



GREAT NORTHERN
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
(INC)

BY-LAWS

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1. LEAGUE AFFILIATION

- 1.1 The Great Northern Football League (GNFL) 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 GNFL utilises the Australian Football League's (AFL) Annual Laws document to set the rulings for its competitions.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GNFL

The GNFL shall in all respects be responsible for and have control of the following:

- 2.1 The development of rules, by-laws regulation and policy for governing the GNFL.
- 2.2 The setting and prescription of all entrance fees for GNFL matches.
- 2.3 Establish and decide upon the fixturing of all GNFL competitions.
- 2.4 Make determinations regarding the eligibility and registration of players within the GNFL according to the WACFL player registration by-laws.
- 2.5 Handle all protests, tribunals and disputes arising in or relating to the operation of the GNFL.
- 2.6 Organise and participate in all representative opportunities as deemed appropriated by the GNFL.
- 2.7 Establish subcommittees to handle opportunities, situations and projects as it deems relevant.
- 2.8 Ensure all Affiliated Clubs (Clubs) are covered under the AFL's Club Insurance Policy. The GNFL 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 the GNFL.
- 2.9 Any notice to be given for the purposes of these by-laws, may be given by post, email or facsimile and, if given so, will be deemed to have been received by the addressee in the ordinary course of post. Notices to Clubs, members, players and officials may be addressed to them care of their Club.

3. CLUB AFFILIATION

- 3.1 Every Club must sign and return the GNFL Club Affiliation Agreement to be eligible to participate in the GNFL prior to the time specified by the Association.
- 3.2 Annual affiliation subscriptions as prescribed by GNFL Directors shall be paid by Clubs as follows:

Prior to the -	First Premiership Match	30%
	June 30	30%
	Final Premiership Match	40%
- 3.3 Every Club admitted to the GNFL shall deposit with the GNFL a copy of their Club Constitution, rules and by-laws, and a copy of every amendment thereof within fourteen (14) days after such amendments are approved.
- 3.4 All coaches, trainers and umpires of all Clubs are to be accredited to at least Level 1 prior to June 30 if the year of appointment. If an unaccredited coach continues to coach, a penalty will be imposed by the GNFL in the form of a financial fine for the Club involved, and/or loss of match points for matches won. This penalty shall be at the discretion of the GNFL Directors.

4. FINES AND PENALTIES

- 4.1 All fines and penalties imposed by GNFL Directors shall be paid within 14 days.
- 4.2 All other monies owing to the GNFL by Clubs, players and officials shall be paid within 30 days unless otherwise stated.
- 4.3 The GNFL Directors may by resolution impose a fine or penalty on a Club which is in default of paying outstanding monies to the GNFL.
 - a) Any monies owed to the GNFL not paid by the due date shall be deemed to be outstanding.
 - b) Any fine or penalty imposed under this rule shall be at GNFL Directors' discretion.
 - c) Any fine or penalty imposed on a Club for a contravention of these by-laws shall be paid within fourteen days and any failure of a Club so to effect payment shall carry the same consequences as are provided under the by-law governing fines imposed on officials and Clubs.
- 4.4 The GNFL directors may from time to time impose a fine or other penalty for any act or omission by any Club, official, member, player, or umpire or official of the GNFL.
- 4.5 If any player shall fail to pay any fine imposed upon him under these by-laws such player shall be disqualified from playing in any match controlled by the GNFL until such fine has been paid.
- 4.6 A player shall be deemed to be in default until the fine is paid.
- 4.7 The payment of fines imposed on an official or player under these by-laws shall be the responsibility of his Club. They shall be paid by the Club within seven (7) days after imposition. Failure by the Club to pay shall carry the same consequence as under Rule 19.5
- 4.8 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.

5. MATCH DAY

- 5.1 All GNFL matches shall be played on either a Saturday or Sunday and all League matches shall commence at 2:00pm unless specifically arranged otherwise.
 - 5.1.1 All Reserves matches shall commence at 12:00pm unless specifically arranged otherwise.
 - 5.1.2 All Colts matches shall commence at 10:00am unless specifically arranged otherwise.
- 5.2 The duration of each quarter of a League match shall be twenty (20) minutes plus time on for scores only.
- 5.3 The duration of Colts and Reserves competition's quarters shall be determined by the GNFL prior to the commencement of each GNFL season.
- 5.4 In the case where a player is required to be stretchered from the field of play the umpire shall blow time on. For Colts and Reserves matches the officiating umpires shall confer with the timekeeper/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.
- 5.5 Breaks between quarters will be: 5 minutes quarter time, 15 minutes half time, and 5 minutes 3 quarter time.
- 5.6 If any Club is not ready to start to play fifteen (15) minutes after the time affixed for the commencement of the game or to re-commence play within thirty (30) minutes after the

conclusion of the second quarter, such Club shall forfeit the match unless the umpires shall be satisfied that the delay was unavoidable.

5.7 Prior to the commencement of each game in any grade the participating team's manager shall present to the officiating field umpires an official team sheet in duplicate showing the following:

- a) Surname, Christian name and guernsey number of each player participating in the game, listed in alphabetical order of surname
- b) Which players are starting the game as interchange players
- c) Full name of official team runner(s)
- d) Name and signature of the team manager
- e) Name of the coach and assistant coach(es)
- f) Name of at least one (1) team trainer

Any Club whose team fails to provide any or all of the above information shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00

5.8 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 GNFL 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.

5.9 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.

5.10 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.

5.11 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).

5.12 Trainers shall be attired in completely white clothing.

5.13 All shirts and vests will be clearly marked with Club name and official position on back.

5.14 The names of these persons must appear on the team sheet presented to the umpires before the match.

- 5.15 The maximum number of personnel permitted in the area between the boundary line and the arena fence or inside the marked coaches box shall be twelve (12).
- 5.16 Before any protective gear may be worn in a match it must be submitted to the League for approval along with a Doctor's certificate stating the reason for the need of protective gear.
- 5.17 Any player who is bleeding while on the field of play shall be interchanged and may only return when the bleeding has been stopped and the blood cleared from the affected area. Blood stained clothing must also be changed.
- 5.18 If a player requires hospital treatment as a result of playing in a GNFL match, the player's Club must report the injury to the League Football Operations Manager within 48 hours on the Injury Report Form.
- 5.19 For all Night Fixtures:
- a) Yellow footballs are to be used in all night games, supplied by the home Club.
 - b) In the event of a power failure and the lights are not restored to power within 15 minutes, then the game will be abandoned not to be replayed.
 - c) In an abandoned match, each team shall receive 2 points. All scores for and against shall be added to each team's totals.

6. FORFEITS

- 6.1 No Club shall abstain from playing any match without first obtaining the permission of the Directors
- 6.2 Any Club forfeiting a match will be fined up to \$400; in the event of a Club forfeiting a second or subsequent match in the same grade in the same year will, they will be fined up to \$600 at the discretion of the Association.
- 6.3 A forfeiting team is responsible for match payments and travelling costs incurred by all umpires for the forfeited match. All payments will be made by the ground manager but in the case of an away team forfeiting, the home Club may claim the relevant amount from the League. This amount with any fine imposed by the League shall be debited against the forfeiting Club.
- 6.4 Where a team forfeits a match, the full match Premiership points shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit. The team receiving the forfeit shall be credited with 60 points for and 0 points against. The team forfeiting the match shall be credited with 0 points for and 60 points against.

7. HOME GROUND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 The home Club shall appoint a ground manager for each home fixture whose duties shall include:
- (a) To prepare Wages and Salary sheet for the day of the game.
 - (b) To prepare Best player and score sheets.
 - (c) Ensure accurate Records of: Scores quarter by quarter, all goal kickers, Club nominated best players
 - (d) Collect fairest and best envelopes from umpires and seal in envelope supplied.
 - (e) Give envelope (containing completed League documents) to League field umpires for return to League Football Operations Manager.

(f) Ensure that all necessary ground staff are in place prior to commencement of play i.e. Timekeepers, Interchange Steward and Score Board Attendant.

(g) Ensure all adequate crowd control measures are available and implemented, including the restriction of patrons consuming alcohol inside licensed area(s).

- 7.2 The home Club shall be responsible for clear marking of the oval in accordance with the laws of Australian Football.
- 7.3 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).
- 7.4 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).
- 7.5 The home Club is to ensure that the goal and behind posts are adequately covered with acceptable goal post covers.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 It is a requirement of the home Club to film the League match. Failure to do so when provided with a GNFL Video Camera will result in an automatic \$200 fine.

8. FINALS

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 All finals shall be played at a GNFL ground as designated by the GNFL.
- 8.3 For Reserves and Colts final's games all quarters will be 15 minutes plus time on. League game will be 20 minutes plus time on.
- 8.4 The draw for such final rounds shall be:
 - a) First Semi Final: The fourth placed team (Away team) shall play the third placed team (Home team);
 - b) Second Semi Final: The second placed (Away team) teams shall play the first placed team (Home team);
 - c) Preliminary Final: The winning team (Away team) from the first semi-final shall play the losing team (Home team) from the second semi-final;
 - d) Grand Final: The winning team from the second semi-final (Home team) shall play the winning team from the preliminary final (Away team).
- 8.5 The winner of such Grand Final shall be deemed the Premiers for that season.
- 8.6 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.
 - 8.6.1 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.

- 8.6.2 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.
- 8.6.3 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.
- 8.6.4 Should the score be tied at the conclusion of these two additional halves, the time keeper 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.

9. UMPIRES

- 9.1 The GNFL shall exercise the function and discharge the duties of an Umpires Board and shall appoint an Umpires Coordinator who shall be responsible for:
- a) Appointment and control all umpires for matches played under the jurisdiction of the Association;
 - b) Maintain a register of umpire names;
 - c) Supervise the training and coaching of umpires.
 - d) Represent the interests of the GNFL's umpires as appropriate.
- 9.2 No field umpire for matches played in GNFL League competition shall be eligible to Umpire should they play with any Club during the season.
- 9.3 An umpire must note any of the following on the match report:
- a) Use of a stretcher;
 - b) Serious Injury or incident that stops play;
 - c) Head count;
 - d) Serious acts of misconduct (either on or off field) either witnessed or suspected;
 - e) Melee(s);
 - f) Poor spectator behaviour
 - g) Red/Yellow Cards
 - h) Time keeper disputes
- 9.4 Each Club shall be responsible for payment of match and travelling expenses for the umpires as per the GNFL Match Return Sheet
- 9.5 At the completion of the season the League shall reimburse Clubs for the travelling expenses for all umpires as recorded on GNFL Match Return Sheets

- 9.6 Umpires preferring charges against players shall do so in accordance with and shall otherwise comply with the Laws.
- 9.7 Umpires may also prefer charges against Clubs or against coaches or other officials of any Club in respect of matters arising out of or in the course of any game and in relation thereto shall so far as possible follow the same procedure as in the case of charges against players.
- 9.8 A field umpire who officiates at any match controlled by the GNFL shall have the power to prefer charges regardless of age.
- 9.9 Boundary and goal umpires under the age of fifteen (15) years officiating at matches controlled by the GNFL are not empowered to prefer charges.
- 9.10 The GNFL order off rule as approved by the West Australian Football Commission will apply in all games conducted/sanctioned by the GNFL.

10. YELLOW CARDS

- 10.1 A player or official such as a runner, watercarrier or trainer ordered from the playing arena for a yellow card infringement shall leave the ground for a period of 15 minutes of actual playing time and CANNOT be replaced immediately. In situations where an official such as a Club member on the bench (i.e. coach, assistant coach, team manager; or a Club appointed boundary or goal umpire) is issued with a yellow card, that card is to be accepted as a “warning” and the official can continue with his/her duties. However, any further issue of a yellow card on that day is to be regarded as a red card, and that official is to leave the playing arena and not permitted to return.
- 10.2 A Player upon receiving his third yellow card in the same season will be automatically suspended for one playing date. Once this suspension has been served the players count will revert back to zero. Should the player accumulate another three yellow cards in one season, a further one-week suspension will be imposed.

11. AWARDS

- 11.1 After all League matches the field umpires shall confer and award votes on a five (5), four (4), three (3), two (2), one (1) basis for the fairest and best players of the day. Five (5) votes being awarded for the best and then in descending order and such card signed by both umpires.
- 11.2 After all Colts and Reserves 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.
- 11.3 The card shall show the date, venue of match, full name of player, Club and guernsey number of the selected player.
- 11.4 The GNFL shall decide when, where and how these envelopes shall be opened, and votes counted.
- 11.5 The player with the highest number of votes at the end of the season prior to the finals will be adjudged the winner. In the event of a tie then there shall be joint winners.
- 11.6 The following awards shall be presented by the GNFL for all grades:
 - a) Fairest and Best player;

c) Leading Goal Kicker;

d) Any other award the Association sees fit to present.

11.7 No player will be eligible to win the GNFL fairest and best if he has been found guilty of an offence while playing for his Club or a representative GNFL side in the current season unless his penalty was no greater than a CAUTION.

11.8 The Maurie Drennan Rising Star Award will be awarded to the best young player in the G NFL each year.

a) The award will be presented at the GNFL presentation night at the end of the season. To be eligible a player must be under 20 years of age on the presentation night and to have played less than 50 league games on the date of nomination, and previously not won the award.

b) Eligible players will be marked by asterisk by the team manager on the players list.

c) It will be voted on by the field umpires in charge of League games only.

d) The voting slip contains provision for three nominations. However, the umpires will only nominate deserving players. I.e. If there is only one eligible player worthy of a nomination they will only nominate that player and not fill in the other spaces. Or they may nominate two people and leave one space blank. If they consider there is no eligible player worthy of a nomination they will enter a nil return. The voting slips will be placed in the supplied envelope and returned in the bag to the GNFL Office.

e) Each week all new nominations will be released to the press. However, each nominated player's name will only be released once during the season. This will create an interest in the award without giving away the voting trends of the umpires.

12. GNFL REPRESENTATIVE SIDES

12.1 Any player who is announced in a GNFL representative side at the time of the Official Jumper Presentations and then fails to attend the respective carnival, except where exceptional personal circumstances are involved as approved by the GNFL Directors, will be automatically suspended for one match immediately following the relevant competition/carnival.

12.2 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 official fixture. This penalty shall not preclude him from winning any Fairest and Best Awards.

12.3 A state representative will be credited with local home and away games at the level they were playing prior to selection. 11

13. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

13.1 Players shall be allocated a PPV value using the following criteria:

1 Point	- Club of Origin Player as per definition in Rule 13.12. - Hasn't played anywhere for three or more full football seasons
2 Points	- Reserves or Colts from another community club (Metro or Country) - Or Played at an equivalent level interstate - Nonaligned Juniors / Not considered Club of Origin
3 Points	- League from another community club (Metro or Country) - WAFL Colts - Or Played at an equivalent level interstate
4 Points	- WAFL Reserves (+10 games in a season in previous 5 years) - or Played at an equivalent level interstate - Vic 1 Premier Divisions
5 Points	- WAFL League
6 Points	- AFL (1 game in previous 5 years)

13.2 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:

- a) Haven't played football for three seasons;
- b) Received a PPV reduction through loyalty for their club.
- c) Are a WAFL Reserves player who must have played 10+ games in a season during the past 5 years to be considered a 4-point player.
- d) Are an AFL player who has played 1+ game in the past 5 years to be considered a 6-point player.

13.3 A 5 year look back is rolling and should be reviewed prior to the commencement of each season upon the league receiving a request from the player's club to do so.

13.4 For players who are valued at more than one point and wish to remain at the club, their value will reduce by one point for each season, beginning in their third consecutive season at the club.

13.5 If any club considers that the points allocated to a player is incorrect, they can submit an appeal to the League's Operations Manager as soon as they wish. The Match and Permit sub-committee will be responsible for confirming the correct number of points. All player points allocations will be deemed final as of the 1st July in the current season and cannot be amended thereafter.

13.6 Prior to the commencement of each GNFL season, the GNFL will determine the number of points assigned to Clubs for the forthcoming season and notify each GNFL Club of the GNFL's determination which shall take into account the ladder position of each GNFL Club at the conclusion of the prior GNFL home and away season.

13.7 A list of the "player points" for each player at a club who played senior grade (either league or reserves) in the previous/current season must be provided to the League. The list will be updated as new players come to the club, or existing players play league for the first time.

13.8 Every player that is currently a member of, or transfers into, a club will be allocated a PPV on their Footyweb profile by a league administrator. The deadline for having a player graded and awarded a PPV is 4:00pm on Friday.

13.9 Team are required to enter 22 players onto a team sheet to be eligible to submit the team sheet. A team sheet will not be able to be submitted should fewer than 22 players be selected.

13.10 If a club wins a game and is found to have exceeded the points limit, the following penalties will be enforced:

- a) loss of premiership points;
- b) credited with "no score" and debited with the full score of their opponents;
- c) fined \$250.00.

Their opponents will receive the premiership points and be credited and debited with the full scores as registered for the game.

13.11 If the club loses the game and is found to have exceeded the points limit:

- a) fined a total of \$250.00;
- b) credited with "no score" and debited with the full score of their opponents.

13.12 For the purposes of these By-Laws:

- a) Player's Club of Origin is defined as the GNFL Club with which the player was registered for their first GNFL game;
- b) For the purposes of Club of Origin, the GNJFL player record will not be considered except in the case of a player who has not played in the GNFL. In this case the player will have their predominant GNJFL Club identified as their Club of Origin; and
- c) Any transfers under the term "Club of Origin" shall be subject to GNFL approval.

14. REGULATIONS GOVERNING LEAGUE COMPETITION AND PLAYERS

14.1 A League player means any player who has played in a League match in season current.

14.2 Each team shall consist of a maximum of 22 players consisting of 18 on the field at any one time and 4 interchange players notwithstanding that subject to the send-off rule shall not be replaced during their penalty time. The only variation to the maximum number of players will be at the discretion of GNFL Directors, however at no stage may more than 18 players for one team take the field.

15. REGULATIONS GOVERNING RESERVES COMPETITION AND PLAYERS

15.1 The GNFL 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 by-laws.

15.2 Subject to rule 15.4, a player qualifies for final round matches after he has played in three (3) Reserves matches in the relevant season.

- 15.3 Subject to 15.4, if a player has played in one or more matches for his Clubs League team in the relevant football season, he may only be selected in his Clubs Reserve team for a final series game if he has played a total of at least four (4) matches in his Clubs reserve team in that season.
- 15.4 If a Clubs League team and Reserves team are both engaged in final series games on one day, Rule 15.2 and 15.3 shall not apply.
- 15.5 A player who is nominated as an interchange player is deemed to have played on the day on which he was nominated as an interchange player.
- 15.6 Any player who plays in a Reserves match prior to playing in a League match will have both matches count towards finals qualification.
- 15.7 A League player is not eligible to play in the Reserves competition on that weekend that his League team has a bye if he played in the League team's previous game. A final round game is not considered to be a bye.
- 15.8 If a Reserves game is played on the same weekend as an inter-league game then a player is not eligible to play in that Reserves game if he played in his league team's previous game.
- 15.9 If a qualified Reserves player takes part in a League final series game he shall not be eligible to play in a postponed or replayed Reserves final series game the following weekend.
- 15.10 Each participating Reserve team shall consist of 22 players consisting of 18 on-field players and 4 interchange players. Should any team have less than 18 players, then the opposing team must even-up. E.g. If Team A has 16 players total, Team B can only play with 16 on the field and up to 6 on the bench. A decision on whether to use the even-up ruling will be made by the umpires when they receive the teams lists prior to the commencement of the game.

NOTE: The minimum number of players required to play a game is 14.

16. REGULATIONS GOVERNING COLTS COMPETITION AND PLAYERS

- 16.1 The GNFL shall have the power to conduct a Colts competition and this competition shall observe all the rules adhered to in the League competition asides from those stipulated within these by-laws.
- 16.2 Age: 19 years or under as of December 31st in the current season. (E.g. Players turning 20 at any stage of the year are NOT eligible for Colts.)
- 16.3 Subject to rule 16.5, a player qualifies for the final series after he has played in three (3) matches in the current year.
- 16.4 Subject to rule 16.5, if a player has played in one or more matches for his Clubs League team or Reserves team in the relevant football season, he may only be selected in his Clubs Colts team for a final series game if he has played a total of at least four matches in his Clubs Colts team in that season.

- 16.5 If a Club's League team and Colts team are both engaged in final series games on one day, rules 16.3 and 16.4 shall not apply. If a Club's Reserves team and Colts team are both engaged in final series games on the same day, rules 16.3 and 16.4 shall not apply to a Reserves player.
- 16.6 All matches played will count towards finals qualifications, even if the player plays in multiple matches on the same day.
- 16.7 A player is not eligible to play in a Colts match on the same weekend as there is an inter-league game if that player played for his League or Reserves previous game.
- 16.8 A Colts player named as a player under the provision of rule 16.6 is exempt from rule 16.7
- 16.9 If a qualified Colts player takes part in a final series match of the League or Reserves competition, he shall NOT be eligible to play in a postponed or replayed final series match of the Colts competition the following weekend.
- 16.10 Each participating Colts team shall consist of 22 players consisting of 18 on-field players and 4 interchange players. Should any team have less than 18 players, then the opposing team must even-up. E.g. If Team A has 16 players total, Team B can only play with 16 on the field and up to 6 on the bench. A decision on whether to use the even-up ruling will be made by the umpires when they receive the teams lists prior to the commencement of the game.
- 16.11 All players named as interchange players must be interchanged into the game at least once during the game.
- 16.12 A colts player selected to represent the League at an Inter-League match or representative carnival shall be credited with one colts game to count towards finals qualification.

NOTE: The minimum number of players required to play a game is 14.

17. REGULATIONS GOVERNING GNFL WOMEN'S COMPETITION AND PLAYERS

- 17.1 The GNFL shall have the power to conduct a women's competition and this competition shall observe all the rules adhered to in the League competition asides from those stipulated within these by-laws.
- 17.2 The woman's competition shall be known as and referred to as the Great Northern Woman's Football League (GNWFL)
- 17.3 The eligibility to play in the GNWFL competition shall be set by GNFL Directors.
- 17.4 Each team shall be allowed to have a maximum of 24 players listed on their match day team sheet.
- 17.5 The "Even up Rule" shall apply for all matches excluding finals.
- 17.6 To qualify for finals players must play at least one (1) regular season match.

17.7 For any team in the GNWFL competition that is unable to field a team and is required to forfeit a fixtured match shall not be subject to a financial penalty by the GNFL other than the umpire payments.

17.8 The duration of GNWFL competition quarters shall be fifteen (15) minutes with no time on.

17.9 For a boundary throw in the "last touch" rule shall be applied. If no clear last touch can be determined by the umpire, then the ball shall be thrown up.

17.9 In each season of the GNWFL each team competing in the competition shall not make or procure total player payments greater than \$800.

18. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

18.1 There shall be a Protests and Disputes Tribunal panel, which shall consist of at least three (3) members, as GNFL Directors may from time to time appoint. Any two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. A person who holds office of any kind in the League or in a League Club shall not be eligible for appointment.

18.2 A Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall exercise the following functions and its decision shall be final.

(a) Hear all charges in respect of offence under the Laws or under these by-laws.

(b) Hear all protests and all disputes and charges against players and officials and any other matters referred to it by GNFL Directors.

(c) In its absolute discretion reopen and rehear any matter previously dealt with by it provided that by if the Protests and Disputes Tribunal proceeds pursuant to by-law 18.3(r), in the absence of a person charged with an offence upon that person showing reasonable cause for his absence it shall reopen and rehear that matter.

(d) Hear and determine any appeal made by a player who has been disqualified pursuant to Rule 12.1

(e) Impose such penalties authorised by these Rules as it deems fit or it may give a caution.

(f) Every decision of a Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall be reported to the Directors and shall be received without comment. A record of same shall be kept by the Football Operations Manager.

(g) Allow any clerical error on Report Forms to be corrected providing that the correction/s do not substantially alter the charges laid in the report.

(h) Written notification of the penalty involved for each guilty verdict shall be supplied to the Club involved at the conclusion of each case before the P&D.

- 18.3 The Operations Manager shall in all cases satisfy himself that the relevant Rules have been compiled with before submitting a protest charge or other matter for the hearing and determination of a Protests and Disputes Tribunal.
- (a) A Tribunal shall meet, if possible, to consider any charge at any time convenient to it and the parties involved, but such meeting should commence no later than 8.00pm on the Tuesday night following the event giving rise to the charge.
 - (b) A Tribunal shall meet to consider any matter other than a charge at a time convenient to it and the parties involved.
 - (c) The Tribunal meetings shall be held at such place as the GNFL Football Operations manager shall from time to time direct.
 - (d) A Tribunal meeting may be adjourned or postponed to another time and or place, as decided upon by GNFL Football Operations Manager. Due advice will be given to the parties involved. It is not necessary for the Tribunal to meet to adjourn or postpone a hearing.
 - (e) An umpire who lodges a charge against any player or official of a Club shall attend at the Tribunal hearing of that charge.
 - (f) Umpires preferring charges against players, officials or Clubs, shall report by post, email or by hand such charges to the League so that such charge will be received in the League Office by 4pm the next business day after the conclusion of the match in which the incident occurred.
 - (g) Any player or official of any Club against whom a charge has been lodged shall attend at the Tribunal hearing of the charge.
 - (h) Any player or official of any Club against whom an offence has been committed in respect of which a charge has been lodged, shall attend the Tribunal hearing of the charge.
 - (i) Any person referred to in paragraphs (e), (g) and (h) of this Rule may be excused from attendance by the Tribunal but only if exceptional circumstances can be established to require such excuse.
 - (j) The Tribunal may, of its own motion or at the request of any party to a matter before it, require the attendance at a Tribunal hearing of any player or official of a Club or any umpire and such player, official or umpire shall attend as required.
 - (k) Any person required to attend at a Tribunal hearing shall give evidence if required by the Tribunal to do so.
 - (l) A player or an official of any Club who appears before a Tribunal as a result of a charge made against him pursuant to the Laws or these Rules shall, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, be represented and/or accompanied at the hearing by a representative of his Club. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph constitutes an offence.

- (m) An umpire preferring a charge under the Laws or these Rules against a player or an official of any Club shall, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, be represented and/or accompanied at the hearing by a representative of the Umpires Association. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph constitutes an offence.
- (n) A player or any official of any Club or umpire against whom an offence is alleged to have been committed and the offence is the subject of charge shall, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, be represented and/or accompanied at the hearing of the charge by a representative of his Club or the Umpires Association as the case may be. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph constitute an offence.
- (o) In any other proceeding before a Tribunal a person required to appear may be accompanied and represented at the proceedings by a representative of his Club or the organization to which he belongs.
- (p) In any of the cases referred to in paragraphs (l), (m), (n) and (o) of this Rule the representative of the Club, association or organization shall not be a legal practitioner.
- (q) A Protest and Disputes Tribunal may accept such evidence as it in its discretion determines including, but not limited by, oral evidence, written evidence in any form and video or audio taped evidence.
- (r) A Protest and Disputes Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine any matter it is empowered to hear in the absence of any person who by these by-laws is required to attend any such hearing providing always that if it does so and within seven days of the date of the hearing a person charged with an offence who was absent and was found guilty of that offence requests the Football Operations Manager, in writing, for a rehearing of the matter the Protest and Disputes Tribunal on being satisfied that reasonable cause exists for so doing shall reopen and rehear the matter as soon as is reasonably convenient. Any suspension imposed on that person shall continue to have full force and effect until the matter is reheard and determined.
- (s) Any player or official required to appear before the Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall be paid by the League all such travelling expenses, loss of remuneration or emoluments which in the opinion of the League were reasonably and necessarily incurred by the player or official in attending such meeting of the Committee or Tribunal. A player shall mean any player whilst playing in League, Reserves or Colts teams in the Competition. The travelling expenses shall be equivalent to umpires travelling costs and shall be claimed within 30 days of such hearing. This remuneration shall only apply to the reported player if the reported player is found not guilty.

18.4 Any person required by these by-laws to attend a hearing by a Protest and Disputes Tribunal who fails to attend as required and who on being required in writing to show reasonable cause for such failure does not in the opinion of the Protest and Disputes show reasonable cause for such failure to attend within the time allowed by the tribunal to so do, shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the Protest and Disputes Tribunal may determine in accordance with these By-Laws.

18.5 Any person who -

- (a) attends a hearing of the Protest and Disputes Tribunal and refuses to answer any questions save one whereby the answer may tend to incriminate that person, or
- (b) attends a hearing of the Protests and Disputes Tribunal and in the course of giving evidence wilfully attempts to mislead that tribunal, or
- (c) attends a hearing of a Protest and Disputes Tribunal and acts in an unseemly manner or who wilfully insults any member of the Protest and Disputes Tribunal or disrupts the hearing shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the Protest and Disputes Tribunal may determine in accordance with these by-laws.

18.6 Any player or official who acts or conducts himself or herself in any manner which is prejudicial to the good order, management, control or administration of football or which in any way whatsoever may bring or tend to bring the game into disrepute shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to penalty as the Protest and Disputes Tribunal may determine in an accordance with these by-laws.

19. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

19.1 Any player or official who is convicted of any reportable offence as defined by the Laws of Football or any offence the directors may from time to time by resolution declare to be an offence by a player, official, Club or umpire shall be subject to the penalties set out in this by-law except where the directors by resolution declare the penalty in respect of a specific offence in which case any person convicted of such a specific offence shall be subject to the specific penalty provided.

19.2 A Protest and Disputes Tribunal and/or the Directors may impose the following penalties in respect of an offence pursuant to the Laws of Football or by these by-laws where no specific penalty or otherwise provided.

(a) disqualification from playing or acting as an official as the case may be, in a match or fixture conducted by or under the auspices of the Great Northern Football League for such a period as the Tribunal shall determine.

(b) a fine not exceeding \$1000

(c) a fine as set out in (b) which fine may be wholly or partly suspended for such period of good behaviour of the person so fined, as the tribunal shall determine.

19.3 Any player who receives a red card and wishes to appeal the decision and requests a Tribunal Hearing shall, if found guilty by the Tribunal serve the prescribed penalty set out on the report plus receive a further suspension as prescribed by the Tribunal. A player shall only be exempt from suspension if found not guilty.

- 19.4 Any player who plays in any match in the League in breach of these Rules shall in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed be disqualified from playing in any League match for such period as the Tribunal may determine on referral by GNFL Directors.
- 19.5 While any fine imposed on a player under these by-laws remains unpaid the player shall not be eligible to play in any match conducted pursuant to these by-laws.
- 19.6 While any fine imposed on any official or a Club under these by-laws remains unpaid after 14 days that Club is not eligible to participate in any match pursuant to these Rules until the fine is paid.
- 19.7 Any player who has a period of suspension that carries over from one season to the next WILL be permitted to play in any pre-season scratch matches, carnivals or competitions sanctioned by the league. Games played in these pre-season matches, carnivals or competitions shall not count towards reducing the original penalty which shall be served in normal home & away fixtures. Should a player re-offend in pre-season games then the penalty shall be at least double the prescribed penalty plus the original term and the player will be required to appear before the Protests & Disputes Board who will ratify the penalty at their discretion.

20. OTHER PROTESTS AND CHARGES

- 20.1 Any Club or Umpire making any protest or charge against another Club or player or official or member of another Club or reporting any infringement of these by-laws or the Laws shall lodge the same with particulars in writing with the Football Operations Manager, together with the sum of \$100.00 within forty-eight hours after the date upon which the occurrence complained of took place. Any protest or charge under this Rule shall be referred to GNFL Directors and be considered by them no later than at the meeting of GNFL Directors next following the date upon which such protest or charge was received by the Football Operations Manager. GNFL Directors may dismiss any such protest or charge if they consider it frivolous or vexatious, but otherwise they shall refer it to the Tribunal for determination. The said sum of \$100.00 shall be forfeited to the League upon dismissal by GNFL Directors or if it be decided by the Tribunal that the protest or charge was frivolous or groundless, but shall be refunded if the protest or charge is upheld if the Tribunal so directs.
- 20.2. Any Club making a protest or charge against another Club or player, or official, or member of another Club shall give notice thereof and of the particulars to such Club Secretary with 24 hours after lodging the same with the League Football Operations Manager.