

NORTH PILBARA FOOTBALL LEAGUE (INC)

REG NO. A0822628J [18.12.1986]

SECTION ONE

BY LAWS

DATED 22nd April 2007

1st Revised 11/01/2009

1st Revision Adopted 15/03/2009

2nd Revision Adopted 10/12/2011

3rd Revision Adopted 02/12/2012

4th Revision Adopted 27/11/2016

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1. CLEARANCES AND REGISTRATIONS

- 1.1 All clearance applications shall be processed through the relevant Clubs in order to be deemed valid. Such clearances must be [lodged] processed through Sportspulse or manually before 2.00pm on Fridays prior to a scheduled fixtured match.
- 1.2 If an application for a clearance is not returned to the transferee Association or League within fourteen (14) days of having been lodged with the transferor Association or League, and the transferee Association or League has notified the transferor Association or League in writing of its intentions to issue a permit, then such permit shall be granted.
- 1.3 A player may not receive a clearance from one Association or League to another, or, if within the same Association or League, from one club to another, whilst he is disqualified for committing an offence against the Laws of the Game.
- 1.4 Where a player is applying for a clearance from one Country Association or League to another has a record of tribunal conviction, details of such record shall be attached to the clearance application form. Failure to comply with this By Law renders the offending Club liable to a fine, not exceeding \$1,000.
- 1.5 A person wishing to play for a country senior or junior Club shall apply to the Registrar of the NPFL of such designated competition for Registration.
- 1.6 Any player who has played senior football with a designated affiliated Club at any time in a designated affiliated competition who subsequently desires to play for another Club, either in the same competition or another designated affiliated competition, shall be required to obtain a transfer (Clearance) from his present Club, before applying for registration for his new Club.
- 1.7 Any player not having played during the previous 24 calendar months shall receive an automatic clearance provided he is not under disqualification or bound by contract to his former Club and this clearance may be granted at any time during the season. Whilst the clearance is automatic the normal clearance papers must be completed and presented.
- 1.8 An application for transfer from one Club to another shall be requested on a form approved by the NPFL or through the Sportspulse website. The club must retain the hard copy for a period of twenty-four months.
- 1.9 A player who gives false information on an "Application for Transfer" or on a "Registration Form" shall be liable to suspension and/or disqualification as determined by the controlling body to whom such application was made, or a person or body appointed by that controlling body to exercise that power, and any application granted as a result of such false information shall be void.
- 1.10 Where a Club plays a player who is in breach of these rules such Club shall be liable to lose premiership points gained and to such further penalties as the controlling body of that competition or its appointee(s) shall determine.
- 1.11 For percentage purposes, a Club playing an ineligible player will be credited with "no score" and debited with the total score of the opposition. The side receiving the premiership points will be credited and debited with the full time scores as registered by the official goal umpires.
- 1.12 An "Application for Transfer" shall be valid and accepted providing it has been entered into Sportspulse by the club registrar and / or signed and approved by an Officer of the Club from

which the player has sought a transfer (the transferor club) and subsequently recorded by the registrars of both the transferor and transferee controlling bodies and endorsed by them and signed, such endorsement to include the respective recording numbers. Approval in Sportspulse is deemed as being endorsed and signed by the registrars of both the transferor and transferee controlling bodies.

- 1.13 The Registrar of the NPFL shall not refuse to endorse an application for transfer which has been approved by the transferor club except if the player making the application is under suspension, is financially encumbered to that controlling body or under 18 years of age and does not have the supporting signature of his parent/guardian.
- 1.14 A player having lodged an "Application for Transfer" with the Registrar of the transferee body, the registrar shall record such application and endorse the recording number and dates of application on it and forward it to the transferor body by the first available means of communication for immediate action and reply. If such application remains unanswered after 14 days (clear) of despatch, it shall be deemed to have been answered in the affirmative and the Registrar of the transferee body shall advise the transferor body that a permit to play has been granted.
- 1.15 Any subsequent appeals by the transferor body to have such "Permit to Play" revoked shall be determined by, and under the constitution of the NPFL Appeals Board. Where it is a local matter ie: between Clubs an appeal shall be heard initially by the NPFL Appeals Board.
- 1.16 A player having lodged an "Application for Transfer" shall not subsequently lodge a second application until the first application has been answered, EXCEPT that where a player may have left a Club within the jurisdiction of a Controlling Body and subsequently wishes to play with another Club under the same jurisdiction and is required to obtain a transfer from his original Club, he shall be permitted to lodge both applications at the same time.
- 1.17 A player who's "Application for Transfer" is refused by a Club from which he is seeking such Transfer, may lodge a second or subsequent application immediately the transferee registrar has been advised that the previous application has been refused.
- 1.18 If a second subsequent application is refused, the player may appeal to the Appeals Board of the NPFL in accordance with the Rules of the Appeals Board to have his application granted. Where it is a local matter ie: between Clubs within the NPFL such appeals shall be heard initially by the NPFL Appeals Board.
- 1.19 A player who wishes to apply for a transfer from one club to another shall lodge an application for such transfer no earlier than the first day of March and not later than 4.00 pm, on the thirtieth day of June. Any "Application for Transfer" lodged on or before the 30th June and subsequently refused after the 30th June, then the second application may be lodged after the 30th June (the 2nd application must be responded to within 5 working days Mon - Fri) and if again refused, that player then has the right of appeal. Where a player is genuinely transferred in his employment, after that date he may make an "Application for Transfer" prior to the commencement of the final round games subject to a written statement from his employer verifying that he has been:
 - a) Legitimately transferred in his employment; and
 - b) Has been on the permanent payroll of the employer for at least three months prior to his notification of transfer.
 - c) This provision shall apply equally to student children whose parent/guardian has been genuinely transferred in their employment.

- 1.20 A Club or Controlling Body which refuses to grant an application for transfer lodged by a player shall be required to state on the application its reason for refusing to grant the application. Such reasons for refusal, together with the players stated reasons for seeking a transfer, shall be the basis on which any subsequent appeal shall be determined. Failure to do so may be taken into consideration by an Appeals Board in any relevant subsequent appeal.
- 1.21 An "Application for Transfer" shall not be granted or refused conditionally, by relevant notations on the transfer form except by the NPFL Appeals Board.
- 1.22 For the purpose of these rules, the Registrar of a controlling body shall maintain a register of:
- a) All registrations issued by him; and of
 - b) All "Applications for Transfer" either inward or outward handled by him, including the date which they were received, the date on which they were answered and whether they were granted or refused, together with any relevant details.
- 1.23 Notwithstanding all or any of the above rules, a player who transfers from another state to Western Australia, may make application for a transfer from that State to the Club with which he wishes to play on an INTERSTATE Form 2 as approved by the WAFL. On lodgement of the application the player may play immediately on the condition that he is not under suspension, not under contract and is not indebted to his previous Club. If a player who has left Western Australia to play in another State and who subsequently returns to Western Australia shall be required to obtain a transfer from the last Club with which he played before leaving Western Australia before playing for any other Club, as well as an Interstate Transfer.
- 1.24 In the context of these rules, an Official or Officials of a Club may act or negotiate with other parties concerned on behalf of a player in their mutual interests of the Club and the player.
- 1.25 A player may only play in one Affiliated Country League/Association during any one weekend or long weekend.
- 1.26 A registration will be cancelled if the player concerned ceases for the whole of any one season to be a player of the club with which he has a registration to play.
- 1.27 A player wishing to obtain a clearance within the provisions of these Rules & Regulations must make application for registration as a player of the club with whom he wishes to play which must be attached to the application for the clearance. All information must be entered into Sportspulse and the written applications must be kept by the club for a period of two years.

2. SIGNING OF FORMS BY PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Any official forms (e.g. permit, registration or clearance form) signed by a player under the age of eighteen (18) years will not be considered valid unless it is counter-signed by his parent or legal guardian. A copy of the signed form/s must be lodged with the NPFL registrar prior to the player playing or included with the match day paperwork.

3. STUDENTS

- 3.1 Where a student leaves his home town and is not registered with a Club of an Affiliated Association, goes to another town to further his education and registers with a Club of an

Affiliated Association or League whilst there, he shall be granted an automatic clearance to the Club of his choice upon the completion of his education.

- 3.2 Where a student leaves his home town and is registered with a Club of an Affiliated Association or League, goes to another town to further his education and registers with a Club of an Affiliated Association whilst there, he shall only be granted a clearance to his original club upon the completion of his education, such clearance to be automatic.

4. COACHING ACCREDITATION

- 4.1 All Clubs shall adopt a policy to ensure that coaches are accredited to at least Level 1 prior to 30 June of the year of appointment. Any un-accredited Coach who does not fulfil his obligation to become accredited by June 30th in that year shall not be permitted to act as the Coach or as a player.
- 4.2 NPFL is to impose some form of penalty if the unaccredited coach continues to coach without obtaining the required Accreditation. Penalties should be in the form of a financial fine for the club involved, and/or the loss of match points for matches won.
- 4.3 A copy of each club's constitution to be forwarded to the Secretary of the NPFL by the 1st March each year.

5. COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Only Clubs directly affiliated with the NPFL are eligible to participate in events sponsored by the NPFL.

6. WEEKLY PERMITS

A weekly permission form is used to allow a player to play on a weekly basis without a formal transfer. The weekly permission form also acts as a temporary registration form for the day of the game only. It also satisfies the registration requirements for selection in the State 18's squad and for inclusion in the AFL draft. This form can only be used for WAFL and AFL players.

6.1 For use in the WAFL League Competition

A senior player of a NPFL may play six (6) matches with a WAFL League side prior to the 30th June using a Weekly Permission Form (WAFL Form 11)

6.2 For use in the WAFL Reserves Competition

Players qualifying for the WAFL Reserves competition coming from NPFL (Reserves or League) shall be permitted to play with a WAFL Reserves side on Weekly Permission Forms beyond the 30th June. The number of Weekly Permission Forms that can be used is unlimited and players will be eligible to participate in the WAFL Reserves finals on a weekly permit provided that they have played in at least five games for the Club in the Reserves or Colts grade during the year.

6.3 For use in the WAFL Colts Competition

Players qualifying for the WAFL Colts competition coming from NPFL (Reserves or League), shall be permitted to play with a WAFL Colts side on Weekly Permission Forms beyond the 30th June.

The number of Weekly Permission forms that can be used is unlimited and players will be eligible to participate in the WAFL Colts Finals on a weekly permit provided that they have played in at least one game on a permit in the Colts competition through the current season.

6.4 Weekly Permission Form - WAFL Players transferring to NPFL

- (i) Players of a WAFL Club are permitted to play on four (4) Weekly Permission Forms to 30th June in each year with a NPFL Club provided that permits are only issued to a WAFL player to play with one NPFL Club.
- (ii) WAFL players are permitted to play in only one football game on a weekend or long week-end. Issuing a permit for a second game contravenes the spirit of player welfare that this rule is based upon.

6.5 Number of Weekly Permission Forms per Country Team

Weekly Permits from WAFL Clubs back to Country Clubs are restricted to a maximum of two (2) players per country team at any one time.

6.6 Weekly Permission Forms Available for Use

- a) WAFL Form 11
- b) Muresk Special Permission Form
- c) Tertiary Students Special Permission Form
- d) High Schools Special Permission Form
- e) Sportspulse application

6.7 Country Player Transferring to Metropolitan Club (Not WAFL)

A country player who transfers to a metropolitan Club other than a WAFL Club, shall remain tied to his original zoned WAFL Club for a period of eighteen (18) months, from the date of his transfer from the country Club, notwithstanding that should he attain the age of 19 years and not be listed by his zoned club, he is then eligible to join a club of his choice.

If a country player under 19 years of age wishes to transfer to a WAFL Club that he is not zoned to, he shall only be eligible to be registered after receiving a transfer from his Club and zoned WAFL Club.

7. MEMBER CLUBS – NAMES & COLOURS

- 7.1 Every club upon admission to the NPFL shall apply for and obtain permission of the NPFL for it's name, colours, uniform and design under which the club proposed to play and the same, when approved by the NPFL shall be registered by the NPFL.
- 7.2 Any club desiring to vary or alter it's name, colours, uniform or design shall first apply for and obtain the permission of the NPFL to make said variation or alteration and, if approved, the same shall be registered by the NPFL provided always that written notice is given to the NPFL fourteen (14) days prior to the NPFL Annual General Meeting.
- 7.3 Registration of such name, colours, uniform and design by clubs shall give clubs the exclusive right to such name, colours, uniform and design.
- 7.4 Any club not adhering to this By-Law shall be dealt with according to the By-Laws.
- 7.5 The official colours of the NPFL shall be determined by the Executive.

8. UMPIRES CONVENORS – NORTH & SOUTH

The NPFL shall appoint a responsible senior person to act as Umpires Convenor one for the North and one for the South, and the responsibilities are:

- 8.1 To schedule umpiring duties on a weekly basis
- 8.2 To be the first point of contact for any umpire queries or issues.
- 8.3 To ensure match day paperwork is completed and submitted by the required deadlines.
- 8.4 To meet and assist the umpires upon arrival at a match.
- 8.4.1 To join him at quarter time (1/4) and three quarter (3/4) time intervals, together with the boundary and goal umpires and to move to him immediately the half time and final siren sounds and escort him from the ground. If Umpire Convenor is unavailable then this regulation shall apply to officials from each Club at all matches, irrespective of where the match is played.
- 8.4.2 To supervise entry to the umpires room or area and any approach to the umpire by an unauthorised person.

9. NPFL APPEAL TRIBUNAL

- 9.1 There shall be an appeal tribunal, which shall hear and determine all appeals, in the best interests of Australian Football in general.
- 9.2 The appeal tribunal shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the Executive, one of whom shall act as Chairperson. At any one time 2 members may sit on the tribunal board.
- 9.3 Any member of the Executive who may be considered an interested party of a particular appeal shall be excluded from the appeal tribunal for the hearing of that appeal.
- 9.4 In the case of an emergency, an Executive member of NPFL League may be co-opted onto the appeal tribunal.
- 9.5 Any person or body affiliated with the NPFL may apply to have an appeal heard by the NPFL Appeals Tribunal.
- 9.6 Any appeal to be heard must be in writing not less than 48 hours before the appeal is to be held. This money and appeal may be given to the President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar of the NPFL.

10. APPEALS GENERAL

- 10.1 The Registrar of the NPFL shall immediately upon receipt of a notice of appeal, transmit it to the Chairperson for the time being, of the Appeal Tribunal. A copy of such notice of appeal shall be forwarded by facsimile or mail on behalf of the player or person lodging the appeal, to the other party or parties involved in the appeal, within two (2) days of lodgement.
- 10.2 An appeal shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee of two hundred (\$200) dollars. This fee is non refundable unless otherwise directed by the Tribunal Chairperson.
- 10.3 The Appeal Tribunal shall be empowered to impose a fine of up to five hundred (\$500) on any Club or person considered responsible for a frivolous appeal or who is considered by the Appeal Tribunal to be guilty of a misdemeanour in connection with an appeal.
- 10.4 The Appeal Tribunal shall hear any appeal within a period of fourteen (14) days of lodgement of such appeal. When unusual or extenuating circumstances prevail the President may extend the period of fourteen (14) days but the spirit of the rule is that any appeal shall be heard as soon as possible.

- 10.5 The person or body making the appeal and the body against whom the appeal has been made, shall be the parties to the appeal and each shall be entitled to appear upon the hearing of such appeal with such representative as he or it shall nominate, provided that such representative shall not be a person legally qualified to practice as a barrister and/or a solicitor.
- 10.6 An appeal heard by the Appeal Tribunal shall be heard at a place appointed by the Appeals Tribunal Chairperson.
- 10.7 The decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final and conclusive, but an appeal may be re-opened at the discretion of the Appeal Tribunal Chairperson if fresh evidence is produced.
- 10.8 Each of the paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of the By Law No 10 is intended to be constituted separately and independently from each other paragraph and subparagraph and in the event of any one of such paragraphs or sub-paragraphs being held, to be invalid for any reason whatsoever such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining paragraphs or sub-paragraphs.
- 10.9 A player or person who desires to transfer from one country Club to another country Club, may, after having two (2) successive applications refused in any one season, appeal to the Appeal Tribunal against such refusals. Where it is a local matter ie: between Clubs such appeals shall be heard initially by the NPFL Appeals Board.
- 10.10 An appeal to the Appeals Tribunal shall be lodged in writing with the President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar of the NPFL, together with the two hundred dollars (\$200) fee, within seven (7) days of the date upon which the second or subsequent last application has been refused. Such notice of appeal shall have attached to it a further clearance application completed by the player or person. Copies of previous refused clearances by the transferor Club must be presented to the Tribunal.
- 10.11 The Appeal Tribunal may grant or refuse a clearance to the player or person appealing to it, and in reaching its decision the Appeal Tribunal shall consider and take into account all the circumstances and matters relevant to the application for clearance in respect of which the appeal has been made, including, but without being limited to:
 - 10.11.1 The interest of the public and the game of Australian football.
 - 10.11.2 The interest of the club from whom the clearance has been sought.
 - 10.11.3 The interest of the club to whom the clearance is sought.
 - 10.11.4 The interest in all respects of the player or person making the appeal.
 - 10.11.5 Any hardship whether financial or otherwise likely to be suffered by the player or person making the appeal in the event of the appeal being disallowed and a clearance refused.
 - 10.11.6 The age of the player or person making the appeal.
 - 10.11.7 The interests of the NPFL involved.
 - 10.11.8 The service given by and the value of the player or person appealing to the Club from which such clearance is sought.
- 10.12 The Appeal Tribunal may decide to grant a clearance on such conditions as it shall consider fair and reasonable in all the circumstances having regards to the matters referred to in Rule 9.1 hereof.
- 10.13 In the event of the Appeal Tribunal deciding that it will grant a clearance subject to conditions, the Appeal Tribunal may not grant the clearance until the conditions imposed have been fulfilled.

10.14 Where the Appeal Tribunal allows the appeal of the players or person and grants the clearance the Chairperson shall endorse the necessary documents accordingly and take any further action required to progress the decision of the Appeal Tribunal and the granting of such clearance.

11. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

11.1 Clubs should refer to the .Standard Tribunal Guidelines and Penalties for Community Football, issued by the WAFC for information and guidance on Independent Tribunal matters.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

12.1 All affiliated Clubs are to introduce the appropriate Risk Management procedures as outlined in the Risk Management Manual. All affiliated members of the NPFL are to adopt this policy and use of the Match Day Check List as outlined. Each President shall be responsible in ensuring that each Club completes the Check List as outlined.

13. FINANCE

13.1 Fines – All fines incurred by any Clubs, Officials of Clubs, or players, shall be paid into the funds of the League.

13.2 Match Payments – All match payments must be paid into the NPFL bank account by 5.00pm Friday of the fixtured game of the weekend. Such monies are to be decided by the NPFL Executive before the start of each season.

13.3 Clubs who after seven (7) days of the due date default in payment shall be deemed unfinancial and may not be permitted to participate in any further matches until the outstanding amount is paid. The team who the defaulting Club is to play shall be awarded the match under the Laws of Australian Football.

13.4 If at any time the funds of the League shall not be sufficient to meet the expenditure of the League, the NPFL may by resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote, order a call to be made upon the Clubs. Notice in writing that the call has been ordered and specifying the amount thereof shall be sent to the Clubs by the Secretary and each club so notified shall pay the amount of the call into the funds of the League within thirty (30) days after notice shall have been sent.

14. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION

14.1 No player in his capacity as a player of a club or, in the course of carrying out his duties or functions or as incidental to a player of a Club or any director, officer, servant or agent of a Club (including without limitations, any coach, Assistant Coach, trainer, medical officer, runner or person entitled to enter the arena during the course of or prior to or during any break in play in any match) shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (the person vilified) on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.

14.2 In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened 14.1, an umpire, club or player may by 5.00 pm on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing with the person appointed from time to time by the NPFL as the Complaints Officer for the purpose of this Rule.

- 14.3 The League/Association shall:
- 14.3.1 Inform the person alleged to have contravened Rule 14.1 of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it.
 - 14.3.2 Arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.
- 14.4 Where the Club is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation, the Club shall:
- 14.4.1 In the case of a player, refer the complaint to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football; or 14.4.2 In the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the NPFL to be dealt with under By-Law 15.
- 14.5 Where a person alleged to have contravened Rule 14.1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than the person vilified), the Club may refer the complaint directly to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football in the case of a player; or directly to the NPFL in the case of any other person.
- 14.6 Any conciliation referred to in 14.3 shall be conducted by the nominee of the NPFL, subject to the approval of the NPFL.
- 14.7 In the event that a complaint is referred to the NPFL Tribunal under 14.4, no evidence shall be given to or accepted by the Tribunal or the NPFL relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to 14.3.
- 14.8 In the event that a Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of these Rules, or if the appointed is for any reason unavailable to act under these Rules, the Complaints Officer for the purpose of these Rules shall be the NPFL Secretary/Registrar.
- 14.9 The Complaints Officer shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that conciliation of a complaint under 14.3 is completed by 5.00 pm on the fifth working day following the day on which the incident is alleged to have occurred.
- 14.10 In the case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Tribunal or the NPFL, the complaint shall be referred in time for the Tribunal or the NPFL as the case may be, to deal with in within 48 hours of any cessation in the conciliation process.
- 14.11 Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this Rule may be extended by the NPFL if in the opinion of the NPFL; it is just and equitable to do so.
- 14.12 In the event that a complaint under these Rules in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Tribunal or where the NPFL determines that a person involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the NPFL, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the NPFL, a penalty determined by the NPFL.
- 14.13 Rule 14.12 does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the NPFL, the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct which contravened the vilification rules.

15. OFFICIAL CLUB RUNNERS/TRAINERS/WATER CARRIER

- 15.1 No person who is a registered player or an official of any Club who is under disqualification or suspension by his home club or NPFL shall act an official runner, trainer or water carrier in any competition match or any other match in which a WACFL affiliated club or League/Association is participating.
- 15.2 All official runners, trainers and water carriers shall be dressed in a uniform determined by the NPFL.
- 15.3 The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of his/her club and to immediately leave the playing arena.
- 15.4 The sole duty of a water carrier shall be to convey water to player and to immediately leave the playing arena.
- 15.5 The duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.
- 15.6 The officiating field umpire may upon infringement of the rule order the runner, trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the arena for a period of 15 minutes.
- 15.7 Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating field umpie shall be referred to the NPFL's Independent Tribunal.

16. FORFEITED MATCHES

- 16.1 If the match is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the match, the teams shall depart the arena for twenty (20) minutes).
- 16.2 If the match is unable to recommence within such twenty (20) minutes period, should the game be terminated before half time, then the result would be declared a draw and each team awarded two premiership points. Their respective scores at the time would count for the purposes of percentage.
- 16.3 If the match has progressed beyond the half time interval and is unable to proceed at any time within the time schedule for the match, the teams shall depart from the arena for twenty (20) minutes. If the match is unable to recommence within such twenty (20) minutes period, should the game be terminated after half time, then the result would be declared on the basis of scores at half time. This being the first point of the game where all things are deemed to be equal.
- 16.4 Unless otherwise determined by the NPFL, a field umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a match is unable to commence or proceed. A field umpire must determine that a match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the match is being conducted.
- 16.5 Where a team is directed to recommence play by a field umpires and the team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match in which case, By-law 16.6 applies.

- 16.6 Where a team forfeits a match, the full match premiership points shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit. The team receiving the forfeit shall be credited with one hundred (100) points and debited with forty (40) points. The forfeiting team shall be debited with one hundred (100) points and credited with forty (40) points.
- 16.7 Any Club which finds it is unable to field a Reserves Team for a particular game must notify the League by 8:00pm on the Thursday immediately prior to the scheduled event. Clubs that fail to notify in accordance with this By-Law will be charged and fined up to a maximum of \$500.00 on each occasion in addition to forfeiting the match.
- 16.8 Any Club forfeiting a match in both grades on the same day will be issued with a penalty not exceeding \$1,000.00 and the fine is to be distributed thus: \$400.00 to the NPFL and \$600.00 to the affected Club. In the event that only one match progresses then there is to be no penalty to the forfeiting Club.
- 16.9 Where a match result is altered by protest or dispute, the team winning the protest or dispute is to be awarded full premiership points. Points scored for and against in such a match to be recorded as usual.
- 16.10 Where Umpires have not be notified of games forfeited on game day they shall be paid the game rates at level 0.

17. UNBECOMING BEHAVIOUR

- 17.1 The NPFL shall appoint an Investigation Officer to investigate any matter referred to him pursuant to the following:
 - 17.1.1 The NPFL, Executive members, club, player who alleges that a player, or an official of a club, umpire has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official of club or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, may lodge with the NPFL, a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. Unless the notice is lodged by the NPFL, a deposit of \$200 shall accompany the Notice, which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers the allegation to be frivolous.
 - 17.1.2 A Notice under 17.1.1 must be lodged with the NPFL within 5 days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the NPFL agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to by the NPFL may be subject to such conditions as the NPFL thinks fit.
 - 17.1.3 Notice of any allegation received under 17.1.1 shall be referred to the Investigation Officer by him. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit. Such investigation shall be completed within twenty one (21) days of the matter being referred to him, unless at the completion of the twenty one (21) days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) days is then granted by the League/Association at the request of the Investigation Officer.
 - 17.1.4 If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation is of the opinion that the player, official or club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a player, an official; or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that allegations ought to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal as herein under provided, he may lodge with the NPFL a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.
 - 17.1.5 If a Notice is lodged with the NPFL under 17.1.4 and the NPFL Executive determine that the matter should be referred to the Independent Tribunal, the NPFL Registrar

shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation before the Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than five (5) days after lodgement of the Notice and shall advise the player, official or club in question of those particulars and forward to the player, official or club, care of the club secretary in question a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the club secretary of the Notice lodged under 17.1.4.

- 17.1.6 Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player, official or club prior to the hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and the club at least 48 hours prior to the hearing and the charged player, official or club shall be informed at that time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses.
- 17.1.7 In any proceeding brought before a tribunal under this by law. The Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the NPFL.
- 17.1.8 If the Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the player, official or club in question has engaged in unbecoming behaviour or conduct which has or is unlikely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Independent Tribunal may:-
 - Impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the player, official or club in question; or
 - May suspend the player, official or club in question for such period as it thinks fit.

18. DOPING POLICY

- 18.1 The Doping Policy of the Australian Football Foundation for the time being in force, shall apply to and be binding upon all Leagues, Associations and bodies affiliated with the AFL or affiliated with an Affiliated body of the AFL.

19. TRANSFER FEES

- 19.1 When a player plays his first WAFL league game, a transfer fee of \$500 is payable to his country club within 30 days. His country club must issue an invoice to the WAFL Club before payment can be made.
- 19.2 When a player plays his twentieth WAFL league game, a transfer fee of \$500 is payable to the country regional development committee within 30 days.
- 19.3 Should a country player be drafted in the AFL from a WAFL club before reaching any of the above milestones, the WAFL club will pay the appropriate transfer fee(s) within 30 days of receiving payment from the AFL.
- 19.4 Payment of transfer fees is the responsibility of the WAFL club to which the player is registered at the time he achieves the milestone. It is guaranteed by the WAFC in that they will deduct the amount from payments due to WAFL clubs if necessary.
- 19.5 A country player is one whose parents are permanent residents in the country.
- 19.6 The Football Operations Manager of the WAFL and the Manager of the WACFL will resolve any dispute on payment of transfer fees.

20. FIXTURES

- 20.1 Fixtures for Home and Away, Combined and Promotional games shall be drawn up by the NPFL.
- 20.2 At all matches played in the Senior competition unless specially arranged the game shall start at 2:15pm for a Day fixture and Night fixtures at 6:45pm. Friday Night games will start at 7:45pm unless specially arranged.
- 20.3 At all matches played in the Reserves competition unless specially arranged the game shall start at 12noon for a Day fixture and Night fixtures at 4:30pm. Friday Night games will start at 5:30pm unless specially arranged.
- 20.4 At all matches played in the Colts competition unless specially arranged the game shall start at 9:45am for a Day fixture and Night fixtures will start at 2:15pm.

21. DURATION OF MATCHES / INTERVALS (VARIATIONS)

- 21.1 Senior home and away matches will consist of four (4) quarters, each of 25 minute durations with no time on. This will be the same for Finals matches.
- 21.2 Reserves and Colts home and away matches will consist of four (4) quarters, each of 20 minutes duration with no time on. This includes all finals and the Grand Final matches.
- 21.3 Drawn finals matches in all grades will be decided, after a ten (10) minute break, by playing 2 x five (5) minute halves until a winner is decided. Between each set of five (5) minute halves of play a three (3) minute break will occur.
- 21.4 In a Grand Final if the score is still a draw at the end of the second five (5) minutes each way of extra time then a further period of 5 minutes each way commences continuing until a team scores (point or goal). First team to score is declared the winning team and Premiers.
- 21.5 The duration between quarters shall be:
- 6 minutes at quarter and three quarter time
 - 20 minutes at half time

22. FINALS

- 22.1 Finals will be contested by the top four teams at the end of the home and away matches. Venues to be decided as follows unless 22.4, 22.6 or 22.7 apply:
- 22.1.1. 1st Semi Final to be hosted by the NPFL team finishing in 3rd position. (3rd versus 4th)
- 22.1.2 2nd Semi Final to be hosted by the NPFL team finishing in 1st position. (1st versus 2nd)
- 22.1.3 Preliminary Final to be hosted by the NPFL team losing the 2nd Semi Final. (Losing 2nd Semi Finalist versus winning 1st Semi Finalist)
- 22.1.4 Grand Final to be hosted by the NPFL team winning the 2nd Semi Final. (Winning 2nd Semi Finalist versus winning Preliminary Finalist)

- 22.1.5 Drawn finals matches in all grades will be decided, after a ten (10) minute break, by playing 2 x five (5) minute halves until a winner is decided. Between each set of five (5) minute halves of play a three (3) minute break will occur.
- 22.1.6 In a Grand Final if the score is still a draw at the end of the second five (5) minutes each way of extra time then a further period of 5 minutes each way commences continuing until a team scores (point or goal). First team to score is declared the winning team and Premiers.
- 22.2 The Reserves and Colts matches will be played at the venue of the Senior grade final regardless of competing teams.
- 22.3 All finals will be night matches unless otherwise determined by resolution in consultation with the Clubs.
- 22.4 Criteria and special arrangements regarding the hosting of finals shall be determined by resolution in consultation with the Clubs.
- 22.5 At the final siren all umpires shall meet at the centre of the ground, confirm scores, declare the game all clear and leave the ground together.
- 22.6 The winner of the Grand Final shall be the Premiers of that season.
- 22.7 In the event of a Club commencing legal action which in any way relates to a finals match the NPFL may delay or defer the declaration of the outcome of a finals match and may also delay or defer the recognition of said outcome.

23. QUALIFICATIONS TO PLAY IN FINALS

- 23.1 A player must play a minimum of four (4) fixtured colts, reserves or league (any combination of the four) matches with one (1) specified club within the respective season in order to qualify to play finals with the Senior team of said Club.
- 23.2 A player must play a minimum of four (4) fixtured Reserve matches with one (1) specified club within the respective season in order to qualify to play finals with the Reserve team of said Club.
- 23.3 If a club is successful in playing in the first and second semi final, providing games are held on the same weekend then players may participate in either grade providing player has played in four (4) matches for their club.
- 23.4 Qualifications for Colts finals matches are to be determined by resolution.
- 23.5 Individual team sheets, submitted in accordance with the By-Laws, are to be used to determine the number of qualifying matches played.

24. MANNER OF DRESS

- 24.1 Players are to be appropriately attired in team jumpers, shorts, socks and footwear. Football boots and sports runners are considered appropriate footwear for players.

- 24.2 Runners, water persons and trainers must be appropriately attired in uniform in colours approved by the NPFL. Appropriate footwear must be worn. Boots or shoes are considered appropriate footwear for such officials.
- 24.3 Umpires may order from the ground officials who are incorrectly attired or are spending too much time on the ground whilst play is in progress. Breaches of dress regulations may be considered offences and dealt with in accordance with the By-Laws.

25. INTERCHANGE (VARIATION)

- 25.1 Each club shall provide an interchange steward who shall report to the Umpires 20 minutes prior to the start of the match. The Interchange Steward shall be seated in the interchange area.
- 25.2 Clubs are responsible for providing Interchange Stewards during Finals Matches in which they compete. Failure to provide Interchange Stewards may be considered an offence and dealt with in accordance with the By-Laws.
- 25.3 Interchange Stewards are responsible for monitoring the interchange of players and recording details of players ordered from the ground in accordance with the By-Laws. A completed interchange sheet must be submitted to the controlling Umpire at the completion of each match. Failure to do so will be considered an offence and dealt with in accordance with the By-Laws.
- 25.4 If only one (1) Interchange Steward is provided by one club that Interchange Steward will have sole control of the timekeeping of the players sent off.

26. TIMEKEEPERS (VARIATIONS)

- 26.1 Each Host Club shall provide an Official Timekeeper who shall report to the Umpires twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the match. Visiting Clubs may also provide a Timekeeper who shall be required to report in the same manner. The two Timekeepers must then sit together for the duration of the match. Failure of the Visiting Club to supply a Timekeeper will render a protest null and void.
- 26.2 Timekeepers for Finals matches will be appointed by the NPFL.

27. LIGHT READINGS

The NPFL requires all Clubs to provide lighting (Lux) readings no later than two (2) weeks prior to the first scheduled match of the season. Such readings should satisfy the minimum required standard for Australian Rules Football. Night matches may be rescheduled to Day fixtures should clubs fail to supply light readings or should the readings not meet the minimum required standard.

28. TEAM SHEETS (VARIATIONS)

Details as per the current “Laws of Australian Football - Current Edition” should be followed with the following variations:

- 28.1 Team sheets are to be completed for all matches. Team sheets for the Reserve Grade are to be handed to the umpire at halftime prior to the commencement of the third quarter. Players can be added until the team sheet is submitted. Team sheets for the Senior Grade are to be handed to the umpire prior to the commencement of the Senior match.
- 28.2 All players must be listed, including interchange players.
- 28.3 Where it becomes necessary during the course of a match for a player to change to a jumper which displays a different number the variation relating to such change as detailed in the “Laws of Australian Football - Current Edition” should be followed.
- 28.4 In the event of a match not commencing through no fault of either team, each team will be permitted to submit a team sheet to be used for the qualification of players. Such team sheets must be lodged with the NPFL prior to 7pm on the Monday following the match concerned.
- 28.5 In the event of a match not commencing due to a forfeit the non-forfeiting team will be permitted to submit a team sheet to be used for the qualification of players. Such team sheet must be lodged with the NPFL prior to 7pm on the Monday following the match concerned. The forfeiting team is not permitted to lodge a team sheet.

29. TEAM OFFICIALS / RUNNERS

- 29.1 Officials and Runners are not permitted on the playing field until after the commencement of each quarter of play.
- 29.2 Entry of Officials to the playing field may be regulated or refused by the controlling Umpire.
- 29.3 Umpires may refer matters relating to 29.1 and 29.2 to the NPFL or Tribunal for determination.

30. UMPIRES

- 30.1 Umpires will be appointed as per the “Laws of Australian Football - Current Edition”.
- 30.2 (Variation) Replacement of an injured Umpire is to be treated in the same manner as that relating to the “non-attendance” of an umpire as detailed in the “Laws of Australian Football - Current Edition”.
- 30.3 (Variation) The NPFL may appoint independent scorers for any match.

31. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 31.1 The President is the only person authorised to make any official statement to the press on behalf of the League unless otherwise agreed to from time to time by the Executive Committee.

- 31.2 Any Player or Official who make a comment to a member of the media on the decisions or actions of the Executive Committee or its Agent without prior approval by the Executive Committee shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500).
- 31.3 Any Club affiliated with the League who acts inconsistently against the By-laws of the League or who compromises or jeopardizes any League Sponsorship agreement with any Sponsor shall be liable for loss of all benefits from the Sponsor to the individual Clubs. A penalty as determined by the Executive which may be a fine or loss of points or any other penalty the Executive determines appropriate.

NORTH PILBARA FOOTBALL LEAGUE (INC)

BY LAWS

SECTION TWO

PROTEST AND DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

DATED 22nd April 2007

1st Revised 11/01/2009

1st Revision Adopted 15/03/2009

2nd Revision Adopted 12/12/2012

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1. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

There shall be a Protests and Disputes Tribunal to hear and determine all charges under the Laws of the Australian Football and the By-Laws of the NPFL.

- 1.1 The NPFL shall appoint a person or persons as Chairpersons of the Protests and Disputes Tribunal.
- 1.2 The appointed Chairperson(s) shall submit to the NPFL for approval the names of the suitably qualified person(s) to assist in the functions of the tribunal.
- 1.3 Each tribunal shall be constituted by one, two or three persons. In the instance of two or three persons, one shall be the chairperson.
- 1.4 A person who holds office of any kind in the NPFL or in a Club shall not be eligible for appointment.
- 1.5 More than one tribunal may sit at any one time.

2. FUNCTIONS OF PROTESTS AND DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

A Protests and Disputes tribunal shall exercise the following functions and its decision shall be final.

- 2.1 Hear all charges in respect of offences under these By-Laws or under the Laws of Australian Football.
- 2.2 Re-open or re-hear any matter previously dealt with, upon satisfying the Chairperson(s) of new or fresh evidence that was not available at the time of the original hearing. The tribunal's decision whether to re-open or not is final and no further appeal to re-hear the matter may be lodged with the NPFL.
- 2.3 Hear and determine any charges, protests or complaints referred or lodged in accordance with these By-Laws.
- 2.4 Impose such penalties as deemed fit in accordance with the By-Laws.

3. GENERAL PURPOSE OF PROTESTS AND DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

The NPFL shall in all cases satisfy themselves that the relevant By-Laws have been complied with before submitting a protest charge or other matter for the hearing and determination on the tribunal. Unless otherwise stated within the By-Laws, all charges, notices of protest and letters of complaint shall be lodged with the NPFL by 7pm on the Monday immediately following the event giving rise to the charge, protest or complaint.

- 3.1 A tribunal shall meet to consider any charge at any time convenient to it and the parties involved however shall, whenever possible, meet on the first Wednesday following the event giving rise to the charge.
- 3.2 A tribunal shall meet to consider any matter other than a charge at a time convenient to it and the parties involved but such meetings shall be held within a reasonable time of the matter

having been referred to the tribunal. (In the case of an appeal against the tribunal, within nine (9) days of the lodgement of the appeal with the NPFL.)

- 3.3 The tribunal meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the NPFL. The NPFL shall advise all parties involved of the venue however all parties should be prepared for a hearing on the Wednesday evening immediately following the event giving rise to the charge.
- 3.4 A tribunal meeting may be adjourned to another time and place, due advice of which shall be given to the parties involved.
 - 3.4.1. If a tribunal hearing against a player is adjourned for any reason other than a request from either the player or his Club, that player is eligible to play until the hearing has been completed.
 - 3.4.2 All parties are to be notified by the NPFL of the new time and place within 24 hours.
- 3.5 An umpire who lodges a charge against a player, official or Club shall attend at the tribunal hearing of that charge.
- 3.6 A player, official or Club against whom a charge has been lodged shall attend at the tribunal hearing of that charge.
- 3.7 Any person referred to in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 may be excused from attendance by the tribunal but only if exceptional circumstances can be established to require such excuse. In such cases a written statement should be submitted by the required party.
- 3.8 The tribunal may, of its own motion or at the request of any party to a matter before it, require the attendance at a tribunal hearing of any player, official or umpire and said party shall attend as required.
- 3.9 Any person required to attend a tribunal hearing shall give evidence if required by the tribunal to do so.
- 3.10 A player or official who appears before a tribunal as a result of a charge made against him pursuant to these By-Laws shall, unless the tribunal directs otherwise, be accompanied and may be represented at the hearing by a representative of this club.
- 3.11 An umpire referring a charge under these By-Laws against a player or official of any club may be represented at the hearing by a representative of the umpires.
- 3.12 In any other proceeding before a tribunal a person required to appear may be accompanied and represented at the proceeding by a representative of his Club or the organisation to which he belongs.
- 3.13 In any of the cases referred to in the above and following paragraphs, the representative of the club, individual or organisation shall not be a legal practitioner nor shall they be in occupation, career or employment, an agent of or State / Commonwealth Law enforcement officer.
- 3.14 A Tribunal may for its purpose rely on such evidence as it deems fit and in particular may admit Statutory Declarations and other writing as well as verbal evidence. It may proceed in the absence of any or all parties who make themselves unavailable.
- 3.15 Any person who is required by these By-Laws to attend a hearing of a tribunal fails to attend as required and does not show good cause for such failure, or

- 3.16 Any Club deemed by the tribunal not to have done all within it's power to ensure the attendance of their reported individual at the tribunal hearing without good cause and does not inform the tribunal by attendance or in writing of such good cause, or
- 3.17 Any person / club who as required by these By-Laws attends at a tribunal hearing but refuses to answer any question in the course of the hearing and does not show good cause for such refusal, or
- 3.18 Any person / club who as required by these By-Laws attends at a tribunal hearing and, in the course of giving evidence, at the hearing endeavours to mislead the tribunal or,
- 3.19 Any person / club who attends at a tribunal hearing and acts in an unseemly manner, shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct and shall hereunder be liable to suspension or disqualification as a player, official or both and / or a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 as the tribunal may determine.
- 3.20 If a suspension carried over into the following season the player will be eligible to play in any inter / intra club matches or lightning carnivals between seasons. Such games are not counted as part of the suspension.
- 3.21 The NPFL Protests and Disputes Bylaws shall apply to all sanctioned NPFL games.
- 3.22 Any dispute in the form of a letter of complaint from a Club to the NPFL shall be forwarded to the tribunal for consideration. Such letter of complaint must be lodged with the League in accordance with the By-Laws.

4. LAYING OF CHARGES / NOTICES OF PROTEST / LETTERS OF COMPLAINT

Charges against players, clubs and officials may only be instigated by umpires or other persons duly appointed and authorised by the controlling body. Notices of Protest and letters of Complaint may only be lodged by a Director of the League or a member Club deemed eligible in accordance with the By-Laws.

5. TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE – CHARGES AGAINST PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

The following procedure in respect of lodgement of charges against players by umpires or duly authorised persons and the conduct of tribunal hearings are prepared by the NPFL. The League directs that all NPFL hearings be heard by an independent tribunal of at least one (1) member.

- 5.1 A copy of the umpire / authorised person(s) report complying with the format of the Australian Football League (Umpires Report Form) shall be lodged with both clubs team sheets within one (1) hour of the game's completion. The same details are to be sent to the League for arrival not later than 7:00pm on the Monday immediately following the event giving rise to the report. If the report is not lodged as stated above the charge shall lapse and not be heard unless otherwise determined by the tribunal. Should the tribunal determine to hear a charge its decision shall be final.
- 5.2 A player, club or official may submit to the League a request to take advantage of an Optional Penalty however such request must be in accordance with the By-Laws.

- 5.3 Upon assembly the umpire and his advocate and the player and his advocate shall be summoned before the tribunal. Advocates may be delegates or officials of clubs but shall not be members of the professions defined in By-Law 3.13. The Chairperson and members of the tribunal may ask questions of any person as they desire at any time throughout the hearing.
- 5.4 The tribunal shall proceed as per the "Guideline for Tribunal Proceedings" as detailed in Appendix "E". Any deviation from this procedure must be agreed to by all concerned parties. An approved tribunal hearing form must be completed for all charges. The person reported must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. "Procedures for Advocates" are outlined in Appendix "E".
- 5.5 In the event of a "Not Guilty" plea being entered by the player and, upon hearing all the evidence, the tribunal shall have the power to downgrade a charge if it is deemed warranted by the tribunal.

NOTE: In the absence of an advocate the player, official or umpire takes the place of an advocate. If it is not possible for the umpire to be present at the hearing the following procedure shall also apply:

- 5a. The umpire shall forward to the League, in addition to the brief written report of the incident, a detailed statement setting out the particulars of the incident in full, together with such other relevant information as, in the opinion of the umpire, would be of benefit to the tribunal in enabling it to reach a decision. If the detailed statement is not received by the League prior to the time set down for the tribunal hearing the charge shall lapse unless otherwise determined by the tribunal.
- 5b. After the brief report has been read and the player has made their plea then the detailed statement of the umpire is then read and at the same time a copy of this statement is made available to the reported player by the Chairperson.
- 5c. The tribunal shall proceed as per the "Guidelines" at Appendix "E". Any deviation from this procedure must be agreed to by all concerned parties. An approved tribunal hearing form must be completed for all charges. The person reported must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

6. OPTIONAL PENALTY PROVISION

- 6.1 A player, official or club who has been reported has the right to have the matter heard by the tribunal however may apply to the League to take advantage of the Optional Penalty Provisions relevant to the respective charge as detailed in Appendix "C".
- 6.2 The procedure is as follows:
 - 6a. The report is notified in accordance with By-Law 5.1.
 - 6b. The reported party must notify the League by 7:00pm on the Monday immediately following the event giving rise to the report that the plea is guilty and that an Optional Penalty is requested.
 - 6c. The League will consider the seriousness of the offence and the history of the offender prior to allowing an automatic suspension to be applied. The League may decide that the matter be heard by a tribunal. The reporting umpire may also request the League

refer the matter to the tribunal if he / she considers the automatic suspension too light for the nature of the incident.

6d. If the reported party's request is approved by the NPFL the automatic sentence is to be ratified by the tribunal and the relevant Optional Penalty applied; otherwise the matter will be heard by a tribunal.

6.3 In the event of a player, official or club being reported for a second time in the one season a tribunal appearance is mandatory.

6.4 A player, official or club found guilty at a tribunal who has opted not to take advantage of the Optional Penalty Provisions shall receive a penalty at least equal to the minimum automatic penalty for the relevant charge. A greater penalty may be imposed at the discretion of the tribunal.

7. SEND OFF RULE – RED / YELLOW CARD SYSTEM

7.1 A player/official who is reported by an Umpire / Member of the Umpires Board for a breach of the laws of the game shall be dealt with under two (2) categories:

Category 1 Red Card - any person reported under By-law Appendix C shall be ordered off the ground and directed to leave the ground through the Interchange area - **HE SHALL TAKE NO FURTHER PART IN THE GAME** - The player may be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes playing time,

Category 2 Yellow Card - any person reported for any other incident other than the above shall be ordered off the ground for a period of fifteen (15) minutes playing time which shall be adjudicated by the Interchange Steward - **HE MAY BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY** - the player shall leave the playing arena through the interchange.

7.2 All players leaving and re-entering the playing field will do so through the Interchange area.

7.3 Penalty Time is to commence once the player has reached the Interchange area. Monitoring the Penalty Time is the responsibility of the Interchange Steward(s). Penalty Time is to be continuous without including any period of "Time On". Breaks between quarters are not to be included as time spent off the field.

7.4 Penalty Time is cumulative quarter to quarter however is not cumulative from game to game. (ie: Does not carry over to future matches)

7.5 A player receiving two (2) Yellow Cards in the same match shall receive a Red Card with the player on report for the second offence. The second offence is to be treated by the Tribunal as a Yellow Card offence only. Therefore the finding of guilty in this instance does not count as a proven Red Card.

7.6 A player receiving a Red Card must also be placed on report by the umpire. The umpire may also report a player who has received a Yellow Card.

7.7 A player receiving six (6) Red Cards during his playing career and all six (6) offences have been proved or ratified by the Tribunal, shall be suspended for the rest of that season and the

following FULL SEASON. Any subsequent proven Red Card that results in a suspension shall then occur a Lifetime Ban.

- 7.8 Any person receiving a 3rd Yellow Card in one season will incur an automatic one (1) week suspension. For each subsequent Yellow Card the automatic penalty shall **Double** and for the fifth Yellow Card and each subsequent Yellow Card thereafter the person shall also be required to appear before the tribunal.
- 7.9 Duly appointed Boundary, Goal and Emergency umpires, as well as duly authorised persons, do not have the power to issue Yellow or Red Cards. They do however have the power to report through the Central Field umpire at the end of each quarter.
- 7.10 A player/official may be sent from the ground by the Field Umpire - **WITHOUT BEING REPORTED - FOR MISBEHAVIOUR AND AUDIBLE OBSCENITIES** for a period of fifteen (15) minutes playing time which shall be adjudicated by the Interchange steward of both clubs – **HE MAY BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY** - player shall leave the ground through the interchange area. The Field Umpire will show a Yellow Card and take the players details.

8. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Reportable offences are listed in the “Laws of Australian Football – Current Edition.” These offences are included as Appendix “C” alongside recommended optional penalties. The NPFL will also be bound by the Code of Conduct for Players, Officials and Spectators as determined by the League. The current accepted Code of Conduct is that know as 1070B / 6bb. The NPFL will also follow the WACFL current procedure for racial vilifications incidents.

- 8.1 The League may, by resolution, from time to time, declare any acts or omissions by players, clubs or officials to be offences under these By-Laws and may also declare the penalty for such offences.
- 8.2 No player shall commit any of the offences referred to in these By-Laws.
- 8.3 Any player, official or Club who acts or conducts themselves in a manner prejudicial to the good order, management, control and administration of football, commits an offence under these By-Laws and may be liable to a fine and / or disqualification as the tribunal deems fit. The maximum fine shall be \$2,500.00.
- 8.4 Any player, official or coach who is acting in an official capacity and is reported for an offence against these By-Laws and is subsequently suspended by the tribunal will not be permitted within the playing arena on any match day during the term of the suspension. Any proven contravention of this By-Law may be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and / or possible further suspension.
- 8.5 The playing arena is defined as thus: from the centre bounce down circle extending outwards to the boundary line and continuing for a further distance of five (5) meter in circular area. This exclusion area must include the Interchange area, Coaches / Players bench areas, Changerooms and Goals.
- 8.6 Any player / official who is also a coach and is reported for an offence against these By-Laws and subsequently suspended by the tribunal will not be permitted to act in an official capacity at the match day ground at which any NPFL Club or NPFL Representative Team is

participating. Any proven contravention of this By-Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and / or possible further suspension.

- 8.7 Match Day is defined as two (2) hours prior to the scheduled start of any NPFL Club's involvement and until the final siren signalling the completion of any NPFL Club's involvement on that day.
- 8.8 Any player / official who is acting in an official capacity and is reported for an offence against these By-Laws and is subsequently suspended by the tribunal on six (6) separate occasions in the NPFL will be banned from the NPFL for life.
- 8.9 Any player / official suspended in accordance with these By-Laws shall not act in any other capacity for their club on or during match days whilst under suspension.
- 8.10 Where no specific penalty is prescribed in respect of any offence under these By-Laws the tribunal may impose a fine not exceeding \$2,500.00 and / or disqualification not exceeding five (5) years.
- 8.11 Any player who plays in any match in the NPFL in breach of these By-Laws shall in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed, be disqualified from playing in any NPFL match conducted pursuant to these By-Laws.
- 8.12 While any League fees or fines imposed on any player / Club or official in accordance with these By-Laws remains unpaid no official of that Club may Vote at or be counted in a Quorum for a meeting of the League or exercise any other power vested in a Club official to the League.
- 8.13 Any Club who approaches a player from another Club of this League without first obtaining permission from the player's Club, or any player from a Club within this League approaches another Club within this League without first obtaining permission from his own Club shall be deemed to be in breach of these By-Laws and may be charged in accordance with the By-Laws.
- 8.14 Any Club found to have named a player on the team sheet but that player does not participate in the maximum 22 players for Seniors (Variation) or 24 players for Reserves (Variation) on that particular day will be charged and the Club will also forfeit the match in accordance with the By-Laws. Completed Team Sheets are to be handed to the umpire prior to the commencement of each game.
- 8.15 If any Club is not ready to start within five (5) minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of any quarter of the game then that Club may be fined up to a maximum of \$50.00 for each instance.
- 8.16 Any Club playing a player or using an official not in uniform may be fined up to a maximum of \$10.00 for each player or official not in uniform.
- 8.17 Any Club which produced a second hand ball for the Senior grade match may be fined up to a maximum of \$50.00 for each instance.
- 8.18 The Host Club is responsible for the general ground facilities being in order and also the provision of footballs for each match. A Club failing to comply with this By-Law may be fined in accordance with the By-Laws.

- 8.19 Any Club that plays a player or uses an official / coach who is ineligible or is serving a term of suspension or participates in a match while League fees or fines remain unpaid will forfeit the match and may be liable to a fine determined in accordance with the By-Laws.
- 8.20 Fines are to be paid to the League in a lump sum prior to 7:00pm on the Monday immediately following the imposition of said fine unless otherwise determined by the League. For the purposes of clarification a Club which is fined on a Wednesday Evening must pay the fine in full by 7:00pm on the following Monday unless otherwise determined by the League. Failure to do so will deem the Club unfinancial for the scheduled fixture falling between the Wednesday and the Monday and any other fixture until the fine is paid.
- 8.21 Any Club which initiates any form of Legal Action without first achieving a successful outcome with regard to an appeal lodged in accordance with Section 5 of the NPFL Constitution shall be deemed to have committed an offence which may incur a financial and / or other penalty in accordance with the By-Laws and / or such penalty as is detailed in accordance with Section 3 (k) and Section 21 of the NPFL Constitution.
- 8.22 Non lodgement of individual Club Constitution, By-Laws and Statements of Financial status in accordance with Section 4 (f)(ii) of the NPFL Constitution shall be deemed an offence which may incur a fine and / or other penalty in accordance with the By-Laws.
- 8.23 Any Club which plays in any match (including pre-season) without the sanction of the League may be liable to a fine and / or other such penalty.
- 8.24 If a player is selected for a NPFL representative game and accepts the position and does not take their place at the game then a 2 week suspension shall be applied at the North Pilbara Football League's discretion.

9. APPEALS TO THE TRIBUNAL

A Club wishing to appeal against a decision handed down by the tribunal must:

- 9.1 Lodge the appeal in writing with the League, complete with the details of new or fresh evidence not available to the tribunal at the time of the original hearing, within 28 hours of the handing down of the tribunal decision.
- 9.2 The appeal must be accompanied by a \$200.00 bond which shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- 9.3 Upon receipt of the notice of appeal the League will convene an appeal tribunal that shall consist of a Chairperson and a minimum of two (2) other persons. The Chairperson may be the same however other tribunal members must differ from those presiding during the original tribunal hearing.

10. FORFEITED AND INCOMPLETE MATCHES

- 10.1 Forfeited Matches shall be dealt with in accordance with the "Laws of Australian Football – Current Edition" with the following variation:

In the event of the team who did not forfeit being disadvantaged by the calculation of percentage under Law 10.7.2 (Laws of Australian Football - Current Edition) the League may, upon application by the team, vary the points debited or credited to the team or the method of calculating the team's percentage.

- 10.2 Incomplete Matches (reasons beyond control of either team) shall be dealt with in accordance with the "Laws of Australian Football - Current Edition" with the following variations:

When a match has not commenced – both teams will be awarded two (2) premiership points and percentage shall be an average of **all completed games**.

(Clarify)

- 10.3 In the event of a finals match not commencing or proceeding due to circumstances beyond the control of either team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the match to proceed) the following shall apply:

The scores at the time of the match stopping shall be recorded.

The game shall be played with all remaining time still counted, with the scores commencing as recorded at the time of stoppage of the original match.

The time and place shall be determined by the League.

Concerned teams shall be able to select from their best available qualified players.

- 10.4 Where a finals match is altered on a Protest the League shall, where possible, award ground hosting rights to the Club winning the protest.

11. APPEALS PANEL / SEVERITY OF SENTENCE

A Club wishing to appeal the severity of sentence handed down by the tribunal must:

- 11.1 Lodge notice of such appeal in writing with the League within 48 hours of the original decision.
- 11.2 The appeal must be accompanied by a \$200.00 bond for each appeal. This bond will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld and the penalty reduced.
- 11.3 Appendix "E" details further requirements and procedures regarding appeals against the severity of sentence.

APPENDIX A

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS

Please be aware that Statutory Declarations are a formal legal document and the person who declares the document is swearing that the contents are true and correct.

Section 170 of the Criminal Code states as follows:

"Any person who, on any occasion on which he is permitted or required by law to make a statement or declaration before any person authorised by law to permit it to be made before him, makes a statement or declaration before that person which, in any material particular, is to his knowledge false, is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to imprisonment for three years."

The Management Committee of the NPFL has received legal advice that in the event that person is convicted of the above offence the likely penalty is one of imprisonment. The Committee takes the view that they will have no hesitation whatsoever should it come to the attention of the Committee or the Executive Officer, that a person has sworn a false declaration, to report the matter to the police and request that they proceed with prosecuting the person for contravention of Section 170 of the Criminal Code.

Please note that it is necessary when swearing a statutory declaration for the witness to be present when the person who swears the statutory declaration signs it.

The following persons are authorised to swear statutory declarations:

- 1 A Commissioner for Declarations.
- 2 A Member of Parliament.
- 3 A Justice of the Peace.
- 4 A town or Shire Clerk or Deputy Town or Shire Clerk.
- 5 A member of a Municipal Council.
- 6 An electoral Registrar.
- 7 A person appointed to take charge of a Post Office.
- 8 An officer of the State or Commonwealth Public Service.
- 9 A Teacher within the meaning of the Education Act 1928.
- 10 A Police Officer.
- 11 A person appointed to take charge of any branch office of a Bank.
- 12 A person in charge of a Building Society or Credit Union.
- 13 A Barrister or Solicitor.
- 14 A Secretary of any organisation of employers or employees registered under the Industrial Relations Act.
- 15 A Medical Practitioner.
- 16 A Pharmacist.
- 17 A Member of the Academic Staff of an Institution providing postsecondary education.
- 18 A holder of a license under the Real Estate and Business Agents Act or the Settlement Agents Act.
- 19 An Insurance Broker registered under the Insurance (Agents and Brokers) Act.
- 20 A person registered as an auditor or liquidator under the Companies (Western Australia) Code.
- 21 A person who is accredited as a Chartered Accountant or a Certified Public Accountant.

We trust the above information is of assistance to clubs. We emphasise that if any information comes to hand that a statutory declaration contains false information or has not been correctly sworn, we will make the appropriate investigations.

APPENDIX B

A STANDING ORDERS

So as to maintain good order and to facilitate the business at meetings the following rules shall be observed.

- (a) No motion on the notice paper shall be proceeded with unless the member who has given notice or some person authorised by him is present when the business is called to order. Notices not proceeded with shall be struck out.
- (b) Any motion not seconded, shall not be further debated but shall lapse.
- (c) As soon as a debate on a question is concluded the Chairperson shall put the question to the meeting in a distinct and audible manner.
- (d) The question being put shall be resolved in the affirmative or negative on the voices but if so required by a member the question shall be decided by a division.
- (e) A motion having been proposed may be amended by leaving out, substituting or adding words and such amendments shall be resolved by a majority of votes.
- (f) When an amendment is declared it shall take the place of the original motion when a further amendment can be proposed until the question is finally decided.
- (g) If any case should arise not provided for in these Standing Orders the question shall be decided by the Chairperson.

B ORDER OF DEBATE

- (a) Any member desiring to propose a motion or amendment or to discuss any matter under consideration must rise and address the Chairperson. No member when speaking shall be interrupted unless called to order, when he shall sit down and the member so calling order shall be heard in preference to any speaker, and the Chairperson shall then decide, without discussion, upon the point of order before the subject is resumed, or before any other subject is entered upon. When two or more members rise to speak the Chairperson shall call upon the member who in his opinion rose first in his place. In the discussion no members shall be allowed to speak more than once except strictly in explanation, except the mover of the original motion who shall have the right to reply.
- (b) A member when speaking must confine his remarks to the subject under debate and avoid personalities. He shall not use any discourteous language nor reflect on any member whilst in debate. Any member feeling dissatisfied with the decision of the Chairperson may move to dissent from his ruling. On being seconded the Chairperson shall vacate the Chair to the next most senior officer. Other than the mover and the seconder of the motion or dissent the only debate permitted will be one person in defence of the ruling, and the Chairperson in reply. The motion shall then be put in the form that the Chairperson's ruling being disagreed with.

C SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It shall be lawful for a majority of those present to suspend standing orders at any meeting.

D RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION

(1) No resolution of the Council shall be rescinded except at a meeting after notice of motion of the intention has been given, at least fourteen days prior to the meeting. Motions for such rescission to be successful must be carried by a majority of voting delegates at a Council meeting.

(2) Rescission motions at any other meetings or committee meetings held under NPFL rules shall be successful if a majority of those comprising the meeting or the committee shall so determine.

APPENDIX C

LAW	OFFENCE	CARD	OPTIONAL PENALTY
C1	Intentionally, recklessly or negligently making contact with or striking an umpire.	RED	Mandatory Tribunal Appearance
C2	Attempting to make contact with or striking an umpire	RED	Mandatory Tribunal Appearance
C3	Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene Language towards or in relation to an umpire.	RED	Two Weeks
C4	Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or Obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire.	RED	Two Weeks
C5	Disputing a decision of an umpire.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C6	Intentionally, recklessly or negligently :-		
	i) Kicking another person.	RED	Two Weeks
	ii) Striking another person.	RED	Two Weeks
	iii) Tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg.	RED	Two Weeks
	iv) Engaging in time wasting.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
	v) Charging another person.	RED	Two Weeks
	vi) Throwing or pushing another player after that player has taken a mark, disposed of the football or after the football is otherwise out of play.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week

	vii) Engaging in rough play against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable.	RED	Two Weeks
	viii) Engaging in a melee.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
	ix) Kicking or otherwise causing the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure.	YELLOW	One Weeks
	x) Spitting at or on another person.	RED	Two Weeks
C7	Attempting to kick another person.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C8	Attempting to strike another person.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C9	Attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C10	Intentionally shaking a goal or behind post when another player is preparing to kick or is kicking for goal or after the player has kicked for goal and the ball is in transit.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C11	Wrestling another person.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C12	Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C13	Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by a field umpire.	RED	Two Weeks
C14	Wearing boots, jewellery, and equipment prohibited under Law 9.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week
C15	Any act of misconduct.	RED/ YELLOW	Two Weeks / One Week

APPENDIX D

APPEALS AGAINST THE SEVERITY OF PENALTIES IMPOSED BY THE PROTESTS AND DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

- 1) A player found guilty of a report by the Protests and Disputes Tribunal may appeal against the severity of any penalty imposed by the Protests and Disputes Tribunal.
- 2) An appeal referred to in Clause 1 must be lodged with the League by notice in writing from the President of the Club of the player, against whom the penalty was imposed.
- 3) Such appeal must be lodged within 24 hours of the decision of the Protests and Disputes Tribunal.
- 4) An application for appeal must be accompanied by a \$200.00 bond which will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld and the penalty reduced.
- 5) The appeal will be heard by an appeals panel of three people appointed by the League. Any member of the original Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall not be a member of the Appeals Panel.
- 6) The only role of the Appeals Panel is to review the penalty imposed and, if it considers it appropriate, reduce the initial penalty. Otherwise the initial penalty is to be upheld. In order to succeed the appellant must satisfy the appeals panel that the type of penalty is wrong or that the amount or length of the penalty is manifestly excessive in the circumstances.
- 7) The Appeals Panel shall exercise its discretion as to whether there is a need to reconsider the evidence given at the initial tribunal hearing. The Appeals Panel shall not allow any fresh evidence to be given at the hearing of appeal unless it is satisfied that such evidence was not reasonably available at the initial hearing before the Protests and Disputes Tribunal.
- 8) The appellant Club is required to produce all evidence, including video evidence, upon which it proposes to rely on at the Appeal Hearing.

Appendix E

NORTH PILBARA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING A TRIBUNAL

1. BACKGROUND

As described on page 10 of the Laws of Australian Football, the Purpose of the Laws explain how the game is played and seeks to attain the objectives of ensuring the game is played in a fair manner and spirit of true sportsmanship; and to prevent injuries to players where it can be reasonably achieved, considering the body contact nature of the sport.

Generally, most parents and especially mothers like to see their children involved in a sport that has rules promoting sportsmanship, fair play and one where they can participate in a safe environment. The AFL's rewrite of the laws in the year 2000 addressed this ideal.

The new definitions of **Charging** and **Engaging in Rough Play** has reduced the unnecessary rough contact and together with the Law related to prohibiting contact in marking contests, the issue of protecting the player making the ball his object has been addressed.

Australian Football is built around courage to get the ball and the Laws are framed to encourage this value. It is essential that the Football Industry is seen to deal with offenders in a consistent manner across the State.

In 1998, the Standard Order Off Rule (Red and Yellow Card System) was introduced to assist Umpires and the Football Industry to achieve consistency in controlling unacceptable behaviour **on the field**. This strategy has been very successful and continues to complement the game.

It is logical that the same principle of dealing with consistency be implemented throughout the **Tribunal system**. The following information has been produced to promote consistency in procedures and penalties set by the Football Industry of Western Australia.

It is envisaged that the Standard Tribunal Guidelines and Penalties for Community Football will be reviewed on an annual basis, ensuring that the administrative structures and image of Australian Football will continue to be enhanced.

2. GENERAL INTERPRETATION AND EXPECTATIONS:

2.1 INTERPRETATION

In the interpretation of these guidelines, unless the context requires otherwise:

- words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
- including and similar words are not words of limitation;

- Words terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these guidelines shall be given their ordinary meaning.
- Any report, charge or notice of report shall be deemed to and be read as alleging that the conduct was either intentional, reckless or negligent.
- A Player or Official found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match days while the penalty remains unserved.

2.2 EXPECTATIONS

Controlling Body: Notwithstanding the Controlling Body's overall administrative role: It is expected to uphold the integrity of the game and its Laws and ensure that procedures are in place to manage offenders of the game including but not limited to implementing the following:

- Standard Tribunal Guidelines
- Standard Tribunal Penalties for Reportable Offences and
- A fair and consistent procedure to deal with reported Players or Officials.
- Appointing competent Tribunal participants and provide appropriate training to enhance the games ideals.

Players are expected to play the game in a fair manner and spirit of true sportsmanship and can expect to play in a safe environment.

Umpires are expected to adjudicate a game of Football with integrity, apply the Laws and interpretations in conjunction with the Spirit of the Laws and attend to the administrative requirements associated with the game.

The **Tribunal** is expected to hear and consider charges or investigate matters referred to it by the Controlling Body and if necessary apply sanctions, penalties or fines set by the Controlling Body. It is expected to uphold the integrity of the game and its Laws.

Tribunal Members are expected to be conversant with the By-Laws of the Controlling Body and the Laws of Australian Football, in particular *Law 15.4, Permitted and Prohibited Physical Contact, Law 19, Reporting Players and Officials and Law 20, Order Off Law.*

3. DEFINITIONS:

Advocate means a person representing a witness at a Tribunal who is not a legal practitioner.

Arena: means the *Playing Surface* and all the area between the *Playing Surface* and the *Perimeter Fence*, including any break in the perimeter fence.

Controlling Body: as defined in the *Law 2.1 of Laws of Australian Football*, generally is the overall Administrator of the game and is responsible for the organisation and conduct of matches of Australian Football.

Defendant: means a person called before the Tribunal to answer a charge or report.

Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings Form: A Standard Form used to record the decision of the Tribunal for the Controlling Body.

Intentional Conduct: means a deliberate action.

Match: means a contest of Australian Football played between two Teams.

Mitigating Circumstances: means circumstances that may be considered to lessen the culpability or blame of an offender.

Negligent conduct: means lacking attention, care or concern.

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

Other Appointed Person: A Person authorised by the Controlling Body to report any Player or Official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a Reportable Offence. The Person shall have the same powers and duties as imposed upon an Umpire under Law 19.

Perimeter Fence: is the physical barrier surrounding the playing surface. Where an Arena does not have a Perimeter Fence, then the Perimeter Fence shall be interpreted as being located 5m outside and parallel to the *Playing surface*.

Player: means a person who plays or is selected to play with a Team or a person who otherwise trains with a Team or who is included within the scope of the Laws of Australian Football.

Playing Surface: means the field of play inside the Boundary Line, Goal Line and Behind Line, excluding the area between such lines and the *Perimeter Fence*.

Prescribed Penalty: means a set sanction or penalty for a reportable offence that is offered to an offender by the Controlling Body or its Delegated Authority in lieu of attending a Tribunal Hearing.

NOTE: The **Prescribed Penalty** is derived from the minimum penalty of a specific reportable offence listed on the *Standard Range of Penalties*.

Reckless conduct: means showing no regard for danger or the consequences.

Spear Tackle: is a tackle of where an opponent is driven "head first into the Playing Surface. It is considered unreasonable and outside the laws of the game.

Standard Range of Penalties: are a set range of sanctions, fines or penalties for offenders who commit reportable offences that are either negligent, reckless or intentional acts.

NOTE: The Standard Range of Penalties are set by the Controlling Body to assist Tribunals achieve consistency in determining sanctions in all grades of Community Football; and they signify a clear direction to Football Participants that unlawful and unfair play will not be tolerated.

Suspended Player or Official - Effect of Suspension: Where a player or Official is suspended by a Controlling Body, then for the period of suspension or while the suspension remains unserved, he shall be prohibited from playing or participating in a Match conducted by the Controlling Body imposing the suspension and shall be prohibited from playing or participating in a Match conducted by any other Controlling Body.

NOTE: A Player or Official found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match days while the penalty remains unserved.

Team: means a group of Players competing against other group of Players in a Match of Australian Football.

Tribunal: means an independent body appointed by the Controlling Body to hear and consider charges or investigate matters referred by the Controlling Body. It has the authority to apply sanctions, penalties or fines set by the Controlling Body.

NOTE: The **Tribunal** shall comprise of a Chairperson and 2 (two) other delegates of the Chairpersons choosing.

Tribunal Members: A person or persons appointed by the Controlling Body to assist the Tribunal Chairperson in the execution of his duties.

Umpire: means all Field, Boundary, Goal and Emergency Umpires officiating in or at a match.

Victim: means a person attending a Tribunal who is the person offended against on the designated report or charge form.

Week, Game or Match: a term used by the Tribunal to describe a scheduled game or match penalty of a Home and Away fixture or a Final fixture of the offenders club.

Witness: means any person attending a tribunal convened by the Controlling Body, including but not limited to a Defendant, Advocate, Official, Player or Victim.

4. TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES

These guidelines are set by the Controlling Body to assist all Tribunal Members achieve consistency with their deliberations, reflecting the *Purpose* of the Game and its Laws (i.e. encouragement of fair play and injury prevention) and to reinforce the premise that Offenders who commit Reportable Offences or bring the game into disrepute will not be tolerated.

The guidelines are provided to assist in conducting effective Tribunals, clarify the duties and apply consistent penalties to offenders that are found guilty of reportable offences:

4.1 PROCEDURES FOR ADVOCATES

4.1.1 ELIGIBILITY:

An Advocate may be any person representing a witness but shall not be a Legal Practitioner

4.1.2 DUTIES:

- (a) Arrange for reported player and any witnesses to be present at the Tribunal hearing at the allocated time.
- (b) Prior to the hearing, assist the player or witness to fully prepare his account of the incident.
- (c) Make submissions on the penalty if the report is upheld.

4.1.3 ADVOCATES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO:

- (a) Directly ask questions of his clubs player or witnesses.
- (b) Directly Cross-examine umpires or witnesses.
- (c) Make submissions as to guilt or otherwise.

4.1.4 CROSS EXAMINATION:

Any matter to be asked for the purpose of cross-examination shall be asked through the Tribunal Chairperson who shall consider its relevance and if appropriate, raise the issue with the appropriate witness.

Tribunal Members are expected to be conversant with the By-Laws of the Controlling Body and the Laws of Australian Football, in particular *Law 15.4, Permitted and Prohibited Physical Contact, Law 19, Reporting Players and Officials and Law 20, Order Off Law.*

Any matter to be asked for the purpose of cross-examination shall be asked through the Tribunal Chairperson who shall consider its relevance and if appropriate, raise the issue with the witness.

4.2 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TRIBUNAL:

- (a) The **Tribunal** shall hear and adjudicate on all protests, charges, reports, disputes, reopen cases or any other matter referred to it by the Controlling body. It shall insure that offending Players or Officials are hard in a fair and consistent manner in accordance with the procedures set by the Controlling Body.
- (b) It shall use the Standard Range of Penalties to determine an Offenders penalty and shall take into consideration any injury sustained by a victim and/or any previous convictions of the offender prior to the last 2 years of the Tribunal sitting, by increasing the Standard Penalty. The use of a Suspended Sentence may be used as an additional penalty to the Standard Penalty.
- (c) It may find a report proven if it is **reasonably satisfied** that conduct was either intentional, reckless or negligent. *Law 19.2.1(b).*
- (d) It may adjourn any hearing from time to time. If a Defendant is granted an adjournment, unless exempted by the Tribunal, he shall be ineligible to participate or represent a Club or Team in any capacity during the period of adjournment.
- (e) It may deal with any witness who fails without reasonable excuse to attend the Tribunal hearing and at its absolute discretion; impose any penalty, sanction or fine.
- (f) It may, in the case of a Defendant not attending the Tribunal, suspend that person from participating or representing a Club or Team in any capacity until he attends a reconvened hearing.
- (g) It shall deal with any untruthful, misleading, uncooperative or contemptible witness on the day of the tribunal and impose any penalty, sanction or fine consistent the misconduct charges in the *Standard Range of Penalties.*
- (h) It may deal with other offences arising out of a report on the day of the tribunal and at its absolute discretion; impose any penalty, sanction or fine consistent with the *Standard Range of Penalties.*

- (i) It shall endeavour not to dismiss any case on the grounds of a technicality, but shall review the circumstances of the technicality and if necessary amend the original charge to reflect the expectations of upholding the integrity of the game and its Laws.
- (j) It shall have the right to admit or refuse entry to any person wishing to attend a hearing of the Tribunal.
- (k) It may allow the attendance of persons to witness Tribunal procedures.
- (l) It may accept evidence from the Standard Umpires Evidence Form or Statutory Declaration from any witness provided always that the witness satisfies the Tribunal that he is unable to attend the Tribunal.
- (m) It shall endeavour to arrange for a teleconference for any witness unable to attend the Tribunal provided always that the witness satisfies the Tribunal that he is unable to be present.
- (n) It may proceed and deal with a charge in the absence of any witness or adjourn the hearing to such date and time at its absolute discretion.
- (o) At the conclusion of a hearing the Chairperson shall sign off and record the Tribunals decision on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form. Where an Offender has been given a suspension, a specific date shall be recorded by the Chairperson to reflect the period of suspension up to and including that specific date.

4.3 CONDUCTING A TRIBUNAL

4.3.1 WHEN AN OFFENDER PLEADS *NOT GUILTY*:

- (a) Chairperson invites the reported Player or Official, his Advocate and the person making the charge (usually the Umpire) with his Advocate into the hearing. The only other person in the room should be the Tribunal Secretary unless persons have been permitted by the Chairperson to observe procedures.
- (b) Chairperson reads the charge and asks the Defendants plea. *Guilty or Not Guilty.*
- (c) Chairperson asks for Umpire to outline the charge.
The *Umpire* may be questioned by the *Chairperson*. The *Defendants Advocate* may ask questions to the *Chairperson* and if necessary the *Chairperson* will redirect the questions to the *Umpire*.
- (d) Chairperson asks for the Victims evidence.
The *Defendant's Advocate* may ask questions to the *Chairperson* and if necessary the *Chairperson* will redirect the questions to the *Victim*.
- (e) Chairperson asks for Defendants evidence.
- (f) Chairperson asks if the Defendants Advocate has any witnesses to offer other evidence. Questions may be asked by those in attendance through the Chairperson.

- (g) Chairperson may view Video evidence of the incident provided the game was independently recorded and authorised by the Controlling Body.
Video evidence should include vision leading up to and after the reportable incident. Slow motion and frame by frame facilities for viewing the incident is recommended.
Umpires and Witnesses may be asked to provide further evidence relating to the charge.
- (h) Chairperson thanks the Reporting Umpire/ Authorised Person and the Victim for their evidence and dismisses them from the Tribunal.
- (i) Chairperson asks the Defendants Advocate to summarise his case.
- (j) Chairperson may ask all persons to leave the room.
Chairperson deliberates to determine whether the charge is sustained or dismissed.
The Defendant returns with his Advocate (if they have left the room).
- (k) Chairperson announces the verdict.
- (l) Chairperson asks the Defendants history from his Advocate.
- (m) Chairperson confirms the Defendants history from the Tribunal Secretary.
- (n) Chairperson may ask all parties to leave the Tribunal Room.
- (o) Chairperson recalls Defendant with his Advocate and announces the penalty in accordance with the *Standard Range of Penalties*.
- (p) Where an *Offender* has been given a suspension, the Chairperson shall record the Tribunals decision on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form. A specific date shall be recorded by the Chairperson to reflect the period of suspension up to and including that specific date. The form shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Offender (or his representative).
- (q) In the event of any witness who acts in an untruthful, misleading, uncooperative or contemptible manner on the day of the Tribunal hearing shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct and be dealt with at the conclusion of the hearing.

The Chairperson shall record the Tribunals decision on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form. A specific date shall be recorded by the Chairperson to reflect the period of suspension up to and including that specific date. The standard form shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Offender (or his representative).

NOTE: A Player or Official found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match days while the penalty remains unserved.

4.3.2 WHEN AN OFFENDER PLEADS *GUILTY*:

- (a) The Chairperson invites the reported Player or Official, his Advocate and the person making the charge (usually the Umpire) with his Advocate into the hearing. The only other person in the room should be the Tribunal Secretary unless persons have been permitted by the Chairperson to observe procedures.

- (b) Chairperson reads the charge and asks the Defendant's plea. *Guilty or Not Guilty.*
- (c) Chairperson asks for Umpires evidence.
The Umpire may be questioned by the Chairperson. The Defendant's Advocate may direct questions to the Chairperson and if necessary the Chairperson will direct the questions to the Umpire.
- (d) If required by the Club defending the charge, the Chairperson asks for the Victim's evidence.
Defendant's Advocate may direct questions to the Chairperson and if necessary the Chairperson will direct questions to the Victim.
- (e) Chairperson asks for Defendant's evidence.
- (f) Chairperson may view Video evidence of the incident provided the game was independently recorded and authorised by the Controlling Body. *Video evidence should include vision leading up to and after the reportable incident. Slow motion and frame by frame facilities for viewing the incident is recommended.*
Umpires and Witnesses may be asked to provide further evidence relating to the charge.
- (g) Chairperson thanks the Reporting Umpire / Authorised Person and the Victim for their evidence and dismisses them from the Tribunal.
- (h) Chairperson asks the Defendants history from the Advocate.
- (i) Chairperson asks for the Defendants history from the Tribunal Secretary.
- (j) Chairperson may ask all parties to leave the Tribunal Room.
- (k) Chairperson recalls Defendant with his Advocate and announces the penalty in accordance with the *Standard Range of Penalties.*
- (l) Chairperson records the Decision and Penalty on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form, ensuring it is signed by the Chairperson and the Defendant (or his representative).
- (m) In the event of any witness who acts in an untruthful, misleading, uncooperative or contemptible manner on the day of the Tribunal hearing shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct and be dealt with at the conclusion of the hearing.
The Chairperson would then record the Decision and Penalty on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form, ensuring it is signed by the Chairperson and the offending witness.

5. PRESCRIBED PENALTIES:

Prescribed Penalties are adopted by the Controlling Body to eliminate excessive distances travelled by participants attending tribunal hearings and/or to lessen the time and inconvenience placed on club volunteers.

Prescribed Penalty: means a set sanction or penalty for a reportable offence that is offered to an offender by the Controlling Body or its Delegated Authority in lieu of attending a Tribunal Hearing.

Unless a Yellow Card is issued by the Umpire for the First Offence, the Prescribed Penalty is derived from the minimum penalty of a specific reportable offence listed on the *Standard Range of Penalties*.

If an Offender elects to attend the Tribunal in lieu of accepting the Controlling Body's offer of a **Prescribed Penalty** and is subsequently found guilty of that offence, then the resultant penalty shall be equal to or greater than the Prescribed Penalty. It shall not be less than the Prescribed Penalty for that offence, unless mitigating circumstances are established at the hearing. If mitigating circumstances are established, The Tribunal Chairperson shall state and record the circumstances on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form.