

Mininera & District Football League

‘Football Rules of Competition’

for

Seniors/Reserves

Under 16^{1/2} & 12s

**To be read in conjunction with the MDFL Constitution
and the AFL Victoria Country Handbook**



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Please note:

To be read in conjunction with the MDFL Constitution and the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

Dated: August 2015

A. DEFINITIONS & PREAMBLE

PREAMBLE – In the following Rules for competition interpret the words:- Importing one gender shall include the other gender.

The words “must”, “shall” and “will” mean the action is compulsory.

The words “can” and “may” mean the action is optional.

The expressions,

“Member” refers to a member club,

“player” refers to any registered player of an affiliated member club,

“official” means any person requested to carry out any duty on behalf of a member club or The Mininera & District Football League.

MDFL - Refers to the incorporated body- Mininera & District Football League Inc.

BOARD - Means the authority vested in having the management of the business of the League by appointment of the member clubs.

RULES - The Laws of AFL Victoria Country, and Domestic rules together with the Association Incorporation Act and the MDFL constitution including amendments and regulations and decisions of the Board govern the rules for the MDFL.

CONFLICT - Any MDFL rule or regulation in conflict with a rule of a higher authority, the higher authority rule takes precedence.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER - The Administration Manager of the MDFL duly appointed by the Board in accordance with the constitution.

CLUBS - Affiliated Football Club members of the Mininera & District Football League

PENALTIES - (Financial) Refer Constitution Clause 69(2).

B. GENERAL POWER

1. The MDFL Board shall have the complete control and management of all matches and shall have the power to settle disputes and act in the manner conducive to the best interests of football in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules.
2. In the event of any matter arising which is not provided for in the AFL Victoria Country Rules or in the MDFL Rules of Competition, the decision shall be that of the Board of the MDFL.

C. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Through AFL FootyWeb the League shall maintain a complete record of all clearances and one day permits.
2. Should the MDFL decide that any player of any club is playing illegally or in a manner contrary to the rules regulating clearances and permits, the club on receiving notice from the Administration Manager shall discontinue to play such player in its matches until such notice so received by the club is withdrawn by the MDFL.

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3. Once a player has been cleared and registration finalised through AFL Footyweb, he is automatically registered to his new club and the League in which the club plays and shall be permitted to play for his newly registered Club.
 4. No MDFL player shall be engaged by any major league club on a one day permit basis unless the player's club first grants him the necessary permit. A player who obtains a one day permit from his club shall not play with his club and the major league club on the same day. There is no appeal against the refusal of a one day permit.
 5. The age groups for the Mininera & District Football League junior football competitions for season 2015 will be as follows:

Under 12s - must be under the age of 12 years on the 1st January 2015 (therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2003) and must be turning 8 years of age during the current year.

Under 16½s – must be under the age of 16 years and 6 months on the 1st January 2015. (therefore must have been born on or after 01/07/1998)

6. Reserves teams shall consist of twenty one (21) players with sixteen (16) players taking the field and up to 5 interchange players for the home and away games unless both teams agreement to play with eighteen (18) players taking the field and up to three (3) interchange players. Reserves teams in finals shall consist of (21) players with (18) players taking the field and up to three (3) interchange players.
7. Under 16½ teams will consist of twenty three (23) players, eighteen (18) players shall take the field, with five (5) interchange players. If teams have either nineteen (19) or twenty (20) players listed on their team sheets, then eighteen (18) players must take the field with the remaining players starting on the interchange bench.

Reserves, Under 16½s - If one or both teams have 18 or less players listed on their team sheet, the game will be played with 16 players for each team with a maximum of 5 players on the bench, eliminating the wing positions, with no less than 14 players per team on the ground when the game commences, unless both teams can by mutual agreement through the exchange of players play 18 per side plus a minimum of 1 on the bench and a maximum of 3 on the bench.

8. A senior player to be eligible to play in the finals must be a current registered member of their club, as determined by the Footyweb database.
9. A reserves player must be a current registered member of their club and must have played two (2) games in the reserves competition during the current season to qualify for the reserves finals. If a player plays one or more senior games during the current season, he must then play four (4) games in the reserves during the current season to qualify for the reserves finals.
10. If a player plays ten or more senior games in the current season, he is then ineligible to play in the reserves finals.

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11. Notwithstanding regulations 9 or 10, if a club has both the senior and reserves teams playing in the finals on the same day or over the same weekend, any player who is not selected in the senior team and does not play in the senior team may play in the reserves team.
 12. An Under 16.5 player to be eligible to play in the finals must be a current registered member of the club, as determined by the Footyweb database OR be a current registered member (as determined by the Footyweb database) of a club affiliated with a league with which the Mininera and District Football League has a current Area Agreement that allows participation in finals and must have played a minimum of five (5) home and away games with your club in the under 16.5 competition during the current season.
 13. In home and away games players are allowed to play more than one (1) game on the same day or over the same weekend.

D. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

1. All matches shall be played on the day allocated for such match, except by decision of the League Board, to postpone, cancel or otherwise deal with such matches. Matches postponed by the LeagueBoard shall be played on a date to be fixed.
2. Delayed start / match abandonment

This rule relates to clubs/officials who are faced with making a decision 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 Mininera & District Football League Board members, 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 Administration Manager within 2 working days.

In the event that agreement cannot be reached between club officials, central umpires and League Board members, 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 junior/reserves match is delayed, such match must be commenced within 30 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:

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- 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.
3. A team which defaults shall forfeit the match except when such forfeit is caused through an accident by the way of travelling to the game, in which case the MDFL may order that the match if necessary be played on a date to be fixed.
 4. All senior games shall start no later than 2.15 p.m. unless otherwise decided by the MDFL.
 5. All Senior/Reserves and Under 16½ matches shall be played in four (4) quarters, the following times of quarters shall apply for the following grades:
 - **Seniors** consist of twenty (20) minute quarters plus time on.
 - **Reserves** consist of twenty (20) minute quarters with no time on. However that the reserve game finishes no later than 2.10 pm. For this purpose the last two (2) quarters of a reserve game may have to be shortened on an even basis to ensure that the finishing time is strictly adhered to.
 - **Under 16½s** consist of fifteen (15) minute quarters with no time on.
 6. Clubs wishing to play unscheduled home and away matches for Senior/Reserves and Under 16½ shall request permission from the MDFL Board in writing stating the reasons for the change of date at least fourteen days (14) days prior to the date of the game.
 7. No club shall play another club during the progress of the competition without the sanction of the MDFL. Pre-season practice matches are optional and shall be organised and administrated between the participating clubs.
 8. The team managers of opposing sides shall ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the match, sign and exchange a list of the days players, team runners/trainers/water carriers in the format as provided by the MDFL and lodged with the central umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game.
 9. The secretary of the home team on any Round shall be responsible for forwarding to the Assistant Administration Manager of the MDFL all team sheets (if released by the central umpires), score cards and best and fairest votes and all other relevant paperwork on the day for all senior & junior matches no later than the first mail following the match.

The home secretary shall be responsible for faxing to the Results Secretary the match details as set out on the forms provided by the League on the day by the times designated on the forms.

The opposing club secretary must personally hand in the necessary team sheets and cards correctly filled in to the home club secretary immediately after each game.
 10. It is the duty of the home club secretary to supply to the umpire two (2) footballs for each home match in the senior competition. AFL Victoria Country endorsed footballs only are to be supplied. One (1) football (in acceptable condition) is to

be made available for use in the reserve competition and the same shall apply for the Under 16½ competition footballs.

In the event of a disagreement between the captains as to the condition of the footballs, the umpire in control of the game shall make the selection of which football is to be used.

11. Each club shall provide boundary and goal umpires for matches where umpires are not provided by the controlling body and such umpires must be of sufficient maturity and stature to discharge their duties satisfactorily and wear the appropriate uniform for boundary and goal umpires.
12. Premiership points shall be allotted as follows:

Win	4 points
Draw	2 points
Bye	4 points
Forfeit	4 points
13. A team to which the match is forfeited by its opponents on the day, shall score four (4) points. Percentage points for such match shall be awarded as per AFL Victoria Country Rules.
14. Starting times for home and away games shall be :-

Saturday

U16.5s	10.15 am
U12s	In between U16.5 & Res
Reserves	12.15 pm
Seniors	2.15 pm

15. During the home and away series, it shall be the responsibility of a person nominated by the Club and wearing identification to escort the central and boundary umpires off the field in the senior games to their dressing room, when leaving the ground at half time and final siren.

E. TEAM LISTS

1. Senior team lists are to be available to the media by 7.50 pm each Thursday. 21 players must be named in position (including interchange). Also included in the team sheets, players that are in and players that are out either omitted or injured. This rule shall apply to all senior home and away and final senior series matches including Sunday and weekday matches, and to all final matches, Reserve and Under 16½ final matches.

F. OFFICIAL RUNNERS/TRAINERS/WATER CARRIERS

1. Official runners shall wear the official League high vis top with navy or black tracksuit pants or shorts and navy, black or white sports socks.
2. Official water carriers shall wear the official League top with navy or black tracksuit pants or shorts and navy, black or white sports socks. Also each MDFL club are allowed a maximum of four (4) water carriers to officiate at each game.

3. Official club trainers shall wear a white top with Club and number displayed on back and/or official League jacket with white, navy or black tracksuit pants or shorts.
4. Water carriers must be 14 years of age or over to officiate at the senior game.
5. Water carriers and trainers are the only persons allowed to distribute water to players during a match.

Water carriers shall only enter the playing field when:

- (a) Any time a goal has been registered, but must be off the playing area before play is re-started.
- (b) The umpire has stopped play for an injured player to be stretchered from the playing area.
- (c) If there is an undue delay in getting the ball back when it has gone out of play and the central umpire has blown 'time off'. Once the umpire has indicated play is to resume by blowing "time on" the water carriers must vacate the ground.
- (d) Each club shall have a safety discretion which may be exercised having regard to weather conditions and safety issues during any match.

G. JUNIOR FOOTBALL

1. The prime focus of MDFL Junior football competition is on the ideals of junior football ie. to provide opportunity for personal development in a safe and positive environment. The League Board has a responsibility to see that the structure of the competition is such that it has an appeal for all junior players regardless of sex, culture, size or ability level and parents are able to view Australian Rules Football in the MDFL Junior competition as a safe, responsibly organised and worthwhile leisure activity.
2. Age groups in the MDFL Junior competition are Under 16½s and Under 12s. The Under 12s competition is an informal non-competitive based competition where a final series is not played, ladders not completed and scores not kept for games.

H. GENERAL

1. The football season shall commence on such a date in each year as the MDFL Board may decide.
2. If a club wishes to change their colours or guernsey's the club must submit its colours or guernsey's to the MDFL Board for approval and the order of registration of such colours shall determine the exclusive rights in respect of those colours. The proper uniform of each club including numbers shall be worn by each player. Sponsors logos on the front of club jumpers must not exceed (100mm square). Clubs shall be permitted to wear sponsor's names or club motto names on the back of club jumpers, provided however that the MDFL Board's permission as to letter size and style is obtained prior to use.
3. Sponsor's logos on the front of shorts shall not exceed 100mm by 50mm and if only one sponsor's logo is requested that such logo shall be on the left leg of the shorts, if two sponsor's logos is requested the second logo shall be on the right leg however Board permission re design and colour to be obtained prior to use.

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4. No club or other personnel shall gain an advantage by using radio or any other electronic equipment to deliver or receive messages on the ground during any game under our control.
 5. Comments in the media towards umpires
 - a) Any club member, player or official found to have made inappropriate comments in the media in relation to any MDFL football or netball umpire, shall have action taken against them. The MDFL Board shall decide upon the appropriateness of the alleged comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions. If the comments are found to be inappropriate, a fine as determined by the MDFL Board will be levied against the offending party's club.
 - b) Any club member, player or official penalised by the Board for having made inappropriate comments through the media, may appeal to the Leagues Independent Tribunal against the Boards decision.
 - c) Any appeal must be in writing and delivered to the MDFL Administration Manager within 5 business days from the Boards decision.
 - d) The Independent Tribunal may alter the penalty, as it sees fit.

I. GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

1. Each club shall provide a ground, which in the opinion of the Board, is suitable for match play or if the ground is unavailable or the ground is unsuitable for play the club shall be instructed to play at another ground designated by the Board and all costs borne by the club.
2. Goal posts must be adequately padded, with flag holders attached.
3. Stretchers (jordan frames) must be provided by the home club and located in or near the trainer's box.
4. Change rooms and shower areas must be in a clean and serviceable condition with adequate hotwater available.
5. Clubs are required to complete the JLT Match Day Checklist App prior to the first game of the day and maintain the risk management of the venue for all games thereafter.
6. Clubs are required to complete the MDFL Pre-season Checklist for each venue and forward to the League prior to the first game of the season at the venue.

J. COACHES ACCREDITATION

1. All MDFL clubs shall be responsible for coaches accreditation as per AFL Victoria Country coaching accreditation rule. Each club shall inform the Administration Manager prior to the commencement of the MDFL season the accreditation status of all coaches.

K. FINALS AND GATES

1. The grounds for final games shall in all cases be decided by the Board of the MDFL.
2. Finals admission prices will be determined by the MDFL Board in the month of July in each year.
3. **Seniors** consist of twenty (20) minute quarters plus time on.

Reserves consist of seventeen (17) minute quarters plus time on.

Under 16½s consist of thirteen (13) minute quarters plus time on.

4. **Finals format – Seniors/Reserves/Under 16½s**

Qualifying final - second team v third team to be played on the Saturday following the final home and away game.

Elimination final - fourth team v fifth team to be played on the following day (Sunday).

Second semi final - the winner of the qualifying final v the first team to be played on the following Saturday

First semi final - the winner of the elimination final v the loser of the qualifying final to be played on the following day (Sunday).

Preliminary final - the winner of the first semi final v the loser of the second semi final to be played on the following Saturday.

Grand final - the winner of the second semi final v the winner of the preliminary final to be played on the following Saturday.

5. There shall be no drawn games in the final series. Should a tie take place 2 (two) 5 (five) minute plus time on periods, with clubs exchanging ends after each period, will take place. This process will continue until there is a result.

Players of both competing sides must change ends immediately after the first period without consultation from coaching staff, selectors, trainers or any other club personnel.

6. No club shall undertake club organised end of season trips until four (4) weeks after the completion of the home and away matches.
7. Clubs participating in the finals shall not train on any ground other than their own without obtaining permission from the Board of the League. Clubs with 2 grounds shall train on the non-nominated finals ground for the week prior to the nominated final. Finals shall be played on neutral grounds for senior grade finals unless exceptional circumstances prevail.
8. No club shall conduct any social function during the playing times of final series.
9. A penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) will be imposed on any club breaking the above rules.

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10. No Alcohol can be brought onto the ground after the final siren at any final series games by any club and/or players and alcohol must not be consumed on the ground during the official photographs and speeches.
 10. To be awarded the title of Premiers & Champions, a team must win outright all home & away and finals matches throughout the season.
 11. The Board reserves the right to allocate the order in which matches are played on the same weekend.
 12. No dogs will be allowed into any finals venues (except those with exemptions Eg. Seeing eye dogs).

L. MDFL AWARDS

1. In each year the League shall award a medal known as the 'W. J.Lewis Medal' to the best & fairest player in the senior competition. The winner of such medal shall be determined upon the total votes cast by the central umpire in each home and away match.
2. In each year the League shall award a medal known as the 'D.J.Martin Medal' to the best & fairest player in the reserves competition. The winner of such medal shall be determined upon the total votes cast by the central umpire in each home and away match.
3. In each year the League shall award a medal known as the 'John Box Medal' to the best & fairest player in the U16½ competition. The winner of such medal shall be determined upon the total votes cast by the central umpire in each home and away match.
4. Votes are awarded by the central umpires, who shall allot three votes to the player considered the best & fairest on the field, plus two votes and one vote respectively to two other players.
5. Any player suspended during the home & away season shall be ineligible to win any medal or trophy in any grade during the home and away season, with the exception of the goal kicking awards.
6. In the event of two or more players being awarded the same number of votes in any one award, the medals and trophies shall be awarded to each player.

M. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

As set out in the MDFL Constitution.

N. TRIBUNAL AND APPEAL BOARD

1. Tribunal procedure shall be as detailed in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook issued yearly.
2. The elected Board of the MDFL shall have the authority to refer charges to the Independent Tribunal against clubs, officials and players for breaches of the rules and/or laws adopted by this League. Such charges must be stated in

writing and delivered by the Administration Manager by midnight on the third business day following the occurrence of the alleged charge/s.

3. Any player preferring a charge against any official of the MDFL must do so through the committee of his club.
4. Once a protest has been lodged with the Administration Manager of the MDFL on no account can it be withdrawn.
5. Any member club in the MDFL may protest against a club or clubs for breaches of the rules even though not competing with that club, in a match in issue.
6. Any player, official or club who neglects or refuses to attend any meeting of the League or tribunal to which they are summoned, shall be dealt with. Any player or official showing lack of courtesy at such meeting shall be disqualified for a period as may be determined by the Board and this may be in addition to any penalty inflicted in connection with the original charge, such player or official shall be deemed to have received notice of such meeting, upon the League's General Manager having notified any official of the club concerned twenty four (24) hours prior to such meeting.
7. A player disqualified or suspended by his club must be notified in writing within forty eight hours (48) of the decision of his club and his right to appeal under AFL Vic Country Rules and a copy must be forwarded to the League's Administration Manager.
8. A player may appeal a sanction imposed by his Club and an appeal will be heard by the League Independent Tribunal as provided for in the AFL Victoria Country rules.
9. A club is required to pay to the League a fee of one hundred dollars (including gst) (\$100.00 inc. GST) for costs incurred at each tribunal sitting if its player has been reported and found guilty.
10. The club presenting the video/DVD for evidence to the Independent Tribunal shall supply all the necessary equipment for the viewing of the video/dvd at the Independent Tribunal, if equipment not available from League.
12. **Investigation fees:** In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (unbecoming conduct) and lodges the required fee of \$500, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the League and will be refunded in full or part after completion of the investigation and subsequent tribunal (if applicable) as per the League's policy, as set out below.

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

- a) When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation will receive a refund of the bond less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- b) In cases where the investigations officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is

determined, the club that has requested the investigation will receive a refund of the bond less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.

- c) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the amount of the Investigations Officer's fee for services. (in addition to any additional tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for services.
- d) In cases where the League has requested an investigation and the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the amount of the Investigations Officer's fee for services. (in addition to any additional tribunal fine).

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

O. PENALTIES AND FINES

1. Any club found to be asking for a transfer fee for any player is to be fined (\$500.00) five hundred dollars.
2. Any club found to be paying a transfer fee for any player is to be fined (\$500.00) five hundred dollars.
3. Any club found to be accepting a transfer fee for any player is to be fined (\$500.00) five hundred dollars
4. Any club fined by the MDFL (fourteen) 14 days of receipt of advice of the fine failure to pay the fine by the due date results in the club receiving further penalties
5. Any club against which a protest or charge has been lodged and such club having been found guilty according to these rules, shall at the discretion of the tribunal be made to forfeit match points to the opposing club and be subject to any further penalty imposed by the tribunal, within its powers.
6. All fines in this by-law shall be levied by the Board, but clubs wishing to appeal and submit reasons for default, must first pay the fine within (fourteen) 14 days of receipt of advice of the fine, and may appeal to the Board of the MDFL in writing. All appeals shall be dealt with by the Board.

CLUB FINES:

The League Board has the ability to levee club fines for any offences as determined by the Board and will have a Club Set Fine Schedule including but not limited to the following:

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- a) Non attendance by the club's at League club forums & other compulsory meetings, training sessions etc. as determined by the League Board.
 - b) Players/officials wearing incorrect uniform
 - c) Non provision of officials (per official).
 - d) Incorrect match day paperwork
 - e) Failure to supply correct match paper work by the stipulated time.
 - f) Failure to pay fines by due date (per day).
 - g) Failure to submit team sheets on Thursday night by designated time.
 - h) Failure to submit information to the Board by requested deadline.
7. If a club is unable to field a Reserve/Under 16½ side on any given playing day the club must notify the League's Administration Manager by 12:00 noon on a Friday prior to the game. A fine of up to (\$500.00) three hundred dollars shall be imposed for Reserves and if a club does not fulfil Under 16½ match engagements a fine of up to (\$500.00) five hundred dollars shall be imposed. The amount of the penalty shall be determined by the Board including taking into account any exceptional circumstances.

P. INTERLEAGUE

1. Any MDFL registered player who is not available for selection in a MDFL representative team, without providing an adequate reason to the selection committee will incur a penalty of not being permitted to play in the next home and away match in which his club is engaged
2. Any MDFL registered player selected in the representative team who brings the MDFL into disrepute, shall attend the MDFL Board, with explanation of their alleged conduct. If found guilty, a penalty, shall be imposed by the MDFL Board.

Q. OH&S

If the temperature drops below 8 degrees celcius, it is at the discretion of the Central umpire, upon notification by the ground manager of a lower temperature. Relevant factors to be taken into account are the wind chill factor, the age of players, particularly juniors.

R. AFFILIATION

The MDFL shall affiliate each year with AFL Vic Country and other like organisations conducive to the purposes of the League.

David Watson
CHAIRPERSON