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**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE**

**FOOTBALL BY-LAWS**

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**EFFECTIVE FROM**

**30.3.2021**

**LAST UPDATED**

**7.4.2021**

## DEFINITIONS

**“SWDFNL”** Herein is the South West District Football & Netball League, a structure of football and netball competitions of affiliated clubs.

**“Football”** Herein is the South West District Football & Netball League – Football Competitions.

**“Club”** includes all affiliated clubs.

**“Executive Committee Member”** is comprised of members of the League who are elected to Executive Committee positions as per the League AGM.

**“Bylaws”** are additional rules which apply to members which generally deal with internal and administrative matters and include how the SWDFNL - Netball will be run.

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## **BYLAWS**

*These Bylaws are the rules governing the internal affairs and conduct of the football competitions of the South West District Football Netball & League.*

### **1. MEETINGS**

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- 1.1** Every Club must be represented by their President (Or a designated Delegate) at each meeting. All Clubs are required to nominate a minimum of 2 delegates email addresses for all correspondence to the SWDFNL Administrator by no later than the 31st of January of the preceding year. 1 of these contacts must be the Club President and 1 must be the Club Secretary. All Clubs must be represented by at least one delegate at all SWDFNL meetings. Clubs may have 2 delegates in attendance at meetings, unless specified by the SWDFNL Executive Committee. When voting is required, each club is entitled to only 1 vote.
- 1.2** There will be a minimum of 4 meetings in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the SWDFNL Executive Committee. Notice of each meeting must be given to each Club no later than 7 days before the date of the forum.
- 1.3** The following shall be the Order of Business at these meetings:
- (i) Confirmation of Minutes of previous Ordinary Meeting and of any Special Meeting held since the previous Ordinary Meeting;
  - (ii) Correspondence;
  - (iii) Financial Reports;
  - (iv) Reports; and
  - (vi) General Business.
- 1.4** The Administrator shall submit to the League at each ordinary meeting held, a statement showing the current financial position of the League at that time.
- 1.5** All Clubs affiliated with the League must hold their Annual Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of the League. The annual meeting of the League shall be held in the month of January each year.

### **2. CORRESPONDENCE**

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- 2.1** ALL correspondence from Clubs to be received on club letterhead and signed or electronically sent by the club secretary to the SWDFNL Administrator.

Requests by the SWDFNL Executive Committee may be returned via standard email by the required Coach/Delegate to the SWDFNL Administrator.

***Penalty - Correspondence not actioned.***

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### 3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & SUB COMMITTEES

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- 3.1** The SWDFNL Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Football Coordinator, Netball Coordinator, Media Coordinator, Football Umpires Coordinator and Junior Development Coordinator. All above named positions (If held) shall receive an honorarium. The Administrator shall be paid a salary. Reasonable costs incurred by the executive's shall be reimbursed as agreed by members upon provision of appropriate receipts.
- 3.2** The Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees and may delegate any of its powers to such Sub-Committees.
- 3.3** **Grounds Committee** - The Grounds Committee shall consist of the SWDFNL Executive Committee. The Grounds Committee duty shall be to appoint grounds for the Final Series, and these may be played inside or outside the League and are to be approved by the Committee. The Grounds Committee are to deal with any disputes that may arise over the grounds. The decisions of the Grounds Committee in these areas shall be final and binding.

### 4. GENERAL

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- 4.1** The Banking Accounts of the League shall be kept at such Bank or Financial Institution as shall be agreed upon from time to time by the Executive Officers of the Association. The Administrator shall receive all moneys on behalf of the League and shall pay such to the credit of the League's Banking Account. The Administrator shall make payments on behalf of the League on approval of the Committee. The books and accounts of the League are to be submitted (audited if income is over \$250,000) annually with an annual return submitted to the Consumer Affairs.
- 4.2** **Admission Fees** - To be revised and approved at the Annual General Meeting of the League each year. Final's admission prices will be determined by the SWDFNL Executive in July each year.
- 4.3** Any Alteration or Amendment of the Bylaws of the SWDFNL shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Clubs present at the Annual Meeting of which at least 21 days written notice shall be given. Alterations or additions to these By-Laws must be in writing and be in the hands of the SWDFNL Administrator by 31st December each year.
- 4.4** In the event of any question arising that is not provided for in these Bylaws, the SWDFNL Executive Committee shall have the power to decide. The interpretation of these Bylaws is to be decided by the SWDFNL Executive Committee.

## 5. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES & COVID-19

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- 5.1** Clubs seeking Affiliation must be organisations or bodies governed by a Constitution and Rules fully approved by the Committee. Application for such affiliation from new Clubs must be made in writing and be received by the Administrator at least 28 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- 5.2** The Investigation Committee, consisting of the Executive Committee of the League, reserves itself the right to review the position of any Club in the League with regard to its constitution, rules, general management or conduct and by a two-thirds majority of all Delegates present at a meeting specially called for the purpose, to exclude such Club or Clubs from the League or to impose such other penalty as it shall deem necessary. The League may fill any vacancy or vacancies arising from the expulsion / departure of any club / clubs.
- 5.3** No Club shall involve the League in any expense or make or enter into any agreement or controversy on behalf of the League without the written approval of the Executive Officers of the Association.
- 5.4** Clubs/Club persons shall, if directed by a SWDFNL Executive on match day, abide by all reasonable requests made by any Executive Committee member in relation to these Bylaws and match day requirements. Fines shall be incurred by offending clubs.
- 5.5** No Club shall arrange a match with any Club not affiliated with the League without the previous approval of the League.
- 5.6** Clubs, Players or Officials infringing any Rule of the League or Law of the Game shall be dealt with as the League sees fit, except when a penalty is provided for these Rules. Fines may be issued and enforced by the SWDFNL Executive in relation to these Bylaws.
- (i) Notices of fines are to be sent to the Secretary of the Club and payment of such fines is to be made within fourteen (14) days. If payment is not made within fourteen (14) days, Clubs will be dealt with by the SWDFNL Executive Committee as it sees fit.
- (ii) All monies owing to the SWDFNL by a Club must be paid within fourteen (14) days and, if payment is not made within fourteen (14) days, Clubs will be dealt with by the SWDFNL Executive Committee as it sees fit.
- 5.7** All Clubs must abide by the Codes of Conduct contained in the annual AFL Vic handbook. The AFL Vic endorsed Codes of Conduct for the following, will be adopted by the SWDFNL:
- Junior Coaches;
  - Junior Players;
  - Parents and Spectators of Junior Football;
  - Senior Coaches;
  - Senior Players.
- 5.8** Any club that in the view of the SWDFNL Executive Committee brings the South West District Football & Netball League into disrepute can be fined to a maximum amount of \$1,000 or as determined by the SWDFNL Executive.
- 5.9** **COVID-19** - All Clubs will abide by all current government restrictions advice and AFL Victoria guidelines and protocols in relation to COVID-19 at training and on match days. Any changes in the Federal or State Government COVID Restrictions and AFL Victoria Protocols, in which the current season may be impacted; shall trigger the implementation of the SWDFNL COVID-19 Addendum.

## 6. UNIFORMS

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- 6.1** Each Club shall register any new and/or altered uniforms and colours for SWDFNL Executive Committee to approve prior to season commencement. A letter to the SWDFNL Administrator detailing the design and a full colour diagram is required and is subject to approval by the Executive Committee. Clubs not adhering to the above will incur the below penalty for each game played in the unapproved design.
- 6.2** Each player must be uniformed in the Club's colours, with his number prominently and securely fixed on his back. If the Captain is not satisfied with the uniform of any opposing players or officials, he shall bring the matter to the attention of the central umpire. All infringements of this rule will incur the below stated penalty.

**Penalty:** \$100 fine to the offending Club for each offence.

**6.3** Match Day Uniforms

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Trainers</b>             | Pink Hi Vis Vest (trainers are allowed to carry water) |
| <b>Water Carriers</b>       | Blue Hi Vis Vest                                       |
| <b>Runners</b>              | Green Hi Vis Vest                                      |
| <b>Interchange Stewards</b> | White Coat   |
| <b>Ground Managers</b>      | White Coat   |
| <b>Goal Umpires</b>         | White Coat   |
| <b>Volunteer Umpires</b>    | Current umpires' uniform                               |

Club Officials not wearing uniforms as outlined above shall be removed from the ground by the Central Umpire and shall not be allowed to return until correctly attired.

## 7. INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

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- 7.1** The SWDFNL is committed to providing a safe, fair, and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.

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**8. REGISTRATIONS, CLEARANCES, PERMITS**

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- 8.1 Registration of Players and Coaches are governed in accordance with the Rules of the AFL Vic.
- 8.2 All coaches must be Coach AFL accredited and registered and must hold a current working with children check.
- 8.3 All Players must be registered through with their Club through SportsTG. All online player registrations are to be completed prior to the player taking the field.
- 8.4 All Clearances, Appeals, Permits etc., to be governed by the rules of the AFL Vic.
- 8.5 All cost incurred by the League in regard to clearances are to be paid by the Club concerned.
- 8.6 In the event of a player being cleared from a Club affiliated with the League to a Club affiliated with a Major League within the AFL Vic District to which the SWDFNL is affiliated, then that player shall be bound to his original Club for a period of 24 months from the date of the clearance and he must be cleared to his original Club before he can register with another Club within the League during this period of time.
- 8.7 Any player playing with any Club affiliated with the League without first being granted the necessary Clearance and /or Permit required under these rules shall incur a penalty to be decided by the Executive.
- 8.8 Any Club/s playing an ineligible player/s will forfeit such match and all points, both score and match and in addition will be fined, regardless of the result of the match. The opposing Club will receive the match points.
- 8.9 The SWDFNL executive will decide which other leagues an Area Agreement will be agreed for the upcoming season and all clubs to be issued with a copy of the agreement.

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**9. SEASON DRAW & GROUNDS**

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- 9.1 The Draw shall be a rolling draw each year. The date of the commencement and the number of playing weeks shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. The draw will be drawn up by the SWDFNL Executive Committee.
- 9.2 Should there be any alteration to the number of teams comprising the League, the SWDFNL Executive have the power to make any necessary adjustments or alterations to the draw including a redraw.
- 9.3 All host Clubs to have goal post padding and surrounding poles are to be padded within the legal run off (3.05m). Host Clubs must ensure there is ice and water provided on all courts. Host clubs are required to have 2 match balls per court per home game, balls are to be replaced after a maximum of 3 home games or 2 weeks if used in wet weather.
- 9.4 Courts and surrounding areas are to be made safe prior to commencement of the season. Court inspections will be carried out every 3 years unless advised by Netball Victoria, major changes have been carried out or if the SWDFNL Executive Committee have concerns with the condition of any Club's courts.
- 9.5 Each Club shall provide a ground which, in the opinion of the Grounds Committee, is suitable for match play. Regulation goal and behind posts must be in place with goal, boundary and center lines clearly marked. Goal and behind posts must be padded to the satisfaction of the Grounds Committee. Should during the course of the season, the ground of any Club fall below the standard required by the League, then that Club shall be called upon to show cause why future home matches should not be played on such ground and such club's future home matches may be ordered to be played on the home ground of the visiting team.
- 9.6 In the event of the Officials of any two Clubs mutually agreeing that the home ground of one of those Clubs, on whose ground their next match is to be played is unfit for play then the Clubs may transfer the venue of that match to such other ground as shall be mutually agreed upon, provided that notice of such transfer is given to and permission granted by the SWDFNL Administrator 48 hours prior to the match being played.



- 9.7** Transfer of any finals match will be at the SWDFNL Executive Committee's discretion. The SWDFNL Executive must inspect the ground before transfer is permitted. Host club along with competing clubs must be present at this inspection.

## **10. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

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- 10.1** All Rules and Premiership Conditions are as prescribed by the AFL VIC and adopted by the League, except where expressly altered by the rules.
- 10.2** Two new footballs are to be provided by the Home Club in each match with the exception of the Finals Series when footballs are provided by the League. In Reserve Grade home and away matches two approved used footballs may be provided.
- 10.3** All Clubs are to have a suitable stretcher available at their ground. The home club is to make available their stretcher at the interchange shed for all games of all grades during the Home and Away series. In the final's series, clubs are to have available their own stretcher.
- 10.4** A Match day checklist is to be completed via the AFL approved app before the commencement of each day of play as per AFL rules.
- 10.5** Each Club shall take reasonable measures to keep the playing arena clear for play and, if on an appeal by any Club and in the opinion of the Committee, such measures have not been taken, the Committee may order such match to be replayed on any League ground.
- 10.6** No intoxicating liquor shall be permitted onto the playing arena by any club member, player or official. Appropriate signs are to be placed on fences of grounds. The Committee shall inflict a fine for each breach of this rule.
- 10.7** Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the SWDFNL competition are permitted to have up to four officials including coach assistant, coach, chairman of selectors etc. within the marked confines of the interchange box. Furthermore, clubs are permitted to have two runners, five trainers and/ or water carriers. All apart from the trainers and water carriers are to remain seated in the coach's box at all times during play or within the confines of the parameter lines surrounding the coach's box. If no lines are marked all must remain within the confines of the coach's box. If there is insufficient space within the coach's box or no boxes provided any remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary fence. Trainers and water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered un-authorised and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground. Coaches and the coaching staff who do not remain within the parameter lines surrounding the coach's box will be penalised (fined) per offence.
- 10.8** In the senior competition, each side plays 18 players on the ground and 3 players on the interchange. In the reserves competition each side plays 16 players on the ground and 4 players on the interchange – it stays the same during home and away and finals.
- 10.9** On the official senior team sheet teams must name no more than 21 players. All named players must take the field to qualify.
- 10.10** On the official reserves team sheet teams must name no more than 20 players. All named players must take the field to qualify. The team managers of opposing sides shall 30 minutes prior to commencement of match, sign and exchange team sheets and lodge with the central umpires. The Home secretary shall be responsible for entering all results on Sports TG. The opposing club must hand in the necessary team sheets and records to the home club immediately after each game.
- 10.11** Reserve grade teams may play 12 per side and obtain the additional players from the opposing team. Before a player can play in this League, all players shall be registered in accordance with the AFL VIC rules.

- 10.12** The Secretary of each Club must ensure that the following official forms are delivered / sent to the Administrator by hand or postmarked no later than the first business day after the game:
- Timekeeper's cards;  
Goal Umpires' cards;  
Voting cards; and  
Official team sheets.
- 10.13** All Match day and Club Officials must hold a current Working With Children Check.
- 10.14** Complaints of inefficiency from two different Clubs lodged in writing with the Administrator during a season of appointment makes such complaints a matter to be dealt with by the League.
- 10.15** SWDFNL will abide by the COVID-19 protocols as set out by AFL. The SWDFNL COVID-19 GUIDELINE document shall be adhered to by all Clubs at all times throughout the home and away season and finals. These guidelines will be a fluid document and will be updated regularly to reflect the current Government and AFL COVID-19 protocols in relation to community sport.
- 10.16** SWDFNL reserves the right to photograph and film players for promotional reasons. SWDFNL reserves the right to film games for safety reasons, historic record and for promotional purposes. SWDFNL reserves the full rights for any monetary sale of filming of games.

## **11. MATCH DAY OFFICIALS**

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- 11.1** Each club shall provide 1 goal umpire, 1 boundary umpire and 1 reserve grade umpire.
- 11.2** The Home Club is to pay the umpire fees less holdback money for all matches on that particular day. Holdback money is charged out to the clubs back by the SWDFNL Umpire Coordinator and is used for the purpose of umpires' contribution to umpire development, umpire insurance, umpire uniforms, umpire awards and functions. The ownership of the holdback money is the umpires. if this cannot happen then the umpires should be paid their full amount on game day.
- 11.3** An executive from each club is to escort the umpires from the edge of playing field to the umpire's rooms at half time and full time in all games both reserves and seniors.
- 11.4** A club shall provide a Boundary Umpire who shall be attired in a white shirt or jumper. A club shall where required provide a mature person as Goal Umpire who shall be attired in a white coat. Goal umpires are to record scores as registered and must check score cards with the other goal umpire at the end of each quarter.
- 11.5** The minimum age of persons carrying water is twelve (12) years of age. Any person carrying water must be wearing a Blue Hi Vis vest. Their name must be entered on the team sheet.
- 11.6** Each club is to appoint one responsible and efficient timekeeper, who shall be equipped with a stop clock. A bell, gong or siren is to be provided by the Home Club and is to be capable of being heard across the ground at its furthest point. Where electrical equipment is provided, the Club must have available an emergency hand operated bell or gong. The device is to be sounded five minutes prior to the time decided on for the commencement of play.

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**12. MATCH DAY & RESULTS**

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- 12.1** All clubs shall have their team sheets completed online by 9pm on the Thursday prior to each match.
- 12.2** Home clubs shall have results uploaded to SportsTG by 5.30pm on game day and must text and/or phone the scores of seniors and reserves to the SWDFNL Media Officer by 5.30pm on the day of the match. (Results sheet provided by League).
- 12.3** In the event of a Club failing to play a match as listed, such Clubs shall pay the Umpires' fees, forfeit the premiership points for the match, and may be further dealt with by the Committee. Any Club failing to finish a match shall be dealt with by the Committee and may be fined. In the event of any Club forfeiting a match, the opposing team shall submit a team list in a manner similar to that required had the match been played. Players named on such team list shall be treated as having played in that match.
- 12.4** The Secretary of each Club must ensure that the following official forms are delivered / sent to the Administrator by hand or postmarked no later than the first business day after the game:
- Timekeeper's cards;
  - Goal Umpires' cards;
  - Voting cards; and
  - Official team sheets.
- 12.5** Starting Time of Matches
- Reserves: 12:30 pm
  - Seniors: 2:15 pm
- 12.6** All Senior grade matches shall consist of four quarters of 20 minutes duration with time on to be added to each quarter to which it is incurred. All Reserve grade matches shall consist of four quarters of 22 minutes duration with no time on for goals and points. No time on for out of bounds unless instructed by umpires.
- 12.7** The time allowed between the first and second quarter of a match shall, in the Central Umpires opinion, be sufficient to permit teams to change ends, but shall not exceed six minutes.
- 12.8** At half time, the Senior grade players may leave the playing arena for not more than 20 minutes. The Reserve grade players may have an interval of 10 minutes.
- 12.9** The time allowed between the third and fourth quarters shall not exceed six minutes.
- 12.10** Timekeepers will note time of start & finish for each quarter on their cards.

**12.11 Match abandonment/delay rule after 3pm****DELAYED START / MATCH ABANDONMENT**

This rule relates to clubs/officials who are faced with deciding to cancel or delay a match due to dangerous ground or weather conditions on match day.

Prior to a scheduled match starting time, consultation should occur between club officials, central umpires, and South West District Football Netball League Executives, who should monitor the conditions of the venue and make a judgment as to whether a match should proceed, be delayed, or abandoned.

A match cannot be abandoned prior to the scheduled starting time. When an agreement is reached, it is to be in writing, endorsed by the controlling central umpires on the day and forwarded to the League Administrator within 2 working days. If agreement cannot be reached between club officials, central umpires and League Executive, the umpires officiating the match shall make the final decision.

In the event a match is abandoned, premiership points will be allocated as per AFL Laws of Australian Football (see current AFL Victoria Country Handbook).

In the event a reserves match is delayed, such match must be commenced within 20 minutes of scheduled match starting time, or the match will be deemed to be abandoned.

In the event a senior match is delayed the following rules shall apply:

- A) Match must be commenced prior to 3.00 p.m. Or a decision made to abandon match.
- B) If match commences within 30 minutes of scheduled match starting time, match duration will remain as per rules of competition.
- C) If match commences after 2.50 p.m., the match duration will be as follows:
  - 4 x 15-minute quarters plus time on.
  - 5-minute quarter time breaks.
  - 10-minute half time break.
  - Clubs to remain on ground for all breaks.

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**13. PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS**

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- 13.1** A player must play at least four matches with his Club in the current season to be eligible to play with that Club in the Finals Series.
- 13.2** Any player who plays in more than eight (8) matches in the Senior grade competition during the current Home and Away season is not eligible to play in the Reserve grade Finals.
- 13.3** To be eligible for Reserve's finals a player must play 4 games in the reserves and no more than 8 times in the seniors.
- 13.4** No senior player who is over qualified for reserves can play 2 matches on any one weekend providing both Senior and Reserve teams are playing that weekend. Over qualified reserves players may only play one game per weekend.
- 13.5** In the event of Club fielding senior and reserve grade teams in any Finals match held at the same weekend, the provision of Rule 13.2 shall not apply. To be eligible for reserves a player must be named 4 times on an official team sheet and take the field in those 4 games.
- 13.6** Area Agreement players to be eligible to play in the finals must play 3 games before 1st July. Area Agreement players are not eligible for League awards. Area Agreement players must be endorsed AA on the team sheet.

## 14. FINALS

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- 14.1** The teams to compete in the Finals Series at the end of the Home and Away season will be decided on by the match points and percentage basis. The number of teams to compete in the Finals Series is to be decided annually.
- 14.2** The order of Finals matches shall be:
- Qualifying Final;
  - Elimination Final;
  - Second Semi-Final;
  - First Semi-Final;
  - Preliminary Final;
  - Grand Final;
- and can be played inside or outside the League.
- 14.3** Police are to be informed of venues for finals games.
- 14.4** Interchange Stewards are to be provided by the host Club for each finals match, such stewards to be in white coats. Their duties are to record all players ordered from the field. Umpires are to be instructed not to start their match until Interchange Stewards are in attendance.
- 14.5** Catering in the Grand Final is done alphabetically. If a club refuses to cater, then the option will automatically go to the next club.
- 14.6** Whichever team wins the 2nd semifinal (qualifies first) has the use of the home room on Grand Final day, unless both grades are playing that same day.
- 14.7** Ties in Finals Matches:
- (i) Should there be a tie at the completion of full time in any finals match, additional time shall be played.
  - (ii) Additional Time will consist of two (2) halves of five (5) minute duration (with time added on) and shall commence as soon as practicable following the completion of ordinary time.
  - (iii) Teams shall change ends at the end of ordinary time and change again after the first five (5) minute period.
  - (iv) In the event that the scores are level at the completion of additional time, such subsequent periods of additional time will be played until a result is determined.
  - (v) Coaches may address their players only during the period of time between the end of ordinary time (when the goal umpires are confirming the scores) and the commencement of the first five (5) minutes of additional time, after this time the match will be played until a decision is reached.

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**15. CHARGING OF PLAYERS & OFFICIALS & TRIBUNAL**

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- 15.1** It shall be the duty of all Clubs to arrange for an official to personally interview the Central Umpire at the door of his room immediately after the conclusion of any match in which his Club has taken part, and to ask such Umpire if it is intended to prefer any charge or charges. No other person is to enter the Umpires' room before, during or after a match.
- 15.2** The SWDFNL Executive Committee shall have the power of authority to prefer charges against Clubs, officials, or Players for breaches of the Rules of this League and/or Laws adopted by it. All such charges are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal or League Investigation Officer.
- 15.3** AFL Western District shall appoint an Independent Tribunal consisting of persons not directly associated with any Club in the League. The Independent Tribunal will deal with Clubs, Players or Officials within the League, reported for breaches of the Rules or unseemly conduct, and with any other matters referred to it by the Executive of the League.
- 15.4** Players and Officials called before the Independent Tribunal to answer charges, etc. may call witnesses to give evidence on their behalf, and they may be represented at the hearing of such charges by one Official of the Club - who shall not be a member of the legal profession - who shall have the right to cross-examine any person giving evidence at such hearing and is to remain in the room at all times during such hearing as to be declared at an end. The Central Umpire may nominate any person to be a witness to any charge, but he must notify such person or Club of his intention to call such person as a witness prior to leaving the ground where the match involving such charge was played. Failure by Club Officials, Players, or other persons under the jurisdiction of the League to attend and give evidence when so notified will render such Officials, Players, or other persons liable to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal as it shall deem fit.
- Notices served on a Club shall be deemed to have been served on all Officials and Playing members of that Club.
- 15.5** Any Club which has a Player or Official required to attend an Independent Tribunal hearing and who is late for same without an acceptable excuse may be fined at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 15.6** Any expense incurred in bringing Umpires and/or other witnesses to any meeting of the Independent Tribunal in support of charges laid against Players or Officials shall be borne by the Club whose Player or Official has been charged provided that such charge is sustained. If Players or Officials from more than one Club be charged with offences at the same meeting, and all charges are sustained, all Clubs whose Players or Officials are found guilty of the charge so preferred against them shall bear such expenses equally among them unless it can be shown that special expenses have been incurred in proving any one or more charges, in which case such special expenses will be borne by that Club whose Player or Official has, through the proving of this charge, necessitated the incurring of such special expense.

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**16. AWARDS**


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**16.1 Best & Fairest**

The Central Umpire/s shall record on the form supplied for the purpose, the names of the three Best & Fairest players in the match umpired by him. The names of such players are to be numbered 1, 2 and 3 in the order of preference and to be placed in an envelope provided for the purpose and to be returned to the League Administrator. No. 1 preference shall be awarded three votes. No. 2 preference shall be awarded two votes. No. 3 preference shall be awarded one vote. At the end of the Home and Away season, the votes are to be counted and the Player awarded the greatest number of votes is to be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, all Players to be recognised as equal winners.

**16.2** The votes for the Best & Fairest Award in all grades are to be counted round by round, with each specific game being nominated prior to the calling of the votes.

**16.3** All Paid playing coaches shall be eligible to receive the award for the Best & Fairest player

**16.4** Any player who has been found guilty by the League or the Independent Tribunal shall be ineligible to receive the award for the Best & Fairest player.

**16.5 Other Awards**

**Spectator/Observer Award**.....Seniors & Reserves.....Voted by the Timekeepers

**Leading Goal Kicker**.....Seniors & Reserves.....As per current season records

**Best Player Under 21**.....Seniors.....Voted by SWDFNL Executive

All Votes are to be allocated 3, 2 and 1.

**16.6** After the completion of the Home and Away series, the player who has kicked the greatest number of goals during that season shall be awarded the Goal Kicking Award for each grade.

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**17. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**


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**17.1** In the event of a dispute in regard to these Bylaws on game day, the President from each Club must discuss and resolve where possible. Only at this point, if unresolved, the SWDFNL Administrator is to be contacted within 48 hours of the event, in writing on Club letterhead by the Club Secretary.

**17.2** Should the matter be referred to the SWDFNL Administrator, the SWDFNL Executive Committee will vote and impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to a club that fails to adhere to these By Laws.

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**18. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE CLAUSE**


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**18.1** Where this By-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the SWDFNL is maintained at all times. SWDFNL reserves the right to use reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in this By-Law relating to the SWDFNL Football competitions.

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**19. INDEMNITY CLAUSE**


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**19.1** Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded all persons appointed to South West District Football Netball League Executive Committee, as well as any paid and unpaid employees are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member