

## **MORTLOCK FOOTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

### **1. LEAGUE AFFILIATION**

- 1.1. The MFL is an affiliated member to the West Australian Country Football League (WACFL) and is bound by the WACFL's rules and regulations for the management of Country Football Competitions. This includes the use of the WACFL's Match Day Paperwork processes.
- 1.2. The MFL utilises the Australian Football League's (AFL) Annual Laws document to set the rulings for its competitions.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 2.1. The Association shall in all respects be responsible for and have control of the following:
- 2.2. The development of rules (bylaws) and policy for governing the Association.
- 2.3. The setting and prescription of all entrance fees for Association Matches.
- 2.4. Establish and decide upon the fixturing of all the Associations competitions that will;
  - 2.4.1 Commence by the third weekend in April each season;
  - 2.4.2 Includes at least one fixture to be played after the Landmark Carnival before Finals commence.
- 2.5. Make determinations regarding the eligibility of players within the Association.
- 2.6. Handle all protests, tribunals and disputes for the Association.
- 2.7. Organise and participate in all representative opportunities as deemed appropriated by the Association.
- 2.8. Establish subcommittees to handle opportunities, situations and projects as it deems relevant.
- 2.9. Ensure all Affiliated Clubs are covered under the AFL's Club Insurance Policy. The Association accepts no responsibility for the loss of wages, medical expenses, time off work or any other relevant cost due to injury sustained by a person whilst playing or training for a club or Association.

### **3. CLUB AFFILIATION**

- 3.1. Every Member Club must sign and return to the MFL Club Affiliation Agreement to be eligible to participate in the League prior to the time specified by the Association.
- 3.2. Every Club admitted to the Association shall deposit with the Association a copy of their Club rules and a copy of every amendment thereof within fourteen (14) days after such amendments is approved. Each club is also to provide a copy within fourteen (14) days of their AGM, a certified financial report signed by both treasurer and President to the operations Manager of the MFL

### **4. MATCH DAY**

- 4.1. All Association matches shall be played on either Saturday or Sunday and all League matches shall commence at 2:10pm unless specially arranged otherwise.
  - 4.1.1. All Reserves matches shall commence at 12:10pm unless specially arranged otherwise.
- 4.2. The duration of a Reserves competition's quarters are to be no more than twenty (20) minutes in duration with no time-on, except in the case where a player is required to be stretchered from the field of play the umpire shall blow time on. The officiating Reserves umpire shall confer with the time keeper/s at half time and if necessary may amend the time period of the last two (2) quarters to ensure its completion at the correct time. Breaks between quarter will be; 5 minutes Quarter time, 10 minutes halftime and 5 minutes three quarter time with Clubs are to remain on the field during all breaks.
- 4.3. The duration of each quarter of a League match shall be twenty minutes (20) plus time on. Breaks between quarter will be; 5 minutes Quarter time, 15 minutes halftime and 5 minutes three quarter time.

- 4.4. If any Club shall not be ready to start play within 5 minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of the quarter, that Club shall be fined \$200 on each violation.
  - 4.4.1. If any Club shall not be ready to start play within ten minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of any quarter, such Club shall forfeit the match unless the Directors be satisfied that the delay was unavoidable.
- 4.5. The home club shall provide a time keeper with their own time piece. The visiting club if they so wish can provide a check time keeper with their own time piece. Both timekeepers must be in the box prior to the commencement of the game and for the entire game. In the event of any disagreement between the two (2) time keepers as to the length or variation of the time of any quarter, such dispute shall in the case of the first or second quarters be reported to the field umpires at the half time interval and in the result of the match on case of the third or fourth quarters, it shall be reported at the conclusion of the game. The field umpire shall note such disagreement on his match report. Such report shall be referred to the next meeting of the Directors and in the event of a protest on the ground of an error in time keeping a copy of the report made available to the Independent Tribunal.
- 4.6. The time keeper shall be provided with the necessary paper work prior to the commencement of each game, and in the event of a red or yellow card issued shall record the guernsey number and time a player has been ordered from the field of play. He/she shall upon request provide that player's team manager when his/her period of expulsion has concluded and he/she being able to return to the field of play. This documentation shall be handed to the field umpire in charge at the competition of the league game.
- 4.7. Each club shall provide a goal umpire to officiate each of their fixtures:
- 4.8. They shall be dressed in the correct attire, as prescribed by the league, and have a minimum of two white signaling flags;
- 4.9. They shall have the capacity to perform their required duties to a satisfactory standard and in a proper manner;
- 4.10. The home club and each away club for each qualifying match shall provide two (2) boundary umpires for each match with the following stipulations:
- 4.11. They shall be dressed in the correct attire, as prescribed by the association;
- 4.12. They shall have the capacity to perform their required duties to a satisfactory standard and in a proper manner;
- 4.13. They shall report to the field umpire fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of each match;
- 4.14. Failure to fulfill these requirements will be reported to the Association by the umpires and the Association shall penalize the Club as deemed appropriate.
- 4.15. Each team shall be allowed one runner on the ground at any time, who will be correctly attired in a fluorescent shirt in accordance with the rules of the game. Should a runner remain on the field for a period of time deemed unacceptably long by the field umpire a free kick against that side shall be paid and the occurrence noted in the match report.
- 4.16. A maximum of four (4) watercarriers are allowed on the field per side who will be attired in fluorescent coloured shirts or vests. The minimum age of watercarriers in senior matches is fourteen (14).
- 4.17. Trainers shall be attired in completely white clothing.
- 4.18. All shirts and vests will be clearly marked with club name and official position on back.
- 4.19. The names of these persons must appear on the team sheet presented to the umpires before the match.
- 4.20. No Club shall abstain from playing any match without first obtaining the permission of the Directors.

## **5. HOME GROUND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.1. The home Club shall be responsible for clear marking of the oval in accordance with the laws of Australian Football.

- 5.2. The home Club shall be responsible for supplying a competent scoreboard attendant.
- 5.3. For all League games, the home team is responsible for supplying either a new ball or near new ball (the condition of which has been approved of on that day by a central umpire and both team captains).
- 5.4. For all Reserves and Colts games the home team is responsible for supplying a near new ball (the condition of which has been approved on that day by a central umpire and both team captains).
- 5.5. The home Club is to ensure that the goal and behind posts are adequately covered with acceptable goal post covers.
- 5.6. The home team is to ensure that the JLT Checklist is completed prior to the first fixture of the day that is to be either emailed to the League Administrator or attached with the Match Day Paperwork to be submitted the League.

## **6. FINALS QUALIFICATION**

- 6.1. To qualify to play any finals in the MFL, you must have played 3 club games with that club
  - 6.1.1. If any injury has kept you from playing for an extended period of time, players will be able to make an application to the Directors to be permitted to play finals. Documentation of injury will be required to permit this bylaw to occur.
- 6.2. If a club qualifies both league and reserves teams to play in the final rounds on the same day, any qualified player may play, but only in one game.
- 6.3. In all reserves finals a team must always consist of 22 players with 16 players able to be on the ground regardless of the number of players the opposition may have.
- 6.4. In all League finals a team must always consist of 21 players.

## **7. FINALS**

- 7.1. The final round shall begin at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds and shall be played between the four leading clubs based on ladder position at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.
- 7.2. Finals will be held on a rotational basis between Goomalling and Wongan Hills.
- 7.3. The winner of the Grand Final shall be deemed the Premiers for that season.
- 7.4. There shall be no drawn matches in final matches. In the event of scores being level at the elapsed time, the timekeepers shall sound the siren.
  - 7.4.1. The goal umpires shall consult with each other as to the correct score and confirm to the field umpires that the scores are level and signal to the timekeepers that the scores are correct. In the event that goal umpires are unable to confirm the correct scores, they shall consult with the timekeepers to confirm the correct score.
  - 7.4.2. On receiving confirmation that the scores are level, the field umpires shall advise both captains and the timekeeper(s) that two additional 5-minute periods with time on shall be played. In the first additional period, teams shall kick to the opposite end to which they kicked in the final quarter.
  - 7.4.3. The interval between reaching confirmation of a tied score and the commencement of the first period of additional time shall be six minutes. Coaches shall be permitted to address teams during this period and other club staff entitled to be on the arena at intervals may also attend their teams.
  - 7.4.4. Should the score be tied at the conclusion of these two additional halves, the timekeeper should not sound the siren and game shall continue until one team scores (Golden Point). The first team to score shall be deemed the winner and the siren should be sounded to signal the completion of the match.
- 7.5. Umpires for Finals shall be appointed by the Leagues Directors.
- 7.6. The League is responsible for all Umpire match payments and travel expenses for all Finals matches.
- 7.7. Host Clubs are responsible for the Bar, Hall and Canteen hire and the League is responsible for the Ground Hire.
  - 7.7.1. The League is to receive the Gate Takings from all Finals.
  - 7.7.2. The Host Club keeps all takings from the bar and canteen, unless otherwise outlined.

## **8. UMPIRES**

- 8.1. The Association shall exercise the function and discharge the duties of an Umpires Board and shall appoint an Umpires Coordinator who shall be responsible for:
  - 8.1.1. Appointment and control all umpires for matches played under the jurisdiction of the Association;
  - 8.1.2. Maintain a register of umpire names;
  - 8.1.3. Supervise the training and coaching of umpires.
  - 8.1.4. Represent the interests of the Associations umpires as appropriate.
- 8.2. No field umpire for matches played in Association League competition shall be eligible to Umpire should they play with any Club during the season.
- 8.3. An umpire must note any of the following on the match report:
  - 8.3.1. Use of a stretcher;
  - 8.3.2. Serious Injury or incident that stops play;
  - 8.3.3. Head count;
  - 8.3.4. Serious acts of misconduct (either on or off field) either witnessed or suspected;
  - 8.3.5. Melee(s);
  - 8.3.6. Poor spectator behavior
  - 8.3.7. Red/Yellow Cards
  - 8.3.8. Time keeper disputes
- 8.4. Two WAFL Panel Umpires, if available, shall be provided for each league match. The MFL Umpire Coordinator shall negotiate their fees with the board of the MFL.
- 8.5. Each Club, Home and Away, must provide a Reserve's Umpire to Umpire their Reserves match.
- 8.6. Each Club shall be responsible for payment of match and travelling expenses for their umpires.
- 8.7. All umpire travelling expenses incurred at qualifying matches shall be paid for by the home club on the day of the match.
  - 8.7.1. Any club who is unable to find a club umpire and required to use the MFL league umpires to umpire any games will ensure that any payment made is capped at a maximum of \$100.00
- 8.8. Reserves Field Umpires shall adhere strictly to the Modified Reserves Rules.
- 8.9. Member Clubs shall appoint a Send Off Steward and all Send-Offs must be reported on the appropriate Match Day Paperwork.
- 8.10. Goal Umpires shall keep the area behind the goals free from spectators and record the goals and points scored

## **9. TEAM MANAGERS**

- 9.1. The Team Manager shall be responsible for the recording of all goal scorers in all games.
- 9.2. The team manager shall keep a record of the scores of each team during the game.
- 9.3. The team manager shall legibly record the full name and guernsey number of each goal scoring player from their team.
- 9.4. The team Manager for both teams on the day, is required to meet with the umpires prior to the match and have their team sheet signed off by both umpires, who will ensure that all players listed on your club team sheet are present and accounted for. Clubs can amend the team sheet up to half time but must ensure umpires sign off on any changes made.
  - 9.4.1. Any player listed on the team sheet and not accounted for shall have a line struck through by the umpires.
- 9.5. At the end of the game they shall sign and date their team sheets and hand them to the field umpire of the day.

## **10. AWARDS**

- 10.1. After all matches the field umpires shall confer and award votes on a three (3), two (2), one (1) basis for the fairest and best players of the day. Three (3) votes being awarded for the best and then in descending order and such card signed by both umpires.
- 10.2. The card shall show the date, venue of match, full name of player, club and guernsey number of the selected players.
- 10.2. The Association shall decide when, where and how these envelopes shall be opened, and votes counted.
- 10.3. The association can and may decide to record the votes electronically through a match day app, this will be advised to clubs and umpires prior to the start of the season.
- 10.4. The following awards shall be presented by the Association for all grades:

- A. Fairest and Best player;
- B. Runner up to Fairest and Best Player;
- C. Leading Goal Kicker;
- D. Any other award the Association sees fit to present.

## **11. RESERVES COMPETITION**

- 11.1. The Association shall have the power to conduct a Reserves competition and this competition shall observe all the rules adhered to in the League competition asides from those stipulated within these Bylaws.
- 11.2. Teams: The Reserves competition games will be played with a maximum of 16 on the field, a minimum of 14 and a combined total of 22 players, so all teams will play with the 5 -6 -5 structure in place.
- 11.3. Bumping: Bumping is allowed, but only to the side of an opponent. There shall definitely be no shirtfronts.
- 11.4. Tackling: Must be a fair tackle as laid down in the rules of Australian Football.
- 11.5. Side Chopping with a clenched fist is definitely not permitted.
- 11.6. Slingsing: Is definitely not permitted whether an opponent is in charge of the ball or not.
- 11.7. Ducking: Any player ducking his head into a tackle shall be deemed to be holding the ball.
- 11.8. All players under the age of sixteen must wear orange shorts at all times whilst playing Reserve games, in the instance of a player up to 17 who needs to additional protection of the orange shorts, an application to the MFL can be made and approved in the required circumstances.
  - 11.8.1. All orange short players MUST adhere to the rules of the game and any unacceptable behavior will result in an immediate send off.
- 11.9. All clubs are required to supply an umpire for the Reserves competition, any club not able to provide an umpire will face a fine of up to \$250 for the first offence, with any further offences to be penalised at the discretion of the Directors.

## **12. DEFAULT OF CLUBS/PLAYERS**

- 12.1. If any player shall fail to pay any fine imposed upon him under these Rules such player shall be disqualified from playing any match controlled by the League until such fine has been paid.
- 12.2. A player shall be deemed to be in default if any fine is not paid within seven days.
- 12.3. The payment of fines imposed on an official under these Rules shall be the responsibility of his/her Club. They shall be paid by the Club within seven days after imposition. While any fine imposed on any official of a Club under these Rules remains unpaid after seven days, that Club is not eligible to participate in any match pursuant to these Rules.
- 12.4. Any notice to be given for the purposes of these Rules, may be given by post, email or facsimile and if so given will be deemed to have been received by the addressee in the ordinary course of post. Notices to Club members, players and officials may be addressed to them care of their Club.
- 12.5. The Secretary of every Club shall send to the Secretary of the League, the name of any member of the Club who is in default by reason of a breach of the rules of such Club, together with particulars of the default and of the rule infringed within fourteen days after such default shall have been discovered. At least three days before sending to the Secretary of the League, the name of such defaulting player, the Secretary of his Club shall give notice in writing to such member of his intention to do so.
- 12.6. Any player who is reported by his Club to the Secretary of the League as a defaulter, shall be disqualified from playing in any match controlled by the league until his Club has reported to the Secretary of the League that it does not desire such disqualification to continue or until such player has appealed to the Protests and Disputes Tribunal against a charge of the default made against him by his Club, and such appeal has been allowed.
- 12.7. Where a League player is selected to represent the League, and does not present himself to the selectors at the appointed time and place without offering sufficient reasons to their satisfaction for such absence, then he shall automatically become ineligible to play for his Club in that Club's next two (2) official fixture. This penalty shall not preclude him from winning any Fairest and Best Awards.
- 12.8. Any Club which plays a player who is ineligible to play with such Club or who is disqualified from playing under these Rules shall forfeit the match in which such player takes part.

### 13. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

#### HOW POINTS ARE ALLOCATED

1 POINT	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Club of Origin player as per WACFL Bylaw 2.19 or MFL bylaws 14</li><li>- Hasn't played anywhere for 3 or more full football seasons (36 months)</li></ul>
2 POINT	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Senior Community - <b>Reserves/Colts</b></li><li>- A player who has played the above at an interstate equivalent</li><li>- Non aligned Juniors</li></ul>
3 POINT	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Senior Community - <b>League</b></li><li>- WAFL Colts</li><li>- A player who has played the above at an interstate equivalent</li></ul>
4 POINT	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- WAFL Reserves (+10 games in a season in previous 5 years)</li><li>- A player who has played the above at an interstate equivalent</li><li>- Vic 1 Premier Divisions</li></ul>
5 POINT	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- WAFL League</li><li>- A player who has played the above at an interstate equivalent</li></ul>
6 POINT	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- AFL (1 Game in previous 5 years)</li></ul>

- 13.1.1. **Initial Allocation** - A player will be graded at the highest points value that they have achieved in the previous 5 years where they have played 5+ games at that level in a season, unless they either;
- 13.1.3 Haven't played football for three seasons
- 13.1.4 Received a PPV reduction through loyalty for their club
- 13.1.5 A local player is defined as a player whose permanent residential address is within the boundaries of the shire of your club. You must provide proof of residency to the satisfaction of the Mortlock Football League.
- 13.1.6 For players who are valued at more than 1 point and remain at the club will reduce by one point for each season, beginning in their third consecutive season at the club.
- 13.1.7 A local player will be defined as someone whose permanent residential address is within the boundaries of the shire of that player's club. (Proof of residency will be required by the MFL)
- 13.1.8 Each team will be required to name 21 players on the team sheet for all games, and all 21 must be at the ground, dressed in team playing attire, ready to play.
- 13.1.9 Each team will be allowed to play with 44 points in total for the 2021 season.

#### 14 CLUB OF ORIGIN

- 14.1 For a player to qualify as returning to his CLUB OF ORIGIN, he must have played 2 full seasons with that club as a junior footballer.
- 14.2 Gingin Football Club are permitted to use Chittering Broncos as their junior club of origin, as compensation for not having a junior club to draw from.

#### 15 BYLAWS

- 15.1 Bylaws are to be reviewed at the completion of every season. Additions or alterations are not permitted to be submitted to the bylaws less than 28 days prior to the onset of the next season.
- 15.2 All PPV relative changes to bylaws must be made prior to the AGM of the MFL each year.