

**SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**



BY-LAWS
UPDATED 18 SEPTEMBER 2017

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1. INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 These By-Laws are made by the Board under the Rules of the Southern Football Netball League Incorporated ('the Rules') and any and all previous By-Laws of the League are rescinded.
- 1.2 These By-Laws shall be read in conjunction with the Rules. Where any conflict arises between provisions of these By-Laws and the Rules, the Rules prevail.
- 1.3 The schedules to these By-Laws are to be read in conjunction with and form part of these By-Laws. Where any conflict arises between a schedule and the By-Laws, the By-Laws prevail.

2. DEFINITIONS

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

'AFL National Player Transfer Regulations' means the regulations by that name as set out in Schedule 7.

'AFL Policies' means the AFL policies adopted by the League as set out in Schedule 15.

'AFL Trainers Policy' means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 10.

'Board' means the Board of the League appointed in accordance with the Rules.

'Board Chairman' and 'Board Vice-Chairperson' means the person elected by the League under the Rules.

'Board Executive' means three of the Board Chairman, Board Vice-Chairperson, and the Chairpersons of a League Subcommittee, one of which must be the Board Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

'Board Member' means a member of the Board elected in accordance with the Rules.

'Business day' means a day on which the League office is open.

'CEO' means the Chief Executive Officer appointed in accordance with the Rules.

'Club Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct' means the code of that name as set out in Schedule 5.

'Coaches Charter of Behaviours' means the charter by that name as set out in Schedule 9.

'Dispute' does not include any disciplinary procedure or objection to a penalty imposed by the Board, Board Executive, Tribunal or the League against a Member Club, Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter.

'Financial Year' means the year ending 31 October.

'General Manager - Operations' means the person appointed by the League to hold that office.

‘Hall of Fame Criteria’ means the criteria by that name as set out in Schedule 13.

‘Laws of Australian Football’ means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as set out in Schedule 1.

‘League’ means the Southern Football Netball League Incorporated.

‘League Investigation Officer’ means the person appointed by the CEO of the League to investigate complaints, protests or other matters as decided by the League.

‘League Official’ means any person appointed by the League to act in any official capacity and includes the CEO, any employee of the League, a Board Member or any umpire.

‘League Representative team’ means a team of Players selected from Member Clubs to represent the League in football or netball competitions against other leagues, including without limitation the competition known as the Interleague competition.

‘League Subcommittee’ means a subcommittee established by the Board under the Rules, including the Governance and Sustainability sub-committee, the Women in Sport sub-committee, the Football Operations sub-committee, the Marketing and Communications sub-committee and the Finance and Administration sub-committee.

‘Life Membership, Outstanding Achievement and Distinguished Service Policy’ means the criteria by that name as set out in Schedule 14.

‘Match and Record Information’ means the requirements by that name as set out in Schedule 6.

‘Media Policy’ means the policy of that name as set out in Schedule 3.

‘Member’ or ‘Club’ when used in isolation refers to a Member Club of the League.

‘Member Club’ means a football or football/netball club whose application for membership has been approved in accordance with the Rules.

‘Member Club Match Day Official’ includes any person acting on behalf of a Member Club in relation to any match approved or controlled by the League.

‘Member Club Official’ means any elected office bearer of a Member Club.

‘Member Club Receivable Policy’ means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 2.

‘Netball By-Laws’ means the By-Laws made under the Rules as set out in Schedule 8.

‘Official’ means Member Club Match Day Official or Member Club Official.

‘Open Age’ refers to competitions or teams for which no maximum age limit is specified.

‘Player Payment Rule’ – means the policy referred to by that name as set out in Schedule 17.
The total player payment cap for season 2017 shall be;

Division 1 - \$200,000

Division 2 - \$150,000

Division 3 - \$100,000

‘Player Points System Policy’ means the policy referred to by that name as set out in Schedule 16. The total team points cap for season 2018 shall be 47 points for all senior football competitions. This does not apply to Reserve, Under-19 or Women’s competitions.

‘Player Report Form’ means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 11.

‘Player’ means a person registered by the League to play in competitions conducted by it.

‘Reserve team’ means an Open Age team of a Member Club that plays in the League’s Reserve competition.

‘Rules’ means the Rules of the Southern Football Netball League Incorporated.

‘Senior team’ means an Open Age team of a Member Club that plays in the League’s Senior competition.

‘SFNL’ means Southern Football Netball League Inc.

‘Social Media Policy’ means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 4.

‘Supporter’ means a member of the public, who may not have a formal affiliation with a Member Club, and is present on a match day watching and supporting a Member Club at a League match.

‘Thirds team’ means an Open Age team of a Member Club that plays in the League’s Thirds competition.

‘Tribunal’ means the Independent Tribunal appointed in accordance with the By-Laws.

‘Tribunal Hearing Procedure’ means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 12.

‘Under 19’s’ means a competition for which a maximum age is specified in these By-Laws.

3. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

3.1 All football games shall be played in strict accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.

4. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

4.1 In accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules, each Member Club shall pay an annual subscription to the SNFL as prescribed by the Board from time to time.

5. MONIES DUE

5.1 All monies due to be paid to the League by Member Clubs shall be payable in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of any invoice issued by the League.

5.2 The CEO or Board, on application of a Member Club, has power to agree a Scheme of Arrangement in accordance with the Member Club Receivable policy that is annexed as a schedule to these By-Laws.

5.3 Where a Member Club fails to make payments to the League in accordance with By-Law 5.1, and has not entered a Scheme of Arrangement as described in By-Law 5.2, no team of that Member Club will be eligible to play for match points until the account is paid in full. Percentages, where applicable, will be calculated on the final scores.

5.3.1 Points and percentages for any game played while a Member Club is ineligible for match points will be calculated as follows:

- Should the Member Club in breach of this By-Law win, lose or draw the game, they receive no points and no percentage
- Should the opposition Club win the game they receive four points and percentage
- Should the opposition Club draw the game they receive two points and percentage
- Should the opposition Club lose the game they receive no points and percentage

5.3.2 Any Member Club that is not financial must complete its match day commitments including playing all matches.

5.4 A Member Club must be financial or in a Scheme of Arrangement as described by By-Law 5.2 at the conclusion of the home and away season to be eligible to play in a finals series. In the event that the Member Club is not financial, that Member Club's team(s) shall be removed from the finals series and the next entitled team on the ladder shall be added, provided that team is from a financial Member Club.

6. MEMBER CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Should a Member Club fail to comply with By-Law 6, the CEO may penalise the Member Club as allowed by these By-Laws.

6.2 Each Member Club must annually furnish to the CEO the names, addresses including email addresses, telephone numbers and any other pertinent particulars of its President, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Treasurer and Coaches within fourteen (14) days of the holding of its Annual General Meeting.

- 6.3 Each Member Club must notify the CEO of any resignations, changes or replacement to those offices as soon as they occur.
- 6.4 Each Member Club must hold its Annual General Meeting no later than 31 December in each year. In addition, each Member Club must advise the CEO of the date of its Annual Meeting at the same time as it gives notice of the meeting to its members and must provide to the CEO, a copy of its Annual Report and the Financial Statement provided to Consumer Affairs, Victoria together with its Constitution within fourteen (14) days of the holding of its Annual General Meeting.
- 6.5 Each Member Club must ensure it is represented at meetings or functions that are designated by the CEO as meetings or functions where attendance by the Member Club is compulsory.
- 6.6 Each Member Club is required to lodge on-line with the SFNL, the final scores, best players and goal kickers for all official Senior, Reserve, Under 19's and Thirds games, by no later than 5.45 pm on the day of the match.
- 6.7 Each Member Club must complete and lodge the official coaches' details with the League by 31 March for each season.
- 6.8 **MEETINGS**
- 6.8.1 All Member Club Officials, Players and persons formally associated with a Club in any capacity, must attend any meeting or seminar convened in accordance with these By-Laws, where notice of such meeting has been given in writing by the CEO to the Member Club or the person concerned.
- 6.8.2 The League may convene meetings of Presidents and Secretaries of Member Clubs. Notice of such meetings must be given to each Member Club, by the CEO and include the Agenda for discussion at the meeting.
- 6.8.3 No President, Secretary of a Member Club or person substituting for the President or Secretary shall absent himself or herself from such a meeting without furnishing a valid reason for such absence to the CEO within forty-eight (48) hours of the absence.
- 6.8.4 Unless otherwise specified, all Annual and Special Meetings of the League shall commence at 7.00 pm and no new business will be introduced after 9.00 p.m.
- 6.8.5 One representative of each Member Club must attend all Annual and Special Meetings of the League. Such representatives shall be the President and/or Secretary and/or one committee member of the Club.
- 6.8.6 Member Clubs may, with the prior approval of the CEO, appoint a person other than those named in By-Law 6.8.5 to attend Annual and Special Meetings in their place.
- 6.8.7 A Member Club shall not call a meeting of other Member Clubs other than in accordance with the Rules unless with the prior authority of the Board.

6.9 UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

6.9.1 The League has developed a Media Policy that forms part of the schedules to the By-Laws and Member Clubs are required to comply with that policy.

6.10 SOCIAL MEDIA

6.10.1 The League has developed a Social Media Policy that forms part of the schedules to the By-Laws and Member Clubs are required to comply with that policy.

6.11 MEMBER CLUB OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS CODE OF CONDUCT

6.11.1 The League has developed a Club Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct that forms part of the schedules to the By-Laws and Member Clubs are required to comply with that policy.

6.12 MATCH AND RECORD INFORMATION

6.12.1 The League requires Member Clubs to provide certain match information and record information and this forms part of the schedules to the By-Laws.

6.12 ORDER AND BEHAVIOUR

6.12.1 Member Clubs shall be responsible for the maintenance of order prior to, during and after matches including intervals in the match and between matches.

6.12.2 Member Clubs shall be responsible for the behaviour of their Players, Officials and Supporters.

7 NEW CLUBS

7.1 The CEO, in consultation with the Board, shall have authority to negotiate with any football or football and netball club seeking membership of the SFNL.

7.2 The Board retains the right to offer membership of the League to any football or football and netball club.

8. FOOTBALL PLAYER REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATION

8.1 REGISTRATION

8.1.1 This By-Law should be read in conjunction with the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations which is a schedule to these By-Laws.

8.1.2 No person shall play in any fixtured match until his registration has been approved by the League.

8.1.3 A Member Club must enter the necessary registration details into the League's official on-line database for all its Players.

8.1.4 Subject to clause 8.1.6, no registration will be issued to any Player for any season for a nominated Member Club unless a valid registration has been entered on the

League's official on-line database and during the period outlined in clause 3.7 of the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations.

- 8.1.5 New Under 19's registrations require a certified copy of either an extract of birth, a full birth certificate or an official passport to be lodged with the League.
- 8.1.6 A Player who can satisfy the League that he has not played competitive football at all or has not played competitive football for a period of twenty-four (24) months can register to play outside the period in clause 3.7.2 of the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations. Such Player is still required to qualify for finals under By-Law 8.4.
- 8.1.7 Any Player permitted to play with a Member Club wishing to transfer to play with another Member Club must apply to the League via the intended destination Member Club to transfer and complete the process via the League's official on-line database.
- 8.1.8 Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-Laws, the League may withdraw the ability of a Player to play in the League and in that event, shall forthwith notify the Player's Member Club.

8.2 **QUALIFICATION**

- 8.2.1 AFL or VFL Open Age shall be deemed a higher grade than the League's Open Age teams of any Division.
- 8.2.2 Any Player issued a permit to play in either the AFL, VFL or TAC and who also holds League registration may only play with one club in any one weekend.
- 8.2.3 Any Player issued a permit to play in either the AFL, VFL or TAC and also holds League registration may only participate in an official League match when the League has received notification from the AFL, VFL or TAC that such Player is available to play for his Member Club and not required by his AFL, VFL or TAC club in that particular weekend.
- 8.2.4 Save for the exception in By-Law 8.2.5, for a Player to be eligible to participate in a League Under 19 grade match, he must NOT have reached the age of twenty (20) before 1st day of July in the year for which he desires to be registered for the League Under 19 competition.
- 8.2.5 A Member Club may play up to four (4) Players in a League Under 19 grade match who have attained the age of 20 years in the period from 1 January and 30 June in the current season.
- 8.2.6 No Player shall be qualified to play for a Member Club in any League match:
 - who is not a duly registered playing member of that Member Club and the holder of a permit to play.

- who is under any disqualification or who has not paid any fine imposed by the League or any other Football League.
- Unless he has obtained all required transfers and permits.

8.2.7 All Players shall be entitled to free movement between grades, subject to age limitation, where the Member Club fields more than one team in the League provided that only two (2) Players, excluding Under 19 Players, who have played in ten (10) or more games in a higher grade, shall be permitted to play in a lower grade during the subsequent Home and Away matches.

8.2.8 Member Clubs must enter all team participants on the online database with Player positions by 10:00am on the day prior to the game.

8.3 REGISTRATION/QUALIFICATION PENALTIES

8.3.1 Any Player, Member Club Official or Member Club Match Day Official who makes any mis-statement or mis- representation or omits any material particulars in the registration process may be dealt with by the CEO by way of a fine and/or disqualification from the competition not exceeding five (5) years.

8.3.2 Where it is found that a Member Club has allowed, whether knowingly or not, a Player, coach or Official to play or officiate in any matches where that Player, coach or Official is:

- not registered with the League.
- not permitted to participate with that Member Club.
- is under suspension.
- not accredited.

shall be dealt with by the CEO and be liable to:

- a fine not exceeding \$500.
- disqualification from the competition.
- loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the Player, coach or Official played or officiated. Those points will be awarded to the opposing club(s) in each case.

8.4 FINALS QUALIFICATION

8.4.1 A Player cannot play in a finals match for a Member Club in a Senior team unless that Player has played six (6) home and away matches in six (6) separate scheduled rounds.

8.4.2 A Player, excluding an Under 19 Player, who has played a total of ten (10) or more games in any higher grade(s) CANNOT play in any finals of a lower Open Age grade.

8.4.3 Any Member Club that field only Senior and Reserve Open Age teams that are both playing in the same round of the finals shall have open selection of Players.

However, the Player must have played at least six (6) home and away games for the member Club in six (6) separate scheduled rounds.

- 8.4.4 Any Member Club that field Senior, Reserve and Third Open Age teams that are all playing in the same round of the finals shall have open selection of Players. However, the Player must have played at least six (6) home and away games for the member Club in six (6) separate scheduled rounds.
- 8.4.5 A Player cannot play in a Member Club's Reserve grade final match unless that Player has played six (6) home and away matches in six (6) separate scheduled rounds, of which four (4) matches must have been played in the Reserve grade and/or Thirds grade, unless By-Law 8.4.3 or 8.4.4 applies.
- 8.4.6 A Player cannot play in a Member Club's Thirds grade final match unless that Player has played six (6) home and away matches in six (6) separate scheduled rounds, of which four (4) matches must have been played in the Thirds grade, unless By-Law 8.4.4 applies.
- 8.4.7 A Player to be eligible to play in an Member Club's Under 19 finals match must play in a minimum of five (5) home and away matches in that grade during the season.
- 8.4.8 AFL or VFL Open Age shall be deemed a higher grade than the League's Open Age teams of any Division.
- 8.4.9 Grades of one League division shall be deemed equal to the same grades in any other division of the League.
- 8.4.10 The TAC Under 18 competition shall be deemed a higher grade than the League Under 19 grade.
- 8.4.11 A Player eligible to play Senior, Reserve, Under 19's or Thirds grade finals may only play one match per finals weekend including Friday nights.
- 8.4.12 Any Member Club that breaches this By-Law shall be deemed to have lost the game that the breach occurred in.

9. FOOTBALL TRANSFERS

9.1 This By-Law should be read in conjunction with the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations which is a schedule to these By-Laws. Where there is a conflict between these By-Laws and the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations these By-Laws will prevail.

9.2 All Players require an application for transfer to another Member Club or another League.

9.3 TRANSFERS WITHIN THE LEAGUE

9.3.1 No more than two (2) Players will be permitted to be transferred from one Member Club to another Member Club, in any one season unless both Member Clubs involved in the transfer agree that more than two (2) Players can be transferred.

- 9.3.2 When both Member Clubs agree that more than two (2) Players can be transferred, such transfers that exceed the allowable two (2) Players need to be approved in writing by the General Manager - Operations.
- 9.3.3 A Player who transfers from one Member Club to another Member Club, to accept the position at the new Member Club of senior playing coach, WILL NOT be included in the total of two (2) Players mentioned in By-Law 9.3.1.
- 9.3.4 A Player who transfers from one Member Club to another Member Club, to accept the position at the new Member Club of assistant playing coach, WILL BE included in the total of two (2) Players mentioned in By-Law 9.3.1.

10. FOOTBALL COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 10.1 The League will organise football competitions for Member Clubs in the following grades:
 - 10.1.1 Senior
 - 10.1.2 Reserve
 - 10.1.3 Thirds
 - 10.1.4 Under 19's
- 10.2 Member Clubs will play in a divisional structure that takes into account a promotion and relegation system. In each season, Member Clubs in each division shall play a series of home and away matches in accordance with the fixture. At the end of the home and away matches, a final series will be played in each division.
- 10.3 Unless otherwise directed by the Board, a Member Club that wins a division premiership and there is a higher division, shall be promoted to the higher division.
- 10.4 Unless otherwise directed by the Board, a Member Club that finishes last in a division, and there is a lower division, shall be relegated to the lower division.
- 10.5 The Board has the power to promote, relegate or refuse to promote or relegate any Member Club in the event that:
 - 10.5.1 The Member Club cannot field a full complement of teams for the next season.
 - 10.5.2 Playing facilities of the Member Club are deemed by the Board to be not of a sufficient standard for the division in which the team is to compete in the next season.
 - 10.5.3 The Member Club is in default of any financial obligation to the League.
 - 10.5.4 There are any other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Board, require a Member Club to be promoted, refused promotion, relegated or not relegated.
- 10.6 A Club joining the League will participate in a Division determined by the Board.

- 10.7 Each Member Club shall deliver to the CEO its official team nominations for the coming season at a time to be determined by the CEO.
- 10.8 No Member Club shall participate in any football match that does not form part of the League's Fixture except with the prior written approval of the CEO.
- 10.9 The CEO is responsible for approval of a Member Club's team colours for jumper, shorts and socks. Member Club's are encouraged to have an alternate 'clash' jumper for use where their team colours are the same or similar to another team.

11. NETBALL COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 11.1 Member Clubs will play in a divisional structure.
- 11.2 Each Member Club shall deliver to the CEO its official team nominations for the coming season at a time to be determined by the CEO.
- 11.3 The Board will make By-Laws with respect to the Netball competition that will be a schedule to these By-Laws.

12. FOOTBALL COMPETITION

12.1 FIXTURES

12.1.1 The CEO shall notify all Member Clubs as soon as reasonably practicable preceding each season, the date of the commencement of the football season and the match fixture for that season.

12.1.2 The CEO has the power to alter the fixtures at any time during the season.

12.2 DAYS AND TIMES OF MATCHES

12.2.1 All matches shall commence on days and at times during the season as directed by the CEO.

12.2.2 The CEO shall determine at the earliest practicable time preceding each season:

- the dates, starting times and fixtures of all football matches for all grades and divisions.
- the duration of football matches.
- any special conditions attached to a football match.

12.2.3 A Member Club desiring to conduct Senior, Reserve, Under 19's or Thirds matches on a day or time other than that published by the League in the official fixture may do so on application to the CEO and providing the following requirements have been satisfied:

- that all appropriate licences and permissions to conduct the match have been received and copies forwarded to the General Manager - Operations prior to the game.

- that twenty-eight (28) days written notice is provided to the General Manager - Operations indicating times of commencement of all games and any alterations of venues to the published fixture.
- that twenty eight (28) days written notice requesting approval from the CEO that the fixture be altered is provided to the General Manager - Operations from each Member Club.

12.3 **GROUNDS**

- 12.3.1 Each Member Club shall play on a ground approved by the CEO.
- 12.3.2 The CEO has the power to compel any Member Club to bring its ground up to the required standard set out in the Laws of Australian Football.
- 12.3.3 Official League match fixtures can only be played at those grounds approved by the CEO.
- 12.3.4 Any Member Club that is unable to use the ground originally arranged for a match, shall in lieu thereof, procure another ground (“the emergency ground”) and notify the General Manager - Operations and the opposing Member Club no later than 8.00 pm on the Wednesday immediately preceding the match.
- 12.3.5 The emergency ground must be approved by the CEO.
- 12.3.6 Should a Member Club fail to give notice under By-Law 12.3.4 it shall forfeit the match.

12.4 **TEAM NUMBERS**

- 12.4.1 Seniors – There is a limit of 22 Players on the team sheet for any Senior match.
- 12.4.2 Reserves – There is a limit of 22 Players on the team sheet for any Reserve match.
- 12.4.3 Thirds – There is a limit of 26 Players on the team sheet for any Thirds match.
- 12.4.4 Under 19’s – There is a limit of 26 Players on the team sheet for any Under 19’s match.
- 12.4.5 While a match is in progress, a team shall have no more than eighteen (18) Players on the playing surface at any time. In addition:
- 12.4.5.1 In the Under 19's or Thirds, if one or both teams have a shortage of Players, the numerical strength of each team must be adjusted so that the teams are of equal numbers, or at most, have a difference of one.
- 12.4.5.2 The team with the numerical advantage can “loan” Players to the opposition, either for a quarter on a rotating basis, or for the match. If, however, the team with the (greater) shortage of Players refuses to accept an offer of "loan" Players from the opposition, the team with the numerical advantage can play with the full 18 on the field.

In addition, if the team with the numerical advantage refuses to lend Players they must play the match with a difference of one Player only, resulting in additional Players on the interchange.

12.4.6 Where a team has more than the permitted number of Players on the playing surface, the following shall apply:

12.4.6.1 The score for the team that infringes will revert to their score at the last break, i.e. if the team infringes in the second quarter their score will revert to the quarter time score or if they infringe in the first quarter their score will revert to zero.

12.4.6.2 Players Exceeding Permitted Number

Where a team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team; and
- a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;

12.4.6.3 Correct Number and Request Without Merit

Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting under Law 19.2.2.

12.5 HOME CLUB OBLIGATIONS

12.5.1 The home club must provide:

- a suitable siren.
- goal posts (not less than six (6) metres high) and behind posts (not less than three (3) metres high). The posts must be painted white and suitably padded.

- a playing arena clearly marked with white lines at the boundary lines which must be at least 3 meters from any fencing, centre square (not less than thirty (30) metres and not more than fifty (50) metres), centre circles (1 x three (3) metres, 1 x ten (10) metres) and goal square (nine (9) metres). An arc is also to be marked in each half of the ground with its apex no less than one (1) metre from the centre square marking.
- a scoreboard, which must be manned for each match.
- a stretcher in an accessible place for use by each team.
- adequate seating arrangements for both teams at the designated coaches' place, for the coaches, interchange Players, for members of the selection committee and runner.
- appropriate interchange area which is to be positioned in the front of each team bench.
- a white line on the ground half-way between the fence line and the boundary line in front of the coaches' boxes, or an area set aside for coaches and Club personnel, and extending for approximately 8 to 10 metres parallel to the boundary line. In the event a coach elects to locate on the opposite side of the ground, the coach must ask the home side to mark out a similar area. This request must be made in sufficient time to allow the home side to mark out the ground.
- for all matches, two footballs, one of which must be new, and the other in match condition and approved by the Field Umpire. The footballs must be a League approved brand, embossed with the League logo and embossed with the logo of the League approved Ball Sponsor.
- The Field Umpire must be provided with a satisfactory replacement for any match football that in his/her opinion is unfit for play.

12.6 HOME AND AWAY MATCHES - POINTS ALLOCATION

12.6.1 In home and away matches:

- four (4) points will be allotted for a win.
- four (4) points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or walkover is ruled. The forfeit or walkover will be recorded as a win for that team.
- two (2) points for a draw.
- zero (0) points for a loss.
- zero(0) points for a team who has caused a forfeit or walkover. The forfeit or walkover will be recorded as a loss for that team.

12.7 MATCH RATIO

12.7.1 In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, the General Manager - Operations shall also prepare a match ratio which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.

12.8 LADDER

- 12.8.1 The General Manager - Operations shall prepare a weekly ladder for each Division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw or loss he/she shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and in the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with lower percentage. Should the percentage of the teams be the same then the team with the highest points 'For' (being the points scored by the team throughout the season) will be entitled to participate. Should the points 'For' of the teams be the same, then the team with the lowest points 'Against' will be entitled to participate.
- 12.8.2 All decisions of the General Manager - Operations in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.

12.9 SCORES

- 12.9.1 The scores used by the General Manager - Operations to calculate the points and percentages for each Divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores contained in the goal umpires cards. Should the scores on the cards not match, the timekeeping cards will also be used to assist in calculating points and percentages. In the event that the timekeeping cards disagree, then the General Manager - Operations will investigate the matter and make a final and binding decision.

12.10 FAILURE TO FULFIL ENGAGEMENTS

- 12.10.1 Should any Member Club not be ready to start a match within twenty (20) minutes of the appointed starting time, the opposition Member Club will be deemed to have won the match.
- 12.10.2 Should a Member Club be aware in the week prior to a match that it will be unable to participate in the match, it must give written notice of such inability to the secretary of the opposing Member Club and the General Manager - Operations by the business day prior to the date fixed for the match.
- 12.10.2 A Member Club failing to field a team with a minimum of fourteen (14) Players within twenty (20) minutes of the appointed starting time of the match shall automatically forfeit the match at that point in time.
- 12.10.3 If, during the course of a match a Member Club's team is reduced to less than 14 Players the match shall be forfeited as a consequence and the team sheets shall immediately be signed on the ground by the two Team Managers in the presence of the Field Umpire, who shall endorse the team sheets with his signature, date and time. The Field Umpire shall forward the team sheets to the League office in the usual manner, marked to the attention of the General Manager - Operations.

12.10.4 Any Member Club failing to fulfil its obligation shall:

- pay all umpires expenses relative to the match.
- submit to the CEO a written statement of reasons for non-completion of the match.
- deliver a team sheet to either the senior Field Umpire on the day the match was scheduled to have been played, or to the General Manager - Operations by 9:00 am on the next business day following the scheduled match.

12.10.5 Aside from failing to fulfil its obligation, a Member Club may also forfeit a match if:

- when required by the CEO, it fails to give notice of a suitable replacement venue for a match to the CEO and the opposing Club by 5.00pm on the Thursday preceding the date of the scheduled match.
- it refuses to play when so ordered by the Field Umpire unless either both team captains have agreed that the playing arena is unsuitable for play, in which event contact must be made with the General Manager - Operations or, if the match is a Finals match, the CEO has determined that the playing arena is unsuitable for play.

12.10.6 The CEO will review the reasons for the Member Club not fulfilling its obligation and, if he/she thinks necessary, may impose a penalty allowed by these By-Laws.

12.10.6 Where no result has been achieved in a match, the team of the Member Club not responsible for such a result shall be awarded a forfeit.

12.10.7 Where a Member Club receives a forfeit, it shall be entitled to lodge an official team sheet for the match in question, whereupon the Players named on the list will be recorded as having played in the round, provided that the team sheet is lodged with the General Manager - Operations on the next business day.

12.10.8 Where a team receives a forfeit due to the other team not being able to fulfil its obligations to play, that team shall be granted the four (4) match points and the scores shall be calculated as follows:

- When a team forfeits a scheduled match it shall be credited the lowest 'FOR' points scored in that grade on that day and be debited with the highest 'AGAINST' points scored in that grade on that day.
- Their opponent shall be credited the highest 'FOR' points scored in that grade on the day and be debited the lowest 'AGAINST' points scored in that grade that day.

12.10.9 In addition, the Board Executive may disqualify a Member Club who has failed to fulfil its engagement from further premierships matches or otherwise deal with such Member Club as it thinks fit as allowed by these By-Laws.

12.11 MATCH NOT ABLE TO PROCEED

12.11.1 Where a match is not able to commence or proceed for any reason other than already provided for in these By-Laws, the Field Umpire or the League will have regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant matters in order to determine whether a match is unable to commence or proceed.

12.11.2 If a match is unable to commence or proceed under this sub By-Law, the League will have discretion to decide the result of the match and whether the game will be played or not.

12.11.3 If a team is directed to recommence play by the Field Umpire, League Official or Board Member and the team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. In that case, By-Law 12.10.8 will apply.

12.12 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

12.12.1 If the air temperature is below five (5) degrees Celsius or in excess of thirty (30) degrees Celsius on a training day/night, Players and umpires are not to train.

12.12.2 If the air temperature is below five (5) degrees Celsius, or in excess of thirty (30) degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official League match at any grade, no umpire is permitted to officiate in such match and the match shall be cancelled.

12.12.3 In the event that a Senior, Reserve, Under 19 or Thirds game has commenced and the weather conditions have become too cold (below five (5) degrees Celsius) or too hot (in excess of thirty (30) degrees Celsius) or hazardous, the game must be abandoned and a written statement for non-completion of the match must be submitted to the General Manager - Operations by 9.00am on the next business day.

12.12.4 If two (2) or more games are cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather in the same grade or division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be awarded or applied for that round. The round will not be replayed.

12.12.5 If any one match is cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather in a particular grade or division, no points or percentage will be awarded for that match. The match will not be replayed.

12.12.6 If the General Manager - Operations, during the review of the round, is not convinced a match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, he/she reserves the right to award points or impose a penalty as allowed by the By-Laws.

12.12.7 In the event of severe inclement weather immediately prior to commencement or during a game, such as lightning, very heavy rain, hailstorm or fog, the game can be suspended by the agreement of the competing captains in consultation with the

field umpire/s for such time as they consider appropriate, but not for a time exceeding twenty (20) minutes after which time the match must either resume or be abandoned. If the game is abandoned a written statement for non-completion of the match must be submitted to the General Manager - Operations by 9.00am on the next business day. The match will not be replayed.

12.13 GROUND INSPECTIONS

12.13.1 On match day, a representative from each Member Club shall make a full inspection of the ground prior to the playing of the first game. The representatives shall then complete a Ground Inspection Report and then submit it online.

12.13.2 Should there be an adverse Ground Inspection Report where it is felt the ground is unsafe, the Home Member Club must immediately contact the General Manager - Operations and report the matter. No play will commence until the General Manager - Operations has been notified and cleared the teams to play.

12.13.3 The General Manager - Operations retains the right to take whatever action he/she deems necessary to address any issue arising from the ground inspection report, including but not limited to moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.

12.14 FINALS

12.14.1 The final series shall be played as approved, by the Board.

12.14.2 The League is solely responsible for appointing venues and playing times for all finals matches.

12.14.3 All finals matches shall be played on enclosed grounds. Finals venues will be selected as a result of a tender process and the decision advised by the CEO in relation to finals venues will be final. The League is entitled to require a tender fee to be paid by all successful tendering Member Clubs.

12.14.4 Tender fees by successful Member Clubs are due and payable and must be paid to the League by 30 October in the year in which they become due.

12.14.5 Entrance fees to finals matches shall be collected and retained by the League.

12.14.6 The General Manager - Operations shall be responsible for finals match fixtures.

12.15 FINALS UNIFORMS

12.15.1 Where teams from Member Clubs are deemed by the General Manager - Operations to have the same or a similar uniform or colours and they are drawn to play each other during the Final Series then:

- The team that finished the home and away season in the higher ladder position will wear its own club uniform.

- The team that finished the home and away season in the lower ladder position will wear a League approved 'clash' jumper.

12.16 PROCEDURE WHERE THERE IS A DRAW DURING FINALS MATCHES

12.16.1 If the scores are tied at the end of normal time in a final series, the following procedure will apply:

- all Players will remain on the playing arena.
- the team runner may enter the playing arena to marshal the team Players together in readiness to change ends.
- coaches must remain off the playing arena and must not address their Players, except where the opposing team has a playing coach and then, the non-playing coach may enter the arena to address his Players.
- the Field Umpire will confer with the Goal Umpires and when they verify that the scores are tied, the Players of the two teams will change ends.
- Two (2) periods of five (5) minutes plus time-on will then be played with the teams changing ends at the end of the first period of extra time.
- at the end of the second period of extra time, the team which has the greater score will be the winner of the match.
- if the scores are still tied, then all Players will remain on the playing arena.
- the team runner may enter the playing arena to marshal the team Players together in readiness to change ends.
- coaches must remain off the playing arena and must not address their Players, except where the opposing team has a playing coach and then, the non-playing coach may enter the arena to address his Players.
- the Field Umpire will confer with the Goal Umpires and when they verify that the scores are still tied, the Players of the two teams will change ends.
- The umpire will bounce the ball and the team that scores first will be the winner of the match.

12.17 BEST AND FAIREST

12.17.1 The League will annually award a trophy to the Best & Fairest Player in each Grade of football and netball competition conducted by the League.

12.17.2 The winner of the trophy will be the Player/s who poll the most votes as lodged by Field Umpires officiating in home and away matches.

12.17.3 No Player found guilty of an offence who is suspended from playing during the season is eligible to win a Best and Fairest trophy.

13 FOOTBALL UMPIRES

13.1 GENERAL

13.1.1 The CEO shall appoint a Director of Umpiring.

13.1.2 A person shall not be eligible for appointment to the position of Director of Umpiring if he/she has a direct or indirect relation with any other activity of the League.

13.1.3 The Director of Umpiring must regularly report to the CEO on all its activities and decisions.

13.1.4 The Director of Umpiring shall:

- regulate Umpire discipline, training and standards.
- adjudicate and determinate any dispute, protest, charge or objection lodged with the Director of Umpiring in relation to the performance of the duties of any Umpires as specified in these By-Laws.
- appoint, dismiss and supervise Umpires and maintain the general welfare and morale of Umpires.
- perform any other function in relation to Umpires generally but subject to review by the CEO.
- in all disciplinary hearings, inquiries and other matters affecting Umpires, the Director of Umpiring shall have the power to impose disciplinary sanctions on Umpires as he/she deems fair and reasonable but in all cases procedural fairness shall be exercised.
- have the powers provided by the By-Laws to penalise any Umpire.

13.2 **UMPIRE AVAILABILITY**

13.2.1 Any umpire placed on the approved list must be available for appointment as a Field, Boundary or Goal Umpire until the end of the season.

13.2.2 Umpires must appear when called to do so before the Director of Umpiring.

13.2.3 Umpires must be at their appointed ground thirty (30) minutes prior to the official start time of the match and must be on the field correctly attired at least five (5) minutes before the commencement of each match.

13.3 **UMPIRE DUTIES**

13.3.1 Umpires must attend all meetings, coaching sessions, training sessions and other events as directed by the Director of Umpiring.

13.3.2 All umpires must be registered members of the Southern Football Netball League Umpires Association.

13.3.3 No umpires shall officiate in any match not conducted by the League without the prior consent of the Director of Umpiring.

13.3.4 All umpires shall enforce and administer all By-Laws, Rules and Rulings of the Board and the Director of Umpiring in so far as they relate to his/her match or other duties and must report any person or Club infringing the rules of football or these By-Laws.

13.4 UMPIRE POWERS

13.4.1 All umpires appointed by the Director of Umpiring shall have the power to report Players, Member Clubs, Officials and Supporters in accordance with the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" adopted by the League from time to time and for any breach of these By-Laws.

13.5 UMPIRE MATCH DUTIES

13.5.1 Umpires officiating in any match must be attired as directed by the Director of Umpiring, be readily identifiable and must check the time with the official timekeepers prior to the commencement of each match.

13.5.2 After the completion of each match, the designated official Field Umpire shall deliver by the next business day following the match to the General Manager - Operations by electronic means or by hand delivery, the following:

- a fully completed Field Umpire's match report.
- the score and time card records of the match.
- completed vote cards.

13.5.3 All umpires (including emergency umpires in finals matches) shall exercise their discretion to report any person infringing any Rule, By-Law or other regulation within their jurisdiction or administration and which relates to the conduct of any match and shall notify the General Manager - Operations of any such report forthwith, and shall attend the proceedings of the Tribunal where the subject matter of the report is to be heard.

13.5.4 Goal umpires shall record the scores on the cards provided by the League and check the scores on the cards between quarters and at the conclusion of the match. They shall also check the scoreboard accuracy at the conclusion of each quarter. Should the Home Member Club not provide an operating scoreboard, the goal umpires shall report this matter to the General Manager - Operations in the Umpires' match report.

13.5.5 Any discrepancy between the scores shall be rectified as soon as possible in consultation with the field umpire. The cards shall be properly completed and signed by the goal umpires. If the goal umpires disagree on the score, but the timekeeper's score is the same as one of the goal umpires' scores, this score shall be recognized as the official score of the match. Failing which, any disputes shall be referred to the General Manager - Operations for determination in accordance with By-Law 12.9.

13.5.6 Club umpires shall be attired as directed by the General Manager - Operations. Any Member Club not having its umpires so attired may be penalised as provided by these By-Laws.

13.6 **FINALS APPOINTMENTS**

13.6.1 Official Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires shall be appointed to all grades during the final series.

13.7 **UMPIRE ESCORTS**

13.7.1 Both Clubs must provide an adult over eighteen (18) years of age to act as an Umpire Escort for all Umpires. Such person must discharge the following duties:

- escorting all Umpires from their change rooms to the centre of the ground prior to the commencement of the first and third quarters.
- remaining within the centre square during quarter time and three quarter time intervals.
- must be introduced to the Umpires prior to the commencement of the match.
- must be identified by wearing the Official League "Umpire Escort" bib at all times whilst escorting the umpires to and from the playing arena, umpire change rooms and during quarter breaks.

13.8 **CLUB PROVIDED UMPIRES**

13.8.1 Where no official umpire is appointed to a match each participating Club shall provide properly attired and equipped persons of at least sixteen (16) years of age to act as substitutes.

13.8.2 The home Club will provide the first and each subsequent alternate umpire as required, and the away Club will provide the second and each subsequent alternate umpire as required.

13.8.3 Club supplied umpires shall be subject to approval of the official Field Umpire who may dispense with the services of any one or all of them during the match.

13.8.4 Club supplied Goal Umpires must wear a white coat and have two white flags and club supplied Boundary Umpires must wear the approved League uniform.

13.8.5 Club provided Field Umpires must have attained the League's Accreditation for Club Supplied Field Umpires to be able to officiate in any home and away match.

13.8.6 All Member Clubs must nominate a minimum of one person to attend the League's Accreditation for Club Supplied Field Umpires course.

13.8.7 Any Member Club who fails to nominate a person or such nominated person fails to attend the League's Accreditation for Club Supplied Field Umpires course, will not be able to participate for premiership points whilst they do not have a qualified Field Umpire.

13.8.8 The League has the ability to revoke any Club Umpire Accreditation at anytime.

13.8.9 Where there is no official League field umpire the Club field umpire must deliver the League documentation to the official League field umpire of the senior grade match on the same day. If there is no official League field umpire, the Club umpire must deliver the documentation to the Secretary of the home Club who then must deliver the documentation to the General Manager - Operations by the next business day following the match by electronic means or by hand delivery, the following:

- a fully completed Field Umpire's match report.
- the score and time card records of the match.
- completed vote cards.

13.9 **ASSAULTING AN UMPIRE**

13.9.1 No Player, coach, Member Club Match Day Official, Member Club Official or Supporter shall abuse, threaten, assault, hinder, influence or otherwise interfere with any Umpire at any time.

13.9.2 In the event of an allegation or report described in By-Law 13.9.1, the Player, coach Member Club Match Day Official, Member Club Official or Supporter is to be dealt with under By-Law 19.

13.9.3 In the event of a Player, coach, Member Club Match Day Official, Member Club Official or Supporter being found guilty on a charge of assaulting any umpire, the Member Club may be dealt with under Division 2 of Part 3 of the Rules.

13.10 **COMPLAINTS AGAINST UMPIRES**

13.10.1 Any complaint against an officiating umpire must be made by a Member Club and be lodged with the General Manager - Operations, in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the relevant match together with a fee of five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550.00) (inclusive of GST).

13.10.2 Any such complaint must be signed by the Club President or Secretary and provide specific details of the allegations made against the umpire.

13.10.3 The umpire concerned must be informed of such a complaint at the conclusion of the match or as soon as practicable thereafter.

13.10.4 The signatories to such complaint must appear before the Director of Umpiring when required by him/her to substantiate the complaint. The Director of Umpiring can choose to refer the complaint to an Independent Investigation Officer should they consider the complaint to require further investigation.

13.10.5 The Director of Umpiring may penalise an umpire as allowed by the By-Laws.

13.10.6 Any appeal against a decision of the Director of Umpiring must be in writing and forwarded to the General Manager - Operations within forty-eight (48) hours of the original case being heard. The appeal must state the grounds of appeal relied upon and be signed by the umpire.

13.10.7 The appeal will be heard by the Tribunal within seven (7) days of the lodging of the appeal.

13.10.8 The Tribunal will act in accordance with its powers provided in By-Law 24.

14. CLUB FOOTBALL UNIFORMS

14.1 GENERAL

14.1.1 Each Member Club shall register its uniform and colours with the CEO on joining the League.

14.1.2 No Club shall compete in a football match in any uniform or colours other than its registered uniform or colours and may only change, modify or alter such registered uniform or colours with the written approval of the CEO.

14.1.3 Such uniforms should be ordered from the League but will be directly supplied by the manufacturer(s) advised by the CEO.

14.1.4 Where, in the opinion of the CEO, teams from Member Clubs having the same or similar uniform and colours are drawn to play each other, the visiting team shall wear an approved alternative 'clash' uniform and colours for that match. Members Clubs are responsible for sourcing alternative 'clash' uniforms.

14.1.5 Home teams shall wear their registered colour shorts and the Away team shall wear white shorts.

14.1.6 Each Player shall wear the official League logo upon the right hand side of the front of his football jumper, the Club shorts with the official League logo on side of the shorts, the Club socks with the official League logo attached to the socks whilst playing any official League fixture.

14.1.7 If the umpire of a match is of the opinion that a Player is not dressed in accordance with this By-Law and as a consequence is likely to cause confusion in identification, he may disqualify the Player from participating in the match until such time as the umpire is satisfied that the Player is correctly attired.

14.1.8 No Player shall wear lycra or like fabric bicycle shorts under their football shorts unless they are flesh coloured or the exact same colour as their football shorts.

14.1.9 No Player will be permitted to compete in any official League match without a number on the back of the playing jumper.

14.1.10 No two Players in the one team shall have the same number and each number shall be a whole number greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.

14.2 SPONSOR LOGOS

14.2.1 The teams of each Member Club shall wear their registered club coloured jumpers, bearing the League logo, at all games.

14.2.2 Member Clubs may apply to the CEO for approval to incorporate their sponsors' logos on their jumpers. Such logos shall be located a minimum of 2 cm either above or below the Player number and have a maximum height of 10 cm.

14.2.3 No logos will be approved for addition to the back of playing shorts.

14.2.4 Member Clubs may apply for logos, outside of the above listed dimensions, which may be approved at the absolute discretion of the CEO.

14.3 HEADGUARDS AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES

14.3.1 No Player shall wear a headguard or surgical appliance in a match without first obtaining written approval from the General Manager - Operations. Approval must be sought prior to the Player participating in a match and it may only be used during the currency of that approval.

15. FOOTBALL TEAM OFFICIALS

15.1 PERSONS ALLOWED INSIDE THE PLAYING ARENA DURING A MATCH

15.1.1 The only persons allowed to enter the area between the fence and the boundary line during a match are:

- players
- umpires
- trainers
- interchange players
- no more than four (4) selection committee including the team coach
- the team runner

15.1.2 Members of a selection committee in the area between the boundary line and the fence must remain seated and stationary while play is in progress in any match.

15.1.3 Trainers may be stationed at various positions around the playing arena, between the boundary and the fence.

15.1.4 Coaching huddles are not permitted inside the centre square prior to the commencement of the game or during quarter time or three quarter time breaks.

15.2 COACHING STAFF

15.2.1 A person cannot be appointed as a coach of a football team by a Member Club unless that person is an approved coach.

15.2.2 The General Manager - Operations has responsibility for approving coaches.

15.2.3 No approval shall be given by the General Manager - Operations unless the person seeking approval is:

- qualified as a level one accredited coach; and
- signed the SFNL coaches charter of behaviours.

- 15.2.4 Any person who purports to coach in any matches authorised or conducted by the League without satisfying the requirements of this By-Law may be penalised by CEO in accordance with these By-Laws.
- 15.2.5 The team coach and assistant coaches appointed by the Member Club must sit or stand in front of the coaches box. If standing, they must remain reasonably stationary while play is in progress.
- 15.2.6 The team non playing coach and coaching staff may only enter onto the playing arena prior to the match commencing, during quarter time, half time, three quarter time intervals and at the conclusion of the match.
- 15.2.7 Coaches are not permitted to enter the centre square prior to the match or during quarter breaks while the Umpires are there, unless the coaches are going to their position for the game.

15.3 **RUNNER**

- 15.3.1 A team must have a Runner for the match to commence. If a team is unable to provide a club runner, then the match is to be forfeited by the team that is unable to provide the club runner.
- 15.3.2 A team runner may enter the playing arena during the match provided that the runner:
- has not been named in the competing team of the Member Club.
 - is attired in the approved League uniform.
 - only enters the playing arena for the purpose of delivering a message or instructions of a coach to a Player of the team.
 - exits the playing arena immediately upon fulfilling his task.
 - does not cajole, encourage or in any way attempt to influence the conduct or performance of any Player or Players present on the playing arena.
 - does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with any umpire or any Player from the opposing team during the match.
- 15.3.3 A team runner must report to the official timekeeper should a Player or Players from his/her team be ordered from the playing arena by the Field Umpire to inform the timekeeper of the Player/s number and team and to communicate with the timekeeper regarding the time when the Player is entitled to re-enter the match or be replaced.

15.4 **TRAINERS**

- 15.4.1 Each Member Club must have a minimum of one (1) approved trainer present during the full course of each match in which a team is fielded by the Member Club.
- 15.4.2 An approved trainer must be registered with the General Manager - Operations.

15.4.3 No trainer will be registered unless the person is qualified as per the AFL Trainers Policy which is a schedule to these By-Laws.

15.4.4 A trainer shall not enter the playing arena unless:

- he/she is dressed in the official trainers bib.
- he/she is required for medical treatment of an injured Player, the replacement of damaged attire of a Player or other like purpose.
- it is prior to the match commencing, during quarter time, half time, three quarter time intervals or at the conclusion of the match.

15.4.5 A trainer shall not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or coaching staff, runner, trainers or any Player from the opposing team during any match.

15.4.6 Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to an injured person.

15.5 **MEDICAL STAFF**

15.5.1 Medical practitioners, members of St. John Ambulances or other approved first aid attendants may enter the playing arena provided it is necessary to attend an injured Player.

15.6 **TEAM MANAGER**

15.6.1 Each Member Club shall appoint a Team Manager.

15.6.2 The Team Manager shall provide one copy to each the Field Umpire(s) and opposition Team Manager on the original of a written and accurate official league team sheet no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of a match containing:

- names, jumper numbers and registration numbers of all Players. Jumper numbers to be in numerical order.
- names of coaches, trainers and club provided umpire/s.
- name of the runner, waterpersons, timekeeper and umpire escort.
- name of the team manager.

15.6.3 A club may replace a player originally listed on its team sheet with an emergency player before the commencement of play of a match. Where an emergency player replaces a player initially listed on the official League team sheet, the amendment to the official League team sheet must be made through the Field Umpire(s). The opposition Team Manager must also be informed of any change immediately after notifying the Field Umpire(s). No changes to the selected team may be made once the game has commenced.

15.6.4 All Team Managers must sign their own and the opposition team sheets where indicated.

15.6.5 In a practice match, the Team Manager must ensure each Player's name and jumper number are on the team sheet. The original of the practice match team sheet must be forwarded by the Team Manager to the General Manager - Operations to arrive no later than 5.00pm on the next business day.

15.6.6 The Team Manager shall be the only team representative who is permitted to approach the umpire change rooms.

15.7 **TIMEKEEPERS**

15.7.1 A timekeeper must be appointed by each Member Club for each match.

15.7.2 The timekeeper shall:

- be equipped with a timing device and must record all playing times.
- maintain an official timekeeper's card and record on it the scores and the starting and finishing times of each quarter of play of the football match and extra time as directed by the Field Umpire.
- check the scores on the official timekeeper's card at the end of each quarter and at the end of the match.
- be supplied by the home team with a suitable siren device with which the timekeeper shall signal a two minute warning prior to the commencement of play at the start of the game and prior to the commencement of play after half time, signal the commencement of play at the start of each quarter and signal the conclusion of play at the end of each quarter.
- record the card colour, the playing number and club of any Player ordered from the field, such information to be confirmed by the team runner. The information is to be recorded on the back of the timekeeper's card.
- place his/her signature on the timekeeper's card, after checking all the details, upon completion of the match.

15.8 **CLUB WATERPERSONS**

15.8.1 The maximum number of Trainers and/or Waterpersons allowed to carry a water-bottle onto the playing arena during a match is four (4).

15.8.2 There may be any combination equalling the maximum number allowable and must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.

15.8.3 No waterperson shall enter the playing arena with the sole purpose of providing refreshment to Players and umpires unless the waterperson is wearing the League approved waterperson bib.

16. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

16.1 REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION

- 16.1.1 The General Manager - Operations shall notify all Member Clubs in writing of the list of Players selected to train for the League Representative team and advise where and when those Players are to report for the first training session.
- 16.1.2 The General Manager - Operations shall also notify each Player that he has been selected for League Representative team training.
- 16.1.3 Each Member Club must forthwith notify their Players on the list and direct them to report to the first training session.
- 16.1.4 Each Player on the list must report for the first training session and all subsequent training sessions as directed by the coaching staff.
- 16.1.5 Should a Player be unable to attend a League Representative team training session he must notify both the General Manager - Operations and the League Representative team coach prior to the training session.
- 16.1.6 Failure by a Player to attend a League Representative team training session or advise both the General Manager - Operations and League Representative team coach of non attendance prior to the training session will render the Player liable to suspension from playing for his Member Club.
- 16.1.7 Failure by a Player to participate in a League Representative team match once selected in the team will render the Player liable to suspension from playing for his team.
- 16.1.8 Players who contravene By-Laws 16.1.6 and 16.1.7 will appear before the CEO who, after hearing from the Player, will determine the penalty depending upon the circumstances of the case and may impose a penalty as provided in these By-Laws.
- 16.1.9 Member Clubs must not hold practice matches on the same days as League Representative team matches.

17. ALCOHOL

17.1 CLUB MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL

- 17.1.1 Alcohol is not allowed to be taken onto the playing arena at any time.
- 17.1.2 The Umpires will record on the Match Day Report any observation of alcohol being taken onto the playing arena and the CEO will issue a notice of warning to both clubs involved in the match.
- 17.1.3 If a Board Member or League Official observes alcohol being taken onto the playing arena he/she will advise the President or Secretary of the home Club and request that the President or Secretary take action to have the alcohol removed from the playing arena.

17.2 DRY AREAS

17.2.4 Each member club must establish at least one clearly signed “dry” area at its ground. Alcohol must not be consumed in that area.

17.2.5 Each dry area is to be a minimum of 15 metres x 10 metres, and the primary location should be behind the coach’s boxes. Any secondary locations should be situated in the area in front of the canteen/kiosk.

18. COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

18.1 A Player, Member Club, League registered umpire, Director of Umpiring, League Official or a Board Member, may lodge a written complaint/protest with the CEO concerning any act or matter.

18.2 A complaint/protest referred to in this By-Law must be lodged in writing within three (3) business days of the incident occurring. The complaint/protest must be received by the CEO no later than 5.00pm on the last day allowed for lodging the complaint/protest.

18.3 Any complaint/protest lodged by a Player or Member Club can only be lodged by the President or Secretary of the Member Club and must be accompanied by a fee of five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550.00) (including GST).

18.4 On receipt of the complaint/protest, the CEO will notify the other party/parties named in the complaint/protest within two (2) business days.

18.5 Any complaint/protest must:

- identify the person or organization being complained or protested against
- indicate the date and time when the incident occurred
- describe the incident in detail
- indicate the names of any witnesses and contact details to the incident

18.6 All complaints/protests received will be considered by the CEO. The CEO, after consideration of the complaint/protest, may:

- require further information from the person/body lodging the complaint/protest.
- refer the complaint/protest for investigation to the League Investigation Officer.
- refer the complaint/protest to the Board Executive for hearing.
- refer the complaint/protest to the Tribunal for hearing.
- deal with the complaint/protest himself/herself.

18.7 If the Tribunal, Board Executive or CEO deals with the matter, they have the authority to impose a penalty on a party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.

18.8 If the matter is dealt with by the CEO he will make a decision after considering all the information provided as part of the complaint/protest and any material provided by any other relevant person/Member Club.

- 18.9 If the matter is to be heard by the Tribunal or the Board Executive, the General Manager - Operations shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation.
- 18.10 Notice of the hearing shall be given to all interested parties including the person who is the subject of the complaint and Member Club together with a copy of the notice lodged under By-Law 18.1. The notification shall be forwarded not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Hearing.
- 18.11 In any proceeding brought before the Tribunal or Board Executive under this By-Law the League Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and provide any clarity or explanation in relation to the investigation report as requested.
- 18.12 Hearings before the Tribunal will be regulated as provided in these By-Laws.
- 18.13 Any party appearing before the Board Executive may be represented by an advocate. Such advocate must have attended the League Accreditation Seminar and must not be a member of the legal profession.
- 18.14 The Board Executive may summon any Umpire, League Official, Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter of a Member Club to appear before it and, if required, to give evidence. If the Board Executive summons a party to appear before it, in accordance with By-Law 18.10, and that party fails to attend, the Board Executive has the authority to impose a penalty on that party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.
- 18.15 Hearings before the Board Executive shall not be bound by the rules of evidence. Procedural fairness must be exercised by the Board Executive.
- 18.16 Any party that desires to make a written submission to the Tribunal or Board Executive must lodge a copy with the General Manager – Operations within a reasonable time prior to the hearing, but no less than twenty-four (24) hours before the hearing date.
- 18.17 The fee paid in By-Law 18.3 will not be refunded where it is determined that the matter was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 18.18 Subject to clause 18.17, the fee paid in By-Law 18.3 will be refunded, within seven (7) days of a decision being made, less an administration fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) except where:
- (a) the subject of the complaint is found guilty of a charge, in which case the administration fee will be refunded to the Member Club that made the complaint and an invoice of that amount issued to the subject of the complaint; or
 - (b) both parties are found guilty of a charge in which case the administration fee will be refunded in part and the balance will be invoiced to the subject of the complaint.
- 18.19 Any appeal against a decision of the Tribunal, Board Executive or CEO must be in writing and forwarded to the General Manager - Operations within forty-eight (48) hours of the original case being heard. The appeal must state the grounds of appeal relied upon.

- 18.19 A fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) must be lodged with the General Manager - Operations at the same time as lodging the appeal.
- 18.20 The fee, less an administration fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), will be returned to the appealing club upon resolution of the appeal, except in the case where it is determined that the appeal was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 18.21 In the case of an appeal from the CEO, the appeal will be dealt with by the Board Executive.
- 18.22 In the case of an appeal from the Tribunal, the appeal will be dealt with by a differently constituted Tribunal.
- 18.23 In the case of an appeal from the decision of the Board Executive, the appeal will be heard by Board members who did not hear the original matter.

19. CONDUCT UNBECOMING

- 19.1 The Board, League Official or Official Umpire who alleges that a Player, a Member Club Match Day Official, a Member Club Official, an Official Umpire, an Official of the Umpire's Association, League Official or Supporter has acted in a manner which may bring the game of football into disrepute or engages in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League, may lodge with the CEO a notice in writing setting out the particulars of the allegation.
- 19.2 A Member Club that alleges a Player, a Member Club Match Day Official, a Member Club Official, an Official Umpire, an Official of the Umpire's Association, a League Official or Supporter has acted in a manner which may bring the game of football into disrepute or engages in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League, may lodge with the CEO, a notice in writing setting out the particulars of the allegation.
- 19.3 Any notice lodged by a Member Club under By-Law 19.2 can only be lodged by the President or Secretary of the Member Club and must be accompanied by a fee of five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550.00) (including GST).
- 19.4 A notice under By-Law 19.2 must be lodged with the CEO within three (3) days of the date of the incident to which it relates.
- 19.5 On receipt of the notice, the CEO will notify the other party/parties named in the notice within two (2) business days.
- 19.6 Any notice must:
- identify the person or organization that the incident relates to
 - indicate the date and time when the incident occurred
 - describe the incident in detail
 - indicate the names of any witnesses and contact details to the incident
- 19.7 All notices received will be referred to the Board Executive by the CEO. The Board Executive, after consideration of the notice, may:

- require further information from the person/body lodging the notice.
- refer the notice for investigation to the League Investigation Officer.
- refer the notice to the Tribunal for hearing.
- hear the notice itself.

- 19.8 If the Tribunal or Board Executive hears the matter, it has the authority to impose a penalty on a party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.
- 19.9 If the matter is to be heard by the Tribunal or the Board Executive, the General Manager – Operations shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation.
- 19.10 Notice of the hearing shall be given to all interested parties including the person who is the subject of the complaint and Member Club together with a copy of the notice lodged under By-Law 19.1 or 19.2. The notification shall be forwarded not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Hearing.
- 19.11 In any proceeding brought before the Tribunal or Board Executive under this By-Law the League Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and provide any clarity or explanation in relation to the investigation report as requested.
- 19.12 Hearings before the Tribunal will be regulated as provided in these By-Laws.
- 19.13 Any party appearing before the Board Executive may be represented by an advocate. Such advocate must have attended the League Accreditation Seminar and must not be a member of the legal profession.
- 19.14 The Board Executive may summon any Umpire, League Official, Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter of a Member Club to appear before it and, if required, to give evidence. If the Board Executive summons a party to appear before it, in accordance with By-Law 19.10, and that party fails to attend, the Board Executive has the authority to impose a penalty on that party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.
- 19.15 Hearings before the Board Executive shall not be bound by the rules of evidence. Procedural fairness must be exercised by the Board Executive.
- 19.16 Any party that desires to make a written submission to the Tribunal or Board Executive must lodge a copy with the General Manager – Operations within a reasonable time prior to the hearing, but no less than twenty-four (24) hours before the hearing date.
- 19.17 The fee paid in By-Law 19.3 will not be refunded where it is determined that the matter was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 19.18 Subject to clause 19.17, the fee paid in By-Law 19.3 will be refunded, within seven (7) days of a decision being made, less an administration fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) except where:

- (a) the subject of the complaint is found guilty of a charge, in which case the administration fee will be refunded to the Member Club that made the complaint and an invoice of that amount issued to the subject of the complaint; or
 - (b) both parties are found guilty of a charge in which case the administration fee will be refunded in part and the balance will be invoiced to the subject of the complaint.
- 19.19 Any appeal against a decision of the Tribunal or Board Executive must be in writing and forwarded to the General Manager - Operations within forty-eight (48) hours of the original case being heard. The appeal must state the grounds of appeal relied upon.
- 19.20 A fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) must be lodged with the General Manager - Operations at the same time as lodging the appeal.
- 19.21 The fee, less an administration fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), may be returned to the appealing club upon resolution of the appeal, except in the case where it is determined that the appeal was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 19.22 In the case of an appeal from the Tribunal, an appeal will be dealt with by a differently constituted Tribunal.
- 19.23 In the case of an appeal from the decision of the Board Executive, the appeal will be heard by Board members who did not hear the original matter.

20. INVESTIGATION PROCESS

- 20.1 The CEO shall appoint a League Investigation Officer.
- 20.2 When a matter has been referred to the League Investigation Officer, he/she shall conduct an investigation into the matter.
- 20.3 The League Investigation Officer shall complete his/her investigation into the matter and provide his/her report, including transcripts of all interviews, to the CEO within twenty-one (21) days of the referral to him/her. Should the League Investigation Officer require further time in which to prepare his/her report, he/she must make application to the CEO for an extension of time.
- 20.4 For the purpose of conducting an Investigation, any person shall:
- fully cooperate with the League Investigation Officer.
 - truthfully answer any questions asked by the League Investigation Officer.
 - provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation.
- 20.5 The League Investigation Officer must promptly notify the CEO of the failure of any person to observe and comply with By-Law 20.4 above.
- 20.6 A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 20.4 or who provides any false or misleading information or information that is likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have

been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 19.

- 20.7 As part of his role, the League Investigation Officer has the discretion to recommend a charge be laid against any person or Member Club that he/she deems appropriate regardless of whether that person or Member Club was named in the original complaint/protest.
- 20.8 The report and any recommendations submitted by the League Investigation Officer, shall be considered by the CEO in relation to By-Law 18 and the Board Executive in relation to By-Law 19. The CEO and Board Executive may follow the recommendations (if any) made in the report. The CEO and Board Executive are not bound by the recommendations made by the League Investigation Officer and may also issue further instructions regarding any person or Member Club named in the report.
- 20.9 Where the matter is referred to the Tribunal or Board Executive for hearing, the CEO will complete a summary sheet outlining the charges that person is facing and provide a copy to the person and the Tribunal or Board Executive. The CEO will also provide a copy of the summary extract from the investigation report of the League Investigation Officer to each person that is to appear before the Tribunal or Board Executive.
- 20.10 Any hearing by the Tribunal or Board Executive shall be held in accordance with the By-Laws with particular reference to By-Law 18 and 19.
- 20.11 Any Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter that abuses, threatens or assaults any League Investigation Officer shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 19.

21. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 21.1 The grievance procedure applies to disputes between:
 - 21.1.1 a Member Club and one of its Players or a Member Club Official
 - 21.1.2 A Player or Member Club Official from a Member Club and the CEO or the Board
 - 21.1.3 a Member Club and another Member Club
 - 21.1.4 a Member Club and the CEO or the Board
- 21.2 The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within fourteen (14) days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.
- 21.3 If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by By-Law 21.2, the parties must within ten (10) days:
 - 21.3.1 notify the Board of the dispute; and
 - 21.3.2 agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and

21.3.3 attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.

21.4 The mediator must be:

21.4.1 a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or

21.4.2 in the absence of agreement:

- if the dispute is between those parties nominated in By-Law 21.1.1 and 21.1.3, a person appointed by the Board
- if the dispute is between those parties nominated in By-Law 21.1.2 and 21.1.4, a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.

21.5 A mediator appointed by the Board must not be a person who has a personal interest in the dispute or is biased in favour of or against any party.

21.6 The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must give each party every opportunity to be heard, allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party and ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.

21.7 The mediator must not determine the dispute.

21.8 If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute as allowed by law.

22. REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

22.1 GENERAL

22.1.1 If an official umpire reports a Player during the course of a match he/she must at the first convenient opportunity inform the nearest Field Umpire of his/her report to enable the Field Umpire to order the Player in question from the arena if applicable.

22.1.2 Umpires shall be provided by the League with report sheets on which they shall enter particulars of any charge or charges they make against Players or Officials.

22.1.3 The report shall be completed no later than immediately after the match. If the umpire deems a set penalty to be appropriate, he/she may offer a set penalty to the reported Player as prescribed on the Player Report Sheet which is a schedule to these By-Laws. The opposition club in this circumstance cannot object to the umpire's decision to offer a set penalty and cannot challenge the penalty.

22.1.4 A report shall be completed and if a Player of each side is reported in relation to the same charge, then each copy shall be signed by the umpire or umpires making the charge.

22.1.5 The field umpire shall take charge of a copy of all report sheets submitted to him at the completion of a match by field, boundary and/or goal umpires.

- 22.1.6 As soon as practical after the completion of a match in which a report has been made, the field umpire shall hand to the Team Manager of the team of the reported Player, a copy of the report sheet(s). For this purpose, each club shall be responsible for the attendance of their Team Manager at the umpires' room at the conclusion of each match.
- 22.1.7 In the event the Team Manager does not attend as described in By-Law 22.1.6, the field umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the duty imposed on him by this By-Law.
- 22.1.8 The field umpires shall lodge, or cause to be lodged, the remaining copy of any report sheets that have been completed, with the General Manager - Operations before 9:00am on the first business day after the day of the match, or within such other time as may be required by the League.
- 22.1.9 Umpires must endeavour to note all particulars in connection with any report they make in order that a clear account may be given when such a report is being considered.

22.2 ORDER OFF RULE

- 22.2.1 The Order Off rule shall apply to all matches.
- 22.2.2 Only a field umpire may order a Player off the ground. Any Player ordered from the field under a red card cannot return to the field for the remainder of the match. Any Player ordered from the field under a yellow or green card must be off the field for fifteen (15) minutes of actual playing time before they can return.
- 22.2.3 When a Player has been ordered from the playing arena under By-Law 22.2.2, he must go immediately to this team's coach box area, through the designated interchange, and the team runner must report to the timekeepers.
- 22.2.4 The fifteen (15) minutes playing time commences when the team runner reports to the timekeepers.

22.3 ORDER OFF CARDS

- 22.3.1 A Player ordered from the field under a red card must remain off the playing arena for the remainder of the match, but can be replaced by another Player after fifteen (15) minutes actual playing time has elapsed. Under these circumstances the Player is also reported for the incident.
- 22.3.2 A Player ordered from the field under a yellow card must remain off the playing arena until fifteen (15) minutes actual playing time has elapsed and can return or be replaced after that fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed. Under these circumstances the Player is also reported for the incident.
- 22.3.3 A Player ordered from the field under a green card must remain off the playing arena until fifteen (15) minutes actual playing time has elapsed. Under these

circumstances the Player may be replaced immediately and the Player is not reported.

23. REPORTED PLAYERS

23.1 SET PENALTY

- 23.1.1 If the Field Umpire has indicated a set penalty may be taken, prior to both Team Managers signing the Player Report Form, the Team Manager must confer with the reported Player to find out if he wishes to accept the set penalty, or if he wishes to proceed to Tribunal.
- 23.1.2 The Team Manager must report the decision of the Player to the Field Umpire.
- 23.1.3 If the Player does not accept the set penalty then he must appear before the Tribunal. If the Player is found guilty by the Tribunal, the Player must receive a penalty greater than he would have if he had accepted the set penalty.
- 23.1.4 The Field Umpire has the option to bring a charge, carrying a set penalty, before the Tribunal and he must advise the Team Manager of this prior to the signing of the Player Report Form.
- 23.1.5 It is at this point that both Team Managers sign the Player Report Form and inform the reported Player/s and witnesses that they will need to appear before the Tribunal.
- 23.1.6 Any Player who has previously accepted a set penalty or been found guilty and suspended by the Tribunal cannot accept a set penalty during the home and away season or finals series in the same season and must have the matter heard by the Tribunal.

23.2 FINALS SERIES REPORTS

- 23.2.1 Any Player accepting a set penalty from a finals series match will have the set penalty doubled by the League.
- 23.2.2 Any Player reported during a finals series match and found guilty by the Tribunal will have the penalty imposed by the Tribunal doubled by the League.

23.3 APPEARING BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 23.3.1 All reported Players, who have not accepted the set penalty, and witnesses are to be in attendance at the Tribunal venue no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the allocated date and time.
- 23.3.2 Should a Player be unable to attend the Tribunal for any reason, he must make contact with the General Manager - Operations on the first business day after the match between 9.00am and 12 noon.
- 23.3.3 Unless notified otherwise Tribunal Hearings shall be held at the League offices at 2nd Floor, Junior Development Building, Moorabbin Reserve, Linton Street,

Moorabbin on Tuesdays commencing at 6.15 p.m. or at any other date and time nominated by the General Manager - Operations.

23.3.4 On arrival at the Tribunal all parties should report their attendance to the official on duty.

23.3.5 All clubs may present up to three (3) independent witnesses for any case.

24. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

24.1 GENERAL

24.1.1 The Tribunal shall comprise persons appointed by the Board.

24.1.2 The Board shall nominate a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson of the Tribunal.

24.1.3 The Tribunal shall deal with all Field Charges and matters referred to it under By-Laws 9, 13, 18 and 19.

24.1.4 Any charge must be heard and determined by a Tribunal consisting of three (3) persons, one of whom shall be designated to chair the hearing.

24.1.5 Unless notified otherwise Tribunal Hearings shall be held at the League offices at 2nd Floor Junior Development Building Moorabbin Reserve Linton Street Moorabbin on Tuesdays commencing at 6.15 p.m. or at any other date and time notified by the General Manager - Operations.

24.1.5 No member of the Tribunal shall have a direct or indirect connection with the League or any Member Club.

24.1.6 No member of the Tribunal shall be eligible to be part of a Tribunal panel where there is any personal interest or conflict of interest with the subject matter of the hearing.

24.1.7 The Tribunal may regulate its procedures subject to compliance with the League By-Laws.

24.1.8 No decision by the Tribunal will be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of the Tribunal or a Tribunal member.

24.2 POWERS

24.2.1 The Tribunal may summon any Umpire, League Official, Member Club Official, Player or Supporter of a Member Club to appear before it and, if required, to give evidence.

24.2.2 Hearings of the Tribunal shall not be bound by the rules of evidence, nor shall video evidence other than a video approved by the League be admissible. Procedural fairness must be exercised by the panel.

- 24.2.3 If a party concerned in a Tribunal hearing is represented by an Advocate, the Advocate must have attended the League Accreditation Seminar. The Advocate must not be a member of the legal profession.
- 24.2.4 The Tribunal may adjourn any hearing for any period and for any reason as it sees fit save that if a person is suspended pending the period of the adjournment the hearing will be resumed at the earliest practicable time unless the suspended person consents.
- 24.2.5 Any Player, person charged, umpire, witness, spectator at the Tribunal hearing, Member Club Official or Member Club Match Day Official that abuses, threatens, hinders or assaults any Tribunal member shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 19.

24.3 **TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE**

- 24.3.1 The Tribunal hearing procedure is set out in the schedule to these By-Laws.
- 24.3.2 In regard to the re-opening of a Tribunal hearing, a written request must be made in writing and received by the General Manager - Operations within forty-eight (48) hours of the original hearing. The request must state the grounds on which the hearing should be re-opened and be made by the person's Member Club.
- 24.3.3 Only the Member Club of the charged/suspended person may request a Tribunal hearing be re-opened.
- 24.3.4 The Tribunal will consider the reasons for the request and must be satisfied that the reason for re-opening the hearing relates to fresh evidence that was not before the Tribunal at the original hearing.
- 24.3.5 If the request does not relate to fresh evidence then the Tribunal will not re-open the hearing.
- 24.3.6 The decision by the Tribunal on whether or not to re-open the hearing is final.

24.4 **APPEAL PROCESS**

- 24.4.1 Only the Member Club of a suspended person may lodge an appeal against the decision of the Tribunal on behalf of the person. Any appeal must be in writing and forwarded to the General Manager - Operations within forty-eight (48) hours of the original case being heard. The appeal must state the grounds of appeal relied upon.
- 24.4.2 A fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) must be lodged with the General Manager - Operations at the same time as lodging the appeal.
- 24.4.3 The fee will be returned to the appealing club upon resolution of the appeal, less an administration fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), except in the case

where the Tribunal determines that the appeal was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.

24.4.4 Any appeal will be heard by a Tribunal differently constituted from the Tribunal that originally heard the matter.

25. PRESENTATION NIGHT

25.1 All Member Clubs shall be allotted ten (10) tickets for the League Senior Presentation Night. Member Clubs will be billed for the cost of these tickets.

26. APPEALS

26.1 There is no appeal available against any fine for a breach of the By-Laws.

26.2 Where there is a right of appeal under these By-Laws, a party may only lodge one (1) appeal with respect to the original decision.

26.3 Prior to taking any other action, a party to a matter dealt with under these By-Laws, must have exhausted their right of appeal under these By-Laws before commencing any Court or Tribunal proceedings.

27. POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

27.1 All Players, Officials and Supporters of Member Clubs shall be subject to the Policies and Codes of Conduct issued by the Board from time to time that form part of the Schedules to these By-Laws.

28. AFL & AFL VICTORIA POLICIES

28.1 The League, AFL and AFL Victoria are required to adopt complementary rules and regulations, in football competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction.

28.2 The League has adopted the following AFL and AFL Victoria policies as policies of the League:

- Anti-Doping Policy
- Alcohol Management Policy
- Codes of Conduct - Players, Coaches, & Parents
- De-Registration Policy
- Gender Regulation Policy
- Infectious Diseases Policy
- Management of Concussion in Australian Football
- Member Protection Policy
- National Child Protection Policy
- National Risk Protection Program
- Smokefree Policy
- Vilification and Discrimination Policy

29. PERSONS REPRESENTING THE LEAGUE

29.1 Any person, other than a Board Member or League employee, that represents the League in any capacity is bound by these By-Laws and must agree to comply with the By-Laws, including all Schedules and policies referred to herein.

30. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

30.1 The Board will establish criteria for awarding Life Membership of the SFNL.

30.2 In considering awarding Life Membership, the Board will need evidence of a demonstrated record of high quality service over a sustained period that has enhanced the standing and sustainability of the League.

30.3 Criteria for awarding of Life Membership forms part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

31. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

31.1 The Board will establish criteria for awarding Outstanding Achievement Awards of the SFNL.

31.2 Criteria for awarding of Outstanding Achievement Awards forms part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

32. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

32.1 The Board will establish criteria for awarding Distinguished Service Awards of the SFNL.

32.2 Criteria for awarding of Distinguished Service Awards forms part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

33. HALL OF FAME

30.1 The League will establish a Hall of Fame.

30.2 The Hall of Fame will acknowledge and celebrate persons who have made significant contributions to the League or the forerunners of the League, being Federal Football League, Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association and South East Suburban Football League.

30.3 Criteria for election to the Hall of Fame is part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

34. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

34.1 These By-Laws may be amended by the Board from time to time.

35. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE LEAGUE

33.1 All correspondence by Member Clubs with the League shall be in writing by letter, facsimile transmission or email and be from either the Member Club President, Secretary or Treasurer.

36. PENALTIES

36.1 Where a penalty may be imposed under these By-Laws, the CEO, Tribunal or Board Executive may impose any one or more of the following:

36.1.1 a reprimand or a severe reprimand

36.1.2 a fine

36.1.3 a suspension or disqualification

36.1.4 a suspended sentence

36.2 Any fine imposed may not exceed \$10,000.00.

SCHEDULES

- 1 Laws Of Australian Football
- 2 Member Club Receivable Policy
- 3 Media Policy
- 4 Social Media Policy
- 5 Club Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct
- 6 Match and Record Information
- 7 AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations
- 8 Netball By-Laws
- 9 Coaches Charter of Behaviours
- 10 AFL Trainers Policy
- 11 Players Report Form
- 12 Tribunal Hearing Procedure
- 13 Hall of Fame Criteria
- 14 Life Membership, Outstanding Achievement and Distinguished Service Policy
- 15 AFL Policies
- 16 AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy
- 17 AFL Victoria Player Payment Rule