



**AFL Queensland**

**State Junior Football Rules and Regulations**

As of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**BRISBANE**



## **Introduction**

These rules and regulations are to be adopted in conjunction with the Laws of Australian Football, the AFL Junior Match Policy and the AFL & AFL Queensland policies, rules and regulations. Where these Rules and Regulations and associated Junior Competition By-Laws vary from that of the Laws of Australian Football and the AFL & AFL Queensland policies, rules and regulations, these Rules and Regulations apply. On all matters where these Rules and Regulations and the associated Competition By-Laws are silent, at the discretion of the League, the AFL and AFL Queensland rules, regulations and policies apply.

Where the Competition By-Laws vary from these generic rules and regulations the By-Laws apply.

## **Operation of Rules and Regulations**

AFL Queensland shall continue to hold the charter to maintain and develop generic junior rules and regulations on behalf of all Queensland affiliated junior Leagues in consultation with the respective affiliated junior League governing bodies.

All AFL Queensland affiliated Leagues will regulate their competitions through the provisions contained in; these unified rules and regulations, the AFL Australian Football Match Policy for 5 to 18 year olds (as may be modified to suit different age groups), AFL Queensland policies, AFL national policies and codes of conduct, and resolutions of the Board of each respective affiliate made from time to time as per their submitted constitution.

AFL Queensland's unified rules and regulations shall continue to foster a positive, encouraging and fun environment where all players and teams can participate on an equal footing. These unified rules and regulations support state wide unified game development and allow affiliated Leagues and their member clubs to facilitate progressive junior programs, efficient and compliant administration and conduct healthy competitions.

All affiliated Leagues shall be responsible for ensuring their administrators, coaches, volunteers, parents, players and spectators act in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times.

All affiliated Leagues shall ensure their coaches understand their responsibility to their clubs and to the children and young people in their care. Affiliated Leagues shall communicate to their member clubs the need for parents to act accordingly at all times before, during and after any match or function representing AFL, AFL Queensland or each respective AFL affiliate.

All affiliated Leagues shall ensure their member clubs provide equal opportunities for participation in sport for all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, sexuality, age, disability, race or ethnic origin.

Clubs must ensure players all have the opportunity to participate actively and are given the opportunity to play at least three quarters of a match. To do otherwise is for the coach and the club to fail in one of its primary match day obligations to its players and its overall responsibility to the sport of AFL and to bring them collectively into disrepute.

All affiliated Leagues must make all member clubs aware, that it is their responsibility to ensure all players, coaches, officials, parents and guardians in registering their child to play are aware of their responsibilities and follow them at all times and in so doing create a quality club environment of which they can be proud.



## Contents

<b>Definitions and Interpretation</b>	<b>4</b>
1 AFFILIATED LEAGUES REGULATIONS	6
2 ADMISSION OF MEMBERS	6
3 AFFILIATES AND MEMBER CLUBS	6
4 REGISTRATIONS	8
5 AGE GROUPS	9
6 CLEARANCE/TRANSFERS/APPEALS	10
7 MATCH DAY PERMITS/SEASON PERMITS	12
8 PRACTICE MATCHES	13
9 GROUND SIZES	13
10 MATCH CONDITIONS	13
11 YOUTH COMPETITION	21
12 YOUTH FINALS FORMAT	24
13 YOUTH FINALS ELIGIBILITY	25
14 PLAYER REPORTS	25
15 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PANEL	25
16 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL HEARING PROCEDURES	26
17 INVESTIGATIONS	26
18 BEST AND FAIREST VOTES	26
19 CLUB OF THE YEAR	27
20 BANNED ITEMS	27
21 PLAYER PAYMENTS	27
22 FIRST POLICY	27
23 CODES OF CONDUCT	32
<b>Appendices</b>	
APPENDIX A Schedule of Fines	35
APPENDIX B 10 Goal Percentage	36
APPENDIX C Brisbane Juniors By-Laws	37
APPENDIX D Yellow & Red Cards	39
APPENDIX E AFL Queensland Junior Competition Reports & Tribunal Rules	40



## **Definitions and Interpretations**

AFLQ	Means AFL Queensland
JFMG	Means the "AFL Junior Football Match Guide"
AFLQ Licenced Supplier	Means a supplier of playing and general apparel that features an AFL Logo in any form that has entered into an agreement with AFLQ
Age Group	Means in the case of: Junior - competition between players in all under 6 to under 11 age groups inclusive Youth - competition between players in under 12 to under 17 age groups inclusive Youth Girls - competition between female players in under 12, to under 18 age groups
Away Team	The second named team for a fixture
Board	Means affiliated Competition Board
Bye	A result of having no team to play against in a round of fixture matches as a result of having an uneven number of teams in the age group/division
By Laws	Refers to the individual Competition's By Laws
Club	Means any club that shall have been granted membership by the Competition
Competition	Refers to any junior competition run by AFL Queensland or an Affiliated League
Competition Phases	Introductory – no tackling Development – modified tackling Competition – full tackling
Competition Points	Means the points awarded to a team for a result of a season fixture
Finals Match	Means the competition matches that are played at the end of the season fixture to determine the premiership. 'Finals' and 'Final' shall have the same meaning. Applies to Youth and Youth Girls age groups only
Footyweb	Refers to the internet system used by Competition and Clubs to assist in the administration of the Competition. Footyweb is a component of Fox Sports Pulse
Home Team	The first named team for a fixture
Interchange Area	Means the area marked on the boundary line through which players may enter or leave the playing surface
LOAF	Means the Laws of Australian Football
Match	Means the contest of Australian Football played between two teams
NPTR	Means the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations
Player	Means a person who is registered with a club and who trains with or is selected to play with a team
Practice Match	Means the contest of Australian Football played between two teams that is sanctioned by the Competition and is not played as part of the Season Fixtures or Finals
Registered Age Group	The lowest age group in which a player is permitted to play based on their date of birth
Representative Team	Means a team selected independently of any club to play against a team or teams from another region, League or state. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes school football
Representative Player	Means a player that was selected in the final squad of a representative team
Round	Means the matches scheduled to be played as part of the season fixtures that are to be played within a designated time period (generally one weekend)



### **Definitions and Interpretations**

Season	Means the annual schedule of fixture matches that comprise the home and away season plus all finals matches between teams in designated age groups and divisions as ratified by the Board
Season Fixtures	Means the annual schedule of fixture matches played between teams in designated age groups and divisions as ratified by the Competition or AFLQ
Senior Football	Means any Seniors, Reserves, Under 19 or open aged Female competition.
Team	Means a group of players that competes against another group of players in matches of Australian Football sanctioned by a competition
Team Sheet	Means the list of players and permitted officials participating in any match



## **1. COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

- 1.1.** To be affiliated in a competition each club must complete and submit a Licence Agreement prior to each season.
- 1.2.** Each of the Competition's affiliated clubs shall be an incorporated association and shall adopt, keep current and keep in force a constitution which is in keeping with the spirit of the constitution of the affiliated League.
- 1.3.** The club must notify its Competition in writing of the names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of the persons appointed to their committee after such positions have been filled.
- 1.4.** Each club, when required by its Competition to do so, shall forward to the State Junior Football Manager a copy of the constitution then in force and the Certificate of Incorporation.
- 1.5.** Each club shall forward to the State Junior Football Manager a copy of their annual financial statements and associated reports as lodged with the regulator within one (1) month of their annual general meeting.
- 1.6.** Each club must ensure they have current public liability insurance and that a certificate of currency is provided to the State Junior Football Manager.
- 1.7.** Each club wishing to host competition phase night fixtures must provide annual light lux readings to the Competition Manager. AFL Queensland, in accordance with the Australian Standards relating to sports lighting, requires a minimum of an average of 100 lux illumination and that at no point on the playing surface is the illumination to be less than 50% of the average illumination, this is a uniformity of 0.5 or higher. For example if the average illumination across the entire playing surface is 120 lux then at no point on the playing surface can the illumination be less than 60 lux (50% of 120 lux).
- 1.8.** Each club must be financial by 31 January each year. All monies owing to the Competition must be paid prior to 31 January unless other arrangements have been made with the Competition Manager, in consultation with the State Junior Football Manager.
- 1.9.** Each club must be financial to be eligible to take part in the finals. All monies owing to the Competition must be paid prior to the first weekend of finals unless other arrangements have been made with the Competition Manager in consultation with the State Junior Football Manager.

## **2. ADMISSION AND RE-ADMISSION OF MEMBERS (CLUBS)**

- 2.1.** The Competition may require that any new club which desires to become a member shall:
  - 2.1.1.** Send an application, in writing to the Competition Manager together with a fee as nominated by AFLQ. Applications will be ratified by the State Junior Football Manager.
  - 2.1.2.** Have at least the minimum number of players required to field three (3) teams in three (3) different age groups, being the age groups/divisions stipulated by the affiliated Competition for the season which is to be the new club's first season.
    - (i) Exemption maybe sought from the State Junior Football Manager to reduce the required number of players/teams needed upon application
- 2.2.** The admission or rejection of such applicant shall be decided in accordance with the State Junior Football Manager.



### **3. AFFILIATES AND MEMBER CLUBS**

#### **3.1. Application of these rules and regulations are as follows:**

- 3.1.1.** All licenced clubs, including their players, spectators and officials shall be bound by these rules and regulations, and the LOAF.
- 3.1.2.** In the event of any inconsistency between the LOAF and these rules and regulations, these rules and regulations shall prevail.
- 3.1.3.** The appendices form part of these rules and regulations.
- 3.1.4.** Competition By-Laws are determined by each individual competition. Should there be any inconsistency with those by-laws and these rules and regulations, the by-laws will prevail.
- 3.1.5.** Application for exemption from either the Rules and Regulations or Competition By-Laws is at the sole discretion of the State Junior Football Manager.

#### **3.2. Club Colours**

- 3.2.1.** Every club, upon admission into a competition, shall apply for and obtain the permission of AFLQ to use the colour, playing uniform, design and logo under which the club proposes to play.
- 3.2.2.** Each club's playing uniforms shall only be purchased from AFL Queensland Licenced suppliers.
- 3.2.3.** All clubs are required to adhere to the AFL Queensland Licenced Supplier Guidelines in force from time to time. Please refer to the Licenced Supplier Guidelines on the AFL Queensland website under Policies, Rules and Regulations for details regarding the requirements for logos such as when they are to be used on 'on-field' apparel including, but not limited to, shorts and playing jumpers.
- 3.2.4.** Any club desiring to alter or vary its colours, playing uniform, design or logo, shall first apply for and obtain the permission of AFLQ to make such variation or alteration. Clubs must submit the AFLQ supplier's artwork to the Competition Manager for approval.
- 3.2.5.** The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured playing uniform, bearing the competition's logo, at all matches.
- 3.2.6.** No player will be permitted to compete in any match without a number on the back of the playing jumper.
  - (i) No two players in the one team shall have the same number.
  - (ii) Each number shall be a whole number greater than zero (0).
  - (iii) Each jumper number will have a maximum of two digits.
- 3.2.7.** Every club in a youth competition will register a home team shorts colour and an alternate shorts colour (if applicable – refer to Competition By-Laws).
- 3.2.8.** Registration of such colours, playing uniforms and design, by the clubs in accordance with these rules and regulations shall give such club the exclusive right to such colours, playing uniform and design against any other club subsequently attempting to register the same colours, playing uniform and design.
- 3.2.9.** It will be the responsibility of AFLQ to approve their clubs' colours, logos and designs and it is each clubs responsibility to ensure their colours, logos and designs do not infringe the copyright or marketing rights of any other clubs.



### 3.3. Club Sponsorship

- 3.3.1** All clubs are required to respect existing Competition corporate partners and to comply with AFL Queensland Preferred Supplier Apparel Guidelines in force from time to time.
- 3.3.2** No club is permitted to confirm any sponsorship agreement in which the sponsor will be identified on the playing attire if the sponsor is in conflict with a Competition sponsor(s) until they have notified the Competition Manager in writing to request the State Junior Football Manager to give them permission to confirm the sponsor agreement.
- 3.3.3** Clubs are not permitted to display alcohol related sponsors on junior playing attire. This includes alcoholic beverages, pubs and nightclubs.

## 4. **REGISTRATIONS**

- 4.1.** All players must be registered prior to participating in any training session or match. A player whom is not registered is not covered by the club's player insurance policy.
  - 4.1.1.** All new players yet to register must sign a 'Permission to Train' form to ensure insurance coverage.
- 4.2.** Player Registration Fees shall be determined by the competition. Late registrations will be accepted after 30 June at a reduced rate.
  - 4.2.1.** Player registration fees will be related to their date of birth, regardless of whether they are approved to play in a higher or lower age group.
  - 4.2.2.** All Clubs shall submit a schedule of their player registration fees each year.
- 4.3.** The registration of all players shall be recorded in the Footyweb system.
  - 4.3.1.** New players must submit proof of age document to the Competition Manager before registration is finalised.
- 4.4.** The following documents are acceptable to the affiliated Leagues as proof of age:-

Birth Certificate	Baptism Certificate
Baby Health Centre Book	Letter from School Principal
Passport	Drivers Licence or Permit
School Identification Card	Statutory Declaration

Photocopies of any of the above are acceptable.
- 4.5.** Team Officials registration forms must be completed and returned to the Competition Manager before the first match in which they participate.
- 4.6.** When a team official is appointed or replaced after the first fixture match an updated registration form must be completed and returned to the Competition Manager within seven (7) days of such new appointment.
- 4.7.** In the case of a dispute over a player's age, the Competition Manager may call for proof of age at any time and this must be provided within five (5) days. If proof of age is not provided then the player's registration will be withdrawn until such time as the proof of age is provided.
- 4.8.** No players are to be de-registered after being on a team sheet for three (3) matches without the approval of the Competition Manager. Players may not be de-registered after 30 June.



## **5. AGE GROUPS**

### **5.1. Competitions may offer any of the following age groups.**

- Under 8
- Under 9
- Under 10
- Under 11
- Under 11 Girls
- Under 12
- Under 13
- Under 13 Girls
- Under 14
- Under 15
- Under 15 Girls
- Under 16
- Under 17
- Under 17 Girls

**5.1.1** If approved by the AFL and AFL Queensland, competitions may conduct an Under 6 Match Program.

### **5.2. The competition shall determine the age groups / divisions and their composition from year to year.**

### **5.3. Team Nominations & Youth Team Grading**

**5.3.1.** Player numbers to nominate junior teams will be at the discretion of the competition. Junior team nominations shall be submitted on the prescribed competition form.

**5.3.2.** Player numbers to nominate youth teams will be at the discretion of the competition. Youth team nominations shall be submitted on the prescribed competition form.  
In the case of enough teams for multiple divisions in an age group, the competition will notify the club which divisions they recommend their teams should be. If the club disagree with the competition recommendations they must resubmit the team nomination form with further information about the team list.

**5.3.3.** If youth team grading is required it can form part of the home and away season or be a separate grading process for up to four (4) weeks as determined by the competition.  
Final age group divisions will be decided after four (4) weeks and, except for special circumstances, there will be no further youth age group division changes.

### **5.4. A player will be eligible to play in an age group competition provided their Date of Birth is in line with the competition's age group allocations.**

### **5.5. Unqualified Players**

**5.5.1** Playing an ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age player will incur a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for each player plus any loss of premiership points gained.

**5.5.2** Should a team be found guilty of three of any of the above offences in any one season, an additional fine of \$1000 will be incurred and the team withdrawn from the Competition

**5.5.3** Any player playing under a name other than their own shall be considered to be an ineligible player

**5.5.4** Any player playing in a lower division, other than the one for which they are listed, shall be deemed to be ineligible.



- 5.5.5** Should a club continue to play a player, after receiving notice from the competition that a player's permit to play in a particular age group/division has been withdrawn, that club shall lose all premiership points gained in matches in which such player participated, and be fined \$500.

## **5.6. PLAYING UP**

- 5.6.1.** Players are permitted to play up one (1) age group above their registered age group so long as they are not displacing a registered age group player in the higher age group.
- 5.6.2.** Players wishing to play up two (2) age groups will be required to complete a Play Up Consent Form which must be submitted to the Competition Manager by the Club prior to the player playing their first match for the age group.
- 5.6.3.** The responsibility for the decision to play players above their registered age group rests with the players' club. The decision is to be made after discussions between the club, coaches, player involved, his/her parent/s or guardian/s and is to be made solely based on what is best for that player.

- 5.7.** If a club fields teams in more than one (1) division within the same age group and any such team is unable to field a full complement of players in any matches, eligible players from other teams are permitted to play matches within that same round of matches so long as:

- 5.7.1.** They are not a core/team listed player
- 5.7.2.** They are not displacing a regular player in such team.

## **5.8. PLAYING DOWN**

- 5.8.1.** Playing down will not be permitted except, at the complete discretion of the Competition with the provision of a medical certificate stating a medical condition and after assessment by a person nominated by the Competition Manager who is suitably experienced in assessing the age group the player is capable of playing. If approval is given by the Competition it will be for the remainder of the current season.

- (i) Should an approved play down applicant play one (1) game in a higher age group than the age group they have sought exemption to play in, the exemption will be revoked.
- (ii) Approved applicants will be eligible to play finals, provided they meet the Competition's finals eligibility rules.
- (iii) Approved applicants will not be eligible to win Competition Best and Fairest.

- 5.8.2** Teams will be allowed a maximum of three (3) playing down approvals.

## **6. CLEARANCE/TRANSFERS/APPEALS**

### **6.1. CLEARANCE/TRANSFERS**

- 6.1.1.** Any player who has at any time in the past two (2) years been registered with an affiliate club or any Australian Football club within Australia and desires to transfer to and play with another club requires a transfer from the last club/League with which they were registered before being registered with their new club.
- 6.1.2.** A player wishing to obtain a transfer can only play in a match with the new club after either the transferring club has cleared the player or the clearance/transfer process detailed in regulation 6.1.4 has been completed.



- 6.1.3.** Should a player wish to train with a new club before they have been transferred, a 'Permission to Train' form must be completed.
- 6.1.4.** All applications for transfer must be made in the FootyWeb system, unless the Competition requires a manual transfer form in addition to the Footyweb Process.
- (i) Any player wishing to gain a transfer to a new club must first apply for a transfer at their destination club.
  - (ii) The destination club or the Competition Manager will enter the transfer request into Footyweb.
  - (iii) The player's original club/league has seven (7) days to approve the transfer. Clubs may only reject a transfer if the transferring player owes money or equipment to the club.
  - (iv) The Competition Manager will then approve the transfer once it meets the Competition's Transfer Requirements.
  - (v) Any player eligible to play in junior age groups may transfer to the club of their choice provided they have not re-registered in the new season. Such transfers once entered in Footyweb will be automatically approved by the Competition Manager.
- 6.1.5.** For transfers within a competition, all applications for transfer will close on a date determined by the Competition Manager/State Junior Football Manager.
- (i) Exemption may be sought for reasonable circumstances, however approval will be at the discretion of the Competition Manager/State Junior Football Manager.
- 6.1.6.** For transfers from outside the competition, all applications for transfers will close on 30 June in line with the National Transfer Policy.
- (i) Exemption maybe sought for reasonable circumstances however approval will be at the discretion of the State Junior Football Manager and the State Footyweb Manager.
- 6.1.7.** Transfers will reopen on 1 November before each season.

## **6.2. APPEALS**

- 6.2.1.** An appeal process is available for clearance/transfers. Applications by the player must be lodged with the Competition Manager within seven (7) days of the notification of the clearance/transfer being refused.
- 6.2.2.** The appeal will be submitted to the State Junior Football Manager for a final decision.
- 6.2.3.** A final decision will be made at the earliest available date after lodgement of an appeal.

## **6.3. POACHING**

- 6.3.1.** Any club officiation or parent/guardian of a registered player wishing to interview a player or approach a player from another club, with the view to having that player transfer to the club and play in one of its teams, must first advise the player's club and the Competition Manager using the 'Permission to Train' form, at least seven (7) days prior to any interview or approach. Any club found to be infringing this rule will be liable to a maximum fine of five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offence.



## **7. MATCH DAY PERMITS / SEASON PERMITS**

### **7.1. MATCH DAY PERMITS (Type 1 Match Day Permits)**

- 7.1.1.** Competitions shall adopt a provision for match day permitting any player with a club in a Queensland competition to play with another club in another or the same Queensland competition without a transfer for not more than five (5) matches in any one season. Provided that, before each such match, the player shall obtain permission from the player's Primary Club so to play. Permission must be in written form and supplied to the Competition Manager prior to the match day permit being entered in Footyweb.  
Any player having in any one season played five (5) matches under the provisions of this rule and desiring to continue to play with the other club, shall only be allowed to do so upon applying for and receiving a transfer from their club and competition in the usual manner. This transfer may be granted at any time during the current season.
- 7.1.2.** Competitions in adjacent areas of Queensland may enter into written agreements annually to allow an interchange of players to meet local conditions, provided however that the provision of Rule 7.1.1 must in all cases be strictly complied with when a registered player desires to play with another club in another Queensland competition.  
The written agreements must be submitted to, and approved by, the State Junior Football Manager.
- 7.1.3** Youth teams unable to field a full complement of players in a team in any given round are permitted to match day permit players from the opposition team.
- 7.1.4** A player shall not be permitted to play in different junior competitions on a match day permit on the same weekend.
- 7.1.5** Players playing with match day permits will not be eligible to play finals.
- 7.1.6** Except in special circumstances approved by the State Junior Football Manager, players from outside Queensland will not be able to play with a Queensland club on a match day permit.
- 7.1.7** There is no right of appeal against the refusal to grant a match day permit.

### **7.2. SEASON PERMITS (Type 2 Local Interchange Permits)**

- 7.2.1.** Competitions shall adopt a provision for local interchange permitting any player with a club in a Queensland competition to play with another club in another or the same Queensland competition without a transfer for any one season. Provided that, before each such permit is submitted in Footyweb, the player shall obtain permission from the player's Primary Club so to play. Permission must be in written form and supplied to the Competition Manager.
- 7.2.2.** Competitions in adjacent areas of Queensland may enter into written agreements annually to allow an interchange of players to meet local conditions, provided however that the provision of Rule 7.2.1 must in all cases be strictly complied with when a registered player desires to play with another club in another Queensland competition.  
The written agreements must be submitted to, and approved by, the State Junior Football Manager.
- 7.2.3.** Clubs who are unable to field a team in an age group / division may grant permits to players from that age group / division to another member club to form a merged team for a maximum period of one season.
- 7.2.4.** Any player under season permit shall return to his/her Primary Club at the end of the permitted period.
- 7.2.5.** A player shall not be permitted to play in different competitions on a season permit on the same weekend.



**7.2.6.** Provided they meet the competition finals eligibility, players playing with season permits are eligible to play finals.

**7.2.7.** Except in special circumstances approved by the State Junior Football Manager, players from outside Queensland will not be able to play with a Queensland club on a season permit.

**7.2.8.** There is no right of appeal against the refusal to grant a season permit.

**7.3.** Under no circumstances will a player registered with a senior club be permitted to play on any form of permit in a junior competition.

**7.4.** Players who are playing on permits in other competitions and are reported for an offence shall have the charge heard by the competition tribunal in which the offence occurs which in event of finding the player guilty shall determine the penalty which shall then apply to matches of the club in the grade of competition where the offence occurred. Players are unable to play for any team if suspended.

**7.5** Players playing on any form of permit without permission will be deemed as ineligible players.

## **8. PRACTICE MATCHES**

**8.1** Any player serving a suspension is able to play in any sanctioned practice matches. These matches do not count towards a suspension.

**8.2** Notification of a practice match must be submitted to the Competition Manager. Player's names must be listed on a team sheet and submitted to the umpire before the commencement of any Competition sanctioned practice match.

## **9. GROUND SIZES**

### **9.1 GROUND SIZES**

Age Group	Length	Width	Centre Square/Zones	Centre Circle	Distance Between Posts
Under 8	80m	60m	3 equal zones	N/A	Approx. 5m
Under 9 & 10	100m	80m	3 equal zones	N/A	Approx. 5m
Under 11	130m	90m	N/A	N/A	Approx. 5m
Under 11 Girls	100m	80m	3 equal zones	N/A	Approx. 5m
Under 12	135-185m	110-155m	50m	3m	6.4m
Under 13	135-185m	110-155m	50m	3m	6.4m
Under 13 Girls	100m	80m	N/A	3m	6.4m
Under 14	135-185m	110-155m	50m	3m	6.4m
Under 15	135-185m	110-155m	50m	3m	6.4m
Under 15 Girls	130m	90m	N/A	3m	6.4m
Under 16/17	135-185m	110-155m	50m	3m	6.4m
Under 17/18 Girls*	135-185m	110-155m	50m	3m	6.4m

\* In the event of player numbers of 12 or below the ground size reverts to 130 x 90

## **10. MATCH CONDITIONS**

### **10.1 MATCH TIMES and FOOTBALLS**

**10.1.1** The match durations, football sizes and types of footballs have been approved for each age group as per the table below.

**10.1.2** Football logos and suppliers are at the discretion of each Competition.



**10.1.3** Any club that allows a game to start late shall incur a fine.

**10.1.4** Failure of a team to re-commence their positions after the quarter time, half time or three-quarter time break will incur a fine.

Age Group	Length of Quarters (4)	Length of Breaks		Footballs	
		¼ & ¾ Time	½ Time	Size	Type
Under 8	10 Minutes	3 Minutes (Maximum)	6 Minutes (Maximum)	1	Synthetic
Under 9/10	10 Minutes	3 Minutes (Maximum)	6 Minutes (Maximum)	2	Synthetic
Under 11	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	3	Synthetic/Leather
Under 11 Girls	10 Minutes	3 Minutes (Maximum)	6 Minutes (Maximum)	2	Synthetic
Under 12	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	3	Leather
Under 13	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	4	Leather
Under 13 Girls	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	3	Leather
Under 14	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	4	Leather
Under 15	20 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	15 Minutes (Maximum)	5	Leather
Under 15 Girls	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	3	Leather
Under 16/17	20 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	15 Minutes (Maximum)	5	Leather
Under 17/18 Girls	15 Minutes	5 Minutes (Maximum)	10 Minutes (Maximum)	4	Leather

## 10.2 Number of players in a match – youth age group

**10.2.1** The maximum number of players permitted to be entered on the team sheet is twenty-two (22).

**10.2.2** The maximum amount of players allowed on the playing surface at any time is:

- All Male Youth Competitions – 18 (plus maximum 4 interchange)
- Under 17 Girls – 15 (plus maximum 4 interchange)
- Under 15 Girls – 12 (plus maximum 4 interchange)
- Under 13 Girls – 9 (plus maximum 4 interchange)

**10.2.3** The minimum number of players in a team is as follows:

- All Male Youth Competitions – 14
- Under 17 Girls – 12
- Under 15 Girls – 8
- Under 13 Girls – 7

**10.2.4** Teams must have the same number of players on the field during a match.

**10.2.4.1** If there is an injury during the match that reduces the number of on-field players, then the opposing team must continue to match player numbers.

**10.2.4.2** The only exception is in the instance of a player sent off with a yellow or red card and there is no replacement player available.

**10.2.4.3** For the avoidance of doubts, this also applies to finals matches.

## 10.3 Number of players in a match – junior age group

**10.3.1** If player numbers are not equal, the team officials shall arrange the match so that each side has an equal number of players.

**10.3.2** All players must play the majority of each match in which they play regardless of whether they are “loaned” or not.



**10.3.3** The maximum players on the playing surface at any time is:

- Under 8, 9 per side – 3 Forwards, 3 Centres, 3 Backs (unlimited interchange)
- Under 9, 12 per side – 4 Forwards, 4 Centres, 4 Backs (unlimited interchange)
- Under 10, 12 per side – 4 Forwards, 4 Centres, 4 Backs (unlimited interchange)
- Under 11, 15 per side – 3 lines of 5 players (no Rucks or Rovers) (unlimited interchange)
- Under 11 Girls, 9 per side – 3 Forwards, 3 Centres, 3 Backs (unlimited interchange)

**10.3.4** All players are to rotate when being loaned to an opposing team.

**10.3.5** All players up to and including Under 10 are to wear arm bands. Arm band colours are:

- Forwards – Yellow
- Centres – Blue
- Backs – Red

## **10.4 TEAM SHEETS**

**10.4.1** A team sheet must be completed for all teams in all age groups before the commencement of each match using the Footyweb system.

**10.4.1.1 Under 8 – Under 10** teams are not required to print team sheet however Team Manager must still enter one

**10.4.1.2 Under 11 and above** teams must print a team sheet and submit it to the field umpire(s) before the commencement of a match. Team sheets must have the following listed:

- Player Names
- Player Numbers
- Footyweb Number
- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Runner
- Water Carriers
- Trainer (if applicable)

**10.4.2** Any player arriving after the commencement of the third quarter cannot participate in the fixture match.

**10.4.2** Players arriving late will not be permitted to participate in the match until they have been checked by the field umpire and signed the teamsheet. This can only be done at the quarter or half time breaks.

## **10.5 RESULTS**

**10.5.1** The home club shall be responsible for ensuring scores are entered into the Footyweb system immediately after the completion of each match. Scoring in junior, U8 to U10, football is prohibited. Any club placing scores for AFL U8 to U10 games in any print or electronic media will incur penalties at the discretion of the competition.

## **10.6 UMPIRES**

**10.6.1** The appointment of umpires shall be the sole responsibility of the competition.

**10.6.2** If for reasons beyond their control an umpire is unable to fulfill their appointment and the controlling body is unable to replace the umpire, the match will be able to proceed with a club umpire/volunteer from each of the competing teams.



**10.6.3** All reports of players and officials must be filled out in quadruple and distributed as follows:

**10.6.3.1** Original copy to the Competition for the Independent Tribunal

**10.6.3.2** Second copy to reported player or Team Official

**10.6.3.3** Third copy to opposing Team Official

**12.5.2.4** Fourth copy retained by the Umpire

**10.6.4** All reports of players and officials must be notified to the Competition Manager within one (1) working day after the match.

**10.6.5** Only umpires officially appointed by the controlling body or its delegate may report players and officials.

## **10.7 OFFICIALS DURING MATCHES**

**10.7.1** The following officials are permitted (or where indicated below, are required) to be supplied by each club for a match. Each club shall be responsible for the conduct of their officials, as well as ensuring they have been volunteer screened (Blue Card/Working with Children Check)

### **10.7.1.1 COACH (1 Permitted), ASSISTANT COACH (1 Permitted)**

Applies: All Age Groups

- Except for those junior coaches who are permitted to remain on the playing surface in accordance with AFL Junior Rules, coaches are only permitted on the playing surface during authorised breaks
- Coaches must remain in the designated coach's box or designated area
- Coaches must wear the Competition's uniform
- Coaches must have their name entered in Footyweb
- Coaches must abide by the AFL Coaches code of conduct.
- All Coaches and Assistant Coaches must have official accreditation to the level required. Proof of current accreditation or registration in a coaching course is to be supplied to the Competition Manager before the commencement of the season fixtures.

### **10.7.1.2 TEAM MANAGER (1 Permitted)**

Applies: All Age Groups

- Must remain within the designated coach's box or outside of the playing arena unless they are required to manage a player who has been ordered off
- Team Managers must wear the Competition's uniform
- Team Managers must have their name entered in Footyweb
- Team Managers must abide by the AFL code of conduct
- At the end of the game, move to the umpire's room to obtain the report 'all clear' (confirming whether there are any reports) within 10 minutes of the completion of the match
- Advise all relevant parties of a report including player(s), official(s) involved, player(s) parent/guardian and club President.
- Assist the Ground Marshall in controlling spectator behaviour

### **10.7.1.3 TEAM RUNNER (1 Permitted)**

Applies: Under 11 and Youth Age Groups

- Team Runner may only proceed on to the playing surface to deliver messages from the Coach
- Team Runner shall run directly to the player(s) in question, then proceed directly from the field and shall return to the coach's box or designated area
- At no time is a Team Runner permitted to perform the duties of a Water Carrier
- Team Runners must wear the Competition's uniform
- Team Runners must have their name entered in Footyweb
- Team Runners must abide by the AFL code of conduct



#### **10.7.1.4 WATER CARRIERS (4 Permitted)**

Applies: Under 11 and Youth Age Groups

- A maximum of four (4) names must be entered into Footyweb
- If not delivering water, Water Carriers must stay off the playing surface and behind the boundary line to enable the Boundary Umpire to carry out their duties
- After delivering water, Water Carriers must leave the field of play by the most direct route
- Water Carriers may only enter the playing surface when there is shot for goal, a goal or behind is kicked, or when there is a break in play and not while the game is in progress
- Water Carriers be of a suitable age for the particular age group
- At no time are Water Carriers to run messages
- Water Carriers must wear the Competition's uniform
- Water Carriers are not permitted to enter the coach's box at any time during play
- Water Carriers must abide by the AFL code of conduct

#### **10.7.1.5 TRAINER (1 Optional)**

Applies: All Age Groups.

- Trainer must remain off the playing surface at all times
- Trainer may only enter the playing surface if the First Aid Officer requires assistance
- At no time are they allowed to perform the duties of the water carrier or team runner
- Trainer must wear the Competition's uniform
- Trainer must have their name entered in Footyweb
- Trainer must abide by the AFL code of conduct
- Trainer must be accredited and a copy of their accreditation must be held by their club

#### **10.7.1.6 BOUNDARY UMPIRE (1 Required)**

Applies: Under 11 and Youth Age Groups

- If Boundary Umpires are not appointed by the Competition, each team must supply one (1) Boundary Umpire for each match
- Boundary Umpire must be of a suitable age for the particular age group
- Boundary Umpire must be supplied with a whistle and must wear the Competition's uniform
- Boundary Umpire must have their name entered in Footyweb
- When an infringement of the centre square rule occurs and a club Boundary Umpire signals the infringement, the field umpire will restart the match by another centre bounce
- If the Boundary Umpire change during the match the replacement umpire name must be entered in Footyweb
- Boundary Umpire must abide by the AFL code of conduct

#### **10.7.1.8 GOAL UMPIRE (1 Required)**

Applies: Youth Age Groups

- If Goal Umpires are not appointed by the Competition, each team must supply one (1) Goal Umpire for each match
- Goal Umpire must be of a suitable age for the particular age group
- Goal Umpire must be supplied with a score card and flags
- Goal Umpire must wait for the field umpire to signal all clear before they signal a goal or a behind
- At any given time only one (1) person is permitted behind the goal area
- Goal Umpires are required to score on official score cards and must confer with each other at every break and wave the flags to the Scoreboard Attendant to confirm their concurrence with the scoreboard score
- If a discrepancy occurs, the matter is to be referred to Competition Manager. This procedure applies to all matches.
- Goal Umpire must wear the Competition's uniform
- Goal Umpire must have their name entered in Footyweb
- Goal Umpire must abide by the AFL code of conduct



#### **10.7.1.9 TIMEKEEPER (1 Required – Home Team; 1 Permitted – Away Team)**

Applies: Youth Age Groups

- At any season fixture match, it is desirable that each team supply one (1) Timekeeper
- Timekeepers must agree on time prior to the siren being sounded. The siren must sound until acknowledged by the field umpire.
- Timekeeper must be a suitable age
- Timekeeper must abide by the AFL code of conduct

### **10.8 HOME CLUB – MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

**10.8.1** The following officials are required by the home/hosting club to be in place for all fixtures

#### **10.8.1.1 GROUND MARSHALL (minimum 1 required)**

- Home/hosting clubs must supply a Ground Marshall
- Ground Marshall remain outside the playing arena patrolling crowd behaviour, unless they are attending to an incident involving the two coach's boxes
- Act as an umpire escort
- Ground Marshall must wear the Competition's uniform
- Ground Marshall must sign both team sheets
- Must be of a suitable age
- Ensure that games commence at designated times, in consultation with umpires.
- Ensure First Aid Officer and stretcher is in place.
- Attend to the umpires prior to and after the game and ensure umpires have an escort on and off the ground.
- Be the contact point for information for visiting teams and umpires.
- Oversee the Codes of Conduct on match day and report breaches of the Code of Conduct. It is important that Ground Marshalls conduct themselves in a firm and polite manner and are not overly officious when speaking to people regarding breaches of the Code of Conduct.

It is important to note that the Ground Marshall's duties/responsibilities are to assist/contribute to the quality management of junior football on match day. Ground Marshalls should reflect the positive aspects of the Code of Conduct. They should be able to provide a pro-active service to all junior football participants on Match Day.

#### **10.8.1.2 FIRST AID OFFICER/MEDICAL OVERSEER (minimum 1 required)**

- Home/hosting clubs must provide a First Aid Officer
- First Aid Officer MUST be in the match day area whilst a match is in progress.
- Matches are not to commence without a First Aid Officer in place
- The First Aid Officer will provide their own medical kit, unless supplied by the home club
- Under no circumstances is an injured player to be moved by any person until they have been assessed by the First Aid Officer
- The home club must provide a stretcher accessible to the First Aid Officer
- First Aid Officer must be of a suitable age
- First Aid Officer must wear the Competition's uniform
- First Aid Officer must abide by the AFL's Code of Conduct
- If more than one oval is in use, a First Aid Officer MUST be provided for each oval
- Refer to Rule 22 for further information about the First Aid Policy

#### **10.8.1.3 SCOREBOARD ATTENDANT (at least 1 required)**

- Home/host club must appoint a Scoreboard Attendant to keep the score up-to-date on the scoreboard
- Scoreboard Attendant must be of a suitable age



- 10.8.2** The home/hosting club must also ensure the following requirements are in place before the commencement of any match:
- The ground and playing surface are marked as per the Competition Requirements and the Laws of Australian Football
  - The playing surface is free of debris and hazards
  - All permanent goal posts and obstacles in and around the playing surface have protective pads in place
  - Where applicable, the necessary match day paperwork is provided to the field umpires
  - Provide the correct footballs to the field umpires as determined by the Competition.
  - Provide, monitor and maintain an alcohol and smoke free environment.

## **10.9 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY**

- 10.9.1** Each club shall be responsible for the conduct of their own officials, players and spectators.
- 10.9.2** Each club shall be responsible for making sure all volunteers/officials have been volunteer screened (Blue Card).
- 10.9.3** The home club shall be responsible for crowd control through their Ground Marshall at all official matches. However, the visiting club must also assist with crowd control when requested by the home club.
- 10.9.4** Complaints from clubs against another club shall be made in writing to the Competition Manager. If the complaint cannot be resolved the Competition Manager is to determine if the matter needs further investigation and the appropriate course of action will be taken.
- 10.9.5** Complaints from parents/spectators must be made in writing to their own club who may then forward the complaint to the affiliated League.

## **10.10 FINES & PENALTIES**

- 10.10.1** It is the responsibility of clubs to pay all fines imposed on the club, its players, teams, officials, club members, parents/carers of players and spectators.
- 10.10.2** Should a club President or their nominee, a tribunal committee representative or any other official fail to attend required meetings without a proxy or apology, the offending club will be liable for a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- 10.10.3** Any club that may have breached any of these rules and regulations or that does not exercise adequate control over any of its members, parents/carers of players, players, coaches, officials and spectators, maybe called upon by the Competition Manager, to accept responsibility for any breach of these rules and regulations and/or the codes of conduct.
- 10.10.4** If it is determined by the Competition that a club has failed to exercise adequate control over any of their members, parents/carers of players, players, coaches, officials and/or spectators then that club may be penalised as follows:
- 10.10.4.1** For the first (1st) offence:
- Reprimand, and/or
  - a fine not exceeding \$500.00, and/or
  - loss of competition points (even if it shall mean putting the team into a negative position), and/or
  - suspension of the offending person(s) from participating in matches, and/or
  - in the case of a coach, in conjunction with AFLQ, suspension of his/her coaching accreditation.



**10.10.4.2** For a second (2nd) offence:

- a fine not exceeding \$750.00, and/or
- loss of competition points (even if it shall mean putting the team into a negative position), and/or
- suspension of the offending person(s) from participating in matches, and/or
- suspension of the team and/or the club from the competition, and/or
- in the case of a coach, in conjunction with AFLQ, suspension of his/her coaching accreditation.

**10.10.4.3** For a third (3rd) offence:

- a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00, and/or
- loss of competition points (even if it shall mean putting the team into a negative position), and/or
- suspension of the offending person(s) from participating in matches, and/or
- suspension of the team and/or the club either for the remainder of the season or permanently from the affiliate, and/or
- in the case of a coach, in conjunction with AFLQ, suspension of his/her coaching accreditation.

**10.10.5** Clubs may appeal decisions made by the Competition, this should be done in writing to the State Junior Football Manager by no later than seven (7) days after receiving the decision and shall be accompanied by payment to AFLQ of the sum of \$250.

## **10.11 MATCHES UNABLE TO BE COMPLETED**

**10.11.1** If a match is unable to commence or continue within the time scheduled for the match for reasons beyond the control of either team (including circumstance where it is unsafe for the match to proceed) the following shall apply:

**10.11.1.1** In the instance of a serious injury, or hazardous weather, or other undue delay, the following shall apply:

- Field Umpires are to stop play
- The timekeeper's clock DOES NOT stop
- Timekeeper to signal any end of quarter sirens and commencement of quarter sirens if applicable
- If the match cannot be re-started after thirty (30) minutes real time, the match is to be abandoned.

**10.11.2** In addition to all of the normal paperwork, including the team sheets from the competing teams, the umpires will provide a full report to the Competition Manager who shall determine the status of the match in accordance with LOAF 10.6.

## **10.12 POSTPONEMENT AND CANCELLATION OF MATCHES**

**10.12.1** A fixture match can only be postponed or cancelled if the ground where the fixture match is scheduled to be played is in an unfit state and would suffer further damage and/or there is risk to participants if play was to commence.

**10.12.2** Junior (U8-U10) matches may be cancelled at the discretion of the home club or by agreement of the two coaches. The Competition must be notified of any cancellations. Junior fixtures may be re-scheduled at the discretion of the two competing teams in consultation with the Competition Manager.

**10.12.3** The home club may not postpone or cancel youth fixtures without consultation with the Competition Manager. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.



**10.12.4** In the event of a ground closure due to council/school/private owner, or an extenuating circumstance approved by the Competition Manager, the following will apply:

- The host club will supply to the Competition Manager, by no later than 12:00 noon on the Monday following the original date for the fixture match, two (2) alternative dates and times to play the fixture match.
- Both dates supplied must in the opinion of the Competition Manager be reasonable and be within 14 days of the original date of the fixture match unless agreed otherwise by the Competition Manager.
- The two alternative dates and times will be advised to the opposing club by the Competition Manager.
- The opposing club shall respond to the Competition Manager by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday following the original date for the fixture match advising which of the two times and dates is suitable to play the match.
- The suitable date will be advised to the host club and will be confirmed as the time and date of the postponed fixture match.
- If the opposing club does not agree to one of the nominated dates and times they shall forfeit the fixture match.

**10.12.5** In exceptional circumstances and despite the best endeavours of both clubs, the Competition Manager, in consultation with the State Junior Football Manager, may decide that a postponed fixture match cannot be played within a reasonable time and that it should be cancelled. In such circumstances both teams will receive two (2) competition points.

**10.12.6** If an entire round of season fixtures is washed out and cancelled, the following points will be allocated for youth competitions:

- Byes will be awarded four (4) points
- All other teams will be awarded two (2) points.

## **10.13 RESCHEDULING OF FIXTURE MATCHES**

**10.13.1** In the event a club wishes to reschedule a fixture match the club must send their request, in writing, to the Competition Manager at least fourteen (14) days prior to the original scheduled date.

**10.13.2** The request will then be forwarded by the Competition Manager to the opposing club for their approval or rejection. The opposing club must respond within seventy two (72) hours.

**10.13.3** Failure to accept a rescheduling of a fixture match by an opposing club will result in no change to the original scheduled date and time.

**10.13.4** Clubs may not under any circumstance change a fixture without the express permission of the competition.

## **11. YOUTH COMPETITION**

**11.1** Youth team structure – Core List and/or Team Lists – will be at the discretion of the Competition. Refer to the relevant Competition By-Laws.

**11.2** Competition points will be awarded as follows in all youth competition fixture matches:

- Win, receiving a forfeit, bye – four (4) competition points
- Draw or cancellation of a postponed match – two (2) competition points to each competing team
- Loss – zero (0) competition points

**11.2.1** Teams receiving a bye will be awarded four (4) points. Teams are permitted to submit a 'bye' team sheet for finals qualification however only the players listed on the team's previous match team sheet shall be permitted on the team sheet for the bye. The competition manager is to ensure that all teams with a bye have a team sheet submitted.



- 11.3** If at the conclusion of the home and away season any two (2) or more teams competing in the same division that have obtained an equal number of competition points, the position of such team on the ladder shall be determined by a percentage calculated as the percentage ratio of the cumulative total of points scored by a team to the cumulative total of points scored against that team as recorded by affiliated League.

#### **11.4 INTERCHANGE**

- 11.4.1** All players must enter the playing surface via the designated interchange area.
- 11.4.2** If a player that leaves the playing surface at any place other than through the interchange area and is replaced, the player cannot return to the playing surface.

#### **11.5 MELEES**

##### **11.5.1 Definition**

An incident involving four (4) or more players and/or officials who are pushing, grappling, wrestling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the umpire(s) is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of AFL Queensland Juniors or the competitions conducted.

##### **11.5.2 Incident and Penalty Procedure**

- a) In the event of a melee taking place and following two (2) continued instructions from the umpire(s) to break up the melee, if the melee continues, the umpire(s) shall report the incident to the Competition Manager.  
The field umpire(s) appointed by the competition shall, at the conclusion of the match, record the details of the melee including the quarter, the position on the ground and the number of players from each team and report them to the Competition Manager.
- b) Fines shall be charged to the clubs involved.
- c) All melees occurring during finals matches will be referred directly to the State Junior Football Manager.

##### **11.5.3 Penalties**

Penalties for melees will be a fine at the discretion of the competition to a maximum of \$500. Teams with three (3) offences in one season will be referred directly to the State Junior Football Manager.  
Should a club wish to dispute a melee fine, the club shall lodge an appeal in writing to the State Junior Football Manager.

#### **11.6 PLAYER COUNT**

- 11.6.1** A player count may only be requested by the captain of a team which believes that the opposing team has more than the authorised number of players on the playing surface.
- 11.6.2** If after an official count by the field umpire, the opposing team is found to have more players on the playing surface than authorised, the field umpire shall liaise with the goal umpires and note the score at the time of the count, and the approximate time in the match. The team's score will reset to the score at the completion of the previous quarter.
- 11.6.2.1** Should player count occur in the first quarter, the score will reset to zero.
- 11.6.2.2** A report shall then be made by the field umpire to the Competition Manager, who shall investigate and determine the final result of the match.



## 11.7 ORDER OFF LAW

- 11.7.1** The order off law [LOAF 20 save for 20.6.2(b) (ii), 20.6.2(b) (iii) and 20.7(a)] shall apply to all competition matches from U12 to U17. Only Field Umpires are permitted to order a player from the field.
- 11.7.1.1** A player ordered off the playing surface under a **Yellow Card** shall remain off the playing surface for the remainder of that quarter and all of the next quarter, no report. He/she can be replaced.
- 11.7.1.2** A player ordered off the playing surface under a **Red Card** shall remain off the playing surface for the remainder of the match, and is reported under the LOAF. He/she can be replaced. The player is not permitted to enter the ground, as well as the interchange area and coaches box, for the remainder of that match or any other match in that round of matches.
- 11.7.2** If a player receives three (3) yellow cards in one season, an automatic one (1) match suspension will apply. Subsequently, if a player receives a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) yellow card in a season, he/she will be sent to the Tribunal under the charge of 'Misconduct'.
- 11.7.3** For the avoidance of doubt, a player can receive two yellow cards in a match without being reported.

## 11.8 FORFEIT RULES

- 11.8.1** Should a team not be able to commence a match with the minimum number of players, as stipulated by the League, they must forfeit the match. Both teams playing in a match are required to make every effort to ensure that the players have the opportunity to play a match. The teams are obligated to apply the provisions of regulation 7 in endeavouring to ensure that a match can commence.
- 11.8.2** Any team not ready to commence or recommence their match within fifteen (15) minutes after the time set down for such commencement or recommencement, shall forfeit the match.
- 11.8.2.1** A forfeit must be called at this time by the field umpire
- 11.8.2.2** Teams are permitted to play a "scratch match", however the League appointed umpire must not under any circumstances officiate.
- 11.8.3** Any club unable to field a team in any given age group / division must advise the Competition Manager and either the President or Secretary of the opposing club at least twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled starting time of such match. Failure to do so will result in a fine.
- 11.8.4** In the event of a forfeit, the team that did not forfeit shall submit a team sheet and the players there on shall be credited as having played the match. The players of the team that forfeited the match will not be credited as having played the match.
- 11.8.4.1** The team that did not forfeit the match will be awarded four (4) competition points for the match.
- 11.8.4.2** For percentage the team that does not forfeit the match is awarded a score of 60 points 'for'
- 11.8.4.3** For percentage the team that does forfeit the match is awarded a score of 60 points 'against'
- 11.8.5** Any team that forfeits on three (3) occasions in a season will be withdrawn from that competition.
- 11.8.7** Any team which has been withdrawn from the competition as a result of forfeiting three (3) consecutive matches, and subsequently is readmitted to such competition, will incur a fine.



## **11.9 10 GOAL PERCENTAGE**

- 11.9.1** Percentage from any fixture matches where the margin is greater than sixty (60) points at the end of the match will be calculated as if the margin was sixty (60) points using the losing team's score as the base score. Refer to appendix B for calculation and ladder adjustment.

## **12. YOUTH FINALS FORMAT**

### **12.1 FINALS SERIES STRUCTURE**

- 12.1.1** The Competition shall determine the structure of the final series depending upon the number of teams within each age group/division.
- 12.1.2** Where there are eight (8) teams or more in an age group/division the Competition may determine to involve more than the top four teams in the finals series.

### **12.2 DRAWN MATCHES AT FULL TIME**

- 12.2.1** Should a draw occur in any of the finals matches, the following procedures shall apply:
- 12.2.1.1** Two (2) additional periods of five (5) minutes 'extra time' will be played, with play starting as soon as possible after the completion of ordinary time
  - 12.2.1.2** Teams will kick to the same end as the completion of ordinary time for the first five (5) minute period then change ends immediately after the first period of extra time
  - 12.2.1.3** The coaches and officials will not be able to address players in the time between the two (2) periods of extra time.
  - 12.2.1.4** If at the end of the second period of five (5) minutes the scores are still level the ball is taken to the centre of the ground and the match is to recommence as soon as possible. Teams will not change ends and coaches and officials cannot address players.
  - 12.2.1.5** The first team to score will win.
  - 12.2.1.6** Interchange may occur during extra time,

Note: For drawn grand finals the Competition, at its discretion, may elect to schedule a re-match.

### **12.3 FINALS VENUES**

- 12.3.1** Finals venues will be allocated at the discretion of the Competition. Additional finals venues may be allocated dependent upon the finals structure and this will be done on a tender basis managed by the Competition.

### **12.4 TIME ON IN FINALS**

- 12.4.1** The Competition will determine if time on is to be used in Finals matches.
- 12.4.2** If time on is to be used the following will apply:
- 12.4.2.1** Competitions that play 15 minute quarters during the home and away season will play 13 minutes plus time on
  - 12.4.2.2** Competitions that play 20 minute quarters during the home and away season will play 17 minutes plus time on
  - 12.4.2.3** Time is stopped when:
    - a) the field umpire signals to the timekeeper by blowing their whistle and raising one arm above their head
    - b) the goal umpire signals that a goal has been scored
    - c) the goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored



**12.4.2.4** Time is restarted when:

- a) the field umpire signals to the timekeeper by blowing their whistle and raising one arm above their head
- b) the football is thrown up in the centre circle after a goal has been scored
- c) the football has been brought back into play after a behind has been scored

**Please note – time continues when the football is out of play over the boundary line unless signalled otherwise by the field umpire.**

### **13. YOUTH FINALS ELIGIBILITY**

**13.1.** A player must play six (6) matches per team in a competition.

**13.2** If a player plays more than half the scheduled matches in a senior competition they will be ineligible to play in junior finals in the same season.

**13.3** Dispensation will be given to players unable to fulfil club playing commitments due to representative programs. Matches played for representative teams on the same weekend as club fixture matches will count for the purpose of finals eligibility.

**13.4** For all other youth finals eligibility refer to the relevant Competition By-Laws.

### **14. PLAYER REPORTS**

**14.1** The following people shall be authorised to report any player or official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a reportable offence in accordance with LOAF 19.1:

**14.1.1.** Any umpire appointed by the Competition to umpire a match (such power is restricted to the actual match to which the umpire is appointed)

**14.1.2.** Any member of the Competition Board (if applicable) – must be completed in written form stating name, position, venue, competing teams, witnesses and full details of the offence and sent to the Competition Manager by 4:00pm on the second working day following the match.

**14.1.3.** Any member of the Competition staff

**14.2** It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ascertain from the umpire(s), no later than 10 minutes after each match, whether there have been any player reports.

**14.2.1** If there has been a report, he/she is to ensure that a copy of the report charge sheet and set penalty sheet for each charge is given to their club

**14.2.2** The reported player is not permitted to enter the ground, as well as the interchange area and coaches box, for any further match in that round of matches.

**14.3** If a set penalty is offered but not accepted by any party, the Competition Manager is responsible for advising the club of the set time to attend a tribunal hearing. Therefore it is the club's responsibility to inform the reported player. Tribunal hearings will be held on a day determined by the Competition.

### **15. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PANEL**

**15.1** The independent tribunal panel shall consist of a chairperson and two (2) other panel members. The Competition will provide a tribunal convener.

**15.2** A permanent record of all tribunal business shall be kept under the control of the Competition Manager.



**15.3** The duties of the independent tribunal panel shall be as follows:

- 15.3.1** To enquire into, hear and decide upon any charge made against any player/ official nominated on the team sheet which is pursuant to a report made for an alleged breach of the rules and regulations or laws of the match and to determine the penalty, if any.
- 15.3.2** To enquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and impose penalties relative to any charges or complaint made by an umpire in respect of the conduct of a club.
- 15.3.3** To enquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and impose penalties relative to any charge, dispute or complaint referred to the independent tribunal panel by the Board.

**15.4** The decision of the independent tribunal panel will be final unless an appeal is lodged in accordance with the AFL Queensland Junior Competition Reports and Tribunal Rules.

## **16. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PANEL HEARING PROCEDURES**

**16.1** Competition judicial matters including but not limited to the application of set penalties, independent tribunal hearings, rules and appeals are conducted in accordance with the AFL Queensland Junior Competition Reports and Tribunal Rules.

## **17. INVESTIGATIONS**

**17.1** Investigations may be undertaken by the League in accordance with AFL Queensland Junior Tribunal and Reporting Guidelines.

**17.2** Clubs wishing to have an incident investigated must submit a request in written form by 5:00pm on the second business day after match. The request must be sent to the Competition Manager by the club President and set out the particulars of the incident. A fee of \$250 is required to be paid when the request is lodged for the request to be considered.

## **18. BEST AND FAIREST VOTES**

**18.1** The Competition shall ensure umpires votes for the best and fairest players are recorded in the Footyweb system for each youth age group/division season fixtures.

**18.2** Such votes shall be recorded in the Footyweb system on the basis of a three (3) votes for the best and fairest player, two (2) votes for the second best and fairest player and one (1) vote for the third best and fairest player taking part in each fixture match.

**18.3** Awards will be presented at the discretion of the Competition.

**18.4** Any player who accepts a set penalty or is found guilty of an offence in a season fixture shall be ineligible to receive any award.

**18.5** Any player granted permission to play in a lower age group will be ineligible to receive any award in that lower age group.

**18.6** A player that participates in multiple youth age groups is eligible for votes in each youth age group in which they play however the votes are allocated to the specific youth age group and are not cumulative across age groups.

**18.7** A player that participates in multiple youth teams is eligible for votes in each team in which they play however the votes are allocated to the specific youth team and are not cumulative across teams.



## **19. CLUB OF THE YEAR**

- 19.1** The criteria and voting for the award is to be determined by the Competition and may be varied by them from time to time.

## **20. BANNED ITEMS**

- 20.1** The attire of players taking part in all matches shall be the attire that is officially approved by AFLQ.

Banned items include:

- Gloves
- Metal tags
- Long fingernails
- Caps
- Sunglasses
- Padding of any sort (includes but not limited to - shin pads and shoulder pads)
- Jewellery (includes but not limited to - earrings, body piercing jewellery, chains, watches and rings)
- Bike pants and compression shorts that are not beige coloured

Exemptions to banned items may be granted on application to the Competition Manager where special circumstances exist.

Approval to wear prescription glasses in under 9 or older age groups should be sought in writing from the Competition Manager.

## **21. PLAYER PAYMENTS**

- 21.1** Payment of people playing in matches under the control of the Competition, whether as match payments, sign on payments or incentives of any kind whatsoever, either to the player, parent or agent other than normal match day awards, trophy awards or assistance towards the purchase of playing equipment where financial hardship exists, will not be permitted.
- 21.2** Payments referred to above do not include such items that are considered "off field" uniforms (e.g. t-shirts, caps, bags etc.).

## **22. FIRST AID POLICY**

While it is the home team's responsibility to provide a First Aid Officer, it is the visiting team official's (i.e. Coach/Manager) responsibility to check with the home team that in fact such a person is on duty and qualified.

The First Aid Officer's name must be on the team sheet in the space provided.

If a qualified First Aid Officer is not present then it is the duty of the visiting team official to report to the central umpire. A period of fifteen (15) minutes will take place for the home team to provide this person, if at this time the situation remains the same the visiting team can provide a qualified First Aid Officer and the game can commence.

If no qualified First Aid Officer is available the game will not commence under any circumstance. The field umpire will declare the game a forfeit and advise the Competition.

If first aid is needed and the advice is that the player shall not continue playing, the coach shall abide by the decision of the qualified First Aid Officer. Team trainers cannot overrule the First Aid Officer.

Each oval must have a qualified First Aid Officer, properly stocked First Aid kit and a stretcher.

All club trainers & First Aid Officer will be required to sit in the official first aid area for the match and not in the coaches' box. Club trainers & First Aid Officer are permitted to attend to an injured player in the coaches box, however when not required must remain in the official first aid area.



## **22. FIRST AID POLICY (cont.)**

The officially appointed First Aid Officer on the day **is in charge** of all players on the playing field, shall have the final say as to the suitability of a player to resume playing the current match and is the only match official that is permitted to request a stretcher.

Club trainers **do not** have the power to overrule a decision made by the First Aid Officer.

**Under no circumstances is a team official other than the First Aid Officer allowed on to the ground to treat an injured player.**

All personnel must remember that they can only provide a level of care consistent with the limits of their qualifications. All personnel must ensure that their duty of care to the patient, club, and association is followed at all times and that, as perceived professionals to the public, there is a liability to provide the highest level of care available at any time.

It is recommended that the First Aid Officer confidentially discuss any treatment or decision with higher qualified personnel, if available, to ascertain the best outcome for the health and safety of the injured person(s) prior to announcing their decision.

Club trainers will inform the First Aid Officer, prior to the start of any match, the status of any players who have religious or ethnic concerns regarding treatment, whatever they may be, and a suitable action plan is to be devised and wherever possible followed.

In all instances the First Aid Officer will be the first responder to injured players. If assistance is required then the First Aid Officer will signal to suitably qualified team trainers, where clubs have supplied them, who will then attend the site of the injured player with the appropriate equipment required as signaled (e.g. splint, stretcher, cervical collar, oxygen, additional supplies etc.).

### **22.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF FIRST AID OFFICERS**

- Nurse
- Qualified Sports Trainer
- St John Ambulance Australia Members
- Senior First Aid Certificate Holder
- Ambulance Officer
- Doctor

### **22.2 FIRST AID OFFICERS – AFL JUNIOR MATCHES – ONE GAME PER OVAL**

**22.2.1** First Aid officers must be situated approximately half way beside the oval on the clubhouse side where possible.

**22.2.2** The Ground Marshall is to advise both coaches and managers as to location of First Aid officer for the day.

### **22.3 FIRST AID OFFICERS – AFL JUNIOR MATCHES - TWO GAMES PER OVAL**

**22.3.1** First Aid officers must be situated centrally between two fields - half way.

**22.3.2** The Ground Marshall is to advise both coaches and managers as to location of the First Aid officer for the day.

### **22.4 FIRST AID OFFICER – YOUTH FOOTBALL MATCHES**

**22.4.1** First Aid officers must be situated between the coaches' boxes.

**22.4.2** The Ground Marshall is to advise both coaches and managers as to location of the First Aid officer for the day. Club team trainers must be seated in the First Aid area and not in the Coaches Box.





## 22.5 STRETCHERS

- 22.5.1** The stretcher must be available for all junior games at the venue for the day. The stretcher, wherever possible, should be located adjacent to the interchange area or, if two ovals are being used, it should be located with the qualified First Aid Officer.
- 22.5.2** It will be the responsibility of the visiting team officials (i.e. Coach/ Manager) to ensure that a stretcher is in place prior to any game commencing.
- 22.5.3** Failure of home team/club to provide a stretcher will incur a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- 22.5.4** A player being stretchered off the playing surface is only permitted to re-enter the field when cleared by the First Aid Officer.
- 22.5.4** Any player taken from the playing surface on a stretcher is not permitted to return to the playing surface for a minimum of twenty (20) minutes actual time.

## 22.6 CONCUSSION

- 22.6.1** To ensure the safety of players participating in organised matches, the following is adopted for players rendered unconscious:
- When there has been any period of unconsciousness however short, or any amnesia, the player should not continue in the game.
  - When unconscious or amnesic for less than 5 minutes, the player should not resume sporting activity for two weeks.
  - When unconscious or amnesic for more than 5 minutes and up to one hour the player should not resume sporting activity for three weeks.
  - When unconscious or amnesic for over one hour and less than 24 hours, the player should not resume sporting activity for a period of two to three months.
  - Following an operation for brain damage or blood clot, the player should not return to contact sport or to situations where there is the likelihood of future head injury.
  - Furthermore, the player in question will not be permitted to participate in training or further competition matches until they have obtained a written medical clearance from a qualified medical practitioner. The clearance is to be sighted by the club and Competition Manager.
- 22.6.2** If team officials are unsure, or unable to decide if a player has been rendered unconscious during the match, **it is considered preferable to err on the side of caution**, and ensure that he/she does not compete again that day, and obtains a medical clearance before training or further play is permitted.
- 22.6.3** **Injured players must leave the field of play through the interchange, unless on a stretcher.**



## **22.7 BLOOD RULE**

### **22.7.1 Role of Umpire**

When a field umpire is of the opinion that a player is bleeding or has blood on any part of his or her uniform, the field umpire shall:-

- a) stop play at the first available opportunity;
- b) direct the player concerned to immediately leave the playing surface;
- c) wait a reasonable period to allow the replacement player to take up position before re-commencing play; and
- d) recommence play.

A player shall immediately upon a direction by a field umpire leave the playing surface through the interchange area, where the field umpire is of the opinion that the player shall not return or take any further part in any match until and unless:-

- a) the cause of any such bleeding has been managed effectively;
- b) the injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood emanates from the covered wound;
- c) any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced; and
- d) any blood on any part of a player's body has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.

### **22.7.2 Replacement Player**

Another player listed on the team sheet may replace a player directed to leave the playing surface for the blood rule. A replacement player may enter the playing surface while the player that he or she is replacing is leaving the playing surface. If a replacement player does not enter the playing surface by the time the directed player leaves the playing surface, the field umpire shall re-commence play immediately.

### **22.7.3 Refusal to leave Surface**

Where a player refuses to leave or does not immediately leave the playing surface when directed to do so by a field umpire the following shall apply;

- a) the field umpire shall warn the player that a free kick will be awarded and that the player may be reported if he or she does not leave the playing surface;
- b) if the player still refuses to leave the playing surface the field umpire shall award a free kick to the player of the opposing team who is nearest to where the warning was given or where play was stopped whichever is the greatest penalty;
- c) if the player still refuses to leave the playing surface:
  1. the field umpire shall report the player for misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an umpire;
  2. the match shall immediately end and the reported player's team shall forfeit the match; and
  3. Law 10.7 of the Laws of Australian Football shall apply to any match, which is forfeited.

### **22.7.4 Failure to Obey Direction**

- a) A player's refusal to promptly obey a direction of a field umpire given under Law 22.3.4 is a Reportable Offence.
- b) Any fine, period of suspension or other sanction determined by a Tribunal or other body hearing the Reportable Offence shall be in addition to any sanction which may be imposed by a Controlling Body under Law 22.14

### **22.7.5 Protective Gloves**

Each club or team shall ensure that any First Aid Officer and trainer wears protective gloves as may be approved from time to time by the relevant Controlling Body.



#### **22.7.6 Disposal of Bloodied Clothing and Other Material**

Each club or team shall ensure that:

- a) any bloodied item of uniform or clothing or a player is placed as soon as possible in a hygienic sealed container and laundered to ensure the removal of all blood and;
- b) all towels, wipes, bandages, dressings and other materials used in the treatment for bleeding players shall be placed in a hygienic sealed container and discarded or destroyed in a hygienic manner.

#### **22.7.7 Dressing Rooms**

Each club or team shall ensure that all dressing rooms and other areas, occupied by a team prior to, during or immediately following the competition of any match, are kept clean and that no blood remains on any surface, equipment and/or areas. All such surfaces, equipment and areas must be cleansed and disinfected immediately after contact with blood.

### **22.8 MOUTHGUARDS**

It is acknowledged that in a very small minority of players the wearing of a mouthguard will cause some distress due to "gagging" problems. AFL Queensland will not penalise a player who, for this reason, will not be able to comply with its policy but expects the player's club to ensure it is a genuine case.

The league strongly believes a properly fitted mouthguard, made by a dentist or dental technician has several advantages:

- It is effective in minimising dental and oral damage.
- It fits accurately, preventing dislodgement.
- It does not interfere with breathing under exertion.
- It does not interfere unnecessarily with speech.
- It does not alter the appearance drastically.

Mouthguards, designed to be fitted by the player themselves, seldom fulfill any of the above requirements.

### **22.9 PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR**

The Competition has decided that the wearing of Protective Headgear will not be made compulsory and the decision of whether such a device should be worn will remain entirely with the parent or player.

Clubs should however, encourage the wearing of such devices for those players who are particularly small physically and those who have been known to have received previous head injuries. Club officials should discuss with both parents and players accordingly.

### **22.10 HYGIENE**

Each Club or Team shall ensure that: -

- a) Players do not urinate (other than in a toilet) in or about any dressing rooms or on the playing surface prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any match; and
- b) Each of its players observes a high standard of personal hygiene.

### **22.11 TRAINERS**

Unless Law 22.4 applies, a trainer or other personnel responsible for the treatment of players shall not provide treatment to a player on the playing surface for any cut, abrasion or other injury involving the discharge of blood.

### **22.12 SANCTION – CONTROLLING BODY**

A Controlling Body may impose a sanction upon a player, club or team for a breach of any obligation imposed under clause 30 inclusive (Law 22, Laws of Australian Football).



## **23. CODES OF CONDUCT**

- 23.1** At the time of registration or at some other time, it is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all players, parents/carers, coaches, team managers, trainers, officials and other persons are to be provided with a copy of the relevant code of conduct.
- 23.2** All such parents/carers, coaches, team managers, trainers, officials and other persons agree to be bound by the code of conduct upon acceptance of registration of their children or themselves.
- 23.3** Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their members, player parents/carers and the spectators who support them.
- 23.3.1** Any officials, parents, players or clubs making statements to the press or media that are considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of other officials, parents, players or the AFL affiliates shall be subject to a code of conduct investigation committee (affiliate) hearing. A maximum fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) may be incurred for any breaches of the above.

### **23.4 COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background or special ability/disability.
- I will abide by and teach the AFL Rules and Regulations of Australian Football and the rules of my club and League/association.
- I will be reasonable in the demands I make in the time commitments of the players in my care, having due consideration for their health and well-being.
- I will be supportive at all times and I will refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in my care.
- I will have due consideration for varying maturity and ability levels of my players when designing practice schedules, practice activities and involvement in competition.
- I will avoid overplaying the talented players aiming to maximize participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. Where I am responsible for players in the 8-17 year old age group, I will strive to ensure that all players gain equal playing time (all players must receive a minimum of three quarters of a match)
- I will stress and monitor safety always.
- In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, I will seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the return of injured or ill players to training.
- I will endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of my players.
- I will at all times display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practice fair play.
- I will display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.
- I will ensure that developing players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development as priorities are not overshadowed by a desire to win.
- I reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport and will abide by the guideline set forth in the AFL DRUG POLICY.



### 23.5 PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play for the “fun of it” and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the official during a break or after the match.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent and inappropriately throwing equipment is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team’s performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays whether by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents at all times.

### 23.6 SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performances and efforts by your team and their opponents. Congratulate both teams upon their performance regardless of the result.
- Respect official decisions. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a match. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or Players.
- Show respect for your team’s opponents. Without them there would be no match.
- Encourage players to play according to the rules and to obey official decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul or abusive language, or harassing Players, coaches or officials.

### 23.7 PARENT’S CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child’s efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays by all teams.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse for sporting activities.
- Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them your child could not participate.
- Respect umpires decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- The consumption of alcohol and smoking is inappropriate at all junior matches.
- **Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may result in the withdrawal or suspension of your child’s registration**

### 23.8 ADMINISTRATION / OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that rules, equipment and length of matches and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their responsibility regarding fair play.
- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principals of good sporting behaviour.



### **23.9 UMPIRES CODE OF CONDUCT**

AFL Queensland recognises the importance to have a standard within our umpiring group.

AFLQ expectations for all umpires are as follows:

- Foster and show respect to all players, coaches, officials, club volunteers, parents and spectators
- Ensure that all matches are umpired to the best of your ability, in a fair manner
- Never ridicule a player – the primary purpose of our league is to ensure children enjoy playing AFL
- Do not vilify any fellow umpire, player, coach, spectator or official on the basis of race, religion, skin colour, sexuality, disability or special ability
- Show respect to your umpire coaches, the Competition Board and Staff and respond to their feedback appropriately – they are there to help you.
- Support your fellow umpires with positive language and behaviours at training and on match day, however make sure your comments are not directed on field
- Never ridicule a fellow umpire to others, which includes clubs, players and other umpires
- Adhere to the AFL's Social Media Policy
- Keep up to date with the modified rules and the AFL Laws of the Game
- Ensure you are dressed appropriately both whilst umpiring and off-field.
- Report any match day issues with your competition
- Engage in any conduct that could bring AFL into disrepute
- Display professionalism at all times – we encourage you to have fun and enjoy your umpiring, but always remember you are representing the AFL brand



## **APPENDIX A – SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM FINES**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Fine</b>
6 – 1.7	Accounts outstanding for in excess of 90 days	\$50
7 – 3.2.3	Failure to display appropriate logos	\$50 per match
7 – 3.2.5	Incorrect playing attire	\$20 each
7 – 3.2.6 (i)	More than one player wearing the same number	\$100
8 – 4.5	Failure to lodge Team Official & Team List form	\$200
9 – 5.5.1	Playing an ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or overage player	\$500 per player
9 – 5.5.2	Any three of above in one season	\$1,000
9 – 5.5.3	Player playing under another name	\$500 per player
9 – 5.5.4	Player playing in lower division	\$500 per player
11 – 6.3.1	Poaching	\$500
13 – 7.4	Player playing after permit has been withdrawn	\$500 per player
13 – 10.1.2	Failure to use the correct match football	\$100
13 – 10.1.3	Clubs allowing match to start late	\$100
14 – 10.1.4	Failure of team to enter playing field after receiving warning	\$100
14 – 10.1.4	Team refuses to continue match	\$200
15 – 10.5	Placing junior scores in any point or electronic media	\$100
16 – 10.7.1.1	Coach not accredited	\$200
16 – 10.7.1.2	Failure by Team Manager to meet umpires after match	\$50
16 – 10.7.1.3	Failure by Runner to leave the field of play when directed	\$500
16 – 10.7.1.4	Failure by Water Carrier to leave the field of play when directed	\$500
16 – 10.7.1.5	Failure by Trainer to leave the field of play when directed	\$500
18 – 10.8.1.2	Failure to supply Qualified First Aid Officer	\$100
19 – 10.10.2	Apology/Non-attendance at Annual General Meeting	\$200
19 – 10.10.2	Apology/Non-attendance at Club Meetings	\$100
20 – 10.13.4	Changing official match times without permission	\$100
22 – 11.5	Melees	\$500
22 – 11.8	Forfeit match with notice	\$50
22 – 11.8	Forfeit match without notice	\$100
23 – 11.8.5	Team forfeiting 3 matches	\$150
28 – 22.5	Failure to provide a stretcher	\$100
31 – 23.3.1	Press statements	\$500
	Failure to provide Core List – refer Competition By-Laws	\$100
	Failure to provide Team List – refer Competition By-Laws	\$200

All other fines will be at the discretion of the Competition.

Note: When deemed necessary by the Competition, the Competition will appoint an independent investigator to investigate alleged breaches of any of the above fine related conditions.



## **APPENDIX B – Rule 13.7 – 10 Goal Percentage**

Percentage from any fixture matches where the margin is greater than sixty (60) points at the end of the match will be calculated as if the margin was sixty (60) points using the losing team's score as the base score

Example:

Final Score:

Team A – 15 goals, 10 behinds, 100 points

Team B – 3 goals, 4 behinds, 22 points

Will be recorded for the purposes of percentage as:

Team A – 13 goals, 4 behinds, 82 points

Team B – 3 goals, 4 behinds, 22 points

In relation to the 10 Goal Percentage, the competition ladders will be adjusted by the Competition Manager according to Competition Guidelines. In the example above the following adjustments will be made:

- Team A – minus 18 points from 'For'
- Team B – minus 18 points from 'Against'



## **APPENDIX C – BRISBANE JUNIORS BY-LAWS**

### **3.2.7 AWAY SHORTS**

The nominated color for alternate shorts is white for away teams.

## **5.3 TEAM NOMINATIONS & YOUTH TEAM GRADING**

### **Nominating Youth Teams**

- a) One (1) team in the same age group – 20 players minimum
- b) Two (2) teams in the same age group – 42 players minimum
- c) Three (3) teams in the same age group – 62 players minimum

### **Grading Process**

- Each club will receive a pre-filled Youth Team Nomination form
- Matches will be played over four (4) weeks with age groups clustered at venues for premiership points
- After four (4) weeks, teams will be graded into divisions, teams will be graded with premiership points but no percentage
- Each club will nominate a person for the Grading Committee, failure to do so will result in teams playing for no premiership points during the grading process
- Clubs will get the opportunity to request a change to their original division nomination during the four (4) week grading process
- Players will only be allowed to play in one team during the four (4) week grading process
  - o Grading matches will count toward finals eligibility & league awards

### **6.1.5. TRANSFERS WITHIN COMPETITION**

The closing date for transfers within the Competition is 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### **10.4.1.1 JUNIOR TEAMSHEETS**

**Under 8 – Under 10** teams are required to print a teamsheet for the opposition.

### **10.7 OFFICIALS DURING MATCHES**

<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>ID</u>
Coach	Blue ID Card signed and endorsed by the Competition
Assistant Coach	Green ID Card signed and endorsed by the Competition
Team Manager	Orange ID Card signed and endorsed by the Competition
Runner	Green Bib
First Aid Officer	Red Bib and Red Id Card signed and endorsed by the Competition
Trainer	Orange Bib and Yellow ID Card signed and endorsed by the Competition
Boundary Umpire	Light Blue Bib
Goal Umpire	Light Blue Bib
Water Carrier	White Bib
Ground Marshall	Yellow Bib

All IDs must be clearly visible.

### **10.7.1.2 TEAM MANAGER**

- responsible for escorting umpires on and off the ground at the start, half time and end of match
- if not required in the coaches box, to be situated in the interchange area



## **APPENDIX C – BRISBANE JUNIORS BY-LAWS**

### **11.1 YOUTH TEAM STRUCTURE**

Prior to week one (1) of grading clubs with multiple teams in the same group must provide a Core List of sixteen (16) players for the higher division team in that age group. These players cannot play in the lower division in that age group or a lower age group. Failure to provide the list will incur a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100).

Prior to week three (3) of grading all teams in all age groups must provide a Team List as follows. Failure to provide the list will incur a fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200).

1. One (1) team in an age group – Team List of eighteen (18) players with the remaining players able to play in a lower age group if age eligible
2. Two (2) teams in an age group – Team List of eighteen (18) players for the higher division team and Team List of sixteen (16) players in the lower division team with the remaining players able to play in a lower age group if age eligible
3. Three (3) teams in an age group – Team List of eighteen (18) players for the higher division team, Team List of sixteen (16) players for the lower division team and Team List of sixteen (16) players for the lowest division team with the remaining players able to play in a lower age group if age eligible
4. Option to make a maximum 2 changes to team list previously supplied. These changes must be completed, if required, prior to last match before the school holiday break.

Representative players must be selected in corresponding age group Team List for the higher division team.

### **12.2 DRAWN GRAND FINAL**

Extra time will apply to all drawn finals except Grand Finals. If any Grand Final is a draw at the end of the game the match will be replayed the following week. If the Grand Final Replay is also a draw extra time will be played until there is a result.

### **13. FINALS ELIGIBILITY**

Grading matches will count towards finals eligibility.

Once a player nominates and plays in a team in the Finals, the player must remain with that team even if the player has qualified for more than one team.

Consideration may be given upon application but not guaranteed for a player to play in more than one team in the Finals if:

- (i) The player wishes to play in a higher age group or age group division
  - (ii) The player's team has been eliminated from the Finals
  - (iii) The player has qualified for the higher team
  - (iv) The player will not take the place of a qualified and available player of the higher team
- Applications will not be considered if the above is being used to increase the number of eligible players for the team. The player numbers the team has used during the home and away season will be taken into consideration.

Applications for exemptions to finals eligibility will only be considered if a player has had a long term injury during the home and away season confirmed with a medical certificate or religious reasons prevent the player playing on certain days of the week.



## **APPENDIX D – YELLOW & RED CARDS**

### **YELLOW CARD**

#### **Meaning**

Player is sent off for a near reportable offence.

Can be used as a match management tool to lessen the chance of a player committing a reportable offence.

#### **Duration**

Player is to leave the playing surface for the rest of the quarter and the whole of the next quarter.

**Player can be replaced.**

Some instances where a yellow card may be used:

- Player is showing signs of aggression that could lead to a report
  - o Late tackles
  - o Provoking other players (pushing, threatening)
- Failing to adhere to an umpire's request/warning
- Umpire abuse

### **RED CARD**

#### **Meaning**

Player is reported and sent off for the rest of the match.

#### **Duration**

Player is to leave the ground for the rest of the match. Player is not allowed inside the fenced area or the coaches box.

**Player can be replaced.**

Some instances where a red card is warranted:

- Any reportable offence such as
  - o Striking
  - o Kicking
  - o Excessive force in a tackle
  - o Charging
  - o Abusive language to an umpire using swearing
  - o Misconduct



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

### **SECTION 1 – TRIBUNAL RULES AND PROCEDURE**

#### **Introduction**

Disciplinary proceedings generally fall into one of two classes:

- a) Tribunal hearing of umpires or stewards reports;
- b) Action by committees or boards of management against members for misconduct.
- c) Where a reference to the Tribunal requires it to determine whether a reportable offence has occurred the Tribunal may, if it finds there is a case to answer, charge any player or official with one or more reportable offences.

*Note: The intention of this rule is to satisfy the requirement of natural justice that a person knows the charge he/she has to meet. Formulating a charge does not cast the Tribunal in the role of prosecutor.*

In practice, the former are by far the more frequent, and reference is made in this guide to the Tribunal rules. The term “reported person” is used throughout to refer to anyone facing disciplinary proceedings of either kind, unless otherwise stated “law(s)” means the Laws of Australian Football.

#### **Composition and Power of Junior Tribunals**

AFL Queensland Junior Tribunals will be conducted using a three (3) member panel, with one (1) chairperson along with two (2) tribunal members. Tribunal members will be appointed by the competition. Tribunals may not proceed without fewer than three (3) members.

The tribunal will be conducted as per the procedural guidelines outlined later in this rule.

The following persons are required to be present at a tribunal:

- Reported Person
- Reported Person’s Advocate
- Umpire
- Umpire’s Advocate
- Offended Player (if applicable)
- Offended Player’s Advocate (if applicable)
- Witness

The tribunal members must not be a current member or official of one of the clubs involved in the tribunal or have a relationship with any party to the matter that that person may reasonably be seen not to be independent. If a tribunal member becomes aware that they may reasonably be seen not to be independent, they must withdraw from the tribunal.

The Tribunal shall be empowered to fine any club or suspend, fine or caution any player or official who:

- (i) is found guilty of a reportable offence; and/or
- (ii) is found guilty of deliberately giving false or misleading evidence; and/or
- (iii) fails, without reasonable excuse, to attend a meeting of the Tribunal after being required to appear; and/or
- (iv) is found guilty of contempt of the Tribunal;



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

The Tribunal may:

- (i) adjourn any hearing with or without imposing conditions;
- (ii) find any report proved with or without the imposition of a penalty;
- (iii) find, on facts proved before it, that a reported person is guilty of an alternative (but not more serious) offence to that for which he has been reported;

Note: For example, a player reported for “charging” might be found not guilty of that offence but guilty of “unduly rough play”; a player might be found not guilty of “threatening an umpire” for which he is reported but guilty of “using insulting language to an umpire”.

- (iv) require, upon reasonable notice, the appearance before it of any umpire, player or official or the production to it of anything within the possession, power or control of such umpire, player or official;

Note: The Tribunal has no power to “subpoena” members of the public at large. However, players, umpires and officials are subject to the Tribunal’s jurisdiction and may be guilty of contempt if they disobey a direction given under this rule.

- (v) make findings and recommendations and determine penalties by a majority of the Tribunal;

Note: The effect of this rule is that the Tribunal’s decisions do not have to be unanimous.

- (vi) vacate or vary (conditionally or unconditionally) any finding or penalty previously imposed by it.

Note: “vacate” is a legal term meaning “annul”.

The Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

The Tribunal shall have power to regulate its own procedures.

The Tribunal is under no obligation to explain their decisions.

### **Notice of the Charge**

Notice of the charge in which the person is reported for must be given in writing. For a report from an umpire, a notice of report form will be completed immediately after the match.

The reported player and club official only will attend the umpires’ room to sign and acknowledge the report. If a Set Penalty is offered, the reported player has until 12pm on the first business day following the match to accept the Set Penalty or elect for the case to go to the Tribunal.

In other situations, a letter from the competition would be required, clearly showing:

- The complaint or charge against the reported person. When the charge is non-specific, particulars but not evidence should be included. Particulars means the acts allegedly committed.
- The time and place of the hearing

### **Hearing Day & Times**

Tribunal hearings will be held on a night determined by the relevant competition. Parties will be notified of the confirmed day and time via phone or email.

If the reported player and/or the witness are unable to attend a hearing they must then elect to:

- Have the hearing adjourned and agree not to play until the adjourned hearing takes place; or
- Have the report heard in their absence (advocate must still attend) and accept the decision of the Tribunal;
- or
- In exceptional circumstances only, give evidence via telephone link up.

Under no circumstances is a hearing to be open to members of the public.

### **Video Evidence**

Can be submitted by clubs and must be made available to AFL Queensland at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. Video of the isolated incident will be accepted however, a full unedited copy of the match must be submitted as well.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

### **Witnesses & Witness Statements**

In order for hearings not to be dragged out, a reported player is limited to one (1) Witness to be present. Clubs must notify AFL Queensland of the intention to bring a Witness by no later than midday on the day of the hearing. The witness must be listed on the official team-sheet for the match.

Clubs are permitted to submit unlimited Witness Statements and must do so at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing.

### **Advocates**

Clubs must provide player “advocates” for all Tribunal hearings, this applies for charged players and witnesses. Clubs must supply the name of the advocate to AFL Queensland by no later than midday on the day of the hearing.

Effective advocacy is no less a skill than effective coaching and clubs are encouraged to give thought early in the season (not on the morning of a hearing) to who will represent their players for the upcoming season.

Any advocate’s ability to appear may be withdrawn if, at any stage, he/she misconducts him/herself.

A player cannot act as their own advocate. A player advocate must not hold a Bachelor of Laws.

Under no circumstances will the parent(s) of a reported player be allowed to be an advocate or enter the hearing.

The reporting umpire should be represented by an umpire advocate if available.

### **Tribunal Procedure**

The Chairperson, or in his absence the senior member, shall be the presiding member at any meeting of the Tribunal.

In respect of each report the presiding member shall first ascertain;

- (i) Whether the reported person and reporting umpire are present,
- (ii) Whether the reported person is represented by an advocate,
- (iii) Whether the reported person has been supplied with a copy of the report,
- (iv) How the reported person has been supplied with a copy of the report,
- (v) The availability of any witnesses the parties propose to call,
- (vi) The nature and availability of such further evidence the parties intend to present.

The Tribunal may then;

- (i) Proceed immediately to hear the report, or
- (ii) Appoint a later time on the same day/night to hear the report, or
- (iii) Adjourn the hearing on terms as it sees fit.

At the commencement of the hearing the report shall be read to the reported person who shall be asked to plead “guilty” or “not guilty”.

- (i) A reported person may, at any time, change their plea.
- (ii) The Tribunal may, at any stage of a hearing, reject a plea of guilty and enter a plea of not guilty.

Note: This rule, although likely to be used only rarely, is appropriate where a player (particularly one not having the assistance of a good advocate) mistakenly pleads guilty in the belief he has no defence and the evidence subsequently discloses that there is a defence.

- (iii) A reported person who refuses to plead shall be deemed to have pleaded not guilty.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

Where a reported person pleads not guilty to an offence the hearing is to proceed as follows.

- (i) The umpire may be assisted by his advocate and questioned by the Tribunal and by the reported person or his advocate.
- (ii) Any witness called to support the charge may be questioned by the Tribunal and the reported person's advocate.

Note: This would include the other player(s) referred to in the report in appropriate cases i.e.: a charge of striking

- (iii) The reported person shall give evidence, after which he may be questioned by the Tribunal.
- (iv) The reported person may adduce further oral, documentary or audio visual evidence, and any witness may be questioned by the other parties advocate, and by the Tribunal, subject to the provisions listed under Video Evidence earlier in this document.

Witnesses shall remain outside the hearing room until called. Any person who has been called to give evidence shall remain within the precincts of the Tribunal until the taking of all evidence has been concluded, unless the Tribunal earlier releases that person.

At the conclusion of the evidence the reported person's advocate may present a summary of the evidence and make any submission relating to that evidence, after which the Tribunal shall retire to consider its determination.

After the Tribunal has reached a decision and reconvened the presiding member shall announce the determination of the Tribunal. Where a fine is imposed, the Tribunal may make special provision for payment but, in any case, shall stipulate a maximum time within which the fine is to be paid to the competition.

### **Proceedings in Reported Person's Absence**

Where the reported person has, in a statutory declaration, consented to the Tribunal's investigating a report in his absence, the following additional rules shall apply where applicable.

- (i) The presiding member shall pronounce a plea on behalf of the reported player as the statutory declaration directs.
- (ii) The statutory declaration shall be read to the Tribunal.
- (iii) Any person who is referred to by the reported person in his statutory declaration, as a person whom he would have called to give evidence on his behalf, shall be called and allowed to give evidence, after which he may be questioned by the umpire advocate and by the Tribunal.

### **Suspensions/Penalties**

The Tribunal shall decide on the balance of probabilities whether a Reportable Offence or matter against a person has been sustained.

Fixing a penalty is a discretionary matter, but periodic reference to a few legal principles cannot be avoided, particularly with advocates' predictably pleading "self-defence", "frustration", "provocation" and "retaliation", in mitigation.

Self-defence, if proved, is a complete defence and not merely a mitigating factor in fixing penalty. In rare cases, a player might plead guilty, and then give evidence of an act of provocation which, in the Tribunal's opinion, actually constitutes self-defence. In such a case the Tribunal could reject a plea of guilty and enter a finding of not guilty.

Frustration is just not a defence: rather it is a euphemism for lack of self-discipline and as such a virtual invitation to the Tribunal to impose discipline upon a player who cannot impose it upon himself.

Where a reported person has been offered a set penalty and elects to have the matter determined by the Tribunal and is found guilty of the charge, the minimum penalty that the Tribunal must impose is a suspension of one week greater duration than the set penalty that was offered.

A player who is suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal shall serve such suspension or disqualification in the grade in which they played immediately prior to such suspension or disqualification. A player suspended in a previous season can serve their suspension in grading matches but not in any practice matches.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

### **Contempt of the Tribunal**

Contempt of a Tribunal is any attempt to undermine its functions, and this includes:

- Disrespectful behaviour – which may be contempt because it undermines confidence in the Tribunal and, therefore, its capacity to carry out its duties. This does not prevent proper, reasoned comment or criticism at the appropriate time.
- Attempting to influence decisions by means other than putting argument or evidence before the Tribunal according to the rules. Public comment prior to a hearing, designed to influence the attitude of Tribunal members, is one example, but far worse is any direct attempt to bypass the Tribunal's proceedings by "lobbying" the controlling body. There can be no clearer example of undermining the functions of a Tribunal than attempting to have it "overruled" in a manner quite contrary to the rules by which all participating clubs are bound. Not only are such devices clear cases of contempt, they are also singularly futile, because the controlling body itself is legally bound by its articles of association or by-laws. A Tribunal will be independent as the controlling body has no power over it other than the one, ultimate sanction, of removing its members from office. In other words, the controlling body should have power to appoint the Tribunal, and to dismiss it, but no power to overrule or modify its decisions.

### **Appeals**

Findings of fact and determination of penalty shall be final except that:

- The Tribunal may, in its discretion, reopen any hearing for the purpose of considering fresh evidence, but not for the purpose of reconsidering any finding made or penalty imposed on the basis of previously presented evidence.
- Fresh evidence means evidence which was not known to be available, and could not, with reasonable diligence, have been known to be available at the time of the original hearing;

Note: The test here is important. It is not sufficient that the new evidence was just not presented at the first hearing. An example would be, wanting to call fresh evidence from another witness who is, say a trainer or club official and who could have been interviewed before the original hearing. This would not satisfy the test.

The Tribunal shall not re-open any hearing to consider fresh evidence where it appears that even if presented at the original hearing, the fresh evidence could not reasonably be expected to have resulted in a different finding or penalty.

A person subject to decision of the Tribunal may appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of a decision made by the Tribunal, provided the appeal is brought no later than midday on the day after which the decision of the Tribunal was made.

The affiliated League/club may appeal to the appointed Appeal Board in respect of a decision made by the Tribunal, provided the appeal is brought no later than midday on the day after which the decision of the Tribunal was made.

The appeal may relate to either the findings of the Tribunal or the penalty imposed by the Tribunal. A person may appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of a decision made by the Tribunal under the Tribunal Rules on one or more of the following grounds:-

- a) that the decision was so unreasonable that no Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;
- b) that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.

An appeal under this rule and in accordance with the conditions of these appeal rules shall be brought by lodging with the Competition Manager a written Notice of Appeal application and in the case of an appeal under this rule, shall be accompanied by payment to AFLQ of the sum of **\$250.00** towards the costs of the appeal.

A Notice of Appeal shall be lodged by delivering or email the Notice addressed to the Competition Manager, and received no later than midday on the day after the decision of the Tribunal was made.

Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, the competition manager shall:

- a) Fix the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal as soon as practicable; and
- b) Advise all parties interested in the appeal in writing of those particulars.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

The Appeal Board may vary the date, time or place of the appeal, and upon doing so shall immediately provide all parties interested in the appeal, written notice of any such variation provided that it shall endeavor to complete the appeal before the day on which the appellants club is next scheduled to compete.

An appellant shall attend and appear before the Appeal Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where an appellant fails to attend before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board may still hear and determine the appeal in the appellant's absence.

The Appeal Board shall;

- (a) Provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard,
- (b) Hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
- (c) Make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.

The Appeal Board may of its own motion or upon application of any party to the appeal, order;

- (a) That an appeal be adjourned,
- (b) A stay of the execution of the sanction imposed by the Tribunal pending the determination of the appeal.

The Appeal Board shall hear and determine an appeal against findings made by the Tribunal by re-hearing the matter and forming its own view of the evidence presented before the Tribunal.

Neither the appellant nor its Competition may produce fresh evidence at the hearing of the appeal without the permission of the Chairperson. The Chairperson must not give permission to produce fresh evidence unless:

- (a) The evidence could not by reasonable diligence have been obtained by the appellant prior to the conclusion of the hearing before the Tribunal; and
- (b) The evidence is of sufficient probative value that, considered with other evidence which was before the Tribunal, the Tribunal may have reached a different decision.

The Appeal Board may have regard to the record of the proceeding before the Tribunal as previously constituted, including a record of any evidence taken in the Tribunal hearing. This may entail communication with the original Tribunal Chairperson.

Subject to the further matters set out in these rules, the Appeal Board may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

The hearing before the Appeal Board shall be;

- (a) Inquisitorial in nature, and
- (b) Conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matters before it permits.

The Appeal Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

The Appeal Board may confirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Tribunal the subject of the appeal and make such orders and give such directions in such manner as it thinks fit.

The question on appeal before the Appeal Board must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeal Board.

The Appeal Board is not obliged to give reasons for a decision under these rules.

On the hearing of an appeal the appellant shall bear the onus of showing on the balance of probabilities that the reportable offence or matter should be dismissed or sustained or that the sanction was inappropriate, as the case may be.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

In the hearing and determination of an appeal, the Appeal Board shall decide all questions of law and fact, and without limitation shall determine the meaning of any words of a reportable offence.

For the purposes of these rules, an appeal is successful if

- (a) The Appeal Board determines that a reportable offence has not been proven, or
- (b) The appellant appeals on the question of sanction only and the Appeal Board imposes a lesser sanction to that imposed by the Tribunal.

Where an appeal is successful, the payment of \$250 maybe refunded.

Subject to the following, where an appeal is not successful, the payment of \$250 shall not be refunded where:

- (a) An appellant appeals the Tribunal's decision that he has committed a reportable offence and the sanction imposed by the Tribunal is excessive; and
- (b) The Appeal Board finds the reportable offence proven but imposes a smaller sanction to that imposed by the Tribunal, half of the payment made under rule 4(a) shall be refunded.

Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which an appeal has been brought, the Appeal Board may still hear and determine the appeal unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused, or may cause injustice, if the appeal was heard.

A decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid because of any defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of an Appeal Board member.

Any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Appeal Board is directory in nature and a decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

A person subject to these rules shall not publicly comment on the contents of a Notice of Appeal prior to the determination by the Appeal Board. Where a person contravenes these rules, the person's club shall be liable to a sanction unless the person establishes to the reasonable satisfaction of the competition manager of a Competition that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of the Appeal Board hearing.

No person subject to these rules shall make any public criticism of a decision of the Appeal Board, or of any Appeal Board member, or any other matter touching or concerning the Appeal Board or a determination made by it. Where a person contravenes these rules, the person's club shall be liable to a sanction.

A person shall exercise his right of appeal under these rules and have any appeal heard and determined by the Appeal Board before commencing any proceedings or becoming a party to any proceedings in a court of law.

The Competition shall from time to time appoint persons to a board to be known as the Appeal Board.

The Appeal Board shall consist of;

- (a) A chairperson who shall be a legal practitioner of no less than three years standing,
- (b) A panel of not more than four, each of whom shall also be a deputy.

For the purpose of hearing and determining an appeal against any decision of the Tribunal, the Appeal Board shall be constituted by three members.

For the purpose of hearing and determining an appeal only against the appropriateness of the sanction imposed by the Tribunal, the Appeal Board shall, at the discretion of the Chairperson;

- (a) Hear the matter afresh in its entirety, or
- (b) Receive a written report from the chairperson of the Tribunal who made the original decision which discloses details as to the content of the original hearing.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

The chairperson of the Appeal Board may make guidelines, not inconsistent with these rules, for the practice and procedure with respect to applications to and hearings by the Appeal Board. Any such guidelines are directory in nature and a decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of a guideline not being followed.

An AFL Queensland Competition may refer any appeal to AFL Queensland for its determination. An AFL Queensland appointed Appeals Board may then hear the appeal on behalf of the Competition. Any referred appeals shall operate under the same guidelines as outlined in these rules.

### **Investigations**

AFL Queensland shall have provision to request an independent investigation of any incident which is deemed to bring the game into disrepute. The Competition shall appoint an Independent Investigation Officer prior to the commencement of each season or as it is deemed necessary.

In addition, investigations may take place as a result of incidents brought to the attention of the Competition by way of;

- a) A written complaint setting out particulars of the allegation, **together with a fee of \$250**, from an affiliated club (lodged by 5:00pm on the Tuesday following the match) to the State Junior Football Manager, AFL Queensland
- b) Any other matter that is deemed worthy of investigation by AFL Queensland.

AFL Queensland reserves the right to accept late lodgment of a request for investigation. These investigations will take place by way of video analysis, independent investigation, or any other means as determined by the appointed Independent Investigation Officer.

If AFL Queensland, after investigation of an allegation made in accordance with the above paragraph of these regulations, is of the opinion that the coach, player, trainer, water carrier, runner, club official or umpire in question may have been: guilty of a breach of the laws of the game; has contravened the rules and regulations; or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming, or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, or which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of competition, it may either refer the allegation to the Tribunal as hereinafter provided or otherwise determine the allegation as it deems fit. The independent investigator does not have the power to fine or suspend but may recommend the same to the League's management.

Where the allegation is referred to the Tribunal, the relevant competition manager shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing before the Tribunal, being a date no longer than 21 days after lodgment of the notice (including the \$250 fee) and shall advise the coach, player, trainer, club official or umpire in question of those particulars and forward to the coach, player, trainer, runner, club official or umpire in question a copy of the notice lodged.

The Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it under this regulation as it thinks fit, but in any such proceedings the coach, player, trainer, runner, club official or umpire, against whom the allegation has been made his or her representative, shall be entitled to appear before the Tribunal.

If the Tribunal decides that the coach, player, runner, club official or umpire in question: has been guilty of a breach of the laws of the game; has contravened the rules and regulations or; has been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a coach, player, trainer, runner, club official or umpire or; is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or; is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Queensland, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Tribunal may:

- (i) impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the club
- (ii) suspend the coach, player, trainer, runner or official in question for such period as it thinks fit;
- (iii) remove premiership points from the club of which the coach, player, trainer, runner or official in question is a member and at its discretion award such points to another club or clubs;
- (iv) make adjustments to scores, percentages and results of any match;
- (v) in the case of an umpire, impose such fine or period of suspension as it thinks fit.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

Clubs and directors, office bearers, employees and committee members of clubs who, in the opinion of AFL Queensland, have contravened the provisions of the rules and regulations, or have been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a club, director, office bearer, employee or committee member of a club or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or which is prejudicial to the reputation of the interests of AFL Queensland or its Competition shall be dealt with as AFL Queensland sees fit. It is recommended that in these cases, a breach of a code of conduct, the matter be investigated, a report be given to the Competition and the Competition determine an appropriate outcome, if any, and the accused be given the right to, either accept the consequences, or take the matter to an Independent Tribunal.

### **SECTION 2 – PLAYER ADVOCATE’S GUIDE**

#### **Clarifying the Report**

In appropriate circumstances, the reported person (through their club) may apply for details of the charge to be given to them in advance of the hearing. This is only applicable for the following charges;

- Using Abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language
- Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire
- Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an umpire
- Disputing the decision of an umpire
- Use of an obscene gesture
- Engaging in time wasting
- Misconduct

#### **Technical Defences**

Reports are determined on facts and not on unmeritorious technicalities. The Tribunal has the power to amend clerical deficiencies in report.

#### **Entering a Plea**

The reported player will be required to enter in a plea at the beginning of the hearing, of either guilty or not-guilty.

Please note, where a reported person has been offered a set penalty and elects to have the matter determined by the Tribunal and is found guilty of the charge, the minimum penalty that the Tribunal must impose is a suspension of one week greater duration than the set penalty that was offered.

The minimum penalty a tribunal can give is no less than the AFL Queensland Junior Set Penalties.

#### **Giving Evidence**

##### **‘The Best Evidence Rule’**

The only person who can give evidence of fact is the person who actually saw it happen, or heard it said. A person who heard about it from someone else cannot give such evidence. For example, a player cannot give evidence “that the trainer told me after the match that they heard the umpire say to the ground manager...” The trainer has to attend the Tribunal to give evidence of what they heard the umpire say. This is the “rule against hearsay”, and the reasons for it are obvious:

- stories get distorted as they are repeated from one person to another;
- effective questioning (cross-examination) of a person who did not actually witness an event is clearly limited to what aspects of it they have been told about, and the advocate may want to question other things which the witness was not told about.

The Tribunal may accept written medical reports as evidence of the extent of injury but not of how the injury was sustained. Thus, a medical report saying “X-ray revealed a fractured cheekbone which Player Smith claimed to have received when struck during a football match”, may be allowed as evidence of the injury but not of how he got it, because, coming from the doctor who did not actually see the incident, that statement is hearsay. Player Smith must personally tell the Tribunal how he sustained the injury for which he was treated.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

### **Use of Direct Speech**

Only the words actually spoken must be repeated whilst giving evidence. The reason is that indirect speech can distort the meaning of words actually used. For example, a player cannot say in evidence “after the umpire blew the whistle he came over and threatened me”. Nor can the player say “after he blew the whistle he came over and told me he’d be watching me closely all through the game”.

The player must use the umpire’s words as the player recalls them, e.g. “The umpire blew his whistle, came over to me and said: ‘number 41, that tackle was after disposal and we’ve been instructed to be severe on that all day’”. Plainly the umpire’s actual words are significantly different from the suggestions of intimidation and bias, respectively contained in the earlier two versions where the player is interpreting rather than repeating what was said.

### **Must State Facts**

Players/witnesses should tell only what they actually saw or heard, not what they think was intended. So, “The rover tried to pass the ball to the full forward” is an opinion about the rover’s intention (and the rover’s tactics might have been quite different). The evidence should be just a simple statement of what happened, i.e.: “the rover kicked the ball towards the goal square”

### **Presentation of Oral Evidence**

There are three stages in a witness’s oral evidence:

- Evidence in chief – where the witness gives their version of what they saw or heard.
- Cross-examination – where the opposing advocate explores the evidence in chief.
- Re-Examination – where the witness’s own advocate questions him further about matters raised in the cross-examination

### **Evidence in chief**

The player/witness should give their version of the events in their own words and with as little interruption as possible. Under no circumstances can the witness give their evidence simply by answering leading questions (i.e. questions which suggest the answer) from the advocate. Consider the following example:

Advocate: “You were playing back pocket during the last quarter?”  
Player: “Yes”  
Advocate: “And did you and player 43 contest a mark?”  
Player: “Yes”  
Advocate: “And did he elbow you in the face?”  
Player: “Yes, he did”  
Advocate: “Did you then push him in the chest?”  
Player: “Yes”  
Advocate: “Was that when the umpire reported you?”  
Player: “Yes, he just said he’d be reporting me for striking”.

This is entirely inappropriate. The advocate has given all the evidence, and the player has simply agreed. The witness in this case must say something like “I was playing back pocket when the ball came down field and 43 and I went for a mark. I got an elbow in the face and so I gave him a push in the chest and that’s when the umpire reported me for striking”.



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

It is however, quite acceptable (and time saving) for an advocate to lead a witness through preliminary questions on matters which are not “an issue”, e.g.

- Advocate: “Your name is Ron Reilly?”  
Player: “It is”  
Advocate: “You are the captain of the Under 17s?”  
Player: “Yes”  
Advocate: “You were playing in the game last Sunday?”  
Player: “That’s right”  
Advocate: “and you were involved in an incident reported by this umpire?”  
Player: “Yes”  
Advocate: “Please tell the Tribunal, in your own words, exactly what happened”.

The player now relates their story without being led, because they have reached the contentious part of their evidence.

After the player has made their statement, the advocate, if they believe something important has been left out or not put clearly, can try to prompt the player to say it. This can be tricky because the advocate must not directly suggest the evidence to be given (i.e. lead the witness). So, the advocate could now ask the player giving the evidence “Why did you push player 43?” To which the player will (the advocate hopes) reply: “To fend him off after his elbow got me”.

But the advocate cannot ask “So your push was only in self-defence?” because that suggests to the player what they should say (“yes”).

### **Cross-examination**

The purpose of cross-examination is to clarify any of the witness’s evidence in chief. This does not mean that everything a witness says should be challenged. If an advocate has no questions of substance, they are best to refrain from questioning.

***Leading the witness is strictly not permitted in junior tribunals***

### **Re-examination**

Here, the witness’s own advocate can clarify any points that may have come into doubt during cross-examination. Re-examination must be limited to matters raised in cross-examination – it cannot raise new matters without the express permission of the Tribunal (which must be sought). If there is a real need to bring up something new, the Tribunal should first be asked, and if it is given, the opposing advocate must then get a second cross-examination, limited to the new material.

### **Advocate questions which should not be allowed**

Multiple questions: a good question covers one point only, not several. Thus, the question “Were you playing back pocket when the ball came down the wing on the grandstand side from a long kick by the other team’s rover?” is really three questions, and the answer not necessarily “yes” to all three. This makes it hard for the witness to answer without “explanations” which only confuse and prolong proceedings. Questions should always be worded to lock the witness into giving only a direct answer to one point at a time, as in this cross-examination:-

- Q. “You were in the back pocket?”  
A. “Yes”  
Q. “Did the ball come down the grandstand side?”  
A. “Not really, it came more from the edge of the centre Square.”  
Q. “But it was a long kick by the opposing rover?”  
A. “Yes”



## **APPENDIX E – AFL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORTS & TRIBUNAL RULES**

### **Questions which are not relevant to what is in issue**

“In issue” means “the subject of disagreement between the opposing parties”. In a striking charge, for example, there may be no dispute (i.e. no “issue”) that the reported player actually struck another player. What is disputed (“in issue”) is whether it was deliberate or accidental. In that situation, questions about peripheral detail (e.g. where other players, umpires, trainer etc. were positioned), which are directed to suggesting that if the umpire’s recall is inadequate then their evidence of the reported incident is similarly suspect, are usually irrelevant to the issue. The umpire should really be questioned about whether they observed any behaviour on the part of the “victim” which could have provoked the alleged striking, or whether the contact may have occurred unintentionally.

### **Questions which assume a fact which has not been established**

Sometimes asked deliberately in an effort to trick a witness, but more often put simply out of carelessness, these questions should always be disallowed, if the opposing advocate objects. Consider this question to an umpire “And did you still have a hangover during the game from your brother’s wedding reception?” The word “still” makes this objectionable unless the witness has already admitted to having a hangover prior to the game, because irrespective of whether they says “yes” or “no” to this question, they cannot avoid admitting they had a hangover at some stage. Without the word “still”, they can deny ever having had a hangover, so the question would be acceptable.

### **Questions by the Tribunal**

At the conclusion of any witness’s evidence (and, occasionally, by intervention during it), the Tribunal members may direct questions of their own as they seek to clarify anything which is unclear. This may, on occasion, invoke some adverse comment by clubs because questioning by the Tribunal is likely to be directed to the reported player (or their witnesses) rather than to the umpire, and so suggests bias in the Tribunal.

To the extent that questioning may be directed more to the reported player than to the umpire the cause should be obvious. Advocates, many of whom are competent and thorough in their “testing” of the umpire’s story, almost invariably represent players. Umpires, on the other hand, are “informants” only, and see their role at the hearing, quite properly, as witnesses not prosecutors. (It would be most improper for a reporting umpire to engage in actively working toward the conviction of a reported player, beyond making the report and giving evidence in support of it).

### **Objections to Evidence**

The proper way for an advocate to challenge any questions (or answer) is to say to the Tribunal “Objection, that question (or answer) is (for example) leading – irrelevant – assumes a fact not admitted – is an opinion not a fact etc. (as appropriate)”. Under no circumstances should advocates be permitted to address their objections directly to witnesses or opposing advocates, nor should they resort to interjecting during answers or bickering with other advocates.