

**SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**



BY-LAWS
UPDATED 8 MARCH 2019

Definition:

In these By-laws unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter:

“SFNL” means Southern Football Netball League Incorporated.

The policies and schedules noted should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-laws of the Southern Football Netball League.

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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of the Southern Football Netball League Incorporated ('the Rules') and any and all previous By-Laws of the League are rescinded.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.
- 1.4 Any dollar amounts referred to in the By-Laws will be subject to GST where applicable.

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 By-Law 31.

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

'All Clear' as advised by controlling umpire that the match has been completed including all relevant paperwork.

'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.

'Independent Tribunal Procedure' means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 12.

‘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.

‘Match Review Panel Procedure’ means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 19.

‘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 16.

‘Player Points System Policy’ means the policy referred to by that name as set out in Schedule 16. 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.

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

‘Women’s Football’ means the senior female football competition.

3. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

3.1 All football games shall be played in strict accordance with the “Laws of Australian Football” as determined by the AFL, unless otherwise advised by the SFNL.

3.2 Where discretion is available under the AFL “Laws of Australian Football” for controlling bodies to nominate rule variations, the CEO shall notify each Member Club of the “Laws of Australian Rules Football’ applicable to the SFNL in each season.

3.3 The Competition Regulations of the SFNL Men’s Football Competition are contained in Schedule 17.

3.4 The Competition Regulations of the SFNL Women’s Football Competition are contained in Schedule 18.

4. ALTERATION TO BY-LAWS

4.1 The By-Laws may be amended by the Board at its absolute discretion pursuant to the Rules and advised to affiliated Member Clubs.

5. AFFILIATION

5.1 CLUB AFFILIATION

5.1.1 Each Club shall affiliate with the SFNL by signing an annual Affiliation and Agreement Form and submitting the Affiliation and Agreement Form to the SFNL. Refer to Schedule 20.

5.2 ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEE

5.2.1 In accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules, each Member Club shall pay annual affiliation fees to the SFNL of the sum prescribed by the Board at its absolute discretion. Affiliation fees are to be supplied annually to clubs via the CEO.

5.2.2 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 unless a Scheme of Arrangements is specifically authorised by the CEO or Board.

5.2.3 The CEO or Board Executive, on application of a Member Club, has power to agree to a Scheme of Arrangement.

- 5.2.4 Where a Member Club fails to make payments to the League in accordance with By-Law 5.2.2 and has not entered a Scheme of Arrangement as described in By-Law 5.2.3, 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.
- 5.2.5 Points and percentages for any game played while a Member Club is ineligible for match points will be calculated as follows:
- (i) Should the Member Club in breach of this By-Law win, lose or draw the game, they receive no points and no percentage.
 - (ii) Should the opposition Club win the game they receive four points and percentage.
 - (iii) Should the opposition Club draw the game they receive two points and percentage.
 - (iv) Should the opposition Club lose the game they receive no points and percentage.
- 5.2.6 Any Member Club that is not financial must complete its match day commitments including playing all matches.
- 5.2.7 A Member Club must be financial and/or be meeting a Scheme of Arrangement as described by By-Law 5.2.3 at the conclusion of the home and away season to be eligible to play in an SFNL Finals Series. In the event that the Member Club is not financial, that Member Club's team(s) shall be removed from the SFNL Finals Series and the next entitled team on the ladder shall be added, provided that team is from a financial Member Club.

5.3 NEW CLUBS

- 5.3.1 The CEO, in consultation with the Board, shall have authority to negotiate with any football or netball club seeking membership of the SFNL.
- 5.3.2 The Board retains the right to offer membership of the League to any football or netball club.

6. MEMBER CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Should a Member Club fail to comply with By-Law 5.1 or By-Law 5.2, the CEO may penalise the Member Club as allowed by these By-Laws (refer to By-Law 37).
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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, Treasurer, Registrar, and other key contacts as requested from the League within fourteen (14) days of the holding of its Annual General Meeting. **Penalty \$100.00**
- 6.4 Each Member Club must notify the CEO of any resignations, changes or replacement to those offices as soon as they occur. **Penalty \$100.00**

- 6.5 Each Member Club must hold its Annual General Meeting no later than 30 November 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. **Penalty \$500.00**
- 6.6 The League requires Member Clubs to provide certain match information and this forms part of the schedules to the By-Laws.
- 6.7 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, Thirds and Women's matches, by no later than 5.45 pm on the day of the match. **Penalty \$50.00 per match**
- 6.8 Each Member Club must complete and lodge the appointed coaches' details for each grade including accreditation with the League before being eligible to coach. **Penalty \$100.00**

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1 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. **Penalty \$250.00**
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 Unless otherwise specified, all Annual and Special Meetings of the League shall commence no earlier than 6.00pm.
- 7.6 Member Clubs may, with the prior approval of the CEO, appoint a person other than those named in By-Law 7.2 to attend Annual and Special Meetings in their place.
- 7.7 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. **Penalty refer By-Law 37.**

8. MEDIA STATEMENTS

- 8.1 The League has established a Club Media and Social Media Policy that forms part of the schedules to the By-Laws and Member Clubs are required to comply with that policy.
- 8.2 No Member Club shall permit any of its officers or members to make any statement to the media (including social media, radio, television and all newspapers) in connection with any policies or acts of the Board or Independent Tribunal, or in relation to any other Club, without the prior approval of the CEO (or their nominee).

To do so shall render the Club concerned liable to:

- (i) impose a penalty for any breach at the discretion of the SFNL;
- (ii) suspension;
- (iii) expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the SFNL.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 9.1 The League has established 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.
- 9.2 Any person 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.
- 9.3 Member Clubs shall be responsible for the behaviour of their Players, Officials and Supporters prior to, during and after matches including intervals in the match and between matches.
- 9.4 Any supporters or barrackers who are known to be members of any Member Club, within the League who, in the opinion of the Field, Boundary, Goal Umpire, or League Official, behave in an offensive manner by spoken remarks, or openly incite players on the field to play in a manner not conducive to the best interests of the game, or are the cause of any disturbance between onlookers, will render the Member Club to which they belong liable to appear before the Board or Tribunal who will have the power after dealing with the case to:
 - (i) impose a fine for any breach at the discretion of the SFNL;
 - (ii) suspension; or
 - (iii) expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the SFNL.

10. CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

- 10.1 In conjunction with the AFL's policy on Child Protection, it is mandatory by law for coaches and volunteers to obtain a Working With Children Check (WWCC) if they undertake any of the following roles:
 - 10.1.1 Club personnel including coaches and trainers appointed or seeking appointment for financial reward;
 - 10.1.2 Volunteer personal who will or likely to travel away overnight with teams of persons under eighteen (18) years of age; and
 - 10.1.3 Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with persons under eighteen (18) years of age.

11. AFL VICTORIA COMMUNITY CLUB AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

- 11.1 It is a condition of the Club's Affiliation Agreement with the SFNL that all Member Clubs will comply in full with AFL Victoria's Player Points System Policy (PPS) under Schedule 15.

11.1.1 The League has set the following Total Team Points for Senior Men's football for season 2019:

- (i) Division 1 - forty-seven (47) points.
- (ii) Division 2 - forty-seven (47) points.
- (iii) Division 3 - forty-seven (47) points.
- (iv) Division 4 - forty-seven (47) points.

11.2 It is a condition of the Club's Affiliation Agreement with the SFNL that all Member Clubs will comply in full with AFL Victoria's Player Payment Rules & Guidelines Policy (PPR) under Schedule 16.

11.1.2 The League has set the following Player Payment Allowance (PPA) for football for season 2019:

- (i) Division 1 - \$150,000.
- (ii) Division 2 - \$110,000.
- (iii) Division 3 - \$75,000.
- (iv) Division 4 - \$50,000.

11.3 Penalties will be determined as deemed appropriate by the League as outlined in the AFL PPS and PPR policies, and may include but are not limited to:

- 11.3.1 Club fines;
- 11.3.2 Loss of premiership points – current season and in the future;
- 11.3.3 Suspended from finals – current season and in the future;
- 11.3.4 Suspension of players and/ or Officials.

12. FOOTBALL PLAYER REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATION

12.1 REGISTRATION

12.1.1 This By-Law should be read in conjunction with the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations under Schedule 7.

12.1.2 A Player must complete their annual registration to the official SFNL online database to be eligible to play in any fixtured match approved by the League.

12.1.3 A Player who can satisfy the League that they have 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 3.1.6 of the AFL's National Player Transfer Regulations. Such Player is still required to qualify for finals under Competition Rules.

12.1.4 Players registering for the Under 19's require a certified copy of either an extract of birth, a full birth certificate or an official passport that must be retained by the Member Club and presented to the League when requested.

12.1.5 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 notify the Player's Member Club.

12.2 QUALIFICATION

- 12.2.1 AFL or VFL Open Age shall be deemed a higher grade than the League's Open Age teams of any Division.
- 12.2.2 The State Under 18 competition shall be deemed a higher grade than the League Under 19 grade.
- 12.2.3 Grades of one League division shall be deemed equal to the same grades in any other division of the League.
- 12.2.4 Any Player issued a permit to play in either the AFL, VFL or State Under 18 Competition and who also holds League registration may only play with one Club in any one weekend including Friday night.
- 12.2.5 Any Player issued a permit to play in either the AFL, VFL or State Under 18 Competition and also holds League registration may only participate in an official League match when the League has received notification from the AFL, VFL or State Under 18 Competition that such Player is available to play for their Member Club and not required by their AFL, VFL or State Under 18 Competition club in that particular weekend.
- 12.2.6 Save for the exception in By-Law 12.2.7, 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.
- 12.2.7 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.
- 12.2.8 No Player shall be qualified to play for a Member Club in any League match:
- (i) who is not a duly registered playing member of that Member Club and the holder of a permit to play;
 - (ii) who is under any disqualification or who has not paid any fine imposed by the League or any other Football League;
 - (iii) Unless he has obtained all required transfers and permits.
- 12.2.9 Member Clubs must enter all team participants on the online database by 6:00pm on the day prior to the game.

12.3 PENALTY FOR PLAYING NON-PERMITTED PLAYERS

- 12.3.1 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 Board or CEO. **Penalty refer to By-Law 37**

12.3.2 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:

- (i) not registered with the League;
- (ii) not permitted to participate with that Member Club;
- (iii) is under suspension;
- (iv) not accredited;

shall be dealt with by the CEO as per By-Law 37.

13. FOOTBALL STRUCTURE

13.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

13.1.1 The League will organise football competitions for Member Clubs in the following grades:

- (i) Senior
- (ii) Reserve
- (iii) Thirds
- (iv) Under 19's
- (v) Women's Football

13.1.2 Where applicable, 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.

13.1.3 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.

13.1.4 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.

13.1.5 The Board has the power to promote, relegate or refuse to promote or relegate any Member Club, in the event that:

- (i) The Member Club cannot field a full complement of teams for the next season.
- (ii) 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.

- (iii) The Member Club is in default of any financial obligation to the League.
- (iv) 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.

13.1.6 A Club joining the League will participate in a Division determined by the Board.

13.1.7 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.

13.1.8 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.

13.1.9 The CEO is responsible for approval of a Member Club's team colours for jumper, shorts and socks. Member Clubs are encouraged to have an alternate 'clash' jumper for use where their team colours are the same or similar to another team.

13.2 FIXTURES

13.2.1 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.

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

13.3 DAYS AND TIMES OF MATCHES

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

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

- (i) the dates, starting times and fixtures of all football matches for all grades and divisions.

- (ii) the duration of football matches.

- (iii) any special conditions attached to a football match.

13.3.3 A Member Club desiring to conduct matches on a day or time other than that published by the League in the official fixture may do so on application to the General Manager – Operations and providing the following requirements have been satisfied:

- (i) 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.

- (ii) that fourteen (14) 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.

- (iii) that fourteen (14) days written notice requesting approval from the CEO that the fixture be altered is provided to the General Manager - Operations from each Member Club.

13.4 MATCH NOT ABLE TO PROCEED

- 13.4.1 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.
- 13.4.2 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.
- 13.4.3 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 17.9 will apply.

13.5 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

- 13.5.1 If the air temperature is below five (5) degrees Celsius or in excess of thirty-four (34) degrees Celsius on a training day/night, Players and umpires are not to train.
- 13.5.2 If the air temperature is below five (5) degrees Celsius, or in excess of thirty-four (34) 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.
- 13.5.3 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-four [34] 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.
- 13.5.4 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.
- 13.5.5 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.
- 13.5.6 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.
- 13.5.7 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.

14. HOME CLUB OBLIGATIONS

14.1 The Home Member Club must provide:

14.1.1 a suitable siren.

14.1.2 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.

14.1.3 post pads that are a minimum of 35mm thick, minimum 2.5 metres high, that completely wrap the point and goals posts.

14.1.4(a) a playing arena clearly marked with white lines as the boundary lines in accordance with the legal requirements of the Local Government Authority (LGA) from any fence, hard surface or potential hazard.

14.1.4(b) if the local council does not provide recommendations as referenced in clause 14.1.4(a), then the playing arena must be clearly marked with white lines as the boundary lines which must be at least three (3) meters from any fence, hard surface or potential hazard.

14.1.5 centre square which has not less than thirty (30) x thirty (3) metres and not more than fifty (50) x fifty (50) metres.

14.1.6 centre circles (1 x three [3] metres).

14.1.7 1 x ten (10) metres) and goal square (nine (9) metres).

14.1.8 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.

14.1.9 a scoreboard, which must be manned for each match.

14.1.10 a stretcher in an accessible place for use by each team.

14.1.11 adequate seating arrangements for both teams at the designated coaches' place, for the coaches, interchange Players, for members of the selection committee and runner.

14.1.12 appropriate interchange area which is to be positioned in the front of each team bench.

14.1.13 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.

14.1.14 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.

14.1.15 the Field Umpire must be provided with a satisfactory replacement for any match football that in his/her opinion is unfit for play.

15. GROUNDS

15.1 Each Member Club shall play on a ground approved by the CEO.

15.2 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.

15.3 Official League match fixtures can only be played at those grounds approved by the CEO.

15.4 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.

15.5 The emergency ground must be approved by the CEO.

15.6 Should a Member Club fail to give notice under By-Law 15.4 it shall forfeit the match.

16. GROUND INSPECTIONS

16.1 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.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

17. FAILURE TO FULFIL AN ENGAGEMENT

17.1 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.

- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 A Member Club failing to field a team with a minimum number of Players as determined by the respective Competition Rules within twenty (20) minutes of the appointed starting time of the match shall automatically forfeit the match at that point in time.
- 17.4 If, during the course of a match a Member Club's team is reduced to less than the minimum number of Players in the respective Competition Rules 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 their 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.
- 17.5 Any Member Club failing to fulfil its obligation shall:
- 17.5.1 pay all umpires expenses relative to the match.
- 17.5.2 submit to the CEO a written statement of reasons for non-completion of the match.
- 17.5.3 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.
- 17.6 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.
- 17.7 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.
- 17.8 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.
- 17.9 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:
- 17.9.1 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.
- 17.9.2 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.
- 17.10 In addition, the Board 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.

18. FINALS

18.1 ARRANGEMENTS

18.1.1 The finals series shall be played as approved, by the Board.

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

18.1.3 All finals matches shall be played on enclosed grounds.

18.2 TENDERING

18.2.1 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.

18.2.2 The League is entitled to require a tender fee to be paid by all successful tendering Member Clubs.

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

18.3 ENTRANCE FEES

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

18.3.2 The League may delegate its authority for the collection of entrance fees from time to time.

18.4 FINALS UNIFORMS

18.4.1 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:

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

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

19. NETBALL COMPETITION STRUCTURE

19.1 Where applicable, Member Clubs will play in a divisional structure.

19.2 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.

19.3 The Board will make By-Laws with respect to the Netball competition that will be a schedule to these By-Laws.

20. BEST AND FAIREST

- 20.1 The League will annually award a trophy to the Best & Fairest Player in each Grade of football and netball competition conducted by the League.
- 20.2 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.
- 20.3 No Player found guilty of an offence who is suspended from playing during the season is eligible to win a Best and Fairest trophy.

21. FOOTBALL UMPIRES

21.1 GENERAL

- 21.1.1 The CEO shall appoint a Director of Umpiring.
- 21.1.2 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.
- 21.1.3 The Director of Umpiring must regularly report to the CEO on all its activities and decisions.
- 21.1.4 The Director of Umpiring shall:
 - (i) regulate Umpire discipline, training and standards.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) appoint, dismiss and supervise Umpires and maintain the general welfare and morale of Umpires.
 - (iv) perform any other function in relation to Umpires generally but subject to review by the CEO.
 - (v) 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.
 - (vi) have the powers provided by the By-Laws to penalise any Umpire.

21.2 UMPIRE DUTIES

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

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

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

19.2.4 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.

21.3 UMPIRE POWERS

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.

21.4 FINALS APPOINTMENTS

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

22. CLUB FOOTBALL UNIFORMS

22.1 GENERAL

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

22.1.2 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.

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

22.1.4 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.

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

22.1.6 Each Player shall wear the official League logo upon the right-hand side of the front of their 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.

22.1.7 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.

- 22.1.8 No Player shall wear lycra or like fabric bicycle shorts under their football shorts unless they are of neutral colour or the exact same colour as their football shorts.
- 22.1.9 No Player will be permitted to compete in any official League match without a number on the back of the playing jumper.
- 22.1.10 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.

22.2 SPONSOR LOGOS

- 22.2.1 The teams of each Member Club shall wear their registered Club coloured jumpers, bearing the League logo and official League Sponsor logo as applicable, at all games.
Penalty \$25.00 per garment per game
- 22.2.2 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.
- 22.2.3 No logos will be approved for addition to the back of playing shorts.
- 22.2.4 Member Clubs may apply for logos, outside of the above listed dimensions, which may be approved at the absolute discretion of the CEO.

23. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

- 23.1 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.
- 23.2 The General Manager - Operations shall also notify each Player that he has been selected for League Representative team training.
- 23.3 Each Member Club must forthwith notify their Players on the list and direct them to report to the first training session.
- 23.4 Each Player on the list must report for the first training session and all subsequent training sessions as directed by the coaching staff.
- 23.5 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.
- 23.6 Failure by a Player to attend a League Representative team training session and/or match or notify the League Representative Head Coach of non-attendance prior to the training session and/or match will render the Player liable to suspension from playing for their Member Club. Refer to Schedule 21.
- 23.7 Member Clubs must not hold practice matches on the same days as League Representative team matches unless otherwise approved by the League.

24. REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

24.1 GENERAL

- 24.1.1 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.
- 24.1.2 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.
- 24.1.3 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.
- 24.1.4 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.
- 24.1.5 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.
- 24.1.6 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.
- 24.1.7 In the event the Team Manager does not attend as described in By-Law 24.1.6, the field umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the duty imposed on him by this By-Law.
- 24.1.8 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.
- 24.1.9 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.

24.2 SET PENALTY

- 24.2.1 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 they wish to accept the set penalty, or if they wish to proceed to Tribunal.
- 24.2.2 The Team Manager must report the decision of the Player to the Field Umpire.

- 24.2.3 If the Player does not accept the set penalty, then they must appear before the Tribunal. If the Player is found guilty by the Tribunal, the Player must receive a penalty greater than they would have if he had accepted the set penalty.
- 24.2.4 The Field Umpire has the option to bring a charge, carrying a set penalty, before the Tribunal and they must advise the Team Manager of this prior to the signing of the Player Report Form.
- 24.2.5 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.
- 24.2.6 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.
- 24.2.7 If a Player is found guilty at the Tribunal of an offence after declining the offer of a Set Penalty, their Club will be levied a **penalty of \$150.00**.

24.3 MATCH REVIEW PANEL (MRP)

- 24.3.1 The MRP shall comprise persons appointed by the CEO under Schedule 19.
- 24.3.2 Umpires may request a review of an incident that may have occurred during a period of the match (Senior football matches only) when giving the 'all clear'. Member Clubs will be shown a copy of the request at this time.
- 24.3.3 Clubs may make an official request to review a specific incident of concern to the General Manager – Operations in writing by 10:00am the first business day after the match.
- 24.3.4 The MRP will review the relevant footage, and if deemed appropriate, may lay a charge to be heard by the Independent Tribunal or recommend a Set Penalty.
- 24.3.5 The MRP will also assess all reports Monday as received throughout the weekend and have the power to impose or amend penalties as they deem appropriate.
- 24.3.6 If a set penalty is applied or amended by the MRP, the Member Club of the charged player will have until 10:00am on that Tuesday to request the charge be heard at the Independent Tribunal or the set penalty will apply as offered.

24.4 FINALS SERIES REPORTS

- 24.4.1 Any Player accepting a set penalty from an SFNL Finals Series match will have the set penalty doubled by the League.
- 24.4.2 Any Player reported during an SFNL Final Series match and found guilty by the Tribunal will have the penalty imposed by the Tribunal doubled by the League.

25. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

25.1 GENERAL

- 25.1.1 The Independent Tribunal shall comprise persons appointed by the Board.
- 25.1.2 The Board shall nominate a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Tribunal.
- 25.1.3 The Independent Tribunal shall deal with all charges and matters referred to it under the By-Laws.
- 25.1.4 Any charge must be heard and determined by the Independent Tribunal consisting of three (3) persons, one of whom shall be designated to chair the hearing.
- 25.1.5 No member of the Independent Tribunal shall have a direct or indirect connection with the League or any Member Club.
- 25.1.6 No member of the Independent 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.
- 25.1.7 The Independent Tribunal may regulate its procedures subject to compliance with the League By-Laws.
- 25.1.8 No decision by the Independent Tribunal will be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of the Tribunal or a Tribunal member.

25.2 TRIBUNAL POWERS

- 25.2.1 The Independent 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.
- 25.2.2 Hearings of the Independent 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.
- 25.2.3 If a party concerned in an Independent 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.
- 25.2.4 The Independent 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.
- 25.2.5 Any Player, person charged, umpire, witness, spectator at the Independent 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 27.

25.3 TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

- 25.3.1 The Independent Tribunal hearing procedure is set out in the schedule to these By-Laws.
- 25.3.2 In regard to the re-opening of an Independent 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.
- 25.3.3 Only the Member Club of the charged/suspended person may request an Independent Tribunal hearing be re-opened.
- 25.3.4 The Independent 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.
- 25.3.5 If the request does not relate to fresh evidence then the Independent Tribunal will not re-open the hearing.
- 25.3.6 The decision by the Independent Tribunal on whether or not to re-open the hearing is final.

25.4 APPEARING BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 25.4.1 All reported Players, who have not accepted the set penalty, and witnesses are to be in attendance at the Independent Tribunal venue no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the allocated date and time.
- 25.4.2 Under the exceptional circumstance should a Player be unable to attend the Independent Tribunal, the Member Club must advise the General Manager - Operations by 12:00pm on the first business day after the match. Failure to do so will result in a **penalty of \$100.00**.
- 25.4.3 Unless notified otherwise, Independent Tribunal Hearings shall be held at the League offices at Moorabbin Reserve, Linton Street, Moorabbin on Tuesdays commencing at 6:15pm or at any other date and time nominated by the General Manager - Operations.
- 25.4.4 On arrival at the Independent Tribunal all parties should report their attendance to the official on duty.
- 25.4.5 All Member Clubs may present up to three (3) independent witnesses for any case.
- 25.4.6 If a Player is found guilty of an offence referred to the Independent Tribunal by another party, their Member Club will be levied a **penalty of \$100.00**.

26. COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

- 26.1 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.
- 26.2 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.
- 26.3 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).
- 26.4 On receipt of the complaint/protest, the CEO will notify the other party/parties named in the complaint/protest within two (2) business days.
- 26.5 Any complaint/protest must:
- 26.5.1 identify the person or organization being complained or protested against;
 - 26.5.2 indicate the date and time when the incident occurred;
 - 26.5.3 describe the incident in detail;
 - 26.5.4 indicate the names of any witnesses and contact details to the incident.
- 26.6 All complaints/protests received will be considered by the CEO. The CEO, after consideration of the complaint/protest, may:
- 26.6.1 require further information from the person/body lodging the complaint/protest.
 - 26.6.2 refer the complaint/protest for investigation to the League Investigation Officer.
 - 26.6.3 refer the complaint/protest to the Board for hearing.
 - 26.6.4 refer the complaint/protest to the Independent Tribunal for hearing.
 - 26.6.5 deal with the complaint/protest himself/herself.
- 26.7 If the Independent Tribunal, Board or CEO deals with the matter, they have the authority to impose a penalty on a party in accordance with By-Law 37.
- 26.8 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.
- 26.9 If the matter is to be heard by the Independent Tribunal or the Board, the General Manager - Operations shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation.
- 26.10 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 26.1. The notification shall be forwarded not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Hearing.

- 26.11 In any proceeding brought before the Independent Tribunal or Board 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.
- 26.12 Hearings before the Independent Tribunal will be regulated as provided in these By-Laws.
- 26.13 Any party appearing before the Board 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.
- 26.14 The Board 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 summons a party to appear before it, in accordance with By-Law 26.10, and that party fails to attend, the Board has the authority to impose a penalty on that party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.
- 26.15 Hearings before the Board shall not be bound by the rules of evidence. Procedural fairness must be exercised by the Board.
- 26.16 Any party that desires to make a written submission to the Independent Tribunal or Board 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.
- 26.17 The fee paid in By-Law 26.3 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.
- 26.18 Subject to clause 26.17, the fee paid in By-Law 26.3 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:
- (i) 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
 - (ii) 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.

27. CONDUCT UNBECOMING

- 27.1 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/netball 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.
- 27.2 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/netball 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.
- 27.3 Any notice lodged by a Member Club under By-Law 27.2 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).
- 27.4 A notice under By-Law 27.2 must be lodged with the CEO within three (3) business days of the date of the incident to which it relates.
- 27.5 On receipt of the notice, the CEO will notify the other party/parties named in the notice within two (2) business days.
- 27.6 Any notice must:
- 27.6.1 identify the person or organization that the incident relates to;
 - 27.6.2 indicate the date and time when the incident occurred;
 - 27.6.3 describe the incident in detail;
 - 27.6.4 indicate the names of any witnesses and contact details to the incident.
- 27.7 All notices received will be referred to the Board by the CEO. The Board, after consideration of the notice, may:
- 27.7.1 require further information from the person/body lodging the notice.
 - 27.7.2 refer the notice for investigation to the League Investigation Officer.
 - 27.7.3 refer the notice to the Independent Tribunal for hearing.
 - 27.7.4 hear the notice itself.
- 27.8 If the Independent Tribunal or Board hears the matter, it has the authority to impose a penalty on a party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.
- 27.9 If the matter is to be heard by the Independent Tribunal or the Board, the General Manager – Operations shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation.
- 27.10 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 27.1 or 27.2. The notification shall be forwarded not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Hearing.
- 27.11 In any proceeding brought before the Tribunal or Board 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.
- 27.12 Hearings before the Independent Tribunal will be regulated as provided in these By-Laws.

- 27.13 Any party appearing before the Board 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.
- 27.14 The Board 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 summons a party to appear before it, in accordance with By-Law 27.10, and that party fails to attend, the Board has the authority to impose a penalty on that party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Law 37.
- 27.15 Hearings before the Board shall not be bound by the rules of evidence. Procedural fairness must be exercised by the Board.
- 27.16 Any party that desires to make a written submission to the Tribunal or Board 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.
- 27.17 The fee paid in By-Law 27.3 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.
- 27.18 Subject to clause 27.17, the fee paid in By-Law 27.3 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:

27.18.1 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

27.18.2 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.

28. INVESTIGATION PROCESS

- 28.1 The CEO shall appoint a League Investigation Officer.
- 28.2 When a matter has been referred to the League Investigation Officer, he/she shall conduct an investigation into the matter.
- 28.3 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.
- 28.4 For the purpose of conducting an Investigation, any person shall:
 - 28.4.1 fully cooperate with the League Investigation Officer.
 - 28.4.2 truthfully answer any questions asked by the League Investigation Officer.
 - 28.4.3 provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation.

- 28.5 The League Investigation Officer must promptly notify the CEO of the failure of any person to observe and comply with By-Law 28.4 above.
- 28.6 A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 28.4 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 37.
- 28.7 As part of their 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.
- 28.8 The report and any recommendations submitted by the League Investigation Officer, shall be considered by the CEO in relation to By-Law 26 and the Board in relation to By-Law 27. The CEO and Board may follow the recommendations (if any) made in the report. The CEO and Board 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.
- 28.9 Where the matter is referred to the Tribunal or Board 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. 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.
- 28.10 Any hearing by the Tribunal or Board shall be held in accordance with the By-Laws with particular reference to By-Law 26 and 27.
- 28.11 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 27.

29. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 29.1 The grievance procedure applies to disputes between:
- 29.1.1 A Member Club and one of its Players or a Member Club Official
 - 29.1.2 A Player or Member Club Official from a Member Club and the CEO or the Board
 - 29.1.3 A Member Club and another Member Club
 - 29.1.4 A Member Club and the CEO or the Board
 - 29.1.5 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.
 - 29.1.6 If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by By-Law 29.1.5, the parties must within ten (10) days:

- (i) notify the Board of the dispute; and
- (ii) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
- (iii) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.

29.2 The mediator must be:

29.2.1 a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or

29.2.2 in the absence of agreement:

- (i) if the dispute is between those parties nominated in By-Law 29.1.1 and 29.1.3, a person appointed by the Board.
- (ii) if the dispute is between those parties nominated in By-Law 29.1.2 and 29.1.4, a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.

29.3 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.

29.4 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.

29.5 The mediator must not determine the dispute.

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

30. APPEALS

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

30.2 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.

30.3 Only the Member Club of a suspended person may lodge an appeal against the decision of the Tribunal on behalf of the person.

30.4 Any appeal against a decision of the Board, Tribunal 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.

30.5 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.

30.6 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.

- 30.7 In the case of an appeal from the decision of the Board, the appeal will be heard by Board members who did not hear the original matter.
- 30.8 In the case of an appeal from the Tribunal, the appeal will be dealt with by a differently constituted Tribunal.
- 30.9 In the case of an appeal from the CEO, the appeal will be dealt with by the Board.
- 30.10 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.

31. AFL & AFL VICTORIA POLICIES

- 31.1 The League, AFL and AFL Victoria are required to adopt complementary rules and regulations, in football competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction.
- 31.2 The League has adopted the following AFL and AFL Victoria policies as policies of the League. These include and are not restricted to:
 - 31.2.1 Anti-Doping Code
 - 31.2.2 Child Protection Policy
 - 31.2.3 Coaches Code of Conduct
 - 31.2.4 Coaches Accreditation Policy
 - 31.2.5 Gambling Policy
 - 31.2.6 Member Protection Policy
 - 31.2.7 Mental Health Policy
 - 31.2.8 Privacy Policy
 - 31.2.9 Respect and Responsibility Policy
 - 31.2.10 Vilification Policy
 - 31.2.11 National De-Registration Policy
 - 31.2.12 Age Dispensation Policy
 - 31.2.13 Smoke Free Policy
 - 31.2.14 Alcohol Management Policy
 - 31.2.15 Infectious Diseases Policy
 - 31.2.16 Community Concussion Guidelines
 - 31.2.17 Cyber Safety Policy

32. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- 32.1 The Board will establish criteria for awarding Life Membership of the SFNL.
- 32.2 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.
- 32.3 Criteria for awarding of Life Membership forms part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

33. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- 33.1 The Board will establish criteria for awarding Outstanding Achievement Awards of the SFNL.
- 33.2 Criteria for awarding of Outstanding Achievement Awards forms part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

34. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- 34.1 The Board will establish criteria for awarding Distinguished Service Awards of the SFNL.
- 34.2 Criteria for awarding of Distinguished Service Awards forms part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

35. PRESENTATION NIGHT

- 35.1 All Member Clubs shall be allotted tickets for the League Senior Presentation Night as determined annually by the Board. Member Clubs will be billed for the cost of these tickets.

36. HALL OF FAME

- 36.1 The League will establish a Hall of Fame.
- 36.2 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.
- 36.3 Criteria for election to the Hall of Fame is part of the Schedule to these By-Laws.

37. PENALTIES

- 37.1 Where a penalty may be imposed under these By-Laws, the CEO, Tribunal or Board may impose any one or more of the following:
 - 37.1.1 a reprimand or a severe reprimand;
 - 37.1.2 a fine;
 - 37.1.3 a suspension or disqualification;
 - 37.1.4 a suspended sentence.
- 37.2 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 Independent Tribunal Procedure
- 13 Hall of Fame Criteria
- 14 Life Membership, Outstanding Achievement and Distinguished Service Policy
- 15 AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy
- 16 AFL Victoria Player Payment Rule
- 17 Men's Competition Rules
- 18 Women's Competition Rules
- 19 Match Review Panel Procedure
- 20 Affiliation Agreement
- 21 SFNL Interleague Policy