



Independent Schools Competition

Rules and By-laws

2017

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1. Definitions and interpretation of these Rules

1.1 The following words, where shown, unless the context clearly indicates differently, are defined to mean:

AFL	Australian Football League
AFL Independent Schools	Independent Schools Competition
AFL NSW/ACT	AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited
AFL NSW/ACT Website	aflnswact.com.au
Junior Rules	Year 5/6
Laws	Laws of Australian Football, as issued by the AFL
MIC	School Master in Charge
Official	“Official” includes any person assuming a responsibility on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) of an affiliated member School of the controlling body, irrespective of whether or not that person was elected or appointed to a position by or on behalf of the School. For the avoidance of doubt, “Official” shall include any Coach or assistant Coach, Team Manager or assistant Team Manager, Runner, Trainer, Interchange Steward, “Water Carrier”, Ground Manager, member of a Schools committee or person officiating in any capacity on match day, including a School appointed Umpire (Boundary or Goal)
Reportable Offence Rules	A reportable offence as identified under Law 19 of the Laws
Rules	Competition Rules and By-laws of the Independent Schools Competition
Youth Rules	Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Open

2. Laws of the Game

2.1 As issued by the AFL, the Laws will apply at all matches, except where special provisions are made in the Rules. Where the Rules are inconsistent with the Laws, the Rules will prevail.

Special Provisions applicable to AFL Independent Schools

Sledging

2.2 “Sledging” may be described as insulting language or verbal intimidation.

2.3 Sledging is not appropriate in AFL Independent Schools. AFL Independent Schools has a “no tolerance” attitude toward sledging and the interpretation and application of the Laws and the Rules will reflect this “no tolerance” attitude.

2.4 An Umpire may give a warning to a Player or Players sledging another Player or Players and where possible, will inform both captains of the warning as soon as reasonably practicable after issuing such a warning.

2.5 A Player who sledges another Player or Players shall, whether or not a warning has been given to that Player or any other Player, be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter or for the remainder of the game if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.

2.6 For the purposes of the Rules, sledging will be deemed to be an act of Misconduct under the Laws (Law 19.2.2(z)).

2.7 The Rules in relation to sledging will apply in addition to the Laws, including the Laws in relation to the use of an obscene gesture (Law 19.2.2(n)) and using abusing, insulting, threatening or obscene language (Law 19.2.2(j)).

2.8 The Rules also apply, as appropriate, to the sledging of and /or by any Official.

Audible Obscenities

2.9 AFL Independent Schools has a “no tolerance” attitude toward the use of audible obscenities, and the interpretation and application of the Laws and the Rules will reflect this “no tolerance” attitude. Players who use audible obscenities, regardless to whom they are directed, will be removed from the playing field for a period of time and issued with a Blue card (refer Rule 8.2). If the obscenity is directed at the Umpire, the Player shall be reported.

Removing Players from Field of Play

2.10 No person, including any Coach or School Official, may remove, or cause to be removed, a team from the field of play before the official completion of the match. Breach of this Rule is, for an Official, a reportable offence.

3. Teams

Numbers of Players on Field and in Teams

3.1 Player numbers are noted below under Rule 3.6 and 3.7. At all times other than for send – offs, Player numbers on the ground **must** be equal.

3.2 If during the course of a game, a Player injured has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that team, the Field Umpire, the Opposition Coach and the Ground Manager are to be advised accordingly. The other side is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). When a Player returns to the field, in such circumstances, the same process in reverse applies.

3.3 Teams must have the Minimum # of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a match to constitute an official match. Where the Minimum #'s of Players are not available at the scheduled commencement of play, then Rule 4.2 applies.

3.4 AFL Independent Schools Competition strongly recommends that School encourage the participation of Players in the game of AFL. To allow this, teams are encouraged to minimise reserves and to have the highest possible number of Players actually involved in the game on the day.

3.5 To encourage maximum participation and teams to stand alone in terms of Player numbers, the term Match # specifies the ideal number of on-field Players per team. Where a team does not have the number of Players shown as Match # (and the other team has more than the first team), then it is **compulsory** to borrow/loan available players up to the Match # for all ages and Divisions (where present). If, as a result of a Coach not accepting Players beyond the Match #, a team effectively has a larger interchange than is designated in the Rules, on match day the School will not be expected to reduce their total numbers and may have an interchange larger than provided for in the Rules. The Maximum #'s on the Team sheet still applies.

3.6 The following table shows the on field Minimum, and on field Maximum by Age Group for each Regions. For minimum player number games, especially for school holidays, ground sizes can be reduced after agreement from Umpires and Coaches of both teams, to suit the number of Players on each team, i.e. agree on an Under 12 sized field. During school holidays, to assist School's to field teams, the Minimum and Match # below can be reduced by two (2) Players, as advised by the Regional Committee.

3.7 The team with the fewest players available must field all their players up to the Match # and cannot have a bench more than one (1) unless they have maximum players permitted on the field.

Age Group	Min #	Max. on field	Max. Interchange
Year 5/6	9	15	Unlimited
Year 7/8 Div 1	15	18	6
Year 7/8 Div 2	12	18	6
Year 9/10 and Open	15	18	6

4. Match Conduct

Match times

4.1 Matches MUST finish on time. If a start is late, then the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide the duration of the breaks at quarter, half and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters.

4.2 If MINIMUM Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of a match, but Players sufficient for MINIMUM #'s are due to arrive, then a scratch match will be played. In such circumstances, the game shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. If MINIMUM #'s become available at any time prior to the end of the first quarter, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the game is an official match. The scores at the time when the match becomes an official match will stand. If Minimum #'s are not available at the end of the first quarter, the match remains a scratch match and the team with less than Minimum #'s forfeits the match. .

4.3 When it is necessary for a Player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the Field Umpire/s shall stop play at the first opportunity after being advised that a stretcher is required on the playing ground. Play shall not recommence until the stretcher has left the playing ground and is outside the boundary.

4.4 No time-on will be allowed.

4.5 In the case of a significant loss of playing time, the remaining time allocated for the match will be divided equitably by the Ground Manager and Umpire and the match will recommence and finish on schedule.

Match duration

4.6 Match duration will be

- Year 5/6 4 x 12 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Year 7/8 4 x 15 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Year 9/10/Open 4 x 17 minute quarters. (no time-on)

4.7 Breaks during the games will be: -

	Year 5/6 7/8	Year 9/10/Open
1/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes
1/2 time	5 minutes	7 minutes
3/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes

4.8 Timekeepers will sound a siren one (1) minute prior to the commencement of each quarter. The HOST School and Umpires will ensure strict adherence to the quarter breaks.

Extreme Weather

4.9 In the event of dangerous or extreme weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, the Umpires and Schools (in particular Ground Managers) should be aware of the dangers of allowing play during thunder/electrical storms. Play should cease if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. No risks should be taken in this regard. The game may be terminated by the Ground Manager Note: Section 4 of the AFL National Extreme Weather Policy addresses Lightning (downloadable from Resources in AFLSJ.com.au).

Match Day Paperwork

4.10 Match Day documents are to be managed as follows:

Team Sheets <u>Retained by Schools</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools will provide Team Sheets to the Ground Manager• The team sheet must include the name of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Coach
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	○ Runner(s) if used
Goal Umpire Score Cards - Retained by Ground Manager	
Match Report Completed by Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility.
Umpire Votes 9/10/Open Completed by Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record via online facility

Allowed on the Field of Play

4.11 Only Players, Umpires, Trainers, First Aid Officials and Runners are permitted on the field during the course of play

Runners

4.12 In the Under 13's to Under 18's Age Groups, two (2) runners are allowed, but only one on the ground at any one time. In all other Age Groups, only one (1) Runner is allowed. Runners are not to be used in the Under 9 and Under 10 age groups as the Coach is allowed on the Field. The Runner is to wear a clearly visible and identifiable coloured bib as determined or approved by the Regional Committee. Only runners are permitted to deliver messages to Players and are not to loiter or remain on the field after delivering such messages.

Water Carriers /Trainers

4.13 Each team is allowed four (4) water carriers/trainers (identified by a white bib or as determined). They should only enter the playing field on the scoring of a goal or when play is at the opposite end of the field. Water carriers/trainers are not to loiter or remain on the field after undertaking their duties and must not run messages.

4.14 Minimum age of water carriers will be:

- Year 5/6 – 12 years or older
- Year 7/8/9/10/Open – 13 years or older

Coaches

4.15 The Field Umpire shall have the power to move the Coach back or order the Coach from the field completely and to ask any non-Players to leave the field of play.

Interchange

4.16 No Player may take the field before the Player being replaced has left the field.

4.17 Interchanging of Players is permitted at any time throughout the match. However, interchange can only occur through an appropriately marked interchange area. It should be clearly understood by both teams prior to the commencement of the match where the defined interchange area is located. It is to be the only portion of the ground's perimeter through which Players may enter the field.

4.18 Placement of the interchange ground markings should be on the same wing, generally at an equal distance from the two (2) Coaching groups.

Head Count/Counting of Players

General

4.19 Occasions where an uneven number of Players (except where a send-off has occurred) include:

- A late arrival of a player (s) who enters the field without the other School being advised
- A miscommunication within a team at quarter breaks or
- Where a player returns to the field after injury treatment and the other Team, who may have removed a player, is not advised.

4.19(a) To overcome errors, where such situations occur, the Ground Manager as well as the other Team must be advised of such actions.

Request by Captain

4.20 The Captain or acting Captain of a Team may at any time during a Match request that the Field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

Procedure

4.21 Where a request is made under the preceding by-law, the Field Umpire shall:

- stop play at the first available opportunity;
- call into line within the Centre Square the Players of both Teams who are at the time on the Playing Surface and count the number of Players;
- upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and then recommence play at the position on the Playing Surface where the Field Umpire stopped play; and
- as soon as practicable after the Match, report to the AFLSJ that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team and the number of Players actually counted.
- The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is as originally agreed between the Coaches, the Field Umpire/s and Ground Manager prior to the commencement of the game, subject to the application of By-law 7.2.

Players exceeding permitted number

4.22 Where the Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- the Field Umpire shall award a free kick to the Captain or acting Captain of the opposing Team, which should be taken at the Centre Circle or where the Play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- a 50 metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the free kick was awarded; and
- the score of the Team shall then be the score at the commencement of the quarter when the Player count was requested.

Correct number and request without merit

4.23 Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has a permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- the Field Umpire shall award a free kick to the Captain or acting Captain of the opposing Team which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- a 50 metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the free kick was awarded; and
- if the Field Umpire is of the opinion that the request was made primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the Field Umpire shall issue a yellow card to the Captain or acting Captain who requested the player count and may report the Captain or acting Captain who requested the count for time wasting under Law 19.2.2(o).

Electronic and other images

4.24 The law surrounding the taking of images, video and/or audio by way of electronic or any other means (**recording**), particularly of minors, is complex, and in some areas lacks clarity. AFL Independent Schools takes this issue very seriously, and the provisions at Appendix 3 are designed to assist Schools, Officials, Players, families and supporters, as stakeholders, to deal with this complex issue. However, these provisions are not legal advice, and all stakeholders must make their own enquires. Whilst AFL Independent Schools will provide information, guidance and assistance on these issues, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) provisions lies with individual stakeholders, as applicable.

General Background

4.25 When a person enters private land, they consent to any requirements that the property owner may impose on them. This may include restrictions, including prohibitions on the making of a recording of events held on their land. There is nothing, however, to prevent a person from making a recording from outside of the borders of private land, regardless of the property owner's preferences. In the absence of conduct that is offensive or threatening and unlikely to interfere with the public enjoyment of a public place, there is nothing to prevent a person from making a recording of minors in public places.

4.26 It is thus not generally illegal to make a recording of minors at sporting events, but a common sense approach needs to be taken.

4.27 Persons making a recording and persons using such recordings must be mindful of the complex issues surrounding privacy.

Use of images

4.28 Unless consent is not specifically provided, by reason of the Terms and Conditions of Participation, or is withdrawn, the Player's image in any form or medium is able to be used for general marketing and promotional activities.

4.29 The provisions at Appendix 9 seek to strike a balance between concerns regarding privacy and the reasonable use of such images.

Ten (10) Goal Equalisation

4.30 The purpose of this Rule is to encourage Coaches, once a (10 goals/60 points) lead is reached during a game, to appreciate that it serves no purpose to inflict massive losses on their opposition but rather at that point in time to revert to experimenting with Players playing in different positions and to even-up the skill levels of the teams. This rule will apply to all Competition Age Groups. Games on match day will proceed as a normal match, for the whole match period.

4.30(a) The maximum winning margin for all games is 10 goals (60 points).

4.30(b) Whilst the actual final scores are recorded for administration purposes, the final scores are adjusted and recorded by AFL Sydney Juniors Administration so that no final margin will be greater than 10 goals.

4.30(c) If a team leads by 10 goals or more at half time, three quarter time or at the end of the match, the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule is triggered. Field Umpires will confirm via the match report what the score was at this time.

4.30(d) If a team leads by 10 goals or more at half time or three quarter time, it is the obligation of both coaches to equalize the on field competitive balance of the match, firstly by adjusting player numbers so the trailing team has 2 extra players on-field (referred to as "+2"). This is mandatory.

4.30(e) +2 is achieved by the trailing team fielding extra players from their bench, where available. If sufficient interchange players are not available, the opposition coach must elect to either loan a player or players, or remove players from the field. The end result is the trailing team must have 2 extra players on-field at all times. By-law [adjustment where injury and to adjust numbers] continues to apply, subject to the application of +2 as appropriate.

4.30(f) If required, additional measures are to be taken to achieve on field balance, including but not limited to team position experimentation, player rotations, player sharing or moving to +3. The Coaches must cooperate to achieve this aim.

4.30(g) Coaches are required to explain any circumstances in which there is evident failure to achieve competitive balance post the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule being triggered.

4.30(h) Non-compliance with the spirit and application of the Ten (10) Goal Equalisation Rule is an act of Misconduct under the AFL Laws and non-compliance may lead to a formal warning, referral to the School, particularly where there is recurrent non-compliance.

4.30(i) If there is a scoreboard, the scoreboard records the score at the time and the scoring is stopped (i.e. at half or three quarter time)..

4.30(j) No further scoring on the scoreboard is permitted.

School Match Responsibilities

4.31 The Ground manager allocated by AFL NSW ACT is to provide

Timekeeper	Two Footballs	A SAFETY check of the ground before the first match to remove any rocks, glass, needles or other debris from the playing surface i.e. JLT Match Day Checklist completed.
Marked interchange area	Scoreboard/Sounding siren	
Padding for goal and behind posts	Goal Umpire Apparel and Flags	Padding or other protection around structures within three (3) metres of the playing area for example taps, seats, concrete structures.

Ground Manager

4.32 The Ground Manager's match day responsibilities include:

- Ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the game is available before the game.

- Ensure the ground is set-up through the movement and placement of goal posts and padding and the interchange area.
- Ensure a copy of the current Rules and a copy of the current Laws of the Game are available for all games.
- Have available a spare set of Yellow, Blue and Red cards.
- Arrange a competent timekeeper.
- Check the availability of Field and Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires, and time-keeping Officials.
- Receive any formally submitted objections, protests or complaints from Officials of Schools.
- Wear a Bib with the title 'Ground Manager' printed on the back so as to be easily identified.
- Provide drinks for the Field Umpires at each break.
- Where possible, provide the Field Umpires with reasonable refreshments after their game(s).
- Accompany the Umpires on and off the ground and to and from the Umpire's rooms at breaks, or arrange for a responsible person to do so.
- Retain the Umpire team sheets.
- Ensure that both teams are aware where the interchange area is.
- In appropriate circumstances, ensure that the Field Umpire is aware that a stretcher is needed on the field, noting that the Umpire shall then stop play at the first opportunity. The Ground Manager should also ensure that a phone is available to call an ambulance if required.
- In the event of a possible serious injury (e.g. neck), dissuade any football Official from moving the injured Player and to wait for an ambulance. NOTE: The game will not continue until a First Aid Official has removed the Player from the field. If the game is abandoned and the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner, the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, terminate the game. NOTE: If the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on a final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- Keep a check on the behaviour of all Officials and spectators and to issue warnings for any misconduct or behaviour that is contrary to the spirit of the game. NOTE: This process should be completed by Officials of the Schools involved after the Ground Manager has advised an Official of that School. It is not intended that a Ground Manager should be confrontational or assume direct responsibility for behaviour management. In the event that an offence is deemed reportable, the Ground Manager must obtain signed statements from witnesses and obtain any other relevant material, such as any electronic recording. Such reports must be substantiated in this manner.
- Seek to ensure Coaches, Team Managers, Boundary Umpires, Goal Umpires, Runners, Water Carriers, Trainers and First aid Officials wear their identification bib or appropriate uniform as described in the Rules on match day.
- If the ten (10) Goal Equalisation rule is invoked, record the actual score of both teams at that time and ensure the Field Umpire is advised at the end of the match of that score and the time when the Rule was applied i.e. half, three quarter or full time.

Function Cards

4.33 As part of the education of volunteers appointed by Schools to be:

- Runners
- Boundary Umpires
- Goal Umpires
- Water Carriers
- Coaches

Function Cards are to be provided by Schools to any person seeking to assist by performing these tasks on match day. It is incumbent on Schools to ensure these "Cards" are provided to and understood by the person taking on the task.

4.34 Any person acting in the role of a person identified in Rule 4.33 will be deemed to have been provided with the appropriate Function Card and has read and understood same.

Official's Identification (Bibs)

4.35 The following identification for individuals in official roles, as required by AFL Independent Schools are bibs:

- Blue – Coach
- Pink – Medical and School Runners
- Maroon – Team Manager
- White – Water Carriers, Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires (new for 2017)

4.36 All named officials are required to wear such during matches. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and / or the loss of match ratio.

Concussion Management

4.37 Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Player's School, the School Officials and the Players Parents / Guardian.

4.38 The guidelines in this Rule on concussion are based on a position statement on the management of concussion in Australian Football by the AFL Medical Officer's Association.

4.39 The guidelines should be adhered to at all times. Decisions regarding return to play after concussive injuries should only be made by a medical doctor with experience in concussive injuries.

4.40 Any Player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must not be allowed to return to play in the same game or train in the same practice session.

4.41 A concussed Player must not be allowed to return to training or playing before having a formal medical clearance provided to the School.

5. Umpires

General

5.1 It is recommended that all Umpires (Field, Boundary and Goal), be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age.

Field Umpires - Appointment

5.2 Field Umpires will be appointed, as far as possible, to all matches by the Umpire Coordinator.

5.3 Should no appointed Field Umpire be present by the scheduled time of commencement of play, both team Coaches are to decide upon an acceptable replacement/s who may share duty for the duration of the game. However, should the appointed Umpire or any other Umpire appointed for the day arrive during the course of the game, that Umpire may take control as soon as possible.

Powers & Duties

5.4 The powers and duties of Field Umpires will be in accordance with the Laws and the Rules.

5.5 A free kick or a fifty (50) metre penalty may be awarded (in addition to any other appropriate action that may be taken by the Field Umpire pursuant to the Rules or Laws) where a Player, Official or Spectator:

- Uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
- Intentionally or carelessly engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.

5.6 Where required, the Field Umpire may ask spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the game until the request is complied with.

5.7 Each School is to ensure the competency of any person who accepts responsibility as a Goal or Boundary Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to order replacements for any Boundary or Goal Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to consult with, and if necessary, overrule a Goal or Boundary Umpire where, in the Field Umpire's opinion, an obvious error has occurred. No third party is permitted to be involved in any such consultation (notwithstanding the Laws).

5.8 All Goal and Boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the Field Umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game and restrict all communications with the Field Umpires to matters arising directly from Umpire duties. Goal and Boundary Umpires shall act at all times in a professional manner and refrain from barracking for or giving support to a Team and giving advice or making comments to the Players, other Officials or supporters.

Goal Umpires

5.9 Goal Umpire must be provided by each competing team and is required to be dressed in a uniform that is clearly identifiable. A white coat is recommended and Goal Umpires must have a set of white flags and scorecard.

Boundary Umpires

5.10 Boundary Umpires are to be supplied for Year 7/8/9/Open Age Groups. Boundary Umpires are required to be dressed in a white bib to assist in recognition by the Field Umpire(s) and use an audible whistle.

5.11 For **Year 7/8**, the Boundary Umpire will recover the match ball at the point of exit, give the ball to the Field Umpire who will toss the ball into the air ten (10) metres from the boundary line.

5.12 For **Year 9/10 /Open**, if the first throw in of a ball is deemed inadequate by the Field Umpire, the Field Umpire's will throw the ball into the air ten (10) metres from the boundary line.

5.13 In the case that a team does not provide a suitable Boundary Umpire, a member of that team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. Where neither team provides a Boundary Umpire, the attacking side will throw the ball in.

Approaching Umpires

5.14 No person, except as listed below, shall approach or talk to an Umpire (Field, Boundary and Goal) during the quarter time, half time or three quarter time interval or when the Umpires are entering or leaving the field/ground.

5.15 The excepted persons referred to in Rule 6.14 include:

- AFL NSW/ACT staff
- Ground Manager, including any designated assistants
- Parents of the Umpires
- Umpire Coordinator.

5.16 Breach of Rule 6.14 is a reportable offence as an act of Misconduct and a breach of the relevant Code of Conduct.

5.17 Each School must ensure that its Players, Officials and spectators comply with Rule 6.14.

5.18 Any team address must be given outside the centre square.

6. Coaches

Accreditation

6.1 All Coaches officiating at AFL Independent Schools games must be accredited / registered with AFL Coaching Certificates. It is expected Non-accredited Coaches will attend and complete courses provided by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission during the course of the year of registration.

7. Conduct

7.1 In the interests of the game of Australian Football and the Competition, the AFL, and the Schools require all persons to treat all Umpires, School Officials, Players and spectators and all property with respect. Codes of Conduct set out in these Rules have been established to encourage and enforce the appropriate conduct of all persons involved with the Competition. This Rule applies in addition to the specific Rules governing Reports and Disciplinary Procedures, any Codes of Conduct and the Laws

Codes of Conduct

7.2 The Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents and Spectators, Officials and Coaches are set out in Appendix 4.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

7.3 Penalties for breaches of the Code of Conduct include:

- Any Player guilty of inappropriate behaviour, including fighting or causing others to fight on the field, should be subject to an immediate 15 minute send off by their Coach, regardless of any action from the Umpires.

- Any Official, Player or spectator breaching a Code of Conduct may be issued with a warning for a minor breach. .

Media / Statements

7.4 The AFL Independent Schools competition is bound by and will enforce the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications, a copy of which may be found on AFL Sydney Juniors website (Resource Centre/Bylaws & Policies).

7.5 For the purpose of the Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media or social media.

7.6 Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, and any other person, School, or School shall be subject to the following provisions:

7.6a) In the case of a Player or Official the making of a statement in contravention of Rule 7.6 is an act of Misconduct pursuant to Law 19.2.2(j) is a reportable offence

7.6(b) In the case of any other person, the making of a statement in contravention of Rule 7.6 is a breach of the Code of Conduct;

Vilification and Discrimination Policy

7.7 The AFL Independent adheres to the AFL's Vilification and Discrimination as per Appendix 2.

Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures

Reports by Umpires

7.8 The following is the procedure to be followed for all Reports made by an Umpire on match days. Scope will still exist to comment on other issues (send offs, warnings etc.) on the match report document.

7.8(a) This Rule prescribes the procedures for the lodgement and notification of Notices of Report, pertaining to a Reportable Offence, as well as the procedure for dealing with Prescribed Penalties. This Rule applies to Officials, as well as to Players, as appropriate.

Prescribed Penalties

7.9. A prescribed penalty system will operate in the AFL Independent Schools Competition.

7.9(a) A Prescribed Penalty may be offered to a Player's School MIC or delegate, following receipt of a Notice of Report under this Rule 7, , copied to the Umpire Coordinator, **by 12.00pm Monday following the match** or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practical

710 When making a Prescribed Penalty offer, AFL Independent Schools will make available to the Player's School with sufficient details of the report. The Schools disciplinary process can use this as a guide

Action during Match

7.11 Where an Umpire reports a Player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Report:

- At the time of the incident;
- Before the commencement of the next quarter; or,
- Where an incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.

7.12 The Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Reportable Offence.

7.13 An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or an Official of a Team of the Report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.

7.14 The failure of an Umpire to inform a Player or Official of the Report does not invalidate the making of the Report.

7.15 Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made. It is a breach of the Rules for such reported Player, Official or any other Player or Official to seek to or speak to the Umpire about a Report. Any Player or Official who seeks to or speaks to the Umpire may be referred for disciplinary action

Completing Notice of Report by the Umpire

7.16 In completing and lodging a Notice of Report, the Umpire will utilise the online Umpire Match Report process available through Google to document any reports. In such cases, the Umpire will, on the day, advise the School and ensure that the proper notice of a Report is provided verbally. When the Report is processed by AFL Independent Schools, full and complete details will be provided from the Umpire Match Report system to the School of the reported Player.

7.17 As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, the reporting Umpire shall:

7.17(a) Provide advice to an Official from each team

7.17(b) Verbally advise the Umpire Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match, **by 8.00pm on Match Day or 10.00am next day** where a night match is involved.

Disciplinary Hearings

7.18 Subsequent to a report issued by an Umpire the disciplinary process utilised by the School may impose an appropriate penalty.

8. Send-Off/Order-Off – Yellow and Blue Cards

8.1 Any send-off (Yellow card) will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter excluding breaks between quarters, in this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.

8.2 A Blue Card will be held up by the Umpire as a Calm down. Any send-off (Blue Card) will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field for ten (10) minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. Where a Player offends for a second time and would otherwise have been given a Blue Card, they shall be given a Yellow Card.

8.3 A Player or Official who breaches any of the Laws twice in the same match for separate incidents, or where there is a serious breach (such as those listed, but not limited to, that in Rule 8.4), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Red card and must report the Player or Official. The failure of the Umpire to report the Player or Official does not prevent a reportable offence from being otherwise dealt with in accordance with the Rules. A Player sent from the field with a red card must leave the field completely and cannot sit with the interchange Players or the Coaches. The Umpire will recommence the game once the Player has left the playing field.

8.4 Serious breaches **include** where a Player or Official:

- Intentionally or carelessly makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Intentionally or carelessly kicks another person.
- Commits an act of Misconduct, if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

8.5 A Player who receives a Red Card in a match is not prevented from participating in older age matches on the same weekend, although it is expected that Schools will exercise prudence, as appropriate.

General

8.6 In all instances, a Player ordered off shall leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area and in the case of a Yellow or Blue card can be replaced immediately and for a Red Card after 15 minutes. The requirement for evening up of Players does not apply where a Player has been sent off and cannot be replaced. In the case of a Yellow card, the send-off is for a period of time equivalent to one quarter -and the timekeeper shall indicate when the Player is permitted to resume playing. In this case, the Player must sit with the timekeeper.

8.7 In the event of a Player or Official failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, the Player or Official shall be reported for misconduct. . The Player or Official's team shall forfeit the match.

8.8 In addition to Players, the Rules also apply to Officials, and the Rules will be interpreted appropriately where the behaviour involves an Official or Officials

Appendix 1 – Junior / Youth Rules

	Year 5/6
1. Playing Field (min)	100 - 140 metres – Length, 75 - 95 metres – Width (Determined by agreement)
2. Ball Size	Size 3 Ball - Default Ball is a leather football. A synthetic football can only be used by mutual agreement of coaches
3. The Team	12 - 15 Players with up to six reserves Number of Players on ground must be equal. Interchange may take place at any time, but all Players should play 3 quarters.
4. Zones/Positions and transition of the ball	N/A
5. Scoring	After a behind the Player kicking in cannot dispose to themselves.
6. Playing Time	4 x 12 Minute Quarters
7. Starting and Restarting Play	<u>A ball up is contested between 2 centre Players of similar height as nominated by the umpire in the centre of the ground. Only 3 Players from each team shall be closer to the ball up than about 20 metres. The Umpire is to enforce a similar 20m area for field ball ups. No Full possession permitted.</u>
8. Scrimmage and field ball ups	Field ball ups are contested by 2 Players of equal size selected by the umpire. Before the ball up, the umpire should clear the area by sending Players back to their positions. No more than 3 Players from each team shall be closer to the ball up than about 20 metres. No Full possession permitted.
9. Out of Bounds	From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A Player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. If in doubt – ball up 5metres in from boundary Off hands or body – ball up 5 metres in from the boundary. No Full possession permitted.
10. Gaining Possession	
11. Tackling	<u>Full tackling rules as per the Laws of Australian Football apply. No Sling tackle permitted.</u>
12. Smothering	Smothering is permitted
13. Barging	Barging and fending off opponents is permitted.
14. Shepherding	Shepherding permitted as per the Laws of Australian Football.
15. Marking	A mark is awarded when a Player catches the ball directly from another Player's kick that has travelled at least 10 metres.
16. Distance Run and Bouncing the Ball	A Player running with the ball must bounce it within 15 metres, only 2 bounces are permitted. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.
17. Penalties (after a mark & free kick)	25m penalty can be applied at the umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way.
18. Kicking Off the Ground	Not permitted unless accidental.
19. Order-off rule	As per Rule 8 of AFL Sydney Juniors Bylaws.
20. Spirit of the Game	Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game. The before game shake hands takes place 3 minutes before the scheduled commence time.
21. Coaches	Coaches are not allowed on the field. Messages delivered by a runner who must be an adult or a Player that is mature enough to umpire the game.

Appendix 2 AFL Independent Schools Vilification and Discrimination Policy

Introduction

The AFL Independent Schools Competition supports and endorses the AFL NSW/ACT Vilification and Discrimination Policy (**the Policy**). Where the Policy is inconsistent with this specific AFL Independent Schools Vilification and Discrimination Policy (**this specific policy**), this specific policy prevails. Where there is alleged to be a breach of this specific policy, the person alleged to have been vilified may choose to have the complaint dealt with under the Rules or pursuant to this specific policy, the provisions of which are referred to in this specific policy.

1. Prohibited Conduct

No person subject to the Rules 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.

2. Lodging a Complaint

In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened "the rules", an Umpire, School or Player may, by 5.00 p.m. on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing (using the "Incident Referral Form" on AFL Sydney Juniors website under the forms tab of "Resources") with the person appointed from time to time by AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager as the Complaints Officer for the purposes of this rule. The complaint must outline the circumstances of the allegations made against a person.

3. Complaints Officer

The Complaints Officer shall:-

- (i) inform the person alleged to have contravened rule 1 of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it in writing;
- (ii) identify and obtain written statements from any available witnesses;
- (iii) obtain electronic recordings or other relevant evidence; and
- (iv) arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.

4. Confidentiality and No Public Comment

Subject to rule 7 below: -

- (i) the particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall at all times remain confidential; and
- (ii) a person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation.
- (iii) the provisions of Rule 27 Statements continue to apply.

5. Conciliator

A conciliation arranged under rule 3 shall be conducted by the nominee of AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager.

6. Attendance at Education Program

- (i) Where:-
- a person alleged to have contravened rule 1 attends a conciliation for the first time (other than as a person vilified); and
 - the complaint against the person is resolved at conciliation,

the person may, as part of the resolution, be directed by the conciliator and if so directed shall attend an education program approved by the AFL NSW/ACT.

- (ii) Where a person employed, engaged or otherwise associated with a School is required to attend an education program or similar body in another State, the School shall pay the costs of that person's attendance.
- (iii) A person who fails to attend the education program shall be deemed to have contravened this rule.

7. Public Statement

Where a complaint is resolved by conciliation, the only public statement that shall be made concerning the complaint and its resolution shall be that agreed upon by the parties and AFL Sydney Juniors.

8. Unsuccessful Conciliation

Where the Complaints Officer is of the opinion that it is appropriate to do so, whether or not the complaint has been resolved by conciliation, the Complaints Officer may:-

- (i) in the case of a Player or Official, refer the complaint to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence; or
- (ii) in the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the Regional Committee (to be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct Rules).

9. Previous Involvement

- (i) Where a person alleged to have contravened rule 1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as a person vilified), the Complaints Officer may refer the complaint directly to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence in the case of a Player or Official, or directly to the Regional Committee to be dealt with as they see fit in the case of any other person.
- (ii) For the purposes of this rule, conciliation includes a conciliation arranged under rule 1 or such other form of conciliation arranged by the AFL or directly between the parties concerned.

10. Evidence before Tribunal or Chief Executive

In the event that a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this specific policy, no evidence shall be given to or be accepted by that body or the Regional Committee relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to rule 3.

11. AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager

In the event that a Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of the Rules, or if the appointed person is for any reason unavailable to act under the Rules, the Complaints Officer for the purpose of the Rules shall be AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager.

12. Referring Complaint

In any case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, the complaint shall be referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, as soon as practicable.

13. Legal Representation

Where a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this specific policy, the person alleged to have contravened rule 1 may be represented by a legal practitioner.

14. Time Limit

Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this specific policy may be extended by AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager if in the opinion of AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager it is just and equitable to do so.

15. Liability of School

- (i) In the event that a complaint under this specific policy in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Tribunal or where the Regional Committee determines that a person the subject of a complaint has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL, the School employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be liable for the conduct of the person and shall be liable to a sanction to be determined by the Regional Committee.
- (ii) Subject to Rule 15(i) above does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, the School took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the School from engaging in the conduct which contravened this specific policy.

16. Continuous Education

Each School must:-

- (i) ensure that all of its Players, Coaches, Officials and other employees attend any education program organised and conducted by the AFL; and
- (ii) maintain and keep a written record of all such attendees, (to be signed by each attendee and the President of the School), and provide a copy immediately upon request to AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager.

17. False or misleading information

A person who:-

- (i) in a complaint lodged under rule 2 or during the conciliation process, provides any information or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead; or
- (ii) falsely accuses a person of breaching Rule 1 shall be liable to a sanction as determined by AFL Sydney Juniors Competition Manager in his/her absolute discretion.

Appendix 3 Recording of AFL Independent Schools Activities

1. This Appendix governs the recording of images, video and/or audio by way of electronic or any other means (**recording**) of AFL Independent Schools activities where used by or for the use of or on behalf of Schools and/or for, by or on behalf of their Officials (**recorder**). It must be read in conjunction with relevant Codes of Conduct
2. It sets out the terms and conditions on which such recording can take place, seeking to balance the reasonable expectations of privacy by the participants and the reasonable use of such recordings for legitimate purposes.
3. Recordings may only be used within the spirit of the game and within the Laws and consistent with the Code of Conduct.
4. In this document, **participant** means all Players, School appointed Umpires and Team Officials, and does not include spectators and officially appointed Umpires.
5. The recorder may only record matches and other AFL related activities such as practice matches, training and drills (**activity or activities**) for legal, instructional, coaching and promotional purposes (**the accepted purposes**) and must not record activities for commercial, indecent, inappropriate or illegal purposes.
6. Subject to the direction and supervision of AFL Independent Schools, and the direction or ruling by the relevant Code of Conduct Investigations Committee, such recording may be used for legitimate purposes in Code of Conduct investigations and/or Tribunal hearings.
7. The recorder must inform the ground manager (where appointed), the Coach and/or Team Manager of the School and any School (**other School**) whose participants are involved in the activity to be recorded, before the recording is commenced. The other School may not object to the recording being made. The Coaches and/or Team Managers must use their best endeavours to inform participants, and the parents and guardians of all participants who are minors, of the recording.
8. If a copy of the recording is requested by an official of the other School (the **requestor**), the recorder must provide a copy within 3 working days after being provided by the requestor with suitable media on which to copy the recording. The requestor shall pay the amount identified in Table 1. AFL Independent Schools may request a copy of the recording and advise the recorder of the media on which it wishes to receive the recording and such copy shall be provided to AFL Independent Schools without charge within 3 working days.
9. None of the recorder, the requestor or AFL Independent Schools shall provide a copy of the recording to any other party except with the written consent of both Schools.
10. None of the recorder, the requestor or AFL Independent Schools shall post, stream or otherwise share the recording, including on the internet or social media. The recording may be shared for instructional, Coaching, Tribunal /Code of Conduct purposes but only by the School, the other School or AFL Independent Schools. Except where used for the accepted purposes, none of the Applicant, the requestor or AFL Independent Schools may make any other form of publication of the recording.
11. The requestor and AFL Independent Schools may only use the recording for the purposes outlined in point 5 above.
12. A recording may be used for promotional purposes unless the consent of the parent or guardian of any players who are minors for the use of such recording has been withdrawn prior to its use.
13. Where informed consent is required, it is the sole responsibility of the party who is required to obtain the informed consent to obtain such informed consent.
14. The provisions of this document apply to recordings however and by whomever made or obtained.
15. Table 2 sets out various activities and how they are covered by this Appendix. However, the Table is for guidance only, and if there is any discrepancy between the Table and this document, the provisions of this Appendix prevail.

16. Breach of the terms of this document, or the spirit of the game or the Code of Conduct is an act of Misconduct under the AFL Laws, and will be dealt with pursuant to the Bylaws accordingly.

Table 1

Fees to be paid by the requestor pursuant to Clause 8 - \$40

Table 2

Consent of participants not required	Prior consent to use not required but consent may be withdrawn prior to use	Prohibited
Instruction* Coaching* Tribunal/Code of Conduct* <i>* no post, stream or otherwise sharing of the recording, including on the internet, social media</i>	Promotional (for example, use in School newsletter, School Annual report, School social media or by AFL Independent Schools.	Commercial Illegal Inappropriate Indecent

Appendix 4 Codes of Conduct

Players Code of Conduct

Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other School activities:

- Play in accordance with the Laws including by (but not limited to):
 - o avoiding striking, kicking, kneeing, stomping on, charging, scratching, tripping, spitting at, wrestling, pinching another person (or attempting to do so), or any other inappropriate or unsporting behaviour;
 - o refraining from rough conduct or forceful contact with, head butting, eye-gouging or making contact to the face of an opponent (or attempting to do so); and
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour.
- Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o accepting directions and requests made by team and other Officials without argument; and
 - o encouraging team mates to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a safe, friendly and fun environment for all Players, Officials, parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o controlling your temper and playing attitude;
 - o refraining from sledging, bullying and other inappropriate discriminatory behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
 - o focussing on your own performance and play as a team member;
 - o applauding good play and the achievements of other Players, including the opposition;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others, - including via social media;
 - o consulting your Team Manager or Coach regarding any disagreement with a decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour;
 - o respecting the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Schools; and
 - o accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

Notes for Players

- Play in accordance with the Laws.
- Never argue with an Official. If you a player disagrees with a decision, you should ask the Team Manager to raise the matter at an appropriate time.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of Officials and sledging other Players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
- Never engage in any type of unnecessary physical activity either on or off the field.
- Work equally hard for you and your Team. The Teams performance will benefit, and so will yours.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Co-operate with your Coaches, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of your teammates, not to please anyone else.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Don't take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information see the National Member Protection Policy.
- Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

Parents and Supporters/Spectators Code of Conduct

Parents and supporters/spectators are bound by the following Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other School activities:

- Support your child and child's team by behaving in a positive fashion including by (but not limited to):
 - o providing only positive feedback and recognition for Players' efforts;
 - o refraining from instructing, coaching or distracting your child during play or training;
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour;
 - o avoiding detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the School, the Regions or AFL Sydney Juniors; and
 - o encouraging participation, enjoyment and performance equally.
- Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o accepting directions and requests made by Team and other Officials without argument; and
 - o encouraging other parents and supporters/spectators to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a beneficial environment for all Players, Officials, parent and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o controlling your temper and disruptive behaviour;
 - o refraining from aggressive barracking, bullying and other inappropriate discriminatory behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
 - o applauding good play and the achievements of all players including from the opposing team;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others in public - especially via social media;
 - o consulting the Team Manager or Coach regarding any disagreement with a decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour;
 - o recognising and respecting the efforts of all volunteers;
 - o respecting the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Schools; and
 - o accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

Notes for Parents and Supporters

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses. Supporters/spectators are there to support, not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the School, or AFL Sydney Juniors.
- Never publicly criticise Umpires, rather raise personal concerns with School Officials in private.
- Do not make remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your Coach, the Players, School and family who are let down with such remarks.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Schools.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter/spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Condemn the use of unnecessary physical contact in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players.
- Abusive language is unacceptable.

Official's Code of Conduct

The Officials of all Schools are bound by the following Official's Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other School activities:

- Officiate in accordance with the role to which you are appointed including by (but not limited to):
 - o acquiring a proper knowledge of and abiding by the Laws and Rules (and, where appropriate) applying them honestly, uniformly and fairly;
 - o refraining from destructive or exaggerated feedback and commentary on the efforts of Players' and other Officials';
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour;
 - o avoiding detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the School, the Region or AFL Sydney Juniors; and
 - o encouraging participation, enjoyment and performance equally.
- Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o refraining from approaching the Umpires (except when acting as Ground Manager - or if a Goal, or Boundary Umpire, limited to assisting the Field Umpire as requested);
 - o accepting directions and requests made by Ground Managers and other authorised Officials without argument; and
 - o encouraging other Officials to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a safe, friendly and fun environment for all Players, Officials, parent and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o taking steps to ensure Coaches, Boundary and Goal Umpires, First Aid and other Officials understand their respective responsibilities and respect the need for fair play in sport;
 - o controlling your temper and refraining from disruptive behaviour;
 - o refraining from unnecessary interference, bullying and other inappropriate behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
 - o applauding good play and the achievements of all Players including from the opposing team;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others including via social media;
 - o recognising and respecting the efforts of all other volunteers;
 - o consulting the Ground Manager regarding any disagreement with a game day decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour on game day;
 - o addressing early (and assisting other Officials in highlighting and dealing with) any misconduct and other inappropriate behaviour;
 - o respecting (and ensuring the safety of) the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Schools; and
 - o accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.
- Promoting the health of your School and the Competition including by (but not limited to):
 - o being a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance;
 - o involving others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football;
 - o creating pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, Umpires and administrators;
 - o appointing, training and developing qualified and competent Coaches and Officials;
 - o helping Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and to improve the standards of Coaching and officiating;
 - o seeking continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies;
 - o being consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
 - o condemning deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promoting fair play and appropriate sports behaviour;
 - o placing the health and safety of the Players as the most important reason to be weighed during the decision making process;

- o ensuring you remain up to date with any changes and/or interpretation of Laws and Rules; and
- o using common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws

Notes for Officials

- Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, Umpires and administrators.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- Appoint, train and develop qualified and competent Coaches and Officials.
- Help Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of Coaching and officiating.
- Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the Laws and the Rules.
- Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect of the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, or any policy decisions of the School, AFL Sydney Juniors or AFL.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Ensure all Parents, Coaches, sponsors, Officials, First Aid Officials and Players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- Abide by the Rules (including any requirements or restraints applying to any official role such as a Boundary or Goal Umpire).
- Display fairness and uniformity in applying the Rules.
- Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- The health and safety of the Players must be the most important reason to be weighed during the decision making process.
- Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- Ensure you remain up to date with any Law changes and/or interpretation of Laws.
- Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
- Where acting as a Boundary or Goal Umpire, act at all times in a professional manner, do not barrack or give support to a Team, give advice or make comment to the Players, other Officials or spectators, and under no circumstances approach the Field Umpire, except in relation to your Umpiring duties.

Coaches Code of Conduct and Role of the Coach

The Coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The Coach interfaces with all groups involved within a School, and assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the game, both today, and in particular with Coaches of junior teams, in the future. It is essential that every Coach be aware of this unique position and so conduct themselves in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position.

All Coaches, whether accredited or not, are bound by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, as well as the Rules, including the specific Rules governing Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures.

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches are bound by the Official's Code of Conduct. In addition, Coaches are bound by the following Coaches' Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other School activities:

- Coach in accordance with the Laws and Rules including by (but not limited to):

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- o ensuring Players coached conduct themselves within the limits and the spirit of the Laws and Rules;
 - o removing from play (by send-off direction or otherwise) immediately any Player coached who participates in conduct which breaches the Laws or Rules;
 - o anticipating conduct that warrants, and exercising appropriately, the power to direct a Player coached to come off the field during a game or training;
 - o dealing with Players coached honestly, uniformly and fairly;
 - o restricting game day coaching communications to runners (or otherwise in accordance with the Age Group Rules) and otherwise refraining from active coaching from the sidelines;
 - o refraining from open and audible commentary on the effort or performance of the other team's players, coach and other Officials;
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour; and
 - o ensuring injured Players are protected and given prompt and competent first aid and medical attention and health policies (such as for concussion) are strictly applied.
- Respect the Umpires, Ground Managers, opposing Coaches and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o requiring team and supporter acceptance of decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o supporting the role of the Ground Manager including by providing appropriate directions to any Player, parent, supporter or team Official;
 - o encouraging parents, supporters and team Officials to behave in a like manner.
 - Encourage a beneficial environment for all Players, Officials, parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o taking the lead in promoting fair play, good sportsmanship and the encouraging recognition for of good role models;
 - o keeping up to date with practical training methods and good coaching theory;
 - o developing your Players' skills, fitness and good character in equal measure with team development;
 - o encouraging others to recognise and applaud good play and the achievements of all players including from the opposition;
 - o setting reasonable and attainable demands, goals and expectations;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing Players and those assisting or playing against you;
 - o ensuring Players and parents appreciate that regular attendance at training and on game day, together with private practice, is an essential part of Player development;
 - o co-opting assistance from and supporting the efforts of the Ground Manager and other game day Officials; and
 - o fostering respect for self and others including for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.

Notes for Coaches

- Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- Teach fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- Be reasonable in setting demands, goals and expectations.
- Maintain a current knowledge of the Laws, the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical, and abide by those Laws and Rules.
- Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
- Never ridicule Players.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.
- Ensure that all Players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
- Ensure that injured Players are given prompt and competent First Aid attention and that any doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
- Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of Coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of your Players.
- Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.

- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any Player, Official and Umpire, volunteer or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Never use obscene or other inappropriate language to, or in relation to another person
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Schools.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, volunteer or any policy decisions of the School, the Region, AFL Sydney Juniors or the AFL.

Coach and Administrators

- Remember the Coach is a representative of the School's administration and therefore it is important that Coaches conduct themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
- Support the administration policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be resolved privately in a composed manner.
- Adhere to School policy in both letter and spirit.
- Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

Coach and Umpires

- Treat the Umpire with the utmost good faith and respect.
- Introduce the Umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the game and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
- Instruct Officials, Players and spectators that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the game, nor the intervals within a game, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
- Restrain any Official, Player or spectator from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
- Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
- Never criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
- Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

Coach and Supporters/Spectators

- Encourage spectators to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either team for good, fair play.
- Ensure that spectators do not interfere with the game, or encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with spectator's behaviour and request the School administration to act in a manner to diffuse any possible problems.

Coach and Parents

- At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the Coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the Coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the Coaches guidelines.
- Request parents support the Coach in any disciplinary action the Coach is required to undertake.
- Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the Coach, the School's Officials, the Umpires, volunteers and the opposition Officials, Players and spectators.
- Request that if a parent has a problem with the Coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the Coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to School administration.