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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. **Definitions:** In these By-Laws, unless the context implies differently:-

‘**AFL**’ means the Australian Football League Incorporated;

‘**AGM**’ means the Annual General Meeting of the League

‘**Board**’ means the Board of Directors of the League, Including the Administration clerk/Secretary.

‘**By-Laws**’ means the by-laws made by the Board and ratified by the League as provided for in this Constitution;

‘**Director**’ means those members elected to the position of Director of the League and shall include all League Officials.

‘**HFL**’ means the Hills Football League Incorporated;

‘**The League**’ means the Hills Football League Incorporated which is constituted by those clubs which form the membership of the League at that time;

‘**League Officials**’ includes the President, Vice President and Directors of the League;

‘**Member Club**’ any club or other group of football players (whether an incorporated associated or not) which has been admitted as a member of the League;

‘**Month**’ shall mean a Calendar month;

‘**Player**’ or ‘**players**’ shall mean persons who play football for any member club of the League;

‘**SANFL**’ means the South Australian National Football League;

‘**Unfinancial Club**’ shall be a Club, which owes money to the League, which has not been paid by the due date.

‘**Flat Time**’ the time a player must be off the ground for a red or yellow card.

1.2. **Interpretation:**

In the interpretation of these By-Laws, unless the context requires otherwise:

- Words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa
- Words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender
- Including and similar words are not words of limitation
- The bylaws are in addition to.

1.3 **Rules and Matters not provided for:**

In all matters not provided for by these rules, the laws of the Australian Football League will take priority, and then the South Australian National Football League and then the Affiliated Leagues Constitution shall apply.

2. UNFINANCIAL CLUBS

The Board of Directors shall deal with an unfinancial Club as it may think fit and without prejudice thereto may:-

2.1. Prevent a team from an unfinancial Club, from playing in a competition conducted by the League.

2.2. Impose a fine as may seem appropriate.

2.3. Suspend the Club from membership of the League for such period as it may be unfinancial.

2.4. An unfinancial Club shall be a Club, which owes money to the League, which has not been paid by the due date.

3. CLUB UNIFORM

Each Club shall obtain approval of the Board of Directors for the uniform of its players and: -

- 3.1. No Club shall change its uniform without the consent of the Board of Directors and each Club shall ensure its players wear the Club's uniform without any variation thereto.
- 3.2. Each Club shall register its colours with the League, priority of registration to determine the exclusive rights to wear such colours.
- 3.3. The respective players in League matches shall wear only registered colours, except where there is a clash of colours or in an emergency, the visiting team shall wear contrasting colours to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors or the Field Umpire.
- 3.4. That all clubs regardless of grade shall wear matching white shorts at all away games.
- 3.5. In the major round the team occupying the higher position on the premiership table at the completion of the minor round of matches shall wear the colours registered as first selection, the team against which they shall play, shall wear matching white shorts.
- 3.6. Each Club shall ensure that its players each wear a distinguishing number for each match and do not change numbers without the permission of the Field Umpire and the Captain of the opposing team. Each Club shall hand a team list of players, their numbers, and such other information as the Board of Directors may prescribe from time to time, to the Field Umpire and a copy to the opposing team prior to the commencement of each match, or by quarter time of that scheduled match.
- 3.7. All runners outfits must be iridescent green consisting of a tracksuit with Club name clearly marked on back of the jacket. If a T-Shirt is worn the Club name must be clearly marked on the back. If shorts are worn they must be white football shorts and white socks.
- 3.8. In all Junior Football, a player will be deemed out of uniform if wearing gloves and will be asked to leave the ground by the umpire until the gloves are removed. The only exception being for medical reasons, which must be cleared by the umpire prior to the game.
- 3.9. Trainers must be in all white - allowing a Club jacket to be worn with 'Trainer' on the back.
- 3.10. Water runners shall wear the fluorescent orange vest as supplied by the League and shall wear appropriate, clothing and footwear as directed.

4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 4.1. Each affiliated Club shall, before the first game organised by the League in any year or at a date set by the Board of Directors in any year, supply a list of its members from whom it may pick its teams. Persons on such list must be registered yearly on Sportingpulse. A person not registered yearly shall not play in this league.
- 4.2. A player who has not played in this League or who has not registered with sportingpulse must receive a permit from the administration clerk before being eligible to play in any match organised by this league.

- 4.3. The Administration Clerk shall advise an Affiliated Club that a person on such list is not eligible to play and may advise the player concerned and if the Club or the player disagrees, then the Club or the player may appeal to the League Permit Committee and then to the League Independent Tribunal in accordance with these By-laws.
- 4.4. A Club will submit from time to time as required by the Board of Directors, a list of all office bearers and /or members of its Club. A Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its officials and members to conduct themselves in a manner, which will not bring the League or the game of football into disrepute.
- 4.5. Clubs shall on request by the Administration Clerk, submit proof of the age of any player in an underage competition, satisfactory to the Board of Directors.
- 4.6. The player and club is responsible for the correctness of all information on the Sportingpulse registration form.
- 4.7. Clubs shall play only their own bona-fide members who have been duly registered and granted permission to play on a permit.
- 4.8. Any player suspended by The League (HFL) for a total of 14 matches or more while playing , or who accumulates a total suspension history of 14 matches or more, shall have their registration to play within the HFL withdrawn as per the **AFL De-Registration Policy**. (Refer Appendix – AFL De-Registration Policy).
- 4.9. The Administration Clerk may issue a permit to play to any person who has not played football before or to a person with a clearance from their former Club, unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.
- 4.10. The players of a Club which disbands shall, subject to any disqualifications imposed on that player by the Club (which has been notified to the League) or by the Tribunal or otherwise under these By-laws, be entitled to a clearance from the disbanded Club. A Club shall be deemed to be disbanded, if not having joined another League or other competition (whether affiliated with the SANFL or not), fails to field teams in the next seasons competition and the League has not received notice from that Club and another Club affiliated with this League that the two Clubs have merged.

5. INTER-ASSOCIATION MATCHES

- 5.1. Matches may be arranged between the Leagues or Associations at a date, time, grounds and other conditions as the board of Directors shall decide.
- 5.2. **OFFICIALS:** The Board of Directors shall appoint an inter-association sub-committee who shall be responsible to the board of Directors to organise all particulars for each grade participating in an Inter-Association Match.
- 5.3. **COACH:** Any coach selected shall become a member of the Selection Committee in respect to the grade to which they have been appointed coach.
- 5.4. **PLAYERS:** All registered players of all clubs shall be assumed to be available for Inter-association matches and association practices.
 - 5.4.1 A player for any Club selected in a training squad for any team to represent this League and a player selected in a team to represent this League, who shall not attend training or who shall not present at the match if selected, ready for play without an explanation considered by the Selection Committee to be sufficient given prior to the failure to

attend, shall be liable in the discretion of the Board of Directors to suspension for a number of games not exceeding five (5) as the Board of Directors may determine.

6. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated in the Constitution, all notices of meetings, tribunal hearings, appeal hearings etc., shall be verbal, via email or in writing and if in writing such notice shall be given 48 hours prior to the meeting.

7. UMPIRES APPOINTMENTS

7.1. Umpires:

All umpires appointed by the Umpires Match Appointment Committee, shall have the power to report. The Umpire's coach has the power to report when in attendance at any match.

7.2. Stewards:

The Board of Directors may appoint stewards to superintend any game organised by the League and such steward shall have the power to report any player, Club official, Club member or spectator, for having infringed any law of the game of football, or having acted in an insulting or other manner detrimental to the interests of the game of football and such charge shall be heard by the Tribunal pursuant to the provisions of **By-law (13)** and the steward shall be responsible to provide such verbal and written notification and details of the charge as are required by **By-law (13)** as if such steward was an Umpire. In assessing any charge the Tribunal may act in all respects as if the steward making the charge was an umpire.

7.3. Umpires Sickness:

Should any appointed umpire, before or during the progress of the match,

- fail to attend, or
- refuse to officiate at an appointed match, or
- become incapable through sickness or accident of performing their duties,

A substitute shall be appointed, to be chosen by the Captains of the opposing sides. In the case they disagree, a substitute shall be appointed by any member of the Board of Directors, official or steward of the League present at the match.

7.4. Umpires or Coaches playing with clubs:

No Field Umpire who has acted as such shall be allowed to play or coach for a Club in a League match during the season which the Umpire has officiated at, except with the consent of the Board of Directors.

7.5. Umpires - Boundary and Goal:

7.5.1. Each Club shall provide one capable Boundary Umpire in proper uniform and one Goal Umpire for each match in which they participate in for B grade, Senior colts, Junior colts and mini colts. All A grade umpires are supplied by the umpires panel.

7.5.2. In the event of any Club failing to do so, the opposing captain may appoint a substitute; the defaulting Club shall pay the fee of such Umpire, as determined by the Board of Directors.

7.6. Umpire Medal Votes:

Each Field Umpire shall in each Minor Round Match, select three (3) of the players who in order of merit, is considered the fairest and best players for the match. These selections shall be forwarded to the Administration Clerk of the League, or to such other person nominated by the Board of Directors, in a sealed envelope by the Wednesday following such match. If two Umpires officiate, there shall be only one vote cast.

7.6.1. If non-compliance with the above rules a fine will be imposed by the Board of Directors.

7.6.2. If multiple players tie on the same number of points in the Medal Count in all grades multiple medals will be presented.

7.7. Goal Umpire Votes:

The Umpire/Umpires shall confer at the end of each A Grade game and vote on each Goal Umpires performance i.e. 10 points Excellent, 8-9 Very Good, 6-7 Good, 5 Fair, 4-1 Disappointing, and lodge with Home Club Secretary.

7.8. Golden Whistle Award:

Both Goal Umpires with confer and will submit one voting slip ticking appropriate box i.e.

- Excellent worth 5 points,
- Very Good 4 pts,
- Good 3 pts,
- Fair 2 pts,
- Poor 1 point.

The slip will be returned to Home Club Secretary to place in envelope and return to the League.

7.9. Payment of Umpires:

The Board of Directors shall set such fees for payment of Umpires from season to season as the Directors may determine and shall for the purpose of paying such Umpires, make such arrangements as for payments as the Directors may determine.

8. CLEARANCE WITHIN HILLS LEAGUE

8.1. CLEARANCE SECRETARY

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Administration Clerk to be the person in charge for registration and clearances for players to play in games in this League. The Administration Clerk shall be subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

8.2. CLEARANCES

8.2.1. Refer to SACFL rules and regulations.

8.2.2. No Club can recruit more than 3 players from another Club within this League in any one season, unless agreed to by both clubs. This excludes players under the age of fifteen.

8.2.3. That for each clearance lodged a fee of \$5.00 plus GST will be charged.

8.3. CLEARANCES WITH AFFILIATED LEAGUES

Refer to SACFL rules and regulations

8.4. CLEARANCES - GENERAL REGULATIONS

Refer to SACFL rules and regulations

8.5. TEMPORARY PERMIT

8.5.1. A player providing they are not disqualified or suspended, can be issued with a Temporary Permit provided the following conditions apply: -

8.5.1.1. That the player has been in the service of their employer for 3 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of a temporary transfer to another branch of the same employer's business in another locality for the period of their transfer

8.5.1.2. Provided that such transfer has been made prior to the completion of the minor round of matches of the Affiliated League for which the permit is authorised.

8.5.1.3. The player applied on the affiliated League Permit form.

8.5.1.4. The Permit form has been approved before the player plays their first match.

8.5.1.5. Such player will need to comply with By-law 15 to qualify for a finals match.

8.5.2. The maximum period of time that a temporary permit may be issued for is eight (8) weeks. Should the transfer be for longer than eight weeks a new temporary permit must be completed and despatched to the Affiliated League with which the player is registered. A player may not use more than two (2) Temporary Permit Forms for the one change of locality.

8.5.3. A player granted a permit under this regulation shall remain a registered player of their Club in their former Affiliated League and shall at all times, irrespective of place of residence, be eligible to play with such former Club unless granted a clearance in accordance with Regulation 14 of the SANFL Affiliated League Constitution.

8.6. PLAYERS RETURNING FROM LEAGUE

- 8.6.1.** Where a player plays for a Club, a member of the SANFL Incorporated, immediately prior to an interstate or bye match, such player cannot play for a team in this League on those days without a Permit being obtained firstly from the Permit Committee.
- 8.6.2.** Except players returning to an underage Hills competition can return to their home Club on a SANFL bye or Interstate game providing the SANFL Club consents.
- 8.6.3.** Subject to By Law 8.6.1 where a player from this League who is over 15 years -
- 8.6.3.1.** Has played 30 games or more in this League they may return for a minor round match at any time without permission unless they are on the active list of a Club affiliated to the SANFL.
 - 8.6.3.2.** Has played less than 30 games in this League but before playing 30 games for a Club affiliated to the SANFL, they may return at any time without permission unless they are on the active list of a Club affiliated to the SANFL or is disqualified by the SANFL.
 - 8.6.3.3.** Has played less than 30 games in this League and more than 30 games for a Club affiliated to the SANFL, then such player may only return with the consent of the Club affiliated with the SANFL with which they have played and from this League.
- 8.6.4.** No player from this League playing with the SANFL at the end of or after the minor round of the Hills Football League competition, shall return and play with their Club in any of this League's final matches without obtaining consent from the Permit Committee.
- 8.6.5.** Where a player plays for a Club, a member of the South Australian National Football League Incorporated and is picked by that Club in a team, or in a squad to play in a game prior to, or on the day following any day on which games are played in the League, such player shall not play for a team in this League on the days prior to or following, the days on which they are picked for a Club in the South Australian National Football League Inc. competition, without a permit from the Permit Committee first had and obtained.
- 8.6.6.** To gain a permit any two of the permit committee must be contacted by 9.00am, Friday.

8.7. PLAYERS PLAYING WITH TWO CLUBS

No player may be registered with more than one Club affiliated with this League in any one season unless the player has written consent of both clubs concerned and the League. Or has obtained a Type 2 permit from the Hills Football League.

9. CLEARANCE APPEALS WITHIN HILLS LEAGUE - INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

Refer to SACFL rules and regulations

10. APPEALS WITH AFFILIATED LEAGUE RE CLEARANCES

Refer to SACFL rules and regulations

11. BOARD OF DIRECTORS – TRIBUNALS: POWERS AT HEARINGS

11.1. After a hearing of any charge, complaint, protest or any other matter referred to it by the League, the Board of Directors or the Tribunal shall at its discretion have power to:

- 11.1.1.** Dismiss the charge, complaint or protest.
- 11.1.2.** Order any match to be replayed.
- 11.1.3.** Award the match against an offending Club.
- 11.1.4.** Reprimand any umpire, official, Club, delegate, player, Club member or spectator.
- 11.1.5.** Suspend or disqualify for any period during the season or any subsequent season any umpire, official, Club, delegate, player, Club member or spectator or ground.
- 11.1.6.** Impose on any umpire, official, Club, delegate, player, Club member or spectator for each and any offence a fine not exceeding the sum of \$2,000.00 for each offence.
- 11.1.7.** Inflict any other penalty not provided by these rules or by-laws. Impose any penalties being any combination of the above penalties.
- 11.1.8.** Adjust premiership points of any other Club or team not subject to such charge complaint or protest.

12. RIGHT OF APPEAL RE BOARD DECISIONS

12.1. A right to appeal shall lie with a person or Club (the complainant) from a decision of the Board of Directors to the League Independent Tribunal, except where it is otherwise provided in these By-laws on the following terms:

- 12.1.1.** The complainant must lodge a Notice of Appeal to the Administration Clerk within three days of the decision complained of or within three days of receiving notification of the decision complained of (whichever shall last occur);
- 12.1.2.** The grounds of appeal must be in writing signed by the complainant and where the complainant is a Club, by the President or Secretary and be accompanied by a fee of \$1000.00. If the said fee is not lodged with a Notice of Appeal the Appeal would be deemed not to have been properly made. If the appeal is upheld the fee is refunded.
- 12.1.3.** Upon receiving an appeal under this By-law the Administration Clerk shall cause a meeting of the League subject to rule 23 of the Constitution.

13. REPORTS – DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

13.1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a panel of commissioners, who shall be under the control of the Tribunal Coordinator, also appointed by the Board of Directors.

13.1.1. Three commissioners selected by the Tribunal Coordinator from such panel, shall constitute a Disciplinary Tribunal and two Commissioners shall comprise a quorum.

13.1.2. The Tribunal Coordinator shall appoint the Chairperson of any Tribunal.

13.1.3. In the absence of the Tribunal Coordinator, this role will automatically fall to the Administration Clerk.

13.2. Subject to By-Law 15.4, the Disciplinary Tribunal shall Inquire into, hear and adjudicate upon any charge ("a Charge"):

13.2.1. Made against any player, Club, Club Official, Club member or person, for having infringed, on the playing area or the surrounds thereof, any law of the game, or for having acted in an insulting manner or a manner detrimental to the interests of the game of football;

13.2.2. Whether made by an Umpire, an Official of the League, or Steward appointed under By-Law 7.

13.3. For the Tribunal to otherwise determine, inquire into, hear and adjudicate, on any charge, or for the provisions of By-Law 15.4 (Prescribed Penalties) to be applied; the following conditions shall apply:-

13.3.1. Where a charge is laid by an Umpire

13.3.1.1. Verbal notification of the charge and the details thereof shall have been given to the HFL Administration Clerk by midday of the day following the events giving rise to the charge; and

13.3.1.2. Written details of the charge including the substance of the matter complained of and the name of the player and the Club shall be received by the HFL Administration Clerk by 8.00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the day on which the events giving rise to the charge took place.

13.3.1.3. Such written details of the charge shall be signed by the central umpire officiating at the match or by the President or Secretary of an affiliated Club or by a member of the Umpires Appointment Board or by a person given a power to lay a charge by either of the Board of Directors or the Umpires Appointment Board.

13.3.1.4. Notice of the substance of the charge or charges intended to be made has been given to the players Club by the person reporting or by the Administration Clerk.

13.3.1.5. Each Club shall be responsible for its Secretary/Team Manager to interview the central umpire at the termination of each match. In the event of the Secretary/Team Manager of the Club failing to interview the central umpire as aforesaid any player charged and their Club shall be deemed to have waived compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 13.3.1.1, 13.3.1.2, 13.3.1.3 and 13.3.1.4 of this sub-clause.

- 13.3.1.6.** Subject to By-Law 13.8 and By-Law 15.4, the umpire signing the charge, the person or persons making the charge, the player charged and a delegate of their Club, shall attend at the League Headquarters (or such other place or at such other time as the Administration Clerk may determine) at 7.30 p.m. on the Wednesday next following and may bring any witness they so desire or any day in the week following if unique circumstances arise.
- 13.3.2. Where a charge is laid by the Board of Directors, an Official of the League or a Steward:**
- 13.3.2.1.** Written details of the charge have been given to the Secretary of the Club charged or of the Secretary of the Club of whom the person charged is an official, member or spectator;
- 13.4.** Subject to By-law 13.8 and 15.4, the person making the charge, the Club, the Club official, the Club member or Club person charged and a delegate of the Club (if required) shall attend at the League Headquarters at 7.30 p.m. on the Wednesday next following the laying of the charge (or such other places at such other time as the Administration Clerk may determine), and may bring any witnesses so desired.
- 13.5.** No notification shall be sent by the League of the making of a charge and should the player not attend, the tribunal may hear the charge in their absence.
- 13.6.** There shall be lodged with the Tribunal Coordinator or Administration Clerk or Chairperson of Commissioners of the League, a fee of \$200.00 (GST inclusive) per charge by any Club who's official, member, player or spectator is subject to a charge.
- 13.6.1.** If the charge is dismissed the said fee will be refunded.
- 13.6.2.** If the said fee is not paid the Tribunal shall hear the charge but shall not hand down its decision until the said sum of \$200.00 (GST inclusive) has been received and until received, the Club, Club official, Club member, Club spectator or player shall be suspended and the Club shall be subject to such disciplinary action as the Board of Directors may determine.
- 13.7. The Disciplinary Tribunal shall regulate its meetings in the following manner:**
- 13.7.1.** The charge shall be read to the player, Club official, Club member or person, who shall then be asked to indicate a plea; being either guilty or not guilty.
- 13.7.2.** The umpire, or their delegate, will then summarise the nature of the charge and the events leading up to and forming the charge
- 13.7.3.** The player, Club official, Club member or person the subject of the charge, or their delegate, will then be allowed to enter evidence summarising the incident as offered as evidence on their behalf. Cross examination of the umpire or their delegate will also be allowed at this point.
- 13.7.4.** If required, the umpire or their delegate may then offer additional evidence or be allowed to re-examine or question the player, Club official, Club member or person the subject of the charge, to clarify any point disputed or deemed necessary
- 13.7.5.** The Disciplinary Tribunal shall also be allowed to ask any questions which they think fit to clarify any point, or any evidence which may be in question.

- 13.7.6.** The Disciplinary Tribunal shall then arrive at a decision, with all decisions being by a majority of votes.
- 13.7.7.** The Disciplinary Tribunal may adjourn its meetings to a date and place fixed by the Chairperson of the Tribunal on that occasion.
- 13.8.** The Tribunal may hear and determine a charge notwithstanding the umpire, official or other person making the charge and/or the player, Club, Club official, Club member or person charged, is absent.
- 13.9.** The Tribunal shall have power to punish in such manner as it thinks fit within the limits of By-Law 13.10 any person :-
- 13.9.1.** Who in the opinion of the tribunal knowingly gives false evidence at the hearing of any charge, complaint, protest or other matter referred to or being investigated by it or being required to:
- 13.9.2.** Who either before, at, or after the hearing of any charge, complaint, or protest, or other matter referred to or being investigated by it, insults the tribunal or any member thereof or any person giving evidence at any such hearing:
- 13.9.3.** Who wilfully interrupts the proceedings of the tribunal or otherwise misbehaves at the hearing of any charge, complaint, protest, or other matter referred to or being investigated by it:
- 13.9.4.** Who at the hearing of any charge, complaint, protest or other matter referred to or being investigated by it, refuses to obey any order of the tribunal:
- 13.10.** After the hearing of any charge the Tribunal shall at its discretion have power to;-
- 13.10.1.** Dismiss the charge, complaint or protest.
- 13.10.2.** Reprimand any player, Club, Club official or Club member.
- 13.10.3.** Suspend or disqualify for any period during the season or any subsequent season any player, Club, Club official or Club member.
- 13.10.4.** Impose on any player, Club, Club official or Club member for each and any offence a fine not exceeding the sum of \$500.00.00 for each offence.
- 13.10.5.** Inflict any other penalty as provided by these rules or as to the Tribunal seems appropriate.
- 13.10.6.** Refer any matter to the Board of Directors with or without any recommendation for action.
- 13.10.7.** When setting any suspension or disqualification, the Disciplinary Tribunal will take into consideration the
- 13.10.7.1.** Nature and seriousness of the charge,
- 13.10.7.2.** Extent of any consequences (such as injuries) resulting from the charge and
- 13.10.7.3.** Any public interest or concern that may be raised as a result of the nature and consequence of the charge.

- 13.11. An umpire may be represented by a person other than a member of the legal profession, at the umpires discretion before the Tribunal and have the power to question the person the subject of the charge, or any person called by or on behalf of such person and to call witnesses and generally to ask questions of all witnesses.
- 13.12. The player, Club official, Club member or person the subject of the charge, may at their discretion be represented before the Disciplinary Tribunal by a Club delegate of their current Hills Football League club. This delegate or person shall not be a member of the legal profession and no member of the legal profession shall be permitted to be present as aforesaid; and have the power to question the person making the charge and all witnesses.
- 13.13. The Tribunal may of its own volition direct that a charge be made against any Club, Club official, Club member or player of any Club as a result of evidence presented to the Tribunal and the Tribunal may amend any charge against any Club, Club official, Club member or player from time to time before it and may direct the time and place at which such charge is to be heard.
- 13.14. The Tribunal shall have power to require attendance before it of any person it may require and may refuse in its discretion to hear anyone or accept any evidence tendered.
- 13.15. There shall be no right of appeal from a decision of the Tribunal other than against a suspension of greater than 6 matches, any right of Appeal shall be directed to the Director of Country Football, as set out by the SANFL Affiliated Leagues Constitution.
- 13.16. A player or any person named on a team sheet reported and found guilty of audible obscenities in any grade shall be given a minimum one match suspension.
- 13.17. Where a Bye or Association match is programmed a suspended player cannot count these games off their suspension and that the suspension must be served in home and away games.

14. WHERE A CHARGE IS LAID BY AN AFFILIATED CLUB

- 14.1. When an Affiliated Club believes an incident not reported by the central umpires, requires investigation, the following procedures apply, namely that **THE CLUB MUST:**
 - 14.1.1. If possible, advise the officiating umpires of its intentions at the completion of the said game.
 - 14.1.2. Have the clubs understanding of the incident documented with witness contact names and phone numbers lodged at HFL Headquarters by 5.00 pm. on the following Monday.
 - 14.1.3. Have all witness/medical/statements available for interviews at HFL Headquarters at a time agreed with the League Administration Clerk prior to the close of business on the following Tuesday.
 - 14.1.4. A fee of \$500.00 must accompany the request, refundable only in the charge is upheld.
- 14.2. On receipt for an investigation request from the Affiliated Club by Monday morning the League Administration Clerk will appoint a Disciplinary Advocate by 5.00 p.m. that day to review the evidence and investigate the incident in the allotted time above.

14.3. The Commissioner after consultation with the Club shall decide if there is a charge to answer, and if so will advise the League Administration Clerk to instigate proceedings to have the charge laid by the HFL and heard by the Disciplinary Tribunal. The investigating Commissioner will then act on behalf of the HFL, presenting the evidence and calling whatever witnesses they believe necessary to substantiate the charge.

14.4. The Disciplinary Tribunal findings are final and fees shall apply as per Bi – Law 13.6

15. HFL SEND OFF RULE AND REPORTABLE OFFENCES

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the AFL Laws of Australian Football.

15.1. HFL SEND OFF RULE – ‘CATEGORY A’ OFFENCE - (RED CARD).

Any of the following types of conduct (AFL Laws of Australian Football Rule 19.2.2) shall constitute as a reportable offence and considered a ‘Category A’ Offence by the Hills Football League.

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently making contact with or striking an Umpire
- Attempting to make contact with or strike an umpire
- Using abusive, insulting threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire
- Behaving in an abusive, insulting threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire
- Using an obscene gesture
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently:
 - Kicking another person
 - Striking another person
 - Tripping another person whether by hand arm foot or leg
 - Engaging in time wasting
 - Charging another person
 - Throwing or pushing another player after that player has taken a mark, disposed of the football or after the football is otherwise out of play
 - Engaging in rough conduct against an opponent in which the circumstance is unreasonable.
- Engaging in a melee except where a player’s whole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident
- Spitting at or on another person
- Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when the player has his head down over the football.

NOTE-

- *A player can bump an opponent’s body from side-on but any contact forward of side on will be deemed to be front-on.*
- *A player with his head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purpose of this law.*
- Attempting to kick another person
- Attempting to strike another person
- Attempting to trip another person
- Intentionally strike a goal or behind post when another player is preparing to kick or is kicking for goal or after the player has kicked for goal and the ball is in transit.
- Wrestling another person
- Using abusive insulting threatening or obscene language
- Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an umpire

- Wearing boots jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of the Laws of Australian Football
- Any act of misconduct, the circumstances of such conduct being unreasonable.

15.1.1. For a breach of any of the above 'Category A' offences, the offending player(s) or official (s) shall be automatically reported and sent from the field for the **REMAINDER OF THE GAME** and **NOT REPLACED for a period of 15 minutes Flat Time in A Grade and 10 minutes Flat Time in all other grades**, if in the opinion of the umpire the breach was intentional, vicious or provocative.

A player or official so reported shall not be permitted to take part in any other game on that or subsequent days, until the charge has been finalised by the Disciplinary Tribunal.

NOTE: Flat Time refers to 'Playing Time' and does not include quarter or half time breaks.

15.1.2. In this situation the field umpire will stop play using the time off signal, verbally inform the player of the report and hold vertically a red card so that it can be seen by the timekeepers. Timekeepers are to acknowledge send-off by showing the yellow card. Play shall not recommence until the player has exited the field through the interchange area. The timekeepers shall note the time of the send off and the player involved. The report sheet completed by the umpire will indicate the nature of the offence.

15.1.3. Where the 2 umpire system is used, the Number 2 umpire shall at the time of the offence indicate to Number 1 umpire by blowing his whistle to stop play at such a time that the team offended against is not disadvantaged.

15.1.4. The replacement player can only enter the arena after the **15 minutes Flat Time in A Grade and 10 minutes Flat Time in all other grades** and after permission from the timekeepers or interchange steward (if present).

15.2. HFL SEND OFF RULE – 'CATEGORY B' OFFENCE - (YELLOW CARD)

Any of the following types of conduct (AFL Laws of Australian Football Rule 19.2.2) whereby any player(s) or official(s) Dispute an umpire's decision

- Disputing a decision of an umpire.
- Uses threatening or abusive language
- Throws an opponent
- Engages in unduly rough play
- Used audible offensive language
- This or other conduct by any player which is collectively deemed by the umpire as **misconduct** and unreasonable in the circumstances.

Shall constitute and be considered as a 'Category B' Offence by the Hills Football League.

15.2.1. For a breach of the above 'Category B' offences and where any infringement is collectively deemed by the umpire as misconduct, the offending player(s) or official(s) shall be warned at the discretion of the umpire

15.2.2. The player or official so warned will be sent from the ground for a period of **15 minutes Flat Time in A Grade and 10 minutes Flat Time in all other grades** and **NOT REPLACED**. In this situation the field umpire shall stop

play, verbally inform the player of any warning and hold vertically a yellow card.

NOTE: Flat Time refers to 'Playing Time' and does not include quarter or half time breaks.

- 15.2.3. Timekeepers are to acknowledge send-off by showing the Yellow Card. Play shall not recommence until the player has exited through the interchange area. The timekeepers shall note the time of the send off and the player(s) involved.
- 15.2.4. The player or his replacement can only enter the arena after the **15 minutes Flat Time in A Grade and 10 minutes Flat Time in all other grades** and permission from the timekeepers or interchange steward (if present).
- 15.2.5. If any offending player receives a second yellow card in the same game, he shall be off for the **REMAINDER OF THE GAME and NOT REPLACED FOR A PERIOD OF 15 minutes Flat Time in A Grade and 10 minutes Flat Time in all other grades.**
- 15.2.6. At the conclusion of the game the umpire will enter the details of the misconduct on the Send Off Sheet and complete a report form endorsed as 'Yellow Card', for the purpose of any subsequent tribunal appearance.
- 15.2.7. Where the 2 umpire system is used, the Number 2 umpire shall at the time of the offence indicate to Number 1 umpire by blowing his whistle to stop play at such a time that the team offended against is not disadvantaged.
- 15.2.8. Any abusive language after a yellow or red card shall be treated as a second and reportable offence as in Category A. The player or official will be verbally informed of the second offence and shown a red card. The timekeeper is to acknowledge the send-off by showing the yellow card. The player or official will be off for the **REMAINDER OF THE GAME AND SHALL NOT BE REPLACED FOR 15 minutes Flat Time in A Grade and 10 minutes Flat Time in all other grades.**
- 15.2.9. The Time Keeper Send-off Sheet must be signed by the Umpire after the game even if no player has been sent off, with a fine being imposed on the home club if not done.
- 15.2.10. Where a player has received a yellow card and sent off:
 - 15.2.10.1. **On three (3) occasions** in the same season, they will receive an automatic 2 game (weekend) suspension.
 - 15.2.10.2. **For the fourth time** during the same season, they will receive an automatic 3 game (weekend suspension).
 - 15.2.10.3. **On any subsequent occasions**, they will appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal with penalties increasing by a further weekend suspension for each offence and any further penalty the Commissioners decide. These matters will be treated as a report with the umpire appearing and a fee of \$200.00 (GST Included) being payable.

however-All prescribed offences will be confirmed by the HFL commissioners co-ordinator by 12 noon on the Monday after the report was issued.

- 15.4.3. Umpires retain the right to recommend sending any offence to the Tribunal. The report sheet must be marked accordingly.
- 15.4.4. A player or official may plead guilty without appearing before the tribunal and accept the prescribed penalty as listed. A fee of \$100.00 (GST inclusive) shall be paid prior to the next match, with this the responsibility of the player's / official's Club.
- 15.4.5. A player or official, if charged with a prescribed offence, may plead guilty without appearing before the tribunal and accept the prescribed penalty.

The prescribed offences and penalties are as follows:-

- Behaving in an abusive or insulting, manner towards or in relation to an umpire **3 Matches**
- Engaging in rough play against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable; **2 Matches**
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg; **3 Matches**
- Attempting to kick another player; **3 Matches**
- Attempting to strike another player; **2 Matches**
- Attempting to trip another player whether by hand arm/foot/leg; **1 Match**
- Disputing a decision by an umpire; **1 Match**
- Wrestling another player; **1 Match**
- Throwing or pushing another player after the player has taken a mark, disposed of the football or after otherwise out of play; **1 Match**
- Engaging in a melee, except where a player's sole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident; **1 Match**
- Using abusive insulting threatening or obscene language; **2 Matches**
- Spitting at or on another person **2 Matches**
- Failing to leave the ground when directed to do so by an umpire; **2 Matches**
- Any act of misconduct; **2 Matches**
- Use of an obscene gesture; **1 Match**
- Engaging in time wasting; **1 Match**
- Intentionally shaking a goal or behind post when another player is preparing to kick or is kicking for goal or after the player has kicked for goal and the ball is in transit; **1 Match**
- Wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of The Laws of Australian Football; **1 Match**

- 15.4.6. The League shall assume that a player reported for a prescribed offence as listed above, has chosen to accept the prescribed penalty; unless the League is notified by 12 noon on the Monday after the match that the player wishes to have the matter heard by the Tribunal. Fees will apply as per By-Law 13.6.
- 15.4.7. A player or official may plead guilty and accept the prescribed penalty only on two occasions during the same season, however if a player or official is reported for a prescribed offence on a second occasion during the same season, the prescribed penalty will increase by a two (2) match suspension.

15.4.8. Any subsequent report for any prescribed offence during the same season will result in the player or official being referred to the HFL Tribunal. On being found guilty, the penalty will be set at the discretion of the Tribunal, with penalties not restricted to those listed for the prescribed offences.

15.4.9. If a player or official so reported wishes to plead not guilty to the charge as laid, the tribunal shall be appointed as per **By-Law 13**. If found guilty, penalties imposed will be as described in **By-Law 15.3.3**.

15.4.10. Application of the Accepted Penalty:

15.4.10.1. The accepted penalty shall only apply to players participating in the HFL Senior Competition, irrespective of any age qualification.

15.4.10.2. Any Junior Player reported for any infringement while competing in the HFL Junior competition, must appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal and can not participate in the accepted penalty. However, if found guilty, penalties as indicated may apply.

15.5. VILIFICATION-REPORTING PROCESS

15.5.1. The Umpire will approach the player who has made the inappropriate statement which has been interpreted as vilification.

15.5.2. The umpire will warn the player to stop immediately, or in the case they have stopped, advise them they have made a vilifying comment.

15.5.3. Warn them that if this is to be said again they will be reported (RED CARD) and sent from the game.

15.5.4. Award the player vilified a free kick, in the case of that player already having a free kick, a 50 metre penalty. (Penalties will vary depending on the grade of football).

15.5.5. If the offending player makes any other vilification statement during the game they will be red carded and Prescribed 1 game for vilification.

15.5.6. All vilification reports will be recorded at the HFL and if any player is found to vilify for a second time (Red Card prescribed) they will be required to face the HFL tribunal.

16. PLAYING DISQUALIFIED OR UNQUALIFIED PLAYERS

16.1. No Club shall play any player who is under disqualification or suspension by any Australian Football authority whether such authority is affiliated with the SANFL or any other body or not and any Club after having received a written notice from the League Administration Clerk that a player has been disqualified or suspended, shall not play such player.

~~16.3.16.2.~~ No Club shall play a player who is unregistered or does not have a permit from the Administration Clerk, or for any reason whatsoever is unqualified.

~~16.3.1.16.2.1.~~ Any Club breaching 16.2 shall be fined as the Board of Directors see fit. The minimum fine shall be \$200.00.

~~16.3.2.16.2.2.~~ The Club or player breaching 16.2 must correctly register on Sportingpulse within 5 days. All clearance and qualification guidelines must be adhered to. Failure to do so shall result in an additional penalty as outlined in 16.6

~~16.4.16.3.~~ If any Club plays an unregistered player the Club may have a protest entered against it by an Official or by any member of the Board of Directors, or another Club.

~~16.5.16.4.~~ No Club shall play a player who is not registered, or plays under another registered player's name, by means of a false statement, or without the necessary qualifications.

~~16.6.16.5.~~ When a Division 1 Club has a bye, no player from the Division 1 side may be dropped back to play in the Division 2 side if they were on the team sheet in Division 1 the week before.

~~16.7.16.6.~~ Any Club breaching By-Laws 16.1, 16.2, 16.2.2, 16.3, 16.4 and winning the game shall be penalised:

~~16.7.1.16.6.1.~~ By having the 2 Premiership Points removed and 50 points awarded against the Club.

~~16.7.2.16.6.2.~~ All goals kicked and all medal votes obtained removed. .

~~16.7.3.16.6.3.~~ The 2 Premiership points shall be awarded to the opposing Club plus 50 points for.

~~16.7.4.16.6.4.~~ Should the offending Club lose the game their score shall be removed and 50 points for awarded to the winning side. Goals kicked and votes obtained shall be removed

~~16.7.5.16.6.5.~~ Plus any fine the Board of Directors see fit.

~~16.8.16.7.~~ Any player who has obtained registration or played under another registered players name by means of a false statement, or without the necessary qualifications may be fined an amount determined by the Board of Directors.

17. QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

17.1. No senior player shall be qualified to play in any finals round in any current season, unless they shall have played at least four (4) of that club's matches on four (4) separate weekends.

17.2. A junior player will be eligible to play finals in their age group providing they have played at least four (4) of that club's matches on four (4) separate weekends. E.g. a Junior player having qualified for their club in a higher grade may return and play finals in a lower grade if their age allows them.

- 17.3.** Any player to qualify for a Grade final below the highest grade in their Club must play the majority of their games for that Grade. In the event of an even number of games, the higher grade will apply.
- 17.4. In the event of more than one grade playing in the finals on the same weekend,** any player not selected in the 21 of the highest grade they qualify for, shall be eligible in a grade one below the grade they are qualified for. That player will then be considered to be qualified in the lower grade for the remainder of the finals.
- 17.5.** No one of the twenty one players who were selected to play in the last match of the season (including finals) played by the Club in the higher grade, shall be eligible to play for such lower grade should it still be playing in the final round of matches and that no player shall be permitted to play in any grade more than one (1) level below that in which they played their last senior match for the Club.
- 17.5.1.** A deviation from this rule necessitated through injury or illness only may be dealt with by the Permit Committee.
- 17.6.** Any 'C' Grade player to qualify for 'C' Grade finals must play three (3) Home and Away games of the current 'C' Grade season matches.
- 17.7.** At all times if there is any doubt permission must be obtained from the Chairperson of the Permit Committee.
- 17.8.** Every permit application must be in writing from the Secretary or Football Director and accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 plus GST and submitted by 3pm Thursday in the Week the permit is required. The decision of the Permit Committee is final.
- 17.9.** Where on any day a player has played for more than one senior team for their Club then the match for the highest graded team shall be the only match to count in qualification for finals matches.
- 17.10.** Clarification of the higher grade for Clubs having teams in both Divisions shall be as follows commencing from the higher grade:
- A grade Division 1
 - A grade Division 2
 - B grade Division 1
 - B grade Division 2

18. RULES FOR MATCHES

All games will be played under the Rules and Laws of Australian Football as adopted Australian Football League, with such alterations modifications or variation thereto as the League Officials may from time to time determine and will be played to a programme approved by the Board of Directors and on grounds and on dates determined by the Board of Directors.

18.1 NOMINATION OF TEAMS FOR PROGRAMMING OF MATCHES

All clubs must 14 days before the day of the Annual General Meeting, nominate the teams they will be fielding for the coming season, the grounds they will be using and the dates (if any) on which such grounds are unavailable up to the following 30th September.

Clubs nominating for either Division will present confirmation of their Teams and Divisions at the Adjourned AGM.

18.1.1 For a Club to play Division 1 Football, they must field five (5) Teams on each programmed weekend with these consisting of A Grade, B Grade, Senior Colts, Junior Colts and Mini Colts.

18.1.1.1 For the purpose of this ruling a Team playing A or B Grade, shall be defined as being constituted of no less than fourteen (14) players.

18.1.1.2 A junior team must consist of not less than 10 players and clubs should utilise the fair play rule to allow games to proceed with even numbers.

18.1.2 For a Club to play Division 2 Football, they must field four (4) Teams on each programmed weekend with these consisting of A Grade, B Grade, Senior Colts and Junior Colts.

However a Club upon a written submission to the HFL Board may apply to vary this rule, but only in relation to either a Senior or Junior Colt Team for the upcoming season. This application must be made prior to the HFL Adjourned AGM.

18.1.3 Division 1 to consist of no less than eight (8) Clubs and no more than ten (10) Clubs.

18.1.4 Division 2 to consist of no less than eight (8) Clubs and no more than ten (10) Clubs

Any Club nominating teams for either Divisions as per 18.1; 18.1.1; 18.1.2 and failing to meet the requirements as per nominations, will be fined an amount not exceeding \$5000.00 and shall be relegated to the lower Division in the following season.

The League on recommendation of the Board of Directors, may agree to vary rule 18.1.1; 18.1.2; 18.1.3 and 18.1.4 to meet any exceptional circumstance which may from time to time arise, so as to ensure competitive seasons for Clubs of the HFL.

18.1.5 A team not nominated by the time set out in this Clause may be excluded from the programme.

18.1.6 The Board of Directors may impose a fine on a Club in respect of each side withdrawn after nomination as aforesaid.

18.1.7 Facilities must be of a certain standard to be determined by the Board of Directors

18.2 PROMOTION & RELEGATION

18.2.1 Promotion to Division 1:

A Division 2 Club may, during the current season, nominate in writing for promotion to Division 1 for the following season. For any nomination to proceed, the nominee Club:

- 18.2.1.1** Must have all teams as specified within the 18.1.1 to compete within the Division 1 Competition, with these being A and B Grade, Senior Colts, Junior Colts and Mini Colts; and
- 18.2.1.2** Must satisfy requirements as to application of promotion points system, with this Club further finishing first as to the whole of club process as described by 18.2.3.; and
- 18.2.1.3** The Senior Team (A grade) of that Club must contest the Grand Final for that current season; **and**
- 18.2.1.4** Any such nomination must be submitted prior to 31 October in that current season; **and**
- 18.2.1.5** Confirmation must be tabled at the HFL AGM (1) (December) for that current season.
- 18.2.1.6** If two (2) Division 2 clubs nominate, the A Grade Team finishing in the higher position and meeting all the necessary criteria, shall have first preference.

18.2.2 Relegation to Country Division:

- 18.2.1.1** If promoting a Division 2 club under clause 18.2.1 increases the number of Division 1 clubs beyond the number outlined in clause 18.1.3, the following shall be applied in determining the Division 1 club that will be relegated. A Division 1 Club may nominate to be relegated to Division 2 and if successful shall be relegated in the next season.
- 18.2.1.2** If no Division 1 Club nominates for relegation, the Board of Directors of the HFL shall apply the promotion and relegation points system as referred in Rule 18.2.3, to all Division 1 Clubs.
- 18.2.1.3** The Division 1 Club with the lowest points shall be relegated to Division 2 in the next season.
- 18.2.1.4** If two clubs finish on equal lowest points in Division 1, the percentage of all four (4) teams (ie: A grade, B Grade, S/C and J/C) of each Club shall be added and the Club finishing with the lowest percentage shall be relegated to Division 2.

18.2.3 Promotion and Relegation Points System:

The following '*whole of club points rating system*' shall be applied to all Division 1 and Division 2 Clubs so as to confirm the eligibility of the

- 1** Division 2 Club seeking promotion to Division 1; and
- 2** Division 1 Club to be relegated as per the HFL Promotion and Relegation Rule 18.2.2.

Whole of Club Rating System:

- A Grade win: 10 points
- B Grade win: 5 points
- Senior Colts win: 5 points
- Junior Colts win: 3 points
- Drawn game: ½ points to each team (Points to be shared equally)

- Forfeited game: Full points awarded to the team receiving the forfeit.
- Abandoned game: Referred to the HFL Board of Directors.

18.2.4 *Points System is to be calculated on minor round games only with finals games excluded for all grades.*

18.3 POINTS FOR MATCHES

Teams competing in any competition shall in the minor round as designated by the Board of Directors be awarded points as follows:

18.3.1. A win - 2 points with percentage, and in the case of an additional competition being run concurrently with the Minor round matches, points can be given for a win to the additional competition in the following way - 2 points with percentage.

18.3.2. A draw - 1 point with percentage

18.3.3. A forfeit - is a game that is not played or not completed. In the case of a game being forfeited the team

18.3.3.1 receiving the forfeit shall receive two (2) match points, and be credited with fifty (50) points kicked for.

18.3.3.2 forfeiting shall receive no match points, and shall be debited with fifty (50) points kicked against; and fines as per **By Law 18.7** shall apply

18.3.4 If at the conclusion of the minor round, any two or more teams have obtained an equal number of match points the position of such teams shall be determined by the percentage of points kicked for and against such team.

18.3.5 A Club which has more than one senior team competing in competitions conducted by the League on the one day shall, when it is necessary in the opinion of the Club to forfeit a team, forfeit the lowest or lower team or teams in importance. For the purposes of this clause teams in ascending order of importance are: -

- C Grade
- B Grade
- A Grade

18.4 FINALS

18.4.1 Finals matches shall be contested in each competition in a way as directed by the Board of Directors.

18.4.2 **In the event of a draw in any grade of a final -**

The sides shall play five minutes either end with no break at the half way mark.

If the score is still tied at the end of this time, a coin is tossed for the choice of ends and the first team to score is the winner.

- 18.4.3** The League to award Best Player awards in the A Grade Grand Finals, with the Player to be chosen by the Umpires and the awards to be known as the Alex Parker Award in Division 1 and Peter Page Award in Division 2.
- 18.4.4** Finals. Clubs will be allocated a final on a rotation basis.
- 18.4.4.1** Each Club will be responsible to present their ovals to an acceptable standard to the Board of Directors for the appropriate final.
- 18.4.4.2** The Board of Directors will allocate which game to which ground.
- 18.4.4.3** Finals in Division 1 to be on Division 1 ovals and Division 2 on Division 2 ovals.
- 18.4.4.4** Clubs not fulfilling interleague obligations will be denied the opportunity to host a final.
- 18.4.5** Clubs whose grounds are not up to standard (the standard to be decided by the Board of Directors) will be required to source an alternative oval.
- 18.4.5.1** Clubs to which they have applied would be encouraged to supply the grounds at a nominal charge.
- 18.4.5.2** Clubs to negotiate own hire arrangement and are responsible for setting up and cleaning up of ovals.
- 18.4.5.3** Clubs hosting finals to notify the Board 1 month prior to finals of oval being used.
- 18.4.6** The Board of Directors will select the grounds for the Grand Finals.
- 18.4.7** Where an outside Club is catering for a final, the home Club shall have its licensed premises closed until 1/2 time of the A Grade game, unless mutually agree by between clubs.
- 18.4.8** The Board reserves the right to change ovals if ground conditions are not satisfactory.
- 18.4.9** Shields awarded to the winning teams shall be know as:
- The Division 1 A Grade Shield - Deane Wilkins Shield,
 - The Division 1 B Grade - Alex Parker Shield.
 - The Division 2 A Grade - Sam Hunter Shield and the
 - The Division 2 B Grade - Fred Frazer Shield.
 - The Division 1 Junior Colt Shield - Owen Lamshed Shield.
- 18.4.10** No "A" Grade side in either Division playing in the Grand Final may train on the Grand Final Oval unless it a lower grade and it is their home ground.

18.5 CLUBS HOSTING FINAL MATCHES SHALL

- 18.5.1** Make all necessary arrangements for catering for all food and refreshments as may in their opinion or in the opinion of the Board of Directors or the Administration Clerk be necessary.
- 18.5.2** Make all necessary arrangement to control all access points to the facility to ensure compliance with entrance fees.

- 18.5.3** Make all necessary arrangements for the health and safety of persons likely to visit the ground on the day of the match including as appropriate the provision of medical services and arranging attendance of uniformed members of the Police Department of S.A
- 18.5.4** Change rooms to be clearly marked and side finishing higher in any grade at the end of the minor round to have main change room.
- 18.5.5** Hills Football League to Arrange appropriate Public Risk Insurance Cover with an insurer for an amount approved by the Board of Directors, and sight club Certificate of Currency to ensure appropriate insurances are in place.

18.6 DISPUTE OVER MATCH

If any dispute or protest arises out of the conduct of any match then notice with a deposit of \$50 shall be given to the Administration Clerk within three days of the match and decided by the Board of Directors. The deposit shall be refunded unless in the opinion of the Board of Directors the dispute or protest was frivolous.

18.7 FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

- 18.7.1** The Board of Directors may in respect of a Club, or any team of a Club, which forfeits any game:
 - 18.7.1.1** impose such fine as the Board of Directors in their discretion think fit and without limit to any pecuniary amount otherwise stated within these By-Laws, or
 - 18.7.1.2** take such other actions as may seem appropriate in the circumstances, and permitted as per the By-Laws.
- 18.7.2** Any Club, whose team forfeits a match for any reason either after 5.00pm on the Thursday prior to the respective match or on the day of a Minor Round match, shall as well as any fine imposed, be charged the fee for all umpires for that match.
- 18.7.3** No Club or player shall refuse to play under the Field Umpire appointed by the Umpires Appointment Committee, and no Club shall forfeit any match because of objection to the appointed Umpire.
- 18.7.4** A Club so refusing to play, or forfeiting a match for such reason may be suspended from the League or otherwise dealt with as the Board of Directors determine. The match points are automatically awarded to the other team who receives the forfeit.
- 18.7.5** Any player or players who refuse to play, or who takes part in the forfeiture of a match on account of objection to the appointed Umpire, may be disqualified for such period as the Board of Directors think fit.

18.8 A GRADE PLAYERS PLAYING IN 'C' GRADE (DIVISION 3) COMPETITION

No player who plays A Grade or B grade in the Hills League on a weekend when programmed matches are played will be allowed to play for their Clubs C Grade side in a programmed match on that same weekend

19 MATCH ADMINISTRATION

19.4 MATCHES – TIME OF STARTING AND DURATION OF

- 19.4.1** The Board of Directors shall determine the starting time of all matches and the length of the quarters to be played, unless stated as per clause 16.1.4.

Any grade team except mini sides not ready to start within (3) minutes of the appointed time shall forfeit the match, unless a satisfactory reason is given to the Board of Directors for such delay. In such cases, the Field Umpire shall notify the League Administration Clerk of the details of such delay and their decision as to time shall be final. The Club forfeiting shall be subject to any fine as per **By Law 18.7**.

- 19.4.2** All matches shall commence at the time specified on the programme.

- 19.4.3** Colts and A2 grade matches **must** finish 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the next match. Timekeepers, at half time of the respective matches **shall** allocate equal time to the remaining quarters to ensure the game is completed as required.

- 19.4.4** All A grade teams matches shall consist of four (4) quarters of twenty-two minutes each with additional time for authorised delays as recorded by the Timekeepers.

- 19.4.5** All other matches shall be of such duration as the Board of Directors shall determine.

- 19.4.5.1** In any match other than A Grade, In the case of injury to any player, or other extenuating circumstance, during the second half of play, the controlling umpire may advise the Timekeepers to hold time. This shall be at the discretion of the controlling umpire or League Official if present.

- 19.4.5.2** In finals matches the Director in charge of any finals game has the power to add time-on in extenuating circumstances.

19.5 CLUB AND TEAM ADMINISTRATION

- 19.5.1** In every A & B Grade match, a list of the 21 players with their respective numbers and other such information as the Board of Directors shall prescribe, shall be exchanged by an official of each opposing team before the commencement of play and only the players mentioned in such list shall be qualified to play.

- 19.5.2** For Senior Colts a list of 22 players can be used, for Junior Colts a list of 25 players may be used, and for Mini Colts a list of 25 players may be used in any match. A copy of such list shall also be handed to the Field Umpire.

- 19.5.3** **Junior Football games in all Divisions**, for minor round games only, may start with 10 players a side, with even numbers up to 18. (All minor round games are to be played with equal number of players on the field)

- 19.5.3.1** Teams with excess numbers **shall** lend players to the opposition to even up the number of players on the Field.

- 19.5.3.2** If any Team refuses to offer excess players, those players shall not be entered on the Team Sheet and will not take any part in the game.
- 19.5.3.3** If any Team refuses to accept Players to even numbers up, the Team with the extra Players will be able to field those Players.

Note: Applies to Players in their age group.

- 19.5.4** Each team shall supply a Timekeeper. The timekeepers shall agree and control the duration of each quarter of the match, according to the rules of the Australian Football League and of this League.
- 19.5.5** Scores shall be kept by the Goal Umpires and by a timekeeper scorecard provided by the League.
 - 19.5.5.1** The scores kept by the Goal Umpires shall be the official scores of the match and shall be checked and initialled at the end of each quarter by the Field Umpire.
 - 19.5.5.2** In the event of disagreement between the Goal Umpires, they shall call on the timekeepers for verification.
 - 19.5.5.3** Both Goal Umpires and the Field Umpire at the conclusion of the match shall sign scorecards. The League cannot accept cards not bearing these signatures as evidence.
- 19.5.6** The Field Umpire shall collect the Goal Umpires' score cards at the conclusion of the match and hand same together with teams list and their report on the match to the Secretary of the Home clubs, who will then forward all documents to the Administration Clerk of the League.
- 19.5.7** The Board of Directors shall impose such penalties on Clubs as the Directors may from time to time determine for Clubs
 - 19.5.7.1** Failing to provide adequate officials in the opinion of the Directors to administer games in which teams from the Club participate
 - 19.5.7.2** Failing to mark grounds properly and
 - 19.5.7.3** Other such matters of administration relating to the conduct of games as the Directors may from time to time think fit.
- 19.5.8** A Club shall be responsible to control its supporters.
- 19.5.9** The Time Keepers send-off sheet must be signed by the Umpire after the game even if no player has been sent off, with a fine being imposed on the Home Team if not done.
- 19.5.10** All clubs to mark a line one metre in from the Boundary line in front of the Coaches Box behind which everyone must stand

19.6 BLOOD RULE

To be read in conjunction with Rules of Australian Football (Rule 22)

- 19.6.1** A Player who is bleeding from a minor graze or scratch may continue to receive treatment from a trainer or call a trainer for treatment on the playing area.
- 19.6.2** A player who is bleeding profusely shall be required to leave the playing arena for treatment immediately.

- 19.6.3** When an umpire determines that a player should leave the ground for treatment, the player shall be permitted to leave at ANY POINT OF THE PLAYING ARENA and shall be replaced under normal interchange rules (i.e. the replacement player must enter through the interchange gate). Any player having left the playing arena for treatment may only return to the playing arena through the interchange.
- 19.6.4** The umpire will stop the game at the first opportunity to enable the interchange of players to take place without disadvantaging either team. The replacement player may enter the arena IMMEDIATELY THE BENCH IS NOTIFIED BY THE UMPIRE. The game shall not restart until the replacement player is in position.
- 19.6.5** The umpire will stop play using the time off signal, face the appropriate coach's box and signal with crossed wrists/forearms in front of the chest. If in the vicinity of the coach's box, a verbal indication is also appropriate.
- 19.6.6** Any player refusing to leave the playing arena after having been sighted by the umpire as requiring treatment shall be reported for misconduct. Play will not recommence until such player has left the ground.

19.7 19 OR MORE PLAYERS ON GROUND

- 19.7.1** The captain of either team may only call for a count of players on the ground.
- 19.7.2** In the event of a side found guilty of having 19 or more players on the ground after an umpire's count has been conducted the score of the offending team will be cancelled at the time of the offence.

19.8 SCORES

- 19.8.1** The Hills Football League official score sheet is to be used to record the scores.
- 19.8.2** After each match the official score sheet is to be signed by the officiating Umpire.
- 19.8.3** The official score shall be entered via electronic placement as directed from time to time after the match.

19.9 FOOTBALLS - SUPPLY OF

- 19.9.1** Home teams in A Grade shall supply one new ball for each match, and one ball in an acceptable condition as an emergency ball.
- 19.9.2** Home teams in other grades shall supply one ball each in an acceptable condition according to the laws of the Australian National game. Where a match is being played on a neutral ground the first named team will be regarded as the Home team for these by-laws.
- 19.9.3** The League shall supply all footballs used in matches in the Finals Round.

19.10 CLUB MATCHES OUTSIDE THE LEAGUE

No Club shall play any match other than a League match during the programmed season without first obtaining the approval of the Board of Directors.

19.11 BENEFIT MATCHES

Benefit or other matches may be arranged as the Board of Directors thinks fit.

20 JUNIOR FOOTBALL DIRECTOR

20.4 All Clubs are to appoint a member who is to be known as the Junior Football Director from their Club.

20.5 The duties of the Junior Football Director shall be: -

20.5.1 To promote the game of Australian Rules football within their Community.

20.5.2 To encourage young people to play Australian Rules football.

20.5.3 To foster the development of skills of the game by holding regular coaching sessions.

20.5.4 To attend all Hills Football League Junior Football Committee meetings. The Hills Football League notify clubs in writing of all intended meetings pertaining to clubs, accompanied by an agenda of relevant business to the clubs postal address seven (7) days prior to the intended meeting date.

20.5.5 The penalty for failure to attend the Junior Football Committee meetings as nominated by the Hills Football League will be a fine not exceeding \$50. The Board of Directors will decide on each penalty.

21 THE USE OF ILLEGAL RECREATIONAL DRUGS

21.4 The use of illegal recreational drugs will not be tolerated in the Hills Football League.

21.5 If any instance of drug use is reported at any Hills Football League fixture (home & away games & finals) the authorities will be notified and the Club involved will be called before the Board of Directors. Penalties could be involved.

21.6 The Hills Football League has a policy of zero tolerance towards the use of non-prescribed drugs.

22 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY- Refer to Appendix 12 SANFL Community Football.

23 TRAINERS

Each Club is required to have a person attend all Trainers General Meetings of the Hills Football League Trainers Association. The penalty for non-attendance is a fine of \$100.00

24 COACHES

All coaches are required to have accreditation prior to coaching their first game for the season. This must be updated on a yearly basis at coach.afl.

25 LEGAL EXPENSES

If the Hills Football League Inc. incurs legal expenses which in the opinion of the Board of Directors have been incurred by reason of a particular Club or clubs, then the Board of Directors may determine that those fees shall be recoverable from that Club or those clubs and where there is more than one Club involved then in such proportions between those clubs as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine

26 APPROVED PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (APPS)

Refer to Appendix 4

South Australian Community Football League Regulations - Appendix 4 – Approved Player Points System



AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

PLAYER AND OFFICIAL

DEREGISTRATION POLICY

Current as at: March 2011

**AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALLPLAYER AND OFFICIAL
NATIONAL DEREGISTRATION POLICY**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Deregistration Policy has been developed to provide a risk management framework and policy basis for community football administrators to recognise a duty of care with respect to players/officials who could pose an unacceptable risk to other players/officials.

It is imperative that all Leagues and State Bodies adopt this policy to ensure that a consistent approach is applied to the deregistration of players/officials.

1.2 Definitions

Club means an Australian football club entitled to field a team in a competition conducted by a League.

Deregistration means the withdrawal of a Player's permit to play or an Official's capacity to officiate in any form of Australian football.

League means a league associated with a State Body via an affiliation agreement.

Reportable Offence means any reportable offence identified in the Laws of Australian Football, as amended from time to time.

Official includes but not limited to coaches, assistant coaches, officers, trainers, runners, employees or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of a Club, League or State Body.

Player means a player who participates in any Australian football match administered by a League.

State Body means the governing State and Territory football bodies affiliated to the AFL as follows:

- (a) AFL NSW/ACT
- (b) AFL Queensland
- (c) AFL Northern Territory
- (d) AFL Tasmania
- (e) AFL Victoria
- (f) South Australian National Football League
- (g) West Australian Football Commission

Suspension means a period during which a Player or Official is not allowed to play or officiate in a game of Australian football.

1.3 Application

- (a) The Deregistration Policy applies to all State Bodies and their affiliated Leagues and Clubs.

- (b) Headings and indexes are only included for ease of reference and do not affect interpretation.

1.4 Variation

The AFL may from time to time, and in consultation with State Bodies where necessary, alter the procedures for Deregistration in its absolute discretion.

2. POLICY AIMS

The policy aims to:

- (a) Deregister a Player who is found guilty of a Reportable Offence(s) where such offence or offences cause the tribunal history of such Player to fall beyond an acceptable level for Australian football;
- (b) Deregister an Official who is found guilty of a Reportable Offence(s) (at any level) where such offence or offences are deemed to fall beyond an acceptable level for Australian football;
- (c) Apply the Deregistration of a Player/Official to both roles so that a deregistered Player cannot officiate in any capacity and a deregistered Official cannot participate as a Player;
- (d) Prevent a Player from transferring between Leagues with the view to creating a “clean slate” with the new League. The tribunal history shall follow the Player to allow the new League to make an informed judgement regarding initial registration taking into account past and current tribunal sentences.

3. DEREGISTRATION PROCEDURES

3.1 General

- (a) The full tribunal history of a Player is to be forwarded to the new League from the previous League upon a Player being cleared from one League to another (as per the National Player Transfer Regulations, as amended from time to time). It is noted that **all guilty verdicts** determined by a League (tribunal, investigation, appeal or similar process) shall be forwarded to the new League for their records together with the clearance / transfer details.
- (b) The full tribunal history of a Player (including tribunal record at all previous league/s) shall be considered when determining penalties for offences and also potential Deregistration.
- (c) A League that suspects that an Official may have a tribunal history is to seek information from the Official’s previous League/s.
- (d) Club imposed penalties will not be considered on the permanent record for a Player or Official.
- (e) Information regarding suspended sentences will be transferred between Leagues and Leagues would only consider such sentences relevant to possible Deregistration if and when the Suspension from such suspended sentence is served.

3.2 Deregistration Process

3.2.1 Notification

(a) Leagues

- i) State Leagues must advise all and Clubs of the details of the policy and make the policy readily available to their Clubs, Players and Officials.
- ii) Once a Player/Official has accumulated a Suspension history of ten (10) weeks or more, the League must advise the Player/Official and their Club in writing that the Player/Official faces the risk of automatic Deregistration should the Player/Official incur further Suspension(s) that results in him/her reaching or exceeding the sixteen (16) week total Suspension history.
- iii) Notification of Deregistration shall be made in writing to the Player/Official and their Club.
- iv) Leagues shall be notified in writing of all decisions to deregister a Player/Official, by the Player's/Official's Club. A central database of all deregistered players/officials will be kept by all Leagues.
- v) Should a Player/Official's tribunal history already have reached or exceed a combined total of sixteen (16) weeks Suspension at the time of implementing this policy, the League is to formally advise the Player/Official and the Player's/Official's club that the Player/Official faces automatic Deregistration should the Player/Official incur another Suspension.

(b) Clubs

- i) Clubs must advise all of their Players/Officials in relation to this policy.
- ii) Clubs must at all times strive to ensure their Players and Officials do not get themselves into a position of potentially being deregistered. Anger management training is seen as a critical component of this prevention for Clubs to arrange.

3.2.2 Criteria for Deregistration

(a) Players

- i) Players shall be automatically deregistered and not allowed further registration with the same or another League if the Player has **accumulated a combined total of sixteen (16) weeks Suspension (or greater)** in a football career (including AFL career, subject to section 3.2.2(a)(iii) below).
- ii) For the avoidance of doubt, any Suspension period served by a Player in any junior Australian football competition, will count for the purposes of this Deregistration policy.
- iii) Any Suspension period served by a Player during his AFL career shall carry over, however such Suspension period shall be halved for the

purposes of this Deregistration policy. For example, if a Player receives a total of six (6) weeks Suspension whilst playing in the AFL, only three (3) weeks shall carry over for the purposes of this Deregistration policy.

First Offence

- iv) Should a player receive sixteen (16) weeks or more Suspension as a “first offence” it shall be at the Leagues discretion as to whether or not that Player will be deregistered, following his/her Suspension.

(b) Officials

Officials shall be deregistered and not allowed to officiate in any form in the same or another League if they have accumulated a combined total of sixteen (16) weeks Suspension (or greater) throughout their whole Australian football career.

(c) Players / Officials

A combined total of sixteen (16) weeks or greater as a Player and / or Official shall result in automatic Deregistration.

3.3 Deregistered Players/Officials Seeking Re-registration

- (a) A Player/Official shall not be eligible for re-registration unless the Player or Official gains an exemption to reregister from the relevant State Body. Such exemption shall only be granted under exceptional circumstances (i.e. where the relevant State Body is satisfied that the Player/Official is genuinely rehabilitated and unlikely to re offend).
- (b) A deregistered Player cannot officiate in or at any Australian football match unless an exemption is given by the relevant State Body.
- (c) A deregistered Official cannot participate as a Player or officiate in or at any Australian football match.
- (d) A deregistered Player/Official who is successful in gaining an exemption to play/officiate and subsequently re-offends will automatically be deregistered with no further right to apply for an exemption or to appeal.

3.4 Appeals

After a Player/Official has been deregistered in accordance with section 3.2 above, that Player/Official may appeal to their State body in accordance with the rules set out in section 3.5 below.

3.5 Appeals to State Body

- (a) A deregistered Player/Official can appeal a decision of their State Body in accordance with their State Body’s rules, regulations, by-laws and/or guidelines regulating tribunal and appeals procedures, as amended from time to time.
- (b) It is the obligation of the Player/Official to present their case with all necessary witnesses and relevant documents to the State Body and show cause why he/she should be reregistered.

- (c) A Player/Official may only submit one (1) appeal in any one Australian football season.
- (d) Such appeal shall be heard within a period determined by the State Body.
- (e) Notwithstanding any provision within a State Body's rules, regulations, by-laws and/or guidelines, the State Body reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to impose any time limits relating to appeals as it deems appropriate.
- (f) The decision of the State Body shall be final and binding on all parties.



Hills Football League Incorporated Bylaws



HILLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION

A person shall not act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability (including without limitation, disease or illness) or sexual orientation, preference or identity.

In the event that any person hears what they interpret to be a racist remark and such person wishes to lodge a complaint, they shall write to The League advising of what was said, by whom and at whom it was directed.

The League shall investigate such complaint, with this commenced at the earliest opportunity.

A person who exhibits racist behaviour shall be liable to any penalty that The League may impose pursuant to the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of The League. Such penalty may include, but not be limited to either / or

- Player suspension;
- A fine;
- Loss of all or some premiership points accrued in the particular grade that the team participates in or in all Grades in which such Member Club participates.

The particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall

- At all times remain confidential; and
- A person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation

Proposed procedure to be adopted and work through –

First effort is to maintain confidentiality as to the persons and Club involved.

All mediation processes are to be conducted in confidence with

1. Ensure the victim is counselled including parents if needed
2. Establish their desired outcome
3. Ensure the offending player is counselled again including parents if needed
4. Seek mediation if required
5. Facilitate points 2, 3 and 4
6. Use processes as established within the
 - **AFL National Vilification and Discrimination Policy and**
 - **AFL Player Rule 30**
7. Advise the accused of further action which is normally education and may also include other forms of penalty such as suspension
8. Then we start a campaign with clubs (via Email) quoting the incident but without identifying the individuals or clubs involved and letting all clubs know what the expectations are AND what the potential penalties will be in the future for the individuals **AND** clubs.

Process for Investigation:

Given the need for confidentiality and sensitivity re this process, it is proposed on receipt of any complaint:

- The Board will appoint an investigating officer to ensure any breach of this policy is responded to in an equitable and prompt manner in accordance with the policy;
- In the event of a failed conciliation the Board shall refer the complaint to a special Disciplinary Tribunal, formed by the Board for this specific purpose.
- This Disciplinary Tribunal has the power to order any reasonable penalties or directions for breaches of this policy, as may be allowable within rules and regulations in force at the time of the hearing.
- Where a party to a complaint is dissatisfied with the decision made by the special Disciplinary Tribunal, they may request the League to establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Suggestions as to constitution of Panels:

Investigating Officer –

President / Vice President / Junior Director / Member of the Board

Special Disciplinary Tribunal:

Comprised of a minimum of two (2) members who may be taken from

- The current Board (with recommendation this include either/or President and Vice President.)
- Disciplinary Tribunal members (Commissioners)

Disciplinary Tribunal

Current HFL Commissioners sitting as a Disciplinary Tribunal.

Assistance with education and training can be found within the 'Play by the Rules' website.

HILLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.
DETAILS OF FINES

REASON	FINE
LATE START	\$100.00
PAPERWORK NOT CORRECT AFTER WARNING	\$100.00
MATCH REPORTS NOT RECEIVED / LATE AFTER 9AM MONDAY	\$100.00
PLAYING UNREGISTERED – UNQUALIFIED PLAYERS	\$200.00
FAILURE TO ATTEND A.G.M OR SPECIAL MEETING	\$150.00
FAILURE TO ATTEND JUNIOR DIRECTORS MEETING	\$150.00
TRIBUNAL FEE	\$200.00
PRESCRIBED PENALTY / OFFENCE FEE	\$100.00
ENGAGING IN A MELEE –	UP TO 2 OFFENCES \$500.00 3 RD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE \$1000.00
TEAM INCORRECTLY ATTIRED	\$250.00
TEAM RUNNER / TRAINER / DRINKS RUNNER NOT CORRECTLY ATTIRED	\$100.00
RE-OFFENDING AFTER 2 WARNINGS	\$150.00
OVAL NOT MARKED / FAULTY SIREN / FAILURE TO ADDRESS OVAL AND AMENITIES ISSUES AS DIRECTED BY BOARD	\$100.00
FORFEIT PRIOR TO 5 PM THURSDAY	AS SET BY THE BOARD
LATE FORFEIT AFTER 5 PM THURSDAY	MINI COLTS \$100.00 JUNIOR COLTS \$200.00 SENIOR COLTS \$300.00 C GRADE \$400.00 RESERVES \$400.00 A GRADE \$500.00 UMPIRES FEES TO BE ADDED TO FINES.
CLUB WITHDRAWING TEAM DURING COURSE OF SEASON: Board reserves the right to include loss of premiership points to Club and/or Team	\$5000.00
PERMIT APPLICATION	\$50.00
FINAL SIREN TEAM / PLAYER NUMBERS / INFORMATION WRONG	\$50.00 PLUS \$10.00 FOR EACH ERROR AFTER A TOTAL OF 5
PAYMENTS OF FINES MUST BE MADE TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY WITHIN 14 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF INVOICE.	



Hills Football League Inc

Welfare Policy

Substance Abuse/Drugs

RATIONALE

This policy is part of our “whole of club” welfare philosophy. The policy relates to all areas of the club, and contributes to ensuring our overarching goal, that we provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for players of all ages, their families, non-playing club members and supporters.

LINKS TO OTHER CLUB POLICIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with our participation in the Good Sports Programme, (aimed at responsible drinking), the Motor Accident Commission initiative, and our provision of a Club Child Safety Officer.

AIM

The Hills Football League is committed to ensuring an **environment which is free of illicit substances, and inappropriate drug use.**

We aim to maintain an environment which is safer and more supportive than the community at large, in relation to illicit and inappropriate drug use.

We aim to educate our young members in the benefits of a healthy and active social lifestyle which does not include the use of illicit drugs. We will ensure our junior members are aware of pathway they can follow within the club, in the event of being exposed to any drug related or other behaviour which is of concern to them.

We aim to support and assist any of our members who may have an illicit drug problem. This may, in some instances, require professional assistance external to the club, and will be recommended to a player, member, supporter or parent if required.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- The policy will be implemented in a manner which is **supportive and educational.**
- It is not a punitive policy, except in extreme circumstances.
- Being in possession of, or under the influence of these substances at the club, at any club function, or when representing the club in any way, is unacceptable.
- The policy also applies to the Inappropriate use of prescription drugs, and other performance enhancing drugs such as steroids etc.
- It is recognised that illicit drug use can be symptomatic of other problems or issues in people’s lives, so the support offered will not be limited to drug use.
- A club Welfare Officer has been appointed, who will oversee the implementation of the policy.
- To support the Welfare Officer, several leaders within the club have been appointed as Welfare Representatives. The Welfare Representatives will be an initial point of reference for individuals identified as adopting unacceptable behaviours with regards to illicit substances. These representatives have been drawn from each of the following groups:

- Senior Men's playing group
 - Senior Women's playing group
 - Coaching staff
 - Parents of junior players
 - Non-playing membership
- If an individual is identified as being in breach of this policy, or wishes to discuss any other difficulties they are experiencing, any of the following actions might eventuate:
 - A discussion/counsel/ with the relevant Welfare Representative.
 - Offer of ongoing support and regular discussion with a Welfare Representative (s), and/or the Welfare Officer
 - Recommendation of referral to professional counselling services (via the Welfare Officer, if appropriate). For example, referral to a GP or other Health Practitioner, specific drug services, or other relevant counselling agencies
 - Initiation of an educational activity for groups within the club relating to illicit substance use.
 - Other appropriate initiative
 - The Welfare Officer will liaise with, and support the Welfare Representatives.
 - Confidentiality will be paramount, and details of breaches will be limited to the Welfare Officer and the Welfare Representative(s). There are two exceptions to this
 - If an individual is using the club environment for commercial gain by selling illicit substances within the club. In this situation, the Club President and Committee Executive would be informed, with a view to this individual being excluded from the club. This is a zero-tolerance stance, and would likely be the only situation where an individual is excluded from the club. (Exclusion from the club will be supported by informing appropriate legal and social agencies)
 - If a minor is at risk due to the dangerous behaviour of his or her parents, we are bound by mandatory reporting laws. This situation would result in the involvement of the club Child Safety Officer.

(Non club members, who may be attending functions or matches at our club, and are using or under the influence of illicit substances, will be asked to leave.)

POLICY MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in January each year, and the Welfare Officer and Welfare Representatives will be reappointed.

The Welfare Officer will liaise with, and participate in initiatives of the Good Sports Programme, in relation to illicit drug policy development.

The Welfare Officer will be accountable to the Club President, but taking into consideration the confidentiality requirement of sensitive discussions

APPROVAL OF POLICY

This policy has been approved by the Hills Football League Inc board of directors.

Links

This policy is available

1. From the Hills Football League Inc. Contact Club Secretary
email...hflinc@bigpond.com ph 8398 2524
2. Website –www.hillsfootballleague.sportingpulse.net

