

Updated
Annual General Meeting
December 2018

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# RIVERLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC. <u>CONSTITUTION</u>

#### (as amended after approval AGM 2018)

## 1. RIVERLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE

#### 1.1 **NAME**

The name of the League shall be "The Riverland Football League Incorporated".

#### 1.2 **OBJECTS**

- 1.2.1 The arrangement of the Australian game of football, the arrangement of League matches, and League Club matches (including the time and place for all such matches), the selection of all League teams, and the consideration and decision of all disputes in which the League or any of the League Club/s, or any member thereof, shall be concerned, the acquiring of money, the disbursement of same, infliction of penalties provided for in these rules or the laws of the game, and the doing of all such matters as shall be incidental thereto.
- 1.2.2 To purchase, rent, have on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire, construct, provide, make hold, improve and maintain real and personal property of every description for the purposes of the League or any of them for the proper conduct and management of the affairs of the League or for the attainment of any of its objects.
- 1.2.3 The assets and income of the League shall be applied solely in furtherance of its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to its members except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the League.
- 1.2.4 In the event of the League being dissolved, the amount which remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, shall be paid and applied by the League Commission in accordance with their powers to any fund, institution or authority, which is a non-profit organisation.

#### 1.3 **INTERPRETATION**

**LEAGUE:** shall mean the elected Commission and all financial Riverland Football member clubs.

**MEMBER CLUB:** means one of the clubs referred to in this Rule.

**LEAGUE BY-LAWS:** means any By-law made by the League pursuant to this Constitution.

**THE COMMISSION:** means the Committee of Management of the League.

**DELEGATE:** means the appointed member club representative.

**CLUB OFFICIAL:** means any person appointed by a League Club as an official of such club (i.e. Coach, Runner, Trainer, Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, Steward etc.)

**COMMISSIONER:** means the person/persons appointed by the league to conduct Tribunal Hearings.

#### 1.4 **MEMBERSHIP**

1.4.1 The League shall comprise of three competitions which shall be called the Riverland competition, the Independent competition and the Riverland Women competition. The three competitions shall consist of the following Football Clubs: -

RIVERLAND	INDEPENDENT	RIVERLAND WOMEN
Barmera-Monash Berri Loxton Loxton North Renmark Waikerie	Blanchetown Swan Reach Browns Well Cobdogla Lyrup Paringa Ramco Sedan-Cambrai Wunkar	North South

- 1.4.2 Additional Club or Clubs shall be admitted for such membership as shall be determined upon by the League in accordance with this constitution and the S.A.N.F.L. Affiliated Leagues Constitution, Section 10.
- 1.4.3 The renewal of a Club's membership of the League/Association will be conditional upon the club providing proof to the Secretary of the League/Association that its Senior team/s has been insured for Tragedy Benefits to a level set by the S.A.N.F.L.

#### 1.5 <u>LIFE MEMBERSHIP</u>

1.5.1 There shall be three classes of Life Membership for the League in two categories:

#### (1) Automatic

Automatic Life Membership will be granted to a person, who has attained the following criteria in the respective life membership class,

#### League Life Member

The League shall grant Life Membership to any person who has provided outstanding service for a minimum period of ten (10) years as an RFL Commissioner.

#### Player Life Member

The League shall grant Life Membership to a player who has played 250 RFL "A" Grade games or a player who has played 300 RFL Independent "A" Grade games which can include Inter-league games representing the RFL. The respective clubs are responsible for providing correct information to the League in relation to the number of games played by a player.

#### Umpire Life Member

The League shall grant Life Membership to an umpire who has been recognized with Life Membership to the RFLUA, umpired 400 RFL games at any level and any discipline, and has umpired for 15 years in the RFL competition which shall include 10 years of umpiring at RFL or Independent "A" grade level in any discipline.

#### (2) Discretionary

The League may grant Life Membership to any person in either of the three classes who has provided outstanding service to the Riverland Football League Inc as determined by the RFL Commission.

- 1.5.2 Automatic Life Membership based on the criteria for the respective classes will be presented to the person by the League at an appropriate time.
- 1.5.3 Nomination for Discretionary Life Membership stating the nominee's record shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting at which a 66% majority vote shall be necessary to confer Life Membership upon the person nominated.
- 1.5.4 A Life Member Badge and Certificate will be presented to all recipients who are awarded Life Membership by the League.

#### 1.6 **AFFILIATION**

- 1.6.1 The Riverland Football League shall be affiliated each year with the South Australian National Football League and shall operate under the playing rules of that body unless modified and agreed to by the member clubs in accordance with this constitution.
- 1.6.2 Each member club shall pay an Annual Affiliation Fee to the Riverland Football League and such fee shall be determined from time to time at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- 1.6.3 The delegate or delegates of any member club which has not paid the Annual Affiliation Fee shall be ineligible to vote at any Annual General

Meeting of the Riverland Football League or to take part in any way in the conduct or administration of business of the Riverland Football League.

1.6.4 The first Affiliation Fee shall be in accordance with the by- laws under this constitution.

## 2. CLUBS

#### 2.1 CLUB COLOURS

The registered distinguishing colours of the Clubs shall be as follows: -

BARMERA MONASH
BERRI
LOXTON
LOXTON NORTH
RENMARK
WAIKERIE

Pale Blue and Navy Blue
Navy Blue and Gold
Navy Blue and White
Royal Blue and White
Black and White.

BROWNS WELL
BLANCHTOWN-SWAN REACH
COBDOGLA
LYRUP
PARINGA
Brown and Gold
Black Red and Silver
Royal Blue and Gold
Red Blue and Yellow
Red and White

RAMCO White Purple Red and Green

SEDAN-CAMBRAI Black and White

WUNKAR Red White and Royal Blue

- 2.1.1 Any modification to colour or design or the use of the advertising logos, shall be approved by the Commission.
- 2.1.2 Any Club playing members and using permitted officials on the ground, who do not conform to the approved Club colours may be prohibited by the Field Umpire from taking part in any game and upon written notification by the Umpire to the League, within two clear days of such breach, the General Board may impose a fine for each offending person in the A Grade, Independent A Grade and Seconds grades only.
- 2.1.3 The wearing of body/bike shorts under the regulation football shorts shall be limited to either neutral (skin) coloured or the same colour as the shorts of the day. Any club not adhering to this rule shall be fined at the discretion of the Commission.

#### 2.2 **ADDITIONAL CLUBS**

Additional Clubs may be admitted to membership of the League from time to time at the Annual General Meeting under the following conditions:-

- 2.2.1 All applications to join the League must be made in writing together with a copy of the club's official Constitution, proposed colours and application fee as outlined by the by laws. The same must be in the hands of the Secretary of the League not later than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.2.2 Such applications must be approved by a vote of at least 75% of the Riverland Football League, providing that if the application is for a Club transferring from another League, they have complied with Section 10 of the Affiliated League's Constitution.
- 2.2.3 Each member of the Commission will have one vote and each member club will have one vote. In the event of a tie the chairperson of the Commission or that meeting will have a casting vote.

#### 2.3 **CLUBS WITHDRAWING**

No Club having once joined the League shall be allowed to withdraw without giving notice by certified mail of its intention to do so to the League Secretary. Such notice must be given prior to the 30th October in any one-year and the conditions of Section 26, Sub Clauses (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3) of the Affiliated Leagues Constitution fulfilled. Any outstanding debts must be paid in full prior to withdrawal taking place.

### 2.4 **OTHER MATTERS**

Any matter, or any kind whatsoever, not dealt with or provided for in the Constitution of the League may be dealt with in such manner as the Commission may think fit.

#### 2.5 **BY-LAWS**

The League shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal such by-laws as it may deem necessary, convenient or expedient, in relation to the proper conduct and management of the business and affairs of the League and the attainment of its League and League Clubs and shall come into force after approval by the S.A.N.F.L. Affiliated Leagues.

#### 2.6 **SEAL**

The League shall provide a Common Seal with the name of the League thereon and such seal shall not be used except by authority of the League. Every instrument to which the Seal is required to be affixed shall be signed by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the League and counter-signed by the League Secretary.

#### 2.7 ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION

No alteration, repeal or addition shall be made to the Constitution except by resolution of the League, passed by 75% majority at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, of which notice shall be given in writing not less than 14 days before the date for holding same and which notice shall set out the proposed alterations.

#### 2.8 **DISSOLUTION OF LEAGUE**

In case it shall appear at any time advisable or necessary to dissolve the League, a Special General Meeting, duly called for that purpose, shall have power, by a 75% majority of the delegates there present (voting as per rule 4.7), to resolve that the League be absolutely dissolved and the same shall thereupon be dissolved and the affairs thereof be wound up accordingly, in such manner as the meeting shall direct.

#### 2.9 **RIGHT OF APPEAL**

An aggrieved person or club subject to a decision of the Commission other than tribunal decisions/hearings may appeal to the Eastern Zone Tribunal, accompanied by a \$200 cheque. The appeal must be lodged no later than 4pm on the seventh day, from which the decision of the relevant body was made.

The Eastern Zone Tribunal consists of Chairman (the Counsellor of the Eastern Zone), and one member from each affiliated League in the Zone excluding the League / Leagues involved in the appeal.

#### 2.10 **PROTEST AND DISPUTES**

Protest or disputes arising out of any League match must be made in writing by the Club concerned to the Secretary of the League, not later than two working days following the match in which such incident occurred.

- 2.10.1 Such protest must bear the signature of two responsible officers of the Club concerned and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$200.00 which may be wholly or partly returned by order of the Tribunal.
- 2.10.2 Preliminary notification of any protest must be given by Fax or Telephone within 24 hours following the match in question, to a member of the League Executive and the Club being protested against must be notified of the cause of the protest by the League Secretary within 2 working days following the match in question.
- 2.10.3 The cause of the protest must be contained in the notice to the League Secretary.
- 2.10.4 The protest is to be heard by the Commission.

# 3. ADMINISTRATION

The Riverland Football League will be administered with the best interests of football in mind in accordance with this constitution with the following office bearers.

#### 3.1 **PATRON**

The League may appoint a Patron for a period to be determined from time to time.

#### 3.2 **OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE**

- 3.2.1 The Chairman (Commission)
- 3.2.2 The Vice Chairman (Commission)
- 3.2.3 Five (elected) Commissioners
- 3.2.4 The Secretary
- 3.2.5 The Treasurer
- 3.2.6 The Registrar

The officers of the League shall not be the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer any member Club.

#### 3.3 THE COMMISSION

- 3.3.1 The Commission shall comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the five elected Commissioners, elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.3.2 The position of Chairman will be voted on annually at the A.G.M.; of the remaining six Commissioners, each will be appointed for a two year term with three of these positions declared vacant each year, in order to ensure continuity.
- 3.3.3 The positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar may be held jointly (ie as a combined office), or as decided by the Commission.
- 3.3.4 If deemed as required by the League Commission, the position of the Executive Officer and Treasurer of the League shall be advertised in the local press on two separate occasions prior to the Annual General Meeting.

#### 3.4 **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION**

- 3.4.1 The Commission shall organise the finances of the League subject to annual audit.
- 3.4.2 The Commission shall supervise the operations of the League generally and instruct the appointed officials in the performance of their duties.
- 3.4.3 The Commission shall conduct any business of the League which may arise or require attention between annual general meetings.
- 3.4.4 The Commission may prepare Rules for the control and management of the League that are consistent with the constitution. Such rules shall be put to the annual general meeting of the Riverland Football League. Rules prepared by the Commission which are approved by 75% majority voting at such meeting shall become the Rules of the League. Rules of the League may be amended or varied or deleted or added to in the same way as this Constitution may be amended.
- 3.4.5 Subject to this Constitution, the Commission shall have the power to do all such things and to take such action as the Commission considers in the best interest of the League and which is in accord with the objects and powers of the League.

- 3.4.6 A Quorum for the Commission shall be 50% plus one of all Members entitled to vote. (The Secretary and/or treasurer have no vote)
- 3.4.7 The Commission shall have the authority to hear, deal with and determine any matter pertaining to the application of these rules, regulations and standing orders.
- 3.4.8 The interpretation of these Rules shall be in the absolute discretion of the Commission, whose decisions shall be final and binding on all Members.

#### 3.5 **BOARD OF DELEGATES**:

- 3.5.1 There shall be a Board of delegates comprising representatives of the Commission and at least one representative from each member club. Voting rights shall be that delegates from each of the A Grade Clubs have individual Voting rights to a maximum of two per club and each delegate from each of the Independent Clubs shall have individual voting rights to a maximum of one per club.
- 3.5.2 *Powers and Duties of the Board:*

The delegate/s to the Board appointed by each Member Club shall hold office during the year of which that person is appointed or until such time as the delegate successor is appointed. The appointed Club delegate and proxy are to be a member of the Management Committee of the Member Club. The name of the Appointed Club delegate together with the name of the proxy delegate is to be forwarded in writing to the Executive Officer of the League before the Annual General Meeting. The nominated proxy shall be entitled to attend Delegate Board Meetings purely as an observer and shall not have the power to vote at such Meetings whilst the delegate is present.

- 3.5.3 Should a club not be officially represented at any Meetings of the Delegates Board, the Commission shall impose a fine of \$50.00 (fifty) dollars.
- 3.5.3.1 An apology will not be accepted by the League if a Club fails to send at least one representative to an RFL General Meeting or a Special Meeting.
- 3.5.4 The Board of Delegates shall meet at League Headquarters as the Commission shall determine and such meeting shall be chaired by the Commission chairperson. If the chairperson is not present the Vice Chairman or another Commissioner present shall preside at such meeting. Notice of such meetings to be given to clubs at least 14 days prior to the calling of such meeting.
- 3.5.5 The Board of Delegates may make recommendations to the Commission as to any matter dealing with the operations of the League and consistent with the constitution. Such recommendations should be reduced to writing and presented in proposal format to form part of the meeting minutes. The Commission may act on the proposal in a manner consistent with these rules.
- 3.5.6 Minutes shall be kept of all Meetings of the Delegates board.
- 3.5.7 The Secretary of the League shall minute such meetings.

#### 3.6 <u>UMPIRES BOARD</u>

- 3.6.1 There shall be an Umpires Board, which shall comprise at least five members including a member of the Commission and the Umpire's Coach. Meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Commission.
- 3.6.2 The Umpires Board shall be appointed annually and act generally as a liaison between the League and the Umpires.
- 3.6.3 *Umpires Selection Panel:*

The Umpires Selection Panel shall comprise (3) three members: The Umpires Coach, one Commission representative and one other member from the Umpires Board.

#### 3.7 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 3.7.1 The Financial Year of the League shall begin on the 1st day of November in every year and shall end on the 31st day of October next following to which least mentioned day the accounts of the League shall be balanced.
- 3.7.2 At every Annual General Meeting of the League an auditor shall be elected to serve for the ensuing year.
- 3.7.3 The auditor shall audit the accounts of the League not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

#### 3.8 **LEAGUE LOSSES**

The losses, if any, of the League shall be borne by the Clubs, in equal proportions and if any Club shall neglect to pay its declared share of any loss that may arise or call that may be made within one month after due notice of such loss shall have been given or shall have been made by the Secretary, shall be disqualified from any future representation thereon: but it may be readmitted at any time thereafter by payment of the said loss or call and the annual fee.

#### 3.9 **BANKING ACCOUNT**

An account shall be opened with one of the Banks carrying on business in the Riverland district (to be selected by the Commission) in the name of the Riverland Football League Inc, such account to be operative upon the Secretary or Treasurer and any one member of the Commission. All moneys of the League shall, after the accounts are passed by the Commission, as far as practicable be paid by cheque.

# 4. MEETINGS

#### 4.1 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The time and place of the Annual General Meeting of the League shall be notified in the Local press and shall be given to members of the League and to Secretaries of Clubs in writing. Such notice shall be given so as to be received by Club Secretaries in writing at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the date of such meeting being held, and such notice must contain a fully itemised agenda for such meeting, and the minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting.

4.1.1 All clubs must be given at least (21) twenty one days notice prior to the closing date for the inclusion of items to be placed on the agenda of any Annual General Meeting.

#### 4.2 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 4.2.1 The Annual General Meeting of The League shall be held no later than the second week in December in each year
- 4.2.2 At this meeting consideration and deliberation on the following business shall be transacted: -
  - 4.2.2.1 The presentation of annual reports, financial statements and balance sheet, duly audited for the past year.
  - 4.2.2.2 Nominations and conferral's of Life Membership.
  - 4.2.2.3 Elections for the Office Bearer positions of the Commission for the ensuing year of: Patron, Chairman, Vice Chairman and (5) five Commission members, by the delegates or their proxies present at the meeting.
  - 4.2.2.4 Appointment of Auditors.
  - 4.2.2.5 The appointments to a maximum of Five League Tribunal Commissioners to constitute a selection pool and the nomination of the venue of subsequent meetings of same.
  - 4.2.2.6 The appointment of any Committees or Sub Committees. E.g. Programme, Selection, Finance etc.
  - 4.2.2.7 The settings of annual fees for: Affiliation, Registration, Fines, Match Admissions and Guides (records)
  - 4.2.2.8 Discuss the commencement date of matches for the ensuing year.
  - 4.2.2.9 An apology will not be accepted by the League if a club fails to send at least one representative to a RFL Annual General Meeting.

#### 4.3 **DELEGATION OF POWER**

The League may from time to time, by resolution at any meeting, delegate any of its power to a Sub-Committee or Committees or a Board consisting of such one or more persons as it shall think fit to appoint and may recall or revoke any such delegation or appointment.

Such resolution may provide that a decision of any such Committee in exercising the power so delegated shall be final and without appeal.

#### 4.4 **GENERAL MEETINGS**

All meetings of the League shall be called by notice to each Club Secretary, given by the League Secretary. Such notice shall be given so as to be received by the Club Secretaries in writing at least (14) fourteen days prior to the date of such meeting, and such notice must contain a fully itemised agenda for such meeting and the minutes from the previous General Meeting.

4.4.1 All clubs must be given at least (21) twenty one days notice prior to the closing date for the inclusion of items to be placed on the agenda of any General Meeting.

#### 4.5 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Upon receiving notice of a requisition signed and forwarded by not less than two Club Secretaries, setting forth the objects of such meeting, the Secretary shall call a Special Meeting in writing, to be held within (14) days of the receipt of such requisition and such meeting may only transact the business set forth in the requisition calling the meeting.

#### 4.6 **QUORUMS**

One over half of the delegates of the League, or the members of specific Committees shall form a Quorum thereof. If a quorum is not attained by 30 minutes after the appointment time such proposed meeting shall lapse.

#### **4.7 VOTING**

- 4.7.1 At all meetings of the Commission every Commissioner shall be entitled to one vote and the 66% majority will count.
- 4.7.2 At all meetings of the League (other than Delegate Board meetings) every Commissioner member present personally and every delegate member of a financial member club present personally, or by proxy approved by the League, shall be entitled to one vote and the motion shall be carried with a 66% majority.
- 4.7.3 The Chairman shall decide whether the subject and subsequent vote shall be confined to A Grade or Independent A Grade and that vote shall be the Commission and A Grade delegates or the Commission and Independent A Grade delegates respectively or a joint vote taken depending on the issue. The chairman will have a casting vote.
- 4.7.4 The Secretary and/or Treasurer has no voting rights on the Commission or Delegate Board Meetings.

#### 4.8 **CHAIRPERSON**

The duties of the Chairperson shall include presiding as Chairperson at all

Commission and Delegate Board Meetings. He/She shall represent the League before all authorities or in any legal proceedings and shall be responsible for the preparation and delivery of the Annual report at the Annual General Meeting.

In general, he/she shall ensure that the objects of this Constitution, as well as the resolution of any meeting of the members of the League or of the Commission are carried out. He/she shall direct the Secretary to call all meetings of the Commission and of the League.

- 4.8.1 The Vice-Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson is to carry out all the duties set out above.
- 4.8.2 In the event of the absence of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Commission from any meeting of the League or Commission, one of the Commission members shall preside at such meeting.
- 4.8.3 An honorarium shall be paid to the chairman as determined by the Commission.

#### 4.9 **SECRETARY**

The Secretary will be a voluntary position appointed by the Commission on an annual basis expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

The Secretary shall not be a club delegate and shall not hold any office at an affiliated club.

An honorarium shall be paid to the Secretary as determined by the Commission.

Duties of the Secretary will be determined by the Commission and will include:

- 4.9.1 To be responsible for the day to day administration of the League.
- 4.9.2 To liaise and communicate with other football governing bodies (SANFL, SACFL etc) and to disseminate information to all member clubs and Commissioners as necessary.
- 4.9.3 To convene, attend and keep minutes of all meetings of the Commission and League.
- 4.9.4 To expedite all motions and resolutions carried at any meeting of the Commission or League.
- 4.9.5 To prepare reports for the League as required, including an Annual Report for the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.9.6 To seek out and liaise with sponsors and financial benefactors of the RFL in consultation with the Chairman.

#### 4.10 **TREASURER**

The Treasurer will be a voluntary position appointed by the Commission on an annual basis expiring on 31st December each year.

The Treasurer shall not be a club delegate and shall not hold any office at an affiliated club.

An honorarium shall be paid to the Treasurer as determined by the Commission.

Duties of the Treasurer will be determined by the Commission and will include:

- 4.10.1 To be responsible for all monies of the League.
- 4.10.2 To keep up to date financial records of the League and provide financial reports including bank statements as required, including to all Commission and League meetings.

#### 4.11 **REGISTRAR**

The Registrar will be a voluntary position appointed by the Commission on an annual basis expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

The Registrar shall not be a club delegate and shall not hold any office at an affiliated club.

An honorarium shall be paid to the Registrar as determined by the Commission.

Duties of the Registrar will be determined by the Commission and will include:

- 4.11.1 To expedite player clearances and player registrations.
- 4.11.2 To administer the Approved Player points System (APPS) and salary cap provisions on behalf of the League.

#### 4.12 **RESCINDED RESOLUTIONS**

A motion to rescind or vary a resolution which has been carried by the League may be carried but subject to the following conditions: -

- 4.12.1 If the motion which it is sought to rescind or vary has been passed in the then current year, note of intention to move such variation or rescission shall be given at a previous meeting of the League and such motion to rescind or vary shall not be carried unless at least 75% of the delegates present vote in the affirmative.
- 4.12.2 If the motion which it is sought to rescind or vary has been passed or adopted in any previous year, notice of intention to move such rescission or variation shall be given at a previous meeting, but such motion must be carried by 75% of delegates present.

# 5. CODE OF CONDUCT - TRIBUNAL - REPORTS - FINES

#### 5.1 **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A code of conduct shall apply to all officials, players, coaches and supporters of the Riverland Football League. Such code of conduct shall be fully supported and enforced by the League Commission, League Tribunal Commissioners, Umpires and

member clubs.

- 5.1.1 All officials, players and coaches of affiliated clubs must obey all legal directions made by either field umpire in control of the match.
- 5.1.1.1 Players and officials of clubs must refrain from the use of obscenities when singing the club song.
- 5.1.1.2 Spectators must not occupy the designated playing area during designated periods of play.
- 5.1.2 Breaches of this code of conduct by players, club officials, or coaches shall be referred to the Domestic Tribunal, which, if the case is proved, may impose suspension, fines or loss of premiership points, as it deems fit.
- 5.1.3 An umpire controlling the game or official of the League must refer a serious breach of this code by spectators to the Riverland Football League Commission.
- 5.1.4 In the event of a match being abandoned due to multiple breaches of this code of conduct, the Riverland Football League Commission shall hold a special meeting on or as close to the day of the incident as possible to consider the suspension or disaffiliation of the club or clubs concerned.
- 5.1.5 If the Riverland Football League Commission votes to suspend or disaffiliate the club or clubs concerned, a special general meeting shall be called to confirm this decision, subject to the conditions set down in Section 4.5 above.
- 5.1.6 League Commission

The Commission shall do all things necessary to promote the health and well-being of football as is consistent with these rules

#### 5.1.7 **Players:**

Should always play by the rules

Never argue with officials but have their say legitimately through the club captain, coach or manager either during or after a game.

Control one's temper - deliberate abuse will not be tolerated

Work hard for yourself and for your team with the team emphasis being paramount

Be a good sport and appreciate the good work of others around you

Treat all players, as you would like to be treated

Co-operate with your coach, team mates and officials. Football is a game to be enjoyed.

Play to enjoy the contest and remember without your opponents there would not be a game.

#### 5.1.8 **Spectators:**

Remember football is a spectator sport and bad behaviour is not appropriate in front of other supporters, children or players

Applaud good performance and effort from each team. Be prepared to applaud both sides in the interest of fairness regardless of the games outcome

Respect official's decisions. If there is disagreement then go through official channels. Your behaviour is often copied by children.

Never ridicule children playing the game, it is a learning process

Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it spectators, coaches, officials or players

Show respect for teams opponents, without them there would be no game

Encourage players to follow the rules and abide by official's decisions

Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials

Avoid the use of derogatory language or gender or racially explicit words.

#### 5.1.9 **Coaches:**

Be reasonable in your demand of player's time energy and enthusiasm

Teach your players that rules of sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break utilising discipline as a benchmark.

#### 5.1.10 **Umpires:**

Observe, rule on and determine the rules of the game during play in a totally impartial way.

Show respect for players and have regard to injuries

Treat all players as you would like to be treated

Take firm positive action against breaches of the rules

#### 5.2 **LEAGUE TRIBUNAL**

The League shall appoint League Tribunal member/s at its Annual General Meeting as per Rule 23 a, parts 1 and 2 of the Affiliated Leagues Constitution.

- 5.2.1 The League Tribunal shall be constituted at any one time by a Commissioner together with such assistants as he/she deems necessary having regard to the nature of the proceedings. He/She will deal with charges against players, officials and servants and enquire into, hear and adjudicate upon any matter, which being within the jurisdiction of this League, is referred by this League to them or by the Commission.
- 5.2.2 The decision by such Commissioner shall be final.

- 5.2.3 The Commissioner may summon any person to appear and give evidence on the hearing of any matter before them.
- 5.2.4 The Commissioner may at his/her absolute discretion admit or reject any evidence and is not bound by the rules of evidence.
- 5.2.5 The Commissioners may as they in their absolute discretion think fit censure, fine suspend or disqualify any person found guilty of a charge.
- 5.2.6 At the hearing of any charge against any player, official or Club, the accused person shall have the right to be represented by one official of his Club as per Appendix No. 4, "Procedures for Tribunal Hearings", in the Affiliated Leagues Constitution and Rules.

#### 5.3 **NIGHT GAMES**

Night games played under lights shall be at the discretion of the Commission.

- 5.3.1 Should the lights go out during a night game teams are to be removed immediately from the ground by Team Managers and Umpires.
- 5.3.2 A reasonable assessment is to be made by the team managers and umpires acting jointly as to the likely resumption of play. If play cannot be resumed within 30 minutes from the black out the game is to be abandoned and the result will be as follows:
  - : Half time had been achieved then the scores would stand as the final result.
  - : Should half time not have been achieved the game would be declared a draw.
  - : If the delay occurs during a normal break in the game (quarter, half or three-quarter time) the 30 minutes will be calculated from the normal resumption time after such break.

#### 5.4 **REPORTING OTHER OFFENCES**

- 5.4.1 No official or servant of the League or of a League Club, or any playing member of a League Club shall at any time: -
- 5.4.1.1 Unduly interfere with or assault, or otherwise use abusive threatening or insulting language, towards any League delegate, Umpire or other officials, servants, player or gatekeepers of any such oval at which a match arranged by, or under control of the League, is being played.
- 5.4.1.2 Be guilty of any other conduct which is detrimental to the best interests of the game of Australian Football (refer code of conduct).
- 5.4.1.3 Refuse or neglect or fail to observe or comply with the Rules of the League.

- 5.4.1.4 Obtain or attempt to obtain admission to any oval without producing a proper entrance pass or paying the proper admission charge.
- 5.4.2 No League Club shall refuse or neglect or fail to observe, obey or comply with any decision or direction of the League Commission.
- 5.4.3 A charge alleging infringement of this Rule 5 –
- 5.4.3.1 May be made by an official of the League, or by any registered umpire, or a Club Secretary or President.
- 5.4.3.2 Such charges shall be in writing, giving full particulars of the matter complained of and delivered to the League Secretary before 1.00pm on Monday or the first working day after the match.
- 5.4.3.3 The League shall cause a copy of the charge to be delivered to any person alleged in such charge to have committed any infringement of these Rules and shall inform such person of the time and place of the hearing of such charge.
- 5.4.3.4 Any charge under this rule will be heard by the League Tribunal within 5 days of the date of receiving the complaint.
- 5.4.3.5 Where a charge under this rule has been found to be proved, the Commissioner may inflict such punishment either by way of censure, fine, suspension or disqualification as they think it.
- 5.4.3.6 Any person reported under Rule 5 shall have the right to be represented by a delegate, proxy delegate or office bearer of the Club to which the accused person belongs.
- 5.4.3.7 The League Tribunal shall forward any finding to the League Executive Officer immediately following such hearing.

#### 5.5 **PAYMENT OF FINES**

- 5.5.1 Whenever a fine has been inflicted by the Commission on a League club or on a Delegate member or proxy delegate or on a playing member or official or member of the League, such fine shall be paid within twenty one (21) days from the posting by the Secretary of the League of a notice of infliction of such fine.
- 5.5.2 Each League club shall be responsible for the payment of all fines inflicted by the Commission or the League Commissioner on the club or on its delegate members or proxy delegates or on its playing members or officials registered with the League.
- 5.5.3 In the event of any such fine not duly paid, the League club in default may be disqualified by the Commission from playing any other League club/s for the remainder of the season or for a period whilst under suspension or the Commission may suspend for a period as it thinks fit, the right of the delegate member/s and proxy delegates of such League clubs to vote at meetings of the League or of any committee.
- 5.5.4 Should dispute be forthcoming then it must be lodged with the League Secretary within (7) seven working days, to be heard by the next League Tribunal meeting.

# 6. PLAYERS

#### 6.1 **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- 6.1.1 All players shall be registered annually and prior to the first match of the League season (notified on a club bulk listing basis to the League Secretary). Any player seeking registration subsequent to the initial listing shall be registered on the approved form and the form must be in the hands of the Executive Officer prior to the applicants first game.
- A player who has obtained registration by means of a false statement or without the necessary qualifications shall be summoned to appear before the League Tribunal and disqualified for a minimum three matches.

#### 6.2 PLAYING AN UNQUALIFIED PLAYER

- 6.2.1 No Club shall play any player who is unregistered or who for any reason what so ever is unqualified. A Club breaking this rule shall forfeit the match.
- 6.2.2 The Riverland Football League Inc may fine the club an amount up to, but not exceeding one thousand dollars for a breach of any registration, permit, clearance or qualification By-Law.

#### 6.3 PLAYING A DISQUALIFIED PLAYER

No club shall play any player who is under disqualification by any Australian Football authority whether the authority is affiliated with the League or not. Any Club, having received written notice from that League Executive officer that a player has been disqualified or fined, which plays a disqualified player or a player whose fine has not been paid, shall forfeit the match in which it plays such a player and in addition, be fined an amount of up to, but not exceeding one thousand dollars, by the League Tribunal.

Any dispute regarding a disqualified or unqualified player will be dealt with as in 5.5.4

#### 6.4 **CLEARANCES**

- 6.4.1 No player shall be permitted to play in this League until he has achieved the below 2 requirements:
  - a) Obtained a Clearance from the Club and Affiliated League in which he last played, on an appropriate clearance form.
    - b) Registered for his new club.
- 6.4.2 In the event of any Club in this League refusing a player a Clearance to any other Club in this League or delaying the Clearance, the League Tribunal, after hearing evidence may grant a clearance to such player.

6.4.3 No player who is under any disqualification shall be granted a Clearance from this League or by any Club of this League until such disqualification has been served.

#### 6.4.4 Interstate Clearance Applications

All applications for a clearance to a State other than South Australia must be endorsed by the Affiliated League and Club, with which he was last registered and returned to the League club to which the player was zoned, within fourteen (14) days from the date of dispatch to the Affiliated League.

#### 6.4.5 Transfer Fees

- a) No SANFL Affiliated League Club shall demand or receive a transfer fee for a player transferring between two Affiliated League Clubs either within the same Affiliated League or between Affiliated Leagues.
- b) Any allegations of a breach of this regulation shall be referred to the Investigation Committee of the Affiliated League Council for investigation.
- c) Any Affiliated League Club which commits a breach of this regulation shall be liable to a fine of \$2,000.00

#### 6.4.6 Regulations and Procedure for Appeals

- a) Any player registered with an Affiliated League Club who is refused a clearance to transfer from one club in the League in which he is registered to another club in the same League, may appeal against that refusal to the League Independent Tribunal.
- b) Any such appeal must be directed to the League Independent Tribunal through the League Secretary.
- c) Any player registered with an Affiliated League Club who is refused a clearance to transfer from the Affiliated League in which he is registered to another Affiliated League within the same Affiliated League Council Zone, may appeal against that refusal to the Zone Independent
- d) Any such appeal must be directed to the Zone Independent Tribunal through the Affiliated League Council Zone Councillor by the Secretary of the Affiliated League to which the player has sought the clearance.
- e) Any player registered with an Affiliated League Club who is refused a clearance to transfer from the Affiliated League outside of the Affiliated League Zone from which he desires a clearance, may appeal to the Commissioner for Country and Junior Football.
- f) Any such appeal must be directed to the Commissioner for Country and Junior Football at the registered offices of the South

Australian National Football League by the Secretary of the Affiliated League to which the player has sought the clearance.

- g) Subject to Regulation 15(b) no Affiliated League player may appeal against a refused clearance after July 31<sup>st</sup> in any year.
- h) Any person disqualified or suspended by an Affiliated League for a period which shall be in excess of the period in which the next ten (10) matches of the team for which he was playing or officiating shall participate may appeal to the Commissioner for Country and Junior Football against such disqualification or suspension.
- i) Any such appeal must be directed to the Commissioner for Country and Junior Football at the registered offices of the South Australian National Football League by the Secretary of the Affiliated League with which the player is registered within 28 days of such suspension being imposed.
- j) An appeal for clearance shall be made in writing and lodged, along with a further clearance application completed by the player, with the person provided for in the above regulations.
- k) The player shall at the time of lodging his appeal pay to the Secretary of the league receiving the appeal a prescribed fee of \$50 and the Secretary receiving the fee shall acknowledge receipt of such fee and shall not be obliged to proceed further with the appeal until such prescribed fee has been received. The above mentioned fee will be forfeited by the person appealing if in the opinion of the body hearing the appeal, it is considered frivolous. Otherwise, it shall be refunded to the appellant.

#### 6.5 **REPORTING OF PLAYERS**

- 6.5.1 Players guilty of detected breaches of the laws of the game must be reported. The Field umpire/s, Reserve Umpire, Goal umpires and Boundary umpires, an Official of the League, or a Club President shall have the power to report. However any umpire present at a game can report breaches to the Commission.
- 6.5.1.1 Such charges shall be in writing, giving full particulars of the matter complained of and delivered to the League Secretary before 1.00pm on Monday or the first working day after the match.
- 6.5.1.2 The League shall cause a copy of the charge to be delivered to any person alleged in such charge to have committed any infringement of these Rules and shall inform such person of the time and place of the hearing of such charge.
- 6.5.1.3 Any charge under this rule will be heard by the League Tribunal within 5 days of the date of receiving the complaint.

- 6.5.1.4 Where a charge under this rule has been found to be proved, the Commissioner may inflict such punishment either by way of censure, fine, suspension or disqualification as they think it.
- 6.5.1.5 Any person reported under Rule 5 shall have the right to be represented by a delegate, proxy delegate or office bearer of the Club to which the accused person belongs.
- 6.5.1.6 The League Tribunal shall forward any finding to the League Secretary immediately following such hearing.
- 6.5.2 When an umpire has cause to report a player/s, he shall at the termination of the match, hand one copy of the charge on the prescribed forms to an official of the Club to which the player who has been charged belongs.
- 6.5.3 The umpire shall lodge his duplicate copy containing the charges made by him with the Secretary of the League before 1.00pm on the next working day after the match.
- 6.5.4 Each club shall be responsible for the attendance of an official at the door of the Umpires Room at the termination of the match, to sign a report from the Umpire. Clubs failing to do so, shall incur a fine.
- 6.5.5 On receipt of the said form, the Club shall ensure the accused player/s attend the hearing. The accused player/s and advocate may give evidence and call witnesses and question all witnesses giving evidence. Should the accused fail to attend, the tribunal may proceed to deal with the charge in his absence. The field umpire's charge may be supplemented by written evidence and an official of the Club or Club concerned shall be required to attend the hearing. The time, day and place of the meeting of the tribunal shall be determined by the Commission.
- 6.5.6 A player, against whom a charge has been made of a breach of the Laws of the game, shall not be eligible to play until the League Commissioners have adjudicated upon such charges. (This applies to juniors who plan to play a seniors game later that day.)
- 6.5.7 A player may not serve all or any part of a suspension given under a discretionary sentencing agreement in the round in which he was reported.

# 7. MATCHES

#### 7.1 MATCHES OTHER THAN LEAGUE

No club shall play any match other than a League match without first obtaining the previous approval of the Commission and clubs not engaged in semi-finals or final games shall not play any match without first obtaining the approval of the Commission. Games must not be played within League boundaries, pre-season trial matches excluded.

Pre-season trial games are excluded from this rule.

#### 7.2 **PROGRAMME OF MATCHES**

The programme of matches for each season shall be drawn up by the Commission and

submitted to a meeting of the club delegates set for not later than the first week of February. At this meeting the delegates shall have the power by a 75% vote to approve the programme as submitted or amend it as they deem fit. (Voting as per rule 4)

#### 7.3 **FORFEITURE OF MATCHES**

- 7.3.1 No club or player shall refuse to play under Umpires appointed by the SANFL or the League and no club shall forfeit any match because of objection to the appointed umpire. A club so refusing to play or forfeiting a match for such reason shall be suspended or expelled from the League or otherwise dealt with as the Commission may determine.
- 7.3.2 Any player or players who refuse to play or takes part in the forfeiture of a match on account of objection to the appointed umpire may be disqualified for such period as the Commission may think fit.
- 7.3.3 A club forfeiting a match for any other reason shall notify the Secretary of the League not later than 9am on the Friday prior to the match of its reasons for forfeiting and the League may accept the explanation or deal with the club forfeiting or the players of such club as it may think fit.
- 7.3.4 The Commission shall be the agent through which all decisions of the League shall be made in any matter to be considered by virtue of this rule.
- 7.3.5 If a match is forfeited before 9am the day before the game was to be played no player in either club shall be regarded for any of the purposes of these rules as having played in such match.
- 7.3.6 If a match is forfeited after 9am the day before the game was to be played, no player in the forfeiting Club shall be regarded for any of the purposes of these rules as having played in such match but the players of the club which did not forfeit whose names appeared in the team sheet in respect of the match shall for the purpose of these rules be deemed to have played in such forfeited match.
- 7.3.7 For each team that forfeits and notifies the Secretary of the League as detailed in 7.3.3 then that club will be fined \$250.00.

  For each team that forfeits and notifies the Secretary of the League outside the specified time frame detailed in 7.3.3 then that club will be fined \$500.00.

  For further forfeits to the same team in the seam season, the fine will multiply by 2. (Example 1<sup>st</sup> forfeit in accordance with 7.3.3 = \$250.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> forfeit = \$500.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> forfeit = \$1000.00)

  Independent clubs will be required to pay only 75% of the above detailed penalty.

#### 7.4 **LEAGUE SELECTION**

- 7.4.1 Any player who has applied for and obtained registration and a permit to play must make himself available for training and selection in any match arranged by the League.
- 7.4.2 Any registered player who has been selected to play in an inter-League or other League match, shall on failure to satisfy the Selectors that he had a valid reason for not training or playing, and on a report of such failure to the

Commission, be liable to a censure, fine or suspension from playing in any further matches at the pleasure of the League Tribunal in addition to any penalty imposed under rule 7.1.

7.4.3 In the event that a player is censured, fined, disqualified or suspended by the League Tribunal for a breach of clause 7.4.2 or by-law 12a, any penalty imposed by the tribunal will not cause that player to be ineligible for any best & fairest medals and or awards in either competition of the League

#### 7.5 TIME OF MATCHES

- 7.5.1 The time of starting of each match shall be such time as shall be determined by the Commission, together with the length of the quarters and the provision of the "Time-on" for each grade.
- 7.5.2 Competition teams shall be ready to, (and enter when possible) the playing arena not less than three minutes before the starting time of any match, or at such other times as the League shall direct.
- 7.5.3 A bell or siren shall be sounded at appropriate times as signals to the Field Umpire and teams. At the expiration of time at the end of quarters and the match such signal shall be kept sounding until the Field Umpire notifies that he has heard it by sounding his whistle and holding up both hands which act shall terminate the quarters (or) match.

#### 7.6 **QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINALS**

- 7.6.1 A player must have played in three minor round matches for his Club to qualify to play in the League's Major round matches
- 7.6.2 In the case of a player who has played at least one match for a club, and has through injury or sickness been unable to play three matches, that player and his club may apply to the League Tribunal for permission for that player to play. The Tribunal decision will be final
- 7.6.3 A Thirds or an Independent Colts age player who has played in a higher grade during the season is eligible to play in any Thirds or Independent Colts major round match provided he fulfils the qualification contained in subclause 7.6.1
- 7.6.4 A player who has played an even number of A Grade matches and Seconds grade matches is deemed to have qualified for the higher grade.
- 7.6.5 A player is eligible to play in the Seconds grade Major round provided he played the majority of the last 7 minor round Seconds grade matches, <u>or</u> he has played throughout the year more Seconds grade matches than A Grade matches.
- 7.6.6 If both the A Grade and Seconds grade teams of the same club are playing Major round matches on the same day or weekend, any player not selected in the A Grade match is eligible to play in the Seconds grade match regardless of Clause 7.6.5. A player can only play in either the first semi-final or second semi-final and not both games.

- 7.6.7 Any player who fulfils the qualifications of 7.6.5 can play in a Seconds grade Major round match after playing an A Grade Major round match the previous week.
- 7.6.8 If a player plays more than one match on the same day during a minor round, all matches played by the player on that day will count as a qualifying match for the respective grade played.
- 7.6.9 RFL Clubs If both the Thirds and Seconds grade teams of the same club are playing Major round matches on the same day, any player not selected in the Thirds grade match is eligible to play in the Seconds grade match regardless of Clause 7.6.3
- 7.6.10 Any player who fulfils the qualifications of 7.6.3 can play in a Thirds grade Major round match after playing a Seconds grade Major round match the previous week.

#### 7.7 **PREMIERSHIP CONDITIONS**

- 7.7.1 In all matches two points to be counted for a win and one for a draw.
- 7.7.2 If, at the conclusion of the minor rounds, any two or more clubs have obtained an equal number of points, the position of such shall be determined by the percentage of points kicked for and against such clubs.

- 7.7.3 In the case of a game being forfeited, the club receiving the forfeit shall, before the percentage mentioned in Clause 7.7.2 thereof is ascertained, be credited with a proportionate number of points for and debited with a proportionate number of points against, obtained in the games actually played by such club during the season.
- 7.7.4 The club which occupies leading position at the conclusion of such minor round shall be called "the winner of the Minor Premiership"
- 7.7.5 At the conclusion of the minor round of matches a major round as determined by the Commission shall be played. Should a (four club) major round be played then the first four clubs on the list shall play off for the Premiership, the clubs standing third to play the fourth (1st Semi final) and the first to play the second (2nd Semi final).

The winners of the first semi-final will then play the losers of the second semi-final in the preliminary final match. The grand final will be played between the winners of the second semi-final and the winner of the preliminary final match to determine the Premiership.

7.7.6 In the event of a drawn match in any major round game in A Grade, Independent A Grade, Seconds, Thirds or Independent Colts except the A Grade and Independent A Grade Grand Final, if a winner has not been determined at the conclusion of the period of extra time, then a final period of additional time will be played until such time as a "golden score" (ie the first point or goal scored) determines the winner.

In major round matches involving the Riverland A Grade and the Independent A Grade, the two 5 minute halves of extra time and the final period of additional time will be played **with time on** being added.

In all other major round matches in both competitions, the two 5 minute halves of extra time and the final period of additional time will be played without time on being added.

The teams shall alternate ends at the completion of the drawn match and at each and every subsequent break thereafter."

In the event of the A Grade Grand Final or Independent A Grade Grand Final being drawn, another match or matches shall be played on such day or days as the Commission may decide, until one of the competing clubs shall be winner.

# 8. <u>UMPIRES</u>

- 8.1 **Powers of Field Umpire** All games shall be under the direct control of the field umpire/s who shall have the power and the responsibility to report all infringements of the Laws of the game.
- 8.2 The **Umpires Board** shall appoint the Field Umpire/s for every match under its control.
- 8.3 The Commission may **annul the appointment** of or appoint any additional umpire during the season including the umpire's coach.
- 8.4 The **Field Umpire** shall furnish a report not later than the first mail after each match. The scores shall be kept on scoring cards supplied by the League to the Goal Umpires and are to be initialled by the Field Umpire and forwarded by him to the League Secretary after the match.
- 8.5 **Goal and Boundary Umpires**: Goal and Boundary Umpires shall have the power to report to the League any player, who uses abusive or threatening language towards, or strikes such umpire or who breaches the code of conduct. (See also Rule 5).
- 8.6 **Protection for Goal Umpires:** all grounds must be kept clear of spectators from within the NO GO ZONE lines between the point post and boundary fence of the playing field.
- 8.7 **Inter-change Stewards**: shall have the power to report to the Commission any player who uses abusive or threatening language towards, or strikes such steward. Such report is to be reduced to writing and lodged with the League Secretary

by 5pm on the next working day following the game.

# **Riverland Football League**

# By-laws

#### 1) Affiliation

RFL Clubs (A grade, B grade & U/18s) \$800 including GST RIFL Clubs (A grade and U/17s) \$600 including GST

Registration

\$11 per team including GST

- 1a) All Players who were registered in the season immediately prior to the current one, to be bulk listed on the approved form. This must be forwarded to the Riverland Football League Secretary by the Friday before the first match.
- 1b) All new players must have the relevant forms completed and lodged on Footyweb prior to their first game.

#### 2) Officials

Clubs will need to provide goal, boundary or field umpires for matches in which the Riverland Football League Umpires Association cannot field official umpires.

- 3) **Boundary Umpires** to be dressed in white shorts, white shirt and long black socks. If officiating in A Grade matches, club boundary umpires must be 16 years or over. If a club fields boundary umpires under 16, it must field two for each side of the oval.
- 4) Team sheets Footyweb Team sheets must be completed for all matches by each side, and must list the players' FULL name and their number. The Captains of each team and the players commencing the game on the interchange bench must be clearly marked. The names of each team's runner must also be listed on the team sheet.
- 5) Official team runner must wear the top specified by the league, and shorts or long pants, providing they are not football shorts. The runner's top must have the name of his club clearly marked.

The Runner must not enter the playing arena for any other purpose than to take a message from the coach of a participating team, or from that coach's nominee, to a specific player. The runner must not remain on the ground for any longer than reasonable to carry out this purpose.

6) Trainers and Water Carriers. Trainers and water carriers shall wear white shorts or long white pants, a white top with a unique number and trainer/water carrier written on the back.

Trainers must not enter the playing arena for any other purpose than to attend to an injured player, and shall not remain on the ground for any longer than reasonable to carry out this purpose. Water carriers must not enter the playing arena for any other purpose than to provide

a drink to a player, and shall not remain on the ground for any longer than reasonable to carry out this purpose.

#### 7) Use of Stretcher

#### 7.3.1 Health & Safety of Player

Any Player who is injured during a Match and who, in the opinion of a doctor, trainer or Official, requires the assistance of a stretcher, shall be attended by the Team's training staff and a stretcher as soon as possible so as to ensure the health and safety of the Player.

#### 7.3.2 Procedure

Where a stretcher is required, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) upon being advised or noticing that a Player requires a stretcher, the field Umpire shall stop play at the earliest opportunity and unless a doctor considers or it is apparent that it is unsafe to do so, the Player must be removed from the Playing Surface on the stretcher by the shortest possible route and taken direct to their team's change rooms;
- **b)** a Team may replace the injured Player with a Player listed on its Team Sheet, who must enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Area;
- c) the Interchange Steward may allow the Player who is replacing the injured Player to enter the Playing Surface before the injured Player is removed from the Playing Surface;
- **d)** once the injured Player has been removed from the Playing Surface, the Field Umpire shall recommence play as follows depending on the circumstances:
  - (i) where the football was in dispute at the time the play was stopped, by throwing up the football;
  - (ii) where the football was Out of Bounds at the time play was stopped, by directing the boundary Umpire to throw the football in;
  - (iii) where a Player had possession of the football at the time play was stopped, by awarding a Free Kick to the Player;
  - (iv) where a Player had been awarded a Free Kick or a Mark at the time play was stopped, by allowing the player to dispose of the football.
- e) A Player for whom a stretcher was called shall not resume playing for a period of 20 minutes (excluding intervals between quarters) from the time when the Player left the playing Surface. After the 20 minute period has expired, the Player may be interchanged in accordance with the procedure set out under Law 7.2 provided the Player is able, having due regard to their health and safety, to resume playing in the Match; and
- **f)** Where a stretcher enters the Playing Surface but the Player elects to walk off, all provisions of Law 7.3.2 apply but the Player may go to the Interchange Bench.
- 8) Official score sheets Official scores must be completed by both teams at the end of the match on the Footyweb team sheet and must list best players and goal kickers. Manual alterations to the Footyweb team sheets of any teams must be completed by the respective teams at the end of the match and <u>ALL</u> alterations forwarded to the League in the umpires bag.
- 9) The **home team** must lodge all results on Footyweb by 5.45pm on match day, or within 15 minutes of the end of the match.

The **away team** must ensure a copy of the sheet is given to the umpires. It is the club's responsibility to ensure this is done, not the umpire's.

**10) Payment for umpires** Payment of umpire's fees by cheque must be sent to Riverland Football League in the umpire's bag on the day of the match.

Payment by Direct Debit must be received in the Riverland Football League bank account by 9.00am on the Tuesday following the match.

11) Information for the "Game Plan" including team placings must be lodged at the printers by Thursday 9:00pm each week unless otherwise advised.

#### 12) Players' age limit

Thirds under 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> January Independent Colts - *refer "bylaw 27"* 

#### 13) Junior Player – Player up an age level or down an age level.

Refer to the Junior Player – Playing up an age level or down an age level policy.

#### **14)** Admission Fees

	<u> A Grade</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Adults	\$6.00	\$5.00
Pensioner/Children (U18 to 16)	\$4.00	\$3.00
Concession	\$4.00	\$3.00
Family tickets	\$12.00	\$10.00
Early Bird	\$3.00	

Early bird stops at commencement of U/15s Match.

Any child who is 15 years and under is free admission (RFL).

Any child who is 17 years and under is free admission (Independent).

Finals admission to be determined by Riverland Football League Commission.

#### 15) Inter-league

- 15a) Any player selected in any Riverland Football League team or training squad, who neglects to or refuses to play or train for such match without lawful or reasonable excuse shall be disqualified for a period of not more than three matches. The Riverland Football League Tribunal shall be the sole judge of the legitimacy or reasonableness of any excuse.
- 15b) Any player under suspension must serve his suspension in club games before he is eligible to play representative football.
- 15c) In the event that a player is censured, fined, disqualified or suspended by the League Tribunal for a breach of clause 7.4.2 or by-law 12a, any penalty imposed by the tribunal will not cause that player to be ineligible for any best & fairest medals and or awards in either competition of the League

#### 16) Times of matches

Thirds matches should commence at 11.20am, and should finish by 12.52pm. The first two quarters will be 19 minutes long, with no time on and the

timekeepers will assess the time available at half time, and make any adjustment they deem necessary to ensure the game is completed in the allocated time.

- Seconds will commence at 1.00pm to finish at 2.34pm. The first two quarters shall be 19 minutes each with no time on. The timekeepers will assess the time available at half time, and make any adjustment they deem necessary to ensure the game is completed in the allotted time.
- 16c) **A Grade** will commence at 2.40pm, and four 20 minute quarters will be played, plus time-on. Time-on will be signalled by the field umpire where the ball is out-of-bounds.
- 16d) **Independent Colts** will commence at 12.50 pm to finish at 2.04pm. The first two quarters will be 18 minutes long, and the timekeepers will assess the time available at half time, and make any adjustment they deem necessary to ensure the game is completed in the allotted time.
  - 16e) **Independent A Grade** matches will commence at 2.30pm, and four 20 minute quarters will be played, plus time-on. Time-on will be signalled by the field umpire where the ball is out-of-bounds.

#### 17) Uniform player sponsor badges

- 17a) A rosette or badge to a maximum size of 175 square centimetres (30 square inches) may be worn on the front of a player's guernsey.
- 17b) A rosette or badge to a maximum size of 55 square centimetres (8 square inches) may be worn on the right leg at the front of a player's shorts.
- 17c) A badge to a maximum area of 645 square centimetres (100 square inches) may be worn on the back of a player's tracksuit top, dressing gown or guernsey.

#### 18) Shorts

Teams playing away games will wear white or light coloured shorts with the exception of playing a team who wears white shorts as part of its standard home uniform.

#### 19) Use of Video/photo evidence

Any video to be used as supporting evidence by clubs must be in the hands of the police or an executive member by 6.00pm on the day of that match. The sole commissioner has the right to admit or not admit such evidence. Clubs presenting such evidence must provide such equipment as may be needed to view the evidence.

#### 20) Footballs

A new football must be provided by the home club for all RFL and Independent A Grade matches.

#### 21) Change rooms-finals

21a) The RFL and Independent A Grade teams finishing higher at the end of the minor round shall have the choice of change rooms for the first and second finals.

- 21b) The RFL and Independent A Grade teams that lose the second semi-final shall have the choice of change rooms for the preliminary final.
- 21c) The RFL and Independent a grade teams that win the second semi-final shall have the choice of change rooms for grand final.
- 21d) The choice of change rooms for all other grades in all finals shall be determined by the commission, preference will be given to the lower teams of A grade clubs (playing in the same final round) to use the same change room regardless of how the lower teams finished at the end of the minor round or what games they win during the finals.

#### 22) Ovals

All ovals for regular season games and for finals require a white line marked 3 metres beyond the boundary to indicate that spectators cannot sit or stand within this 3 metre area throughout the duration of the game.

#### 23) Number of Players

U/18 RFL and A grade and Independent Colts will be allowed 22 players in their teams.

#### 24) Yellow/Red Card System

A Yellow and Red card system will be administered by the RFL panel and club field umpires for all matches under the direction of the Riverland Football League Inc. Field umpires are the only officials that may order a player from the playing surface.

#### <u>Yellow card</u> – Sin Bin

A player will be sent off for 10 minutes for a breach of the following minor offences and can be immediately replaced by another player:

- 1) a. Swearing
  - b. Fighting or wrestling
  - c. Minor abusive language either directly or indirectly at a player or official
  - d. Minor abusive language indirectly at an umpire
  - e. Disputing a decision of an umpire
  - f. Back chatting an umpire after previously having been cautioned by an umpire

2)

Any player, who is ordered from the playing surface (yellow card) twice during the same game, shall be shown a Red Card on the second occasion and shall be automatically suspended for one (1) game.

Details of players ordered off shall be recorded by the Interchange Steward on the interchange sheet.

#### Yellow card - Report

Players who have been issued with a yellow card for any offence considered minor by the umpire may also be reported. An offending player who has been reported and issued with a yellow card may be offered a discretionary sentence of (1) game after the match.

A player ordered off must immediately leave the ground through the interchange area and report to the "Interchange Steward" if one in place or their "Team Manager" before returning to the playing surface.

Any player who has been issued with a third yellow card (which has not resulted in the player being reported) during the current season shall be automatically suspended for one (1) game. A player receiving subsequent yellow cards will be referred to the League Tribunal for the remainder of the season.

#### **Discretionary Sentencing**

The Secretary of a Club of the offending player has until 12 noon on the Monday immediately following the match to advise the RFL if the player accepts or rejects the discretionary sentence offered by the umpire after the conclusion of the match.

Failure by the Club to advise the League by the due time will result in the player being automatically suspended for one (1) game.

If the player accepts the penalty offered, then the player is automatically deemed guilty of the reportable offence. The player's record is noted and he serves out the suspension (including any additional penalty) in the next sanctioned Riverland Football League match (s).

If the reported player does not accept the discretionary sentence, then the report will be referred to the League Tribunal for determination.

If the reported player refuses a discretionary sentence and is found guilty by the Tribunal, the player will automatically receive an additional penalty of one (1) game.

A player will <u>only</u> be offered <u>two discretionary sentences in a current season</u>, further reports of that player will be referred to the League Tribunal.

The player makes the final decision on whether to accept the discretionary sentence or not.

At no stage will the reporting umpire speak directly to the reported player or will the reported player approach the reporting umpire regarding the proposed discretionary sentence.

If the Team Manager fails to report to the umpire's room after the completion of the match, then the report will be referred to the League Tribunal.

<u>Red card</u> – A player will be sent off for a serious breach of the rules for the rest of the game. The player is automatically reported and can be given a discretionary sentence of (1) game after the match or be referred to the tribunal by the adjudicating umpires. The offending team

cannot replace the player for 10 minutes which will be administered by the Interchange Steward/Team Manager.

A player who refuses or does not immediately leave the playing surface after being ordered off with either a yellow or red card by the field umpire shall;-

- i. be reported for the offence which led the player being ordered off, and
- ii. be reported for misconduct.

The match shall immediately end, the offending team shall forfeit the match and both reports will be referred to the league Tribunal for a determination.

#### **25)** Best First Year Player:

#### **Riverland Independent**

The eligibility for Best First Year Player in the Independent A Grade be their first official season out of colts or upon their respective clubs nomination prior to that season, with no player being nominated for more than one season.

#### **RFL**

Any junior who plays more than 5 A Grade games in previous season will not be eligible for Best First Year Player.

#### **26)** Timekeepers/Scoreboard Attendants – Finals

Timekeepers for all grades of RFL and Independent finals matches will be organised and provided by the opposing clubs playing in their respective matches. (RFL to provide payment for timekeepers)

Scoreboard attendants for all grades of RFL and Independent finals matches will be organised and provided by the club hosting the respective matches. (RFL to provide payment for scoreboard attendants)

#### 27) Riverland Football League Player Points System

The Riverland Football League Inc Player Points System shall be the same system as the South Australian National Football League/SA Community Football Board Approved Player Points System (APPS) and will include any amendments as directed by the SANFL/CFL and or amended by the Commission from time to time

#### 28) Independent Colts Competition

The Independent Colts Competition teams and rules changes can only be determined and developed by the independent clubs and approved by the commission in the lead up and throughout the duration of the season in accordance with this constitution and "bylaw 28".

#### 29) Modified Rules for Independent Colts Competition

- 1. A player can bounce the ball once before disposing of it and cannot regain possession until it has been touched by another player class handball to self as bounce free kick to opposition team.
- 2. The umpire to take into consideration the size of player with reference to hip and shoulder bumps, dumping and penalties for undue rough play chopping in tackling by bigger players on smaller players.
- 3. Teams will consist of unrestricted numbers, not more than eighteen, of whom shall take part in a match at any time. The remaining players are the interchange players. However a match cannot commence unless there are 14 players on each team.

Teams will consist of unrestricted numbers, not more than eighteen, of whom shall take part in a match at any time. The remaining players are the interchange players.

- 4a. Clubs may accept players from the opposing team to make up their numbers and the game is still counted as a match for premiership Points.
- 4b. A club which has surplus players may play a full complement of 18 players on the ground if the opposing team refuses to accept surplus players
- 5a. Both teams must field the same number on the ground if one team has accepted players from the opposing team.
- 5b. Both teams must field the same number on the ground except in finals where each team may field 18 players plus interchange.

#### 6 Red and Yellow Card system

Same as RFL bylaw 23

#### 6a) Misconduct – Foul Language

In the case of misconduct or foul language, the player shall be ordered off the field, for the remainder of the quarter and can be replaced by an interchange player. The umpire at his discretion may, however, allow the offending player to return to the game at any time.

i) The team manager to consult the umpire at the end of the quarter regarding the return of the player.

#### 6b) Reported Offences

In the case of reported offences, the player shall be ordered off the field for the remainder of the game and can be replaced by an interchange player.

This rule is to be more heavily policed.

If a player or fellow player has possession of ball and commits offence, his team loses possession of the ball.

# **30)** RFL FINES

	Financial	& Other	
Over-age Player	\$100	Loss of Point	S
Uncleared or Unregistered player (Senior)	\$200	Loss of Point	S
Uncleared or Unregistered player (Junior)	\$100	Loss of Point	S
Incorrectly Filled out Team Sheet & Score Sheet (Including Points)	\$50	-	
Unreturned Checklist (With Umpires Bag)	\$50	-	
Incorrect Boundary Umpire uniform	\$50	-	
Non-attendance at Delegates meeting	\$50	-	
Incorrect runners uniform	\$50	-	
Incorrect uniform	\$50	-	
Late start to game or quarters	\$50	-	
Runners on field excessively	\$30	-	
Incorrect Trainers uniform	\$50	-	
Incorrect ground markings	\$50	-	
Swearing in Club song –First instance	\$100	-	
Swearing in Club song –subsequent	Double p	revious fine	
Late results – after 5.45pm Saturday night	\$100	-	
Match Day costs not in Umpires Bag	\$100	-	
Club forfeiting within required time (Refer 7.3.3)	\$250	-	
Club forfeiting outside required time	\$500	-	
Club forfeiting subsequent	Double pr	revious fine	
No A Grade placed teams in Game Plan	\$50	-	

# **31)** Milestone Players

#### RFL-

Players who play 100, 200 or 300 senior games (A combined total of A and B grade games played) will receive a commemorative badge from Riverland Football League.

#### INDEPENDENT-

Players who play 100, 200 or 300 senior games in the Independent A grade will receive a commemorative badge from the Riverland Football League.