



**NORTH EAST AUSTRALIAN  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

# **NEAFL**

## **Rules and Regulations**

**Effective 1 January 2019**

## 1.0 Introduction

These rules and regulations may be cited as the 'NEAFL Rules and Regulations' (the **Rules**).

Any divergence from the application of these Rules must be properly authorised by the AFL. Any breach of these Rules and other rules and regulations relating to the Competition that may be in force from time to time may result in penalties being imposed at the AFL's sole discretion.

In the event of inconsistency between these Rules and any State Body or League rules or guidelines, these Rules shall prevail.

Where agreement is unable to be reached involving a question of interpretation of these Rules, the opinion of the AFL shall be accepted and acted upon and its decision will be final.

The AFL reserves the right to amend these Rules in its absolute discretion at any time.

## 2.0 Contents

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	
3.1	Licence Agreements	7
3.2	Competition Arrangements	7
3.3	Competition Structure	7
3.4	Other Matters	8
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>TRANSFERS AND REGISTRATION</b>	
4.1	Player Registration	8
4.2	Player Transfers	8
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>MATCH DAY OPERATIONS</b>	
5.1	Laws of the Game	9
5.2	Footballs	9
5.3	Adverse Weather	9
5.4	Postponement of Matches	9
5.5	Incomplete Matches	10
5.6	Commencement Times / Late Starts	10
5.7	Match Forfeit	10
5.8	Official Team Sheet – Players and Officials	10
5.9	Emergency Medical Arrangements	11
5.10	Stretchers	12
5.11	Public Address System	13
5.12	Match Duration and Break Intervals	13
5.13	Timekeepers' Duties	14
5.14	Match Reports	15
5.15	Team Managers	15
5.16	Interchange Operation	16
5.17	Players and Officials Pass Issue	16
5.18	Player Uniforms	16
5.19	Runners	17
5.20	Water-Carriers, Club Trainers, Medical Officers and Physiotherapists	18
5.21	Umpiring	20
5.22	Umpire's Escorts	20
5.23	Criticism and Approaches to Umpires	21
5.24	Change Rooms	21

5.25	Neutral Venue	21
5.26	Order Off Law	21
5.27	Match Day Checklist	22
5.28	Home Club Responsibilities	22
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	
6.1	Selected Teams / Publicity	23
6.2	Club Sponsorship	24
	6.2.1 Sponsor Branding on Uniforms	24
6.3	Practice Matches	24
6.4	Coach Accreditation	24
6.5	Attendance at Meetings – Players, Coaches and Officials	25
6.6	Players Expelled or Disqualified	25
6.7	Melees	25
<b>Section 7</b>	<b>MATCH AND GROUND CONDITIONS</b>	
7.1	Ground Requirements	26
	7.1.1 Ground Hardness	26
	7.1.2 Grass	27
7.2	Coaches Box	27
7.3	Scoreboard	27
7.4	Boundary Fence Requirements	27
7.5	Ground Markings	28
7.6	Boundary Line	28
7.7	Ground Lighting	29
<b>Section 8</b>	<b>FINALS</b>	
8.1	Finals Eligibility	30
8.2	Club Eligibility	30
8.3	Drawn Matches – Finals	30
8.4	Arrangement of Ground for Finals Series Matches	31
8.5	Change Room Allocation	31
8.6	Team Uniforms	31
8.7	Emergency Umpires	31
8.8	Hosting Rights	31
8.9	Finals Matches Commencement Time	31
8.10	Finals Composition	31
<b>Section 9</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL</b>	
9.1	State/Territory to have Priority Access to Players	32
9.2	Code of Conduct	32

<b>Section 10</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS</b>	
10.1	Reports and Tribunal	33
<b>Section 11</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>	
11.1	Best and Fairest Award	33
<b>Section 12</b>	<b>LAWS AND POLICY</b>	
12.1	Infectious Diseases Policy	34
12.2	Additional Health or Injury Related Rules	34
12.3	Vilification and Discrimination	35
12.4	Gambling Policy	35
12.5	Ant Doping Policy	35
12.6	Disciplinary Matters	35
12.7	Child Protection	35
12.8	Social Networking Policy	36
12.9	Travel Policy	36
12.10	Respect and responsibility Policy	37
12.11	Gambling	37
12.12	Integrity Registration System	39
12.13	Disrepute and Conduct Unbecoming	40
12.14	Powers of Investigation and Sanction	41
<b>Section 13</b>	<b>FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	
13.1	AFL	43
13.2	Fines	43
13.3	Outstanding Accounts	43
13.4	Dishonoured Cheques	43
13.5	Insurance	43
<b>Section 14</b>	<b>FOOTY WEB</b>	44
<b>Section 15</b>	<b>NEAFL PLAYING NUMBERS</b>	
15.1	Team Playing Numbers for the Competition	
	Home and Away Season and Finals	45
15.2	Competition Playing Lists (Non AFL Clubs)	45
15.3	Top-Up Players for AFL club reserves teams	46
15.4	General provisions applying to top up players	47
15.5	Special Conditions	47
<b>Section 16</b>	<b>SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	
16.1	Restrictions on AFL Clubs	48
16.2	Finals Eligibility	48
16.3	Definitions	49

<b>Section 17</b>	<b>TOTAL PLAYER PAYMENTS (TPP)</b>	
17.1	Total Player Payments - definition	49
17.2	Total Player Payments	49
17.3	Deemed Total Player Payments	50
17.4	Details of Player Contracts and Football Payments to be Lodged	52
17.5	Contract Modifications	52
17.6	Statutory Declaration – Total Player Payments	52
17.7	Further Investigation	52
17.8	Full and Free Access	53
17.9	Copies	53
17.10	Breach of the Total Player Payments	53
17.11	Appeals	54
<b>Section 18</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION</b>	55
<b>Section 19</b>	<b>ANNEXURE</b>	
	State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines	58

## **3.0 AFFILIATION**

### **3.1 Licence Agreements**

- (a) All Clubs participating in the Competition are required to sign a licence agreement with the AFL (**Licence Agreement**) annually unless the period of License granted is stipulated in the License Agreement. No Club shall be included in the program of home and away Matches in any season unless it has entered into a Licence Agreement with the AFL in the approved form.
- (b) All Clubs must adhere to and abide by the terms of the Licence Agreement as well as all Match arrangements and regulations required by the AFL, and where applicable, these Rules.

### **3.2 Competition Arrangements**

- (a) A season of home and away Matches followed by a finals series shall be played in accordance with the schedule of Matches determined by the AFL. The Schedule will be distributed to Clubs prior to the commencement of the season. Other than in circumstances approved by the AFL, the Schedule will not be varied once distributed.
- (b) Four (4) premiership points shall be awarded for a win or win by forfeit and two (2) points shall be awarded for a draw. No points shall be awarded for a loss. Where Clubs have an equal number of byes in the fixture draw, no premiership points or player qualification shall apply when the Club has a bye.
- (c) In the event of two or more Clubs finishing level on points at the end of the home and away season the respective positions shall be determined by the proportion of points scored for and against such Clubs during the home and away season Matches.

### **3.3 Competition Structure**

The teams based in Queensland and Northern Territory will consist of the following:

- Aspley
- Brisbane Lions Reserves
- Gold Coast Suns Reserves
- NT Thunder
- Redland
- Southport

The teams based in NSW/ACT will consist of the following:

- Canberra Demons
- GWS Giants Reserves
- Sydney Swans Reserves
- Sydney University

### **3.4 Other Matters**

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

## **4.0 TRANSFERS AND REGISTRATION**

### **4.1 Player Registration**

- (a) All Competition players must be properly registered with a licensed Club via Footy Web (or the equivalent Competition registration system in place from time to time). Competition player registration may be in addition to any requirements for a player to register with their relevant State League.
- (b) The player (or the player's club) shall be responsible for entering the player's details through Footy Web, prior to the player participating in any Competition Match.
- (c) Any Club which plays an unregistered player may be sanctioned by the AFL at its absolute discretion.

### **4.2 Player Transfers**

The process of transferring players between Clubs shall be governed by the National Player Transfer Regulations and any State Body rules, regulations or by-laws where the transfer occurs between Clubs affiliated with the same State Body.



## **5.0 MATCH DAY OPERATIONS**

### **5.1 Laws of the Game**

Except where otherwise specified in these Rules, all Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the current Laws of the Game as determined by the Australian Football League.

### **5.2 Footballs**

- (a) Home Clubs are responsible for the supply of a minimum of four (4) new Sherrin Kangaroo Brand leather footballs, for each Match. A spare ball must be kept at both ends of the ground during play and on the interchange bench.
- (b) All footballs must be supplied by Sherrin as advised by the AFL, from time to time.
- (c) All Match footballs must be branded with the Competition logo, unless otherwise approved by the AFL, and supplied to the field umpire 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Match.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the home Club to collect the footballs from the umpires after the Match.
- (e) The AFL will supply footballs for all finals Matches which shall remain the property of the AFL and are to be returned to the AFL following the Match.

### **5.3 Adverse Weather**

- (a) The AFL has the authority, in its absolute discretion, to postpone or abandon a Match where it considers conditions to be, or potentially be, unsafe, in accordance with the *National Extreme Weather Policy*.
- (b) Each Club is required to have procedures in place which will enable them to contact their players and officials to notify them at short notice of any changes to scheduled Matches.

### **5.4 Postponement of Matches**

- (a) Where the AFL postpones a Match or a round of Matches, it shall use its best endeavours to notify its decision:
  - (i) Relating to a round of Matches - to the General Manager or equivalent, or Team Manager, of all Clubs not later than nine o'clock on the morning of the day on which they are scheduled to be played; or

- (ii) Relating to individual Matches - to the General Manager or equivalent, or Team Manager, of the Clubs concerned as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-five minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time of the Match.
- (b) Subject to notification being made in accordance with (a) above, all decisions of the AFL shall be final.

### **5.5 Incomplete Matches**

In relation to incomplete Matches, or Matches that have been forfeited after a Match has commenced, refer to the Laws of the Game.

### **5.6 Commencement Times / Late Starts**

If the commencement of the Match is delayed by reason of one or both teams failing to enter the arena by the scheduled starting time such Club or Clubs may be penalised (**Up to 20 Penalty Units**).

### **5.7 Match Forfeit**

- (a) Any Club not ready to commence a Match within twenty (20) minutes of the scheduled commencement time shall forfeit the Match unless an alternative agreement is reached between the competing Clubs and the AFL. (**Forfeiture – Up to 500 Penalty Units**)
- (b) Any Club during the course of the season forfeiting a combined total of three (3) Competition Matches shall be excluded from the Competition immediately. These Clubs will be required to show cause as to why they should be readmitted into the Competition the following season.
- (c) In the event that a team receives a forfeit, that team shall submit a team sheet for the purpose of finals qualifications. Percentages will be calculated at the end of the home and away season as per the Laws of the Game.
- (d) A team shall forfeit a Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match that has already commenced. If, for any reason, a team does not finish a Match, the field umpire(s) must report the matter to the AFL for investigation.
- (e) Should a team fail to field at least fourteen (14) players for a Match, that team shall forfeit the Match. This Rule applies to both home and away season and finals series Matches.

### **5.8 Official Team Sheet – Players and Officials**

- (a) Each Club shall:

- (i) Complete an official team sheet via Footy Web for every Match in which the Club participates and bring five (5) copies to the Match; and
  - (ii) Hand copies of the completed official team sheet to the field umpire(s), opposition, commentators, match manager and Champion Data no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of a Match.
- (b) The official team sheet must alphabetically list the full names of all players participating in the Match and their corresponding jumper numbers. The team sheet must also list the names of other participants in the Match for that team, including coaches, trainers, runners, doctors, physiotherapists, water carriers etc and must indicate the team captain.
- (c) Subject to Rule 5.8 (d) and (e) below, once a Club has handed its official team sheet to the field umpire(s) the Club must not change its starting squad (22 players or 23 where 23<sup>rd</sup> player rule applicable) prior to the commencement of the Match (**20 Penalty Units**).
- (d) A Club may amend the official team sheet to replace a player who is injured or medically unfit to play up until 2 minutes prior to the commencement of the Match. The following conditions apply to any amendment to the official team sheet:
- (i) Where an emergency player replaces a player initially listed on the official team sheet, the amendment to the official team sheet must be approved by the field umpire(s). Following approval the Club must also notify the match manager, Champion Data, commentators (as applicable) and the opposition team manager.
  - (ii) Any injured or medically unfit player who has been replaced under this Rule must immediately leave the playing arena and not sit on the interchange bench.
- (e) Changes of jumper number during the Match should be done via the Team Manager who must inform the field umpire(s), opposition, match manager, Champion Data and commentators at their earliest convenience.
- (f) Without limiting anything within these Rules, or any other rules, regulations, laws or by-laws relating to the Competition or the game of Australian Football, any Match day staff member or person who is listed on the official team sheet may be reported by the AFL to the Tribunal, should that person commit, or be suspected of committing, a Reportable Offence.

## **5.9 Emergency Medical Arrangements**

- (a) It is the home Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate medical procedures are in place on Match days and that visiting clubs are aware of the arrangements.
- (b) The home Club must ensure it can promptly facilitate ambulance access to the playing field if necessary.

- (c) The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services (ambulance, medical centres, hospitals etc.) must be readily available in case of emergency.
- (d) The home Club must ensure there is a defibrillator readily available and a person in attendance who is capable of using the defibrillator.

#### **5.10 Stretchers**

- (a) Home Clubs must ensure that a Sports Medicine Australia approved stretcher is available from the interchange bench at all home Matches and that all medical staff have been instructed in the correct use of the stretcher.
- (b) Any player who is injured during a Match and who, in the opinion of the Club medical officer, Club physiotherapist or Club trainer, requires the assistance of a stretcher shall be attended by accredited Club training staff and a stretcher as soon as possible.
- (c) A stretcher may only be called by the accredited trainer, Club medical officer and/or Club physiotherapist as listed on the official team sheet.
- (d) If a stretcher is called for, the stretcher must be taken to the injured player by the shortest and most direct route and the player must, as soon as possible upon being attended by the accredited Club training staff, leave the arena on the stretcher by the shortest and most direct route. Without limiting the provisions of this Rule, a player for whom a stretcher is called must leave the arena immediately upon a direction by a field umpire that the player be so removed unless the Club medical officer notifies the field umpire that it would be dangerous to do so.
- (e) On being removed from the arena, the player shall immediately be taken to the Club's dressing room for examination and treatment.
- (f) A player for whom a stretcher is called shall not resume playing for a period of twenty (20) minutes of play, as per the Laws of the Game (including time on but excluding the quarter-time, half-time and three quarter time breaks), from the time when the player left the arena.
- (g) Where a player is removed from the playing field on a stretcher, the Match Manager and/or timekeeper shall record the time the player left the field. A player wishing to resume playing after being removed from the field on a stretcher must re-enter the field through the interchange area and the Match Manager and/or timekeeper shall note the time elapsed between the player being removed from and re-entering the playing field.
- (h) If a stretcher is called for and:

- (i) The player for whom the stretcher is called does not leave the arena as soon as possible after being attended by accredited Club training staff; or
- (ii) The player for whom the stretcher is called is not removed from the arena immediately upon a direction by a field umpire that the player be so removed, except where the Club medical officer notifies the field umpire that it would be dangerous to do so; or
- (iii) The stretcher is not taken to the injured player or the injured player is not removed from the arena by the shortest and most direct route,

Then the player's Club may be penalised (**20 Penalty Units**).

- (i) Where a player resumes playing within a period of twenty (20) minutes (including time on but excluding the quarter-time, half-time and three-quarter time breaks) from the time when the player was removed from the arena, the player's Club is liable to penalty. The AFL may also choose to investigate the matter if it deems the incident to be serious and prejudicial to the best interests of the sport (up to **50 Penalty Units**).

#### **5.11 Public Address System**

- (a) If a Public Address system is available:
  - a. Home Clubs must ensure that a Public Address (P.A.) system is in operation for use on Match day regardless of weather conditions; and
  - b. The P.A. system must be of adequate volume to be clearly audible at all points of the ground and home Clubs are responsible for providing a public address announcer.
- (b) The P.A. System is not to be used for sporting results or encouraging patrons to barrack for individual teams.

#### **5.12 Match Duration and Break Intervals**

- (a) The starting times, quarter lengths, time-on arrangements, break intervals (quarter, half and three-quarter time) and warning siren arrangements for Matches shall be determined by the AFL from time to time.
- (b) The current Match duration for all Competition Matches is twenty (20) minutes per quarter plus time on for both home and away and finals series Matches. Time on shall be added in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- (c) Unless otherwise advised by the AFL, the length of breaks between quarters applies as follows:

<b>Quarter Time</b>	6 minutes
<b>Half Time</b>	20 minutes
<b>Three Quarter Time</b>	6 minutes

- (d) Competition Matches shall commence at the time stipulated by the official Competition fixture, unless otherwise advised by the AFL.
- (e) Where multiple matches are scheduled at the same venue on the same day the following intervals between the conclusion of the first match and commencement of the second match shall apply:
  - i. AFL curtain raiser – the first match must finish 1 hour prior to the commencement of the AFL Match (unless otherwise advised by the AFL)
  - ii. Non AFL venue with no suitable off field warm up area – the first match must finish 45 minutes prior to the commencement of the NEAFL Match;
  - iii. Non AFL venue with suitable off field warm up area - the first match must finish 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the NEAFL Match.
- (f) From time to time the match manager or timekeeper may adjust the length of quarters for a curtain raiser match where required in the circumstances.

### **5.13 Timekeepers' Duties**

- (a) Subject to 5.13(b) each Club is to appoint at least one (1) timekeeper for each Match **(20 Penalty Units)**.
- (b) For interstate matches it is the responsibility of the home Club to supply at least one (1) timekeeper for the Match. The travelling team may also appoint a timekeeper however this requirement is not mandatory.
- (c) Timekeepers cannot be currently listed (primary or rookie) players of either Club participating in the relevant Match.
- (d) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game or as otherwise specified by the AFL from time to time. In addition to performing timekeeping duties, the timekeeper(s) will be required to record the scores of each Match they officiate.
- (e) Timekeeper's boxes are to be suitably situated to ensure that the timekeeper(s) have an unimpeded view of the whole playing area.
- (f) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire(s) at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half, or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the AFL for attention.

- (g) Each Club must provide a clock or stopwatch for use of its timekeeper(s) and where the Club is the Home Club, it shall be responsible for providing the following:
  - (i) An AFL approved siren, which shall be under the control of the timekeeper(s); and
  - (ii) A bell or alternate sounding device shall also be available at each ground for use in case of an emergency.

#### **5.14 Match Reports**

- (a) AFL staff, Match Managers, or any other person designated by the AFL from time to time, are empowered to file ground and Match reports on Matches which they attend.
- (b) At the conclusion of each Match, the field umpire(s) shall provide a report to the AFL on the prescribed umpires Match report form. The field umpire(s) shall also complete the best and fairest player votes via the online form prescribed by the AFL from time to time.
- (c) Umpires shall report to the AFL any player or official who, during the progress of a Match or within the oval on the day of the Match, commits a Reportable Offence.
- (d) The procedure for making and lodging such a Reportable Offence shall be in accordance with that set out by the Laws of the Game and Rule 10 of the NEAFL Rules and the Tribunal proceedings (if applicable) will be conducted in accordance with the State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines.

#### **5.15 Team Managers**

- (a) Each Club must appoint a team manager.
- (b) It shall be the team manager's responsibility to ensure that the team's players and officials comply with these Rules and with any reasonable request made by the umpires officiating in a Match in which their team is participating.
- (c) The team manager must ensure all Match day paperwork is completed including, without limitation:
  - (i) Official Team Sheet is completed in accordance with Rule 5.8 above;
  - (ii) Official Team Sheet, with quarter by quarter scores and a list of the Club's goal kickers and best players, has been completed properly by the end of the Match and entered online into Footy Web; and
  - (iii) Timekeeper's cards are collected from the timekeepers at the end of the Match.

## **5.16 Interchange Operation**

- (a) There will be two (2) lines, 15 metres apart, marked across the boundary line at which players can be interchanged, in accordance with the diagram in rule 7.5.
- (b) Each Club is responsible for providing suitable personnel to ensure that interchanges are conducted in accordance with this Rule.
- (c) Players must leave and enter the playing field through the interchange area during the Match unless the player is taken from the ground on a stretcher, in which case they may be taken from the ground at any point. The replacement player must enter the playing field through the interchange area. The replaced player may return to the ground by way of normal interchange.
- (d) A player who does not leave the playing field as specified is unable to re-enter the ground for the remainder of the Match.
- (e) Where a player does not enter the playing field in accordance with these Rules, the Match Manager and/or field umpire(s) must report the circumstances to the AFL. Time and scores at the time of the breach are to be recorded. The AFL may determine the matter by way of fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.
- (f) If a player headcount is required as a result of any breaches of these interchange operation requirements any such headcount must be conducted in accordance with law 5.5 of the Laws of the Game.

## **5.17 Players and Officials Venue Entry Passes**

- (a) Any Clubs seeking to charge an admission price for a home match must first obtain written approval of the price from the AFL.
- (b) The AFL will provide an allocation of passes to all Clubs to ensure entry for players and officials into home and away matches.

## **5.18 Player Uniforms**

- (a) The AFL logos and Competition logos are the intellectual property of the AFL and cannot be reproduced without the approval of the AFL. Any Club who allows AFL logos or Competition logos to be reproduced without the prior approval of the AFL may be liable to penalty. (**Up to 300 Penalty Units**).
- (b) For details relating to uniform guidelines, in particular the permitted number of logos and sizes, please refer to the NEAFL playing apparel guidelines.



- (c) Written approval of the Club jumper sponsor logo and the Club shorts logos must be obtained from the AFL prior to the jumper and/or shorts being worn or utilised in any manner. **(penalty 100 units)**
- (d) Any Club that wishes to alter or vary its colours, uniform, design or Club emblem must first obtain the written approval from the AFL. **(penalty 100 units)**
- (e) Unless otherwise agreed by the AFL, all clubs are required to have a clash uniform to be approved by the AFL.
- (f) Clubs will be advised by the AFL as to which uniform must be worn for each match. **(penalty 5 units per breach)**
- (g) All players shall wear the number nominated to the AFL for the purpose of the team list. The uniform number must be a whole number between 1 and 99 and it must be of a minimum size of 240mm and to be of a type and attached as directed by the AFL **(5 Penalty Units)**.
- (h) All visible protective apparel, bandages and thermal supports must be neutral or skin coloured **(10 Penalty Units)**.
- (i) No player shall be permitted to play in a Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to them or other players. Should a player wish to use any form of protective equipment or guard, the player must first seek approval from the AFL.
- (j) The field umpire(s) may at their discretion inspect players' equipment either before or at any time during the Match.

#### **5.19 Runners**

- (a) The name and number of the runner(s) must be shown on the official team sheet **(10 Penalty Units)**.
- (b) Each Club is permitted to use one (1) runner in each match.
- (c) Runners must be aged eighteen (18) years or over.
- (d) Runners must not possess any communication device which includes, but is not limited to, headsets, microphones, telephones or earpieces.
- (e) Any infringements relating to the interchanging of runners to and from the field must be reported to the field umpire(s) by the team manager at the next quarter break, with the infringement to be recorded on the post-Match umpire report **(20 Penalty Units)**.

- (f) The sole duty of the official team runner or runners is to deliver messages from the coaching staff to players on the ground. The runner must immediately vacate the playing field once the message has been delivered and the runner must not interfere with the course of play.
- (g) Runners must be attired as per clothing approved by the AFL, and adhere to the following current uniform requirements:
  - (i) Runners may only wear official Club hats; and
  - (ii) Runner's shirts must have the name of the Club or the Club logo clearly visible and must be numbered in accordance with directions provided by the AFL.
  - (iii) All visible protective apparel, bandages and thermal supports worn by Runners must be unbranded and neutral or skin colour (**10 Penalty Units**).
- (h) Runners are not allowed inside the 50 metre arc at full back kick-ins or in the centre square during centre bounces, and the runner is not permitted to stay on the field to coach or barrack.
- (i) If a runner fails to abide by these Rules, including where a runner uses inappropriate language or gestures, a free kick may be awarded against his team at the spot of the infringement or where the ball is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty.
- (j) A runner must not engage in physical contact that may cause or incite injury to any player, official or umpire or initiate physical contact of any nature while conducting his/her duties. The AFL may impose any penalty that it deems fit.
- (k) Any penalties incurred by a player acting as a team runner shall be viewed as penalties against a player in respect to the Competition best and fairest award.
- (l) Suspended players or officials are not permitted to act as runners.
- (m) Club coaching staff are not permitted to act as runners unless approved by the AFL.

#### **5.20 Water-Carriers, Club Trainers, Medical Officers and Physiotherapists**

- (a) Clubs must have one (1) doctor per home team wearing official club attire and league approved armband at all matches.
- (b) Clubs must use their reasonable endeavours to have at least one (1) physiotherapist per team wearing official club attire and league approved armband at all matches.
- (c) Participating teams can have a maximum of six (6) trainers/water carriers with at least two of these should be qualified trainers (Level 1 SMA qualified or equivalent).

- (d) Water carriers and trainers must wear attire approved by the AFL clearly marked with the Club's name and it must be numbered. The number must correspond with the number and name on the official team sheet. Water carriers and trainers must adhere to the following current uniform requirements (**10 Penalty Units per breach**):
- (i) Approved black shorts/long pants are to be worn i.e. no board shorts or jeans;
  - (ii) Appropriate covered footwear must be worn at all times;
  - (iii) Water carriers may only wear official Club hats; and
  - (iv) Approved NEAFL shirts are to be worn.
- (e) Water carriers and trainers must not act as team runners and are to be no younger than sixteen (16) years of age.
- (f) Trainers and water carriers must remain behind the boundary line while the Match is in progress and enter the playing field only when there is a clear break in play away from the player/s.
- (g) When behind the boundary line it is imperative that water carriers and trainers are located up against the fence. It is the responsibility of the home club to supply 6 plastic chairs for the opposition water carriers and trainers.
- (h) Water carriers must not throw water bottles to players (**10 Penalty Units**).
- (i) Trainers and water carriers are not to remain on the playing field after performing their duties. An exception is where a player is injured and requires the attention of the trainer and/or water carrier (**10 Penalty Units**).
- (j) Trainers entering the field for the purpose of attending an injured player must not interfere with the play in any way and must vacate the field as soon as possible.
- (k) A trainer or water carrier must not engage in physical contact that may cause or incite injury to any player, official, or umpire, or initiate any physical contact outside the realms of their responsibilities as a trainer or water carrier (as applicable).
- (l) Trainers and water carriers must not stand inside the 50m arc during kicks for goals or inside the centre square during the centre bounce. Should treatment be necessary during the full back kick-in, the trainer or water carrier should notify the controlling umpire before the kick-in process occurs. A free kick may be given if permission is not received and the trainer or water carrier is deemed to be interfering with play.

- (m) Any sponsorship advertising on any part of the trainer or water carrier's uniform must be approved by the AFL.
- (n) The medical officer and/or physiotherapist shall sit on the main interchange bench. The medical officer and/or physiotherapist shall not:
  - (i) Carry messages from the coaching staff to any of the players competing during the Match; or
  - (ii) Possess any communication device which includes, but is not limited to, headsets, telephones, microphones or earpieces.

## **5.21 Umpiring**

- (a) The AFL will appoint three (3) field umpires, two (2) goal umpires and three (3) boundary umpires for each Competition match.
- (b) Only those umpires who have been registered and accredited or whom are undertaking accreditation with the AFL or an affiliated State League shall be eligible to officiate at Matches under the control of the AFL or affiliated State Leagues. No Match shall commence with field umpires who are not accredited or undertaking an accreditation course.
- (c) Umpires are prohibited from travelling to and from a Match with any person connected with the participating Clubs, unless approval has been granted by the AFL.
- (d) Remuneration shall be paid to umpires as determined from time to time by the AFL.
- (e) All disciplinary action relating to umpires will be dealt with by the NEAFL Umpiring Manager, including where an umpire neglects or refuses to attend an AFL or Umpires' Board meeting to which he or she has been summoned. The NEAFL Umpiring Manager may choose to refer any matter to the Tribunal or an AFL Investigation Officer.

## **5.22 Umpires Escorts**

- (a) Home clubs are responsible for providing an escort for umpires for all home and away Matches.
- (b) The escort for umpires is required to escort the umpires on and off the ground.
- (c) At the completion of the second quarter and at the end of the Match the escorts are to join the umpires as soon as possible to escort them from the ground to the door of the umpires change rooms. The umpires escort may also attend to the umpires at the quarter time and three quarter time breaks.

- (d) The umpires escort's duty is to protect the umpires from abuse and deter people from taking unnecessary action towards the umpires. Failure to provide a suitable umpire's escort is considered a serious breach (**Up to 300 Penalty Units**).

### **5.23 Criticism and Approaches to Umpires**

- (a) No Club or Person shall engage in public criticism of umpires and/or the Competition (**Up to 300 Penalty Units**).
- (b) In the event a Club or Person is dissatisfied with aspects of the umpiring performance appropriate contact should be made with the relevant NEAFL State Umpiring Manager on the first working day after the Match or a written complaint should be lodged with the Club or AFL, as the case may be.
- (c) No Person shall approach or talk to an umpire or umpires official during the quarter time, half time or three quarter time interval or when the umpires are entering or leaving the playing field. Where a Person contravenes this Rule, the Person's Club shall be liable to a sanction (**Up to 20 Penalty Units for a first offence and up to 50 Penalty Units for second and subsequent offence**).

### **5.24 Change Rooms**

- (a) Change rooms must be provided for each team and the umpires, in accordance with applicable standards set by the AFL.
- (b) On occasions, Matches will be played with the team listed first actually playing at a Venue other than their own home ground. On these occasions the team listed first will be allocated the home change room.
- (c) In finals the higher ranked team will be allocated to the home change room, unless otherwise determined by the AFL.

### **5.25 Neutral Venue**

Should a Match be played on a neutral Venue the first mentioned team will assume responsibility for all home team duties unless the Match is being played at an AFL Venue or in a regional centre.

### **5.26 Order Off Law**

- (a) Subject to Rule 5.28(b), the Laws of the Game Order Off Law, as amended from time to time, shall apply to all Competition Matches.
- (b) Laws 20.3 and 20.4 of the Laws of the Game shall be replaced with the following provisions and shall apply to all Competition Matches:

- (i) A Player reported on a second occasion by a field Umpire for the same or any other Reportable Offence other than those listed in Law 20.2, may, in addition to being reported, be ordered from the Playing Surface for the remainder of the Match; and
- (ii) A Player ordered from the Playing Surface under this Law can be replaced by another Player immediately.

#### **5.27 Match Day Checklist**

- (a) A Match day checklist as supplied by the Competition's insurer (JLT Sport) must be completed prior to the commencement of the first Match conducted at any Venue, on any particular Match day via the JLT Sport AFL Match Day phone application. Both competing Clubs must sign off on the Match Day Checklist and inform the Match Manager of any defects that need attention prior to the Match commencing.
- (b) At the completion of the ground review the Match Day Checklist must be emailed to the NEAFL Operations Manager.

#### **5.28 Home Club Responsibilities**

- (a) Before the Match ensure that:
  - (i) All forms required to be completed under these Rules are completed;
  - (ii) All change rooms are clean;
  - (iii) Match footballs are given to umpires;
  - (iv) Ground line marking is complete;
  - (v) A stretcher (approved type) is on hand;
  - (vi) Adequate emergency medical arrangements are in place, including immediate access to a defibrillator;
  - (vii) A qualified doctor is in attendance;
  - (viii) At least one (1) timekeeper has been appointed and is in place to perform their duties;
  - (ix) Goal post padding is safe and in place;
  - (x) If applicable, the P.A System is operational and P.A System attendant is in place;
  - (xi) An emergency siren/bell is on standby;
  - (xii) Umpires rooms, visitors rooms, scoreboard and coaches boxes are open and ready for the Match;

- (xiii) Hot water service is on for showers in all change rooms.
- (xiv) Match Day Checklist has been completed;
- (xv) Scoreboard attendants are in place;
- (xvi) Official team sheets are filled out correctly and handed to the field umpire(s) in time, as well as updating final team sheets in Sports TG;
- (xvii) Correct Club names are on the scoreboard;
- (xviii) Six (6) water carrier/trainer seats

AFL can apply penalties at its discretion for non-compliance to any of the above requirements

- (b) During the Match ensure that:
  - (i) Drinks are provided for umpires at all breaks;
  - (ii) Rooms are secure at all times; and
  - (iii) Spare footballs are available.
- (c) After the match ensure:
  - (i) All Match reports have been completed including the umpire(s)' Match report ; and
  - (ii) Match day results are entered through Footy Web by no later than one (1) hour following the conclusion of the respective Match.

## **6.0 GENERAL**

### **6.1 Selected Teams / Publicity**

- (a) Each Club shall provide to the AFL, by no later than 6:00pm on the Thursday immediately preceding a Match in which the Club is participating, or such other day as the AFL may determine, the names of all players selected for the Match. Clubs may name up to three (3) emergency players for each Match. The only exception to this is where a Club's AFL team (if applicable) is playing on Sunday, in which case that Club can name an interchange (8 players) to match the senior team interchange plus three (3) additional emergencies. In this scenario the team list will be updated once the AFL senior team has been updated at 5pm on Friday.
- (b) No player outside of those players named on the selected team list can participate in the team for that round (up to **50 Penalty Units**).

## 6.2 Club Sponsorship

- (a) All Clubs are required to seek advice and/or approval (prior to entering a renewal agreement or a new sponsorship agreement) from the AFL if the Club has any doubt as to whether or not there may be a potential conflict with Competition sponsors.
- (b) Prior to the acceptance of a signage agreement for fence or other advertising signage (including goal post padding), Clubs must be certain that the AFL have no agreements with any sponsors restricting such advertising.

### 6.2.1 Sponsor Branding on Uniforms

- (a) Clubs must adhere to existing State League requirements relating to sponsor branding on Club uniforms, as amended from time to time.
- (b) Clubs will be advised of Competition uniform requirements by the AFL, prior to the commencement of subsequent Competition seasons.

## 6.3 Practice Matches

- (a) No Club shall play a practice Match without first seeking and obtaining approval from the AFL.
- (b) The request must be received by the AFL in the prescribed form by no later than midday Tuesday prior to the Match in order to be considered.
- (c) Conducting practice Matches without prior approval from the AFL will be considered a serious breach and will incur a significant penalty (**Up to 300 Penalty Units**).
- (d) All normal Match and ground conditions apply in practice Matches e.g. goal posts padded, grass mowed, lines clearly marked, team sheets etc.

## 6.4 Coach Accreditation

- (a) All Competition head coaches require a minimum Level 2 accreditation. Accreditation is valid for four (4) years; a course update must be done after four (4) years in order to retain accreditation.
- (b) All coaches' names and accreditation details are required to be provided to the AFL 21 days prior to the commencement of the season. Non-accredited coaches are not permitted to have any official coaching role within the Competition (**25 Penalty Units**).
- (c) All assistant coaches must have a minimum level 2 coaching accreditation.



## 6.5 Attendance at Meetings - Players, Coaches, Officials

Any player, coach or Club Official of a Club who neglects or refuses to attend any requisite AFL meeting to which they may have been summoned by not less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice shall be dealt with as the AFL thinks fit (**Up to 50 Penalty Units**).

## 6.6 Players Expelled or Disqualified

- (a) A Club expelling or sanctioning a player shall notify the AFL, within one (1) week of such expulsion or sanction, the name of the player and his address together with particulars of the offence for which he has been expelled or sanctioned. If a player wishes to appeal against the decision he must notify the AFL in writing of his intention to do so within fourteen (14) days of the date of the notice.
- (b) The player will be strictly prohibited from playing with any Club until such disqualification is removed by the AFL.
- (c) No player shall play with or coach any Club whilst expelled or disqualified. Any player in breach of this Rule shall be dealt with as AFL may deem fit.

## 6.7 Melees

- (a) If an incident occurs prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time interval) or following the completion of a Competition Match involving **three (3) or more players and/or officials per team** and if, in the opinion of the AFL, such incident is likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the Competition, AFL or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Club/s involved in such incident shall be sanctioned by the AFL by way of a fine calculated in accordance with the Melee Matrix grading system (**5 Penalty Units to 300 Penalty Units depending upon the severity of the incident**). These incidents may not necessarily be referred to the Tribunal.
- (b) Any amount payable by a Club, under this Rule, shall be paid by the Club to AFL within fourteen (14) days.
- (c) Individual players may still be reported under the Laws of Australian Football.
- (d) For clarity, in this Rule 6.7, the 'Melee Matrix grading system' means the melee matrix grading system notified to all Clubs prior to the start of the home and away season, as updated or superseded from time to time.

## 7.0 MATCH AND GROUND CONDITIONS

### 7.1 Ground Requirements

- (a) The AFL will carry out ground inspections prior to the commencement of the season (including practice Matches) and detail a report for appropriate action.
- (b) Clubs are required to abide by the stipulated requirements of ground presentation as detailed by the AFL from time to time. Any Club not complying with the directions given will forfeit the right to have Matches played at their ground until the facility complies with the required standards.
- (c) The following requirements are mandatory in accordance with the criteria set by the AFL (**10 Penalty Units per breach**):
  - (i) Timekeeper's box to be suitably situated to ensure that timekeepers have an unimpeded view of the entire playing field.
  - (ii) The siren must be adequate enough to be audible at all points of the ground.
  - (iii) All goal and behind posts must be padded according to the current standards listed in the Laws of the Game.
  - (iv) All Clubs must have fully operational ground clocks.
- (d) Should any ground be declared unfit for play then the Match will be transferred to the ground of the opposition or another appropriate Venue.
- (e) Declaration of a ground being unfit for play due to safety matters would not necessarily require consultation. The AFL may inspect a ground at any time and determine whether or not the ground is fit for play.

#### 7.1.1 Ground Hardness

- (a) The hardness of the ground may vary depending on the season and location of the Venue, however, the preferred hardness for play is a Clegg Hammer level between 70-120 gMa. The AFL may declare the Venue unfit for play if readings are outside of this range.
- (b) The AFL will give a minimum of two (2) days' notice prior to a scheduled fixture if a ground is deemed to be unfit for play as a result of Clegg Hammer level testing.
- (c) The AFL will notify a Club if it intends to test the suitability of its ground. Club officials are encouraged to attend the testing with the appointed AFL staff.

### 7.1.2 Grass

The length of the grass may vary depending on the season and location of the Venue, however, the acceptable length of grass is 25-35mm

## **7.2 Coaches Box**

- (a) Player / Coaches boxes must be situated in an approved elevated ground position and must be enclosed on sides and back preventing supporter viewing and must accommodate a minimum of six (6) people.
- (b) Only persons listed on the team sheet should be in the Player / Coaches box and/or inside the perimeter fence. **(10 Penalty Units)**.
- (c) Players warming up / stretching inside the perimeter fence should do so as far away from the boundary line as possible. This will assist the boundary umpire to make adjudications as to whether the ball is in or out. Players should not stretch within two (2) metres of the boundary line.

## **7.3 Scoreboard**

- (a) The scoreboard must be situated to enable players and spectators clear viewing at all times. Numbers on the board must have a vertical size of at least 50 cm and must be displayed in the following format –

	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
Team 1	10	12	72
Team 2	12	8	80

- (b) Clubs are responsible for the maintenance of names and numbers used on their scoreboards.
- (c) Home Clubs must provide scoreboard attendants over fourteen (14) years of age with no more than two (2) persons to operate the scoreboard at any time **(10 Penalty Units)**.
- (d) Home teams for any double headers are responsible for the scoreboard operation for both Matches. The team listed first in the draw is responsible for the scoreboard for Matches played at any neutral Venue **(10 Penalty Units)**.

## **7.4 Boundary Fence Requirements**

- (a) The perimeter of the playing field must be enclosed.
- (b) Where signs are erected there should be no protruding edges and no loose flapping metal.



## **7.7 Ground Lighting**

- (a) Refer to the Australian Standards - Guide to Sports Lighting Part 2.3 – Lighting for all Football.
- (b) The AFL, in accordance with the Australian Standards relating to sports lighting requires a minimum of 300 lux (luminance) and uniformity (distribution of light) of 0.5 for 'night football' to be played.
- (c) Any Club wishing to play football under lights must first supply a letter accompanied by a lighting chart from an accredited lighting company testifying to the strength of the lighting to the AFL. This must be done for every new season.
- (d) Clubs must also take into consideration the lighting of adjacent areas, such as change rooms and car parking facilities, with particular attention to public safety.

## 8.0 FINALS

### 8.1 Finals Eligibility (Non-AFL Clubs)

- (a) A player will be eligible to play for a Club in finals matches so long as they are on that Club's Competition Playing List (as notified pursuant to Rule 15.2).
- (b) Any Club that allows a player to play in a final contrary to these Rules may be deemed by the AFL to have forfeited the Match. If the Club wishes to challenge the forfeiture it must apply to the AFL in writing by no later than the Monday 5pm prior to the weekend's final Match, so that the matter may be determined by the AFL.

### 8.2 Club Eligibility

If any Club is financially in arrears to the AFL or its State Body seven (7) days prior to the first week of finals, the Club will be ineligible to compete in the finals series Matches. In the event that this occurs, teams placed next on the Competition ladder shall fill the place of the ineligible team, and so forth.

### 8.3 Drawn Matches – Finals

- (a) In the event of a tie in any finals Match (including the Competition grand final) a further ten (10) minutes (plus time on) shall be played in 2 x 5 minute halves (teams change ends for the start of each half). Coaches may only address players at the start of the first period of extra time. A six (6) minute break for coach's address is allowed before the commencement of extra time.
- (b) Teams must change straight over after the first five minutes have elapsed.
- (c) If after extra time the Match is still drawn, the Golden Point Rule will apply:

#### The Golden Point Rule

After the time keepers have consulted, both teams remain tied, the time keepers will allow play to continue until the next score when they will sound the siren. The team that scores first is the winner.

*End of game*

*Extra time*



If the circumstances were ever to apply that scores were tied after extra time as a result of a post-siren shot at goal, with the siren having sounded, in this circumstance the ball would immediately be returned to the centre square with no break and play is to immediately resume with a centre bounce.

#### **8.4 Arrangement of Grounds for Finals Series Matches**

- (a) The finals series Matches shall be played upon such ground or grounds as determined by the AFL. The basis of selection for finals venues will be;
- (i) first two weeks of Finals – Matches will be played in the region of the highest ranked team
  - (ii) Grand Final – The Grand Final will be played in the region of the highest ranked team, subject to Rule 8.5(a)(iii); and
  - (iii) Where an AFL Club plays a non-AFL Club, the Grand Final will be played in the region of the non-AFL team regardless of ladder positions.
- (b) A finals fixture draw will be released within an appropriate timeframe after the conclusion of the home and away season.

#### **8.5 Change Room Allocation**

The higher placed team (at the end of the home and away season) is allocated the home Club's dressing room and the lower placed team the visitor's dressing room during the finals series, unless otherwise determined by the AFL.

#### **8.6 Team Uniforms**

The AFL shall allocate jumpers and advise on shorts colours in the event of a colour clash.

#### **8.7 Emergency Umpires**

Emergency field umpires shall have the authority to report players in the normal manner, but not to send them off.

#### **8.8 Hosting Rights**

The AFL may charge a fee for hosting rights and will have the authority to limit the prices of certain items.

#### **8.9 Finals Matches Commencement Time**

All Competition finals Matches shall commence at a time determined by the AFL and are subject to change at the AFL's absolute discretion.

#### **8.10 Finals Composition**

The AFL will advise Clubs annually in respect of the structure and composition of the finals series competition.

## **9.0 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

### **9.1 State/Territory to have Priority of Access to the Selection of Players**

- (a) A player's State/Territory shall have first call on the services of players for its matches.
- (b) In the event of any selected player not being able to play representative football, he shall not be permitted to play with his Club in that particular round.
- (c) The AFL will make every endeavour to ensure representative football has minimal impact on season fixtures.

### **9.2 Code of Conduct**

All representative players and officials participating in State/Territory sanctioned representative fixtures shall conduct themselves in accordance with the codes of conduct and manner set out by their respective State Body.



## 10.0 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

### 10.1 Reports Process and Tribunal

- (a) At the conclusion of each Match, the team manager or other representative of each Club is required to check with the umpires as to whether there have been any reports on players and/or officials.
- (b) The Medical form must be submitted to the NEAFL Operations Manager in the prescribed template within 24 hours of the end of the Match, or by 9am Monday if the relevant Match is a Sunday Match.
- (c) Any reported player or official will be required to attend a Tribunal hearing if they have not accepted the penalty offered by the AFL by no later than 5.00pm on the Monday following the match in which the incident occurred.
- (d) The Tribunal will be conducted in accordance with the document titled *State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines*, as amended from time to time and set out in the Annexure.
- (e) The fixed fee for lodging an appeal is \$1000 (inclusive of GST), to be paid in accordance with the process outlined in section 4.9 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines.
- (f) The Referral of Incident fee amount is \$250 (inclusive of GST), to be paid in accordance with the process outlined in section 3.3 of the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines.
- (g) For clarity, disciplinary proceedings relating to matters other than on-field matters will be conducted in accordance with the document titled *State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines*, as amended from time to time.

## 11.0 AWARDS

All competition awards, including best & fairest, will be notified to clubs on an annual basis. This includes the number of actual awards and the voting rules.

## **12.0 LAWS AND POLICY**

### **12.1 Infectious Diseases Policy**

All Clubs must comply with the Competition Code of Practice for infectious diseases (H.I.V and Hepatitis B) as follows:

- (a) Clubs should strongly recommend to all players and officials that they be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- (b) Clubs should ensure that their dressing rooms are clean and tidy, with particular attention to hand basins, toilets and showers.
- (c) Spitting and/or urinating in the team areas is not permitted.
- (d) Trainers are to be instructed to wipe all blood away from players' faces or limbs if they have been injured.
- (e) Soiled towels should be discarded and clean towels should be available to avoid re-use or sharing of bloodied material.
- (f) Appropriate containers need to be accessible for storing soiled towels.
- (g) Jumpers soiled with blood should be changed at the earliest opportunity.
- (h) Trainers should wear protective gloves when dealing with bleeding wounds.
- (i) Players with "Active Bleeding" wounds, meaning an injury or wound which continues to bleed, are to leave the field for treatment and will not be permitted to resume playing until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered.
- (j) Field Umpires who observe an Active Bleeding player must stop play and send the player from the field for treatment if in their opinion such action is warranted. Such player shall leave the field immediately through the interchange area.
- (k) The replacement player may enter the field of play while the bleeding player is in the process of leaving the field and should do so through the interchange area also. The Umpire shall wait until the replacement player has reached his position on the field before restarting play. If there is any undue delay in the replacement player entering the field of play, the umpire may restart play at his/her discretion.
- (l) Any further provision of Law 22 of the Laws of the Game shall apply.

### **12.2 Additional Health or Injury Related Rules**

- (a) If the length of a player's fingernails is likely to cause injury to an opponent during the course of play – (in the opinion of the Umpire) – the fingernails must be cut or covered to the satisfaction of the Umpire.
- (b) A player who suffers concussion shall not return to play until cleared by a medical practitioner to resume contact sport.

### **12.3 Vilification and Discrimination**

All Clubs, Club Officials, administrators, players and coaches are subject to the *National Vilification & Discrimination Policy* (as amended from time to time by the AFL).

### **12.4 Gambling Policy**

Without limiting Rule 12.11, all Clubs, Club Officials, administrators, players and coaches are subject to the *National Gambling Policy* (as amended from time to time by the AFL).

### **12.5 Anti-Doping**

All players participating in the Competition are subject to the *AFL Anti-Doping Code* (as amended from time to time by the AFL).

### **12.6 Disciplinary Matters**

Each Player and Club Official understands and agrees to participate in Competition Matches in accordance with these Rules and the Laws of Australian Football.

All Clubs, Club Officials, administrators, coaches, players and other relevant Persons are subject to the *State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines* (in respect of on-field matters) and *State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines* (in respect of off-field disciplinary matters and other relevant matters) as amended from time to time and notified to the Clubs by the AFL.

For clarity, except for on-field matters which are subject to the *State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines*, the disciplinary tribunal established under the *State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines* is empowered to hear an appeal brought by any relevant Person in respect of a decision made under these Rules provided the appeal is brought in accordance with the *State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines*.

### **12.7 Child Protection**

Coaches, Team Managers and other Club Officials working with children (persons under 18 years of age) must complete and return to their Club the relevant documentation required for working with children in their State, prior to having any involvement with the Club and generally comply with the *National Child Protection Policy* (as amended from time to time by the AFL).

## 12.8 Social Networking Policy

All Clubs, Club Officials, administrators, coaches and players are subject to the *National Social Media Engagement Policy* (as amended from time to time by the AFL).

Without limiting the foregoing, all Clubs, Club Officials, administrators, coaches and players must not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Club Officials, the AFL, an AFL State Body or the NEAFL.

## 12.9 Travel Policy

- (a) When travelling inter or intra state, all Persons agree to:
- (i) Promote the reputation of the AFL, their Club and the game of Australian Football and take all reasonable steps to prevent the game, Club or Competition being brought into disrepute;
  - (ii) Refrain from conducting themselves in any manner, or engaging in any activity, whether on or off the field, that would impair public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of the Club or Competition or in the integrity and good character of the participants;
  - (iii) Refrain from doing anything that adversely affects or reflects on or discredits the game, the AFL, any affiliated Club or League, sponsor, supplier, or related individuals or agencies; and
  - (iv) Respectfully wear the prescribed Club attire for travel, functions, casual activities and Matches.
- (b) It is the responsibility of travelling Club Officials, volunteers, coaches and players to ensure:
- (i) Team curfews for post-Match functions are put in place, monitored and adhered to with the Club ensuring that it takes responsibility for the actions of its entire travelling party including binge drinking and anti-social behaviour that impacts on patrons and guests of any establishment they may attend;
  - (ii) Player and officials behaviour in rooms and whilst making their way to and from rooms is courteous and not of a nature that would warrant complaint or reprisal for the noise, actions, or environment coming from guest rooms or surrounding areas; and
  - (iii) Player and officials behaviour when dining within the confines of any accommodation or food and beverage facility is at all times respectful and mindful of the patrons and guests sharing that facility.
- (c) The AFL reserves the right to fine, sanction, suspend or terminate the registration or appointment of any Person in breach of this Rule 12.9.

## 12.10 Respect and Responsibility Policy

All Persons must adhere to the AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy, as amended from time to time by the AFL.

## 12.11 Gambling

### (a) Application

For the purposes of this Rule 12.11:

- (i) in respect of players, coaches and Club Officials from AFL Standalone Clubs:
  - a. **Match** means any Australian football match played between or involving a Competition Club or AFL Club including without limitation any competition match, practice match, trial match, representative match or exhibition match; and
  - b. **Australian Football Contingency** means any Match or aspect of a Match (as defined in paragraph (a)(i) above) or any contingency related to the Competition or AFL competition; and
- (ii) in respect of players, coaches and Club Officials from NEAFL Standalone Clubs:
  - a. **Match** means any Australian football match played between or involving any Competition Club including without limitation any competition match, practice match, trial match, representative match or exhibition match; and
  - b. **Australian Football Contingency** means any Match or aspect of a Match (as defined in Regulation 12.11(a)(ii)a. above) or any contingency related to the Competition.

### (b) Players

The obligations imposed upon a player under this Rule 12.11 are in addition to the obligations of a player under the standard Competition playing contract.

### (c) Corrupt conduct

- (i) A player, coach, Club or Club Official must not contrive or attempt to contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result of a Match or an Australian Football Contingency.
- (ii) A player, coach, Club or Club Official must not seek, accept, offer or agree to accept any bribe or reward to contrive or attempt to contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result of any Australian Football Contingency.
- (iii) A player, coach, Club or Club Official must not provide or receive any gift, payment or other benefit (whether of a monetary value or otherwise) in circumstances likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the AFL or the Competition or to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute.

### (d) No Gambling

A player, coach, Club or Club Official must not:

- (i) bet or wager on any Australian Football Contingency;

- (ii) have an interest in any bet or wager, or have someone else place a bet or wager on their behalf on any Australian Football Contingency;
- (iii) facilitate or assist the making of a bet or wager on an Australian Football Contingency; or
- (iv) without the prior permission of the AFL, encourage, induce, advertise or promote betting on an Australian Football Contingency.

The prohibition on gambling under this Rule 12.11(d) includes a prohibition on taking part in tipping exchanges (being an avenue through which tipsters sell their tips online) in respect of Australian Football Contingencies. For the avoidance of doubt, this Rule 12.11(d) does not preclude players, coaches, Clubs and Club Officials from participating in ordinary footy tipping competitions.

(e) Inside information

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

- (i) such information was already in the public domain or given in a bona fide media interview; or
- (ii) the information was not provided in any of the following circumstances:
  - a. for the purpose of betting or wagering by any person on an Australian Football Contingency; or
  - b. where it might reasonably be expected that such information may be used for betting or wagering by any person on an Australian Football Contingency; or
  - c. for consideration or reward.

(f) Performance on one's merits

- (i) In relation to any Match, aspect of a Match, or pre-Match planning and tactics, a player, coach or member of the Match Committee must at all times Perform on their merits.
- (ii) No person may induce or encourage any player, coach or member of the Match Committee to breach Rule 12.11(f)(i) for any reason whatsoever.

(g) Notification

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

- (h) Sanctions
- (i) Any player, coach, Club or Club Official, who does not fully and strictly comply with the provisions of this Rule, shall be dealt with in such manner as the AFL in its absolute discretion thinks fit.
  - (ii) The AFL may in its absolute discretion impose a penalty on the relevant Club in addition to or in place of a penalty on an individual.
  - (iii) Any penalty imposed on an individual will apply to all competitions in which that individual competes.
- (i) Player Awards
- A Club must not conduct any player award that (to its knowledge) is, or may be, subject to an Australian Football Contingency without receiving the prior written approval of the AFL.

## 12.12 Integrity Registration System

- (a) Registration
- (i) A Club must not permit a player to play, or any person to act as a Club Official, unless that player or person is registered in accordance with this Rule (Penalty up to 20 units per breach).
  - (ii) A person may apply online to be registered as a player or Club Official (as applicable) for the Club. Such application must:
    - a. be made prior to or at the time a person is engaged to play or to act as a Club Official;
    - b. be in the form prescribed by the AFL; and
    - c. provide all the information specified in such form.
  - (iii) It is a requirement for the granting of registration under Rule 12.12(a)(ii) that an applicant:
    - a. is of good reputation and character and is a fit and proper person to perform the duties specified in the application, as determined by the AFL at its sole discretion (noting the AFL will support the Club's determination of this requirement except where it has good reason to do otherwise); and
    - b. makes such declarations, provides such consents and agrees to such conditions as are set out in the form prescribed by the AFL under Rule 12.12(a)(ii).
  - (iv) A registered player or Club Official (as applicable) must not cease or fail to meet the requirements for the grant of registration at any time.
  - (v) A registered player or Club Official (as applicable) and the relevant Club must at all times ensure that any particulars provided in an application under Rule (ii) are kept up-to-date and accurate by immediately informing the AFL of any changes to such particulars.
  - (vi) The AFL has the power, at his sole discretion, to inquire into, investigate and deal with any matter (including engaging the services of the AFL's Competition Integrity Department) in connection with an application made under Rule 12.12(a)(ii) or a breach of Rules 12.12(a)(iv) and 12.12(a)(v).

- (vii) The AFL may in its absolute discretion without giving reasons:
  - a. refuse an application for registration under this Rule; or
  - b. grant a registration under this Rule on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit.
- (viii) The AFL may at any time suspend, vary or revoke a registration under this Rule, including without limitation where the applicant ceases to meet the requirements to be so registered.
- (ix) For the avoidance of doubt, this registration is in addition to the player registration requirements set out in Rule 4.1.

(b) **Registration Cards**

If required by the AFL, a registered Club Official must have in their possession a current registration card issued by the AFL (**Registration Card**) at all times while on the premises of a Club, in a Match Day Restricted Area or whilst otherwise on duty for the Club.

(c) **Register of Associates**

- (i) Each Club must keep and maintain a complete, accurate and up to date register of the following people:
  - a. members of all coterie and similar groups; and
  - b. Club Sponsors, including certain officers of Club Sponsors as prescribed under Rule 12.12(c)(ii).
- (ii) The information recorded under Rule 12.12(c)(i) must be maintained in a form prescribed by the General Counsel and be made available to the AFL on an ongoing basis.

(d) **Match Day Restricted Areas**

- (i) The AFL may issue minimum standards for conduct, access and supervision with respect to Match Day Restricted Areas. Without limitation, the minimum standards with respect to Match Day Restricted Areas may concern the following matters:
  - a. designation of certain areas as Match Day Restricted Areas;
  - b. entry and presence of persons;
  - c. accreditation;
  - d. the use and possession of communication devices;
  - e. supervision by Clubs;
  - f. monitoring and enforcement by the AFL.
- (ii) Persons must comply with the minimum standards referred to in Rule 12.12(d)(i) in force from time to time.

### **12.13 Disrepute and Conduct Unbecoming**

- (a) A Person must not engage in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of Australian Football, the AFL, any AFL State Body, the Competition or any Club into disrepute.



- (b) Without limiting the ordinary and legal meaning of any words in Rule 12.13(a) a Person shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct unbecoming or conduct likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of Australian Football, the AFL, any AFL State Body, the Competition or any Club or to bring any of them into disrepute if:
- (i) there is a finding by a Court or tribunal (including a conviction) against the Person that they have committed Notifiable Conduct;
  - (ii) the Person pleads guilty to Notifiable Conduct before any Court or tribunal;
  - (iii) the Person responds inappropriately, unfairly or unreasonably to an allegation of Notifiable Conduct; or
  - (iv) the Person engages in behaviour associated with Notifiable Conduct, intended to place the alleged victim or victims at risk of harm.
- (c) In these Rules, "Notifiable Conduct" means conduct which may constitute an offence for which the prescribed maximum penalty is a term of imprisonment.

#### **12.14 Powers of Investigation and Sanction**

- (a) Without limiting any other rule, the AFL may investigate any breach or possible breach of these Rules and may delegate such powers of investigation to the AFL's Competition Integrity Department.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, all Persons (including any Club, Club Official, player, coach, assistant coach, trainer, runner, medical officer, employee, independent contractor or volunteer of a Club or any other person within the purview of these Rules) must cooperate with any investigation conducted by the AFL or its delegate.
- (c) Clubs are at all times responsible for ensuring that their Players and Club Officials:
- (i) are aware of and comply with these Rules; and
  - (ii) cooperate with any investigation conducted by the AFL or its delegate.
- (d) The AFL may, in furtherance and not in limitation of any other power conferred upon it under these Rules or other applicable rules and regulations, in its absolute discretion:
- (i) inquire into, investigate and deal with any matter in connection with these Rules including (without limitation) to hear and determine a charge for a breach of the Rules, or appoint any other person to do so;
  - (ii) lay a charge for a breach of these Rules, including delegating any matter in accordance with an alleged breach of these Rules for hearing and determination, in whole or in part, by a disciplinary tribunal convened under the *State & Territory Disciplinary Committee Guidelines*;
  - (iii) impose any sanction on any Person contravening the Rules on any terms or conditions seen fit or to otherwise deal with such matter in any manner they in their absolute discretion think fit, including (without limitation):
    - a. reprimand a Person;
    - b. impose a monetary sanction on a Person;
    - c. order that a Club has forfeited the right to employ or register as a Player of the Club the Player or any of the Players to whom the conduct relates for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;

- d. order that a Player has forfeited the right to play for or be a registered Player of a Club or Club for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;
  - e. declare, in respect of a Club, the loss of or ineligibility to receive premiership points for past or future Matches; and
  - f. prohibiting any Person participating in any way in any Club's training, Match preparation or activities associated in any way with the Competition;
- (iv) All decisions of the AFL, or its delegate, including all determinations of charges in connection with breach of these Rules, are final and subject only to any rights of appeal provided by law.
- (v) Any Person fined in accordance with the Rules shall, upon demand, immediately pay to the AFL, as a liquidated sum, the amount of the fine.

## **13.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **13.1 AFL**

The AFL and its appointed staff or agents shall control the day-to-day operations of the Competition.

### **13.2 Fines**

- (a) Where a Club, player, official or umpire has been fined by the AFL or incurs an automatic fine, the fine must be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified.
- (b) Failure to pay within the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the AFL.
- (c) Where a fine has not been paid, the player's or official's Club or in the case of the umpire, the Umpire's Association, shall be responsible for paying the fine to the AFL.

### **13.3 Outstanding Accounts**

- (a) Any Club which is in arrears to the AFL for a period in excess of sixty (60) days shall be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount is paid.
- (b) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the AFL may at its sole discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the AFL provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

### **13.4 Dishonoured Cheques**

Any Club, which pays an account to the AFL by an instrument which is not honoured by their bank or other institution upon presentation, shall automatically be fined \$50 on each occasion plus any bank fees incurred will be invoiced to the Club.

### **13.5 Insurance**

- (a) The Club must ensure that it takes out and maintains proper policies of insurance as may reasonably be directed by the AFL, including, but not limited to:
  - (i) Personal Accident Insurance to cover non Medicare medical expenses;
  - (ii) Public & Products Liability coverage of at least \$20 million; and

- (iii) Club Management Liability insurance.
- (b) All such insurance policies shall be obtained from an insurer approved by the AFL and evidence of renewals and copies of such insurance policies shall be delivered to the AFL if requested.
- (c) The AFL will take out travel insurance for players, coaches and officials travelling between Matches or for other Competition-related travel, with the scope of coverage to be determined by the AFL in its absolute discretion.

#### **14.0 FOOTY WEB**

- (a) It is the responsibility of Clubs to be educated and knowledgeable regarding the full use of the Footy Web program (or the applicable competition management system in place from time to time) and ensure that all Transfers and Registrations are lodged.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the Match Manager or home Club to operate Match day results and associated requirements. The Match Manager must submit all necessary requirements by one hour after the match. Match Day Team Sheets, Result Sheets, and Player Game counts can all be generated through Footy Web.
- (c) Clubs are provided with codes and passwords and the system can be found at <https://passport.sportstg.com/login/>.

## 15.0 NEAFL PLAYING NUMBERS

### 15.1 Team Playing Numbers for the Competition Home and Away Season and Finals

- (a) AFL Clubs will play with the following numbers in each home and away and finals series Match.
- i. Against State League clubs a maximum of 22 players.
  - ii. Against AFL clubs a maximum of 23 players.
- (b) All State League (non-AFL) Clubs may play one (1) player in addition to the regular 22 players, known as the “23rd player” subject to the following requirements
- i. the 23rd player must be under the age of 21 on 1 January of that season;
  - ii. each player can play no more than 6 Matches (including finals) in a season as the 23rd player;
  - iii. the 23rd player rule will be implemented in both home and away and finals series Matches – usual qualification rules apply;
  - iv. each player must not have played more than 20 NEAFL or senior State League (WAFL, SANFL, VFL, TSL) matches to be eligible to play as the 23rd player;
  - v. once a player who has played 6 matches in the same home & away season (or has played a total of 20 or more NEAFL or senior State League (WAFL, SANFL, VFL, TSL) Matches, that player must then be included in the Club’s 22 players and the 23rd player position made available for someone else;

The totals referred to in paragraphs iv and v above do not include Matches played by a top up player with an AFL Club.

- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, Rule 15.1(b) does not apply to AFL Clubs.

### 15.2 Competition Playing Lists (Non AFL Clubs)

- (a) Clubs are required to list 35 primary list players and up to 7 rookies. To be eligible to be a rookie, players must be under 21 years of age and must have played less than 20 NEAFL or other State League senior matches at the start of each season (**Competition Playing List**). All rookie listed players must be approved by the NEAFL Manager. Team lists must be submitted as advised by the AFL. The totals referred to in this paragraph (a) do not include Matches played by a top up player with an AFL Club.
- (b) After 30 June each year during the home and away Matches only, Clubs may be permitted to select a player from that Club’s region who is not named on their Competition Playing List. Such a selection may be permitted only in exceptional circumstances and where approval is granted by both the NEAFL Operations Manager and State Football Manager for that region.

- (c) All players registered in the academy programs of the Brisbane Lions, Gold Coast Suns, Sydney Swans, GWS Giants and NT Thunder will be aligned to a NEAFL State League Club and are eligible for selection in the Competition if not selected by their state program or AFL Club. This will be referred to as the “Academy List”.
- (d) Further to Rule 15.2 (a) all primary listed players (except those of the NT Thunder) must also be aligned with a QAFL, AFL Sydney or AFL Canberra club.

### **15.3 Top-Up Players for AFL Club reserves teams**

- (a) This Rule 15.3, including any criteria and restrictions contained within this Rule, shall apply to all AFL Club Reserve teams for both the home & away season and finals series, unless otherwise approved in writing by the AFL.
- (b) Top up players shall be properly registered in accordance with these Rules to ensure the automated match permit system on Footy Web can be used for these players.
- (c) AFL Clubs have priority access to all under 18 academy players and up to 9 approved under 19 academy players as top ups as long as they are not required to play in the under 18 national championships or academy matches in conflict with a Club Match.
- (d) Subject to Rule 15.3(i) and (ii), AFL Clubs can nominate up to nine (9) under 19-year-old players who will stay on as an extension of the academy program. This must be done by a set date as determined by the AFL each year, and provided that:
  - i. AFL Clubs must not make more than 4 changes during the season; and
  - ii. any age-eligible player that is not included in an AFL Club’s original list submission, and who subsequently signs a NEAFL contract with a non-AFL Club, is not permitted to be added to the AFL Club’s list during the season.
- (e) AFL Clubs will not have access to any other mature age non-listed players apart from the approved under 19-year-old academy players in accordance with Rule 15.3(d) or, if Rule 15.3(d) is not sufficient to accommodate the AFL Club’s selection requirements due to exceptional injury-list circumstances, Rule 15.3(f).
- (f) An AFL Club will be permitted to use other players from that AFL Club’s region who are over 18 years of age (Mature Aged Player) when:
  - i. playing against another AFL Club, if the AFL Club has 15 listed players available, they can nominate to use 1 Mature Aged Player, subject to Rule 15.3(f)(iii) and (iv); or
  - ii. playing against a non-AFL Club, if the AFL Club has 10 listed players available, they can nominate to use 1 mature aged player, subject to Rule 15.3(f)(iii) and (iv);

Provided that,

- iii. for every listed player less than the number stipulated above in Rule 15.3(f)(i) and (ii) the AFL Club may nominate an additional mature aged player; and
  - iv. on all occasions an AFL Club proposes to rely on this rule the NEAFL Operations Manager must be notified not less than 48 hours in advance of the Match (or as soon as possible in respect of any late team list changes).
- (g) For the purposes of rule 15.3(e), discretion may be given by the AFL upon written request from the Club to the AFL to allow a mature age player to play for an AFL Club when there are exceptional circumstances.
- (h) All references to ages in this Rule 15.3 refer to the age the player is turning during that year of competition. For the avoidance of doubt if a player turned 18 on or after 1 January 2018, the player will be classified as an 18 year old for the purposes of the 2018 Competition season; conversely if a player is turning 18 on or before 31 December 2017, the player will be classified as a 19 year old for the 2018 Competition season.

#### **15.4 General Provisions applying to Top Up Players**

Players competing in Competition finals Matches can only compete for one (1) Club throughout the Competition finals Matches.

#### **15.5 Special Conditions**

This Rule 15 must be read in conjunction with any relevant special conditions, if applicable, set out in Rule 16 below.

## **16.0 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **16.1 RESTRICTIONS ON AFL CLUBS:**

#### **16.1.1 Home and Away Matches**

- (a) When playing against State League clubs (non-AFL Clubs) in home and away Matches, all teams will have no on field playing restrictions.

#### **16.1.2 Finals series matches:**

When playing against non-AFL Clubs in finals series Matches, the 22 players in each AFL Club's squad shall comprise of a maximum 16 listed players (primary or rookie list) and a minimum of 6 top-up players. There are no restrictions on the number of listed players on the field at one time.

#### **16.1.3 Application**

For the avoidance of doubt, the restrictions referred to in Rules 16.1.1 and 16.1.2 do not apply where an AFL Club competes against another AFL Club.

### **16.2 FINALS ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) Any under 18 academy player/under 19 approved academy player is not required to play any Competition home and away matches to qualify.
- (b) Any listed player must have played a minimum of three (3) Competition home and away Matches for the club to qualify to play in the Competition finals series.
- (c) In the event a listed player has played five (5) matches or more in the AFL, he must have played at least nine (9) Competition home and away Matches to qualify to play in the Competition finals series.
- (d) Notwithstanding anything within these Rules, should an AFL Club listed player not be selected to play for his AFL Club in an AFL match, that player will be eligible to play in the Competition finals series Match with the AFL Club Reserves team that same weekend, irrespective of whether or not he has played in a Competition Match that season.
- (e) A primary or rookie listed AFL player is eligible to play in the Competition finals series Match where there is a bye/week off in the AFL competition provided he has not played in an AFL team in the week prior to the Competition finals match, irrespective of whether or not he has played in a Competition Match that season. For clarity, this means that any primary or rookie listed AFL player who did play AFL in the week prior to the Competition finals match is not eligible.



### 16.3 DEFINITIONS

For clarity a “listed player” is defined as an AFL Primary or Rookie List Player (includes Category A and Category B rookies).

## 17.0 TOTAL PLAYER PAYMENTS (TPP)

### 17.1 Total Player Payments – definition

The value of all or any part of any money, consideration or other benefit paid or provided to the player in respect of any match played between the period commencing on 1 November in a year and expiring on 31 October in the next year under any contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding between a club or any person or entity directly or indirectly associated with a club and a player or an associate of the player which relates to or is consideration for the playing of football (or agreement to play football) by that player for any club in any match will be deemed to be part of the Total Player Payment for the purpose of these rules.

### 17.2 Total Player Payments

Non AFL-Clubs shall be bound by the following TPP limits based on eighteen (18) home and away rounds:

- (a) A Base Maximum of \$225,000.
- (b) In addition to Rule 17.2 (a) above, Clubs will be eligible to spend up to a combined total of \$50,000 for two players who are deemed (by the AFL) to be ‘Marquee Players’. Marquee Player qualifications are granted on the one of the following criteria:
  - (i) Played one or more senior match at an AFL club;
  - (ii) Won a State League best & fairest award;
  - (iii) Won a State League club best & fairest award; and
  - (iv) Played over 100 senior matches in a State League.

Players recruited from other NEAFL Clubs will not be eligible to be paid under this marquee player allowance.

Clubs must apply in writing to the AFL for Marquee Player approval prior to their initial list lodgement.

- (c) In addition to Rule 17.2 (a) and (b) the Canberra Demons will be eligible to spend an additional \$75,000 to assist in recruitment and retention of talent into Canberra.

- (d) A Club may apply to have coaching payments for their head playing coach excluded from the TPP so long as that Club can submit two separate contracts to the AFL – one for coaching and one for playing. However, as a minimum, at least 20% (for playing 18 matches) of their total payments will be included in the TPP. If they play less than 18 matches the TPP allocation will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.
- (e) Total Player Payments in respect of each finals match appearance by the Club's competition team shall be the salary cap total (base + marquee) divided by the number of Home & Away Matches, plus 10% for finals match incentive payments.

### **17.3 Deemed Total Player Payments**

The following payment or benefits paid or provided to or for the benefit of a player or associate of a player by a Club or by a sponsor, supporter, supporter group or any person or entity associated directly or indirectly with the Club are or are deemed by the AFL to be included or excluded in the TPP as listed below.

- (a) **Match Payments**  
All payments to players including base or retainer payments for selection and performance in Club games as agreed to in the player's contract with a club are included.
- (b) **Assistant Coach Payments**  
For clarity, all payments to players related to being an assistant coach are included as Total Player Payments.
- (c) **Sign On Fees**  
Any up front payments to players for signing with a Club are included as Total Player Payments.
- (d) **Relocation Expenses**  
Reasonable relocation expenses are to be excluded from the salary cap calculations (up to a maximum amount of \$5000). Such expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts to be excluded from salary calculations.
- (e) **Payment to Spouses**  
Payments, benefits or considerations received by spouses, excluding those that are paid as a direct result of being legitimately employed by the club, are deemed to be Total Player Payments.
- (f) **Payment of Players by Sponsors**  
Any payment or goods and services not related to the player's membership of the club and playing of football received from club sponsors for the purpose of playing football shall be considered to be a part of any Total Player Payment. Exclusions include, playing apparel

(shorts, socks, jumpers), playing equipment (mouthguard, boots), match day and training apparel (polo shirt, slacks, training shirt etc.).

(g) Rent Subsidies and Travel Allowance

Rent subsidies and travel allowance paid for the benefit of individual players as an inducement are deemed to be Total Player Payments.

(h) Expenses incurred in Club Trips and Training Camps

Expenses incurred in club coaching/playing trips and training camps are to be excluded from the calculation of a club salary cap, except where the benefit has been included in the player's contract to play for the club. Any other trips sanctioned or organised by a club where a benefit is provided to a player or players must be included in the calculation for the purpose of determining the club's compliance with salary cap calculations. In those circumstances the total market value of the trip and benefits provided to player(s) are deemed to be Total Player Payments.

(i) Market Value of Employment and Services Actually Rendered

Where a player or an associate of a player is employed by a club and if such player or associate is paid an amount which in the opinion of the NEAFL Manager is in excess of the market value of the player's or the player's associates' services or where the player or associate does not provide services consistent with the normal term and conditions of such employment, the amount by which the payment exceeds the market value of those services or the whole of the payment as the case may be, shall be deemed to be a Total Player Payment to the player.

(j) Lump Sum Payment on Termination of Contracts

Any lump sum paid directly or indirectly to a player or an associate of a player on termination of his contract to play football with a club is deemed to be Total Player Payments.

(k) Loans

The full amount of loans made to any player or an associate of any player shall be deemed to be a Total Player Payment to the player at the time of the advance of the loan. An amount equivalent to any repayments of the loan shall be deducted from the Total Player Payments of the club in the year or years in which repayments are made.

(l) Fringe Benefit Tax

All fringe benefit tax payable by a club in respect of any football payment will be deemed to form part of the benefit provided to a player and therefore must be included in the calculation of the clubs salary cap.

(m) Superannuation

All statutory and other contributions payable by a club on behalf of or for the benefit of a player to an approved superannuation fund are excluded from the Total Player Payments.

- (n) **Prize Money and Incentive Payment**  
Any payment received as prize money for incentive or otherwise, shall be deemed as Total Player Payments. Full notification of weekly awards and best and fairest incentive schemes should be lodged with the relevant documentation.
- (o) **Any Other Payments**  
Any payment to a player (including a payment to be held in trust) by any person for the purpose of playing football for the club shall be deemed a Total Player Payment.
- (p) **Prizes**  
Small prizes given as awards such as meals and vouchers less than \$100.00 in value will not be included in the Total Player Payments. Clubs should include these items in their end of season reconciliation.

#### **17.4 Details of Player Contracts and Football Payments to be Lodged**

- a) For the purposes of ensuring compliance each club shall lodge with the NEAFL Manager by:
  - (i) **21st March** – All Player contracts and a completed NEAFL TPP spread sheet.
  - (ii) **30<sup>th</sup> June** – A mid-year summary of TPP made and a forecast of your total spend on the NEAFL TPP Spread sheet
  - (iii) **1<sup>st</sup> November** - A Final completed NEAFL TPP Spreadsheet must be lodged

Failure to meet the above dates will result in a penalty of up to 100 units for each breach

#### **17.5 Contract Modifications**

All Clubs are to advise of any modification to a player's contract within 30 days.

#### **17.6 Statutory Declaration – Total Player Payments**

Where the forms required are submitted, they must be accompanied by a statutory declaration signed by the president, club development manager and football manager and the officer responsible for the finance of the club. It also has allowance to add any other person who has involvement in the issue of player Total Player Payments. Accompanying these forms must be a statutory declaration form signed by each player paid by the club verifying that the payments so declared represent all Total Player Payments received by the player, from any source, to play football for the club.

#### **17.7 Further investigation**

The NEAFL has the right to audit players from each club annually, including a right to:

- (i) Require a player to attend a meeting, to answer questions and if required provide written responses;
- (ii) Have a player provide documents and/or other relevant papers or property which are under the player's control;
- (iii) Require the player to bring his/her agent, including his/her account manager or lawyer to the meeting.

If a player does not comply with these requirements or if a player is found to have provided false or misleading information then the matter may be referred by the NEAFL to the NEAFL Tribunal where a player may be:

- a. fined between \$250 and \$2500; and/or
- b. suspended from playing for a minimum of one (1) match to a maximum of life.

A player who provides information, including documents, under these rules hereby expressly acknowledges that such information may be provided to a relevant authorised representative, as determined by the NEAFL Manager.

If, as a result of this further investigation, evidence is found that the salary cap has been inaccurately recorded for one and any other of the players, then further players from that club can be investigated.

#### **17.8 Full and Free Access**

Each club must permit the NEAFL Manager or appointed auditor to have full and free access to such books, documents and other papers of that club or any person or entity controlled by that club as the NEAFL Manager believes may be relevant to any inquiries which he/she may make.

#### **17.9 Copies**

Upon being requested, a club and/or player must provide the NEAFL Manager with true copies of such books, documents or other papers in the possession of or under the control of the club or any person or entity controlled by the club or any person or entity controlled by the club or the player, as the case may be, and provide such other information and answer such questions as the NEAFL Manager believes may be relevant to any enquiries he/she may make.

#### **17.10 Breach of the Total Player Payments**

Any alleged breach of this rule shall be referred to the NEAFL Manager for investigation.

Where a breach occurs and:

- (i) the amount by which the Salary Cap was exceeded was less than \$10,000, the sanction will be a fine equal to the amount by which the Salary Cap was exceeded;
- (ii) the amount by which the Salary Cap was exceeded was between \$10,000 and \$50,000, the sanction will be:
  - a fine of up to \$25,000; and

- at the discretion of the NEAFL the deduction of up to twelve (12) premiership points from the Club in the season following the occurrence of the breach; or
- (iii) the amount by which the Salary Cap was exceeded was greater than \$50,000, the sanction will be:
- a fine of up to \$50,000; and
  - at the discretion of the NEAFL, the deduction of up to twelve (12) premiership points from the Club in the season following the disclosure of the breach.

For subsequent offences, the NEAFL may impose a fine equal to or greater than the previous sanction and a deduction of up to sixteen (16) premiership points from the Club in the season following the occurrence of the breach.

### **17.11 Appeals**

Clubs shall be permitted to appeal to the NEAFL / State body appeals committee on any sanctions imposed in regard to breaches of the Total Player Payments scheme.

## 18.0 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

For the purpose of interpretation of these Rules the following definitions shall apply:

**AFL** means the Australian Football League ACN 004 155 211 or any State Body engaged to operate on behalf of the AFL.

**AFL Aligned Club** means a Club which holds an AFL approved agreement with an AFL Club that has not been issued a full Competition licence.

**AFL Club** means a Club whose senior team participates in the Australian Football League.

**Club** means an entity fielding a team in the Competition.

**Club Official** means:

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

**Competition** means the North East Australian Football League competition, conducted by the AFL.

**Conference** means either the North Conference or East Conference as the context dictates.

**Footy Web** means the online competition management system designed to assist Clubs and State Bodies with the management of the Competition and membership data.

**Laws of the Game** means the Laws of Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL, as amended from time to time.

**Match** means any football Match played between or directly or indirectly involving any Club.

**Match Day Restricted Areas** means an area of a venue designated as such by the AFL in accordance with Rule 12.12(d).

**NEAFL Standalone Club** means a Club which is a Competition licence holder and, for the avoidance of doubt, has no alignment with an AFL Club.

**Penalty Unit** means \$10.00, or other as determined by the AFL from time to time.

**Person** means a Club, Club Official, player, coach, assistant coach, trainer, runner, medical officer, employee, independent contractor or volunteer of a Club or any other person within the purview of these Rules.

**Reportable Offence** means a Reportable Offence within the meaning of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time.

**Rules** means these rules and regulations and all of its attachments, annexures and appendices which provides the rules, regulations, guidelines and policies relating to the operation of the Competition.

**State Body** means the governing State and Territory football bodies affiliated to the AFL as follows:

- (a) AFL NSW/ACT

- (b) AFL Queensland
- (c) AFL Northern Territory
- (d) AFL Tasmania
- (e) AFL Victoria
- (f) South Australian National Football League
- (g) West Australian Football Commission

**State League** means Senior Grade, Reserve Grade and Colts (Under 19 or 18 as applicable) teams directly comprising clubs of the following bodies:

Tier 1:

- (a) South Australian National Football League
- (b) Victorian Football League
- (c) West Australian Football League
- (d) North East AFL (NEAFL)
- (e) Tasmanian State League

**Tribunal** means the tribunal constituted by the AFL pursuant to the State and Territory Guidelines, as amended from time to time.

**Venue** means venues where Matches are played.



## **ANNEXURE: State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines**

**STATE & TERRITORY TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES**

**2019**

# 1. APPLICATION

These *State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines (Guidelines)* apply to Australian Football State Leagues (and other leagues at the discretion of Controlling Bodies) conducted or administered by one of the following Controlling Bodies:

- (a) NSW/ACT: AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd ACN 086 839 385;
- (b) NT: AFL Northern Territory Limited ACN 097 620 525;
- (c) QLD: AFL Queensland Limited ACN 090 629 342;
- (d) SA: South Australian National Football League Inc ABN 59 518 757 737;
- (e) TAS: Football Tasmania Limited ACN 085 213 350;
- (f) Victoria: Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited ACN 147 664 579;
- (g) WA: West Australian Football Commission Inc ABN 51 167 923 136.

A Controlling Body may, at its discretion, apply part or all of these Guidelines to additional leagues conducted or administered by, or affiliated with, that Controlling Body.

Where these Guidelines are adopted by a Controlling Body, the players, coaches, officials, spectators, administrators and any other people reasonably connected to that Controlling Body (and the applicable State League or other league) will be required to comply with these Guidelines.

## **2. COMPETITION TRIBUNAL RULES**

### **2.1 Appointment of Tribunal Members**

The Controlling Body may, from time to time, appoint persons to the Tribunal.

### **2.2 Tribunal Members**

The Tribunal shall consist of:

- (a) a Chairperson; and
- (b) a panel of persons who in the opinion of the Controlling Body possess a sufficient knowledge of Australian Football (**Tribunal Panel**).

Persons appointed to the roles in section 2.2(a) and 2.2(b) may be rotated from hearing to hearing, as determined by the Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.

### **2.3 Qualifications of Tribunal Members**

Except where the Controlling Body otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Tribunal if that person:

- (a) has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;
- (b) has been a coach or assistant or specialty coach of a Club;
- (c) has been a Person of a Club; or
- (d) has been an employee of the AFL or a Club,

in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment.

### **2.4 Resignation and Removal of Tribunal Members**

- (a) A member of the Tribunal may resign by providing notice in writing to the Controlling Body.
- (b) The Controlling Body may remove a person appointed to the Tribunal at any time in its absolute discretion.

### **2.5 Reporting Officer**

- (a) Subject to section 2.5(b), the Controlling Body may, from time to time and in its absolute discretion, appoint one or more Reporting Officers to:
  - (i) advise the Tribunal of the particulars of the charge or matter before it;
  - (ii) review Match footage;
  - (iii) make submissions in relation to the charge or matter;

- (iv) respond to any matters put in defence;
  - (v) ask questions of any Person appearing before the Tribunal;
  - (vi) call any Persons to give evidence as the Reporting Officer may consider necessary or desirable in the interests of general justice and fairness; and
  - (vii) address the Tribunal by way of summing up prior to any final submissions of the advocate of any Person charged or otherwise appearing to be dealt with by the Tribunal and prior to the Tribunal retiring to consider its finding.
- (b) The Reporting Officer shall have the power to withdraw any charge or matter prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal.
  - (c) The Reporting Officer shall, with leave of the Tribunal, have the power to amend any charge or statement of any matter to be determined by the Tribunal prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal.

## **2.6 Representation**

- (a) At any hearing before the Tribunal a Person charged with a Reportable Offence may:
  - (i) appear in person; or
  - (ii) be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent.
- (b) Where a Person charged with a Reportable Offence is under the age of 16 years at the time of the alleged Reportable Offence, the Person may be represented by a parent/guardian instead of a barrister, solicitor or agent.
- (c) Where the Chairperson is of the opinion that a Person or representative of a Person appearing before the Tribunal has failed to observe directions of the Tribunal or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairperson may dismiss the Person or Person's representative and if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Person to obtain fresh representation.

## **2.7 Composition for Tribunal Hearing**

Except where otherwise determined by the Controlling Body, at any Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal shall comprise a minimum of three (3) and maximum of (5) persons (including the Chairperson) with the exact number of persons to be at the discretion of the Controlling Body.

## **2.8 Attendance at Tribunal Hearing**

- (a) A Person who has been summoned to attend a Tribunal hearing must attend at the time and place notified on the Notice of Charge or other relevant notice.

- (b) The Tribunal hearing will be held in the State or Territory of the charged Person's registered Club, unless otherwise advised or approved by the Controlling Body.
- (c) A Person wishing to attend the Tribunal hearing via video or telephone conferencing must first seek the approval of the Controlling Body.
- (d) If a Person issued with a Notice of Charge or other relevant notice fails to appear at the notified time and place, the Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine the charge or matter and any sanction, in the absence of that Person.

## **2.9 General Conduct of Hearing**

- (a) Tribunal hearings shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- (b) The Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record and may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- (c) The Chairperson may make any guidelines not inconsistent with these Guidelines that he or she thinks appropriate for the practice and procedure of a hearing. Any such guideline shall be directory in nature and no decision of the Tribunal shall be invalidated by reason of a guideline not being followed.
- (d) Subject to section 2.9(e), in accordance with natural justice principles the Tribunal shall:
  - (i) provide any Person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision, a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
  - (ii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
  - (iii) make a decision that a reasonable Tribunal could honestly arrive at.
- (e) Whilst the Tribunal will endeavour to hear and determine any charge or matter referred to it before the Person's Club is next scheduled to compete, to the extent that the rules of natural justice require that:
  - (i) a Person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for a hearing; or
  - (ii) the Tribunal hearing be scheduled at a time which does not affect the Person's or the Person's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match,
 those requirements are expressly excluded from these Guidelines.

## **2.10 Evidence**

- (a) Any Person required to attend before the Tribunal may request to adduce witness evidence at the Tribunal hearing, provided that such a request is submitted to the Controlling Body in

writing by no later than 10.00am on the day after notification of the charge or matter, and contains:

- (i) the name and address of the witness;
  - (ii) the qualifications and experience of the expert witness, if applicable; and
  - (iii) the substance of the evidence it is proposed to adduce from the witness.
- (b) Unless permission is granted by the Chairperson, a Person shall not adduce the evidence of a witness unless that Person complies with section 2.10(a) above.
- (c) Only in compelling and exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Controlling Body in its absolute discretion, will the Tribunal receive evidence from a Person who is not recorded on the Club official team sheet for a relevant Match.
- (d) Any video evidence which is not already in the possession of the Controlling Body must be submitted to the Controlling Body by Clubs at a time to be determined by the relevant Controlling Body.

#### **2.11 Challenge to Jurisdiction, Formalities of Report and Other Technical Matters**

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

- (a) challenge the jurisdiction of the Tribunal to deal with a matter;
- (b) challenge the constitution of the Tribunal;
- (c) challenge the formalities of the laying of any charge; or
- (d) raise any other matter requiring a legal or technical interpretation,

the Person intending to do such things must provide full written particulars of all relevant matters and forward a copy of those particulars to the Controlling Body and any other Person who has an interest in the proceeding (including, without limitation, the Reporting Officer and the Controlling Body) by midday on the day after notification of the charge or matter to be heard by the Tribunal.

#### **2.12 Standard of Proof**

The Tribunal shall decide on the balance of probabilities whether a Reportable Offence or other charge against a Person has been sustained.

#### **2.13 Onus of Proof**

No Person appearing before the Tribunal shall bear an onus of establishing that an alleged offence has been committed.

## **2.14 Decision of the Tribunal**

- (a) The decision of the Tribunal shall be determined according to the opinion of a majority of the sitting Tribunal.
- (b) Subject to section 2.9, the Tribunal may determine any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- (c) Subject to section 2.14(d), where a charge is sustained in respect of a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal must apply the sanction applicable to the Reportable Offence as per section 5.
- (d) The Tribunal may determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion, without having regard to the sanctions referred to in section 5 where there are exceptional and compelling circumstances which make it inappropriate or unreasonable to apply those sanctions. Exceptional and compelling circumstances will exist where (at the discretion of the Tribunal):
  - (i) a Player has a verifiable exemplary record;
  - (ii) a Reportable Offence was committed in response to provocation;
  - (iii) a Reportable Offence was committed in self-defence; or
  - (iv) there are multiple Reportable Offences arising from the same event or course of conduct.
- (e) Where a charge is sustained with respect to a charge or matter not involving a Person or a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal may, subject to any contrary provisions in any relevant Code, Policy, Rules or Regulations, impose such sanctions as it, in its absolute discretion, thinks fit.
- (f) The Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by it under these Guidelines.
- (g) Where a charge is sustained against a Person under the age of 16 years at the time of the Reportable Offence, the Controlling Body shall not publicly release the decision of the Tribunal without the express permission of the Person charged and their parent/guardian.

## **2.15 Validity of Charge and Hearings**

- (a) Where there is a procedural irregularity in the making of a charge or any other matter, the Tribunal shall still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard.
- (b) Without limitation, the Chairperson may direct that a Notice of Charge be amended to ensure that a matter before the Tribunal is decided according to its merits and not on the



basis of a technicality. The power to amend shall include the power to substitute another charge.

- (c) A decision of the Tribunal is not invalid because of any defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of a Tribunal member.
- (d) Subject to sections 2.9(e), 2.12 and 2.13, any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Tribunal is directory in nature and a decision of the Tribunal is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

## **2.16 Co-operation with Tribunal**

- (a) Subject to section 2.16(b), a Person shall appear before the Tribunal, if requested to do so by the Controlling Body or Tribunal.
- (b) The Chairperson may excuse a Person from appearing before the Tribunal if the Chairperson is of the opinion that the Person is suffering from an injury or medical condition that would prevent that Person's attendance.
- (c) Any Person who appears before the Tribunal and who in the opinion of the Tribunal has:
  - (i) failed to fully co-operate with the Tribunal;
  - (ii) failed to truthfully answer any questions asked by the Reporting Officer or the Tribunal;
  - (iii) failed to provide any document in that Person's possession or control relevant to the matter to be determined by the Tribunal following a request by the Tribunal; or
  - (iv) makes any false or misleading statement or makes a statement or acts in a manner calculated to or which is likely to mislead,the Person shall be dealt with by the Tribunal as it, in its absolute discretion, thinks fit.

## **2.17 Prohibited Conduct**

- (a) A Person who has been issued with a Notice of Charge, or any Person acting on behalf or in concert with a Person who has been issued with a Notice of Charge, shall not contact or procure another to contact a Person who is or ought reasonably to be regarded as a Person required to give evidence before the Tribunal, where that contact is intended to or may otherwise mislead the Tribunal or unfairly affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing.
- (b) No Person shall publicly comment on:
  - (i) the contents of a Notice of Charge prior to the conclusion of any determination by the Tribunal and/or completion of the matter, as the case may be; or

(ii) a Notice of Investigation and any matter touching upon or concerning an Investigation under these Guidelines, until completion of such investigation and/or relevant determination by the Tribunal,

unless the Person establishes, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Controlling Body, that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing or the process of the investigation, as the case may be.

(c) A Person who contravenes this Rule shall:

(i) be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming and prejudicial to the interests of a just and fair hearing; and

(ii) be dealt with by the Tribunal as it, in its absolute discretion, thinks fit.

## **2.18 Sanction on Club**

In addition to any sanction or determination made in respect of a Person under section 2.17, the Tribunal may impose a sanction on that Person's Club as they in their absolute discretion think fit, except where the Club satisfies the Tribunal that the conduct of the Person was not entered into with the consent, acquiescence or knowledge of the Club.

## **2.19 Criticism of Tribunal Decision**

(a) No Person or Club shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of a Tribunal decision or of any Tribunal Member or any other matter touching or concerning the Tribunal or a determination made by it.

(b) The Controlling Body shall determine in its absolute discretion in any case, whether any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive.

(c) Where the Controlling Body determines that any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive, the Controlling Body may impose a sanction in its absolute discretion.

(d) Where a Person contravenes this Rule, the Person's Club may also be liable to a sanction at the discretion of the Controlling Body.

## **2.20 Person Suspension**

(a) A Person who is suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal shall serve such suspension or disqualification in the grade in which he played immediately prior to such suspension or disqualification.

(b) Unless otherwise specified by the Tribunal in exceptional circumstances, where a Person is suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal, such suspension or disqualification shall apply to all Australian football competition Matches, subject to section 2.20(c) below. For the avoidance of doubt:

- (i) a Person suspended in a previous season cannot serve his suspension in any pre-season fixtures or off-season fixtures;
  - (ii) a Person suspended in a junior competition graduating to a senior competition shall serve his suspension in his new grade;
  - (iii) a Person transferring from another league shall carry any suspensions with him; and
  - (iv) a Person suspended during a split round cannot serve his suspension in that same round in another grade (including representative football).
- (c) Unless otherwise specified by the Tribunal in exceptional circumstances, a suspended Person will not be eligible to play representative football if the representative fixture occurs while the Person is serving the suspension. If the suspended Person was selected in the representative team prior to being suspended then he foregoes playing in the representative fixture if the fixture occurs during the time of the suspension. In this situation the representative fixture does not count as part of the suspension.
- (d) A Person suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal may still participate in practice/training Matches with his registered Club however such Matches will not count as part of the Person's suspension or disqualification.
- (e) Law 19.4 of the *Laws of the Game* shall apply in relation to all Persons suspended by the Tribunal.

### **3. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

#### **3.1 Umpire Report**

If an Umpire has a good faith belief that a Person has committed a Reportable Offence during a Match, the Umpire shall inform the Person that they have been reported:

- (a) at the time of the incident;
- (b) before the commencement of the next quarter; or
- (c) where the incident occurs in the final quarter, as soon as is reasonably possible after the completion of the final quarter.

An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or Official of the Club with which the reported Person is registered of the report, where it is impractical to inform the Person who has been reported.

#### **3.2 Notice of Charge**

As soon as practical after the completion of the Match, the Umpire shall complete a Notice of Charge in the form prescribed by the Controlling Body. The Umpire shall:

- (a) categorise the Reportable Offence having regard to the categories of Reportable Offences (and, where applicable, the grading of a Reportable Offence), as set out in section 5 below;
- (b) include the Notice of Charge in the Match day paperwork submitted to the Controlling Body at the completion of the Match; and
- (c) retain a copy of the Notice of Charge.

#### **3.3 Referral of Incident**

Where an Umpire suspects that a Person may have committed a Reportable Offence, the Umpire must, as soon as practical after completion of that Match and on the day of the Match:

- (a) complete an Incident Referral Form in the form prescribed by the Controlling Body;
- (b) lodge a copy of the Incident Referral Form together with the Match day paperwork with the Controlling Body;
- (c) Where a Club suspects that a Person may have committed a Reportable Offence, the Club may submit a written complaint to the Controlling Body, by no later than 5.00pm on the next business day after the relevant Match or other time as agreed by the Controlling Body. The Controlling Body may levy a fee for the administration of the referral (with the fee amount, if applicable, to be determined by the Controlling Body in its absolute discretion), which may

be refunded if the Controlling Body determines, that the Person who is the subject of the written complaint may have committed a Reportable Offence.

- (d) A complaint lodged in accordance with section 3.3(c) cannot be withdrawn by the Club after it has been lodged with the Controlling Body.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Guidelines, if an authorised person of a Controlling Body is of the opinion that a Person may have committed a Reportable Offence, that authorised person may report that Person by completing a Notice of Charge. The authorised person shall provide a copy of the Notice of Charge to the charged Person, their Club, any other Person and the Club of any other Person directly involved in the charge.

### 3.4 Investigation

The Controlling Body may order an investigation into the alleged Reportable Offence in accordance with the *National Investigation Guidelines* (if applicable as determined by the Controlling Body). After receiving the Investigation Report produced in accordance with the *National Investigation Guidelines* (if applicable as determined by the Controlling Body):

- (a) if the Controlling Body believes in good faith that the Person and/or Club has committed a Reportable Offence in accordance with these Guidelines (and having regard to the *Laws of the Game*), the Controlling Body may order the Person and/or Club to appear before a Tribunal;
- (b) if the Controlling Body believes in good faith that the Person and/or Club has otherwise breached a national policy that may be in place from time to time, including the *National Member Protection Policy*, or the Rules & Regulations (and, if applicable, the By-Laws) of the Controlling Body, the Controlling Body may order the Person and/or Club to appear before a Disciplinary Tribunal in accordance with the *National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines* (if applicable).

### 3.5 Match Footage Review

- (a) Where a review of Match footage is deemed necessary by the Controlling Body, whether as a result of an Umpire Report, an Incident Referral Form, Investigation or any other reason whatsoever, the Controlling Body may appoint any number of Persons, in its sole discretion, to review the Match footage (**Match Review Panel**). If the Match Review Panel determines that the incident under review is a Reportable Offence, the Match Review Panel shall issue a Notice of Charge to the charged Person and that Person's Club, as well as any other relevant Person involved in the incident.
- (b) The Match footage shall be admissible evidence at the Tribunal hearing.

### **3.6 Person May Enter Early Plea**

Subject to section 3.8, where a Person has received a Notice of Charge relating to a Reportable Offence, that Person may elect to plead guilty to the offence and accept the early guilty plea penalty offered, in accordance with section 5 as amended from time to time, by no later than 5.00pm on the day of receipt of the Notice of Charge, or other time as determined by the Controlling Body.

### **3.7 Where Early Plea Not Available**

Where the Match Review Panel or the Controlling Body (as the case may be) determines in its absolute discretion, that a Notice of Charge should be determined by the Tribunal without the Person having the option to enter an early guilty plea, the Match Review Panel/Controlling Body shall provide written notification to that effect to the Person, in which case the Person shall be dealt with by the Tribunal in accordance with section 3.8(a)(iii). This written notification shall specify relevant particulars of the alleged offence, but if the Player is charged with a Classifiable Offence under section 5.2, the written notification need not specify an offence classification under section 0. In this instance the Tribunal will not be bound by the classification table in section 5.2(b) and will be at large in relation to penalty.

### **3.8 Persons Who Do Not Accept An Early Plea, Other Persons and Other Reportable Offences**

- (a) Subject to section 3.8(e), the Tribunal shall deal with the Notice of Charge where:
  - (i) a Person does not elect to accept an early guilty plea in accordance with section 3.6;
  - (ii) a person other than a Person is the subject of the Notice of Charge; or
  - (iii) notification referred to in section 3.7 has been given by the Match Review Panel or the Controlling Body.
- (b) Subject to section 3.8(c), a Person who does not accept an early guilty plea in accordance with 3.8(a)(i) shall not be entitled to any reduction in the penalty set out in the Notice of Charge, including but not limited to discounts based on the entering of the guilty plea.
- (c) Should a Person plead guilty to a Reportable Offence subject to an alternative classification, and successfully contest the Notice of Charge at the Tribunal (such that the Tribunal determines to downgrade the charge), the Person will be entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction obtained had the Player submitted an early guilty plea for that lesser offence.
- (d) Upon receipt of a Notice of Charge, the Controlling Body shall fix and give notice to the reported Person's Club and any other Person or Club directly involved, of the date, time and place for the Tribunal hearing.
- (e) The Controlling Body may vary the date, time and place of hearing by notice in writing to the reported Person's Club and any other relevant party.

- (f) Despite the other provisions of this section 3.8, where a Person does not elect to accept an early guilty plea, a Controlling Body may in its discretion apply a standard penalty (ie without discount) rather than directly referring the matter to a Tribunal hearing.
- (g) Where the notification referred to in section 3.7 has been given by the Match Review Panel or the Controlling Body, the Person the subject of the Notice of Charge shall be entitled to lodge a plea at the Tribunal hearing which may be considered by the Tribunal in the determination of any penalty.

### **3.9 Withdrawal of Charge**

The Match Review Panel or the Reporting Officer as the case may be, may withdraw any Notice of Charge at any time prior to a Tribunal hearing by lodging a written notice with the Controlling Body.

### **3.10 Relationship to *Laws of the Game***

These Guidelines shall be read in conjunction with the *Laws of the Game* but to the extent of any inconsistency, these Guidelines shall prevail.

## 4. COMPETITION APPEAL RULES

### 4.1 League Tribunal and Appeal Rules Paramount

- (a) These Guidelines prescribe the procedures for an appeal commenced by a Controlling Body, Club or Person in respect of a decision made by the Tribunal under these Guidelines.
- (b) To the extent that anything within these Guidelines is inconsistent with any other player rule, regulation or by-law, the provisions of these Guidelines shall prevail.

### 4.2 Appointment

The Controlling Body may, from time to time, appoint persons to an Appeal Board.

### 4.3 Grounds for Appeal

Except where otherwise determined by the Controlling Body, a Person found guilty of a Reportable Offence by the Tribunal, or the Controlling Body may only appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of a decision made by the Tribunal under these Guidelines on one or more of the following grounds:

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

### 4.4 Appeal Board Members

- (a) The Appeal Board shall consist of:
  - (i) a Chairperson (**Chairperson of the Appeal Board**); and
  - (ii) at the discretion of the Controlling Body, a panel of not more than six (6) persons who in the opinion of the Controlling Body possess a sufficient knowledge of Australian Football (**Appeal Board Panel**).
- (b) Persons appointed to the roles in section 4.4(a)(i) and (ii) may be rotated from hearing to hearing, as determined by the Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.
- (c) Any Appeal Board member, who has also been appointed a member of a Tribunal Panel and who did not comprise the Tribunal for the matter that is the subject of the appeal, shall be eligible for selection for the appeal hearing.



#### **4.5 Qualifications of Appeal Board Members**

Except where the Controlling Body otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the Appeal Board if that person:

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

in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment.

#### **4.6 Resignation and Removal of Appeal Board Members**

- (a) A member of the Appeal Board may resign by providing notice in writing to the Controlling Body.
- (b) The Controlling Body may remove a person appointed to the Appeal Board at any time in its absolute discretion.

#### **4.7 Representation**

- (a) At any hearing before the Appeal Board a Person may:
  - (i) appear in person; or
  - (ii) be represented by a barrister, solicitor or agent on such terms, if any, as the Chairman directs.
- (b) Where the Chairperson is of the opinion that a Person or representative of a Person appearing before the Appeal Board has failed to observe directions of the Appeal Board or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairperson may dismiss the Person or Person's representative and if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Person to obtain fresh representation.

#### **4.8 Composition of Appeal Board**

On any occasion when an appeal is brought before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board shall comprise, at the discretion of the Controlling Body, up to three (3) Appeal Board members being:

- (a) the Chairperson of the Appeal Board or, in the Chairperson's absence, a member of the Appeal Board Panel who shall act as Chairperson; and
- (b) up to two (2) Appeal Board Panel members.

#### **4.9 Notice of Appeal**

- (a) Except where otherwise determined by the Controlling Body, an appeal under these Guidelines shall be brought by lodging with the Controlling Body, by no later than 5.00pm on the day following the decision of the Tribunal, a duly completed Notice of Appeal in the form prescribed by the Controlling Body and, in the case of an appeal under section 4.3, shall be accompanied by payment to the Controlling Body of:
  - (i) the sum of 50% of a fixed fee to be determined by the Controlling Body (inclusive of Goods and Services Tax), which sum shall not be refundable in any circumstances; and
  - (ii) the remaining 50% the fixed fee (inclusive of Goods and Services Tax) which shall be dealt with in accordance with section 4.18 – 4.21.
- (b) The Controlling Body shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing before the Appeal Board, as soon as practicable after the lodgement of the Notice of Appeal, and shall advise all parties interested in the appeal of those particulars.
- (c) The Appeal Board may, at any time prior to the hearing, vary the date, time or place specified in the Notice of Appeal and upon doing so shall, as soon as practicable, provide all parties interested in the appeal with written notice of such variation.

#### **4.10 Attendance**

- (a) An appellant shall attend and appear before the Appeal Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where an appellant fails to attend before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board may hear and determine the appeal in the appellant's absence.
- (b) The Appeal Board hearing will be held in the State or Territory of the appellant's registered Club, unless otherwise advised or approved by the Controlling Body.
- (c) A Person wishing to attend the Appeal Board hearing via video or telephone conferencing must first seek the approval of the Controlling Body.
- (d) A Reporting Officer may attend and appear before the Appeal Board at the date, time and place fixed for the hearing of the appeal. Where a Reporting Officer fails to attend before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board may hear and determine the appeal in the absence of that Reporting Officer.

#### **4.11 General Conduct of Appeal Hearing**

- (a) Subject to the further matters set out in these Guidelines, the Appeal Board may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such manner as the Chairperson of the Appeal Board thinks fit.

- (b) The Appeal Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record, but may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it thinks fit.
- (c) Subject to section 4.11(d), in accordance with natural justice principles the Appeal Board shall:
  - (i) provide any Person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
  - (ii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
  - (iii) make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.
- (d) Whilst the Appeal Board will endeavour to hear and determine any charge or matter referred to it before the appellant's Club is next scheduled to compete, to the extent that the rules of natural justice require that:
  - (i) a Person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for an appeal; or
  - (ii) the appeal be scheduled at a time that does not affect the appellant's or the appellant's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match,those requirements are expressly excluded from these Guidelines.

#### **4.12 Review**

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

#### **4.13 Onus and Standard on Appeal**

On the hearing of an appeal the appellant shall bear the onus of establishing, on the balance of probabilities, one or more Grounds.

#### **4.14 Decision of Appeal Board**

- (a) Any question on appeal before the Appeal Board shall be decided according to the opinion of a majority of those constituting the Appeal Board.
- (b) Where the Appeal Board determines that one or more Grounds have been established, the Appeal Board may confirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Tribunal and make such orders and give such directions in such manner as it thinks fit.
- (c) The Appeal Board is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by it under these Guidelines.

#### **4.15 Person to Serve Sanction**

Subject to section 4.16(b), where the Tribunal imposes a sanction that prevents the appellant from participating in a Match, the appellant shall serve that sanction pending the determination of the appeal.

#### **4.16 Power to Adjourn**

Subject to section 4.17, the Appeal Board may, of its own motion or upon application of any party to the appeal, order:

- (a) that an appeal be adjourned; and/or
- (b) a stay of the execution of the sanction imposed by the Tribunal pending the determination of the appeal.

#### **4.17 Exceptional and Compelling Circumstances**

The Appeal Board shall make an order under section 4.16 only where it is satisfied that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that make it harsh and unreasonable if an order was not made. In determining that question, the Appeal Board shall without limitation have regard to:

- (a) the merits of the appeal and the appellant's prospects of success;
- (b) the interests of other Clubs and Persons;
- (c) the effect on the results of the Competition; and
- (d) the need to permit the due and proper administration of Australian Football.

#### **4.18 Successful Appeal**

- (a) For the purposes of this section, an appeal is successful if, and only if the Appeal Board determines that one or more Grounds has been established.
- (b) Where an appeal is successful, any payment made under section 4.9(a)(ii) shall be refunded on receipt by the Controlling Body of an appropriate tax invoice.

#### **4.19 Unsuccessful Appeal**

Where an appeal is not successful, any payment made under section 4.9(a)(ii) shall not be refunded, unless the matter involves a monetary sanction and the Appeal Board determines that it would be manifestly unjust and unfair not to refund the whole or part of such payment in which case, the whole or part may be refunded.

#### **4.20 Costs**

Notwithstanding section 4.9(a), each party to an appeal shall bear their own costs.

#### **4.21 Abandon Appeal**

- (a) Subject to section 4.21(b), an appellant may abandon an appeal prior to any hearing by giving written notice to the Controlling Body in which case the payment under section 4.9(a)(ii) shall be refunded.
- (b) Where an appellant abandons the appeal during the conduct of the appeal, the payment made under section 4.9(a)(ii) shall not be refunded.

#### **4.22 Validity of Appeal and Hearings**

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which an appeal has been brought, the Appeal Board may still hear and determine the appeal unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or will cause injustice if the appeal was heard.
- (b) A decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid because of any defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of an Appeal Board Member.
- (c) Subject to sections 4.11(c) and (d), any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Appeal Board is directory in nature and a decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

#### **4.23 Prohibited Conduct**

- (a) No Club or Person shall publicly comment on the contents of a Notice of Appeal prior to the determination by the Appeal Board or conclusion of the matter, as the case may be.
- (b) Where a Person contravenes section 4.23(a), the Person's Club may also be liable to a sanction unless the Person establishes, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Controlling Body, that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of the Appeal Board hearing.

#### **4.24 Criticism of Appeal Board Decision**

- (a) No Club or Person shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of a decision of the Appeal Board or of any member of the Appeal Board or any other matter touching or concerning the Appeal Board or a determination made by it.

- (b) The Controlling Body shall determine in its absolute discretion and in any case, whether any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive.
- (c) Where a Person contravenes section 4.24(a), the Person's Club may also be liable to a sanction at the discretion of the Controlling Body.

#### **4.25 Exhaust Internal Appeal**

A Club or Person shall exercise their right of appeal under these Guidelines and have any appeal heard and determined by the Appeal Board before commencing any relevant proceedings or becoming a party to any relevant proceedings in a court of law.

## 5. REPORTABLE OFFENCES

### 5.1 Application

This section 5 (together with the video examples of Reportable Offences referred to in Appendix 1) provides some guidelines as to the different categories of Reportable Offences and the appropriate sanctions and courses of action in respect of such offences.

These guidelines are designed primarily to be used by a Match Review Panel (or some other person or persons responsible for assessing a report or referral to determine the appropriate sanction or course of action prior to any Tribunal involvement) (**Panel**) at the discretion of that Panel.

Where there is no Panel, the Tribunal shall adopt these guidelines in assessing the particular alleged offence and appropriate sanctions for such an offence.

### 5.2 Classifiable Offences

- (a) Which Reportable Offences are Classifiable Offences?

Classifiable Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which may be graded by a Panel in order to determine an appropriate base sanction for that offence.

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

(b) Grading Classifiable Offences

A Panel may grade Classifiable Offences in accordance with the following table:

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	5+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine & / or Reprimand
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	3+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine & / or Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match	Fine & / or Reprimand
		Body	1 Match	Fine & / or Reprimand

A Panel may at its absolute discretion determine that the offence ought to be referred directly to the Tribunal on the basis that it is a Classifiable Offence which attracts a base sanction that the Panel finds inappropriate (see Direct Tribunal Offences in section 5.3(a)).

Note: The specific Classification Tables for each Controlling Body are contained in Appendix 2.

**1. Conduct (Intentional, Careless)**



**Intentional conduct:** A Player intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Player engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that offence.

An intention is a state of mind. Intention may be formed on the spur of the moment. The issue is whether it existed at the time at which the Player engaged in the conduct.

Whether or not a Player intentionally commits a Reportable Offence depends upon the state of mind of the Player when he or she does the act with which they are charged. What the Player did is often the best evidence of the purpose they had in mind. In some cases, the evidence that the act provides may be so strong as to compel an inference of what their intent was, no matter what they may say about it afterwards. If the immediate consequence of an act is obvious and inevitable, the deliberate doing of the act carries with it evidence of an intention to produce the consequence.

For example, a strike will be regarded as Intentional where a Player delivers a blow to an opponent with the intention of striking them.

The state of a Player's mind is an objective fact and has to be proved in the same way as other objective facts. The whole of the relevant evidence has to be considered. If the matter is heard by the Tribunal, the Tribunal will weigh the evidence of the Player as to what their intentions were along with whatever inference as to their intentions can be drawn from their conduct or other relevant facts. The Player may or may not be believed by the Tribunal. Notwithstanding what the Player says, the Tribunal may be able to conclude from the whole of the evidence that the Player intentionally committed the act constituting the Reportable Offence.

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

## **2. Impact (Low, Medium, High or Severe)**

In determining the level of impact, regard will be had to several factors.

Firstly, consideration will be given to the extent of force and in particular, any injury sustained by the Player who was offended against (as set out in the relevant, completed medical report using the template form contained in Appendix 3).

Secondly, strong consideration will be given to the potential to cause injury, particularly in the following cases:

- intentional head-high strikes, such as those with a swinging clenched fist, raised forearm or elbow;
- high bumps, particularly with significant head contact and/or Player momentum;
- any head-high contact with a Player who has his head over the ball, particularly when contact is made from an opponent approaching from a front-on position;
- forceful round arm swings that make head-high contact to a Player in a marking contest, ruck contest or when tackling;
- spear tackles; and
- driving an opponent into the ground when his arms are pinned.

The absence of injury does not preclude the classification of impact as Severe.

Thirdly, consideration will be given not only to the impact between the offending Player and the victim Player, but also any other impact to the victim Player as a result of such impact.

In addition, consideration will be given to the body language of the offending Player in terms of flexing, turning, raising or positioning the body to either increase or reduce the force of impact.

Low impact (which is the minimum impact required for a Classifiable Offence to constitute a Reportable Offence) requires more than just a negligible impact.

In addition to the above, the following table provides a summary of applicable base level impact guidelines for Low, Medium, High & Severe Impact incidents:

<b>Impact Guidelines</b>	
Low	Minimal or no impact on the match - the Player continued to play the majority of the match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.
Medium	Clearly some impact on the Player, and / or the Player left the field for a lengthy period of time, and/ or some possible lower level ongoing treatment(s) required.
High	Major impact on the Player, and / or the Player was unable to participate in the remainder of the game, and / or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and / or may miss some matches.
Severe	Major impact and serious injury to the Player, and / or likely to miss a significant number of matches.

Note – These are base level impact guidelines. The impact can be raised under the potential to cause serious injury.

### 3. Contact (High/Groin, Body)

High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders. Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region and including the testicles.

Where contact is both High and to the Body, the Match Review Panel will classify the contact as High.

Contact shall be classified as High or to the Groin where a Player's head or groin makes contact with another Player or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending Player. By way of example, should a Player tackle another Player around the waist and as a result of the tackle, the tackled Player's head made forceful contact with the fence or the ground the contact in these circumstances would be classified as High, even though the tackle was to the body.

#### (c) Impact of a Bad Record on Classifiable Offences

The sanction for Classifiable Offences will not usually be automatically increased where a Player has a bad record.

However, where a Player has been found or pleaded guilty to two low-level Classifiable Offences within a 12 month period (those Classifiable Offences with a base sanction of 1 match as per the classification table in section 5.2(b) above, and equivalent offences in the classification tables contained in Appendix 2), any third or subsequent low-level Classifiable Offence within the same 12 month period (as at the date of the offence) will result in a base sanction of 2 matches, with the Player able to accept 1 match with an early guilty plea. For the avoidance of doubt, the Low-level Offences referred to in section 5.4 will not be affected by this bad record provision.

A Panel also has the discretion pursuant to section 3.7 to directly refer a Player to the Tribunal in their absolute discretion, which includes as a result of a bad record. In this instance the Tribunal will not be bound by the classification table in section 5.2(b) and will be at large in relation to penalty. Evidence in relation to the record of a Player can be tendered to the Tribunal without the leave of the Chair.

#### (d) Reductions in Base Sanction for an Early Guilty Plea

The base sanction for Classifiable Offences will be subsequently decreased where a Player submits an early guilty plea. As per the classification table in section 5.2(b) above:

- an early guilty plea in respect of a Classifiable Offence with a fixed base sanction of two, three or four matches will result in a one match reduction in the suspension; and
  - an early guilty plea in respect of a Classifiable Offence with a base sanction of one match will result in a reprimand and/or fine (at the discretion of the Controlling Body – refer to the classification tables in Appendix 2).

(e) No Automatic Reduction for Good Record

Players do not receive an automatic reduced base sanction for a good record. However, if a Classifiable Offence is contested or referred to the Tribunal, a Player with a verifiable exemplary record could argue it constitutes exceptional and compelling circumstances under section 2.14(d)(i) (which would make it inappropriate to apply the sanctions in section 5 to the determined classification). In such circumstances, the Tribunal would determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion.

(f) Multiple Offences in a Single Match

Where a Player is found guilty of multiple Reportable Offences from a single match, the individual penalties are added together to form the final penalty to the Player.

### 5.3 Direct Tribunal Offences

(a) Which Reportable Offences are Direct Tribunal Offences?

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

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

(b) Determination of Direct Tribunal Offences

The Tribunal will determine Direct Tribunal Offences (as with any other Reportable Offence) in accordance with section 2.

## 5.4 Low-Level Offences

(a) Which Reportable Offences are Low-Level Offences?

Low-Level Offences are the following low-level Reportable Offences which do not require classification:

<b>Low-Level Offences</b>
Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip
Careless Contact with an Umpire
Disputing Decision
Instigator of a Melee
Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire
Engaging in a Melee
Not Leaving the Playing Surface
Obscene Gesture
Pinching
Prohibited Boots, Jewellery or Equipment
Shaking Goal Post
Spitting at Another Player
Staging
Striking
Time Wasting
Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language Towards or in Relation to an Umpire
Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language
Wrestling
Any Other Act of Low-Level Misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence

(b) Sanctions for Low-Level Offences?

Low-Level Offences attract the base sanctions (with a reduced sanction for an early guilty plea) of the applicable State League (or associated Controlling Body) as set out in Appendix 2.

A reference to second, third and subsequent Low-Level Offences is a reference to a second, third or subsequent Low-Level Offence occurring at any time in the previous 12 months (as at the date of the current offence). The second, third or subsequent Low-Level Offence need not be the same offence as the first Low-Level Offence. For the avoidance of doubt, a prior offence other than a Low-Level Offence will not count as a first offence for the purposes of the above table.

## 5.5 Grand Final

The Panel or Tribunal (as applicable) has the right to apply (at its absolute discretion) a loading of up to 100% for any Reportable Offence committed during a Grand Final.

## 5.6 Reportable Offences

The *Laws of the Game* sets out a non-exhaustive list of specific Reportable Offences in Law 19.2.2 as well as providing for various categories of permitted contact which shall not constitute a Reportable Offence (for example legally using a hip, shoulder, chest, arms or open arms, providing the football is no more than five metres away, and contact which is incidental to a marking contest where a Player is legitimately marking or attempting to mark the football).

The Laws define certain offences such as Charging and Engaging in a Melee, however they provide that in interpreting Reportable Offences, words, terms or phrases which are not defined in the Laws shall be given their ordinary meaning. The following provides some further guidance in relation to what constitutes particular Reportable Offences.

(a) Striking, Kicking

Striking and kicking are interpreted in accordance with their commonly understood meaning. A strike would usually be by hand, arm or elbow and would generally not apply to other contact using the body. A kick is generally applied to contact by foot or leg.

Under the Classifiable Offences, a strike or kick requires more than negligible impact. Where a strike, for example, does not have more than negligible impact, it is still open to a Panel to charge a Player with Striking under the Low-Level Offences table where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, the intention was to commit a Reportable Offence. Where no contact is made, a Panel can charge a Player with an Attempt to Strike or Kick, which are also Low-Level Offences.

(b) Classification of Certain Strikes

For the purpose of these Guidelines all Persons should note that the following factors are considered when determining the classification of a Striking offence:

- **Intent:** Notwithstanding any other part of these Guidelines, the fact that an act of striking occurred behind the play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or elbow is usually consistent with the strike being intentional.
- **Impact:** Notwithstanding any other part of these Guidelines, any Careless or Intentional strike which is of an inherently dangerous kind and/or where there is a potential to cause serious injury (such as a strike with a raised elbow or forearm) will usually not be classified as Low Impact even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low. Such strikes will usually be classified at a higher level commensurate with the nature and extent of the risk of serious injury involved.

(c) Misconduct

Misconduct has a wide meaning and generally is any conduct which would be regarded as unacceptable or unsportsmanlike by other participants in the match or where it had the effect or potential to prejudice the reputation of any person, club or the Controlling Body or to bring the game of football into disrepute.

Serious misconduct offences will be referred directly to the Tribunal. However any other act of Misconduct will be subject to a Low-Level Offence to be determined by the Match Review Panel.

(d) Forceful Front-On Contact

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

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

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

(e) Rough Conduct

Rough Conduct is interpreted widely in relation to any contact which is unreasonable in the circumstances. It is a Reportable Offence to intentionally or carelessly engage in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable.

Without limiting the wide interpretation of Rough Conduct, particular regard shall be had to the following officially recognised forms of Rough Conduct.

**1. Rough Conduct (High Bumps)**

A Player will be guilty of Rough Conduct where in the bumping of an opponent (whether reasonably or unreasonably) the Player causes forceful contact to be made with any part of his body to an opponent's head or neck. Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, unless:

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

In the interests of Player safety, the purpose of the rule dealing with high bumps is to reduce, as far as practicable, the risk of head injuries to Players and this purpose needs to be kept firmly in mind by all Players and will guide the application of the rule.

For the purpose of these guidelines, head clashes that result when a Player has elected to bump are circumstances that can reasonably be foreseen. Players will ordinarily be liable if they elect to bump if not contesting the ball.

**2. Rough Conduct (Bumps to the Body)**

It should be noted that even if the rule relating to high bumps does not apply (for example in the case of a bump to the body), a Player may still be guilty of Rough Conduct if his conduct was unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether any bump was unreasonable in the circumstances, without limitation, regard may be had to whether:

- the degree of force applied by the person bumping was excessive for the situation;
- the Player being bumped was in a vulnerable position; and
- the Player could reasonably expect the contact having regard to his involvement in play or ability to influence the contest.

**3. Rough Conduct (Dangerous Tackles)**



The application of a tackle may be considered Rough Conduct which is unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether the application of a tackle constitutes a Reportable Offence and whether the offence is Careless or Intentional, without limitation, regard may be had to the following factors, whether:

- the tackle consists of more than one action, regardless of whether the Player being tackled is in possession of the ball;
- the tackle is of an inherently dangerous kind, such as a spear tackle or a tackle where a Player is lifted off the ground;
- the Player being tackled is in a vulnerable position (for example their arms are pinned) with little opportunity to protect himself; or
- an opponent is slung, driven or rotated into the ground with excessive force.

#### **4. Rough Conduct (Contact Below the Knees)**

Under the *Laws of The Game*, it is prohibited to make contact with an opponent below the knees. Players who keep their feet are vulnerable to serious injury from opponents who lunge, dive or slide toward them and make contact below the knees. It is the purpose of these guidelines to protect such Players from the risk of foreseeable injury. A Player may be guilty of Rough Conduct if he makes contact below the knees of an opponent and does so in a manner which is unreasonable in the circumstances. It is not a defence that the Player who made the prohibited contact was contesting the ball or was first to the ball. The primary responsibility of Players with respect to contact below the knees is to avoid the risk of foreseeable injury. In determining whether any contact below the knees is unreasonable in the circumstances, regard may be had to:

- the degree of momentum and/or force involved in the contact;
- whether the Player causes contact below the knees by sliding with his foot, feet, knee or knees in front of him;
- whether the opposition Player was in a position that was vulnerable to contact below the knees (for example, standing over the ball or approaching from the opposite direction); and
- whether the Player making contact had any realistic alternative ways of approaching the contest or situation.

It should be noted that even where the contact is not made below the knees of the opposition Player but to another part of an opponent's body, a Player may still be guilty under the general definition of Rough Conduct for making unreasonable contact by sliding or dropping in to an opponent with their knees or feet first.

(f) Contact with an Umpire

**1. Intentional Contact with an Umpire**

Contact with an Umpire that is aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful will be deemed intentional and the Player will be directly referred to the Tribunal.

**2. Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire**

Where contact with an Umpire is not aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful but could otherwise be regarded as intentional, it will be classified as Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire which is a Low-Level Offence.

**3. Careless Contact with an Umpire**

Contact with an Umpire by a Player will be regarded as careless when it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to the Umpire. Regard will be had to the following factors when determining if the contact is careless:

- Whether contact occurs at a centre bounce or ball up;
- Whether the Player has set up behind the Umpire;
- Whether the Player has taken a path that intersects the Umpire's exit line from a stoppage;
- The force of the contact;
- Whether the Umpire's decision making is impeded;
- Whether the Umpire goes to ground as a result of the contact;
- Any mitigating factors (effort to avoid contact, offline bounce or throw, pushed by opponent into Umpire's path etc).

Careless Contact with an Umpire is a Low-Level Offence.

(g) Melee

**1. Engaging in a Melee**

A Melee is defined as an incident involving three or more Players and/or Officials who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another and which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the Controlling Body. The offence of Engaging in a Melee is a Low-Level Offence.

**2. Instigator of a Melee**

Instigator of a Melee is defined as where the Player's conduct results in retaliatory action which leads to a melee. The offence of Instigator of Melee is in addition to the offence of Engaging in a Melee which may have the effect of a Player being found guilty of both offences.

(h) Staging

A Player will be reported for staging. Staging can include excessive exaggeration of contact in an unsportsmanlike manner. Staging shall be a Reportable Offence as it may:

- affect umpires' decision-making;
- incite a melee; and/or
- not be in the spirit of the game (unsportsmanlike).

(i) Tripping

In determining whether a trip is above the level of impact to constitute a Reportable Offence, regard will be had to how fast the opponent was moving, whether the trip was by hand or by foot/leg and whether contact was made with a swinging motion.

## DEFINITIONS

**AFL** means the Australian Football League ACN 004 155 211 or any State Body or individual engaged to operate on behalf of the AFL.

**Club** means a club fielding a team in the Competition.

**Competition** means any Australian Football competition, conducted by the Controlling Body.

**Controlling Body** has the meaning given to it in the *Laws of the Game*.

**Laws of the Game** or **Laws** means the *Laws of Australian Football* as administered and controlled by the AFL, as amended from time to time.

**Match** means any Australian football Match played between or directly or indirectly involving any Club.

**Notice of Charge** means the formal notice provided to a Person informing them that they are being charged with a Reportable Offence or other breach of the *Rules and Regulations* and/or *Laws of the Game*.

**Officer** means, as defined in the Corporations Law and without limitation, the Club president, chairman, vice president, vice chairman, general manager, chief executive, football manager, coach, any board or committee member and any servant or agent who makes or participates in the making of decisions that affect the whole, or a substantial part, of the business of the Club.

**Person** means a servant or agent of a Club, Player, coach, assistant coach, trainer, runner, Officer, medical officer, employee, independent contractor or volunteer of a Club or any other Person within the purview of these Guidelines.

**Reportable Offence** means any reportable offence identified in the *Laws of the Game* or any offence under the *Rules and Regulations* of the Controlling Body, as amended from time to time, including without limitation the reportable offences contained in section 5 as well as a breach of the *National Anti-Doping Code*, the *National Vilification & Discrimination Policy* or the *National Member Protection Policy*.

**Reporting Officer** means a person appointed by the Controlling Body to present evidence in support of the charge or matter, respond to matters put in defence and address the Tribunal at any hearing.

**State League** means the Victorian Football League, North-East Football League, Tasmanian State League, West Australian Football League or South Australian National Football League (as applicable).

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

## APPENDIX 1 – EXAMPLES OF REPORTABLE OFFENCES (INDEX)

The following incidents are examples of Reportable Offences which were processed in accordance with these Guidelines. Vision of these incidents is available on request to the AFL.

<u>CLASSIFIABLE OFFENCES</u>	
Striking	<p><b>Example 1</b> - Luke McDonald on Michael Barlow (Round 6, 2017) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 2</b> - Luke Hodge on Tom Papeley (Round 19, 2017) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 3</b> - Willie Rioli on Ben Cunnington (Round 19, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 4</b> - Alex Witherden on Ben Crocker (Round 7, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 5</b> - Alex Rance on Luke Breust (Round 3, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 6</b> - Josh Caddy on David Mackay (Round 2, 2018) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 7</b> - Jake Carlisle on Jack Riewoldt (Round 10, 2018) Careless Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 8</b> - Tim Membrey on Dylan Grimes (Round 16, 2017) Careless Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 9</b> - Harris Andrews on Mark Baguley (Round 12, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 10</b> - Brayden Maynard on Sam Petrevski-Seton (Round 14, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 11</b> - Brandon Ellis on Toby McLean (Round 23, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 12</b> - Jack Steele on Max Gawn (Round 7, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 13</b> - Michael Walters on Jake Kelly (Round 12, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Medium Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 14</b> - Dayne Zorko on Lachie Plowman (Round 18, 2017) Intentional Conduct, Medium Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 15</b> - Zaine Cordy on Cale Hooker (Round 3, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 16</b> - Mitch Robinson on Sebastian Ross (Round 1, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 17</b> - Sam Day on Neville Jetta (Round 8, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Groin Contact</p>

	<p><b>Example 18</b> - Daniel Howe on Patrick Cripps (Round 18, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 19</b> - James Parsons on Luke Hodge (Round 4, 2017) Intentional Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 20</b> - Bachar Houli on Jed Lamb (Round 14, 2017) Intentional Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 21</b> - Jeremy Cameron on Harris Andrews (Round 14, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Severe Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 22</b> - Andrew Gaff on Andrew Brayshaw (Round 20, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Severe Impact, High Contact</p>
Kneeing	<p><b>Example 23</b> - Jarrad Waite on Harry Marsh (JLT Week 1, 2017) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 24</b> - Luke Shuey on Bailey Banfield (Round 6, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 25</b> - Jeremy Cameron on Will Schofield (Round 8, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p>
Rough Conduct	<p><b>Example 26</b> - Tom Hawkins on Nick Haynes (Round 7, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 27</b> - Dougal Howard on Josh Kennedy (Round 7, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 28</b> - Mitch Robinson on Patrick Dangerfield (Round 19, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 29</b> - Cameron Zurhaar on David Mirra (Round 5, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 30</b> - Braydon Preuss on Jackson Thurlow (Round 2, 2017) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 31</b> - Ben Cunnington on Taylor Duryea (JLT Week 2, 2017) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 32</b> - Dale Thomas on Jordan Gallucci (Round 7, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 33</b> - Brennan Cox on Shaun Higgins (Round 10, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p>
Rough Conduct (High Bumps)	<p><b>Example 34</b> - Aidyn Johnson on Tom Cole (Round 21, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 35</b> - Trent Dumont on Ed Phillips (Round 21, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 36</b> - Lindsay Thomas on Logan Austin (Round 16, 2018)</p>

	<p>Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 37</b> - Mitch Robinson on Shaun Higgins (Round 11, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 38</b> - Devon Smith on Zac Langdon (Round 10, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 39</b> - Steven May on Ed Curnow (Round 19, 2018) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 40</b> - Dale Thomas on Levi Greenwood (Round 14, 2018) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 41</b> - Jack Bowes on Jacob Weitering (Round 2, 2018) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 42</b> - Travis Varcoe on Luke Dahlhaus (Round 1, 2017) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 43</b> - Zak Jones on Kyle Langford (Round 19, 2018) Careless Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 44</b> - Lindsay Thomas on Scott Selwood (Round 5, 2018) Careless Conduct, Severe Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 45</b> - Nathan Brown on Adam Saad (Round 21, 2018) Intentional Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>EXCEPTION: CONTESTING THE BALL</b></p> <p><b>Example 46</b> - Jordan Murdoch on Isaac Heeney (Round 6, 2018) <b>Example 47</b> - Brayden Crossley on Toby McLean (Round 7, 2018) <b>Example 48</b> - Luke Hodge on Dyson Heppell (Round 12, 2018) <b>Example 49</b> - Ben Ronke on Trent Dumont (Round 17, 2018)</p> <p><b>EXCEPTION: CIRCUMSTANCES OUTSIDE CONTROL</b></p> <p><b>Example 50</b> - Aaron Young on Lachie Henderson (Round 23, 2018) <b>Example 51</b> - Lance Franklin on Tim Taranto (JLT Week 3, 2017)</p>
Rough Conduct (Dangerous Tackles)	<p><b>Example 52</b> - Bradan Parfitt on Jayden Short (Round 20, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 53</b> - Steele Sidebottom on Zac Fisher (Round 3, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 54</b> - Nick Vlastuin on Luke Breust (Round 3, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 55</b> - Sam Frost on Jed Anderson (Round 3, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 56</b> - Nic Naitanui on Karl Amon (Round 7, 2018) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p>

	<p><b>Example 57</b> - Sam Menegola on Luke Hodge (Round 4, 2017) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 58</b> - Koby Stevens on Nathan Wilson (Round 7, 2017) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 59</b> - Taylor Walker on Josh Kelly (Round 21, 2018) Careless Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 60</b> - Brodie Grundy on Ben Brown (Round 20, 2017) Careless Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 61</b> - Cam McCarthy on Sam Gilbert (Round 15, 2017) Careless Conduct, High Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 62</b> - Ryan Nyhuis on Robbie Gray (Round 17, 2018) Careless Conduct, Severe Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 63</b> - Kade Stewart on Andrew Mackie (JLT Week 1, 2017) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p>
Forceful Front-On Contact	<p><b>Example 64</b> - Mason Cox on Jason Johannisen (Round 10, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 65</b> - Jake Barrett on Rory Laird (Round 18, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 66</b> - Ricky Henderson on Levi Casboults (Round 18, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 67</b> - Conor McKenna on Riley Knight (Round 4, 2017) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 68</b> - Nathan Krakouer on Sean Dempster (JLT Week 2, 2018) Careless Conduct, Medium Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>EXCEPTION: CONTESTING THE BALL</b></p> <p><b>Example 69</b> - Dawson Simpson on Jack Newnes (Round 5, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 70</b> - Archie Smith on Justin Westhoff (Round 13, 2017)</p> <p><b>Example 71</b> - Jesse Joyce on Jason Castagna (Round 19, 2017)</p> <p><b>Example 72</b> - Sam Powell-Pepper on Marc Murphy (Round 5, 2017)</p>
Head-Butt or Contact Using Head	<p><b>Example 73</b> - Nick Robertson on Trent Cotchin (Round 17, 2017) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p>
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Eye Region	<p><b>Example 74</b> - Dayne Zorko on Marc Murphy (Round 16, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p> <p><b>Example 75</b> - Jed Lamb on Jade Gresham (Round 17, 2018) Intentional Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact</p>



Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face	<b>Example 76</b> - Lance Franklin on Luke Hodge (Round 19, 2017) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, High Contact
--	---

Tripping	<p><b>Example 77</b> - Jack Ziebell on Jack Martin (Round 15, 2017) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 78</b> - Jack Newnes on Flynn Appleby (Round 9, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 79</b> - David Swallow on Gary Ablett (Round 11, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 80</b> - Dale Morris on Jy Simpkin (Round 21, 2018) Careless Conduct, Low Impact, Body Contact</p> <p><b>Example 81</b> - Daniel Howe on Zac Fisher (Round 18, 2018) Careless Conduct, Severe Impact, Body Contact</p>
----------	--

<b><u>DIRECT TRIBUNAL OFFENCES</u></b>	
Any Other Act of Serious Misconduct which the MRO Considers Appropriate to Refer to the Tribunal	<p><b>Example 82</b> - Conor McKenna on Tory Dickson (Round 3, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 83</b> - James Sicily on Shaun Atley (Round 5, 2018)</p>
Eye Gouging	<b>Example 84</b> – Jimmy Webster on Nick Suban (Round 15, 2017)

<b><u>LOW-LEVEL OFFENCES</u></b>	
Instigator of a Melee	<p><b>Example 85</b> - Jake Carlisle (Round 15, 2017)</p> <p><b>Example 86</b> - Ben Ronke (Round 6, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 87</b> - Sam Rowe (Round 14, 2018)</p>
Careless Contact with an Umpire	<p><b>Example 88</b> - Josh Dunkley (Round 18, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 89</b> - Clayton Oliver (Round 21, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 90</b> - Christian Petracca (Round 20, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 91</b> - Jack Steven (Round 10, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 92</b> - Ben Cunnington (Round 16, 2018)</p>
Engaging in a Melee	<p><b>Example 93</b> - Collingwood v Carlton (Taylor Adams, Patrick Cripps, Brayden Maynard) (Round 14, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 94</b> - Fremantle v West Coast (Sean Darcy, Jeremy McGovern, Luke Ryan, Daniel Venables) (Round 20, 2018)</p> <p><b>Example 95</b> - Geelong v Sydney (Kieran Jack, Tom Stewart, Zach Tuohy) (Round 6, 2018)</p>

Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player	<b>Example 96</b> - Brayden Fiorini on Dayne Zorko (Round 22, 2018) <b>Example 97</b> - Bailey Banfield on Aaron Hall (Round 3, 2018)
Wrestling	<b>Example 98</b> - Matt Crouch and Sam Powell-Pepper (Round 8, 2018) <b>Example 99</b> - Bailey Banfield and Jack Steven (Round 8, 2018) <b>Example 100</b> - Mitch Robinson (Round 22, 2018)
Staging	<b>Example 101</b> - Alex Rance (Round 11, 2018) <b>Example 102</b> - Josh Green (JLT Week 3, 2018) <b>Example 103</b> - Callum Sinclair (Round 11, 2018)
Other Misconduct	<b>Example 104</b> - Sam Frost on Isaac Smith (Round 4, 2018) <b>Example 105</b> - Dustin Martin on Jimmy Webster (Round 10, 2018) <b>Example 106</b> - Ben Cunnington on Steven Motlop (Round 6, 2018) <b>Example 107</b> - Toby Nankervis on Matt Crouch (Round 2, 2018)

## APPENDIX 2 – CLASSIFIABLE AND LOW-LEVEL OFFENCES: STATE LEAGUE SANCTIONS

The following sanctions for Classifiable and Low-Level Offences apply to the applicable State Leagues (and any additional leagues where determined by the relevant Controlling Body).

**Tasmanian State League, North-East Australian Football League, AFL (Queensland), AFL NSW/ACT Leagues, AFL (Northern Territory)**

Classifiable Offences (refer section 5.2)

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	5+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Reprimand
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	3+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match	Reprimand
		Body	1 Match	Reprimand

Low-Level Offences (refer section 5.4)

First & Second Low-Level Offences		Third & Subsequent Low-Level Offences	
Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
1 Match	Reprimand	2 Matches	1 Match

## Victorian Football League

Classifiable Offences (refer section 5.2)

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	<b>5+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
		Body	<b>4+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	High	High/Groin	<b>4 Matches</b>	<b>3 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>3 Matches</b>	<b>2 Matches</b>
	Medium	High/Groin	<b>3 Matches</b>	<b>2 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
	Low	High/Groin	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
		Body	<b>1 Match</b>	<b>Fine &amp; Reprimand</b>
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	<b>4+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
		Body	<b>3+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	High	High/Groin	<b>3 Matches</b>	<b>2 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
	Medium	High/Groin	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
		Body	<b>1 Match</b>	<b>Fine &amp; Reprimand</b>
	Low	High/Groin	<b>1 Match</b>	<b>Fine &amp; Reprimand</b>
		Body	<b>Fine &amp; Reprimand</b>	<b>Reprimand</b>

Fine schedule in relation to Classifiable Offences (refer section 5.2) above:

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

Low-Level Offences (refer section 5.4)

First Low-Level Offence		Second Low-Level Offences		Third & Subsequent Low-Level Offences	
Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Fine & Reprimand	Reprimand	1 Match	Fine & Reprimand	2 Matches	1 Match

The Low-Level Offences in section 5.4 will be dealt with a Fixed Financial Sanction shown in the table below. The VFL may, in its absolute discretion, elect to impose the match and reprimand sanctions for these offences if it deems appropriate.

\*If a Person commits a fourth low-level offence they will receive an automatic 3 match penalty with no discount for an early guilty plea.

Offence		1 <sup>st</sup> Offence	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offence
Any Low-Level Offence as per section 5.4	1	\$300	\$400	\$500
	2	\$200	\$300	\$400
	3	\$150	\$200	\$250

Key			
1	AFL Listed Player	3	VFL Senior Players
2	AFL Rookie Listed Players		

**Note – Fines will not be issued in the U18 (Boys & Girls) Competition and the VFL Women’s Competitions. Reprimands only will be handed down for offences where ‘Fine and Reprimand’ is the prescribed penalty on the Classifiable Offences table.**

## South Australian National Football League

Classifiable Offences (refer section 5.2)

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	5+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine & Reprimand
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	3+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine & Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match	Fine & Reprimand
		Body	Fine & Reprimand	Reprimand

Low-level Offences (refer section 5.4)

First Low-Level Offence		Second Low-Level Offence		Third and Subsequent* Low-Level Offences	
Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Fine & Reprimand	Reprimand	1 Match	Fine & Reprimand	2 Matches	1 Match

\*If a Person commits a fourth Low-Level Offence they will receive an automatic 3 match penalty with no discount for an early guilty plea.

Note: The amount of any fine contemplated above will be determined by the South Australian National Football League.

## West Australian Football League

Classifiable Offences (refer section 5.2)

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	<b>5+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
		Body	<b>4+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	High	High/Groin	<b>4 Matches</b>	<b>3 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>3 Matches</b>	<b>2 Matches</b>
	Medium	High/Groin	<b>3 Matches</b>	<b>2 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
	Low	High/Groin	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
		Body	<b>1 Match</b>	<b>Reprimand</b>
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	<b>4+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
		Body	<b>3+ Matches (Tribunal)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	High	High/Groin	<b>3 Matches</b>	<b>2 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
	Medium	High/Groin	<b>2 Matches</b>	<b>1 Match</b>
		Body	<b>1 Match</b>	<b>Reprimand</b>
	Low	High/Groin	<b>1 Match</b>	<b>Reprimand</b>
		Body	<b>Fine or Reprimand*</b>	<b>Fine or Reprimand*</b>

Low-level Offences (refer section 5.4)

First Low-Level Offence		Second Low-Level Offence		Third and Subsequent Low-Level Offences	
Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Fine	Fine	Reprimand	Fine	1 Match	Reprimand

Note: The amount of any fine contemplated above will be determined by the West Australian Football League.

\* If a Person commits a third or subsequent Careless-Low-Body Classifiable Offence they will receive an automatic Reprimand with no discount for an early guilty plea



# APPENDIX 3 – MEDICAL REPORT TEMPLATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Club Medical Officer for the \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club

provide this Medical Report for player \_\_\_\_\_ at the request

of the Match Review Panel as a result of an incident that occurred during the match:

\_\_\_\_\_ v \_\_\_\_\_

Played on \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (venue).

The incident occurred at \_\_\_\_\_ (time) during quarter \_\_\_\_\_ at the following approximate location on the Playing Surface: \_\_\_\_\_.

The player received the following treatment (*limit to clinical facts*) –

## **Immediate**

Condition(s) treated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Player required immediate on field assessment:  No  Yes (Details:  Trainer /  Physio /  Doctor)

Did the player leave the Playing Surface as a result of the incident:  No  Yes

If 'Yes', estimated time missing from match as a result of the incident (excluding breaks): \_\_\_\_\_

Did the player return to play:  No  Yes

Was anything reported by the player after the match as a result of the incident:  No  Yes

If 'Yes', specify what was reported: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ongoing**

Further investigation required:  No  Yes (Details:  Radiology /  Specialist referral)

Ongoing treatment required:  No  Yes (Details:  Physiotherapy /  Medication /  Surgery)

Expected number of – Missed days training: \_\_\_\_\_ Missed matches: \_\_\_\_\_

Any additional information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed:  (Club Doctor)

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

-----

## **Controlling Body to Complete**

Lodged with the Secretary of the Match Review Panel on \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (time)

Signed:  (Secretary of the Match Review Panel)