



Competition

Rules and Bylaws

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Table of Contents - Index

Topics	Sub-Topics	Bylaw Reference
Age Group Rules	Development/Junior Rules, Youth Rules, Youth Girls Football, Ball Sizes, Spirit of the Game, Tackling, Mercy Rule, Zoning (Under 9)	Appendix 4
Allowed on the Field of Play		14
	Coaches	14.5 – 14.6
	Runners & Water Carriers/Trainers	14.2 – 14.4
Appeals		29
	Appeals to Board	29.15 – 29.19
	Appeals from decisions of the Board	29.22
	Basis of determining Appeal to Board	29.20
	Decision Final - Board	29.21
	Decision Final – Regional Committee	29.14
	Hearing Procedure	29.6 – 29.12
	Lodgement of Appeals	29.3 – 29.5
	Powers of Regional Appeal Committee	29.13
	Who may appeal –To the Regional Committee	29.1 – 29.2
Boundary & Goal Umpires		6
Club Game Responsibilities		19
	Bad weather	19.16 – 19.17
	Concussion Management	19.14
	Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (First Aid)	19.5 – 19.13
	Ground Manager	19.2
	HOST Club	19.1
	Injury Treatment	19.4
	Match Day Checklist	19.18 – 19.19
	Team Manager	19.3
	Umpire Reviews	19.15
Club of the Year		34
Coaches		22
	Accreditation	22.1 – 22.7
	Bibs	22.8
Competitions, Clubs & Club Affiliation		3
	Age Group Rules	3.22
	Age Groups	3.12 – 3.13
	Club Affiliation	3.1 – 3.10
	Clubs & Teams	3.14 – 3.17
	Development Grade / Junior Rules	3.21
	Football Season	3.11
	Match Wins	3.18 – 3.20
	Youth Girls Rules	3.23
Conduct		2
	Breaches	2.12 – 2.14
	Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee (ISC)	2.19 – 2.20
	Code Sign off and Acknowledgement	2.4
	Duties of the Code of Conduct ISC	2.21 – 2.25
	ISC Code of Conduct Investigation Report Template	Appendix 5
	Officials Code of Conduct	2.7
	Parents & Supporters Code of Conduct	2.6
	Players Code of Conduct	2.5
	Protocols	2.2 – 2.3
	Role of the Coach	2.8 – 2.11
	Statements	2.15 – 2.18



Conduct Unbecoming , Prejudicial or likely to bring the Game into Disrepute		31
Definitions		1
Development Grade / Junior Rules		Appendix 2
Field Umpires		5
	Approaching Umpires	5.10 – 5.11
	Appointment & Remuneration	5.2 – 5.6
	General	5.1
	Powers & Duties	5.7 – 5.9
Final Series		17
	Eligibility	17.6 - 17.11
	Format of final series	17.4 – 17.5
	Postponements	See 13
	Team Sheets	See 18
	Times & Player numbers	17.1 – 17.3
	Umpires	17.12
Finance		25
	Arrears	25.1 – 25.5
	Funds Management	25.6 – 25.7
	Sponsorships	25.8
Fines & Penalties		28
	Schedule - General	28.2 – 28.4
Forfeits		16
AFLHC Racial & Religious Vilification		33
AFLHC Vilification and Discrimination Policy		Appendix 6
Interchange		15
Incident Referral Form		Appendix 7
Laws of the Game		4
Legal (including Statutory) Compliance by Regional Committees and Clubs		32
	Child Protection Legislation	32.3 – 32.4
Match Conduct		11
	Match Day Paperwork	11.13
	Match duration	11.10 – 11.12
	Match times	11.1 – 11.9
Media		27
Parental Consent		Appendix 8
Player Registration		20
	Academy Local Interchange and Match Day out of Region Permits	20.8.5.9 – 20.8.5.14
	Board Jurisdiction	20.18 – 20.19
	Female Participation	20.20
	Forms	20.1 – 20.8.5.8
	Match Day Registrations	20.16 – 20.17
	Proof of Age	20.14 – 20.15
	Transfers	20.9 – 20.13
Postponements		13
	Finals Matches	13.9
	Minor Rounds	13.6 – 13.8
	Rescheduling	13.1 – 13.5
	Washouts	13.10
Protests & Disputes		12
	Involving Players or Officials	12.7 – 12.18
	Other than Players or Officials	12.1 – 12.6
Representative Football		23



Reporting & Disciplinary Procedures		8
	Action during Match	8.17 – 8.21
	Application of Penalty	8.9 – 8.16
	Completing Notice of Report by the umpire	8.22 - 8.23
	Racial & Religious Vilification Reports	8.39 – 8.40
	Report where Notice of Report not completed	8.24 – 8.31
	Reports by AFLHC	8.33
	Reports by Regional Committee	8.34
	Reports by Umpires	8.1
	Team Yellow Cards / Red Cards	8.32
	Tribunal Composition, Procedures & Guidelines	8.35 – 8.38
Resolution of Disputes within Clubs		21
Rule Amendments		26
Send Off/Order Off		9
	Audible Obscenities	9.12
	General	9.5 – 9.11
	Sledging	9.4
Supervision of the Regional Committee and matters not provided for		30
Team Sheets & Results		18
	Completion	18.1 – 18.6
	Submission (documents & results)	18.7 - 18.12
Teams		10
	Joint Venture teams	10.11 – 10.16
	Multiple Teams	10.2
	Numbers of Players in Teams	10.1
	Player numbers	10.5 – 10.9
	Playing up an age level	10.3 – 10.4
	Team nominations	10.10
Umpire Categories		7
Umpires Fees		Schedule 1
Umpires Review Process		Appendix 1
Uniforms		24
Youth Girls Rules		Appendix 3



1 Definitions

1.1 The following words, where shown, are defined to mean:

AFL	Australian Football League
AFL NSW/ACT	AFL NSW/ACT Commission Limited
Board	Board of the AFL Hunter Coast Inc
Competition	AFL Hunter Coast Competition
Development Grades/Junior Rules	Under 9 – Under 11
First Aid Official	The person identified in Rule 19.7/19.8 or Rule 19.10, as the case may be
Footyweb	Competition Management System
AFLHC	AFL Hunter Coast Incorporated
AFLHC Administration	Administration coordinator / Administration Support for AFLHC
BDAFL	Black Diamond AFL Inc
HOME Club	First named Club or team in the fixture
AWAY Club	Second named Club or team in the fixture
HOST Club	Club who is providing their ground for play
ISC	A Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee appointed pursuant to Rule 2.19 or provided by these Rules
Laws	Laws of Australian Football, as issued by the AFL
Official	“Official” includes any person assuming a responsibility on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) of an affiliated member Club of the controlling body, irrespective of whether or not that person was elected or appointed to a position by or on behalf of the Club. For the avoidance of doubt, “Official” shall include any Coach or assistant Coach, Team Manager or assistant Team Manager, Runner, Trainer, Interchange Steward, Water Carrier, Ground Manager, member of a Club’s committee or person officiating in any capacity on match day.
Regional Committee	The committee appointed by the Board to represent the nominated regional competitions
Reportable Offence	A reportable offence as identified under Law 19 of the Laws
Rules	Competition Rules and Bylaws of the AFLHC
Talented Pathway Player (TPP)	A TPP Player is one who is participating in the Northern Coast Talent Development Squad

1.2 Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and vice versa, and words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa.

1.3 References to matters described as being a Board responsibility may as appropriate and, by agreement, be delegated by the Board to the Regional Committees.

2 Conduct

2.1 In the interests of the game of Australian Football, the Board requires all persons to treat Umpires, all Club Officials, Players and supporters, and all related property, with respect. This Rule applies in addition to the specific Rules governing Reports and Disciplinary Procedures.

Protocols

2.2 Appropriate conduct will be achieved through engaging in the following game day protocols:

- Setting a good example, including adherence to the various Codes of Conduct.
- Restraining and counselling Officials, Players and supporters who may be inclined to become over-excited, particularly if they use inappropriate, abusive, threatening or insulting language or physical action.
- Introducing Officials and Players to Umpires prior to the game, and encouraging those same Officials and Players to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires, whatever the result.
- Welcoming Officials, Players and supporters of the opposition team on match day.
- Encouraging opposing teams to shake hands prior to the commencement and also at the end of the game.
- Presenting the ground and Clubroom environment in a professional and welcoming manner.
- Introducing awards for sportsmanship other than for best and fairest.
- Total abstinence from consuming alcohol at matches.



- Total abstinence from any form of drug use.
- 2.3 Registration is affected by Parents/Players completing an On-line registration form, which includes the Players Code of Conduct (See Rule 2.5 below).
- Online Registration acceptance of the Terms & Conditions will satisfy the requirement to sign the Code of Conduct.
 - Parents and Players are bound by these Rules, including the relevant Code of Conduct in these Rules, as amended from time to time, irrespective of whether they have in fact signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct.
 - All Coaches and Officials, by reason of their acting in such capacity, are bound by these Rules, the Coaches Code of Conduct and Officials Code of Conduct, as the case may be, as amended from time to time.
 - Supporters are also to abide by these Rules, in particular the Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct.

Code Signoff and Acknowledgment

- 2.4 The Online Registration form for AFLHC includes the Players Code of Conduct and the following key statements regarding behaviour and expectations on Parents and Caregivers (Guardians) under the Terms and Conditions.

For Parents & Caregivers

- I/We hereby consent to the registration of my/our son/daughter with AFL Hunter Coast Inc.
- I/We acknowledge that I/we have been provided with, and understand, the Code of Conduct of AFL Hunter Coast Inc. under the Competition Rules and Bylaws (Rules).
- I/We hereby agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey this Code and all rulings made by the Region that relate to me/us, other family members and invited guests.
- I/We understand that the Region may withdraw or suspend my/our son(s)/daughter(s) registration to play in AFL Hunter Coast Inc. should I/we fail to comply with the Code, the Rules and/or any rulings of the Region.

Players Code of Conduct

- 2.5 Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct:
- play in accordance with the rules of the game;
 - never argue with an official. If a player disagrees with a decision, they should ask the team manager to approach the official during a break or after the competition *;
 - control their temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy;
 - never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;
 - work equally hard for themselves and their team. The team's performance will benefit, and so will the Player's;
 - be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by their team or the opposition;
 - treat all participants as they would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor;
 - co-operate with their coaches, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition;
 - participate for their own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of their teammates; not to please anyone else.
 - respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion;
 - not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information see the National Member Protection Policy;
 - be prepared to be responsible for their actions.

* Excludes approaching Umpires - refer to Rule 5.10 – 5.12

Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct

- 2.6 Parents and supporters are bound by the following Code of Conduct
- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
 - Encourage participation, but don't force it.
 - Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
 - Never ridicule mistakes or losses. Supporters are there to support, not downgrade.
 - Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators.
 - Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
 - Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
 - Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the Club, or AFL AFLHC.



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- Never publicly criticise Umpires, rather raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private.
 - Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your Coach, the Players, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
 - Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
 - Do not engage in physical and/or verbal abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
 - Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players.
 - Abusive language is unacceptable.

Official's Code of Conduct

2.7 The Officials of all Clubs are bound by the following Official's Code of Conduct:

- Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, umpires and administrators.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- Appoint, train and develop qualified and competent Coaches and Officials
- Help Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of Coaching and officiating.
- Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the Laws and the Rules.
- Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect of the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, or any policy decisions of the Club, the AFLHC or AFL.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or Supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Ensure all Parents, Coaches, sponsors, Officials, medical staff and Players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- Abide by the Rules.
- Display fairness and uniformly in applying the Rules.
- Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- The health and safety of the Players must be the most important reason to be weighed during the decision making process.
- Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- Ensure you remain up to date with any Law changes and/or interpretation of Laws.
- See continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.

Role of the Coach

- 2.8 The Coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The Coach will interface with all groups involved within a Club, and thus assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the game, both today, and in particular with Coaches of junior teams, in the future. It is essential that every Coach be aware of this unique position and so conducts themself in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position.
- 2.9 All Coaches, whether accredited or not, are bound by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, as well as these Rules, including the specific Rules governing Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures.
- 2.10 In these Rules, the words "Coach" means not only formally appointed Coach, but also all persons acting in such capacity, whether formally appointed or not, as well as to assistant Coaches, whether formally appointed or not, who act in such capacity.
- 2.11 The Coach's Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to:
- Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
 - Teach fair play and good sportsmanship.
 - Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
 - Be reasonable in setting demands, goals and expectations.



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- Maintain a current knowledge of the Laws, the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical, and abide by those Laws and Rules.
 - Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
 - Never ridicule Players.
 - Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
 - Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.
 - Ensure that all Players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
 - Ensure that injured Players are given prompt and competent medical attention and that doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
 - Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of Coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of your Players.
 - Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents and spectators.
 - Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
 - Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
 - Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, or any policy decisions of the Club, AFLHC or the AFL.

Coach and Administrators

- Remember the Coach is a representative of the Club's administration and therefore it is important that Coaches conduct themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
- Support the administration in policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be resolved behind closed doors in a composed manner.
- Adhere to Club policy in both letter and spirit.
- Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

Coach and Umpires

- Treat the Umpire with the utmost of good faith and respect.
- Introduce the umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the game and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
- Instruct Officials, Players and supporters that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the game, nor the intervals within a game, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
- Restrain any Official, Player or supporter from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
- Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
- Never publicly criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
- Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

Coach and Supporters (Spectators)

- Encourage supporters to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either team for good, fair play.
- Ensure that supporters do not interfere with the game, nor encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with supporter behaviour and request the Club administration to act in a manner to diffuse any possible problems.

Coach and Parents

- At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the Coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the Coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the Coaches guidelines.
- Request parents support the Coach in any disciplinary action the Coach is forced to undertake.
- Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the Coach, the Club's Officials, the Umpires and the opposition Officials, Players and supporters.
- Request that if a parent has a problem with the Coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the Coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to Club administration.

Breaches

2.12 Penalties for breaches of the Code of Conduct include:

- Any Player guilty of offensive behaviour, fighting or causing others to fight on the field, should be subject to an immediate 15 minute send off by their Coach, regardless of any action from the Umpires.



- Any Official, Player or supporter breaching a Code of Conduct, may be issued with a warning for a minor breach. Further or more serious breaches may result in dismissal or suspension from participation in Competition/s.

2.13 Where the nature of the breach warrants a stronger remedy commensurate with the seriousness of the Code breach, the matter may be referred to a Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee or to a Tribunal Hearing, at the discretion of the Regional Committee.

2.14 The following is indicative of the penalties that may be applied:

Level		Remedy
1	Minor indiscretion	Individuals name recorded. Counselling or an apology if appropriate.
2	More serious infraction or repetition	In the case of an individual, the Club shall appoint a mentor for the individual for a period of time nominated by the Regional Committee. For a repeat violation, the Club will be contacted to discuss what executive action will be taken to avert future problems and/or the Club shall appoint a mentor.
3	Serious infraction	Suspension or removal of membership rights of an individual or for a team or Club plus potential loss of game wins and/or fines.

Statements

2.15 The AFLHC is bound by and will enforce the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications, a copy of which may be found at http://www.aflnswact.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/Community_Football/AFL_NSW_ACT_Statement_on_Electronic_Communication.pdf

2.16 For the purpose of these Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media

2.17 Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, any other person, Club, Regional Committee or the AFLHC shall be subject to the following provisions:

2.17.1 In the case of a Player or Official, the AFLHC may report such person for breach of this Rule and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination;

2.17.2 In the case of any other person, the AFLHC may refer the matter to an ISC for determination;

2.17.3 Alternatively, the AFLHC may refer the matter to the Board to be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit.

2.18 A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 2.16, or 2.17 in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred by the AFLHC to an ISC, a Tribunal Hearing or to the Board which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and forfeit past or future match ratios.

Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee

2.19 The Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee (ISC) is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the Board or Regional Committee may from time to time refer.

2.19.1 The Board or Regional Committee shall appoint a pool of the ISC members. The ISC shall consist of not less than three members when performing its functions.

2.19.2 Proxy members may be appointed in the absence of any ISC members.

2.19.3 Wherever possible the ISC members should be independent of the junior football structure or at the very least independent of the matter at hand.

2.19.4 When a conflict of interest arises, that member shall abstain themselves from any deliberations.

2.20 The provisions of these Rules in relation to representation at the Tribunal also apply to all ISC determinations and adjudications.

Duties of the Code of Conduct ISC

2.21 The ISC shall:

2.21.1 Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters (dispute) that may be referred to it from time to time by the Board or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal;

2.21.2 Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on a Club by way of a fine, it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00);

2.21.3 Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Board or Regional Committee in the form of the template at Appendix 5.

2.22 Such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the ISC shall be final in all cases.



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- 2.23 The Board is to have overall supervision of all ISC investigations and, subject to appeal as dealt with in these Rules, may vary or amend, including remitting the decision back to the ISC, the determination or decision of an ISC investigation.
- 2.24 As a guideline to the Regions, and subject to the Rules, the Regional Committee should make its decision to refer, or not to refer, any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matter within 3 working days of the matter being referred to the Regional Committee. Following referral to an ISC, the ISC should endeavor to inquire, hear, adjudicate and determine any such matter referred to it within 14 days of the matter being so referred to it, with its report being issued within 3 days of any final hearing.
- 2.25 The ISC is, subject to Rule 2.22 to determine, in its own discretion, the manner in which any dispute before it is to be conducted, including, without limitation;
- 2.25.1 whether or not a hearing is to be undertaken, and if so, the timing, location and processes in relation to same;
- 2.25.2 whether it requires any preliminary meetings or conferences and the terms of same;
- 2.25.3 the provision or otherwise of and/or exchange of written statements, their content and form, and the manner of their use;
- 2.25.4 whether oral evidence is required and the manner in which oral evidence is to be heard and considered;
- 2.25.5 penalties for non-attendance at any hearing, preliminary meeting or conference or refusal to comply with the ISC's determinations or directions.

3 Competitions, Clubs and Club Affiliation

Club Affiliation

- 3.1 To be eligible to enter teams in any of the competitions administered by the AFLHC, a Club must be affiliated with the AFLHC.
- 3.2 A Regional Committee must not include any teams of a Club that is not affiliated with the AFLHC in any competitions administered by the AFLHC.
- 3.3 Where a Club's affiliation is on terms and conditions, or is terminated, withheld or suspended by the Board, a Regional Committee must not include any teams of the Club in any competitions administered by the AFLHC, where to do so would be a breach of same.
- 3.4 Affiliation is granted to a Club by the Board on an annual basis, as determined by the Board.
- 3.5 To be affiliated with the AFLHC, a Club must lodge an affiliation form, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed fee, the lodgment of a bond) to the AFLHC, and have its affiliation application approved by the Board.
- 3.6 The affiliation form and the amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the Board from time to time.
- 3.7 The Board may:
- 3.7.1 approve a Club's affiliation application;
- 3.7.2 approve the Club's affiliation application on terms and conditions;
- 3.7.3 remit the Club's affiliation application to the Club, with a request for further or additional information, or to amend or revise the application;
- 3.7.4 refuse to grant the Club's affiliation application; or
- 3.7.5 defer same.
- 3.8 In determining whether to grant a Club's affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to Rule 3.7, the Board shall;
- 3.8.1 consider the Club's structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long term planning and development;
- 3.8.2 consider the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of the game;
- 3.8.3 consider the financial health of the Club;
- 3.8.4 consider the behavioral and conduct history of the Club, its teams, Players, Officials, Volunteers and spectators, and the Club's relationships with other Clubs and the Region;
- 3.8.5 any other matter that the Board considers appropriate.
- 3.9 The Board may at any time require a Club to show cause why its affiliation should not be suspended, withdrawn or terminated, or subject to such terms and conditions as the Board proposes. If the Club fails to respond adequately to the Board's show cause request to the Board's satisfaction, the Board may proceed to suspend, withdraw or terminate the Club's affiliation or impose such terms and conditions on the Club's affiliation as the Board deems appropriate.
- 3.10 Notwithstanding, and in addition to Rule 3.9, where a Club fails to uphold the standards for affiliation of a Club with the AFLHC, or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the Club's affiliation with the AFLHC, the



Board may suspend, withdraw or terminate the Club's affiliation, or impose such terms and conditions on the Club for its ongoing affiliation with the AFLHC, as the Board sees fit.

Football Season

3.11 The football season for the AFLHC will commence and conclude within the dates prescribed by the AFLHC.

Age Groups

3.12 Play will be conducted between teams, comprising of Players who were, as of midnight on the 31st December prior to the season, under the ages as prescribed by the Regional Committee and agreed by the Board.

3.13 In preparing draws:

3.13.1 where a draw is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division;

3.13.2 where a Region regrades a team(s) after the commencement of a competition, the Match Ratio (wins and losses) can be moved, but the points for and against should be zero.

Clubs and Teams

3.14 The Board may direct that a Club's teams participate in such competitions as directed by the Board.

3.15 Any Clubs that propose to merge, form an alliance, or enter into some other form of arrangement, save for Joint Venture teams, which is the subject of specific provisions under these Rules, must obtain the prior approval for such arrangement from the Regional Committee, before the Club or Clubs seek affiliation with the AFLHC.

3.16 In making its decision as to whether to approve, and if so, on what terms and conditions, any such arrangement between Clubs, the Regional Committee must take into account the development of and the best interests of the game. The Regional Committee will not approve such arrangements, unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed arrangement is not to the detriment of the game, such as the loss or potential loss of players and facilities, but will positively advance the development of the game in the Region/s. The Regional Committee must inform the AFLHC of any such arrangement within 7 days of its approval of any such arrangement.

3.17 The Board exercises supervisory powers over the Regional Committee, and may overrule, rescind, vary or amend any decision of the Regional Committee made pursuant to Rules 3.15 - 3.16.

Match wins

3.18 In minor round matches:

- Match ratio will be used as the sole method of determining ladder position;
- Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of games played;
- In the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining match ratio;
- If a scheduled round is not played, the team with the bye in that round does NOT receive a match win.

3.19 In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible team will be awarded zero points for and the points score equal to mercy rule win (sixty or ninety) for that age group against scored in the round in their Age Group or Division. The non-forfeiting or eligible team will be awarded the points score equal to mercy rule win (sixty or ninety) in their Age Group or Division for and the zero points against. Ladders will be adjusted accordingly.

3.20 Regional websites will display updated tables, showing match ratio and percentages to decide placing of teams on the tables, for each grade. All tables will include percentages calculated in accordance with the Mercy Rule.

Development Grade/Junior Rules

3.21 Specific Rules for the Development grades and Junior Football are set out in Appendix 2/3/4

Age Group Rules

3.22 Specific Age Group Rules are set out in Appendix 2/3/4

Youth Girls Rules

3.23 Specific Youth Girls Rules are set out in Appendix 2/3/4

4 Laws of the Game

4.1 As issued by the AFL, the Laws will apply at all matches, except where special provisions are made in these Rules. Where these Rules are inconsistent with the Laws, the Rules will prevail.

5 Field Umpires

General

5.1 It is recommended that all Umpires (Field, Boundary and Goal), be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age.

Appointment & Remuneration

5.2 Field Umpires will be appointed, as far as possible, to all matches by the Regional Umpires Coordinator.



- 5.3 It is strongly recommended that the age of a controlling Field Umpire of a match be a minimum of two (2) years older than the nominated Age Group the Field Umpire is officiating.
- 5.4 Should no appointed Field Umpire be present by the scheduled time of commencement of play, both team Coaches are to decide upon an acceptable replacement/s who may share duty for the duration of the game. However, should the appointed Umpire or any other Umpire appointed for the day arrive during the course of the game, that Umpire may take control as soon as possible.
- 5.5 Rule 16.2 applies where any Field Umpire appointed by the Regional Committee, attends a match that has been forfeited or cancelled and who has not been advised in time to prevent the Umpire's attendance.
- 5.6 Fees to be paid to Field Umpires will be as set out in Schedule 1. Payment of these fees is to be made by the HOST Club at the conclusion of the match.

Powers & Duties

- 5.7 The powers and duties of Field Umpires will be in accordance with the Laws (other than reporting and send-off) and the Rules.
- 5.8 A free kick or a 50 metre penalty may be awarded against a Player, Official or Spectator who:
- Uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;
 - Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
 - Intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.
- 5.9 Where required, the Field Umpire may ask spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the game until the request is complied with.

Approaching Umpires

- 5.10 No person, except as listed below, shall approach or talk to an Umpire (Field, Boundary and Goal) during the quarter time, half time or three quarter time interval or when the Umpires are entering or leaving the field/ground.
- 5.10.1 AFL NSW/ACT staff
 - 5.10.2 Members of the Regional Committee acting in their capacity as a member of the Regional Committee
 - 5.10.3 Members of the Board
 - 5.10.4 Ground Manager, including any designated assistants
 - 5.10.5 Parents of the Umpires acting in their capacity as parents of the umpires
 - 5.10.6 Club Umpire Ambassador
 - 5.10.7 Regional Umpire Coordinator.
- 5.11 Any team address shall be given outside the centre square.

6 Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires

- 6.1 Each Club is to ensure the competency of any person who accepts responsibility as a Goal or Boundary Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to order replacements for any Boundary or Goal Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to consult with, and if necessary, overrule a Goal or Boundary Umpire where, in the Field Umpire's opinion, an obvious error has occurred. No third party is permitted to be involved in any such consultation (notwithstanding the Laws).
- 6.2 All Goal and Boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the Field Umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game.
- 6.3 A Goal Umpire must be provided by each competing team and is required to be dressed in something that is clearly identifiable. A white coat is recommended, Goal Umpires must have a set of white flags and scorecard.
- 6.4 Boundary Umpires are to be supplied for Under 13's to Under 17's Age Groups and are required to be dressed with a white top to assist in recognition by the Field Umpire(s) and use an audible whistle.
- 6.5 For matches involving Under 15/16/17 Boys, In the case that a team does not provide a suitable Boundary Umpire, a member of that team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. In the case whether neither team provides a Boundary Umpire, the attacking side will throw the ball in. Where a team has not provided a Boundary Umpire, it will be noted on the appropriate match day paperwork.
- 6.6 For matches involving Youth Girls or Boys/Mixed teams Under 14 and below, in the case that a Boundary Umpire is not provided, the Umpire will restart the match by way of a ball up no less than 5 metres in from the boundary line.

7 Umpire Categories

- 7.1 In broad terms, there are two (2) visible categories of Junior Umpires in AFL Hunter Coast
- 7.2 "Trainee" umpires are typically new Umpires in training who are learning and developing their umpiring skills. The Trainee Umpire will generally only umpire Under 9's to Under 13's. However, they may umpire higher Age Groups should the Regional Umpire Coordinator believe they are competent to do so. Where possible, a



Mentor (allocated by the HOME Club or Regional Umpire Coordinator) shall be available either on or off field depending on the competency of the Umpire to assist with their training and difficult decisions and situations. This Mentor must be approved by the Regional Umpire Coordinator. Where possible, two Trainee Umpires should not umpire together.

- 7.3 Trainee Umpires will wear a distinctive vest with the words "Trainee" clearly visible on same
- 7.4 Promotion out of the vest is by agreement between the Regional Umpire Coordinator, the Umpire, and the Umpire's parents (if appropriate)
- 7.5 Umpires can be appointed to umpire any official AFL Hunter Coast Juniors game as determined by the Regional Umpire Coordinator.
- 7.6 Umpires are required to undertake and achieve Level 1 of the National Umpire Accreditation Scheme (NUAS).

8 Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures

Reports by Umpires

- 8.1 The following is the procedure to be followed for all Reports made by an Umpire on match days. Scope will still exist to comment on other issues (send offs, warnings etc) on the match report document. This Rule prescribes the procedures for the lodgement and notification of Notices of Report, pertaining to a Reportable Offence, as well as the procedure for dealing with Prescribed Penalties. The following Rules are to apply to Officials, as well as to Players, as appropriate.

Prescribed Penalties

- 8.2 A Prescribed Penalty may be offered by the AFLHC, following receipt of a Notice of Report under this Rule 8, to a Player's Club President or delegate, copied to the Regional Committee Chairperson and Regional Umpire Coordinator, by **5.00pm Monday following the match** or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practical. Where an offer of a Prescribed Penalty is made later than 5.00pm Monday following the match, the time to accept the offer as set out in Rule 8.5 is to be adjusted accordingly by the AFLHC. Whether a Prescribed Penalty is offered or not is entirely within the discretion of the AFLHC.
- 8.3 When making a Prescribed Penalty offer, the AFLHC will make available to the Player's Club President sufficient details of the report on which basis the Prescribed Penalty offer can be accepted or rejected.
- 8.4 Prescribed penalties for some offences may be offered in accordance with the guidelines set out in the National Match Tribunal Guidelines
- 8.5 The Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request that a report that is the subject of a Prescribed Penalty offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, rather than as a Prescribed Penalty. **Such request, subject to Rule 8.2, is to be received by the AFLHC by no later than 5pm on the Tuesday following the match.** If advice to accept a Prescribed Penalty offer or otherwise is not received by that time, the offer will be deemed to be accepted. Where the Prescribed Penalty offer is rejected, the AFLHC will inform the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson of the request and the Tribunal will hear and determine the Report.
- 8.6 Where a Player requests that a Prescribed Offence offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, and the Tribunal is of the opinion that the Prescribed Penalty offer to the Player was reasonable in all the circumstances, the Tribunal will impose a suspended sentence at least equal to the number of matches suspension offered to the Player as the Prescribed Penalty offer, such suspended sentence to remain in force for a period of 12 months from the date of the Tribunal hearing, or to the equivalent round in the following season.
- **Note:** For example, if the Player is offered a Prescribed Penalty offer of two match's suspension, the Tribunal will, in addition to affirming the suspension of two matches, impose a suspended sentence of two matches.
- 8.7 Alternatively, the Tribunal may impose such additional penalty as in its absolute discretion it deems appropriate, in addition to the penalty it imposes for the Reportable Offence.
- 8.8 The Tribunal will hear and determine the Notice of Report, and no offer of a Prescribed Penalty will be made where a Player:
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
 - Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
 - Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
 - Uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire
 - Intentionally kicks another person.
 - Commits an act of misconduct where the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting the misconduct is serious in nature.

Application of Penalty

- 8.9 For the purpose of these Rules, a "match" shall mean a competition match of the same Age Group or Division in which the Player committed the offence, and shall also include as the one match, the matches in all grades in a particular round for which the Player would, but for the suspension be eligible, whether played on the one day or not. Any suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition match following the suspension for which the Player would, but for the suspension, be eligible.



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- 8.10 A Player is ineligible to play in any representative match or AFL NSW/ACT TPP Carnival whilst under suspension. In addition to this, representative matches do not count towards part of the suspension.
- 8.11 Competition games which are forfeited, washed out or for any other reason not played shall not be counted for the purpose of reckoning a period of suspension.
- 8.12 In the event of a dispute as to the games or matches covered by a suspension, the dispute is to be referred to the AFLHC for determination. The AFLHC may seek the advice of the Board.
- 8.13 During the period of any suspension, persons under suspension are not permitted within the confines of the playing field, and must not act as runner, water carrier or in any other capacity. For the purposes of this By-Law, a person who is serving a suspension is not eligible to umpire any AFLHC match while they are suspended
- 8.14 During the period of any suspension, Officials must not participate in any capacity on match day, whether on the playing field or off the field of play, but may attend a game and observe as a spectator and, subject to any direction from the Tribunal, participate in any official capacity at the Club.
- 8.15 Infringement of the above may lead to the imposition of further penalties.
- 8.16 Subject to any specific direction by the Tribunal, where the Tribunal imposes a suspended sentence, the period of the sentence is suspended, subject to good behaviour by the Player or Official. If the Player or Official is found guilty by the Tribunal of any subsequent offence committed during the period of the suspended sentence or, in the case of a Player, a Prescribed Penalty is offered and accepted which results in a match suspension, the suspended sentence will be added to any sentence imposed by the Tribunal for the subsequent offence or as a result of the Prescribed Penalty.

Action during Match

- 8.17 Where an Umpire reports a Player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Report:
- At the time of the incident;
 - Before the commencement of the next quarter; or,
 - Where an incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.
- 8.18 The Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Reportable Offence.
- 8.19 An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or an Official of a Team of the Report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.
- 8.20 Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made. It is a breach of these Rules for such reported Player, Official or any other Player or Official to seek to or speak to the Umpire about a Report. Any Player or Official who seeks to or speaks to the Umpire may be referred by the AFLHC to the Tribunal to deal with as the Tribunal thinks appropriate.
- 8.21 The failure of an Umpire to inform a Player or Official of the Report does not invalidate the making of the Report.

Completing Notice of Report by the Umpire

- 8.22 In completing and lodging a Notice of Report, the Umpire will utilise the online Umpire Match Report process available through the AFLHC webpage to document any reports. In such cases, the Umpire will, on the day, advise the Clubs and ensure that the proper notice of a Report is provided verbally. When the Report is processed by the AFLHC, full and complete details will be provided from the Umpire Match Report system to the Club of the reported Player.
- 8.23 As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, the reporting Umpire shall:
- 8.23.1 Provide advice to an Official from each team. Each team shall be responsible for the attendance of an Official at the end of the match in question in order to receive such advice and to be given an "all clear" from the Ground Manager. In the event of no such Official attending, the Reporting Umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Rule;
- 8.23.2 Verbally advise the Regional Umpire Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match, by 8.00pm on Match Day or 10.00am next day where a night match is involved.
- 8.23.3 Complete the online Umpire Match Report by 8.00pm on Match Day or 10.00am next day where a night match is involved

Report where Notice of Report not completed

- 8.24 Rules 8.25 - 8.30 apply where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season, but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report in any sending off.
- 8.25 Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one match playing suspension.
- 8.26 Any Player sent off twice in the same match will automatically receive a one match playing suspension, regardless of any and in addition to any further penalty that may be imposed by virtue of any incident that is the subject of the sending off.



- 8.27 Any Player sent off three times in the one season will automatically receive a two match playing suspension, regardless of any and in addition to any further penalty that may be imposed by virtue of any incident that is the subject of the sending off. Should the Player be sent off any further times during the season, on each occasion the Player shall incur an automatic one match playing suspension, regardless of and in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off.
- 8.28 Where a Player is sent off a third or further time during the season, the AFLHC may, in addition to the above, refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson, by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match of the referral. At such hearing, the Tribunal may impose such penalty, in addition to that prescribed above, on the Player as it deems appropriate.
- 8.29 Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by these Rules, the Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request the automatic suspension be referred to the Tribunal for hearing. The Tribunal may impose such conditions on the Player as it deems appropriate, pending the hearing. The Tribunal may, following the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension, (including increasing the suspension) or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate. Where the Tribunal is of the opinion that the automatic playing suspension was reasonable in all the circumstances, the Tribunal will impose a suspended sentence at least equal to the automatic match playing suspension imposed on the Player, such suspended sentence to remain in force for a period of 12 months from the date of the Tribunal hearing or to the equivalent round in the following season.
- 8.30 In the above instances, the AFLHC will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpire Co-ordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match the subject of these Rules.
- 8.31 Where a Player is sent off and the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report, the AFLHC may (where the send off was a Yellow card) and must (where the send off was a red card), refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson and the Tribunal Chairperson, by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match.

Team Yellow/Red Cards

- 8.32 This Rule applies when a Player receives a Yellow and/or Red Card and that Player is the third Player from that team to receive a Yellow and/or Red Card in the season.
- 8.32.1 AFLHC will inform the club in question that the team has received a third Yellow and/or Red card.
- 8.32.2 The Club President and Team Coach are required to submit to the Regional Committee within a specified time frame a document outlining the steps that the club will undertake to prevent further Yellow and/or Red cards occurring. This must include a meeting with all team players and parents, with a Regional Committee member in attendance
- 8.32.3 The process outlined in 8.32.2 will be repeated for any further Yellow and/or Red Cards given for that team. In addition to this, subsequent Yellow and/or Red Cards will result in the loss of competition points.

Reports by AFLHC

- 8.33 If the AFLHC is of the opinion that a Player, Official or any other person has committed a Reportable Offence, the AFLHC may report such person and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination. The AFLHC is to inform the Regional Committee of the Report and the Club President within 24 hours of the Report being referred to the Tribunal and will appoint a person to assume the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal.
- 8.33.1 For the purposes of this By Law, AFLHC refers to both the Football Operations Coordinator and members of the Board, when acting within the capacity of their respective roles.

Report by Regional Committee

- 8.34 If the Regional Committee is of the opinion that Player, Official or any other person has committed a Reportable Offence, the Regional Committee is to provide the AFLHC with sufficient material, no later than 7 days after the alleged Reportable Offence, to enable the AFLHC to consider whether same should be referred to the Tribunal and where it does so, it may report such person and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination. The AFLHC is to inform the Regional Committee of the Report within 24 hours of the Report being referred to the Tribunal. In the event that the AFLHC does not consider that the matter should be referred to the Tribunal, it shall inform the Regional Committee of its decision within 24 hours. Where the Report is referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee is responsible for the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal.
- 8.34.1 For the purposes of this By Law, "the Regional Committee" refers to acknowledged members of the respective Regional Committees, when acting within the capacity of their roles.

Tribunal composition, procedures and guidelines

- 8.35 The Tribunal shall be comprised of such persons as may be appointed by the Board and shall enquire into reports by Umpires of any Player, Official or any other person of any team participating in a match being conducted by or under the control of the AFLHC.



- 8.36 Specific Disciplinary Procedures (Tribunal Rules) and Tribunal Guidelines (to assist in understanding rules and procedures) documents are available at http://www.aflnswact.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/Football_Serives/Community_Football/AFL_NSW_ACT_Tribunal_Rules_Guidelines.pdf and should be referred to by any person and their advocate prior to appearing before the Tribunal. In the event of any inconsistency between the Disciplinary Procedures (Tribunal Rules) the Guidelines and these Rules, the Tribunal may make its own determination as to which applies, and shall draw the inconsistency to the attention of the AFLHC.
- 8.37 A person qualified as a Legal Practitioner is not permitted to act in the role of Player, Official or Umpire Advocate. The parents/guardians of a reported Player, Official or any other person, or a reporting Umpire are not permitted to act in the role of Player, advocate. Such persons are, however, permitted to attend Tribunal hearings. A Tribunal Member may not act as an advocate or otherwise appear in any capacity before the Tribunal.
- 8.38 Following the decision of the Tribunal, the AFLHC will provide a copy of the Minute of Tribunal finding to the President of the Club and the Regional Chairperson.

Racial and Religious Vilification Reports

- 8.39 Where a complaint is lodged as provided in the AFLHC Vilification and Discrimination Policy (see Rule 33.1 and Appendix 5), as a result of alleged prohibited conduct, and a Notice of Report is made (by either the Umpire (s) or as otherwise provided in accordance with the Rules), the AFLHC may defer the formal offer of a Prescribed Penalty or referral of the Report to the Tribunal until such time as the procedures provided under that Policy are completed.
- 8.40 The Player or Official may continue to participate in any Competition games until such time as the Prescribed Penalty offer is made or the hearing of the Report to the Tribunal or hearing of the Complaint as provided for in the Rules is heard and determined.

9 Send Off/Order Off

- 9.1 A Player or Official who breaches any of the Laws shall be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter or for the remainder of the game if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.
- 9.2 A Player or Official who breaches any of the Laws twice in the same match for separate incidents, or where there is a serious breach (such as those listed in Rule 9.3), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Red card and must report the Player or Official. Any player receiving a red card may not participate as a player in any other match in that round.
- 9.3 Serious breaches include where a Player or Official:
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
 - Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
 - Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
 - Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person.
 - Commits an act of misconduct, if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

Sledging

- 9.4 "Sledging" may be described as insulting language or verbal intimidation.
- 9.4.1 Sledging is not appropriate in AFLHC football competitions. The AFLHC has a "no tolerance" attitude toward sledging and the interpretation and application of the Laws and these Rules will reflect this "no tolerance" attitude.
- 9.4.2 An Umpire may give a warning to a Player or Players sledging another Player or Players and where possible, will inform both captains of the warning as soon as reasonably practicable after issuing such a warning.
- 9.4.3 A Player who sledges another Player or Players shall, whether or not a warning has been given to that Player or any other Player, will be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter, or for the remainder of the game if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.
- 9.4.4 For the purposes of these Rules, sledging will be deemed to be an act of misconduct under the Laws (Law 19.2.2(p)).
- 9.4.5 The Rules in relation to sledging will apply in addition to the Laws, including the Laws in relation to the use of an obscene gesture (Law 19.2.2(f)) and using abusing, insulting, threatening or obscene language (Law 19.2.2(m)).
- 9.4.6 These Rules also apply, as appropriate, to the sledging of and /or by any Official or spectator.

General

- 9.5 In all instances, a Player ordered off shall leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area and in the case of a Yellow card can be replaced immediately and for Red Card after 15 minutes. The



requirement for evening up of Players (as noted in rule 10.7) does not apply where a Player sent off cannot be replaced. In the case of a Yellow card send-off for a period of time equivalent to one quarter, the timekeeper shall indicate when the Player is permitted to resume playing. In this case, the Player must sit with the timekeeper.

- 9.6 For the purposes of this Rule any send-off will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter excluding breaks between quarters. For example, a Player sent off five (5) minutes before halftime in an Under 13 game would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- 9.7 The ordered-off Player will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter for the first offence and for the remainder of the game for the second offence.
- 9.8 A Player sent from the field with a red card for the remainder of the game must leave the field completely and cannot sit with the interchange Players or the Coaches. This Player must be reported.
- 9.9 The Umpire will recommence the game once the Player has left the playing field.
- 9.10 In the event of a Player or Official failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, the Player or Official shall be reported for misconduct and the Player or Official's team shall forfeit the match.
- 9.11 In addition to Players, these rules also apply to Officials and spectators, and these Rules will be interpreted appropriately where the behaviour involves an Official, Officials or spectators.

Audible Obscenities

- 9.12 The AFLHC has a “no tolerance” attitude toward the use of audible obscenities, and the interpretation and application of the Laws and these Rules will reflect this “no tolerance” attitude. Players who use audible obscenities, regardless to whom they are directed, will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter and shall be reported

10 Teams

Numbers of Players in Teams

- 10.1 Player numbers are noted below under Rule 10.8 and 10.9. At all times other than for send – offs, Player numbers on the ground must be equal.

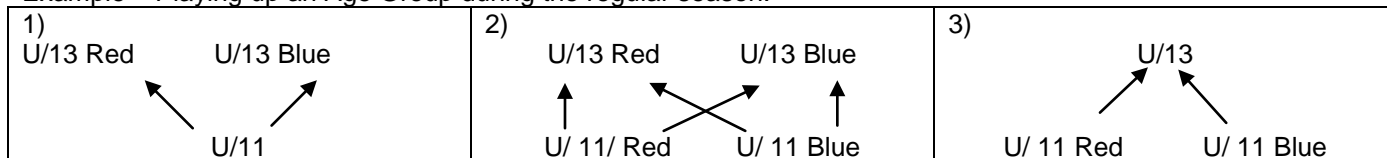
Multiple teams

- 10.2 Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same competition or division, after the initial 3 rounds no Player shall be permitted to play for more than one team (excluding younger Players who play up), in the same competition or division, during the season.

Playing up an age level

- 10.3 The following examples are acceptable and relate to Players playing up an Age Group (from Under 11's upwards).

Example – Playing up an Age Group during the regular season:



- 10.4 Splitting of Players in to teams of the same Conference/Division must be finalised after the initial 3 rounds and cannot occur during the season. Division of Players into two (2) teams is a Club responsibility. The Board can provide guidelines only.

Player Numbers

- 10.5 In all cases, teams must have the MINIMUM number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a match to constitute an official match (Refer also Rule 11.2).
- 10.6 The AFLHC strongly recommends that Clubs encourage the participation of Players in the game of AFL. To allow this, teams are encouraged to minimise reserves and to have the highest possible number of Players actually involved in the game on the day.
- 10.7 If during the course of a game, a Player injured has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that team, the Field Umpire and opposition Coach are to be advised accordingly. The other side is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). For a Player returning to the field, the same process in reverse applies.
- 10.8 To encourage maximum participation and teams to stand alone in terms of Player numbers, the term “Match #” specifies the ideal number of on-field Players per team. Where a team does not have the number of Players shown as “Match #” (and the other team has more than the first team), then it is compulsory to borrow/loan available players for all age groups to balance on-field player numbers as far as possible up to the number shown as “Match #”.



10.9 The following table shows the on field Minimum, Match # and on field Maximum by Age Group for all Regions. For minimum player number games, especially for school holidays, ground sizes can be reduced after agreement from Umpires and Coaches from both teams, to suit the number of Players on each team, i.e. agree on an Under 11 sized field. During school holidays, to assist Clubs to field teams the minimum and match numbers below can be reduced by two (2) Players.

Age Group	Minimum players on the field	Match numbers	Maximum players on the Field	Maximum players on Team Sheet	Maximum Registrations per Team
Under 9/10	6	12	12	12	12
Under 11/12	9	15	15	19	21
Under 13/14	12	18	18	22	24
Under 15/16	12	16	18	22	24
Under 17/18	12	16	18	22	24
Youth Girls U/12	6	12	12	12	12
Youth Girls U/14/15/16/17	7	15	16	20	22

Team Nominations

10.10 Clubs nominating teams for entry into the Under 9's to Under 17's competition must have registered at least 75% of the minimum number of Players (as set out in these Rules) in that team by the date set down by the Regional Committee as the closing date for nomination of teams. This rule only applies to AFLHC competition grade fixtures. These numbers must not include anticipated 'play up' Players.

Joint Venture teams

- 10.11 The AFLHC allows, subject to conditions, the formation of joint venture teams between Clubs to maximise the participation of, and the opportunities for Players to play the game, particularly in the youth age groups.
- 10.12 Clubs proposing joint venture teams must make a written application to the Regional Committee, setting out the background to the proposed joint venture, and the reasoning and justification for same. The Regional Committee may reject, approve or approve on terms and conditions the proposed joint venture team and Joint Venture Agreement. Such Joint Venture Agreement should, to the maximum extent possible, be in accordance with the Joint Venture Agreement Template as approved from time to time by the Board.
- 10.13 Within seven (7) days of the decision by the Regional Committee referred to in Rule 10.18, the Regional Committee is to forward its decision to the Board together with the material referred to in Rule 10.18. The Board may request further information from the Regional Committee and / or the Clubs with respect to the application and will, after consideration of the application, endorse or vary the decision of the Regional Committee.
- 10.14 The terms of a Joint Venture Agreement will be for one (1) year only, at which time the Joint Venture Agreement will expire or be deemed to expire. A further application will need to be made for a Joint Venture Agreement for any subsequent season.
- 10.15 A joint venture team will not be able to be entered into any competition until such time as the Joint Venture Agreement for that team is approved by the Board.
- 10.16 The formation of joint venture teams and Joint Venture Agreements, and such arrangements, will only be allowed to proceed where they are in the best interests of the development of the game.

Divisions or Conferences

10.17 Where a Regional Committee has elected to run a competition under a divisionalised or conference structure, clubs must adhere to the conditions described in Appendix 10.

11 Match Conduct

Match times

- 11.1 Matches MUST finish on time. If a start is late, then the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide the duration of the breaks at quarter, half and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters.
- 11.2 If minimum Player numbers are not present fifteen (15) minutes (or at quarter time in the Under 11's) after the scheduled time of commencement, then the offending team will forfeit the match. For matches where teams do not have the minimum numbers at the scheduled start time but Players are still due to arrive, the game shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. After the required 15 minutes (or quarter time in the Under 11's) if minimum numbers are not achieved, the match becomes a scratch match.
- 11.3 Starting times will be agreed between the Home Club and Regional Committee and advised as follows:



- As per the draw for all matches.
 - Starting times are indicated for all Age Groups at all grounds.
- 11.4 The competing Clubs may vary the above times, but any alternative agreed to MUST be decided upon at least seven (7) days beforehand, and the Regional Umpire Coordinator must be advised of the variation. A shorter period of time may apply, but a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be payable as determined by the Regional Committee, by the Club requesting the change. A shorter period of time can only apply if agreed upon by all parties including the Regional Umpire Coordinator.
- 11.5 Failure of a team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine (see Rule 28). At that point, at the Field Umpire's discretion, they may commence play.
- 11.6 The Regional Committee, as agreed by the Board, may advise alterations to the starting times from time to time.
- 11.7 When it is necessary for a Player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the Field Umpire/s shall stop play at the first opportunity after being advised that a stretcher is on the playing ground. Play shall not recommence until the stretcher has left the playing ground and is outside the boundary.
- 11.8 No time-on will be allowed for the MINOR round matches.
- 11.9 In the case of a significant loss of playing time, the remaining time allocated for the match will be divided equitably by the Ground Manager and Umpire and the match will recommence and finish on schedule.

Match duration

- 11.10 Match duration will be
- 11.10.1 Under 9/10 & Youth Girls Under 12 - 4 x 10 minute quarters. (no time-on)
 - 11.10.2 Under 11/12/13/14 and Youth Girls Under 14/15/16/17 - 4 x 15 minute quarters. (no time-on)
 - 11.10.3 Under 15/16/17 - 4 x 20 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- 11.11 Breaks during the games will be: -

	Under 9/10 & Youth Girls Under 12	Under 11-17 & Youth Girls 14-17
Quarter Time	4 Minutes	4 Minutes
Half Time	4 Minutes	7 Minutes
Three Quarter Time	4 Minutes	4 Minutes

- 11.12 Timekeepers will sound a siren one (1) minute prior to the scheduled completion of each break. The HOST Club and Umpires will ensure strict adherence to the quarter breaks.



Match Day Paperwork

11.13 Match Day documents are to be managed as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">Team Sheets Retained by Clubs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs must use footy web – only record relied upon • 4 copies produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 handed to opposition Team Manager ○ 1 retained by Club Team Manager ○ 1 handed to the umpires before the commencement of the match. Umpire completing online reporting is to retain both team sheets until the end of the season ○ 1 provided to Ground Manager & retained by HOST Club and sent to AFLHC Administration by 12noon Monday • The team sheet must include the name of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coach ○ Team Manager ○ Runner(s) ○ First Aid Official • Each Club to verify each other's list and each to sign off each Clubs copies. Both Clubs to retain. • Umpires sign the Ground Manager copy after completing end of match duties. • Clubs must retain for season and be able to present if required within 7 days
<p style="text-align: center;">Goal Umpire Score Cards Retained by Clubs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Home Club must enter results on footy web within 24 hrs of match played • Clubs must advise the AFLHC of games not played by Monday midday
<p style="text-align: center;">Match Report Completed by Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility
<p style="text-align: center;">Umpire Review Completed by Coaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to Regional Umpires Coordinator via online facility
<p style="text-align: center;">Umpire Votes Completed by Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where required Umpires to submit via online facility • Only required for Under 13 – Under 17 & Youth Girls Under 14-17
<p style="text-align: center;">Umpire Notice of Report sheet</p>	<p>The process to be used by the Umpires to submit Notice of Report is the online Google facility</p>
<p>In the event of a forfeit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Umpire Votes should be taken • No goal umpires cards to be kept • Record result on Footy web noted as a forfeit 	



12 Protests and Disputes

Other than Players or Officials

- 12.1 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by an ISC or a tribunal appointed by the Regional Committee with a quorum being at least three (3) members.
- 12.2 An email with details must be submitted by 5:00pm of the Tuesday following the incident with a hardcopy report (via Incident Referral Form) to be signed by the President of the reporting Club and forwarded to the Regional Committee Chairperson accompanied by three hundred dollars (\$300.00) 50% refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit to reach the AFLHC by 5:00pm of the Wednesday following the incident. A copy is also to be sent to the Secretary/President of the Club against whose member(s) or spectator(s) the report is made. The AFLHC will immediately arrange a meeting of the Regional Committee to consider the report.
- 12.3 In the event that a Club requires extra time to prepare a citation, the AFLHC Administration, after receiving a notice of intent within the timing requirements of Rule 12.2, may extend same to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.
- 12.4 After signalling an intention to cite in accordance with Rule 12.3, a Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the Club that the proposed citation is directed to. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident.
- 12.5 An Agreement between Clubs on a citing matter does not automatically preclude the AFLHC Administration from proceeding with a Report or Code of Conduct hearing.
- 12.6 The Board may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements as set out in Rule 12.2 for the submission of the email. The Board may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements for the receipt of the deposit as set out in Rule 12.2. No reasons are required to be given by either the AFLHC or the Board where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by this Rule.

Involving Players or Officials

- 12.7 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving Players or Officials are to be dealt with by the Regional Committee, a quorum of which is to be at least three (3) members or, where the Regional Committee so delegates, by the Regional Committee Chairperson.
- 12.8 A Player or Official may be cited by a Club for unacceptable behaviour in circumstances where the Umpire officiating at the game has not reported the Player or Official. A Player may also be cited by a Club when not participating in a game but still under the jurisdiction of the AFLHC while attending a competition game.
- 12.9 A written report (via the Incident Referral Form) naming the Player or Official and describing the incident as recounted by eye witnesses should be forwarded (email or fax) to the Regional Chairperson and the AFLHC Administration by 5:00pm on the Tuesday following the weekend incident. The report should be sent and signed by the President of the citing Club. A three hundred dollars (\$300.00) 50% refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit should reach the AFLHC by 5:00pm of the Wednesday following the incident.
- 12.10 In the event that a Club requires extra time to prepare a citation, the AFLHC Administration, after receiving a notice of intent within the timing requirements of Rule 12.9, may provide such to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident
- 12.11 After signalling an intention to Cite in accordance with Rule 12.10 a Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the Club that the proposed citation is directed to. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident.
- 12.12 An Agreement between Clubs on a citing matter does not automatically preclude the AFLHC Administration from proceeding with a Report or Code of Conduct hearing.
- 12.13 Subject to Rules 12.10 – 12.12, the matter will then proceed to the Regional Committee, or where so delegated pursuant to Rule 12.7, to the Regional Committee Chairperson to determine whether the incident should be referred to the Tribunal at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the next weekend's round of games, but in any event, within seven (7) days of the report being received.
- 12.14 If the matter is not referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee, or where delegated to the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Committee Chairperson will provide the citing Club with their reasons within seven (7) days of the report being received. Where the decision to not refer the matter to the Tribunal is made by the Regional Committee Chairperson as delegated by the Regional Committee, the Regional Committee Chairperson will also make their reasons available to the Regional Committee at the same time as providing their reasons to the Club.
- 12.15 If referred to the Tribunal, the matter will be treated according to the rules governing the Tribunal and be reported by the Tribunal to the AFLHC Administration to in turn report to the Clubs and the Regional Committee.



- 12.16 The Regional Committee (or Regional Committee Chairperson where the Regional Committee delegates to the Regional Committee Chairperson) may waive the failure of any person or persons, in appropriate circumstances, to comply with the time requirements as provided in Rules 12.13 – 12.14. No reasons are required to be given by the Regional Committee (or Regional Committee Chairperson where the Regional Committee delegates to the Regional Committee Chairperson) where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by those Rules.
- 12.17 For the purposes of these Rules, 12.7 to 12.16 inclusive, the AFLHC Board may, if it so determines and subject to oversight by the Board, assume the powers of the Regional Committee and where it does so, those Rules will be read accordingly.
- 12.18 The AFLHC Board may, if it so determines, appoint a person to assume the conduct of the hearing before the Tribunal in place of the citing Club, irrespective of whether or not the AFLHC Board has assumed the powers of the Regional Committee pursuant to Rule 12.17.

13 Postponements

Rescheduling

- 13.1 Regions have the option of scheduling wet weather rounds during the season.
- 13.2 Postponed matches should be played, providing the duration of the competition will permit. Clubs have seven (7) days to agree on replaying the game and they must notify both the Regional Committee and the AFLHC Administration of the details of any agreement or their inability to agree to replay the game. Postponed games are expected to be replayed within 4 weeks of a postponed match. Games must be replayed in the same order as they were schedule in the draw. In the event that the Clubs are unable to agree on replaying the game, the Regional Committee will determine whether the game should be abandoned, or alternatively direct the Clubs when and where the game should be replayed. Failure by a Club to comply with the direction of the Regional Committee will result in the forfeiture of the game by that Club. Where the game is abandoned, match ratio applies.
- 13.3 Where appropriate, the Regional Committee may recommend cancellation of a complete round. Where the draw includes a wet weather make-up day and the washout occurs before that day the whole round will be transferred, as is, if ground availability provides. If a second washout occurs and the proximity of the final round does not permit all games to be easily rescheduled, the Regional Committee will make a decision
- 13.4 For instances (other than a complete washout) where advice of grounds closures is received by a Club AFTER 4:00pm on the Saturday Afternoon, or 12.00pm for Friday night games, the HOST Club will be responsible for advising the Regional Committee, and with concurrence, advising match postponements to the Regional Umpire Coordinator and the Secretary of ALL Clubs scheduled to play at that ground.
- 13.5 Where a Local Government policy on ground usage requires the governing body/association and not an individual Club (HOST) to adjudicate on and to administer matters of grounds being suitable for play, the Regional Committee may recommend to the Board for its approval a supplementary process for dealing with the issue of postponements and cancellations.

Minor Rounds

- 13.6 Unless a decision on any postponements is made by 4:00pm Saturday Afternoon, or subsequently, as outlined above, then the decision on play will follow the “Wet Weather Advice for Clubs” outlined in Appendix 9.
- 13.7 Where advice of a ground closure is received by 8:00 pm on the Friday evening before the scheduled game(s), the Regional Committee will attempt to reschedule the game(s) to an alternate venue within the round. Clubs will be notified of the venue change and normal competition procedures shall apply ie. if one team does not arrive, then a forfeit win will be given.
- 13.7.1 Where a ground to which a match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in liaison with the clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the match to be played on the away club's ground if available.
- 13.7.2 Where a match is transferred to the opposing club's ground, that club will assume the home team responsibilities. Where practicable, the venue of the next match between the two clubs concerned will be reversed to compensate for the loss of the home ground privilege.
- 13.7.3 Where neither ground is available, the League will make every effort to move the fixture to an alternative venue. Clubs whose grounds are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their ground available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the home team responsibilities will be assumed by the home team as nominated in the fixture.
- 13.7.4 In the event that any match is cancelled, the match does not contribute to either team's “Match Ratio” as per by-law 15.5.2 and such match shall not count towards player eligibility for finals. Where two or more of a Club's home and away matches are cancelled due to wet or adverse weather, the Administration Committee will decide on player eligibility for finals.



13.7.5 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.

13.8 Alternatively, in considering such a decision the Regional Committee will take all circumstances into account and the propositions put forward by the Clubs concerned. If playing the postponed match is determined as impractical, the Regional Committee shall have the right to consider distribution of the match wins.

Finals Matches

13.9 The decision on any postponement rests with the Regional Committee, or its delegated authority at the grounds. A notice of such postponement will be posted at the ground(s) concerned. If a Finals Match is postponed, it will be replayed, unless otherwise directed by the Regional Committee. Regional Committees are to schedule an extra week of finals (booked on a Sunday), to act as a finals wet weather back up.

Washouts

13.10 It is the responsibility of the Host club to advise the AFLHC administration of any washouts of games, as well as the Regional Committee.

14 Allowed on the Field of Play

14.1 Only Players, Umpires, Trainers, First Aid Officials (as defined) and Runners are permitted on the field during the course of play (except where provided for under the Development Rules).

Runners & Water Carriers/Trainers

14.2 In all Age Groups, one runner (1) is allowed. The runner is to wear a clearly visible and identifiable coloured top as determined or approved by the Regional Committee. Only runners are permitted to deliver messages to Players and are not to loiter on the field after delivering such messages.

14.3 Each team is allowed four (4) water carriers/trainers identified by a top as determined or approved by the Regional Committee. They should only enter the playing field on the scoring of a goal or when play is at the opposite end of the field.

14.4 Minimum age of water carriers will be:

14.4.1 Under 11's – 12 years or older

14.4.2 Under 13's - 17's – 13 years or older

Coaches

14.5 In Auskick and Under 9's, one Coach from each team may advise the team from inside the field of play as per Appendix 3 of these Rules.

14.6 The Field Umpire shall have the power to move the Coach back or order from the field completely and to ask any non-Players to leave the field of play.

15 Interchange

15.1 No Player may take the field before the Player being replaced has left the field.

15.2 Interchanging of Players is permitted at any time throughout the match. However, interchange can only occur through an appropriately marked interchange area. It should be clearly understood by both teams prior to the commencement of the match where the defined interchange area is located. It is to be the only portion of the ground's perimeter through which Players may enter the field.

15.3 Placement of the interchange ground markings should be on one wing equal distance from the two (2) Coaching groups. In age groups that use a reduced field size where interchange areas are not able to be marked, both teams are allowed to set up interchange gates on the wing (marked by low level orange cones) to be used through the course of the game.

16 Forfeits

16.1 A forfeit WILL be claimed against any team that CANNOT field the MINIMUM NUMBER of Players for the relevant Age Group in accordance with rule 10.9 within fifteen (15) minutes after the agreed starting time. The exception to this rule applies in finals (see Rule 17.1.1). If both teams cannot field the minimum number, the result is a non-game. Forfeit details must be listed on the team sheets with the umpire's signature. The teams may play a social match within the remaining allotted time. No votes are to be recorded.

16.2 Any forfeit (if known in advance) must be advised to the AFLHC Administration, the opposing Club's Administrator / Secretary and the Regional Umpire Coordinator 36 hours prior to the scheduled time of the match. If an Umpire turns up to a game, because of late or non-notification of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is liable for the whole amount of the Umpire's fees (shared equally in the case of a double forfeit). If a scratch match/social match is played, the Umpire fees are paid as per normal Regional rules.

16.3 If a forfeit is not known in advance (i.e. happens on the day of the match) then advice must be provided to the AFLHC Administration by the Home club as soon as possible after the forfeit is known.

16.4 For forfeit score calculations, refer Rule 3.19.

16.5 For the purpose of finals qualification, only the non-forfeiting team may enter a team into Footyweb.



- 16.6 Teams who withdraw from a competition after Round 1, will be deemed to have forfeited to their opponents for the remaining rounds. Forfeit score calculations are listed under rule 3.19. However, the Regional Committee reserve the right to re-organise the draw, especially in the case where such withdrawal of teams creates an even numbered competition. Results for all completed matches prior to withdrawal will stand.

17 Finals Series

Times and Player Numbers

- 17.1 The intention of this Rule is during the finals series to have the maximum number of Players on the field in accordance with the numbers set out in the table to Rule 10.9. Where a team has less than the match numbers shown under that table, they must play all those Players on the field and are not permitted to run an interchange bench. Evening down of total on-field numbers during the finals series is compulsory.
- 17.1.1 In finals, minimum numbers must be in attendance prior to the commencement of play, otherwise a forfeit will be given with less than minimum numbers.
- 17.2 In the event of a draw, additional time to be played for all Age Groups is five (5) minutes each way. The Coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren. The Coach will not be able to address the team and sides will change ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period. If the game is still tied after additional time, teams do not change ends and the game restarts with a ball up in the centre square. The Coach will not be able to address the team. The team to score first will be declared the winner.
- 17.3 TIME-ON will be allowed for injury in the case of a stretcher being used on the field and also other incidents (e.g. a lost ball) at the Umpire's discretion. Timekeepers are to be notified if this is the case and must be able to record the time-on.

Format of Final Series

- 17.4 Where the number of teams in the competition is six (6) to eight (8) teams, the top placed four (4) teams will participate. Where the number of teams in the competition exceeds eight (8) teams then the top placed six (6) teams will participate.
- 17.4.1 Format for a four (4) team final series:
Week 1 (A) 1v2 (B) 3v4
Week 2 (C) Loser A v Winner B
Week 3 Winner A v Winner C
- 17.4.2 Format for a six (6) team final series:
Week 1 (A) 3v6 (B) 4v5
Week 2 (C) 1 v lowest ranked winner of (A) and (B)
(D) 2 v highest ranked winner of (A) and (B)
Week 3 Winner C v Winner D
- 17.5 Mercy Rule does not apply during the finals series.

Eligibility

- 17.6 Any request to vary the application of Rules 17.7 to 17.10 inclusive is to be made to the AFLHC, but such variation is only to be applied by the AFLHC in extenuating circumstances (for example, injury to a Player or illness). Such request must be supported by a doctor's certificate or other acceptable evidence and a \$100 deposit fee (refundable at the discretion of the AFLHC). Any dispensation for a non-qualified Player to participate in finals will have to be recorded in Footyweb by the AFLHC. Dispensation applications must, unless the AFLHC otherwise agrees, be made to the AFLHC at least seven (7) days before the finals begin. The Board may impose such additional or other terms or conditions on the approval as it considers appropriate.
- 17.7 To play in finals, Players' registrations must have been approved and they must have played at least 25% of the scheduled games during that season within the team that they wish to play. N.B this rule does not take into account matches lost due to wet weather
- 17.8 Any club requesting an amendment to a team sheet, and can prove a player has played in that game, may apply to the AFLHC Administration to do so. Each team sheet requested to be updated will come at a cost of \$50.
- 17.9 With respect to all competitions, any Player who plays more games in an older Age Group or higher division is ineligible for finals in the younger Age Group or lower division.
- 17.9.1 If a Player participates in all games in both Age Groups, and where the older Age Group has more games due to byes in the lower Age Group, this Rule does not apply.
- 17.10 A Player who plays up in two (2) teams in the same Age Group (excluding Divisions) can only play in one team for the finals for the duration of the finals series i.e. the one most games were played for, or if equal, the one that 50% was first reached.
- 17.11 Presentations to be made on Grand Final day are determined by the Regional Committee and agreed to by the Board.



Umpires

- 17.12 The Umpires appointed to control finals matches shall be appointed by the Regional Umpires Coordinator and advised to the Regional Committee, prior to the scheduled day.

18 Team Sheets and Results

Completion

- 18.1 All teams must use the official team sheet as produced from Footyweb. Separate instructions and training is provided on Team Sheet creation via Footyweb.
- 18.2 Clubs are to produce Team sheets in accordance with Rule 11.13 Match Day Paperwork.
- 18.3 Both Clubs are to retain their copies of the team sheets and scorecards for all games until after the end of the season or as stipulated by the Board and be able to present these within seven (7) days if requested.
- 18.4 All Players and interchange Players must be listed with the CORRECT jumper number. The Team Sheet must be signed by the Team Manager or Coach. If a Player plays in a higher Age Group, then the Age Group in which the Player is registered must be listed. (For example: SMITH John, Under 13 on Under 15 Team Sheet).
- 18.5 Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's Team Manager for identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision, or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day, the following procedure should be followed:
- 18.5.1 The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet.
- 18.5.2 The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the AFLHC Administration.
- 18.5.3 The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within three (3) working days of receiving an official request from the AFLHC Administration otherwise all match wins gained in that grade in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing side.
- 18.6 At the conclusion of each game, team sheets must be signed by the Field Umpire. The Field Umpire will complete the Match Report and submit via the online facility.

Submission (Documentation and Results)

- 18.7 The HOME Club at which matches have been played shall collate the results and arrange for entry into Footyweb within 24 hours of the match being played. Each Club will retain the responsibility to upload changes to their own team sheets. Clubs must advise the AFLHC of any games not played by midday on the first working day following the scheduled match.
- 18.8 At the completion of the MINOR round of matches, the AFLHC Administrator will provide to the Regional Committee all Umpire best and fairest votes, by Player, for each Age Group. A Player who is found guilty of an offence, which results in a penalty, (other than a reprimand), including an accepted Prescribed Penalty is ineligible to win any AFLHC Best & Fairest Award.
- 18.9 Footyweb is the ONLY acceptable record of the Players who have played in a match. Team Sheets must be updated on Footyweb at the completion of the match in order to ensure the accuracy of the online system. Both Teams retain copies of Team sheets and Goal Umpire Score Cards for verification as required.
- 18.10 Team Sheets MUST be in the hands of the Ground Manager before the commencement of a match. Umpires will not commence a match unless the Ground Manager confirms he holds a copy for the Umpires. Clubs can still make changes to Team Sheets up until the end of the half time break, but it is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure all copies are altered accordingly. Players arriving after the halftime break cannot be added to the Team Sheet. For finals matches, Clubs should provide Ground Managers with Team Sheets, at the latest, FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES prior to the match.
- 18.11 Any person wishing to query the validity of information contained on a team sheet or Footyweb must do so within 7 days of the day the match is played.
- 18.12 Any Club requesting the AFLHC Administrator make an adjustment to a team sheet must do so within twenty one (21) days of the match concerned being played and must provide a copy of the team sheet concerned.

19 Club Game Responsibilities

HOST Club

- 19.1 The designated HOST Club is to provide:
- 19.1.1 Timekeeper
- 19.1.2 Marked Interchange Area
- 19.1.3 Padding for Goal and Behind posts
- 19.1.4 Drinks for the Umpires
- 19.1.5 Scoreboard & Sounding Siren
- 19.1.6 Ground manager
- 19.1.7 A Safety check of the ground before the first match to remove any rocks, glass, needles or other debris from the playing surface i.e. JLT Match Day Checklist completed



19.1.8 Padding or other protection around structures within three (3) metres of the playing area e.g. taps, seats, concrete or other hard structures

Ground Manager

19.2 Ground Manager's match day responsibilities include:

- Ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the game is available before the game.
- To ensure the ground is set-up through the movement and placement of goal posts and padding and the interchange area.
- Ensure a copy of the current AFLHC Bylaws and a copy of the current AFL Laws of the Game are available for all games.
- Have available a spare set of Yellow & Red cards.
- Arrange a timekeeper.
- Check the availability of Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires, Interchange Officials and time-keeping Officials.
- Receive any formally submitted objections, protests or complaints from Officials of Clubs.
- Wear a distinctive vest with the title 'Ground Manager' printed on the back so as to be easily identified.
- Provide water for the Field Umpires at each break.
- Where possible, provide the Field Umpires with reasonable refreshments after their game(s).
- Accompany the Umpires on and off the ground and to and from the Umpire's rooms at breaks.
- Ensure Umpires review both team sheets for inclusion of all jumper #'s and then sign the sheets (noting that both Clubs' are to retain both home and away team sheets plus appropriate score cards).
- Check where appropriate completion of Umpire paperwork and ensure the information is correct.
- Submission of Umpire Match Reports and Player reports will be the responsibility of the Umpires.
- Arrange payment to Field Umpires as required.
- Ensure that both teams are aware where the interchange area is.
- In appropriate circumstances, ensure that the Field Umpire is aware that a stretcher is needed on the field, noting that the Umpire shall then stop play at the first opportunity. The Ground Manager should also ensure that a phone is available to call an ambulance if required.
- In the event of a possible serious injury (e.g. neck), dissuade any football Official from moving the injured Player and to wait for an ambulance.

NOTE: The game will not continue until qualified medical personnel have removed the Player from the field. If the game is abandoned and the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner, the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.

- In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, terminate the game. NOTE: If the playing time of the game played is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the Coaches cannot agree on a final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.

- Keep a check on the behaviour of all Officials and supporters and to issue warnings for any misconduct or behaviour that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

NOTE: This process should be completed by Officials of the Club involved after the Ground Manager has advised an Official of the offending Club. It is not the intent that a Ground Manager should be confrontational or assume direct responsibility for behaviour management. In the event that an offence is deemed reportable, the Ground Manager must obtain signed statements from witnesses and obtain any other relevant material, such as video footage. Such reports must be substantiated in this manner.

- Collect all required paper work, including team sheets and scorecards
- Scan 1 copy of every team sheet and fax or email to AFLHC Administration by 5pm Monday
- Provide a faxed or electronic report to the AFLHC Administrator of any substantiated misconduct by supporters or Club Officials within twenty-four (24) hours of the game's completion.
- Facilitate the entry of scores, as required, through Footyweb by no later than 6pm following match day.
- In the event of a postponed game, inform the Regional Committee in writing of the specific reasons for abandonment of any games.
- Ensure Coaches and Team Managers wear their identification bib on match day.
- Before the commencement of the match identify, compliance with the Sports Trainers Policy as described in Rule 19.5 – 19.15

19.2.1 It is recommended that the Ground Manager resources be located on the wing, 5 metres from the field of play, in between Coaches boxes.

19.2.2 The Ground Managers responsibilities must be performed by a person at least 18 years of age.



Team Manager

19.3 For each team, the Team Manager must provide/arrange the following:

- Goal Umpire (with white coat, flags and scorecard)
- Boundary Umpire (with white top and whistle)
- One football in suitable match condition
- Team sheets (Refer to Rule 11.13)
- Spare whistle
- Official runner shirt that is clearly visible and identifiable as determined or provided for by the Regional Committee
- The First Aid Official (as defined).

19.3.1 Clubs are provided with Team Managers identification bibs which must be worn by Team Managers during match games. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and/or the loss of match ratio.

Injury Treatment

19.4 All Clubs are to comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia, as issued from time to time and as adopted by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all Clubs have a copy of the Australian Dental Regions 'Dislodged Teeth' guidelines available at all games so that dislodged teeth can be best preserved.

Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (First Aid)

19.5 The AFLHC has adopted the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (Sports Trainers Policy) released by the AFL in 2011. All Clubs in the AFLHC are required to comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.6 Training courses are available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.7 The Home club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of Sports Trainers Policy for all games for which it is the Home club.

19.8 There must be at least one person with the competencies in emergency management procedures and responses in attendance at any youth (Under 13 – Under 17) game. The Away club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each game that the Home Club is able to comply with the requirements of this Rule. In the event that the Home club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the Away club agrees, the game will be postponed or rescheduled.

19.8.1 Any decision to replay a postponed match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Regional Committee within seven days of the scheduled match or match ratio applies. In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the game a delayed start of 15 minutes may be applied. If there are games following the match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of games following.

19.8.2 The game may proceed if the Away club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.8.3 If the Away club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the game, then the Away Club may claim a forfeit. The Rules in relation to forfeits will apply. If a game is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the Home Club will lose match ratio for the game and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$200.

19.9 The Sports Trainer Policy applies to all Youth matches (Under 13 – Under 17).

19.10 At Auskick Centres and Junior matches (up to and including Under 11), the attendance of a person with a current, nationally accredited first aid certificate* will generally satisfy the requirements if a person with a higher level trainer accreditation/qualification is not available.

* Must include assessed competencies HLTA301C (Apply First Aid) or HLTA201B (Provide Emergency Life Support)

19.11 In the event that a First Aid Official is required on the playing field in Youth or Junior games, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after being so advised and invite the First Aid Official (as defined) on to the field.

19.12 If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player should not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the First Aid Official.

19.13 The Sports Trainers Policy refers to first aid usually being provided by sports trainers or by other volunteers with medical or higher level allied health qualifications. If a Club has a person present in any of the following occupations, they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:

- Nurse
- Physiotherapist
- A certified Sports Trainer
- St John Ambulance Officer



- Paramedic
- Doctor

Concussion Management

- 19.14 On game day, primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the First Aid Official.
- 19.14.1 The guidelines in this Rule on concussion are based on a position statement on the management of concussion in Australian Football by the AFL Medical Officer's Association.
- 19.14.2 The guidelines should be adhered to at all times. Decisions regarding return to play after concussive injuries should only be made by a medical doctor with experience in concussive injuries.
- 19.14.3 Any Player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must not be allowed to return to play in the same game or train in the same practice session.
- 19.14.4 A concussed Player must not be allowed to return to training or playing before having a formal medical clearance provided to the Club.

Umpire Reviews

- 19.15 A process of review of umpires is contained in Appendix 1.

Bad Weather

- 19.16 Umpires and Clubs (in particular Ground Managers) should be aware of the dangers of allowing play during thunder/electrical storms. Play should cease if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. No risks should be taken in this regard.
- 19.17 When a match is stopped due to these circumstances, the result of the match is to be governed by the Laws rule 10.6.2 Incomplete Match.

Match Day Checklist

- 19.18 Under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program administered by JLT Sport, a Match Day Checklist must be completed prior to any football activity on match day. This is to be completed using the online application by the home club prior to commencement of play in the first match of the day.
- 19.19 Copies are automatically stored with JLT Sport when using the application the next time the device connects to the internet.

20 Player Registration

Forms

Note: Registration may only be instigated by the Participant, Parent or Guardian through Footyweb

- 20.1 For new Players, an online registration needs to be completed. For returning Players, an online registration and update of details is required.
- 20.2 Every Player for each team must be registered using online registration forms, as approved by the Board.
- 20.3 Online Registration forms must be completed prior to a Player taking part in a competition activity.
- 20.4 New Player and correction to existing Player details are to be recorded in the Footyweb database.
- 20.5 Online Registration forms are retained within Footyweb. However on request from the AFLHC Administration, a copy of the document along with proof of date of birth, if requested, must be provided within 3 working days of the request.
- 20.6 Violation of Rule 20.5 may result in a Player being disqualified and any dispensations withdrawn.
- 20.7 If a Player wishes to play in a team two (2) or more Age Groups higher than the Player's qualified Age Group as recognised by their date of birth, then special dispensation must be obtained from the Regional Committee. As this will require consultation with Club Officials and the Player's parent/guardian, adequate prior notice is required. In such cases, the parents are to complete AFLHC Parental Consent Form (Appendix 8)
- 20.8 Subject to the exceptions that apply in Rules 20.8.4 and 20.8.5, this Rule applies where a Player from a Club wishes to also play with another Club within AFLHC (at the same time). The following applies:
- 20.8.1 This will only be allowed if the participation is with a Club that has a different age structure and the original Club does not have a team in that Age Group. The Player is permitted to play only where he/she plays up a level with the second Club;
- 20.8.2 The Player will be required to be registered with both Clubs. This must be advised to the AFLHC Administration to system authorise;
- 20.8.3 Approval to play is subject to the agreement of both Clubs and the Regional Committee/s. This includes any requirements set by the original Club /Regional Committee around such matters as Representative participation;
- 20.8.4 To encourage the playing of AFL in the wider community, Rule 20.8 does not apply to Players registered with Independent Schools as provided by Regulation by the Board, save that to allow the Player to play for the School, the Club is to provide a permit for the Player to play with the School;
- 20.8.5 AFL Academy Players are exempted from Rule 20.8 where they obtain an Academy Player Permit (Permit). The issuing of a Permit will be subject to the conditions set out in 20.8.5.1 to 20.8.5.10.



- 20.8.5.1 The Academy, on behalf of a Player, must apply for an AFL Academy Player Permit if the Academy deems it appropriate for that Player to obtain additional match time. Application for the Permit can be accessed through AFLHC Administration and needs to be approved by the following parties in conjunction with the Player's parents: Academy Manager / Operations Manager Registered Club's President Permit Club's President Both Regional Committees
- 20.8.5.2 The Permit is for one season only.
- 20.8.5.3 Factors such as the Player's level of physical maturity, stage of development and/or level of talent must be considered and approved by the Permit Club's President and parents to determine the appropriate Age Group before the Player is permitted to play. Apart from physical assessment, the capacity of the Permit Club and team in terms of numbers need to be considered by Regions. Engagement and signoff by all stakeholders is paramount.
- 20.8.5.4 An email request from Academy Manager / Operations Manager is sent to all parties (providing 7 days to respond). If acceptable by all parties, the AFLHC Administration is to be advised for processing a Permit.
- 20.8.5.5 The Player must fulfil all playing and training commitments with his Registered Club before being permitted to play with the Permit Club. Failure to fulfil this requirement may result in a Permit being withdrawn.
- 20.8.5.6 If a Player leaves the Academy, then the Permit is automatically withdrawn.
- 20.8.5.7 The Player under Permit will not train with the Permit Club under normal circumstances. The exception may be where Academy requirements prevent a Player from attending normal registered Club training. Players cannot train 4 nights a week plus play on Saturday and Sunday.
- 20.8.5.8 The provisions of AFL Hunter Coast Rule 20.10.1 apply.

Academy Local Interchange and Match Day out of Region Permits

Note: The purpose of the following Rule is to provide Academy Players with the opportunity to maximise football time when byes and early forfeits are known. It will be administered according to the requirements of, and the spirit of this stated purpose.

- 20.8.5.9 Academy Players registered in AFLHC may be granted an Academy permit when their team has a scheduled bye in their competition. In addition, if the opposing team offers a forfeit prior to 9.00am on the Thursday preceding the scheduled match, the permit may also be granted.
- 20.8.5.10 Except for forfeits applications for permits under this Rule should be made to and approved by the relevant Academy Manager prior to the commencement of the year's competition. Player details and details of bye rounds are to be provided to the AFLHC Administration for signoff and approval by the Regional Committee. A "Local Interchange" permit will be issued to cover the dates of the byes
- 20.8.5.11 Early advice from the Academy Manager needs to be provided with respect to forfeits, and where approved, a "Match Day" permit will be issued. Timing is essential in these cases so that the permit can be issued before 9.00am on the Friday preceding the scheduled match.
- 20.8.5.12 Details of both byes and early "forfeits" will have to be confirmed with the permitted Player's league or Region.
- 20.8.5.13 This provision being facilitative in nature and purpose, there will be no right of appeal with respect to decisions made under this Rule
- 20.8.5.14 All disputes involving Permits are to be referred to and determined by the Board.

Transfers

- 20.9 A transfer is deemed to include inter and intra league Player movements as defined by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission. Subject to Rule 20.9.1, transfers cannot be affected before February 1 and after June 30 each year.
- 20.9.1 The approval of the Regional Committee must be obtained for any transfer. Approval will only be given for intra league transfers in accordance with the AFLHC guidelines.
- 20.9.2 Clubs to which the Players are transferring (the new Club) are only permitted a maximum of three (3) Players from the one particular former Club to the new Club, unless the former Club allows more than three (3). In circumstances where the former Club agrees to allow more than three (3) Players, the approval of the Regional Committee must also be obtained by the new Club prior to the transfer;
- 20.9.3 Rule 20.9.1 does not apply where the former Club does not field a team in the Age Group of the Players concerned and the former Club has informed the Regional Committee that they will not be fielding a team in the Age Group. For the purpose of this Rule, a team in the Age Group of the Players concerned includes a combined team of a number of Clubs, where there is an agreement by the former Club to field its Players in or refer its Players to the combined team;



- 20.9.4 The maximum number of Players that may transfer from a former Club to the new Club, in a single age group, including the circumstances covered by Rule 20.9.2, is two (2), unless the Regional Committee approves of same prior to the transfer.
- 20.9.5 This rule applies where QBE Sydney Swans Academy Players transfer or are transferring to the same team in one Club before or during the season.
- 20.9.5.1 If as a result of transfers the number of QBE Sydney Swans Academy will exceed 30% in aggregate of the maximum Team number for that age group (being the aggregate of “Max on field” and the “Max interchange” as set out in rule 10.9), the transfer will not be approved by the Regional Committee.
- 20.9.5.2 If a Club is already at the 30% limit before any transfers are sought to be effected, no further transfers will be allowed, unless agreed to otherwise by the Regional Committee, subject to the prior approval of the Board.
- 20.9.5.3 Where a Club does not seek prior approval of a transfer by the Regional Committee, any competition points will be forfeited in the event that the transfer is revoked.
- 20.9.5.4 Competition points will be forfeited in the event a team exceeds the 30% limit referred to in this Rule on match day, unless the team exceeded the 30% limit before any transfer/s, or exceeded the 30% limit after any transfer/s approved as provided in these rules, such approval being given prior to the relevant match.
- 20.9.5.5 Transfer of QBE Sydney Swans Academy players in any one season is, in any event, limited to a maximum of two players, unless agreed to or otherwise by the Regional Committee, subject to the prior approval of the Board.

How this rule works

Example – Under 13

Maximum On Field Players = 18	Maximum Interchange Players = 4	Maximum team number = 24 30% of 24 = 6 Players <i>(Note: The number of players is to be rounded <u>down</u> in all instances where the number of players is not a whole number)</i>
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- 20.9.6 Registration with a Club does not include where the Player is playing with that Club pursuant to a permit only, or any similar arrangement.
- 20.10 A Player playing for a Club without consent will result in the loss of any competition match ratio and percentage awarded while the infringement of this Rule continues.
- 20.11 Transfers not officially approved by the Regional Committee will result in penalties to the teams and Clubs involved in accepting and playing a non-approved Player.
- 20.12 Any club advertising or e-mailing outside defined school areas provided by the AFL NSWACT, will be deemed to be poaching, and the club will be fined \$500.

Proof of Age

- 20.13 The following documentary proof of age shall be acceptable to AFLHC:
- Original Full Birth Certificate or Original Extract
 - Passport
 - Original Baptism or similar Certificate
 - Any original legal document certifying proof of age of applicant, or
 - Any other such document as acceptable by the AFLHC such as School ID card, Letter from School Principal.
- 20.14 Only those persons duly authorised by the Board shall be permitted to endorse such applications for sighting of proof of age.

Match Day Registrations

- 20.15 Match Day Registrations may be granted provided:
- 20.15.1 Registration details are to be entered into Footyweb by **5.00pm on the Monday** following the game.
- 20.15.2 New Player(s) name, address, birth date are noted on the back of the Team Sheet.
- 20.15.3 The opposing Team Manager is informed that a new Player is being registered.
- 20.16 Should the Player later be found to be ineligible, the Player's team will lose match ratio and the Club will be subject to a sanction imposed by the Board.
- 20.17 Clubs knowingly playing UNREGISTERED or INELIGIBLE Players or deliberately falsifying documents in any way will be liable to a fine (in addition to the loss of any match ratio), not exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars for each breach, and/or suspension of Club Official(s) and/or the Club from Competition/s.



Board Jurisdiction

20.18 In the event of any questions arising that are not provided for in these Rules, the opinion of the Board shall be sought and acted upon and its decision will be final.

Female Participation

20.19 The AFL policy strongly recommends that youth girls aged 13, 14 and 15 years participate in a structured youth girl’s competitions. However, **if there is no youth girl’s competition available**, the following applies:

20.19.1 In accordance with the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Commonwealth)¹, persons aged Under 12 years of age cannot be excluded on the basis of sex or gender identity from participating in a competitive sporting activity.

20.19.2 Pursuant to section 42(1) of the Act, persons of one gender aged 12 and over can be excluded from participating in competitive sporting activities in which the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant.

20.19.3 The AFLHC will exclude females who reach 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a ‘female competition’.

20.19.4 The AFL NSW/ACT Dispensation policy applies to all participants in the game.

¹ The provisions of section 42 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Commonwealth) are essentially replicated in equivalent State legislation

Note: Please see the AFL National Junior Policy for further details regarding this philosophy

21 Resolution of disputes within Clubs

21.1 All issues or disputes arising within Clubs are to be resolved to the reasonable satisfaction of the members of that Club in a timely and appropriate manner.

21.2 The following outline resolution procedures are recommended by the AFLHC to ensure that this objective is able to be achieved, but are subject to the Club’s own dispute resolution processes.

21.3 All Clubs and their members have a responsibility to participate in dispute resolution processes.

21.4 Where any member of a Club has an issue or dispute, it shall, where possible, be dealt with as follows:

If the issue is	The issue should be raised with
Football or team related	Team Manager or Coach
General in nature	Committee Member

21.5 Where the dispute is football or team related and the parties to the dispute cannot resolve the dispute, the Team Manager or Coach should refer the dispute to the Committee through the Football Manager, Secretary or President, as soon as possible.

21.6 In attempting to resolve the dispute, the parties to the dispute should take into account;

- 21.6.1 the nature and extent of the issue e.g. is it likely to have a wider effect or impact on the Club;
- 21.6.2 the number of Players or teams affected;
- 21.6.3 whether a temporary solution or measure is possible;
- 21.6.4 the expected time before the dispute can be addressed;
- 21.6.5 what resources may be needed to resolve the dispute.

21.7 The Team Manager or Coach may at any time call on the Committee for assistance.

21.8 Any football or team related issues reported to the Committee, where the Team Manager or Coach has not been given the initial opportunity to resolve the dispute, shall be referred back to the Team Manager or Coach.

21.9 The consent of the Committee must be obtained before any external parties are involved in the resolution of the dispute. Subject to the Club’s own procedures, and the overriding requirement of Rule 27, only the Club’s President is authorised to make public statements or announcements on behalf of the Club.

21.10 Subject to Rule 21.9, a Club may seek the assistance of the Regional Committee, or the Regional Committee may in turn seek the assistance of the Board to resolve any dispute.

21.11 All persons involved in any dispute must act in a genuine attempt to resolve the dispute.

22 Coaches

Accreditation

22.1 All Coaches officiating at AFLHC games must be accredited / registered with AFL Coaching certificates. It is expected that non-accredited Coaches will attend and complete courses provided by the AFL NSW/ACT Commission during the course of the year of registration.

22.2 Coaches who have coached in the previous year must commence a course provided by AFL NSW/ACT in the current year.

22.3 New Coaches appointed in the current year have until the mid year courses to commence.



- 22.4 After those dates, Coaches who have failed to comply will not be able to continue coaching unless given Board approval.
- 22.5 An unaccredited Coach not provided approval to continue coaching by the Board will not be permitted to:
- 22.5.1 Display visible signs of Coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant Coach or Coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game;
- 22.5.2 Enter the playing arena at any stage during the match. If, however, the Coach is a parent of a Player participating in a finals match, the Coach may enter the field at the quarter time and three quarter time breaks but must not address the team;
- 22.5.3 Be closer than 25 metres from the teams interchange bench during the game;
- 22.6 Any Coach suspended as a Coach will not be permitted, during the period of suspension, to:
- 22.6.1 Display visible signs of Coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant Coach or Coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game;
- 22.6.2 Enter the playing arena at any stage during the match;
- 22.6.3 Be closer than 25 metres from the teams interchange bench during the game;
- 22.6.4 Enter the change rooms before or during the game, including half time.

Bibs

- 22.7 AFLHC approved Coach identification bibs must be worn by Coaches during match games. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and / or the loss of match ratio.

23 Representative Football

- 23.1 The AFLHC Representative program (Carnival) will be structured each year by the Regional Committees to best suit their talented players

24 Uniforms

- 24.1 These Rules and their implementation are subject to the overall supervision of, and direction by the Board.
- 24.2 All Players must play in the Club or team uniform as agreed by the Regional Committee. Players must wear different full numbers on the back of each jumper, which are recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. Those numbers must correspond to those on the respective team sheet.
- 24.3 Where the Club colours and uniform have been approved by the Regional Committee, that Club will have the rights to that colour and uniform in that Region. No other AFLHC Club in that Region may apply to register that colour or uniform.
- 24.4 The Regional Committee will make provision for Club colours and uniforms in the event that a Club or Clubs are admitted to the Region's competitions where the colours and/or uniforms of two or more Clubs would otherwise be the same.
- 24.5 If a Club wishes to change its colours or uniform, it must obtain approval from the Regional Committee.
- 24.6 All Club and team uniforms (jumper, shorts and socks) must be approved by the Regional Committee at the time of team nominations. This is to avoid uniform clashes.
- 24.7 To avoid clashes of uniform, the following provisions will also apply:
- 24.7.1 one team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark brown etc) whilst the other team will play in contrasting coloured shorts (such as red) or white shorts;
- 24.7.2 where the Home Club plays in white shorts, the away team may play in any colour shorts, other than white;
- 24.8 Where teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour, the AWAY team shall wear a clash jumper.
- 24.9 Any changes to a Regional Representative uniform must be approved by the Board.
- 24.10 Jumpers worn by all Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast. Club jumpers and shorts with the AFL NSW/ACT logo may only be obtained from official suppliers.
- 24.11 Sponsor's logo as approved by the AFLHC may be worn either on the front or back of Players' jumpers as follows –
- 24.11.1 Front – The logo must be positioned on the left breast, directly opposite the AFL NSW/ACT logo. It is not to exceed 8 cm x 8 cm in size.
- 24.11.2 Back – The logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath (or both) the Player number. The size of the logo must not exceed 60 mm high and 200 mm wide if being placed above the number, or 100 mm high and 300 mm wide, if underneath the number.
- 24.12 Sponsor's logo as approved by the AFLHC may be worn on shorts as follows –
- 24.12.1 The logo must not exceed 70 sq cm with a maximum width of 11cm and a maximum depth of 6.3 cm. The logo must be placed on the front of the right leg.
- 24.13 Use of gloves by Players in competition is not allowed. This is to encourage the development of handling skills. Umpires have discretionary power to allow the use of a glove(s) in special circumstances such as injury. The Ground Manager must sight a medical certificate where injury exists, and a copy must be sent to the AFLHC.



- 24.14 Undergarments, such as Lycra shorts, must be beige, black or white. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) may only be worn with the prior approval of the Regional Committee.

25 Finance

Arrears

- 25.1 If any Club is in arrears to the AFLHC for a period of fourteen (14) days or more from the statement date, a fee of 10% of the amount owing may be charged for every fourteen (14) day period or part thereof that the amount is outstanding. Any such fee shall then become part of the amount outstanding.
- 25.2 If any Club is in arrears to the AFLHC for a period of fourteen (14) days or more, that Club's representative(s) shall be ineligible to vote at any Regional Sub Committee meeting.
- 25.3 If any Club is in arrears to AFLHC or AFL NSW/ACT for a period of fifteen (15) days or more beyond the date due noted on the Invoice, that Club shall be ineligible for any match ratio earned by any team from that Club whilst that Club is in arrears. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Board may, at its 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 AFLHC, for the purposes of these Rules, provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.
- 25.4 If any Club is in arrears at a time seven (7) days prior to the date of the finals series commencing, that Club shall be ineligible to compete in that finals match. In the event of this occurring, teams placed next on the premiership ladder at the completion of the home and away matches for the respective Age Groups shall fill the place of the ineligible team.
- 25.5 If an appeal is made to the Board about an imposed financial penalty, then the Board may, in its discretion, allow for required time frames to be held over until resolution of any appeal.

Funds Management

- 25.6 The management of funds through the AFLHC will include the establishment of a central account in the name of AFL Hunter Coast Inc. (the Association) as provided in the constitution; the funds of the Association will be used only in pursuance of the objects of and for the benefit of the Association.
- 25.7 Funds and financial transactions will be managed for each Regional Committee separately through the establishment of separate cost centres for each Region. In this way, funds sourced and costs incurred will be quarantined and allocated accordingly. On a regular basis as agreed by the Board, the AFLHC will provide the Regional Committees with transaction reports relative to each area.

Sponsorships

- 25.8 All sponsorships of Clubs or Regions must be referred in advance in writing for approval by the AFLHC. Sponsorships will not be approved for organisations or for products that are not suitable for junior sport. Sponsorship of tobacco, gaming and alcohol products or their retailing will be refused.

26 Rule Amendments

- 26.1 Changes to these Rules shall commence on their publication in these Rules or, if so stated, on the next full season of football to follow the date of the change.
- 26.2 The Board, in its absolute discretion, may amend these Rules as required, to take effect from such date of their publication in these Rules, or dates as provided by the Board.

27 Media

- 27.1 The AFLHC is bound by and will enforce the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications, a copy of which may be found at http://www.aflnswact.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/Community_Football/AFL_NSW_ACT_Statement_on_Electronic_Communication.pdf.
- 27.2 For the purpose of these Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media.
- 27.3 Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, any other person, Club, Regional Committee or the AFLHC shall be subject to the following provisions:
- 27.3.1 In the case of a Player or Official, the AFLHC may report such person for breach of this Rule and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination;
- 27.3.2 In the case of any other person, the AFLHC may refer the matter to an ISC or tribunal for determination;
- 27.3.3 Alternatively, the AFLHC may refer the matter to the Board to be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit.
- 27.4 A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 27.1, or 27.3 in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred by the



AFLHC to an ISC the tribunal or to the Board which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and forfeit past or future match ratios

28 Fines & Penalties

28.1 Where the Board or Regional Committee has fined a Club, Player or Official, any such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of receipt of an invoice from the AFLHC. Failure to pay such money within the required time shall result in further action by the Board, including the loss of match ratio.

Schedule - General

28.2 The following Schedule sets out the fines approved by the Board that may to be imposed for specific breaches of these Rules at an Administration and Match Day level:

Breach	Fine
Administration	
Club changing official game times or dates without agreement from the opposing Club and having not advised the Regional Umpire Coordinator seven (7) days beforehand or as agreed	\$100
Club deliberately advertising for Players from schools designated as a feeder school to another Club as defined by the Board or Regional Committee (deemed poaching)	\$500
Club not represented at preseason AFLHC education sessions as designated	\$100
Club playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age Players.	\$100 plus loss of match ratio
Should a team be found guilty of three (3) of any of the above in any one season	\$250 plus loss of match wins
Any Player playing under another name other than their own	\$250 and the team withdrawn from the competition
Club wishing to interview or approach a Player from another Club, with a view to having that Player transfer to and play in one of its teams, must first advise the Club Secretary with which the Player is registered in writing and a copy must be sent to the AFLHC at least seven (7) days prior to any interview or approach	Max \$200
Code of Conduct Breach	Max \$500
Forfeiting a match without correct prior notification	\$100
Statement breach	Max \$1000
Withdrawal of a nominated team within 14 days of competition commencement	\$250
Withdrawal of a nominated team within 7 days of competition commencement	\$500
Match Day Breaches	Fine
Each Player must have a number on their jersey and such number must be listed on the team sheet. Should more than one Player wear a jersey bearing the same number	\$20 per breach
Failure of team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from Umpire/s	\$50
Failure of advice of match day forfeit or washout by Host club	\$50
Failure to complete Team Sheets - Completion on match day in accordance with Rule 18	\$30
Incorrectly attired Coach / Team Manager (non wearing of Coaches/Team Managers bib) – from 2 nd breach	\$25
Runners, Water carriers and Trainers deemed to be contravening their duties will be sent from field of play after receiving one (1) verbal warning from the Umpire. Failure to comply	\$50
Starting or playing a competition game without the presence at the ground of a First Aid Official (as defined)	Max \$200

28.3 The Board may fine a Club, Player or Official for any breach of these Rules, or subject a Club, Player or Official to such penalty as the Board in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

28.4 In addition to the above, the Board may impose such sanctions (other than by way of a fine) as the Board sees fit



29 Appeals

Who may appeal? Appeals to the Regional Committee

- 29.1 Any registered Player, Official or Club (the appellant) may appeal against a decision of the Regional Committee. An appeal may be made with respect to the failure of the Regional Committee to make a decision.
- 29.2 The Regional Committee will constitute a Regional Appeal's Committee consisting of three independent persons to deal with appeals pursuant to this clause.

Lodgement of Appeals

- 29.3 Appeals under clause 29.1 shall be lodged and heard in accordance with the procedures laid down by the relevant Regional Committee or its duly constituted Regional Appeal's Committee. In the absence of such procedures, an appeal shall be determined pursuant to the procedures set out in Rule 29.4. The Regional Appeal's Committee shall ensure that the appeal procedures laid down in Rule 29.4 are observed.
- 29.4 Any appeal is to be lodged with the Regional Committee within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision, or in the case of the failure to make the decision, when the decision ought reasonably to have been made and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal, together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$200 deposit. The Regional Appeal's Committee may call for submissions from, or further material by, the parties immediately affected by the original decision appealed against or by the Appeal. The Regional Appeals Committee shall determine, following the appeal and in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to the Regional Committee. The hearing of the Appeal shall commence within 14 days of the date the appeal was received by the Regional Committee.
- 29.5 Where the Regional Committee does not have a duly constituted Regional Appeal's Committee, or considers that the Appeal should be dealt with by the Board, the Appeal shall proceed as an appeal to the Board and the Regional Committee will provide the Board with the material referred to in Rule 29.3. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$400 deposit. The Board shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to the AFLHC, or whether an additional amount should be paid.

Hearing Procedure

- 29.6 The Regional Appeal's Committee shall determine the appeal by way of a re-hearing.
- 29.7 On the hearing, the Regional Appeal's Committee shall;
- 29.7.1 provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
- 29.7.2 hear and determine the appeal in an unbiased manner;
- 29.7.3 make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at;
- 29.7.4 proceed in an inquisitorial manner; and
- 29.7.5 conduct the hearing with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the appeal permits.
- 29.8 The Regional Appeal's Committee is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- 29.9 The Regional Appeal's Committee may, subject to these clauses, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.
- 29.10 The Regional Appeal's Committee shall be empowered to meet when and where it considers necessary.
- 29.11 The question on appeal before the Regional Appeal's Committee must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Regional Appeal's Committee.
- 29.12 The Regional Appeal's Committee is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.

Power of Regional Appeal's Committee

- 29.13 After hearing the appeal, the Regional Appeal's Committee may make such determination as it deems fit, including allowing the appeal in whole or in part, substituting its own decision, vary the original decision (including any penalty) or dismiss the appeal. The Regional Appeal's Committee may impose such terms when making its determination as it deems fit.

Decision Final- Regional Committee

- 29.14 The Regional Appeal's Committee shall make the formal announcement of the outcome of the appeal at the conclusion of the appeal and shall inform the Regional Committee in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter. The Regional Committee shall inform the affected parties of the outcome of the appeal within 2 days of it being informed by the Regional Appeal's Committee of its decision. Subject to Rule 29.15, the decision of the Regional Appeal's Committee shall be final and binding on all parties and is a decision of the Regional Committee.

Appeals to the Board

- 29.15 Any registered Player, Official or Club (the appellant) may appeal to the Board against a decision of the Regional Committee, including an appeal against the decision of the Regional Appeal's Committee. An



appeal may be made with respect to the failure of the Regional Committee to make a decision. The Regional Committee may appeal against the decision of the Regional Appeal's Committee.

- 29.16 On receipt of an appeal to the Board, the Chairman of the Board will appoint a Board Appeal's Committee, constituting of three Board members, to deal with appeals to the Board pursuant to Rule 29. The Board Appeal's Committee will determine the procedures by which it will determine the appeal pursuant to this Rule, and the decision of the Board Appeal's Committee will, for the purposes of Rule 29, be the decision of the Board.
- 29.17 Any appeal to the Board is to be lodged with the AFLHC (for referral to the Board), within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision, or in the case of the failure to make the decision, when the decision ought reasonably to have been made and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal, together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$400 deposit. The Board shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to the AFLHC, or whether an additional amount should be paid.
- 29.18 Subject to Rule 29.20, the provisions of Rules 29.6 to 29.12 inclusive shall apply to the hearing of the appeal by the Board, save that the word "Board" shall be substituted for the words "Regional Committee" in such Rules. As to Rule 29.6, the Board may determine not to proceed with the hearing of an appeal by way of a re-hearing, but determine the appeal pursuant to Rule 29.20.
- 29.19 After hearing the appeal, the Board may make such determination as it deems fit, including allowing the appeal in whole or in part, substituting its own decision, vary the original decision (including any penalty), remit the matter back to the appropriate person or body for determination in accordance with the Board's recommendations or dismiss the appeal. The Board may impose such terms when making its determination as it deems fit.

Basis of determining Appeal to Board

- 29.20 In the event that the Board determines not to proceed with the hearing of the appeal by way of a re-hearing, the Board will consider the appeal on the basis set out below:
- 29.20.1 An appeal is directed to correcting some error which may have been made in the original determination or hearing and affected its finding. That an aggrieved party considers that the ultimate decision is wrong or a penalty imposed is excessive does not constitute an appealable error;
- 29.20.2 The Board will only allow an appeal where, after considering the material placed before it, it determines that the appellant may have suffered a substantial injustice or where the Board considers the original decision:
- 29.20.2.1 was not fair or reasonable;
- 29.20.2.2 was against the weight of evidence;
- 29.20.2.3 involved a substantial denial of natural justice, or
- 29.20.2.4 ought to be reconsidered because significant evidence is now available that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing.

Decision Final - Board

- 29.21 The AFLHC shall inform the affected parties of the outcome of any appeal to the Board within 2 days of the Board's decision. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding on all parties, and is not subject to any appeal.

Appeals from decisions of the Board

- 29.22 Where the Board makes a decision that is subject to a right of appeal, the appeal is to be heard by the AFL NSW/ACT Appeals Committee.

30 Supervision of the Regional Committees by the Board and Matters not provided for

- 30.1 Any decision of the Regional Committee, including a failure to make a decision, is subject to the overriding supervision of the Board. The Board may substitute its decision for the decision, or non decision, of the Regional Committee.
- 30.2 In the event of any question or matter arising that is not provided for in the Rules, the Regional Committee or the AFLHC may refer same to the Board for decision, and the decision of the Board shall be taken and acted upon, and its decision shall be final.

31 Conduct Unbecoming, Prejudicial or likely to bring the Game into Disrepute

- 31.1 Where the Board is of the opinion that a Club or any Official, Player, or other person has contravened the Laws or the Rules, or has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or is prejudicial or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the AFLHC, or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Board



may deal with such matter in their absolute discretion as the Board thinks fit, and without limiting their powers, it may:

- 31.1.1 appoint any person or persons to enquire into any matter, including an ISC;
- 31.1.2 conduct their own enquiry;
- 31.1.3 refer the matter to the Tribunal;
- 31.1.4 Impose any penalty that it deems fit, including but not limited to imposing a monetary penalty, suspension or disqualification or the loss of, or forfeiture of match points or match ratio or any other privileges, benefits or entitlement.

32 Legal (including Statutory) Compliance by Regional Committees and Clubs.

- 32.1 Regional Committees and Clubs are required to comply with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements governing their operations, including but not limited to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (as amended from time to time) and the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* and *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* (as amended from time to time) (together “the Child Protection Legislation”).
- 32.2 Whilst the AFLHC will provide information, guidance and assistance to Regional Committees and Clubs where it is able on issues affecting their governance and operations, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal and statutory requirements

Child Protection Legislation

- 32.3 The attention of Regional Committees and Clubs is particularly drawn to the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation (as amended from time to time). AFL Hunter Coast *adheres to the AFL National Child Protection Policy*
- 32.4 Any person, who has not complied with the requirements of the Child Protection Legislation as it applies to them, or the specific requirements of AFL Hunter Coast *in relation to the Child Protection Legislation, is in breach of these Rules. All Coaches and Team Managers must obtain a Working with Children Clearance, whether or not they would otherwise be exempted under the Regulations of the Child Protection Legislation as not requiring a check by reason of their being a parent or close relative of a Player in a team in which the Player usually participates. A breach of this rule is for an Official, a Reportable Offence and for any other person is a breach of the Code of Conduct. Where there is a breach of the Code of Conduct, such person will be referred to an ISC by the Executive Group or Regional Committee, or where a Reportable Offence, such person will be referred by the Executive Group to the Tribunal. The hearing will be conducted as provided for in these Rules, and any penalty may include being unable to act in any capacity at any competition game, including the finals*

33 AFLHC Vilification and Discrimination Policy

- 33.1 The AFLHC adheres to the AFL’s Vilification and Discrimination as per Appendix 5 to these Rules. (See also Rules 8.50 - 8.51)

34 Club of the Year

- 34.1 The AFLHC recognises the AFLHC Club of the year in each Region. The award is determined on positive and negative points based on specific criteria as determined from time to time by the Board. The winning Club in each Region will be recognised with a specific award. The Board will also award the AFLHC Club of the Year.



Schedule 1 – Umpires Fees

AFL Hunter Coast Umpire Fees			
Junior Umpire Fees 2017 Home & Away			
	Full Rate		
	One	Two	
Under 9 & 10	\$25	\$20	
Under 11 & 12	\$35	\$25	
Youth Girls Under 12	\$35	\$25	
Youth Umpire Fees 2017 Home and Away			
	Full Rate		
	One	Two	Three
Under 13 & 14	\$60	\$40	
Under 15 & 16	\$70	\$50	\$50
Under 17	\$80	\$60	\$60
Youth Girls Under 14/15/16/17	\$55	\$35	
Boundary		\$15	
Goal		\$10	

AFL Hunter Coast Umpire Fees	
Finals Fees	
Semi & Preliminary Finals	
Field Umpires (2 Umpires)	Same as Home and Away Fees
Field Umpires (3 Umpires)	
2 x Boundary Umpires	\$15
4 x Boundary Umpires	\$10
Goal Umpires	\$10
Grand Finals	
Field Umpires (2 Umpires)	Home and Away fee plus \$10
Field Umpires (3 Umpires)	
2 x Boundary Umpires	\$20
4 x Boundary Umpires	\$15
Goal Umpires	\$15

Late arrival of umpire

Should an Umpire arrive late to an appointed match, then the level of payment will be made on a pro-rata basis. The pro-rata calculation is to be on the basis of whole quarters officiated during the game.

Standby Appointment

Where an Umpire takes control of a game that is underway (due to another Umpires non-arrival) then the minimum fee payable will be pro-rata to the whole quarters officiated during the game.



Appendix 1 – Umpire Review Process

The key components of the Umpire Review Process are:

- An online process enables Coaches via the web at a more convenient time after the game to complete his or her views and provide constructive feedback.
- Preseason Training and access to the necessary link on the website will be provided
- It is expected that a Coach will complete the online form by 9.00am on the Tuesday following a match
- A review of feedback and comments by Regional Umpires Coordinator and any necessary follow up actions.

Summary

The aim of this process is to provide meaningful assessment of our junior umpires. To alleviate the “heat of battle” responses and to give a Coach time to consider a constructive review the timing is extended. The AFLHC is taking all steps to deliver an acceptable level of competency for all Umpires. This can only be achieved if Club Coaches and management of junior teams are prepared to provide constructive comment in their assessment of an Umpire’s performance.

Appendix 2/3 – Development Grade / Junior & Youth Rules

	MIXED UNDER 9/10	MIXED/BOYS UNDER 11/12
Ground size	100m x 80m	110m x 80m (Minimum. Can be increased by agreement)
Zones	Ground divided into three equal Zones	Not Applicable
Players	Minimum 6 – Maximum 12 (Maximum 12 on field)	Minimum 9 – Maximum 19 (Maximum 15 on field)
Ball	Size 2 (Synthetic or Leather)	Size 3 (Synthetic or Leather)
Quarter Duration	4 x 10 minutes	4 x 15 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 4 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	No Scoring, Ladders or Finals	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	Not Applicable	60 Points
Results	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers
Tackling	Modified Tackling. A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the opponent. The player may not be taken to the ground in the act of tackling.	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle
Bumping	No Bumping	Bumping is allowed
Stealing the Ball	No Stealing the Ball	Stealing the Ball is allowed
Barging	No Barging	Barging is allowed
Smothering	No Smothering	Smothering is allowed
Fend Off	No Fending Off	Fend offs are allowed
Shepherding	No Shepherding	Shepherding is allowed
Bouncing the Ball	1 Bounce Maximum	2 Bounce Maximum
Kicking off the Ground	No Kicking off the Ground	No Kicking off the Ground
Ball Ups	Nominated Players of a similar height	Any Player
Throw In	No Throw in. Free kick to opposition if ball crosses the line from a kick, Ball up 5m in from boundary if off hands	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary
Marking	Any distance, player must show control	10 Metres distance, Player must catch the ball directly
Distance Penalty	25 Metres	25 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	No Free Kick
Coaching	On field Coaching permitted	Sideline Coaching permitted



	YOUTH GIRLS UNDER 12	YOUTH GIRLS UNDER 14/15/16/17
Ground size	100m x 80m	110m x 80m (Minimum). If both teams have thirteen (13) or more players on the team sheet, the match should be played on a larger field, up to standard size.
Zones	Ground divided into three equal Zones	Not Applicable
Players	Minimum 6 – Maximum 12 (Maximum 12 on field)	Minimum 7 – Maximum 20 (Maximum 16 on field)
Ball	Size 3 (Synthetic or Leather)	Size 4 (Leather)
Quarter Duration	4 x 10 minutes	4 x 15 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 4 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	60 Points	60 Points
Results	No Recording of Best Players or Goalkickers	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers is Permitted
Tackling	Modified Tackling. A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the opponent. The player may not be taken to the ground in the act of tackling.	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle
Bumping	No Bumping	Bumping is allowed
Stealing the Ball	No Stealing the Ball	Stealing the Ball is allowed
Barging	No Barging	Barging is allowed
Smothering	No Smothering	Smothering is allowed
Fend Off	No Fending Off	Fend offs are allowed
Shepherding	No Shepherding	Shepherding is allowed
Bouncing the Ball	1 Bounce Maximum	2 Bounce Maximum
Kicking off the Ground	No Kicking off the Ground	Kicking off the Ground permitted
Ball Ups	Nominated Players of a similar height	Any Player
Throw In	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary if no boundary umpires are appointed or available
Marking	Any distance, player must show control	10 Metres distance, Player must show control
Distance Penalty	25 Metres	25 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	No Free Kick
Coaching	On field Coaching permitted	Sideline Coaching permitted



	BOYS UNDER 13/14	BOYS UNDER 15/16/17
Ground size	Standard Field Size	Standard Field Size
Players	Minimum 12 – Maximum 22 (Maximum 18 on field)	Minimum 12 – Maximum 22 (Maximum 18 on field)
Ball	Size 4 (Leather)	Size 5 (Leather)
Quarter Duration	4 x 15 minutes	4 x 20 minutes
Quarter Breaks	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes	4 minutes – 7 minutes – 4 minutes
Scoring	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted	Scoring, Ladders & Finals Permitted
Mercy Rule	60 Points	90 Points
Results	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers Permitted	Recording of Best Players and Goalkickers Permitted
Tackling	Allowed. No player to be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Throw In	Throw in is replaced by a ball up 5m from the boundary if no boundary umpires are appointed or available	Throw in by attacking player if no boundary umpires are appointed or available
Marking	As per the Laws of Australian Football	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Distance Penalty	50 Metres	50 Metres
Deliberately Rushed Behind	No Free Kick	As per the Laws of Australian Football
Coaching	Sideline Coaching permitted	Sideline Coaching permitted



Appendix 4 – Age Group Rules

Development / Junior Rules

- AFL Hunter Coast Development Rules apply (refer Appendix 2).

Youth Rules

- Unless provided for elsewhere in these Rules, teams will play under the Laws of Australian Football

Youth Girls football - Under 15/16 & Under 17/18

- AFL Hunter Coast Youth Girls Development Rules apply (refer Appendix 3).

Ball Sizes

- Under 9/10 – Size 2 (Synthetic or Leather by agreement)
- Under 11/12 – Size 3 (Synthetic or Leather by agreement)
- Under 13/14 – Size 4 *
- Under 15/16/17/18 – Full Size *
- Youth Girls Under 15/16 – Size 3 (Synthetic or Leather by agreement)
- Youth Girls Under 15/16/17/18 – Size 4

** In the event of wet weather conditions, the Umpire with the agreement of Coaches, has the discretion to allow the use of a wet weather (synthetic) football.*

Spirit of the Game

Before the start of play:

- All players, coaches and umpires should gather on the ground and shake hands
- The umpire and coaches should ensure that players are aware of the rules & procedures to be followed in the conduct of the game

The spirit of the game is to give all available players a game of football. Therefore:

- Where difficulty occurs fielding full numbers, both coaches must agree to even up player numbers
- Excess players should be given to the opposition team if they are unable to field the required numbers

The umpire should at all times:

- Endeavour to apply the rules of the game while preferring to award free kicks to players in preference to calling ball ups
- Understand that the spirit of the AFL junior match rules for each age group is to enable all players to gather possession and that “the player in possession of the ball should be given every opportunity to kick or handball”
- Attempt to involve all players as the opportunities arise, particularly when indicating which players are to receive a free kick in the Junior Age groups (Under 12 and below)

Zoning – Under 9, Under 10 and Youth Girls Under 12

The modified rules used in these age groups give participants the best opportunity to participate in the game of AFL. An explanation of the zoning rules are as follows:

- The field is divided into three (3) zones: forwards, midfield and backs. These players are to be rotated through all of the zones during each match to ensure that all players are given the opportunity to experience all field positions. Four (4) distinguishable markers are to be placed at the sideline to mark the end of each zone.
- Forwards are the only players who are permitted to kick a score. These players are to wear a clearly identifiable armband to indicate that they are forward players. Should a midfield zone player kick the ball through the goal posts, no score shall be acknowledged, and play is to restart in the same fashion as when the ball goes out of bounds.
- It is important to understand that the marking of zones is to help both player and umpire understand where players should be. It is not an ‘offside’ marker as is the case in Netball, rather an indication that a player is close to the end of a zone. A player shall be given a small amount of leeway over the zone line to dispose of the ball. The Umpire and team coach shall communicate with players and attempt to ensure that the use of any leeway is kept to a minimum.



-
- Players are unable to take full possession of the ball at the start of play or the recommencement of play around the ground. The umpire should use different players from the zone that play is in to contest the bounce.
 - The enjoyment of the players is paramount in the conduct of all matches in these age groups.

Tackling

- Tackling is permitted as per the Laws of Australian Football in Under 13s, however no player shall be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground via any tackle.

Mercy Rule

- This rule is applied to all age groups:
- For Boys Under 14 and below; and Youth Girls competitions, the mercy rule will come in to effect when the score differential equals or exceeds sixty (60) points.
- For Under 15 Boys and above competitions, the mercy rule will come in to effect when the score differential equals or exceeds ninety (90) points.
- Method:
 - The Goal Umpires are to inform the Field Umpire at the next quarter break, where the score differential between the teams equals or exceeds the Mercy Rule points differential for that competition age group.
 - The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires and any scoreboard attendants to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.
 - Where the Mercy Rule is applied, the match shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play, and the coaches **must** even-up the skill levels and number of players for both teams.
- The official recorded result for the match shall be:
 - Losing team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied;
 - Winning Team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, plus a margin equal to the points' differential.

Remember, the Players are out there to have fun and the Umpire is a volunteer!



Appendix 5 - ISC Code of Conduct Report Template

CODE OF CONDUCT
INVESTIGATION SUB COMMITTEE
REPORT
[details of game/incident]
[date of incident]
[location of incident]

Signature:
[name of member]
Investigation Sub Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Investigation Sub Committee

Signature:
[name of member]
Investigation Sub Committee

FOR DISTRIBUTION:
Club [if and as required]
Club [if and as required]
Umpires/Umpire Co-ordinator [if and as required]
Regional Development Manager [insert]
[INSERT NAME OF REGION] Regional Committee
AFLHC [insert names]

Date: 201



Table of Contents
INVESTIGATION SUB COMMITTEE
FORMAT OF INVESTIGATION
FINDINGS
RECOMMENDATIONS
RULING - ADJUDICATION

Investigation Sub Committee

The Investigation Sub Committee ("ISC") was appointed by the AFLHC [INSERT NAME OF REGION] Regional Committee to investigate and adjudicate on [describe incident etc the subject of the ISC] ("the incident").

The ISC appointed was independent of the incident and comprised the following:

Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]

Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]

Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]

The duties of the Investigation Sub Committee:

Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters that may be referred to it from time to time by the Board or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal.

Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on the Club by way of a fine, it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Board or Regional Committee. Subject to the overall supervision of the Board, such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee shall be final in all cases.



Format of Investigation

The ISC referred to and utilised the AFL Players' Code of Conduct in conjunction with specific clauses from the AFLHC Competition Rules and Bylaws .[delete or insert any other material specifically referred to, as appropriate]
The ISC gathered information and held a formal meeting/inquiry at [insert time] on [insert date], at [location].

In attendance were:

Investigation Sub Committee	As detailed above
[name of Club, if relevant].	[name and position of any representatives of Club]
[name of Club, if relevant].	[name and position of any representatives of Club]
[name of any person whose conduct is the subject of the ISC, Club and any position held, if appropriate]	[name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and position]
[name of other relevant persons attending/appearing, such as Umpires, and any relevant position they hold]	[name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and any position held]
[names of witnesses, Club and any position they may hold, if applicable]	

This Report will not detail all the information collated and submitted during the course of the investigation.

All letters, documents and supporting evidence gathered/submitted during the investigation will be placed on the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee – [insert Region] file and kept with league records.

This report summarises the ISC findings, recommendations and ruling (adjudication) on the incident

Findings

[insert specific findings made by the ISC as a result of its adjudication]

Recommendations

The ISC submits the following recommendations to the [insert name of Region] Regional Committee for implementation and/or action:



Appendix 6 AFLHC Vilification and Discrimination Policy

Introduction

The AFLHC supports and endorses the AFL NSW/ACT Vilification and Discrimination Policy (the Policy). Where the Policy is inconsistent with this specific AFLHC Vilification and Discrimination Policy (this specific policy), this specific policy prevails. Where there is alleged to be a breach of this specific policy, the person alleged to have been vilified may choose to have the complaint dealt with under the Rules or pursuant to this specific policy, the provisions of which are referred to in this specific policy as “the rules”

1. Prohibited Conduct

No person subject to the Rules shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct, which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (the person vilified) on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

2. Lodging a Complaint

In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened rule 1, an Umpire, Club or Player may, by 5.00 p.m. on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing (using the “Incident Referral Form” found in Appendix 8 with the person appointed from time to time by the AFLHC Competition Manager as the Complaints Officer for the purposes of this rule. The complaint must outline the circumstances of the allegations made against a person.

3. Complaints Officer

The Complaints Officer shall:-

- a. inform the person alleged to have contravened rule 1 of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it in writing;
- b. identify and obtain written statements from any available witnesses;
- c. obtain video or other relevant evidence; and
- d. arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.

4. Confidentiality and No Public Comment

Subject to Rule 7 below: -

- a. the particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall at all times remain confidential; and
- b. a person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation.
- c. the provisions of By Law 27 Statements continue to apply.

5. Conciliator

A conciliation arranged under point 3 of this policy shall be conducted by the nominee of the AFLHC Competition Manager.

6. Attendance at Education Program

- a. Where a person alleged to have contravened point 1 of this policy attends a conciliation for the first time (other than as a person vilified); and the complaint against the person is resolved at conciliation, the person may, as part of the resolution, be directed by the conciliator and if so directed shall attend an education program approved by the AFL NSW/ACT.
- b. Where a person employed, engaged or otherwise associated with a Club is required to attend an education program or similar body in another State, the Club shall pay the costs of that person's attendance.
- c. A person who fails to attend the education program shall be deemed to have contravened this rule.

7. Public Statement

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

8. Unsuccessful Conciliation

Where the Complaints Officer is of the opinion that it is appropriate to do so, whether or not the complaint has been resolved by conciliation, the Complaints Officer may:-

- a. in the case of a Player or Official, refer the complaint to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence; or
- b. in the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the Regional Committee (to be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct Rules)

9. Previous Involvement

Where a person alleged to have contravened rule 1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as a person vilified), the Complaints Officer may refer the complaint directly to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence in the case of a Player or Official, or directly to the Regional Committee to be dealt with as



they see fit in the case of any other person. For the purposes of this rule, conciliation includes a conciliation arranged under rule 1 or such other form of conciliation arranged by the AFL or directly between the parties concerned.

10. Evidence before Tribunal or Chief Executive

In the event that a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this specific policy, no evidence shall be given to or be accepted by that body or the Regional Committee relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to rule 3.

11. AFLHC Competition Manager

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

12. Referring Complaint

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

13. Legal Representation

Where a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this specific policy, the person alleged to have contravened rule 1 may be represented by a legal practitioner.

14. Time Limit

Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this specific policy may be extended by the AFLHC Competition Manager if in the opinion of the AFLHC Competition Manager it is just and equitable to do so.

15. Liability of Club

In the event that a complaint under this specific policy in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Tribunal or where the Regional Committee determines that a person the subject of a complaint has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be liable for the conduct of the person and shall be liable to a sanction to be determined by the Regional Committee.

Point 15 above does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct which contravened this specific policy.

16. Continuous Education

Each Club must:-

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

17. False or misleading information

A person who:-

- a. in a complaint lodged under rule 2 or during the conciliation process, provides any information or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead; or
- b. falsely accuses a person of breaching point 1 of this policy shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the AFLHC Competition Manager in his/her absolute discretion.



Appendix 7 – Incident Referral Form

TO: Football Operations Coordinator AFL Hunter Coast

E-mail: michael.gray@aflnswact.com.au

I, the undersigned give notice I wish to refer an incident:-

- | |
|--|
| (i) that is not subject of a Notice of Report under By-Law 9 and:
(ii) which may constitute a Reportable Offence or Breach of Code of Conduct |
|--|

Note: If the Incident is alleged to be a breach of the AFL Hunter Coast Vilification and Discrimination Policy (the Policy), indicate whether the Referring Club believes the Incident is to be dealt with under the AFL Hunter Coast Competition Rules and Bylaws, or pursuant to the Policy (which provides for a conciliation process)

Yes/No (circle one)

Round:	Date:	Age Group:
Venue:		
Teams Involved:		

Name of the person(s) alleged to have committed an offence:

Type of Infringement (Refer to AFL Laws of the game – Rule 19, or AFLHC Code of Conduct)

Where at the venue did the alleged incident occur?	
Quarter of the match:	Time of Incident:

Please provide any other relevant information regarding the incident:

Print Name:
Club (if applicable):
Role at match: Umpire/Umpires Observer/Umpires Coach/Club Official/Other(Specify)
Signature:
Date:

This form is to be lodged in accordance with the AFL Hunter Coast By Laws, along with appropriate filing fee to be processed.



Appendix 8 – Parental Consent

- Players can play up one age group (eg. should play Under 9's but wants to play Under 11's) without written parental consent.
- If your child wishes to play up two or more age groups above his/her age please fill out the below information. (eg. should play Under 9's but wants to play Under 13's, or should play Under 11's but wants to play Under 16 Youth Girls)

As The Parent/Guardian of <i>(players full name)</i>	
DOB:	
As a Registered participant of:	Junior AFC
And eligible to play in the:	Age Group,
I Give permission for him/her to participate in the	Competition in the
AFL Hunter Coast Season <i>(Year)</i>	
I understand that my child is still covered by the AFL Hunter Coast player insurance policy. As the Parent/Guardian, I accept full responsibility for the child playing in the nominated higher age group.	
Print Name:	
Sign:	
Date:	



Appendix 9

WET WEATHER ADVICE FOR CLUBS

On match day prior to 7.00am

The Manger should:

- Assess the ground condition – degree of waterlogging, areas without grass cover, pools of surface water, any other surface issues that may make play hazardous.
- Determine if the ground is (1) fit for play; (2) not fit for play.

Depending on the decision above the following applies:

1. *Fit for play*

If the surface of the field is deemed *fit for play* then then scheduled games are to proceed *unless* there are present or forecast extreme weather conditions that would make play unsafe or unviable – e.g. very high winds, extreme heat, torrential rain or the presence of thunder/lightning. In the event that any extreme weather conditions are present an assessment needs to be made as to whether *all* matches are cancelled or just *some* of the matches.

If extreme weather conditions are present, develop or are forecast the Chair of Regional Committee or their delegate is to be contacted. The Chair (or their delegate) will request details of the Ground Manager's assessment. Once a cancellation decision is confirmed through discussion between the Club representative and the RC Chair, the Chair (or their delegate) will provide the appropriate advice to the Football Operations Manager.

The assumption by the Regional Committee will be that unless advice is received from the Host Club the ground is *fit for play* and scheduled matches will take place.

2. *Not fit for play*

If the surface is *not fit for play* – the Ground Manager is to contact the Chair of the Regional Committee (or their delegate). The Chair will request details of the Ground Manager's assessment. The Chair of the RC will also seek advice from the Ground Manager as to whether the surface is unfit for play *all day* or *just part* of the day. Once a ground closure decision is confirmed through discussion between the Club representative and the RC Chair (or their delegate), the Chair will provide the appropriate advice to the Football Operations Manager.



Appendix 10

AFL Hunter Coast: Conferences

Conferences (including re-allocating teams after round three) of teams in AFL Hunter Coast shall be aimed at enhancing the playing enjoyment of all players. Allocating teams to Conferences shall be at the absolute discretion of the Chairman of the Regional Committee after consultation with the Football Operations Co-ordinator, and the Regional Committee and so far as is practical shall be in accordance with this policy.

Objectives:

- Teams fielded in conferences are as equally matched as possible to provide opportunities for players to participate in a competition commensurate to their ability
- Provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills

Considerations:

- Match results of current season (re-allocating teams in Conferences)
- History of team's performance across previous seasons
- Club's history of grading requests
- The disruption that may be caused to current and/or proposed competition
- Any additional information requested by AFLHC, including but not limited to feedback from opposition clubs.

Preparing Draws

In preparing Draws:

- Where a draw is prepared for a conference structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the 2nd conference.
- Where a Regional committee moves a team(s) after the commencement of a competition, the Club will be assigned the median Match Ratio and percentage.

Team Nominations

- Prior to the commencement of the season Clubs will be asked to nominate team in the various Age Groups by a date designated by the Regional Committee in any competition year to enable the compilation of the Draw.
- In the situation where a Club can only field one team in an Age Group involving Conferences, it will initially be left to the discretion of the Club as to which Conference the team is nominated. However, if a Club does not nominate a Conference, or the Regional Committee believes that the Club previous years' performance, the Regional Committee reserves the right to allocate a Club to a Conference that will ensure teams are competitive.
- Clubs failing to nominate teams by this date will not have teams entered in the competition, unless otherwise agreed to by the Regional Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Regional Committee and the Football Operations Coordinator.
- Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same competition or conference, Clubs must make every endeavour to form evenly matched teams.
- If a Club have more than two teams in an Age Group, the Club will ensure that a team will be nominated for each conference and then nominate the appropriate conference for the third team, unless the Regional Committee authorises different nominations
- If in the opinion of the Regional Committee, the teams are not evenly matched the Club will be directed to make changes to teams, usually by the end of round 4 or even sooner.
- The Regional Committee shall at the end of Round 3 review the performance of the teams that are nominated in the Conferences to ensure that there is an even number of teams in the first conference. The Chairman and Football operations Manager will (discuss) then advise the President of the Club (s) what Conference their team will be playing in for that season. The final decision will be that of the Regional Committee in the best interest of the competition.
- For the first 3 rounds the Regional Committee will construct the draw that will enable the Regional Committee to arrange Conferences that will result in competitive football in each conference. If the Regional Committee



decides that there will be an odd number of teams in each conference during this period, one team from the first conference will play a team from the second conference.

- Teams will be assessed on their performance over the over the first three (3) rounds of the competition after which a decision will be made by the Regional Committee in conjunction with the Football Operations Co-ordinator as to which Conference the team is best suited.

Conferences

- The decision of the Regional Committee as to the numbers of teams and conferences (if any) and their composition in any competition, including any decision to re-conference or not and any decision flowing from the same is, subject to the supervision of the AFLHC Board, is a matter for the Regional Committee.
- Clubs must accept that the Regional Committee is acting good faith to ensure a fair and competitive competition for all Clubs.

Finals Qualification and Participation in Conferences

- Where a club has a team in each division, once a player has played four (4) matches in the higher division, that player is not permitted to play in the lower division, without prior permission from the Regional Committee.
- An example of where a player would be given permission to play in a lower division is in the case of a long term injury, where a player has moved to the higher team to replace the injured player.
- Any player from a higher division who plays in a lower division in breach of this rule will be deemed ineligible, and dealt with accordingly.
- If a player is granted an exemption to play in the lower conference, that player will not be eligible to play in the higher conference.
- Movement of players in the same conference/division is restricted in line with existing by laws
- With respect to all competitions any Player who plays more game in an older Age Group of higher Conference than in a younger Age Group of lower Conference is ineligible for finals in the younger Age Group or lower Conference.
- A player can only play in the finals of one conference of an age group.
- Any Player playing in the Hunter Coast Junior AFL must play a minimum of four (4) home and away matches in a team to be eligible to play in finals matches in that team.
- Any player who plays in a higher Age Group or Conference on a given weekend before the lower Age Group or conference is deemed ineligible for the lower Conference unless approval is given by the Regional Committee and Football Operations Co-ordinator.
- If any player plays in the lower Age Group or Conference after playing in the higher Conference, the match will deemed to be a forfeit.