



HFNL Football By-Laws

Updated as at Season 2021.

Senior Football and Under 18.5 Football

The following by – laws shall be read in general across the league’s Senior Football Competition and Under 18.5 Competition. This shall be read in conjunction with the league’s general by – laws.

21 Playing Rules

21.1 All matches shall be played under AFL laws of the game, AFL Western District Junior Area and Permit Agreements, AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations, AFL Victoria Country rules and regulations except in such cases and conditions where the by – laws hereby adopted are superseded by the league’s by – laws.

22 Football Coordinator

22.1 Each club shall appoint a football coordinator / s.

22.2 Each football coordinator / s must sign a AFL Victoria Country registration form and be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

22.3 Any club that does not appoint a football coordinator may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

22.4 The football coordinator / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

22.5 Any football coordinator that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

23 Player Registrations

23.1 All players shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.

23.2 Each player must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

23.3 Any player wishing to play after the start of the current season and who is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match they wish to participate in.

23.4 Any club playing an unregistered player shall be referred to AFL Victoria Country rule 1.3.

24 Players

24.1 Players' age is determined as at 1st of January of that year.

24.2 Any player registered with their club may play in Senior Football or Reserves Football.

24.3 Any player registered with their club may play in Under 18.5 Football subject HFNL by – law 23.1



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AFL Victoria Country Rule Definition - 3.8.3 Football Bodies who extend the age of a competition must adhere to the 1 January as the age determination date. E.g. for an Under 18.5 competition in 2021, the age shall be extended back to 1 July 2020, thus allowing the player to be 18.5 on 1 January 2021.

25 Player Clearances

25.1 Clearances for players in underage competitions, including all those in Under 18.5 competition, are restricted to once every three weeks. All senior clearances shall refer to the AFL Victoria Country handbook.

26 Permits

26.1 All permits shall refer to the AFL Victoria Country handbook. Players in underage competitions, including Under 18.5s, can play on permit between the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League and the Hampden Football Netball League under a renewed layered permit system across the Leagues. A renewed junior area agreement is introduced for permits from WDFNL to HFNL and an area permit agreement is introduced for permits from HFNL to WDFNL; both reinforce the on-field number regulations. Those playing on permit may only play one match in one league per weekend. Clearances will be limited to once every three weeks.

All clubs, coaches and team managers must be familiar with AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.

Clubs are encouraged to utilise intra-league sharing of players via Rule 2.9 to permit players to opposing teams when player numbers are lacking. Clubs doing so need to consult the AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.

26.2 All clubs shall adhere to all league area permits per season as per by – law 28.

26.3 Clubs shall be limited to four (4) permits per match day per open age competition grade unless approved by the HFNL Executive. Underage competition grades, including Under 18.5, shall be limited based on the club's own registered players. A club may only play the following number of players permitted to interchange, in any week and must not exceed this number:

- o 14 players available on the team sheet : 4 permit players allowed
- o 15 players available on the team sheet: 3 permit players allowed
- o 16 players available on the team sheet: 2 permit players allowed
- o 17 players available on the team sheet: 1 permit player allowed
- o 18 players available on the team sheet: no permit players allowed

26.4 Should a club have five (5) or more permits per match day per senior grade they may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive per extra player unless approved by the HFNL Executive.

26.5 Any player who is not registered to a club shall not play finals.

27 Local Interchange Agreements

27.1 The league shall enter into local interchange agreements with club listed TAC Cup competition players.

27.2 The league shall enter into local interchange agreements with club listed VFL competition players at the request of the club.



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28 Area Permits

28.1 For Underage Competitions, including Under 18.5, AFL Western District introduced new agreements where players can play on permit between the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League and the Hampden Football Netball League under a renewed layered permit system across the Leagues. A renewed junior area agreement is introduced for permits from WDFNL to HFNL and an area permit agreement is introduced for permits from HFNL to WDFNL; both reinforce the on-field number regulations. Those playing on permit may only play one match in one league per weekend. Clearances will be limited to once every three weeks. The HFNL Executive will decide with which other League/s an Area Permit Agreement will be agreed to for the upcoming season including following leagues

Warrnambool & District Football Netball League
South West District Football Netball League
Mininera & District Football Netball League
Portland Junior Football League
Hamilton Junior Football League

The HFNL Executive will decide with which other League/s an Area Permit Agreement will be agreed for the upcoming season. The Area Agreement/s and policies can be found on the HFNL Website.

29 Coaches Registration

29.1 All coaches shall be registered with the AFL Victoria Country.

29.2 Each coach must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

29.3 Any coach who wishes to coach after the start of the current season and who is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-Sports TG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match he wishes to coach in.

29.4 The club of any unregistered coach shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

30 Coaches

30.1 All coaches shall be accredited as per AFL Victoria Country handbook.

30.2 All coaches shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

30.3 Any coach that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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31 Coaches / Umpires Meetings

30.1 A meeting may be convened annually prior to or during the season between all registered senior football coaches and representatives from Warrnambool & District Football Umpires Association and the Western District Football Umpires Association.

31.2 The club of a senior football coach who does not attend the coaches / umpires meeting shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

32 Team Managers Registration

32.1 All team managers shall be registered with the AFL Victoria Country.

32.2 Each team manager must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

32.3 A team manager who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match he wishes to participate in.

32.4 The club of any team manager who is unregistered shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

33 Trainers Registration

33.1 All trainers shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.

33.2 A trainer must be at least 15 years of age.

33.3 Each trainer must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

33.4 Any trainer who wishes to take the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club must complete the registration prior to the match they wish to participate in.

33.5 The club of any unregistered trainer shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

34 Trainers

34.1 Each club shall have a minimum of one (1) trainer holding a level 1 Australian Football Trainer Education Centre (AFTEC) accreditation.

34.2 All registered trainers shall be registered with the South West Trainers Association.

34.3 The club of all registered trainers who are not registered with the South West Trainers Association shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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- 34.4 The trainer / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.
- 34.5 Any trainer that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 34.6 Trainers shall be attired in either long black or white pants or shorts.
- 34.7 Trainers shall be attired in a white shirt which must have the club name and identifying number on the back of the shirt.
- 34.8 Trainers shall be attired in a club jacket which must have the club name and identifying number on the back of the jacket.
- 34.9 The club of any trainer attired incorrectly shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

35 Runners Registration

- 35.1 All runners shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.
- 35.2 A runner must be at least 16 years of age.
- 35.3 Each runner must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.
- 35.4 Any runner who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match he wishes to participate in.
- 35.5 The club of any unregistered runner shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

36 Runners

- 36.1 Clubs may appoint up to two (2) team runners per grade.
- 36.2 One (1) runner may enter and remain on the field at any one (1) time.
- 36.3 Runners must enter and leave the field by the designated interchange area.
- 36.4 The club of any runner who breaches by – laws 35.2 or 35.3 may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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36.5 The runner / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

36.6 Any runner that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

36.7 Runners shall be attired in shorts and shirts as supplied by the HFNL.

36.8 Runners must have the club name and identifying number on the back of the shirt.

36.9 The club of any runner attired incorrectly shall incur a fine of set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

37 Water Carriers Registration

37.1 All water carriers shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.

37.2 A water carrier must be at least 12 years of age.

37.3 Each water carrier must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

37.4 Any water carrier who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match he wishes to participate in.

37.5 The club of any unregistered water carrier may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

38 Water Carriers

38.1 Water Carriers shall be attired in either black or white long pants or shorts.

38.2 Water Carriers shall be attired in a blue shirt which must have the club name and identifying number on the back of the shirt.

38.3 The club of any water carrier attired incorrectly shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

39 Interchange Steward Registration

39.1 All interchange stewards shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country

39.2 An interchange steward must be at least 16 years of age.

39.3 Each interchange steward must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the



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current season.

39.4 An interchange steward who wishes to officiate after the start of the current season and is not registered with the AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match they wish to participate in.

39.5 The club of any unregistered interchange steward shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

40 Interchange Steward

40.1 The Interchange steward shall record all player interchanges, blood rule interchanges and order offs during a match on the form provided by the league.

40.2 A club appointed official or runner shall advise the interchange steward of a player being interchanged.

40.3 The club of any club official or runner who does not advise the interchange steward of a player being interchanged shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

41 Club Medical Personnel

41.1 All club medical personnel in Senior Football, Reserves Football and Under 18.5 Football on match day shall wear an armband stating doctor, physiotherapist or chiropractor as supplied by the league.

41.2 The club of all club medical personnel in Senior Football, Reserves Football and Under 18.5 Football on match day not wearing an armband stating doctor, physiotherapist or chiropractor as supplied by the league, shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

42 Club Umpires Registration

42.1 All club umpires shall be registered with the AFL Victoria Country.

42.2 A club boundary umpire must be at least 12 years of age.

42.3 A club goal umpire must be at least 16 years of age.

42.4 A club central umpire must be at least 18 years of age.

42.5 Each club umpire must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

42.6 Any club umpire who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with the AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match they wish to participate in.

42.7 The club of any unregistered club umpire shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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43 Club Umpires

43.1 Clubs shall supply umpires to the following matches

43.1.1 Under 18.5 Football 1 x boundary umpire, 1 x goal umpire and per home and away team

43.1.2 Reserve Football 1 x central umpire, 1 x boundary umpire, 1 x goal umpire– per home and away team

Except when Clubs may wish to use Association Umpires and advise the HFNL before February of each new season.

43.2 Club umpires shall be paid at the discretion of the club.

43.3 The club umpire / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

43.4 Any club umpire that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

43.5 Club central and boundary umpires must wear orange shirts with black shorts and orange socks as their uniform. Club Goal Umpires must wear the League approved vest as their uniform.

43.6 The club of any club umpire attired incorrectly shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

43.7 All club central umpires registered with the league umpiring Reserve Football must have completed or hold a minimum level 1 umpire accreditation prior to the start of the season or have written permission from the league.

43.8 The club of all club central umpires registered with the league umpiring Reserve Football who have not completed or hold a minimum level 1 umpire accreditation prior to the start of the season or have written permission from the league, shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

43.9 Club umpires shall supply their own whistle.

43.10 The goal umpires shall record on cards as provided by the league exact scores and shall be returned with the match day results as per by – law 56.5.

44 Association Umpires

44.1 The league shall appoint association umpires from the Warrnambool and District Football Umpires Association, Colac and District Football Umpires Association and the Western District Umpires Association to officiate all league games as negotiated on a season to season basis.

44.2 The league shall supply association umpires to the following matches

44.2.1 Senior Football 2 or 3 x central umpires, 2 boundary umpires, 2 x goal umpires

44.2.2 Under 18.5 Football 2 x central umpires.

44.3 Association umpires shall be paid as per AFL Victoria Country pay rates.



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- 44.4 The goal umpires shall record on cards as provided by the league exact scores and shall be returned with the match day results as per by – law 56.5.
- 45 Footballs**
- 45.1 The club shall incur the cost of all match balls provided for home and away matches.
- 45.2 The league shall supply, at the Leagues expense, footballs for all finals matches.
- 45.3 The league shall supply match balls to clubs for each home game plus one spare for the season for each senior, each reserve game, and each Under 18.5 game.
- 45.4 The choice of ball will be set for and at the discretion of the league.
- 45.5 Cost for balls in the home and away season will be covered by clubs.
- 45.6 Clubs who do not use the correct approved league sponsor logo football as stated by the league shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 46 Player Uniforms**
- 46.1 All players must wear AFL Victoria Country approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club including numbered playing jumpers, shorts and socks.
- 46.2 Only Beige/ Cream colour bike shorts and black gloves are permitted. Black Bike Shorts not permitted.
- 47 Player Jumpers**
- 47.1 Each club shall register its playing uniform prior to 28th of February of the current season.
- 47.2 The league must approve all uniform colours and designs as per by – law 5.1.
- 47.3 Clubs must notify in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform prior to 15th of January of the current season.
- 47.4 The league must approve all changes to the clubs uniform.
- 47.5 All players are to be in the approved uniform by the first match of the season. Should approved uniforms not be ready, approval from the league must be given for an agreed interim uniform.
- 47.6 The club of all players not in the approved uniform by the first match of the season and who have not received approval from the league for an agreed interim uniform may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 47.7 One logo is permitted to the top front left of the players jumpers and must not exceed 10cm x 6cm.
- 47.8 One logo is permitted 5cm below the player’s number and must not exceed 30cm x 7.5cm.
- 47.9 Should a club require additional logos on the front or back of the players jumper, a request must be lodged with the



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league and will be determined by the executive.

48 Player Shorts

48.1 A maximum of two logos may be attached to the front of player's shorts which must not exceed 10cm x 6cm.

48.2 The home club shall wear their home shorts.

48.3 The away club shall wear white shorts.

49 Player Socks

49.1 As per by – law 46.1

50 Match Times

50.1 Match times shall be as follows for day matches

50.1.1	Under 18.5 Football	10.10am	Siren to be sounded 10am
50.1.2	Reserve Football	12pm	Siren to be sounded 11.50am
50.1.3	Senior Football	2pm	Siren to be sounded 1.50pm

50.2 Match times shall be as follows for night matches or as decided by Clubs with League approval.

50.2.1	Under 18.5 Football	3.10pm	Siren to be sounded 3pm
50.2.2	Reserve Football	5pm	Siren to be sounded 4.50pm
50.2.3	Senior Football	7pm	Siren to be sounded 6.50pm

50.3 Match times shall be as follows for finals matches

50.3.1	Under 18.5 Football	10am	Siren to be sounded 9.50am
50.3.2	Reserve Football	12pm	Siren to be sounded 11.50am
50.3.3	Senior Football	2.10pm	Siren to be sounded 2pm

50.4 Should a match be running late, the siren is to be sounded immediately after the completion of the previous match.

50.5 Any team failing to start play on time shall, after five (5) minutes, forfeit five (5) goals to the opposition team and a further goal per minute until 10 minutes have elapsed. A forfeit shall then be declared providing the opposing team has provided their team sheet.

50.6 The club of any team who forfeits may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive the opposing team shall receive four (4) premiership points and percentage shall be worked out as 15.0.90 to nil and the opposing team will be permitted to lodge a team sheet.

51 Match Intervals

51.1 Match intervals shall be as follows

51.1.1	Under 18.5 Football	4 x 17 minute quarters plus time on with breaks 5, 10, 5
51.1.2	Reserve Football	4 x 20 minute quarters no time on with breaks 5, 10, 5
51.1.3	Senior Football	4 x 20 minute quarters plus time on with breaks 5, 20, 5



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51.2 Any club delaying the start of a quarter may be fined set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

52 Match Conditions

52.1 a. The Senior Football and Reserves Football team shall consist of between fourteen (14) and twenty one (21) players with up to eighteen (18) on the field at any one time with remaining players on the interchange.

b. If senior side is unable to field a list of 18 players on the ground, the number of players for both competing teams on the field will be limited to that teams list with at least 1 player as interchange. The number of players will remain at this number for the entirety of play excluding players unable to play due to injury (ie. List of 18, therefore 17 on the ground with 1 interchange).

52.2 a. The Under 18.5 Football team can name up to twenty one (21) players on their team sheet.

b. For underage football competitions, including Under 18.5 teams, refer to the AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On Field Number Regulations, in part replicated here;

On-Field Number Regulations:

- Minimum Bench is two at the start of the game. Maximum bench is per the age group and league by-laws.
- Teams may play with 18, 16, 15, 14 or 12 players, as long as there are 2 on the bench.
- If a match will be played with 16 players on each team, it is the wing positions lost.
- Coaches of opposing teams can negotiate the positions lost when on-field players are 15 and below.

52.3 A player Under 18 years of age who played Under 18.5 Football shall not be permitted to play Senior Football or Reserves Football on the same day unless the club obtains written consent from the player and the players parent / s or guardian, this must be completed and filed with the clubs match day results as per by – law 56.5.

52.4 The club of any such player playing without the written consent from the player and the player's parent / s or guardian may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

52.5 A club can have up to four (4) nominated over age players in Under 18.5 Football. The players must be under 19 years of age as of 1st July of the current season and their names must be advised to the league prior to the commencement of the current season.

52.6 Over age players are ineligible for league awards.

52.7 Should an over age player play four (4) or more matches in Senior Football or Reserves Football he is deemed ineligible to play Under 18.5 Football.

52.8 Team sheets must be marked "O/A" to indicate over age players.

52.9 A TAC Cup, VFL, AFL player is ineligible to play as an over age player.

52.10 Any over age player suspended by the league's independent tribunal shall be ineligible to play Under 18.5 Football



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for the remainder of the season including finals.

53 Team Lists

- 53.1** Team lists must be lodged on the AFL Footyweb-SportsTG database by 7.30pm for Senior teams and 7.30pm for all other teams each Thursday prior to each match and must be printed off immediately. The printed team list must also include coaches, runners, trainers, water carriers, team managers, interchange stewards and club umpires if known.
- 53.2** In Senior Football twenty one (21) players must be named in position with up to four (4) players to be named as emergencies.
- 53.3** Should a player be injured and is required to be withdrawn from the named twenty five (25) players, the club shall notify the RAC Administrator. The RAC Administrator must then notify the opposing club immediately by phone and email.
- 53.4** The team list printed as per by – law 52.1 must be used on match day. Each participating club must add any coaches, runners, trainers, water carriers, team managers, interchange stewards and club umpires not known on Thursday night when lodged by hand. Each participating club must place a line through any players who were selected but not playing and provide to the central umpires prior to the match. This team sheet must be provided with the match day results as per by – law 56.5.
- 53.5** Any club who does not provide the team sheet as per by – law 52 may incur a fine per match set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

54 Timekeepers

- 54.1** Each participating club shall provide a timekeeper per match.
- 54.2** The siren shall only be sounded by the timekeepers prior to, during and at the completion of a match.
- 54.4** Stop watches must be synchronised, if only one stopwatch is available, that shall be the official time.
- 54.5** The timekeepers shall record on cards as provided by the league exact times and shall be provided with the match day results as per by – law 56.5.
- 54.6** Timekeepers must be 16 years of age or older.
- 54.7** The club of any timekeepers that are 16 years or younger may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

55 Match Day Checklist

- 55.1** A home and away club representative must complete the JLT Australian Football match day checklist prior to the start of first match of the competition day on the approved JLT phone app.



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56 Match Day Results

56.1 The home club is responsible for entering each match result into AFL Footyweb-SportsTG database by 5.30pm or 10pm for a night match.

56.2 Match result information shall include

56.2.1 quarter by quarter scores and final score (league media scoresheet as provided by the league)

56.2.2 best players 1 to 6

56.2.3 goals scored per player

56.2.4 most valuable player votes 3 to 1 (Senior Football only)

56.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that all match day results are entered accurately.

56.4 Should inaccurate information be entered the home club may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive per inaccurate entry.

56.5 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that all match day paperwork be sealed in the league match day envelope and delivered to the league's office by 4pm on the first working day following the match and must include

56.5.1 official league scoresheet

56.5.2 quarter by quarter scores and final score (league media scoresheet as provided by the league)

56.5.3 best and fairest vote cards

56.5.4 most valuable player vote cards (Senior Football only)

56.5.5 signed league timekeepers card

56.5.6 signed league goal umpires card

56.6 Should the home club not deliver the match day envelope to the league's office by 4pm on the second working day following the match they shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

56.7 Should any match day paperwork be missing from the match day envelope as per by - law 56.5, the club responsible shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

57 Finals

57.1 In the event of a drawn match in any finals match including the grand final, the following shall apply

57.1.1 the teams change ends following a break of no more than five (5) minutes

57.1.2 two five (5) minute halves plus time on shall be played with an immediate change of ends after the first (1st) five minute half with no break during the change of ends

57.1.3 if at the end of the second five minute half scores are still level, no change of ends shall occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and continue until one team has a one point advantage

57.2 The HFNL shall allocate rooms and shorts uniforms prior to each finals match and notify the club via the club



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secretary by 12 noon on the first business day immediately following the previous matches.

57.3 The nominated away team shall call the toss of the coin.

58 Finals Eligibility

58.1 Any player registered with their club who plays Reserves Football must take the field in four (4) or more home and away Reserve Grade Football matches to be eligible to play finals in Reserves Football.

58.2 Any player registered with their club who plays Reserves Football cannot take the field in more than ten (10) home and away matches in Senior Football to be eligible to play finals in Reserves Football.

58.3 Should a club be playing Senior Football and Reserves Football on the same weekend during finals, by – laws 58.1, and 58.2 are removed; but a player can only play one match per weekend.

58.4 Any player registered with their club who plays Under 18.5 Football must take the field in four (4) or more home and away matches in HFNL U18.5 grade Football to be eligible to play finals in Under 18.5 Football but if two (2) games are played on one weekend the Under 18.5 game does not qualify to be eligible for finals as the senior HFNL game is deemed as the qualifying game. Reserves games are excluded.

58.5 Any TAC Cup listed player may play with their registered home club during finals in senior and under 18.5 football only; but a player can only play one match per weekend between their club and TAC Cup club.

58.6 Any VFL listed player may play with their registered home club during finals in senior football only; but a player can only play one match per weekend between their club and VFL club. Refer AFL Victoria Country Finals Eligibility-14.0 (b)TAC Cup and VFL Players

58.7 Should a player play more than one match per weekend during finals, the club shall incur the loss of the second match the player played in.

59 AFL Victoria Country Country Championships

59.1 The league shall compete in the AFL Victoria Country Country Championships as required.

59.2 The league shall appoint representative team coaches for a period of one (1) year for each team participating in by – law 58.1 and shall advertise the positions as required upon the completion of each one (1) year period.

59.3 The league shall appoint representative team coaches upon a final recommendation to the league's executive.

59.4 The league shall supply clubs with selection letters for players selected in the AFL Victoria Country Country Championships squads.

60 Practice Matches

60.1 The league must be notified of a practice match which shall include the participating clubs, date, time and venue.

61 Set Penalties

61.1 As per AFL Victoria Country rule 12.0.



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62 Investigations

62.1 As per AFL Victoria Country rule 5.0.

62.2 The club requesting the investigation shall incur the cost of the investigation.

Investigation fees:

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (unbecoming conduct) and lodges the required fee of \$500, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the League and will be refunded in full or part after completion of the investigation and subsequent tribunal hearing (if applicable) as per the League's policy, as set out below.

The following policy in relation to payment of the Investigations Officer's payment will be enforced by the League for investigations:

- A) When the Investigations Officer determines there is no case to answer, the club requesting the investigation will receive a refund of the bond, less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- B) In cases where the investigations officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club requesting the investigation will receive a refund of the bond, less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- C) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club requesting the investigation shall receive a full refund of \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the amount of the Investigations Officer's fee for services. (in addition to any additional tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for services.

Note: The above financial policy part (a) & (b) shall be applied in cases where the investigations officer fee does not exceed \$500. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. More difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations officer may request an amount over and above \$500 which will be paid by the club requesting the investigation over and above the bond paid.

63 Order Off

63.1 A red card indicates the player is ordered off for the remainder of the match and is able to be replaced after 20 minutes of elapsed playing time from the resumption of the play after being ordered off.

63.2 A yellow card indicates the player is ordered off for 15 minutes of elapsed playing time from the resumption of the play after being ordered off and cannot be replaced within that time.

64 Independent Tribunal

64.1 The independent tribunal comprising up to 10 members shall be appointed by the executive prior to the current season.

64.2 Three (3) members of such an independent tribunal shall form a quorum.

64.3 Nominations for membership of the independent tribunal shall be advertised and the names of intending nominees shall be forwarded to the league prior to the current season to be appointed by the executive.



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- 64.4** The members of the independent tribunal shall not hold any other position of office in the league or an official position with a club affiliated with the league within a period of twelve (12) months prior to nomination.
- 64.5** The members of the independent tribunal shall not have been a AFL Victoria Country registered player within a period of twenty – four (24) months prior to nomination.
- 64.6** Elected members of the independent tribunal shall receive the following prior to the current season
- 64.6.1** league season pass including finals
 - 64.6.2** AFL Victoria Country handbook
 - 64.6.3** league handbook
- 64.7** The league’s tribunal shall be held in the week following a round of matches at a venue and time determined by the league.
- Order Of Proceedings;
Vision of the incident to be introduced only when requested by one of the participating parties. (Offended player, Charged Player, Tribunal Chairman, League Prosecutor)
Preliminary formalities will be conducted by the Tribunal Secretary prior to the hearing. (ie)
- o List names of all witnesses
 - o Notify attendees who is comprising the Panel
 - o Seek any objections to Panel members
 - o Confirm Identification of all players and umpires concerned.
 - o Ask the umpire if there are any amendments to his/her report.
- 64.8** Matters shall be referred to the independent tribunal as per AFL Victoria Country rule 7.0.
- 64.9** Any matter referred to the independent tribunal as per AFL Victoria Country rule 7.0 can be appealed as per AFL Victoria Country rule 8.0.
- 64.10** The league’s tribunal shall consult with the league for interpretation of any AFL Victoria Country rule or league by – law as required whether the tribunal hearing has commenced or not. The league may also request further interpretation of any AFL Victoria Country rule from the AFL Victoria Country.
- 64.11** In the absence of a quorum at a hearing of the independent tribunal, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their club until the matter is heard and determined by the independent tribunal.
- 64.12** Where video evidence is available from AFL Western District/HFNL authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be made available to the Tribunal to be reviewed as required.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non-authorised video as evidence in a case, the Club must notify AFL Western District/HFNL no later than 10.00am on the Tuesday following that weeks round and such video must be delivered to AFL Western District/HFNL no later than Noon on day of the scheduled day of the Tribunal.



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64.13 Match Review Panel (MRP)

Umpires may request a review of an incident during a period of the match (*Senior Football Matches only*) when giving 'all clear'. Clubs will be shown a copy of the request at this time. **Clubs** may also make an **official request** to review specific incident/s of concern to the AFL Western District Senior Operations Coordinator **by 10am the first working day after the match**. The AFL Western District MRP will view the relevant footage, and if deemed appropriate may lay a charge to be heard by the Independent Regional Tribunal or recommend a set penalty.

The MRP will also assess all reports Monday as received throughout the weekend and have the power to impose or amend penalties as they deem appropriate. This will include involvement in melees (if captured on vision). The MRP will have a "Grading of Offences" table and a "Melee Matrix" available as a guide when deliberating on relevant penalties, with the aim to create more consistency. The charged player may challenge the imposed set penalty at tribunal, but if found guilty by the tribunal panel will receive a penalty that is at a minimum that which was originally offered, and the club will be levied \$250. If a set penalty is applied or amended by the MRP, the charged player will have **until 10.00am on that Tuesday** to request the charge be heard at tribunal or the set penalty will apply as offered.

64.14 Set Sanctions

If after the game the reporting umpire doesn't indicate on the player report sheet that the offence warrants a tribunal hearing, the offending player can defer his decision or choose to accept the prescribed penalty by signing the player report sheet in the space provided. The reporting umpire, the offending player and the offended player's club secretary all have until **10.00am the first working day following the incident** at the latest to inform the league that they wish the matter to be heard by a tribunal. If one party initially chooses the set sanction, they can change their decision within the time frame.

If there is no official indication within the designated timeframe that a tribunal is required, the relevant set sanction will be applied.

Personnel

Tribunal Chairperson - A professional Tribunal Chairman will possibly be paid an honorarium for his or her work specific to the Hampden Football Netball League.

- League Prosecutor - A professional League Prosecutor who will possibly be paid an honorarium for his or her work specific to the Hampden Football Netball league.
- MRP – The MRP will be made up of the following members: League Senior Operations Coordinator and two selected independent panel members.

Levies

If a player is found guilty at Tribunal, their club will be levied the following

Offence sent straight to tribunal - \$100

Heard at tribunal at the request of the charged player - \$150



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65 Codes of Behaviour

- 65.1 All players, coaches, team officials and spectators shall comply with AFL Victoria Country code of conduct and the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport.
- 65.2 Should any players, coaches, team officials and spectators fail to comply with AFL Victoria Country code of conduct and the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport the matter will be referred to the league's tribunal.

66 Stretchers

- 66.1 Each home club must ensure that an appropriate stretcher is placed at the interchange area.
- 66.2 Any club who fails to provide an appropriate stretcher shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

67 Post Padding

- 67.1 All football posts must be padded prior to the start of the first match of the competition day.
- 67.2 All football posts padding shall be a minimum of 2.5m high x 30cm wide
- 67.3 Failure to provide padding as required shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

68 Ground Lighting

- 68.1 If natural light is deteriorating during a match, the two participating club coaches and officiating central umpires can agree to turn on ground lighting to assist with the natural light at the ground to allow the match to complete.

69 De – Registration / Non – Registration Policy

- 69.1 The league shall adhere to the AFL Victoria's de – registration policy.

70 On Field Communication Devices

- 70.1 Listening / talking devices shall not be allowed to be used on the field during matches.
- 70.2 Should any club use listening / talking devices on the field during matches they shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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71 Awards

71.1 Maskell Medal

- 71.1.1 an award known as the “Maskell Medal” shall be made each year to the best and fairest player or players in the senior football competition
- 71.1.2 voting for such award shall be made by the field umpires officiating each senior football competition match
- 71.1.3 the field umpires officiating each senior football competition match shall at the conclusion of the match select three (3) best and fairest players in the match
- 71.1.4 the three nominations shall then be awarded either three (3) votes, two (2) votes or one (1) vote on an official league vote card provided by the home club
- 71.1.5 the card is then placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the home club
- 71.1.6 at the end of the home & away season, the league shall tally all votes from each match
- 71.1.7 the player or players with the most votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of two players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared and separate medals shall be awarded to each player
- 71.1.8 the player or players who receive the second most votes shall be awarded the runners up medal
- 71.1.9 any player who has been found guilty of an offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the medal

71.2 Lew Kelly Medal

- 71.2.1 an award known as the “Lew Kelly Medal” shall be made each year to the best and fairest player or players in the reserves football competition
- 71.2.2 rules in relation to the Lew Kelly Medal shall be identical to by – law 71.1

71.3 Judd Cup

- 70.3.1 an award known as the “Judd Cup” shall be made each year to the best and fairest player or players in the under 18.5 football competition
- 70.3.2 rules in relation to the Judd Cup shall be identical to by – law 71.1

71.4 Most Valuable Player

- 71.4.1 an award known as the “Most Valuable Player” shall be made each year to the best player or players in the senior football competition
- 71.4.2 voting for such award shall be made by the opposing coach participating in each senior football competition match
- 71.4.3 the opposing coach participating in each senior football competition match shall at the conclusion of the match select three (3) best players in the match
- 71.4.5 the three nominations shall then be awarded either three (3) votes, two (2) votes or one (1) vote on an official league vote card provided by the home club
- 71.4.6 the card is then handed to the home club and placed in a sealed envelope
- 71.4.7 at the end of the home & away season, the league shall tally all votes from each match
- 71.4.8 the player or players with the most votes shall be awarded the most valuable player award. In the case of two players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared and separate awards shall be awarded to each player



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71.5 Leading Goal Kicker

71.5.1 an award known as the “leading goal kicker” shall be made each year to the leading goal kicker in the senior, reserves and under 18.5 football competitions

71.5.2 the player or players with the most goals kicked shall be awarded the leading goal kicker award. In the case of two players kicking the most goals, joint winners shall be declared and separate awards shall be awarded to each player

71.6 Rising Star

71.6.1 an award known as the “rising star” shall be made each year to the best first year player in the senior football competition

71.6.2 clubs are to nominate one (1) player aged 21 and under each season who have played fewer than 10 senior games for their club at time of nomination.

71.6.3 the player or players with the most combined votes from both the Maskell Medal and Most Valuable Player shall be awarded the rising star award. In the case of two players with the most votes, joint winners shall be declared and separate awards shall be awarded to each player

71.7 Richard Nixon Medal

71.7.1 an award known as the “Richard Nixon Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Senior Football match in the AFL Victoria Country Country Championships

71.8 Stephen Anderson Medal

71.8.1 an award known as the “Stephen Anderson Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Under 18 Football match in the AFL Victoria Country Country Championships

71.9 Ron Hoy Medal

71.9.1 a medal known as the “Ron Hoy Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Senior Football Grand Final by the central umpires.

71.10 Fred Bond Medal

71.10.1 a medal known as the “Fred Bond Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Reserve Football Grand Final by the central umpires.

71.11 Ted Parker Medal

71.11.1 a medal known as the “Ted Parker Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Under 18.5 Football Grand Final by the central umpires



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Junior Football

The following by – laws shall be read in general across the league’s Junior Football Competition and shall be read in conjunction with the league’s general by – laws.

110 Playing Rules

110.1 All matches shall be played under AFL laws of the game, AFL Western District Junior Area and Permit Agreements, AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations, AFL Victoria Country rules and regulations except in such cases and conditions where the by – laws hereby adopted are superseded by the league’s by – laws

111 Junior Football Coordinator

11.1 Each club shall appoint a Junior Football Coordinator / s.

111.2 Each Junior Football Coordinator / s must sign a AFL Victoria Country registration form and be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

111.3 Any club that does not appoint a football coordinator shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

111.4 The Junior Football Coordinator / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

111.5 Any Junior Football Coordinator that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

112 Player Registrations

112.1 All players shall be registered with the AFL Victoria Country

112.2 Each player must sign an AFL Victoria Country registration form and be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

112.3 Any player wishing to play after the start of the current season and who is not registered with the AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match they wish to participate in.

112.4 Any club playing an unregistered player shall be referred to AFL Victoria Country rule 1.3.

113 Players

113.1 Players' age is determined as at 1st of January of that year.

113.2 Any player registered with their club may play in Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 Football subject by – law 113.1.



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114 Player Clearances

114.1 All clearances players in underage competitions are restricted to once every three weeks and shall refer to the AFL Victoria Country handbook

115 Permits

115.1 All permits shall refer to the AFL Victoria Country handbook.

115.2 All clubs shall adhere to all league area permits per season as per by – law 116.

115.3 A player who is not registered to a club shall not play finals.

116 Area Permits

116.1 The league shall enter into local area permits with the following leagues

Warrnambool & District Football Netball League

South West District Football Netball League

Mininera & District Football Netball League

Hawks Junior FNC

Portland Junior Football League

Hamilton Junior Football League

117 Coaches Registration

117.1 All coaches shall be registered with CoachAFL.

117.2 Each coach must register online at CoachAFL and indicate the club which they will be registered to prior to the start of the current season.

117.3 Any coach who wishes to coach after the start of the current season must register with CoachAFL and indicate the club which they will be registered with prior to the match which they will coach.

117.4 The club of any unregistered coach shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

118 Coaches

118.1 All coaches shall be accredited as per AFL Victoria Country handbook.

118.2 All coaches shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the 31st of March of the current season or prior to the first match, they coach if appointed after the start of the season..

118.3 Any coach that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

119 Coaches / Umpires Meetings

119.1 A meeting may be convened annually between all registered club coaches and representatives from Warrnambool & District Football Umpires Association, Colac & District Football Umpires Association and the Western District



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Football Umpires Association.

119.2 The club of a junior football coach who does not attend the coaches / umpires meeting shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

120 Team Managers Registration

120.1 All team managers shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.

120.2 Each team manager must sign an AFL Victoria Country registration form and be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

120.3 A team manager who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match he wishes to participate in.

120.4 The club of any team manager who is unregistered shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

121 Runners Registration

121.1 All runners shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.

121.2 A runner must be a minimum 16 years of age.

121.3 Each runner must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

121.4 Any runner who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match he wishes to participate in.

121.4a In the event of the regular registered runner being unavailable on match day a fill-in may be appointed. The League shall be notified of this fill-in and runner must be included on the team sheet.

121.5 The club of any unregistered runner shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

122 Runners

122.1 Clubs may appoint up to two (2) team runners per grade.

122.2 One (1) runner may enter and remain on the field at any one (1) time.

122.3 Runners must enter and leave the field by the designated interchange area.
set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

122.4 Any runner who breaches by – laws 122.2 or 122.3, the club may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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122.5 The runner / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

122.6 Any runner that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

122.6a In the event of a fill-in runner on match day By-law 122.6 shall not apply.

122.7 Runners shall be attired in shorts and shirt as supplied by the HFNL..

122.8 Runners must have the club name and identifying number on the back of the shirt.

122.9 The club of any runner attired incorrectly shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

123 Water Carriers

123.1 Water Carriers shall be attired in either black long pants or shorts.

123.2 Water Carriers shall be attired in a blue shirt which must have the club name and identifying number on the back of the shirt.

123.3 The club of any water carrier attired incorrectly shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

124 Club Umpires Registration

124.1 All club umpires shall be registered with AFL Victoria Country.

124.2 A club boundary umpire must be at least 12 years of age.

124.3 A club goal umpire must be at least 16 years of age.

124.4 A club central umpire must be at least 18 years of age.

124.5 Each club umpire must be registered on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club prior to the start of the current season.

124.6 Any club umpire who wishes to take to the field after the start of the current season and is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Footyweb-SportsTG with their club, must complete the registration prior to the match they wish to participate in.

124.6a In the event of the regular club umpire being unavailable on match day a fill-in may be appointed. The League shall be notified of this and the fill-in umpire must be named on the team sheet.

124.7 The club of any unregistered club umpire shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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125 Club Umpires

125.1 Clubs shall supply umpires to the following matches

125.1.1 Under 16 Football 1 x central umpire – home and away team

125.1.2 Under 16 Football 1 x boundary umpire, 1 x goal umpire – home and away team

125.1.3 Under 14 Football 1 x central umpire – home and away team

125.1.4 Under 14 Football 1 x boundary umpire, 1 x goal umpire – home and away team

125.1.5 Under 12 Football 1 x central umpire, 1 x goal umpires – home and away team

In the event of a club not providing a boundary umpire then that club at the direction of the controlling Central Umpire once the ball has been called out of bounds must instruct a player from that club to throw in the ball.

125.2 Club umpires shall be paid at the discretion of the club.

125.3 The club umpire / s shall have a working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the start of the current season.

125.4 Any club umpire that does not have a working with children check and / or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

125.4a In the event of a fill-in club umpire on match day By-law 125.4 shall not apply.

125.5 Club central and boundary umpires must wear orange shirts with black shorts and orange socks as their uniform. Goal Umpires must wear orange League approved vests.

125.6 The club of any club umpire attired incorrectly shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

125.7 Club umpires shall supply their own whistle.

125.8 The goal umpires shall record on cards as provided by the league exact scores and shall be returned with the match day results as per by – law 138.

126 Association Umpires

126.1 The league shall appoint association umpires from the Warrnambool and District Football Umpires Association, Colac and District Football Umpires Association and the Western District Umpires Association to officiate all league games as negotiated on a season to season basis.

126.2 The league shall supply association umpires for final matches

126.2.1 Under 16 Football

126.2.2 Under 14 Football

126.3 Association umpires shall be paid as per pay rates.



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127 Footballs

- 127.1 All balls shall have the approved league sponsor's logo printed on the footballs except for the Under 12 synthetic footballs.
- 127.2 Clubs who do not use the correct approved league sponsor logo as stated by the league shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 127.3 The club shall incur the cost of all match balls provided for home and away matches
- 127.4 The league shall supply red Match Sherrin footballs for all Under 16 finals matches.
- 127.5 The league shall supply red Match Sherrin footballs for all Under 14 finals matches.

128 Player Uniforms

- 128.1 All players must wear AFL Victoria Country approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club including numbered playing jumpers, shorts and socks.
- 128.2 Only Beige / Cream colour bike shorts and black gloves are permitted. Black Bike shorts are not permitted.

129 Player Jumpers

- 129.1 Each club shall register its playing uniform prior to 28th of February of the current season.
- 129.2 The league must approve all uniform colours and designs as per by – law 5.1.
- 129.3 Clubs must notify in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform prior to 15th of February of the current season.
- 129.4 The league must approve all changes to the clubs uniform.
- 129.5 All players are to be in the approved uniform by the first match of the season. Should approved uniforms not be ready, approval from the league must be given for an agreed interim uniform.
- 129.6 The club of all players not in the approved uniform by the first match of the season and who have not received approval from the league for an agreed interim uniform shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 129.7 One logo is permitted to the top front left of the players jumpers and must not exceed 10cm x 6cm.
- 129.8 One logo is permitted 5cm below the player's number and must not exceed 30cm x 7.5cm.
- 129.9 Should a club require additional logos on the front or back of the players jumper, a request must be lodged with the league to be determined by the executive.



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130 Player Shorts

130.1 A maximum of two logos may be attached to the front of player's shorts which must not exceed 10cm x 6cm.

130.2 All clubs shall wear their home shorts.

131 Player Socks

131.1 As per by – law 128.

132 Match Times

132.1 Match times shall be as follows for day matches Home & Away

132.1.1 Under 12 Football 11.00am Siren to be sounded 10.50am

132.1.2 Under 14 Football 12.15pm Siren to be sounded 12.05pm

132.1.3 Under 16 Football 1.45pm Siren to be sounded 1.35pm

132.2 Match times shall be as follows for night matches

132.2.1 Under 12 Football 5pm Siren to be sounded 4.50pm

132.2.2 Under 14 Football 6.15pm Siren to be sounded 6.05pm

132.2.3 Under 16 Football 7.45pm Siren to be sounded 7.35pm

132.3 Match times shall be as follows for first two weeks of finals matches

132.3.1 Under 12 Football 9.00am Siren to be sounded 8.50am

132.3.2 Under 14 Football 10.00am and 11.30am Siren to be sounded 10 minutes before

132.3.3 Under 16 Football 1.00pm and 2.45pm Siren to be sounded 10 minutes before

132.4 Match times shall be as follows for preliminary and grand finals

132.4.1 Under 12 Football 11.00am Siren to be sounded 10.50am

132.4.2 Under 14 Football 12.15pm Siren to be sounded 12.05pm

132.4.3 Under 16 Football 2.00pm Siren to be sounded 1.50pm

132.5 Should a match be running late, the siren is to be sounded immediately after the completion of the previous match.

132.7 The club of any team who forfeits shall incur a fine of \$250, the opposing team shall receive four (4) premiership points and percentage shall be worked out as 15.0.90 to nil and the opposing team will be permitted to lodge a team sheet.

133 Match Intervals

133.1 Match intervals shall be as follows

133.1.1 Under 12 Football 4 x 12 minute quarters no time on with breaks 5, 10, 5

133.1.2 Under 14 Football 4 x 15 minute quarters no time on with breaks 5, 10, 5

133.1.3 Under 16 Football 4 x 20 minute quarters no time on with breaks 5, 10, 5

133.2 Any club delaying the start of a quarter may be fined set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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134 Match Conditions

- 134.1** The Under 12 Football team shall consist of between fourteen (14) and an unlimited number players with up to twenty (20) on the field at any one time, providing for a bench minimum of two players, with remaining players on the interchange. Also refer to Under 12 Football Guidelines.
- 134.2** The Under 14 Football team can name up to twenty four (24) players on their team sheet.
- 134.3** The Under 16 Football team can name up to twenty two (22) players on their team sheet.
- 134.4** Clubs are encouraged to utilise intra-league sharing of players via Rule 2.9 to permit players to opposing teams when player numbers are lacking. Clubs doing so need to consult the AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.

On-Field Number Regulations:

- Minimum Bench is two at the start of the game. Maximum bench is per the age group and league by-laws.
 - Teams may play with 18, 16, 15, 14 or 12 players, as long as there are 2 on the bench.
 - If a match will be played with 16 players on each team, it is the wing positions lost.
 - Coaches of opposing teams can negotiate the positions lost when on-field players are 15 and below. In the spirit of junior football any club that is short of numbers on any given match must contact the opposing club and inform them of the situation by 9.00pm the day preceding the game so as to come to a suitable agreement.
- 134.5** Over age players shall be approved by the league with final approval of the junior football reference group at the next available meeting.
- 134.6** Over age players are ineligible for league awards.
- 134.7** Team sheets must be marked "O/A" to indicate over age players.
- 134.8** Any over age player suspended by the league's independent tribunal shall be ineligible to play as an over age player
- 134.9** 15 metre penalties will be utilised in Under 12s in the place of 50 metre penalties. Any player who disputes the decision of the umpire shall be sent off the ground.
- 134.10** Under 12 players will not be allowed to kick the ball off the ground. This will reduce a soccer style of play and increase ball handling skills.
- 134.11** No official results shall be kept for Under 12 Football
- 134.12** Players are only allowed to bounce the ball once in Under 12 Football; should a player bounce the ball twice, a ball up shall be called by the umpire.
- 134.13** As per the AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On Field Number Regulations Minimum Bench is two at the start of the game.



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135 Team Lists

- 135.1** Team lists must be lodged on the AFL Footyweb-SportsTG database by 7.30pm each Thursday prior to each match and must be printed off immediately. The printed team list must also include coaches, runners, trainers, water carriers, team managers, interchange stewards and club umpires if known.
- 135.2** Players must be named in position including emergencies.
- 135.3** The team list printed as per by – law 135.1 must be used on match day, each participating club must add any coaches, runners, trainers, water carriers, team managers, interchange stewards and club umpires not known on the Thursday night when lodged by hand. Each participating club must place a line through any players who were selected but not playing and provide to the central umpires prior to the match. This team sheet must be returned with the match day results as per by – law 138.

136 Timekeepers

- 136.1** Each participating club shall provide a timekeeper per match.
- 136.2** The siren shall only be sounded by the timekeepers prior to, during and at the completion of a match.
- 136.3** Stop watches must be synchronised, if only one stopwatch is available, that shall be the official time.

137 Match Day Checklist

- 137.1** A home and away club representative must complete the JLT Australian Football match day checklist prior to the start of first match of the competition day on the approved JLT phone app.

138 Match Day Results

- 138.1** The home club is responsible for entering each match result into AFL Footyweb-SportsTG database by 5.30pm on a day match or 10pm on a night match. All results must be forwarded to the Junior Football Operations Manager on the day for result confirmation.
- 138.2** Match result information shall include
- 138.2.1** quarter by quarter scores and final score (league media scoresheet as provided by the league)
 - 138.2.2** best players 1 to 6
 - 138.2.3** successful goals scored per player
- 138.3** It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure all match day results are entered accurately.
- 138.4** Should inaccurate information be entered the home club shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive per inaccurate entry.



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- 138.5** It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure all match day paperwork be sealed in the league match day envelope and delivered to the league's office by 4pm on the second working day following the match and must include
- 138.5.1** official league scoresheet
 - 138.5.2** quarter by quarter scores and final score (league media scoresheet as provided by the league)
 - 138.5.4** best and fairest vote cards
 - 138.5.5** signed league goal umpires card
- 138.6** Should the home club not deliver the match day envelope to the League's Office by 4pm on the second working day following the match they shall incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 138.7** The club responsible for any missing match day paperwork from the match day envelope as per by - law 138.5 shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive
- 139** **Finals**
- 139.1** In the event of a drawn match in any finals match including the grand final, the following shall apply
- 139.1.1** two five (5) minute quarters shall be played with an immediate change of ends after the first (1st) five minute quarter break with no break during the change of ends
 - 139.1.2** if at the end of the second five minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends shall occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and continue until one team has a one point advantage
- 139.2** The league shall allocate rooms and uniforms prior to each finals match and notify the club via the club secretary by 12 noon on the first business day immediately following the previous matches.
- 139.3** The nominated away team shall call the toss of the coin.
- 140** **Finals Eligibility**
- 140.1** Any player registered with their club who plays Junior Football must take the field in four (4) or more home and away matches to be eligible to play finals in Under 14 Football or Under 16 Football.
- 140.2** Any player registered with their club who plays Under 12 Football, Under 14 Football or Under 16 Football cannot take the field in eight (8) or more home and away matches in a higher grade to be eligible to play finals in Under 14 Football or Under 16 Football
- 140.3** Permit players are not eligible to play finals without consent from the HFNL Executive.
- 141** **Junior Interleague Carnival**
- 141.1** The league shall compete in the Junior Interleague Carnival as required.
- 141.2** The league shall appoint representative team coaches for a period of one (1) year for each team participating in by – law 141.1 and shall advertise the positions as required upon the completion of each one (1) year period.
- 141.3** The league shall appoint representative team coaches.
- 141.4** The clubs shall supply the league with the names of five (5) players to be selected in the Junior Inter League



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Carnival squads.

142 Set Penalties

142.1 As per AFL Victoria Country rule 12.0.

143 Investigations

143.1 As per AFL Victoria Country rule 5.0.



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Investigation fees:

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (unbecoming conduct) and lodges the required fee of \$500, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the League and will be refunded in full or part after completion of the investigation and subsequent tribunal (if applicable) as per the League's policy, as set out below.

The following policy in relation to payment of the Investigations Officer's payment will be enforced by the League for investigations:

- A) When the Investigations Officer determines there is no case to answer, the club requesting the investigation will receive a refund of the bond, less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- B) In cases where the investigations officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club requesting the investigation will receive a refund of the bond, less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- C) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club requesting the investigation shall receive a full refund of \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the amount of the Investigations Officer's fee for services. (in addition to any additional tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for services.

Note: The above financial policy part (a) & (b) shall be applied in cases where the investigations officer fee does not exceed \$500. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. More difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations officer may request an amount over and above \$500 which will be paid by the club requesting the investigation over and above the bond paid.

144 Order Off

- 144.1 A red card indicates the player is ordered off for the remainder of the match and is able to be replaced after 20 minutes of elapsed playing time from the resumption of the play after being ordered off.
- 144.2 A yellow card indicates the player is ordered off for 15 minutes of elapsed playing time from the resumption of the play after being ordered off and cannot be replaced within that time.
- 144.3 Players sent off the ground in Under 12 Football by the umpire shall remain off the ground for the remainder of the game. Players sent off maybe replaced in Under 12 Football to ensure that all players can have a maximum amount of playing time.

145 Independent Tribunal

- 145.1 The independent tribunal comprising up to 10 members shall be appointed by the executive at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.
- 145.2 Three (3) members of such an independent tribunal shall form a quorum.



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- 145.3** Nominations for membership of the independent tribunal shall be advertised and intending nominee's names shall be forwarded to the Regional Administration Centre Operations Manager seven (7) days prior to the first meeting of the executive after the Annual General Meeting.
- 145.4** The members of the independent tribunal shall not hold any other position of office in the league or an official position with a club affiliated with the league within a period of twelve (12) months prior to nomination.
- 145.5** The members of the independent tribunal shall not have been a AFL Victoria Country registered player within a period of twenty – four (24) months prior to nomination.
- 145.6** Elected members of the independent tribunal shall receive the following prior to the current season
- 145.6.1** league season pass including finals
 - 145.6.2** AFL Victoria Country handbook
 - 145.6.3** league handbook
- 145.7** The league's tribunal shall be held on Wednesday following a round of matches at a venue and time determined by the league.
- 145.8** Club attire or smart casual attire shall be worn at the tribunal.
- 145.9** Matters shall be referred to the independent tribunal as per AFL Victoria Country rule 7.0.
- 145.10** Any matter referred to the independent tribunal as per AFL Victoria Country rule 7.0 can be appealed as per AFL Victoria Country rule 8.0.
- 145.11** The league's tribunal shall consult with the league for interpretation of any AFL Victoria Country rule or league by – law as required whether the tribunal hearing has commenced or not. The league may also request further interpretation of any AFL Victoria Country rule from the AFL Victoria Country.
- 145.12** In the absence of quorum at a hearing of the independent tribunal, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their club until the matter is heard and determined by the independent tribunal.
- 146 Codes of Behaviour**
- 146.1** All players, coaches, team officials and spectators shall comply with the AFL Victoria Country code of conduct and the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport.
- 146.2** Should any players, coaches, team officials and spectators fail to comply with the AFL Victoria Country code of conduct and the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport the matter will be referred to the league's tribunal.
- 147 Stretchers**
- 147.1** Each home club must ensure an appropriate stretcher is placed at the interchange area.
- 147.2** Failure of the club to provide an appropriate stretcher may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive



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148 Post Padding

- 148.1 All football posts must be padded prior to the start of the first match of the competition day.
- 148.2 All football post padding shall be a minimum of 2.5m high x 30cm thick.
- 148.3 Failure to provide padding as required shall incur a fine. set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

149 Ground Lighting

- 149.1 If natural light is deteriorating during a match, the two participating club coaches and officiating central umpires can agree to turn on ground lighting to assist with the natural light at the ground to allow the match to complete.

150 De – Registration / Non – Registration Policy

- 150.1 The league shall adhere to the AFL Victoria's de – registration policy.

151 On Field Communication Devices

- 151.1 Listening / talking devices shall not be allowed to be used on the field during matches.
- 151.2 Should any club use listening / talking devices on the field during matches they may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HFNL Executive

152 Awards

152.1 Doug McConnell Medal

- 152.1.1 an award known as the "Doug McConnell Medal" shall be presented each year to the best and fairest player or players in the Under 16 football competition
- 152.1.2 voting for such award shall made by the field umpires officiating each Under 16 football competition match
- 152.1.3 the field umpires officiating each Under 16 football competition match shall at the conclusion of the match select three (3) best and fairest players in the match
- 152.1.4 the three nominations shall then be awarded either three (3) votes, two (2) votes or one (1) vote on an official league vote card provided by the home club
- 152.1.5 the card is then placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the home club
- 152.1.6 at the end of the home & away season, the league shall tally all votes from each match
- 152.1.7 the player or players with the most votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of two players receiving equal votes, a joint winner shall be declared and separate medals shall be awarded to each player
- 152.1.8 the player or players who receive the second most votes shall be awarded the runners up medal
- 152.1.9 any player who has been found guilty of an offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the medal

152.2 Under 14 "Stuart Brunt" Best and Fairest Medal

- 152.2.1 an award known as the "Under 14 Stuart Brunt Best and Fairest Medal" shall be made each year to the best and fairest player or players in the Under 14 football competition
- 152.2.2 rules in relation to the shall be identical to by – law 152.1



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152.3 Leading Goal Kicker

152.3.1 an award known as the “leading goal kicker” shall be made each year to the leading goal kicker in the Under 16 football and Under 14 football competition

152.3.2 the player or players with the most goals kicked shall be awarded the leading goal kicker award. In the case of two players kicking the most goals, joint winners shall be declared and separate awards shall be awarded to each player

152.4 Danny O’Leary Medal

152.4.1 a medal known as the “Danny O’Leary Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Under 14 Football Grand Final by the central umpires.

152.5 Ray Russell Medal

152.5.1 A medal known as the “Ray Russell Medal” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground in the Under 16 Football Grand Final by the central umpires.



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UNDER 12 GUIDELINES

To be read in conjunction with HFNL Junior & Football Bylaws.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

All players playing in the Under 12 competition must be under 12 on the 1st January, unless otherwise granted permission by the League to play as an Overage player. The minimum age at which a player may partake in this competition is 10 years of age. IE a player must turn at least 10 years of age in the calendar year.

PLAYERS

All players are to be registered with the AFL Victoria Country.

TEAM SHEETS

It is **mandatory** that team sheets are filled in before commencement of play with the names of the players, coach/coaches, runner, trainers and umpires. Team sheets must be with the Junior Operations Manager by the **Tuesday** following the game.

GROUND SIZE

The size of the playing field can be shortened if **BOTH** coaches agree. However, if both coaches wish to run more than 18 players, a shortened ground may become too crowded and a full ground should be used. If both teams have less than 18 players, the ground should be shortened accordingly.

EXTRA PLAYERS

It is generally accepted that teams may run 20 players on the ground at once (2 on each wing). It is possible, with both coaches' consent, to increase playing numbers provided the game does not get too crowded and remains reasonably fluent.

LACK OF PLAYERS

Both teams should have equal playing numbers on the ground, per the AFL Western District Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.

FOOTBALLS

Size 4 leather/synthetic ball, by agreement of competing coaches before commencement of the match. If no agreement, a leather ball is to be used on Dry Conditions, synthetic in Wet Conditions.

KICKING OFF THE GROUND

Players will not be allowed to kick the ball off the ground. This will reduce a soccer style of play and increase ball handling skills.

BOUNCING THE BALL

Players will only be allowed to bounce (or touch down) the ball once with anyone in possession of the ball. If a player bounces a second time, they will be stopped, and the umpire will have a ball-up.

OUT OF BOUNDS

If a player takes, disposes or moves the ball out of bounds the ball is to be thrown up 10 metres from the boundary. Out of bounds on the full, AFL Victoria Country Rule applies (Free kick).

15 METRE PENALTY

15 metre penalties will be used in Under 12s. A player who disputes the decision with the umpire shall be sent off the ground.

PLAYERS SENT OFF

Players sent off the ground by the umpire shall remain off the ground for the remainder of the game. Players sent off maybe replaced in Under 12s to ensure that all players can have a maximum amount of playing time.



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OFFICIALS ON THE FIELD

Although adult involvement is encouraged and usually well supported only TWO (2) officials are allowed on the ground during play. It is vitally important that there be no reference to the opposition players in a negative manner. Comments that “**put-down**” opposition players will not be tolerated from officials, parents or spectators.

The umpires have the authority to send officials, parents, spectators off the ground or the bench if they interfere or disrupt the game in any way, or use negative comments about or to opposition players whilst on the ground.

The runners duty is to run messages from the coach/coaches to players, he/she is not permitted to stay on the ground during play. All club officials must use the coaches boxes provided and must remain behind the designated line between boundary line and coaches box. Parents and spectators are to remain behind the oval fence and only enter ground at quarter breaks.

UMPIRES One central umpire and one goal umpire in appropriate uniform (orange shirt and socks, black shorts, goal umpire in vest) from each team are to officiate each game. The two central umpires should be fair in their judgment and be mindful of player safety at all times. Umpires need to be up-to-date with the rules, including rule variations used in Under 12s. It is also advisable that the umpire takes that extra 5 to 10 seconds during the game to explain to the player/players why a decision has been made.

The umpires are to adopt a zero tolerance policy with player behaviour. Acts of poor behaviour or bad sportsmanship should first be penalized with a free kick or a 15 metre penalty where necessary. More serious offences or repeat offences should result in that player/players being sent off the ground. It is also the responsibility of the coach/coaches and their staff to help with player behaviour.

SCORING

No official results, ladders, goal scorers or best and fairest awards are to be kept for Under 12 matches.



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Hampden Football Netball League 2021 Season COVID Guidelines

1. Overview of Document

a. These guidelines have been established to provide stakeholders with an overview of the changes that have been implemented for the 2021 season of Community Club Football. Given a number of rules will apply for this potentially this 2021 season only, an addendum to the Bylaws was deemed more appropriate than Bylaws changes that will be required to be reversed at the end of the season. The regulations here will only apply for the 2021 season. Depending on prevailing conditions at conclusion of the season, they may be modified and extended into future seasons.

b. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the following pre-existing documents:

- i. [Laws of Australian Football](#)
- ii. [AFL Victoria Regulations](#)
- ii. [National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#)
- iii. [State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines](#)
- iv. League specific documents such as:
 - A. Bylaws
 - B. Player Points System Policy
 - C. Player Payment Rules
 - D. Player Interchange Agreements

c. In the event there is a conflict between the pre-existing documents outlined in 1(b), these Guidelines shall prevail.

d. The COVID-19 2021 Season Guidelines is an evolving document and may be subject to change at any time, by the Hampden Football Netball League.

2. COVID Safety Compliance

a. Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring all relevant Club personnel familiarise themselves with the AFL Victoria [Return to Training and Games Protocols](#), as well as all State Government restrictions and protocols relating to community sport.

b. Clubs must appointment a minimum of one (1) COVID Safety Officer, who must complete the free 20 minute [COVID-19 infection control training](#), submit the certificate of completion to their league administrator, and be responsible for ensuring all COVID protocols are adhered to, including taking an attendance register.

c. It is recommended that Clubs encourage all participants to download the COVID-SAFE App.



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3. Positive Case Implications

- a. If there is an occurrence of a positive or suspected case of COVID-19 at your club, the health authorities, your clubs COVID Safety Officer and the League Administrator should all be notified and the process detailed in [AFL Western District Suspected COVID Case Response Plan](#) should be followed.
- b. Cancellation or Suspension of Matches - If a team is unable to participate in a designated fixture due to COVID-related medical reasons, the club must submit to the Competition Management Committee any available evidence (i.e. number of players affected, medical certificates etc.).
- c. In such circumstances, the Competition Management Committee will determine the outcome of the match in line with league specific by-laws.
- d. Such determination will factor in minimum player numbers, squad availability, player eligibility and notification timeframes as a basis for decision.

4. Competition Management Committee

- a. The Competition Management Committee will be a body comprised of Hampden Football Netball League executive members and/or external independent individuals to determine the outcome of matches affected by COVID-19 related incidents.
- b. The Competition Management Committee will at its earliest convenience determine the findings of any COVID-19 affected match and communicate these decisions to the affected clubs, competition and other league stakeholders.

5. Factors to be considered when determining COVID-19 affected match outcomes / alternatives

- a. Number of affected players / officials from each team;
- b. Match result history of previous matches between the same competing teams;
- c. For finals matches, the ladder position of a team at the conclusion of the H&A season;
- d. The willingness and option of affected teams to play match at an alternative time in the season;
- e. The impact that a match's results will have on the overall competition;
- f. Where umpire's availability is impacted from COVID-19 incidents, the viability of pursuing alternative match referee options, including but not limited to the use of club umpires;
- g. Any other determining and relevant factors as deemed appropriate by the Competition Management Committee.

6. Potential outcomes of COVID-19 affected match determinations

- a. Splitting of premiership points amongst competing teams with team sheets able to be submitted;
- b. Determination of a match winner based on factors listed in point 5 above;



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- c. Where teams in the competition play in an uneven number of matches, teams may be positioned on the ladder by “Winning Percentage” in place of total premiership points accrued. The “Winning Percentage” is the percentage of team wins against matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one club has the same “Winning Percentage”, those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs;
- d. Rescheduling of match;
- e. The use of alternate match referees, such as club umpires, where availability of umpires is impacted by a COVID-19 incident;
- f. A cancellation of the match. No premiership points or team sheets are able to be submitted;
- g. An amended match structure (such as playing with less numbers on the field) in the case where sufficient number of players are deemed available and a meaningful match can occur;
- h. Any other outcome as deemed appropriate by the Competition Match Committee.