



**AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**REGULATIONS**

**23 February 2024**

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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 Regulations 2.8 and 12.9(c)(v), additional time shall consist of two (2) periods of three (3) 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 Match Manager:** the person so appointed for a Match by the Executive General Manager Football.

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

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

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

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

**AFL Rules and Regulations:** 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, Contracts of Service, the AFL Articles of Association, the AFL

Memorandum of Association and the AFL-AFL Umpires' Association Collective Bargaining 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:** a person appointed as such by the Executive General Manager Football.

**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.

**ANZAC Day Match** means the Match between Essendon and Collingwood Football Clubs on 25 April during each AFL Season.

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

**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 their nominee.

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

**Club Football Official:** 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, walkie talkies, two-way radios and recording devices.

**Contract of Service:** without limiting the ordinary legal meaning thereof, a contract in writing whereby a Player's personal services to play Australian 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>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> Players of a Team who may, in accordance with these Regulations, be substituted for another Player selected in the Team.

**Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial:** the person appointed to that position by the Commission or their nominee.

**Executive General Manager Football:** the person appointed to that position by the Commission or their nominee.

**Exhibition or Promotional Match:** a Match conducted by the AFL to promote or exhibit the game of Australian Football, including any international Match.

**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 the AFL Rules.

**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.

**Further Additional Time:** for the purpose of Regulations 2.8 and 12.9(c)(v), further additional time shall consist of two (2) periods of three (3) minutes duration (with time added on for stoppages in play in the same manner as during ordinary time).

**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 12.6.

**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 or Promotional Match.

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

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

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

**Interchange Bench:** a bench located on the perimeter of the Arena at which Interchange Players and other persons required under Regulation 12 shall sit during a Match.

**Interchange Cap:** is the total number of Interchanges that a Club may make in the course of a Match, being 75.

**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 Competition Match, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<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 Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL.

**List:** in respect of each Club, any or all of its Primary List, Rookie List or Inactive List.

**Match:** any Australian Football match played between or directly or indirectly involving any Club including without limitation any practice match, trial match, representative match or Exhibition or Promotional Match.

**MCG:** the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

**MCG Licence Agreement:** 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 digital and print media organisations and representatives thereof.

**Medical Assessment:** 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 competition administered by the AFL played prior to the commencement of the Home and Away Matches each year (if held).

**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 and Regulations; or
- (d) a disqualification of any entitlement, right or privilege of a person or Club under the AFL Rules and 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 and 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 Body:** any of the following bodies:

- (a) AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited;
- (b) AFL Northern Territory Limited;
- (c) AFL Queensland Limited;
- (d) Football Tasmania Limited; and
- (e) Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited.

**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.

**Substitute Player:** a Player who has been named as the Substitute Player on the Club's Official Team Sheet and may be substituted for a Player in accordance with the process set out in Regulation 12.5.

**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 and the Substitute Player in such Team.

**Team Runner:** an eligible person appointed to confer with Players whilst on the Playing Surface, as appointed under Regulation 12.

**Timekeeper:** the person appointed by the Executive General Manager Football 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

In the interpretation of these Regulations and the Annexures, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith:

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;

- (c) words importing persons shall be deemed to include all bodies and associations, corporate or unincorporated and vice versa;
- (d) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these Regulations or any Annexure;
- (e) a reference to time means eastern standard time or eastern summer time, as the case may be;
- (f) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (g) words, terms and phrases defined in the AFL Rules shall be given that meaning if they are not otherwise defined in these Regulations; and
- (h) words, terms and phrases not otherwise defined shall be given their ordinary meaning.

#### **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 Executive General Manager Football thinks fit.
- (d) The Commission, Chief Executive Officer or Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football, 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 Australian 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 Executive General Manager Football.

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

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 the AFL Rules;
- (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 Executive General Manager Football 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 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 Annexure 1 (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 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 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 change ends at the completion of ordinary time for the first three (3) minute period (plus stoppages) of Additional Time and shall change ends again after the first three (3) 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 12, 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 Timekeepers 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;
  - (ix) if the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Additional Time, 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 Further Additional Time will be played;
  - (x) each Club shall immediately change ends at the conclusion of Additional Time for the first three (3) minute period (plus stoppages) of Further Additional Time and shall change ends again after the first three (3) minute period without delay. At the conclusion of the Further Additional Time, the Club which has scored the highest points is the winner of the match;
  - (xi) if the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Further Additional Time, the process set out in Regulation 2.8(a)(x) will be repeated until, at the conclusion of any repeated period of Further Additional Time, the winning Club can be determined; and
  - (xii) during any period of Further Additional Time, there will be no breaks in play for Coaches or Club Football Officials to access the Playing Area.
- (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 during Finals Series**

- (a) For the purposes of Regulation 2.9(b), following the completion of the first round of the Finals Series:
  - (i) the two winning Clubs from the Qualifying Finals will be ranked in first and second position (first position will be the higher of the two Clubs on the Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches);

- (ii) the two losing Clubs from the Qualifying Finals will be ranked in third and fourth position (third position will be the higher of the two Clubs on the Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches);
- (iii) the two winning Clubs from the Elimination Finals will be ranked in fifth and sixth position (fifth position will be the higher of the two Clubs on the Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches);
- (b) Subject to Regulation 2.7, the Club deemed to be the home Club for the Grand Final will be the Club of the two winning Clubs from the Preliminary Finals with the highest ranking under Regulation 2.9(a) (following the completion first round of the Finals Series).

## **2.10 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.

## **2.11 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.

## **2.12 Exhibition or Promotional Match**

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

## **2.13 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 Executive General Manager Football in such manner as the Commission or the Executive General Manager Football 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 they will sustain an injury, the Player may advise their Club and request that they be withdrawn from the Match.
- (f) A Player shall:
  - (i) ensure that the footwear they are wearing is appropriate to the condition of the Arena; and
  - (ii) advise the Club's Medical Officer and/or Coach if they have 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 Executive General Manager Football which they may grant or refuse in their 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 Executive General Manager Football or their 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 Executive General Manager Football or their 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, unless the Executive General Manager Football has approved a Player to wear an alternative colour, 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 Executive General Manager Football may be worn for the purposes of protecting the injured hand(s) of a Player provided that all Sponsor Advertising has been removed from the gloves. No gloves other than those approved by the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football prior to Players wearing wristbands during a Match.
- (h) Headbands worn during a Match must be unobtrusive and hair 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.
- (k) No words that are offensive or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL are permitted to be written on any uniform (including boots), bandages or skin of any Player during a Match.

## 4.7 Protective Equipment

- (a) For the purposes of this Regulation, Protective Equipment includes but is not limited to:
  - (i) Helmets (soft-shell headgear);
  - (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 Executive General Manager Football.

- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive General Manager Football, 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football may issue guidelines concerning the use and approval of Protective Equipment. Any guidelines issued by the Executive General Manager Football shall be directory in nature and any decision of the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football; or
- (ii) is wearing or using an approved item of Protective Equipment, if they are 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 they are 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 they may be reported if they do 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, bandages, 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 Executive General Manager Football or Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial 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 Executive General Manager Football or Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial regards as appropriate.

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

Unless otherwise determined by the Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial 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 Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial 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 Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial, or the person nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, may deal with any such matter in such manner as the Commission, Executive General Manager Customer and Commercial, 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football.

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 their 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 Executive General Manager Football; 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 AFL Interchange Official in accordance with Regulation 12.

## **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 Executive General Manager Football, is prejudicial to the interests or reputation of a Club, the AFL or the game of Australian 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 Executive General Manager Football, 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 Executive General Manager Football, the following procedure shall apply to the supply and selection of footballs for Home and Away Matches and Pre-Season Competition Matches:

- (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;
- (c) for all Pre-Season Competition 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 Competition and Finals Series Matches, not less than six yellow Match Footballs;
- (d) the Executive General Manager Football 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 (i.e. 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football;
  - (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 Executive General Manager Football, 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 or such other length of time advised by the AFL	
<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 or such other length of time advised by the AFL	
<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 (2) 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 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 Competition 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 Executive General Manager Football.
- (b) Teams must be listed with the 18 players in playing position as well as eight (8) Interchange Players and four (4) Emergency Players.
- (c) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive General Manager Football, the Team list of a Club participating in a Pre-Season Competition Match must be lodged by 5.00pm (AEDT) the day prior to that Pre-Season Competition Match.

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

- (a) Friday and Saturday Matches

A Club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Friday or Saturday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.45pm AEDT (or AEST where Matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding Thursday. The Team list must contain the name and guernsey number of 18 Players in playing position, five (5) Players on an extended Interchange Bench and three (3) Emergency Players.

- (b) Sunday Matches

- (i) A Club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Sunday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.45pm AEDT (or AEST where matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) 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 eight (8) Players on an extended Interchange Bench. A Club is not obliged at this time to identify which of the eight (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, (5) Players on an extended Interchange Bench and three (3) Emergency Players, by 4.30pm AEDT (or AEST where matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding Friday.

- (c) Weekday Matches (other than Friday)

A club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.45pm AEDT (or AEST where matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding day. The Team list must contain the name and guernsey number of 18 Players in playing position, five (5) Players on an extended Interchange Bench and three (3) Emergency Players.

- (d) The Executive General Manager Football may in their 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 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 they are 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 Executive General Manager Football, 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) unless prior approval is granted by the Executive General Manager Football, 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.
- (b) Other than as set out in Regulation 11.3(a), a Player who was not listed on the Team list at the time it was lodged with the AFL under Regulation 11.1 or 11.2 is not permitted to be subsequently named as a Player, Emergency Player or Substitute Player on the Official Team Sheet and/or participate in a Match unless prior approval is granted by the Executive General Manager Football.

### 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 is listed on the Official Team Sheet (including as an Emergency Player or Substitute Player) and was not listed on the Team list at the time it was lodged with the AFL under this Regulation 11 or added to the Team list under Regulation 11.3, 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 during the equivalent round unless prior approval is granted by the Executive General Manager Football.

Sanction: Up to 50 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 60 minutes prior to the time scheduled for the commencement of a match unless otherwise specified by the Executive General Manager Football.
- (b) In the case where a Club is unable to submit its Official Team Sheet online in accordance with Regulation 12.1(a), 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 Executive General Manager Football, the Official Team Sheet shall list:
  - (i) 22 Players (inclusive of four (4) Interchange Players);
  - (ii) One (1) Substitute Player;
  - (iii) Three (3) Emergency Players; and
  - (iv) a maximum of 27 persons all being accredited Club Football Officials who require access to the Arena in accordance with this Regulation.
- (b) The Executive General Manager Football 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) The Substitute Player and 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.
- (g) The 27 accredited Club Football Officials listed on the Official Team Sheet in accordance with Regulation 12.2(a)(ii) will only be permitted to access the Arena during a Match as follows:

- (i) subject to Regulation 12.2(g)(iii), a maximum of 12 Club Football Officials may be seated on the Interchange Bench for the duration of a Match and may only enter the Playing Surface during the first quarter, half time and three quarter intervals;
  - (ii) subject to Regulation 12.2(g)(iii), a maximum of five (5) Club Football Officials (including Coaches) will only be permitted to enter the Arena (and the Playing Surface) from the Coaches box during the first quarter, half time and three quarter intervals;
  - (iii) the Club General Manager Football and the Club Senior Coach will be permitted to move between the Coaches box and the Interchange Bench during a Match and will be permitted to enter the Playing Surface during the first quarter, half time and three quarter intervals (and neither will be included in the number of Club Football Officials for the purposes of Regulation 12.2(g)(i) and/or 12.2(g)(ii));
  - (iv) a maximum of four (4) Trainers each to be positioned at the point at which the 50 metre arc joins the boundary line against the perimeter fence of the Arena and may only enter the Playing Surface in accordance with Regulation 12.14(b); and
  - (v) a maximum of four (4) additional Club Football Officials may only enter the Arena during the first quarter, half time and three quarter time intervals to assist with providing drinks to Players and the positioning the windbreak.
- (h) The Executive General Manager Football may, by reasonable notice to the Club, determine that an accredited Club Football Official listed on the Official Team Sheet for a Match will:
- (i) be permitted to access the Arena subject to conditions determined by the Executive General Manager Football; or
  - (ii) not be permitted to access the Arena during such Match.

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

- (a) After a Club has submitted its Official Team Sheet 60 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 or the Substitute 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 or the Substitute Player and an amendment to the Official Team Sheet:
  - (i) where an Emergency Player or the Substitute 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 and the Amendment to Official Team Sheet form online before the commencement of the Match.

- (ii) if the Substitute Player is the replacement Player, then the amendment to the Official Team Sheet contemplated in Regulation 12.3(b)(i) must also include the Emergency Player that will replace the Substitute Player in the Official Team Sheet;
- (iii) 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) Official Statistician representative;
- (iv) the Player who has been replaced under this Regulation must immediately leave the Arena and not sit on the Interchange Bench;
- (v) the Club Medical Officer must supply a Medical 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
- (vi) the Player who has been replaced is ineligible to play in any match in any other competition during the equivalent round of Matches unless prior approval is granted by the Executive General Manager Football.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- (vii) if an Emergency Player replaces a Player initially listed on the Official Team Sheet that replacement Player can either be named in the Starting 18, on the Interchange Bench or as the Substitute Player; and
- (viii) if the Substitute Player replaces a Player initially listed on the Official Team Sheet that replacement Player can either be named in the Starting 18 or on the Interchange Bench.

## 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 two (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 submitted its Official Team Sheet to the AFL 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 the Playing Surface or Interchange Bench 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 Substitute Player

- (a) The Substitute Player
  - (i) Each Club must name a Substitute Player in their Official Team Sheet from Players included in the Team list submitted in accordance with Regulation 11.
  - (ii) The Substitute Player who has 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 two (2) sirens prior to the Official Starting Time of the Match.
  - (iii) The Substitute Player must leave the Playing Surface through the area designated as the Club Interchange Gate.
  - (iv) The Substitute Player must be seated at the back of the Interchange Bench and may only enter the Playing Surface during the Match in accordance with Regulation 12.5(b)(i) or during quarter, half-time and three-quarter time breaks (and following the Match) in accordance with Regulation 12.9(b)(v).
  - (v) The Substitute Player must wear their official Club warm-up top or jacket at all times when seated on the Interchange Bench.
- (b) Substitution Procedure
  - (i) At any point during a Match and for any reason, a Club may substitute one of the 22 Players in the Official Team Sheet (**Withdrawn Player**) with the Substitute Player and the following process will be followed:
    - (A) the Club Interchange Steward must hand to the AFL Interchange Official a completed substitution card, which must include the guernsey number of the Withdrawn Player and the Substitute Player and be signed by the Club Interchange Steward (**Substitution Card**);
    - (B) once the completed Substitution Card has been handed to the AFL Interchange Official, the Substitute Player may remove their official Club warm-up top or jacket. Once the Withdrawn Player has left the Playing Surface, the Substitute Player may enter and exit the Playing Surface in accordance with Regulation 12.9;
    - (C) the Withdrawn Player must not take any further part in the Match and, if they remain in the Arena, must at all times for the duration of the Match be seated at the back of the Interchange Bench,

except they will be permitted to enter the Playing Surface during quarter, half-time and three-quarter time breaks (and following the Match) in accordance with Regulation 12.9(b)(v), and wear their official Club warm-up top or jacket, except if prevented from doing so due to the nature of an injury they may have sustained;

- (D) a substitution can occur at any point during a Match including during the quarter time, half time, and three-quarter time breaks;
- (E) where a substitution occurs at the breaks between quarters, the Substitute Player can only take the field at the start of the subsequent quarter if the AFL Interchange Official is in possession of the Substitution Card prior to the siren sounding to indicate the commencement of the quarter.

- (ii) A Withdrawn Player who has been replaced by the Substitute Player is ineligible to play in any match in any other competition during the equivalent round of Matches unless prior approval is granted by the Executive General Manager Football.
- (iii) Nothing in this Regulation 12.5 will change the applicable wait times for a Player to return to the Playing Surface following a Head Injury Assessment or Medical Assessment or in accordance with the Stretcher Rule and the Blood Rule as set out in these Regulations.
- (iv) The Substitute Player may only be used once to replace one (1) Player.

(c) Sanctions

- (i) Any Substitute Player who enters the Playing Surface, prior to the AFL Interchange Official having received the completed Substitution Card and the Withdrawn Player having left the Playing Surface, will be in breach of this Regulation 12.5, following which the AFL Interchange Official will notify an Umpire who will then award the opposing team a Free Kick and 50 metre penalty.
- (ii) Any Withdrawn Player who has been replaced by the Substitute Player and who re-enters the Playing Surface will be in breach of this Regulation 12.5, following which the AFL Interchange Official will notify an Umpire who will then award the opposing team a Free Kick, 50 metre penalty and order the Withdrawn Player to immediately leave the Playing Surface. Any Club or person who contravenes this Regulation shall be liable for a sanction.

Sanction: First offence – up to 25 Units

Second or subsequent offence – up to 50 Units

- (iii) Any Substitute Player or Withdrawn Player who fails to wear their official club warm-up top or jacket in accordance with this Regulation 12.5 will be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: First offence – 1 Unit

Second or subsequent offence – 2 Units

- (iv) Without limiting the ability to impose sanctions under the AFL Rules, the sanction for a breach of this Regulation 12.5 not specifically addressed in this clause 12.5(c) will be determined in accordance with Regulation 12.21.

## 12.6 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 (including breaks);
- (c) The Club Medical Officer must undertake the Head Injury Assessment as soon as practicable (including in relation to any Withdrawn Player);
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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, if required, a Standard Concussion Assessment Tool (**SCAT**) form via the CSx concussion application;
- (f) Without limiting Regulation 12.6(g), any Club in breach of this Regulation 12.5 will be liable to pay a sanction of up to 50 Units; and
- (g) Without limiting Regulation 12.6(f), where a Club is in breach of Regulation 12.6(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 12.6(b).

## 12.7 Permitted Access to Arena

- (a) Unless otherwise stated in this Regulation or by the Executive General Manager Football (including in Regulation 12.2(g)), all persons listed on the Official Team Sheet, other than the three (3) Emergency Players, may enter the Arena:
  - (i) prior to the commencement of a Match for the sole purpose of proceeding to the area designated by the AFL; or
  - (ii) 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.

- (b) A Player not listed on the Official Team Sheet for a Match may enter the Arena prior to the commencement of that Match, during an interval between quarters, or at the completion of that Match for the sole purpose of undertaking a media interview with an Authorised Broadcaster, provided that such Player must exit the Arena immediately following such interview.

## **12.8 Access to and communication from Interchange Bench**

- (a) A person listed on the Official Team Sheet may sit on the Interchange Bench except for:
  - (i) the number of Club Football Officials seated on the Interchange Bench will be subject to Regulation 12.2(g)(i);
  - (ii) Trainers other than the Interchange Bench Trainer;
  - (iii) the three (3) Emergency Players;
  - (iv) any suspended Player or Players who are not listed on the Official Team Sheet;
  - (v) injured Players, other than:
    - (A) those Players injured during the course of a Match; or
    - (B) with the prior approval of the Executive General Manager Football, a Player on a Club's Inactive List or with a long-term injury; and
  - (vi) such other persons nominated by the Executive General Manager Football or their appointee.
- (b) A person sitting on the Interchange Bench must not whistle.

## **12.9 Interchange**

- (a) AFL Interchange Official – Appointment and Duties
  - (i) The Executive General Manager Football may appoint two (2) 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 they are replacing has left the Playing Surface through the Club Interchange Gate, failing which the replacement Player will be reported to the Executive General Manager Football s under Regulation 12.9(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 their entry to the Playing Surface may be subject to a financial sanction, to be imposed on the relevant Club.

Sanction: up to 5 Units

- (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 and one (1) Substitute Player 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 12.9(b), the AFL Interchange Official and/or an Umpire shall report the circumstances of any breach of this Regulation 12.9(b) to the Executive General Manager Football. The Executive General Manager Football may determine the matter by way of fine, change of match result or any other sanction as they deem 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, the Substitute Player 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 Competition, 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;
  - (F) when the Substitute Player replaces a Withdrawn Player in accordance with Regulation 12.5; and
  - (G) 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 12.9(c)(iii) (A)-(F) and subsequently re-enters the Playing Surface, the Interchange is counted in the Interchange Cap.
- (v) Where there is:
- (A) a tie in a Finals Series Match and Additional Time is being played, an Interchange Cap will reset to zero prior to the commencement of the Additional Time, with each Club having a new Interchange Cap of ten (10) for the total of both periods of Additional Time; or
  - (B) Further Additional Time being played, an Interchange Cap will reset to zero prior to the commencement of the Further Additional Time, with each Club having a new Interchange Cap of ten (10) for the total of both periods of Further Additional Time.
- (vi) Subject to Regulation 12.9(c)(iii), 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 metre 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).

### **12.10 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

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

Except for Emergency Players, all Players listed on the Official Team Sheet (including the Substitute Player) 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) The three (3) Emergency Players included in the Official Team Sheet shall not:
  - (i) enter the Arena after the Official Team Sheet has been lodged 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Match; and
  - (ii) sit on the Interchange Bench at any time throughout the Match.
- (b) The three (3) Emergency Players included in the Official Team Sheet 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) two (2) boards may be used at the same time provided that the total size of the two (2) boards combined must not exceed 800mm x 600mm;
- (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 one Club Football Official with Arena access accreditation within the interchange area.

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

Only 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 their Club. The Team Runner must be making their 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 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 Executive General Manager Football

#### 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 they have been listed with or played for a Club; or
  - (ii) if they are a member of the Club's coaching staff involved in the Club's selection or match committee in the year of their intended appointment.
- (c) A Club shall register its Team Runner with the AFL by providing written notice to the Executive General Manager Football within one (1) 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 listed on the Official Team Sheet is unable to act due to an injury, illness or personal circumstances that arise following lodgement of the Official Team Sheet, a Club shall advise the name of the substituted Team Runner to the AFL Interchange Official as soon as practicable prior to or during 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 Executive General Manager Football

## 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 and Arena location
  - (i) A maximum of five (5) Trainers for each Club may participate in a Match.
  - (ii) One (1) Trainer must remain in the Interchange Area (and will be included in the number of Club Football Officials on the Interchange Bench for the purposes of Regulation 12.2(g)(i)).

- (iii) The remaining Trainers (a maximum of four (4)) must be positioned as set out in Regulation 12.2(g)(iv).

(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 this 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 their 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 Executive General Manager Football.

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

- (a) The Club Medical Officer and the Physiotherapist shall sit on the Interchange Bench (and will be included in the number of Club Football Officials on the Interchange Bench for the purposes of Regulation 12.2(g)(i)) 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 Executive General Manager Football

### 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:
  - (i) A Club must use the fixed communication system at the Match venue or other communication system approved or installed by the AFL for communication between the Interchange Bench and Coaches box.
  - (ii) 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.
  - (iii) 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 Executive General Manager Football (at their 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 Executive General Manager Football, a Club or person contravenes this Regulation 12, the Club shall be liable to a sanction as specified at the foot of the relevant provision, or as determined by the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football, for all purposes associated with the AFL Competition, a Player shall be known as and referred to by the name under which they were first registered with the AFL, or by the name by which they were usually known prior to that registration, if they seek 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; and
    - (E) 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;
    - (F) recording the Player's name on any List maintained by the Club; and
    - (G) 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, Executive General Manager Football, AFL Medical Director, Arbitrator, Tribunal, Appeal Board or any other person or persons appointed by the Commission or the Executive General Manager Football 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 and 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 to or intimidate an Umpire at any time prior to, during or after a Match including 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 16 of the Laws of Australian Football:

- (a) the Executive General Manager Football 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 16.3; and
- (c) subject to the general powers of the Commission or Executive General Manager Football 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 2023, the previous period of 2 AFL years shall be the period commencing from and including Round 10 in 2021; 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 not be deemed to include an express acceptance 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 Executive General Manager Football may from time to time appoint a person as the Match Review Officer (**Match Review Officer**).

## 16.3 Qualifications

Save and except where the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football may appoint a person who in their opinion is a suitable replacement.

## 16.5 Resignation

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

## 16.6 Removal

The Executive General Manager Football may remove the Match Review Officer at any time in their absolute discretion.

## 16.7 Secretary

The Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football.

## 16.9 Reportable Offence

A Reportable Offence is any Reportable Offence identified in the Laws of Australian Football or these Regulations, including Appendix 1 to these Regulations.

### 16.10 Report or Referral Made by Umpires during Match

#### (a) Obligation to Report or Refer

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

#### (b) Report or Referral During Course of Match

(i) Where an Umpire reports a person or refers a matter to the Match Review Officer during the course of a Match, the Umpire must inform the relevant person of the report or referral to the Match Review Officer:

- (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 or referral to the Match Review Officer where it is impractical to inform the person who has been reported.

#### (c) Completion of Notice of Report or Incident Referral Form for report or referral made during Match

(i) As soon as practical after the completion of the Match, the Umpire shall complete a Notice of Report for a report or Incident Referral Form for a referral in the forms prescribed in Schedule 1.

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

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

#### (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 Executive General Manager Football
- (i) The Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football completes an Incident Referral Form under Regulation 16.11(e)(i) the Executive General Manager Football 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 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 AFL Integrity and Security Department

- (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 AFL Integrity and Security Department by notifying the AFL Integrity and Security Department 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 AFL Integrity and Security Department 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 AFL Integrity and Security Department:

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

## (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 Match Review Secretary; and
- (C) provide a copy of the Notice of Charge to the charged person, their Club and any other Player and the Club of any other such Player directly involved in the charge.

- (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 Executive General Manager Football Notwithstanding any other provision of these Regulations, if the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Match Review Secretary. At the time of lodging the Notice with the Match Review Secretary, the Executive General Manager Football shall provide a copy of the Notice of Charge to the charged person, their Club, any other Player and the Club of any other such Player directly involved in the charge and the Match Review Officer.

- (i) The powers of the Executive General Manager Football under this Regulation 16.12(h) may be exercised regardless of whether the Executive General Manager Football 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)(vii), where a Player has received a Notice of Charge from the Match Review Officer under Regulation 16.12(g) or the Executive General Manager Football 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 or not guilty to the offence.
  - (ii) A Player may elect to plead guilty or not 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 or such later time as determined by the AFL.
  - (iii) Subject to Regulation 16.12(i)(vi), if a Player pleads guilty by lodging a Notice of Early Plea in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(ii), upon receipt by the Match Review Secretary of that Notice of Early Plea, the Player shall be deemed to have accepted the relevant sanction set out in Appendix 1.
  - (iv) If a Player does not submit a Notice of Early Plea in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(ii), at 11.00 a.m. on the day after notification of the charge, or such later time as is determined by the AFL under Regulation 16.12(i)(ii), the Player shall be deemed to have accepted the relevant sanction set out in Appendix 1.
  - (v) 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 contains a plea of not guilty, or 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.
  - (vi) Where a Player has received a Notice of Charge from the Match Review Officer under Regulation 16.12(g) or the Executive General Manager Football 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.
  - (vii) Where Early Plea Not Available

- (A) Where the Match Review Officer or the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Regulation 16.12(g), in which case the reported Player shall be dealt with by the Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 16.12(j).
  - (B) Where the Match Review Officer charges a Player in accordance with Regulation 16.12(g) for a Reportable Offence specified as a "Classifiable Offence" in Appendix 1, and the relevant factors of the Reportable Offence are graded by the Match Review Officer in such a way that requires the Match Review Officer to directly refer the Reportable Offence to the Tribunal in accordance with the grading table in item 1(b) of Appendix 1, the charged Player shall not have the option to enter an Early Plea and shall be dealt with by the Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 16.12(j).
  - (C) Where the Match Review Officer charges a Player in accordance with Regulation 16.12(g) for a Reportable Offence specified as a "Direct Tribunal Offence" in Appendix 1, the charged Player shall not have the option to enter an Early Plea and shall be dealt with by the Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 16.12(j).
- (j) Players Who Elect to Plead Not Guilty, Other Persons and Other Reportable Offences
- (i) Where:
    - (A) a Player pleads not guilty in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(ii) or guilty on the basis of an alternative classification in accordance with Regulation 16.12(vi); 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;
    - (D) notification referred to in Regulation 16.12(i)(vii)(A) has been given by the Match Review Officer or the Executive General Manager Football;
    - (E) the Match Review Officer has charged a Player in accordance Regulation 16.12(i)(vii)(B); or
    - (F) the Match Review Officer has charged a Player in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(vii)(C),

the matter shall be dealt with by the Tribunal.

- (ii) Where Regulation 16.12(j)(i) applies, 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

- (i) The Match Review Officer or the Executive General Manager Football 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).
- (ii) Where a Player pleads not guilty to a Reportable Offence pursuant to Regulation 16.12(i)(ii) or pleads guilty to a Reportable Offence on the basis of a different classification pursuant to Regulation 16.12(i)(vi), that Player may apply to the Executive General Manager Football at any time prior to the commencement of the applicable Tribunal hearing to accept the relevant sanction set out in Appendix 1 as if the Player had submitted a Notice of Early Plea in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(iii). Following receipt of such application, the Executive General Manager Football may in their sole discretion:
  - (A) reject the application, in which case the matter will be determined by the Tribunal; or
  - (B) accept the application, in which case the Player will be deemed to have accepted the relevant sanction set out in Appendix 1, provided that the Executive General Manager Football may in their sole discretion elect to require payment of the fee set out in Regulation 16.12(l), and apply any consequences in relation to such fee that are set out in Appendix 1, as if the matter were heard by the Tribunal.

(l) Tribunal Fee

Where a Player is charged with a Reportable Offence specified as a "Classifiable Offence" in Appendix 1, and a suspension is the prescribed penalty, if the Player does not elect to accept an Early Plea in accordance with Regulation 16.12(i)(ii) or where the Player disputes the classification of the relevant factors set out in the Notice of Charge under Regulation 16.12(i)(vi), 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 in the relevant competition or has been removed by the body which imposed it unless otherwise directed by the Executive General Manager Football in exceptional and compelling circumstances.

### **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 match that their Club is scheduled to play in the competition in which the suspension was imposed. 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 Premiership Competition.

### **17.3 Club Practice Match**

A person who is suspended or disqualified must not participate in any Pre-Season Competition Match or Club practice Match unless otherwise directed by the Executive General Manager Football or the body that has imposed the suspension or disqualification.

### **17.4 Club Practice Match**

For the purposes of this Regulation 17, 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 they are unable to serve that suspension in the State Body competition and, as a consequence, they are 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 Executive General Manager Football within seven (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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Counsel 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

(i) Subject to Regulation 19.1(c)(ii), whenever the Tribunal is to deal with a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal shall comprise three persons being:

- (A) a senior member of the legal profession appointed for that hearing as Chairperson (**Chairperson**);
- (B) a panel of two persons who in the opinion of the General Counsel possess a knowledge of Australian Football to act as panel members for that hearing as required under these Regulations (**Tribunal Panel Members**).

(ii) Whenever the Tribunal is to deal with a Reportable Offence and the prescribed penalty for the Reportable Offence as specified in Appendix 1 is a financial sanction:

- (A) subject to Regulation 19.1(c)(ii)(C), the charged Player may elect to have the matter determined by a single Tribunal Panel Member who is a member of the legal profession on the basis of written submissions only (**Tribunal Determination on Written Submissions**).
- (B) Where such an election is made, these Regulations will be varied as the circumstances necessarily require to accommodate the Tribunal Determination on Written Submissions including as may be prescribed by guidelines made in accordance with Regulation 19.2(g).
- (C) If the charged Player seeks to provide evidence to the Tribunal that requires leave or permission of the Chairperson, the charged Player must provide to the Tribunal Secretary a written statement containing the substance of the evidence that is proposed to be provided by no later than 11.00am on the day after notification of the charge in relation to a Reportable Offence, and the charged Player may not elect for a Tribunal Determination on Written Submissions without the consent of the General Counsel.

(d) Qualifications

Save and except where the General Counsel 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 Counsel may appoint a person who in their opinion is a suitable replacement.

(f) Resignation

A person appointed to the Tribunal may resign by providing notice in writing to the General Counsel.

(g) Removal

The General Counsel may remove a person appointed to the Tribunal at any time in their absolute discretion.

(h) Appointment of Secretary

The General Counsel 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 Chairperson 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) Chairperson

The Chairperson shall determine all questions of law, evidence or procedure and give such instructions in such manner as the Chairperson thinks fit. Without limitation, the Chairperson may give instructions 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 Chairperson will not be required to provide instructions on matters that are expressly dealt with in these Regulations or any Guidelines issued by the AFL pursuant to Regulation 19.2(g). The Chairperson may give instructions to any person appearing before the Tribunal and to the Tribunal Panel Members prior to or during any deliberation on any question of fact and the Chairperson (along with the Tribunal Panel Members) will decide questions of fact.

## (iii) Tribunal Panel Members

Whenever the Tribunal is to deal with a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal Panel Members (along with the Chairperson) shall decide questions of fact and take instructions from the Chairperson 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 Chairperson, 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 Chairperson allows a person to adduce evidence from an expert witness or on any other occasion, the Tribunal may at the instructions of the Chairperson, hear or receive 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 Counsel, 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 Tribunal hearing and Tribunal Determination on Written Submissions and in relation to any other matter dealt with in Appendix 1 of these Regulations. 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:

- (i) the manner of a hearing including pleading, order of witnesses, instructions, evidence by telephone, teleconferencing or videoconferencing, persons entitled to attend the hearing and any other matters deemed appropriate; and
- (ii) the length, form and nature of the written submissions.

### **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 (being the Chairperson and the two Tribunal Panel Members) 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 and 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 must apply the sanction prescribed in Appendix 1 in accordance with the classification of the Match Review Officer or the Executive General Manager Football under Regulations 16.12(g) or 16.12(h) save where:
  - (i) the Tribunal determines that the relevant Reportable Offence or Offences should be classified differently in which case the sanction shall be determined by the Tribunal 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 Executive General Manager Football or the Tribunal as the case may be, in which case the Tribunal 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:
  - (i) Regulation 16.12(i)(vii)(A) the sanction shall be determined by the Tribunal as they in their absolute discretion see fit;
  - (ii) Regulation 16.12(i)(vii)(B), the sanction shall be determined by the Tribunal as they see fit but, unless exceptional and compelling circumstances apply in which case Regulation 19.6(a)(ii) will apply, the sanction will be determined within the parameters of the grading table in item 1(b) of Appendix 1;
  - (iii) Regulation 16.12(i)(vii)(C), the sanction shall be determined by the Tribunal as they in their absolute discretion think fit;
  - (iv) The Tribunal 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 may alternatively 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 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 or Executive General Manager Football (as applicable) 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 determines 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's classification.
- (f) For the purposes of this Regulation:
  - (i) A Player is successful if, and only if, the Tribunal determines 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 Chairperson may give instructions on any matter or thing not provided for by these Regulations in relation to any proceeding before the Tribunal.

## **19.8 Reasons for Decisions**

At the conclusion of a Tribunal hearing or a Tribunal Determination of Written Submissions, the Tribunal will give brief reasons for any decision made by it under this Regulation.

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

The General Counsel 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 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 Chairperson, 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 Chairperson, be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chairperson directs.

### **19.12 Representative**

Where the Chairperson is of the opinion that a representative of a Player or person appearing before the Tribunal has failed to observe instructions of the Chairperson or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairperson 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 unless the Executive General Manager Football seeks leave of the Chair to determine otherwise where there are exceptional and compelling circumstances which would make it inappropriate, unsafe or unreasonable to require a charged Player or person to attend.
- (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 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 instructions of the Chairperson 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 Chairperson.
- (b) Subject to the Chairperson 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 Chairperson 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 Chairperson may direct the Tribunal Panel 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 Chairperson 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(c), 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) and except in relation to Tribunal Determinations on Written Submissions, 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 Chairperson may excuse a person from appearing before the Tribunal if the Chairperson 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 Counsel or Chairperson 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 Counsel or Chairperson 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 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 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 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 Counsel 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 Counsel shall determine in their 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 Counsel. 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 that had a material impact on the decision of the Tribunal;
- (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 Counsel May Appeal

The General Counsel 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 Counsel 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 Chairperson or Tribunal Panel 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 Chairperson (**Chairperson of the Appeal Board**);
- (b) a panel of two persons who in the opinion of the General Counsel 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 Counsel 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 Counsel may appoint a person who in their opinion is a suitable replacement.

## **20.8 Resignation**

A person comprising the Appeal Board may resign by providing notice in writing to the General Counsel.

## **20.9 Removal**

The General Counsel may remove a person from the Appeal Board at any time at its absolute discretion.

## **20.10 Appointment of Secretary**

The General Counsel 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 \$10,000, \$5,000 of which will be considered to

be Football Department Expenditure for the purposes of Rule 50 of the AFL Rules, unless refunded in accordance with Regulation 20.26(a).

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 Chairperson 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 Procedure and Evidence**

The AFL may make guidelines, not inconsistent with these Regulations, for the practice and procedure with respect to an Appeal Board hearing. Any such guidelines shall be directory in nature and any decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of a guideline not being followed. Without limitation, such guidelines may direct the timing for provision of written submissions by persons entitled to attend the hearing, time limits for the making of oral submissions during the hearing, and any other matters deemed appropriate by the General Counsel.

### **20.17 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 20.18(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.

### **20.18 Adjournment and Stay of Sanction**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 20.18(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 20.18(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 20.18(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.

### **20.19 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 Chairperson directs.
- (b) At any hearing before the Tribunal, Tribunal Counsel shall be entitled to appear until or unless excused by the Chairperson of the Appeal Board.

### **20.20 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.

### **20.21 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.

## **20.22 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.

## **20.23 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.

## **20.24 Reasons for Decisions**

At the conclusion of a hearing before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board will give brief reasons for a decision under Regulation 20.22.

## **20.25 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.

## **20.26 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 shall be refunded on receipt by the AFL of an appropriate tax invoice.
- (b) Where an appeal is successful and:
  - (i) the Appeal Board determines that no Reportable Offence has been committed; or
  - (ii) a Player has lodged a Notice of Early Plea disputing the classification of the Match Review Officer or Executive General Manager Football (as applicable) but pleading guilty to the Reportable Offence as classified and set out by the Player in the Notice of Early Plea and where the Appeal Board determines that the Reportable Offence should be classified in accordance with that set out by the Player in the Notice of Early Plea,

the payment made under Regulation 16.12(l) shall also be refunded on receipt by the AFL of an appropriate tax invoice.

- (c) Where an appeal is not successful, the payment made under Regulation 20.12 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.

### **20.27 Costs**

Each party to an appeal shall bear their own costs.

### **20.28 Abandon Appeal**

- (a) Subject to Regulation 20.28(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 shall be refunded.
- (b) Subject to Regulation 20.26(c), where an appellant abandons the appeal during the conduct of the appeal, the payment made under Regulation 20.12 shall not be refunded.

### **20.29 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 20.17(a) and 20.17(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.

### **20.30 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 Counsel 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 Counsel shall determine in their 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

**20.31 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, or such place as nominated by the Executive General Manager Football, 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.

## 22. AFL Rising Star Award

### 22.1 Voting

- (a) A panel of 3 members appointed by the Executive General Manager Football (**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 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football shall nominate one of the panel members as Chairperson and one of the panel members as Deputy Chairperson.
- (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 Chairperson. If none of the Equal Leaders received votes from the Chairperson the Norm Smith Medal/ANZAC Medal will be awarded to the Equal Leader that received the most votes from the Deputy Chairperson.

## 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 Executive General Manager Football; and
  - (iii) the All Australian Selectors.
- (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the Chairperson 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 Executive General Manager Football (**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 (2) or more Players receive an equal number of votes under Regulation 26.2(d) (**Equal Leaders**), the following will apply:
  - (i) The AFL Mark/Goal of the Year will be awarded to the Equal Leader who received the greatest number of five votes.
  - (ii) If the Equal Leaders received the same number of five votes, the AFL Mark/Goal of the Year will be awarded to the Equal Leader who received the greatest number of four votes.
  - (iii) If the Equal Leaders received the same number of four votes, the AFL Mark/Goal of the Year will be awarded to the Equal Leader who received the greatest number of votes from the Chairperson of the All Australian Selection Committee.
  - (iv) If the Equal Leaders did not receive votes from the Chairperson, the AFL Mark/Goal of the Year will be awarded to the Equal Leader who received

the most votes from the Deputy Chairperson of the All Australian Committee.

## **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, 0, 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 and Regulations.

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

### **28.1 Name**

The name of the perpetual trophy to be awarded to the Champion Club pursuant to Regulation 28.2 in each year shall be named the "Dr. William. C. McClelland Trophy" (Trophy).

### **28.2 Award**

- (a) The Trophy will be awarded to the best-performed Club across all Home and Away Matches in both elite AFL Competitions in each year (**Champion Club**).
- (b) Subject to Regulation 28.2(c), the Champion Club will be determined as follows:
  - (i) four Trophy points will be awarded to the winner of each Home and Away Match in the elite men's AFL Competition;
  - (ii) two Trophy points will be awarded to each Club which competes in a Home and Away Match that is drawn, cancelled or unable to be completed in the elite men's AFL Competition;
  - (iii) eight Trophy points will be awarded to the winner of each Home and Away Match in the elite women's AFL Competition; and
  - (iv) four Trophy points will be awarded to each Club which competes in a Home and Away Match that is drawn, cancelled or unable to be completed in the elite women's AFL Competition.
- (c) Where, at the completion of the Home and Away Matches, two or more Clubs have accumulated the same aggregate Trophy points, the Club which has recorded the highest aggregate percentage points across all Home and Away Matches in both elite AFL Competitions will be the Champion Club.

### **28.3 Trophy**

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

## **29. Media Rights for 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 and licensing of the media rights for AFL Spectacles 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 transmission of AFL Spectacles.
- (d) Income from the sale of media rights and the quality and extent of the transmission of AFL Spectacles is maximised by the AFL dealing exclusively in the right to transmit 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 media 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) "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 or Promotional Matches, 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.
- (b) "Authorised Broadcaster" means any entity nominated by the AFL from time to time as being authorised to transmit AFL Spectacles.
- (c) "Draft Selection Meeting" has the same meaning referred to in the AFL Rules.
- (d) "transmit" means any transmission, broadcast or other communication of visual, audio-visual or audio content, and includes without limitation the transmission, broadcast or other communication of content via television, radio, internet, mobile device or other technology or platform (whether presently known or

hereafter devised). The expression 'transmission' shall be construed accordingly.

### **29.3 Media Rights for AFL Spectacles Vest in AFL**

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

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

The entitlement to grant all rights to transmit 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 transmit AFL Spectacles or grant any rights to transmit 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 transmit 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 transmission of AFL Spectacles including without limitation reasonable and unobstructed camera positions required for the transmission 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 transmission or making a recording of any AFL Spectacle, provide separate facilities necessary for the transmission 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 transmission or recording 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 (a) – (e) 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 (a) – (e) 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 (a)-(e) 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 transmission 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 transmission 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 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 Access Policy; and
- (b) 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 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) before, during, and 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 Access Policy shall be subject to the sanction as prescribed in the AFL Broadcaster Access Policy or if no amount is set out, such sanction as the General Manager – Finance, Clubs and Broadcast may determine in their 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 Executive General Manager Football, or their appointee, in that person's absolute discretion. Without limitation, the Executive General Manager Football, or their 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 or Other Aerial Obstruction**

- (a) A Player commits a Reportable Offence if they intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks or otherwise causes the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure, an aerial broadcast camera or other aerial obstruction.
- (b) Where a Player intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks or otherwise causes the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure, an aerial broadcast camera or other aerial obstruction 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 otherwise 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 throw up the football at the position on the Playing Surface nearest to where the football hit the stadium roof structure.
- (d) If a Player accidentally kicks or otherwise causes the football to hit an aerial broadcast camera or other aerial obstruction which is above the Playing Surface, play will be stopped and the field Umpire shall throw up the football at the position on the Playing Surface nearest to where the football hit the aerial broadcast camera or other aerial obstruction.

## **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 Executive General Manager Football to Determine Sanction**

The amount of Sanction imposed on a Club or Clubs under Regulation 32.1 shall be determined by the Executive General Manager Football 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 Club Football Official of the Home Club shall notify the Executive General Manager Football or such other person who they 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 Executive General Manager Football or other person designated by them, 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 Executive General Manager Football or other person designated by them 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.

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 unless otherwise advised by the AFL at its absolute discretion.

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 Executive General Manager Football, or other persons designated by them from time to time, and the Executive General Manager Football or such designated person decides that the Match is not able to proceed.
- (b) The Executive General Manager Football, or the person designated by them, 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 recommence within a 60 minute period or such other period determined by the AFL, the Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football, or such other person designated by them from time to time, may determine in their 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 Executive General Manager Football 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 or 33.3 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 they do 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 AFL 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 AFL 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 Executive General Manager Football determines in their 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 Executive General Manager Football.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units

- (b) The Executive General Manager Football may have regard to any matters which they consider relevant in exercising their 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 dressing 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 Executive General Manager Football may, without being obliged to do so, consult with the AFL Medical Director prior to exercising their discretion to approve or disapprove the use of a motorised conveyance.
- (d) The Executive General Manager Football 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 their actions;
- (b) is not in a fit state to play or continue to play, having due regard to their 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 their actions; or
- (b) is not in a fit state to play or continue to play or train, having due regard for their 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 their actions or in a fit state to play or train having due regard for their 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 they 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, "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 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 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 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 they, in their 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 their 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 they are 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 they are 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 their 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 their 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 they do 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 11.2 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 their 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 their uniform, have the piece of uniform removed and replaced; and/or
  - (ii) in the case of blood being on any part of their 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 24.3 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 24.3 or 24.4 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 they are at that time Actively Bleeding. However, this Regulation is subject to Law 15.6 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**

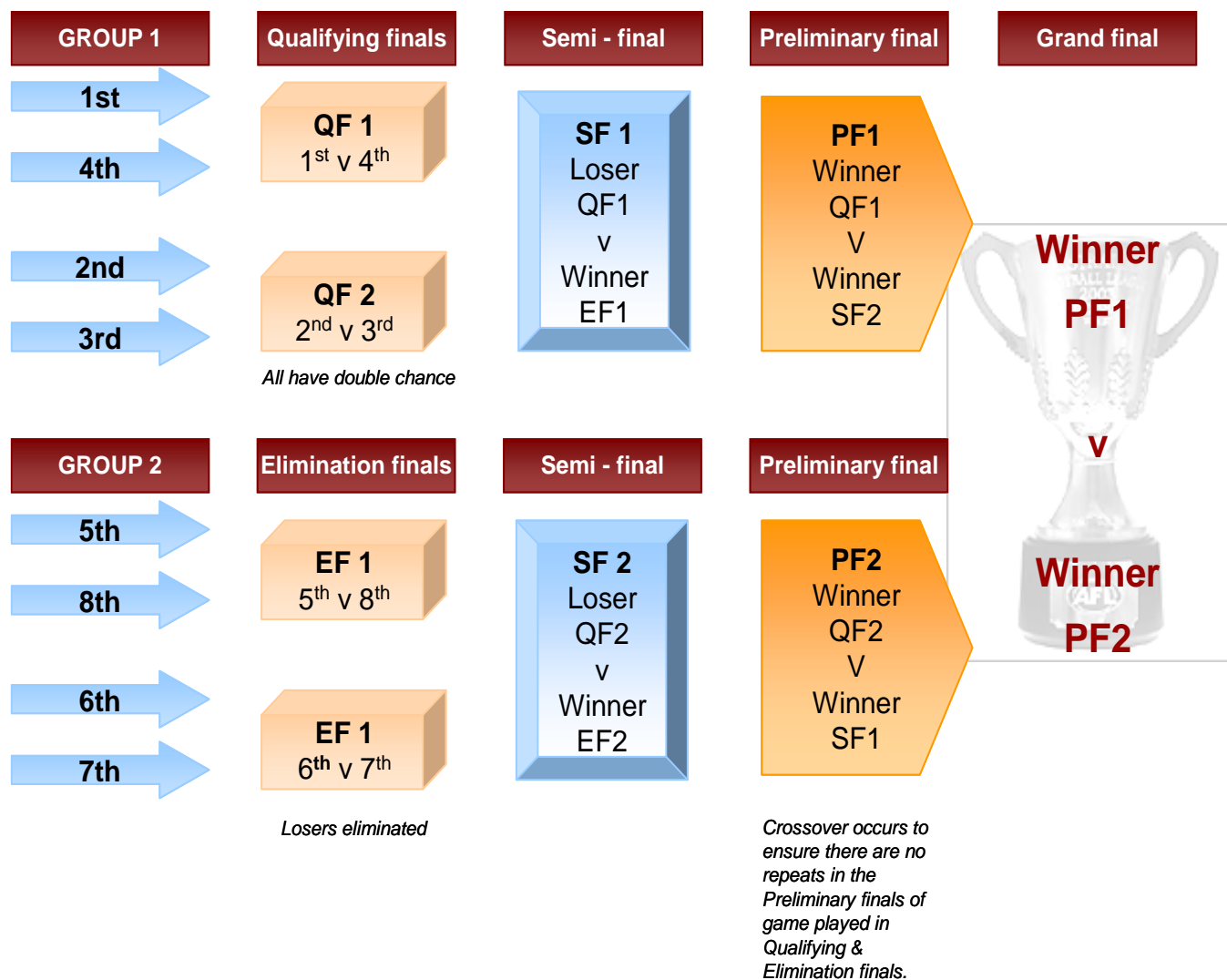
Unless Regulation 36.4 applies, a Trainer or other personnel responsible for the treatment of Players shall not provide treatment to a Player on the Playing Surface for any cut, abrasion or other injury involving the discharge of blood.

Sanction: Maximum 10 Units



### 37. Health and Safety Guidelines

- (a) The General Counsel may issue guidelines to protect Player health and safety at Matches and training sessions or other AFL sanctioned events including, but not limited to, guidelines that address the risk of head high contact and concussion (**Health and Safety Guidelines**).
- (b) Each relevant Person must comply with any Healthy and Safety Guidelines issued.

## Annexure 1 – Final Eight System



## Annexure 2 – Official Team Sheet

 <b>TOYOTA AFL PREMIERSHIP SEASON</b> <b>OFFICIAL TEAM SHEET</b> 													
To be lodged with the AFL Interchange Official no later than 60 minutes prior to the official match starting time													
MATCH:								DATE:					
CLUB:						VENUE:				TIME:			
PLAYERS: (Numerical Order)						OFFICIALS: (Access to Arena inc. ¼ & ½ Time)							
No:	SURNAME:	INITIALS				TITLE	NAME						
1						1	Coach						
2						2	Coach						
3						3	Coach						
4						4	Coach						
5						5	Team Manager						
6						6	I/C Steward						
7						7	Medical Officer 1						
8						8	Medical Officer 2						
9						9	Physiotherapist						
10						10	Physiotherapist						
11						11	Runner (No. _____)						
12						12	Fitness/Warm Up						
13						13	Bench Trainer (Reg No _____)						
14						14	Trainer (Reg No _____)						
15						15	Trainer (Reg No _____)						
16						16	Trainer (Reg No _____)						
17						17	Trainer (Reg No _____)						
18						18							
19						19							
20						20							
21						21							
22						22							
						23							
						24							
						25							
						26							
						27							
<b>EMERGENCY PLAYERS</b>													
NB: Not permitted on arena unless replaced in accordance with AFL Regulation 12, Unless Medical Substitute Player (SUJR)													
No:	SURNAME:	INITIALS				LEGEND							
1						IP	Indicates those starting on the interchange bench						
2						C	Indicates Captain						
3						CB	Coach Box						
4						BN	Bench						
						FD	Field						
						BO	Breaks Only						
						GM	General Manager						
						SUB	Indicates Medical Substitute Player						
Club I/C Steward		NAME:				SIGNATURE:				LODGEMENT TIME:			
AFL I/C Official		NAME:				SIGNATURE:				LODGEMENT TIME:			
<b>ONLY THOSE PERSONS INDICATED ON THIS SHEET SHALL BE PERMITTED ONTO THE ARENA IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFL REGULATION 12.</b>													



## Annexure 3 - Late Amendment to Official 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 / Substitute

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

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

#### 2. REPLACEMENT PLAYER(S)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Substitute) No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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

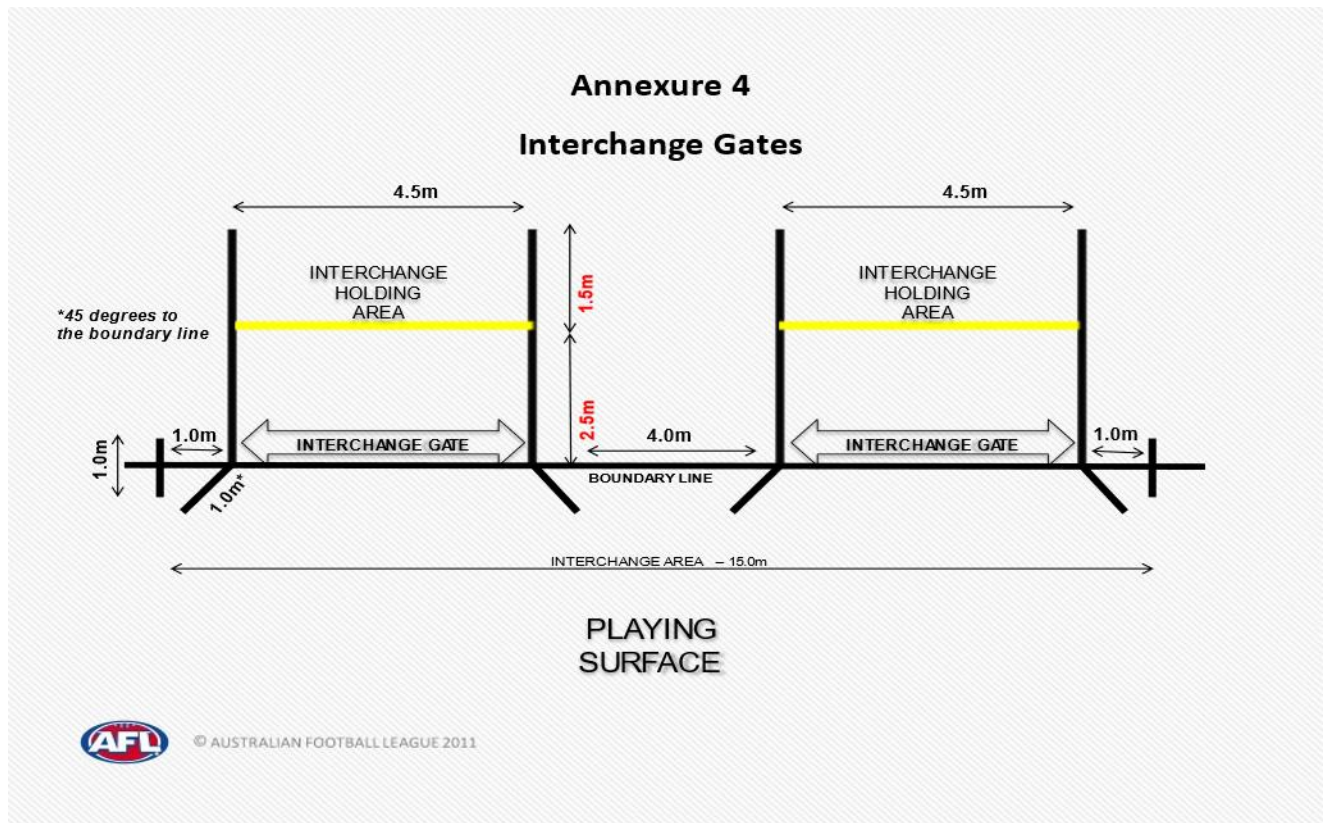
Signed : ..... ..

AFL Club Team Manager

AFL Interchange Official

Print Name: ..... ..

## Annexure 4 – Interchange Gates



## Annexure 5 – Protective Equipment Application

TO: Executive General Manager Football  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

(FOOTBALL MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

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

(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**

**Executive General Manager Football 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 22.2.2 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	Tripping
Rough Conduct	
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 or more Matches** (Tribunal)
		Body	3 or more 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 or more Matches** (Tribunal)
		Body	2 or more 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

\*\* Refer (h) below for the treatment of Classifiable Offences graded as Severe Impact.

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 charge 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 their 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. 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 22.2.2(a)(v) (Rough Conduct) and 22.2.2(a)(vi) (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 contact that is at least “Low” Impact to be made with any part of their 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 it was reasonable for the player to contest the ball in that way; 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.

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

Bumping or making contact that is at least “Low” Impact to an opponent from front-on when that opponent has their head 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 it was reasonable for the player to contest the ball in that way; 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 their head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have their 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 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. The MRO may however consider the potential to cause injury to upgrade Impact from negligible to a higher level of 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 to the top of 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 usually 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. However, the MRO may in their sole discretion classify such contact as to the Body where the Impact to the Body is higher, and where classifying the contact as to the Body would result in a higher sanction.

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

For Classifiable Offences where the sanction is fixed at a 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 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), they 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 for Classifiable Offences resulting in fixed one, two or three match suspensions the club will be levied \$10,000, \$5,000 of which will be considered Football Department Expenditure for the purpose of Rule 50 of the AFL Rules.

**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 for Classifiable Offences resulting in fixed one, two or three match suspensions the club will be levied \$10,000, which will be considered Football Department Expenditure for the purpose of Rule 50 of the AFL Rules.

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

Where a Player commits multiple low-level Classifiable Offences in the previous two AFL years or in the period from Round 1 of the 2023 AFL Season to the most

recent low-level Classifiable Offence, whichever period commenced later, 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:

Conduct	Impact	Contact	First Offence	Early Guilty Plea	Second Offence	Second Early Guilty Plea	Third Offence	Third Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Low	Body	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$6,250	\$3,750	\$10,000	\$6,250
Careless	Medium	Body	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$6,250	\$3,750	\$10,000	\$6,250
	Low	High/Groin	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$6,250	\$3,750	\$10,000	\$6,250
		Body	\$3,125	\$1,875	\$5,000	\$3,125	\$7,500	\$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 the Table of Offences to the determined classification). This record refers only to matches played at AFL or State League level. In such circumstances, the Tribunal would determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion.

**(h) Classifiable Offences graded as Severe Impact**

In respect of a charge for a Classifiable Offence where the Impact is graded by the MRO as Severe, if only the minimum prescribed sanction (set out in the table in section (b) above) is sought by the MRO, at the AFL's discretion the MRO will specify that minimum prescribed sanction and the Player may submit a Notice of Early Plea and accept the sanction without the matter being referred directly to the Tribunal. If the MRO does not specify that the minimum prescribed sanction is sought, the charge will be referred to the Tribunal and the charged Player will not have the option to enter an early plea.

## **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
Serious Misconduct

**(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 will determine the appropriate sanction for a Direct Tribunal Offence in its absolute discretion. The Chairperson will communicate Tribunal outcomes with a verbal explanation briefly outlining the reasons for the decision, developed in conjunction with the Tribunal Panel Members.

### 3 Fixed Financial Offences

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

<b>Fixed Financial Offences</b>	<b>Sanction (Early Guilty Plea sanction in brackets)</b>		
	<b>First Offence</b>	<b>Second Offence</b>	<b>Third &amp; Subsequent Offences</b>
Abusive, Insulting, Threatening, Obscene Language Towards or in Relation to an Umpire	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Instigator of Melee / Wrestling	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Spitting at Another Player	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Striking	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)

an Umpire			
Attempt to Strike/ Kick/ Trip	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Careless Contact with an Umpire	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Disputing Decision	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Obscene Gesture	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Pinching	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Scratching	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Tripping	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Staging	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Wrestling / Engaging in a Melee	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Interfering with Player Kicking for Goal	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Not Leaving Playing Surface	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Shaking Goal Post	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
Time Wasting	\$1,875 (\$1,250)	\$3,125 (\$1,875)	\$5,000 (\$3,125)
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.

## 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.

Engaging in a Melee / Wrestle
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Instigator of a Melee / Wrestle
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## **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
<b>FORM 17</b>	Notice of Appeal	<b>20.12</b>
<b>FORM 21</b>	Notice of Report	<b>16.10</b>
<b>FORM 25</b>	Incident Referral Form	<b>16.11</b>
<b>FORM 27</b>	Notice of Referred Charge	<b>16.12</b>
<b>FORM 28</b>	Notice of Early Plea	<b>16.12</b>
<b>FORM 29</b>	Notice of Charge	<b>16.12</b>
<b>FORM 30</b>	Notice for Investigation	<b>16.12</b>
<b>FORM 31</b>	Medical Report	<b>16.12</b>