Incorrect Program Listings

Players participating who are not listed in the program or are listed with a number that does not correspond to the number worn during a match shall be fined 5 penalty units.

78. Incorrect Team Sheet Listings

All players listed in the official program for all senior and junior competitions must be identical to those listed on the submitted senior and reserves team sheets from the weekend's matches. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply for each instance a duplicate or incorrect listing occurs.

79. Non Attendance at Club Delegates Meetings

Clubs who fail to attend or apologise for non-attendance of Club delegate at General Meetings held by the league will be fined 5 penalty units.

80. Failure to Appear at RDFNL or AFL Victoria Country Training Session

Any Club that fails to be represented at an official RDFNL or AFL Victoria Country Training course will be fined 10 penalty Units per offence.

81. Bringing the RDFNL into Disrepute / Interfering with a League Official

- a) Any club that in the view of the Board brings the Riddell District Football Netball League into disrepute can be fined any amount as determined by the Board. In such instances clubs will be given the opportunity to show due course as to why further action should not be taken against them.
- b) Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the League or any member of the Tribunal because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

82. Suspension

In the event of the Tribunal deciding at any time that a player of any Club shall not be permitted to play with such Club the Club upon receiving such notice from the Operations Manager of the League shall discontinue to play such player until such notice is withdrawn by the Tribunal.

83. Disqualifications

A Club expelling a player or official from its Club shall forward within a week of such decision, particulars of such person and offence to the Operations Manager of the League and the Regional General Manager of AFL Goldfields. The person so expelled shall have the right of appeal against his expulsion to the Board. No Club shall be permitted to play such player nor shall an official be entitled to hold office until his appeal has been determined by the League.

84. Unauthorised Entry Onto Playing Arena

Any Player or Official who enters the playing arena during the course of a match and somehow involves themselves in any type of incident shall receive an automatic four (4) match suspension. Suspensions are subject to approval from the Board of Directors of the Riddell District Football Netball League and further sanctions may also apply depending on the severity of the incident. Supporters from clubs who conduct similar behaviour shall be banned from attending RDFNL matches for a period of time to be determined by the Board.

Awards

85. Bowen Medal / Matthews Medal

- a) An award known as the "Bowen Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the senior grade competition. The runner/s up of the Bowen Medal shall be awarded the Alan Matthews Medal known as the "Matthews Medal".
- b) Secret voting for such award shall be made by the Central Umpires officiating at all senior grade matches.
- c) The Field Umpires officiating at each senior grade fixture, shall immediately following the conclusion of the match, select their idea of the three fairest and best players in the match. They shall then number one, two and three in order of preference in a sealed addressed envelope their three nominations. Their number one nomination to receive three votes, number two selection to receive two votes, and number three selection to receive one vote. They shall then hand the sealed envelope to the Ground Manager.
- d) In the event that the two Central Umpire system is in operation, then the two Central Umpires shall confer, agree upon a joint nomination and otherwise comply with paragraph (c) hereof.
- e) At the end of the minor rounds of matches, the League shall gather all votes made during the minor rounds and the votes shall be counted and the player or players receiving the largest number of votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of an equal number of votes being awarded to more than one player, then players receiving such equal number of votes shall be declared joint winners and separate medals shall be struck and awarded.
- f) Any player who has incurred disqualification during the season shall be ineligible to receive the medal unless they have been suspended for the following reasons: Time Wasting, Wrestling or refusing to play inter-league football for the Riddell District Football Netball League. Players who are suspended from an incident that occurred while playing inter-league football will be eligible to win the medal.

86. Scarborough Medal / O'Brien Medal

An award known as the "Scarborough Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Reserve Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the James Scarborough Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The runner/s up of the Scarborough Medal shall be awarded the Laurie O'Brien Medal known as the "O'Brien Medal".

87. Watson Medal / McIntyre Medal

An award known as the "Watson Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Third Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the Charlie Watson Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The runner/s up of the Watson Medal shall be awarded the Don McIntyre Medal known as the McIntyre Medal.

88. Ryan Medal

An award known as the "Ryan Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the A Grade Netball competition and rules in relation to the Janine Ryan Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal.

89. Player of the Year Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League shall award a Football Player of the Year and Netball Player of the Year from the players selected in the respective Team of the Year.

Football Player of the Year – The player with the highest votes received from the Team of the Year Votes will be awarded the Player of the Year. Players who receive the same amount of votes will then have their Bowen Medal votes added to determine the winner. If there is still a tie, both or all players will be equally awarded Players of the Year.

Netball Player of the Year – The player with the highest votes received from the Team of the Year Votes will be awarded the Player of the Year. Players who receive the same amount of votes will then have their Ryan Medal votes added to determine the winner. If there is still a tie, both or all players will be equally awarded Players of the Year.

90. Team of the Year Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will ask all Senior Club Coaches to vote 5,4,3,2,1 on the best players from opposition clubs at the completion of the Home and Away season. Votes will be collated and the highest polling 22 players in football and 12 in netball will be awarded a position in the respective Team of the Year. Interleague representation and performance will add weight to a players votes.

91. Club of the Year Award

The League may arrange an award each season for the club judged the club of the year, which is considered to have conducted it's affairs during the season in the most efficient and lawful manner conducive to the best administrative practices of a football club and most disciplined club within the League.

- (i) Every Club will commence each year with a balance of 200 points.
- (ii) Points will also be added from the Most Disciplined Club as voted by the umpires each week.
- (iii) The Operations Manager or authorised person is empowered to add or deduct points throughout the year according to match fines, adherence to administrative league requests and attendance at league training sessions and meetings.

92. Sponsors Awards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League shall award a best and fairest award and runner up best and fairest award in each of the Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 grades based on the votes of the Goal Umpires officiating each fixture match during the Home and Away Season. Rules in relation to the Sponsors Awards shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The Sponsors Awards shall be known as the Buffalo Sports Awards.

93. RDFNL Unsung Hero Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will, on an annual basis, award an "Unsung Hero Award" to a Club/League volunteer for providing outstanding service. The Award will be known as "DOME Security Unsung Hero Award", and will be awarded at the Riddell District FNL Bowen / Ryan Medal Night.

94. Grand Final Best on Ground Medals

- a) Best afield in Senior Grand Final shall receive the Doug McIntyre Medal.
- b) Best afield in Reserve Grand Final shall receive the Tom Sankey Medal.
- c) Best afield in Under 18.5 Grand Final shall receive the Noel Rainey Medal.

95. Karman Medal

Best afield in the RDFNL Senior Interleague Match as adjudged by the Senior Coach and Coaching Panel shall receive the Karman Medal and will be awarded at the Riddell District FNL Bowen / Ryan Medal Night.

Officials**96. Coaches/Umpires Meeting**

Meetings may be convened annually between RDFNL Coaches and representatives of the RUA. The structure of the meetings will be determined by the league with one meeting to be directed more towards senior football and the second meeting relating to junior football matters. A penalty of 5 penalty units per coach for non attendance will be imposed on the offending club.

97. Stretchers

Clubs must ensure a sports medicine approved 'MES Scoop Frame' style stretcher is placed at the interchange area. It is recommended an additional stretcher is also placed at the interchange area. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 10 Penalty Units.

98. Coaches Accreditation

All Coaches from seniors through to U/10 Reserves within the Riddell District Football & Netball League shall be registered with the Riddell District FNL, and shall be accredited to Level 1 prior to the conclusion of their 1st season of Coaching. Under AFL Victoria Country Rules, the penalty to be imposed for failing to comply with this rule shall be the loss of Match Points for matches won when the unaccredited Coach continues to Coach. Information on coach accreditation courses and qualifications should be directed to the AFL Victoria Regional Development Manager or AFL Goldfields Football Development Managers.

99. Officials in Bench Area

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the RDFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box. Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach.

Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners, six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 116 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire. All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box.

If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line. Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

Any Club desiring authorisation of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorisation, prior to the commencement of the match.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised 10 penalty units per offense.

100. Club Runner

Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook, "Runners". Clubs may use up to two (2) club runners for Seniors through to Under 14 for each match and only one (1) for Under 12 through to Under 10. Only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate.

101. Ground Manager / Umpire Escort

- a) For Senior match days, the Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. For Junior match days, the Junior Coordinators of both clubs, or an approved representative of both Clubs in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League. Ground Managers will be supplied with a vest from the Riddell District Football & Netball League and this vest must be worn on match days to ensure the Ground Manager stands out in the crowd on match days.
- b) The Umpires Escort's duties shall include the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League.

102. Water Carriers

A maximum of up to four (4) Water Carriers can be used by Senior through to Under 14 teams and up to two (2) for Under 12 through to Under 10 teams. Water carriers must be of sufficient age that they do not impose risk to themselves and others. In extreme weather conditions, clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers however this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately. At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply to clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

103. Timekeepers

A Club shall for all grades provide a Timekeeper. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signalling device and a back up device for the use of Timekeepers. Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League. A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide a Timekeeper for any RDFNL fixture match. A fine of 20 Penalty Units shall apply if a Club fails to provide an audible signalling device and "back up" siren or bell.

104. Interchange stewards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will appoint representatives from the Riddell Umpires Association to act as Interchange Stewards during finals matches. RDFNL clubs are encouraged to provide an Interchange Steward for each match of each round of the home and away season.

105. Trainers & AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA)

At Senior level, it will be required for all Senior Clubs to Register all Trainers with the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA). Furthermore, at Senior Level all Trainers that take the field must be Qualified and Registered. At Junior level, it will be required for all Junior Clubs to Register two Trainers with the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA). Furthermore, at Junior Level each club must have a minimum of two (2) Trainers who are qualified and registered with AFLGTA.

The requirement for Qualified and Registered Trainers;

- a) Basic Qualification Required - Level 2 First Aid, CPR
- b) Sports Trainers Certificate

All Riddell District FNL Clubs will be required to have one representative from each Club at AFLGTA meetings. All Riddell District FNL Clubs will submit a list of their Trainers, including accreditation, to the AFLGTA and the Riddell District FNL prior to the commencement of the season. Club Trainers shall be attired in all white and bear a number which can be obtained by the league which will correspond to the Team Sheet to be completed prior to the commencement of each match. Failure of clubs to Register a Trainer with the AFLGTA, attend an AFLGTA meeting or include a Trainer on a Team Sheet will result in a 5 penalty unit fine.

In addition to the two (2) AFL Goldfields registered Trainers at Junior Level, other non AFL Goldfields registered trainers can enter the junior playing field should they hold any of the following qualifications:

- (i) Medical Practitioner
- (ii) Physiotherapist
- (iii) Sports Medicine Australia - Level 1 minimum
- (iv) Sports First Aid
- (v) Advanced First Aid
- (vi) First Aid Trainer/Instructor
- (vii) Workplace First Aid – Level 2 minimum
- (viii) Advanced Workplace
- (ix) First Aid – Level 2 minimum
- (x) St John Ambulance
- (xi) Ambulance Paramedic – Level 2
- (xii) St John, Red Cross and Ambulance – Level 2 minimum
- (xiii) Registered Nurse

Persons acting as a club trainer without any of the above qualifications may not enter the junior playing field at any time to attend to an injured player or official.

106. Boundary Umpires

A Club shall, where required, provide a Boundary Umpire who shall be attired in a white shirt or jumper. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate in regards to the competency of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. Should a club fail to provide a Boundary Umpire where advised, a penalty of 5 penalty units may be imposed. This By-Law is relevant for all RDFNL competitions when competing for points (senior and junior).

107. Goal Umpires

A Club shall, where required, provide a mature person as a Goal Umpire who shall be attired in a white coat. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate in regards to the maturity of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. All Goal Umpires supplied by clubs are to wear white coats and use white flags. A 2.5 penalty units fine will occur for any of the above per item for Junior Fixtures, and 5 Penalty Units for Senior Fixtures.

Playing Guidelines

108. Commencing Times and Time On

All matches shall commence at such times that are fixed and appointed by the Board. Junior match times will vary from venue to venue and are listed in the Junior Football Operations Manual. Any Club unable to field fourteen registered players (with the exception of By-Law 132 in junior football only) at the appointed time shall be fined such sum as is fixed by the Board, and if not ready by half an hour after the appointed time, shall forfeit the match (fines as per By-Law 35 for forfeiture of match also apply).

Goal umpires must synchronise their watches with the timekeepers prior to the commencement of the match. Commencement times will be as follows :

Senior Football				
Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
Senior Football	2:00pm	Full	4 x 20min PLUS time on	5min - 20min - 5min
Reserve Football	12:00pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	5min - 15min - 5min
U/18.5 Football	10:00am	Full	4 x 20min No time on	5min - 15min - 5min
Junior Football				
Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
U/16 Football	2:30pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	4min - 8min - 4min
U/14 Football	1:00pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	4min - 8min - 4min
U/12 Football	11:30am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	4min - 8min - 4min
U/10 Football	10:00am	Half	4 x 10min No time on	4min - 8min - 4min

Fines of 1 penalty unit per minute shall apply for clubs who fail to adhere to the running sheet. The Central Umpire is to make note of clubs who do not comply with starting times of all matches.

Time On

- a) Time on, where applicable shall be added in all matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, except that where applicable time on shall only be added when a ball goes out of bounds or in a ball up situation when signalled to do so by the field umpire. This relates to matches that apply time on only.
- b) For all competitions where time on does not apply (Reserves through to U/10), if a match is interrupted by an injury to a player preventing the match from continuing, the clock must continue to run and scheduled finish times must still be adhered to. Only when the safety of the player has been guaranteed and removed from the playing arena can a match restart. Lost time cannot be made up.

109. Colours and Uniforms

The colours of the League shall be Blue, Red & White. The design of the League apparel, interleague jumpers and apparel, Logo and stationary shall be the responsibility of the Board.

Each Club shall register its uniforms and priority of registration shall determine the exclusive right to wear such colours and uniforms. Any Club desiring to register new uniforms must submit a sample to the Board and seek approval for such registration.

The following concessions have been granted -

- a) Melton Bloods JFC have been granted approval to wear maroon shorts in all matches.

110. Footballs

The League will supply one football per senior home game per senior club, plus two spare for the season. The Riddell District Football Netball League will supply all junior clubs with two leather or synthetic footballs at the beginning of the season.

The footballs to be used in Junior Grades are as follows -

- U /10 Seniors & Reserves - Size 2 (Red) synthetic
- U/12 Seniors & Reserves - Size 3 (Red) leather
- U/14 Seniors & Reserves - Size 4 (Red) leather
- U/16 Seniors & Reserves - Full Size (Red or Yellow) leather

111. Excess Numbers on the Ground

Any side that is found to have breached the pre-determined number of players allowed on the field during play will have the following sanctions imposed:

- All points scored in the quarter that the breach occurred will be forfeited.
- In addition, offending clubs may be subject to further penalties to be determined by the RDFNL Board.

112. Logos on Uniforms

A maximum of five logos may be attached to the front of playing Guernsey, each of which must not exceed 10 cm x 6 cm, three of which must be the AFL Victoria Country & AFL Victoria Country Sponsor logo on the right breast (if applicable) and the RDFNL logo on the left breast (can be displayed as a locker patch instead of the left breast to allow 2 x club sponsors on the left breast).

One logo is permitted under the number on the back of the Guernsey, it must not exceed 35cm by 15cm. Four logos 10cm x 6cm would be permitted on the front of shorts. In special instances, clubs may apply to the Riddell District Football & Netball League for permission for an additional sponsor on the front or rear of their Guernsey and Shorts, and such requests will be determined at the discretion of the Board.

113. Numbers, Shorts & Socks

All players must wear AFL Victoria Country approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club and including numbered jerseys, and wear shorts and socks of registered colours. The numbers worn by players must correspond with the submitted team sheets and official League program, otherwise the Club shall be liable to a minimum fine of 5 penalty units for each such offence. In the event of replacement of a jersey during a match, the Ground Manager and Central Umpire must be notified of the change of player's number or the Club shall be liable to a fine of 5 penalty units.

114. Bike Shorts / Compression Garments

Bike shorts and Compression Garments may be worn by players under their playing uniforms however they must be flesh toned. A fine of 2 penalty units will be imposed on clubs for each player on each occasion coloured bike shorts or compression garments are worn.

115. Uniform Policy

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| • Trainers | All white with a number supplied by the RDFNL |
| • Water Carriers | Green shirt, with white shorts/pants supplied by the RDFNL |
| • Runners | Fluorescent Yellow shirt with black shorts/pants supplied by the RDFNL. |
| • Goal Umpires | White coat must be worn supplied by the RDFNL |
| • Club Volunteer Umpire | White shirt must be worn supplied by the RDFNL |
| • Ground Manager | Fluorescent Yellow Vest must be worn supplied by the RDFNL |

Club Officials not wearing uniforms as outlined above shall be removed from the ground by the Central Umpire, and shall not be allowed to return until correctly attired. On an annual basis, or when requested, the League will provide Clubs with Water Carrier and Runner Shirts, which will be paid for by Clubs. Clubs who have incorrectly attired officials shall be fined 2.5 penalty units per offence.

116. Interchange Players / Player Numbers on the field

For Senior, Reserve and U/18.5 age groups, clubs will be allowed a maximum of twenty-two (22) players that may be listed on the team sheet and participate in any given match.

Where a duplicate copy of Team Sheets is exchanged between competing clubs that copy must be identical to which is handed to the Umpire. Failure to comply - 5 Penalty Units.

At junior level, U/10 Reserves through to U/16 Seniors, the Riddell District Football Netball League will take the following stance in regards to interchange players:

- a) Clubs will be allowed to have up to six (6) interchange players per side in U/10, U/12, U/14 & U/16 competitions.
- b) Clubs are encouraged to assist their opponent with numbers if sides are uneven.
- c) Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request to loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
- d) Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.
- e) Clubs failing to follow this process will risk losing points and percentage

117. Registration

Every club is responsible for the registration of their own players, however all registrations expire on the 31st day of October. Players must be re-registered with their club on an annual basis should they wish to continue to play with that club.

Each player must sign a Registration Form prior to playing his/her first game of football. Each player must complete their own re-registration from season to season on line.

- a) Any Club playing an unregistered player at any level will be penalised as per AFL Victoria Country Rule 1.3. Such penalties will include loss of match points and fines not less than 50 penalty units (Senior, Reserve & U/18.5 games) or not greater than 25 penalty units (Junior games). A player participating without signing a form is not insured and the club may be held liable for any injury via negligence, therefore, such a process exists to protect clubs.
- b) Clubs will forfeit points from match that an unregistered player plays in, unless extraordinary circumstance exist and the decision is over ruled by the board of the Riddell District Football & Netball League.

118. Illegal Clearances

Any player who illegally obtains a clearance or permit shall be disqualified and the League after consultation with AFL Victoria Country may impose such penalty it considers appropriate upon the Club playing such ineligible player. Further sanctions may also be applied by AFL Victoria Country.

119. Clearances

Refer AFL Victoria Country Handbook, "Clearances".

120. Football Stops

Aluminium stops are not permitted. Magnesium stops are acceptable.

121. Talking Devices Used on the Field of Play

Listening/talking devices (such as a walkie talkie) are banned from being used by club officials whilst on the field of play. This includes the banning of use by water carriers, trainers and runners. The only exception to this rule is for Coaching staff sitting in an elevated position away from the Coaches box where players cannot hear their instructions.

122. Wearing Gloves During Competition

Gloves are permitted to be worn in RDFNL Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 competitions. Junior players must seek approval from the League Operations Manager before wearing a glove/s.

Finals

123. Finals – Venue

In accordance with By-Law 128, the Board will determine all finals venues. Factors that will be considered include ground condition, participating teams, amenities, spectator attraction and the respective positions on the ladder of the participating senior teams. All clubs wishing to host a finals match will be required to submit an Expression of Interest addressing the key selection criteria by a deadline determined by the Operations Manager. Clubs awarded finals hosting are required to comply with all criteria set out by the RDFNL.

Successful Senior clubs will be invoiced the following fees inclusive of GST for hosting a final:

- Qualifying / Elimination Finals - \$660.00
- Semi Finals - \$1 100.00
- Preliminary Finals - \$2200.00
- Grand Finals - \$3850.00

a) Catering

Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any "exclusivity arrangements" that must be adhered to for Canteen / Catering sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors, and must be adhered to for both Finals Catering and the regular season where advised. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units.

b) Booth

Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any "exclusivity arrangements" that must be adhered to for Booth sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors, and must be adhered to for both Finals Booth and the regular season where advised. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units.

c) Raffle

Only the host club may conduct a raffle or any fundraising activity unless competing finals clubs are conducting internal fundraising such as best player tickets as outlined in By-Law 47.

d) Rooms

The Riddell District Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate the use of rooms to clubs during the senior and junior finals series. Consideration will be given to clubs who have more than one team participating in a finals series and clubs will be kept together as much as possible.

e) Shorts

The Riddell District Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate what colour shorts each club is required to wear during the course of senior and junior finals series.

f) Final 6

Week 1

A - 1 v 2

Qualifying Final

B - 3 v 6*

2nd Elimination Final

If third wins, advances to 2nd Semi Final. If 6th Wins advances to 1st Semi Final

C - 4 v 5*

1st Elimination Final

Winner advances to 1st Semi Final EXCEPT when 6th beats 3rd in 2nd Elimination final. When 6th beats 3rd in 2nd Elimination Final, winner of 1st Elimination Final advances to 2nd Semi-Final.

Week 2

D - Winner A v Winner B*

2nd Semi Final

If 3rd team wins 2nd Elimination Final. If 6th team wins 2nd Elimination Final, winner of 1st Elimination Final will advance to 2nd Semi-Final.

E - Winner C v Loser A*

1st Semi Final

If 6th team wins 2nd Elimination Final it advances to 1st Semi Final while winner of 1st Elimination Final would advance to 2nd Semi-Final.

Week 3

F - Winner E v Loser D

Preliminary Final

Week 4

G - Winner D v Winner F

Grand Final

g) Final 4 – Juniors

Week 1

A - 1 v 2

Qualifying Final

B - 3 v 4

Elimination Final

Week 2

C - Loser A v Winner B

Preliminary Final

Week 3

Winner A v Winner C

Grand Final

h) Final 6 – Juniors

Week 1

A - 3 v 6

Elimination Final

B - 4 v 5

Elimination Final

Week 2

C - 1 v Winner of B

Preliminary Final

D - 2 v Winner of A

Preliminary Final

Week 3

Winner of C v Winner of D

Grand Final

124. Finals

All playing arrangements, and the grounds upon which all finals matches are to be played, shall be determined at the discretion of the Board. The main criteria when scheduling will be the ability to attract the biggest crowd and profile for the league, ability to secure and collect the full gate revenue, suitable facilities for players and spectators and neutrality where possible. The league may at its discretion, allocate final matches to the higher placed senior side provided the club's venue meets the relevant criteria (e.g. suitable spectator and player facilities, ability to collect a gate etc.).

125. Drawn Football Finals

In the event of a drawn game in any Finals match (including the Senior Football Grand Final), the following shall apply:

- a) The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three minutes.
- b) A five minute quarter will be played (including time-on) before immediately changing ends for another five minute quarter (including time-on). There is to be no break between these quarters.
- c) If at the end of the second five minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends will occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and the first score will win.

NOTE: For Junior Football ONLY, there will be no time-on in Junior Finals. If the ball is kicked over the fence and cannot be retrieved in a timely manner, the spare ball located with the Interchange Steward shall be used.

126. Eligibility for Finals

SENIORS

- a) A player must play in at least four (4) premierships matches played over a minimum of four (4) rounds of the current season to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.
- b) A registered player, playing four games with the Reserves or Third Eighteen, or a total of four games in the Senior Grade, Reserve Grade and Third Eighteen during the minor rounds in any one season, shall be eligible to play in the final series in the Senior Grade competition.
- c) In addition to 5.2 b, to be eligible to play Reserves or Third Eighteen finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of 1 game in that competition in the home and away season.
- d) Any player who, during the currency of the season, has played MORE THAN 50% of matches in the minor rounds with the Senior Grade of his Club shall be ineligible to play in the finals of the Reserve Grade or Third Eighteen competition, except and unless, the player belongs to a Club which has its Senior Grade and Third Eighteen teams playing in the finals on the same weekend.
- e) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals, the only exceptions to this rule are if a club has senior, reserve and U/18.5 teams in the finals and find themselves short of players in the reserves or U/18.5 competitions, it is then permissible to bring a player up from a lower age group to fill any vacancies.
- f) For the purpose of Senior Finals Eligibility, TAC Cup matches played shall be counted as Senior matches played in the RDFNL.
- g) Any player in the under age competition (3rd XV111), who plays in ten (10) or more premierships matches collectively at senior (1st XV111) or reserve (2nd XV111) shall be ineligible to play for his Club in the under age (3rd XV111) level in that season, except that when the player has played in both the 3rd XV111 and the higher grade game on the same day or round, the higher grade games shall not be taken into consideration for the implementing of this rule.
- h) A player is free to interchange between his VFL and Under 18 TAC Cup club team during the RDFNL home and away season.
- i) A VFL listed player is eligible to play finals matches provided they have met the qualification rules as outlined in rule 126 a).

JUNIORS

- j) A player must play in at least five matches for his Club in the minor rounds (home and away games) to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.
- k) A player must play in at least five matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:
 - i) Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 18 ½ or any open age side
 - ii) Where a registered junior player is selected to play in a higher age group on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy (e.g. under 14 player playing under 16). This is not to be at the expense of a registered and available player in that age group.
- l) A player shall not be permitted to take part in the finals series of matches unless he has previously played not less than five minor round matches (home and away) with his Club during the current season. Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the Club, with which he has been granted a permit to play and

shall be required to therefore complete no less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his new Club before being eligible to play in the final series of matches.

- m) A registered player, playing five games during the minor rounds (home and away) in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy.
- n) A registered player in any RDFNL Junior Competitions having played MORE THAN 50% of games with a higher grade, as listed on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy, shall be ineligible to play with the lower grade in the final series of matches, except in the following cases –
 - i) A player has competed in a home and away round under compliance with rule **126 o)**
 - ii) The team in which the player has played MORE THAN 50% of games with is playing on the same weekend as outlined in rule **126 q).**
- o) A player who has played more than one home and away round match in a day (e.g. U/14 Reserves and U/14 Seniors) shall only have their first game recorded as a game played when determining finals eligibility. The second game will not count when determining finals eligibility. Equally, a player filling in for a higher age team will not have the higher age match counted for finals eligibility (e.g. Under 12 and Under 14).
- p) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals.
- q) Any player having played more than 50% of home and away games in a higher grade is ineligible to play in the lower grade unless the higher grade is playing finals on the same weekend. This applies to clubs whose higher grade side is directly through to the Grand Final whilst the lower grade side is playing in the Preliminary Final.
- r) The Calder Cannons or Western Jets are not recognised as a player's home club.
- s) Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.

127. Replacements

Where a Club is involved in finals matches on a Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend in both seniors and reserves grades, the following eligibility of player's requirements shall apply:

- a) A player who has participated for the Senior side on the Saturday shall not be eligible to play with the Reserve side on the Sunday.
- b) A player being in the twenty-two for the Reserves on Saturday will, save as provided below, be ineligible to play with the Seniors on the Sunday, however a Senior team playing on Sunday will be permitted, where a replacement player is required due to a late withdrawal of a selected senior player, to draw a replacement from the Reserves team that has played on the Saturday. For all under age teams the above rule will apply to the Interchange between Grades from Saturday to Sunday.

128. Clubs making Grounds available for Finals

Each club shall, as part of their standard User Agreement with their respective local government authority (LGA) for the use of their Reserve for the forthcoming season, shall arrange for their ground and facilities to be available for use by the Riddell District FNL for Finals fixtures, as and when required, and at no charge to the RDFNL. In most cases, such usage will include the use of the home / tenant club, but in some cases may not do so.

Sponsorship & Marketing

129. Naming Rights or Ground Sponsorship

No RDFNL Clubs shall be permitted to enter into a "Club Naming Rights" Sponsorship without the written authority of the RDFNL. All proposals must be submitted to the RDFNL by the 1st March each calendar year to be considered.

Note: The RDFNL will not consider any Club Naming Rights Sponsorship proposals where such agreements may conflict with any existing RDFNL Sponsorship.

130. RDFNL Sponsors

Clubs shall, where requested:

- a) Display RDFNL sponsor signage at their venue, at no charge to the Riddell District FNL. The Riddell District Football & Netball League will be responsible for maintenance of such signs.
- b) Offer RDFNL Sponsors products for purchase at their venue. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of 10 penalty units per offence.

131. Ambush Marketing

Riddell District FNL Clubs shall not be permitted to include inserts in or to provide handouts with the official Riddell District FNL Footy Record without the explicit permission of the Riddell District FNL. The Riddell District FNL will only provide permission for Riddell District FNL Clubs to include inserts within or to provide handouts with the Footy Record when such inserts, handouts or promotions do not conflict with any Riddell District FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement.

Riddell District FNL Clubs shall be permitted to issue handouts at or in the vicinity of RDFNL venues to promote games, club events, social activities & forthcoming functions, only when such handouts do not include logos, promotions or offers which conflict with any Riddell District FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement.

Clubs found breaching this By Law shall be fined an amount up to \$500 at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board.

Junior Football (U/16 Down)

132. Junior Football - Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game

For junior football only (U/16 down), the following shall apply:

- a) From season 2015 onwards, clubs who field a side with 12 or more players will be eligible to play for points. This means, the score, percentage, best players and all goal kickers will stand.
- b) Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, point a) shall apply.
- c) Clubs who field a side with 11 or less players will forfeit the points to the other side. Both teams are encouraged to still conduct a game with whatever players are available. The size of the ground can be reduced if need be.
- d) Where possible, clubs must assist their opposition to field a side of 18 or more players.
 - i) Where a team cannot field 18 players it can approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned. This request must be made at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the match and must be made by the Team Manager or highest ranking available team staff member.
 - ii) Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club, and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked. These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.
 - iii) Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
 - iv) Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.
- e) In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.
- f) In any round, a team that has been allocated the bye should assist other clubs by supplying them with as many players as they can and comply with the permit procedure set out in the Interchange Agreement adopted by the RDFNL.

133. Yellow Cards (Juniors Only)

The following shall apply to all players in the Riddell District Football & Netball League junior competition (U/16 and below) to coincide with the RDFNL Junior Code of Conduct:

- a) Any player who receives a red card during the course of any match, shall be asked to front the independent tribunal unless the set penalty applies. Red cards are shown for reportable offences.
- b) Any player who receives their first yellow card during the course of a season shall consider this as their first and only warning.
- c) Any player who receives a second yellow card during the course of a season shall be handed an automatic one match suspension.
- d) Any player who receives a third yellow card and every yellow after that, shall receive a two match suspension.
- e) Clubs wishing to appeal a card shown by an Umpire should do so by emailing the Football Operations Manager by no later than the close of business on the first business day after the match has taken place.
- f) The Tribunal shall deal with offending players via normal AFL Victoria Country procedures.

134. Under Age Grades

Qualification for underage competitions will be as follows for each age group:

- U/10 – Must be 7 years old by January 1st of this year to play U/10 football. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2007 and Must be Under the age of 10 year on the 1st January 2015. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2005
- Under 12 - Must be under the age of 12 years on the 1st January 2015. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2003
- Under 14 - Must be under the age of 14 years on the 1st January 2015. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2001
- Under 16 - Must be under the age of 16 years on the 1st January 2015. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/07/1999
- Under 18.5 - Must be under the age of 18 years and 6 months on 1st January 2015. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/07/1996.

135. Player Age Group Exemptions

c) Playing Under Age

Players seeking to play up an age group for the full season can only do so if the League has received on club letterhead a signed letter from the players' parent / guardian.

Players must be 15 years of age as of the 1st January in the current year to play Senior, Reserve or Under 18.5 Football.

d) Playing Over Age

A Junior club may apply for approval for a player in the age group below their age. To obtain approval clubs must submit to the Operations / Junior Development Officer a request for each proposed player, supported with medical advice where applicable. A player will not be considered for screening or exemption unless they meet the following parameters for each age group.

- **Exemption to play Under 16:** Height - < 175 cm, Weight - < 65 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 14:** Height - < 170 cm, Weight - < 55 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 12:** Height - < 155 cm, Weight - < 45 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 10:** Height - < 145 cm, Weight - < 35 kg.

The Board in conjunction with the Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to the member club within twenty-one (21) days. A player screening session may be required to assist with any player exemption request.

The Board, Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time. Additionally the Board can exempt or screen a player based on special circumstances deemed appropriate by the Board.

c) Open Age Player Playing Over Age

Players seeking to play over age in the Under 18.5 competition must in conjunction with their club submit in writing a request to play over age and may be required to attend a screening session. The Board of Management in conjunction with the Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to the member club within twenty-one (21) days. The Board, Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time.

136. Police Checks & Working With Children Checks

Police checks are no longer required in the Riddell District Football & Netball League, however, Team Officials of all junior clubs must complete a Working With Children Check to comply with state law. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team Officials undergo a Working With Children Check. Forms can be collected from any Post Office and WWCC are free of charge for volunteers. It is the responsibility of the club to have all Club Officials who have contact with children under the age of 18 undergo a WWCC. The club must then record the details of each Club Official's WWCC on the IT system.

137. Junior Football Cap

In 2015, the Riddell District Football & Netball League introduced a trial cap on team affiliations per junior age group to the junior competition to assist clubs in spreading players across the 17 competing clubs. In 2015, the cap was reduced to 3 team affiliations per age group. There is no cap on the number of players a club can register.

138. Niggling in Junior Football Matches (U/10 to U/12)

For junior football in age groups from U/10 Reserves to U/12 Seniors, any player in the opinion of the Club Voluntary Umpire to be making unnecessary contact or "niggling" their opponent whilst the ball is not in the immediate area of play, shall be paid a free kick against them in the first instance. If the behaviour continues throughout the course of the match, the Club Volunteer Umpire may use their discretion and issue the offending player a yellow card and send them from the ground.

139. Underage Players Attendance at Tribunal Hearing

Players competing in U/10 and U/12 age groups who have been reported for an offence that has been referred to the Independent Tribunal for hearing shall not be forced to attend in person. Instead of attending the hearing in person, the player will be asked to provide a written account of the incident and the player's parent or guardian and/or advocate will be asked to present the letter and related information on the player's behalf. This written account does not need to be a statutory declaration.

Policies

140. AFL Goldfields Policies adopted by the RDFNL

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following AFL Goldfields Policies which can be found in full in the Operations Manual or on the RDFNL Website. Copies of any policy can be requested from the Operations Manager.

- a) AFL Goldfields Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Policy
- b) AFL Goldfields Privacy Policy
- c) AFL Goldfields Environmental Policy
- d) AFL Goldfields Extreme Weather Policy
- e) AFL Goldfields Junior Coaching Philosophy

141. Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance Policy Sanctions

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following sanction outcomes for the AFL Goldfields Policy regarding Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance. The following shall apply to all RDFNL football & netball competitions:

- a) Any registered RDFNL player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a 4 week suspension. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- b) Should a member or supporter of a RDFNL Club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the spectator will incur a minimum of a 12 week suspension from attending RDFNL fixtures and his/her Club fined an amount of no less than \$250. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- c) Should a RDFNL Club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the Club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- d) Should a RDFNL Club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the Club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit. In addition, the Club will be asked to undertake "Culture Awareness Training" for all players and members that will be presented by a Facilitator appointed by the Riddell District FNL.

142. AFL / AFL Victoria Policies adopted by the RDFNL

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following AFL Victoria Policies which can be found in full in the Operations Manual or on the RDFNL Website. Copies of any policy can be requested from the Operations Manager.

- a) AFL Victoria Country Cybersafety Policy
- b) AFL Victoria Gender Regulation Policy
- c) AFL Victoria Infectious Disease Policy
- d) AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy
- e) AFL Victoria National Risk Protection Policy
- f) AFL Victoria Alcohol Charter
- g) AFL Victoria No Surprises Policy
- h) AFL Victoria Respect & Responsibility Policy
- i) AFL Anti-Doping Code

143. Restrictions on Players and officials Betting

The Riddell District FNL strictly prohibits Riddell District FNL registered players and officials from placing bets or wagering in a game or competition where players or officials are engaged. For the purposes of clarity, Riddell District FNL players and officials are not permitted to place Bets on the Riddell District FNL premiership.

This restriction does not apply to players being registered on the Website and betting on contingencies not related to the game or competition in which they are engaged and on the broad range of contingencies in racing and sports wagering and gaming offered by the Website.

The Riddell District FNL shall have access to live reporting facilities on the Website in order to allow the League to view customer details and transaction histories, and in cases where Players and / or Officials do breach this By-Law they shall face sanction/s as determined by the Board of the Riddell District FNL.

144. Photography & Video Footage at RDFNL Games

Photography and taping of players at Riddell District Football Netball League football and netball matches shall be allowed so long as the photos and/or footage is taken of RDFNL competition matches in play. At no stage may any person take a camera into the change rooms of either club to take any kind photograph or video footage without the permission of the people whose image is being recorded. Further to this, photographs and video footage of RDFNL games shall not be used for commercial gain without first obtaining the permission from the Riddell District Football Netball League and the participating clubs. Failure to adhere to this By-Law shall result in punishment as deemed necessary by the Riddell District Football Netball League Board of Directors.

RDFNL Football Match Day Policy

Please see below for match day policies for every junior grade of football in the Riddell District Football & Netball League:

AFL Junior Match Policy (AFL JuMP):

Refer to the AFL Victoria's Junior Match Policy (AFL JuMP) within the Junior Football Operations Manual for full Junior Policy and Specific playing rules for each grade.

The following match conditions have been devised in line with AFL Victoria's Junior Match Policy (AFL JuMP) and are to be adhered to for all official RDFNL Junior Football matches.

U/10 Match Conditions:

- 1) The U/10 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- 2) Games will commence at 10:00am unless otherwise advised by the Operations Manager
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 10 minute quarters
- 4) Players must be under 10 years of age at the 1st January 2015. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2005. Players must have turned 7 years of age by January 1st 2015 in order to play matches.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A size 2 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/10 matches
- 7) In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/10 competition
- 8) 10 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/10 games
- 9) The HOME club will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/10 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
- 10) All players competing in the U/10 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/10 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
- 11) Generally speaking, second year players and/or players who are faster to develop in this age group will be selected in the highest U/10 side at their club.
- 12) All Under 10 matches are non-competition matches, therefore there is to be NO scores kept, results recorded, league and club best & fairest and goal kicking awards to be awarded or results and ladders published in all forms of media.

U/12 Match Conditions:

- 1) The U/12 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- 2) Games will commence at 11:30am unless otherwise advised by the Operations Manager
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 12 minute quarters to be advised by the Operations Manager prior to the season commencing.
- 4) Players must be under 12 years of age at the 1st January 2015. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2003. Players must be 10 years of age on game day to play Under 12 unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Operations Manager.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A size 3 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/12 matches
- 7) In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/12 competition
- 8) 25 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/12 games
- 9) Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/12 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
- 10) All players competing in the U/12 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/12 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
- 11) Clubs MUST adopt a best team policy when selecting teams for Senior and Reserve grades (applicable to Turner clubs and clubs with teams in both the Beatson and Watson Divisions).

U/14 Match Conditions:

- 1) The U/14 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- 2) Games will commence at 1:00pm unless otherwise advised by the Operations Manager
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 15 minute quarters

- 4) Players must be under 14 years of age at the 1st January 2015. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2001. Players must be 12 years of age on game day to play Under 12 unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Operations Manager.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A size 4 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/14 matches
- 7) In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/14 competition until they turn 14 years of age.
- 8) Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/14 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
- 9) All players competing in the U/14 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/14 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
- 10) Clubs MUST adopt a best team policy when selecting teams for Senior and Reserve grades (applicable to Turner clubs and clubs with teams in both the Beatson and Watson Divisions).

U/16 Match Conditions:

- 1) The U/16 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- 2) Games will commence at 2:30pm unless otherwise advised by the Operations Manager
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters
- 4) Players must be under 16 years of age at the 1st January 2015. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 1999. Players must be 14 years of age on game day to play Under 16 unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Operations Manager.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A size 5 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/16 matches
- 7) Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/16 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
- 8) All players competing in the U/16 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/16 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
- 9) Clubs MUST adopt a best team policy when selecting teams for Senior and Reserve grades (applicable to Turner clubs and clubs with teams in both the Beatson and Watson Divisions).

U/18.5 Match Conditions:

- 1) The U/18.5 competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench.
- 2) Games will commence at 10:00am
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on
- 4) Players must be under 19 years of age by the 31st June 2015. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st July 1996.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A full size red leather football will be used for all U/18.5 matches
- 7) In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/18.5 competition
- 8) 50 metre penalties shall apply in all U/18.5 games
- 9) If the RUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/18.5 games
- 10) Gloves are permitted in any RDFNL U/18.5 competition.

Reserve Match Conditions:

- 1) The Reserve competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench.
- 2) Games will commence at 12:00pm
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on
- 4) The Reserve competition is an open age competition and any male may compete provided all eligibility and registration criteria is fulfilled.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A full size red leather football will be used for all Reserve matches
- 7) In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL Reserve competition
- 8) 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Reserve games
- 9) If the RUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all Reserve games
- 10) Gloves are permitted in any RDFNL Reserve competition.

Senior Match Conditions:

- 1) The Senior competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench. Senior sides will be allowed to use four (4) interchange players for finals only.
- 2) Games will commence at 2:00pm
- 3) Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters PLUS time on
- 4) The Senior competition is an open age competition and any male may compete provided all eligibility and registration criteria is fulfilled.
- 5) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- 6) A full size red leather football will be used for all Senior matches
- 7) In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL Senior competition
- 8) 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Senior games
- 9) If the RUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all Senior games
- 10) Gloves are permitted in any RDFNL Senior competition.

APPENDIX 1 – RDFNL & RDU MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Riddell District Umpires (RDU) and the Riddell District Football Netball League (RDFNL) covers home and away & Finals games for the 2015 season.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

For season 2015 the RDU and the Riddell District FNL agree to the following:

1. Home & Away Season:

During the Home & Away season, the RDU will provide where possible:

- o **Central Umpires:** In the Senior competition the RDU will provide two central umpires for seniors, reserves, under 18.5 games
- o **Central Umpires:** In the Junior competition the RDU will provide two Central Umpires for the Under 16 & Under 14 games, along with 1 central for Under 12 and Under 10 games.
- o **Boundary umpires:** Boundary Umpires for seniors, reserves, Under 18.5 games.
- o **Goal Umpires:** Goal umpires for seniors, reserves and under 18.5 games.

- o 3 x Field umpires will ONLY be appointed in ANY Senior match if ALL umpire appointments committed to in the MOU have been filled on that particular weekend. The Riddell District FL will be supportive and receptive to 3 x Field umpires in feature games throughout the season and the 6 weeks leading up to the Riddell District FL Finals series.

- o Club Umpires: Games not covered by RDU will be covered by club appointed umpires.

2. Start Times:

The following start times will apply for Senior Football in the Riddell District FNL during the 2015 Season

DAY MATCH

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAKS
Senior Football	2:00pm	4 x 20 Mins + TO	5-20-5 Mins
Reserve Football	12:00pm	4 x 20 Mins no TO	5-15-5 Mins
Under 18.5 Football	10:00am	4 x 20 Mins no TO	5-15-5 Mins

TWILIGHT MATCH

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAKS
Senior Football	5:00pm	4 x 20 Mins + TO	5-20-5 Mins
Reserve Football	3:00pm	4 x 20 Mins no TO	5-15-5 Mins
Under 18.5 Football	1:00pm	4 x 20 Mins no TO	5-15-5 Mins

NIGHT MATCH

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAKS
Senior Football	6:00pm	4 x 20 Mins + TO	5-20-5 Mins
Reserve Football	4:00pm	4 x 20 Mins no TO	5-15-5 Mins
Under 18.5 Football	2:00pm	4 x 20 Mins no TO	5-15-5 Mins

Junior Start Times:

All Junior match times will be set by the RDFNL Operations Manager prior to each round no later than Monday 5pm for the preceding round

3. Key Contacts

Toby Boyle – Riddell District FL Operations Manager – 0412 984 285
 Rod Ward – General Manager Riddell District FL – 0400 611 310
 Glen Shilling – Riddell District Umpires Ass. General Manager – 0408 507 293
 Michael O’Keefe - Riddell District Umpires Ass. Senior Coach – 0417 340 773
 Liam Brady – Ballarat Football Umpires Association Ops Manager – 0408 518 908

4. Finals Games:

Subject to RDFNL approval, the RDU will provide up to three central umpires where possible and four boundary umpires and two goal umpires for all finals games at Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 level. The best and most suited available umpire as determined by the appointed overseer will umpire finals games, and without consideration as to how many RDFNL games he/she may have officiated in during the 2015 season.

At Junior Level the RDU will supply 2 central umpires, two boundary umpires and two goal umpires to all RDFNL Junior finals except Under 12 Finals where only 1 central umpire will be appointed.

5. Payment Rates 2015:

Payment for Umpires in 2015 will be as per the following:

In instances where the “full complement” of Umpires (as outlined in this MOU) is supplied, the RDU will Invoice the RDFNL for:

- o Two central umpires for seniors, reserves and under 18.5 games,
- o Two central umpires for under 16 and under 14 games,
- o Single umpire for under 12 and Under 10 games
- o Two boundary umpires for seniors, reserves, under 18.5 and under 16.5.
- o Two goal umpires for seniors, reserves, under 18.5.

In instances where more than 2 umpires are appointed, the RDU will invoice the RDFNL for an additional .5 per umpire up until the total of 3 umpires are paid for.

The example of this is when 3 central umpires are appointed the RDU will invoice the RDFNL for 2.5 umpires and should 4 umpires be appointed the RDU will invoice for 3 umpires.

2015 PAY SCALE

2015 RDFNL Umpire Pay Rates Schedule			
	Field	Boundary	Goal
SENIORS	\$151	\$86	\$67
RESERVES	\$98	\$54	\$48
U8's	\$88	\$48	\$46
U15/16	\$80	\$47	\$44
U13/14	\$57	\$38	\$38
U10/11/12	\$51	\$36	\$36

6. Travel Rates:

It is agreed that the RDU will not submit any claim for any travel costs to the RDFNL to officiate in these fixtures.

7. The Riddell Umpires will be responsible for all umpiring appointments to the fixtures they are appointed.

8. PAYMENT OF UMPIRE INVOICES

The RDU will submit monthly accounts for payment to the RDFNL for fixtures umpired by the Riddell Umpires.

9. Umpires are to issue all players, official and club reports on the report form issued by the RDFNL, and in co-operation with the RDFNL will ensure these Reports Sheets are delivered to the League Office at RDFNL House by 9.00am on the Monday after the games is complete.

10. All reports submitted by umpires are to be presented to the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal for a hearing (unless the reported player / official does accept a Set Penalty and approval for the set penalty given by the offended player and club), and in 2015 these cases will heard on a Tuesday night at RDFNL House immediately following the previous weekends fixtures. If the umpire cannot attend at the scheduled tribunal hearing, arrangements will be made for the Umpire to provide evidence via a Telephone Conference "Hook Up", or should he/she be unavailable to attend in person or dial in, a signed statutory declaration must accompany all evidence

11. In the event of an incident being referred to the RDFNL Investigations Officer and provided umpires safety is being adhered to the Riddell Umpires agrees to continue to provide umpires for all games as outlined in point 1 of this MOU irrespective of the outcome of any such investigation.

12. The RDFNL is responsible for the safety of all umpires and officials who are officiating at games. Clubs are to provide this safety through ensuring their players, officials and supporters adhere to the AFL Victoria and AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct.

13. Each club is to provide a Ground Manager for their home games who will go into the umpire's rooms to escort the umpires onto the ground prior to the commencement of each game. These Ground Managers will also go onto the ground at each break to ensure the safety of the umpires and will escort the umpires off at the end of each game.

14. Umpires will not leave their rooms for the commencement of any game until the Ground Manager arrives to escort them onto the ground.

15. All club concerns and complaints regarding umpires are to be submitted to the RDFNL General Manager or Operations Manager in the 1st instance, and the where required the RDFNL General Manager or Operations Manager shall follow up with the General Manager of the Riddell Umpires.

Any such concerns or complaints will then be taken up by the RDFNL with the General Manager of the Riddell Umpires.

16. Tribunal hearings are to be scheduled so that the first hearing commences at 7.30p.m on the following Tuesday at RDFNL House after the game in which the report was lodged. In the instance where additional cases are scheduled, the RDFNL may schedule them for Wednesday.

17. The Riddell Umpires Association will charge the Riddell District FL \$20.00 per attendance for umpires at the tribunal.

18. This MOU is an agreement between the Riddell Umpires and the RDFNL and is to be signed and dated by both parties prior to the 11th April 2015.

19. In the event of a dispute between the Riddell Umpires and the RDFNL both parties agree that the matter will be referred to AFL Victoria for arbitration.

20. All match day paperwork is to be at the Riddell District FNL office by no later than 9:00am Monday after the previous weekend's fixture.

21. The RDU will be responsible for all umpiring appointments, but it is acknowledged by the RDU that where the Riddell District FNL does have reasonable concerns about an appointment/s that the Riddell District FNL can ask for such appointment/s to be reconsidered.

Should such situations arise, the RDU may nominate an alternate appointment. All umpiring appointments are ultimately the responsibility of the RDU Coaching Panel. All disputes will be resolved by the RDFNL Operations Manager.

APPENDIX 2 – GROUND MANAGER & UMPIRE ESCORT DUTIES

GROUND MANAGERS

Clubs need to be aware that it is compulsory for every HOME side in the seniors to supply a Ground Manager on match days, and carry out the duties as outlined in the RDFNL Operations Manual. The Ground Manager's position should also be appointed to someone who is capable of carrying out the required duties that come with wearing the RDFNL Ground Manager's jacket. The Ground Manager is first point of call for any issue that may arise on match days.

The main duties include:

- (a) Collating ALL paperwork from both football and netball matches making sure that all required paperwork is entered into Sportingpulse & the Netball I.T system and that they are completed fully and submitted to the RDFNL.
- (b) Escort Umpires on and off the ground for each game of football.
- (c) Make sure that Umpires are taking their jackets at each break and a drink of water as well.
- (d) Coordinate the delivery of paperwork back to RDFNL House either by dropping it off themselves or making sure the Field Umpires of the last game have the paperwork to drop back themselves.
- (e) Be the first point of call for any issues that arise on match days and coordinate the satisfactory resolution to matters or refer them on to the league to deal with where applicable.

Ground Managers should also always endeavour to act in an appropriate manner and act in a way that does not attract confrontation. The Ground Manager's role is an important role and the person undertaking the position should be a responsible adult who has the ability to carry out the tasks as listed above and is not prone to sudden outbursts that have the potential to inflame certain scenarios. All Ground Managers appointed by the RDFNL or by Clubs affiliated with the RDFNL shall be required to undertake the following as a minimum requirement of that position.

1. Open umpires rooms 1 hr before commencement of game & ensure rooms are clean & that the hot water service supplying warm water to the Umpires showers is turned on and is operational.
2. Organise match ball (selection of 2 for Seniors) making sure they are tight before going to meet coaches & players.
3. Escort umpires to change rooms to collect team sheets, meet coaches, players & escort back to their rooms.
4. Escort umpires to ground centre & wait there until umpires warm-ups are completed.
5. Collect umpires tracksuit tops & store in a secure place.
6. Organise spare ball which the INTERCHANGE STEWARDS shall hold.
7. Ensure that both teams are on the ground 5 minutes before the appointed starting time.
8. Supply drinks (Home Club should provide) & tracksuits to umpires at each break.
9. Stand with the Umpires at the ¼ and ¾ time break to ensure their safety is not compromised. Ensure that NO players or Spectators approach the umpires in the centre of the square during the quarter & three quarter time break
10. Escort umpires off ground at halftime & at the conclusion of the game.
11. Ensure that a stretcher is placed by the home team inside the playing arena fence at the interchange area prior to the commencement of the game.
12. Ensure the only occupants of the press boxes are Club timekeepers, members of the media & the ground manager.
13. Ensure the score board attendant is accurate & watching the game & ensure that scoreboard signs are changed at the end of each match (where required).
14. Ensure that the number in each coaching box doesn't exceed the maximum number allowed by the Riddell District Football Netball League.
15. Ensure that Water Boys and /or Trainers do not linger on the ground, and that they perform their duties and quickly remove themselves from the ground. Further, the Ground Manager will ensure that Water Boys and /or Trainers are correctly attired and that each sides number of Water Boys and Trainers do not exceed the maximum number allowed by the Riddell District Football Netball League.
16. Ensures that nobody enters the Umpires room at any stage except for Team Managers at the completion of the match.
17. Escort umpires to after match function if requested, then escort umpires to their car on leaving venue (if requested).
18. Additionally, Ground Managers may also satisfy the interchange steward role.

UMPIRE ESCORTS

- (a) It is the responsibility of each Member Club to supply an umpire's escort who must be listed on the team sheet.
- (b) The escort must wear an approved top, as determined by the League.
- (c) The escort MUST be a mature person, capable of assisting the umpires in a crisis.
- (d) The escort is to be at the umpires rooms five (5) minutes prior to them coming onto the ground.
- (e) The escorts MUST accompany the umpires onto the ground prior to the start of the game and prior to the start of the second half, and off the ground at the completion of the second and last quarter.
- (f) The escorts must go to the centre of the ground and stand with the umpires during the first quarter and three quarter breaks.
- (g) The escorts must move quickly to the field umpires as soon as the end of each quarter is signalled.
- (h) In the event of an "incident or altercation" involving the umpires the escorts MUST remain with the umpires and ensure their safe departure from the ground. If necessary the escorts should seek additional assistance from their Clubs.
- (i) Non adherence to the above requirements will attract a fine, and umpires will record any breach on the match report as unsatisfactory escorts.
- (k) Umpires Escort may also satisfy the interchange steward role.

APPENDIX 3 – AFL GOLDFIELDS & AFL CENTRAL VICTORIA INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT

This agreement is for Under 18.5's and below

An Area Agreement between the AFL Goldfields Region and AFL Central Victoria Region – incorporating all Leagues affiliated with these two Regional Commissions.

This Agreement is signed pursuant to the AFLVC rules and regulations pertaining to clearances and permits and in particular the clause 2.10 – Area Permits, whereby an interchange of players between the abovementioned Leagues / Regions may take place without clearance or permits and is subject to any provisions contained within this agreement.

PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY:

1. That this agreement is in force for the 2015 season only.
2. That the players involved desire to play with the Club on the date(s) requested.
3. That the Clubs involved are agreeable to the players playing on the day in question and have both signed off on the permit via Sporting Pulse
4. That the players concerned are aware of the AFL VC regulations Rule 2.0 regarding Permits.
5. Unless otherwise permitted in local league By-Laws, players of any club having a "Bye", split round, inter-league, forfeits or Sunday games will not be allowed to play with another club on permit unless he has previously played with the Club in the current season under this agreement.
6. The club playing the player from the other League shall show his registered club on the match team sheet.
- 7. All club registered players must be selected before permit players can receive endorsement to play.**
8. That any player shall not be permitted to play more than (8) eight Home & Away matches with another club under the provisions of this agreement.
9. Permit players will be able to play finals if the Leagues By-Laws allow for permit players during finals, however all available registered players must be selected in preference to permit players during finals.
10. Unless otherwise stated in League By-Laws, permit players will be able to play finals provided they play only one match per weekend and have satisfied the local league finals eligibility By – Laws.
11. That the number of players played by any club under this agreement on any one day be restricted to six (6) permit players with a maximum of three (3) coming from any one club.
12. That the number of players played by any club under this agreement be restricted to (6) six only on any one day.
 - a. **If a club has the following number of their own registered players available of the correct age bracket, the following number of permit players will be the maximum allowed:**
 - i. 14 players available on the team sheet : 6 permit players allowed
 - ii. 15 players available on the team sheet: 5 permit players allowed
 - iii. 16 players available on the team sheet: 4 permit players allowed
 - iv. 17 players available on the team sheet: 3 permit players allowed
 - v. 18 players available on the team sheet: 2 permit player allowed
 - vi. 19 players available on the team sheet: 1 permit player allowed
 - vii. 20 players available on the team sheet: no permit players allowed
13. That a player may play two games per weekend but only one game per day under this agreement. A players registered club has the option to authorise or refuse any permit application and clubs may only play a player on permit when both clubs have authorised the permit.
14. That a player from any League may play with more than one club from another League but only one match per day.
15. Once a player has played a TAC Cup or a Senior first XVIII match in the current season he is deemed to be a senior player and will be ineligible to play Junior Football (Under XVIII or below) under the terms of this agreement.
AFL VC Rule 2.1 (permits to Major Leagues) will still apply.
16. That a player having played the maximum number of (8) eight matches with a club under this agreement shall obtain a full clearance before he is able to continue to play with that club. Any clearance application of a player who has played the maximum number of permit games must be approved by the Regional Commission of the players registered club.
17. Players playing on permit are **not** eligible for any League Awards

18. That **prior to 5.00pm on the Friday before the first permit match played**, the player shall obtain written permission to do so from his registered Club by completing four (4) copies of the Area Permit Form as supplied below (Appendix 1). The four forms are to be distributed as follows – one for each Club involved and one to each League involved with the permit. This condition must be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so could see the club penalised under AFL VC Rule 1.3 (ineligible players). It is the responsibility of the club seeking the permit to have the paperwork submitted.
19. All permits shall be transacted via the AFL Sporting Pulse permit system using the Type 1 match day permit option with the requested date/s only specified. Signed paperwork as stated in clause 18 must be completed prior to requesting the Footy Web permit and no player is to take the field until the on line permit has been approved by the players registered club. Any club who does not wish to allow a Type 1 Permit to proceed will need to immediately make contact with their League Operations Manager or League Administrator who will follow it up with the necessary contacts.
20. Any club found to have breached the Area Permit Agreement and its conditions will be subject to AFL VC Rule 1.3 (ineligible players).
21. Any player reported whilst on permit shall face the independent tribunal of the League in which the alleged offence was committed. Any penalty imposed will apply to all AFL VC competitions.



2015 RDFNL JUNIOR FOOTBALL IMPORTANT INFORMATION



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AFL GOLDFIELDS JUNIOR CODES OF CONDUCT

JUNIOR PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Abide by the rules of the game and rules set down by your coach, club and league.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the match.
3. Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team. Be proud to walk off the ground after each game knowing that you have given your best effort and never involve yourself in an argument with opposing players, umpires or officials.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Your involvement to play is for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it.
7. Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them there would be no game.
8. Always show respect for Umpires and respect decisions made even if you do not agree with the outcome.
9. Play for the fun of it and not just to please parents and coaches.
10. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
12. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
13. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

PARENTS / GUARDIANS & SUPPORTER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
2. Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember your child should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember your child learns best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that your child is playing in so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your child far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

JUNIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
3. Do not discriminate against any of your players and always work at providing an inclusive environment where all players can participate.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time, if not more.
5. Remember that the players involved play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Emphasise the importance of the learning and development of skills and positive attitudes. Never ridicule or yell at your players for making mistakes or losing.
6. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play or train again.
10. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound junior coaching principles and developments. Attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of your local Coaches Association.
11. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
12. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

JUNIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
3. Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
4. Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
14. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

INTERLEAGUE POLICY & SELECTION POLICY

The RDFNL annually compete in up to 16 Interleague matches across 7 campaigns at Junior level. The introduction of the RDFNL Junior Football Academy has allowed for the Interleague / Academy coaches and the RDFNL Junior Development Officer (JDO) to readily select the initial squads for each Interleague age group.

All squad selections are made by the JDO in conjunction with the coach of each age group. The age groups are as follows:

- Under 16
- Under 15A
- Under 15B
- Under 14A
- Under 14B
- Under 13
- Under 12

Under 16 Selection Policy

The RDFNL JDO will select in their opinion the best 40-50 players in the Under 16's who are not at the present time on a Calder Cannons or Western Jets Under 16 Squad list. The aim of selecting non CC or WJ listed players is to allow RDFNL players not already selected for such squads to play at the highest level available to them and to allow recruiters to scout the players. There is no minimum or maximum number of players who can be selected for the initial squad or final team from the one club.

Under 15 & Under 14 Selection Policy

The Under 15 and Under 14 squads are considered the most important squads in the RDFNL Junior Interleague. The initial squads are selected from the best performing players from the previous Academy. The coaches and the JDO will add players to the squad from their early season round scouting. Where required, clubs will be asked to provide names of potential additions to both squads.

Two teams in each age group will be selected with the best players in their positions selected in the A team. The emergencies in the A team will be automatic selections for the B team and are required to play up if called upon. Each team will require a combination of tall and small, quick and strong players and generally the best 24 players in the league are not necessarily selected in the A team's 24 for the AFL Vic Metro Championships.

There is no minimum or maximum number of players who can be selected for the initial squad or final team from the one club.

Under 13 & Under 12 Selection Policy

The Under 13 and Under 12 initial squads are selected from the best performing players from the previous Academy. Clubs who are not featured in the initial squads are asked to send their best 3-4 players from their club in each age group. The RDFNL ensures that at least one player from each club is selected in each of the Under 13 and Under 12 final teams for the respective interleague campaigns.

All Interleague squad and final team selections are at the discretion of the JDO and respective team coach. The JDO, Coaches and RDFNL staff will not entertain requests from clubs, parents or players to be selected after the teams have been announced.

AFL JuMP GUIDELINES

In 2013 a working party consisting of AFL Victoria Operational Staff, AFL Victoria affiliate league General Managers and AFL identities David Parkin and Peter Schwab met on a number of occasions to assist the AFL in identifying, formulating and introducing a key set of guidelines and policies for Junior Football nationwide in 2014.

Each league was continually asked to give feedback on a range of junior issues including match rules, competition set up, team numbers, oval size, tackling and coaching to name a few.

The following philosophy has been determined to provide a basis of understanding for all leagues, clubs, coaches, players and supporters when creating policy and guidelines for junior football.

AFL JuMP - THIS IS OUR GAME PHILOSOPHY

PLAYING GROUND, ZONES, TIME AND EQUIPMENT

Kids can't kick as far, run as fast or process the same level of match information as adults – so why make them play on the same size field?

The 'This is Our Game' philosophy is committed to a reduced playing area, playing time and suitably modified equipment to take the emphasis away from endurance and allow for greater skill development.

With smaller grounds the players are encouraged to concentrate because the ball is never far away.

USE OF ZONES

The AFL Junior Policy embraces "zones" for the younger children as an excellent teaching practice. Firstly, the use of zones prevents ball-chasing and subsequent congestion where all players congregate around the ball. Secondly, it enables groupings of players of similar size and ability to play within a zone.

TEAM COMPOSITION

Reduced numbers allow individual players to have more frequent and longer contact with the ball whilst play is more open, even when played on a reduced size oval.

ROTATION OF PLAYERS

Children should experience playing in a variety of positions. The practice of rotating players through different positions and the interchange enables the development of a solid foundation and adds variety and interest to the matches.

CONTACT

Deferring the introduction of full tackling is based upon the need to provide players with the best possible conditions to learn develop and improve their disposal skills by reducing congestion and pressure on the player in possession. All skills are eventually taught and learned, but there is an appropriate sequence for doing so.

The physiological and emotional readiness of children's bodies to resist the pressures of tackling also needs to be recognised in assessing when to introduce tackling. The "age of readiness" will vary from child to child, but generally is recognised as being around the 11-12 years age group.

MARKING

Awarding marks over any distance in the development phase recognises that many youngsters cannot consistently kick the ball beyond 10 metres.

BOUNCING

Restricting the number of bounces prevents players running excessive distances with the ball, encourages disposal skills and enhances team play.

KICKING OFF THE GROUND

In a players development years, the ability to enhance the skill of picking the ball up takes precedence over the need to kick it off the ground.

THE COACH ON THE GROUND

The absence of stringent competition conditions should enable the coach to provide praise, teaching and feedback when warranted or as errors immediately they occur.

PREMIERSHIP POINTS COMPETITIONS

The match environment in junior football must be one of encouragement, learning and development over a focus of “winning”.

Where winning overrides such aims, and encouragement is replaced by a fear of failure, the program for children is inappropriate.

AWARDS

Any awards should not replace or detract from the fun and enjoyment gained by participation in the program and the learning that is an integral part of it.

Under 10's

PURPOSE

To provide children with a fun, safe and positive experience through a well structured match program that considers the level of maturation in motor, cognitive, psychosocial and emotional skill ²of children in this age group.

The emphasis at this age level is the further development basic game specific skills (kicking, handballing, marking, gathering, evasion and checking) and learning technical and tactical concept. The match program for this age group provides further opportunities to develop game specific skills and the tactical principles of gaining possession, pressure, utilising space and positional play.

SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Prior to the commencement of play:

- all players, coaches and umpires should gather together on the ground and shake hands
- the umpire and coaches should ensure that players are aware of the rules and procedures to be followed in the conduct of the game

The spirit of the game is **to give all available players a game** of football. Therefore:

- where difficulty occurs fielding full numbers, both coaches must agree to even up player numbers.
- excess players should be given to the opposition team if they are unable to field the required numbers.
- coaches should consider modifying the numbers per side to ensure all players participate (for instance, if planning 12-a-side but only 18 players in total are available: play 9-a-side)

The umpire should at all times:

- endeavour to apply the rules of the games whilst preferring to award kicks to players in preference to calling for “ball-ups”

- understand that the spirit of AFL junior match rules for this age group is to enable all players to gather possession and that **“The player in possession of the ball should be given every opportunity to kick or handball”**.
- attempt to involve all players as the opportunities arise, particularly when indicating which players are to receive a “free kick” upon the ball being kicked out of bounds and ensuring the effective rotation of players

In relation to all **ball-ups**,

- A player contesting a ball-up may not grab the ball and play on

THE BALL

A synthetic size 2 or leather football should be used.

PLAYING TIME

The playing time should be reduced to what is appropriate for the age of the players.

AFL Junior Fixture – Maximum of 4 x 12 minute quarters with no time on.

THE TEAM

Twelve-a-side means: 4 forwards, 4 centres, 4 backs + reserves

Fifteen-a-side means: 5 forwards, 5 midfielders, 5 backs + reserves

Eighteen-a-side means: 6 forwards, 6 midfielders, 6 backs + reserves

Interchange may take place at any time, but all players must play at least half of the match.

Rotate players every quarter to provide opportunities in several positions, i.e. players to change from one zone to another and interchange onto the field.

Equalise the teams and opponents as much as possible (match sizes, abilities)

PLAYING GROUND and OFFICIALS

The size of the playing field should be no bigger than 100m x 80m and divided into three equal zones (thirds) identified by markers or lines on the ground.

*For leagues that feel that zoning at this level is not in the best interests of the local conditions, an exemption can be sought via the State Body.

This field is a maximum size with flexibility needed depending on the players per team, age and ability level. Playing on a larger field will compromise the intent of the laws and in turn have an adverse effect on the development of players.

A field umpire is needed, if there are no boundary umpires, the central umpire is to throw the ball up 10 meters from the boundary line. Two goal umpires are required to adjudge a score decision but are not to record scores.

START OF PLAY and RESTARTING AFTER A GOAL

When all players are in position, a ball-up is conducted between two centre players of similar height as nominated by the umpire, alternate players for subsequent bounces.

CONTACT / TACKLING

Players can perform a modified tackle.

A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball (That is push back the player in the back).

- If the player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the umpire feels the player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball
- A player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.
- The Field Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball **prior to** being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.
- The Field Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a player's hands by an opponent.
- A player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a Free Kick.
- There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition player in possession of the ball to the ground.

COACHES

The coach must not pressure, instruct or make comment to the opposition team.

At the end of the game all players and coaches should gather on the ground and shake hands. The umpire should also take this opportunity to address the players.

ORDER OFF RULE

To be applied at the umpire's discretion (or the Controlling Body where applicable). Bad language, poor sportsmanship and disputing umpiring decisions should be actively discouraged.

THE GAME - PREMIERSHIP POINTS COMPETITIONS

The football match program to be offered to players 9-10 years of age must comply with the modified match program presented in this document with no premiership points, no finals, no ladders, no match results (no score) and no names of players published. Skill clinics and participation carnival days maybe held.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

No representative teams should be selected.

Under 12's

PURPOSE

To provide children with a fun, safe and positive experience through a well structured match program that considers the level of maturation in motor, cognitive, psychosocial and emotional skill of children in this age group.

The consolidation of basic game specific skills is still the focus at this age level rather than competition and winning, while further developing technical and tactical concepts. These concepts include position specific, and basic performance capacities – e.g. warm up, cool down, nutrition, hydration, recovery and goal-setting.

SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Prior to the commencement of play:

- all players, coaches and umpires should gather on the ground and shake hands
- the umpire and coaches should ensure that players are aware of the rules and procedures to be followed in the conduct of the game

The spirit of the game is **to give all available players a game** of football. Therefore:

- where difficulty occurs fielding full numbers, both coaches must agree to even up player numbers.
- excess players should be given to the opposition team if they are unable to field the required numbers.
- coaches should consider modifying the numbers per side to ensure all players participate (for instance, if planning 18-a-side but only 30 players in total are available: play 15-a-side)

The umpire should at all times:

- endeavour to apply the rules of the games whilst preferring to award kicks to players in preference to calling for “ball-ups”
- understand that the spirit of the AFL junior match rules for this age group is to enable all players to gather possession and that **“The player in possession of the ball should be given every opportunity to kick or handball”**.
- attempt to involve all players as the opportunities arise, particularly when indicating which players are to receive a “free kick” upon the ball being kicked out of bounds and ensuring the effective rotation of players through the three zones of play

THE BALL

A synthetic or leather size 3 football made specifically for this age group should be used

PLAYING GROUND and OFFICIALS

A full size field is allowed unless the dimensions are clearly unsuitable for the number and skill level of the players involved.

In this instance, refer to the match program for 9 & 10 year olds for guidance.

This field size is the optimum size and flexibility is often needed, in particular, smaller field sizes may be required depending on the number of players per team, age and ability level. A field umpire is needed.

THE TEAM

Fifteen-a-side means: 5 forwards, 5 centres, 5 backs + reserves

Eighteen-a-side means: 6 forwards, 6 midfielders, 6 backs + reserves

Interchange may take place at any time, but all players must play at least half of the match.

Equalise the teams and opponents as much as possible (match sizes, abilities)

Rotate players every quarter to provide opportunities in several positions.

PLAYING TIME

AFL Junior Fixture – Maximum of 4 x 15 minute quarters with no time on.

SCRIMMAGE and FIELD BALL-UPS

Conducted between two players of equal size selected by the umpire. Before the throw up, the umpire should clear the area by sending players back to their positions. No more than three players from each team shall be closer to the ball-up than approximately 20 metres. **(Full Possession Rule Applies)**

CONTACT / TACKLING

Full tackling rules as per the laws of Australian Football can be applied.

BARGING

Fending off, with an open hand to the body (not above the shoulders or in the back), is allowed.

DISTANCE PENALTY

A player **can** be awarded a 25m advancement towards their goals if, after a mark or free kick the umpire is of the opinion that an opposing player hinders that player. This includes: overstepping the mark; wasting time; using abusive language/behaviour; etc

ORDER OFF RULE

To be applied at the umpire's discretion (or the Controlling Body where applicable). Bad language, poor sportsmanship and disputing umpiring decisions should be actively discouraged.

COACHES

The coach is not allowed on the ground. Messages may be delivered by a Runner. However, the Runner must abide by the procedure of going directly to the player involved, delivering the message and returning directly to the coaching bench.

At the end of the game all players and coaches should gather on the ground and shake hands. The umpire should also take this opportunity to address the players.

THE GAME - PREMIERSHIP POINTS COMPETITIONS

The football program to be offered to players needs to be delivered in a well conducted league with appropriate development structures feeding into it, the program to be adopted might be the alternative "premiership" program. Such a decision should be made by the relevant controlling bodies and endorsed by the State football bodies.

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

JUNIORS – TAKEN FROM RDFNL BY-LAW 126

j) A player must play in at least five matches for his Club in the minor rounds (home and away games) to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.

k) A player must play in at least five matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:

- i)** Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 18 ½ or any open age side
- ii)** Where a registered junior player is selected to play in a higher age group on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy (e.g. under 14 player playing under 16). This is not to be at the expense of a registered and available player in that age group.

l) A player shall not be permitted to take part in the finals series of matches unless he has previously played not less than five minor round matches (home and away) with his Club during the current season. Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the Club, with which he has been granted a permit to play and shall be required to therefore complete no less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his new Club before being eligible to play in the final series of matches.

m) A registered player, playing five games during the minor rounds (home and away) in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy.

n) A registered player in any RDFNL Junior Competitions having played MORE THAN 50% of games with a higher grade, as listed on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy, shall be ineligible to play with the lower grade in the final series of matches, except in the following cases

- i)** A player has competed in a home and away round under compliance with rule **126 o)**
- ii)** The team in which the player has played MORE THAN 50% of games with is playing on the same weekend as outlined in rule **126 q).**

o) A player who has played more than one home and away round match in a day (e.g. U/14 Reserves and U/14 Seniors) shall only have their first game recorded as a game played when determining finals eligibility. The second game will not count when determining finals eligibility. Equally, a player filling in for a higher age team will not have the higher age match counted for finals eligibility (e.g. Under 12 and Under 14).

p) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals.

q) Any player having played more than 50% of home and away games in a higher grade is ineligible to play in the lower grade unless the higher grade is playing finals on the same weekend. This applies to clubs whose higher grade side is directly through to the Grand Final whilst the lower grade side is playing in the Preliminary Final.

r) The Calder Cannons or Western Jets are not recognised as a player's home club.

s) Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.

PLAYER PERMITS

An Area Agreement between the AFL Goldfields Region and AFL Central Victoria Region – incorporating all Leagues affiliated with these two Regional Commissions.

This Agreement is signed pursuant to the AFLVC rules and regulations pertaining to clearances and permits and in particular the clause 2.10 – Area Permits, whereby an interchange of players between the abovementioned Leagues / Regions may take place without clearance or permits and is subject to any provisions contained within this agreement.

The form for this agreement can be found in the appendix section of the Operations Manual and on the RDFNL website.

FORFEITS & PLAYER SHORTAGES

Rule 35 - Forfeiture

Clubs with more than one team in any age group must play their highest ranked team each week. Therefore clubs cannot forfeit their highest ranked team in any grade if they have players available playing in their other team/s in that age group.

Rule 132 - Junior Football - Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game

For junior football only (U/16 down), the following shall apply:

- a) From season 2015 onwards, clubs who field a side with 12 or more players will be eligible to play for points. This means, the score, percentage, best players and all goal kickers will stand.
- b) Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, point a) shall apply.
- c) Clubs who field a side with 11 or less players will forfeit the points to the other side. Both teams are encouraged to still conduct a game with whatever players are available. The size of the ground can be reduced if need be.
- d) Where possible, clubs must assist their opposition to field a side of 18 or more players.
 - i) Where a team cannot field 18 players it can approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned. This request must be made at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the match and must be made by the Team Manager or highest ranking available team staff member.
 - ii) Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club, and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked. These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.
 - iii) Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
 - iv) Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.
- e) In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.
- f) In any round, a team that has been allocated the bye should assist other clubs by supplying them with as many players as they can and comply with the permit procedure set out in the Interchange Agreement adopted by the RDFNL.

PLAYER EXEMPTIONS

Playing Under Age

Players seeking to play up an age group for the full season can only do so if the League has received on club letterhead a signed letter from the players' parent / guardian.

Players must be 15 years of age as of the 1st January in the current year to play Senior, Reserve or Under 18.5 Football.

Playing Over Age

A Junior club may apply for approval for a play a player in the age group below their age. To obtain approval clubs must submit to the Operations / Junior Development Officer a request for each proposed player, supported with medical advice where applicable. A player will not be considered for screening or exemption unless they meet the following parameters for each age group.

- **Exemption to play Under 16:** Height - < 175 cm, Weight - < 65 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 14:** Height - < 170 cm, Weight - < 55 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 12:** Height - < 155 cm, Weight - < 45 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 10:** Height - < 145 cm, Weight - < 35 kg.

The Board in conjunction with the Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to the member club within twenty-one (21) days. A player screening session may be required to assist with any player exemption request.

The Board, Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time. Additionally the Board can exempt or screen a player based on special circumstances deemed appropriate by the Board.

MATCH OFFICIALS DUTIES

1. Officials in Bench Area

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the RDFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box. Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach.

Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners, six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 116 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire. All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box.

If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line. Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

Any Club desiring authorisation of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorisation, prior to the commencement of the match.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised 10 penalty units per offense.

2. Club Runner

Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook, "Runners". Clubs may use up to two (2) club runners for Seniors through to Under 14 for each match and only one (1) for Under 12 through to Under 10. Only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate.

3. Ground Manager / Umpire Escort

a) For Senior match days, the Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. For Junior match days, the Junior Coordinators of both clubs, or an approved representative of both Clubs in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League. Ground Managers will be supplied with a vest from the Riddell District Football & Netball League and this vest must be worn on match days to ensure the Ground Manager stands out in the crowd on match days.

b) The Umpires Escort's duties shall include the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League.

4. Water Carriers

A maximum of up to four (4) Water Carriers can be used by Senior through to Under 14 teams and up to two (2) for Under 12 through to Under 10 teams. Water carriers must be of sufficient age that they do not impose risk to themselves and others. In extreme weather conditions, clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers however this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately. At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply to clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

5. Timekeepers

A Club shall for all grades provide a Timekeeper. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signalling device and a back up device for the use of Timekeepers. Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League. A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide a Timekeeper for any RDFNL fixtured match. A fine of 20 Penalty Units shall apply if a Club fails to provide an audible signalling device and "back up" siren or bell.

6. Interchange stewards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will appoint representatives from the Riddell Umpires Association to act as Interchange Stewards during finals matches. RDFNL clubs are encouraged to provide an Interchange Steward for each match of each round of the home and away season.

7. Trainers & AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA)

At Senior level, it will be required for all Senior Clubs to Register all Trainers with the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA). Furthermore, at Senior Level all Trainers that take the field must be Qualified and Registered. At Junior level, it will be required for all Junior Clubs to Register two Trainers with the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA). Furthermore, at Junior Level each club must have a minimum of two (2) Trainers who are qualified and registered with AFLGTA.

The requirement for Qualified and Registered Trainers;

- a) Basic Qualification Required - Level 2 First Aid, CPR
- b) Sports Trainers Certificate

All Riddell District FNL Clubs will be required to have one representative from each Club at AFLGTA meetings. All Riddell District FNL Clubs will submit a list of their Trainers, including accreditation, to the AFLGTA and the Riddell District FNL prior to the commencement of the season. Club Trainers shall be attired in all white and bear a number which can be obtained by the league which will correspond to the Team Sheet to be completed prior to the commencement of each match. Failure of clubs to Register a Trainer with the AFLGTA, attend an AFLGAT meeting or include a Trainer on a Team Sheet will result in a 5 penalty unit fine.

In addition to the two (2) AFL Goldfields registered Trainers at Junior Level, other non AFL Goldfields registered trainers can enter the junior playing field should they hold any of the following qualifications:

- (i) Medical Practitioner
- (ii) Physiotherapist
- (iii) Sports Medicine Australia - Level 1 minimum
- (iv) Sports First Aid
- (v) Advanced First Aid
- (vi) First Aid Trainer/Instructor
- (vii) Workplace First Aid – Level 2 minimum
- (viii) Advanced Workplace
- (ix) First Aid – Level 2 minimum
- (x) St John Ambulance
- (xi) Ambulance Paramedic – Level 2
- (xii) St John, Red Cross and Ambulance – Level 2 minimum
- (xiii) Registered Nurse

Persons acting as a club trainer without any of the above qualifications may not enter the junior playing field at any time to attend to an injured player or official.

COMPLAINTS / INVESTIGATION PROCESS

Any on field or off field incidents that in the opinion of the President or Committee of an RDFNL club requires disciplinary action or investigation must follow the complaints investigation process set out by the RDFNL.

1. Player, Parent, Supporter or Coach makes complaint or Investigation request to the club President or Committee. **The RDFNL will not speak directly with any player, parent, supporter or coach – all complaints or investigation requests are to be communicated to the RDFNL through the Club President.**
2. Club President officially lodges complaint / investigation request to RDFNL Operations Manager. **Any Investigation request must be made by 4:00pm.** The RDFNL Operations Manager will advise if the club requesting the investigation is required to pay a deposit.
3. Should the RDFNL Operations Manager deem that the complaint made requires action from the club whom the complaint was made against, that club will be contacted immediately and required to reply with a statement. In the event of an Investigation request, the RDFNL Operations Manager will appoint an RDFNL Investigator immediately and issue advice of the investigation and club requirements to both clubs concerned.
4. The Operations Manager will present the complaint and response from the offending club to the RDFNL Board for review and resolution. In the event of an Investigation, the Investigation Officer appointed will contact both clubs to arrange interviews with required persons.
5. The Operations Manager will advise both clubs of the outcome of the complaint as soon as the Board has come to a resolution or sanction. In the event of an investigation, the Investigation Officer will have 14 days to complete all interviews and a report to the Operations Manager.
6. In the event of an Investigation, the Operations Manager will depending on the report from the Investigation Officer schedule a Tribunal or advise both clubs that no further action will be taken.
7. All outcomes/sanctions from complaints and investigations can be appealed within 7 days by either club in writing to the RDFNL Board. In the case of Tribunal appeals, the matter may be determined by an independent tribunal determined by AFL Victoria.

For more detailed explanations of RDFNL Investigations, Complaints, Tribunals and Appeals refer to **RDFNL By-Laws 53-54.**

MATCH TIMES

Turner Division - One Oval (Kilmore, Melton South Home Games)

Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
Under 16 Senior	3:00pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 14 Senior	1:40pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 14 Reserves	12:20pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 12 Senior	11:10am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 12 Reserves	10:00am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 10 Senior	9:00am	Half/Full	4 x 10min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 10 Reserves	8:00am / 9:00am	Half/Full	4 x 10min No time on	4-8-4 mins

Turner Division - Two Ovals (Gisborne, Rupertswood, Sunbury Lions & Melton Home Games)

Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks	Venue
Under 16 Senior	3:00pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Main
Under 14 Senior	1:40pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Main
Under 14 Reserves	12:20pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Main
Under 12 Senior	11:10am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Main
Under 12 Reserves	10:00am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Main
Under 10 Senior	9:00am	Half/Full	4 x 10min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Main
Under 10 Reserves	9:00am	Half/Full	4 x 10min No time on	4-8-4 mins	Minor

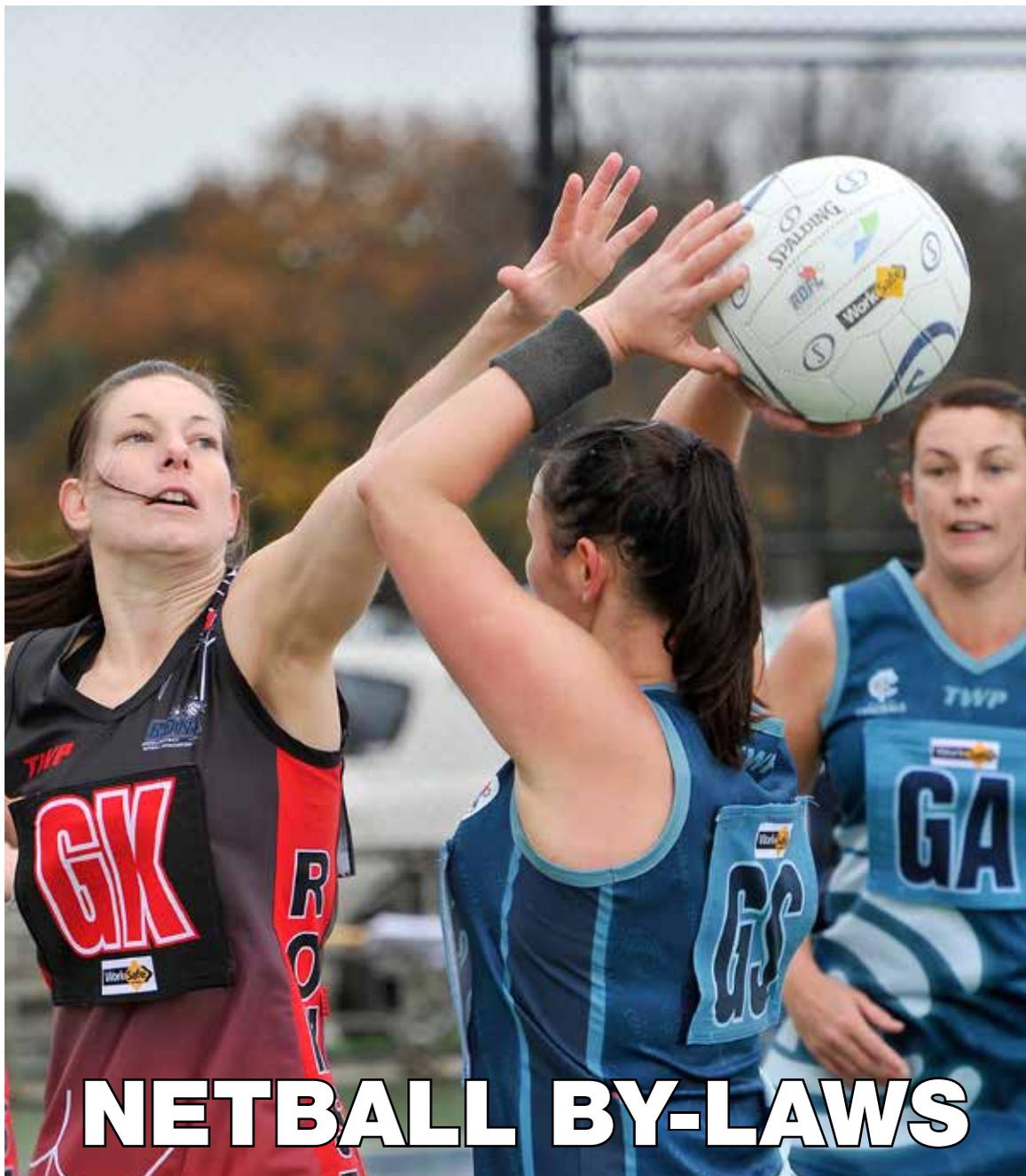
Beatson Division - One Oval

Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
Under 16	2:00pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 14	12:30pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 12	11:15am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	4-8-4 mins
Under 10	10:00am	Half / Full	4 x 10min No time on	4-8-4 mins

Note: Venues that have a combination of Turner / Watson, Turner / Beatson or Beatson / Watson fixtures will have their match times and specific grounds determined on a weekly basis no later than Monday before the round commences.

Matches proceeding a forfeited match will be brought forward.

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE



Rule 1 – Committee of Management

- (a) A Committee of Management shall be appointed by the Board of Management annually within three months following the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Positions shall be:
- (i) Board Member – Netball Portfolio
 - (ii) RDFNL Netball Manager
 - (iii) Netball Co-ordinator
 - (iv) Any other member (general committee) as appointed by the Board of Management
- (c) The Committee of Management will impose the prescribed penalty to any member that fails to adhere to these by-laws, Netball Victoria policies or any other Association policies and guidelines.

Rule 2 – Meetings

- (a) A meeting of club netball co-ordinators will be held when deemed necessary by the Netball Committee of Management.
- (b) A minimum of three meetings to be held each financial year.
- (c) All Clubs must be represented by at least one representative at all Netball Meetings. Penalty: \$75.

Rule 3 - Correspondence

- (a) All correspondence must be in writing from the Netball Co-ordinator, Club President or Club Secretary to the RDFNL Netball Manager.
- (b) All correspondence from the League will be addressed to the Netball Co-ordinator and Club President unless otherwise specified by the club.
- (c) The League shall provide the following information in writing to all Clubs prior to the start of the season:
- (i) League Contact Details
 - (ii) League venue address
 - (iii) League By-Laws
 - (iv) Fixtures
 - (v) League calendar of events
 - (vi) Details of courses and seminars
- (d) Clubs shall provide the following information to the RDFNL Netball Manager by 28th February each year
- (i) Contact Details
 - (ii) Coach Details
- (e) Clubs shall be responsible to update these details with the RDFNL Netball Manager if any changes are made during the year.

Rule 4 – Admission to Grounds

- (a) The admission charge to each ground for home and away games shall be determined for adults, pensioners and students annually, at the discretion of the Board and Member Clubs are to be advised at the time of notification of the AGM.
- (b) Club Membership tickets WILL NOT admit the holder to grounds other than that under the control of the Club issuing the tickets.
- (c) The following people shall be entitled to a season pass issued by the League. This people shall be entitled to admission free of charge to all matches in the League upon presentation of a season pass for that year to the gatekeepers.
- (i) League Officials
 - (ii) Life members of the League
 - (iii) Bowen Medallists
 - (iv) Scarborough Medalists
 - (v) Ryan Medallists
 - (vi) Officiating Umpires (refer football rule 23) and RDFUA “officially” appointed advisers and observers
 - (vii) Netball Umpires
 - (viii) League Investigation Officer
 - (viii) Any other person, as determined by the Board.
- (d) The Board shall issue each Member Club with a number of passes, as determined by the Board, for its president, secretary, treasurer and coach. Each named official shall be entitled to free admission to all games in which the named Club is participating on presentation of this pass.

Rule 5 - Finance**Part (i) Affiliation Fees**

- (a) The Board of Management shall set fees for the Riddell District Football Netball League.
- (b) Any club un-financial shall be dealt with by the Board of Management as per the Statement of Rules and the Football By-Laws in place at the time.

Part (ii) Financial Management

- (a) All financial matters will be handled by the Riddell District Football Netball League

Part (iii) Reimbursements/Payments

- (a) The Committee of Management shall be entitled to claim approved expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity. Receipts must be produced. All claims shall be submitted to the Board of Management.

Rule 6 – Club Registration / Nomination of Teams

- (a) Clubs wishing to enter teams in the competition must:
- (i) Complete the official Registration Form
 - (ii) Submit to the League by the required time and date.
 - (iii) Pay any nomination fee as nominated by the Board of Management

Rule 7 – Netball Victoria Membership

All players must be registered with their club via the Netball Victoria's MyNetball System

- (a) All new players to the league must be registered on the Netball Victoria MyNetball System before taking the court on Match Day.
- (b) All players continuing with their home club from a previous season must be re-registered via the MyNetball System by their Club's Netball Coordinator / Administrator. All contact details must be kept up-to-date, including current postal address, mobile phone and email address. The RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator will provide clubs with a form to fill out player registration details. This form is not required by the league.
- (c) Each RDFNL Club is required to register each of their players on the Netball Victoria MyNetball system. As Clubs are registering their own players, they are also required to pay for each players VNA, unless it has already been paid with an external competition or the player has registered themselves online.
- (d) Payment cannot be paid through the RDFNL. Only when a player is playing in a Riddell District Football Netball League Representative side can they pay through the RDFNL.
- (e) The Club Coordinator / Administrator shall be responsible for ensuring all VNA payments are made to their club to ensure that Netball Victoria payments can be made. It is not up to the RDFNL to organise collection of VNA payments for clubs.
- (f) All Coaches and Umpires must also be VNA registered prior to undertaking their roles with the RDFNL Club

Rule 8 – Age Requirements

- (a) Minimum age requirement is turning 15 years by the 31/12 of that year.
- (b) Players playing in the 19 & Under competition must turn 15 during the year of competition and can turn 18 during the year of competition.

Rule 9 - Venues

- (a) Each Club will endeavour to play their home matches within the confines of, or as close as possible to, to the ground where their Football Club is playing.
- (b) Each home Club will be responsible for providing a court in fit condition, which must be approved by Netball Victoria & the Riddell District Football Netball league.
- (c) All Club courts are to be situated outdoors, as the RDFNL is an outdoor competition, unless approved by the Netball Committee of Management.

Rule 10 - Grading

- (a) Number of sections available is to be determined by the Board of Management.
- (b) Each club is permitted to enter -one (1) team in each section only
- (c) Each club must enter a team in each section of the competition, unless otherwise determined by the Netball Committee of Management. Any club that fails to enter a team in each section, unless otherwise determined by the Netball Committee of Management, shall be dealt with by the Board of Management as they see fit.
- (d) The Netball Committee of Management will be the sole adjudicator of all grading decisions.

Rule 11 – Dress Code

- (a) Each Club must register its uniform with the Netball Committee of Management
- (b) The Netball Committee Management must approve all uniform colours, designs and styles. Position patches shall be worn by all players. Letters must be 15cm high and worn front and back, above the waist of players.
- (c) Clubs must notify the RDFNL Netball Manager in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform.
 - (i) The Committee of Management shall recommend changes to the Board of Management.
 - (ii) The Board of Management shall have the sole right to approve or decline any changes to playing uniforms, after receiving a recommendation from the Netball Committee of Management.
- (d) The RDFNL Netball Manager or Managing Director shall determine when alternative coloured bibs shall be required.
- (e) The League uniform is Navy/Red body suit and white socks.
 - (i) Representative colour will be determined by the choice of colours of the Riddell District Football Netball League.
- (f) Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in full uniform. If uniforms are not ready, approval must be sought and given by the Netball Committee of Management.
- (g) Extra curricular uniform/attire notes:
 - (i) Long nails are to be taped with appropriate sports tape in the following manner; one (1) piece of tape is to fully cover the top of the nail and one (1) piece of tape around the nail.
 - (ii) Gloves are only permitted to be worn if accompanied by a current medical certificate. This certificate needs to be sighted by the match Umpire before the player takes the court. Only plain cotton gloves with no metal clips, sharp adornments, Velcro, rubber spikes or any other covering to enhance the catching of the ball shall be allowed to be worn.
 - (iii) No jewellery is to be worn. Wedding bands and/or medical alert bracelets may be worn and shall be covered with soft tape.
 - (iv) Body piercing (ears, nose & eyebrow) which cannot be removed shall be taped.
 - (v) Taping, appropriate sports tape is to be used (no band-aids).

- (vi) Body piercing: tape is to fully cover the ear, nose, eyebrow ring/stud or any other pierced site. Tongue piercings are to be removed.
- (vii) No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
- (viii) Elastic headbands are acceptable during play. Plastic headbands must not be worn during matches
- (ix) Sponsors logos are not permitted on bibs with the exception of required official RDFNL major sponsor - WorkSafe.

Rule 12 - Clearances

- (a) A Clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another RDFNL Club during the current season,
- (b) No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.
- (c) A clearance will not be granted after the 9th round in an 18 week season.
- (d) Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of club property will not be granted a clearance.
- (e) A player must have received notification in writing from the League before playing for a new club.
- (f) Penalty for playing without clearance: \$75 and loss of any competition points for the match(es) the player played in.
- (g) The player must complete all details on the top section of the clearance form and send to the RDFNL Netball Manager.
- (h) The League will forward the clearance request to the existing club for approval
- (i) The existing Club has seven (7) days to complete the clearance or the League will automatically clear the player to the new club.
- (j) If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearance), the League will write to the player advising the reason why and forward a copy to both clubs. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the Grievance Procedure outlined by Netball Victoria.
- (k) The existing club shall advise the League when clearance is approved, an email will suffice. The player will then receive notification advising that the clearance has been approved and a copy is forwarded to both Clubs.

Rule 13 – Conduct of Matches

- (a) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:
 - (i) Timing - Refer part (c)
 - (ii) Late Start - Refer part (d)
 - (iii) Blood Policy - Refer part (e)
- (b) The Board of Management shall determine a fixture and any changes thereof for the competition inclusive of the starting times, venues and days of play for all matches. The fixture will be provided to all clubs at the Annual General Meeting of the RDFNL.
- (c) Other than where prior arrangements have been made by the Board, games shall commence at the following times and shall consist of four quarters:

A Grade		
4 x 15 minutes		1:30pm
B Grade		
4 x 12 minutes		12:20pm
C Grade		
4 x 10 minutes		11:25am
19 & Under		
4 x 10 minutes		10:30am

 - (i) The above times may be varied by the RDFNL Operations Staff and RDFNL Netball Director
 - (ii) The respective breaks between quarters shall be 2 minutes, 4 minutes and 2 minutes respectively.
 - (iii) Teams are to change ends at each quarter time break
 - (iv) The Board of Management may vary the starting times and match conditions in finals.
- (d) **Late Start**
 - (i) All clubs are to be in position and ready to start at the time set by the League or the mutually agreed, prearranged time.
 - (ii) Team requires a minimum of 5 players in order for play to commence.
 - (iii) Late arrivals may join at goal intervals, quarter time break or injury time.
 - (iv) Once Umpires, Scorers., Time keepers and one team are in position and scheduled start time has passed the following action may be taken.
 - (v) If a team does not take the court at the required time - the clock shall commence. The Umpires shall instruct the scorer to award a 5 goal penalty to the non-offending team. If the offending team still does not take the court within a further 5 minutes the game will be awarded to the non-offending team. **4 Premiership points to non-offending team no changes to %. Fine \$50.00 to offending team.**
 - (vi) **HOWEVER** All due consideration must be given when a change of venue has occurred When a delay has occurred due to circumstances beyond anyone's control both delegates are to arrange a start time within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time.
 - (vii) If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season then the club must notify the opposing Club's netball Delegate and Coach 72 hours prior to the match starting time. If the opposing Club agrees to a re-schedule starting time then the time shall be no later than half an hour after the scheduled starting time. All changes must be approved by the league. Written consent from both clubs required before time change is considered.
- (e) **Blood Policy**

- (i) An Umpire is required to hold time when a player who is bleeding is noticed or an on court player has indicated the presence of blood.
 - (ii) If the blood rule is called by either officiating Umpire, the stoppage shall be up to two (2) minutes from when the time is held to decide whether a bleeding player is fit to continue.
 - The wound shall be adequately covered
 - Blood stained clothing shall be replaced or cleaned
 - The ball and Court shall be cleaned if necessary
 - (iii) During the stoppage for blood the bleeding player may be substituted or the position left vacant. No other substitutions or team changes are permitted by either team.
 - (iv) A stoppage for blood is not regarded as a stoppage for injury or illness and is not recorded against a team.
 - (v) The umpire will restart play by signalling to the time keepers and blow the whistle for play to be resumed.
- (f) Netball - The home team must provide to the umpire, one netball that has been approved by the Board. It must carry any approved league sponsors logo. A spare netball must remain with the home team for the duration of the match, unless required.

Rule 14 – Scoring/Team Sheets

- (a) All teams must provide their own scorers for all matches. Scorers must sit together at the section provided at the court. Scorers must be fifteen (15) years of age or older except in the case of an eligible registered senior player who may not yet have turned fifteen (15). One team member must stand down if the team has no scorer.
- (b) The home club shall be required to supply all the necessary paperwork for the match including printing off of the scoresheet from the My Netball database management system. Clubs will be provided with all required paperwork by the League prior to the season.
- (c) One official Scoresheet will be used for each match. This scoresheet must list the complete and full names (both Given and Surname) of all players intending to take court. This scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter and the match score.
- (d) A team may have up to 12 players on a team sheet
- (e) The first named team is responsible to return the scoresheet to the League.
- (f) A club official may add players to the team sheet at any time up until the commencement of the third quarter.
- (g) At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by;
 - I. The captains of both competing teams, and
 - II. The scorers
 - III. The officiating umpires only sign the score sheet to state they have officiated that game.
- (h) If a scorer, team or club believes the score sheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest.
- (i) A team wishing to protest must:-
 - I. Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Committee of the intention to protest.
 - II. Lodge the protest in writing with the Association Secretary within 48 hours of the game being played.
- (j) The Committee will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.

Rule 15 - Scoreboards

- (a) All clubs are required to supply a working scoreboard for each RDFNL match.
- (b) The home club is to ensure that the scoreboard is being operated by a suitable club member and must ensure that the score is kept up to date at all times.
- (c) A fine of \$50 shall apply for clubs who fail to supply a scoreboard or fail to have it operated to a suitable standard.

Rule 16 – Match Results, Competition Scores and Ladders

- (a) The Board of Management shall determine the competition database used
- (b) Notification of results shall follow the below process:
 - (i) All results of the days play must be entered into the MY NETBALL DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM on-line results system by 6:00pm on the day of the match. The details required to be entered shall be decided by the Netball Committee of Management and communicated to clubs before the commencement of the season. It shall include, but not limited to, the final scores, goal shooters and best players. (The words team effort shall not be listed).
 - (ii) Penalty: Results not entered as required: \$50
- (c) Grades where teams do not play in an even amount of games shall have percentage of matches won used as the determining criteria in deciding the ladder and therefore finals rankings.
- (d) The competition scores and ladders shall be displayed on the League website via the MyNetball competition database.

Rule 17 – Player Qualification

- (a) All other eligibility criteria and player registration rules and by-laws must be followed.
- (b) All Players may play a maximum of 2 matches per round, during the home and away season with their club in any

- grade, subject to part (e)
- (c) A player who has played more than one match in a round in a day shall only have their higher match recorded as match played when determining finals eligibility. The second match will not count when determining finals eligibility. An Under 18 player will have the Under age (first) match recorded as their qualification match.
- (d) Any team may list up to 12 players in any one match, and there will be no limit on the number of substitutions made.
- (e) Any player who has played seven (7) matches in a particular grade, can not play in a lower grade for the remainder of the season (except 19 & Under players refer to 17(c)).

If a player is found to have played a game in lower grade after they have already played 7 games in higher grade will lose premiership points for that round and the club will be fined \$100.00.

- (f) Players named on the team sheet must have had court time during a match to have such a match registered as a match played.
- (g) Players in all grades must play at least four (4) matches in that season in one particular grade to be eligible to participate in that grades final series, excepting in the following cases.
- Where an Under Age player is selected to play in an open age side (A Grade, B Grade & C Grade)
 - If a B Grade player is selected to play in the A Grade side
 - If a C Grade player is selected to play in the B Grade or A Grade side
- (h) A player can only play in one (1) finals match on the same weekend with the exception of players in the 19 & Under competition who can play in two (2) matches maximum on the same weekend. .
- (i) Once a senior player has played seven (7) matches for their team/club in one grade, they are not eligible to play finals in any lower grade for that club, accept and unless
- If two teams (A Grade & B Grade for example) are still in the finals series and a player is dropped for form reason to play in the lower grade without having played the four games to qualify, this player shall be allowed to play B Grade as long as the A Grade side remains in the competition. Once the A Grade drops out however, rule 17 e) shall apply

Rule 18 - Finals

- (a) The Board of Management shall select the venues for each final in conjunction with the football competition finals.
- (b) At the conclusion of the home and away matches the finals series shall be decided in the following manner:-

McIntyre Final Six System

Match A	1st Elimination Final	Rank 4	V	Rank 5
Match B	2nd Elimination Final	Rank 3	V	Rank 6
Match C	Qualifying Final	Rank 1	V	Rank 2
Match D	1st Semi Final	Loser C	V	2nd Highest Ranked winner from A & B
Match E	2nd Semi Final	Winner C	V	Highest Ranked winner from A & B
Match F	Preliminary Final	Loser E	V	Winner D
Match G	Grand Final	Winner E	V	Winner F

In the case of a five team finals series the following shall apply:-

- Match A - Elimination Semi Final (Premiership ladder position 4 v 5)
- Match B - Qualifying Semi Final (Premiership ladder position 2 v 3)
- Match C - First Semi Final – (Loser match B v Winner match A)
- Match D - Second Semi Final – (Minor Premier v Winner match B)
- Match E - Preliminary Final – (Loser Match D v Winner Match C)
- Match F - GRAND FINAL – (Winner Match D v Winner Match E)

The Board shall make a decision at the beginning of each season as to the number of teams to contest the finals series.

- (c) Rule 15 shall apply when determining player eligibility for finals.
- (d) Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match.
- (e) Matches shall be conducted for finals as for rounds. The starting time for finals matches may alter slightly to home and away match times and shall be set by the Board of Management.
- (f) Drawn Finals:
- (i) There is a two (2) minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores will be verified on the official scoresheet
 - (ii) Positional changes and substitutions may be made during changeover time.
 - (iii) 2 x 5 minute halves will be played for Under 18 and C Grade matches, 2 x 6 minute halves for B Grade matches and 2 x 7 minute halves for A Grade matches
 - (iv) At the end of the first half there will be one (1) minute interval where substitutions again can be made. Teams change ends to begin the second half.
 - (v) Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time. Play continues until one team has a two goal advantage.
 - (vi) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply as per rule 7.1 of the Rule Book. However during the entire extra time;
 - The first stoppage for each team shall be up to two (2) minutes;
 - Each subsequent stoppage for each team shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds.

Rule 19 - Forfeits

- (a) In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, games shall only be awarded to seven nominated players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending teams.
- (b) A Forfeit fine will be imposed. The RDFNL Operations Manager shall invoice the club the penalty amount outlined in the League By-Laws Rule 35.

Rule 20 - Cancellations

- (a) When matches are cancelled on account of a total strike (eg power, or situation created by a prolonged petrol strike) weather or some other cause, both teams will be credited with two (2) points and five (5) goals and the competition will continue as per the fixture,
- (b) In the event that a match is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to seven nominated players. Each club must complete their team via the competition database, as per rule 13 and 14.
- (c) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled the committee will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

Rule 21 – Protests/Appeals

Part (i) Protests

- (a) A Team wishes to protest must:
 - (i) Not, sign the official scoresheet and notify the committee of the intention to protest
 - (ii) Lodge the protest in writing with the Netball Manager within 72 hours of the match being played.
 - (iii) Lodge a \$500 deposit with the RDFNL within 72 hours of the match being played which may be forfeited if the appeal is considered frivolous by the RDFNL Board.
 - (iv) The Netball Committee of Management shall hear the protest as they see fit
 - (v)

Part (ii) Appeals

- (a) A Club shall have a right of appeal
 - (i) Lodge the protest in writing with the Netball Manager within 72 hours of the match being played or notification of the outcome of a protest.
 - (ii) Lodge a \$500 deposit with the RDFNL within 72 hours of the match being played which may be forfeited if the appeal is considered frivolous by the RDFNL Board.
 - (iii) The Board of Management shall hear the appeal

Rule 22 – Selection of Representative Teams

- (a) The Netball Committee of Management in conjunction with the Board of Management shall schedule representative matches where appropriate.
- (b) The Netball Committee of Management shall appoint the following positions
 - (i) Selectors
 - (ii) Coach
 - (iii) Assistant Coach
 - (iv) Team Manager
 - (v) Trainers
 - (vi) Umpires
- (c) The League uniform is Navy/Red body suit and white socks.
 - (i) Representative colour will be determined by the choice of colours of the Riddell District Football Netball League.
- (d) Positions, Selection & Training
 - (i) All players registered in the RDFNL shall be available for selection
 - (ii) The Netball Committee of Management will advertise for the position of coach(es).
 - (iii) The Netball Committee of Management shall appoint coaches and other positions as they see fit.
 - (iv) The Appointed Coach and any other nominated person shall select the training squad and team.
 - (v) The Netball Committee of Management shall select the training venues and advise all selected players at least seven (7) days prior to the first training session.
 - (vi) Any player who can not attend training, for any reason, must contact the coach or otherwise authorised person.

Rule 23 – Team Officials

- (a) The team Officials are Coach, Manager, Scorer/Timekeeper, Umpire, Captain and Vice Captain.
- (b) Coaches: A coach must be appointed for each selected team. All coaches must be registered with Netball Victoria and the RDFNL.
- (c) Managers: A Manager shall be appointed by each selected team. All Managers must be registered with Netball Victoria and the RDFNL.
- (d) Scorer/Timekeeper: Shall be in accordance with Rule 14 of these By-Laws
- (e) Umpires must be registered with Netball Victoria.
- (f) Umpires must have attained the Level of a C grade badge within any Association under the administration of Netball Australia to be eligible to umpire in either A or B Grade.
- (g) To be eligible to umpire a C grade and Under 18 match, the umpire must have
 - Completed the Umpires online theory examination during the current season and obtain a pass mark of 70% AND the Online Level 1 Course
 - In the event of a pass mark not being achieved, that umpire must sit the exam again within two weeks and pass.
 - Failure to sit the Umpires theory exam and pass, when required, the club is fined \$1000 for every match umpired in that season.
- (h) Each Umpire must supply the RDFNL Netball Director and RDFNL Umpire Coordinator with proof of accreditation prior to officiating their first game
- (i) In addition the maximum of five players not on court at start of play, shall constitute the Team Bench
- (j) Team Officials and Bench players MUST NOT engage in any inappropriate comments or any form of inappropriate behaviour, including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines, during play.

Rule 24 - Working with Children Check

- (a) This check replaces the police check and is free for volunteers. This is applicable to all persons working with Juniors up to the age of 18. It is mandatory by law as of January 2007 for coaches and volunteers to obtain this check if they undertake any of the following roles:
- (b) Club personnel including coaches, trainers etc appointed or seeking appointment for reward
- (c) Volunteer personnel who will or are likely to travel away overnight with teams of players under 18 years of age
- (d) Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with players Under 18 years of age.
- (e) The Working with Children Check Applications Guide and Form is available from all Australia Post outlets or for further information see website: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren>.
- (f) All junior coaches and officials associated with the RDFNL require a current working with children check, their associated clubs will need to have a photocopy of the card on file.

Rule 25 - Awards

- (a) Presentation of all awards shall be made on the Presentation Night.
- (b) Recognition of achievements shall be made on Presentation Night.
- (c) The Board shall arrange for best and fairest medals to be struck each year for each grade of competition. The following player awards will be presented for each season.
 - (i) The A Grade Medal shall be known as "The Ryan Medal".
 - (ii) The B Grade Medal shall be known as "B Grade Best & Fairest Medal".
 - (iii) The C Grade Medal shall be known as "C Grade Best & Fairest Medal".
 - (iv) The Under 18 Medal shall be known as "Under 18 Best & Fairest Medal"
 - (v) Runners Up Medal for each section
- (d) Voting for Best & Fairest shall be as Follows:
 - (i) The match Umpires shall award votes for the best three players in each game. Voting shall be 3 votes for the best player, 2 votes for the second-best player and 1 vote for the third best player,
 - (ii) Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided and attached to the scoresheet.
 - (iii) In the event of a tie, two (or more) awards shall be presented.
- (e) Team of the Year
The Netball Committee of Management shall be responsible to select the Team of the Year and shall select the criteria to be used.
- (f) Player of the Year/MVP
The Netball Committee of Management shall be responsible to select the Player of the Year and shall select the criteria to be used.
- (g) Rising Star
The Netball Committee of Management shall be responsible to select the Rising Star of the Year and shall select the criteria to be used.

Rule 26 – Presentation Night

- (a) At the conclusion of the home and away season a Presentation Night will be held. The evening shall be called the Bowen & Ryan Medal Night.
- (b) The date and format shall be determined annually by the Board of Management of the Riddell District Football Netball League.

Rule 27 – Media

- (a) Football Record
 - (i) All clubs shall submit netball team lists to the Netball Manager or authorized person for publication in the football record by the required deadline as set down by the League.
 - (ii) All clubs will be required to be part of any media program as required by the league.
 - (iii) Any club not complying with all of the above shall incur penalties as determined by the Netball Executive Committee.
- (b) Media Policy
Refer Riddell District Football Netball League "Media Policy"
- (c) Social Media
Refer Riddell District Football Netball League "Social Media Policy"

Rule 28 - Accreditation

- (a) The League shall ensure that all officials have current appropriate minimum qualifications.
 - (i) For Coaches: "Foundation – Entry Level" coach accreditation.
 - (ii) For Umpires: As per Rule 23 (f) & (g) of these by-laws
- (b) The League will not appoint any person to an official position unless that person to be appointed has achieved the minimum standard qualification/accreditation.

Rule 29 – Umpires & Umpire Powers

- (a) A panel of badged umpires will be named by the Netball Umpire Co-ordinator for all A and B grade matches.
- (b) Umpires on Competition Panels may not officiate:
 - (i) A Division in which they are a Coach, Player or Official.
 - (ii) A match involving a Club in which they are a Coach, Player or Official.

- (c) Payment procedure shall be determined by the RDFNL and shall be advised to clubs.
- (d) Umpire Uniform Requirements:
 - (i) All female umpires must wear the Netball Victoria approved Umpires Shirt and preferably a white skirt. Suitable shoes shall be worn. The shirt shall include the WORKSAFE logo.
 - (ii) All male umpires must wear the Netball Victoria approved Umpires Shirt and shorts or long pants shirt distinct from those of the players and preferably white or cream in colour. Suitable shoes shall be worn. The shirt shall include the WORKSAFE logo.
 - (iii) Track pants may be worn underneath the umpiring uniform on cold days when umpiring outdoor games.
- (e) Umpires have the power to order off the court any player whose clothing or behaviour does not comply with RDFNL By-Laws. If the behaviour of the supporters of any team is such that in the Umpires' opinion, it is upsetting the opposing team or their management of the game, they have the power to tell the supporters to desist. If they continue with such behaviour they can stop the game and award the match to the other team by default.

Rule 30 – Mediation & Grievance

- (a) As per Netball Victoria Policy

Rule 31 – Disciplinary Procedures

Part (i) Interfering with League Officials

Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the League or any member of the Tribunal or any member of a league appointed committee because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

Part (ii) Bringing the Game into Disrepute

Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club that has been involved in conduct which is, in the opinion of the Board, unbecoming or likely to prejudice the interest or reputation of the League and/or the game of Australian Football and/or the game of Netball or to bring the game of football or netball or the League into disrepute shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

Part (iii) Discipline of a Member

Notwithstanding anywhere contained in these Rules, the Netball Committee shall be empowered to take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary against the club, club official, player, umpire or other person where in the Netball Committee opinion such club, club official, player, umpire or other person has been guilty of any act, practice, conduct, matter or thing that is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest of the league or calculated to bring or in fact bringing discredit on the league or any of its Constituent Clubs or a person connected therewith, or impair or affect the enjoyment by any club or person of the privileges associated with membership of or association with the league.

Rule 32 – Special Circumstances/Provisions Clause

- (a) The Netball Committee of Management may in reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, recommend to alter vary or waive the requirements set out in all By-Laws relating to the Netball Competition.
- (b) All recommendations by the Netball Committee of Management shall be referred to the Board of Management
- (c) Any matter not covered in these by-laws shall be referred to the Board of Management

Rule 33 – Risk Management

1. Injury Reporting

- (a) All clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the injury Reporting Sheet provided.
- (b) All players in a RDFNL representative team are responsible for the recording of all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or player's guardian (player under 18) on the injury Reporting Sheets Provided.

2. Netball Victoria Court Facility Audit

All clubs must submit a Netball Victoria Court Facility Audit to Netball Victoria to have the court approved for play.

3. Pre Match Checklist

- (a) A pre match checklist will be completed prior to all matches and trainings by club officials
- (b) Any hazards identified will be, Documented Rectified if possible, Reported to an RDFNL official.

4. Dispute over Weather condition and court safety

- (a) If a dispute arises over the State of the court and its suitability for play, the final decision is that of the umpires appointed. Every effort and every opportunity is to be taken to achieve a result for each match, however, common sense and player safety is to remain the number one priority. Should an indoor court be available, a match may be moved inside, at the umpire's discretion and with reference to the Match Day Checklist.

5. Pregnancy

- (a) As per Netball Victoria Infonet RM I - Pregnancy & Netball

6. First Aid

- (a) Each Club is to provide a first Aid kit complying with Netball Victoria Infonet RM2 -First Aid Kit for Netball
- (b) The First Aid kit will be kept at court side for the duration of all matches of the day,
- (c) A Volunteer from each team is to ensure the First Aid kit supplies are replenished as required.

7. Emergency Procedure

- (a) Emergency phone numbers - Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic, Police and an Emergency Plan is to be held on record in the First Aid Kit.

8. Weather

- (a) Heat - Player safety is always the first priority, it is a preference that games are not conducted when the forecast temperature is expected to reach 36 degrees
- (b) Inclement Weather - Home and away Games:
 - (i) Play can not commence if the court: has been considered unsafe due to -weather conditions, as per the Game Day checklist . **PLAYER SAFETY IS TO REMAIN THE PRIMARY CONCERN AT ALL TIMES,**
 - (ii) When it is agreed by both captains and both umpires that it is unsafe for play to commence, 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams with no change to ladder percentage.
 - (iii) Team sheets are to be completed in full with the complete details of those intending to play, this game will count towards a players games tally in relation to finals qualifications. All players must be present, in the approved uniform and sighted by the umpire. A players name cannot appear on the sheet if she is not present at the scheduled start time.
 - (iv) Team Sheets are to be signed by both Captains and Umpires and marked "washout " then forwarded to the RDFNL Netball Manager as normal.
 - (v) The result sheet is also to be completed and marked "washout" and forwarded to the RDFNL Office as per match day procedures.
 - (vi) If play has commenced and the weather changes the condition of the playing surface, the following is to occur:
 - If play is halted at or before half-time - Captains may choose to delay the start (or resumption) of play, or take a temporary break in play for a period of time not exceeding ten (10) minutes, to assess if a change in weather conditions is likely. The game is to be considered a washout and 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams and no change will occur to the overall percentage if play cannot commence at an agreed start: time.
 - If play is halted after the start of the third quarter - Captains also have the option of delaying the start or taking a break in play for a period of time not exceeding ten (10) minutes, to assess if a change in weather conditions is likely. If play is not able to resume, the game and 4 premiership points will be awarded to the team in the lead, as per the official score sheet, at the halt of play. This score line will stand in relation to the percentage points of the official association ladder. Team Sheets must be noted with the quarter and time remaining left in the game.
 - (vii) Dispute over Weather condition and court safety:
 - If a dispute arises over the State of the court and its suitability for play, the final decision is that of the umpires appointed. Every effort and every opportunity is to be taken to achieve a result for each match, however, common sense and player safety is to remain the number one priority.
- (c) Cancelled Round: In the Event that more than half of the scheduled games per section are washed out. The whole round will be declared a washout. Two premiership points will be awarded to all participating teams -with no change to percentage points.
- (d) Inclement Weather - Finals Games
 - (i) The RDFNL will attempt to make available a suitable court for the finals series that is playable in any weather conditions.
 - (ii) Where a hosting club has an indoor court available for use within a reasonable distance from the oval, and the weather forecast for the day is not favourable, all necessary arrangements need to be made to have the court prepared and ready for play 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first game.
 - (iii) Game Day Checklist is to be completed for all finals matches. Play is not to commence until it has been completed and handed to RDFNL Executive member appointed as Finals Match manager.
 - (iv) Every effort is to be made to complete all finals games at the scheduled venues at the scheduled time
 - (v) Play is not to commence if the weather conditions are at an unacceptable level where the court surface is considered unsafe. The decision will be made by, the two captains, the two umpires and the RDFNL Finals match manager.
 - (vi) If play is not able to commence within an acceptable timeframe on the day, the game will be rescheduled and played at a mutually agreed time and place,
 - (vii) If play is due to commence on an outdoor court and weather conditions are unacceptable, the game may be moved to a prearranged indoor court. Game to commence at a time to be advised on the day.
 - (viii) If play has commenced and weather conditions deteriorate during the course of the game making the court unsafe, the game is to stop on the umpires whistle. The following options are available; i. Wait for a reasonable time, which is not to exceed twenty (20) minutes, to restart and complete the remainder of the game:
 1. If an indoor court is available, the current game is cancelled and a new game is to start on the indoor court at a time to be advised on the day.
 2. If an indoor court is not available the game is cancelled and is re-scheduled for a mutually agreed time and venue. Game is to be played within 5 days of the scheduled start time,. Or
 3. The game will be re-scheduled for the following finals day at a time that allows all players a 45 minute break between the re-scheduled game and any subsequent final

8. Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases

- (a) As per Netball Victoria infonet U4 and RM6 relating to blood Policy and infections diseases.

9. Pre-participation screening/Medical Indemnity

- (a) All personnel involved will be required to complete a Medical indemnity form (Netball Victoria infonet RM7).
(b) A designated official will store all forms,
(c) Player is to complete the form prior to commencing the first game. This also applies to players playing under a day permit.
(d) All forms will be destroyed at the conclusion of the season.

10. Smokefree

- (a) As per Netball Victoria. This will include indoor venues and outdoor court surroundings.

11. Responsible Serving of Alcohol in Sporting Clubs

- (a) As per Netball Victoria Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy as prescribed by the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Accreditation Program.

12. Sun Protection

- (a) As per SunSmart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council Victoria.

13. Codes of Conduct

- (a) Codes of Conduct as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation

14. Drug Policy

- (a) As per Netball Victoria.

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE PENALTY & FINE SCHEDULE

COURT PREPARATION

- All courts must be prepared to a suitable playing standard well in advance of the scheduled start time.
- Game Day Check List completed and signed by a representative from each team before the start of the first game of the day.
- Game Day Check List to be provided by Home Team.
- Game must not Commence until Game Day Check List is signed.
- Game Day Check list is to be included in the envelope containing the days score sheets & votes.
- Game Day Check List not provided or not completed - Penalty Forfeit by Home team
- Non offending team awarded 4 points 10-1 scoreline

EQUIPMENT

- All clubs are to keep all playing equipment at a suitable playing standard.
- Approved Goal Post padding.
- Goal Post nets.
- RDFNL Score sheets for home games RDFNL Vote card.
- Time Clock.
- Adult Size 5 netball.
- First Aid Kit.

TEAM SHEET

- Players names to be completed in full (initials are NOT acceptable).

1st Offence Fine \$20.00

2nd Offence Fine \$50.00

3rd Offence Fine \$50.00 +Loss of 4 Premiership Points

- Team sheet signatures not complete

1st Offence Fine \$20.00

2nd Offence Fine \$50.00

3rd Offence Fine \$50.00 +Loss of 4 Premiership Points

UMPIRES

- Each club to supply one umpire FORTHECGRADE&UNDER18GAME.
- RDFNL WILL PROVIDE 2 BADGED UMPIRES FOR BOTH THE A & B GRADE GAMES
- Umpire not supplied and no alternative arranged
- Penalty - Fine \$50.00

PLAYER UNIFORM

- All players are to wear the approved uniform, as approved by the League. The uniform, shall consist of the following;
 1. Netball Victoria approved Bibs
 2. Body Suit
 3. Bike shorts cannot be worn with bodysuits, unless in line with part 5
 4. Umpires are to ask the player to remove offending garment and replace with approved uniform. If player refuses, she is to be asked to leave the court.
 5. Bike pants/tracksuit pants may be permitted for a medical condition (medical certificate required as proof) so as to reduce the risk of injury.

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- All players and umpires are to be registered with Netball Victoria.
- Playing an unregistered player - Penalty 4 Premiership points Fine Nil
- Playing an unregistered player - Penalty 4 Premiership points Fine Nil

FORFEIT

- Games are a forfeit if one of the following situations occurs.
- One team notifies RDFNL Netball Manager by midday Friday of its inability to participate - 4 premiership points will be awarded to the opposition team but no change will be made to ladder percentages. Team sheets do not need to be completed. Fine \$20.00.
- On game day, one team is unable to commence (has less than 5 players) - 4 premiership points will be awarded to the opposition team and a 10 – 1 game score will be awarded to the non offending team.
- Team sheets are to be completed including all player details and must be signed by Umpires and Scorers and marked forfeit. Player's named will be credited with playing an official game. Offending club will also be fined. Fine \$50.00
- During play. If one team, due to illness or injury, is unable to complete the game with a minimum of 5 players the game is a forfeit. The 4 Premiership points will be awarded to the non-offending team and the score as per the score sheet will stand, No fine issued in this case.

WET WEATHER

- Player safety, as per Risk Management regulations, is always to be the first priority.
- The decision to cancel a game due to weather conditions is the responsibility of the 2 umpires and 2 participating delegates.
- Your duty of care to players must be taken into consideration. If you decide to play:
 - Can a player wear track pants on extremely cold days? YES, outdoor court only.

- o Can a payer wear a jumper? Yes, outdoor court only but must be same colour as approved club bodysuit.
- o What happens if a game is cancelled before the match has started? 2 points each
- o What happens if a game is cancelled after the game has started?
 - Before half time 2 points each
 - With the commencement of 3 team leading at the stop of play.

FORWARDING RESULTS

- Forwarding the following items to RDFNL Netball Manager is the Home team responsibility;
 1. A, B & C GRADE & Under 18 - original Score Sheets
 2. A, B & C GRADE & Under 18 - vote cards in a sealed envelope marked accordingly
 3. Completed Game Day check list - signed by both clubs.
 4. Match Day Umpires Report Sheet
- The above information is to be in the hands of the RDFNL Netball Manager by 12.00 (midday) the following Tuesday.
- Failure to deliver all or any part of the above items will incur a fine and loss of points

1st Offence Warning**2nd Offence Fine \$50.00****3rd Offence Fine \$50.00 + Loss of 4 Premiership points****MEETINGS**

Each Club is obligated to send a minimum of 1 delegate to each meeting,

- Failure to attend will incur the following penalty.

1st Offence Fine \$50.00**2nd Offence Fine \$75.00****3rd Offence Fine Loss of 4 Premiership points**

Rule 1 – RDFNL Board of Management and Staff

- (a) The RDFNL Board will be appointed annually within three months following the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Positions managing the Netball competition shall be:
 - (i) Board Member – Director
 - (ii) Board Member – Junior Netball Director
 - (iii) Any other member (general committee) as appointed by the RDFNL Board of Management
- (c) The RDFNL staff consists of a Netball Operations Coordinator and Netball Development Manager.
- (d) The RDFNL Board will impose the prescribed penalty to any member that fails to adhere to these by-laws, Netball Victoria policies or any other Association policies and guidelines.

Rule 2 – Meetings

- (a) A meeting of club netball co-ordinators will be held when deemed necessary by the RDFNL Board.
- (b) A minimum of three meetings to be held each financial year.
- (c) All Clubs must be represented by at least one representative at all Netball Meetings. Penalty applied for noncompliance with be at the discretion of the RDFNL Board.

Rule 3 - Correspondence

- (a) All correspondence must be in writing from the Netball Co-ordinator, Club President or Club Secretary to the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator.
- (b) All correspondence from the League will be addressed to the Netball Co-ordinator and Club President unless otherwise specified by the club.
- (c) The League shall provide the following information in writing to all Clubs prior to the start of the season:
 - (i) League Contact Details
 - (ii) League venue address
 - (iii) League By-Laws
 - (iv) Fixtures
 - (v) League calendar of events
 - (vi) Details of courses and seminars
- (d) Clubs shall provide the following information to the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator by 28th February each year
 - (i) Contact Details
 - (ii) Coach Details
- (e) Clubs shall be responsible to update these details with the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator if any changes are made during the year.

Rule 4 – Admission to Grounds

- (a) There will be no charge for entrance into any junior game throughout the home and away season.
- (b) The admission charge to each ground for the junior finals series shall be determined for adults, pensioners and students annually, at the discretion of the Board and Member Clubs are to be advised at the time of notification of the AGM.
- (c) Both hosting clubs and teams playing in finals will receive 6 admission passes into each final for those who are applicable.

Rule 5 - Finance**Part (i) Affiliation Fees**

- (a) The Board of Management shall set fees for the Riddell District Football Netball League.
- (b) Any club un-financial shall be dealt with by the Board of Management as per the Statement of Rules and the Football By-Laws in place at the time.

Part (ii) Financial Management

- (a) All financial matters will be handled by the Riddell District Football Netball League

Part (iii) Reimbursements/Payments

- (a) The Committee of Management shall be entitled to claim approved expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity. Receipts must be produced. All claims shall be submitted to the Board of Management.

Rule 6 – Club Registration / Nomination of Teams

- (a) Clubs wishing to enter teams in the competition must:
 - (i) Complete the official Registration Form
 - (ii) Submit to the League by the required time and date.
 - (iii) Pay any nomination fee as nominated by the Board of Management

Rule 7 – Netball Victoria Membership

All players must be registered with their club via the Netball Victoria's MyNetball System

- (a) All new players to the league must be registered on the Netball Victoria MyNetball System before taking the court on Match Day.
- (b) All players continuing with their home club from a previous season must be re-registered via the MyNetball System by their Club's Netball Coordinator / Administrator. All contact details must be kept up-to-date, including current

- postal address, mobile phone and email address. The RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator will provide clubs with a form to fill out player registration details. This form is not required by the league.
- (c) Each RDFNL Club is required to register each of their players on the Netball Victoria MyNetball system. As Clubs are registering their own players, they are also required to pay for each players VNA, unless it has already been paid with an external competition or the player has registered themselves online.
 - (d) Payment cannot be paid through the RDFNL. Only when a player is playing in a Riddell District Football Netball League Representative side can they pay through the RDFNL.
 - (e) The Club Coordinator / Administrator shall be responsible for ensuring all VNA payments are made to their club to ensure that Netball Victoria payments can be made. It is not up to the RDFNL to organise collection of VNA payments for clubs.
 - (f) All Coaches and Umpires must also be VNA registered prior to undertaking their roles with the RDFNL Club

Rule 8 – Age and Eligibility Requirements

- (a) Netball will be available for participants in the following age groups:
- (b) 11&Under: Date range will be between 01/01/2004 and 31/12/2005
- (c) 13&Under: Date range will be between 01/01/2002 and 31/12/2003
- (d) 15&Under: Date range will be between 01/01/2000 and 31/12/2001
- (e) 17&Under: Date range will be between 01/01/1998 and 31/12/1999
- (f) Special age exemptions will be considered to assist with numbers, these must be submitted in writing to the Netball Operations Coordinator and RDFNL Netball Director for approval.
- (g) The RDFNL Junior Netball competition is as a modified mixed competition and will allow boys to participate following the following guidelines;
 - (1) 11&U Competition – Eligible boys are able to participate unrestricted
 - (2) 13&U Competition – Eligible boys will be permitted to play in this age group, but only one (1) boy is permitted in each third at any one time. There is no limit to the number of boys named on the score sheet.
 - (3) 15&U Competition – Eligible boys will be permitted to play in this age group, but only one (1) boy is permitted to take the court at any one time. There is no limit to the number of boys named on the score sheet.
 - (4) 17&U Competition – Boys are not eligible to participate

Rule 9 - Venues

- (a) Each Club will endeavour to play their home matches within the confines of, or as close as possible to, to the ground where their Football Club is playing.
- (b) Each home Club will be responsible for providing a court in fit condition, which must be approved by Netball Victoria & the Riddell District Football Netball league.
- (c) All Club courts are to be situated outdoors, as the RDFNL is an outdoor competition, unless approved by the RDFNL Board.
- (d) Wet Weather – Please refer to Rule 32 – Risk Management section 8

Rule 10 - Grading

- (a) Number of sections available is to be determined by the Board of Management.
- (b) Each club is permitted to enter -one (1) team in each section only, unless otherwise determined by the RDFNL Board.
- (c) Each club shall enter a team in each section of the competition, unless otherwise determined by the RDFNL Board. Any club that fails to enter a team in each section, unless otherwise determined by the RDFNL Board, shall be dealt with by the Board of Management as they see fit.
- (d) The RDFNL Board will be the sole adjudicator of all grading decisions.

Rule 11 – Dress Code

- (a) Each Club must register its uniform with the RDFNL Board
- (b) The Netball Committee Management must approve all uniform colours, designs and styles. Position patches shall be worn by all players. Letters must be 15cm high and worn front and back, above the waist of players.
- (c) Clubs must notify the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform.
 - (i) The Committee of Management shall recommend changes to the Board of Management.
 - (ii) The Board of Management shall have the sole right to approve or decline any changes to playing uniforms, after receiving a recommendation from the RDFNL Board.
- (d) The RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator or Managing Director shall determine when alternative coloured bibs shall be required.
- (e) The League uniform is Navy/Red body suit and white socks.
 - (i) Representative colour will be determined by the choice of colours of the Riddell District Football Netball League.
- (f) Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in full uniform. If uniforms are not ready, approval must be sought and given by the RDFNL Board.
- (g) Extra curricular uniform/attire notes:
 - (i) All nails are to be shorter than the length of the players fingers.
 - (ii) No jewellery is to be worn.
 - (iii) Taping, appropriate sports tape is to be used (no band-aids).
 - (vii) No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
 - (viii) Elastic headbands are acceptable during play. Plastic headbands and combs must not be worn during matches.
 - (ix) Sponsors logos are not permitted on bibs with the exception of required official RDFNL major sponsor - WorkSafe.

Rule 12 - Clearances

- (a) A Clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another RDFNL Club during the current season,
- (b) No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.
- (c) A clearance will not be granted after the 7th round in an 14 week season.
- (d) Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of club property will not be granted a clearance.
- (e) A player must have received notification in writing from the League before playing for a new club.
- (f) Penalty for playing without clearance will result in the loss of any competition points for the match(es) the player played in.
- (g) The player must complete all details on the top section of the clearance form and send to the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator.
- (h) The League will forward the clearance request to the existing club for approval
- (i) The existing Club has seven (7) days to complete the clearance or the League will automatically clear the player to the new club.
- (j) If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearance), the My Netball system will alert the player via email advising the reason why and forward a copy to both clubs. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the Grievance Procedure outlined by Netball Victoria.
- (k) The existing club shall advise the League when clearance is approved, an email will suffice. The player will then receive an email notification from My Netball – Resultz Vault on behalf of the League advising that the clearance has been approved and copy is forwarded to both Clubs.

Rule 13 – Conduct of Matches

- (a) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:
 - (i) Timing - Refer part (c)
 - (ii) Late Start - Refer part (d)
 - (iii) Blood Policy - Refer part (e)
- (b) The Board of Management shall determine a fixture and any changes thereof for the competition inclusive of the starting times, venues and days of play for all matches.
- (c) Other than where prior arrangements have been made by the Board, games shall commence at the following times and shall consist of four quarters:

17 & Under	
4 x 10 minutes	1.00pm
15 & Under	
4 x 10 minutes	12:00pm
13 & Under	
4 x 10 minutes	11:00am
11 & Under	
4 x 10 minutes	10:00am

 - (i) The above times may be varied on condition that both Netball Coordinators agree on all changes prior to match day and that the Netball Operations Coordinator has been informed by the home club Netball Coordinator.
 - (ii) The respective breaks between quarters shall be 2 minutes, 4 minutes and 2 minutes respectively.
 - (iii) Teams are to change ends at each quarter time break
 - (iv) The Board of Management may vary the starting times and match conditions in finals.
- (d) **Late Start**
 - (i) All clubs are to be in position and ready to start at the time set by the League or the mutually agreed, prearranged time.
 - (ii) Team requires a minimum of 5 players in order for play to commence.
 - (iii) Late arrivals may join at goal intervals, quarter time break or injury time.
 - (iv) Once Umpires, Scorers., Time keepers and one team are in position and scheduled start time has past he following action may be taken.
 - (v) If a team does not take the court at the required time - the clock shall commence. The Umpires shall instruct the scorer to award a 5 goal penalty to the non-offended team. If the offending team still does not take the court within a further 5 minutes the game will be awarded to the non-offending team. **4 Premiership points to non-offending team no changes to %.**
 - (vi) **HOWEVER** All due consideration must be given when a change of venue has occurred When a delay has occurred due to circumstances beyond anyone's control both delegates are to arrange a start time within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time.
 - (vii) If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season then the club must notify the opposing Club's netball Coordinator and Coach 72 hours prior to the match starting time. If the opposing Club agrees to a re-schedule starting time then the time shall be no later than half an hour after the scheduled starting time. All changes must be approved by the league. Written consent from both clubs required before time change is considered.
- (e) **Injury Time**
 - (i) There will be no specified injury time during the home and away season. A game may be stopped by the umpires in extenuation circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained.
 - (ii) Umpires should use their own discretion when allowing a player to return to the game. This applies to players arriving late as well as players who have left the game for injury or under the blood policy.

- (f) **Blood Policy**
- (i) The game is stopped - the clock is not stopped
 - (ii) Player leaves the court - substitution rules apply (with no time allowance).
 - (iii) Play is resumed
- (g) Netball - The home team must provide to the umpire, one netball that has been approved by the Board. It must carry any approved league sponsors logo. A spare netball must remain with the home team for the duration of the match, unless required.

Rule 14 – Scoring/Team Sheets

- (a) Season scoresheets will be supplied to all clubs with paperwork prior to the commencement of the season. The home team is responsible for providing the relevant scoresheet for all home matches.
- (b) The home team must provide a scorer and away team to provide a time keeper for all matches. The scorer and timekeeper must sit together at the section provided at the court. Scorers must be fifteen (15) years of age.
- (c) The home club shall be required to supply all the necessary paperwork including scoresheet for the match. Clubs will be provided with all required paperwork by the League prior to the season.
- (d) One official Scoresheet will be used for each match. This scoresheet must list the complete and full names (both Given and Surname) of all players intending to take court. This scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter and the match score.
- (e) The home club team is responsible to return the scoresheet to the League.
- (f) A club official may add players to the team sheet at anytime up until the commencement of the third quarter.
- (g) At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by;
 - a) The captains of both competing teams, and
 - b) The scorers
 - c) The officiating umpires only sign the score sheet to state they have officiated that game.
- (h) If a scorer, Team or Club believes the score sheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest.

A team wishing to protest must:-

 - a) Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Committee of the intention to protest.
 - b) Lodge the protest in writing with the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator within 48 hours of the game being played.
- (i) The Netball Management Committee will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.

Rule 15 - Scoreboards

- (a) All clubs are required to supply a working scoreboard for each RDFNL match (can be a flip scoreboard).
- (b) The home club is to ensure that the scoreboard is being operated by a suitable club member and must ensure that the score is kept up to date at all times.
- (c) A team may have up to 12 players on a team sheet.

Rule 16 – Match Results, Competition Scores and Ladders

- (a) The Board of Management shall determine the competition database used
- (b) Notification of results shall be in two parts:
 - (i) All results of the days play (copy of the scoresheet) must be sent (text or emailed) to the Netball Operations Coordinator by 6:00pm on the day of the match. Match results will be entered by the RDFNL into the competition database, My Netball.
- (c) Grades where teams do not play in an even amount of games shall have percentage of matches won used as the determining criteria in deciding the ladder and therefore finals rankings.
- (d) The competition scores and ladders shall be displayed on the League website via the My Netball competition database.

Rule 17 – Player Qualification

- (a) All other eligibility criteria and player registration rules and by-laws must be followed.
- (b) Players may play a maximum of 2 matches per round, during the home and away season with their club in any grade.
- (c) A player who has played more than one match in a round in a day will have both matches recorded as matches played when determining finals eligibility.
- (d) Any team may list up to 12 players in any one match, and there will be no limit on the number of substitutions made. (as per by-law 13 (g))
- (e) Players named on the team sheet must have had court time during a match to have such a match registered as a match played.

- (f) Players in all grades must play at least four (4) matches in that season in one particular grade to be eligible to participate in that grades final series, subject to all other criteria as per these by-laws.
 (i) A player can only play in two (2) finals match on the same weekend.

Rule 18 - Finals

- (a) The Board of Management shall select the venues for each final in conjunction with the football competition finals.
 (b) At the conclusion of the home and away matches the finals series shall be decided in the following manner:-
McIntyre Final Four System

Match A	1st Qualifying Final	Rank 1	V	Rank 2
Match B	1st Elimination Final	Rank 3	V	Rank 4
Match C	Preliminary Final	Loser A	V	Winner B
Match D	Grand Final	Winner A	V	Winner C

The Board shall make a decision at the beginning of each season as to the number of teams to contest the finals series.

- (c) Rule 15 shall apply when determining player eligibility for finals.
 (d) Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match.
 (e) Matches shall be conducted for finals as for rounds. The starting time for finals matches may alter slightly to home and away match times and shall be set by the Board of Management.
 (f) Drawn Finals:
 (i) There is a two (2) minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores will be verified on the official scoresheet
 (ii) Positional changes and substitutions may be made during changeover time.
 (iii) 2 x 5 minute halves will be played for all matches
 (iv) At the end of the first half teams there is an interval of (1) minute in which teams shall change ends
 (v) Substitutions and positional changes may be made during both these intervals
 (vi) Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time. Play continues until one team has a two goal advantage.
 (vii) In the event of injury or illness during extra time, positional changes and/or substitutions may be made.
 (viii) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply, however during the entire extra time each team gets one stoppage for up to 2 minutes and then each subsequent stoppage for each team shall not exceed 30 seconds.
 (g)

Rule 19 - Forfeits

- (a) Teams that need to forfeit a match must notify the opposing Netball Coordinator and league by 8.30am match day.
 (b) Any team failing to take the court within 10 minutes of 13&U, 15&U matches commencing, will incur an automatic forfeit.
 (c) All registered players of Teams that receive a Forfeit will be credited with playing the match.
 (d) Forfeit fines – fine may be issued at the discretion of the RDFNL Board.
 (f) If the 13&Under grade game is forfeited then the 15&Under game can be played at an earlier time if both clubs agree.
 (g) A team must have 5 players to commence the game
 (h) The team forfeiting the game shall pay the cost of umpires for the game forfeited.
 (i) Any team or club that fails to fulfil its scheduled match whether prior notice has been given to the opposing team or not, shall have the highest score in the of that particular grade/age group in that round added to its “points against” total. The opposing team shall be awarded the points for the match and shall have the highest score in the matches for that particular grade/age group in that round added to its “points for” total.

Rule 20 - Cancellations

- (a) When matches are cancelled on account of a total strike (eg power, or situation created by a prolonged petrol strike) weather or some other cause, both teams will be credited with two (2) points and five (5) goals and the competition will continue as per the fixture,
 (b) In the event that a match is cancelled due to weather, games will be awarded to all registered players. Each club must complete their team via the competition database, as per rule 13 and 14.
 (c) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled the committee will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

Rule 21 – Protests/Appeals

Part (i) Protests

- (a) A Team wishes to protest must:
 (i) Not, sign the official scoresheet and notify the committee of the intention to protest
 (ii) Lodge the protest in writing with the Netball Operations Coordinator within 72 hours of the match being played.
 (iii) The RDFNL Board shall hear the protest as they see fit and the decision will be final.

Part (ii) Appeals

- (a) A Club shall have a right of appeal
 (i) Lodge the protest in writing with the Netball Operations Coordinator within 72 hours of the match being played or notification of the outcome of a protest.
 (iii) The Board of Management shall hear the appeal

Rule 22 – Selection of Representative Teams

- (a) The RDFNL Board in conjunction with the Board of Management shall schedule representative matches where appropriate.
- (b) The RDFNL Board shall appoint the following positions
 - (i) Selectors
 - (ii) Coach
 - (iii) Assistant Coach
 - (iv) Team Manager
 - (v) Trainers
 - (vi) Umpires
- (c) The League uniform is Navy/Red body suit and white socks.
 - (i) Representative colour will be determined by the choice of colours of the Riddell District Football Netball League.
- (d) Positions, Selection & Training
 - (i) All players registered in the RDFNL shall be available for selection
 - (ii) The RDFNL Board will advertise for the position of coach(es).
 - (iii) The RDFNL Board shall appoint coaches and other positions as they see fit.
 - (iv) The Appointed Coach and any other nominated person shall select the training squad and team.
 - (v) The RDFNL Board shall select the training venues and advise all selected players at least seven (7) days prior to the first training session.
 - (vi) Any player who cannot attend training, for any reason, must contact the coach or otherwise authorised person.

Rule 23 – Team Officials

- (a) The team Officials are Coach, Manager, Scorer/Timekeeper, Umpire, Captain and Vice Captain.
- (b) Coaches: A coach must be appointed for each selected team. All coaches must be registered with Netball Victoria and the RDFNL.
- (c) Managers: A Manager shall be appointed by each selected team. All Managers must be registered with Netball Victoria and the RDFNL.
- (d) Scorer/Timekeeper: Shall be in accordance with Rule 13 of these By-Laws
- (e) Umpires must be registered with Netball Victoria.
- (f) Umpires must have at least have completed the online theory examinations and the Level 1 Umpires Course before umpiring the RDFNL Junior competition.
- (g) Each Club must supply the RDFNL Netball Director and RDFNL Umpire Coordinator with details of their supplied umpires and copies of proof of accreditation prior to officiating their first game
- (h) In addition the maximum of five players not on court at start of play, shall constitute the Team Bench
- (i) Team Officials and Bench players MUST NOT engage in any inappropriate comments or any form of inappropriate behaviour, including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines, during play.

Rule 24 - Working with Children Check

- (a) This check replaces the police check and is free for volunteers. This is applicable to all persons working with Juniors up to the age of 18. It is mandatory by law as of January 2007 for coaches and volunteers to obtain this check if they undertake any of the following roles:
- (b) Club personnel including coaches, trainers etc appointed or seeking appointment for reward
- (c) Volunteer personnel who will or are likely to travel away overnight with teams of players under 18 years of age
- (d) Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with players Under 18 years of age.
- (e) The Working with Children Check Applications Guide and Form is available from all Australia Post outlets or for further information see website: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren>.
- (f) All junior coaches and officials associated with the RDFNL require a current working with children check, their associated clubs will need to have a photocopy of the card on file.

Rule 25 - Awards

- (a) Presentation of all awards shall be made on the Presentation Night.
- (b) Recognition of achievements shall be made on Presentation Night.
- (c) The Board shall arrange for best and fairest medals to be struck each year for each grade of competition. The following player awards will be presented for each season.
 - (i) The 13&Under Best and Fairest Award
 - (ii) The 15&Under Best and Fairest Award
 - (iii) Runners Up Award for each section
- (d) Voting for Best & Fairest shall be as Follows:
 - (i) The match Umpires shall award votes for the best three players in each game. Voting shall be 3 votes for the best player, 2 votes for the second-best player and 1 vote for the third best player,
 - (ii) Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided and attached to the scoresheet.
 - (iii) In the event of a tie, two (or more) awards shall be presented.

Rule 26 – Presentation Night

- (a) At the conclusion of the home and away season a Presentation Night will be held.

- (b) The date and format shall be determined annually by the Board of Management of the Riddell District Football Netball League.

Rule 27 – Media

- (a) Football Record
- (i) All clubs may be required for certain rounds to submit netball team lists to the Netball Operations Coordinator or authorized person for publication in the football record by the required deadline as set down by the League.
- (ii) All clubs will be required to be part of any media program as required by the league.
- (iii) Any club not complying with all of the above shall incur penalties as determined by the Netball Executive Committee.
- (b) Media Policy
Refer Riddell District Football Netball League “Media Policy”
- (c) Social Media
Refer Riddell District Football Netball League “Social Media Policy”

Rule 28 - Accreditation

- (a) The League shall ensure that all officials have current appropriate minimum qualifications.
- (i) For Coaches: Beginner - General Coaching, General Principles course completion.
- (ii) For Umpires: As per Rule 23 (f) & (g) of these by-laws
- (b) The League will not appoint any person to an official position unless that person to be appointed has achieved the minimum standard qualification/accreditation.

Rule 29 – Umpires & Umpire Powers

- (a) Umpire Uniform Requirements:
- (i) All female umpires must wear a white Umpires shirt and preferably white or cream skirt. Suitable shoes shall be worn.
- (ii) All male umpires must wear a white Umpires Shirt and shorts or long pants shirt distinct from those of the players and preferably white or cream in colour. Suitable shoes shall be worn.
- (iii) Track pants may be worn underneath the umpiring uniform on cold days when umpiring outdoor games.
- (b) Umpires have the power to order off the court any player whose behaviour does not comply with RDFNL By-Laws. If the behaviour of the supporters of any team is such that in the Umpires' opinion, it is upsetting the opposing team or their management of the game, they have the power to tell the supporters to desist. If they continue with such behaviour they can stop the game and award the match to the other team by default.

Rule 30 – Mediation & Grievance

- (a) As per Netball Victoria Policy

Rule 31 – Disciplinary Procedures**Part (i) Interfering with League Officials**

Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the League or any member of the Tribunal or any member of a league appointed committee because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

Part (ii) Bringing the Game into Disrepute

Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club that has been involved in conduct which is, in the opinion of the Board, unbecoming or likely to prejudice the interest or reputation of the League and/or the game of Australian Football and/or the game of Netball or to bring the game of football or netball or the League into disrepute shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

Part (iii) Discipline of a Member

Notwithstanding anywhere contained in these Rules, the Netball Committee shall be empowered to take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary against the club, club official, player, umpire or other person where in the Netball Committee opinion such club, club official, player, umpire or other person has been guilty of any act, practice, conduct, matter or thing that is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest of the league or calculated to bring or in fact bringing discredit on the league or any of its Constituent Clubs or a person connected therewith, or impair or affect the enjoyment by any club or person of the privileges associated with membership of or association with the league.

Rule 32 – Special Circumstances/Provisions Clause

- (a) The RDFNL Board may in reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, recommend to alter vary or waive the requirements set out in all By-Laws relating to the Netball Competition.
- (b) All recommendations by the RDFNL Board shall be referred to the Board of Management
- (c) Any matter not covered in these by-laws shall be referred to the Board of Management

Rule 33 – Risk Management**1. Injury Reporting**

- (a) All clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the injury Reporting Sheet provided.
- (b) All players in a RDFNL representative team are responsible for the recording of all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or player's guardian (player under 18) on the injury Reporting Sheets Provided.

2. Netball Victoria Court Facility Audit

All clubs must submit a Netball Victoria Court Facility Audit to Netball Victoria to have the court approved for play.

3. Pre Match Checklist

- (a) A pre match checklist will be completed prior to all matches and trainings by club officials
- (b) Any hazards identified will be, Documented Rectified if possible, Reported to an RDFNL official.

4. Dispute over Weather condition and court safety

- (a) If a dispute arises over the State of the court and its suitability for play, the final decision is that of the umpires appointed. Every effort and every opportunity is to be taken to achieve a result for each match, however, common sense and player safety is to remain the number one priority. Should an indoor court be available, a match may be moved inside, at the umpire's discretion and with reference to the Match Day Checklist.

5. Pregnancy

- (a) As per Netball Victoria Infonet RM I - Pregnancy & Netball

6. First Aid

- (a) Each Club is to provide a first Aid kit complying with Netball Victoria Infonet RM2 -First Aid Kit for Netball
- (b) The First Aid kit will be kept at court side for the duration of all matches of the day,
- (c) A Volunteer from each team is to ensure the First Aid kit supplies are replenished as required.

7. Emergency Procedure

- (a) Emergency phone numbers - Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic, Police and an Emergency Plan is to be held on record in the First Aid Kit.

8. Weather

- (a) Heat - Player safety is always the first priority, it is a preference that games are not conducted when the forecast temperature is expected to reach 36 degrees
- (b) Inclement Weather - Home and away Games:
 - (i) Play can not commence if the court: has been considered unsafe due to -weather conditions, as per the Game Day checklist . **PLAYER SAFETY IS TO REMAIN THE PRIMARY CONCERN AT ALL TIMES,**
 - (ii) When it is agreed by both captains and both umpires that it is unsafe for play to commence, 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams with no change to ladder percentage.
 - (iii) Team sheets are to be completed in full with the complete details of those intending to play, this game will count towards a players games tally in relation to finals qualifications. All players must be present, in the approved uniform and sighted by the umpire. A players name cannot appear on the sheet if she is not present at the scheduled start time.
 - (iv) Team Sheets are to be signed by both Captains and Umpires and marked "washout " then forwarded to the RDFNL Netball Operations Coordinator as normal.
 - (v) The result sheet is also to be completed and marked "washout" and forwarded to the RDFNL Office as per match day procedures.
 - (vi) If play has commenced and the weather changes the condition of the playing surface, the following is to occur:
 - If play is halted at or before half-time - Captains may choose to delay the start (or resumption) of play, or take a temporary break in play for a period of time not exceeding ten (10) minutes, to assess if a change in weather conditions is likely. The game is to be considered a washout and 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams and no change will occur to the overall percentage if play cannot commence at an agreed start: time.
 - If play is halted after the start of the third quarter - Captains also have the option of delaying the start or taking a break in play for a period of time not exceeding ten (10) minutes, to assess if a change in weather conditions is likely. If play is not able to resume, the game and 4 premiership points will be awarded to the team in the lead, as per the official score sheet, at the halt of play. This score line will stand in relation to the percentage points of the official association ladder. Team Sheets must be noted with the quarter and time remaining left in the game.
 - (vii) Dispute over Weather condition and court safety:
 - If a dispute arises over the State of the court and its suitability for play, the final decision is that of the umpires appointed. Every effort and every opportunity is to be taken to achieve a result for each match, however, common sense and player safety is to remain the number one priority.
- (c) Cancelled Round: In the Event that more than half of the scheduled games per section are washed out. The whole round will be declared a washout. Two premiership points will be awarded to all participating teams -with no change to percentage points.
- (d) Inclement Weather - Finals Games

- (i) The RDFNL will attempt to make available a suitable court for the finals series that is playable in any weather conditions.
- (ii) Where a hosting club has an indoor court available for use within a reasonable distance from the oval, and the weather forecast for the day is not favourable, all necessary arrangements need to be made to have the court prepared and ready for play 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first game.
- (iii) Game Day Checklist is to be completed for all finals matches. Play is not to commence until it has been completed and handed to RDFNL Executive member appointed as Finals Match manager.
- (iv) Every effort is to be made to complete all finals games at the scheduled venues at the scheduled time
- (v) Play is not to commence if the weather conditions are at an unacceptable level where the court surface is considered unsafe. The decision will be made by, the two captains, the two umpires and the RDFNL Finals match manager.
- (vi) If play is not able to commence within an acceptable timeframe on the day, the game will be rescheduled and played at a mutually agreed time and place,
- (vii) If play is due to commence on an outdoor court and weather conditions are unacceptable, the game may be moved to a prearranged indoor court. Game to commence at a time to be advised on the day.
- (viii) If play has commenced and weather conditions deteriorate during the course of the game making the court unsafe, the game is to stop on the umpires whistle. The following options are available; i. Wait for a reasonable time, which is not to exceed twenty (20) minutes, to restart and complete the remainder of the game:
 - 1. If an indoor court is available, the current game is cancelled and a new game is to start on the indoor court at a time to be advised on the day.
 - 2. If an indoor court is not available the game is cancelled and is re-scheduled for a mutually agreed time and venue. Game is to be played within 5 days of the scheduled start time., Or
 - 3. The game will be re-scheduled for the following finals day at a time that allows all players a 45 minute break between the re-scheduled game and any subsequent final

8. Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases

- (a) As per Netball Victoria infonet U4 and RM6 relating to blood Policy and infections diseases.

9. Pre-participation screening/Medical Indemnity

- (a) All personnel involved will be required to complete a Medical indemnity form (Netball Victoria infonet RM7).
- (b) A designated official will store all forms,
- (c) Player is to complete the form prior to commencing the first game. This also applies to players playing under a day permit.
- (d) All forms will be destroyed at the conclusion of the season.

10. Smokefree

- (a) As per section 5RI(1) of the *Tobacco Act 1987*, smoking is banned within 10 metres of a sporting venue that is an outdoor public place during an organised underage sporting event in Victoria from 1 April 2014. This ban also includes training or practice sessions to prepare for participation in an organised underage sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session. The ban applies to outdoor dining and drinking areas that are situated within 10 metres of an outdoor public sporting venue during an organised underage sporting event or training session.

11. Responsible Serving of Alcohol in Sporting Clubs

- (a) As per Netball Victoria Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy as prescribed by the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Accreditation Program.

12. Sun Protection

- (a) As per SunSmart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council Victoria.

13. Codes of Conduct

- (a) Codes of Conduct as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation

14. Drug Policy

- (a) As per Netball Victoria.

Club:

Role at Club:

Official's Name:

Official's Signature:

Date:

Our Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No Club Official may hold a position at a club until they have read and understood the Club Official Code of Conduct which is available in hard copy and online via the registration process.

It is the responsibility of Club Officials to ensure they are setting a good example by having read and understood the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

CLUB OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a person is not willing do not force them.
3. Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
4. Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Always act in a respectful manner towards members and supporters of opposition clubs and the League.
14. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
15. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
16. Support the League in implementing policies and procedures and carry out tasks to the best of your ability within the timeframes outlined by the League.
17. Endeavour to make yourself available should the need arise to resolve a club related matter.

NOTE: League policies can be viewed online via your League's website.

By registering with my Club I/we agree to abide by these principles. I will ensure that I understand the expected behaviour of being a Club Official. I/we support my club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Club Official for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that I am aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct and will accept responsibility for my own actions whilst representing my club in the community.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE CLUB OFFICIAL CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Club Members.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Club Officials of the Codes of Conduct

Education Process:

1. Club Officials advised of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Club Official's Codes of Conduct. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by Club Officials.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Club Officials will not be permitted to participate in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Club Official's Code of Conduct.
5. Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion.

Breaches:

6. Club Officials acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct will be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A Club Official failing to heed this caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Club Officials who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct will be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

Regulations

1. *No Club Official may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.*
2. *Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.*
3. *Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.*
4. *Any Club Official in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The Club Official may only return to the game at the Club's discretion.*
5. *If the Club/League believe that the Club Official's behaviour is such that the Club Official should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Club Official Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.*
6. *Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.*
7. *Repeated breaches of the Club Official Code of Conduct by a Club Official may result in a Club Official being de-registered from the Club.*
8. *A Club member or official failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club Official refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).*
9. *The Club member or official will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.*
10. *Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.*
11. *Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.*
12. *The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.*

The Club is committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.

Club:

Age Group Involved With:

Coach/Team Official's Name:

Coach/Team Official's Signature:

Date:

Our Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered Coach or Team Official may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Junior Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct which is available in hard copy and online via the registration process. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by acknowledging they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

JUNIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
3. Do not discriminate against any of your players and always work at providing an inclusive environment where all players can participate.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time, if not more.
5. Remember that the players involved play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Emphasise the importance of the learning and development of skills and positive attitudes. Never ridicule or yell at your players for making mistakes or losing.
6. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play or train again.
10. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound junior coaching principles and developments. Attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of your local Coaches Association.
11. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
12. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
3. Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
4. Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
14. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

NOTE: League policies can be viewed online via your League's website.

By registering with my Club I/we agree to abide by these principles. I will ensure that I understand the expected behaviour of being a Coach or Team Official. I/we support my club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Coach/Team Official for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE JUNIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Coaches and Team Officials.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Junior Coaches/Team Officials of the Codes of Conduct

Education Process:

1. Junior Coaches and Team Officials advised of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Coach & Team Official's Codes of Conduct. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by Coaches and Team Officials.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Coaches and Team Officials will not be permitted to participate in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Coaches and Team Official's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion.

Breaches:

6. Junior Coaches and Team Officials acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct will be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A Junior Coach or Team Official failing to heed this caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Junior Coaches and Team Officials who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct will be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

Regulations

1. *No Junior Coach or Team Official may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.*
2. *Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.*
3. *Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.*
4. *Any Junior Coach or Team Official in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The Junior Coach or Team Official may only return to the game at the Club's discretion.*
5. *If the Club/League believe that the Junior Coach or Team Official's behaviour is such that the Junior Coach or Team Official should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Junior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.*
6. *Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.*
7. *Repeated breaches of the Junior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct by a Junior Coach or Team Official may result in a Junior Coach or Team Official being de-registered from the Club.*
8. *A Club member or official failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).*
9. *The Club member or official will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.*
10. *Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.*
11. *Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.*
12. *The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.*

The Club is committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.

Club:

Player's Name:

Player's Age Group:

Player's Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

Please Note: The Parent/Guardian is signing this code of conduct on behalf of the child's entire family

I fully support the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered player may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Player Code of Conduct with their parent or guardian. This process can be conducted either via the online registration process or by obtaining a hard copy of this document. It is the responsibility of junior players to ensure they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process and all codes of conduct can be viewed on league websites.

JUNIOR PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Abide by the rules of the game and rules set down by your coach, club and league.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the match.
3. Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team. Be proud to walk off the ground after each game knowing that you have given your best effort and never involve yourself in an argument with opposing players, umpires or officials.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Your involvement to play is for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it.
7. Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them there would be no game.
8. Always show respect for Umpires and respect decisions made even if you do not agree with the outcome.
9. Play for the 'fun of it and not just to please parents and coaches.
10. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
12. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
13. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
2. Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember your child should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember your child learns best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that your child is playing in so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your child far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

NOTE: League policies can be viewed online via your League's website.

As a member or supporter of my club, I/we agree to abide by these principles. We will ensure that we understand the expected behaviour of a member or supporter of our club. We support the club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Players, Parents/Guardians and/or Supporters for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE JUNIOR PLAYERS, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to help Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Players, Parents and Supporters.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Players, Parents and/or Supporters of the Codes of Conduct**Education Process:**

1. Players and/or Parents are advised of the Club/League's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Players and Parents Handbook. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by both Players, Parents and Supporters.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Players will not be permitted to play in a fixtured game for the Club unless they and their Parents/Guardians have acknowledged they have read and understood the Player and Parents and Supporter's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion. This may be on top of penalties issued by a Tribunal or Appeals Board.

Breaches:

6. Players, parents and supporters acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct may be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A player, parent or supporter failing to heed and on the spot caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Players, parents or supporters who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member or supporter may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct may be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League. Red & Yellow Cards Shown to Junior Player:
12. Any player who receives a red card during the course of any match, shall be asked to front the independent tribunal on the relevant charge.
13. Any player who receives their first yellow card during the course of a season shall consider this as their first and only warning.
14. Any player who receives a second yellow card during the course of a season shall be handed a one match suspension.
15. Any player who receives a third yellow card and every yellow after that, shall be provided with a two match suspension.
16. Clubs wishing to appeal a card shown by an Umpire should do so by emailing the Operations Manager of the League by no later than the close of business on the Monday after the match has taken place.

Regulations

1. *No player or supporter may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.*
2. *Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.*
3. *Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.*
4. *Any player, parent or supporter in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The player, parent or supporter may return to the game at the Club's discretion.*
5. *If the Club/League believe that the player, parent or supporter's behaviour is such that the player, parent or supporter should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Junior Player, Parent or Supporter Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.*
6. *Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.*
7. *Repeated breaches of the Junior Player, Parent or Supporter Code of Conduct by a Junior Player, Parent or Supporter may result in a Junior Player, Parent or Supporter being de-registered from the Club.*
8. *A Club member or supporter failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).*
9. *The Club member or supporter will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.*
10. *Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.*
11. *Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.*
12. *The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.*

My Club and the League are committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in any breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.

Club:

Age Group Involved With:

Coach/Team Official's Name:

Coach/Team Official's Signature:

Date:

Our Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered Coach or Team Official may participate in a fixtured game of football/netball until they have read and understood the Senior Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct which is available in hard copy and online via the registration process. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by having read and understood the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

SENIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Endeavour to attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of the local Coaches Association.
3. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and coaching developments.
4. Avoid verbal and physical confrontation with other club players and officials and umpires at all times - use the League's official vehicle of communication to report any unfair situations that you may believe arise.
5. Don't ask for, but rather earn the respect of your players through your dealings with them and the manner in which you perform your coaching duties.
6. Through your behaviour in the community develop personal respect to enhance the image of your club.
7. Never swear, or use abusive language during the game or when addressing the players. Be mindful of the presence of young people and other spectators.
8. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
9. Treat the umpires and opposition sides with respect. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
10. Be aware of the differing needs and attitudes of players at your club, particularly young players.
11. Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in players.
12. Be supportive of League activities such as Interleague and events such as Season Launches.
13. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
14. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
15. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
16. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a person is not willing do not force them.
3. Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
4. Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from Senior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
14. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

By registering with my Club I/we agree to abide by these principles. I will ensure that I understand the expected behaviour of being a Coach or Team Official. I/we support my club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Coach/Team Official for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE SENIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Coaches and Team Officials.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Senior Coaches/Team Officials of the Codes of Conduct

Education Process:

1. Senior Coaches and Team Officials advised of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Coach & Team Official's Codes of Conduct. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by Coaches and Team Officials.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Coaches and Team Officials will not be permitted to participate in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Coaches and Team Official's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion.

Breaches:

6. Senior Coaches and Team Officials acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct will be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A Senior Coach or Team Official failing to heed this caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Senior Coaches and Team Officials who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct will be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

Regulations

1. *No Senior Coach or Team Official may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.*
2. *Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.*
3. *Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.*
4. *Any Senior Coach or Team Official in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The Senior Coach or Team Official may only return to the game at the Club's discretion.*
5. *If the Club/League believe that the Senior Coach or Team Official's behaviour is such that the Senior Coach or Team Official should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Senior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.*
6. *Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.*
7. *Repeated breaches of the Senior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct by a Senior Coach or Team Official may result in a Senior Coach or Team Official being de-registered from the Club.*
8. *A Club member or official failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the GroundCourt Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).*
9. *The Club member or official will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.*
10. *Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.*
11. *Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.*
12. *The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.*

The Club is committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.

Club:

Player's Name:

Player's Age Group:

Player's Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

I/we fully support the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered player may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Player Code of Conduct with their parent or guardian. This process can be conducted either via the online registration process or by obtaining a hard copy of this document. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by acknowledging they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

SENIOR PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. At all times abide by the rules of the League in which you compete and the club for which you play. Rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition. Do not assault or attempt to assault an Umpire, another player, officials or spectators.
3. Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Ensure that both on and off field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Swearing is not acceptable.
5. Do not abuse, dispute or react in an obviously provocative or disappointing manner towards an Umpire.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Conduct yourself at a high level of personal behaviour on and off the field in such a manner so as not to bring your club or the game of Australian Football into disrepute.
7. Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them there would be no game.
8. Always show respect for Umpires and respect decisions made even if you do not agree with the outcome.
9. Develop a respect for the League in which you compete, your club, team mates and opponents.
10. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
12. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
13. Be willing to be involved in local football development and promotional activities.
14. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Do not be critical of others in their roles within the club either as players or officials. Always be supportive and mindful of those around you.
2. Focus upon the individual's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the individual in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Encourage honest efforts and make it as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage others always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at others for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember those you are supporting should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember others learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for the involvement of others.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your club members and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that you support so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your club far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

As a member or supporter of my club, I/we agree to abide by these principles. We will ensure that we understand the expected behaviour of a member or supporter of our club. We support the club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Players, and/or Supporters for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE PLAYERS, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Players and Supporters.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Players and/or Supporters of the Codes of Conduct

Education Process:

1. Players and/or Supporters are advised of the Club/League's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Club Handbook. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by both Players and Supporters.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Players and supporters will not be permitted to play in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Player and Supporter's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion. This may be on top of penalties issued by a Tribunal or Appeals Board.

Breaches:

6. Players and supporters acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct may be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A player or supporter failing to heed and on the spot caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Players or supporters who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member or supporter may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct may be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

Regulations

1. *No player or supporter may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.*
2. *Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.*
3. *Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.*
4. *Any player or supporter in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The player or supporter may return to the game at the Club's discretion.*
5. *If the Club/League believe that the player or supporter's behaviour is such that the player, parent or supporter should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Senior Player or Supporter Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.*
6. *Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.*
7. *Repeated breaches of the Senior Player or Supporter Code of Conduct by a Senior Player or Supporter may result in a Senior Player or Supporter being de-registered from the Club.*
8. *A Club member or supporter failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).*
9. *The Club member or supporter will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.*
10. *Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.*
11. *Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.*
12. *The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.*

My Club and the League are committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.





2015 RIDDELL DISTRICT FNL

