



# **AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

## **REGULATIONS**

**4 September 2019**

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## 1. General

### 1.1 Definitions

In these Regulations, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith, the following expressions will have the following meanings:-

**Accredited Media Representatives:** representatives of the Media who have obtained authorisation from the AFL to:

- (a) enter the venue at which a Match is to be conducted;
- (b) attend media conferences organised by the AFL;
- (c) enter media facilities within a venue at which a Match is played; and
- (d) enter Club dressing rooms at the completion of a Match.

**Additional Time:** for the purpose of Regulation 2.8, additional time shall consist of two periods of five minutes duration (with time added on for stoppages in play in the same manner as during ordinary time).

**AFL:** Australian Football League, being a Company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Victoria and previously known as Victorian Football League.

**AFL Anti-Doping Code:** the code regulating the administration and use of drugs by Players, as amended from time to time by the Commission.

**AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines:** the guidelines of the AFL which describes the commercial and marketing guidelines, including on-field policies of the AFL, as published and amended by the AFL from time to time.

**AFL Competition:** the Matches conducted by or under the auspices of the AFL.

**AFL Interchange Official:** the person or persons appointed by the AFL from time to time under these Regulations.

**AFL Logo:** the mark or logo of the AFL as amended from time to time by the Commission.

**AFL Match Manager:** the person so appointed for a Match by the General Manager - Football Operations.

**AFL Media Relations Policy:** the policy as detailed in the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines.

**AFL Medical Director(s):** the person(s) appointed as such by the Commission.

**AFL Official Statistician:** means the statistician engaged by the AFL from time to time, which as of the date of these Regulations is Champion Data.

**AFL Official:** means any employee, servant or agent of the AFL having official duties in connection with a Match, the AFL Competition or the AFL Rules & Regulations.

**AFL Rules:** the AFL Rules as approved by the Commission from time to time.

**AFL Regulations or these Regulations:** these AFL Regulations.

**AFL Rules & Regulations:** means any rule, regulation, code, agreement or guideline made by the AFL that relates to the administration of the AFL Competition and includes without limitation these AFL Regulations, the AFL Rules, the AFL-AFLPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, AFL Standard Player Contracts, the AFL Articles of Association, the AFL Memorandum of Association and the AFL-AFL Umpires' Association Collective Agreement.

**AFL Season:** the period in each year determined by the AFL in which the Matches set out in Regulation 2.1 are played.

**AFLPA:** the Australian Football League Players' Association.

**All Australian Selector:** means a person appointed as such by the General Manager of Football Operations.

**Amendment to Official Team Sheet:** the amendment to the Official Team Sheet more particularly described in Regulation 12.3 and set out in Annexure 3.

**Annexures:** the annexures at the end and forming part of these Regulations.

**Appeal Board:** the Appeal Board established and constituted under the AFL Rules.

**Arena Fence Station:** the stations situated around the perimeter of the Arena at which Trainers sit during a Match.

**Arena:** includes the Playing Surface and all of the area between the boundary line and the perimeter fence or any break in the perimeter fence, including the Interchange Bench.

**Brownlow Medal:** the medal awarded to the fairest and best Player in accordance with Regulation 21.

**Captain:** the Player appointed by the Club as the captain of its Team.

**Chief Executive Officer:** in respect of the AFL, the person appointed to that position by the Commission or his nominee.

**Club:** a football Club which has the right of representation on the AFL pursuant to the Articles of Association of the AFL.

**Club Interchange Steward:** the person appointed by each Club or Team to facilitate the interchange of Players during a Match.

**Club Licence Agreement:** an agreement between the Club and the AFL whereby the Club is granted the right to field a Team in the AFL Competition.

**Club Medical Officer:** a duly qualified medical practitioner appointed by a Club to be its Club Medical Officer.

**Club Football Official:** means any person under the control of the Club or engaged by the Club on an ongoing basis to:

- (a) work with, treat or assist a Player in relation to the Player's participation in or preparation for the AFL Competition; or

(b) undertake official duties for the Club in connection with the playing of a Match, including but not limited to coaches, football managers, trainers, runners, medical or para-medical personnel, fitness/rehabilitation staff, player development managers, club doctors and psychologists.

**Coach or Senior Coach:** a person appointed by a Club to coach the Team or Teams of the Club.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement:** the agreement entered into between the AFL and the AFLPA from time to time which governs the conditions of engagement of Players.

**Commission:** the Commission appointed pursuant to the Articles of Association of the AFL.

**Communication Device:** includes but is not limited to headsets, microphones, earpieces, telephones and walkie talkies.

**Contract of Service:** without limiting the ordinary legal meaning thereof, a contract in writing whereby a Player's personal services to play football are provided to the Club and are subject to the control of the Club.

**Emergency Player:** the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> (and in the case of a Pre-Season Match, the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) Players of a Team who may, in accordance with these Regulations, be substituted for another Player selected in the Team.

**Exhibition or Promotional Match:** a Match conducted by the AFL to promote or exhibit the game of Australian football.

**Final Eight System:** the system to determine the premier Club between those Clubs competing in the Finals Series, as set out in Annexure 1.

**Final Premiership Ladder:** the ranking of Clubs as determined by the Commission at the conclusion of the Finals Series taking into account any sanctions imposed by the Commission under AFL Rule 17.

**Finals Series:** the Matches played at the conclusion of the Home and Away Matches to determine the premier Team.

**Finals Series Match:** any Match played as part of the Finals Series.

**Football Year:** the period commencing on 1 November and concluding on the 31 October next.

**General Manager - Football Operations:** the person appointed to that position by the Commission or his nominee.

**General Manager - Commercial Operations:** the person appointed to that position by the Commission or his nominee.

**Ground Management Authority:** the person or entity with the management, control or occupancy of the venue where an AFL Club plays AFL Matches designated as home Matches by the AFL.

**Head Injury Assessment:** the procedure as set out in Regulation 12.8(a)-(b).

**Illicit Drug Policy or IDP:** the policy governing the use of illicit drugs by Players, as amended from time to time.

**Home and Away Matches:** any Match for which Premiership Points are awarded or potentially awarded, not being a Finals Series Match, Pre-Season Competition Match, representative Match or Exhibition Match.

**Interchange:** when a player leaves the Playing Surface through the Interchange Gates, and the replacement player enters the Playing Surface.

**Interchange Cap:** is the total number of Interchanges that a Club may make in the course of a Match, being 90.

**Interchange Bench:** a bench located on the perimeter of the Arena at which Interchange Players and other persons required under Regulation 11 shall sit during a Match.

**Interchange Gate:** the area designated as the Interchange Gate in the diagram in Annexure 4 of these Regulations.

**Interchange Holding Area:** the area designated as the Interchange Holding Area in the diagram in Annexure 4 to these Regulations.

**Interchange Player:** the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (and in the case of a Pre-Season Match, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>) Players of a Team who are not on the field of play at the commencement of a Match.

**Laws of Australian Football:** the “Laws of the Game” published by the AFL.

**List:** in respect of each Club, any or all of its Primary List, Rookie List, Long Term Injury List or Veterans List.

**Match:** any football Match played between or directly or indirectly involving any Club including without limitation any practice Match, trial Match, representative Match or exhibition Match.

**MCG:** the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

**MCG Licence Agreement:** means the licence agreement between the Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust, the Melbourne Cricket Club and the AFL, dated 11 April 1990 (as amended or varied from time to time).

**Media:** all electronic and print media organisations and representatives thereof.

**Medical Assessment:** means the period when a Club Interchange Steward advises the Interchange Official that a Player has left the Playing Surface for medical assessment. Such Player may not return to the Playing Surface for twenty minutes (excluding breaks).

**Memorandum and Articles of Association:** Memorandum and Articles of Association of the AFL.

**Officer or Officer of a Club:** an Officer as defined in the Corporations Act and without limitation shall include the President, Chairman, Vice President, Vice Chairman, General Manager, Chief Executive, Football Manager, Coach, any Board or Committee

Member and any servant or agent who makes or participates in the making of decisions that affect the whole, or a substantial part, of the business of the Club.

**Official Team Sheet:** the Team sheet more particularly described in Regulation 12 and set out in Annexure 2.

**Person:** includes a Club, servant or agent of a Club, Player, Coach, assistant Coach or Coaches, trainer, runner, Officer, Club Medical Officer or other medical staff, employee or volunteer of a Club or any other person within the purview of these Regulations or the AFL Rules.

**Player:** save as otherwise provided a person who is or has been included on a Club's List, a person eligible to be so included, a person bound to a Club, a person within the purview of these Regulations or a person who has nominated for any Draft.

**Playing Surface:** the field of play inside the boundary line, excluding the area between the boundary line and the perimeter fence.

**Premiership Competition:** the competition comprising Home and Away Matches and Finals Series.

**Premiership Ladder:** the ranking of Clubs as determined under Regulations 2.5(b) and 2.5(c).

**Premiership Points:** the points awarded to a Club during Home and Away Matches as set out in Regulation 2.5(b).

**Pre-Season Competition:** the Matches played prior to the commencement of the Home and Away Matches each year, which at the Date of these Regulations is known as the NAB Challenge.

**Rising Star Award:** the award presented to the Player adjudged the best young Player in the AFL in accordance with the criteria for adjudicating this award.

**Sanction:** includes without limitation the imposition of:

- (a) a reprimand; or
- (b) a fine; or
- (c) a suspension of any entitlement, right or privilege of a person or Club under the AFL Rules & Regulations; or
- (d) a disqualification of any entitlement, right or privilege of a person or Club under the AFL Rules & Regulations; or
- (e) any order that withdraws, varies, revokes or limits any result, award, entitlement, right or privilege of a person or Club under the AFL Rules & Regulations; or
- (f) any combination of the above.

**Score Review System:** the procedure and associated equipment that enables the Score Reviewer to participate in a scoring consultation with the officiating Umpires.

**Special Investigator:** a person or persons from time to time designated as such by the Commission.

**Sponsor Advertising:** for the purposes of Regulations 4 and 5, means the placement, display or promotion of any name, trade mark, logo or advertising on any Player, including without limitation any item worn or used by a Player before, during or after a Match.

**State of Origin Series:** a series of Matches played between teams representing the States and Territories of Australia.

**Stretcher:** a Stretcher shall include any device utilised for conveying or assisting in conveying an injured person including without limitation a bed, frame, trolley, motorised conveyance or other such similar device.

**Team:** a Team fielded by a Club in the AFL Competition or any other competition conducted by the AFL, including all persons selected as interchange Players in such Team.

**Team Runner:** an eligible person appointed to confer with Players whilst on the Playing Surface, as appointed under Regulation 11.

**Time Keeper:** the person appointed by the General Manager – Football Operations under Regulation 10.

**Trainer and Head Trainer:** the persons appointed by a Club under Regulation 12.

**Umpire:** includes a field, boundary, goal and emergency Umpire.

**Unit:** the sum of \$1,000.00 or such other amount as may from time to time be prescribed by the Commission.

**Victim Player:** a person against whom a Reportable Offence is alleged to have occurred.

## 1.2 Other Definitions

The expressions set out in the remainder of these Regulations shall have the meanings prescribed within the particular Regulation.

## 1.3 Interpretation

- (a) In the interpretation of these Regulations and the Annexures, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith:
  - (i) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
  - (ii) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
  - (iii) words importing persons shall be deemed to include all bodies and associations, corporate or unincorporated and vice versa;
  - (iv) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these Regulations or any Annexure;
  - (v) a reference to time means eastern standard time or eastern summer time, as the case may be;

- (vi) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation;
  - (vii) words, terms and phrases defined in the AFL Rules shall be given that meaning if they are not otherwise defined in these Regulations; and
  - (viii) words, terms and phrases not otherwise defined shall be given their ordinary meaning.
- (b) A reference to the General Manager – Football Operations of the AFL shall include such person and any other person or group of persons appointed from time to time by the General Manager – Football Operations of the AFL to administer these Regulations.

#### **1.4 Reasonable & Severance**

These Regulations are considered reasonable by the AFL but:

- (a) each provision in these Regulations shall be read and constructed independently of the other provisions in these Regulations so that if one or more provisions is held to be invalid as an unreasonable restraint or for any other reason whatsoever, then the remaining provisions shall be valid to the extent that they are not held to be so invalid; and
- (b) if any such provisions are found to be invalid but would be valid if some part thereof were deleted such provisions shall apply with such modification as may be necessary to make it valid and effective.

#### **1.5 Interpretation and Amendment of Regulations**

- (a) The Commission shall interpret all provisions contained in these Regulations and any interpretation or application by the Commission of any of the provisions contained in these Regulations shall be final and binding on every person bound by these Regulations.
- (b) The Commission may from time to time amend these Regulations or make such further or other Regulations as it in its absolute discretion deems fit.

#### **1.6 Delegation**

The Commission may from time to time appoint a person or persons to exercise any of the powers hereby conferred upon the Commission and in such case a reference to the Commission contained in these Regulations shall be a reference to such person or persons so appointed.

#### **1.7 Sanctions and Payment**

- (a) Any Person fined in accordance with these Regulations shall, upon demand, immediately pay to the AFL, as a liquidated sum, the amount of the fine.
- (b) Where the amount shown at the foot of the provisions of these Regulations is described as a “Maximum Sanction” or that a sanction up to a certain amount is payable, a person empowered to impose a sanction under these Regulations may determine that any amount not exceeding that amount shall be payable.

- (c) If any Person fails to pay a fine or monetary sanction imposed in accordance with these Regulations, such Person may be dealt with in any manner the Commission or the General Manager - Football Operations thinks fit.
- (d) The Commission, Chief Executive Officer or General Manager - Football Operations may set off any amount payable by a Club under these Regulations against any payment or distribution paid or intended to be paid by the AFL to the Club.

## **1.8 Powers**

Any power conferred on the General Manager – Football Operations under these Regulations may be exercised by the General Counsel.



## **2. Football Seasons and Competitions**

### **2.1 AFL Season**

- (a) The AFL Season shall encompass and include without limitation, each of the following series and Matches:
  - (i) intra or inter-Club practice Matches;
  - (ii) the Pre-Season Competition;
  - (iii) Home and Away Matches;
  - (iv) the Finals Series;
  - (v) any Exhibition or Promotional Match; and
  - (vi) any other Match played under the auspices of the AFL and where the AFL Umpires officiate.
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the Commission or the General Manager – Football Operations, the AFL Season shall commence in each year on the date of the first Match conducted under the auspices of the AFL and conclude in each year on the date of the last Match conducted under the auspices of the AFL.

### **2.2 All Matches Subject to Rules and Regulations of AFL**

Every Match played during the AFL Season shall be played in accordance with the AFL Rules, these Regulations, the Laws of Australian Football and any other determinations or resolutions made from time to time by the Commission.

### **2.3 Inter-Club Practice Matches**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 2.3(b), a Club or Player shall not play any game of football against another Club, or a club or player not participating in the AFL Competition, unless the game is scheduled by the AFL or the Club or Clubs, as the case may be, obtain the prior written approval of the General Manager of – Football Operations.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units

- (b) The Commission may at any time impose, vary or revoke any conditions or requirements applicable to the playing of a practice Match between two Clubs.

### **2.4 Pre-Season Competition**

The AFL may conduct a Pre-Season Competition in such format as from time to time determined by the Commission.

### **2.5 Premiership Competition – Inclusive of Home and Away Matches**

- (a) Fixture of Matches
  - (i) The AFL shall conduct a Premiership Competition by preparing a fixture of Home and Away Matches. Unless otherwise determined by the

Commission, each Club shall play each other at the date, time and venue specified in the fixture and shall observe and comply with any other requirements set out in the fixture or otherwise imposed by the AFL.

- (ii) Each first named Club in a fixture shall be deemed to be the home Club and the second named Club shall be deemed to be the away Club.
  - (iii) The Commission may change the date, time and venue at which any Match is scheduled to be played.
- (b) Awarding of Points for Premiership Ladder
- (i) For all Home and Away Matches:
    - (A) four Premiership Points shall be awarded to the winner or, in the case of a match that cannot be completed after half time, the team with the highest score in accordance with Regulation 33.2(c);
    - (B) two Premiership Points shall be awarded to each Club who competes in a Match that is drawn, cancelled or unable to be completed in accordance with Regulations 33.2(a) and 33.2(b); and
    - (C) a percentage shall be calculated for each Club based on the proportion of points scored for and against each Club during the Home and Away Matches.
  - (ii) No Premiership Points shall be awarded to a losing Club or a Club which is credited with a bye or to a Club which the Commission has determined shall lose or shall not be eligible to receive Premiership Points under the AFL Rules.
- (c) Ranking of Clubs at end of Home and Away Matches
- (d) The AFL shall maintain a Premiership Ladder that determines the position of Clubs competing in the Premiership Competition. The ranking of Clubs on the Premiership Ladder at the completion of the Home and Away Matches shall be determined in accordance with the following procedure:
- (i) the order of Clubs shall first be determined by the number of Premiership Points accumulated by each Club, by placing in descending order the Club with the highest accumulated Premiership Points through to the Club with the lowest accumulated Premiership Points;
  - (ii) The Premiership Points accumulated by Clubs shall be adjusted if necessary and at any time, to take into account any sanctions imposed by the Commission under AFL Rule 17;
  - (iii) where two or more Clubs have accumulated the same total of Premiership Points, the Club with the highest percentage as calculated under Regulation 2.5(b)(i)(C) shall be placed first as between them;

- (iv) Where two or more Clubs at the completion of the Home and Away Matches have accumulated the same Premiership Points and have the same percentage, the following procedure shall apply:
  - (A) the position of the tied Clubs shall be adjusted by accumulating the Premiership Points awarded to the relevant Clubs as a result of the Home and Away Matches played between them and placing the Club with the highest accumulated Premiership Points, first as between them;
  - (B) where the Premiership Points accumulated by the relevant Clubs remain equal, the position of the tied Clubs shall be adjusted by calculating each such Club's percentage based on the proportion of points scored for and against each such Club from the Home and Away Matches between them and placing the Club with the highest percentage, first as between them; and
  - (C) where two or more Clubs still remain tied, the position of the Clubs shall be adjusted by lot conducted and drawn by the General Manager - Football Operations so that any Club drawn ahead of any other Club shall be placed ahead of such other Club or Clubs.

## **2.6 Finals Series**

- (a) At the completion of the Home and Away Matches, the first eight Clubs on the Final Premiership Ladder shall compete in the Finals Series under the Final Eight System.
- (b) The Commission may at any time impose, vary or revoke any conditions or requirements applicable to the Finals Series or a Finals Series Match.

## **2.7 Venues for Finals Series Matches**

- (a) General
  - (i) This Regulation 2.7 shall be read in conjunction with the Final Eight System.
  - (ii) Subject to Regulation 2.7(f), Finals Series Matches shall be played at such dates, times and venues as may be determined from time to time by the Commission.

- (b) Elimination Final

Unless the AFL is required to schedule an Elimination Final at the MCG in order to satisfy its contractual obligations under the MCG Licence Agreement, the Clubs that are placed fifth and sixth on the Final Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches shall play the Elimination Final in which they compete at a venue in the State where they are based unless otherwise determined by the Commission.

- (c) Qualifying Final

Unless the AFL is required to schedule a Qualifying Final at the MCG in order to satisfy its contractual obligations under the MCG Licence Agreement, the

Clubs that are placed first and second on the Final Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches shall play the Qualifying Final in which they compete at a venue in the State where the relevant Club is based.

(d) Semi-Finals

Unless the AFL is required to schedule a Semi-Final at the MCG in order to satisfy its contractual obligations under the MCG Licence Agreement, the Clubs which lose the Qualifying Finals shall play the Semi-Final in which they next compete at a venue in the State where they are based unless otherwise determined by the Commission.

(e) Preliminary Finals

Unless the AFL is required to schedule a Preliminary Final at the MCG in order to satisfy its contractual obligations under the MCG Licence Agreement, the Clubs which win the Qualifying Finals shall play the Preliminary Final in which they next compete at a venue in the State where the relevant Club is based unless otherwise determined by the Commission.

(f) Grand Final

Unless otherwise determined by the Commission, the Grand Final shall at all times be played at the MCG.

## **2.8 Tie in Finals Series Matches**

(a) Playing of Additional Time

Should a tie occur in any Finals Series Match, the following procedure shall apply to determine the winning Club:

- (i) the goal Umpires shall immediately consult with each other to confirm that the score of each Club is identical and if that is the case, the goal Umpires shall signal to the Timekeepers that the Match is to proceed into Additional Time;
- (ii) after a six (6) minute rest period, (which shall commence from the time the goal Umpires signal that the Match is to proceed into Additional Time), Additional Time shall be played;
- (iii) each Club shall maintain the same end as at the completion of ordinary time for the first five (5) minute period (plus stoppages) of Additional Time and shall change ends after the first five minute period without delay;
- (iv) upon receiving the signal by the goal Umpire, the Time Keepers shall sound the siren in accordance with the normal start of each quarter, being:
  - (A) two minutes prior to the official start time – two times;
  - (B) one minute prior to the official start time – once; and
  - (C) official start time – once.

- (v) except for the Coach and those persons permitted to enter the Playing Surface under Regulation 11, no person shall enter the Playing Surface during any period before or during the playing of Additional Time;
- (vi) before the commencement of Additional Time, the Coach may enter the Playing Surface and address the Players. The Coach must leave the Playing Surface on or before the sound of the two sirens signifying that two minutes remain before the commencement of Additional Time;
- (vii) the Time Keepers shall sound the siren once to signify the end of each period of Additional Time (until a field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end);
- (viii) at the conclusion of Additional Time, the Club which has scored the highest points is the winner of the Match; and
- (ix) if the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Additional Time, the Time Keepers shall not sound the siren and play shall continue until a Club has scored a goal or behind. Once a Club has scored a goal or behind the Time Keepers shall sound the siren once to signify the end of Additional Time (until a field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end). The Club which has scored the highest points is the winner of the match.

(b) Ready to Play and Sanctions

Each Team shall move into position and be ready to commence play at the start of Additional Time. A Club whose Team is not ready to commence play shall be subject to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units

## **2.9 Ranking of Clubs Eliminated During Finals Series**

Where two Clubs are eliminated in the same round of the Finals Series, subject to any sanctions imposed by the Commission under AFL Rule 17, to determine the position of those Clubs on the Final Premiership Ladder the Club that was ranked higher on the Premiership Ladder at the conclusion of the Home and Away Series, shall be placed higher as between them.

## **2.10 State of Origin Matches**

The Commission may from time to time schedule a State of Origin Series on such terms and conditions as it deems fit.

## **2.11 Exhibition or Promotional Match**

The Commission may from time to time schedule an Exhibition, International or Promotional Match on such terms and conditions as it deems fit.

## **2.12 Obligations of Clubs**

A Club shall:

- (a) play in any Match or re-scheduled Match at the date, time and venue specified from time to time by the Commission; and
- (b) comply with any conditions or requirements applicable to a Match imposed from time to time by the Commission.

A Club which contravenes this Regulation shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the AFL and shall be dealt with by the Commission or the General Manager - Football Operations in such manner as the Commission or the General Manager - Football Operations in their absolute discretion think fit.

### **3. Grounds and Venues**

#### **3.1 Lodge Documents**

Within 7 days of receiving a request from the AFL, a Club shall lodge with the AFL:

- (a) a copy of the documents under which it uses or occupies any ground or venue for its home Matches or training;
- (b) any documents which varies or changes the basis under which a Club uses or occupies such ground or venue; and
- (c) any other information requested by the AFL in relation to such use or occupancy.

Sanction: Up to 100 Units

#### **3.2 Ground Occupancy Agreement**

Where applicable, each Club shall use its best endeavours to ensure that its Ground Management Authority enters into a ground occupancy agreement with the AFL in the form prescribed from time to time by the Commission.

#### **3.3 Conditions of Grounds**

A Club shall comply or use its best endeavours to ensure that its Ground Management Authority complies with any directions given by the AFL to maintain, replace or repair any portion of the Arena or to otherwise undertake any work relating to the condition of the Playing Surface or venue at which a Club trains or plays Matches.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units

#### **3.4 Other Regulations**

Nothing in this Regulation affects the operation of Regulations 29 and 30.

#### **3.5 Inspection of Arena**

- (a) For the purposes of this Regulation, the panel shall comprise a representative of the AFL, the Ground Management Authority, the AFLPA and the two Clubs competing in the relevant Match.
- (b) Before each Match, the panel has the right to:
  - (i) inspect the Arena at which a Match has been scheduled to determine whether the condition of the Arena is likely to create or increase risk of injuries to Players; and
  - (ii) having regard to the gravity and risk of injury and the burden of eliminating the risk, recommend to the Ground Manager things to be done (if applicable) to the Arena in order to eliminate or reduce the risks of injuries to Players, which may include, but is not limited to, the cancellation of any curtain raiser match scheduled to be played.

- (c) During or immediately following the inspection of an Arena, the panel shall complete and lodge with the AFL an AFL Ground Inspection Report in the form prescribed by the AFL.
- (d) In addition to the inspection of an Arena by the panel, a Player may inspect the Arena at the same time as the panel or at any other time before the Match.
- (e) If, after inspecting the Arena, a Player reasonably believes that by reason of the condition of the Arena there is an increased risk he will sustain an injury, the Player may advise his Club and request that he be withdrawn from the Match.
- (f) A Player shall:
  - (i) ensure that the footwear he is wearing is appropriate to the condition of the Arena; and
  - (ii) advise the Club's Medical Officer and/or Coach if he has any pre-existing injury which is likely to be adversely affected or aggravated by reason of the condition of the Arena.



## **4. Club Colours and Uniforms**

### **4.1 Clubs and Uniforms**

- (a) For the purposes of these Regulations:
  - (i) a uniform includes but is not limited to a guernsey, shorts, undershorts, socks, headbands and gloves;
  - (ii) the Club named first in a fixture of a Match shall be deemed to be the home Club and the second named Club shall be deemed to be the away Club; and
  - (iii) a home uniform means the uniform worn by a Club when it is the home Club and the away uniform means the uniform which may, subject to the direction of the AFL, be worn by a Club when it is the away Club.
- (b) The AFL shall determine and may at any time vary the design, style, colour and fabric of a uniform as well as any item of uniform to be worn during any Match.

Sanction: Up to 5 Units for each Player, payable by the Player's Club

### **4.2 Obligation to Have Uniforms Available**

Each Club shall maintain and have available for each of its Players a home uniform, an away uniform and an alternative uniform for all Matches as approved by the AFL.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for each Player wearing an incorrect uniform, payable by the Player's Club

### **4.3 Exclusive Right to Wear Uniform**

- (a) Subject to this Regulation 4 and any specific directions given by the AFL, each Club has the exclusive right to wear its uniforms as set out in this Regulation 4.
- (b) No Club shall vary or attempt to vary its uniform without the prior written consent of the General Manager - Football Operations which he may grant or refuse in his absolute discretion.

### **4.4 Wearing of the Uniform**

- (a) The uniform to be worn by a Club during the Home and Away Matches shall be as directed by the General Manager - Football Operations or his appointee.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for each Player wearing an incorrect uniform, payable by the Player's Club

- (b) The uniform to be worn by a Club during the Finals Series shall be as directed by General Manager - Football Operations or his appointee.

Sanction: Up to 40 Units for each Player wearing an incorrect uniform, payable by the Player's Club

#### **4.5 Obligation to Wear Correct Uniform and Items of Clothing**

- (a) Each Player shall wear:
  - (i) the correct Player Uniform of that Player's Club as prescribed by these Regulations and guidelines of the AFL; and
  - (ii) such other items of clothing or apparel as may be determined by the AFL when attending events or functions organised or conducted under the auspices of the AFL.
- (b) A Club shall ensure that its Players comply with Regulation 4.5(a).

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for each Player wearing an incorrect uniform or item of clothing, payable by the Player's Club

#### **4.6 Other Apparel**

- (a) No Player shall wear any cap or hat during the course of a Match.
- (b) Undershorts may be worn by a Player provided that the material is of a neutral beige colour only and does not contain any Sponsor Advertising.
- (c) All bandages elasticised or otherwise shall be of soft material and neutral beige coloured.
- (d) Gloves approved by the General Manager - Football Operations may be worn. No gloves other than those approved by the General Manager - Football Operations shall be worn during a Match.
- (e) Armbands may be worn provided they are black in colour, and with no sponsorship or branding unless otherwise approved by the AFL at its discretion.
- (f) Any apparel that is attached to a Player's boots as an addition to the boot must first be approved by the AFL at its discretion.
- (g) Approval must be sought from the General Manager – Football Operations prior to Players wearing wristbands during a Match.
- (h) Hair bands worn during a Match must be thin, unobtrusive and black or club colour.
- (i) Bobby pins are not permitted to be worn during a Match.
- (j) Metal stops on boots are not permitted to be worn during a Match.

#### **4.7 Protective Equipment**

- (a) For the purposes of this Regulation, Protective Equipment includes but is not limited to:
  - (i) helmets;
  - (ii) knee braces;

- (iii) arm guards;
  - (iv) shoulder pads;
  - (v) back supports;
  - (vi) finger braces; and
  - (vii) any other item from time to time designated as such by the General Manager - Football Operations.
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager - Football Operations, thigh pads or shin pads are not for the purposes of this Regulation Protective Equipment and do not require approval under this Regulation.
- (c) Thermoplastic guards with adequate padding do not require prior approval from the AFL.
- (d) A Player shall not wear or use Protective Equipment in any Match unless the General Manager – Football Operations has granted the Player approval to wear or use the Protective Equipment (refer to Annexure 5).
- Sanction: Up to 10 Units, payable by the Player's Club
- (e) No Sponsor Advertising shall be placed or displayed on any item of Protective Equipment.
- Sanction: Up to 10 Units, payable by the Player's Club for a first offence  
Up to 20 Units, payable by a Player's Club for a second offence
- (f) The General Manager - Football Operations may issue guidelines concerning the use and approval of Protective Equipment. Any guidelines issued by the General Manager - Football Operations shall be directory in nature and any decision of the General Manager - Football Operations concerning the use or approval of Protective Equipment shall not be invalid by reason of such guidelines not being followed.
- (g) A field Umpire may order from the Playing Surface a Player who:
- (i) wears or uses Protective Equipment in a Match which has not been approved by the General Manager - Football Operations; or
  - (ii) is wearing or using an approved item of Protective Equipment, if he is satisfied that such Protective Equipment has, during the Match, become dangerous or increased the risk of injury to the Player wearing or using the Protective Equipment or the other Players competing in the Match.
- (h) Where a Player is ordered from the Playing Surface under this Regulation:
- (i) an Interchange Player may replace the Player ordered from the Playing Surface; and
  - (ii) the Player ordered from the Playing Surface may only re-enter the Playing Surface if he is no longer wearing or using the Protective

Equipment or the Umpire is satisfied that the Protective Equipment is no longer dangerous.

- (i) Where a Player refuses to or does not immediately leave the Playing Surface when ordered to do so by a field Umpire, the following shall apply:
  - (i) the field Umpire shall warn the Player that a free kick will be awarded and that he may be reported if he does not leave the Playing Surface;
  - (ii) if the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface, the field Umpire shall award a free kick to the Player of the opposing Team at a point nearest to where the warning was given or where the football is at the time, whichever is the greatest penalty against the offending Player's Team; and
  - (iii) if the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface:
    - (A) the field Umpire shall report the Player for misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an Umpire;
    - (B) the Match shall immediately end and the reported Player's Team shall forfeit the Match; and
    - (C) the Laws of Australian Football shall apply concerning the forfeiture of the Match.

#### **4.8 Payment for Breach**

Save where otherwise stated in this Regulation, where a Player contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions contained in Regulation 4, the Player's Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 40 Units for each such breach

## **5. AFL Logo and Sponsors' Logos Appearing on Players' Uniforms**

### **5.1 General**

- (a) The Commission shall determine and may vary the style, design, colour, position and size of any name, trade mark, logo or advertising appearing on any Player, including without limitation any item worn or used by a Player in a Match. Any determination or variation shall be notified by the AFL to the Clubs from time to time.
- (b) The Commission may impose, vary or revoke any condition or requirement relating to the appearance, display or promotion of any name, trade mark, logo or advertising appearing on any item worn or used by a Player in a Match.

### **5.2 Sanction for Non-Compliance**

A Club which does not comply with any determination, condition or requirement imposed by the Commission shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units per Player, payable by the Player's Club

### **5.3 Advertising Rights Vest in AFL**

- (a) The right to engage in Sponsor Advertising is and shall be the absolute and exclusive right of the AFL.
- (b) Without limiting the generality of Regulation 5.3(a) items worn or used for Sponsor Advertising include guernseys, shorts, socks, boots, dressings, headbands, caps and gloves.

### **5.4 AFL Approval of Sponsor Advertising**

- (a) A Club and any Player of a Club shall not engage in Sponsor Advertising unless it first obtains the permission of the AFL under Regulation 5.4.
- (b) A Club may apply to the AFL for permission to engage in Sponsor Advertising at a Match.
- (c) The General Manager – Football Operations or General Manager - Commercial Operations of the AFL may, in their absolute discretion, grant approval to a Club to engage in the Sponsor Advertising applied for, for such period and on such terms and conditions as the General Manager - Football Operations or General Manager - Commercial Operations regards as appropriate.

### **5.5 Sponsor Advertising on Club Guernseys**

Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager - Commercial Operations Sponsor Advertising appearing on items of clothing worn by a Player must comply with the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines.

## **6. AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines**

### **6.1 Obligation to Comply**

Each person subject to these Regulations shall:

- (a) comply with their obligations under the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines; and
- (b) use their best endeavours to assist the AFL to fully implement the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines.

### **6.2 Conditions and Variation**

The General Manager - Commercial Operations of the AFL, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, may at any time impose, vary or revoke any conditions or requirements applicable to the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines.

### **6.3 Breach of Commercial Operations Guidelines or Regulation 6**

If a Club (or an officer of a Club) or Player does not comply with the Commercial Operations Guidelines or this Regulation 6, the Commission, the General Manager - Commercial Operations, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, may deal with any such matter in such manner as the Commission, General Manager - Commercial Operations, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power they may impose a monetary sanction of such amount as they think fit.

## **7. Numbers**

### **7.1 Type, Size and Position of Numbers Determined by Commission**

- (a) The General Manager - Football Operations shall from time to time determine the type, size and position of numbers to be worn by Players, Umpires and Trainers participating or otherwise involved in a Match.
- (b) A Club shall ensure that the number displayed on the guernsey or item of clothing worn by its Players and Trainers is of the type, size and at a position determined from time to time by the General Manager - Football Operations.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for each Player or Trainer, payable by the Player's or Trainer's Club

### **7.2 Notification of Numbers by Club - Players**

- (a) A Club shall no later than three days before its first Match in each AFL Season, advise the AFL in writing of the number allocated to each Player on its Lists.
- (b) Subject to Regulation 7.3(c), each Player participating in a Match shall wear a guernsey that displays the number allocated by his Club and advised to the AFL under Regulation 7.2(a).

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for each Player or Trainer wearing a guernsey with an incorrect number, payable by the Player's or Trainer's Club

### **7.3 Change of Player Guernsey During Match**

- (a) Each Club shall ensure that a replacement guernsey is available for each Player participating in a Match.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for each Player, payable by the Player's Club

- (b) Where it becomes necessary to replace a guernsey worn by a Player during a Match, the Club shall ensure that the replacement guernsey displays the number allocated to the Player before the commencement of the AFL Season.
- (c) Where it becomes necessary to replace the guernsey of a Player on a second occasion, a Player may wear a guernsey that displays a different number to that normally worn by the Player, provided the Club immediately advises the AFL Interchange Official of the change.
- (d) Upon receiving notification from a Club under Regulation 7.3(c), the AFL Interchange Official shall make an appropriate amendment to the Official Team Sheet.

### **7.4 Trainers**

A Club shall for each of its Trainers listed on its Official Team Sheet:

- (a) allocate to each such Trainer a number between 1 and 5 (inclusive);

- (b) ensure that the number allocated to each Trainer is displayed on the clothing worn by the Trainer in a position determined by the General Manager - Football Operations; and
- (c) ensure that clothing worn by each Trainer complies with the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for each Trainer, payable by the Trainer's Club

## **7.5 Team Sheet - Regulation**

Each of the numbers allocated to Players and Trainers respectively shall be recorded on the Official Team Sheet that is lodged with the Interchange Official in accordance with Regulation 11.



## **8. Banners, Run Throughs and Cheer Squads**

### **8.1 Banners or Run Throughs**

A Club may erect a banner or run through for a Team entering the Arena at the commencement of a Match provided that:

- (a) any message displayed on any such banner or run through is not in the absolute opinion of the AFL offensive or prejudicial to the interests or reputation of the AFL or Australian football; and
- (b) the size of the banner or run through does not exceed 144 square metres, representing a maximum width of 18 metres and a maximum height of 8 metres.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units, payable by the Club

### **8.2 Cheer Squad on Arena**

A maximum of twenty-six members of a Club's cheer squad, including the cheer squad's photographer may enter the Arena for the purpose of erecting and securing any banner or run through.

### **8.3 Obligations on Cheer Squad**

- (a) A member of a cheer squad or other person authorised by a Club to erect or secure any banner or run through shall not:
  - (i) assault, threaten or intimidate another person;
  - (ii) use threatening or offensive language towards another person;
  - (iii) engage in conduct which causes or may cause damage to another person's property;
  - (iv) participate in or incite another person to participate in any act of violence; and
  - (v) act in a manner or engage in conduct which, in the opinion of the General Manager - Football Operations, is prejudicial to the interests or reputation of a Club, the AFL or the game of football.
- (b) Where a member of a Club's cheer squad or other person authorised by a Club to erect or secure a banner or run through contravenes Regulation 8.3(a), the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for each contravention by each such person

## 9. Footballs

### 9.1 Approved Footballs

- (a) The AFL may in its absolute discretion determine the brand and type of footballs to be used during a pre Match warm-up and a Match.
- (b) Unless otherwise decided by the General Manager - Football Operations, the football to be used during a pre Match warm-up and a Match is the TW Sherrin Football.

### 9.2 Supply and Selection of Footballs

Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager – Football Operations, the following procedure shall apply to the supply and selection of footballs for Home and Away Matches and Matches played in the Pre-Season Competition:

- (a) for day Matches commencing before 3.00pm, the home Club shall supply not less than six red TW Sherrin Footballs and for all other Matches, not less than six yellow TW Sherrin Footballs (**Match Footballs**);
- (b) the home Club shall supply the Match Footballs to the field Umpires no later than ninety minutes prior to the commencement of the Match; and
- (c) for all Pre-Season and Finals Series Matches commencing before 3.00pm the AFL will supply not less than six red Match Footballs and for all other Pre-Season and Finals Series Matches, not less than six yellow Match Footballs;
- (d) The General Manager - Football Operations may extend the use of red footballs past 3pm during the period of daylight saving;
- (e) The home Club may use the six (6) match footballs to 'kick in' at the Captain's run the day prior to the match only;
- (f) The six (6) match footballs are not to be used at the Captain's run if it is raining; and
- (g) The Field Umpires at their discretion can elect not to use the footballs if they are not presented in a near new condition after use at the Captain's run only (ie if they have significant scuff marks, are out of shape and/or are waterlogged) in which case the home Club must provide replacement new or near new balls.

### 9.3 Additional Footballs and Adverse Conditions

If in the opinion of the field Umpire a Match Football at any time becomes unsuitable for use, the field Umpire shall replace the Match Football.

## 10. Timing & Other Arrangements

### 10.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation:

**Official Starting Time** means:

- (a) the time determined by the AFL to commence play in a Match; and
- (b) the time determined by the AFL to recommence play after the First Quarter Time Interval, the Half Time Interval and the Third Quarter Time Interval.

**First Quarter Time Interval** means the period between the end of the first quarter and the beginning of the second quarter.

**Half Time Interval** means the period between the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third quarter.

**Third Quarter Time Interval** means the period between the end of the third quarter and the commencement of the fourth quarter.

### 10.2 Timekeepers - Appointment and Duties

- (a) The General Manager - Football Operations shall appoint at least two persons to act as Timekeepers for each Match.
- (b) The Timekeepers shall without limitation:
  - (i) keep time of each quarter of a Match on the device provided or approved by the General Manager - Football Operations;
  - (ii) sound the siren in accordance with the procedures contained in this Regulation; and
  - (iii) stop and restart the clock which is used for the timing of a Match as required under the Laws of Australian Football.

### 10.3 Procedure for Sounding Siren

Subject to the further provisions contained in this Regulation and any directions given by the General Manager - Football Operations, the Timekeepers shall sound the siren at the times and on the number of occasions as set out in the following table:

<b>Start of Match</b>	
Five minutes prior to Official Starting Time of the Match and as Umpires enter the Arena	once
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time of the Match	two times

One minute prior to the Official Starting Time	once
Official Starting Time	once
First Quarter Time Interval – six minutes	
<b>Start of Second Quarter</b>	
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time	two times
One minute prior to Official Starting Time	once
Official Starting Time	once
Half Time Interval - twenty minutes	
<b>Start of Third Quarter</b>	
Five minutes prior to Official Starting Time	once
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time	two times
One minute prior to Official Starting Time	once
Official Starting Time	once
Three Quarter Time Interval – six minutes	
<b>Start of Final Quarter</b>	
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time	two times
One minute prior to Official Starting Time	once
Official Starting Time	once

#### 10.4 End of Quarter

- (a) The Timekeeper shall sound the siren until a field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end.

- (b) In the event the field Umpires do not hear the siren, the Timekeeper may advise the field Umpires of the end of the quarter via the Umpires communication system.

### **10.5 Tossing of Coin**

At the sound of the two sirens two minutes before the commencement of a Match, the Captain of each Team shall report to the field Umpires in the centre circle for the toss of the coin.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units, payable by the Club

### **10.6 Players Ready to Commence Play**

All Players must be in position and ready to commence play at the Official Starting Time.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units, payable by the Club

### **10.7 Clubs Entering Arena**

All Clubs must enter the playing arena at such times as notified by the AFL.

Sanction: Up to 50 units, payable by the Club.

### **10.8 Players Kicking Football into Crowd**

Players shall not kick (or project by any other means) a match football into the crowd at an AFL venue (including taking practice shots at goals or kicking footballs into the crowd for Club promotion/marketing purposes) later than four (4) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the Match or after the completion of the Match save for during the course of a Match.

Sanction: Up to 10 units, payable by the Club.

## **11. Announcement of Team list**

### **11.1 Pre-Season Competition**

- (a) A Club participating in a Pre-Season Match must lodge with the AFL a Team list which contains the name and guernsey number of 30 Players, or any other number of Players as advised by the General Manager - Football Operations.
- (b) Teams are not required to be listed in playing position, except for the team lists for the Grand Final (if applicable), where the team must be listed with the 18 players in playing position as well as 8 Interchange Players and 4 Emergency Players.
- (c) Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager - Football Operations, the Team list of a Club participating in a Pre-Season Match must be lodged by 12pm two days prior to that Pre-Season Match.

### **11.2 Home and Away and Finals Series Matches**

- (a) Friday Night and Saturday Matches

A club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Friday night or Saturday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.00pm eastern standard time on the preceding Thursday. The Team list must contain the name and guernsey number of 18 Players in playing position, four Interchange Players and 4 Emergency Players.

- (b) Sunday and Monday Matches

- (i) A club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Sunday or Monday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.00pm eastern standard time on the preceding Thursday. The Team list lodged at this time must contain the name and guernsey number of 18 Players in playing position and 8 Emergency Players. A Club is not obliged at this time to identify which of the 8 Players will be Interchange Players and Emergency Players.

- (ii) A Club must then again lodge with the AFL its Team list, in which it sets out the name and guernsey number of 18 Players in position, 4 Interchange Players and 4 Emergency Players, by the following times:

- (A) for Sunday games – 5.00pm eastern standard time on the preceding Friday; and
- (B) Monday games – 4.00pm eastern standard time on the preceding Saturday.

- (c) Weekday Matches (other than Friday or Monday)

For Matches scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, the Club must lodge its Team List at times advised by the General Manager – Football Operations.

- (d) Discretion of the General Manager - Football Operations

The General Manager - Football Operations may in his absolute discretion vary the time within which a Club is obliged to lodge its Team list with the AFL.

### **11.3 Changes to Team list on day prior to Match**

- (a) In the case where a Player has been listed as a Player in the Team list and on the day prior to the Match it becomes apparent that he is unable to play due to injury, illness or personal circumstances, a Club may withdraw the Player from the Team list and (if it elects to do so) replace the Player subject to the following:
  - (i) the Club notifies the AFL Operations Manager, AFL Media Manager and the Football Manager of the opposition Club of the Player being withdrawn from the Team list and the new Player being included as soon as possible on the day prior to the Match;
  - (ii) a Club may elect to either:
    - (A) elevate an Emergency Player listed in the Team list into the Team and replace the elevated Emergency Player with a Player from outside the Team List;
    - (B) include a Player not listed in the Team list directly into the named Team;
  - (iii) the Player being withdrawn from the Team list is ineligible to play in any match in any other competition during the equivalent round;
  - (iv) the Club must submit to the AFL written documentation from the Club Medical Officer confirming the reason for the withdrawal of the Player.

### **11.4 Sanctions**

- (a) Where a Club does not lodge its Team list with the AFL in the required form and/or by the times prescribed in this Regulation 11.1 or 11.2, the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units.

- (b) If a Player participates in a Match or is named as an emergency and he was not listed on a Team's list at the time it was lodged with the AFL under this Regulation 11, the Club may be liable to a sanction.
- (c) If a player named on the team list at the time it was lodged with the AFL is replaced by a player from outside this team list the player replaced cannot play in any other team in any other competition in that same round

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for each breach

## **12. Official Team Sheet**

### **12.1 Submission of Official Team Sheet**

- (a) Each Club shall complete an Official Team Sheet online for each Match in which the Club participates no later than 90 minutes prior to the time scheduled for the commencement of a match unless otherwise specified by the General Manager - Football Operations, and
- (b) in the case where a Club is unable to submit its Official Team Sheet online in accordance with Regulation 12.1 a representative of the Club should report to the umpires' room to submit the official team sheet.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units

### **12.2 Composition of Official Team Sheet**

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager - Football Operations, the Official Team Sheet shall list:
  - (i) 22 Players (inclusive of 4 Interchange Players);
  - (ii) a maximum of 27 persons all being accredited Club Football Officials who require access to the Arena in accordance with this Regulation; and
  - (iii) 4 Emergency Players.
- (b) The General Manager - Football Operations may, having due regard to the playing conditions and the health and safety of Players, increase the number of Interchange Players which a Club can list on the Official Team Sheet.
- (c) A Club must not list a Player under Regulation 12.2(a)(i) of this Regulation if it is apparent that the Player will not play due to injury, illness or any other reason.
- (d) A Club may list as one of the 22 Players in the Official Team Sheet under Regulation 12.2(a)(i) a Player who was listed as an Emergency Player in the Team list.
- (e) A Player who was listed on the Team list that is not included as one of the 22 Players in the Official Team Sheet or who was listed as an Emergency Player in the Official Team Sheet but does not participate in the Match (other than a Player who was withdrawn pursuant to Regulation 11.3 or 12.3) is permitted to play in another match in another competition during the equivalent round.
- (f) A Club must not list a person under Regulation 12.2(a)(ii) who is not a registered Club Football Official without the prior approval of the AFL Match Manager.

### **12.3 Amendment to Official Team Sheet – Emergency Player**

- (a) After a Club has submitted its Official Team Sheet 90 minutes prior to the scheduled Match start time, it may subsequently replace a Player listed on that Official Team Sheet only with an Emergency Player that was listed on the Official Team Sheet before the commencement of play of the Match (as defined in the Laws of Australian Football), provided the Player who is being replaced is unable to play because of injury, illness or personal circumstances.



- (b) The following conditions apply to the inclusion of an Emergency Player and an amendment to the Official Team Sheet
  - (i) where an Emergency Player replaces a Player initially listed on the Official Team Sheet, the amendment to the Official Team Sheet must be made by notifying the AFL Interchange Official before the commencement of the Match. The Amendment to Official Team Sheet using the form in Annexure 3 must be completed and submitted to the Interchange Official as soon as possible after the notification.
  - (ii) the following persons shall be notified by the AFL Match Manager of any amendment to the Official Team Sheet:
    - (A) a field umpire;
    - (B) Football Manager of the opposition club;
    - (C) AFL Media Manager; and
    - (D) Champion Data representative;
  - (iii) the Player who has been replaced under this Regulation must immediately leave the Arena and not sit on the Interchange Bench;
  - (iv) the Club Medical Officer must supply a Doctor's Certificate to the AFL certifying that the Player being replaced is unable to play due to injury or illness or personal circumstances, to be completed and lodged with the AFL on the first working day after the Match; and
  - (v) the Player who has been replaced is ineligible to play in any match in any other competition during the equivalent round of Matches.

#### **12.4 Interchange Players**

- (a) The Interchange Players who have been identified on the Official Team Sheet may enter the Arena prior to the Match but must leave the Playing Surface after the sound of 2 sirens prior to the Official Starting Time of the Match.
- (b) All Players must leave the Playing Surface through the area designated as the club interchange gate.
- (c) Once a Club has handed its official Team Sheet to the Interchange Official in accordance with Regulation 12, the Club shall not change the starting line-up of 18 Players by including an Interchange Player in the starting line-up prior to the commencement of the Match.
- (d) Play shall not commence until the Players as named on the official Team Sheet take their position on ground or interchange as the case may be.
- (e) The Players nominated to the AFL Interchange Official as Interchange Players prior to the commencement of the second, third and fourth quarter of the Match cannot enter the Playing Surface until play has commenced or where approval is granted by the AFL Match Manager due to exceptional circumstances.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for first offence

Up to 40 Units for second or subsequent offences

## **12.5 Head Injury Assessment**

A Club must follow the procedure specified below for any Player undergoing a Head Injury Assessment:

- (a) The Club Medical Officer or Club Interchange Steward is to notify the AFL Interchange Official that a player will undergo a Head Injury Assessment;
- (b) Following notification that the Player will undergo a Head Injury Assessment, the relevant Player cannot return to the Playing Surface for at least fifteen (15) minutes;
- (c) Following the Player undergoing the Head Injury Assessment, the Club Medical Officer or Club Interchange Steward is to advise the AFL Interchange Official the outcome of the Head Injury Assessment except where it is impractical for the Club Medical Officer or Club Interchange Steward to do so;
- (d) On the first business day following the Match, the Club Medical Officer must lodge with the AFL a completed Head Injury Assessment form (in the form prescribed by the AFL from time to time) and Standard Concussion Assessment Tool (**SCAT**) form;
- (e) Without limiting Regulation 12.5(f), any Club in breach of this Regulation 12.5 will be liable to pay a sanction of up to 50 units; and
- (f) Without limiting Regulation 12.5(e), where a Club is in breach of Regulation 12.5(b) by virtue of a Player re-entering the Playing Surface within fifteen (15) minutes of notification that the Player will undergo a Head Injury Assessment:
  - (i) the Umpire will award a free kick and a 50 metre penalty to the opposition Club; and
  - (ii) the offending Player will be required to leave the Playing Surface for a period of not less than the remainder of the time referred to in Regulation 12.5(b).

## **12.6 Permitted Access to Arena**

Unless otherwise stated in this Regulation or by the General Manager - Football Operations, all persons listed on the Official Team Sheet, other than Emergency Players, may enter the Arena:

- (a) prior to the commencement of a Match for the sole purpose of proceeding to the area designated by the AFL; or
- (b) prior to, during (including an interval between quarters), or at the completion of a Match (following the final act of play), provided that person enters the Arena for the sole purpose of fulfilling that person's duties.

## **12.7 Access to Interchange Bench or Arena Fence Stations**

- (a) A person listed on the Official Team Sheet may sit on the Interchange Bench except for:

- (i) the Senior Coach (unless Regulation 12.10 applies);
  - (ii) all other coaching staff, other than a coach who has been nominated on the Official Team Sheet;
  - (iii) all Trainers other than the Head Trainer;
  - (iv) Emergency Players;
  - (v) any suspended or other Player or Players who are not listed on the Official Team Sheet;
  - (vi) injured Players, other than those Players injured during the course of a Match; and
  - (vii) such other persons nominated by the General Manager – Football Operations or his appointee.
- (b) A Club's Trainers (other than the Head Trainer) listed on the Official Team Sheet shall sit at the Arena Fence Stations located around the perimeter of the Arena, save for the bench trainer who must remain in the interchange bench area and only enter the field to assist with the stretcher.

## **12.8 Interchange**

- (a) AFL Interchange Official – Appointment and Duties
- (i) The General Manager - Football Operations may appoint two or more Interchange Officials to officiate during a Match. The AFL Interchange Official shall:
    - (A) be positioned throughout the Match at or near the Interchange Area;
    - (B) monitor and approve the Interchange of players made by each Team during the Match;
    - (C) calculate and communicate the number of Interchanges made during a Match to the AFL Match Manager;
    - (D) report to an Umpire any infringement by a Team of this Regulation 12.9; and
    - (E) report to the General Manager - Football Operations any infringement by a Team of this Regulation 12.9.
- (b) Procedure for Interchange
- (i) Save where Law 7.3 of the Laws of Australian Football applies, the following procedure shall apply to the Interchange of Players during a Match:
    - (A) the replacement Player must move to the Interchange Holding Area and remain there until the Player he is replacing has left the Playing Surface through the Club Interchange Gate, failing which

the replacement Player will be reported to the General Manager - Football Operations under Regulation 12.8(b)(iv);

- (B) the Player to be replaced must leave the Playing Surface through the Club Interchange Gate before the replacement Player may enter the Playing Surface through the Club Interchange Gate; and
- (C) The Player entering the Playing Surface must do so without delay. Any Player who tactically delays his entry to the Playing Surface may be subject to a financial sanction, to be imposed on the relevant Club.

Sanction: up to 5 unit

- (ii) A Team Official must advise the AFL Interchange Official of the following:
  - (A) the number of any Player that leaves the Arena during the course of a Match prior to the Player leaving the Arena;
  - (B) the number of any Player that leaves the Playing Surface on a stretcher; and
  - (C) the numbers of the four (4) Interchange Players at the start of each quarter prior to the commencement of each quarter.
- (iii) The AFL Interchange Official shall notify an Umpire who will then award a Free Kick and a 50-metre penalty when:
  - (A) a Player leaving the Playing Surface does not exit through the Interchange Area and is replaced by another Player who is deemed by the emergency Umpire to be involved in play before the breach is rectified;
  - (B) a replacement Player does not enter the Playing Surface through the Interchange Area and who is deemed by the emergency Umpire to be involved in play before the breach is rectified; or
  - (C) the replacement Player enters the Playing Surface and who is deemed by the emergency Umpire to be involved in play prior to the Player to be replaced leaving the Playing Surface.
- (iv) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Regulation 12.8(b), the AFL Interchange Official and/or an Umpire shall report the circumstances of any breach of this Regulation 12.8(b) to the General Manager - Football Operations. The General Manager - Football Operations may determine the matter by way of fine, change of match result or any other sanction as it deems appropriate, or may refer the matter to the Commission.
- (v) Players and Club Officials must not enter the Playing Surface at the conclusion of a quarter until play has ceased and in the case of a set shot at goal, the kick has been taken.
- (vi) At the completion of a quarter Interchange Players and Club Officials are not required to enter the Playing Surface through the interchange gates, however all players must exit the Playing Surface through the

interchange gates when leaving the Playing Surface to recommence play.

(c) Interchange Cap

- (i) Unless otherwise outlined in these Regulations, a Club must not exceed the Interchange Cap for each Pre-Season, Premiership Season and Finals Series Match.
- (ii) Conditions of Interchange Cap
  - (A) An Interchange will not be included in the Interchange Cap if the Player exiting the Playing Surface immediately re-enters the Playing Surface without being replaced.
  - (B) An Interchange will be included in the Interchange Cap once the replacement Player enters the Playing Surface regardless of how long the Player is on the field.
  - (C) Interchanges at quarter time, half time and three quarter time are not included in the Interchange Cap.
- (iii) The following events will not be included in the Interchange Cap:
  - (A) when a Player leaves the Playing Surface for a Head Injury Assessment;
  - (B) when an Umpire requests that a player exit the Playing Surface under the Blood Rule;
  - (C) when a Player exits the Playing Surface voluntarily due to active bleeding, provided the Club Medical Officer advises the AFL Interchange Official as soon as reasonably practicable and the Interchange Official has sighted the Player with the active bleeding;
  - (D) when a Player is replacing a Player removed from the Playing Surface pursuant to the Stretcher Rule;
  - (E) when an injured Player leaves the Playing Surface for a Medical Assessment; and
  - (F) other forced Interchanges as a result of Players being ordered from the Playing Surface pursuant to AFL Rules and or Regulations.
- (iv) For the avoidance of doubt, should the Player who exited the Playing Surface under 11.11(c)(iii)(B)-(F) and subsequently re-enters the Playing Surface, the Interchange is counted in the Interchange Cap.
- (v) Where there is a tie in a Finals Series Match and Additional Time is being played, an Interchange Cap will reset to zero with each Club having a new Interchange Cap of fifteen (15) for the total of both periods of Additional Time.

- (vi) Once the Interchange Cap has been met no additional Interchanges may be made unless the Player has exited the Playing Surface due to:
  - (A) Head Injury Assessment;
  - (B) Blood Rule,
  - (C) Stretcher Rule; and
  - (D) Medical Assessment,

provided that the Player who exits the Playing Surface under any of these conditions will not be permitted to return to the Playing Surface for 20 minutes.
- (vii) A Player who is requested by an Umpire to exit the Playing Surface under the Blood Rule when the Interchange Cap has been reached will be permitted to Interchange with any Player and return to the Playing Surface, if a Club Medical Officer or Club Interchange Steward first notifies the AFL Interchange Official.
- (viii) On the first working day following the Match, the Club Medical Officer must lodge with the AFL a written explanation relating to any Interchange made in excess of the Interchange Cap.
- (ix) A Medical Report in Schedule 1 Form 31 is required for all Stretcher Rule and Medical Assessment Interchanges (in the case of a Head Injury Assessment, a Head Injury Assessment form (in the form prescribed by the AFL from time to time) and Standard Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT) form are also required).
- (x) Any Club in breach of this Regulation:
  - (A) by exceeding the Interchange Cap will result in a free kick and a 50 m penalty being awarded to the opposition Club, and the Player entering the Playing Surface once the Interchange Cap is reached will be ordered to immediately leave the Playing Surface by the Umpire; and
  - (B) is liable to a sanction of up to 20 units for first offence and up to 40 units for second or subsequent offence(s).

## **12.9 Players exceeding Permitted Numbers**

- (a) A Club shall ensure that the number of Players on the Playing Surface during the progress of a Match shall not exceed the number permitted by the AFL.
- (b) In addition to any action taken by the Umpire during the progress of the Match or sanction applicable under the Laws of Australian Football, the following sanction shall apply:

Sanction: Up to 25 Units for first offence

Up to 50 Units for second offence

### **12.10 Senior Coach**

The Senior Coach may:

- (a) enter the Arena and be positioned on the Interchange Bench if the Senior Coach so chooses to coach the team from this position in the area designated by the AFL; and
- (b) at the completion of a quarter, move from the area designated and enter the Playing Surface for the purpose of addressing the Team.

### **12.11 Listed Players May enter Arena**

Except for Emergency Players, all Players listed on the Official Team Sheet may enter the Arena before the Match for the sole purpose of performing an on field warm-up at the times and for the duration specified by the AFL.

### **12.12 Emergency Listed Players**

- (a) An Emergency Player shall not:
  - (i) enter the Arena after the Official Team Sheet has been lodged 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Match; and
  - (ii) sit on the Interchange Bench at any time throughout the Match.
- (b) Emergency Players may enter the Arena after the completion of the Match (after the second siren has sounded).

### **12.13 Use of Interchange Board**

Clubs are permitted to use an interchange board or boards as follows:

- (a) boards must not exceed maximum size of 800mm x 600mm;
- (b) only one (1) board can be used at a time;
- (c) no sponsor advertising can be displayed on either side of the board;
- (d) Clubs can determine what the board is made from (corflute, magnetic whiteboard, etc);
- (e) Clubs can determine the size and colour of the numbers/symbols displayed on the board;
- (f) Boards must not be attached to a stand or bench infrastructure; and
- (g) Boards can only be displayed by a Club Football Official with Arena access accreditation within the interchange area.

### **12.14 Staff and Officials Permitted onto the Playing Surface during the Match**

The following people may enter the Playing Surface during the progress of a Match:

- (a) a Team Runner may enter the Playing Surface following the goal umpire signalling a goal for the sole purpose of conferring briefly with Players of his Club. The Team Runner must be making his or her way off the Playing Surface as the Field umpire bounces or throws the football up to recommence play after a goal;
- (b) the Trainers listed on the Official Team Sheet (excluding bench trainer) solely for the purpose of:
  - (i) attending an injured Player;
  - (ii) assisting the removal of an injured Player by medicart or stretcher where the Umpire has stopped play to allow this to occur; or
  - (iii) running drinks to a Player during a break in play noting trainers are not permitted to enter the Playing Arena for this purpose during live play (e.g. trainers may enter the Playing Surface while a Player is having a shot at goal but must exit prior to play recommencing),

who must then immediately leave the Playing Surface; and

- (c) the Club Medical Officer and Physiotherapist of the Club, for the purpose of attending to an injured Player or Players.

Sanction: Up to 20 units for first offence

Up to 50 units for second or subsequent offence(s) and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the General Manager - Football Operations

### 12.15 Team Runner

- (a) The AFL may issue guidelines relating to the conduct of Team Runners from time to time (**Runners Guidelines**). If a Team Runner does not comply with the Runners Guidelines, the Team Runner and/or the Team Runners Club may be liable to a sanction as set out in this Regulation 12.15.
- (b) A Club may appoint one Team Runner. A person cannot be appointed a Team Runner:
  - (i) at any time during the year in which he has been listed with or played for a Club; or
  - (ii) if he is a member of the Club's coaching staff involved in the Club's selection or match committee in the year of his intended appointment.
- (c) A Club shall register its Team Runner with the AFL by providing written notice to the General Manager - Football Operations within one business day of the Team Runner's appointment.
- (d) The Team Runner shall:
  - (i) dress in the uniform determined by the AFL; and
  - (ii) not have affixed any Communication Device.



- (e) Where the Team Runner is unable to act, a Club shall record the name of the substituted Team Runner on the Official Team Sheet to be handed to the AFL Interchange Steward prior to the commencement of a Match.

Sanction: Up to 20 units for first offence

Up to 50 units for second or subsequent offence(s) and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the General Manager - Football Operations

## 12.16 Trainers

- (a) A person may only be appointed as a Trainer to a Club if that person has:
  - (i) met the minimum standard of, and is currently accredited as, a Level One Sports Trainer (Sports Medicine Australia) or obtained such other qualification approved by the AFL in consultation with the AFL Medical Officers Association; and
  - (ii) upon completion of a course under Regulation 12.16(a), been registered with the AFL as a Club Football Official in accordance with this Regulation.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units, payable by the Club

- (b) Number of Trainers

A maximum of five Trainers (inclusive of the bench trainer ) for each Club may participate in a Match.

- (c) Obligations of Club

Each Club shall ensure that:

- (i) the Trainers that participate in a Match are listed on the Official Team Sheet; and
  - (ii) each Trainer is aware of and complies with any obligations imposed upon the Trainer under these Regulations, the AFL Rules or any decision of or guidelines issued by the AFL.
- (d) All Trainers shall leave the Playing Surface immediately upon completing any of the tasks outlined in Regulation 12.16.
- (e) A Trainer shall not:
  - (i) become involved in the play or interrupt the flow of play during any Match, including engaging in conduct which in any way provides an advantage to his Club or engaging in conduct which in any way provides a disadvantage to the opposing Club. Such conduct includes but is not limited to wiping the football or the boot of a Player or providing a towel to a Player for that purpose;
  - (ii) carry messages from the coaching staff to any of the Players competing during the Match; or

- (iii) have affixed any Communication Device.

Sanction: Up to 40 Units, payable by the Club and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the General Manager - Football Operations.

### **12.17 Club Medical Officer/Physiotherapists**

- (a) The Club Medical Officer and the Physiotherapist shall sit on the Interchange Bench and shall only enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Area apart from an emergency situation.
- (b) The Club Medical Officer or the Physiotherapist shall not:
  - (i) carry messages from the coaching staff to any of the Players during the Match; or
  - (ii) have affixed any Communication Device.

Sanction: Up to 40 units for first offence

Up to 80 units for second or subsequent offence(s) and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the General Manager - Football Operations.

### **12.18 Uniforms - Trainer**

The clothing worn by a Trainer must:

- (a) comply with guidelines issued by the AFL from time to time;
- (b) include an AFL supplied vest indicating their respective function; and
- (c) incorporate numerical identification from numbers 1 to 5, with the appropriate number being recorded against the name of the Trainer on the Official Team Sheet.

### **12.19 Uniforms – Club Medical Officer and Physiotherapist**

The Club Medical Officer and Physiotherapist of the Club must:

- (a) wear clothing that complies with the AFL Commercial Operations Guidelines;
- (b) wear an AFL supplied vest indicating their respective function; and
- (c) have their name recorded on the Official Team Sheet.

### **12.20 Communication Devices and Wearable Devices**

- (a) A Club shall not use and ensure that any person employed or otherwise associated with the Club does not use any Communication Device on the Playing Surface or between the Interchange Bench or Coaches box and a Player or person on the Playing Surface. For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs may use laptops, tablets or similar devices on the Playing Surface during breaks between quarters for the purpose of displaying vision and statistics (including

GPS and physiological statistics) only. Mobile phones cannot be used at any time including for the purposes of displaying vision and stats.

- (b) A Club shall not without the prior permission of the General Manager - Football Operations (at his sole discretion) use and shall ensure that any person employed or otherwise associated with the Club does not use without this permission GPS, tracking, monitoring or other similar devices (Approved Wearable Device).
- (c) A Club must ensure that all data and other information generated by or via an Approved Wearable Device used by a person employed or otherwise associated with the Club during a Match is made available to AFL on a live or near live basis (and in all instances at a time no later than when any data or information is first made available to the Club or any other person), at a location and in a format specified by AFL and at no cost to AFL, for use by AFL and its licensees (including other Clubs).

## **12.21 Sanctions**

If in the opinion of an Umpire, the AFL Match Manager or the General Manager - Football Operations, a Club or person contravenes this Regulation 11, the Club shall be liable to a sanction as specified at the foot of the relevant provision, or as determined by the General Manager - Football Operations up to the maximum amounts set out below:-

Sanction: Up to 25 Units for a first offence

Up to 50 Units for a second or subsequent offence in the same season.

### 13. Reference to a Player's Names

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager - Football Operations, for all purposes associated with the AFL Competition, a Player shall be known as and referred to by the name under which he was first registered with the AFL, or by the name by which he was usually known prior to that registration, if he seeks registration under a different name.
- (b) Without limitation and by way of example only, this Regulation shall:
  - (i) in the case of the AFL, apply to:
    - (A) recording the Player's name in any publication of the AFL, including the Football Record and any statistical information;
    - (B) recording, reading and acknowledging the Player's name for any awards of the AFL;
    - (C) completing any Notice of Report or any other documents to bring a matter before the Commission or anybody appointed by the Commission;
    - (D) sending any correspondence to a Player;
    - (E) recording the Player's name on any List maintained by the AFL; and
    - (F) recording, stating or communicating a Player's name in any press release or public statement, whether it is made orally or in writing.
  - (ii) in the case of the Player's Club, apply to:
    - (A) completing and lodging with the AFL the Club's Official Team Sheet;
    - (B) advising the AFL or the media of the Players who have been selected to play for the Club in any Match;
    - (C) recording the Player's name in any document of the Club, including statistical information, newsletters or any other publication circulated to the Club's members and supporters;
    - (D) recording, reading and acknowledging the Player's name for any awards of the Club;
    - (E) recording, stating or communicating the Player's name in any press release or public statement, whether it is made orally or in writing; and
    - (F) completing any documents which, by reason of the AFL Rules or these Regulations, must be lodged with the AFL.

Sanction: Up to 50 units

## **14. Cooperation and Attendance at Meetings and Education Sessions**

### **14.1 Attending Meetings**

Any person who neglects or refuses to attend any meeting to which that person has been requested to attend by the AFL, save where the person requested is unable to attend due to circumstances beyond the control of such person, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL and shall be dealt with by the Commission in such manner as the Commission in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

### **14.2 Meeting**

For the purposes of this Regulation, a meeting shall include but not be limited to:

- (a) the attendance of any person before the Commission, any Commissioner, the Investigations Manager, Special Investigator, General Manager - Football Operations, AFL Medical Officer, Arbitrator, Tribunal, Appeal Board or any other person or persons appointed by the Commission or the General Manager - Football Operations to administer or perform any act or function under these Regulations, the AFL Rules or the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the AFL; and
- (b) any event or function conducted by or under the auspices of the AFL including without limitation the Brownlow Medal Presentation, Rising Star Award, All Australian Awards, Season Launch Function, Hall of Fame Function and Grand Final Parade.

### **14.3 Request to Meeting**

For the purposes of this Regulation, any request to a person to attend a meeting, as defined in this Regulation, shall be made in writing.

### **14.4 Attending Education Session**

Each Club must ensure that it arranges for its employees, servants or agents to undertake any and all education sessions relating to the AFL Rules & Regulations as directed by AFL. A Club shall be liable to a sanction for failure to comply with this Regulation.

Sanction: up to 20 units.

## 15. Umpires and Scoring

### 15.1 Public Comments on Umpires

Any person subject to these Regulations or AFL Rules, shall not make any public comment about an Umpire or a decision made by an Umpire. Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall be liable to a sanction:

Sanction: Up to 20 units for first offence

Up to 100 units for a second or subsequent offence

### 15.2 Approaches to Umpires

- (a) No person subject to these Regulations shall approach, talk or intimidate to an Umpire during the quarter time, half time or three quarter time interval or when the Umpires are entering or leaving the Arena.
- (b) Any team address shall be given outside the centre square.

Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall be liable to a sanction:

Sanction: Up to 20 Units for first offence

Up to 50 Units for second and subsequent offence

### 15.3 Scoring

Notwithstanding any provision of Law 12 of the Laws of Australian Football:

- (a) the General Manager - Football Operations may appoint any person or persons to:
  - (i) record the scores of a Match (**Official Scorer**); and
  - (ii) participate in a scoring consultation with the officiating Umpires as provided for by the Score Review System (**Score Reviewer**);
- (b) the Official Scorer(s) may record the score in accordance with the Laws provided they may at their discretion disregard any error in the procedure for signalling a score set out in Law 12.2; and
- (c) subject to the general powers of the Commission or General Manager - Football Operations under any other AFL Rule & Regulation, the score recorded by the Official Scorer(s) shall determine the result of a Match.

## 16. Reportable Offences and Reporting Procedures

### 16.1 Construction and Interpretation

- (a) Any reference to two AFL years shall unless otherwise stated, refer to years in which the Player was a registered AFL Player.
- (b) In Appendix 1:
  - (i) A reference to any previous number of AFL years shall be a reference to the period calculated retrospectively from the Round in which a Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence or Reportable Offences, to the corresponding Round in the relevant prior year. For instance, where a Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence or Reportable Offences in Round 10 in 2009, the previous period of 2 AFL years shall be the period commencing from and including Round 10 in 2007; and
  - (ii) "Round" shall mean:
    - (A) a round of both the Pre-Season Competition and Home and Away series of Matches, set out in the annual fixture of Matches, published from time to time by the AFL;
    - (B) the week (by number) of the Final Series; and
    - (C) in the case of a representative Match, exhibition Match or practice Match to which these Regulations apply, the date of such Match.
- (c) Where a Player lodges a Notice of Early Plea or where a Player pleads guilty to a Reportable Offence in accordance with these Regulations, that notification or Plea and any record of proceedings and finding by the Tribunal, irrespective of how a Player pleaded, shall apply only for the purposes of these Regulations and for no other purpose. For clarification and the avoidance of doubt:
  - (i) a Notice of Early Plea or plea of guilty to a Reportable Offence shall not be taken as an admission of liability for the purposes of any proceedings other than those prescribed under these Regulations;
  - (ii) in respect of and for the purpose of any such other proceedings, lodgement of a Notice of Early Plea or plea of guilty to a Reportable Offence in accordance with these Regulations shall be deemed to include an express denial of liability; and
  - (iii) any evidence presented before the Tribunal including without limitation any statements made and any transcript of proceedings, as well as any finding by the Tribunal, shall not be relied upon in any such other proceedings as evidence of liability.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, for the purposes of this Regulation 16, unless a Reportable Offence concerns an incident relating to an AFL appointed Umpire, a Match does not include an intra-Club practice match, with any incident arising from any intra Club practice match to be dealt with by the relevant Club.

## **16.2 Match Review Officer**

The General Manager – Football Operations may from time to time appoint a person as the Match Review Officer (**Match Review Officer**).

## **16.3 Qualifications**

Save and except where the General Manager – Football Operations otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed as the Match Review Officer if that person:

- (a) has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;
- (b) has been a Coach or assistant or specialty Coach of a Club; or
- (c) has been a Player of a Club,

in the 12 months preceding the appointment.

## **16.4 Absent Members**

If for any period and for any reason any person acting as the Match Review Officer is absent or unable to attend to their duty, the General Manager – Football Operations may appoint a person who in his opinion is a suitable replacement.

## **16.5 Resignation**

The Match Review Officer may resign by giving notice in writing to the General Manager – Football Operations.

## **16.6 Removal**

The General Manager – Football Operations may remove the Match Review Officer at any time in his absolute discretion.

## **16.7 Secretary**

The General Manager – Football Operations shall appoint a Secretary to the Match Review Officer (**Match Review Secretary**).

## **16.8 Role of Secretary**

The Match Review Secretary shall:

- (a) be an employee of the AFL;
- (b) perform any function prescribed in these Regulations;
- (c) assist the Match Review Officer in the efficient and proper performance of the obligations and duties set out in this Regulation 16; and
- (d) perform other functions as directed from time to time by the General Manager – Football Operations.



## 16.9 Reportable Offence

A Reportable Offence is any Reportable Offence identified in the Laws of Australian Football or these Regulations, including the Appendix.

## 16.10 Report Made by Umpires

### (a) Obligation to Charge

Where a person is involved in an incident which may constitute a Reportable Offence, the Umpire shall report that person with such Reportable Offence and refer the matter to the Match Review Officer.

### (b) Reports During Course of Match

(i) Where an Umpire reports a person during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall inform the person of the report:

- (A) at the time of the incident;
- (B) before the commencement of the next quarter; or
- (C) where the incident occurs in the final quarter, as soon as practical after the completion of the Match.

(ii) An Umpire may inform the Captain, Acting Captain or Official of a Club of a report where it is impractical to inform the person who has been reported.

### (c) Completion of Notice of Report Made During Match

(i) As soon as practical after the completion of the Match, the Umpire shall complete a Notice of Report in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 21.

(ii) Where an Umpire completes a Notice of Report under Regulation 16.10(c)(i), the Umpire shall:

- (A) lodge the Notice with the Match Review Secretary on the day of the Match; and
- (B) retain a copy of the Notice.

### (d) Method of Lodging

A Notice of Report, Incident Referral Form or any other Notice or Form referred to in this Regulation 16 may be given or lodged by:

- (i) delivering; or
- (ii) transmitting,

to the intended recipient or the intended recipient's Club.

## 16.11 Referral of Incident to Match Review Officer

- (a) Completion of Incident Referral Form by Umpire
  - (i) As soon as practical after completion of the Match, the Umpire shall complete an Incident Referral Form in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 25 in relation to any incident:
    - (A) that is not the subject of a Notice of Report under Regulation 16.10(c)(i); and
    - (B) which may constitute a Reportable Offence.
  - (ii) Where an Umpire completes an Incident Referral Form under Regulation 16.11(a)(i) the Umpire shall lodge a copy with the Match Review Secretary by 10.00am on the next day after completion of the Match.
- (b) Completion of Incident Referral Form by Umpire's Observer
  - (i) As soon as practical after completion of the Match, the Umpire's Observer shall complete an Incident Referral Form in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 25 in relation to any incident:
    - (A) that is not the subject of a Notice of Report under Regulation 16.10(c)(i); and
    - (B) which may constitute a Reportable Offence.
  - (ii) Where the Umpire's Observer completes an Incident Referral Form under Regulation 16.11(b)(i) the Umpire's Observer shall lodge a copy with the Match Review Secretary by 10.00am on the next day after completion of the Match.
- (c) Completion of Incident Referral Form by Umpire's Manager
  - (i) The Umpire's Manager may complete an Incident Referral Form in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 25 in relation to an incident:
    - (A) that is not the subject of a Notice of Report under Regulation 16.10(c)(i); and
    - (B) which may constitute a Reportable Offence.
  - (ii) Where the Umpire's Manager completes an Incident Referral Form under Regulation 16.11(b)(i) the Umpire's Manager shall lodge a copy with the Match Review Secretary by 10.00 a.m. on the next day after completion of the Match.
- (d) Completion of Incident Referral Form by Club Chief Executive/General Manager
  - (i) The Chief Executive/General Manager of a Club may complete an Incident Referral Form in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 25 in relation to an incident occurring during the last Match in which the Club

of the Chief Executive/General Manager competed, in relation to an incident:

- (A) that is not the subject of a Notice of Report under Regulation 16.10(c)(i); and
  - (B) which may constitute a Reportable Offence.
- (ii) Where a Club Chief Executive/General Manager completes an Incident Referral Form under Regulation 16.11(c)(i), the Chief Executive/General Manager shall lodge a copy with the Match Review Secretary by 10.00 a.m. on the next day after the completion of the Match.
- (e) Completion of Incident Referral Form by General Manager – Football Operations
- (i) The General Manager – Football Operations may at any time complete an Incident Referral Form in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 25 in relation to an incident:
    - (A) that is not the subject of a Notice of Report under Regulation 16.10(c)(i); and
    - (B) which may constitute a Reportable Offence.
  - (ii) Where the General Manager – Football Operations completes an Incident Referral Form under Regulation 16.11(e)(i) the General Manager – Football Operations shall lodge a copy of the Form with the Match Review Secretary as soon as practical.

## **16.12 Review, Investigation and Charging by Match Review Officer**

- (a) Review Notice of Report, Incident Referral Form, video and other inquiries
  - (i) Upon receipt of any Notice of Report or Incident Referral Form or upon the request of the Match Review Officer, the Match Review Secretary shall convene a meeting with the Match Review Officer to commence by 11.00 a.m. on the first business day after completion of the relevant Match or as soon thereafter as practical.
  - (ii) The Match Review Secretary shall arrange for delivery to the Match Review Officer of all available video of any incident referred to in any Notice of Report, Incident Referral Form or any other incident which the Match Review Officer suspects may constitute a Reportable Offence.
  - (iii) The Match Review Officer may seek other information and inform itself on the basis of any other inquiries or investigations it deems appropriate including without limitation, discussions with any Umpires or any other person.
  - (iv) The Match Review Officer shall consider each Notice of Report, Incident Referral Form and any other incident and as soon as practical, view any video of the reported or referred incident and confer to ascertain whether a person may have committed a Reportable Offence. The Match Review

Officer may review any video of any report or referred incident regardless of the source of the video.

(b) Match Review Officer May Refer to Investigation Officer

- (i) Where the Match Review Officer forms the view that a report, incident or matter warrants further investigation, the Match Review Officer may refer the report, incident or matter to the Investigation Officer by notifying with the Investigation Officer of particulars of the matter requiring investigation. Such notification may, without prejudice to any other form of notice, be provided by completion of the Notice prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 30.
- (ii) As soon as practical after receiving a reference for investigation from the Match Review Officer, the Investigation Officer shall investigate the matter and report in writing, to the Match Review Officer.

(c) Co-Operation

For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this Regulation, a person shall upon request by the Investigation Officer:

- (i) fully co-operate with the Investigation Officer;
- (ii) truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Officer; and
- (iii) provide any document, film, computer image, photograph, record or video in that person's possession or control requested by the Investigation Officer.

(d) Failure to Co-Operate

A person who fails to observe and comply with Regulation 16.12(c) or who provides any information, or acts in a manner, which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL and shall be liable to a sanction determined by the General Counsel in accordance with AFL Rule 2.3.

(e) Evidence of Medical Condition

The Match Review Secretary may request that a Club provide a medical certificate in relation to the nature and extent of any injury or the health of any Victim Player. A request to provide a medical certificate in accordance with this Regulation 16.12(e) shall:

- (i) be in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 31;
- (ii) be certified by the Club Medical Officer;
- (iii) contain the particulars of injury, health and medical information of the Victim Player, having regard to the specific incident allegedly giving rise to a Reportable Offence;
- (iv) contain sufficient information for a person other than a medical practitioner to make a reasonable assessment as to the impact that the

alleged Reportable Offence is likely, based on objective medical facts, to have had on the Victim Player; and

- (v) be transmitted to the Match Review Secretary as soon as possible following the request and, in any event, within three hours of such request.

(f) Failure to Certify

A Club that fails to observe and comply with Regulation 16.12(e) or who provides any information, or acts in a manner, which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL and shall be liable to a sanction determined by the General Counsel in accordance with AFL Rule 2.3.

(g) Match Review Officer May Charge

- (i) If after considering a Notice of Report, Incident Referral Form, any other incident, any video, any other inquiries or documents and/or the results of any investigation requested under this Regulation, the Match Review Officer determines that a person has been involved in an incident which constitutes a Reportable Offence, the Match Review Officer shall:

- (A) charge that person by completing a Notice of Charge in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 29. For Reportable Offences specified as "Classifiable Offences" in Appendix 1, the Notice of Charge shall set out details of the Match Review Officer's determination in respect of the relevant factors referred to in Appendix 1;

- (B) lodge the Notice of Charge with the Tribunal Secretary; and

- (C) provide a copy of the Notice of Charge to the reported person, his Club and any other Player and the Club of any other such Player directly involved in the report.

- (ii) If after considering a Notice of Report, Incident Referral Form, any other incident, any video, any other inquiries or documents and/or the results of any investigation requested under this Regulation, the Match Review Officer determines that a person has not been involved in an incident which constitutes a Reportable Offence, the Match Review Officer may record and publish brief reasons for the decision not to charge.

(h) Charge by General Manager – Football Operations

- (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Regulations, if the General Manager – Football Operations is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the General Manager – Football Operations may charge such person by completing a Notice of Charge in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 29 and lodging the Notice with the Tribunal Secretary. At the time of lodging the Notice with the Tribunal Secretary, the General Manager – Football Operations shall provide a copy of the Notice of Charge to the charged person, his Club,

any other Player and the Club of any other such Player directly involved in the charge and the Match Review Officer.

- (ii) The powers of the General Manager – Football Operations under this Regulation 16.12(h) may be exercised regardless of whether the General Manager – Football Operations has completed an Incident Referral Form and lodged that with the Match Review Officer in accordance with Regulation 16.11(e).

(i) Player May Enter Early Plea

- (i) Subject to Regulation 16.12(i)(vi), where a Player has received a Notice of Charge from the Match Review Officer under Regulation 16.12(g) or the General Manager – Football Operations under Regulation 16.12(h) relating to any of the Reportable Offences set out in Appendix 1 and where either matches or a fixed financial sanction is attributable, that Player may elect to plead guilty to the offence.
- (ii) A Player may elect to plead guilty to a Reportable Offence referred to in Regulation 16.12(i)(i) by lodging with the Match Review Secretary a Notice of Early Plea in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 28 by 11.00 a.m. on the day after notification of the charge.
- (iii) Upon receipt by the Match Review Secretary of a Notice of Early Plea by a Player in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(ii), the Player shall be deemed to have accepted the relevant sanction set out in Appendix 1.
- (iv) The sanction referred to in Regulation 16.12(i)(iii) shall be allocated to the Player upon receipt by the Match Review Secretary of a Notice of Early Plea (excluding where the Notice of Early Plea seeks to dispute the classification of the relevant factors). Where a Player accepts a financial sanction pursuant to Regulation 16.12(i)(iii), that financial sanction shall become due and payable to the AFL by no later than 12.00 noon on the day preceding the date of the next Match in which the Player's Club is scheduled to play.
- (v) Where a Player has received a Notice of Charge from the Match Review Officer under Regulation 16.12(g) or the General Manager – Football Operations under Regulation 16.12(h) and the Player disputes the classification of the relevant factors set out in the Notice of Charge, the Player may elect to plead guilty to the charge on the basis of a different classification in which case the Player shall set out the different classification in the Notice of Early Plea and lodge the same by 11.00am on the first business day after notification of the charge. The classification of the relevant offence (and subsequent sanction for that offence) will then be determined by the Tribunal.

(vi) Where Early Plea Not Available

Where the Match Review Officer or the General Manager – Football Operations as the case may be, determines in their absolute discretion that in all the circumstances of the case, a Notice of Charge should be determined by the Tribunal without the Player having the option to enter an Early Plea, the Match Review Officer or the General Manager – Football Operations shall provide written notification to that effect, to the

Player by completing a Notice of Referred Charge in the form prescribed in Schedule 1 as Form 27 at the time of providing a copy of the Notice of Charge in accordance with either Regulation 16.12(g), in which case the reported Player shall be dealt with by the Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 16.12(j).

(j) Players Who Do Not Accept An Early Plea, Other Persons and Other Reportable Offences

(i) Where:

- (A) a Player does not elect to accept an Early Plea in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(iii); or
- (B) a person other than a Player is the subject of the Notice of Report; or
- (C) the Notice of Charge refers to a Reportable Offence other than those set out in Appendix 1; or
- (D) notification referred to in Regulation 16.12(i)(vi) has been given by the Match Review Officer or the General Manager – Football Operations,

the matter shall be dealt with by the Tribunal.

- (ii) Upon receipt of a Notice of Charge, the Tribunal Secretary shall fix and give notice to the charged person, the charged person's Club (if any) and any other person or Club directly involved, of the date, time and place for the hearing by the Tribunal.
- (iii) The Tribunal Secretary or the Tribunal may vary the date, time and place of hearing by notice in writing to the charged person and the charged person's Club (if any).

(Refer Regulation 19)

(k) Withdrawal of Charge

The Match Review Officer or the General Manager – Football Operations as the case may be, may withdraw any Notice of Charge at any time prior to a hearing of the matter by the Tribunal by lodging a written notice with the Tribunal Secretary and the charged person and the charged person's Club (if any).

(l) Tribunal Fee

Where a Player is charged with a Reportable Offence and a suspension is he prescribed penalty, if the Player does not elect to accept an Early Plea in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(iii) or where the Player disputes the classification of the relevant factors set out in the Notice of Charge under Regulation 16.12(i)(v), a payment to the AFL of the sum of \$10,000 towards the cost of the Tribunal hearing is applicable, which will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 19.6(f). This payment is inclusive of Goods and Services Tax.

(m) Relationship to Laws of Australian Football

This Regulation 16 shall be read in conjunction with the Laws of Australian Football but to the extent of any inconsistency, this Regulation 16 shall prevail.



## **17. Suspension and Disqualification**

### **17.1 Ineligible to Play if Suspended or Disqualified**

Subject to Regulations 17.3 and 17.5, a person who is suspended or disqualified by the Commission, the Tribunal, the Appeal Board or any other League, Association or body affiliated to or recognised as being competent by the AFL, as a result of committing a Reportable Offence or otherwise, shall not play with any Club or hold any office or act in any capacity for a Club until such suspension or disqualification has expired or has been removed by the body which imposed it.

### **17.2 Suspension to be Served in Next Match or Matches**

A Player suspended in accordance with Regulation 17.1 must serve the period of suspension commencing from the date of the next Premiership Competition Match that his Club is scheduled to play. For the avoidance of doubt, a suspension received in a Pre-Season Competition Match or Club Practice Match will be served commencing in the first round of the Home & Away Competition.

### **17.3 Exception – Club Practice Match**

A person who is suspended or disqualified may participate in any Pre-Season Competition Match or Club Practice Match unless otherwise directed by the Commission or the body that has imposed the suspension or disqualification.

### **17.4 Club Practice Match**

For the purposes of this Regulation 17.1, a Club Practice Match includes intra or inter-Club Matches played before the Home and Away Matches or otherwise, but specifically excludes:

- (a) Home and Away Matches; and
- (b) Finals Series Matches.

### **17.5 Suspension of Players in State League Competition**

If a Player is suspended by a State Body tribunal and he is unable to serve that suspension in the State Body competition and, as a consequence, he is unable to compete in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match(es), the following shall apply:

- (a) the relevant State Body shall advise the AFL of the suspension imposed on the Player by the relevant State Body tribunal; and
- (b) the suspension shall be served by the Player being and remaining ineligible for selection to compete in a Home and Away Match(s), matches in the Finals Series for the period or any remaining period of the suspension.

### **17.6 Club that Plays Suspended Player**

- (a) Any Club which includes a suspended or disqualified Player in any Match shall forfeit each Match in which the Player participates.
- (b) Each such Match shall be awarded to the opposing Club and if the opposing Club elects by lodging a notice in writing with the General Manager - Football

Operations within 7 days from the date of the Match, the scores of both Clubs in the Match shall be ignored for all the purposes.

## **18. Mêlées**

### **18.1 Sanction Also on Club**

- (a) In addition or as a substitution to any sanction imposed on a Player, the Club or respective Clubs of the Player or Players determined by the Match Review Officer or Tribunal to have engaged in a Mêlée may be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Maximum 50 Units

- (b) The General Manager - Football Operations shall determine the amount of the sanction (if any) to be applied to the Club.
- (c) Any amount payable by a Club under this Regulation shall be paid by the Club to the AFL within 14 days of being determined.

## 19. Tribunal

### 19.1 Establishment and Composition

(a) Appointment and Definitions

The General Manager – Football Operations may from time to time appoint persons to a tribunal to be known as the Tribunal.

(b) Functions

The function of the Tribunal shall be to deal with Reportable Offences in accordance with these Regulations.

(c) Composition of Tribunal

Whenever the Tribunal is to deal with a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal shall comprise four persons being:

- (i) a senior member of the legal profession appointed for that hearing as Chairman (**Chairman**);
- (ii) a panel of three persons who in the opinion of the General Manager – Football Operations possess a knowledge of Australian Football to act as jury members for that hearing as required under these Regulations (**Tribunal Jury Members**).

(d) Qualifications

Save and except where the General Manager – Football Operations otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Tribunal if that person:

- (i) has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;
- (ii) has been a Coach or assistant or specialty Coach of a Club; or
- (iii) has been a Player of a Club,

in the twelve months preceding the appointment.

(e) Absent Members

If for any period and for any reason a person appointed to the Tribunal is absent or unable to attend a hearing by the Tribunal, the General Manager – Football Operations may appoint a person who in his opinion is a suitable replacement.

(f) Resignation

A person appointed to the Tribunal may resign by providing notice in writing to the General Manager – Football Operations.

(g) Removal

The General Manager – Football Operations may remove a person appointed to the Tribunal at any time in his absolute discretion.

## (h) Appointment of Secretary

The General Manager – Football Operations shall appoint a Secretary to the Tribunal (**Tribunal Secretary**).

## (i) Role of Secretary

The Tribunal Secretary shall:

- (i) be an employee of the AFL;
- (ii) keep an historic register of all matters before the Tribunal including without limitation, a copy of any video relied upon by the Tribunal and a record of all sanctions allocated to Players;
- (iii) perform any function prescribed in these Regulations;
- (iv) assist the Tribunal in the efficient and proper scheduling and running of matters coming before it; and
- (v) perform other functions as directed from time to time by the Tribunal.

## 19.2 Procedure and Evidence

## (a) Regulate own Procedure

Subject to the further matters set out in this Regulation 19, the Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such manner as the Chairman thinks fit.

## (b) Conduct of Hearing

## (i) General

Any hearing by the Tribunal shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matters before it permits.

## (ii) Chairman

The Chairman shall determine all questions of law, evidence or procedure and give such directions in such manner as the Chairman thinks fit. Without limitation, the Chairman may give directions as to the length, form and nature of submissions, the reception of evidence, amendment of a report, adjournment of hearings and all other matters of procedure including those referred to in Regulation 19.2(g). The Chairman may give directions to any person appearing before the Tribunal and to the Tribunal Jury Members prior to or during any deliberation on any question of fact.

## (iii) Tribunal Jury Members

Whenever the Tribunal is to deal with a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal Jury Members shall decide questions of fact and take direction from the Chairman in relation to questions of law, evidence and procedure.

## (c) Rules of Evidence

The Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

## (d) Video Evidence

Where the Tribunal considers that video evidence is capable of sustaining a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal may make a finding against a person solely on the basis of that video evidence.

## (e) Expert Evidence

(i) A person who intends to adduce the evidence of a person as an expert witness shall lodge with the Tribunal Secretary a written statement containing:-

(A) the name and address of the witness;

(B) the qualifications and experience of the witness; and

(C) the substance of the evidence it is proposed to adduce from the witness.

(ii) The time for compliance with Regulation 19.2(e)(i) shall be not later than 11.00am on the day after notification of the charge in relation to a Reportable Offence.

(iii) Unless permission is granted by the Chairman, a person shall not adduce the evidence of an expert witness unless that person complies with Regulations 19.2(e)(i) and (ii).

(iv) Where the Chairman allows a person to adduce evidence from an expert witness or on any other occasion, the Tribunal may at the direction of the Chairman, hear any other expert evidence in relation to the matters requiring its determination.

## (f) Challenge to Jurisdiction, Formalities of Report and Other Technical Matters

Where a person intends at a hearing of the Tribunal to:

(i) challenge the jurisdiction of the Tribunal to deal with a matter;

(ii) challenge the constitution of the Tribunal;

(iii) challenge the formalities of the laying of any charge; or

(iv) raise any other matter requiring a legal or technical interpretation,

the person intending to adduce such material shall provide full written particulars of all matters in respect thereof and forward a copy of such particulars to the Tribunal Secretary and any other person who has an interest in the proceeding including without limitation the Tribunal Counsel and the General Manager – Football Operations, by 11.00am on the day after notification of the charge in relation to a Reportable Offence.

## (g) Guidelines

The AFL may make guidelines, not inconsistent with these Regulations, for the practice and procedure with respect to a hearing. Any such guidelines shall be directory in nature and any decision of the Tribunal is not invalid by reason of a guideline not being followed. Without limitation, such guidelines may direct the manner of a hearing including pleading, order of witnesses, directions, evidence by telephone, teleconferencing or videoconferencing, persons entitled to attend the hearing and any other matters deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

**19.3 Obligations of Tribunal**

## (a) Natural Justice and Other Obligations

The Tribunal shall:

- (i) provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision, a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
- (ii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
- (iii) make a decision that a reasonable Tribunal could honestly arrive at.

## (b) Express Exclusion

The Tribunal shall endeavour to hear and determine any charge or matter referred to it before the person's Club is next scheduled to compete, irrespective of whether the Tribunal hearing is scheduled at short notice or whether the hearing of the matter may affect the person's or the person's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match. To the extent that the rules of natural justice require that:

- (i) a person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for a hearing; or
- (ii) the Tribunal hearing be scheduled at a time that does not affect the person's or the person's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match,

those requirements are expressly excluded from these Regulations.

**19.4 Standard of Proof**

The Tribunal Jury Members (in the case of a Reportable Offence) shall decide on the balance of probabilities whether a Reportable Offence has been sustained.

**19.5 Onus of Proof**

Unless otherwise provided in the AFL Rules & Regulations, no person appearing before the Tribunal shall bear an onus of establishing that an alleged offence has been committed.

## 19.6 Decision and Sanctions

- (a) At the conclusion of the hearing and where a charge is sustained in respect of the Reportable Offences set out in Appendix 1, the Tribunal Jury Members must apply the sanction prescribed by the table in section 1(b) of Appendix 1 in accordance with the classification of the Match Review Officer or the General Manager – Football Operations under Regulations 16.12(g) or 16.12(h) save where:
  - (i) the Tribunal Jury Members determine that the relevant Reportable Offence or Offences should be classified differently in which case the sanction shall be determined by the Tribunal Jury Members by reference to Appendix 1 as it applies to the reclassified Offence or Offences; or
  - (ii) there are exceptional and compelling circumstances which would make it inappropriate or unreasonable to apply the consequences in Appendix 1 to the classification of the Match Review Officer, the General Manager – Football Operations or the Tribunal Jury Members as the case may be, in which case the Tribunal Jury Members may impose such sanction or sanctions as they in their absolute discretion think fit.
- (b) For the purposes of Regulation 19.6(a)(ii), exceptional and compelling circumstances may include:
  - (i) A Player has an exemplary record;
  - (ii) Where a Reportable Offence was committed in response to provocation;
  - (iii) Where a Reportable Offence was committed in self-defence;
  - (iv) Where there are multiple Reportable Offences that arise from the same event of course of conduct.
- (c) Where the matter was referred directly to the Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(vi), the sanction shall be determined by the Tribunal Jury Members as they see fit. The Tribunal Jury Members may determine that while a specified Reportable Offence has not been committed, the charged Player attempted to commit a Reportable Offence in which case the Player may be found to have committed the offence of attempting to commit the relevant Reportable Offence. The Tribunal Jury Members may determine that a Reportable Offence has not been committed in which case no sanction shall apply.
- (d) In the case of a matter involving a Reportable Offence which is not set out in Appendix 1, the Tribunal Jury Members may at the conclusion of the hearing, subject to any contrary provisions in any relevant Code, Policy, Rules or Regulations, impose such sanctions as they in their absolute discretion think fit.
- (e) Where a Player has lodged a Notice of Early Plea disputing the classification of the Match Review Officer but pleading guilty to the Reportable Offence as classified and set out by the Player in the Notice of Early Plea and where the Tribunal Jury Members determine that the Reportable Offence should be classified in accordance with that set out by the Player, the sanction to apply shall be that set out in Appendix 1 for the penalty applicable to the Tribunal Jury Members' classification.



- (f) For the purposes of this Regulation:
  - (i) A Player is successful if, and only if the Tribunal Jury Members determine that the charge is not sustained in accordance with Regulation 19.6(a) or where Regulation 19.6(e) applies.
  - (ii) Where a Player is successful, the payment made under Regulation 16.12(l) shall be refunded on receipt by the AFL of an appropriate tax invoice.
  - (iii) Where a Player is not successful, the payment made under Regulation 16.12(l) shall not be refunded, unless the Tribunal determines that it would be manifestly unjust and unfair not to refund the whole or part of such payment in which case, the whole or part may be refunded.

### **19.7 Other Powers**

- (a) The Tribunal may make any interim orders it thinks fit in any proceedings before it.
- (b) The Chairman may give directions on any matter or thing not provided for by these Regulations in relation to any proceeding before the Tribunal.

### **19.8 No Obligation to Provide Reasons**

The Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by it under this Regulation.

### **19.9 Appointment and Obligations of Tribunal Counsel**

The General Manager – Football Operations may from time to time appoint one or more Tribunal Counsel (**Tribunal Counsel**) who may be barristers and/or solicitors, to present the evidence in support of the charge or matter, respond to any matters put in defence and address the Tribunal at any hearing. Persons so appointed shall be known as Tribunal Counsel who without limitation, shall:

- (a) advise the Tribunal of the particulars of the charge or matter before it;
- (b) tender any evidence in support of the charge or matter, including without limitation any videotape or investigation report;
- (c) call, examine, cross-examine and re-examine witnesses;
- (d) make submissions in relation to the charge or matter; and
- (e) address the Tribunal by way of summing up prior to any final submissions by any representative of a person charged or otherwise appearing to be dealt with by the Tribunal and (where applicable) prior to the Tribunal Jury Members retiring to consider their finding.

### **19.10 Powers of Tribunal Counsel**

Prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal, Tribunal Counsel may:

- (a) withdraw or apply to adjourn any Notice of Charge or matter; or

- (b) with the consent of the Chairman, amend any Notice of Charge including, without limitation, by substitution of a charge or addition of a charge in the alternative.

### **19.11 Representation**

At any hearing before the Tribunal a person may:

- (a) appear in person; or
- (b) subject to leave of the Chairman, be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chairman directs.

### **19.12 Representative**

Where the Chairman is of the opinion that a representative of a Player or person appearing before the Tribunal has failed to observe directions of the Chairman or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairman may withdraw leave for that person to represent the Player or person and if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Player or person to obtain fresh representation.

### **19.13 Persons Entitled to be Present**

- (a) At any hearing before the Tribunal, the charged Player or person must attend at the time and place specified in the Notice of Charge or other notice.
- (b) If a required person fails to appear at the time and place specified in the Notice of Charge or other notice, the Tribunal may proceed to hear and the Tribunal Jury Members may determine the charge or matter and any sanction in the absence of the person.
- (c) Tribunal Counsel may attend and appear before the Tribunal at the date, time and place and fixed for the hearing of the Tribunal. Where Tribunal Counsel fails to attend before the Tribunal, the Tribunal may hear and determine the charge or matter in the absence of Tribunal Counsel.
- (d) Subject to any contrary direction of the Chairman in any case, proceedings before the Tribunal shall be open to members of the media accredited by the AFL.

### **19.14 Victim Player, Other Player and Weight to be Given to Evidence**

- (a) At any hearing before the Tribunal, no person shall call evidence from a Victim Player, without leave of the Chairman.
- (b) Subject to the Chairman granting leave in accordance with Regulation 19.14(a) in relation to evidence from the Victim Player, at any hearing before the Tribunal no person shall make an allegation against a Player other than the charged Player unless the Player other than the charged Player:
  - (i) has been given notice by the person intending to make an allegation that an allegation will be made; and

- (ii) the Chairman is satisfied that the Player other than the charged Player against whom an allegation is to be made has had a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegation, including through oral evidence at the Tribunal hearing.
- (c) The Chairman may direct the Tribunal Jury Members in relation to the weight to be given to evidence adduced in accordance with Regulation 19.14(a) and 19.14(b).
- (d) A Club shall ensure that it provides a certificate of its Club Medical Officer in relation to the extent of any injury or the health of any Player against whom a Reportable Offence is alleged to have been committed, upon request of the Match Review Secretary, the Tribunal Secretary or any Tribunal Counsel. Where such a request is made of a Club, the Club shall ensure that it provides the certificate of its Club Medical Officer as soon as possible following the request and in any event, within three hours of such request.

### **19.15 Validity of Charge and Hearings**

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in the making of a charge or any other matter, the Tribunal shall still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard. Without limitation, the Chairman may direct that a Notice of Charge be amended to ensure that a matter before the Tribunal is decided according to its merits and not on the basis of a technicality. The power to amend shall include the power to substitute another charge.
- (b) A decision of the Tribunal is not invalid because of any defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of any person comprising the Tribunal.
- (c) Subject to Regulations 19.3(a), 19.3(b), 19.6(d) and 19.6(e), any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Tribunal is directory in nature and a decision of the Tribunal is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

### **19.16 Co-operation with Tribunal**

- (a) Subject to Regulations 19.16(b), a person shall appear before the Tribunal if requested to do so by the Tribunal Secretary or the Tribunal.  
  
Sanction: Maximum 20 Units
- (b) The Chairman may excuse a person from appearing before the Tribunal if the Chairman is of the opinion that the person is suffering from an injury or medical condition that would prevent that person's attendance.
- (c) Any person who appears before the Tribunal and who in the opinion of the General Manager – Football Operations or Tribunal Chairman has:
  - (i) failed to fully co-operate with the Tribunal;
  - (ii) failed to truthfully answer any questions asked by the Tribunal Counsel or the Tribunal;

- (iii) failed to provide any document in that person's possession or control relevant to the matter to be determined by the Tribunal following a request by the Tribunal;
- (iv) makes any false or misleading statement or makes a statement or acts in a manner calculated to or which is likely to mislead engages in any improper or insulting behaviour at any time before the Tribunal; or
- (v) engages in conduct designed to inhibit, frustrate or pervert the proper administration of justice in relation to any proceeding before the Tribunal,

shall be dealt with by the General Manager – Football Operations or Tribunal Chairman as they in their absolute discretion think fit.

### **19.17 Contact with Witnesses**

- (a) An Official or Player, or any person acting on behalf or in concert with the Official or Player, shall not contact or procure another to contact a person of another Club who is or ought reasonably to be regarded as a person required to give evidence before the Tribunal, where that contact is intended to or may otherwise mislead the Tribunal or unfairly affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing. A person who contravenes this Regulation shall:
  - (i) be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming and prejudicial to the interests of a just and fair hearing; and
  - (ii) be dealt with by the Tribunal Jury Members as they in their absolute discretion think fit.
- (b) In addition to any sanction or determination made in respect of an Official or Player under Regulation 19.17(a)(ii), the Tribunal Jury Members may impose a sanction on such Official's or Player's Club as they in their absolute discretion think fit, save where the Club satisfies the Tribunal Jury Members that the conduct of the Official or Player was not entered into with the consent, acquiescence or knowledge of the Club.

### **19.18 Public Comment and Criticism**

- (a) A person subject to these Regulations shall not publicly comment on:
  - (i) the contents of a Notice of Charge prior to the conclusion of any determination by the Tribunal, as the case may be;
  - (ii) a Notice of Investigation and any matter touching upon or concerning an Investigation under these Regulations, until completion of such investigation and relevant determination by the Tribunal or;
  - (iii) an Incident Referral Form and any matter touching upon or concerning an incident referral form until that matter has been dealt with by the Match Review Officer and determined by the Tribunal (if required to be determined by the Tribunal).
- (b) Where a person contravenes Regulation 19.18(a), the person's Club shall also be liable to a sanction unless the person establishes to the reasonable satisfaction of the General Manager - Football Operations that such public

comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing or the process of the investigation, as the case may be.

Sanction: Maximum 20 Units

- (c) No person subject to these Regulations shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of:
- (i) the Match Review Officer;
  - (ii) a Tribunal decision;
  - (iii) any member of the Tribunal; or
  - (iv) any other matter touching upon or concerning the Match Review Officer, Tribunal or a determination made by either.

The General Manager – Football Operations shall determine in his absolute discretion in any case, whether any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive. Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall also be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Maximum 20 Units

## 20. Appeal from Tribunal Decision

### 20.1 Regulation Paramount

Regulation 20 prescribes the procedures for an appeal commenced by the person the subject of a determination by the Tribunal under Regulation 19.6, or the General Manager - Football Operations. To the extent that any rule in Regulation 20 is inconsistent with any other Regulation, the provisions of Regulation 20 shall prevail.

### 20.2 Person May Appeal

The person the subject of a determination by the Tribunal under Regulation 19.6 may appeal to the Appeal Board by no later than 12.00 noon on the day following the decision of the Tribunal on one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) that there was an error of law;
- (b) that the decision was so unreasonable that no Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;
- (c) the classification of the level of the offence was manifestly excessive or inadequate; or
- (d) that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.

### 20.3 General Manager - Football Operations May Appeal

The General Manager - Football Operations may appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of a determination of the Tribunal under Regulation 19.6 within the time and on one or more of the grounds referred to in Regulation 20.2.

### 20.4 Appointment

- (a) The General Manager – Football Operations may from time to time appoint persons to sit on an appeal board to be known as the Appeal Board.
- (b) Persons appointed to an Appeal Board hearing in respect of a determination of the Tribunal under Regulation 19.6 must not have been appointed as the Chairman or Tribunal Jury Members for that Tribunal hearing.

### 20.5 Composition for Appeal Board Hearing

On any occasion when an appeal is brought before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board shall comprise three persons being:

- (a) a person who is a senior member of the legal profession appointed for that hearing as Chairman (**Chairman of the Appeal Board**);
- (b) a panel of two persons who in the opinion of the General Manager – Football Operations possess a sufficient knowledge of Australian football and the law in respect of appellate tribunals (**Appeal Board Panel**).

The Appeal Board so constituted shall conduct a hearing in respect of any appeal.

## **20.6 Qualifications**

Save and except where the General Manager – Football Operations otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Appeal Board if that person:

- (a) has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;
- (b) has been a Coach or assistant or specialty Coach of a Club; or
- (c) has been a Player of a Club,

in the twelve months preceding the appointment.

## **20.7 Absent Members**

If for any period and for any reason any person comprising the Appeal Board for a particular matter is absent or unable to attend a hearing of the Appeal Board, the General Manager – Football Operations may appoint a person who in his opinion is a suitable replacement.

## **20.8 Resignation**

A person comprising the Appeal Board may resign by providing notice in writing to the General Manager – Football Operations.

## **20.9 Removal**

The General Manager – Football Operations may remove a person from the Appeal Board at any time at its absolute discretion.

## **20.10 Appointment of Secretary**

The General Manager – Football Operations shall appoint a Secretary to the Appeal Board (**Appeal Board Secretary**).

## **20.11 Role of Secretary**

The Appeal Board Secretary shall:

- (a) be an employee of the AFL;
- (b) perform any function prescribed in these Regulations;
- (c) assist the Appeal Board in the efficient and proper scheduling and running of matters coming before it; and
- (d) perform other functions as directed from time to time by the Appeal Board.

## **20.12 Notice of Appeal by Person**

An appeal under Regulation 20.2 or Regulation 20.3 shall be brought by lodging with the Appeal Board Secretary a duly completed Notice of Appeal in the form prescribed

in Schedule 1 as Form 17 and in the case of an appeal under Regulation 20.2 shall be accompanied by payment to the AFL of:

- (a) the sum of \$2,500 towards the costs of the appeal, which sum shall not be refundable in any circumstances; and
- (b) the further sum of \$2,500 which shall be dealt with in accordance with Regulations 20.25 or 20.27.

All amounts referred to in this Regulation are inclusive of Goods and Services Tax.

### **20.13 Lodgement of Notice of Appeal**

A Notice of Appeal shall be lodged by:

- (a) delivering; or
- (b) transmitting,

that Notice addressed to the Secretary of the Appeal Board provided it is received by the Secretary no later than the time prescribed in Regulation 20.2.

### **20.14 Time for Hearing of Appeal**

- (a) Notification

Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, the Appeal Board Secretary shall:

- (i) fix the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal as soon as practicable;
- (ii) advise all parties interested in the appeal in writing of those particulars;
- (iii) provide each person appointed to sit on the Appeal Board and Tribunal Counsel with a copy of the Notice of Appeal;
- (iv) cause a transcript of the hearing before the Tribunal to be prepared; and as soon as practicable; and
- (v) provide each person appointed to sit on the Appeal Board, Tribunal Counsel and the appellant with a copy of the transcript of the hearing before the Tribunal.

- (b) Variation of Time or Place

The Appeal Board may vary the date, time or place specified under Regulation 20.14(a) and upon doing so shall as soon as practicable provide all parties interested in the appeal with written notice of any such variation.

- (c) Attendance

- (i) An appellant shall attend and appear before the Appeal Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where an appellant fails to attend before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board may hear and determine the appeal in the appellant's absence.



- (ii) Tribunal Counsel may attend and appear before the Appeal Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where Tribunal Counsel fails to attend before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board may hear and determine the appeal in the absence of Tribunal Counsel.

## **20.15 Procedure and Evidence**

- (a) Subject to the further matters set out in this Regulation 20, the Appeal Board may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such manner as the Chairman of the Appeal Board thinks fit.
- (b) The Appeal Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it thinks fit.

## **20.16 Obligations of Appeal Board**

- (a) The Appeal Board shall:
  - (i) provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
  - (ii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
  - (iii) make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.
- (b) Subject to Regulations 20.14(b) and 20.17(b), the Appeal Board shall endeavour to hear and determine an appeal brought under this Regulation 20 before the appellant's Club is next scheduled to compete, irrespective of whether the appeal is heard at short notice or whether the hearing of the appeal may affect the appellant's or the appellant's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match. To the extent that the rules of natural justice require that:
  - (i) a person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for an appeal; or
  - (ii) the appeal be scheduled at a time that does not affect the appellant's or the appellant's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match,

those requirements are expressly excluded from these Regulations.

## **20.17 Adjournment and Stay of Sanction**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 20.17(b)(ii), where the Tribunal imposes a sanction that prevents the appellant from participating in a Match, the appellant shall serve that sanction pending the determination of the appeal.
- (b) Subject to Regulation 20.17(c), the Appeal Board may of its own motion or upon application of any party to the appeal, order:
  - (i) that an appeal be adjourned; or
  - (ii) a stay of the execution of the sanction imposed by the Tribunal pending the determination of the appeal.

- (c) The Appeal Board shall make an order under Regulation 20.17(b)(ii) only where it is satisfied that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that make it harsh and unreasonable if an order was not made. In determining that question, the Appeal Board shall without limitation have regard to:
  - (i) the merits of the appeal and the appellant's prospects of success;
  - (ii) the interests of other Clubs and Players;
  - (iii) the effect on the results of the AFL Competition; and
  - (iv) the need to permit the due and proper administration of Australian Football in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, AFL Rules and these Regulations.

### **20.18 Representation**

- (a) At any hearing before the Appeal Board a person may:
  - (i) appear in person; or
  - (ii) subject to leave of the Appeal Board, be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chairman directs.
- (b) At any hearing before the Tribunal, Tribunal Counsel shall be entitled to appear until or unless excused by the Chairman of the Appeal Board.

### **20.19 Representative**

Where the Appeal Board is of the opinion that a representative of a Player or person appearing before the Appeal Board has failed to observe directions of the Appeal Board or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Appeal Board may withdraw leave for that person to represent the Player or person and if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Player or person to obtain fresh representation.

### **20.20 Review**

- (a) The Appeal Board shall hear all appeals by way of a review of the evidence presented before the Tribunal and determine whether one or more of the grounds referred to in Regulation 20.2 have been established.
- (b) Neither the appellant nor Tribunal Counsel may produce fresh evidence at the hearing of an appeal without leave of the Appeal Board. If an appellant or Tribunal Counsel seek leave to produce fresh evidence, the Appeal Board shall not grant such leave unless:
  - (i) the evidence could not by reasonable diligence have been obtained by the appellant or Tribunal Counsel prior to the conclusion of the hearing before the Tribunal; and
  - (ii) the evidence is of sufficient probative value that, considered with other evidence which was before the Tribunal, the Tribunal would have reached a different decision.

## **20.21 Decisions of Appeal Board**

Where the Appeal Board determines that one or more of the grounds set out in Regulation 20.2 have been established, the Appeal Board may confirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Tribunal the subject of the appeal and make such orders and give such directions in such manner as it thinks fit.

## **20.22 Majority Decisions**

Any question on appeal before the Appeal Board must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of those constituting the Appeal Board.

## **20.23 No Obligation to Give Reasons**

The Appeal Board is not obliged to give reasons for a decision under Regulation 20.21.

## **20.24 Onus and Standard on Appeal**

On the hearing of an appeal the appellant shall bear the onus of establishing on the balance of probabilities, one or more of the grounds set out in Regulation 20.2.

## **20.25 Appeal Fee**

For the purposes of this Regulation, an appeal is successful if, and only if the Appeal Board determines that one or more of the grounds set out in Regulation 20.2 has been established.

- (a) Where an appeal is successful, the payment made under Regulation 20.12(b) shall be refunded on receipt by the AFL of an appropriate tax invoice.
- (b) Where an appeal is not successful, the payment made under Regulation 20.12(b) shall not be refunded, unless the matter involves a monetary sanction and the Appeal Board determines that it would be manifestly unjust and unfair not to refund the whole or part of such payment in which case, the whole or part may be refunded.

## **20.26 Costs**

Each party to an appeal shall bear their own costs.

## **20.27 Abandon Appeal**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 20.27(b), an appellant may abandon an appeal prior to any hearing by giving written notice to the Secretary to the Appeal Board in which case the payment under Regulation 20.12(b) shall be refunded.
- (b) Subject to Regulation 20.25(b), where an appellant abandons the appeal during the conduct of the appeal, the payment made under Regulation 20.12(b) shall not be refunded.

## **20.28 Validity of Appeal and Hearings**

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which an appeal has been brought, the Appeal Board may still hear and determine the appeal unless

it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or will cause injustice if the appeal was heard.

- (b) A decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid because of any defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of an Appeal Board Member.
- (c) Subject to Regulations 20.16(a) and 20.16(b), any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Appeal Board is directory in nature and a decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

## **20.29 Public Comment and Criticism**

- (a) A person subject to the AFL Rules and Regulations shall not publicly comment on the contents of a Notice of Appeal prior to the determination by the Appeal Board. Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall be liable to a sanction unless the person establishes to the reasonable satisfaction of the General Manager – Football Operations that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of the Appeal Board hearing.

Sanction: Maximum 20 Units

- (b) No person subject to the AFL Rules and Regulations shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of a decision of the Appeal Board or of any member of the Appeal Board or any other matter touching or concerning the Appeal Board or a determination made by it. The General Manager – Football Operations shall determine in his absolute discretion and in any case, whether any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive. Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Maximum 50 Units

## **20.30 Exhaust Internal Appeal**

A person shall exercise their right of appeal under this Regulation 20 and have any appeal heard and determined by the Appeal Board before commencing any relevant proceedings or becoming a party to any relevant proceedings in a court of law.

## **21. Brownlow Medal**

### **21.1 Voting**

- (a) The field Umpires shall within a reasonable time following the conclusion of a Home and Away Match, record their opinion of the three fairest and best Players in the Match and place it in a sealed envelope marked "Brownlow Medal". The officiating field Umpires shall sign across the seal of the envelope.
- (b) For each Home and Away Match, the Player determined as the:
  - (i) fairest and best Player, shall receive three votes;
  - (ii) second fairest and best Player, shall receive two votes; and
  - (iii) third fairest and best Player, shall receive one vote.
- (c) A Field Umpire nominated by the AFL Umpires' Head Coach shall lodge such envelope at the offices of the AFL on the first working day after the Match.

### **21.2 Counting of Votes and Awarding of Brownlow Medal**

- (a) At the end of the Home and Away Matches in each year, the votes recorded by the field Umpires shall be counted and the Player receiving the highest number of votes shall be awarded the Brownlow Medal.
- (b) Where two or more Players receive an equal number of votes, each shall be declared the joint winner and shall be awarded a Brownlow Medal.
- (c) Subject to Regulation 21.5, any Player who has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in a Home and Away Match in which Brownlow Medal votes have been cast shall be ineligible to receive the Brownlow Medal in that season.

### **21.3 Ineligible Players Still Receive Votes**

The field Umpires shall award votes to the Players who they consider to be the fairest and best, irrespective of whether such Players:

- (a) have been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in a Match during that season; or
- (b) have been reported during the Match for which votes are to be awarded.

### **21.4 Reportable Offence**

Any reference in this Regulation to a Player having been found guilty of a Reportable Offence means a Reportable Offence as defined in these Regulations.

### **21.5 Exception**

Notwithstanding that a Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in a Home and Away Match in which "Brownlow Medal" votes have been cast, the Player shall remain eligible to receive the Brownlow Medal in that season if the sanction for the Reportable Offence is a financial sanction only as set out in Appendix 1 of these Regulations or as determined by the Tribunal Jury.

## 22. AFL Rising Star Award

### 22.1 Voting

- (a) A panel of 3 members appointed by the General Manager - Football Operations (**AFL Rising Star Nomination Panel**) shall at the completion of each round of Home and Away Matches nominate the best performed Eligible Player to that stage of the AFL Season as the weekly AFL Rising Star.
- (b) The AFL Rising Star Nomination Panel shall take into account each Eligible Players performance in the round of Home and Away Matches just completed together with the performances of Eligible Players in previous Home and Away Matches in that season when deciding who is the best performed Eligible Player to that stage of the AFL Season.
- (c) An Eligible Player may only be nominated as a weekly AFL Rising Star once in any one AFL Season.

### 22.2 Counting of Votes and Awarding of AFL Rising Star Award

- (a) At the end of the Home and Away Matches in each year, the All Australian Selectors shall select the winner of the AFL Rising Star Award for that year from the players nominated as the weekly AFL Rising Star (**Weekly Nominees**).
- (b) At the conclusion of the Home and Away Matches, each All Australian Selector shall nominate the 5 best performed Eligible Players from the Weekly Nominees based on their performance during the Home and Away Matches in that AFL Season on the following basis:
  - (i) best Eligible Player, shall receive five votes;
  - (ii) second best Eligible Player, shall receive four votes;
  - (iii) third best Eligible Player, shall receive three votes;
  - (iv) fourth best Eligible Player, shall receive two votes; and
  - (v) fifth best Eligible Player, shall receive one vote.
- (c) The votes recorded by each All Australian Selector shall be counted and the Eligible Player receiving the highest number of total votes shall be declared the winner of the AFL Rising Star Award.
- (d) Where two or more Players receive an equal number of votes, each shall be declared the joint winner and shall be awarded the AFL Rising Star Award.
- (e) Subject to Regulation 22.5, any Eligible Player who has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in that year shall be ineligible to receive the AFL Rising Star Award in that year and shall not receive votes under Regulation 22.2(b).

### 22.3 Players Still Receive Nominations

The AFL Rising Star Nomination Panel may nominate an Eligible Player as a weekly AFL Rising Star even if the Eligible Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in that AFL Season.

## **22.4 Reportable Offence**

Any reference in this Regulation to an Eligible Player having been found guilty of a Reportable Offence means a Reportable Offence as defined in these Regulations.

## **22.5 Exception**

Notwithstanding that an Eligible Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in that AFL Season, the Eligible Player shall remain eligible to receive votes under Regulation 22.2(b) and the AFL Rising Star Award in that year if the sanction for the Reportable Offence is a financial sanction only as set out in Appendix 1 of these Regulations or as determined by the Tribunal Jury or in the case of State League Tribunal, the sanction was not a suspension or disqualification from participating in a Match.

## **22.6 Eligible Player**

For the purposes of this Regulation an Eligible Player is a Player who:

- (a) is under the age of 21 on 31 December in the year immediately prior to the year in which the AFL Rising Star Award is to be awarded; and
- (b) has not played more than 10 AFL Home and Away and Finals Series Matches before the start of the AFL Season in the year in which the AFL Rising Star Award is to be awarded.

## **23. Coleman Medal**

### **23.1 Winner**

The Coleman Medal shall be awarded each AFL Season to the Player that kicks the highest number of goals during the Home and Away Matches in that AFL Season as determined by the AFL Official Statistician.

### **23.2 More than One winner**

Where two or more Players kick an equal number of goals during the Home and Away Matches, each shall be declared the joint winner and shall be awarded the Coleman Medal.



## 24. Norm Smith Medal/ANZAC Medal

### 24.1 Voting

- (a) A panel appointed by the General Manager - Football Operations shall immediately following the conclusion of the Grand Final or Anzac Day Match as the case may be, record their opinion of the three best Players in the Grand Final or Anzac Day Match as the case may be and provide them to a nominated AFL representative.
- (b) The General Manager - Football Operations shall nominate one of the panel members as Chairman and one of the panel members as Deputy Chairman.
- (c) Each Panel member shall award votes on the following basis:
  - (i) best Player, shall receive three votes;
  - (ii) second best Player, shall receive two votes; and
  - (iii) third best Player, shall receive one vote.

### 24.2 Counting of Votes and Awarding of Norm Smith Medal/Anzac Medal

- (a) At the conclusion of the Grand Final or Anzac Day Match as the case may be, the votes recorded by each panel member shall be counted and the Player receiving the highest number of votes shall be awarded the Norm Smith Medal/Anzac Medal.
- (b) Where two or more Players receive an equal number of votes (**Equal Leader**), the Norm Smith Medal/Anzac Medal will be awarded to the Equal Leader that received the most number of 3 votes. If the Equal Leaders received the same number of 3 votes the Norm Smith Medal/Anzac Medal will be awarded to the Equal Leader that received the most number of 2 votes. If the Equal Leader received the same number of 2 votes the Norm Smith Medal/Anzac Medal will be awarded to the Equal Leader that received the most number of votes from the Chairman. If none of the Equal Leaders received votes from the Chairman the Norm Smith Medal/Anzac Medal will be awarded to the Equal Leader that received the most votes from the Deputy Chairman.

## 25. All Australian

### 25.1 All Australian Selection Committee

- (a) The All Australian Selection Committee shall consist of:
  - (i) the Chief Executive Officer;
  - (ii) the General Manager - Football Operations; and
  - (iii) the All Australian Selectors.
- (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the Chairman of the All Australian Selection Committee.

### 25.2 Meetings

- (a) The All Australian Selection Committee shall meet following or near the completion of the Home and Away Matches in each year and select the All Australian team.
- (b) The All Australian Selection Committee shall meet at such other times during the year as they see fit.
- (c) No formal period of notice of meetings need be given and meetings may be convened on any period of notice as determined by the Chief Executive Officer of the AFL.
- (d) The quorum required for All Australian Selection Meetings shall be as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.
- (e) The conduct of meetings of the All Australian Selection Committee, including voting and selection procedures shall be regulated in such manner as the Chief executive Officer thinks fit.

### 25.3 Selection Criteria

- (a) The All Australian Selection Committee shall consider a Player's performance during the Home and Away Matches and other matches as designated by the Chief Executive Officer (**Selection Period**) when selecting the All Australian Team.
- (b) Any Player who played a Home and Away Match during the AFL Season is eligible for selection to the All Australian team regardless of whether the Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence during the AFL Season.
- (c) The All Australian Selection Committee shall select the best performed 22 Players over the selection period, regardless of Club affiliation, in the All Australian team subject to the requirement that the team shall be balanced as if participating in a Match.
- (d) The Chief Executive Officer may issue selection criteria guidelines to the All Australian Selection Committee which guidelines the All Australian Selection Committee shall take into account when selecting the All Australian team.

**25.4 All Australian Captain, Vice Captain, Coach and Umpire**

- (a) The All Australian Selection Committee shall select one of the All Australian team members as All Australian Captain and one other All Australian team member as All Australian Vice Captain.
- (b) The Coach of the Premiership team shall be the All Australian coach.
- (c) The AFL Umpiring Department shall select the best performed umpire over the selection period as All Australian Umpire.

## 26. Mark of the Year/Goal of the Year

### 26.1 AFL Mark/Goal of the Year

A panel appointed by the General Manager - Football Operations (**AFL Mark/Goal of the Year Nomination Panel**) shall at the completion of each round of Home and Away Matches nominate the Player that takes the best mark/goal in that round of Home and Away Matches as the weekly nominee for the AFL Mark/Goal of the Year (**Weekly Nominee**) and two runners-up each week (**Selection**) in each category. The AFL may provide for the public to nominate the best mark/goal in each round of Home and Away Matches from the Selections (**Public Nominee**).

### 26.2 Counting of Votes and Awarding of AFL Mark/Goal of the Year

- (a) At the end of the Home and Away Season in each year, the All Australian Selectors shall select the winner of the AFL Mark/Goal of the Year for that year from the Nominees, and any Public Nominees that differ from the Weekly Nominees.
- (b) At the conclusion of the Home and Away Season, each All Australian Selector shall nominate their 5 best marks/goals from the Weekly Nominees/Public Nominees:
  - (i) best mark/goal, shall receive five votes;
  - (ii) second best mark/goal, shall receive four votes;
  - (iii) third best mark/goal, shall receive three votes;
  - (iv) fourth best mark/goal, shall receive two votes; and
  - (v) fifth best mark/goal, shall receive one vote.
- (c) The votes recorded by each All Australian Selector shall be counted and the Player whose mark/goal receives the highest number of total votes shall be declared the winner of the AFL Mark/Goal of Year.
- (d) Where two or more marks/goals receive an equal number of votes, each Player shall be declared the joint winner and shall be awarded the AFL Mark/Goal of the Year.

## **27. Eligibility for Awards**

### **27.1 Eligibility for Awards**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the AFL Rules and Regulations, the Commission may in its discretion determine that a Player is not eligible for any of the awards referred to in Regulation 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26 if that Player is found guilty of an offence under the AFL Anti-Doping Code, the Illicit Drug Policy or the AFL Rules & Regulations.

## **28. Dr. William. C. McClelland Trophy**

### **28.1 Name & Award**

The name of the perpetual trophy to be awarded to the Club that finishes in first position on Final Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches in each year shall be titled the "Dr. William. C. McClelland Trophy" (**Trophy**).

### **28.2 Trophy**

The Trophy shall be retained at the offices of the AFL and a replica presented to the winning Club.

## **29. Broadcasting of AFL Spectacles**

### **29.1 Introduction**

- (a) The AFL is responsible for:
  - (i) the administration and viability of the AFL competition; and
  - (ii) the promotion and development of Australian football.
- (b) The sale of broadcast rights is a critically important means of generating income for the AFL.
- (c) The promotion and development of Australian football is significantly assisted by the high quality and extensive broadcast of AFL Spectacles.
- (d) Income from the sale of broadcast rights and the quality and extent of the broadcast of AFL Spectacles is maximised by the AFL dealing exclusively in the right to broadcast AFL Spectacles.
- (e) The AFL from time to time considers whether AFL Clubs should receive a distribution of part of the annual operating surplus of the AFL which includes the income received by the AFL from the sale of broadcast rights.
- (f) Distributions of part of the annual operating surplus of the AFL are important sources of revenue for AFL Clubs and in particular assist AFL Clubs to adequately remunerate players participating in the AFL competition.
- (g) The AFL from time to time makes grants and provides for payment to other bodies involved in the administration, promotion and development of Australian football.
- (h) Grants by the AFL and such other payments to Australian football bodies are vitally important to the promotion and development of Australian football at junior and other levels.

### **29.2 Definitions**

- (a) “broadcast” means any service (by whatever means or process) which is or in the future becomes a content service for the purposes of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (Cth) and includes, but is not limited to any internet, wireless or on-line service, any television or radio transmission, mobile telephony devices or any service making available to any member of the public (simultaneously with or consecutively to any other member of the public) text, sounds or images.

- (b) “AFL Spectacles” means all matches of Australian football and events conducted by or under the auspices of the AFL including without limitation all practice or exhibition matches involving AFL Clubs, the Pre-Season Competition, Home and Away Matches, the Finals series, the State of Origin series, the counting of votes for the presentation of the Brownlow Medal, the AFL Player Draft(s), International Rules Series, Rising Star Award, Hall of Fame function, Grand Final parade, AFL Combine and the AFL All Australian Team.
- (c) “Authorised Broadcaster” means any broadcaster nominated by the AFL from time to time as being authorised to broadcast AFL Spectacles.
- (d) “Draft Selection Meeting” has the same meaning referred to in the AFL Rules.

### **29.3 Broadcast Rights Vest in AFL**

The AFL shall be entitled to grant all rights in relation to the broadcast of AFL Spectacles.

### **29.4 Rights Exclusive to AFL**

The entitlement to grant all rights to broadcast AFL Spectacles shall be the absolute and exclusive right of the AFL.

### **29.5 AFL Clubs Not to Grant Rights**

An AFL Club shall not directly or indirectly broadcast AFL Spectacles or grant any rights to broadcast AFL Spectacles to any other person.

### **29.6 Ground Management Authority**

Each AFL Club shall use its best endeavours to ensure that its Ground Management Authority:

- (a) shall not permit, allow or assist any other person to broadcast any AFL Spectacle otherwise than in accordance with arrangements made and approved by the AFL with an Authorised Broadcaster;
- (b) shall provide any Authorised Broadcaster with access to the necessary facilities required for the broadcast of AFL Spectacles including without limitation reasonable and unobstructed camera positions required for the broadcast of AFL Spectacles;
- (c) shall provide such assistance to any Authorised Broadcaster and its servants and agents as is necessary to ensure that the AFL fulfils to the maximum possible extent, its obligations to any Authorised Broadcaster;
- (d) shall in cases where a number of Authorised Broadcasters attend the relevant venue for the purposes of providing a broadcast of any AFL Spectacle, provide separate facilities necessary for the broadcast of the AFL Spectacle by each Authorised Broadcaster; and
- (e) shall not permit, allow or assist any other person to permit or allow the admission into the relevant venue of any equipment used in the broadcast of any AFL Spectacle including without limitation television and video cameras, on any day



when any AFL Spectacle is played at the venue save as permitted under Regulation 29.6 or as is otherwise specifically authorised by the AFL.

## **29.7 Alternative Venue**

Any AFL Club which fails to or is unable to procure its Ground Management Authority to comply with each of the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs (i) – (v) of Regulation 29.6 shall immediately upon notice by the AFL facilitate the scheduling or re-scheduling of any or all Matches in which the AFL Club is to participate, to an alternative venue suitable for the playing of AFL Matches, as directed by the AFL and without limitation such AFL Club shall fully co-operate with and assist the AFL in scheduling or re-scheduling the Match or Matches as the case may be.

## **29.8 Failure to Comply with Regulation 29.6 or 29.7**

- (a) Any AFL Club which fails to comply with or observe Regulations 29.6 or 29.7 shall not be entitled to:
  - (i) any Premiership Points for any AFL Match won by the Team of the relevant AFL Club at a venue where the Ground Management Authority has not complied with each of the requirements set out in sub-paragraph (i) – (v) of Regulation 29.6;
  - (ii) be considered to receive any of the annual operating surplus of the AFL in respect of any year when such a failure occurs; and
  - (iii) participate in any Draft Selection Meeting, (including priority selections or exchange of players) for a period of 24 months from when such failure occurs.
- (b) Where any AFL Club fails to comply with or observe Regulation 29.6 or 29.7 and that AFL Club wins an AFL Match at a venue where the Ground Management Authority has not complied with each of the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs (i) – (v) of Regulation 29.6, the losing AFL Club in such AFL Match shall not be awarded any Premiership Points and the scores shall be ignored for the purposes of the calculation of percentages.

## **29.9 Equipment in Venues**

An AFL Club shall not, and shall ensure that each of its Officers, servants and agents do not:

- (a) bring into a venue where an AFL Spectacle is conducted; or
- (b) use at the relevant venue,

any equipment that may be used in the broadcast or recording of an AFL Spectacle (including without limitation television and video cameras) on any day when an AFL Spectacle is conducted at the relevant venue save as otherwise specifically authorised by the AFL.

**Sanction:** If an AFL Club breaches this Regulation 29.9, the Commission, the Chief Operating Officer, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, may deal with this matter in such manner as the Commission, Chief Operating Officer, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive

Officer, in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power they may impose a monetary sanction of such amount as they think fit.

### **29.10 Equipment in Venues - Assistance**

An AFL Club shall not permit, allow or assist any other person to:

- (a) bring into a venue where an AFL Spectacle is conducted; or
- (b) use at the relevant venue,

any equipment that may be used in the broadcast or recording of an AFL Spectacle (including without limitation television and video cameras) on any day when an AFL Spectacle is conducted at the relevant venue save as otherwise specifically authorised by the AFL or in accordance with arrangements made and approved by the AFL with an Authorised Broadcaster.

**Sanction:** If an AFL Club breaches this Regulation 29.10, the Commission, the Chief Operating Officer, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, may deal with this matter in such manner as the Commission, Chief Operating Officer, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power they may impose a monetary sanction of such amount as they think fit.

## **30. AFL Broadcaster & Media Access Policy**

### **30.1 Obligations**

Each Club shall:

- (a) comply with, observe and perform and ensure that each of its Officers, Players and Coaches complies with, observes and performs any obligations contained in the AFL Broadcaster & Media Access Policy;
- (b) not by its conduct or the conduct of its Officers, Players and Coaches, do anything that would prejudice the full effect and operation of the AFL Media Relations Policy; and
- (c) provide all reasonable assistance to the AFL for the purposes of providing information to the media and assisting in maintaining a good working relationship with the Media.

### **30.2 Cooperation With Media**

Without limiting the obligations imposed on a Club under Regulation 30.1, a Club shall fully cooperate with the Media by:

- (a) ensuring its Senior Coach and leading Players attend any pre-Match Media conference that may be arranged from time to time by the AFL;
- (b) providing Accredited Media Representatives reasonable access to its dressing rooms after the completion of a Match;
- (c) ensuring that its Senior Coach attends the post-Match Media conference at the time prescribed;
- (d) providing adequate facilities at which the post-Match Media conference can be conducted;
- (e) providing reasonable access to its Coaches, Players, Officers and other employees to be interviewed:
  - (i) after a Match;
  - (ii) before or after Club training sessions;
  - (iii) during the week between Matches; and
  - (iv) at such other times as may be arranged between the media and the Club, or directly with the Coach, Player or Officer; and
- (f) ensuring its Coaches, Players, Officers and other employees do not cover up or in any way interfere with any Media cameras at a Match, including any cameras located in the Coaches box.

### **30.3 Sanction**

A Club which fails to comply with the AFL Broadcast & Media Access Policy shall be subject to the sanction as prescribed in the AFL Broadcaster & Media Access Policy or

if no amount is set out, such sanction as the General Manager – Broadcasting, Scheduling and Major Projects may determine in his absolute discretion.

## **31. Stadium Roofs**

### **31.1 Roof Opening**

- (a) Any roof of a stadium shall remain open on the day of a Match unless otherwise determined by the General Manager - Football Operations, or his appointee, in that person's absolute discretion. Without limitation, the General Manager - Football Operations, or his appointee, may direct that any roof of a stadium be closed or partially closed on the day of a Match having regard to whether the conditions for and comfort of those in attendance (including Players) would generally be enhanced by closing or partially closing the roof and whether shadows will encroach upon the Playing Surface.
- (b) The AFL may publish guidelines concerning the opening and closing of a stadium roof, including times when a roof can be opened and closed on the day of a Match.

### **31.2 Contact with Roof**

- (a) A Player commits a Reportable Offence if he intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks or otherwise causes the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure.
- (b) Where a Player intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks or causes the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure which is above the Playing Surface, the field Umpire shall award a free kick to the nearest Player on the opposing team at a position on the Playing Surface nearest to where the football hit the roof structure.
- (c) If a Player accidentally kicks or causes the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure, the football shall be out of play and the following shall apply:
  - (i) if the football hits any roof beams which run the length of the Playing Surface along a wing, the boundary Umpire shall throw the football back into play from a position on the boundary line nearest to where the football hit the roof beam; or
  - (ii) if the football hits any other part of the stadium roof structure which is above the Playing Surface, the field Umpire shall bounce the football at the position on the Playing Surface nearest to where the football hit the stadium roof structure.

## **32. Delay in Commencement & Forfeiture Of Match**

### **32.1 Failure to Enter Arena on Time**

If the commencement of a Match is delayed by reason of one or both Teams failing to enter the Arena by the scheduled starting time, in addition to any other sanctions contained in these Regulations, such Club or Clubs who fail to enter the Arena by the prescribed starting time shall pay to the AFL the following amounts:

- (a) If the delay exceeds 10 minutes but is less than 15 minutes – Sanction of up to 20 Units
- (b) If the delay is more than 15 minutes but less than 30 minutes – Sanction of up to 40 Units
- (c) If the delay is not less than 30 minutes but not more than 45 minutes – Sanction of up to 60 Units
- (d) If the delay is in excess of 45 minutes – Sanction of up to 100 Units

### **32.2 General Manager - Football Operations to Determine Sanction**

The amount of Sanction imposed on a Club or Clubs under Regulation 32.1 shall be determined by the General Manager - Football Operations in its absolute discretion.

### **32.3 Forfeiture**

Subject to Regulations 33.2, 33.3 and 33.4, if a Club is unable to do all things necessary for the commencement of play for a period exceeding 60 minutes from the scheduled starting time:

- (a) the General Manager or other Senior Official of the Home Club shall notify the General Manager - Football Operations or such other person who he may designate from time to time ("the Notice");
- (b) if both Clubs are able to commence play at the time or will be able to commence play within a reasonable time of the Notice, they shall commence as soon as possible subject to the General Manager - Football Operations or other person designated by him, ruling that the Match shall not commence due to insufficient time (taking into account facilities such as lights) for the Match to be completed;
- (c) if play is not able to be commenced or if the General Manager - Football Operations or other person designated by him determines that the Match should not commence as provided in Regulation 32.3(b), the Match shall be deemed to be forfeited and the Premiership Points awarded to the Club whose team was positioned to commence play at that time or, in the case of a Finals Series or Pre-Season Competition Match, the Club whose team was positioned to commence play at that time will be declared the winner of the Match. For Home and Away Matches, the percentage of each Club shall also be adjusted by attributing the average winning score from the relevant round of Matches to the Club awarded the Premiership Points and the average losing score from the relevant round of Matches to the Club which forfeited the Match. Forfeiture shall be in addition to any other sanction contained in these Regulations.

- (d) any Match forfeiture by a Club pursuant to this Regulation 32.3 shall not be replayed.

#### **32.4 Abandonment**

If neither Club is able to commence play in accordance with Regulation 32.3, the Match shall be deemed to be abandoned and, for Home and Away Matches, no Premiership Points shall be awarded or percentage adjusted for either Club. A Match abandoned in accordance with this Regulation shall not be replayed.

#### **32.5 Travel Arrangements**

In order to comply with its obligations under this Regulation, a Club must travel to the destination of any interstate Match in which it is scheduled to compete during the Pre-Season Competition, Premiership Competition or the Finals Series at least 1 day prior to the scheduled Match.

Sanction: Up to 100 units.

#### **32.6 Commission May Vary**

Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulation 32.1, 32.3 and 32.4 the Commission may determine the outcome of any Match which is not completed within the scheduled time and without limiting the generality of the foregoing may direct that all or part of the Match be replayed or that a result be declared which deems a Club, by itself, its servants, agents or supporters, responsible for the failure of the Match to be completed.

### **33. Incomplete Match**

#### **33.1 Match Not Able to Commence or Continue**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 33.1(b), a Match is only unable to commence or continue if the circumstances which have prevented the commencement or caused the cessation of play are advised as soon as possible to the General Manager - Football Operations, or other persons designated by him from time to time, and the General Manager - Football Operations or such designated person decides that the Match is not able to proceed.
- (b) The General Manager - Football Operations, or the person designated by him, may determine that a Match is unable to commence or continue when circumstances exist which increase the risk of injury to those participating in the Match.

#### **33.2 Events Beyond Control of Clubs – Home and Away Matches**

If any Home and Away Match is unable to commence or continue or to be completed within the time scheduled for the Home and Away Match for reasons beyond the control of the Club (which for the purposes of this Regulation 33 includes any Officer, servant, agent or independent contractor of the Club), the following provisions shall apply:

##### **(a) Home and Away Match Not Commenced**

If a Home and Away Match is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of the Club, the General Manager - Football Operations shall endeavour to reschedule the Home and Away Match so that a result can be obtained. If the Home and Away Match cannot be rescheduled, each Team shall be awarded two Premiership Points and the Teams' percentage shall not be adjusted.

##### **(b) Prior to Half Time**

- (i) If a Home and Away Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Home and Away Match, the teams shall depart from the Arena for a period of up to 60 minutes.
- (ii) If the Home and Away Match is unable to re-commence within a 60 minute period or such other period determined by the AFL and the elapsed playing time of the Home and Away Match did not reach the half time interval, the Home and Away Match shall be deemed to be drawn.
- (iii) Each Team shall be awarded two Premiership Points and the scores of the teams at the time the Home and Away Match was interrupted shall be used in the calculation of percentage.

##### **(c) Beyond Half Time**

- (i) If a Home and Away Match has progressed beyond the half time interval and is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Home and Away Match, the teams shall depart from the Arena for a period of up to 60 minutes.



- (ii) If the Home and Away Match is unable to re-commence within a 60 minute period or such other period determined by the AFL, the scores of the teams at the time the Home and Away Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Home and Away Match and shall be used in the calculation of percentage.
- (iii) The Team with the highest score shall be declared the winner and awarded the four (4) Premiership Points.

### **33.3 Events Beyond Control of Clubs – Finals Series Matches**

If any Finals Series Match is unable to commence or continue or to be completed within the time scheduled for the Finals Series Match for reasons beyond the control of the Club (which for the purposes of this Regulation 33 includes any Officer, servant, agent or independent contractor of the Club), the following provisions shall apply:

(a) Finals Series Match Not Commenced

If a Finals Series Match is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of the Club, the General Manager - Football Operations shall reschedule the Finals Series Match so that a result can be obtained.

(b) Finals Series Match Commenced

- (i) If a Finals Series Match has commenced but is not able to proceed for reasons beyond the control of the Club, at any time within the time scheduled for the Finals Series Match, the teams shall depart from the Arena for a period of up to 60 minutes.
- (ii) Subject to Regulation 33.3(c), if the Finals Series Match is unable to re-commence within a 60 minute period or such other period determined by the AFL, the General Manager - Football Operations shall reschedule the Finals Series Match so that a result can be obtained.
- (iii) If the Finals Series Match is rescheduled pursuant to Regulation 33.3(b)(ii), the Finals Series Match will recommence in the circumstances it was interrupted. At the time of the interruption, the Umpires will make a record of the following: the team scores at the time, the quarter and time remaining in the quarter, the team in possession of the ball (if applicable), the position of the ball on the Playing Surface, and any other relevant information required for an equitable resumption of play.

(c) Result Enforced

The General Manager – Football Operations, or such other person designated by him or her from time to time, may determine in his or her absolute discretion to enforce the result of the Finals Series Match at the time of the interruption, if the continuation of the Finals Series Match would not normally be expected to alter the ultimate result.

### **33.4 Events Beyond Control of Clubs – Pre-Season Competition**

(a) Match not Commenced

If a Pre-Season Competition Match is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of the Club, the General Manager - Football Operations shall endeavour to reschedule the Match so that a result can be obtained. If the Match cannot be rescheduled, the Match will be declared a draw.

- (b) Match unable to be completed
  - (i) If a Pre-Season Competition Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the teams shall depart from the Arena for a period of up to 60 minutes.
  - (ii) If the Match is unable to re-commence within a 60 minute period or such other period determined by the AFL, the scores of the teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match and the Team with the highest score shall be declared the winner.

### **33.5 Re-Commencement of Play**

Where a Club is directed to recommence play by the General Manager - Football Operations or the designated person referred to in Regulation 33.1 and where such Club fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Club shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match and the Premiership Points shall be awarded to the opposing Club (or in the case of a Finals Series or Pre-Season Competition Match the opposing Club will be declared the winner of the Match). Percentage shall be determined on the basis of the scores of the two Clubs at the time the Match is forfeited.

### **33.6 Commission May Vary**

Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulation 33.2 the Commission may determine the outcome of any Match which is not completed within the scheduled time and without limiting the generality of the foregoing may direct that all or part of the Match be replayed or that a result be declared which deems a Club, by itself, its servants, agents or supporters, responsible for the failure of the Match to be completed.

## **34. Use of Stretchers**

### **34.1 Injured Player Requiring Stretcher**

Any Player who is injured during a Match and who, in the opinion of the Club Medical Officer or Club Physiotherapist, requires the assistance of a Stretcher or medicart, shall be attended by Club training staff and a Stretcher as soon as possible so as to ensure the health and safety of the Player.

### **34.2 Club Medical Personnel**

A Stretcher may only be called by the Club Medical Officer or Club Physiotherapist as listed on the Official Team Sheet provided that if the Club Medical Officer or Club Physiotherapist are unavailable at a time when a Player requires the assistance of a Stretcher, a trainer listed on the Official Team Sheet or a Medical Officer of the other Club may call for a Stretcher.

### **34.3 Direct Access**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 34.3(b) if a Stretcher is called for, the Stretcher must be taken to the injured Player by the shortest and most direct route and the Player must, as soon as possible upon being attended by the Club training staff, leave the Arena on the Stretcher by the shortest and most direct route.
- (b) If the Player is assessed by a Club Medical Officer or Club Physiotherapist as in fact being capable of leaving the Playing Surface without the aid of a Stretcher, then the Player must either leave the Arena via the most direct route as advised by the Club Medical Officer or return to the Interchange Bench via the interchange gates. The AFL Interchange Official and Club Interchange Steward must also be notified.
- (c) Without limiting the provisions of this Regulation, a Player for whom a Stretcher is called must leave the Playing Surface immediately upon a direction by a field Umpire that the Player be so removed unless the Club Medical Officer notifies the field Umpire that it would be dangerous to do so. On being removed from the Playing Surface by a Stretcher, the Player may be taken to the Club's dressing room or medical room for examination and treatment.

### **34.4 Player Not to Resume**

A Player for whom a Stretcher is called, even if he does not leave the Playing Surface on the Stretcher, shall not resume playing for a period of 20 minutes of play (including time on but excluding the quarter-time, half-time and three quarter time breaks) from the time when the Player left the Arena. Nothing in this Regulation derogates from a Club's responsibility to comply with Rule 26.2 in relation to examination by a Club Medical Officer.

### **34.5 Interchange Official to be Notified**

Where a Player is removed from the Playing Surface on a Stretcher or otherwise in accordance with Regulation 34.3, the Interchange Official shall record the time when the Player left the Playing Surface. A Player wishing to resume playing after being removed from the Playing Surface on a Stretcher or otherwise in accordance with Regulation 34.3 shall, subject to Regulation 34.4 and Rule 26.2, re-enter the Playing

Surface through the interchange gate and the Interchange Official shall note the time elapsed between the Player being removed from and re-entering the Playing Surface.

### **34.6 Breach**

If a Stretcher is called in accordance with this Regulation and:

- (a) the Player for whom the Stretcher is called does not leave the Playing Surface as soon as possible after being attended by Club training staff; or
- (b) the Player for whom the Stretcher is called is not removed from the Playing Surface immediately upon a direction by a field Umpire that the Player be so removed save where the Club Medical Officer notifies the field Umpire that it would be dangerous to do so; or
- (c) the Stretcher is not taken to the injured Player or the injured Player is not removed from the Playing Surface to the Club's dressing room or medical room by the shortest and most direct route or otherwise in accordance with Regulation 34.3.
- (d) the General Manager - Football Operations determines in his absolute discretion the Stretcher has been called primarily for tactical use,

the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: up to 25 Units

### **34.7 Resuming Play within 20 Minute Period**

Where a Player resumes playing within a period of 20 minutes (including time on but excluding the quarter-time, half-time and three-quarter time breaks) from the time when the Player was removed from the Playing Surface, a Free Kick and Fifty Metre Penalty will be awarded to the opposition Club. The penalty will be applied from where the ball was at the time that the Player re-entered the Playing Surface. The Player involved will also be ordered from the Playing Surface until such time as the full 20 minutes has elapsed and the Club may be liable for a further sanction.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units;

### **34.8 Motorised conveyance**

- (a) A Club shall not use a motorised device for conveying an injured Player ("motorised conveyance") unless it has first obtained the written approval of the General Manager - Football Operations.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units

- (b) The General Manager - Football Operations may have regard to any matters which he considers relevant in exercising his discretion to approve or disapprove the use of a motorised conveyance including without limitation:
  - (i) whether the venue at which the motorised conveyance is proposed to be used allows the motorised conveyance to obtain direct access between the change rooms and the Arena;

- (ii) whether the motorised conveyance will allow the Player to be safely removed from the Arena;
  - (iii) whether the motorised conveyance is of an appropriate structure and size to safely place a Player onto and remove a Player from the motorised conveyance; and
  - (iv) whether the Trainers and other medical staff of a Club (including the driver) have received sufficient training in the use of the motorised conveyance.
- (c) The General Manager - Football Operations may, without being obliged to do so, consult with the AFL Medical Officer prior to exercising his discretion to approve or disapprove the use of a motorised conveyance.
- (d) The General Manager - Football Operations may impose, vary or revoke any conditions or requirements relating to the use of a motorised conveyance. Where a Club fails to comply with any condition or requirement so imposed, the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units

- (e) A Club shall not display or otherwise promote any name, trademark, logo or advertising on a motorised conveyance.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units

- (f) Use of Motorised conveyance

- (i) An approved motorised conveyance shall only enter the Arena to attend an injured Player after the Field Umpire has stopped play and a Stretcher has been called for by the Club Medical Officer or Club Physiotherapist.
- (ii) An approved motorised conveyance must be driven at a safe speed to ensure the safety of the injured Player and all other persons on the Arena.
- (iii) A Club shall ensure that any approved motorised conveyance shall take an injured Player directly to the Club's change rooms and shall not return to the Arena until it is called for the use of another Player.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for contravening any of the provisions contained in this Regulation 34.8(f).

- (g) An ambulance shall be in attendance at each Match and nothing in this Regulation shall prevent an ambulance from entering the Arena should the need arise.

### **34.9 Injured player exits the Playing Surface outside of the Interchange Gates**

In the case that a Player is injured on field and the Club Medical Officer determines that it is in the Player's best interests to exit the Playing Surface outside of the Interchange Gates and take them directly to the club dressing rooms (whether by stretcher or not), the Club Interchange Steward must advise the AFL Interchange

Official of the situation including the name of the Player. The Emergency Umpire will communicate with the Field Umpire to stop play and once approved by the Emergency Umpire the replacement Player may enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Gates. The injured Player who exited outside the Interchange Gates must not return to the Playing Surface unless declared fit by the Club's Medical Officer and until 20 minutes of playing time, excluding breaks, has elapsed since the Player left the Playing Surface.

## **35. Medically Unfit Players**

### **35.1 Prohibition on Playing Medically Unfit Player**

No Club shall, by itself or its Officers, any Coach, servant or agent, permit or allow any Player to play or train or continue to play in any Match or train where it suspects or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that such Player:

- (a) may not be responsible for his actions;
- (b) is not in a fit state to play or continue to play, having due regard to his health and safety; or
- (c) pursuant to any guidelines issued by the AFL should not continue to play or train.

Sanction: Maximum 50 units

### **35.2 Examination of Medical Officer**

Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a Player:

- (a) has suffered an injury which may cause the Player not to be responsible for his actions; or
- (b) is not in a fit state to play or continue to play or train, having due regard for his health or safety,

the Club shall immediately cause such Player to be examined by its Club Medical Officer and unless such Club Medical Officer certifies that the Player is cognisant of and responsible for his actions or in a fit state to play or train having due regard for his health and safety, the Player shall not play or train or to continue to play in any Match or train and no Club or any Officer or Coach shall permit, allow or direct any such Player to play or train or continue to play in any Match in which the Club is engaged or continue to train.

Sanction: Maximum 50 Units

### **35.3 IV Fluids in AFL**

- (a) A Player who receives intravenous fluid rehydration must not play or continue to play in any Match for a period of 24 hours following the completion of the rehydration and until the Player receives a clearance from the Club Medical Officer. No Club or any Officer or Coach shall permit, allow or direct any such Player to play or continue to play in any Match in which the Club is engaged for a period of 24 hours following the completion of the rehydration and until the Player receives a clearance from the Club Medical officer.

Sanction: Maximum 100 units and/or loss of Premiership points.

- (b) If a Player is notified that he must give a sample for testing in accordance with the AFL Anti-Doping Code, such Player shall not receive and no Club or any Officer or Coach shall permit, allow or direct any such Player to receive intravenous fluid rehydration until after the Player has given the sample for testing unless the Player is permitted to receive intravenous fluid rehydration

under the Intravenous Fluid Rehydration guidelines published by the AFL from time to time.

Sanction: Maximum 25 units and/or banned from competing in any AFL Competition for up to 12 matches for a first offence.

Maximum 50 units and/or banned from competing in any AFL Competition for up to 2 years for a second offence.

Maximum 100 units and/or banned from competing in any AFL Competition for life.

#### **35.4 Public Liability Insurance**

- (a) In this Regulation 35.4, "Personal Injury" has the same meaning given to that term in the AFL's public liability insurance policy in place from time to time.
- (b) If for whatever reason the AFL is not fully and unconditionally indemnified under its public liability insurance policy for any Personal Injury which a Player may sustain from training for or participating in the AFL Competition, the relevant Club must not allow the Player to train for or participate in the AFL Competition from and upon receipt by the Club of a notice from the AFL to the effect that the AFL is not so indemnified.

Sanction: Forfeiture of each match in which the Player participates; and/or maximum 100 Units

- (c) If:
  - (i) the AFL is not for whatever reason, fully and unconditionally indemnified under its public liability insurance policy for any Personal Injury which a Player may sustain from training for or participating in the AFL Competition; or
  - (ii) the General Counsel is of the opinion that the AFL will or may not for whatever reason be fully and unconditionally indemnified under its public liability insurance policy for any Personal Injury which a Player may sustain from training for or participating in the AFL Competition,

then the General Counsel may make such determination or take such action as he, in his absolute discretion, thinks fit, to give effect to Regulation 35.4(b). If a Club or Player of a Club fails to comply with any determination or action of the General Counsel under this Regulation 35.4(c), the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Forfeiture of each match in which the Player participates; and/or maximum 100 Units



## **36. Bleeding and Blood Borne Infections**

### **36.1 The Meaning of Active Bleeding**

"Active Bleeding" means the existence of an injury or wound which continues to bleed. Active Bleeding does not include minor bleeding from a graze or scratch which has abated and can be readily removed from a Player or any part of his uniform.

### **36.2 Participation in Matches When Actively Bleeding**

- (a) Unless Regulation 36.6 applies:
- (i) a Player must not remain on the Playing Surface for so long as he is Actively Bleeding;
  - (ii) a Club or Team must not allow any of its Players to remain on the Playing Surface for so long as the Player is Actively Bleeding;

Sanction: First offence: 5 Units

Second and each subsequent offence: 10 Units

- (b) Unless immediate treatment needs to be given having due regard to a Player's health and safety, a Club or Team must not allow any Player who is Actively Bleeding to be treated on the Playing Surface.

Sanction: First offence: 5 Units

Second and each subsequent offence: 10 Units

### **36.3 Active Bleeding - Role of Umpire**

- (a) Where a field Umpire is of the opinion that a Player is Actively Bleeding the field Umpire must:
- (i) stop play at the first available opportunity;
  - (ii) direct the Player concerned to immediately leave the Playing Surface;
  - (iii) allow a replacement Player to enter the Playing Surface in accordance with the procedure set out in Regulation 36.3(b); and
  - (iv) re-commence play.
- (b) Where a Player is directed by a field Umpire to leave the Playing Surface because he is Actively Bleeding, the following procedure shall apply:
- (i) without limiting the obligations imposed on a Club and Player under Regulations 36.1 and 36.2, the Player must immediately leave the Playing Surface through the Interchange area;
  - (ii) the bleeding Player may be Interchanged in accordance with the procedure set out in the Laws of Australian Football but shall not return or take any further part in any match until and unless:

- (A) the cause of any such bleeding has been abated;
  - (B) the injury is securely bound to ensure the all blood is contained;
  - (C) any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced; and
  - (D) any blood on any part of a Player's person has been thoroughly cleaned and removed.
- (iii) a Team may replace the bleeding Player with an interchange Player, who must enter the Playing Surface by the interchange area and take up his playing position within 30 seconds of the field Umpire signalling and directing the bleeding Player to leave the Playing Surface;
  - (iv) the AFL Interchange Official shall record the time and inform the emergency Umpire (or in his absence the third boundary or goal Umpire), when the 30 seconds allowed for the interchange of Players has elapsed. The emergency Umpire shall in turn signal to the field Umpire that the 30 second period has elapsed; and
  - (v) Upon receiving the signal that the 30 second period has elapsed, the field Umpire shall re-commence play provided the bleeding Player has left the Playing Surface and it is otherwise safe to do so. The field Umpire shall re-commence play irrespective of the position of the interchange Player.
- (c) Where a Player refuses to or does not immediately leave the Playing Surface when directed to do so by a field Umpire, the following will apply:
    - (i) the field Umpire must warn the Player that a Free Kick will be awarded and that the Player may be reported if he or she does not leave the Playing Surface;
    - (ii) if the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface, the field umpire must award a Free kick to the Player of the opposing Team who is nearest to where the warning was given or where play was stopped, whichever is the greatest penalty;
    - (iii) if the Player refuses to leave the Playing Surface:
      - (A) the field Umpire shall report the Player for misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an Umpire;
      - (B) the Match will immediately end and be forfeited by the reported Player's Team; and
      - (C) Law 10.7 of the Laws of Australian football will apply to any Match which is forfeited.

### **36.4 Procedure When Player Not Actively Bleeding**

Where a field Umpire is of the opinion that a Player is not Actively Bleeding, but the Player has blood on any part of his body or uniform, the following will apply:

- (a) at the first available opportunity, the field Umpire must signal and direct the Player to obtain treatment. After the signal is given, play will continue;
- (b) the Player may remain on the Playing Surface after the signal is given by the field Umpire, but must immediately:
  - (i) in the case of blood being on any part of his uniform, have the piece of uniform removed and replaced; and/or
  - (ii) in the case of blood being on any part of his body, have the blood removed and the cause of any bleeding (if any), treated and covered so that all blood is contained;
- (c) if after treatment, the field Umpire is of the opinion that blood is still appearing on any part of the Players' body or uniform, the Player is deemed to be Actively Bleeding and Law 27.3 will apply.

### **36.5 Failure to Obey Direction**

- (a) A Player's refusal to promptly obey a direction of a field Umpire given under Law 27.3 or 27.4 is a Reportable Offence;
- (b) Any fine, period of suspension or other sanction determined by the Tribunal or Appeal Board shall be in addition to any sanction which may be imposed upon a Player under Regulation 36.2.

### **36.6 Special Circumstances at the End of a Quarter**

A Player awarded a Mark or Free Kick may kick the football after the field Umpire has signalled that play has come to an end, even though he is at that time Actively Bleeding. However, this Regulation is subject to Law 16.6 of the Laws of Australian Football.

### **36.7 Deliberate Smearing of Blood**

Regardless of any other provision in this Regulation 36, if a Player intentionally smears or otherwise causes blood to be placed on another Player's body or uniform, the field Umpire must immediately stop play and allow that Player such time as is necessary to have the blood removed or item of uniform removed and replaced.

### **36.8 Protective Gloves**

Each Club or Team must ensure that any doctor, trainer and any other person treating Players of a Team wear protective gloves as may be approved from time to time by the AFL.

Sanction: Maximum 5 Units

### **36.9 Disposal of Bloodied Clothing and Other Material**

Each Club or Team must ensure that:

- (a) any bloodied item of uniform or clothing of a Player is placed as soon as possible in a hygienic sealed container and laundered to ensure the removal of all blood; and

Sanction: Maximum 5 Units

- (b) all towels, wipes, bandages, dressings and other materials used in the treatment of bleeding Players must be placed in a hygienic sealed container and discarded or destroyed in a hygienic manner.

Sanction: Maximum 5 Units

### **36.10 Dressing Rooms**

Each Club or Team must ensure that all dressing rooms and other areas occupied by the Teams prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any Match are kept clean and that no blood shall remain on any surface, equipment, hand basin, toilet, shower, bath or other area. All such surfaces, equipment and areas shall be cleansed and disinfected immediately after contact with blood.

Sanction: Maximum 20 Units

### **36.11 Hygiene**

Each club or Team must ensure that:

- (a) Players do not urinate (other than in a toilet) in or about any dressing rooms, interchange bench area or on the Playing Surface prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any Match; and
- (b) each of its Players observe a high standard of personal hygiene.

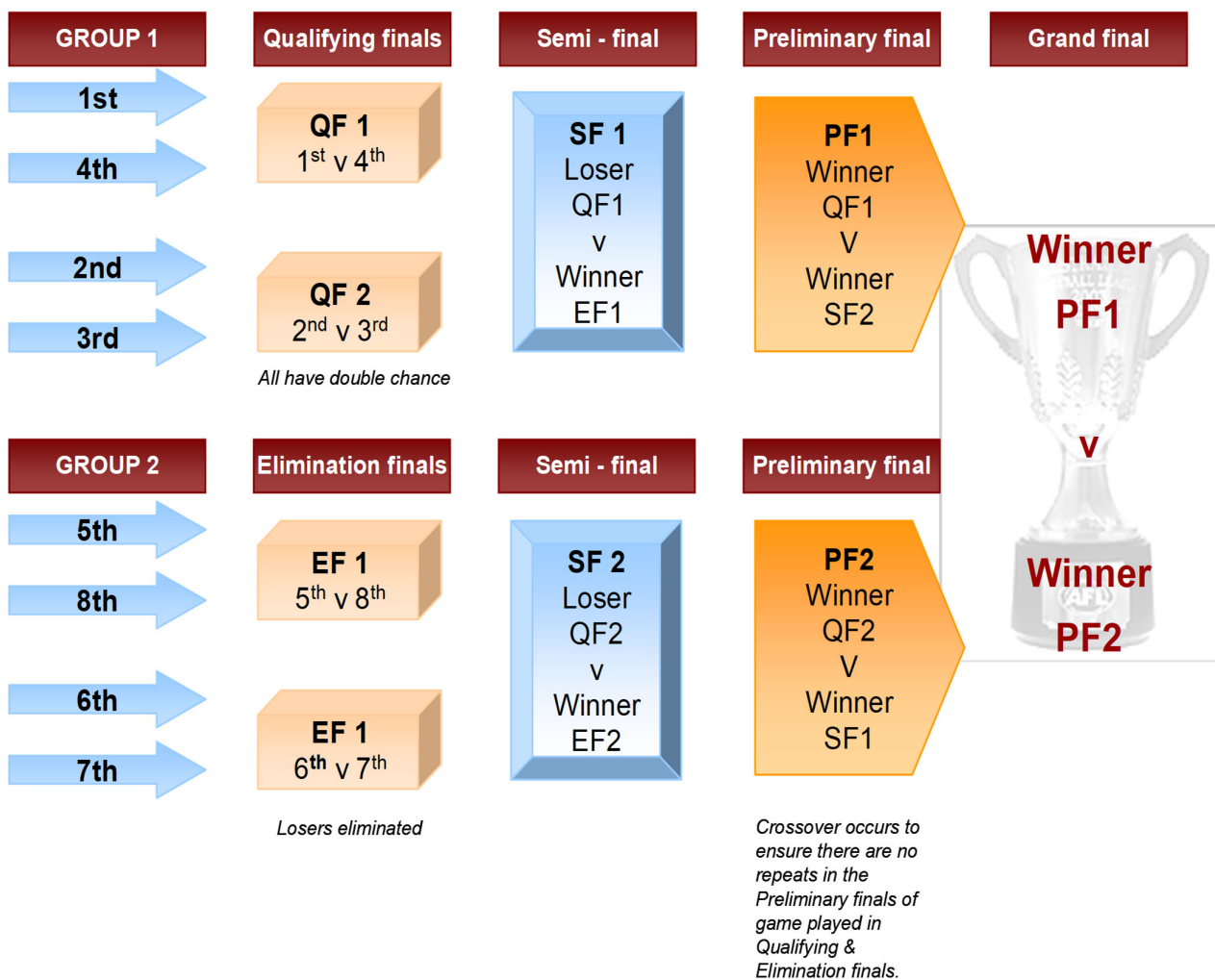
Sanction: Maximum 20 Units

### **36.12 Trainers**

Unless Regulation 36.4 applies, a Trainer or other personnel responsible for the treatment of Players shall not provide treatment to a Player on the Playing Surface for any cut, abrasion or other injury involving the discharge of blood.

Sanction: Maximum 10 Units

## Annexure 1 – Final Eight System







## Annexure 3 - Late Amendment to team Sheet

### AFL REGULATION 12.3 – AMENDMENT TO OFFICIAL TEAM SHEET

(For changes after the lodgement of team sheet and prior to the commencement of the match)

Match: \_\_\_\_\_ v \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. PLAYER(S) TO BE REPLACED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Position (circle one): (i) Starting 18  
(ii) Interchange Bench

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Position (circle one): (i) Starting 18  
(ii) Interchange Bench

#### 2. REPLACEMENT PLAYER(S)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Position (circle one): (i) Starting 18  
(ii) Interchange Bench

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Position (circle one): (i) Starting 18  
(ii) Interchange Bench

#### 3. FINAL INTERCHANGE BENCH (at commencement of match)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. TIME LODGED WITH AFL INTERCHANGE OFFICIAL \_\_\_\_\_

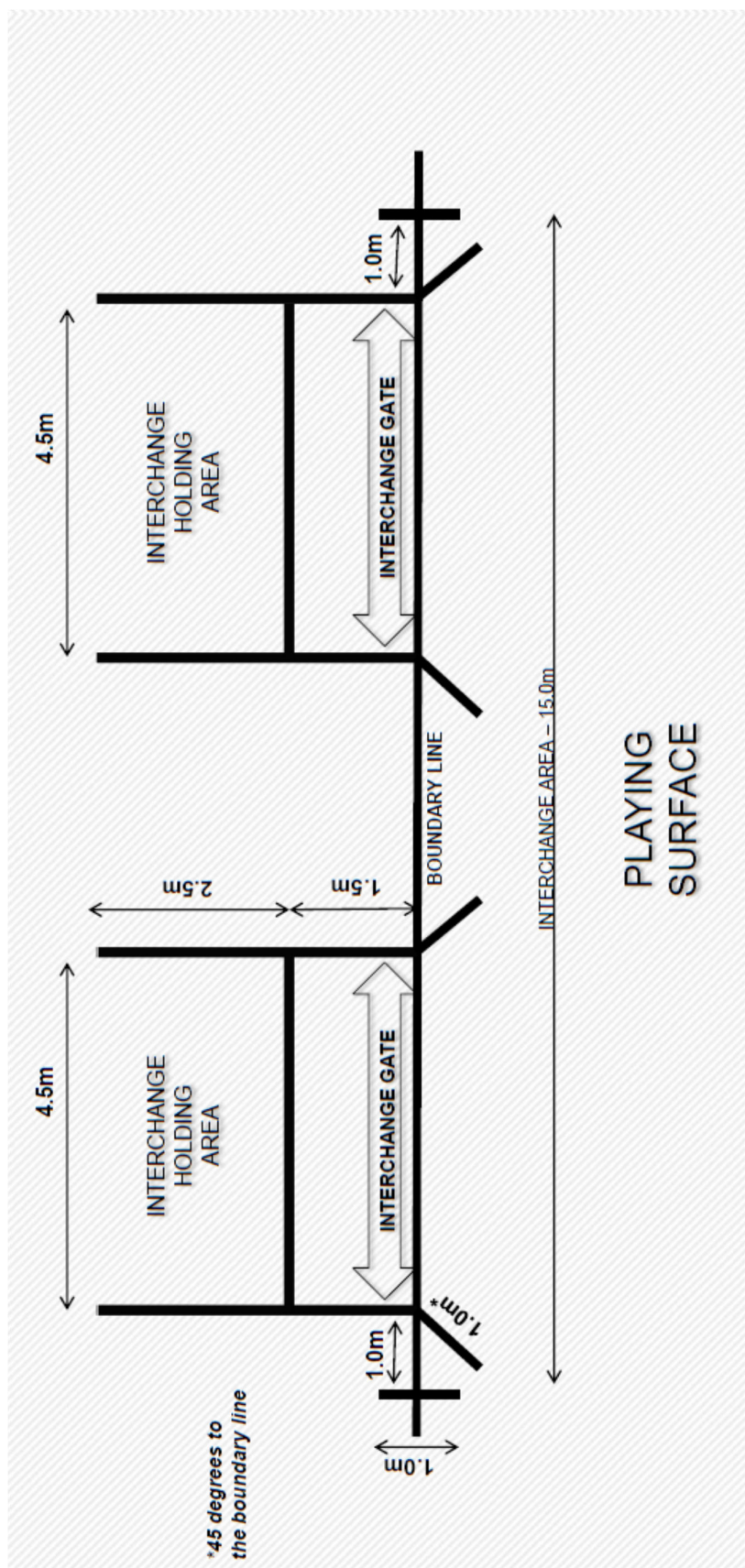
Signed : .....

AFL Club Team Manager

AFL Interchange Official

Print Name: .....

## Annexure 4 – Interchange Gates





## Annexure 5 – Protective Equipment Application

TO: General Manager - Football Operations  
AFL  
140 Harbour Esplanade  
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

I, the undersigned, being the Football Manager/Chief Executive Officer of the \_\_\_\_\_ Club, hereby apply approval for Player \_\_\_\_\_ (name player) to wear during match(es) set out below, the item of Protective Equipment indicated. In support of this application, I provide the following particulars:-

1) Match(es)

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2) Description of the medical condition of Player (Note: A report from a duly qualified medical practitioner as to the medical condition of the Player must be attached).

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3) Description of the Protective Equipment

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4) Benefits for Player wearing Protective Equipment

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(Attach further page if necessary)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(FOOTBALL MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

(AFL CLUB MEDICAL OFFICER)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLAYER)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval/Disapproval of AFL Medical Officer on**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved/Disapproved by**

**General Manager - Football Operations on**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1 – Reportable Offences

A Reportable Offence occurs where a Person or Player commits any of the offences set out in Law 19.2.2 of the Laws of Australian Football (the **Laws**) or any other offence referred to in Regulation 16.9. Broadly speaking, there are three categories of Reportable Offences, being:

- Classifiable Offences
- Direct Tribunal Offences
- Fixed Financial Offences

### 1 Classifiable Offences

#### (a) Which Reportable Offences are Classifiable Offences?

Classifiable Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which are graded by the Match Review Officer (**MRO**) in order to determine an appropriate sanction for that offence.

Classifiable Offences	
Striking	Headbutt or Contact Using Head
Kicking	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Eye Region
Kneeing	Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face
Charging	Scratching
Rough Conduct	Tripping
Forceful Front-On Contact	

#### (b) Grading Classifiable Offences

The MRO will grade Classifiable Offences in accordance with the following table:

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Sanction
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	4+ Matches (Tribunal)
		Body	3+ Matches (Tribunal)
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches
		Body	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match
		Body	Fine*

Careless	Severe	High/Groin	3+ Matches (Tribunal)
		Body	2+ Matches (Tribunal)
	High	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	1 Match
		Body	Fine*
	Low	High/Groin	Fine*
		Body	Fine*

\* Refer (e) below for the low-level fine structure

As indicated in the table above, the determination of a sanction for a Classifiable Offence will be made based on an assessment of whether:

1. the Conduct is Intentional or Careless;
2. the Impact is Severe, High, Medium or Low; and
3. the Contact with the other Player/Person is High/Groin or to the Body.

#### **1. Conduct**

In considering a report in respect of a Classifiable Offence, there will be a determination as to whether the Player's conduct has been Intentional or Careless. If the Player's conduct is found to fall short of being careless no charge will be laid against the Player.

A Player intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Player engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that offence. An intention is a state of mind. Intention may be formed on the spur of the moment. The issue is whether it existed at the time at which the Player engaged in the conduct.

A Player's conduct will be regarded as Careless where his conduct is not intentional, but constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to all other Players. Each Player owes a duty of care to all other Players, Umpires and other persons (as applicable) not to engage in conduct which will constitute a Reportable Offence being committed against that other Player, Umpire or other person (as applicable). In order to constitute such a breach of that duty of care, the conduct must be such that a reasonable Player would not regard it as prudent in all the circumstances. Further, a Player will be careless if they breach of their duty to take reasonable care to avoid acts which can be reasonably foreseen to result in a Reportable Offence.

#### **Note:**

For the purpose of categorising Careless conduct, the following is provided in respect of Laws 19.2.2(a)(vi) (Rough Conduct) and 19.2.2(a)(vii) (Front-On Contact):

#### ***Rough Conduct (High Bumps)***

A Player will be guilty of Rough Conduct where in the bumping of an opponent (whether reasonably or unreasonably) the Player causes forceful contact to be made with any part of his body to an opponent's head or

neck. Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, unless:

- the Player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative way to contest the ball; or
- the forceful contact to the head or neck was caused by circumstances outside the control of the player which could not reasonably be foreseen.

### ***Front-On Contact***

Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that opponent has his head down over the ball is a Reportable Offence. Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, unless:

- the player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative way to contest the ball; or
- the bump or forceful contact was caused by circumstances outside the control of the player which could not reasonably be foreseen.

A Player can bump an opponent's body from side-on but any contact forward of side-on will be deemed to be front-on. A Player with his head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purposes of this law.

## **2. Impact**

Consideration will be given as to whether the impact is Low, Medium, High or Severe. In determining the level of impact, regard will be had to the following factors:

- the extent of force and in particular, any injury sustained by the Player who was offended against;
- the potential to cause serious injury;
- the impact between the offending Player and the Victim Player, but also any other impact to the Victim Player as a result of such impact; and
- the body language of the offending Player in terms of flexing, turning, raising or positioning the body to increase or reduce the force of impact.

Low impact is the minimum impact required for a Classifiable Offence and this requires more than just a negligible impact.

## **3. Contact**

Regard will be had to whether Contact to the Victim Player was High/to the Groin or to the Body. In the interests of protecting the health and welfare of Players, sanctions for head-high contact and contact to the groin will be more severe.

High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders.

Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region and including the testicles.

Where contact is both High and to the Body, the contact will be classified as High.

Contact shall be classified as High or to the Groin where a Player's head or groin makes contact with another Player or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending Player.

**(c) Reductions in base sanction for an early guilty plea**

For Classifiable Offences where the sanction is one or two matches of suspension, there is no reduction in sanction for an early guilty plea. The sanction for a low-level Classifiable Offence (those resulting in a fine) will be decreased by a fixed percentage where a Player submits an early guilty plea (refer section (e) below).

**(d) Contesting a Classifiable Offence charge**

A Player charged with a Classifiable Offence may contest that charge at the Tribunal in its entirety or may seek to downgrade the charge. A Player who successfully contests a charge will not receive a sanction or will receive a lesser sanction in respect of the charge. The Tribunal may also determine that the relevant offence should be classified differently under the Table of Offences. If exceptional and compelling circumstances apply which would make it inappropriate or unreasonable to apply the outcome of the classification under the Table of Offences, the Tribunal may impose a sanction in their absolute discretion.

**Successful contest:** If a Player successfully contests the classification of a charge at the Tribunal (such that the Tribunal determines to downgrade the charge), he will be entitled to receive the sanction for that lesser offence.

**Partially successful contest:** A Player who contests two or more aspects of a charge, but who is only successful in one aspect, may be sanctioned with a downgraded charge, however, the challenge will be regarded as unsuccessful, and the club will be levied \$10,000.

**Unsuccessful contest:** A Player who unsuccessfully contests a charge will receive the original sanction (subject to the Tribunal's discretion to classify the charge differently), and the club will be levied \$10,000.

**(e) Multiple low-level Classifiable Offences**

Where a Player commits multiple low-level Classifiable Offences in a single AFL Season, each of which attracts a sanction of a fine (as per the table in section 1(b) above), that sanction (and sanction following an early guilty plea) for the second, third and subsequent low-level Classifiable Offences will be as follows:

<b>Low-Level Classifiable Offence</b>	<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Early Guilty Plea</b>
First offence	\$3,000	\$2,000
Second offence	\$5,000	\$3,000
Third and subsequent offences	\$8,000	\$5,000

**(f) Impact of a Bad Record on Classifiable Offences**

The sanction for Classifiable Offences will not be automatically increased where a Player has a bad record. However, the MRO has the discretion to directly refer the Player to the Tribunal in their absolute discretion, which includes as a result of a bad record at AFL or State League level.

**(g) Impact of a Good Record on Classifiable Offences**

Players will not automatically receive a reduced sanction for a good record. However, if a Classifiable Offence is contested or referred to the Tribunal, a Player with an exemplary record could argue that their good record constitutes exceptional and compelling circumstances (which would make it inappropriate to apply the consequences in Appendix 1 to the determined classification). This record refers only to matches played at AFL or State League level. In such circumstances, the Jury members would determine the appropriate sanction in their absolute discretion.

## 2 Direct Tribunal Offences

**(a) Which Reportable Offences are Direct Tribunal Offences?**

Direct Tribunal Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which are referred by the MRO directly to the Tribunal for determination without grading (ie without an assessment of the offence using the Classification Table):

<b>Direct Tribunal Offences</b>
Intentional Contact with an Umpire
Eye Gouging
Stomping
Striking an Umpire
Spitting on or at an Umpire
Spitting on Another Person
Attempting to Strike an Umpire
Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire
Any Classifiable or Fixed Financial Offence which Attracts a Sanction that the MRO finds Inappropriate
Any Other Act of Serious Misconduct which the MRO Considers

Appropriate to Refer to the Tribunal
--------------------------------------

**(b) Determination of Direct Tribunal Offences**

The Tribunal will determine Direct Tribunal Offences as it would any other offence which is referred to it.

**(c) Tribunal sanctions**

The Tribunal Jury will determine the appropriate sanction for a Direct Tribunal Offence in its absolute discretion.

**3 Fixed Financial Offences**

Fixed Financial Offences are Reportable Offences which attract a fixed financial sanction only (as per the following table).

Fixed Financial Offences	Sanction (Early Guilty Plea sanction in brackets)		
	First Offence	Second Offence	Third & Subsequent Offences
Abusive, Insulting, Threatening, Obscene Language Towards or in Relation to an Umpire	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$3,500 (\$2,000)	\$5,000 (\$3,500)
Attempt to Strike/ Kick/ Trip	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$3,500 (\$2,000)	\$5,000 (\$3,500)
Instigator of Melee	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$3,500 (\$2,000)	\$5,000 (\$3,500)
Spitting at Another Player	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$3,500 (\$2,000)	\$5,000 (\$3,500)
Striking	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$3,500 (\$2,000)	\$5,000 (\$3,500)
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$3,500 (\$2,000)	\$5,000 (\$3,500)
Careless Contact with an Umpire	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Disputing Decision	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Melee	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Obscene Gesture	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Pinching	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Staging	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Wrestling	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)	\$4,000 (\$2,500)
Interfering with Player Kicking for Goal	\$1,000 (\$500)	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)
Not Leaving Playing Surface	\$1,000 (\$500)	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)
Shaking Goal Post	\$1,000 (\$500)	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)
Time Wasting	\$1,000 (\$500)	\$1,500 (\$1,000)	\$2,500 (\$1,500)
Any Other Act of Misconduct that is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence	The financial sanction for a first, second, third or subsequent act of misconduct will be determined by the MRO in its absolute discretion.		

The increased sanctions for second, third or subsequent Fixed Financial Offences will only apply where a Player has been found guilty of the same Fixed Financial Offence within the previous two AFL Years, except for Engaging in a Melee and Wrestling charges, where the record for these offences will be considered jointly.

## 4 Multiple Reportable Offences in the One Match

If a Player is found guilty of two or more Reportable Offences arising from the one match, the sanctions for those offences will be added together to form the final sanction handed to that Player. If any of the two or more Reportable Offences arising from the one match have a sanction of a fine, they will be considered individually in the application of section 1(e).

## 5 Offences Incurred in the AFL Grand Final

Reportable Offences which arise out of the AFL Grand Final will attract the same sanction as normal except as follows:

- If the offence ordinarily attracts a sanction of two or more matches, then it will be referred directly to the Tribunal, where the Tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion (penalty at large).
- The sanction for the following Fixed Financial Offences will be doubled if such offences are incurred during the AFL Grand Final.

Engaging in a Melee
Instigator of a Melee
Engaging in Wrestling

## 6 AFL Years

A reference to any previous period of AFL Years will be a reference to the period calculated retrospectively from the round in which a Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence or Reportable Offences. In the case of the finals, it is calculated by reference to the same week number in the previous final series.

Other individual matches (such as representative matches, exhibition matches or practice matches which are subject to AFL Regulations) are calculated retrospectively from the date of the match or reprimand for those matches.



## Schedule 1 – Prescribed Forms

FORM NO.	FORM NAME	APPLICABLE REGULATION
FORM 17	Notice of Appeal	20.12
FORM 21	Notice of Report	16.10
FORM 25	Incident Referral Form	16.11
FORM 27	Notice of Referred Charge	16.12
FORM 28	Notice of Early Plea	16.12
FORM 29	Notice of Charge	16.12
FORM 30	Notice for Investigation	16.12
FORM 31	Medical Report	16.12