



VICTORIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

REGULATIONS

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1. General

1.1 Introduction

- (a) The Governing Body administers, operates and conducts the State League Competition.
- (b) These Regulations apply to Clubs and other persons involved in or participating in the State League Competition.
- (c) These Regulations may be amended by the Governing Body from time to time at its absolute discretion.

1.2 Definitions

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

Additional Time: for the purpose of Regulation 12.10, 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 (ACN 004 155 211).

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

AFL Club: an Australian football club which has the right to participate in the Australian football competition conducted by or the AFL.

AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy: the AFL policy relating to violence against women and the creation of safe, supportive and inclusive environments for women and girls as amended from time to time by the AFL.

Appeal Board: the appeal board established in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

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 area.

Australian Football Contingency: any contingency relating to Australian football, including any match, event, outcome, performance metric or other circumstance capable of forming the subject of a wager at any level of competition.

Away Club: the Club deemed to be the Away Club under Regulation 12.4(a)(ii).

Club: an Australian football club which has the right to participate in the State League Competition.

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

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

Club Licence Agreement: an agreement between the Club and the Governing Body whereby the Club is granted the right to field a team in the State League Competition.

Club Doctor: a medical doctor, registered as a practitioner by AHPRA, and appointed by the Club to provide medical services to Players

Club Official means:

- (a) any director, employee (excluding Players), servant or agent of a Club; or
- (b) any other person, whether volunteer or paid, who is engaged by a Club or engaged by a contractor or sub-contractor of a Club:
 - (i) to work with, treat, advise or assist a Player or the football department of a Club in relation to participation in or preparation for the State League Competition and does so on an ongoing or regular basis; or
 - (ii) to work with, treat, advise or assist a Player or the football department of a Club in relation to participation in or preparation for the State League Competition and does so on the premises of the Club; or
 - (iii) to at any time undertake official duties for the Club in connection with the playing of a Match.

Club Sponsor: a person, corporation or entity from time to time holding the right to associate its name, reputation, image, products or services the with Club or who or which is otherwise designated by the relevant Club to be a sponsor or partner.

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

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

Communication Device: includes the following communication devices:

- (a) mobile telephone or similar device;
- (c) tablet device;
- (d) computer; and
- (e) smart watch.

Community Administration Platform: any website or application notified by the Governing Body from time to time to assist with the administration and operation of the State League Competition.

Competition Manager: the person appointed by the Governing Body to that position or their nominee.

Competition Regulations: the regulations of that name made by the Governing Body from time to time.

Complaints Officer: the person appointed by the Governing Body under Regulation 35.2.

Constitution: the memorandum and articles of association or constitution of the Governing Body.

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: unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body, the 23rd, 24th, 25th or 26th Players of a Team who may, in accordance with these Regulations, be substituted for another Player selected in the Team.

Final Ten System: means 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 Governing Body at the conclusion of the Finals Series.

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

Final Series Match: any Match played as part of the Final Series.

Further Additional Time: for the purpose of Regulation 12.10, 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).

Governing Body: Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited.

Governing Body Logo: the mark or logo of the Governing Body as amended from time to time by the Governing Body.

Governing Body Rules and Regulations: means any rule, regulation, law, code, agreement, procedure, policy, guideline, direction or resolution made or adopted by the Governing Body that relates to the administration, operation and conduct of the State League Competition and includes without limitation these Regulations, any Competition Regulations, Laws of Australian Football, VFL List Rules, National Community Football Policy Handbook and the Constitution.

Home and Away Matches: any match for which Premiership Points are awarded not being a Finals Series Match, representative Match or exhibition Match.

Home Club: the Club deemed to be the Home Club under Regulation 12.4(a)(ii).

Home Venue: the venue at which a Club will play Matches as the Home Club, as approved by the Governing Body.

Illicit Drug Policy: the policy governing the use of illicit drugs by AFL-listed Players which is determined or adopted by the Governing Body, 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 by the Governing Body from time to time as the Interchange Area.

Interchange Bench: a bench located on the perimeter of the Arena at which Interchange Players and other persons required under Regulation 20 shall sit during a Match.

Interchange Gate: the area designated as the Interchange Gate by the Governing Body.

Interchange Player: unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body, the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Players of a Team who are not on the field of play at the commencement of a Match.

Laws of Australian Football: the "Laws of the Game" published by the AFL from time to time.

List: in respect of each Club, any or all of its Players registered with the Club in accordance with these Regulations and the List Rules.

List Rules: the rules of that name made by the Governing Body from time to time.

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

Melee Matrix Grading System: the melee matrix grading system notified to all Clubs by the Governing Body prior to the start of the Season, as updated or superseded from time to time.

National Community Football Policy Handbook: means the National Community Football Policy Handbook published by the AFL and updated from time to time.

Notifiable Conduct: means conduct which may constitute an offence for which the prescribed maximum penalty is a term of imprisonment.

Officer or Officer of a Club: an Officer as defined in the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and without limitation shall include the President, Chairperson, Vice President, Vice Chairperson, General Manager, Chief Executive Officer, 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 20.

Person: includes a Club, servant or agent of a Club, Player, Coach, assistant Coach, trainer, runner, Officer, Club Doctor, employee, independent contractor or volunteer of a Club or any other person within the purview of these Regulations.

Physiotherapist: an individual with d byAHPRA unrestricted registration with the AHPRA in the Physiotherapy category appointed by the club to provide physiotherapy services to players.

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 or a person within the purview of these Regulations.

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

Premiership Ladder: the ranking of Clubs as determined under Regulations 12.4(c) and 12.11.

Premiership Points: the points awarded to a Club during Home and Away Matches as set out in Regulation 12.4(b).

Regulations or these Regulations: these Regulations, being the regulations of the State League Competition as amended by the Governing Body from time to time.

Sanction: includes without limitation the imposition of:

- (a) a reprimand; or
- (b) a monetary sanction; or
- (c) a suspension of any entitlement, right or privilege of a person or Club under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations; or
- (d) a disqualification of any entitlement, right or privilege of a person or Club under the Governing Body 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 Governing Body Rules and Regulations; or
- (f) any combination of the above.

Season: the period in each year determined by the Governing Body in which the Matches are played.

Sponsor Advertising: for the purposes of Regulation 16, means the placement, display or promotion of any name, trade mark, logo or advertising, including without limitation on any item worn or used by a Player before, during or after a Match.

State League Competition: the competition currently known as the Victorian Football League competition or VFL comprising Home and Away Matches and Finals Series conducted by or under the auspices of the Governing Body.

State Representative Match: a Match played between a team representing the State League Competition or Governing Body and another team.

Team: a Team fielded by a Club in the State League Competition, including all persons selected as interchange Players in such Team.

Team Runner: an eligible person appointed to confer with Players whilst on the Playing Surface, as appointed under Regulation 20.13.

Timekeeper: any person appointed as a timekeeper under Regulation 18.2.

Trainer and Head Trainer: the persons appointed by a Club as a trainer and/or water carrier under Regulation 20.14.

Tribunal: the disciplinary body established by the Governing Body in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

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

Unit: the sum of \$40 or such other amount as may from time to time be prescribed by the Governing Body.

Venue: the venue at which the Governing Body may schedule to play a Match.

1.3 Other Definitions

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

1.4 Interpretation

- (a) In the interpretation of these Regulations and any schedules and annexures to these Regulations, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith:
- (i) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
 - (ii) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
 - (iii) words importing persons shall be deemed to include all bodies and associations, corporate or un-incorporate and vice versa;
 - (iv) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these Regulations or any schedule or annexure to these Regulations;
 - (v) a reference to time means eastern standard time or eastern summer time, as the case may be;
 - (vi) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;
 - (vii) words, terms and phrases not otherwise defined in these Regulations shall be given their ordinary meaning.
- (b) Any power or right conferred on the Governing Body under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations may be exercised by the Competition Manager.
- (c) A reference to the Competition Manager of the Governing Body shall include such person and any other person or group of persons appointed from time to time by the Competition Manager to administer these Regulations.

1.5 Reasonable and Severance

The Governing Body Rules and Regulations are considered reasonable by the Governing Body but:

- (a) each provision in the Governing Body Rules and Regulations shall be read and constructed independently of the other provisions in the Governing Body Rules and 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 void 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.

1.6 Interpretation by Governing Body and Amendment

- (a) The Governing Body shall interpret all provisions contained in the Constitution, the Governing Body Rules and Regulations and any other rules or regulations passed from time to time by the Governing Body and any interpretation or

application of a provision by the Governing Body shall be final and binding on every person.

- (b) The Governing Body may from time to time amend the Governing Body Rules and Regulations or make such further or other Governing Body Rules and Regulations as it in its absolute discretion deems fit.

1.7 Delegation

- (a) The Governing Body may from time to time appoint a person or persons to exercise any of the powers hereby conferred upon the Governing Body and in such case a reference to the Governing Body contained in these Regulations shall be a reference to such person or persons so appointed.
- (b) The Competition Manager may from time to time appoint a person or persons to exercise any of the powers hereby conferred upon the Competition Manager and in such case a reference to the Competition Manager contained in these Regulations shall be a reference to such person or persons so appointed.

1.8 Forms

In these Regulations, a reference to any forms includes a reference to such forms specified from time to time by the Competition Manager, including the number, description and content of any forms.

1.9 Inconsistency

Where there is any inconsistency between any of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations, the documents shall be applied and operate in the following order of priority:

- (a) the List Rules;
- (b) these Regulations;
- (c) National Community Football Policy Handbook;
- (d) any other Governing Body Rules and Regulations; and
- (e) Laws of Australian Football.

2. Powers, Conduct and Sanction

2.1 Powers of the Governing Body and Competition Manager

- (a) Either or both the Governing Body and the Competition Manager shall, in furtherance and not in limitation of any other power conferred upon them by the Governing Body Rules and Regulations, have the power in their absolute discretion:
 - (i) to inquire into, investigate and deal with any matter in connection with the Governing Body, the State League Competition or the Governing Body Rules and Regulations, including (without limitation) to hear and determine a charge for a breach of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations, or appoint any other person to do so;
 - (ii) to require and obtain production and take possession of all or any documents, records, articles or things in the possession or control of a Person that may be, or that may contain information relevant to any inquiry or investigation;

- (iii) to require and obtain access to the premises occupied by or in control of a Club, or examine any document, record, article or thing situated thereon, for the purpose of any inquiry or investigation or in respect of monitoring compliance with the Governing Body Rules and Regulations;
- (iv) to impose any sanction on any Person contravening the Governing Body Rules and Regulations on any terms or conditions seen fit or to otherwise deal with such matter in any manner they in their absolute discretion think fit, including:
 - (A) reprimand a Person;
 - (B) impose a monetary sanction on a Person;
 - (C) order that a Club has forfeited the right to employ or register as a Player of the Club the Player or any of the Players to whom the conduct relates for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;
 - (D) order that a Player has forfeited the right to play for or be a registered Player of a Club or Club for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;
 - (E) order that no Person shall for such period as determined by the Governing Body or the Competition Manager occupy any office or perform any functions (including, without limitation, attendance at matches and training sessions) for or on behalf of the Club;
 - (F) declare, in respect of a Club, the loss of or ineligibility to receive Premiership Points for past or future Matches;
 - (G) prohibiting any Person from receiving any payment from the Governing Body or any Club;
 - (H) prohibiting any Person participating in any way in any Club's training, Match preparation or activities associated in any way with the State League Competition or the Governing Body;
 - (I) prohibiting any Person attending any event, function or Match in any official capacity by the Governing Body or any Club; or
 - (J) prohibiting any Person entering upon any property owned, operated or controlled by the Governing Body or any Club;
- (v) to determine all questions arising or objections made in relation to a Match or the State League Competition;
- (vi) to determine all questions arising or objections made in relation to a Match or the State League Competition;
- (vii) to stand down any Person subject to an inquiry, investigation, or charge in connection with the Governing Body Rules and Regulations from participating in or in connection with the State League Competition;
- (viii) to exercise any other powers conferred by the Governing Body Rules and Regulations; and
- (ix) to delegate any of their powers under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations.

- (b) The Competition Manager may lay a charge for a breach of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations.
- (c) The Governing Body may delegate any matter in accordance with an alleged breach of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations for hearing and determination, in whole or in part, by one or more persons as the Governing Body thinks fit.
- (d) The power conferred by Regulation 2.1(a)(ii) includes without limitation the power to:
 - (i) give any reasonable direction for the purpose of facilitating the production of relevant documents, records, articles or things;
 - (ii) search for relevant documents, records, articles or things on any computer, mobile telephone, file, server, hard drive, tape, folder, or other storage device (whether electronic or not) in the possession or control of the Person in circumstances where there are reasonable grounds to believe that relevant items may be produced in accordance with this Regulation;
 - (iii) search for relevant document, records, articles or things on the premises of the Club or in any Match day restricted area, or examine any article or thing situated thereon, where there are reasonable grounds to believe that relevant items may be produced in accordance with this Regulation; and
 - (iv) search through a person's information held on or contained in any of the items referred to in this Regulation for the purpose of determining the relevance of such information to any inquiry or investigation.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, an inquiry or investigation under these Regulations may continue to be conducted or a new inquiry or investigation may be commenced, notwithstanding the laying of a charge for a breach of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations.
- (f) All decisions of the Governing Body, or a delegate of the Governing Body, including all determinations of charges in connection with breach of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations, are final and subject only to any rights of appeal as provided by law.

2.2 Conduct Unbecoming or Prejudicial to the Interests of the Governing Body

- (a) A Person must not engage in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the Governing Body, the State League Competition or a Club(s) or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute.
- (b) Without limiting the ordinary and legal meaning of any words in Regulation 2.2(a), a Person shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute if a reasonable person would regard that conduct as unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute;
- (c) Without limiting the ordinary and legal meaning of any words in Regulation 2.2(a) and the provisions of Regulation 2.2(b) a Person shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct unbecoming or conduct likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute if:

- (i) there is a finding by a Court or tribunal (including a conviction) against the Person that they have committed Notifiable Conduct;
 - (ii) the Person pleads guilty to Notifiable Conduct before any Court or tribunal;
 - (iii) the Person responds inappropriately, unfairly or unreasonably to an allegation of Notifiable Conduct; or
 - (iv) the Person engages in behaviour associated with Notifiable Conduct, intended to place the alleged victim or victims at risk of harm.
- (d) A Person and/or a Club shall be deemed to have responded inappropriately, unfairly or unreasonably to an allegation of Notifiable Conduct where the Person and/or Club:
- (i) subject to the proper exercise of their right to refuse to answer questions or engage in conduct that may incriminate them or any other right that they may have at law, fails to reasonably co-operate with any police or other official investigation (including an investigation by the Governing Body) into Notifiable Conduct, whether alleged to have been committed by themselves or other individuals; or
 - (ii) comments publicly in relation to an allegation of Notifiable Conduct by a Person where such comments are intended to degrade, demean, vilify or otherwise cause harm to any person, including any complainant or alleged victim.
- (e) A Person may be considered to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute where that Person either directly or indirectly, or by an agent, associate or Person on their behalf makes a payment to an alleged victim of Notifiable Conduct which is not ordered by a Court or tribunal and where such payment is in the opinion of the Governing Body and/or the Competition Manager made for the dominant purpose of compensating the alleged victim in order to persuade the alleged victim not to prosecute or co-operate in the bringing of criminal proceedings against a Person.
- (f) If the Governing Body and/or the Competition Manager determines that a payment was made for the dominant purpose of compensating an alleged victim of Notifiable Conduct in order to persuade the alleged victim not to prosecute or co-operate in the bringing of criminal proceedings against a Person, the Person who paid or on whose behalf payment was made may be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute and the matter may be referred to the Governing Body under Regulation 2.2(a).
- (g) A Person shall not be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute as a result of being charged or committed for trial for Notifiable Conduct, however the Governing Body and/or the Competition Manager may in their absolute discretion stand that Person down from any duties otherwise to be performed for the Governing Body and/or may direct a Club to stand that Person down from duties which would otherwise be performed by that Person for the Club, pending the outcome of the proceedings.

2.3 Notifiable Conduct

- (a) A Person must immediately notify their Club Chief Executive Officer or other senior administrator if they are interviewed as a suspect, charged, arrested or given an infringement notice by police in respect of any Notifiable Conduct.
- (b) A Club must immediately notify the Competition Manager and forthwith provide to the Competition Manager all relevant information known to the Club if:
 - (i) the Club is aware of any matter referred to in paragraph 2.3(a); or
 - (ii) the Club has received a complaint in respect of alleged Notifiable Conduct on the part of a relevant Person, unless the Club has reliable information that the complaint is not credible.
- (c) Any person or Club that does not fully and strictly comply with the provisions of this Regulation shall be dealt with in such manner as the Governing Body or Competition Manager in their absolute discretion think fit.

2.4 General Offences

A Person must not:

- (a) refuse or fail to attend at any investigation, inquiry, meeting, hearing or appeal conducted under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations when requested to do so;
- (b) refuse or fail to answer any question or give any evidence at any investigation, inquiry, meeting, hearing or appeal conducted under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations;
- (c) give any false or misleading evidence to any hearing, investigation, inquiry or appeal conducted under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations;
- (d) make any false or misleading statement or declaration in connection with the administration or control of the State League Competition;
- (e) obstruct, delay or hinder any employee, servant or agent of the Governing Body in connection with the performance of their duties;
- (f) disobey any reasonable direction of any employee, servant or agent of the Governing Body in connection with the performance of their duties;
- (g) engage in any improper or insulting behaviour at any time towards any employee, servant or agent of the Governing Body in relation to their duties;
- (h) refuse or fail to attend or give evidence as directed at any inquiry, meeting hearing or appeal conducted under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations when requested to do so;
- (i) refuse or fail to fully co-operate with any investigation conducted by the Governing Body under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations;
- (j) obstruct, delay or hinder any investigation conducted or which may be conducted by the Governing Body under the Governing Body Rules and Regulations;
- (k) refuse or fail to produce any document, record, article or thing in the Person's possession or control that are required to be produced in accordance with the Governing Body Rules and Regulations; and

- (l) attempt to commit, or incite another person to commit, or conspire with any other person to commit, or be a party to another committing any breach of the Governing Body Rules and Regulations.

2.5 Suspect in criminal investigation, charged or arrested for criminal offence

Notwithstanding Regulations 2.4(h), 2.4(i), 2.4(j) and 2.4(k), a Person interviewed as a suspect in a criminal investigation, charged or arrested by a law enforcement agency in respect of a criminal offence shall not be required to give any information, give any evidence or make any statement to the Governing Body if they establish that to do so would breach any privilege against self-incrimination, or legal professional privilege. This Regulation does not limit any other Regulation.

2.6 Sanctions and payment

- (a) Any Person fined in accordance with these Regulations shall, upon demand, promptly pay to the Governing Body, as an agreed liquidated sum, the amount of the fine. All fines must be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the fine except where a different time period is specified by the Governing Body.
- (b) Where the amount shown in any Regulation is described as a "Maximum Sanction" or that a sanction up to a certain amount is payable, the Competition Manager or the Governing Body (as applicable) may determine that any amount not exceeding that amount shall be payable.
- (c) In addition to any sanction under to Regulation 2.6(d), if any Person fails to pay a fine or monetary sanction imposed in accordance with the Regulations, such Person may be dealt with in any manner the Governing Body and/or the Competition Manager thinks fit.
- (d) Any Club which has money owing to the Governing Body for a period in excess of sixty (60) days shall be ineligible to receive any Premiership Points which may be accrued by its teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount is paid.
- (e) Any fine shall be payable by the Person it is levied on, however if a Player or Club Official does not pay the fine the Player's or Club Official's Club shall be responsible for paying the fine to the Governing Body.
- (f) The Governing Body and/or Competition Manager may set off any amount payable by a Club under the Regulations against any payment or distribution paid or intended to be paid by the Governing Body to the Club.
- (g) Subject to Regulations 2.6(h) and **Error! Reference source not found.**, if the Governing Body and/or Competition Manager is satisfied that any Club or person who is in breach of or has failed to comply with these Regulations has acted honestly and, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, ought fairly to be excused from liability hereunder, the Governing Body and/or Competition Manager may relieve that person either wholly or partly from that liability on such terms and conditions as they think fit.
- (h) The Competition Manager may not determine that Regulation 2.7 shall not apply in respect of a contravention or non-compliance referred to therein.

2.7 Time Limits

- (a) Where these Regulations provide for any form or document to be completed or lodged or any other action to be taken and do not provide a time limit, the time limit shall be:

- (i) where the form or document is to be completed or lodged after being received from some other person, seven (7) days after such receipt of the form or document; and
 - (ii) in all other cases, seven (7) days after the first day on which the form or document could have been completed or lodged or the action taken.
- (b) If any person fails to complete or lodge any form or document or fails to take any action within this time limit, the Governing Body may, if requested to do so by a person directly affected thereby, complete and/or lodge the form or document and/or take the action in the name of the first-mentioned person.
 - (c) Subject to Regulation 2.7(b), a failure to complete or lodge a form or document or to take an action within the prescribed time limit shall, for the purposes of these Regulations be deemed to be a refusal to so complete or lodge the formal document or to take the action.
 - (d) Subject to any express provision to the contrary in these Regulations, if any form or document is required to be lodged with the Governing Body or Competition Manager before a Player is eligible to play for a Team fielded by a Club in the State League Competition, the Player shall not be eligible and the Club shall not play the Player unless all such papers have been lodged no later than 5:00pm on the Friday immediately preceding the date on which the Player is intending to play.
 - (e) Notwithstanding any other provision in these Regulations, where any time limit is imposed for the doing of any act or thing or for any other purpose, the Governing Body may in its absolute discretion vary the period of time which it deems appropriate.

2.8 Other Matters

Any matter of any kind whatsoever not dealt with or provided for in these Regulations may be dealt with in such a manner as the Governing Body deems fit, and the Governing Body's decision will be final.

3. Investigators

3.1 Appointment

The Governing Body or the Competition Manager may from time to time appoint a person or persons to undertake investigations in relation to any matter in connection with the Governing Body Rules and Regulations.

3.2 Reference to Investigator

Any reference in the Governing Body Rules and Regulations to an investigation officer or special investigator shall include any person appointed from time to time as such by the Governing Body or the Competition Manager. Any person so appointed shall comply with any directions or conditions imposed by the Governing Body or Competition Manager.

4. Policies, Guidelines and Codes of Conduct

- (a) Each person subject to these Regulations (including Clubs, Players, Coaches and Club Officials) must comply with and observe the Governing Body Rules and Regulations and any rule, regulation, law, code, agreement, procedure, policy, guideline, direction or resolution made or adopted by the Governing Body as may be amended from time to time by the Governing Body.

- (b) Without limiting Regulation 4(a):
- (i) all Players and other persons to whom the AFL Anti-Doping Code applies must comply with and observe the AFL Anti-Doping Code at all times;
 - (ii) all Players and other persons to whom the Governing Body's Code of Conduct applies must comply with and observe the Code of Conduct at all times;
 - (iii) all Players and other persons to whom the AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy applies must comply with and observe the AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy at all times;
 - (iv) all Players and other persons to whom the Illicit Drug Policy applies must comply with and observe the Illicit Drug Policy; and
 - (v) all Clubs / Players / Club Officials must comply with and observe the Commercial Operations Guidelines and use their best endeavours to assist the Governing Body to fully implement the Commercial Operations Guidelines.

Sanction: If a Person breaches this Regulation, the Governing Body, may deal with this matter in such manner as the Governing Body, in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power they may impose a monetary sanction of such amount as they think fit.

5. Registration of Players

5.1 All Players to be Registered

- (a) A Club must not play any person in any Team of the Club unless that person is registered with the Governing Body as a Player with that Club.
- (b) A person will be deemed to be registered with the Governing Body as a Player with a Club where that person has complied with the requirements of Regulation 5.3 and that person has not been de-registered as a Player.

Sanction: Maximum 100 Units

5.2 Eligibility for Registration

No person shall be registered or be entitled to be registered with the Governing Body as a Player with a Club unless they:

- (a) are aged 18 years or older prior to 1 January in the year of registration;
- (b) are:
 - (i) in their 18th year at the time of registration;
 - (ii) in a talent pathway for youth footballers which is sanctioned or otherwise recognised by the Governing Body; and
 - (iii) the Governing Body has approved the eligibility of the person for registration; or
- (c) are on the list of an AFL Club.

5.3 Requirements for Registration

The Governing Body will register a person as a Player with a Club if:

- (a) the person satisfies the eligibility criteria in Regulation 5.2;
- (b) the person has been included on a Club's List in accordance with the List Rules;
- (c) the Governing Body has received and approved each year a duly completed application in the form determined by the Governing Body from time to time with such application to be submitted electronically by such means as determined by the Governing Body from time to time in accordance Regulation 8;
- (d) the Governing Body has received any other form, document or statutory declaration required under these Regulations to be lodged before a person will be registered as a Player with a Club;
- (e) the Governing Body has received a Contract of Service in the form approved by the Governing Body from time to time which has been fully executed by all parties (other the Governing Body if the Governing Body is a party to the Contract of Service); and
- (f) the person is not prohibited from being registered as a Player with the Club by any other Governing Body Rules and Regulations.

5.4 Contracts

- (a) No Player shall be engaged by a Club other than under the Contract of Service lodged with the Governing Body. The Contract of Service shall be in the form prescribed from time to time by the Governing Body.
- (b) All Contracts of Service lodged with the Governing Body under these Regulations shall terminate or expire (other than by reason of default or breach which entitles any party to terminate) on or prior to the 31st day of October in the final year in which the Player's services are to be provided under such contract and shall not provide for any payment after that date.

5.5 Parent or Guardian

If the person seeking registration is under the age of 18 years, the documents required to be lodged with the Governing Body under this Regulation shall be signed by at least one parent or the person's legal guardian. If signed by a guardian, such guardian must provide proof of guardianship.

5.6 Deadline for registrations

- (a) Unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body, each Club must register all their Players for a Season by no later than the Monday that falls three (3) weeks prior to the commencement of the relevant Season.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, a Player must be registered separately for each Season even if they were registered in a previous Season.

Sanction: 50 Units

5.7 Outstanding Fines or Penalties

No person shall be registered or be entitled to be registered or remain registered with the Governing Body as a Player with a Club for so long as any monetary sanction imposed

upon such person by the Governing Body remains unpaid after its due date or in the case of any other sanction, remains unsatisfied or has not been fully discharged or complied with.

5.8 Players Bound to One Club Not to be Registered With Another Club

A Player who is, in accordance with these Regulations, bound to any Club (whether as a Player or a Coach) may not be registered as a Player with any other Club until they cease to be bound to the first mentioned Club. A person who is properly registered with the Governing Body as a Player with a Club shall automatically cease to be registered as a Player with any other Club and their name shall be deleted from any other Club's List.

5.9 Players Bound if Listed

- (a) Subject to Regulation 5.10, a Player shall be bound to a Club if they are properly included on the Club's List in accordance with these Regulations.
- (b) Subject to Regulation 5.10, a Player who is properly registered with a Club and then wishes to leave that Club during a Season is not permitted under these Regulations to be registered with another Club in the same Season.

5.10 AFL Listed Players

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations or the List Rules, a Player who is on the list of an AFL Club which is affiliated with a Club and is registered by the AFL as a player for that AFL Club will automatically be registered as a Player of that Club.

5.11 Conduct Unbecoming or Prejudicial

The Governing Body may at any time and on such conditions as it thinks fit cancel or suspend (for such period as it deems fit) the registration of a Player where it is of the opinion that such Player has conducted themselves in a manner unbecoming of a Player in the State League Competition or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body, State League Competition or a Club(s) or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute. The Governing Body may also in its absolute discretion and without limiting the foregoing, refer any allegation of a breach of the Laws of Australian Football by a person to the Disciplinary Committee.

6. Player Lists and Transfers

- (a) Club Player Lists and Player transfers are governed by the VFL List Rules and National Community Football Policy Handbook, as applicable..

7. Registration of Coaches

7.1 All Coaches to be Registered

- (a) A Club must not engage any person to carry out any coaching duties (including assistant coaching duties) in respect of any Team of a Club unless that person is registered with the Governing Body as a Coach with that Club.
- (b) A person will be deemed to be registered with the Governing Body as a Coach with a Club where that person has complied with the requirements of Regulation 7.3 and that person has not been de-registered as a Coach.

Sanction: Maximum 50 Units

7.2 Eligibility for Registration

No person shall be registered or be entitled to be registered with the Governing Body as a Coach with a Club unless they have a current coaching accreditation from the AFL of a minimum Level 2 standard and are over the age of 18.

7.3 Requirements for Registration

The Governing Body will register a person as a Coach with a Club if:

- (a) the person satisfies the eligibility criteria in Regulation 7.2;
- (b) the Governing Body has received and approved each year a duly completed application in the form determined by the Governing Body from time to time with such application to be submitted electronically by such means as determined by the Governing Body from time to time in accordance with Regulation 8;
- (c) the Governing Body has received any other form, document or statutory declaration required under these Regulations to be lodged before a person will be registered as a Coach with a Club; and
- (d) the person is not prohibited from being registered as a Coach with the Club by any other Governing Body Rules and Regulations.

7.4 Deadline for registrations

- (a) Unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body, each Club must register all their Coaches:
 - (i) not later than twenty one (21) days prior to the commencement of the Season; and
 - (ii) in the case of a Coach appointed during a Season, as soon as possible and in any event before the Coach coaches the Club in a Match.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, a Coach must be registered separately for each Season even if they were registered in a previous Season.

Sanction: 50 Units

7.5 Outstanding Fines or Penalties

No person shall be registered or be entitled to be registered or remain registered with the Governing Body as a Coach with a Club for so long as any monetary sanction imposed upon such person by the Governing Body remains unpaid after its due date or in the case of any other sanction, remains unsatisfied or has not been fully discharged or complied with.

7.6 Coach Bound to One Club Not to be Registered With Another Club

A Coach who is, in accordance with these Regulations, bound to any Club (whether as a Player or Coach) may not be registered as a Coach with any other Club until they cease to be bound to the first mentioned Club.

7.7 Conduct Unbecoming or Prejudicial

The Governing Body may at any time and on such conditions as it thinks fit cancel or suspend (for such period as it deems fit) the registration of a Coach where it is of the opinion that such Coach has conducted themselves in a manner unbecoming of a Coach

in the State League Competition or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the Governing Body, the State League Competition or a Club(s) or to bring the game of Australian football into disrepute.

8. Registration of Club Officials

8.1 Registration

- (a) A Club must not permit a Player to play a Match, a Coach to carry out any coaching duties with the Club or any person to act as a Club Official unless that person is registered in accordance with this Regulation.
- (b) A person must apply to be registered as a Player, Coach or a Club Official of a Club using the form or process specified by the Governing Body. Such application must:
 - (i) be made prior to the time that a person is engaged to play, coach or act as a Club Official;
 - (ii) be in the form prescribed by the Governing Body; and
 - (iii) provide all the information specified in such form.
- (c) It is a requirement for the granting of registration under Regulation 8.1(b) that an applicant:
 - (i) is:
 - (A) of good reputation and character; and
 - (B) is a fit and proper person to perform the duties and/or undertake the role specified in the application,

as determined by the Governing Body in its sole discretion; and
 - (ii) makes such declarations, provides such consents and agrees to such conditions as are set out in the application form or process prescribed by the Governing Body under Regulation 8.1(b).
- (d) A registered Player, Coach or Club Official (as applicable) must meet the requirements for the grant of registration under these Regulations at all times.
- (e) A registered Player, Coach or Club Official and the relevant Club must at all times ensure that any information provided in an application under Regulation 8.1(b) is kept up-to-date and accurate by immediately informing the Governing Body of any changes to such information, using the form or process specified by the Governing Body.
- (f) The Governing Body may in its sole discretion, inquire into, investigate and deal with any matter in connection with an application made under Regulation 8.1(b) or a breach of Regulations 8.1(d) and 8.1(e). The Governing Body may utilise the services and resources of the AFL's Competition Integrity Department as part of any such inquiry or investigation.
- (g) The Governing Body may in its absolute discretion without giving reasons:
 - (i) refuse an application for registration under these Regulations; or

- (ii) grant a registration under these Regulations on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
- (h) The Governing Body may at any time suspend, vary or revoke a registration under these Regulations, including without limitation where the applicant ceases to meet the requirements to be so registered.
- (i) For the avoidance of doubt:
 - (i) registration under this Regulation 8.1 is in addition to the Player registration requirements set out in Regulation 5;
 - (ii) registration under this Regulation 8.1 is in addition to the Coach registration requirements set out in Regulation 7; and
 - (iii) a Club Official must be registered separately for each Season even if they were registered in a previous Season.

Sanction: Up to 100 Units, payable by the Club

8.2 Registration Cards

If required by the Governing Body, a registered Club Official must have in their possession a current registration card, issued by the Governing Body, at all times while on the premises of a Club or whilst otherwise on duty for the Club.

8.3 Register of Associates

- (a) Each Club must keep and maintain a complete, accurate and up to date register of the following people:
 - (i) members of all coterie and similar groups; and
 - (ii) Club Sponsors, including certain officers of Club Sponsors as prescribed under Regulation 8.3(b).
- (b) The information recorded under Regulation 8.3(a) must be maintained in a form prescribed by the Governing Body and updated and made available to the Governing Body on an ongoing basis.

8.4 Responsibilities of General Manager

- (a) Each Club must appoint a general manager (**General Manager**).
- (b) The General Manager of each Club is responsible for ensuring compliance by the Club and all Club Officials and Players with the terms of the relevant Club Licence Agreement, the Governing Body Rules and Regulations and the directions and requirements set out by the Governing Body.
- (c) The General Manager of each Club must respond promptly to any correspondence received from the Governing Body and attend all meetings as required by the Governing Body.

9. Authorised Officers

- (a) From time to time and upon request of the Governing Body, each Club shall lodge with the Competition Manager a list of persons who are the President, Directors and General Manager of the Club. Subject to Regulation 9(b), the President and

General Manager will each be an authorised officer of the Club for the purposes of these Regulations.

- (b) In the event of the President or the General Manager of a Club temporarily not being available to be the authorised officer of the Club for the purposes of these Regulations, a Club may make an application in writing to the Competition Manager requesting approval of another officer of the Club to be an authorised officer of the Club for the purposes of these Regulations.
- (c) The Governing Body may assume that any person nominated by a Club under Regulation 9(a) or 9(b) has been duly appointed and has the authority to execute any documents required by the Regulations or otherwise to be executed by the Club.

10. Financial Solvency

10.1 Request

The Governing Body may at any time by notice in writing (**Request**) require a Club to establish to the satisfaction of the Governing Body that as at the date of the Request:

- (a) the Club is able to pay all its debts as and when they become due;
- (b) the Club, up to and including 31 October next after the date of the Request, will be highly likely to be able to pay all the debts incurred or likely to be incurred by the Club as and when they become due; and/or
- (c) in the event the Request is made during September or October in any year, the Club up to and including 31 October in the next year, will be highly likely to be able to pay all the debts incurred or likely to be incurred by the Club as and when they become due.

10.2 Club to Reply

- (a) The Club shall establish to the satisfaction of the Governing Body the matters the subject of the Request within fourteen (14) days of the Request.
- (b) In the event the Club has not established to the satisfaction of the Governing Body the matters the subject of the Request in accordance with this Regulation and a request is made under Regulation 10.6, the Club shall establish those matters to the satisfaction of the Chartered Accountant in the manner provided under Regulation 10.6.

10.3 Provisions of Records

The Club shall within seven (7) days of the Request or such further period not exceeding five (5) days as is granted by the Governing Body, submit to the Governing Body such books, accounts, records and other matters which it desires that the Governing Body take into account in determining whether or not the Club has established to the satisfaction of the Governing Body the matters the subject of the Request.

10.4 Determination

- (a) Subject to Regulation 10.4(b), the Governing Body may make a determination as to whether or not the Club has established to its satisfaction the matters the subject of the Request (**Determination**) on the basis of the information and material before it.

- (b) The Governing Body shall provide the Club with an opportunity to respond to any relevant material or information which was not submitted by the Club and upon which the Governing Body wishes to rely in making the Determination.
- (c) In making the Determination:
 - (i) the Governing Body is not obliged or required to conduct a hearing or allow a person to address it orally in relation to the Determination;
 - (ii) the Governing Body fulfils any obligations it has to afford the Club procedural fairness and act fairly by considering any material put before it by the Club under Regulation 10.3 and fulfilling its obligations under Regulation 10.4(b); and
 - (iii) to the extent that the rules of natural justice require the Governing Body to convene a hearing or take oral evidence in relation to the Determination, those rules are expressly excluded from these Regulations.

10.5 Notice of Determination

The Governing Body shall give notice in writing to a Club of the Determination at or shortly after the expiration of fourteen (14) days from the Request.

10.6 Referral to Chartered Accountant

- (a) In the event that the Governing Body determines that the Club has not established to its satisfaction the matters the subject of the Request the Club may within three (3) days of the giving of notice in writing of the Determination make a request in writing to the Governing Body that a Chartered Accountant experienced in insolvency administration who is to be nominated by the auditors of the Governing Body determine whether the Club has established to the satisfaction of the Chartered Accountant the matters the subject of the Request.
- (b) In the event that a Club makes a request under Regulation 10.6(a):
 - (i) the Governing Body shall in every such case cause its auditors to nominate the Chartered Accountant and it shall then appoint the Chartered Accountant under this Regulation;
 - (ii) the Chartered Accountant so nominated and appointed shall within fourteen (14) days of the appointment determine whether the Club has established to their satisfaction the matters the subject of the Request;
 - (iii) the Chartered Accountant shall make their determination on the basis of material and information relied upon by the Governing Body in making the Determination and such other material or information the Chartered Accountant requests and/or which is provided to the Chartered Accountant by the Governing Body or the Club;
 - (iv) the Chartered Accountant shall have and may exercise all of the powers of the Governing Body under this Regulation in respect of information or material to be provided to them;
 - (v) the Chartered Accountant shall act as an expert not as an arbitrator;
 - (vi) the Club and the Governing Body shall each provide full and free access to the Chartered Accountant to all accounting records and other documents or things of the Club and the Governing Body respectively which the Chartered Accountant considers may be relevant to their determination; and

- (vii) the Chartered Accountant shall provide the Club with an opportunity to respond to any material or information which was not submitted to them or to the Governing Body by the Club and upon which the Chartered Accountant wishes to rely in relation to their determination.
- (c) Regulation 10.4(c) applies to the determination made by the Chartered Accountant and any reference in that rule to the Governing Body shall be read as a reference to the Chartered Accountant for the purpose of this Regulation.

10.7 Deemed Compliance

In the event that:

- (a) the Determination of the Governing Body is or was that the Club has established to the satisfaction of the Governing Body the matters the subject of the Request; or
- (b) a Club makes a request under Regulation 10.6 and the Chartered Accountant determines that the Club has established to the satisfaction of the Chartered Accountant the matters the subject of the Request,

then the Club shall have and shall be deemed to have complied with this Regulation, and in particular Regulation 10.2, in respect of the Request.

10.8 Non-Compliance

In the event that the Determination of the Governing Body is or was that the Club has not established to the satisfaction of the Governing Body the matters the subject of the Request and:

- (a) no request is made by the Club in accordance with Regulation 10.6(a); or
- (b) if a request was made in accordance with Regulation 10.6(a), the Chartered Accountant did not determine pursuant to Regulation 10.6 that the Club has established to their satisfaction the matters the subject of the Request,

the Club shall not have and shall be deemed not to have complied with and observed the requirements of this Regulation, and in particular Regulation 10.2, in respect of the Request.

10.9 No False or Misleading Information

- (a) No Club or person shall provide any material or information under this Regulation which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead.
- (b) For the purpose of Regulation 10.9(a) a representation as to the future is misleading if the Club or person does not have reasonable grounds for making the representation.
- (c) A Club shall upon request by the Governing Body or the Chartered Accountant:
 - (i) procure the attendance of any person before the Governing Body or the Chartered Accountant; and
 - (ii) take all reasonable steps to ensure that any person attending before the Governing Body or Chartered Accountant:
 - (A) truthfully and fully answers any questions asked of them; and

- (B) provides any document in their possession or control upon a request to do so.

Sanction: Up to 100 Units in respect of a breach or failure to comply with any provision of this Regulation.

10.10 Further Requests

The Governing Body may make a request under Regulation 10.1 at any time and from time to time notwithstanding that a previous request may have been made provided always that a request in respect of the matters set out in Regulation 10.1(c) may only be made during September or October in any year.

10.11 Costs of Chartered Accountant

Save for the costs of a Chartered Accountant appointed under Regulation 10.6 which shall be borne by the Governing Body, the Governing Body and the Club shall each bear and pay their own costs of or incidental to complying with the requirements of this Regulation.

10.12 No Arbitration

- (a) This Regulation is not a submission to arbitration and the determination of any matter under this Regulation shall not be treated as arbitration for the purposes of any statute relating to arbitration or for any other purpose.
- (b) In exercising any function under this Regulation the Governing Body and the Chartered Accountant, as the case may be, shall not be or be deemed to be acting as an arbitrator.

10.13 Determination Binding

A determination of the Governing Body and/or the Chartered Accountant under this Regulation shall be conclusive of the matters the subject of the determination and shall be binding on the Governing Body, the Club the subject of the Request and the other Clubs.

11. Total Commitment to the Competitions Conducted by the Governing Body

11.1 Time and Attention

Each Club will devote the whole of its time and attention toward the conduct of its football operations.

11.2 Obligations of Clubs

A Club must not either alone or with an Associate of the Club, without the prior written consent of the Governing Body:

- (a) carry on any other business similar to the football operations;
- (b) be concerned or interested whether directly or indirectly in any firm, corporation or entity conducting a business similar to the football operations;
- (c) conduct or participate in a sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL; or

- (d) be concerned or interested whether directly or indirectly in any firm, corporation or entity conducting or participating in a sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL.

11.3 Application

For the purposes of this Regulation and without limiting Regulation 11.2, a Club shall be deemed to:

- (a) carry on another business similar to the football operations;
- (b) be concerned or interested in a firm, corporation or entity conducting a business similar to the football operations;
- (c) conduct or participate in a sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL; or
- (d) be concerned or interested in a firm, corporation or entity conducting or participating in a sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL:

if:

- (e) the Club is concerned in or takes part in the management of any other corporation or business engaged or involved in the fielding of a team in any sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL;
- (f) the Club in any way promotes, endorses or markets any sporting team other than an Australian football team or promotes, endorses or markets any intellectual property, including without limitation any trade mark, logo, trade name, nickname or other insignia, of a team in a sporting competition other than an Australian football team;
- (g) the Club has any direct or indirect financial interest in any other corporation or business engaged in or involved in the fielding of a team in any sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL other than the provision of goods, services, or facilities of a kind normally provided by the Club or the Associate of the Club in the ordinary course of business on terms and conditions normally applicable to the provision of such goods, services or facilities; or
- (h) the Club has the power or capacity to significantly influence the composition of the board of directors or other controlling body or the appointment or removal of a person as a director or executive officer, of any other corporation or business engaged in or involved in the fielding of a team in any sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL.

11.4 Arena (Exception)

For the purposes of Regulation 11.3(f) and 11.3(g), a Club or an Associate of the Club shall not be deemed to promote, endorse or market a sporting team other than an Australian football team or have any financial interest in another corporation or business involved in the fielding of a team in any sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body of the AFL by reason only that the Arena where the Club is domiciled is used or utilised for the training of players participating in any sporting competition other than a competition conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL or the playing of any other such sporting competition.

11.5 Breach of this Regulation

- (a) If the Governing Body determines that a Club has committed a breach of this Regulation, the Club shall be liable to a sanction of up to 100 Units and to the further sanction and procedure provided for in Regulation 11.6.
- (b) In determining whether any sanction is to be imposed on a Club under this Regulation 11.5, the Governing Body shall provide the relevant Club with an opportunity to submit material or to make submissions to the Governing Body which the Club wishes to be taken into account in determining the amount and manner of payment of the sanction.

11.6 Further Sanction

- (a) Where a sanction has been imposed under Regulation 11.5 for a breach of this Regulation and the breach continues after a period of seven (7) days from the date of imposition of the sanction, the Club shall be liable to:
 - (i) a further sanction of twice the amount of the sanction imposed under Regulation 11.5; and
 - (ii) be ineligible to participate in or derive any benefit from the State League Competition, for such period as the Governing Body shall in its absolute discretion determine.
- (b) In determining any period of ineligibility under this Regulation 11.6(a)(ii), the Governing Body shall provide the relevant Club with an opportunity to submit material or to make submissions to the Governing Body which the Club wishes to be taken into account in determining any such period of ineligibility.

11.7 Definitions

For the purpose of this Regulation:

- (a) An **Associate of the Club** means:
 - (i) a director, executive officer or secretary of the Club;
 - (ii) a related body corporate of the Club;
 - (iii) a director, executive officer or secretary of a related body corporate of the Club;
 - (iv) a related entity of the Club;
 - (v) a trustee of the trust in relation to which the Club has an interest whether actual, vested or contingent;
 - (vi) a partnership in which the Club is a member and any partner of the Club;
 - (vii) a person acting or proposing to act in concert with the Club;
 - (viii) a person who is associated or who proposes to become associated with the Club in any way;
 - (ix) a body corporate or other entity in relation to which the Club has the power or capacity significantly to influence the composition of its board of directors or other controlling body or the appointment or removal of a person as its director or executive officer.

- (b) **executive officer, related body corporate** and **related entity** have the meaning ascribed to those terms under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).
- (c) **football operations** shall mean fielding an Australian football team or teams in the competitions conducted by the Governing Body or the AFL and all matters incidental thereto.
- (d) A **person** includes a natural person, a body corporate, a partnership, a trust or other entity.
- (e) **sporting competition** means any professional football code including as example soccer, basketball, rugby or rugby league.

12. Seasons and Competitions

12.1 Season

- (a) The Season shall encompass and include without limitation, each of the following series and Matches:
 - (i) intra or inter-Club practice Matches;
 - (ii) Home and Away Matches;
 - (iii) the Finals Series; and
 - (iv) any other Match played under the auspices of the Governing Body and where Umpires appointed by the Governing Body officiate.
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body, the Season shall commence in each year on the date of the first Match conducted under the auspices of the Governing Body and conclude in each year on the date of the last Match conducted under the auspices of the Governing Body.

12.2 All Matches Subject to Governing Body Rules and Regulations

Subject to Regulation 1.9, every Match played during the Season shall be played in accordance with the Governing Body Rules and Regulations (including any Competition Regulations and the Laws of Australian Football) and any other determinations or resolutions made from time to time by the Governing Body.

12.3 Practice Matches

- (a) Subject to Regulation 12.3(b), a Club or Player shall not play any match of Australian football against another Club, or a club or player not participating in the State League Competition, unless the match is scheduled by the Governing Body or the Club or Clubs, as the case may be, obtain the prior written approval of the Competition Manager.

Sanction: Up to 50 Units
- (b) The Governing Body may at any time impose, vary or revoke any conditions or requirements applicable to the playing of a practice Match between two Clubs.
- (c) Any request to participate in a practice Match must be received by the Governing Body in the prescribed form by no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the proposed Match.

- (d) Umpires appointed by the AFL are required for all practice Matches between Clubs. Requests for Umpires must be made to the Governing Body's Umpiring Department via the form prescribed by the Governing Body from time to time.
- (e) All normal Match and ground conditions apply in practice Matches (e.g. goal posts padded, grass mowed, lines clearly marked, team sheets etc).
- (f) Clubs cannot withdraw from practice Matches after making a request under this Regulation 12.3 without the approval of the Governing Body. Any Club that wishes to withdraw from a practice Match must submit to the Competition Manager an explanation as to why the Match should be cancelled or postponed. If the Governing Body grants its approval to the Club withdrawing from a practice Match, where required by the Governing Body, the Club will be responsible for reimbursing AFL Victoria and/or the opposing Club for any costs incurred by AFL Victoria or the opposing Club (as applicable) directly as a result of the cancellation or postponement of the practice Match.

Sanction: 100 Units

12.4 State League Competition – Inclusive of Home and Away Matches

- (a) Fixture of Matches
 - (i) The Governing Body shall conduct the State League Competition and prepare a fixture of Home and Away Matches. Unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body, each Club must play each other at the date, time and venue specified in the fixture and must observe and comply with any other requirements set out in the fixture or otherwise imposed by the Governing Body.
 - (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) In the instance where a Club that is aligned with an AFL Club is fixtured to play a 'Home' match at its opposition's venue, and the opposition Club has no AFL Club alignment (**Standalone Club**), the Standalone Club will be responsible for all costs and retain all revenue from the match. The Standalone Club will retain the Home Club changerooms and coaches box.
 - (iv) The Governing Body may change the date, time and venue at which any Match is scheduled to be played.
 - (v) All Clubs are to make their Home Venue and associated facilities available at no charge to Governing Body for hosting Home and Away Matches.
- (b) Awarding of Premiership Points for Premiership Ladder
 - (i) For all Home and Away Matches:
 - (A) four (4) 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 24.2(c);
 - (B) two (2) 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 24.2(a) and 24.2(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 Governing Body has determined shall lose or shall not be eligible to receive Premiership Points under these Regulations.
- (c) Ranking of Clubs at end of Home and Away Matches

The Governing Body shall maintain a Premiership Ladder that determines the position of Clubs competing in the State League 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) where two or more Clubs have accumulated the same total of Premiership Points, the Club with the highest percentage as calculated under Regulation 12.4(b)(i)(C) shall be placed first as between them;
- (iii) 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 Governing Body so that any Club drawn ahead of any other Club shall be placed ahead of such other Club or Clubs.

12.5 Finals Series

- (a) At the completion of the Home and Away Matches, the first ten Clubs on the Final Premiership Ladder shall compete in the Finals Series under the Final Ten System.
- (b) The Governing Body may at any time impose, vary or revoke any conditions or requirements applicable to the Finals Series or a Finals Series Match.
- (c) The Governing Body retains on an exclusive basis all rights of a commercial nature related to the Finals Series and all Finals Series Matches, including

without limitation signage rights, sponsorship rights, broadcast and media rights, advertising rights, naming rights, supplier rights, merchandising rights, hospitality rights, ticket rights and concession sales rights. The Governing Body, at its discretion, may allow the host Venue of a Finals Series Match to exploit some of these commercial rights. The Governing Body will notify Clubs participating in a Finals Series Match what, if any, commercial rights the Club may be entitled to exploit.

12.6 Ranking of Clubs during Finals Series

- (a) This Regulation 12.6 shall be read in conjunction with Annexure 1 (Final Ten System).
- (b) For the purposes of Regulation 12.6(c), following completion of the Qualifying and Elimination Finals matches:
 - (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);
- (c) 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 12.6(a) (following completion of the Qualifying and Elimination Finals matches).

12.7 Participation in Finals Series Matches

- (a) Subject to this Regulation 12.7, a Player must have played in at least one Match in the State League Competition Home and Away Matches or in the AFL home and away season in the relevant season to be eligible to play in the Finals Series.
- (b) If a Player has been added to a Club List after 30 June, that Player must play in at least three (3) Matches in the State League Competition Home and Away Matches to be eligible to play in the Finals Series.
- (c) Subject to clauses 12.7(d) and 12.7(e), a Player, who is also on the list of an AFL Club, will only be permitted to play for their Club in the Finals Series if:
 - (i) where the Player has played in an AFL home and away season match after 30 June in the season, the player must have played in at least six (6) Home and Away Matches in the State League Competition in the season; and
 - (ii) have played no more than twelve (12) AFL home and away season matches in the season.
- (d) In circumstances where:
 - (i) an AFL Club is participating in the AFL finals series, but is not scheduled to play a match during a particular week of the final series (e.g. as a result of winning a qualifying final and earning a one-week break before a preliminary final); and

- (ii) the AFL Club is affiliated with a Club and that Club is playing in the AFL Club's break week,

the following will apply:

- (iii) any Player, who is also on the list of the AFL Club and who played in the AFL finals series match immediately prior to the AFL Club's break week , will not be eligible to play for the Club in the State League Competition in the AFL Club's break week.

- (e) In circumstances where:

- (i) an AFL Club is participating in the AFL finals series, but is not playing a match the week after the final round of the AFL home and away season in the AFL competition bye round; and
- (ii) the AFL Club is affiliated with a Club and that Club is playing in the week after the final round of the AFL home and away season in the State League Competition,

the following will apply:

- (iii) any Player, who is also on the list of the AFL Club who did not play in the final round of the AFL home and away season, will be eligible to play for the Club in the State League Competition in the week after the final round of the AFL home and away season in the State League Competition.

- (f) When a Club and its affiliated AFL Club are playing matches during the same week of the Finals Series, provided a Player satisfies the criteria of Regulation 12.7(a), any Player who is also on the list of the Club's affiliated AFL Club is eligible to participate in the State League Competition Finals Series Match, including the State League Competition Grand Final.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Regulations, the Competition Manager may deem any Player eligible to play in the Finals Series in its absolute discretion.

12.8 Venues for Finals Series Matches

- (a) Finals Series Matches shall be played at such dates, times and venues as may be determined from time to time by the Governing Body.
- (b) All Clubs are to make their Home Venue and associated facilities available at no charge to Governing Body for hosting Finals Series Matches.
- (c) The Governing Body may charge a fee to Clubs (as determined by the Competition Manager) for hosting a Finals Series Match at the Club's Home Venue.

12.9 Change Room Allocation for Finals Series Matches

The Club participating in a Finals Series Match that finished highest on the Premiership Ladder at the end of the Home and Away Matches in that Season will be allocated the home change room for that Match (and the lower placed Club will be allocated the visitor change room), unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body.

12.10 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 Timekeepers 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 other persons expressly permitted under these Regulations to enter the Playing Surface, 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 Coach is not permitted to address their Players after the first three (3) minute period of Additional Time;
- (viii) 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);
- (ix) at the conclusion of Additional Time, the Club which has scored the highest points is the winner of the Match;
- (x) if the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Additional Time, Further Additional Time will be played;
- (xi) 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;
- (xii) if the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Further Additional Time, the process set out in Regulation 12.10(a)(xi) will be repeated until, at the conclusion of any repeated period of Further Additional Time, the winning Club can be determined; and

(xiii) 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 must move into position and be ready to commence play at the start of Additional Time and any Further Additional Time. A Club whose Team is not ready to commence play shall be subject to a sanction.

Sanction:

First minute of delay: 10 Units

Second minute delay: 50 Units

Additional minutes of delay: 100 Units per minute of delay

12.11 Ranking of Clubs Eliminated During Finals Series

Where two Clubs are eliminated in the same round of the Finals Series 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.

12.12 Representative Matches

- (a) The Governing Body may appoint a representative team to train for and participate in a representative match (including a State Representative Match).
- (b) The Governing Body may make regulations and policies relating to representative matches, including regulations relating to eligibility of players for representative matches and the participation of Players selected by the Governing Body for a representative team in Club matches prior to or at similar time to the representative match.
- (c) The Governing Body has first call on the services of and priority access to Players for representative matches (except for Players on the list of an AFL Club).
- (d) A Player selected by the Governing Body for a representative team must participate in the representative match unless the Player:
 - (i) is injured and unable to participate; or
 - (ii) has provided notice of their non-participation to the Competition Manager at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time for the match.

Sanction: 25 Units

- (e) A Player selected by the Governing Body for a representative team who is not able to participate in the representative match is ineligible to play in, and must not play in, any match in any other competition during the round of Matches that are scheduled during the same week as the representative match without the approval of the Competition Manager.

Sanction: 25 Units

- (f) All Players and Club Officials involved in a representative team, match and event must conduct themselves at all relevant times in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

12.13 Obligations of Clubs

- (a) A Club must:
 - (i) play in any Match or re-scheduled Match at the date, time and venue specified from time to time by the Governing Body; and
 - (ii) comply with any conditions or requirements applicable to a Match imposed from time to time by the Governing Body.
- (b) A Club which contravenes this Regulation shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Governing Body and shall be dealt with by the Governing Body or the Competition Manager in such manner as the Governing Body or the Competition Manager in their absolute discretion thinks fit.

13. Grounds and Venues

13.1 Venue Requirements

- (a) Unless otherwise approved by the Competition Manager, each Club must ensure that their Home Venue and the Venue for each Home and Away Match for which they are the Home Club complies with all of the requirements set out in this Regulation 13.
- (b) In making any determination to waive any requirement of this Regulation 13, the Competition Manager will take into account if the relevant Home and Away Match is being played in a regional location to promote the State League Competition and Australian football more broadly.

13.2 Ground Occupancy

- (a) If the Home Venue (including the Playing Surface of the Home Venue) of a Club is in the opinion of the Governing Body or has become unsuitable for the playing of Matches the Club must play its Matches at another venue or venues approved by the Governing Body for such period and upon such terms and conditions as the Governing Body decides.
- (b) No Club shall relocate from its Home Venue without the prior written consent of the Governing Body.

13.3 Home Club Responsibilities at Neutral Venue

Where a Match is played at a Venue that is not the Home Venue for either Club participating in the Match the team listed first in the fixture details for the Match published by the Governing Body must assume responsibility for all Home Club duties.

13.4 Playing Surface and Posts

- (a) General

Subject to Regulation 13.4(b), the dimensions and marking of the Playing Surface must be as set out in Diagram 1 below (which is extracted from Law 3 of the Laws of Australian Football).
- (b) Playing Surface
 - (i) The Playing Surface must, unless otherwise approved by the Competition Manager, be:

- (A) oval in shape;
- (B) at least 150 metres in length; and
- (C) at least 110 metres in width,

and for new developments the preferred dimensions of the Playing Surface are 165 metres (length) and 135 metres (width).

- (ii) A white line must be marked on the ground to identify the Playing Surface. This white line shall be drawn in the shape of an arc from the behind post at one end of the Playing Surface to the behind post at the other end of the Playing Surface. The white lines which are drawn are called the Boundary Lines.

(c) Goal Posts and Behind Posts

- (i) Two (2) posts, to be called goal posts must:
 - (A) be located 6.4 metres apart and must be placed at each end of the Playing Surface;
 - (B) be tapered and be a minimum length of 10 metres out of the Playing Surface (preferred is greater than 12 metres - AFL is 15 metres out of the Playing Surface);
 - (C) have a diameter at the base of the post of 115mm, or as otherwise determined by the Governing Body; and
 - (D) have a diameter at the top of the post of 90mm, or as otherwise determined by the Governing Body.
- (ii) Two (2) posts, to be called behind posts must:
 - (A) be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres from each goal post and in a straight line with them;
 - (B) be tapered and a minimum length of 5 metres out of the Playing Surface (preferred is two thirds the height of the goal posts - AFL is 10 metres out of the Playing Surface);
 - (C) have a diameter at the base of the post of 75mm, or as otherwise determined by the Governing Body; and
 - (D) have a diameter at the top of the post of 55mm, or as otherwise determined by the Governing Body;
- (iii) The padding on each goal post and behind post must:
 - (A) be a minimum length of 2.5 metres (preferred is 3 metres);
 - (B) have a thickness of 35mm (preferred is 50mm);
 - (C) have a width to suit post diameter;
 - (D) have threaded cord and/or Velcro holding padding securely to the post; and

(E) be made from high impact foam padding covered in white waterproof material.

(iv) Each goal post must have a flag holder:

(A) made of PVC, and capped at the bottom;

(B) with a diameter of 50mm;

(C) with a length of 500mm; and

(D) attached to the goal post at a height of 600mm from the Playing Surface.

(d) Goal Square and Kick-Off Line

A further area, to be called the Goal Square, shall be marked by drawing two lines at right angles to the Goal Line for a distance of nine metres from each goal post and connecting the outer end of each line by a straight line. This line is called the Kick-Off Line.

(e) Identifying areas on the Playing Surface

The following areas must be marked on the Playing Surface:

(i) a square, to be called the Centre Square, which shall:

(A) be located in the centre of the Playing Surface; and

(B) be 50 metres long and 50 metres wide;

(ii) a Centre Circle 3 metres in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter (Ten Metre Circle) which shall:

(A) be located in the middle of the centre square; and

(B) both be divided into two semi-circles, by drawing a straight line parallel to each Goal Line,

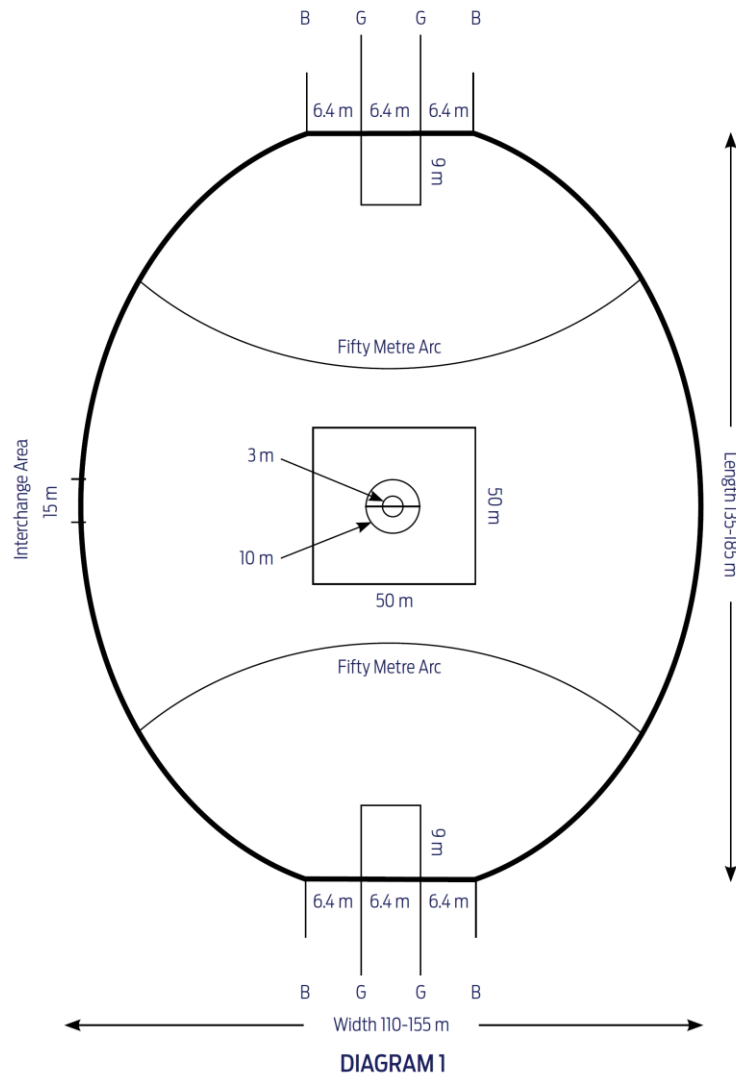
however in the event of adverse weather conditions a secondary Centre Circle may be included which is off the cricket pitch table but still remains within the original centre square;

(iii) an Interchange Area, which shall be 15 metres wide;

(iv) a Goal Square at each end of the Playing Surface;

(v) the Goal Line and Behind Line; and

(vi) a Fifty Metre Arc at each end of the Playing Surface.



13.5 Playing Surface Fencing

- (a) Each Venue must have fencing around the outside of the Arena which is approximately 900mm high with mesh in-fill, white pickets or similar and which allows adequate run-off distance from the boundary line (4 metres minimum behind the goals and all other areas of the ground).
- (b) If the recommended distance behind the goals cannot be met the Home Club must liaise with the relevant council where the Venue is located and the Governing Body to find an acceptable outcome.
- (c) Each Venue must have adequate gates and access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, Players and Club Officials.

13.6 Synthetic Turf

- (a) Unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body, there must be clearance of at least 1.5 metres of natural turf between any synthetic turf and the boundary line.
- (b) Any synthetic turf must be provided and installed by an AFL approved supplier and the synthetic turf must be tested to meet the performance standards and have certification from the AFL.

13.7 Lighting

- (a) Unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body, if a Match is scheduled to commence on or after 3:00pm the Venue must have lighting for the Playing Surface which is at least 300 Lux.
- (b) The minimum lighting standard for Matches that will be broadcast is 1000 Lux.

13.8 Interchange Benches

- (a) Each Venue must have an Interchange Bench in the Interchange Area for each of the competing Teams which must:
 - (i) be a minimum of 6 metres long to cater for up to 12 people;
 - (ii) be covered with a roof or canopy for protection against the weather (preferably made from a clear Perspex material to aid spectator viewing); and
 - (iii) not extend or protrude onto the Playing Surface and must be a minimum of 4.5 metres (preferred 5 metres) from the boundary line.
- (b) The location of the Interchange Benches should be on the centre wing and a sufficient distance apart so there is no contact between competing Teams.
- (c) The Interchange Gate markings are to be outlined by the Home Club prior to the Match and must be within 10 meters of the Interchange Benches for both Teams.
- (d) A stretcher is to be located at each of the Club's Interchange Benches.

13.9 Change Rooms

- (a) Change rooms must be provided for each Team participating in the Match in accordance with applicable standards set by the Governing Body from time to time.
- (b) The minimum requirements for change rooms of Teams participating in the Match are:
 - (i) separate change rooms for each competing Team;
 - (ii) each change room to be not less than 55 square metres (preferred is at least 75 square metres);
 - (iii) the floors of each change room must be carpeted or, alternatively, heavy industrial non-slip matting should be used;
 - (iv) the bathroom and shower floors of each change room are to be safe for all Players, Club Officials and other persons to walk on with any type of footwear (including football boots);
 - (v) a recommended minimum of 30 lockers to be available for use by Players and Club Officials;
 - (vi) bench seating to be provided in front of lockers;
 - (vii) each change room to have a minimum of five (5) showers with hot and cold running water;

- (viii) each change room to have a minimum of two (2) urinals and two (2) toilet pans or where urinals are not provided a minimum of three (3) toilet pans; and
 - (ix) each change room to have a minimum of four (4) massage tables for the purpose of rub downs and strapping.
- (c) Where a Match is played at a Venue that is not the Home Venue for the Club listed first in the fixture details for the Match published by the Governing Body, the Club listed first will be allocated the home change room for that Match (and the second named Club will be allocated the visitor change room), unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body.

13.10 Warm Up Area

Each Venue should have a sufficient area for Players to stretch and exercise in preparation for the Match.

13.11 Property Room

Each Venue must have a separate lock-up room or area within the change rooms for the secure storage of Player's personal property. This area can also be utilised for the distribution of all Players' uniforms and boots.

13.12 Coaches Meeting Room

Each Venue should have a room or area separate from the change rooms (preferably theatre style) which accommodates up to 30 Players and Club Officials providing privacy for the Coach to address the Players. Where this is not possible there must be adequate room and equipment for a Coach to address the Players. A whiteboard and markers are to be provided.

13.13 Coaches Boxes

Each Venue must have a covered coaches box suitable for accommodating at least seven (7) persons for each competing Team which must be positioned as near as practicable to the Interchange Area. Both coaching boxes must have a suitable telephone / wireless communication device from the coaches box to the Interchange Bench.

13.14 Umpires' Dressing Rooms

- (a) A dressing room must be provided for the Umpires of a Match in accordance with applicable standards set by the Governing Body from time to time.
- (b) The minimum requirements for the dressing room for the Umpires in the Match are that the dressing room must:
 - (i) be at least 30 square metres;
 - (ii) have:
 - (A) at least one (1) toilet, one (1) shower with hot and cold running water and one (1) basin;
 - (B) at least 14 hooks for hanging clothing;
 - (C) at least one (1) massage table for the purpose of rub downs and strapping;

- (D) at least one (1) mirror;
- (E) adequate lighting; and
- (F) where possible, a separate race for access to the Playing Surface which is covered or cordoned off to prevent contact with the public.

13.15 Player and Umpire Races

Races shall be provided for the Umpires and both Teams to enter the Playing Surface and each race must be manned by security and closed when Umpires and Players enter or leave the Playing Surface. Spectators should not enter race area.

13.16 Umpire Observers

Each Venue must have a separate covered vantage area for use by at least four (4) Umpire observers.

13.17 Medical Rooms

Each Venues must have a medical room which must:

- (a) be at least 5-6 square metres;
- (b) have:
 - (i) a list of all relevant phone numbers of ambulances, hospitals, emergency centres and other medical emergency contacts;
 - (ii) a flexible or mobile light;
 - (iii) an examination couch;
 - (iv) at least one (1) power point;
 - (v) at least one (1) sink with hot and cold running water, central nozzle and lever taps (to scrub for sterile procedures), a soap dispenser and hand towel dispenser or loose paper leaves dispenser near the sink;
 - (vi) sharp disposal containers with wide mouth access ;
 - (vii) a hazardous waste disposal unit for clinical waste;
 - (viii) a rubbish bin; and
 - (ix) Ferno Scoop/spine board.

13.18 Emergency Medical Arrangements

The Home Club for a Match (other than a Finals Series Match) must ensure:

- (a) appropriate procedures are in place at the Venue to manage emergency medical situations that may arise on Match days;
- (b) Away Clubs are advised of the arrangements to manage emergency medical situations at the Venue, including during the pre-Match briefing process;
- (c) ambulances can access to the Playing Surface at the Venue if necessary;

- (d) the telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services (ambulance, medical centres, hospitals etc.) are readily available at the Venue in case of emergency;
- (e) there is a defibrillator readily available on the Interchange Bench; and
- (f) at all relevant times there is a person available at the Venue who is trained in the use of the defibrillator.

13.19 Club Doctors Attendance

- (a) Each Club must use its best endeavours to ensure that a Club Doctor is in attendance at each Match in which the Club participates for the entirety of the Match.
- (b) The Club Doctor must attend the pre-Match briefing.
- (c) If, in extenuating circumstances, a Club Doctor is unable to attend a Match, the Club must ensure that a suitably qualified paramedic is engaged to provide emergency medical care at the Match.
- (d) Any paramedic engaged under clause 13.19(c) must:
 - (i) hold current AHPRA registration;
 - (ii) hold all relevant professional indemnity and public liability insurance; and
 - (iii) have available an appropriate medical kit, including basic airway management equipment, analgesia (including inhaled methoxyflurane), salbutamol (Ventolin) and adrenaline.

13.20 Testing Facilities

Each Venue must have a separate room with toilet facilities allowing for privacy for the purpose of testing under the AFL Anti-Doping Code.

13.21 Statisticians

Each Venue must have a separate area under cover, elevated to a minimum of 2.5 metres above ground level, with a clear unobstructed view of the entire Playing Surface that has space for a minimum of two (2) persons and that has access to power for use by the official statisticians of the State League Competition.

13.22 Timekeepers' Area

Each Venue must have a separate area under cover, elevated to a minimum of 2.5 metres above ground level, with a clear unobstructed view of the entire Playing Surface to accommodate the Timekeepers and such area must be separate from the press/media area.

13.23 Public Address System

The Home Club must, unless otherwise notified by the Governing Body:

- (a) ensure that a public address system which is clearly audible in all parts of the Venue is available for use on each Match day;

- (b) provide a person to act as the ground announcer who must be available to make announcements through the public address system at all times during the Match; and
- (c) ensure that:
 - (i) announcements requested by the Governing Body or Competition Manager are made over the public address system;
 - (ii) the public address system is not used to make any announcement which is not approved by the Governing Body of Competition Manager;
 - (iii) the public address system is not used to announce results of any sporting contest or encourage patrons to barrack for individual teams; and
 - (iv) the public address system is not used to make any announcements during Match play except in the case of an emergency.

13.24 Grandstand and Clock

Each Venue must have:

- (a) covered grandstand accommodation with seating to accommodate at least 300 spectators; and
- (b) a clock that can be used to accurately time the full length of each quarter and that is visible to all Players and Coaches participating in a Match.

13.25 Spectator Entry and Exit Points

Unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body, each Venue must be fully enclosed to effect entry and exit points and turnstiles or other appropriate measures must be installed to ensure that accurate crowd attendance figures are recorded.

13.26 Car Parking

- (a) Unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body, cars are not to be parked or permitted in the Venue or heavily trafficked spectator areas (other than cars of Club Officials approved by the Governing Body).
- (b) The Home Club must provide a minimum of twelve (12) car parks to be used by the appointed Umpires of the Match.

14. Match Day Inspection

- (a) Before each Match, the representatives of both competing Clubs must:
 - (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.
- (b) At least one (1) hour before the commencement of the first Match at the Venue on a particular day, and immediately following the inspection of an Arena, senior representatives of the competing Clubs shall complete and lodge with the

Governing Body a Match Day Checklist in the form prescribed by the Governing Body.

- (c) In addition to the inspection of an Arena by the panel, a Player may inspect the Arena at the same time as the Club representatives or at any other time before the Match.
- (d) If, after inspecting the Arena, a Player reasonably believes that by reason of the condition of the Arena there is an increased risk he will sustain an injury, the Player may advise their Club and request that they be withdrawn from the Match.
- (e) A Player shall:
 - (i) ensure that the footwear he is wearing is appropriate to the condition of the Arena; and
 - (ii) advise the Club's Doctor and/or Coach if he has any preexisting injury which is likely to be adversely affected or aggravated by reason of the condition of the Arena.

14.2 Match Day Security Procedures

The Home Club is responsible for security on the day of a Match including, unless the Governing Body otherwise specifies, the following:

- (a) The Home Club must use a private security firm for Match day security services.
- (b) If security services are not performed by a private security firm to the satisfaction of the Governing Body, the Governing Body may revoke its approval to use that private security firm for Match day security services.
- (c) A Home Club that fails to provide adequate security for the protection of Umpires will incur a minimum fine of 10 Units at the discretion of the Competition Manager.
- (d) The minimum Match day security personnel requirements are 5 security personnel (private security firm), unless otherwise determined by the Competition Manager.
- (e) Umpires must be accompanied by two private security personnel when entering the Arena for the commencement of a Match, after the half time break and for the duration of the quarter and three-quarter time breaks and must otherwise position themselves near to the change rooms for the duration of the Match.
- (f) Each goal Umpires must be escorted to their respective ends of the Playing Surface by one (1) private security personnel and the private security personnel is to remain behind the goals for the duration of the Match.
- (g) Each goal Umpires must be escorted by the private security personnel positioned behind the goals to the centre of the Playing Surface to check the scores after each quarter of the Match.
- (h) At half time and at the completion of the Match, field Umpires and boundary Umpires are to congregate as soon as practicable and jog off the Playing Surface and the two (2) private security personnel positioned near the change rooms will meet them as soon as possible and escort them from the Arena.
- (i) At half time and at the completion of the Match, the goal Umpires, accompanied by the two (2) private security personnel positioned behind the goals, will jog to the centre of the Playing Surface, complete their duties in checking the scores and then jog out of the Arena.

14.3 Admission Prices

- (a) AFL Recruiting National Accreditation Pass

This card is permissible into any VFL Venue throughout the Home & Away Season.

- (b) Admission Prices

PLEASE NOTE: Concession or student entrance prices will require photo identification. Cards such as old age, veterans, disability, or similar are permitted as concession entry however Senior Card holders are not entitled to discounted entry prices as the card applies to anyone over the age of 55. Companion Card holders present their card at ticket box to purchase a ticket or pay an entry fee and receive a ticket for their companion at no extra charge.

- (i) Home and Away Matches

General Admission (non-AFL Curtain Raisers)	
Adult	\$10.00
Concession/Pensioner (this does not include a Seniors Card)	\$5.00
Visiting VFL Club Members on presentation of VFL Club Membership card and Concession/Pensioner (this does not include a Seniors Card)	\$5.00
Children under 15 years	FREE

Note – it is at the Clubs discretion in relation to whether a person with a Seniors Card can enter the venue for the Concession/Pensioner price.

VFL Club Members (Aligned and Stand-Alone AFL and VFL Clubs)	
Home Games (upon presentation of club membership card)	FREE
Away Games (upon presentation of club membership card)	\$5.00

AFL Members
AFL Members of any category will be required to pay normal admittance price or contact their VFL or AFL Club to arrange a VFL Membership.

AFL Curtain Raiser Matches
VFL Club members whose Club is playing away at an AFL venue will be required to purchase entrance tickets at AFL admittance prices unless otherwise advised.

The above-mentioned prices cannot be varied in anyway.

No admittance to Finals
No membership of any Club, AFL or VFL, or members of the AFL will admit to the Finals Series.

(ii) Final Series Matches

The Governing Body will determine the entry prices for Final Series Matches each Season.

Lead Up Finals and Preliminary Finals	
Adult	\$15.00
Concession	\$10.00
Pensioner	\$10.00
Children under 15 years	FREE

Note – Seniors Cards are not permissible for any Finals Series Matches

Grand Final	
Adult	\$23.00
Concession	\$16.00
Pensioner	\$16.00
Children Under 15 years	FREE

Prices may be varied at the Governing Body's absolute discretion.

15. Name of Clubs and Eligibility to Compete

15.1 Club Licence Agreement

- (a) All Clubs participating in the State League Competition must enter into a Club Licence Agreement with the Governing Body in the form approved by the Governing Body.
- (b) The Governing Body will not include a Club in the program of Home and Away Matches in any Season unless the Club has entered into a Club Licence Agreement.

15.2 General Obligations

Each Club must observe and comply with the provisions contained in the Club Licence Agreement, the Constitution and the Governing Body Rules and Regulations.

15.3 Club Names and Logos

A Club must not without the prior written consent of the Governing Body, change or attempt to change its name or logo.

15.4 Club Constitution

- (a) For the purpose of this Regulation, the "**Club Constitution**" of a Club means the documents comprising the memorandum and articles of association or constitution or rules of a Club or any other document regulating or defining a Club's powers.

- (b) No Club shall alter or amend or attempt to alter or amend its Club Constitution or any of its rules or regulations without the prior written consent of the Governing Body.
- (c) Each Club must provide a copy of its Club Constitution to the Governing Body within one (1) month of its adoption or the making of any alteration or amendment to its Club Constitution.
- (d) Upon request by the Governing Body, a Club must provide a copy of its current Club Constitution to the Governing Body.
- (e) The Club Constitution of each Club must provide for, and each Club must appoint, a full-time general manager to administer the operations of the Club.
- (f) The Club Constitution of a Club must not conflict with:
 - (i) the Constitution of the Governing Body as amended from time to time;
 - (ii) the Governing Body Rules and Regulations as amended from time to time;
 - (iii) any resolution of the Governing Body; and
 - (iv) any other guidelines adopted or determination made from time to time by the Governing Body.

16. Club Colours and Uniforms

16.1 Clubs and Uniforms

- (a) For the purposes of these Regulations a uniform includes but is not limited to a guernsey, shorts, undershorts, socks, headbands and gloves.
- (b) The Governing Body 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

16.2 Obligation to Have Uniforms Available

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

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

16.3 Exclusive Right to Wear Uniform

- (a) Subject to this Regulation 16 and any specific directions given by the Governing Body, each Club has the exclusive right to wear its uniforms as approved by the Governing Body from time to time.
- (b) No Club shall vary or attempt to vary its uniform without the prior written consent of the Competition Manager which they may grant or refuse in their absolute discretion.

16.4 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 Competition Manager or their appointee.

Sanction: Up to 5 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 the Competition Manager or their appointee.

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

16.5 Obligation to Wear Correct Uniform and Items of Clothing

- (a) Each Player must wear:

- (i) the correct uniform of that Player's Club as prescribed by these Regulations and any guidelines or policies of the Governing Body; and
- (ii) such other items of clothing or apparel as may be determined by the Governing Body when attending events or functions organised or conducted under the auspices of the Governing Body.

- (b) A Club shall ensure that its Players comply with Regulation 16.5(a).

16.6 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 during a Match provided that the material is of a neutral beige colour only (unless the Competition Manager has approved a Player to wear an alternative colour) and does not contain any Sponsor Advertising.
- (c) All visible bandages and sports tape, elasticised or otherwise, shall be of soft material and neutral beige coloured, and with no Sponsor Advertising (including inadvertent brand identification) unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body at its discretion.
- (d) Gloves approved by the Competition Manager may be worn during a Match provided that all Sponsor Advertising has been removed from the gloves. No gloves other than those approved by the Competition Manager shall be worn during a Match.
- (e) Armbands may be worn during a Match provided they are black in colour, and with no Sponsor Advertising unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body 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 Governing Body at its discretion.
- (g) Approval must be sought from the Competition Manager prior to Players wearing wristbands during a Match.
- (h) Hair bands may be worn by a Player provided that they are thin, unobtrusive and the same colour as the Player's hair or Club colour, and do not contain any Sponsor Advertising.

- (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, logos, symbols, images or other imagery that are offensive or prejudicial to the interests of the Governing Body are permitted to be written, affixed or displayed on any item of uniform (including boots), bandages, skin or hair of any Player during a Match.

16.7 Protective Equipment

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

16.8 Change of Player Guernsey During Match

- (a) The replacement of a Player's guernsey during a Match shall be dealt with in accordance with Law 5.4 of the Laws of Australian Football.
- (b) If the guernsey of a Player is replaced with a guernsey that has a different number to the number recorded on the Completed Team Sheet, the Club must as soon as possible notify the other Club and all of the persons listed in Regulation 20.1(c) of the change of guernsey number.

17. Footballs

17.1 Approved Footballs

The football to be used during a pre Match warm-up and a Match:

- (a) must be the football approved by the Governing Body from time to time (**Official Football**); and
- (b) must be branded with the logo or logos as directed by the Competition Manager from time to time (which may include the Governing Body Logo, the logo of the State League Competition and/or a sponsor of the State League Competition) in the manner directed by the Competition Manager.

17.2 Supply and Selection of Footballs

Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Manager, the following shall apply to the supply and selection of footballs for Home and Away Matches:

- (a) for:
 - (i) Home and Away Matches commencing before 3.00pm, the Home Club must supply not less than the number of red Official Footballs determined by the Governing Body from time to time (which will in any event not be less than three (3)) and for all other Home and Away Matches, the Home Club shall supply not less than the number of yellow Official Footballs determined by the Governing Body from time to time (which will in any event not be less than three (3)); and
 - (ii) Finals Series Matches the Governing Body will supply the Official Footballs,

(Match Footballs);
- (b) the Home Club must supply:
 - (i) the Match Footballs under Regulation 17.2(a)(i); and
 - (ii) a minimum of three (3) Match Footballs for use during Matches, one (1) to be placed behind the goals at each end of the ground and the remaining to be used in play,

to the field Umpires no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the Match;
- (c) the Home Club may use the three (3) Match Footballs and three (3) replacement Match Footballs to 'kick in' at the Captain's run the day prior to the Match only;
- (d) the three (3) Match Footballs and three (3) replacement Match Footballs are not to be used at the Captain's run if it is raining;
- (e) for Finals Series Matches the Governing Body will supply the additional Match Footballs referred to in Regulation 17.2(b)(ii);
- (f) all Match Footballs supplied by the Governing Body under Regulations 17.2(a)(ii) and 17.2(b)(ii) will remain the property of the Governing Body and must be returned by the Home Club to the Governing Body at the conclusion of the relevant Match; and
- (g) the field Umpires at their discretion can elect not to use a Match Football if it is not presented in a new or near new condition (ie if it has significant scuff marks, is out of shape and/or is waterlogged) in which case the Home Club must provide replacement new or near new Match Footballs.

Sanction: Up to 25 Units, payable by the Club

17.3 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 may replace the Match Football.

18. Timing and Other Arrangements

18.1 Definitions

For the purposes of these Regulations:

Official Starting Time means:

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

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

18.2 Timekeepers - Appointment and Duties

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Manager:
 - (i) each Club must provide at least one person to act as Timekeeper for each Home and Away Match; and
 - (ii) the Governing Body will provide at least one Timekeeper for all Finals Series Matches.
- (b) Timekeepers cannot be currently listed Players of either Club participating in the relevant Match.
- (c) Without limiting the duties and powers of the Timekeepers set out in the Laws of Australian Football, the Timekeepers must:
 - (i) keep time of each quarter of a Match;
 - (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.
- (d) Timekeepers must not barrack from the timekeeper's box.
- (e) Both timekeepers must be keeping time for the entirety of a Match. Under no circumstances can timekeepers rotate on and off, where the off timekeeper, for example, watches the match in the first and third quarters and is in control of timekeeping in the second and fourth quarters. However, Club timekeepers are to rotate in relation to who is in control in any given quarter of a Match, and the timekeeper not in control is to act as the back-up timekeeper.

- (f) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two Timekeepers during a Match, the Timekeepers must report the dispute to the Competition Manager as soon as possible and in any event within one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Match and the Competition Manager shall determine the dispute or disagreement in their sole discretion and each Club and Timekeeper must by comply with the determination of the Competition Manager.

18.3 Clock and Siren

- (a) Each Club must supply a clock for the use of any Timekeeper it is required to provide under Regulation 18.2(a)(i).
- (b) The Home Club for a Home and Away Match must ensure that Venue at which a Match is are played must have a siren and a back up siren of a type approved by the Governing Body.
- (c) The operation of the siren at a Match shall be under the control of the Timekeepers appointed for the Match and the Timekeepers must, in addition to those occasions provided for in Regulations 18.4 and 18.5, sound the siren at such times as shall be determined upon from time to time by the Governing Body.

18.4 Procedure for Sounding Siren

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

Start of Match	
Five minutes prior to Official Starting Time of the Match and as the Umpires enter the Arena	Once
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time of the Match	Twice
One minute prior to the Official Starting Time	Once
Official Starting Time	Once
End of First Quarter	Once
First Quarter Time Interval	
Start of Second Quarter	
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time	Twice
One minute prior to Official Starting Time	Once
Official Starting Time	Once
End of Second Quarter	Once
Half Time Interval	
Start of Third Quarter	
Five minutes prior to Official Starting Time and as	Once

the Umpires enter the Arena	
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time	Twice
One minute prior to Official Starting Time	Once
Official Starting Time	Once
End of Third Quarter	Once
Three Quarter Time Interval	
Start of Final Quarter	
Two minutes prior to Official Starting Time	Twice
One minute prior to Official Starting Time	Once
Official Starting Time	Once
End of Fourth Quarter	Once

18.5 End of Quarter

The Timekeepers must sound the siren until a field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end.

18.6 Tossing of Coin

At the sound of the two (2) sirens two minutes before the commencement of a Match, the captain of each Team must report to the field Umpires in the centre circle for the toss of the coin.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units, payable by the Club

18.7 Players Ready to Commence Play

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

Sanction: Up to 10 Units per minute of delay for non-broadcast matches and up to 20 Units per minute of delay for broadcast matches, payable by the Club

18.8 Clubs Entering Arena

All Clubs must enter the Arena at such times as notified by the Governing Body.

Sanction: Up to 25 units, payable by the Club.

18.9 Players Kicking Football into Crowd

Other than during the course of a Match, Players must not kick (or project by any other means) a football into the crowd at the Venue at which the Match is being played (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.

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

19. Announcement of Team List

19.1 Home and Away Matches and Finals Series Matches

- (a) A Club participating in a Home and Away Match or Finals Series Match must lodge its Team list with the Governing Body via the Community Administration Platform at the time and containing the name, guernsey number and playing position of the number of Players as set out in the following tables:

AFL Standalone / AFL Aligned Clubs:

AFL Day of Match	VFL Day of Match	VFL Lodgement Date / Time	Lodgement Details:
Friday/Saturday/Sunday	Thursday	Wednesday 5.20pm – Squad Lodged Wednesday 6.20pm – Squad Released	18 Players 13 Interchange Players (max) 23 rd Player Selected
Thursday/Friday/Saturday	Friday	Thursday 5.20pm – Final Team Lodged Thursday 6.20pm – Final Teams Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 8 Emergency Players 23 rd Player Selected
Sunday/Monday	Friday	Thursday 5.20pm – Squad Lodged Thursday 6.20pm – Squad Released	18 Players 13 Interchange Players (max) 23 rd Player Selected
Thursday/Friday/Saturday	Saturday/Sunday	Friday 11.20am – Final Team Lodged Friday 12.20pm – Final Teams Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 8 Emergency Players 23 rd Player Selected
Sunday/Monday	Saturday/Sunday	Friday 4.00pm – Final Team Lodged Friday 5.00pm – Final Team Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 8 Emergency Players 23 rd Player Selected

VFL Standalone Clubs:

VFL Day of Match	VFL Lodgement Date / Time	Lodgement Details:
Thursday	Wednesday 5.20pm – Final Team Lodged Wednesday 6.20pm – Final Teams Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 8 Emergency Players
Friday	Thursday 5.20pm – Final Team Lodged Thursday 6.20pm – Final Teams Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 8 Emergency Players
Saturday	Friday 11.20am – Final Team Lodged Friday 12.20pm – Final Teams Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 4 Emergency Players
Sunday	Friday 4.00pm – Final Team Lodged Friday 5.00pm – Final Teams Released	18 Players 5 Interchange Players Up to 8 Emergency Players

- (b) The Team list lodged under Regulation 19.1(a) must contain any other information required by the Governing Body from time to time.
- (c) The Competition Manager may in their absolute discretion vary the time within which a Club is obliged to lodge its Team list with the Governing Body or the number or composition of Players to be included in the Team list.

19.2 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 any 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 Competition Manager and the opposition Club of the Player being withdrawn from the Team list and the new Player being included as soon as possible;
 - (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, provided the Club first receives written approval from the Governing Body;
 - (iii) the Player being withdrawn from the Team list is ineligible to play in, and must not play in, any match in any other competition during the equivalent round; and

- (iv) where the withdrawal of a Player is due to injury or illness, the Club must submit to the Governing Body written documentation from the Club Doctor confirming the reason for the withdrawal of the Player.
- (b) Other than as set out in Regulation 19.2(a), a Player who was not listed on the Team list at the time it was lodged with the Governing Body under Regulation 19.1 is not permitted to be subsequently named as a Player or Emergency Player on the Official Team Sheet and/or participate in the relevant Match unless prior approval is granted by the Competition Manager.

19.3 Unavailable Players

- (a) A Club participating in a Home and Away Match or Finals Series Match must lodge a list of all of the Players who are injured or otherwise unavailable to participate in a Match with the Governing Body by 12:00pm eastern standard time on the preceding Friday before the Match or such other day or time as the Governing Body may determine.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units.

- (b) Any Player who is named on a list submitted under Regulation 19.3(a) is ineligible to play in, and must not play in, any match in any other competition during the equivalent round of Matches.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units.

19.4 Sanctions

- (a) Where a Club does not lodge its Team list or list of unavailable Players with the Governing Body in the required form and/or by the times prescribed in this Regulation 19, 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) and was not listed on a Team's list at the time it was lodged with the Governing Body under this Regulation 19 or added to the Team list under Regulation 19.2, the Club may be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units.

- (c) If a Player named on the Team list at the time it was lodged with the Governing Body is replaced by a Player from outside this Team list, the Player replaced is ineligible to play in, and must not play in, any other team (other than a team of an AFL Club) in any other competition during the equivalent round.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for each breach

20. Official Team Sheet

20.1 Submission of Official Team Sheet

- (a) Each Club must:
 - (i) complete an Official Team Sheet (**Completed Team Sheet**) online via the Community Administration Platform for each Match in which the Club participates no later than 30 (thirty) minutes prior to the time scheduled for the commencement of a Match unless otherwise specified by the Competition Manager; and

- (ii) bring five (5) hard copies of the Completed Team Sheet to the Match.
- (b) The Away Club must provide the hard copies of the Completed Team Sheet it brings to the Match under Regulation 20.1(a)(ii) to the Home Club no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the time scheduled for the commencement of the Match unless otherwise specified by the Competition Manager.
- (c) The Home Club must provide a hard copy of the Completed Team Sheet for both the Home Club and the Away Club to each of the following:
 - (i) the field Umpires by delivering the Completed Team Sheets to a representative of the Umpires at the Umpires' dressing room;
 - (ii) the media by delivering the Completed Team Sheet to a representative of the media;
 - (iii) the person nominated by the Competition Manager as the match manager for the Match; and
 - (iv) a representative of the official statistician of the State League Competition (which is currently Champion Data),

no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of a Match unless otherwise specified by the Competition Manager.

Sanction: Up to 20 Units

20.2 Composition of Official Team Sheet

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Manager, the Official Team Sheet must:
 - (i) subject to Regulation 20.2(b), list 23 Players and identify their guernsey numbers and whether or not they are an Interchange Player;
 - (ii) identify the captain;
 - (iii) list a maximum of 23 persons all being accredited Club Football Officials who require access to the Arena in accordance with this Regulation (including Club Doctors, Physiotherapists, the Team Runner and Trainers);
 - (iv) list up to eight (8) Emergency Players; and
 - (v) if the Match is a Home and Away Match, list the Club's Timekeeper for the Match.
- (b) The Competition Manager 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 20.2(a)(i) 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 23 Players in the Official Team Sheet under Regulation 20.2(a)(i) a Player who was listed as an Emergency Player in the Team list under Regulation 19.

- (e) A Player who was listed on the Team list under Regulation 19 who is not included as one of the 23 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 19.2 or 20.3) is permitted to play in another match in another competition during the equivalent round.
- (f) A Club must not list a person under Regulation 20.2(a)(iii) who is not a registered Club Football Official without the prior approval of the Competition Manager.

20.3 Amendment to Official Team Sheet – Emergency Player

- (a) After a Club has submitted its Official Team Sheet 30 (thirty) minutes prior to the scheduled Match start time, it may subsequently replace a Player listed on that Official Team Sheet only with an Emergency Player that was listed on the Official Team Sheet before the commencement of play of the Match (as defined in the Laws of Australian Football), provided the Player who is being replaced is unable to play because of injury, illness or personal circumstances.
- (b) The following conditions apply to the inclusion of an Emergency Player and an amendment to the Official Team Sheet:
 - (i) where an Emergency Player replaces a Player initially listed on the Official Team Sheet, the amendment to the Official Team Sheet must be made by notifying the field Umpire before the commencement of the Match.
 - (ii) all the persons listed in Regulation 20.1(c) must be notified by the Competition Manager of any amendment to the Official Team Sheet;
 - (iii) the Player who has been replaced under this Regulation must immediately leave the Arena and not sit on the Interchange Bench;
 - (iv) if a Player has been replaced because of injury or illness, the Club Medical Officer must supply a Doctor's Certificate to the Governing Body certifying that the Player being replaced is unable to play due to injury or illness, to be completed and lodged with the Governing Body on the first working day after the Match; and
 - (v) the Player who has been replaced is ineligible to play in, and must not play in, any match in any other competition during the equivalent round of Matches (other than in a Match played by the Club's AFL team).

Sanction: Up to 25 Units for first offence

Up to 50 Units for second or subsequent offences

20.4 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 two (2) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Match.
- (b) All Players must leave the Playing Surface through the area designated as the Interchange Gate.
- (c) Once a Club has handed its Official Team Sheet to the Umpires in accordance with Regulation 20, 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 the Interchange Bench as the case may be.
- (e) The Players nominated on the Official Team Sheet as Interchange Players prior to the commencement of the Match cannot enter the Playing Surface until play has commenced or where approval is granted by the Competition Manager due to exceptional circumstances.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for first offence

Up to 20 Units for second or subsequent offences

20.5 Concussion

- (a) All Clubs, Club Officials and Players must follow and comply with the clause 19 of National Community Football Policy Handbook with respect to all possible Player concussions.

20.6 Permitted Access to Arena

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

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

20.7 Access to Interchange Bench

A person listed on the Official Team Sheet may sit on the Interchange Bench except for:

- (a) the Timekeeper;
- (b) the Senior Coach (unless Regulation 20.9 applies);
- (c) all other coaching staff, other than a Coach who has been nominated on the Official Team Sheet;
- (d) all Trainers other than the Trainer which is to remain on the Interchange Bench under Regulation 20.14(a)(iii);
- (e) Emergency Players;
- (f) injured Players, other than those Players injured during the course of a Match; and
- (g) such other persons agreed by the Competition Manager.

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for first offence

Up to 20 Units for second or subsequent offences

20.8 Players exceeding Permitted Numbers

- (a) A Club must ensure that the number of Players of the Club on the Playing Surface during the progress of a Match shall not exceed 18 or any other number permitted by the Governing Body.
- (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 100 Units for first offence

Up to 200 Units for second offence

20.9 Senior Coach

The Senior Coach or assistant Coach designated on the Official Team Sheet may:

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

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for first offence

Up to 20 Units for second or subsequent offences

20.10 Listed Players May enter Arena

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

20.11 Emergency Listed Players

- (a) An Emergency Player must not:
 - (i) enter the Arena after the Official Team Sheet has been lodged 30 (thirty) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Match or during a Match; and
 - (ii) sit on the Interchange Bench at any time throughout the Match, unless they have been officially included in the team through the withdrawal of an injured or medically unfit Player which has been notified to the field Umpires prior to the commencement of the Match.
- (b) Emergency Players may enter the Arena at quarter time, half time three-quarter time and after the completion of the Match (after the second siren has sounded).

Sanction: Up to 10 Units for first offence

Up to 20 Units for second or subsequent offences

20.12 Staff and Officials Permitted onto the Playing Surface during the Match

In addition to Players and Umpires, only the following people may enter the Playing Surface during the progress of a Match:

- (a) a Team Runner may enter the Playing Surface [for the sole purpose of conferring briefly with Players of their Club;
- (b) the Trainers listed on the Official Team Sheet solely for the purpose of:
 - (i) attending to an injured Player;
 - (ii) assisting the removal of an injured Player by 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 Surface 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 Doctor and Physiotherapist of the Club, for the purpose of attending to an injured Player or Players.

Sanction: Up to 25 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 Competition Manager

20.13 Team Runner

- (a) The Governing Body 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 Runner's Club may be liable to a sanction as set out in this Regulation 20.13.
- (b) A Club may appoint one (1) Team Runner. Unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body, 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;
 - (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; or
 - (iii) if they are younger than eighteen (18) years of age as of 1 January in the relevant year.
- (c) A Club must register its Team Runner with the Governing Body as a Club Official in accordance with Regulation 8 within one (1) business day of the Team Runner's appointment.
- (d) During a Match the Team Runner must:
 - (i) dress in the uniform provided by the Governing Body;
 - (ii) not have affixed or possess any Communication Device; and
 - (iii) enter and exit the Playing Surface via the Interchange Area / Interchange Gate.
- (e) Without limiting Regulation 20.13(d)(i), at all times during a Match:

- (i) the Team Runner may only wear official Club hats;
 - (ii) the Team Runner's shirt must have the name of the Club or the Club logo clearly visible and must be numbered in accordance with the requirements of the Governing Body. The number on the shirt must correspond with the number and name of the Team Runner on the Official Team Sheet;
 - (iii) the clothing and apparel worn by the Team Runner must not have any sponsorship or advertising without the prior approval of the Governing Body; and
 - (iv) all visible protective apparel, bandages and thermal supports worn by the Team Runner must be unbranded and neutral or skin colour.
- (f) Where the Team Runner is unable to act, a Club shall record the name of the substituted Team Runner on the Official Team Sheet to be handed to the field Umpires prior to the commencement of a Match.
- (g) The sole duty of the Team Runner is to deliver messages from the coaching staff to Players on the Playing Surface. The Team Runner must immediately vacate the Playing Surface once the message has been delivered and is not permitted to stay on the Playing Surface to coach or barrack.
- (h) The Team Runner must not interfere with the course of play in a Match.
- (i) The Team Runner must not be:
- (i) inside the 50 metre arc at anytime when the football is being kicked in after a point has been scored; or
 - (ii) in the centre square at anytime when the football is being bounced in the centre of the Playing Surface to start play at the commencement of a quarter or to restart play after a goal has been scored.
- (j) If the Team Runner breaches Regulations 20.13(g), 20.13(h) or 20.13(i) a free kick may be awarded against the Team Runner's Team at the location of the infringement or where the football is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty in the Umpire's opinion.
- (k) A Team Runner must not engage in conduct that may cause or incite injury to any Player, Club Official or Umpire or initiate physical contact of any nature while conducting their duties. The Governing Body and/or Umpires may impose any penalty that it or they deems fit, including by awarding a free kick against the Team Runner's Team at the location of the infringement or where the football is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty in the Umpire's opinion.

Sanction: Up to 50 units for first offence

Up to 100 units for second or subsequent offence(s) and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the Competition Manager

20.14 Trainers

- (a) Number of Trainers and Arena location
- (i) A maximum of six (6) Trainers for each Club may participate in a Match.
 - (ii) Without limiting Regulation 20.14(a)(i), each Club participating in a Match must appoint and provide at least two (2) Trainers who have 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 Governing Body.

- (iii) One (1) Trainer must remain in the Interchange Area and may only enter the Playing Surface to assist with a stretcher.
- (iv) The remaining Trainers (a maximum of five (5)) must 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 20.12(b).

(b) Obligations of Club

Each Club must ensure that:

- (i) the Trainers that participate in a Match:
 - (A) are not younger than sixteen (16) years of age; and
 - (B) are listed on the Official Team Sheet;
- (ii) each Trainer is aware of and complies with any obligations imposed upon the Trainer under the Governing Body Regulations and Regulations or any decision of or guidelines issued by the Governing Body; and
- (iii) if it is the Home Club, it supplies six (6) plastic chairs for use of the Trainers of the Away Club during the Match.

(c) All Trainers must leave the Playing Surface immediately upon completing any of the tasks outlined in Regulation 20.12(b).

(d) A Trainer must 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) engage in conduct that may cause or incite injury to any Player, Club Official or Umpire, or initiate any physical contact other than as part of their responsibilities as a Trainer;
- (iii) act as, or carry out any of the duties of, the Team Runner;
- (iv) carry messages from the coaching staff to any of the Players competing during the Match;
- (v) have affixed any Communication Device;
- (vi) throw water bottles to Players; or
- (vii) remain on the Playing Surface after performing their duties, other than where a Player is injured and requires the attention of the Trainer.

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

Up to 100 units for second or subsequent offence(s) and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the Competition Manager.

- (e) Subject to Regulation 20.14(g), Trainers must remain behind the boundary line while the Match is in progress and enter the Playing Surface only when there is a clear break in play away from the Player/s whom the Trainer is attending to.
- (f) When behind the boundary line Trainers must be located up against the fence.
- (g) Trainers on the Playing Surface for the purpose of attending an injured Player must not interfere with the play in any way and must vacate the Playing Surface as soon as possible.
- (h) Each Trainer must not be:
 - (i) inside the 50 metre arc at any time when the football is being kicked in after a point has been scored; or
 - (ii) in the centre square at any time when the football is being bounced in the centre of the Playing Surface to start play at the commencement of a quarter or to restart play after a goal has been scored.
- (i) Should a Player require treatment inside the 50 metre arc while the football is being kicked in after a point has been scored, the Trainer must notify the controlling field Umpire before the kick-in process occurs. A free kick may be given if permission is not provided by the controlling field Umpire and the Trainer is deemed to be interfering with play in a Match.
- (j) During a Match each Trainer must dress in the uniform determined by the Governing Body and, without limiting the foregoing, each Trainer must at all times during a Match only wear:
 - (i) black shorts/long pants approved by the Governing Body (i.e. no board shorts or jeans);
 - (ii) appropriate covered footwear;
 - (iii) only official Club hats; and
 - (iv) shirts approved by the Governing Body.

Sanction: 10 Units per breach

- (k) Without limiting Regulation 20.14(j), at all times during a Match:
 - (i) the clothing and apparel worn by each Trainer must be clearly marked with the Club's name and feature a number in a prominent position. The number on the attire must correspond with the number and name of the Trainer on the Official Team Sheet; and
 - (ii) the clothing and apparel worn by each Trainer must not have any sponsorship or advertising without the prior approval of the Governing Body.

20.15 Club Doctor / Physiotherapists

- (a) Each Club must provide at least one (1) Club Doctor for each Home Match. Any Club Doctor must wear official Club attire and a Governing Body approved vests at all times during the Match.

- (b) Each Club must endeavour to provide at least one (1) Physiotherapist for each Match. Any Physiotherapist must wear official Club attire and a Governing Body approved vest at all times during the Match.
- (c) The Club Doctor and the Physiotherapist must sit on the Interchange Bench and must only enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Gate other than in an emergency situation.
- (d) The Club Doctor and the Physiotherapist must 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 50 units for first offence

Up to 100 units for second or subsequent offence(s) and/or a period of suspension to be determined by the Competition Manager.

20.16 Sanctions

If in the opinion of an Umpire or the Competition Manager, a Club or person contravenes this Regulation 20, the Club shall be liable to a sanction as specified at the foot of the relevant provision, or as determined by the Competition Manager up to the maximum amounts set out below:

Sanction: Up to 50 Units for a first offence

Up to 100 Units for a second or subsequent offence in the same season.

21. Umpires and Scoring

21.1 Appointment

- (a) The Governing Body will appoint three (3) field Umpires, two (2) goal Umpires and three (3) boundary Umpires to officiate each Match.
- (b) No Match shall commence or be conducted without field Umpires who are accredited with AFL or who are undertaking an accreditation course with the AFL.
- (c) An Umpire for a Match must not travel to or from that Match with any person connected with the participating Clubs, unless approval has been granted by the Governing Body.
- (d) The Governing Body is responsible for arrangements in relation to fees and travelling expenses for Umpires, except for any practice matches.

21.2 Umpires Escorts

- (a) Home Clubs must provide an escort for umpires for each Home and Away Match for which they are the Home Club.

Sanction: 10 Units

- (b) The role of the Umpires escort is to escort the Umpires on and off the Playing Surface at relevant times and to seek to protect Umpires from abuse and deter people from engaging in unnecessary or inappropriate action in relation to the Umpires.

- (c) At the completion of the second quarter and at the end of the Match the Umpires' escort is to join the Umpires as soon as possible to escort them from the Playing Surface to the door of the Umpires' change rooms. The Umpires escort must also attend to the Umpires at the quarter time and three quarter time breaks.

21.3 Change room security

The Home Club must ensure two (2) security personnel are positioned near change rooms of the Umpires for each Home and Away Match for which they are the Home Club for the duration of the Match and not less than 20 minutes after the conclusion of the Match.

21.4 Umpire not to play with Clubs

No field, boundary or goal Umpire shall be allowed to play with any Club during any Season in which they have been appointed to officiate in a Match unless the Umpire has resigned and their resignation accepted by the Governing Body's Umpiring Department.

21.5 Umpires to attend meetings

Umpires must attend any meeting as required by the Governing Body. Failure of an Umpire to attend any such meeting shall be dealt with by the Governing Body as it deems fit.

21.6 Umpires' Dressing Room

- (a) Subject to Regulation 21.6(b), only Umpires, their trainers and other persons expressly permitted access under these Regulations may access the Umpires' dressing room on the day of a Match.
- (b) Club Officials of the competing Clubs and representatives of the Governing Body's Umpiring Department may only access the Umpires' dressing rooms at the conclusion of the Match.

21.7 Goal Umpires' Scores

- (a) Goal Umpires shall compare scores at end of each quarter of a Match and shall confer in the centre of the Playing Surface at the half-time interval and at the conclusion of the Match for the purpose of checking the score against the score board. The waving of two (2) flags by the goal Umpires will indicate to the attendants that the score on the score board is correct. If the score on the score board is incorrect, the goal Umpires shall proceed to the score board and instruct attendants to rectify. Following rectification two (2) flags shall be waved by the goal Umpires.
- (b) Goal Umpires must:
 - (i) provide the final scores of the Match to the Home Club to allow the Home Club to report the scores in accordance with Regulation 21.12; and
 - (ii) lodge the final scores of a Match with the Governing Body in accordance with the procedure required by the Governing Body from time to time

21.8 Match Reports by Umpires

Promptly following the conclusion of each Match, the officiating field Umpires for the Match must complete and lodge with the Governing Body a Match report using the form prescribed by the Governing Body in accordance with Regulation 21.12.

21.9 Best and Fairest Votes

Promptly following the conclusion of each Match, the officiating field Umpires for the Match must complete the best and fairest player votes via the form prescribed by the Governing Body.

21.10 Public Comments on Umpires

- (a) Each person subject to these Regulations must not make any public comment about an Umpire or a decision made by an Umpire.
- (b) Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall be liable to a sanction:

Sanction: Up to 50 Units for first offence

Up to 100 Units for a second or subsequent offence

21.11 Approaches to Umpires

- (a) Each person subject to these Regulations must not 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) No Coach, Player or Club Official shall be permitted to enter into the centre square during the intervals of a Match.
- (c) Any team address must be given outside the centre square.
- (d) Where a person contravenes this Regulation, the person's Club shall be liable to a sanction:

Sanction: Up to 50 Units for first offence

Up to 100 Units for second offence

Up to 200 Units for a third or further offence

21.12 Reporting of Match Details by Home Club

Unless otherwise required by the Governing Body:

- (a) within five (5) minutes of the end of each quarter of a Match the Home Club must enter the quarter by quarter scores for the Match into the Community Administration Platform and/or such other application notified by the Governing Body from time to time under the "Live Scores" section;
- (b) by no later than the half time break of a Match, the Home Club must ensure that the Players listed as playing in the Match in the Community Administration Platform reflects only those Players which are participating in the Match.
- (c) the Away Club must provide the Home Club with:
 - (i) its goal kickers for the Match; and
 - (ii) its best Players of the Match, numbered 1 to 6 (with 1 being the best Player,

within 45 minutes of the conclusion of the Match; and

- (d) within one (1) hour of the conclusion of a Match, the Home Club must entered via the Community Administration Platform:
 - (i) which Club won and which Club lost the Match or that the Match was drawn;
 - (ii) the final scores of the Match;
 - (iii) the goal kickers for the Match;
 - (iv) best Players of the Match for each Team, numbered 1 to 6 (with 1 being the best Player);
 - (v) any reports made during the Match; and
 - (vi) any other such information required by the Governing Body from time to time.

22. Postponement or Cancellation of Match

22.1 Postponement or Cancellation of Matches

- (a) The Governing Body may postpone or cancel a Match or a round of Matches. All decisions of the Governing Body in relation to postponement or cancellation of a Match or a round of Matches are final.
- (b) Where the Governing Body postpones or cancels a Match or a round of Matches, it shall endeavour to notify its decision:
 - (i) relating to a round of Matches - to the General Manager or equivalent of all Clubs not later than nine o'clock on the morning of the day on which they are scheduled to be played; or
 - (ii) relating to individual Matches - to the General Manager or equivalent of the Clubs concerned as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time for the Match.

22.2 Extreme Weather

Without limiting Regulation 22.1, the Governing Body may, in its absolute discretion, cancel, suspend, postpone or abandon a Match where it considers conditions to be, or potentially be, unsafe or unsuitably for the Match to continue, in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

23. Delay in Commencement and Forfeiture Of Match

23.1 Delay in commencement of Match

- (a) Unless otherwise permitted under these Regulations, each Team must move into position and be ready to commence play at the Official Starting Time of the Match and each quarter.
- (b) If the commencement or recommencement of a Match is delayed by reason of the action or inaction of one or both Teams, in addition to any other penalties contained in these Regulations, the Club or Clubs who were responsible for the delayed commencement or recommencement of the Match are liable for a sanction up to 50 Units.

23.2 Forfeiture

- (a) In addition to anything in the Laws of Australian Football, if a Club is unable to do all things necessary for the commencement of play for a period exceeding twenty (20) minutes prior to the Official Starting Time of the Match (or a different time period specified by the Competition Manager) the following shall apply:
- (i) the General Manager of the Home Club shall notify the Competition Manager or such other person who they may designate from time to time (**Notice**);
 - (ii) 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 Competition Manager or other designated person, ruling that the Match shall not commence due to insufficient time (taking into account facilities such as lights) for the Match to be completed; and
 - (iii) if play is not able to be commenced or if the Competition Manager or other designated person determines that the Match should not commence as provided in the aforementioned paragraph, 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 Match the Club whose Team was positioned to commence play at that time will be declared the winner of the Match). Percentage shall be determined in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football. Forfeiture shall be in addition to any other penalty contained in these Regulations.

Sanction: 200 penalty units and loss of points

- (b) Where a Club is directed to recommence play by the Competition Manager or other person designated by the Competition Manager 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 Match the opposing Club will be declared the winner of the Match). Percentage shall be determined in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.
- (c) A Club that is scheduled to participate in a Match that is forfeited but is not the forfeiting Club shall submit an Official Team Sheet in respect of the Match in accordance with Regulation 20, and the Club's Players participation in that Match shall be included for the purposes of any awards and eligibility for Finals Series Matches.

23.3 Abandonment

If neither Club is able to commence play in accordance with Regulation 23.2, the Match shall be deemed to be abandoned and no Premiership Points awarded.

23.4 No Replay

Any Match forfeited by a Club or abandoned shall not be replayed nor shall the Club(s) be entitled to receive any Premiership Points or percentage in relation to any forfeited or abandoned Match unless determined otherwise by the Governing Body.

23.5 Governing Body May Vary

Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulations 23.2 and 23.3, the Governing Body 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.

24. Incomplete Match

24.1 Match Not Able to Commence or Continue

- (a) Subject to Regulation 24.1(b), 24.1(c) or 24.1(d), 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 Competition Manager, or other persons designated by the Competition Manager from time to time, and the Competition Manager or such designated person decides that the Match is not able to commence or proceed.
- (b) The Competition Manager, or the person designated by the Competition Manager, 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.
- (c) If the Competition Manager or their designate is unable to be contacted on the day of a Match the field Umpire for the relevant Match may determine that the Match is not able to commence or proceed.
- (d) A field Umpire for the relevant Match may determine that the Match is not able to proceed if they consider that it is, or potentially is, unsafe to continue playing the Match.

24.2 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 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 (including under Regulation 22), 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 sixty (60) minutes.
 - (ii) If the Home and Away Match is unable to re-commence within a sixty (60) minute period or such other period determined by the Governing Body 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 sixty (60) minutes.
- (ii) If the Home and Away Match is unable to re-commence within a sixty (60) minute period or such other period determined by the Governing Body, 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.

24.3 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 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 Competition Manager 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 sixty (60) minutes.
- (ii) Subject to Regulation 24.3(c), if the Finals Series Match is unable to re-commence within a sixty (60) minute period or such other period determined by the Governing Body, the Competition Manager shall reschedule the Finals Series Match so that a result can be obtained.
- (iii) If the Finals Series Match is rescheduled pursuant to Regulation 24.3(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 football (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 Competition Manger, or such other person designated by the Competition Manager 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.

24.4 Re-Commencement of Play

Where a Club is directed to recommence play by the Competition Manger or the designated person referred to in Regulation 24.1 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 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.

24.5 Governing Body May Vary

Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulation 24.2 the Governing Body 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.

25. Use of Stretchers

25.1 Provision of Stretcher

The Home Club for a Match must ensure that a stretcher is available from the Interchange Bench at the Match and that the Club Doctor, Physiotherapist and Trainers have been instructed in the correct use of the stretcher.

25.2 Injured Player Requiring Stretcher

Any Player who is injured during a Match and who, in the opinion of the Club Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer, requires the assistance of a stretcher, shall be attended by Club training staff and a stretcher as soon as possible.

25.3 Club Medical Personnel

A stretcher may only be called by the Club Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer as listed on the Official Team Sheet.

25.4 Direct Access

- (a) Subject to Regulation 25.4(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 Playing Surface on the stretcher by the shortest and most direct route.
- (b) If the Player is assessed by a Club Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer as being capable of leaving the Playing Surface without the aid of a stretcher, then the Player must either leave the Playing Surface via the most direct route as advised by the Club Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer or return to the Interchange Bench via the Interchange Gate.
- (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 Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer notifies the field Umpire that it would be dangerous to do so.

25.5 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 twenty (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 Playing Surface.

25.6 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 the Club Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer; 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 Doctor, Physiotherapist or Trainer 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 by the shortest and most direct route or otherwise in accordance with Regulation 25.4; or
- (d) the Competition Manager 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

25.7 Resuming Play within 20 Minute Period

Where a Player resumes playing within a period of twenty (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, the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Up to 25 Units;

26. Medically Unfit Players

26.1 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 Governing Body or the AFL should not continue to play or train.

Sanction: Maximum 100 units

26.2 Examination of Medical Practitioner

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 a qualified Medical Practitioner and unless such qualified Medical Practitioner 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 Club Official 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 100 Units

26.3 Not Used

26.4 Public Liability Insurance

- (a) In this Regulation, "**Personal Injury**" has the same meaning given to that term in the Governing Body's public liability insurance policy in place from time to time.
- (b) If for whatever reason the Governing Body is not fully and unconditionally indemnified under its public liability insurance policy for any Personal Injury which a Player may sustain from training for or participating in the State League Competition or any Matches, the relevant Club must not allow the Player to train for or participate in the State League Competition from and upon receipt by the Club of a notice from the Governing Body 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 Governing Body is not for whatever reason, fully and unconditionally indemnified under its public liability insurance policy for any Personal Injury which a Player may sustain from training for or participating in the State League Competition or any Matches; or
- (ii) the Competition Manager is of the opinion that the Governing Body will or may not for whatever reason be fully and unconditionally indemnified under its public liability insurance policy for any Personal Injury which a Player may sustain from training for or participating in the State League Competition or any Matches,

then the Competition Manager may make such determination or take such action as the Competition Manager, in their absolute discretion, thinks fit, to give effect to Regulation 26.4(b). If a Club or Player of a Club fails to comply with any determination or action of the Competition Manager or Governing Body under this Regulation 26.4(c), the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

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

27. Bleeding and Blood Borne Infections

27.1 The Meaning of Active Bleeding

Actively 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.

27.2 Participation in Matches When Actively Bleeding

- (a) Unless Regulation 27.6 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: 25 Units
- Second and each subsequent offence: 50 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: 25 Units
- Second and each subsequent offence: 50 Units

27.3 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 27.3(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) the Player must immediately leave the Playing Surface through the Interchange Gate;
 - (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.
- (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.

27.4 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 Regulation 27.3 will apply.

27.5 Failure to Obey Direction

- (a) A Player's refusal to promptly obey a direction of a field Umpire given under Regulation 27.3 or 27.4 is a reportable offence;
- (b) Any fine, period of suspension or other sanction determined by the Tribunal, Tribunal Appeal Board or other body shall be in addition to any sanction which may be imposed by the Governing Body upon a Player under Regulation 27.2.

27.6 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.

27.7 Deliberate Smearing of Blood

Regardless of any other provision in these Regulations, 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.

27.8 Protective Gloves

Each Club or Team must ensure that any Club Doctor, Physiotherapist, 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 100 Units

27.9 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 100 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 100 Units

27.10 Change Rooms

Each Club or Team must ensure that all change 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 100 Units

27.11 Hygiene

Each Club or Team must ensure that:

- (a) Players do not urinate (other than in a toilet) in or about any change rooms or Arena (including the Interchange 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 100 Units

27.12 Trainers

Unless Regulation 27.4 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 100 Units

28. Stadium Roofs

28.1 Roof Opening

Any roof over the Playing Surface shall remain open on the day of a Match unless otherwise determined by the Governing Body in its absolute discretion. Without limitation, the Governing Body, may direct that any roof over a Playing Surface 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.

28.2 Contact with Roof

- (a) A Player commits a reportable offence if they intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks or otherwise causes the football to hit any part of roof which is closed over the Playing Surface.
- (b) Where a Player intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks or causes the football to hit any part of a roof which is closed over 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.
- (c) If a Player accidentally kicks or causes the football to hit any part of a roof which is closed over the Playing Surface, 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 roof structure which is above the Playing Surface, the field Umpire shall bounce the football at the position on the Playing Surface nearest to where the football hit the roof structure.

29. Mêlées

- (a) The Regulations and procedure in relation to melees are governed by the provisions of the National Community Football Policy Handbook (including the Melee Matrix Grading System) and this Regulation 29.
- (b) If an incident occurs prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time interval) or following the completion of a Match which involves three (3) or more Players, except where a Player's sole intention is to remove a Player from their Team from the incident, and if in the opinion of the Governing Body such incident is likely to:
 - (i) prejudice the interests or reputation of the Governing Body, or
 - (ii) prejudice the interests or reputation of the State League Competition, or

(iii) bring the game of Australian football into disrepute,

then any person involved in such incident shall be reported by the Governing Body or its appointed nominee for having committed an act of misconduct and shall be dealt with in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook..

- (c) In respect to a Club Official, the Tribunal or Appeal Board may in addition to Regulation 29, impose a penalty on such Club Official's Club as the Tribunal or Appeal Board in its absolute discretion thinks fit save where the Club satisfies the Tribunal or Appeal Board that such conduct of such Club Official was not entered into with the consent, acquiescence or knowledge of the Club.
- (d) 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 Competition Manager, Tribunal or Tribunal Appeal Board to have engaged in a mêlée may be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: Maximum 50 Units

- (e) The Competition Manager shall determine the amount of the sanction (if any) to be applied to the Club.

30. Tribunal and Sanctioning

31. National Community Football Policy Handbook

- (a) All persons bound by these Regulations (including Clubs, Players, Club Officials, administrators and Coaches) are subject to and must comply with the National Community Football Policy Handbook, unless otherwise stated in these Regulations.

32. VFL-Specific Offences

32.1 Grading Classifiable Offences

- (a) When assessing a Classifiable Offence under the National Community Football Policy Handbook, the Governing Body will grade Classifiable Offences in accordance with the following table:

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	4 or more Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	3 or more Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Match	1 Match

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
	Low	High/Groin	2 Match	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine and/or reprimand*
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	3 or more Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	2 or more Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Match	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Match	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine and/or reprimand*
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match	Fine and/or reprimand*
		Body	1 Match	Fine and/or reprimand*

* Refer to section 32.2(a)(ii) below.

32.2 Fines

- (a) In addition to the sanctioning process set out in National Community Football Policy Handbook, the Governing Body may impose financial sanctions and suspensions in relation to Reportable Offences, as follows:
- (i) Classifiable Offences:

Grading	AFL Listed	AFL Rookie Listed	VFL Listed
Intentional/Low/Body (Early Guilty Plea)	\$600	\$400	\$250
Careless/Medium/Body (Early Guilty Plea)	\$500	\$300	\$150
Careless/Low/High (Early Guilty Plea)	\$500	\$300	\$150
Careless/Low/Body (Base Sanction)	\$600	\$400	\$250

(ii) Low-Level Offences:

First Low-Level Offence		Second Low-Level Offences		Third and Subsequent Low Level Offences	
Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Fine & Reprimand	Reprimand	1 Match	Fine & Reprimand	2 Matches	1 Match
<p>Note 1: The Governing Body may, in its absolute discretion, elect to impose the match and reprimand sanctions for these offences if it deems appropriate.</p> <p>Note 2: If a Player commits a fourth low-level offence they will receive an automatic 3 match penalty with no discount for an early guilty plea.</p>					

(iii) The fines identified in the Low-Level Offences table at Regulation 32.2(a)(ii) above, will be dealt with a Fixed Financial Sanction shown in the table below.

Offence		1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd Offence
Any Low-Level Offence	1	\$300	\$400	\$500
	2	\$200	\$300	\$400
	3	\$150	\$200	\$250

33. Awards

- (a) The Governing Body may bestow awards in relation to the State League Competition, including those awards set out in Regulations 33(b) to (f):
- (b) JJ Liston Trophy
- (i) The three (3) field Umpires shall, within a reasonable time following the conclusion of the Match, submit their opinion of the three (3) fairest and best players in the match in order of preference in accordance with Regulation 21.9.
- (ii) For each Home and Away Match, the Player determined as the:
- (A) fairest and best Player, shall receive three votes;
- (B) second fairest and best Player, shall receive two votes; and
- (C) third fairest and best Player, shall receive one vote.
- (iii) 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 JJ Liston Trophy.
- (iv) Where two or more Players receive an equal number of votes, each shall be declared the joint winner and shall be awarded the JJ Liston Trophy.

- (v) 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.
- (vi) Notwithstanding that a Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in a Home and Away Match in which best and fairest votes have been cast, the Player shall remain eligible to receive the best and fairest award in that season if the sanction for the Reportable Offence is a financial sanction only as set out in the National Community Football Policy Handbook or as determined by the Tribunal.
- (c) Fothergill-Round-Mitchell Medal
 - (i) The Fothergill-Round-Mitchell Medallist is determined by the Competition Manager or such other person who they may designate from time to time.
 - (ii) The criteria for the Fothergill-Round Medal is as follows:
 - (A) Player must be in their 24th year or younger;
 - (B) Player cannot have played an AFL Match prior to the year;
 - (C) Player is deemed to be a 'draftable player' by the Competitions Manager and is the most promising talent; and
 - (D) Player cannot be an AFL Primary or Rookie Listed player at the beginning of the season of the year of the nomination.
- (d) 'Frosty' Miller Medal
 - (i) The 'Frosty' Miller Medal is awarded to the Competition leading goal kicker at the end of the Home and Away Matches in a Season.
- (e) Norm Goss Medal
 - (i) The Norm Goss Medal is determined by a panel appointed by the Governing Body.
 - (ii) The Norm Goss Medal is to be awarded to the player adjudged best on ground in the VFL Senior Grand Final.
- (f) Frank Johnson Medal
 - (i) The Frank Johnson Medal' is determined by the Competition Manager or such other person who they may designate from time to time.
 - (ii) The Frank Johnson medal is awarded to the best player from the Victorian State side if played in a given year.
- (g) The Governing Body will determine and notify Clubs of any additional criteria for awards.
- (h) The Governing Body may change the awards set out in this Regulation 0 in its absolute discretion.

34. Gambling

34.1 Players

The obligations imposed upon a Player under this Regulation 34 are in addition to any obligations of a Player under the Contract of Service.

34.2 Corrupt conduct

- (a) A Player, Coach, Club or Club Official must not contrive or attempt to contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result of a Match or any aspect of a Match or any Australian Football Contingency.
- (b) A Player, Coach, Club or Club Official must not seek, accept, offer or agree to accept any bribe or reward to contrive or attempt to contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result of any Australian Football Contingency.
- (c) A Player, Coach, Club or Club Official must not provide or receive any gift, payment or other benefit (whether of a monetary value or otherwise) in circumstances likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the Governing Body or to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute.

34.3 No Gambling

A Player, Coach, Club or Club Official must:

- (a) not bet or wager on any Australian Football Contingency;
- (b) ensure that no other person has access to their betting accounts which would enable such person to bet on any Australian Football Contingency;
- (c) not have an interest in any bet or wager, or have someone else place a bet or wager on their behalf on any Australian Football Contingency (including bets placed by another person in a syndicate, betting group or pooled betting group in which the Player, Coach, or Club Official is also a member);
- (d) not facilitate or assist the making of a bet or wager on an Australian Football Contingency; or
- (e) not without the prior permission of the Governing Body, encourage, induce, advertise or promote betting on Australian Football.

The prohibition on gambling under this Regulation 34.3 includes a prohibition on taking part in tipping exchanges (being an avenue through which tipsters sell their tips online) in respect of Australian Football Contingencies. For the avoidance of doubt, this Regulation 34.3 does not preclude players, coaches, Clubs and Club Officials from participating in ordinary footy tipping competitions.

34.4 Inside information

A Player, Coach, Club or Club Official must not disclose or provide any information, advice or opinion to any other person about the Teams playing in any Match (including but not limited to, the actual or likely composition of the Team, Player injuries, the form of Players and tactics), unless the Player, Coach, Club or Club Official can establish to the satisfaction of the Governing Body and/or AFL that at least one of the following applies:

- (a) such information was already in the public domain or given in a bona fide media interview; or

- (b) the information was not provided in any of the following circumstances:
 - (i) for the purpose of betting or wagering by any person on an Australian Football Contingency; or
 - (ii) where it might reasonably be expected that such information may be used for betting or wagering by any person on an Australian Football Contingency; or
 - (iii) for consideration or reward.

34.5 Performance on one's Merits

- (a) In relation to any Match, aspect of a Match, or pre-Match planning and tactics, a Player, Coach or member of the Match Committee must at all times Perform on their Merits.
- (b) No person may induce or encourage any Player, Coach or member of the Match Committee to breach Regulation 34.5(a) for any reason whatsoever.
- (c) For the purposes of this Regulation 34.5, **Perform on one's Merits** means at all times to perform honestly and to the best of one's ability in the pursuit only of legitimate competitive objectives.

34.6 Notification

- (a) Any Player, Coach, Club or Club Official who directly or indirectly, formally or informally receives an approach or invitation from any other person to engage in any conduct prohibited by this Regulation, must as soon as practicable, advise and provide a full details of such approach to the Governing Body.
- (b) A Player, Coach, Club, Club Official or any other person must as soon as practicable, advise and provide full details to the Governing Body of any incident, fact, or matter that comes to their attention that may evidence an offence under this Regulation by another party, including (without limitation) approaches or invitations that have been received by any other party to engage in conduct that would amount to a breach of this Regulation.

34.7 Sanctions

- (a) Any Player, Coach, Club or Club Official, who does not fully and strictly comply with the provisions of this Regulation, shall be dealt with in such manner as the Governing Body in its absolute discretion think fit.
- (b) The Governing Body may in its absolute discretion impose a penalty on the relevant Club in addition to or in place of a penalty on an individual.
- (c) Any penalty imposed on an individual will apply to all competitions in which that individual competes or participates.

34.8 Player Awards

- (a) A Club must not conduct any Player award that is, or may be, subject to an Australian Football Contingency without receiving the prior written approval of the Governing Body.
- (b) Should the Governing Body approve any award under Regulation 34.8(a), the Governing Body may impose any condition it deems appropriate on the Club with respect to that award, which must be complied with at all times.

35. Discrimination and Racial and Religious Vilification

35.1 Prohibited Conduct

No person subject to the Regulations shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person ("the person vilified") on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

35.2 Lodging Complaint

In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened Regulation 35.1 an Umpire, Club Official, Player or the Competition Manager may, within fourteen (14) days of the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, or such longer period as determined by the Governing Body in its absolute discretion, lodge a complaint in writing with the person appointed from time to time by the Governing Body as the Complaints Officer for the purposes of this Regulation. The complaint must outline the circumstances of the allegations made against a person.

35.3 Complaints Officer

The Complaints Officer shall:

- (a) inform the person alleged to have contravened Regulation 35.1 of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it in writing;
- (b) identify and obtain written statements from any available witnesses;
- (c) obtain video or other evidence produced through the media; and
- (d) arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.

35.4 Confidentiality and No Public Comment

Subject to Regulation 35.6:

- (a) the particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall at all times remain confidential; and
- (b) a person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation.

Sanction:

In the case of a Player:	First Offence:	1000 Units
	Subsequent Offences:	2000 Units
In the case of a Club or Official:	First Offence:	1000 Units
	Subsequent Offences:	2000 Units

35.5 Conciliator

A conciliation arranged under Regulation 35.3 shall be conducted by the nominee of the Governing Body.

35.6 Public Statement

Where a complaint is resolved by conciliation, the only public statement that shall be made concerning the complaint and its resolution shall be that agreed upon by the parties.

35.7 Unsuccessful Conciliation

Where the Complaints Officer is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation, the Complaints Officer shall refer the complaint to the Disciplinary Tribunal.

35.8 Previous Involvement

- (a) Where a person alleged to have contravened Regulation 35.1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as a person vilified), the Complaints Officer may refer the complaint directly to the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- (b) For the purposes of this Regulation, a conciliation includes a conciliation arranged under Regulation 35.3 or such other form of conciliation arranged by the Governing Body or directly between the parties concerned.

35.9 Evidence before Disciplinary Tribunal

In the event that a complaint is referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal under this Regulation 35, no evidence shall be given to or be accepted by the Disciplinary Tribunal relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to Regulation 35.3.

35.10 Competition Manager

In the event that a Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of these Regulations or if appointed is for any reason unavailable to act under these Regulations the Complaints Officer for the purpose of these Regulations shall be the Competition Manager.

35.11 Referring Complaint

In any case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Disciplinary Committee, the complaint shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee as soon as practicable.

35.12 Legal Representation

Where a complaint is referred to the Disciplinary Committee under this Regulation, the person alleged to have contravened Regulation 35.1 may be represented by a legal practitioner.

35.13 Time Limit

Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this Regulation may be extended by the Governing Body if in the opinion of the Governing Body it is just and equitable to do so.

35.14 Liability of Club

- (a) In the event that a complaint under these Regulations in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Disciplinary Committee, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the

conduct of the person and shall be liable to a sanction to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

Sanction: Maximum 400 Units

- (b) Regulation 35.14(a) does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct which contravened the vilification rules.

35.15 Continuous Education

Each Club must:

- (a) ensure that all of its Players, Coaches, Officials and other employees attend any education program organised and conducted by the Governing Body; and
- (b) maintain and keep a written record of all such attendees, (to be signed by each attendee and the Chief Executive Officer of the Club), and provide a copy immediately upon request to the Governing Body.

Sanction: Maximum 25 Units

35.16 False or misleading information

A person who:

- (a) in a complaint lodged under Regulation 35.2 or during the conciliation process, provides any information or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead; or
- (b) falsely accuses a person of breaching Regulation 35.1.

shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Governing Body in its absolute discretion.

36. Cooperation and Attendance at Meetings

36.1 Attending Meetings

Any Player, Coach or Club Official who neglects or refuses to attend any meeting to which that person has been requested to attend by the Governing Body, 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 Governing Body and shall be dealt with by the Competition Manager in such manner as the Competition Manager in their absolute discretion thinks fit.

36.2 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 and must be provided to the Player, Coach or Club Official not less than 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

36.3 Club Annual General Meeting and Presentation Night

- (a) Each Club must notify the Governing Body of the date of its:
 - (i) annual general meeting; and

(ii) end of season presentation or awards night,

no less than seven (7) days before the date of the annual general meeting or presentation night (as applicable).

- (b) Each Club must hold its annual general meeting in each year before the annual general meeting of the Governing Body.
- (c) Each Club must ensure that its financial statements are audited at least fourteen (14) days before its annual general meeting and that a copy of the audited financial statements are provided to the Governing Body within seven (7) days of the Club's annual general meeting.

Sanction: Up to 25 Units

37. Media Rights for League Spectacles

37.1 Definitions

- (a) **Authorised Broadcaster** means any person nominated by the Governing Body from time to time as being authorised to broadcast League Spectacles.
- (b) **broadcast** means any broadcast, streaming or other content delivery service (by whatever means or process) and includes, but is not limited to any internet, wireless or on-line service, any television or radio transmission, mobile devices or any service making available text, sounds or images.
- (c) **League Spectacles** means all matches of Australian football and events conducted by or under the auspices of the Governing Body including without limitation all practice or exhibition matches involving Clubs, Home and Away Matches, Finals Series Matches, representative matches, the counting of votes for the presentation of awards and medals.

37.2 Media Rights Vest in Governing Body

The Governing Body shall be entitled to grant all rights in relation to the broadcast of League Spectacles.

37.3 Rights Exclusive to Governing Body

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

37.4 Clubs Not to Grant Rights

A Club must not directly or indirectly broadcast, or authorise the broadcast of, League Spectacles or grant any rights to broadcast League Spectacles to any other person.

37.5 Equipment in Venues

A Club:

- (a) must not, and must ensure that each of its Officers, servants and agents do not; and
- (b) must not permit, allow or assist any other person to,

do any of the following:

- (c) bring into a venue where a League Spectacle is conducted; or
- (d) use at the relevant venue,

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

Sanction: If a Club breaches this Regulation, the Governing Body, may deal with this matter in such manner as the Governing Body, in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power they may impose a monetary sanction of such amount as they think fit.

38. Child Protection

Before commencing any duties in their capacity as a Club Official, a Club Official who, in their capacity as a Club Official, will or is likely to work with or care for persons under 18 years of age must complete and return to their Club all relevant Working with Children Check documentation required for working with or caring for children in the State where the Club is located.

39. Social Networking Policy

- (a) Each Club, Player and Club Official must not make or post any inappropriate, offensive, discriminatory or defamatory post on social media (including Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn) or any internet site (including any blog or the comments section of any new website) in connection with the game of Australian football or in respect of any Player, Umpire, Club Official, Club, the AFL or the Governing Body.

Sanction: The Governing Body, may deal with a breach of this Regulation in such manner as the Governing Body, in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power they may impose a monetary sanction of such amount as they think fit.

- (b) Without limiting the operation of this Regulation, an unacceptable post use may involve the relevant Club, Player or Club Official:
 - (i) criticising Umpires, Players, Club Officials or any other person involved in Australian football;
 - (ii) engaging in bullying behaviour including but not limited to name-calling or making condescending, offensive (including racist or sexist) or abusive remarks about any person; or
 - (iii) engaging in any other behaviour which the Governing Body reasonably determines, in its absolute discretion, to be unacceptable.

Annexure 1 – Final Ten System

VFL Finals

