



KYABRAM DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

FOOTBALL BY LAWS

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1 PREAMBLE

1.1 These Rules must be read in conjunction with:

- (a) Laws of Australian Football
- (b) AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL Victoria Country after the printing of the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

1.2 In the event that any KDL By Law is in conflict with an AFL Victoria Country Rule, the KDL By Law shall stand implemented.

2 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2.1 In these By-Laws unless the contrary intention appears:

- “**KDL**” means the Executive of the Kyabram District Football Netball League Incorporated. In these rules referred to as “KDL” or “the Kyabram District Football Netball League”.
- “**Commission**” means the Commission of AFL Goulburn Murray
- “**Laws of Australian Football**” means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the League
- “**League**” means the Executive and Club Delegates of the Kyabram District Football Netball League
- “**Penalty Unit**” equals one monetary unit as a reference point for all fines

2.2 Any appendices and schedules attached should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-Laws of the Kyabram District Football Netball League.

2.3 One Penalty Unit is equal to \$50.

3 CLUB AFFILIATION

To be read in conjunction with AFL Victoria Country Handbook Rule 3 and AFL Victoria Affiliates Regulations

3.1 Any sporting body may apply to the League for affiliation to participate. Any application shall be in writing and state:

- (a) The name of the body
- (b) The number of teams to be fielded.
- (c) The incorporation status of the body
- (d) The names of the current directors/office bearers.
- (e) The current financial membership of such body
- (f) The current financial status of such body and shall have appended to its audited copies of the last five financial reports and a copy of its constitution and rules.

3.2 The League may at its discretion accept or refuse any application for an affiliation or may impose any conditions on the affiliation that it thinks fit.

3.3 Annual Affiliation Fee

Each Affiliated Club shall pay an annual affiliation fee of the sum prescribed by the KDL from time to time and payable in accordance with Kyabram District Football Netball League invoicing provisions. This fee will be advised at the Annual General Meeting.

4 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

4.1 Each Club must pay all outstanding accounts to Kyabram District Football Netball League as determined by the KDL.

4.2 All monies due to be paid to the KDL by Affiliated Clubs shall be payable in full no later than Twenty-One (21) days after the date of the invoice issued by the League unless contrary arrangements are specifically authorised by the KDL.

4.3 If the account is not paid within 21 days, a 10% interest charge will be applied on the amount due.

4.4 Where a KDL Club is in default of payment/s to the Kyabram District Football Netball League, the Club shall be ineligible to accrue premiership points in all grades of Football and Netball and not able to host any final in that current year until such time as:

(a) The debt has been paid in full; or

(b) A signed satisfactory arrangement has been made between the KDL Executive and the Club to eliminate the debt during the current calendar year.

4.5 PROVIDED THAT – should there be a default on this arrangement, the defaulting Club not be eligible to accrue further points until such time as the default is remedied; and premiership points forfeited because of non-payment or default not be reinstated.

4.6 Clubs that have more than one payment owing by the due date before the next scheduled meeting will;

(a) Have voting rights suspended at meetings scheduled by the League.

(b) Not be entitled to present Notices of Motion to be voted on at League meetings.

(c) Not be eligible to be allocated as a finals game venue.

(d) That all accounts to be paid by 31st October in the current season. If not paid shall forfeit all voting rights until fully paid

(e) Any account balance that is outstanding after the 31st October, that club shall not be entitled to receive any rebate from the KDL.

4.7 In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with the KDL, Clubs will be subject to Kyabram District Football Netball League Payments Default Policy as outlined above.

4.8 Disputed Invoices

Any dispute must be finalised within the payment date period through negotiation with the KDL. In such instances payment of original or negotiated amount must still be made within period indicated on original invoice.

4.9 Eligibility of Clubs to Vote

At the commencement of each meeting, each club will be identified if they are eligible to vote or not.

5 CLUB ANNUAL MEETINGS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

5.1 Club Annual Meetings

All affiliated Clubs must hold their Annual General Meeting no later than 30 November unless the KDL gives approval. 3 Penalty Units.

5.2 Club Annual Reports

Affiliated Clubs must submit to KDL an approved / official copy of their Annual Report including financial reports compliant with the ASSOCIATIONS Incorporation reform act 2012, showing Profit and Loss Statements, and Balance sheet for the previous year within 21 days of the conducting the Annual General Meeting. 10 Penalty Units.

5.3 Club Office Bearers

Not later than 15 December each year, all affiliated clubs must lodge with the league (on the form provided from time to time), a list of all club office bearers for the ensuing year. Penalty: 2 Penalty Units

6 RULES COMMITTEE

6.1 A Kyabram District Football Netball League Rules Committee shall be formed at the discretion of the KDL.

6.2 The Rules Committee will investigate required amendments to the rules and provide interpretations and application of the rules in the event of disputes over the rules.

6.3 The By-Laws may be amended by the KDL from time to time at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

6.4 Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Secretary/General Manager at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

6.5 The Secretary/General Manager shall forward the proposed changes to all Board members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting referred in By-Law 6.2.

6.6 The proposed amendment(s) to the By-Laws shall be duly determined in their original state with no amendments being permitted during such meeting via a simple majority vote of the board.

7 FINES FOR BREACH OF BY LAWS AND COMPETITION RULES

7.1 Any non-compliance or violation of these By-Laws may incur a penalty at the discretion of the KDL (up to 10 penalty units). A schedule of fees may be found at the conclusion of these By-Laws.

7.2 If the non-compliance or violation of these By-Laws is of serious nature (as determined by the KDL) or a repeat breach, the KDL will:

(a) Send correspondence to the Offending Club requesting a "please explain" to the Breach to be provided within fourteen (14) days of the date of the

letter; and

- (b) upon receipt of such response from the Offending Club, impose such penalty as the KDL deems as a deterrent from such breach being repeated by the Offending Club, which may include:
 - (i) warning; or
 - (ii) a payment of a fine; or
 - (iii) a suspension of a fine; and
 - (iv) any other any such terms and conditions the KDL determines.

8 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

To be read in conjunction with AFL Victoria Country Handbook Rule 7.

- 8.1 The KDL shall annually appoint an Independent Tribunal panel in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 7 consisting of up to twelve persons, three of whom will comprise any one sitting. Such persons will not be directly associated with any Club in the League but will be conversant with the rules of the game and the League and, in the opinion of the KDL, will be thoroughly capable of handling any cases or disputes which may be put before them.
- 8.2 This Independent Tribunal will deal with players and officials reported in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Rules of the AFL Victoria Country and Kyabram District Football Netball League. They may also sit in judgment on any football or netball issue or matters for Kyabram District Football Netball League at the direction of the KDL within its jurisdiction.
- 8.3 They are to meet when occasion demands, and their decision is to be final and binding. All divisions affiliated with Kyabram District Football Netball League will come under the jurisdiction of the KDL Independent Tribunal.
- 8.4 The Kyabram District Football Netball League shall appoint the Chairperson of the Independent Tribunal.
- 8.5 Notification of Tribunal

Club Secretaries (unless an alternate club official is notified to KDL at the commencement of the season) will be contacted via email with dates and times of Tribunal hearings.
- 8.6 Hearings – Reported Players

In normal circumstances the Kyabram District Football Netball League Independent Tribunal will meet, when required, at a time and date to be determined. Clubs will be informed of the time and date on the first business day following the game.
- 8.7 In the event that more than one case is scheduled, they will be heard in the order determined by the Tribunal Secretary, allowing approximately 60 minutes for each case. Should there be more than three (3) cases to be heard on the one night a second Tribunal will be convened at a time, date and venue organised by Kyabram District Football Netball League.
- 8.8 Reporting of Players
 - (a) A current years AFL Victoria Country player report pad is to be placed in the

umpire's room at the beginning of the day and left there for the duration of the day's games. Penalty 3 Penalty Units

- (b) If the report sheet has been filled in but left on the club's premises, the club must contact the League Secretary/General Manager by 6pm on the day of the match. Penalty 3 Penalty Units

8.9 Set Penalties

Note the following in relation to AFL Victoria Country Rule 12

- (a) Umpires shall report and charge any player in accordance with the normal procedures for offences listed in AFL Victoria Country Rule 12 but the report shall not be heard by a Tribunal unless so requested by either the Umpire who lodges the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or the President/Secretary of either club.
- (b) If the report is not requested to be heard by a Tribunal by any party named above the player is automatically given a one match set penalty.
- (c) Such requests shall be made in writing, delivered, sent by facsimile or email to the Secretary/General Manager, no later than 12 noon on the first business day immediately following the match.
- (d) If the reported player has been previously suspended or reprimanded in the current or preceding season the player shall not be able to accept the set penalty until offered by the Secretary/General Manager. The Secretary/General Manager is the only person empowered to decide, after studying a player's tribunal history, whether a player can accept the minimum prescribed penalty or will be required to attend the Tribunal hearing.

8.10 Verdict

In the event an offending player at a Tribunal hearing pleads or is found 'Guilty' the player's club will be charged \$120 to cover costs incurred at the Tribunal.

9 INVESTIGATION OFFICERS

An Investigation Officer will be appointed by the Secretary/General Manager from the panel of AFL Victoria Country Investigation Officers to investigate any matter referred pursuant to AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (Unbecoming Conduct).

10 UNBECOMING CONDUCT

As outlined in the current AFL National Policy and/or Vic Country Handbook

Note: Refer to AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations Handbook 2023 – Rule 5

11 PLAYER TRANSFERS AND APPEALS

As outlined in the current AFL National Policy and/or Vic Country Handbook

Note: Refer to National Community Football Policy March 2023 – Rule 3 and AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations Handbook 2023 – Rule 1

12 WEEKLY RECORD

12.1 Club Editorial material

All Club scribes for Weekly Record must have their name, email address and contact number registered with the Secretary/General Manager.

12.2 Weekly Record Team Lists

- (a) All Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the publisher at least 10 days prior to the commencement of the first competition match in each season, one list for "Senior and Reserve" grades and one list for "Under 18" and "Under 15" grade accurately
- (b) stating all the club registered players' first name, surname and jumper numbers for inclusion in the record for the first game.

Penalty: Post Round 4 in each competition – 1 Penalty Unit per name.

- (c) All Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the Publisher, no later than 9.30am each Tuesday prior to the next round of the fixture, any changes of player names and numbers for "Senior and Reserve" grades or "Under 18" and "Under 15" grades team lists published in the Weekly Record and weekly notes.
- (d) Team Lists for finals fixtures must be separated to reflect 'Seniors' 'Reserves' 'Under 18' and "Under 15" with a maximum number of 30 players on each list. 1 Penalty Unit per name above 30 players.

12.3 Production details

Minimum number of records per round will be 100 per home game, a Club desiring additional records can arrange extra copies by contacting the League.

12.4 Team Lists

Clubs must supply their team selections weekly to be published in print in Friday's edition. If this cannot be done on the web-based program team selections must be emailed or faxed to Shepparton News by 8:00pm on the Thursday. 1 Penalty Unit.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 The KDL must be advised of any intended correspondence with the GVFUA or AFL Victoria Country or other Leagues. The correspondence must be on official Club letterhead and signed by the Club President.

13.2 All correspondence to KDL regarding requests or complaints must be submitted on club letterhead and must be signed by the club President or Executive Member

14 UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

No club shall permit any of its officers or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television, newspapers or social media) in connection with any policies or acts of the KDL without the prior approval of the KDL. To do so shall render the club concerned liable to:

- (a) a fine for any breach at the discretion of the KDL;
- (b) suspension from the League;
- (c) expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the Association

15 COMPETITION AND FIXTURES

15.1 Fixture

- (a) The KDL shall be responsible for the preparation of the fixture for each season and it shall consist of:
 - (i) a maximum of 18 home and away games;
 - (ii) the date which the Grand Final shall be held, including the dates of each final leading up to the Grand Final;
 - (iii) split rounds and/or general byes as determined by the KDL; and
 - (iv) date in which the season is intended to commence.
- (b) The KDL shall provide two (2) alternative fixtures to the KDL Delegates to vote on at the August Delegates Meeting. A simple majority vote of all Delegates present will determine the fixture for the upcoming season.
- (c) The KDL may amend the fixture as voted by the KDL Delegates in By-Law 15.1(a) as may be required and shall notify the KDL Delegates as soon as possible.

15.2 Home and Away Rounds

- (a) The League shall conduct a series of to a maximum of 18 (or such number as the KDL shall from time to time determine) home and away matches for Senior, Reserve, Under 18 and Under 15 Grades.
- (b) In the Under 18 and Under 15 competition, should a club have less than 20 players at the commencement of the game, each team will play 16 a side.

15.3 Failure to fill an engagement.

- (a) If a Club fails to seek permission from the League to withdraw from an Open Age competition, a Set Penalty of up to 40 Penalty Units will be imposed.
- (b) If any Club forfeits an Open Age match during the current season will be subject to:
 - (i) a Set Penalty of 10 Penalty Units; and
 - (ii) shall be liable for the cost of umpires scheduled for that match (if applicable) and
 - (1) when the forfeiting club is the away team, the fine will be distributed to the home club as compensation; and
 - (2) when the forfeiting club is the home team, the fine will be retained by the KDL
- (c) In the event of a Club failing to field a team or part thereof within half an hour of the arranged starting time of a match, the opposing Club may claim the match. The League shall investigate the circumstances and may apply provisions as they see fit.
- (d) The percentage for any game forfeited in any competition during the season, will be dealt with by awarding 100 points to the team receiving the forfeit and zero points to the team giving the forfeit.

Refer to By Law 27 in regards to Under 18 and Under 15 regulations.

15.4 Fixture Alterations

Clubs desiring to conduct matches on a day or time other than that published by the league in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied:

- (a) That all appropriate licences and permissions to conduct the game have been received and copies forwarded to the League Office prior to the game;
- (b) That fourteen (14) days' notice is forwarded to the League office indicating times of commencement of all games and any alterations of venues to the published fixture;
- (c) That fourteen (14) days' notice in writing requesting approval from the League that the fixture be altered is forwarded to the League office from each club;
- (d) That an advertisement be taken in the League weekly record at least one week prior to the scheduled match advertising the change to the published fixture.
- (e) The finals series will be developed as per By Law 17

15.5 Fixtured Games for Draw Equality

- (a) To maintain equality and integrity in the draw the KDL shall, at its discretion, identify for some additional games to be scheduled to rebalance the draw for equality of byes and games. This process will be completed in the following manner:
 - (i) When the fixture is finalised for the season the Secretary/General Manager shall notify clubs whose teams will be required to complete extra games outside of the scheduled fixture. Clubs will also be notified which Division and against which team games will need to schedule.
 - (ii) The responsibility of scheduling the games will be with the two competing clubs and shall be done so through mutual consent
 - (iii) Once scheduled the scheduled 'home' club shall notify the
 - (iv) Secretary/General Manager also identifying the venue.
 - (v) Match conditions and post-match paperwork and processes will be as per the usual practice outlined in these By Laws
- (b) In the event clubs fail to play the required games by the completion of the last fixtured round neither team will receive any points and both clubs will be fined 4 Penalty Units.

16 LADDERS

16.1 Points Allocation

- (a) In the home and away matches, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. Where an affiliated Senior Club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, four points will be awarded to the opposition club.
- (b) The Secretary/Manager shall prepare a weekly ladder for each Division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, draw or loss it shall also

prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and in the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with lower percentage points.

- (c) All decisions of the KDL in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.

16.2 Scores Used to Calculate

The scores used by the League to calculate the points and percentages for each Divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores contained in the goal umpires cards. Should these scores disagree; the timekeeping cards may be used as the basis for calculating points and percentages in accordance with Rule 12.7 of "Laws of the Game of Football" as published in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook each year.

16.3 Non-Completion of Matches

- (a) Failure by any club to play an arranged match as set out in the fixture of the League from time to time shall render the club liable to a Fine for breach to be fixed by the KDL unless a satisfactory reason is received by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the failure to play the arranged match.
- (b) If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the affiliated Clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the officiating umpire, the following procedures shall apply:
- (c) Subject to clause 16.3(e) below, if a game is concluded prior to half time and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the teams shall depart the arena and the match will be declared a draw. Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.
- (d) Subject to clause 16.3(e) below, if a game has progressed beyond half time and is unable to proceed within the scheduled time for the match, the teams will depart the arena and the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages. The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.
- (e) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by the KDL.

17 FINALS

17.1 Finals Arrangements

- (a) On completion of the home and away matches, the Affiliated Clubs gaining positions one to six on the premiership ladder of each of the grades shall form the Final Six, except where altered by the KDL.
- (b) All finals matches shall be played on grounds to be decided by the KDL and where a charge for admittance can be made.

(c) The finals structure for all grades shall be as follows:

Week 1	Saturday	Elimination Final 1 (E1)	3rd v 6th
	Sunday	Elimination Final 2 (E2)	4th v 5th
Week 2	Saturday	Semi Final 1 (SF1)	1st v 2nd
	Sunday	Semi Final 2 (SF2)	Winner E1 v Winner E2
Week 3	Saturday	Preliminary Final (PF)	Loser S1 v Winner S2
Week 4	Saturday	Grand Final	Winner S1 v Winner PF

17.2 Fixtures and venues

The KDL shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all finals matches.

17.3 Entrance Fees

The KDL shall be responsible for the fixing of all entrances fees at all finals series matches.

17.4 Designated Home Teams

- (a) The senior team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the final's series shall use the home team rooms and Coach's box. After the first round of Elimination Finals games the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team unless agreed to by both clubs competing in the Seniors game
- (b) The home team for all grades other than seniors will be determined by the KDL

18 GROUND INSPECTIONS

18.1 For both home and away and finals matches, the KDL retains the right to take whatever action is deems necessary to address any issue arising from the condition of grounds, including but not limited to; moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.

18.2 On the day of any official match arranged by the KDL a designated representative from each participating team must make a full inspection of the ground on which the match will be played prior to the match commencing. The representative shall complete the official Match Day Checklist app.

18.3 If the same Clubs are competing in all games on the same day at the same venue only one form is required, if more than two Clubs are competing on the same day at the venue then separate forms are to be completed by the Clubs competing in that match (including finals).

18.4 In the event that Match Day Checklist is not completed in accordance with this By-Law 18, a Set Penalty of 2 Penalty Units shall be applied.

19 INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

- 19.1 The KDL may select any players registered with the League from time to time to participate in inter-league matches to represent the KDL.
- 19.2 Any player selected to participate in inter-league matches must play for the KDL and any failure to do so shall be dealt with by the KDL.
- 19.3 In all cases under 19.2 of this Rule it shall be:
- (a) An initial squad will be announced at the conclusion of round 2 by the KDL
 - (b) All players nominated by the KDL in the initial squad have 5 days to advise in writing the KDL League Operations Manager of their availability for interleague requirements.
 - (c) Any player that advises the KDL in the 5-day time frame that they are unavailable for interleague requirements will be removed from the squad with no penalty.
 - (d) At the completion of finalising the squad after the 5-day time period, no player can advise that they are unable to compete in the interleague team.
 - (e) Any player selected for inter-league who fails to participate as selected shall automatically be ineligible to play in the next home and away round of their club.
 - (f) The club the player(s) are representing and who fail to participate shall be liable to a fine per player(s). 5 Penalty Units
 - (g) Any player that requests to be removed from the final squad must be approved via the KDL Executive.
- 19.4 No person shall be qualified to play in any interleague team unless he is qualified to play for a League Affiliated Club in matches played under the auspices of the League.

20 MEETINGS OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

- 20.1 The KDL may convene compulsory meeting(s) for Club Presidents and/ or officials as stipulated by the KDL from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: Presidents, Club Administrators, Team Managers, Senior and Junior Coaches Forums.
- 20.2 The designated person may, with the prior approval of the KDL, appoint another person to attend Annual and Special Meetings or other compulsory meetings in their place.
- 20.3 All Clubs must be represented when requested at all official League meetings (e.g. presidents, secretaries, managers, coaches etc.) and functions.
- Penalty: Two penalty points.

21 CODES OF CONDUCT AND OTHER POLICIES

- 21.1 All players, officials and Club members at all League matches shall be subject to the Policies and Codes of Conduct as issued by the KDL from time to time.
- 21.2 The KDL is required to adopt complementary rules and regulations in football competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction as those of the AFL

Victoria Country.

21.3 The KDL adopts AFL Victoria and AFL Victoria Country policies (as published by AFL Victoria and/or AFL Victoria Country from time to time) as policies of the KDL.

21.4 Smoke Free Policy

(a) All KDL, League and associated meetings shall be conducted in a smoke free environment.

(b) All KDL, League and associated matches shall adhere to current local, state and federal legislative tobacco requirements.

22 LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

All games shall be played in strict accordance with the “Laws of Australian Football” as determined by the AFL or modified by AFL Victoria Country or the League.

23 COMPETITION RULES

The competition shall be conducted under the National Australian Football Council Laws of the Game and AFL Victoria Country Rules.

24 PLAYING UNIFORMS

24.1 All Club uniforms shall comply with AFL Victoria Country rules. The KDL, before adoption, must approve club colours and design of match uniform. Away Clubs are responsible to obtain alternative playing uniforms, if there is a clash of playing uniforms for all home and away and final matches.

24.2 Every player must be correctly uniformed in his Club colours with their number prominent and securely fixed on their back.

24.3 All playing jumpers and shorts must carry logos as specified by AFL Victoria Country and KDL.

24.4 Bike shorts worn under playing shorts must be neutral or skin colour.

24.5 Advertising on Uniforms

(a) Sponsor’s name of back of jumper

A sponsor’s logo/name is allowable on the back of a football jumper and is of such design and length so as not to cause any interference with the ability to distinguish clearly the number on such jumper.

(b) Front of Jumper

Logos/sponsors names are allowable on the front of any football jumper. Official AFL Victoria Country and KDL sponsor logos are to take precedence; however, club logos can be placed under such.

25 LEAGUE STRUCTURE (Inc. Under 18 and Under 15 Eligibility)

25.1 League Structure

The League will be structured in the following manner for competition purposes:

(a) Each Club shall field four (4) football teams:

(i) Senior Football

- (ii) Reserves Football
 - (iii) Under 18s Football
 - (iv) Under 15s Football
- (b) A Club shall always field their Senior Football first, unless permission has been granted by the Board. Failing to field the Senior Football first, the Club shall be subject to such penalty as provided in By-Law 15.4

25.2 Qualification Age of Under 18s Football

The qualification age of a player completing in Under 18s Football shall be:

- (a) the player must be 15 years of age as of 1st January of the current season; and
- (b) the player must be under the age of 18 years as of 31st December of the previous season.

Note: for the avoidance of doubt: If a player is turning 19 years of age in the current season, the player is not eligible and would need to apply for an Age Dispensation Exemption.

25.3 Qualification Age of Under 15s Football

The qualification age of a player competing in Under 15s football shall be:

- (a) the player must be 12 years of age as of 1 January of the current season; and
- (b) the player must be under the age of 15 as of 31 December of the previous season

Note: for the avoidance of doubt:

- *A player must be turning 13 in the current season to be eligible to compete. A player will not be eligible to compete if the player is turning 12 in the current season; or*
- *A player will be eligible to compete if the player is 14 and will be turning 15 in the current season. A player will not be eligible to compete if the player is turning 16 in the current season.*

25.4 The KDL shall determine the participants, number, dates, venues and duration of each match.

25.5 Where a team of any Clubs fails to keep any match commitment, Rule 15.3 shall be invoked.

25.6 All teams that apply for outside player permits, must have a seasonal or match day permit approved by NO later than 9.30am Saturday prior to the weekend's game. No permits will be approved after 9.30am on Saturday.

25.7 No team shall be allowed any outside permit players in finals, unless an Area Agreement allows for the player to compete in finals. **OVERAGE PERMITTED PLAYERS**

Note: this Bylaw relates to players who are competing in Junior Football (Under 15s or Under 18s). This Bylaw should be read in conjunction with the AFL National Age

Dispensation Policy).

26 OVERAGE PERMITTED PLAYERS

26.1 Pursuant to By-law 26.1 and 26.3 above, a player shall only be permitted to compete in Junior Football as an overage permitted player under the following conditions:

(a) Medical Grounds.

A player who wishes to apply for dispensation to play in a competition based on Medical Grounds, must seek permission from the League with a letter of support / recommendation by a Medical Practitioner and clearly identifying the medical grounds

(b) Player Retention Program

The player retention program is to assist clubs to retain players who may not be willing or able to continue to play football for various reasons. A club may make an application based on the player retention program on the following grounds:

- (i) if the player wishes to compete in Under 18s Football, the player:
 - (1) shall be under the age of 19 years of age as at 1 January of the current season;
 - (2) has not played any open age football (i.e Senior or Reserve Football) with any club in any league in any season.
 - (3) may play up to four (4) Reserve Football games for the Club during the current season;
 - (4) must not have been reported and found guilty (or pleaded guilty) to any offence, in the current or previous two (2) seasons. If the player is found guilty in the current season, the permit shall be revoked immediately
 - (5) the application is received by the League on or before 30 June of the current season.
 - (6) shall not be permitted for play for another club on a match day permit. If the player compete for another club, the permit will be immediately revoked
- (ii) if the player wishes to complete in Under 15s Football, the player:
 - (1) shall be under the age of 16 years of age as at 1 January of the current season;
 - (2) has not played any Under 18s (or such applicable higher age bracket) with any club in any league in any season.
 - (3) may play up to four(4) Under 18s Football games for the Club during the current season;
 - (4) must not have been reported and found guilty (or pleaded guilty)

to any offence, in the current or previous two (2) seasons.

- (5) the application is received by the League on or before 30 June of the current season.
 - (6) shall not be permitted for play for another club on a match day permit.
- 26.2 A maximum of four (4) players shall be permitted to compete in a lower grade of football for their age bracket.
- 26.3 If a player does not meet or breaches on of the above criteria as listed in By-law 26.1, then any permit (conditional or approved), shall deem the player ineligible and such permit (conditional or approved) shall be revoked immediately. All teams that apply for outside player permits must have permit approved by NO later than 9.30am Saturday prior to the weekend's game.
- 26.4 If a club utilises the overage permit in accordance with this Bylaw, the club will be able to have a maximum of 6 permitted players listed on their team at any one time.
- For the avoidance of doubt, if a Club has two (2) overage permitted players then the Club can have a maximum of four (4) seasonal or match day permits on the team sheet
- 26.2 Upon receipt of the application, the League shall consider the application, having regard to all relevant matters pertaining to the playing, including but not limited to:
- (a) the player's disability (if applicable);
 - (b) player's physical size or development considerations
 - (c) the player's football history
 - (d) Any such matters as considered necessary by the League and/or guidelines as provided under the AFL National Age Dispensation Policy (or other such policy as may be)
- 26.3 The League shall make the following decisions regarding the application for an overage player:
- (a) provide a provisional / conditional permit, allowing the player the ability to play for a specific time period to enable a league representative to assess the player's ability and application in further detail; or
 - (b) approve the application without conditions; or
 - (c) refuse the application; or
 - (d) request additional information from the player or club, to enable the league to consider the application more fully.
- 26.4 Any application for an Overage Permit shall be submitted no later than 10am Friday prior to the weekend's match. Failing to provide prior to this request may see a delay in response from the League, the player will be deemed ineligible if competes in the weekend's match and penalties enforced for playing an ineligible player.

27 REGISTRATIONS

27.2 Every player must be a registered member of their Club and approved by their Club Committee.

27.3 A player must be registered with the Kyabram District Football Netball League and AFL Victoria Country. The registration must be entered, confirmed and completed on the AFL Victoria Country database. Players must be registered in the KDL by no later than 5pm on any Friday prior to the weekend's games.

27.4 Playing an unregistered player will result in the following:

- (a) a 'Please Explain' letter will be sent to the offending club requiring an explanation of the unregistered player taking part in the game which must be responded to within 14 days of the date of request.

Upon receipt of a club's explanation the following may be applied:

- (b) 15 penalty units fine per unregistered player per game, and loss of premiership points for any game in which the unregistered player took part
- (c) Any other penalty or reprimand as the KDL sees fit

27.5 The KDL, upon application from the opposing Club, and after inviting any submission from the unregistered player's Club, may award the lost premiership points to the opposing team.

27.6 Any player that has been registered by a Club must obtain a clearance from that Club before playing with another Club in the League during that season as per AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

- (a) A Players clearance must be finalised before playing with that club
- (b) Any players clearance to the KDL must be finalised no later than 5pm on any Friday prior to the weekend's games.
- (c) No player clearance's will be approved after 5pm on any Friday.

27.7 A KDL footballer over the age of 35, desirous of playing Masters Football, may apply for a local interchange permit with his local Victorian Masters Football team allowing unlimited Masters Football games to be played.

28 CLUBS REQUIREMENT TO FIELD UNDER 15 AND 18 TEAM

28.1 This rule to be read in conjunction with Rule 26.

That a Club due to extenuating circumstances, and only after approval from KDL Executive, may allow their U15 and/or Under 18 side to lapse for a twelve month period agreed to by the League.

28.2 During the first year a club's Under 15 and/or Under 18 team is in recess the following shall apply:

- (a) Club must appoint a Junior Development Officer
- (b) Junior Development Officer to work with the allocated AFL Goulburn Murray Football Development Manager to develop a Development Plan to field an U15 and/or U18 team the following season.
- (c) A quarterly report of activity to be submitted to the League Secretary/General

Manager.

28.3 During the second (and any subsequent) year a Club's Under 15 and/or Under 18s team is in recess the following shall apply:

- (a) By Laws 28.2 (as above) shall be applicable
- (b) The Club must work with a neighbouring (KDL or other) club to develop junior players in the area through merger or other arrangement as approved by the KDL Executive.

29 GROUND FACILITIES

29.1 Each Club is to provide a ground that in the opinion of the KDL is suitable for match play.

29.2 Goal posts must be correctly padded in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules. Penalty: 4 Penalty Units

29.3 The ground must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game unless impractical to do so. Variations are to be approved by the KDL. 2 Penalty Units

29.4 A stretcher must be provided by the home Club and located in or near the coaches' box.

29.5 Penalty: 2 Penalty Units

29.6 A separate dressing room must be available for umpires. Clubs should also provide dressing room facilities for female umpires when applicable. 2 Penalty Units

29.7 Clubs must provide suitable weatherproof coach's boxes of design approved by local council building regulations. Coaches are NOT permitted to use coaches boxes in a manner that does not comply with local council building regulations or Occupational Health & Safety requirements.

29.8 The Home Club must provide two (2) trainers tables in the visitor's rooms. 1 Penalty Unit.

30 INTERCHANGE/ORDER OFF

30.1 Interchange and order off rules are to operate as per AFL Victoria Country Rule 11 and AFL Laws of Australian Football Rule 7.

30.2 For all competitions Clubs shall be required to field a minimum of 14 players to commence the game. Failure to do so will result in their side forfeiting the match.

30.3 With 18 players on the field interchange bench numbers are a maximum of Seniors three (3), Reserves four (4), Under 18 four (4) and Under 15 four (4).

30.4 If either team has 19 players or less on match day, both sides must field a maximum of 16 players on the ground at any one time with interchange numbers allowable up to a total match day squad of 22.

30.5 The Home Club is responsible for the appointment of an interchange steward for each game.

30.6 It is the responsibility of the interchange steward to:

- (a) Ensure that prior to the start of each game that all players starting on the

interchange bench for both teams that the player's numbers are recorded on the interchange sheet. (failure to record the implementation of this rule on the interchange steward's sheet will result in 5 Penalty Units)

- (b) Ensure that players ordered from the ground under a yellow card remain off for fifteen minutes of actual playing time.
- (c) Ensure that players ordered from the ground under a red card do not return to the field of play for the remainder of the game and are not replaced until 20 minutes of actual playing time.

30.7 The interchange steward must therefore:

- (a) Identify the umpire's signal (a yellow or red card), which indicates a player has been ordered off;
- (b) Acknowledge the umpire's decision;
- (c) record the relevant amount of actual playing time from the moment the player crosses the interchange area in the space provided on the time cards (failure to record the implementation of this rule on the interchange steward's sheet will result in 1 Penalty Unit); and
- (d) signal the conclusion of the fifteen- or twenty-minute penalty
- (e) any player ordered off under a red card is not permitted to take any further part in the game

30.8 The interchange steward will continue to record the change as has been the case. The onus remains with the clubs to ensure that this procedure operates effectively.

NB: In the event of more than one player being off at any given time, the onus is on the Club to confer with the interchange steward to determine which player is eligible to come on.

30.9 Clubs in breach of procedure: In the event a Club believes an opposition player has been replaced early, that Club Captain may call a team count to verify the number of players on the ground and the score at that particular time.

30.10 Where a Team has more than the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a) a field umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.
- (b) a fifty (50) metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- (c) The Goal Umpires shall write the current scores as at the time of the Head Count on their Score Card.
- (d) the matter will be referred to the League to investigate and ultimately determine the outcome as they see fit - note that the offending team does not lose all points scored in the Match up to the time of the count on match day.

31 COACHES

As outlined in the current AFL National Policy and/or Vic Country Handbook

Note: Refer to AFL National Policy – Rule 13

32 RUNNERS

As outlined in the current AFL National Policy and/or Vic Country Handbook

Note: Refer to AFL National Policy – Rule 14

33 TRAINERS AND MEDICAL STAFF

33.1 No team shall be permitted to have more than a combined total of six (6) trainers/water carriers except where AFL Victoria Country heat/cold policy is invoked.

33.2 Club trainers may enter the arena at any time during the match or intervals, but only to attend to an injured player or to replace a damaged uniform and for no other purpose whatsoever. Trainers may also carry water as part of their duties.

33.3 Trainers and Medical staff are to be identifiable with the word 'Trainer' on their back. 2 Penalty Units

34 WATER-CARRIERS

34.1 The minimum age of a water carrier shall be 12. 2 Penalty Units

34.2 The sole duty of the water carrier shall be to run water to players of their/their club and to immediately leave the vicinity of play. 2 Penalty Units

34.3 Water-carriers are to wear matching identifiable shirts bearing the words 'water' or 'water carrier' and be correctly numbered. 1 Penalty Unit

34.4 Water-carriers may enter the arena at any time during the match or intervals but only to provide water to players or umpires and for no other purpose whatsoever and to immediately leave the playing arena once the drink has been delivered 2 Penalty Units (Refer AFL Victoria Country Rule 18.2)

34.5 Water carriers are not permitted to operate constantly from the Coaches box area but must be around the boundary area against the fence while not delivering water

35 TIMEKEEPERS

35.1 One responsible Timekeeper is to be provided by each competing Club. No person shall be permitted to act as a timekeeper unless they have attained the age of 16 years. Each Club must provide a suitable clock that is to be synchronized with the other Club's timekeeper at the commencement of each match. Where only one clock is available that shall be the official time.

(a) Failure to supply a timekeeper – 1 Penalty Unit

(b) Failure to supply a clock – 1 Penalty Unit

35.2 In finals matches competing Clubs are to also supply their own timekeepers. 2 Penalty Units

35.3 A bell, gong, or siren, capable of being heard across the ground at its farthest point must be provided.

35.4 Number of Occasions Siren to Be Sounded:

(a) Start of Match

- (i) Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and as Umpires enter the Arena (once)
- (ii) Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)
- (iii) One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)
- (iv) Scheduled starting time (Start of Match) (once)
- (b) First Quarter time Interval
 - (i) Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)
 - (ii) One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)
 - (iii) Scheduled starting time (Start of Quarter) (once)
- (c) Half Time Interval
 - (i) Five minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the Quarter and as Umpires enter the Arena (once)
 - (ii) Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)
 - (iii) One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)
 - (iv) Scheduled starting time (Start of Quarter) (once)
- (d) Three Quarter Time Interval
 - (i) Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (twice)
 - (ii) One minute prior to the scheduled starting time (once)
 - (iii) Scheduled starting time (Start of Quarter) (once)

35.5 Timekeepers shall keep accurate records on cards supplied by KDL to each Home Club including times of starts and finishes of quarters; appearance times of teams; elapsed playing time of players ordered from the ground. The timekeeper must sign the cards and return them to the home club secretary for counter signature.
1 Penalty Unit

35.6 Timekeepers must not have communication devices, which includes but is not limited to headsets, microphones, earpieces or radio's or advise of remaining time in quarter or game to either interchange box during any official game. 2 Penalty Units

36 TEAM MANAGERS

36.1 Home Secretary/Match Day Secretary

- (a) The Home Secretary/Match Day Secretary is responsible for the following match day duties:
- (b) Provide Time keepers cards as issued by the League
- (c) Provide Umpires with Score Cards as issued by the League, Best & Fairest Vote Cards and envelopes as issued by the League
- (d) Provide umpires with current AFL Victoria Country Notice of Report form
- (e) Provide Interchange steward with Interchange Sheets as issued by the

League

- (f) Provide footballs as per Rules
- (g) Ensure Umpire Escort is appointed, is aware of and fulfils their duties
- (h) Enter Match Details on AFL Victoria Country web-based database as provided by both clubs at the end of each game by 5pm on match day

36.2 The Home Club secretary shall assume responsibility for the contents of the Match Envelopes and should ensure that they are delivered to Kyabram District Football Netball League Headquarters no later than 9am Wednesday following the game.
2 Penalty Units

- (a) Failing to include the signed Interchange/order off form in the Matchday envelope. 1 Penalty Unit
- (b) Approved paperwork must not be altered under any circumstances. 2 Penalty Units each occurrence
- (c) Match Details submitted via AFL Victoria Country online web site to Kyabram District Football Netball League must be entered by the required time and contain correct scores as per Goal Umpires Cards, accurate best players as required, and goal kickers for both competing teams. 1 Penalty Unit for first occurrence, 2 Penalty Units for subsequent occurrences.

36.3 Away Secretary/Match Day Secretary

The Away Team Secretary/Match Day Secretary is responsible for the following match day duties:

- (a) Provide opposition team manager with details of Goal kickers and best players as soon as possible after the conclusion of the game.

36.4 Both Home and Away Team Secretary/Match Day Secretaries

Both Secretary/Match Day Secretaries are responsible for the following match day duties

- (a) Provide Team Sheet to the umpires, showing all players with correct jumper numbers and all officials with correct numbers where applicable generated from AFL Victoria Country Data Base and signed by the Team Manager
- (b) Complete the AFL Victoria Country Match Day Ground Safety checklist
- (c) Ensure Time keeper is available
- (d) Ensure Field, Goal and Boundary Umpires are available where no appointment is made
- (e) Obtain advice of any reported players from the central umpires after each game, sign and collect a copy of any player reports from that game

36.5 Where night or Sunday games are played other arrangements MAY, at the discretion of the League, be put in place.

37 PLAYING TIMES

Playing times for Seniors, Reserves, Under 18 and Under 15 games will be:

37.1 Home and Away

- (a) Under 15
 - 9:15am start
 - 4 x 15-minute quarters with no time on
 - 1st quarter and 3rd quarter – 5 mins
 - Half-time break – 10 mins
- (b) Under 18
 - 10:40am start
 - 4 x 20-minute quarters with no time on
 - 1st quarter and 3rd quarter breaks – 5 mins
 - Half time break – 15 mins
- (c) Reserves
 - 12:30pm start
 - 4 x 20-minute quarters with no time on
 - 1st quarter and 3rd quarter breaks – 5 mins
 - Half time break – 15 mins
- (d) Seniors
 - 14:15pm start
 - 4 x 20-minute quarters with time on added to each quarter
 - 1st quarter and 3rd quarter breaks – 5 mins
 - Half time break – 15 mins
- (e) Clubs responsible for late starts at any point of any match will incur a fine of 1 Penalty Unit per occurrence.

37.2 Late Start - Finals

In finals late start penalty will be 1 Penalty Unit per two minutes for each Club causing the delay

38 TIME ON

38.1 Home & Away Games

- (a) Seniors: 'Time on' is be signalled by the field umpires by either raising one hand above their/them head OR by crossing both arms across their/them chest or when a goal umpire signals a score is recorded (NOT when he/she completes waving his flags).
- (b) If the Field umpire fails to signal 'Time On' when the ball goes out of bounds the clock is to be stopped when the signal is given by the boundary umpire and restarted when the ball is thrown into play.

- (c) Reserves and Under 18: 'Time On' is only applicable where a team count is called, a stretcher is on ground or there is a lengthy delay as deemed by the umpire/s in charge.

38.2 Finals

- (a) Seniors will play Time On according to rules applicable during Home and Away season
- (b) Reserves, Under 18 games will be played according to advertised times WITH TIME ON for excessive stoppages only.
- (c) When the ball goes out of bounds time on will NOT be added unless the central umpire signals that he/she considers there will be an excessive delay caused by the ball going over the fence or another significant delaying factor.
- (d) 'Time On' is be signalled by the field umpires by either raising one hand above their/them head OR by crossing both arms across their/them chest or when a goal umpire signals a score is recorded (NOT when he/she completes waving his flags).

39 DRAWN FINALS

39.1 In all finals (including Grand Finals), after the goal umpires confirm that the full-time scores are equal, the central umpires will resume the match as follows:

- (a) Teams shall change ends and play 2 x 5-minute periods with time on. Teams will change ends again after the end of the first 5-minute period.
- (b) If scores are even at the end of these two periods a further 2 x 5-minute periods with time on shall be played in a similar manner to the first.
- (c) If scores are even at the end of the second period of extra time, the teams will change ends and resume play.
- (d) The team that scores first will be declared the winner.
- (e) Coaches will not be permitted to address their players at the completion of normal time or any change over.
- (f) Players shall not be permitted to meet during any change of ends.

40 FOOTBALLS

40.1 All footballs used for matches will be determined by the KDL including any sponsor brand requirements.

40.2 Football for all Senior, Reserves, Under 18 and Under 15 games will be Size 5.

40.3 Two new or suitable quality branded footballs are to be provided by the Home Club in each Senior match.

40.4 Two suitable branded footballs in good order and condition are to be provided by the Home Club for each Reserve, Under 18 and Under 15 matches.

40.5 In finals, branded footballs will be provided by KDL.

41 TEAM SHEETS

41.1 Team sheets must be the official team sheets printed from the AFL Victoria Country online database and include:

- (a) Registered AFL Victoria Country Player entered
- (b) Registered AFL Victoria Country Official entered
- (c) Be signed by a Club Official
- (d) Coach, Captain and Vice-captain should be identified on the team sheet
- (e) Numbers opposite names in the Record must be the same as is on the team sheet. 2 Penalty Unit per occurrence

41.2 Players

- (a) Team sheets generated from the AFL Victoria Country Data Base and web site with full name and numbers signed by Captain or Club Official responsible are to be handed to the central umpire 20 minutes prior to the commencement of each game. Only players registered with AFL Victoria Country are eligible to compete.
- (b) The player number must match the number recorded in the football record. A notation of a variation of jumper number must be made on the team sheet to indicate exceptional circumstances.
- (c) Penalty for not signing – 1 Penalty Unit
- (d) Penalty for failure to include all players in team list – 2 Penalty Units
- (e) Penalty for failure to include other information – 1 Penalty Unit
- (f) Penalty for player number not matching football record – 1 Penalty Unit

41.3 Officials

- (a) No team shall be permitted to have more than a combined total of six (6) trainers/water carriers listed on the team sheet and inside the fence.
- (b) All authorised persons, apart from Runners, Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain in the Coaches Box at all times during play. Other match day staff must be stationed outside the perimeter fence or fence line. 2 Penalty Units per person

42 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

42.1 A player, either Open Age or Junior Age, is eligible to compete in finals, if the player:

- (a) is registered with their Club and has not played at another Club (through permit or clearance) in the current season, must play three (3) Club Home and Away games; or
- (b) is registered with their Club and played at another Club (through permit or clearance) in the current season must play six (6) Club home and away games

42.2 Open Age Football Eligibility Criteria

This section relates to players who compete in Senior Football or Reserve Football.

- (a) If a player has played three (3) or more home and away games in a higher ranked team (e.g Senior Football) with the Club, such player must play at

least three (3) home and away games in a lower ranked team (e.g. Reserve Football) to qualify for a finals game in the lower ranked team.

- (b) Subject to By-Law 42.2(c) , a player who plays nine (9) or more games in a higher ranked team (e.g Senior Team) during the home and away season, such player shall not be eligible to play in a lower ranked team (e.g Reserve Team) in a finals game.
- (c) In the event a Club is competing in all grades of football (i.e Seniors and Reserves Football) in the same final competition round (e.g competing in the Semi Final, which may played either Saturday or Sunday), By-Law 42.2(c) and 42.2(d) shall not be applicable.
- (d) A player may only play in one Seniors or Reserves game per weekend during the finals for the Club.

42.3 Junior Age Football Eligibility Criteria

This section relates to players who compete in Under 18 Football or Under 15 Football

- (a) If a player has received an overage permit pursuant to By-Law 26, that player will be eligible to compete in the grade in which they received the overage permit to compete in.
- (b) An overage permitted player shall not be eligible to compete in their correct age competition during the final series, without prior permission from the KDL.
- (c) Subject to By-Law 42.3(b), a Junior Age player is unlimited as to how many times they play on any one day for the finals series.

42.4 A Club who selects an ineligible player for a finals game will:

- (a) forfeit the match; and
- (b) will be subject to a fine and such other penalty imposed by the KDL in their absolute discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, any such penalty or fine will be issued by the KDL with a “please explain” letter sent to the Club.

42.5 In the event of a clash of the uniform, the second ranked team is responsible to obtain an alternative playing uniform.

42.6 Eligibility Exemptions

- (a) If a player does not meet the above-mentioned eligibility criteria as provided for in By-Law 42.1 and;
 - (i) By Law 42.2 (Open Age); or
 - (ii) By Law 42.3 (Junior Age) (whichever may be applicable), then the Club may submit an Eligibility exemption request to the KDL by no later than the last Friday before the conclusion of the Home and Away Season.

(whichever may be applicable) then the Club may submit an Eligibility exemption request to the KDL by no later than the last Friday before the conclusion of the Home and Away Season.

- (b) An eligibility exemption request must be submitted on Club Letterhead and

provide details of the player including but not limited to:

- (i) the number of games the player has played with the KDL
 - (ii) date of registration or transfer to the KDL
 - (iii) details of any reasons way the player has not played the required number of games (for example injury); and
 - (iv) any additional information the club deems necessary for the KDL to consider when reviewing such request.
- (c) Upon receipt of the Eligibility Exemption Request, the KDL will consider the application and make the following decision:
- (i) Accept the request and provide an exemption for the player to compete in the finals on such terms and conditions as determined by the KDL; or
 - (ii) Reject the request and provide reasons for their rejection with respect to the player competing in the finals.

43 UMPIRES

43.1 The KDL may appoint anybody or a group of people to be Umpires of the League matches and may pay the umpires as instructed as per AFL Victoria fees for their services.

43.2 Central Umpires must make available to the home Club Secretary immediately after the match, the following:

- (a) Team sheets of opposing teams.
- (b) Selection of three best and fairest players in order of preference completing the KDL vote card provided.
- (c) This vote is to be placed in the separate sealed envelope.
- (d) Charges against Clubs or players (with numbers) for breaches of rules and any matter they consider should be brought up.
- (e) Most Disciplined Club award card

43.3 Club Goal Umpires must be appropriately attired and equipped in white coats, where provided, and equipped with suitable white flags, and two timekeepers are to be in position prior to commencement of the game.

43.4 The Field Umpire shall have full control of the play and shall award penalties in accordance with the laws of the game. No appeal shall be entertained against any of their/them decisions.

43.5 In the event of an Official Umpire not being available, a substitute umpire shall be appointed by the home club. Such Umpires shall have the power to:

- (a) issue yellow cards;
- (b) issue red cards; and
- (c) report players.

43.6 A player can be reported by a club appointed Umpire. Normal reporting procedures are to be followed. The GVFUA are to provide an advocate to support the club

appointed Umpire.

43.7 Where a substitute Central Umpire has been appointed he shall fill in the Best and Fairest votes.

43.8 Where Goal Umpires are not provided by the GVFUA, they must be supplied by the competing Clubs. Any Club Goal Umpire officiating in a Kyabram District Football Netball League match must be at least 16 years of age. 2 Penalty Unit.

(a) They must be conversant with the rules, wear white coats and be provided with white flags at least 45 cm square by Clubs and must use the League scorecard which must be signed by both Goal Umpires, Timekeepers and Central Umpires at the match conclusion, failing which it may not be recognised as official.

(b) They must keep their goal area clear of spectators.

43.9 Where Boundary Umpires are not provided by the GVFUA, they should be supplied by the home Club. 2 Penalty Units

43.10 Club field and boundary umpires will wear an approved umpire shirt as provided by the KDL.

44 UMPIRE ESCORTS

44.1 At all matches the home club shall supply an escort for umpires who shall (in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Policy):

(a) Be listed on the Official team sheet

(b) Move quickly to the umpires at the end of each quarter

(c) Escort the field and goal umpires to and from the umpire's room prior to the start of the game, at half time and at the completion of the game;

(d) Where the club is the home club, offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter;

(e) Remain in the centre of the ground with the umpires during quarter time and three- quarter time breaks;

(f) Show courtesy at all times and NOT question or give comment on the umpire's performance;

(g) Be over the age of 18 years;

44.2 2 Penalty Units for each offence

45 GROUND ENCROACHMENT

45.1 With the exception only of the quarter time, half time and three-quarter time interval, no persons other than officials provided for in these Rules may encroach upon or enter the playing arena or stand sufficiently close to the boundary line to impede or hamper the progress or movement of the Boundary Umpires in the execution of their duties.

45.2 The officiating umpires are empowered to send off any of these officials if they are not correctly attired or are deemed to be exceeding their duties.

45.3 Team "huddles" at both quarter and three-quarter times (and extra time in finals)

must be located outside the centre square.

46 DISPUTES

To be read in conjunction with AFL Victoria Country Rules

- 46.1 The KDL has the power to deal with and settle all disputes arising out of or in connection with this competition with the exception of appeals as defined in AFL Victoria Country rules.
- 46.2 The KDL may have such disputes heard and decided by the Independent Tribunal.
- 46.3 The KDL has the power to appeal any decision handed down by the Independent Tribunal, as defined in AFL Victoria Country rules.
- 46.4 Should the party or parties concerned refuse or neglect to abide by such decision they shall be suspended from the competition for such time as the KDL or Tribunal may determine and shall be liable to a fine in default of payment of such fine the party or parties concerned may be excluded from playing in the competition.

47 BARRACKERS AND SUPPORTERS

Any supporters or barrackers who are known to be members of any Club, within the League who, in the opinion of the Central, Boundary or Goal Umpire, Emergency Umpire, Commissioner or KDL Officer, behave in an offensive manner by spoken remarks, or openly incite players on the field to play in a manner not conducive to the best interests of the game, or are the cause of any disturbance between onlookers, will render the Club to which they belong liable to appear before the KDL or Tribunal who will have the power after dealing with the case to impose a special fine, suspend or expel such Club from the League.

48 ANNUAL AWARDS

Clubs are required to nominate for the Annual Coach of the Year and Rising Star Awards no later than the final round of the current home and away season. Clubs are permitted to only one (1) nominee for Rising Star each year.