

HEATHCOTE DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS & COMPETITION REGULATIONS 2018

1.0 Definitions and interpretations

In the following by-laws and regulations, unless the contrary intention appears:

- *HDFNL* means the Heathcote District Football League incorporated
- *The League* means the Heathcote District Football Netball League.
- *The Board* means the Board of management of the Heathcote District Football League.
- *General Manager* means the General Manager appointed by the Board of management at the first meeting following the League's Annual General Meeting.
- *The Commission* means the Central Victorian Australian Football Commission incorporated.
- *AGM* means the Annual General meeting of the Heathcote District Football Netball League.
- *AFL CV* means AFL Central Victoria administration
- *Tribunal* means the independent tribunal panel appointed by the board of management of the Heathcote District Football Netball League and AFL CV
- *Home & away* means any game played prior to the commencement of the finals series.
- *Day* means any day of the week except Saturday or Sunday.
- *Seniors* means the team in the highest grade of football.
- *Protesting club* means the club which has lodged a protest or complaint against another club.
- *Opposing club* means the club which has had a protest or complaint laid against them by another club

2.0 HDFNL General By-laws

These rules must be read in conjunction with:

1. AFL Laws of Australian Football
2. AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations as published each year in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook or as amended by notification from the AFL Victoria Country from time to time.
3. Netball Victoria Rules & regulations
4. The HDFNL Constitution.
5. HDFNL football and netball by laws and competition regulations.
6. In the case of any question arising as to the interpretation of these by-laws, the Board of Management shall determine the intention of the by-law in question.

2.1 *Club affiliation:*

Each club shall affiliate with the HDFNL by:

- (a) Payment of an affiliation fee of \$200.00 which is payable at or before the AGM of the season in which the club wishes to affiliate.

2.2 *Club colours:*

- (a) Club playing colours must be registered with the league and approved by the board. This includes the colour and design of football jumpers, shorts and socks and netball dresses, nicks, socks and netball bibs.
- (b) Any alteration to the registered club colours must be approved by the board.
- (c) Players wearing supportive, compression garments must ensure that these are “skin” colour only.
- (d) If the Board determines that club colours will clash between two opposing clubs, then the board will request an alternative playing uniform be used by one of these clubs (determined by the board) for these particular matches.
- (e) No player shall take part in any match of the league unless he/she is wearing these registered colours.
- (f) Current playing uniforms registered with the league are shown in attachment 1.

2.3 *Club details:*

Clubs are required to complete a club information document and submit this to the league by 31 January each year. Penalty for non-compliance - \$50.00

2.4 *Club sponsors:*

- (a) Clubs are required to adhere to all conditions contained in any league sponsorship agreements as entered into by the board from time to time
- (b) Club sponsors are to be registered with and approved by the board.
- (c) Sponsors’ logos that are to be placed on playing apparel must be approved by the board
- (d) On football jumpers: approved logos may be placed on the back of the jumper and are to be located underneath the playing number and no larger than 300mmx100mm (L x W). Approved logos may be placed on the front of the jumper and are to be placed on the upper chest area only and may be no larger than 100mm x 100mm.

- (e) On football shorts: approved logos are to be located on the front left leg only and no larger than 100mmx50mm (L x W).
- (f) Netball bibs should only have the sponsorship logos for Netball Victoria and League.
- (g) Clubs may not enter into sponsorship agreements with businesses associated with tobacco and/or tobacco related products.
- (g) Companies associated with alcohol and/or alcohol related products may not be advertised on any junior uniforms.

2.5 Competition conditions – Home & Away series

- (a) all matches during the home & away series are to be played on a Saturday unless otherwise sanctioned by the league.
- (b) in all matches, four (4) premiership points shall be awarded for a win, two (2) points for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss or a bye.
- (c) the position of any teams level on points shall be determined by total score for the team as a percentage of total score against the team.
- (d) The Primary Grade netball games are to be non-competitive and as such, are not subject to by-laws 2.5 (b) & (c).
- (d) any variation to match starting times and/or match duration must be requested in writing by the Wednesday prior to the match in question at the latest and this variation must be approved by the Board.
- (e) All netball games should be played on an appropriate outside court available to the club within the vicinity of the football venue.

2.6 Competition conditions – Finals series

- (a) at the completion of the rounds of home and away matches, the five (5) leading clubs shall compete in the major premiership series under league administration. The major premiership series shall consist of an elimination final (4th v 5th), qualifying final (2nd v 3rd), first semi-final (loser qualifying final v winner of elimination final), second semi-final (1st v winner qualifying final), preliminary final (loser 2nd semi-final v winner 1st semi-final) and the Grand Final (winner 2nd semi-final v winner preliminary final)
- (b) venues for all finals, except the Grand Final, shall be allocated on a rotational system.
- (c) the board shall determine the venue for the Grand Final.
- (d) it shall be the responsibility of the club whose venue has been allocated a final, to advise the board if there is a problem, or likely to be a problem, with any playing surface or surroundings.
- (e) the board shall then determine if the venue is suitable for play. If it is deemed that a venue is no longer suitable for play, the next venue in the rotation system shall be allocated a final.

2.7 Revenue and expenditure:

- (a) Clubs will pay an administration fee to the League during the current season. The amount of this fee shall be set at the AGM and paid in instalments as determined by the Board.
- (b) All gate receipts for the finals series shall be paid to the League and the League shall pay all expenses, except catering expenses, incurred in the staging of such finals series.

- (c) Notwithstanding by-law 2.7 (a), the League shall pay all catering expenses for the Grand Final only.
- (d) The League are to employ all gate keepers for all finals games. The gate keepers to be paid 5% of the total gate takings from their appointed final. Organisations providing their services as gate keepers for finals must have no affiliation with the Football Netball Club hosting their appointed final.
- (e) The League shall pay to the club that it employs to host the Grand Final, an amount determined by the Board which shall be not less than 10% of the gate takings for the Grand Final.
- (f) The League shall pay a minor dividend to each eligible club. This dividend shall be an amount for appearance of all open-age teams, both football and netball, in the finals series. In effect, this is a refund of the open-age player entry fee for each final in which they participate.
- (g) A major dividend shall be paid to each club as determined by the Board.
- (h) All fines incurred by a club and any outstanding funds owed to the League by a club shall be deducted from that club's major dividend.
- (i) If a club receives a major dividend which is less than the total amount owed to the League by that club, then that club shall pay the outstanding balance to general League funds.
- (j) Club membership tickets will not admit any person to any game of the finals series of the HDFNL
- (k) All clubs participating in Final series matches must be financial with the League before close of business on the Wednesday preceding the final round of home and away matches. If a participating club is not financial by this time, the Board may, at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position in the Final Series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the Final Series.
- (l) Any club that has not paid the required fee instalment within fourteen (14) days after the due date shall be subject to a penalty of not less than \$100 unless payment arrangements have been approved by the board prior to the due date.

2.8 Affiliation

- (a) All clubs affiliated with the HDFNL shall be required field, as a minimum:
 - (i) one (1) senior football team
 - (ii) one (1) reserves football team
 - (iii) one (1) underage football team
- (b) The above requirement is mandatory, unless a majority of not less than two thirds of the member clubs of the league approve a club's written application for special consideration.
- (c) It is preferable that all clubs affiliated with the HDFNL field all grades of netball being – A Grade; A Reserve; B Grade; B Reserve; 17 & under, 15 & under and a non-competitive Primary team.
- (d) However, as a minimum, all clubs must field three (3) netball teams in the following order:
 - (i) Seniors teams to be filled in the order of A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade and B Reserve.

- (ii) In all Home & Away games, teams must fill an A Grade team before the A Reserve team, and fill the A Reserve team before the B Grade team, and fill the B Grade team before the B Reserve team.
- (iii) Junior teams to be filled in order of 17&Under then 15&Under.
- (e) All clubs affiliating with the HDFNL must pay an affiliation fee of \$200.00 at the AGM, but no later than 31 January in the year that they intend to affiliate.

2.9 Auditor:

- (a) At the first Board meeting after the AGM, the Board shall appoint an appropriate company or a qualified individual to audit the League's finances.
- (b) This company/individual shall examine the accounts paid and accounts received and be satisfied with their correctness as they have been submitted at the end of the League's financial year (31 October each year)

2.10 Meetings:

- (a) At least three (3) club representative meetings shall be held each season.
- (b) Two (2) representatives per club shall be required to attend these meetings as scheduled by the Board.
- (c) If a club is not represented at any League sanctioned meeting or function, then that club shall incur a fine of \$50.00
- (d) If a vote is required, then each club shall be afforded two (2) votes provided that at least two club representatives are in attendance at the meeting

2.11 Independent tribunal:

- (a) the board shall appoint a group of people to form its independent tribunal. These people will remain as members of the tribunal panel at the discretion of the board or until the appointed person resigns from the panel.
- (b) when a tribunal panel is required, no less than three (3) persons from this appointed group will be selected to form the panel to determine any matter referred to the tribunal.
- (c) the board may, from time to time, appoint a tribunal convenor to act on behalf of the General Manager to represent the league and select members, in accordance with by-law 2.3b, to form a tribunal panel and present the charges to the tribunal.
- (d) the tribunal shall have the power to:
 - Decide any matter that is referred to it for determination.
 - Summons or arrange for any person(s) to appear to give evidence at a hearing of any report against a player or official.
 - Impose any costs on the parties involved or withhold all or part of any deposit lodged.
 - Make any decision or impose any penalty that it considers appropriate.
 - Charge any person with the offence of giving untruthful evidence and impose any a penalty on that person as they believe is appropriate.
- (e) all persons involved are required to attend the hearing
- (f) any reported player who fails or refuses to attend a tribunal hearing shall be suspended by the tribunal until such time that he/she appears before the tribunal
- (g) if a tribunal is unable to sit or if any witnesses and/or reporting officials are unable to attend a tribunal hearing prior to the reported player's next

scheduled game, then that reported player is permitted to play in any match until the tribunal can hear the charge.

- (h) members of the police force are permitted to act as a player advocate provided they hold a position on the committee of the player's club.
- (i) at the recommendation of the tribunal, the board may place a fine on any clubs who fail to attend a tribunal hearing. The minimum fine imposed shall be \$100.
- (j) AFL CV has developed a document outlining the processes to be followed should a report be made against a player or an official. This document shall be distributed to all clubs by 31 March each year.
- (k) Netball Victoria Grievance Policy will apply.

2.12 Penalties:

- (a) In any instance where no penalty is expressly provided for in these by-laws, any breach of any by-law of the HDFNL shall be dealt with by the Board as it may think suitable and appropriate.
- (b) In the event of a suspected breach of AFL Victoria Country or HDFNL regulations or by-laws, the General Manager, in consultation with the Board, shall serve on the club concerned a "show cause" notice.
- (c) This notice will require the club to respond, in writing, explaining the circumstances surrounding the alleged breach.
- (d) The General Manager must receive this written response within three (3) days of the date on the League's notice.
- (e) The Board will then determine a penalty, if any. This penalty may include, but is not limited to:
 - Reversal of match result
 - A fine, which may be wholly or partly suspended
 - A censure
 - Referral to an investigation officer
 - Referral to mediation
- (f) The penalty for playing an unregistered or ineligible football player will be as determined by AFL Victoria Country regulation 1.3
- (g) For alleged breaches of football regulations, clubs are able to appeal any decision by the Board as outlined in AFL Victoria Country regulation 7.0
- (h) The penalty for playing an unregistered player for netball is outlined in bylaw 4.4

2.13 Protests:

- (a) A club that wishes to lodge a protest in relation to any match under the control of the HDFNL must:
 - i) notify the opposing club of their intention to protest by 6:00pm of the evening of the match in question
 - ii) lodge the details of the protest to the General Manager of the league, in writing on official club letterhead, by 5:00pm on the Monday following the match in question.
- (b) This written protest must be accompanied by a deposit of \$200. If the protest is not deemed frivolous, this deposit may be refunded in full, after the protest is heard by an appointed panel.

- (c) Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the written protest and deposit, the General Manager shall forward the details of the protest to the secretary of the opposing club.
- (d) Within twenty-four (24) hours of the receipt of the information from the General Manager, the opposing club must provide details of their knowledge of the issue in question.
- (e) Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving this information from the opposing club, the General Manager shall convene a panel to deal with the protest and may call representatives from both clubs to appear before this panel.
- (f) The panel charged with the task of determining the outcome of the protest shall consist of three (3) members, neither of whom have any connection to either club involved in the protest.
- (g) If club representatives are required to address this panel, then the General Manager shall arrange a time, date and place of a meeting with the panel and shall give both clubs at least two days notice concerning the details of this meeting.

2.14 Prior Knowledge:

- (a) If any club knowing that any player of an opposing team is ineligible to play and does not notify the president or secretary of that opposing club, then any subsequent protest lodged by that club shall not be considered.
- (b) Any player knowing that he/she is ineligible to play and does not notify the captain of the team with which he intends to play, shall be subject to a sanction as determined by a tribunal committee.

2.15 Appeals:

- (a) For protests lodged in relation to football matches, the appeals process against any decision made by the above panel is as outlined and amended from time to time in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook, regulation 7.0
- (b) For protests lodged in relation to netball matches:
 - (i) an appeal is to be made in writing to the General Manager within forty-eight (48) hours following the club's notification of that decision.
 - (ii) the appeal will be heard by an independent tribunal committee.
 - (iii) both clubs concerned have the right to be present at the appeal
 - (iv) The decision of the independent tribunal committee shall be final.

2.16 Life Members:

- (a) The league shall, on a majority of the board members present, have the power to elect honorary life members of the league.
- (b) Not more than two (2) life members shall be elected annually
- (c) Life membership shall be awarded only to those persons who have rendered special service to the league or to the game in general for a period of not less than ten (10) years
- (d) A nomination for life membership may be made by a club president on behalf of his club or by any member of the Board of Management.
- (e) In the event of a current board member being nominated, that member shall not have a vote in relation to the life membership.
- (f) The league shall bestow on any player who has played at least 200 senior games of football or 200 A grade games of netball in the HDFNL, an award of merit.
- (g) These players shall receive an honorary life membership of the league.

2.17 Club member expelled or suspended:

- (a) Any club expelling or suspending a member from its club shall forward to the board, within one (1) week of such expulsion or suspension, the name of the member, together with the particulars of the issue which lead to the expulsion or suspension.
- (b) If the member in question is a football player, then that player shall have the right of appeal in accordance with AFL Victoria Country regulation 7.5
- (c) Any other club member shall have the right of appeal to the League, provided written notice of intention to exercise such a right is given to the General Manager within seven (7) days from the date that the member received such notice of expulsion or suspension.
- (d) No player whilst so expelled or suspended, shall be permitted to play in any HDFNL sanctioned game.

3.0 HDFNL Football Competition By-laws (Rules)

These rules must be read in conjunction with:

1. AFL Laws of Australian Football
2. AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations as published each year in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook or as amended by notification from the AFL Victoria Country from time to time.

3.1 *Transfer of players*

Transfers of players from one club to another are governed by the rules of the *AFL National Player Transfer Regulations* as published and/or amended from time to time and AFL Victoria Country regulation 1.0.

3.2 *Registration of players and officials*

Registration of players and officials is governed by AFL Victoria Country regulations 1.0 and 16.0

- (a) Prior to being listed on a club's match day team sheet, all players and officials must be registered with that club by completing the online registration process through the club's website.
- (b) Any player registered with any club affiliated with the HDFNL shall not be eligible to play with another HDFNL club unless he has first obtained a transfer from the club with which he is currently registered or unless he is granted a permit under the opposition match day permit policy as outlined in HDFNL regulation 3.5.
- (c) Any club official who may be required to enter the playing field or remain inside the playing arena while play is in progress must be registered with his or her club and must be listed on the relevant club's team sheet. A registered doctor is not required to be registered with the club on the day nor listed on the team sheet. (AFL Vic Country regulation 16.1)
- (d) Registrations and re-registrations may occur anytime during the current season.

3.3 *Under age players*

- (a) Players in the underage competition must be under 17 years on the first (1st) January of the year of playing. Verification of age shall be by a copy of their birth certificate or school records (which show their date of birth) being provided to the league if requested by the General Manager or the league administration.
- (b) Any underage player who is registered with another club in another league shall not be eligible to play in the HDFNL underage competition unless he has first obtained a transfer from the club in which he is currently registered or unless he is granted a permit under an area agreement developed between the HDFNL and the league with which he is currently associated.
- (c) The HDFNL has developed an overage policy which allows a player who does not satisfy HDFNL regulation 3.3(a), to play in the underage competition. Clubs must be aware of the requirements of this policy, as distributed and amended from time to time, prior to listing any overage player on the club's underage team sheet. Refer to attachment 2.

- (d) By-law 3.3 (a) may not be amended unless five (5) or more HDFNL affiliated clubs submit a joint request for the HDFNL Board to convene a Special meeting to review and consider a change to the age limit.

3.4 Number of players – open-age teams

- (a) The senior team shall consist of eighteen (18) players and four (4) interchange players.
- (b) To be eligible for premiership points, the reserve team must consist of a minimum of fourteen (14) players and a maximum of eighteen (18) players with four (4) interchange players.
- (c) To assist clubs in fielding teams for the reserves only, teams may “borrow” players from the opposition on the day of the match by using opposition match day permits.
- (d) Any player who agrees to play for the opposition on the day, must be listed on the opposition’s team sheet with the annotation “OP” beside their name.
- (e) For the finals series, all teams are eligible to play a maximum of eighteen (18) players and four (4) interchange players.

3.5 Number of players – underage teams

- (a) To be eligible for premiership points, the underage team must consist of a minimum of fourteen (14) players and a maximum of eighteen (18) players with four (4) interchange players.
- (b) A player from a league which has an area agreement with the HDFNL shall be considered as a registered player of the team for the purpose of having the minimum number of fourteen (14) to commence an official game.
- (c) For the home and away series, both underage teams are to be equal in number on the field prior to the commencement of play.
- (d) Both teams must make every reasonable effort to ensure that each team has at least fourteen (14) players on the field at the commencement of the game.
- (e) Teams may “borrow” players from the opposition on the day of the match by using opposition match day permits to ensure that numbers are equal on the field prior to the commencement of play.
- (f) Any player who agrees to play for the opposition on the day, must be listed on the opposition’s team sheet with the annotation “OP” beside their name.
- (g) If the equalisation regulation (3.5(c) above) results in teams having less than eighteen (18) players on the field, then the number of interchange players for the team that initially had enough numbers is not limited to four (4) but may be sufficient to have a maximum of twenty-two (22) players listed on the team sheet.
- (h) If an injury or other incident occurs which results in the teams not being equal in number on the field then the opposition is under no obligation to even up the numbers for the remainder of the game but they cannot increase the number of players over and above the number that were on the field for their team at the commencement of the game.
- (i) For the home and away series, if the number of players falls below fourteen (14) due to injury only, then the game is not forfeited until the number of players is less than twelve (12).
- (j) For the finals series, all teams are eligible to play a maximum of eighteen (18) players and four (4) interchange players

3.6 *Withdrawal of teams during the season.*

- (a) If a team withdraws prior to the midway round of the season, then all games played against that team shall be deemed as unofficial. All individual league awards for these games shall be invalid.
- (b) If a team withdraws from a competition after the midway round of the season, then the games up to and including the midway round shall be deemed official and individual awards shall be valid
- (c) In this case, any games played after the midway round shall be deemed as unofficial and any league awards shall be invalid.

3.7 *Team sheets*

- (a) Team sheets generated from the club's Sports TG website database are to be used as the official record of players and officials involved in a specific match.
- (b) The team sheets must include the names (family & first names) and jumper numbers of all players competing in the match
- (c) The team sheet must also include the names of all officials (family and first names) who may be required to enter the playing field or remain inside the playing arena while play is in progress.
- (c) The team sheets must indicate the Captain, coach and interchange players.
- (d) The team sheets must be signed by the team manager and a copy to be provided to the officiating central umpires no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the senior match and no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the starting times for the reserves and under age matches. At the same time, a copy of the team sheets must be exchanged with the opposition team manager.
- (e) The team manager shall ensure that each player shall wear a jumper with a number that corresponds to the name and number on the team sheet.
- (f) The team manager shall also ensure that the name and number corresponds to the name and number listed in the game day record (*The Yabba*)
- (g) During the home & away season, the penalty for infringement of 3.7(f) after 4 rounds or games being played will be \$10 per infringement for the senior team list and \$2 per infringement for the reserves team list.
No penalty shall be applied in this case for any underage registered player listed on the senior or reserve team sheets.
- (h) During the final series, for all team lists a penalty of \$10 shall apply for each infringement of 3.7(f).
- (i) Penalty for any other team sheet error - \$10.00

3.8 *Number of officials*

- (a) The number of runners per team permitted shall be one (1).
- (b) The maximum number of water carriers is four (4)
- (c) The combined number of trainers and water carriers is not to exceed six (6), unless the AFL Victoria Country heat/cold policy is invoked, then this number can increase to a maximum of eight (8) with a maximum of six (6) water carriers. As per AFL Vic Country regulation 16.1
- (d) Not including the runner, trainers and water carriers, a maximum of three (3) club officials, which includes the coaching staff, may remain inside the fence whilst the game is in progress. These club officials must remain behind a line which is 1.5 metres from the boundary line.

- (e) Minimum penalty for infringements of above rules (where not determined by AFL Vic Country regulations) - \$10

3.9 Expectations officials

- (a) The runner must wear a top approved and supplied by the League and either black tracksuit pants or black shorts. The runner's top must have the name of the club printed on the back.
- (b) Trainers must wear a top approved by the league and black or white tracksuit pants or black shorts. Tops must have the club name printed on the back and must be individually numbered.
- (c) Water carriers must wear a top approved by the league and black tracksuit pants or black shorts. Tops must have the club name printed on the back and must be individually numbered. Where possible, they must be fourteen (14) years of age or older.
- (d) All officials must wear approved and appropriate footwear.
- (e) Penalty for each infringement of the above expectations - \$5
- (f) The duties of all officials are as outlined in AFL Vic Country regulation 16.2. Penalties for any infringement of these duties are as outlined in AFL Vic Country regulation 16.1

3.10 Match times – Home and away series

SENIORS

- (a) The match shall commence no later than 2:15pm on the day of play.
- (b) The game shall consist of four (4) quarters each of twenty (20) minutes duration of actual playing time. Time on will be added for stoppages as per AFL law 10.5
- (c) Maximum intervals between quarters shall be as follows: six (6) minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarters; twenty (20) minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters; six (6) minutes between the 3rd and 4th quarters.

RESERVES

- (d) The match shall commence no later than 12:15pm on the day of play.
- (e) The game shall consist of four (4) quarters each of twenty-two (22) minutes duration. No time on for stoppages
- (f) Maximum intervals between quarters shall be as follows: five (5) minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarters; ten (10) minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters; five (5) minutes between the 3rd and 4th quarters.

UNDER AGE

- (g) The match shall commence no later than 10:30am on the day of play.
- (h) The game shall consist of four (4) quarters each of eighteen (18) minutes duration. No time on for stoppages
- (i) Maximum intervals between quarters shall be as follows: five (5) minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarters; ten (10) minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters; five (5) minutes between the 3rd and 4th quarters.

NIGHT GAMES

- (j) Where the league has approved a night game, the following starting times shall apply:
- Under age – not later than 2:30pm
 - Reserves – not later than 4:15pm
 - Seniors – not later than 6:15pm
- (k) match durations and intervals are as outlined in by-law 3.10

3.11 Under age competition – Match conditions

- (a) Boundary umpires will not be supplied for the underage competition home and away matches.
- (b) In the underage competition only, the following rules shall apply:
 - If the ball goes out of bounds by foot, whether on the full or not, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team
 - A player cannot directly score from this free kick
 - If the ball goes out of bounds, but not off a player's foot, a ball up shall occur five (5) metres inside the boundary at the point where the ball went out.

3.12 Time keepers

- (a) For the home & away series, each club shall provide one (1) time-keeper for each game
- (b) For the home & away series, each club shall provide one (1) time-keeper's card for each game
- (c) For the finals series, time keepers shall be appointed by the league.
- (d) Time keepers are required to report any teams who are not ready to start at any of the times provided for in by-law 3.10
- (e) Penalty for breaches of by-law 3.10 - \$40 per senior team; \$10 per reserves and under age teams.
- (f) Time keepers are also required to keep a running score for each game. If the two goal umpires are unable to agree on the score at the end of each quarter, then the official score at that time shall be as per the time keeper's score card.
- (g) Time keepers must also record the match time that any player or official was ordered from the playing arena by a central umpire.
- (h) When a player or an official is ordered from the playing field, the runner or team manager shall report to the time keeper to acknowledge the time ordered off and when that person is able to be replaced or return to the field of play.
- (h) Only persons approved by the league are permitted in the time keeper's box during any official game between clubs affiliated with the HDFNL.

3.13 Match times – Finals series

SENIORS

- (a) The match shall commence no later than 2:15pm on the day of play.
- (b) For the Grand Final only, the match shall commence no later than 2:20pm
- (c) The game shall consist of four (4) quarters each of twenty (20) minutes duration of actual playing time. Time on will be added for stoppages as per AFL law 10.5
- (d) Maximum intervals between quarters shall be as follows: six (6) minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarters; twenty (20) minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters; six (6) minutes between the 3rd and 4th quarters.

RESERVES

- (e) The match shall commence no later than 12:00 noon on the day of play.
- (f) For the Grand Final only, the match shall commence no later than 11:50am
- (g) The game shall consist of two (2) quarters each of twenty-two (22) minutes duration (No time on for stoppages), followed by two (2) quarters each of twenty (20) minutes duration of actual playing time. Time on in the final two quarters will be added for stoppages as per AFL law 10.5

- (h) Maximum intervals between quarters shall be as follows: five (5) minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarters; ten (10) minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters; five (5) minutes between the 3rd and 4th quarters.

UNDER AGE

- (i) The match shall commence no later than 10:00am on the day of play.
- (j) For the Grand Final only, the match shall commence no later than 9:30am
- (k) The game shall consist of two (2) quarters each of eighteen (18) minutes duration, (No time on for stoppages), followed by two (2) quarters each of eighteen (18) minutes duration of actual playing time. Time on in the final two quarters will be added for stoppages as per AFL law 10.5
- (l) Maximum intervals between quarters shall be as follows: five (5) minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarters; ten (10) minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters; five (5) minutes between the 3rd and 4th quarters.

3.14 Drawn games – Finals series

In the event of any match ending in a draw during the finals series only, the following procedure will be followed:

- Umpires consult to ensure that the scores are in fact tied at the end of play.
- A game of five (5) minutes plus time on be played for two (2) periods with teams reversing ends after the first five-minute period with an immediate change over.
- Should scores remain tied after these two periods of play, a further two periods of five (5) minutes each plus time on to be played with teams reversing ends only after the first of these extra five-minute periods, again in an immediate change over.
- Should scores remain tied again, Captains toss for ends and the first score wins.
- Coaches are not permitted to address their teams any time.

3.15 Eligibility – Home & away series

- (a) A player must be registered with the club prior to competing in any home & away match for that club.
- (b) If an underage player plays more than eleven (11) games with the senior team, then he becomes ineligible to play underage football for the remainder of the season, including finals.
- (c) A player registered with a different club may play with a club affiliated with the HDFNL provided that the player applies for a permit in accordance with AFL Vic Country regulation 2.0 or 1.13.
- (d) Such a permit must be applied for online and any required paperwork completed and forwarded to AFL CV administration prior to the player playing for the HDFNL club while still registered with another club.
- (e) At the beginning of each season, the League approves area agreements with neighbouring leagues in accordance with AFL Vic Country regulation 2.10. It is the responsibility of the club and/or the team manager to be aware of the conditions governing the use of permit players under these area agreements.
- (f) The penalties for playing an unregistered or incorrectly permitted player are outlined in AFL Vic Country regulation 1.3.

3.16 Eligibility – Final series

During the current season:

- (a) A player must have played at least five (5) home and away games recorded as played to be eligible to play in the finals series of any grade.
- (b) Any player who has played more than one half of the club's senior grade home and away games scheduled for his club, shall be ineligible to play in the finals series of the reserve grade.
- (c) Any player who has played more than one half of the club's senior grade home and away games scheduled for his club, shall be ineligible to play in the finals series of the underage grade.
- (d) A player must have played five (5) under age home and away games to be eligible to play in the underage finals series
- (e) Any player who plays a senior game and a reserves game during one round of matches shall only be credited with a senior game for finals eligibility calculations.
- (f) Any player who plays a senior game and an underage game during one round of matches shall only be credited with a senior game for finals eligibility calculations.
- (g) Any player who plays a reserves game and an underage game during one round of matches shall only be credited with an underage game for finals eligibility calculations.
- (h) In the event of any club having seniors and reserve teams playing on the same weekend of the finals series, players can be interchangeable and by-law 3.14 (b) will not apply.
- (i) In the event of any club having seniors and underage teams playing on the same weekend of the finals series, players can be interchangeable and by-law 3.14 (c) will not apply.
- (j) If a player plays on a day permit with the HDFNL opposition team, then that game will count as a game for his registered club for finals eligibility calculations.
- (k) For eligibility purposes, any player listed on the team sheet must be at the ground, dressed in football playing attire and ready to take the field if called upon.

3.17 Emergency players – Final series

- (a) A maximum of three (3) emergencies may be named for any grade during the finals series.
- (b) In the event of both senior and reserve teams playing on the same day during the finals series, then a player named as a senior emergency and not having played more than forty (40) minutes of playing time in the reserves final, may be withdrawn from the match and play in the senior final because of a late withdrawal of a senior player due to injury or illness on the day.
- (c) Reserves players who are named as an emergency for the senior team and play for the reserves in the Saturday Final can play with the seniors on the Sunday following in the event of a late withdrawal of a senior player due to injury or illness.
- (d) For both by-laws 3.15 (b) & (c) above, the board may request medical evidence to substantiate the withdrawal of the senior player.

3.18 Long-term injury – Eligibility for final series

During the current season:

- (a) If a player is seriously injured while training or playing for his HDFNL affiliated club (practice matches and interleague included), then his club may apply in writing to the League for special consideration to allow that player to compete in a final series without obtaining the minimum eligibility criteria outlined in by-law 3.14.
- (b) This written application must be made at least five (5) weeks prior to the commencement of the finals series.
- (c) The League may require evidence as to the nature of the long-term injury before ruling on a club's written application.

3.19 TAC players – Eligibility for final series

During the current season:

- (a) Any player on local interchange to a TAC club must play a minimum of two (2) games with his HDFNL affiliated club in any grade.
- (b) If a player plays more than half of the scheduled TAC competition home and away games, then that player becomes ineligible to compete in the underage finals series of the HDFNL.

3.20 State League players – Eligibility for final series

During the current season:

- (c) Any player on local interchange to a State League club must play a minimum of five (5) games with his HDFNL affiliated club in any grade.
- (d) If a player plays more than half of the scheduled State League competition home and away games, then that player becomes ineligible to compete in any finals series of the HDFNL in any grade.

3.21 Umpires - General

- (a) The League shall appoint an Umpire Association affiliated with AFL Victoria to officiate at all matches.
- (b) Where more than one umpire association are officiating, they shall umpire in games as determined by the League during the home and away series.
- (c) Field umpires shall have the power to report players or officials as set out under law 19.0 of the AFL Laws of Australian Football and AFL Vic Country regulation 11.0 as published annually and amended from time to time.
- (d) The League will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each Umpire Association prior to the commencement of each football season.
- (e) The appointed umpire association(s) shall provide field, boundary and goal umpires for the senior grade games each week.
- (f) The appointed umpire association(s) shall provide field and boundary umpires for the reserve grade games each week
- (g) The appointed umpire association(s) shall provide field umpires for the underage grade games each week.
- (h) Scores of all matches shall be kept on League score cards and the field and goal umpires are to sign these as correct and the completion of the match.
- (i) In the event of the scores of both goal umpires not matching at the end of any period of play, then By-law 3.12 (f) shall determine the score at that time.

3.22 Umpires – Club

- (a) In the event of an officially appointed umpire not being available, a substitute club umpire shall be appointed by agreement of both captains.

- (b) Club appointed umpires shall have all the rights and responsibilities of those umpires appointed by the umpire association.
- (c) If a club supplies a substitute umpire, then that club shall invoice the League for the umpiring fee as determined by AFL Victoria.
- (c) During the home & away series, each club will be required to provide one goal umpire for the reserve grade match and one goal umpire for the underage grade match.
- (d) The club goal umpires must wear a white coat, or a high visibility vest as approved by the League.
- (e) Any substitute club umpire must wear predominately all white uniform
- (f) All club umpires are expected to have a complete knowledge of all the relevant rules of umpiring as per regulation 11.0 of the AFL Victoria Country and the AFL Laws of Australian Football as amended from time to time.
- (g) All clubs shall be provided with a copy of these regulations and laws and the commencement of each season.
- (h) All club umpires officiating in any underage match are must be aware of HDFNL Rule 3.11

3.23 Best & Fairest Voting

- (a) League best and fairest voting is to be done by the appointed field umpires on the official cards supplied by the home club as provided for by the league
- (b) All best and fairest voting for each grade to be selected from the official players' team sheet on the day of playing
- (c) In any grade, in the event of players receiving the same number of votes at the end of the home and away season, then each player shall be credited with the award and a count back system shall not be used to separate the players in question.
- (d) Any player who has been found guilty of any offence by the league's independent tribunal or who has accepted a set penalty for any offence shall be ineligible to receive any best and fairest award in any grade.
- (e) Any player playing in the HDFNL on a permit from another league shall be ineligible to receive any votes in the best and fairest award.
- (f) The best and fairest trophy for the senior grade shall be known as the Sam Cheatley medal
- (g) The best and fairest trophy for the reserves grade shall be known as the Tom Morgan medal
- (h) The best and fairest trophy for the underage grade shall be known as the David Roulston medal
- (i) Voting in any league best and fairest award shall finish after the last home and away game.

3.24 Umpires – Finals

- (a) The League shall appoint an Umpire Association affiliated with AFL Victoria to officiate at all finals matches.
- (b) Where more than one umpire association is officiating, they shall umpire in games as determined by the League and on a merit based system as determined by each association in liaison with the League during the finals series.
- (c) The League shall provide all umpires for all grades during the finals series.
- (d) For the underage finals series, by-law 3.11 above, shall not apply, and official boundary umpires shall be appointed to these games.

- (e) In the event of any umpire appointed to any finals game not being available at the commencement of the game, then the Chairman and/or the General Manager of the League shall have the power to appoint a substitute.

3.25 Awards – Grand Final

- (a) The league shall present a medallion to each player and head coach from the premiership team in each grade.
- (b) The league shall award a medallion for the player selected, by an appointed panel, as the best player on the ground for each grade.
- (c) The medallions for the senior and underage best player shall be known as the AFL Victoria Country medal
- (d) The medallion for the reserves best player shall be known as the HDFNL medal.

3.26 Match Day requirements – Home and Away series:

- (a) The home club shall supply the following documents for all home games:
 - (i) one (1) goal kickers/best players card for each grade.
 - (ii) one (1) reserves goal umpire card and one (1) underage goal umpire card
 - (iii) one (1) timekeepers card and one score card for the time keepers for all grades
 - (iv) one (1) public vote card and envelope for the senior grade only
 - (v) one (1) best and fairest vote card and envelope for each grade
 - (vi) two (2) seniors goal umpire cards
 - (vii) one (1) current umpire's notice of report form pad.
 - (viii) one (1) umpire escort report card
- (b) The away club shall supply the following documents for all away games:
 - (i) one (1) goal kickers/best players card for each grade.
 - (ii) one (1) reserves goal umpire card and one (1) underage goal umpire card
 - (iii) one (1) timekeepers card for each grade
 - (iv) one (1) public vote card and envelope for the senior grade only
- (c) The home club shall meet all expenses in relation to the match and the gate receipts for each home game become the property of the home club on whose ground the match is played.
- (d) The home club shall provide approved footballs of the following standard:
 - (i) Seniors - Two new first grade balls for selection by the away team.
 - (ii) Reserves – one new first grade ball or one good used ball
 - (iii) Underage - one new first grade ball or one good used ball
- (e) The home club will provide such amenities that will increase the patronage and involvement
- (f) The home club is responsible for providing a high standard scoreboard which is responsibly manned for all matches
- (g) The home club is to ensure that the goal and behind posts are padded in accordance with AFL Law 3.5.2

3.27 Match day results:

- (a) an appointed official of the home club must enter the results of all football matches into the SportsTG data base before 5:45pm on the evening of the match. If the match is a league sanctioned night game, then these results must be entered by 8:50pm on the evening of the night game.
- (b) Failure to do so may incur a fine of \$20.00 for the club.

- (c) The home club secretary or a designated club official, shall return all relevant match day documents to the Regional Administration Centre by the second available mail following the game. The documents to be included are:
 - (i) two (2) goal umpire scorecards per grade (seniors, reserves & underage)
 - (ii) one (1) home team sheet and one (1) away team sheet per grade.
 - (iii) two (2) time-keeper's cards per grade
 - (iv) two goal kicker/best player cards for each grade
 - (v) one (1) best & fairest vote card in a sealed envelope per grade
 - (vi) one (1) public vote card from each senior team only, in sealed envelopes.
 - (vii) one (1) umpire escort report card
 - (viii) Any other required documents as directed by the league. (e.g. permit forms, umpire's player report form, etc.)
- (d) Failure to do so may incur a fine of \$50.00

3.28 *Interleague*

- (a) Each season the board will determine the League's participation in the AFL Victoria Community Club Championships and any underage interleague commitments.
- (b) A coaching panel and support staff will be appointed by the Board for the current season
- (c) The head coach of each team must hold at least a current level 1 AFL Victoria coaching accreditation.
- (d) Players must make themselves available for selection unless they have contacted the current coach that they are unable or unwilling to be involved. This must be done prior to the initial squad being announced or else within twenty-four (24) hours of announcement of the training squad
- (e) If a player makes himself unavailable after this time, then the board must be provided with a valid reason. Documented evidence may be required to substantiate the given reason.
- (f) Any player who does not provide a substantiated reason as required in HDFNL by-law 3.28 (e) above shall be disqualified from competing for his club in its next home and away game following the scheduled interleague game.

4.0 HDFNL Netball By-laws

These rules must be read in conjunction with:

1. Netball Victoria Rules & Regulations
2. Netball Australia Rules & Regulations

4.1 Match Conditions

- (a) Competition matches and Finals shall be played in accordance with the Netball Australia Rules with amendments as outlined in these By Laws.
- (b) Each match shall have one (1) ball supplied by the Home Team to be used throughout the game unless contamination and/or damage necessitates replacement.
- (c) Home Clubs to provide 3 (three) audible devices to indicate time in all matches.
- (d) Home Clubs to supply all match day documents which includes scorebook, timekeeper sheets and League vote cards & envelopes.

4.2 Clubs

All clubs in the HDFNL must field a minimum of three (3) teams.

- (a) Seniors teams to be filled in the order of A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade and B Reserve.
- (b) In all Home & Away games, teams must fill an A Grade team before the A Reserve team, and fill the A Reserve team before the B Grade team, and fill the B Grade team before the B Reserve team.
- (c) Junior teams to be filled in order of 17&Under then 15&Under.

4.3 Uniform Code

- (a) No gloves or bike shorts/compression garments to be worn unless a Medical Certificate is provided and has been tabled at League level prior to the start of the season or game day if injury sustained throughout the season.

4.4 Registration of Players and Officials

- (a) Prior to taking the court for their first training in the current season with their selected club, individual players must register on-line through the “My Netball” system.
- (b) An individual player who has not registered on-line prior to taking the court for their first match in the current season, will be deemed an unregistered player.
- (c) Registrations for the current season will be accepted on-line through the “My Netball” system until midnight on June 30th of the current season
- (d) Un-registered players
 - (i) If a winning team plays an unregistered player - **Penalty:** Loss of four (4) points and no percentage awarded to the offending team. Four (4) points is awarded to the Non-Offending team and their score is counted for percentage.

- (ii) If a losing team plays an unregistered player – **Penalty:** Loss of four (4) points and no percentage is awarded to the losing team.
- (e) A player who is deemed unregistered, shall not be eligible for Best and Fairest votes for that round in the current season.

4.5 *Player Eligibility – Home & Away*

Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade shall not be eligible to play A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve, 17&Under or 15&Under. Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade & A Reserve, accumulatively, shall not be eligible to play in B Grade, B Reserve, 17&Under or 15&Under. Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade, A Reserve & B Grade, accumulatively, shall not be eligible to play in B Reserve, 17&Under or 15 & Under. Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade & B Reserve, accumulatively, shall not be eligible to play 17&Under or 15&Under. If any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve & 17&Under, accumulatively, shall not be eligible to play in 15&Under.

Penalty: If the offending team won the game, four (4) premiership points to be lost, if infringed, and awarded to the opposing team and the game is lost. If the offending team loses the game, four (4) premiership points is still to be lost (but not awarded to the opposing team). If a team loses points, the team will also lose their percentage for that match.

4.6 *Match Officials*

(a) *Umpires*

- (i) One (1) umpire shall be supplied by each team for all Home and Away matches.
- (ii) Once a game has commenced, there is to be no changes to Umpires unless injury or illness occurs.
- (iii) Umpires must be registered on MyNetball for the current season. They must be badged or hold a current Rules of Netball Theory Examination and Foundation Umpire Course.
- (iv) Umpires shall be ready to start the game five (5) minutes prior to the official starting time.
- (v) If an umpire is late, a grace of ten (10) minutes should apply, after official starting time. After this time, the team, which the umpire is from, must forfeit the game.
- (vi) Umpires must wear white attire, unless official sponsor tops are provided.
- (vii) Umpires shall not coach after commencement of the game.
- (viii) Umpires cannot umpire and/or play more than two (2) games per day.

(b) Scorer & Timekeeper

- (i) The Home Club to supply one Official Scorer. The Away Club to supply one Official Timekeeper. These two Officials must sit together and confer with all goals shot and confirm at each quarter that the scores are correct. Missed goals are not recorded.
- (ii) The timekeeper is to notify umpires of the match commencement and of time remaining at the start and end of each quarter.
- (iii) Only Match officials may approach the timekeeper during the game to query the official time remaining.
- (iv) Scorers and Timekeepers cannot play in a game in which they are officiating.
- (v) Scorers and Timekeepers cannot be changed once a game commences unless due to injury or illness.
- (vi) Prior to the commencement of the game, the Official scoresheet must be completed. Listing both Christian name and Surname (as registered with the My Netball database) of the starting seven (7) players and substitutes, unless only six (6) or five (5) players are available. A maximum of twelve (12) players per team are allowed per game.
- (vii) Scorers must also record the position of players every quarter (even if no change).
- (viii) A Team official must inform the scorer of all changes during the break, so they can complete their duties accurately. A player is not deemed to have taken the court, even if she is named on the scoresheet, unless she has a position marked against her name.
- (ix) The scoresheet must be checked and signed by both Captains and both Umpires in the presence of the Scorer and Timekeeper immediately after the game. Scores are to be checked by both Captains prior to signing. Scorer and Timekeeper to also sign.
- (x) Once Scorers and Timekeepers have signed the book at the conclusion of the game no more changes can be made to the scores. If a scoring error is found on the scoresheet it is advised that the affected Captain does not sign the scoresheet.
All details should be documented and sent to the League Administrator, or their designated representative with the scoresheets. It is the affected team's responsibility to lodge a protest.
- (xi) Mobile phones or equivalent devices are not to be used on the officials' bench whilst the game is in play unless the device is being used to record live scores by the scorer.

4.7 League Best & Fairest Votes

- (a) The two (2) umpires shall award three (3) votes to the Best & Fairest player, two (2) votes to the next Best & Fairest player, and one (1) vote to the next Best & Fairest player.

- (b) First and Last names are to be recorded on the vote card along with the club name. BOTH umpires must fully complete and sign the vote card and initial any alterations made to the vote card. The envelope must then be sealed by the umpires.
- (c) Votes shall be deemed invalid when not signed or sealed by umpires or recipient of the votes is unknown.
- (d) All vote cards shall be opened by the League Administrator or their designated representative.

4.8 *Times of Play*

Timing for all competition games is to commence when the game is started by the Umpires whistle. Each game shall be played in four (4) parts of fifteen (15) minutes each, except 15&Under, which shall be played in four (4) parts of twelve (12) minutes each. Interval times are two (2) minutes at quarter time & three quarter time and three (3) minutes at half time.

- (a) 2 COURT TIMES
 - Primary Grade - 9:50am
 - 15&Under - 9:50am
 - 17&Under and B Reserve - 11:00am
 - B Grade and A Reserve - 12:30pm
 - A Grade - 2:00pm
- (b) 1 COURT TIMES
 - Primary Grade - 9:50am
 - 15&Under - 9:50am
 - 17&Under and B Reserve - 11:00am
 - B Grade - 12:15pm
 - A Reserve - 1:30pm
 - A Grade - 2:45pm

4.9 *Clearances*

- (a) No clearance shall be accepted by the Board and League Administrator or their designated representative after 30th June of the current playing season.
- (b) Players wishing to transfer from one HDFNL club to another HDFNL club during the current playing season and prior to 30th June, must:
 - (i) Fully complete the top section of a clearance application form which is to be lodge with the League Administrator or their designated representative.
 - (ii) The League Administrator or their designated representative will forward the clearance request to the existing club for approval.
 - (iii) The existing club has seven (7) days to respond.

- (iv) If the existing club fails to respond within seven (7) days, the clearance is automatically granted and the League Administrator or their designated representative will inform the player.
- (c) No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.
- (d) No player who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of club property will be granted a clearance.

4.10 *Dangerous or Extreme Conditions*

All teams must assume that all games will continue and be prepared to play. If all courts are unplayable and the weather conditions are not favourable prior to the start of the match, it is then to be agreed by the umpires in association with the captains of both clubs, whether the match will be played or abandoned and two (2) premiership points will be distributed to each club. Both clubs must agree on the cancellation or the game will continue as normal.

Any decision to cancel a game due to wet or hot weather must be made prior to the scheduled starting time of each game.

- (a) If there are two (2) separate matches being played at the same time, it has to be decided separately by each pair of umpires officiating each grade to abandon a game due to dangerous conditions.
- (b) At any game which has begun at the scheduled starting time, if both the umpires and captains consider the conditions have become too dangerous to continue, prior to the game going to full time, will result in two (2) premiership points being awarded to both teams and no Association best & fairest votes to be awarded.
- (c) If only one team wants to stop play and the other wishes to continue, the final decision will be made by the officiating umpires. If the umpires then rule the game should not continue, then the Rules in By Law 4.10 (b) will stand. If the umpires decide the game should continue, then both teams must take the court. If one (1) team does not take the court, the game will be awarded to the team who wishes to continue, and the forfeit rule applies
- (d) In the event of an abandoned game agreed by both teams, the scoresheet should be filled out and signed by both captains and umpires. The first seven (7) players named for each team will be deemed to have played that game. No League best & fairest votes to be awarded.
- (e) In extreme heat, prior to the game commencing, both captains and umpires may make a decision to extend to three, five, three minute intervals.

4.11 *Forfeit*

- (a) A forfeit will occur when a team has less than five (5) players ready to take the court, or cannot provide an umpire, ten (10) minutes after starting times. The opposing team may then claim the four (4) premiership points.
- (b) In the event of a forfeit, the opposing team and the League Administrator or designated representative must be notified by 8:00am on the morning of the scheduled match.

- (c) The non-forfeiting team must complete an official League scoresheet, signed by a club representative and forward to the League Administrator or their designated representative. Four (4) points and Twenty (20) goals will be awarded to the non-forfeiting team. The first seven (7) named players are deemed to have played a game.
- (d) When forfeit notification is NOT received by the opposing club and the League Administrator or their designated representative, the defaulting club shall forfeit four (4) points in THAT grade and a \$50 fine imposed. The non-forfeiting team will be awarded four (4) points and twenty (20) goals.

4.12 Team

The A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve, 17&Under and 15&Under team shall consist of seven (7) fully named players, written on each scoresheet, unless only six (6) or five (5) players available. A maximum of twelve (12) players per team are allowed per game.

4.13 Primary Grade

- (a) To be eligible to play in the Primary Grade Lightning Premiership, a player must not have played more than eight (8) games in any other grade, and must be in Primary School (excepting Rule 4.13.d). The team finishing with the most points will be the outright winner. If two (2) teams finish equal points, there will be a count back that will calculate percentages.
- (b) The Primary Grade Lightning Premiership is to be played on the Sunday following Round 16 matches of the current season.
- (c) Males may play only in the Primary Grade competition and teams may only have up to two (2) males playing at any one time.
- (d) Up to two (2) female secondary students (Year 7) may play in a Primary Grade game at any one time and they must be in different thirds. Permission for secondary students must be approved by the Board prior to playing their first match.

4.14 Finals

- (a) All clubs are required to perform timekeeping and scoring duties for each grade during finals. The League Administrator or their designated representative will provide a roster for clubs.
- (b) The Board will provide new netballs for Finals.
- (c) The Board will provide scorebooks, timekeeper sheets and three (3) audible devices for each grade.
- (d) The Board shall supply umpires for all Finals.
- (e) The Official Scoresheet must be completed by each team at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of that game so that the League Administrator or their designated representative may check player eligibility before the game commences.

- (f) During the finals series, a player, irrespective of grade, can be named on no more than two (2) team sheets that weekend unless extreme circumstance occur where, upon request in writing, the Board of management will adjudicate.
- (g) During the current season:
 - (i) A player must play six (6) home and away games for their registered club to qualify for finals for that club.
 - (ii) A player must play four (4) matches in a grade to qualify for finals in THAT grade.
 - (iii) An injured player returning during the season who is unable to meet the player qualifications for finals, a club may apply in writing to the Board for special consideration. This application must be made at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the final series. The board may require evidence as to the nature of the injury before ruling on the club's application.

Penalty: For infringement of Rule 4.14 (f), or Rule 4.14 (g), shall be loss of match by default.

- (h) Finals must be played on outdoor courts.
- (i) Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade in the current season shall not be eligible to play A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve, 17&Under or 15&Under. Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade & A Reserve, accumulatively, in the current season, shall not be eligible to play in B Grade, B Reserve, 17&Under or 15&Under. Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade, A Reserve & B Grade, accumulatively, in the current season, shall not be eligible to play in B Reserve, 17&Under or 15&Under. Any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade & B Reserve, accumulatively, in the current season, shall not be eligible to play 17&Under or 15&Under. If any player who has played eight (8) games in A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve & 17&Under, accumulatively, in the current season, shall not be eligible to play in 15&Under.

Penalty: If the offending team won the game, the match shall be, loss by default.

- (j) A player cannot take the court unless their name has been written on the scoresheet prior to the game commencing. Should any unnamed player take the court, they must be replayed by a named player immediately.
- (k) No match shall be a drawn game in Finals. In all grades, if a draw occurs at the end of play, there shall be a three (3) minute break, during which time there may be substitutions and/or team changes. Then two (2) x five (5) minutes halves will be played. At the end of the first five (5) minutes, teams

will immediately change ends with no substitutions or positional changes allowed.

- (l) If at the end of the second five (5) minutes the scores are still level, then play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

(m) Finals Starting Times

Saturday times

- 15&Under – 9:00am
- 17&Under – 10:00am
- B Reserve – 11:15am
- B Grade – 12:30pm
- A Reserve – 1:45pm
- A Grade – 3:00pm

Sunday times:

- 15&Under – 9:50am
- 17&Under – 11:00am
- B Reserve – 11:00am
- B Grade – 12:30pm
- A Reserve – 12:30pm
- A Grade – 2:00pm

(n) Grand Final Starting Times

- 15&Under – 9:00am
- 17&Under – 10:00am
- B Reserve – 11:30am
- B Grade – 1:00pm
- A Reserve – 2:30pm
- A Grade – 4:00pm

ATTACHMENT 1:
REGISTERED CLUB COLOURS

Colbinabbin

Jumper: Green with gold Vee
Numbers: Gold
Socks: green with Gold tops
Shorts - green with gold side stripes
Netball dress: Green A-Line dress with yellow wheat strands
Nicks: Green or Black
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: Yellow bib with green lettering

Elmore

Jumper: Red with white Vee
Numbers: White
Socks: Red and white hoops
Shorts - red with white side stripes
Netball dress: Predominantly red A-Line dress with white flicks
Nicks: Red
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: White with red lettering

Heathcote

Jumper: Red, white and black vertical stripes
Numbers: Black
Socks: Black with red and white hoops at the top
Shorts – white with red and black side stripes
Netball dress: Black straight dress with Red and white swirls on bottom, Red lines with words 'Heathcote' down either side
Nicks: Black
Socks: Predominantly white with Club name on edge (HCOTE)
Bibs: White Bibs with Red writing

Huntly

Jumper: Brown, white and gold with "Hawk" insignia on front
Numbers: White
Socks: Brown, gold and white hoops
Shorts – brown with gold side stripes
Netball dress: A Line white, Brown and Gold
Nicks: Black
Socks: Predominately White
Bibs: Brown & Gold

Leitchville Gunbower

Jumper: black with red sash
Numbers: white
Socks: red and black hoops
Shorts: black with red side stripes
Netball dress: Black and red A-Line dress

Nicks: Black
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: White/Grey with black lettering

Alternative Football colours:
Jumper: Silver with black bomber emblem
Numbers: Black
Socks: Black
Shorts: black with red side stripes

Lockington/Bamawm

Jumper: Blue and white horizontal hoops
Numbers: Blue
Socks: Blue and white hoops
Shorts - navy blue with white side stripes
Netball dress: Navy and White A-Line dress
Nicks: Navy
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: White with navy lettering

Mount Pleasant

Jumper: Navy blue with white monogram emblem
Numbers: White
Socks: Navy blue
Shorts - navy blue with white side stripes
Netball dress: Navy with white stripe
Nicks: Navy or Black
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: Navy with white lettering. Clash bib pink with White lettering

North Bendigo

Jumper: Blue with red and white horizontal bands
Numbers: White
Socks: Blue
Shorts – blue with white and red side stripes
Netball dress: Royal blue A -Line dress with red and white pattern
Nicks: Royal blue
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: Red with white lettering

White Hills

Jumper: red and black vertical panels
Numbers: white
Socks: red and black hoops
Shorts: black with red side stripes
Netball dress: Black A-Line dress with red sides and flame on front & back
Nicks: Black
Socks: Predominantly white
Bibs: Black with red lettering

ATTACHMENT 2:

Overage Player Policy - Football

- *A club can nominate any number of player(s) that satisfy the criteria for an overage player as outlined in this document.*
- *Players must be under 18 years of age on January 1 of the season in which he wishes to compete as an overage player.*
- *Nominated players **MUST** have been a registered player with the club in previous seasons.*
- **Assessment Criteria**

Any player nominated for overage status will be monitored in the areas outlined below and on their ability to influence the result on any given day. Factors to be taken into account include, but may not be limited to:

 1. Ability to influence the game:
 - General Motor Skills - Coordination; Speed and Agility
 - General Football Skills - Marking; Kicking; Ball Handling
 2. Ability to influence others:
 - Conduct - Plays in accordance with AFL Vic Country, HDFNL regulations & Club Codes of Conduct
 - Behaviour - Does not display an aggressive nature towards other players
- *Clubs must apply in writing for approval of an overage player, using the **Overage Player Application form**, to the **HDFNL board** by the Monday prior to the first game that they wish to play.*
- *If an approved overage player is selected to play, then a maximum of twenty (20) players can only be listed on the under 17 team sheet, including any approved overage players. Overage players must be indicated on the team sheet with the notation (OA) beside their name.*
- *An overage player should **not** be listed as part of the leadership group.*
- *A **MAXIMUM** of two (2) approved overage players can only be selected for each underage team per week. This number will be reduced if a club has a player that has his approval revoked during the season.*
- *All Overage players will be assessed by an independent panel as to their ability and if there is any doubt as to their ability being of a standard that may qualify them for overage status, then they will not be permitted to play in the Under 17 competition.*
- *This independent panel will be comprised of members from the HDFNL Board. This panel shall be empowered to co-opt appropriate persons to assist with an individual assessment if required.*
- *Each approved overage player will be continually monitored throughout the season and the independent panel may revoke any approval at any time during the current season.*
- *The independent panel's decision shall be final and only one application per player shall be permitted.*
- *Junior coaches cannot be involved in the independent assessment of one of their own players.*
- *Any approved overage player that is named as a player on a senior or reserves team sheet during the current season will have their approval to play in the under 17 competition automatically and immediately revoked.*
- *A club official of an opposing club can call for an overage player to be re-evaluated if they deem the player to be unsuitable for overage status. If this is instigated during a game the overage player in question must not remain on the playing surface after $\frac{3}{4}$ time of the match in progress, unless there is no suitable replacement. The player must then be assessed at the next club match by the Independent Panel if the player wishes to continue to qualify as an overage player.*

- All overage players' names will be forwarded to all HDFNL clubs prior to their first game after their approval and are ineligible for any league awards or under 17 representative opportunities.