

AFL (NSW/ACT) COMMISSION LIMITED



**2020
AFL CANBERRA
BY-LAWS**

FINAL: 15 July 2020

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Please find below a summary of the **2020 AFL Canberra By Law Appendices**. Please note a number of these have been included in the provided document, whilst updated versions, considerate of the 2020 COVID Season, will be available at the AFL Canberra Website – aflcanberra.com.au when updated.

Appendix A – **Prescribed Penalty System for Reported Player**

Appendix B – **Incident Referral Form**

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Appendix D – **Player Points System Policy – Men’s – AFL Canberra – AFL Riverina – Hume FNL**

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Introduction

The following By-Laws have been made by AFL Canberra pursuant to its role to administer Australian Football Competitions in Canberra and surrounding regions.

Definitions

All capitalised terms not defined in these By-Laws have the same meaning as in the Regulations.

In these By-Laws, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meaning.

AFL Extreme Weather Policy means the policy that sets out the approach that the League should adopt when assessing extreme weather conditions.

Host Club means the first named Club or Team in the official Season Fixture, but not always the venue of the first named Club (i.e. the Host Club), even when the Match is transferred to another venue.

Junior means a Player in the nine (9) to twelve (12) years age bracket, or Competition covering this age bracket.

Match means an official match in a Competition conducted by the League.

Melee Matrix grading system means the melee matrix grading system notified to all Clubs prior to the start of the home and away season, as updated or superseded from time to time.

Prospective Players (Juniors) means a person displaying intention to play for a Club up to three (3) days after the initial approach who is not registered yet.

Prospective Players (Seniors) means a person displaying intention to play at a club for up to four (4) weeks after initial approach.

Regional Variation means a change or inclusion to the By-Laws of the Competition as provided for under By-Law 3.3

Season Fixture means the official schedule of matches in a Competition as determined by the League prior to the commencement of a season.

Senior means a Player over the age of eighteen (18) years, or Player participating in a Competition conducted for players in this age bracket.

Team means a Club's team participating in a Match in a Competition conducted by the League.

Team Sheet means the list of Players and Officials in Footyweb or as provided for practice matches as required, to participate in a Match.

Youth means a player in the thirteen (13) to eighteen (18) years age bracket, or Player participating in a Competition covering this age bracket.

Interpretation

In the interpretation of these By-Laws, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include any other genders;

- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these By-Laws;
- (d) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (e) any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these By-Laws shall have the meaning prescribed within the By-Laws; and words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these By-Laws shall be given their ordinary meaning.

BY-LAWS

1. AFL NSW/ACT REGULATIONS

- (A) All Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials must comply with the Regulations.
- (B) In the event of any inconsistency between the Regulations and these By-Laws, the Regulations will prevail.
- (C) AFL NSW/ACT may suspend any By-Law from operation. Any such suspension shall be advised to Leagues and Clubs in writing and shall remain in force until AFL NSW/ACT determines otherwise.

2. CLUB AFFILIATION

- (A) All Clubs must affiliate with the League in the form and on such conditions as determined by the League and AFL NSW/ACT from time to time pursuant to a Club Participation Agreement.
- (B) Affiliation with the League and participating in League Competitions is granted to a Club by the League on an annual basis.
- (C) To be affiliated with the League and participate in League's Competition(s), a Club must lodge a signed application for affiliation or participation, along with any prescribed fee (which may also include, in addition to or in lieu of a prescribed affiliation fee, the lodgement of a bond) to the Competition Management Committee and have such application approved by the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) The amount of any affiliation fee, or the terms of any bond, are to be prescribed by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee may:
 - a. approve a Club's affiliation application;
 - b. approve the Club's affiliation application on terms and conditions as it reasonably requires;
 - c. approve the Club's affiliation application with a request for further or additional information, or amend or revise the application;
 - d. refuse to grant the Club's affiliation application; or
 - e. defer same.
- (F) In determining whether to grant a Club's affiliation application or in making any decision pursuant to By-Law 2(E), the Competition Management Committee shall take into account:
 - a. the Club's structure, governance and administration, including succession plans and long-term planning and development;
 - b. the promotion of AFL by the Club and its contribution to the ongoing development of Australian Football;
 - c. the financial health of the Club;

- d. the behavioural and conduct history of the Club, its Teams, Players, Officials, volunteers and spectators, and the Club's relationships with other Clubs and the League;
 - e. any other matter that the Competition Management Committee deems appropriate.
- (G) In accordance with the Club Participation Agreement, the Competition Management Committee may with prior approval from AFL NSW/ ACT, terminate the Club Participation Agreement at any time after each football season by giving 3 month's written notice to the Club. No reasons are required to be provided by the Competition Management Committee. The Club acknowledges and agrees that the Club Participation Agreement does not create a right or expectation of continued participation in any particular Competitions or any future competition/s administered by AFL NSW/ACT.
- (H) Notwithstanding the above, immediately upon notice where:
- a. the Club unreasonably fails to duly and promptly comply with its Obligations in the Club Participation Agreement;
 - b. if the Club or any of its officers, players, official or volunteers does or permits to be done any act or thing which reflects unfavourably upon the reputation, standing or goodwill of the League or the game of Australian Football or engages in any unbecoming conduct or conduct which is prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the League, AFL NSW/ACT or the playing of Australian Football;
 - c. any event occurs which in the opinion of the League or AFL NSW/ACT materially and prejudicially affects the financial position of the Club or the ability of the Club to duly and promptly observe and perform any of its obligations under this Agreement;
 - d. the League is of the opinion that the Club is otherwise unable to pay its debts as and when they fall due;
 - e. the League is of the opinion that the Club is unable to field a team(s) in a Competition administered by AFL NSW/ACT;
 - f. the Club threatens to or ceases to carry on all or part of its operations or disposes of the whole or any substantial part of its assets.

3. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

The Competition Management Committee controls the day-to-day operation of the League's Competitions.

3.1 Attendance at Meetings

The League will determine the number of representatives required in attendance at League meetings for which notice is to be properly given.

3.2 Interpretation of the By-Laws

Where there is a dispute with respect to the interpretation of these By-Laws, the opinion of the Competition Management Committee will prevail and will be final.

Regional Variation:

3.2 (A): For the purpose of this document, the Rising Star's – Men's Competition is considered a Senior Competition, and the Rising Stars – Women's is considered a Junior Competition. All other competitions are aligned to the relevant over or underage status of their competition name.

3.3 Amendments

Regional variations to these By-Laws may be agreed by the League on the recommendation of the Competition Management Committee in consultation with the Clubs.

Regional Variation:

3.3 (A): Regional Variations will be identified under the given By Law they affect. Where the Regional Variation differs from the Generic By Law, the Regional Variation will be applied.

COVID Variation:

3.3 (A): COVID Variations will be identified under the given By Law they affect. The COVID Variation has been introduced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the unique circumstances it has created for AFL Canberra and its competitions. Where the COVID Variation differs from the Regional Variation and the Generic By Law, the COVID Variation will be applied. This variation will apply until otherwise advised by AFL Canberra Football Operations.

3.4 Compliance

- (A) All Clubs are required to comply with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements governing their operations, including but not limited to the regulation of their operations and child protection.
- (B) Whilst AFL NSW/ACT and the League will provide information, guidance and assistance to Clubs where it is able on issues affecting their governance and operations, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements affecting their operations lies with each Club.

4. LAWS OF THE GAME AND POLICIES

4.1 Governing Laws and Policies

- (A) Except where otherwise noted in these By-Laws, Matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as prescribed by the AFL from time to time.
- (B) All Clubs, Players and Officials agree to comply with AFL, AFL NSW/ACT and League By-Laws and Regulations including:
 - a. the Laws of the Game;
 - b. the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations;
 - c. the National Member Protection Policy;
 - d. the National Extreme Weather Policy;
 - e. the National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
 - f. the National Gambling Policy;
 - g. the National Player and Official Deregistration Policy;
 - h. the Anti-Doping Policy;
 - i. the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy;
 - j. the Working With Children Policy;
 - k. the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications;
 - l. the National Age Dispensation Policy – NSW/ACT;
 - m. the National Coaching Accreditation Policy
 - n. the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020;
 - o. the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules and Procedures 2020;
 - p. the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations;
 - q. the AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct;
 - r. these By-Laws.

Regional Variation:

- (C) **4.1.B (I):** Clubs are also to comply with the various Appendices included in or referenced in this document, as available on the AFL Canberra Website – aflcanberra.com.au To the extent that these By-Laws are inconsistent with any AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation, rule or policy, the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT regulation or policy will prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.

4.2 Conduct of Matches – Juniors

All Junior & Youth Matches will be conducted according to the principles outlined in the Australian Football Match Policy unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT or as detailed in these By-Laws.

4.3 Player Aids & Protective Equipment

- (A) Use of gloves by Players in junior Competitions is prohibited for development purposes. The field umpire may permit or allow the use of a glove(s) by a junior Player in a Match under exceptional circumstances, such as injury.

Regional Variation:

4.3.A (I): Junior Players are permitted to wear gloves, if appropriate based on the conditions (extreme cold weather), or in any circumstance deemed appropriate by the officiating Umpire, as per the above, such as injury.

4.3.A (II) Only in the event of necessary injury protection as approved by the officiating Umpire on gameday, or AFL Canberra Football Operations prior to the game are Senior Players are permitted to wear gloves, Senior Players are not permitted to wear gloves based on weather conditions.

- (B) No Player shall be permitted to play in a Match wearing apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to himself/herself or other Players. The field umpires may at their discretion inspect Players' equipment either before or at any time during the Match.
- (C) Undergarments in junior Matches, such as lycra shorts, must be skin tone or the same colour as Club shorts. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) may only be worn with the prior approval of the League.

Regional Variation:

4.3.C (I): Full length undergarments in Junior Matches (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) may only be worn, without the prior approval of AFL Canberra Football Operations, if they worn due to the conditions (extreme cold weather).

4.3.C (II): Undergarments in Senior Matches, such as lycra shorts, must be skin tone or the same colour as Club shorts. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) are not permitted, unless with prior approval of AFL Canberra Football Operations.

- (D) Players who wear spectacles during matches and training must wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses and must be held on securely by a band.

4.4 Alcohol Policy

- (A) Alcohol is permitted to be sold at a League venue by the Host Club. In such cases the Host Club must have the appropriate liquor licence issued by the relevant authority and consent, if required, of the local council.
- (B) Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into any League venue.

- (C) Each Club is required to ensure that its members and spectators abide by this By-Law. Should a Host Club find that alcohol has been brought to the venue they must report the matter to the League and advise an Official of the offending member's or spectator's Club, who in turn shall take the necessary action.
- (D) Should the Club fail to act, or the Club members or spectators fail to adhere to the Official's request, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.
- (E) Alcohol is not permitted to be taken onto the field of play at any time during the course of a Match. Clubs are required to fix notices to the boundary fence or elsewhere if there is no boundary fence, advising that alcohol is not to be taken onto the field of play.
- (F) Alcohol is not to be consumed by a Club Official either before or whilst they are fulfilling an official Match day role (e.g. timekeeping, ground manager, Umpire escort, Umpire etc.).
- (G) In accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy, alcohol is prohibited during junior Matches. Where both Senior and Junior Matches are played on the same day at the same venue, League Policy will apply.
- (H) Alcohol is only to be consumed in areas specifically provided for in the Host Club's liquor licence which must be clearly marked.

4.5 Loss of Points

Where a Team is determined as losing a Match as a result of a breach of the Laws of the Game, the Regulations or these By-Laws:

- a. the Competition points or 'win' for the Match concerned will be credited to the opposing Team.
- b. Points scored for and against each Team and goals kicked by Players remain unchanged.

4.6 Kick-In Rule

The same football used to score the behind must be utilised for the resultant kick-in, unless otherwise instructed by the field umpire.

Regional Variation:

4.6 (A): Senior Competitions are to have an additional football or appropriate quality available behind each set of goals. Players are permitted to use this ball in the event the ball from in play is not easily accessible (eg: no longer in the venue).

The Senior Competitions are the only competitions with this exception, all Junior Competitions permitted are to use the same football as per the above By Law. The Home Club is expected to provide the Football/s for each game, these football/s are to be Sherrins, the Away Club is recommended to have a second football available, if needed. In the event a club does not provide Sherrin Footballs, they will be fined twenty five (25) dollars per incorrect football.

4.6 (B): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for the Football Size/Type per competition.

4.7 50 Metre Penalties

A free kick or a fifty (50) metre penalty may be awarded against a Team if a Player, Official or clearly identifiable supporter of a Team:

- a. uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire;

- b. behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an Umpire;
- c. intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.
- d. Players may not play on during the advancement of any 50 metre Penalty and must wait until the field Umpire signals time back on (variation from 2020 Laws of the Game).

Regional Variation:

4.7 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for the distance penalties for the relevant competition, noting in Junior Football the distance penalty is only 25 Metres for all Mixed and Youth Girls Competitions.

4.8 Spectator Distance from Boundary

In cases where boundary fencing is not in place, the field umpire may require spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the Match until the request is complied with.

Regional Variation:

4.8 (A): The preferred distance from the boundary for non-enclosed venues is a minimum of three (3) metres, as per the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines (2019), all spectators are to remain beyond this distance at all times during game play.

4.8 (B): For enclosed venues (those with a boundary fence) and non-enclosed venues, all spectators are to remain on the outside of boundary fence at all times during match play, they may enter the playing arena during breaks (Quarter and Half Time) and as appropriate at the conclusion of a game

COVID Variation:

4.8 (A): Spectators are strongly encouraged not to enter the playing arena of any venue (enclosed or non-enclosed) during game play or breaks in play (Quarter and Half Time), or at the conclusion of the game, unless otherwise permitted by the Host Club/Venue.

4.9 Traditional playing positions at Centre Bounce – Senior Men’s and Senior Women’s Competitions

- (A) Players must start in traditional playing positions at centre bounces.
- (B) Each Team must have Players starting inside both 50 metre arcs, with one player inside the goal square
- (C) Based on a Team’s on-field playing numbers, the number of Players in each area of the field will be as follows:

- 18 per Team = 6/6/6 (6 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)
- 17 per Team = 6/5/6 (6 forwards/ 5 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 6 backs)
- 16 per Team = 5/6/5 (5 forwards/ 6 centres (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)
- 15 per Team = 5/5/5 (5 forwards/ 5 centre (max 4 in centre square)/ 5 backs)
- 14 per Team = 5/4/5 (5 forwards/ 4 centres/ 5 backs)

4.10 Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity)

The Law in the Laws of the Game relating to “Ruck Contests (Prior Opportunity) does not apply for youth and junior Football.

5. COMPETITIONS

5.1 Season Fixture

- (A) The League will determine dates, locations and times of all Competition Matches in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) The League will prepare Season Fixture for each grade of Competition for distribution to Clubs prior to the start of the season.
- (C) Other than in exceptional circumstances as determined by the League, the Season Fixture will not be varied once the season has commenced.
- (D) Where a Season Fixture is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes, where possible, should be in the lower division.
- (E) Where the League does regrade a Team(s) after the commencement of a Competition, the Match Ratio (wins and losses) are included in the regraded Competition.
- (F) Each Competition Season Fixture will consist of a series of home and away Matches followed by a finals series of Matches.

5.2 Ladder

A premiership ladder for each Competition shall be maintained in Footyweb throughout the duration of the home and away season as determined by the Competition Management Committee.

Regional Variation:

5.2 (A): All AFL Canberra Competitions will be based on the "Winning Percentage" ladder

5.3 Match wins

- (A) In home and away round Matches:
 - a. Match ratio will be used as the method of determining ladder position;
 - b. Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of Matches played;
 - c. 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;
 - d. If a scheduled round of Matches is not played, the Club with the bye in that round does not receive a Match win;
 - e. Where more than one Team has the same Match ratio, Clubs will be positioned on the ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against.

5.4 Forfeits

- (A) Any Club unable to play a Match for which it is scheduled is to advise the opposing Club and the League no later than midday the day prior to the Match or as otherwise prescribed by the League. The Match will be treated as a forfeit and, provided an explanation is furnished to the League to its reasonable satisfaction, no sanction or penalty other than those specified in this By-Law will be imposed.
- (B) If there is a forfeit the Host Club must inform the Competition Management Committee as soon as reasonably practical.

- (C) Should a Club forfeit a Match without the required notice, a fine of up to one thousand (1,000) dollars may be imposed at the absolute discretion of the Competition Management Committee.

Regional Variation:

5.4.C (I): In the event a Senior Team forfeits a match it is scheduled to play, the minimum fine imposed will be two hundred and fifty (250) dollars. The determination of the total fine will be made by the Competition Management Committee, considerate of the circumstances relating to the forfeit.

5.4.C (II): In the event a Junior Team forfeits a match it is scheduled to play, the minimum fine imposed will be fifty (50) dollars. The determination of the total fine will be made by the Competition Management Committee, considerate of the circumstances relating to the forfeit.

5.4.C (III): The forfeiting Team will also be held responsible for any operational costs relating to the hosting of the game that cannot for recovered for the club that was forfeited to (received the forfeit). Such reasonable costs include, Ground Hire, Lighting, Vehicle Hire, Petrol etc.

5.4.C (IV): The clubs involved in the forfeit are expected to liaise with one another in regard to the operational costs that cannot be recovered, and come to an agreement, before an invoice is raised for these reasonable costs. In the event the clubs are unable to reach an agreement in regard to the operational costs to be invoiced, they are to engage the Competition Management Committee, who will make a determination.

5.4.A (V): All determinations by the Competition Management Committee in regard to the recovery of costs associated with forfeits are final

COVID Variation:

5.4 (A): In the event a forfeit is directly related to the health and safety of players, as a result of the COVID Pandemic, the Competition Management Committee will review all associate financial implications for the involved clubs and make an appropriate determination on any fines or additional operational costs.

- (D) Where the League is unable to advise the appointed Umpires prior to such Umpires attending a forfeited Match, the League will pay the Umpires any Match fees or expenses and the forfeiting Club will be responsible to reimburse the League.
- (E) Subject to By-Law 5.4 (D), if for any reason a Team is not ready to commence play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled commencement time for a Match, the opposing Club may claim the Match as a forfeit to be determined by the Competition Management Committee.
- (F) All Clubs must field a senior grade Team in the home and away Competition unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Management Committee. Should a Club play in a reserve (or lower grade) grade fixture and subsequently forfeit their senior grade Match on the same weekend, that Club will not be awarded any points for the reserve grade Match and will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as the Competition Management Committee may determine in its absolute discretion.
- (G) A Club's Team shall forfeit a Match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a Match already commenced.
- (H) For Matches where there is a forfeit, only the non-forfeiting Club may enter a Team into Footyweb for the purposes of player eligibility. Entry of a Team is to be completed within seven (7) days of the match being forfeited.
- (I) In the event of a forfeit, the result of the Match will be determined as follows:

- a. Juniors / Youth Competitions: In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible Club's Team will be awarded zero (0) points for and sixty (60) points against. The non-forfeiting or eligible Club's Team will be awarded sixty (60) points for and zero (0) points against.
- b. Senior Competitions (Under 19's and over): a one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) point win to the Club's Team who did not forfeit the Match.

Regional Variation:

5.4.1 (I): In the event of a forfeit, the following will apply for all AFL Canberra Competitions

- › The team receiving the forfeit:
 - will be awarded the "Win"
 - their points "for" will be the average of the points scored by the winning team in the other games of their given competition
 - their points "against" will be zero (0)
- › The team forfeiting:
 - will be awarded the "Lose"
 - their points "for" will be zero (0)
 - their points "against" will be two hundred (200)

(J) Competition Ladders will be adjusted accordingly by the League.

Regional Variation:

5.4 (A): All forfeits for the season will be tracked. In the event a Team forfeits three (3) times during the Home and Away Season, the Competition Management Committee will make a determination, in consultation with the club, in regard to their ongoing participation in the season. The Competition Management Committee reserves the right to remove a team from their competition due to forfeits.

5.5 Results of Matches

Results of matches will be determined by the League in accordance with the Laws of the Game in its absolute discretion.

5.6 Other Matches

- (A) No Club shall arrange or play in any match other than Matches outlined in the Season Fixture schedule without the prior approval of the Competition Management Committee.
- (B) For Senior practice matches the following provisions will apply:
 - a. A Practice Match Request Form, as designated by the League, shall be completed and submitted to the League by mid-day the Tuesday before the practice match;
 - b. Where a senior practice match is being organised involving Clubs from different League's or a carnival involving multiple Clubs is being organised, the Club hosting the event will be required to submit the Practice Match Request Form.
 - c. A Team Sheet using the prescribed template as provided by the League is to be used to list the names and jumper numbers of Players for the match;
 - d. All Players must be either registered on Footyweb or be a Prospective Player prior to taking the field;
 - e. In all practice matches, Umpires may report players as per the Laws of the Game.

- f. A Person suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal may still participate in practice/training Matches with his registered Club however such Matches will not count as part of the Person's suspension or disqualification.
 - g. The League will determine the fees payable to League appointed Umpires where a Club or Clubs request the appointment of League Umpires for a practice match.
- (C) For Junior practice matches, all Player's names must be listed on a Team Sheet and submitted to the Ground Manager before the commencement of the practice match.

6. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

6.1 Participation

- (A) Competition representative Teams shall participate in inter-league Matches as directed by the League and sanctioned by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.
- (B) The League shall have first call on the services of all Players for its representative Matches and representative training sessions. Any Player who does not make himself/herself available or declines selection for such training sessions and Matches, without the written approval of the Competition Management Committee, may automatically be suspended for the next two (2) Matches in which the Player's Club is participating immediately subsequent to the representative Match concerned.
- (C) Any Player who declares himself/herself unavailable because of injury or illness must make themselves available for a medical examination by a medical practitioner of the League's choice.
- (D) Any Player who fails to attend a scheduled representative training session of which he/she has been properly notified must tender an explanation to the Competition Management Committee. If in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee the Player's explanation is unacceptable, such Player may be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (E) Except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competition Management Committee, Players selected in a representative Team will not be permitted to play with their Club on the same weekend of the representative Match concerned. Any Player who takes part in a Match in violation of this By-Law shall be liable for further disqualification. The Team with which the Player participates for may lose any Competition points gained and his/her Club may be fined up to two hundred and fifty (250) dollars.
- (F) Any Player selected in a representative team must be a registered Player with a Club participating in Competitions of that League.

Regional Variation:

6.1 (A): Clubs who do not allow or discourage players from participating in Representative or Talent Programs inclusive or their associated training or games may be subject to sanctions, including the loss of Premiership Points aligned to the subsequent game, or a maximum fine of one thousand (1000) dollars. The Competition Management Committee will make a determination on such matters, in consultation with the involved Club and relevant Representative of Talent Program.

6.2 Venue Selection

- (A) Where the League schedules a representative Match to be played, the Competition Management Committee shall select a venue taking into consideration the standard of playing surface and facilities, ground hire costs and the ability to charge admission.

- (B) The League may allocate catering rights to the Host Club or any other Club which is prepared to undertake all ground management duties for the Representative Match. Any gate takings will be used by the League to offset staging costs.

6.3 Offences in Interleague Matches

Player Reports in an inter-league/ representative Match or in a Match between clubs of different leagues will be dealt with as provided for in Regulation 11 of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations.

7. UNIFORM AND LOGO REGULATIONS

7.1 Changes to Club Names and Logos

The process relating to the approval of Club names and logos including any changes to Club names and logos is governed by the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations.

7.2 Uniform Design

- (A) New Clubs are required to submit complete details of the proposed colour and design of its uniform to the Competition Management Committee for approval. Once approved, such Club has exclusive rights to its uniform design.
- (B) Existing Clubs must submit details of any proposed variation of their uniforms design for prior written approval of the Competition Management Committee.

Regional Variation:

7.1.B (I): An electronic version of all on-field uniform designs should be submitted to AFL Canberra Football Operations for reference, and approval, for any variations or new designs.

7.3 Jumper Numbers

- (A) Players of each Team must play in their Club uniform as registered with the League and wear numbers on the back of their jumpers corresponding to the numbers shown on the Club's Team Sheet.
- (B) All numbers must be whole numbers between 1 and 99 inclusive and recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. No Players from the same Team are permitted to wear the same number in a Match.
- (C) Numbers must be between 20cm and 28cm in height and in plain font.

7.4 Uniform Clashes

- (A) To avoid clashes of uniforms in Matches, the following provisions will apply:
- Subject to 7.4 (A) a. the Host Team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark-brown, blue, green etc.) whilst the away Club's Team will play in white shorts.
 - Where the Host Club play in white shorts as its primary playing uniform, the away Team must play in any colour shorts, other than white.
 - Where Teams play in uniforms that are similar in design or colour as determined by the Competition Management Committee, the away Club's Team must wear a clash jumper as approved by the Competition Management Committee.

Regional Variation:

7.6.A (I): Clubs participating in Senior Competitions are strongly encouraged to have both a dark coloured and white set of playing shorts to assist with uniform clashes. It is at a clubs discretion if they have a completely alternate clash jumper to their traditional playing uniform.

7.6.A (II): Juniors Clubs are not required to have two sets of shorts, or a clash jumper, this is at their discretion

7.6.A (III): During the Finals Series, the team who is ranked lowest in the given finals game will wear their white playing shorts, with the highest ranked team in their dark colour shorts. In the event a participating side does not have an alternate set of shorts, AFL Canberra Football Operations will work with the participating sides in regard their uniform for the finals game.

7.6.A (IV): AFL Canberra Football Operations reserves the right to vary this requirement, as required. Clubs will be advised of any changes as part of communication prior to the given game.

7.5 AFL NSW/ACT and Club Approved Suppliers

AFL NSW/ACT approved suppliers are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers to use the AFL NSW/ACT logo in accordance with Regulation 14 of the AFLNSW/ACT Regulations.

7.6 Sponsor's Logos / Approved Suppliers

- (A) Sponsor's logo may be worn on the Players' jumpers as approved by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.
- (B) Jumpers worn by Clubs must have the AFL NSW/ACT logo on the right breast and must not exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (C) Jumpers worn by Clubs may have the League or club logo on the left breast and must not to exceed 8cm x 8cm in size.
- (D) Sponsor's logo may only be worn on shorts if approved by the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion and provided:
 - a. The logo does not exceed 39cm² with a maximum width of 7cm; and
 - b. The logo is placed on the front of the right leg.
- (E) Any alternate request will be assessed by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion.

Regional Variation:

7.6.D (A): All Junior Clubs are to have the **ActewAGL Logo** on the playing shorts, sublimation is to be on the front left hand side of the shorts. Clubs are to provide AFL Canberra Football Operations with a proof of these prior to their production.

8. TEAMS

- (A) The requirements on Team nominations and the provisions for divisionalisation, joint ventures or Club alliances (if applicable) will be determined by the League in its absolute discretion.
- (B) The League reserves the right to impose sanctions on Clubs for late submissions of team nominations or withdrawal of team nominations past a predetermined date.

Regional Variation:

8 (A) – Junior Divisions: Where team numbers and/or team ability warrant, separate Divisions may be set up within a competition to determine the competitive outcome for that season. The Competition Management Committee reserves the right to establish a “Premiership” and a “Championship” Division for a Junior Competition. The “Premiership” will be considered the strongest division, with teams allocated accordingly. Divisions will either be set prior to the Home and Away Season or Finals Series, as determined by the Competition Management Committee.

8 (B) – Teams in the Same Age Group – Juniors: In the event a club fields two (2) or more teams in the one age group, players are required to be allocated to one (1) specific team for the duration of season, this will be the only team they are to represent in that competition during the season, unless under special circumstances, as per By Law 8.A (III). AFL Canberra Football Operations is to be advised of these allocations, which will be then be advised to all clubs participating in the given competition.

8 (C) – Movement of Junior Players – Special Circumstances: citing Special Circumstances, clubs may submit an application to the Competition Management Committee to request a player from another of the clubs teams in the same competition to be made eligible for another team in the same competition (eg. From Team A1 to Team A2).

Prior to applying for such a request, clubs are first encouraged to promote players from a lower Age Group Competition to play in the higher Age Group Competition (Under 13’s to Under 14’s), Clubs are also encouraged to engage with their opponents to gauge their overall player numbers for the upcoming game, to confirm whether there is an opportunity to play reduced numbers or even up numbers instead of accessing another teams or younger players.

Any request, under special circumstances, must be requested in writing by midday of the Friday prior to the game, identifying the Special Circumstances that needs to be considered, as well as the name/s of the player/s they wish to use from the clubs other team.

The Competition Management Committee will assess the application and advise the club of the outcome, and, as required, the opposing side for the scheduled game. If the Competition Management Committee deems the special circumstances to not be satisfactory, or if the club has not made a significant attempt to engage with their opposition club or promote younger players, the application will not be approved.

In the event a clubs utilises players from another of their clubs teams in the same competition without express permission from the Competition Management Committee, they risk a loss of competition points or other disciplinary action, at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee.

Games played for another clubs team in the same competition, will not count toward the players Finals Eligibility in that competition Age Group.

9. PLAYER NUMBERS

9.1 Number of players – Senior Men’s Competitions

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty-two (22).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a Team is eighteen (18) Players
- (C) If one or both Teams have eighteen (18) Players or less listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on field at the start of the Match shall be sixteen (16) Players per Team, unless both Teams

agree in consultation with the Umpires to start with either seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) 'on field' Players.

- (D) If both Teams have more than eighteen (18) Players listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on-field at the start of the Match shall be eighteen (18) Players.

Regional Variation:

9.1 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for Player Numbers for all competitions

9.2 Minimum Number of Players – Senior Competitions (Men's and Women's)

- (A) The minimum number of on-field Players required for a Team in a Match is fourteen (14). Further to By-Law 5.4 (E), if for any reason a team has less than the minimum on-field the Team has fifteen (15) minutes to ensure the minimum number of Players is reinstated.

- (B) Instances of non-compliance with By-Law 9.2(A) will be deemed to be a forfeit by the relevant Team.

Regional Variation:

9.2 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for Player Numbers for all competitions

9.3 Number of players – Senior Women's Competitions

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for a Team in a Match is twenty (20).
- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a team is sixteen (16) Players.
- (C) If one or both Teams have sixteen (16) Players or less listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on field at the start of the Match shall be fourteen (14) Players per Team, unless both Teams agree in consultation with the Umpires to start with either fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) 'on field' Players.
- (D) If both Teams have more than eighteen (18) Players listed on the Team Sheet, the number of Players on-field at the start of the Match shall be sixteen (16) Players.

Regional Variation:

9.3 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for Player Numbers for all competitions

9.4 Number of players – Junior and Youth Competitions

- (A) The maximum number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for any Team in a Match is twenty (20).

Regional Variation:

9.4.A (I): There is no limit to the number of Players that can be listed on the Team Sheet for Junior Competitions.

9.4.A (II): Opposing teams are encouraged to double check the participating players on reception of one another's Team Sheets on game day.

- (B) The maximum number of Players that can be on-field for a team is sixteen (16) Players.
- (C) Teams must have the minimum number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a Match to constitute an official Match as outlined in By-Law 9.4 (E).

- (D) To encourage maximum participation where the two Teams do not have the same number of Players, Clubs must borrow or loan available Players up to the maximum on-field number for that age group or division. If as a result of a Coach not accepting Players, the Team loaning additional Players will be able to play additional Players up to the maximum on-field number. The maximum number of Players on the Team Sheet still applies.

Regional Variation:

9.4.D (I) – “Even Up Rule”: in the event a team has less than the maximum number of on field players on their Team Sheet prior to the commencement of their scheduled game, as outlined in Appendix L, their Team Manager is to approach the opposing Team Manager, advising them of their situation and requesting a decision on “evening up” the player numbers.

The team that is approached then must make a decision, either:

- › Reduce their number of players on the field to match their opposition, or:
- › Loan players to their opposition to ensure even team numbers up to the on field maximum

The Umpire must then be informed of this decision, ideally no less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game, to ensure that all parties are understanding and in agreeance of the situation.

Updates to Player Numbers (increase or decrease) should be made at quarter or half time breaks. Noting, players who are loaned to their opposition are able to be rotated at these breaks, as required.

9.4.D (II) – “Even Up Rule”: The “Even Up Rule” does not apply during the Finals Series

9.4.D (III) – in the event a team has less than the minimum number of on field players on their Team Sheet prior to the commencement of their scheduled game, this team forfeits the match, with a scratch match to be played, with players equally split between the two sides. The win and associated points will be awarded in line with By Law 5.4.I (A).

- (E) During school holidays minimum player numbers and ground sizes may be reduced after agreement between Umpires and Coaches of both Club’s Teams. Additionally, during school holidays, the minimums below can be reduced by two (2) Players.
- (F) Other than as outlined in By-Law 9.4 (D) or in the case of a send-off, Player numbers at all times must be equal.
- (G) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the field umpire, the Opposition Coach and the ground manager must be advised accordingly. The other Club’s Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). When a Player returns to the field, in such circumstances the same process applies in reverse.

Regional Variation:

9.4 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for Player Numbers for all competitions

10. FINALS

10.1 Finals Structure

The Competition Management Committee will determine the structure of the final’s series for each Competition upon release of the Competitions Season Fixture and prior to the first home and away Match of the season.

10.2 Venue Selection

The Competition Management Committee will determine the venues for finals series Matches in its absolute discretion.

Regional Variation:

10.2 (A): This will be decided on an annual basis by the Competition Management Committee for all competitions. The basis of such decisions will be, Senior Finals (excluding Grand Finals, and as determined Preliminary Finals) based on ladder positions, whilst Junior Finals will be determined via an Application Process.

10.3 Match Duration

The duration of finals Matches will be as determined by the League in accordance with By-Law 11.5.

Regional Variation:

10.3 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary**

10.4 Match Conditions

Subject to By-Laws 10.3 and 10.5, all other Match conditions applicable to the home and away season will apply to all finals Matches.

Regional Variation:

10.4 (A): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary**

10.5 Drawn Finals

In the event of scores being equal at the end of a finals Match, the following procedure will apply:

- (A) The goal umpires will confirm the scores;
- (B) The field umpires will re-commence the Match to play extra time, initially for a further duration of five (5) minutes (plus time on) and the Teams will not change ends;

Regional Variation:

10.5.B (A): Time On will apply for the First Grade - Men's Competition only

- (C) The siren will sound after the initial period of extra time, the Teams will change ends and a further five (5) minutes (plus time on) is to be played;
- (D) If the Match is still drawn after the second five (5) minute (plus time on) period of extra time, the Match will continue until the next score at which time the siren will sound; and

Regional Variation:

10.5.D (I): if the game is still drawn after the second five (5) minute period, the siren will sound, concluding the period, and the Golden Point Rule will apply:
Golden Point Rule: After the Goal Umpires have consulted, and confirm both teams remain tied, teams will reset their position (not changing ends) with a centre bounce/ball up to recommence play. Play will continue until the next score, goal or behind, with the first team to score, the winner.

- (E) At no stage before or during extra time are Coaches permitted to address Players.

Regional Variation:

10.5.E (I): Coaches are permitted to address the playing group post the Final Siren of regular time and post the second period of extra time in the event the scores are still tied. Umpires will direct players to return to their position once the scores have been confirmed as tied by the goal umpires.

- (F) For a Grand Final where the scores are less than six (6) points the difference with two (2) minutes remaining in the final quarter, an announcement is to be made to the Goal Umpires to confirm the final score before spectators enter the field of play.

COVID Variation:

10.5.F (I): No spectators are to enter the playing arena of any venue (enclosed or non-enclosed) at the conclusion of a Grand Final, until advised by the Host Club/Venue.

10.6 Emergency Umpires

Emergency umpires, when appointed to officiate, shall have the power to order Players from the field as well as the ability to report Players.

Regional Variation

10.6 (A): When appointed, Emergency Umpires have the power to intervene in off the ball incidents, award free kicks for behind the play offences, report players, coaches, officials and the ability to order players from the field.

10.7 Player Eligibility

Further to Regulation 4.12 (separate document), the Competition Management Committee may determine additional Player eligibility requirements in its ultimate discretion provided such are not inconsistent with Regulation 4.12.

Regional Variation

10.7 (A): Refer to Appendix J for Player Eligibility during the Finals Series

10.8 Provision of Officials

During finals series Matches, non-competing Clubs may be required (as determined by the Competition Management Committee) to provide personnel to assist with event and ground management duties including as gatekeepers, timekeepers, interchange stewards, scoreboard attendants and with other operational requirements.

10.9 Catering and Gate Receipt Rights

Catering and gate receipt rights for finals Matches will be determined by the League.

Regional Variation

10.9 (A): Clubs who receive the rights to Catering, Bar, Gate etc. during the Finals Series are to refer to Appendix K in regard to their roles and responsibilities, working in conjunction with AFL Canberra Football Operations and participating teams.

11. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Match Day Paperwork

(A) Where online facilities are not utilised, paper documents as prescribed by the League in By-Law 11.1 will be provided:

<p>Team Sheets Retained by Clubs unless otherwise directed by the League</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) copies produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One (1) handed to <u>opposition</u> team manager ○ One (1) retained by Club team manager ○ One (1) provided to <u>ground manager / Timekeeper</u> • 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 Club's copies. Both Clubs to retain. • Umpires sign the ground manager's copy after completing end of Match duties. • Clubs must retain for four (4) weeks after the season and be able to present if required within seven (7) days or as determined by the League
<p>Goal umpire Score Cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Host Club must enter results on Footyweb or as required by the League.
<p>Send Off Form and timekeepers Card</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided to the Timekeeper.
<p>Match Report Completed by Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record Match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility or as required by the League.
<p>Umpire Review Completed by Coaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where required by the League submission to Umpire Manager via online facility or as determined by the League.
<p>Umpire Best and Fairest Votes completed by Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to submit via online facility or as determined by the League.
<p>Umpire Notice of Report sheet</p>	<p>The process to be used by the Umpires to submit Notice of Report is as determined by the League</p>
<p>In the event of a forfeit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Umpire Votes should be taken • No goal Umpire cards to be kept • Record result on Footyweb noted as a forfeit 	

11.2 Team Sheet

(A) The official Team Sheet for each Match must contain:

- a. the name and jumper number of each Player;
- b. the name of the Coach: and

- c. the name of each Team Official.
- (B) A copy of the official Team Sheet is to be provided by each Club to:
- a. the timekeeper, to be clearly marked with the quarter-by-quarter scores and goal-scorers at the conclusion of the Match and returned to the League Office with the relevant Match paperwork; and
 - b. the opposing Club.

Regional Variation

11.2.B (I): For each game, each team must provide six (6) hard copies of the Official Team Sheet, inclusive of Player Names, Playing Numbers and names of all Coaches and Match Officials (Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Medial Support etc.) to be distributed to the following game day representatives:

- > Own Club
- > Opposition Club
- > Umpires
- > Ground Manager
- > Time Keeper/Scorers
- > Ground Announcer (if applicable)

- (C) Player and Official names on Team Sheets are to be completed in alphabetical order.
- (D) Alterations or additions may be made to the original Team Sheet up until the end of the half time interval by arrangement with the field umpires. Players arriving late may take the field prior to being listed on the Team Sheet provided that the opposition team manager and Umpires are advised. Such Players must be included on the Team Sheet before the second half commences.
- (E) Players included on the Team Sheet but not in attendance at the Match venue at the commencement of the Match must be removed from the Team Sheet before the Match commences. No amendments may be made to any Team after the half time interval.

Regional Variation

11.2.E (I): Players are permitted to be added to the Team Sheet after Half Time, only with the approval of the Ground Manager, and confirmed with all parties involved, including the Umpires.

- (F) Goals not listed on the Team Sheet at the time it is received at the League shall not be credited to a Player's tally if subsequently disclosed.
- (G) Clubs providing incorrect or incomplete Team Sheet may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including a determination that the Club's Team be recorded as losing the Match (with a score of sixty (60) to nil (0) for Juniors and one hundred and twenty (120) to nil (0) for U19's and Senior competitions).

11.3 Identification Checks

- (A) Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's team manager to confirm the 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 must be followed:
 - a. The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet;
 - b. The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to the League;

- c. The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within three (3) working days of receiving an official request from the League, otherwise all Match wins gained by that Team in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing Team.
- (B) Should any Player fail to comply with either a request pursuant to By-Law 11.3 (A) or assist in the provision of identification of the Player, the Player may be subject to disciplinary process pursuant to the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules and Procedures 2020. It is the responsibility of the ground manager to arrange for the safe delivery of these particulars to the League. Should any discrepancies be found, the matter will be dealt with at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee in accordance with these By-Laws.

11.4 Match Times

- (A) Starting time of all Matches are as outlined in the Season Fixture. The starting times of Matches may be varied subsequently by the Competition Management Committee in writing in its absolute discretion.
- (B) For Junior Matches the competing Clubs may vary the times by mutual agreement subject to the Competition Management Committee receiving notification at least seven (7) days before the initial scheduled starting time. A shorter time period may apply if determined by the League, but a fee as determined by the League may be payable, by the Club requesting any such change.
- (C) Any Team failing to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine. At that point, at the field umpire's discretion, they may commence play.
- (D) Matches must start and finish on time. If a Match commences after its scheduled start time, or there is a lengthy delay during the Match, the ground manager and field umpires will decide on the duration of the breaks at quarter time, half time and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters to ensure that the following Match can commence as scheduled.
- (E) If the start of a Match is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the Match is rescheduled by the Competition Management Committee or by agreement between the competing Clubs, the Clubs must agree on a shortened time of play.
- (F) If the minimum Player numbers are not available at the scheduled commencement of a Junior Match, but Players sufficient for minimum numbers are expected to arrive, then a scratch Match will be played. In such circumstances, the scratch Match shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each Team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. If minimum numbers become available at any time prior to the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, then they may take the field after a goal is scored, the Teams are to be adjusted accordingly and the scratch Match then becomes an official Match. The scores at the time when the Match becomes an official Match will stand. If minimum numbers are not available at the end of the first quarter, the Match remains a scratch Match and the Team with less than the minimum number or Players forfeits the Match.
- (G) If for any reason a Club cannot or does not complete a Match, the field umpire must report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for investigation.

11.5 Match Duration

- (A) The duration of quarters and breaks for all home and away Matches will be determined by the League.

Regional Variation

11.5.A (I): Refer to **Appendix L – 2020 Competitions Summary** for Match Durations for all competitions

COVID Variation

11.5.A (I): The Match Duration for some Competitions may be adjusted for the entire season due to the current COVID Pandemic. Those Competitions, will reset to the previous standard Match Durations, as advised by AFL Canberra Football Operations when appropriate for the following season.

- (B) For Matches where time on is to be implemented, the following is to apply:|
- a. To indicate the commencement of the time added period, the field Umpire shall blow his/her whistle and raise one arm above his/her head. To indicate that the time added period has elapsed, the field umpire shall raise one arm above the head.
 - b. Where the field umpire fails to signal the completion of the time added period, or the timekeepers fail to hear their whistle or see their signal, the timekeepers must restart the clock when the ball is clearly back in play.
 - c. In the case of a goal or behind being scored, the time added is that which elapses between the time that the goal umpire first signals the goal or behind and:
 - (i) the bouncing of the ball or ball up by the Umpire in the centre (after a goal); or
 - (ii) the ball being brought back into play (after a behind).
- (C) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule signal is given by the field umpire until the field umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.
- (D) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal time off as outlined in By-Law 11.5 (B) a.
- (E) For Matches where time on is not applicable, the following will apply:
- a. The clock is only to be stopped for the blood rule or when a Player is replaced using the stretcher with the procedure as follows:
 - (i) In the event of a Player being replaced under the blood rule, timekeepers are to stop the clock from the time that the blood rule signal is given by the field umpire until the field umpire signals time back on or the ball is clearly in play.
 - (ii) In case of a Player being replaced using a stretcher, the field umpire shall signal time off as outlined in By-Law 11.5 (B) a.

11.6 Incomplete Match

Subject to By-Law 5.5 (Forfeits) if a Match is unable to commence or conclude within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed) the following shall apply:

- (A) Match not commenced: The result of a Match shall be determined by the League.
- (B) Prior to half time:
- a. If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall depart from the field.

- b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30-minute period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- (C) Half time & beyond:
- a. If the half time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the field, or in the case of half time, not return to the field.
 - b. If the Match is unable to recommence within a thirty (30) minute period, the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the Match.
 - c. The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- (D) Determination of Match not able to proceed:
- a. Unless otherwise determined by the League, a field umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed.
 - b. A field umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed when lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy.
- (E) Recommencing Play: Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a field umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match and By-Law 5.5 shall apply.
- (F) The League may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals of Matches as reasonably required.

11.7 Sirens

- (A) Timekeepers are to sound the siren as follows:
- a. As Umpires enter the playing field prior to the start of a Match and after half-time – Once;
 - b. Five (5) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and start of the third quarter – Once;
 - c. Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Twice;
 - d. One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once;
 - e. Scheduled starting time of each quarter – Once.
- (B) Clubs must also have available an emergency sounding device in the event of the failure of the siren/sounding device.

11.8 Extreme Weather

- (A) From time to time the League may vary the playing conditions due to adverse weather.

- (B) Umpires and Clubs should be aware of the dangers of allowing play to proceed during dangerous or extreme weather, such as thunder, electrical storms, lightning or hail. The Match should be terminated by the field umpire, or the ground manager, in the instance of dangerous weather such as if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field.

Regional Variation

11.8. B (I): If in the event that extreme weather causes a venue/playing surface to be deemed unsuitable/unsafe, a change in availability of a venue as determined by its governing authority (example: ACT Sportsgrounds), or AFL Canberra Football Operations postpones a match or round of matches, AFL Canberra Football Operations will notify the relevant stakeholders, as per the below:

- › **Entire Round of Games:** to the President, General Manager, or equivalent, or Team Manager of all clubs no later than 9am on the morning of the day on which they are scheduled to be played
- › **Individually Affected Games:** to the President, General Manager, or equivalent, or Team Manager of the clubs concerned as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time of the match.
- › Umpires for any affected games will be advised by AFL Canberra Football Operations

Subject to notification being made in accordance with above, all decisions made in relation to the cancelling or postponing of a game, by AFL Canberra Football Operations shall be final.

11.8. B (II): A match postponed under these rules must be replayed from the commencement under arrangements made by AFL Canberra Football Operations. AFL Canberra Football Operations shall have in its complete discretion power to nominate the venue, time and place for the replaying of that postponed match after consultation with the competing teams.

COVID Variation

11.8 (A): AFL Canberra Football Operations will endeavour to reschedule affected games, noting there will be significantly less available time and space in the season to accommodate rescheduled games. The Season End Date will not be changed to accommodate rescheduled rounds or games.

11.9 Wet Weather Procedures

- (A) Where wet or adverse weather conditions prevail, Clubs are to advise the League as early as possible of the likelihood of ground closures to enable alternative arrangements for the playing of scheduled Matches to be considered.
- (B) Where a venue to which a Match has been scheduled is unfit for play or has been closed, the League will, in consultation with the Clubs concerned, provisionally reschedule the Match to be played on the away Club's ground if available.
- (C) Where a Match is transferred to the opposing Club's venue, that Club will assume the Host 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.
- (D) Where neither venue is available, the League will make every effort to reschedule the Match to an alternative venue. Clubs whose venues are vacant and playable will be expected to co-operate with the League by making their venue available to minimise the likelihood of cancellations. In this situation, the Host Team responsibilities will be assumed by the Host Team as nominated in the fixture.

- (E) If a Match is not played because neither venue nor an alternative venue is available, the Competition Management Committee will decide whether or not the Match is to be rescheduled to another date or cancelled.
- (F) Should it appear likely that more than one Match in a round may be unable to be played, the Competition Management Committee may postpone or cancel all Matches for that round.
- (G) If any Match is cancelled, the Match does not contribute to either Team's "Match Ratio" pursuant to By-Law 5.3 (A) 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 Competition Management Committee will determine player eligibility for finals.
- (H) The Club named first on the official Season Fixture is the Host Club and is responsible for ensuring that the following provisions for Matches are adhered to.
- (I) Each Club is required to have procedures in place which enable them to contact their Players and Officials at short notice regarding any changes to scheduled Matches.

11.10 Ground Marking

- (A) The following lines must be clearly marked:
 - a. Goal-squares, boundary lines, centre square;
 - b. Arc at each end of the ground, three (3) metre centre circle (with intersecting line), ten (10) metre centre circle (with intersecting line);
 - c. Interchange Gates should be marked on one wing and adequate seating provided equal distance on either side be not less than fifty (50) metres apart for the interchange Players and Team Officials of each Club;
 - d. The boundary line must be marked at least three (3) metres inside the fence line.
- (B) A Coach's line should be marked comprising five (5) metres in length and 1 metre in from the fence / fence line or if no fence line, two (2) metres out from the boundary. It should be marked in front of the Coach's box / area. No Official or bench Player is allowed to stand in front of this line during play.
- (C) Ground markings for Junior Matches should be marked in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy.

11.11 Goal Post Pads

Padding must be provided on all fixed goal and behind posts to a height of at least two point five (2.5) metres from the ground

11.12 Scoreboard

A suitable scoreboard with numbers and Team names clearly visible to Players, Umpires and spectators must be in operation for all Matches.

Regional Variation

11.12 (A): Scoreboards are not required for Junior Competitions, with the exception of Finals

11.13 Changerooms

- (A) Separate and adequate changing facilities and showers must be provided for each Club and the Umpires
- (B) These rooms must be presented in a clean and tidy condition at the commencement of each Match.

Regional Variation

11.13 (A): In the event a venue does not have suitable facilities for every team (example: multiple fields and multiple matches and limited common changerooms or lack of permanent facilities), the Host Club is to advise the visiting teams prior to the day of the match.

11.14 Timekeeping Facilities

A table and seating with an unobstructed view of the playing area must be provided for Club timekeepers together with a suitable time clock and a sounding device which can be clearly heard at any location on the playing surface.

12. CLUB MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

12.1 Coaches

- (A) The minimum requirements for Coach Accreditation are either a “Level 1” or “Foundation Coach” accreditation as applicable.
- (B) Restrictions applied to Suspended Players and Coaches are outlined in the Regulations.

Regional Variation

12.1 (A): All Coaches in Junior Competitions are required to wear an Official Coaches Vest, as approved by, or supplied by AFL Canberra Football Operations. The Coaches Vest cannot be worn under an undone jacket, it must be clearly visible at all times, from all angles.

The Coach must be easily identifiable as the Team Coach as opposed to a team manager, spectator, medical support etc. On Match Day the Umpire/s are the sole judge in this regard.

COVID Variation

12.1 (B): In the event a club does not already have Coaches Vests, and this expense is too significant due to difficult financial situations of a club, as a result of the pandemic, AFL Canberra Football Operations will provide flexibility to this By Law, after consultation from the club.

12.2 Ground Manager

- (A) The Host Club must appoint a ground manager (or designate the following tasks to a nominated person(s) who will be responsible for the Match day requirements and Match paperwork for the day).
- (B) The ground manager must introduce him/herself to the Umpires and Officials of the visiting Club on arrival and acquaint them with the ground facilities as well as provide details of the closest emergency medical facilities. Should the ground manager be replaced during the day, the newly appointed person should immediately inform both the Umpires and both Clubs accordingly.

Regional Variation

12.2.B (I): Ground Managers are to be easily identifiable, wearing the appropriate Ground Management Vest. The Vest cannot be worn under an undone jacket, it must be clearly visible at all times, from all angles.

12.2.B (II): Ground Managers are to be easily accessible throughout the day, therefore they should be only fulfilling the Ground Manager role, or, if required assist with other game day roles which does not take the Ground Manager out of easy line of sight of stakeholders (example: working in the canteen)

12.2.B (III): Ground Managers, in the event a separate Umpire Escort is not available for the venue, are to escort the Umpires to and from the Ground before and afterwards and fulfil all duties of the Umpire Escort as per the expectations outlined in By Law 12.6.

- (C) Prior to the commencement of play, the ground manager must identify compliance of the Host Club with the Sports Trainers Policy as outlined in By-Law 12.10.
- (D) Prior to the commencement of play in each Match, the ground manager should distribute the following paperwork provided by the League unless submission of any of the Match Day paperwork is completed online by the Umpires.

Scorecards	To Club goal umpires
Send Off Form	To the Timekeeper
Timekeepers Card	To the Timekeeper
Envelope	To the field umpires
Umpires Match Report	To the field umpires
Best & Fairest Vote Slips	To the field umpires

- (E) The ground manager should also have on hand an Umpire Reporting Booklet for Club Umpires wishing to make any reports, where an online system is not being used.

Regional Variation

12.2.C (A): The Ground Manager is to complete and submit the AFL Match Day Checklist using the AFL Match Day Checklist App, prior to the commencement of the first game of the day.

The App can be downloaded from their phones App Store. The App also provides Match Day Guidelines to assist in the appropriate completion of the Checklist.

- (F) At the completion of each Match, the ground manager should collect all the following documentation unless the tasks for Umpires are completed online.

From Umpires	From Timekeepers
Sealed Envelope (Note 1)	Completed Team Lists (Note 2)
Umpire Player Report Form (if any)	Send Off Form
Goal umpire scorecards	Timekeepers Card & Scorecard

Note 1: The Umpires Sealed Envelope will include a copy of each Clubs Team Sheet, the Umpires Match Report & Best & Fairest Voting Slip. This envelope is to remain sealed.

Note 2: The ground manager should ensure that each Club has entered the quarter-by-quarter scores; best Players and the goals scored by Players on their Team Sheets/ lists. The tally of goals entered for Players must equal the number of goals scored by the respective Teams.

- (G) The ground manager also has the additional responsibility of overseeing the League's Code of Conduct at a venue. (see clause 10 of Appendix A of the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations).
- (H) At the end of the Match, the ground manager should collate all paperwork and arrange to have it returned in the prescribed manner, to reach the League by no later than the designated time.

- (I) Finally, it shall be the ground manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Host Club:
- a. As directed by the League, either SMS or telephones the results of all the day's Matches to the required person(s), prior to 5.30pm (or as defined by the Competition Management Committee) on the day concerned (this is not required for Matches played on Saturday or if the results have been input into "Footyweb" for Matches played on Sunday).
 - b. Inputs all results and Player information (i.e. Team lists, goal kickers & best Players) of all the days Matches into the Footyweb online results system by the League designated time on the day of the Match.

Regional Variation

12.2.I (I): there is no requirement to submit hard (paper) copies of Match Day Paperwork, unless requested by AFL Canberra Football Operations. All Match Day Paper work is to be submitted digitally on SportsTG.

Each team is still expected to retain the hard copies of their Match Day Paperwork, inclusive of the teams sheet with Players, Coaches and Officials Names, Player Numbers, Goal Kickers and Team Best Players, with any and all changes included.

12.2.I (II): all Match Day Paperwork is to be submitted online via SportsTG (Footyweb), by 11.59pm of the Sunday of the weekend the game was completed. This includes games played on the Sunday. Clubs will be "locked out" of the online system from 12:00am Monday, with any further additions or changes to be made in consultation with AFL Canberra Football Operations.

12.2.I III): Match Day Paperwork for First Grade Games are to be completed as quickly as possible after the completion of the match – it is preferred this is completed within two (2) hours of the matches completion.

12.2.I (IV): each team is responsible for the entry of their own match information, inclusive of Team Sheets, Players, Coaches and Officials Names, Player Numbers (all Players to have their correct number entered, Goal Kickers and Team Best Players. Team Best Players should be allocated as follows:

1. Best Player from their own team
2. Second Best Player from the own team
3. Third Best Player from the own team
4. Fourth Best Player from the own team
5. Fifth Best Player from the own team
6. Sixth Best Player from the own team

12.2.I (V): the Winning Team is responsible for the entry of the Match Result into SportsTG

12.2.I (VI): AFL Canberra Football Operations reserves the right to fine clubs for non-compliance to the entry of their Match Day Paperwork into SportsTG (FootyWeb), this includes failure to meet the 11:59pm Sunday Submission Deadline or submitting incomplete or incorrect information. This includes Players, Coaches and Officials Names, Player Numbers, Goals and Team Bests.

12.2.I (VII): Clubs will not be permitted to make/request changes to the submitted Match Day Paperwork after 4:59pm the Friday following that Round of Games. As of 5:00pm of the Friday, all details submitted for the game will be considered final and will only be adjust in special circumstances, as determined by AFL Canberra Football Operations.

12.2.I (VIII): Clubs are encouraged, particularly for Senior Competitions, to utilise the SportsTG (Footyweb) platform to live score their games, as they happen. These live scores will be relayed to the AFL Canberra Website and AFL Canberra Team App for the access of other stakeholders.

12.3 Team Managers

- (A) Each Club shall appoint a team manager for each Team it fields in the Competition. It shall be the team manager's responsibility to ensure that his/her Team's Players and Officials comply with the requirements specified in these By-Laws and with any request reasonably made by the Umpires officiating in a Match in which their Team is participating.
- (B) Each team manager shall introduce themselves to the Umpires prior to a Match for identification and to ensure that the Team Sheets are handed in on time (no later than **30 minutes** or as designated by the League prior to the scheduled start time). The team managers should also arrange for the Team Sheets to be exchanged with the opposition Club at this time.

Regional Variation

12.3.b (I): Players are permitted to be added to the Team Sheet after Half Time, only with the approval of the Ground Manager, and confirmed with all parties involved, including the Umpires.

- (C) Each team manager is to ensure that at the conclusion of the Match, the goal kickers and best Players for their respective Teams are noted on the official Team sheet, which is held by the timekeeper.

Regional Variation

12.3.C (I): Team Managers are to retain a hard copy of the completed Team Sheet for each game, this includes, Players, Coaches and Officials Names, Player Numbers, Goals and Team Bests

- (D) It shall be the team manager's responsibility to ensure that a representative of the Club waits on the Umpires at the conclusion of each Match to ascertain whether or not any reports of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match or to receive the "all clear".

Regional Variation

12.3.D (I): The Team Manager is to seek Verbal Confirmation from the Umpires at the conclusion of each Match to ascertain whether or not any reports of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match or to receive the "all clear". Team Managers are asked to do this at an appropriate time, ideally once players/umpires have shaken hands etc. and Umpires have left the playing arena.

AFL Canberra Football Operations will provide the club with the details of the report on the first business day following the report.

12.4 Team Runner

- (A) The sole duty of the team runner is to deliver messages to his or her Club's Players and then leave the field immediately having done so. Umpires shall ask runners to leave the field if they remain on the playing surface for an unnecessarily long period of time as determined by the Umpire.
- (B) The team runner must be clearly identifiable as determined by the League.

Regional Variation

12.4.B (I): Each runner is required to wear an Official Runners Shirt, as approved by, or supplied by AFL Canberra Football Operations. The runner is to wear either club shorts, track pants or compression tights, Jeans are not permitted. Based on the conditions (example: Extreme Cold Weather) runners are able to wear items of clothing underneath (example: Hoodie, Compression Gear etc.) the runners shirt, noting the runners shirt must remain on top of all of these items. The

runners shirt cannot be worn under an undone jacket, it must be clearly visible at all times, from all angles.

Runners attire must be easily identifiable as a Runner as opposed to a player or spectator. On Match Day the Umpire/s are the sole judge in this regard.

Runners footwear should either be running shoes or football boots, with a club or plain hat, as required. Runners are requested not to wear the playing socks of their club to avoid any confusion.

12.4.B (II): AFL Canberra Football Operations reserves the right to vary uniform requirements for Support Staff as deemed necessary, as well as for the purpose of commercial arrangements

- (C) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as the official team runner.
- (D) Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of one (1) team runner. Team runners are not required to enter the field via the interchange area.

Regional Variation

12.4.D (I): Teams in Senior Competitions are permitted to have a maximum of two (2) runners for a given game. Both are to be identified on the Team Sheet with all other Match Officials and Support Staff. Both are to wear the appropriate uniform as per the above.

12.4.D (II): Teams in Junior Competitions are permitted to have a maximum of one (1) runner as per By Law 12.4.D

12.4.D (III): Where a team has one (1) runner, the runner may enter and leave the field of play directly from their teams bench. Where a team has two (2) runners, only one (1) runner is permitted on the field of play at any one time. Where a team has two (2) runners, both runners need to enter and leave the field of play through their teams Interchange Gate.

12.4.D (IV): Each reported occurrence, by a registered Umpire or the Ground Manager to AFL Canberra Football Operations, may incur a fine of twenty (20) dollars, per reported incidence. The final fine amount will be determined by the Competition Management Committee, in consultation with the reported team.

- (E) Runners are permitted to enter the field at any stage throughout the match (variation from AFL Laws of the Game).

12.5 Trainers, Other Medical Support Staff and Water Carriers

- (A) Clubs may utilise a maximum of six (6) trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers per Team.
- (B) These personnel are only permitted onto the field during play to attend to injured Players or to provide Players with water. They must not be used to deliver messages to Players. These personnel may enter the field at any stage during play (variation from the AFL Laws of the Game).
- (C) Trainers, other medical support staff and water carriers for each Team must be dressed as approved by the League.

Regional Variation

12.5.C (I): Each Trainer, Water Carrier or other Medical Support is required to wear an Official Support Staff Shirt as approved by or supplied by AFL Canberra Football Operations identifying their role for the game. Medical Support such as Club Doctor, Physio etc. are permitted to wear a Trainers Shirt.

These Support Staff Members to wear either club shorts, track pants or compression tights, Jeans are not permitted. Based on the conditions (Extreme Cold Weather) Support Staff are able to wear items of clothing underneath (example: Hoodie, Compression Gear etc.) their given Support Staff shirt, noting their shirt must remain on top of all of these items. The Support Staff shirt cannot be worn under an undone jacket, it must be clearly visible at all times, from all angles.

Support Staff attire must be easily identifiable as a Support Staff as opposed to a player or spectator. On Match Day the Umpire/s are the sole judge in this regard.

Support Staff footwear should either be running shoes or football boots, with a club or plain hat, as required. Runners are requested not to wear the playing socks of their club to avoid any confusion.

12.4.B (II): AFL Canberra Football Operations reserves the right to vary uniform requirements for Support Staff as deemed necessary, as well as for the purpose of commercial arrangements

- (D) Umpires will ask any Trainer/Medical/water carrier to leave the ground if they do not have a compliant uniform and they should not return unless they have changed into the compliant uniform. Umpires shall also ask water carriers to leave the field if they are delivering messages to players.
- (E) Water carriers shall not be younger than an age approved by the League.

Regional Variation

12.5.E (I): The minimum Age for a Water Carrier is thirteen (13) years old, as of January 1st of the year in which the competition is being held

12.6 Umpires Escort

- (A) For each Match, the Host Club must appoint a suitable person to act as an escort for the Umpires (ideally the ground manager or appointee). The Umpires escort is to escort the Umpires (including Club Umpires) to and from the venue at the commencement of and conclusion of each quarter and at the commencement and conclusion of the match as designated by the League.
- (B) An Umpire exclusion zone should be implemented at quarter and three-quarter time encompassing the centre square. The Umpires Escort is to stand with the Umpires during the quarter and three-quarter time intervals and arrange for water to be provided to the Umpires, if required.
- (C) The Umpires Escort is expected to be identifiable as required by the League.
- (D) Any Umpire Escort provided is expected to assist in providing and/or obtaining details of any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct immediately after completing his/her duties in liaison with/at the request of the Umpires or ground manager.

Regional Variation

12.6 (A): Each reported occurrence, by a registered Umpire that an Umpire Escort has not been provided for a game, may incur a fine of twenty five (25) dollars, per reported incidence. The final fine amount will be determined by the Competition Management Committee, in consultation with the reported team.

12.7 Timekeepers

- (A) The Host Club must provide a timekeeper for each Match.
- (B) The away Club is entitled to also appoint or supply a timekeeper for each Match.
- (C) The timekeeper(s) are to perform the duties as set out in the Laws of the Game, these By-Laws and Regulations and as otherwise specified by the Competition Management Committee from time to time.

- (D) In the event of a dispute or disagreement between the two timekeepers, such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire, at half time if the dispute occurs during the first half or at the conclusion of the Match if it occurs during the second half. The field umpire(s) shall report the matter to the Competition Management Committee for attention.
- (E) In addition to performing timekeeping duties, timekeepers will be required to record the scores of each Match in which they officiate. The quarter by quarter scores are also to be recorded on each Club's Team Sheet.
- (F) Timekeepers are also required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field and shall be the sole judges as to when such Players may resume playing (if applicable). It is the Club of the offending Player's responsibility to obtain the all clear from the timekeepers for such Players to resume playing. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the Umpires decision to send off a Player by showing the appropriate red or yellow card to the controlling Umpire.
- (G) The field umpire(s) shall have the power to dispense with the services of either or both timekeepers during a Match.

12.8 Officials on the Bench

In addition to the maximum number of game day officials as provided in By-Laws 12.3 to 12.5 each Team is permitted a maximum of four (4) other Officials on the bench area inside the ground during play.

12.9 Players seeking to play up a Competition Age Group (Juniors)

- (A) Players are permitted to play up an age group as long the Player is not displacing a registered Player to whom that age group applies. This rule does not apply to a Player who has been selected in an age group above their registered age group and only plays in the higher age group.
- (B) The responsibility for the decision to play a Players above their registered age group rests with the Players' Club.
- (C) Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level.

Regional Variation

12.6 (A): If a player wishes to participate in an older competition outside of the recommended two (2) year age span, effectively against players three years older than them, the player's parent or guardian must sign a consent form as provided by AFL Canberra Football Operations – as per the Australian Football Match Policy.

12.10 Injury Treatment

- (A) All Clubs must comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia.
- (B) It is the Host Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate injury treatment processes are in place on Match days. The telephone numbers and addresses of the nearest medical services including ambulance, medical centres and hospitals must be available for use in an emergency.
- (C) The League has adopted the AFL Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy ("Sports Trainers Policy"). All Clubs must comply with the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (D) Training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.

- (E) The Host Club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of the Sports Trainers Policy for all Matches for which it is the Host Club.
- (F) There must be at least one person with the minimum competencies outlined in the Sports Trainers Policy at any Match as follows:
 - a. Junior (Under 12s and below): First Aid Certificate
 - b. Youth and Seniors (Under 13s and over): Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) Certificate
- (G) The visiting Club should confirm with the ground manager prior to the commencement of each Match that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this By-Law. In the event that the Host Club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the visiting Club agrees, the Match will be postponed or rescheduled. Any decision to replay a postponed Match must be agreed to by both Clubs and the Competition Management Committee within seven (7) days of the scheduled Match.
- (H) The Match may proceed if the visiting Club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.
- (I) In the event that neither Club has the appropriate requirements at the scheduled commencement of the Match a delayed start of twenty (20) minutes may be applied. If there are additional fixtures following the Match it should be shortened appropriately to not delay the commencement of Matches following.
- (J) If the visiting Club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the Match, then the visiting Club may claim a forfeit. The By-Laws in relation to forfeits will apply.
- (K) If a Match is started or played without the attendance of a First Aid Official (as defined), the Host Club will forfeit the Match and may be subject to a maximum fine of two hundred (200) dollars.
- (L) 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 occupation's they are deemed as acceptable under the Policy:
 - a. Nurse;
 - b. Physiotherapist;
 - c. A certified Sports Trainer;
 - d. St John Officer;
 - e. Paramedic;
 - f. Medical Doctor.
- (M) The Host Club must ensure there is:
 - a. A "scoop" or similar stretcher in good condition must be located in a quickly accessible location for the duration of each match.
 - b. ensure proper ambulance access to the field of play, if necessary and

- c. an appropriately and adequately stocked first aid kit.
- (N) The first aid official should be located alongside or as near as practical to the ground manager. Where more than one Match is being played at any one time, a first aid official must be supplied for each game.

12.11 Concussion

- (A) Management of concussion should be in accordance with the Management of concussion in Australian Football which can be found at: <http://www.aflcommunityClub.com.au/index.php?id=66>
- (B) Primary responsibility for the management of concussion lies with the Club of the Player, and their Officials, and where applicable, the Player's Parents / Guardian.
- (C) Any Player who is suspected of having a concussion:
- a. must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury or incident, and
 - b. must not be allowed to return to play in the same Match or participate in the same practice session. Initial decisions regarding potential incidents of concussion should be made by a medical doctor or, if there is no medical doctor in attendance, the head trainer.
- (D) Decisions regarding return to play after a concussive injury (a disturbance of brain function) should only be made by a medical officer with experience in concussive injuries. A Player who has suffered concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must not be allowed to return to training or playing until and unless the Player has received a formal medical clearance which has been provided to the Club.

12.12 Match-Day Safety Check

A representative of all competing Clubs is required to conduct a Match day health and safety check prior to the commencement of the first Match and at any other time during the day if conditions change. The representatives must complete the checklist online via the AFL Match Day Checklist app. If a Club is unable to complete the checklist online, they are to complete a manual Marsh checklist. Completed checklists are to be retained by Host Clubs for a period of seven (7) years for future reference by the League or its insurers if so required.

Regional Variation

12.6 (A): Please note the following requirements/allowances of all AFL Canberra Competitions:

Boots: Football Boots with metal studs are not permitted to be worn for any competitions.

Spectacles/Glasses: If a player must wear prescription spectacles, they must have plastic frames and lenses. The spectacles must also be secured with a strap. Should a field umpire deem the spectacles to be unsafe, they may ask the player to remove them, before or during the match.

Compression Garments: In non-competitive divisions, long and short compression garments are permitted to be worn. Where possible, these are to be consistent with the teams primary colour.

In competitive divisions, the use of compression garments will be permissible to be worn by a player (underneath their official uniforms) and must be barely visible with no prominent logos. These are to be skin tone or the primary colour of their club shorts.

Dispensation for using visible compression garments may be granted on a case by case basis. Dispensations would be approved for religious or cultural reasons, with details still to be lodged with AFL Canberra Football Operations for confirmation.

Long Sleeve Jumpers Clubs are encouraged to have a long sleeve jumper given Canberra's weather, noting these need to be approved by AFL Canberra Football Operations.

Finger Nails: Finger nails should not be above the level of the finger or thumb itself. Umpires request to review players finger nails, and 'feel' for the nail by running one of their fingers over the finger of the player. If the umpire should feel a nail the player must leave the field and cut the offending nail/s and return via the inspecting umpire.

If the player is unable to cut the offending nail/s they have to apply tape. Should the tape fall off during the course of the game they must leave the field immediately and replace the tape.

Pregnant Players: Refer to the AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines

13. UMPIRES

13.1 Appointments

The League or delegate will appoint official Umpires to all Matches as available and the names of the appointed Umpires will be issued to participating Clubs prior to each Match.

Regional Variation

13.1 (A): Where Umpires are unable to be appointed to a game, based on availability, grade etc. the Club Umpire Program will be adopted for the affected game/s. Clubs involved in the affected game/s will be required to provide one (1) Field Umpire each for their match, or reach an agreement for only one (1) total Field Umpire for the game, if a Club Umpire is not available from both sides.

13.2 Availability

All members of the Umpires' panel must make themselves available to the League for appointment as a field, boundary or goal umpire as required. All Umpires must conform to the By-Laws and arrangements of the League and shall appear when called upon by the Competition Management Committee.

13.3 Umpire Requirements

Umpires must attend at the ground before the official starting time of the Match and must be on the field correctly attired a minimum of ten (10) minutes before the scheduled Match start time.

13.4 Field and Goal Umpire Numbers

- (A) A minimum of two field umpires are required in order for a Match to commence unless determined otherwise by the League. These must be registered League appointed Umpires or Club appointed Umpires (or a combination of both).
- (B) In the event that two Umpires are not available, the Match will be cancelled and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.

Regional Variation

13.4.B (I): If two Umpires (League Appointed, Club or Combination of Both) are not available, the participating clubs should consult with one another and confirm if they wish to proceed with less Umpires.

- (C) Where two (2) field umpires commence a Match and for any reason one (1) of the field umpires is unable to complete the Match the remaining field umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that there is not a suitable replacement Umpire.

- (D) As a minimum, two (2) goal umpires are required prior to a Match commencing. These can be League appointed or Club Appointed umpires or a combination of both. Should two Umpires not be available, the Match must not to commence and the matter referred to the Competition Management Committee for determination.

13.5 Umpires' Fees

The Umpires' fees for the ensuing season will be determined by the Competition Management Committee and communicated to all Clubs no later than February in the year the season in which they are applicable.

Regional Variation

13.5 (A): AFL Canberra Football Operations will oversee the payment of all League Appointed Umpires, Clubs are encouraged to pay/reward Club Appointed Umpires, where feasible

13.5 (B): Umpires will be paid the per game rate, per discipline, as determined by AFL Canberra Football Operations. Pay rates will be advised to clubs for their information, prior to the season

COVID Variation

13.5 (A): The AFL Canberra Umpires Association, in consultation with AFL Canberra has agreed to a reduced pay rate for Senior Umpires for the duration of the COVID Pandemic, across all disciplines

13.6 Payment of Umpires

- (A) Appointed Umpires are to sign the Umpires' Match Report prior to the commencement of their scheduled Match. Clubs will be invoiced for the appropriate fee based on actual attendance of officially appointed Umpires.
- (B) In the event of a Match being cancelled, other than because of forfeit as provided for in By-Law 5.4 (G), no payment shall be due to the Umpires appointed to the Match.

13.7 Umpire's Match Report

- (A) At the conclusion of each Match, the field umpire(s) shall provide a report to the Competition Management Committee on the prescribed Umpires Match Report form. All Umpires, including Club field umpires, are required to sign the Match Report. Umpire payments will only be paid to those Umpires who sign the Match Report, unless using the online report facility.
- (B) The field umpires shall also complete the best & fairest player voting slip.
- (C) The Umpires' Match Report form and best and fairest voting slip will be placed in the envelope provided and sealed and submitted to the League as designated with the Match day paperwork, unless using the online report facility.

Regional Variation

13.7 (A): The Field Umpire/s are to submit an Online Match Report and Best and Fairest Votes for all Competitive Games (Under 11's to Seniors) using the provided form by AFL Canberra Football Operations. There should be one single form completed for each game, the Field Umpires are to complete this in consultation with one another, if more than one (1) Umpire officiated the game.

This Online Form is to be completed no later than 11:59pm of the Sunday immediately following the scheduled game, this includes all League and Club Appointed Umpires.

13.7 (B): The Field Umpire/s are to complete the Best and Fairest Voting, as per of the Match Report, as follows:

- › 3 Votes – Best Player on Ground – regardless of the team
- › 2 Votes – Second Best Player on the Ground – regardless of the team
- › 1 Vote – Third Best Player on the Ground – regardless of the team

13.8 Club Report on Umpires

To assist the League in its assessment of Umpires, Clubs may at their discretion, provide a report on the Umpires performance to the League. Such report must be provided on the form as prescribed by the League.

Regional Variation

13.8 (A): Clubs are able to access the Umpire Feedback Form from AFL Canberra Website or through AFL Canberra Football Operations. All feedback will be provided to the Umpires Panel for further review and consultation with the club who submitted the feedback.

13.9 Minimum Umpire Age

- (A) Subject to By-Law 13.9 (B), the Competition Management Committee will determine the minimum age of field and boundary and goal umpires (both League and Club appointed Umpires) for all open age and under-age Competitions.
- (B) The age of a League or Club appointed field umpire of a Junior Match must be:
 - a. a minimum of fourteen (14) years old, unless agreed otherwise by the AFLNSW/ACT Umpiring Department; and
 - b. at least two (2) years older than the age group being officiated unless otherwise approved by AFL NSW/ACT Umpiring Department. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age for an Under 13 Match.

Regional Variation

13.9.B (I): The minimum Age for an Umpire is thirteen (13) years old, as of January 1st of the year in which the competition is being held

13.10 Club Umpires

- (A) From time to time each Club is required to provide suitable persons for the League Club Umpire Program. Such persons will be provided minimum level accreditation and support. Clubs will be advised of the Club Umpire commitment for the season prior to the start of the season as designated.
- (B) Where the League has not appointed official field umpires or accredited Club Umpires, it shall be each Club's responsibility to arrange for a suitable person or persons to umpire the Match. Club field umpires are to be attired as approved by the League.
- (C) Club field umpires are required to complete all the necessary Match Paperwork (i.e. Umpires Match Report (which they are to sign)) and Best & Fairest Votes.
- (D) Each competing Club is responsible for the payment of their own Club Umpires, or in the case of one Club providing both Club Umpires, the payment of one of the Club Umpires.
- (E) Where Official goal and boundary umpires have not been appointed by the League, each competing Club must be prepared to provide a suitable goal and boundary umpire to officiate. Club goal umpires must be equipped with two white flags and attired in a uniform as approved by the

League and Club boundary umpires must be attired as approved and equipped with a suitable whistle

- (F) Official field umpires shall have the power to overrule decisions by Club goal and/or boundary umpires and remove them should they consider that such Club Umpires are not competent to carry out the required duties.
- (G) Any person officiating as a club goal or boundary Umpire in a Match is to adhere to the Code of Conduct as it applies to an Official, and, in addition, is to refrain from engaging in any form of coaching of, or instruction to Players in the course of the Match other than for the purpose of conducting umpiring duties.
- (H) Payment of Club goal and boundary umpires (if any) shall be the responsibility of the respective Clubs or as determined by the Competition Management Committee. Club goal and boundary umpire's names must not be added to the Umpire's attendance sheet.

13.11 Reporting of Players and Officials

- (A) Umpires may report to the League any Player or Official who, during the progress of a Match or within the immediate proximity of the ground on the day of the Match, commits a reportable offence. The procedure for making and lodging such a report shall be as specified by the Laws of the Game and by the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020.
- (B) For the purposes of Section 3 of the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020, registered field, registered boundary and/or registered goal umpires are permitted to report Players. Unregistered Club field umpires, Club boundary and goal umpires are not permitted to report Players.
- (C) All reporting Umpires are required to reference the Offence Grade Template as outlined in clause 5.2(b) of the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020 when lodging a report.

13.12 Melees

- (A) If an incident occurs prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time interval) or following the completion of a Competition Match involving **three (3) or more players and/or officials per team** and if, in the opinion of the Competition Management Committee, such incident is likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of the Competition, AFL or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Club/s involved in such incident shall be sanctioned by the Competition Management Committee by way of a fine calculated in accordance with the Melee Matrix grading system as defined by the League .
- (B) Any amount payable by a Club, under this By-Law, shall be paid by the Club to the League within fourteen (14) days.
- (C) Individual players may still be reported under the Laws of Australian Football.

13.13 Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in By-Law 13.13 (B), shall approach or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary and goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.
- (B) The excepted persons referred to in By-Law 13.13 A above include:
 - a. AFL NSW/ACT staff;
 - b. Ground manager, including any designated assistant, umpire escort;

- c. Umpire Manager.

Regional Variation

13.13.B (I): A Team's Captain is permitted to approach Umpires during the course of a game, this can be during play as requested, or during a break of play. During quarter/half time breaks. The Captain is only to approach the Umpires once the participating teams have separated into their groups, not during the course of walking to these groups. This is to be the Team's Captain, as identified prior to the start of the game (eg: pre game Coin Toss)

13.13.B (II): Team Managers are only permitted to approach Umpires to provide them with a copy of their Team Sheet, in the event the Ground Manager has not previously received this from the Team Manager and passed it on to the Umpires. Or to seek the "All Clear" at the conclusion of the game, as per 12.3.D (I).

14. CONDUCT – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

14.1 Prescribed Penalties

A prescribed penalty system will operate in the Competitions in accordance with Appendix "A" of these By-Laws.

14.2 Code of Conduct

- (A) Clubs agree to comply with the Regulations and Code of Conduct through affiliation.
- (B) Players and Coaches agree to comply with the Code of Conduct through the Online Registration in Footyweb.
- (C) Clubs are required to ensure that all Club's Players, Officials, Coaches, administrators and parents receive a copy of the Code of Conduct.
- (D) Parents, Officials and Coaches are bound by the By-Laws, including the relevant Code of Conduct in Appendix "A" of the AFL NSWACT Regulations, as issued from time to time, irrespective of whether they have signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct.

14.3 Power to Investigate

- (A) The Competition Management Committee may investigate or nominate a person (League designate) to investigate any matter which it considers relevant to whether a person, or a Club as the case may be, may have committed a Reportable Offence or a breach of any Regulation, By-law or policy.
- (B) Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Competition Management Committee in By-Law 14.3 (A), the League designate may investigate any matter:
 - a. of their own motion; or
 - b. on the basis of video evidence; or
 - c. upon the written request of an authorised officer of a Club pursuant to By-Law 14.8; or
 - d. upon the written request of either an authorised officer of a Club or a non-aligned individual pursuant to By-Law 14.2 Code of Conduct

14.4 Co-operation

- (A) For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this By-Law, a person shall if requested by the Competition Management Committee:
- a. fully co-operate with the investigation;
 - b. truthfully answer any questions asked; and
 - c. provide any document in that person's possession or control requested by the investigating person.

14.5 Failure to Co-operate

A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 14.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, is deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and may be referred to the Tribunal by the League for determination.

14.6 Interpretation

For the purposes of this By-Law, a reference to the League designate shall be read as a reference to the League and/or any person nominated by the League to conduct an investigation on the basis of video evidence or otherwise.

14.7 Power to Report

- (A) If the League designate is of the opinion that a person may have committed a Reportable Offence, whether on the basis of an investigation, video evidence or otherwise, the League Designate may report such person and refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. The person who has been reported will be notified in writing of the charge laid against him and the date and time for the hearing and determination of the charge by the Tribunal.
- (B) Report where Notice of Report not completed – Juniors
- a. This Rule applies where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season (i.e. yellow and/ or red cards), but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report in any sending off. Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one Match playing suspension. The League will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player and the Tribunal Chairperson as soon as reasonably practical following the Match of the referral.
 - b. Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by this Rule, 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, after the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension (including increasing the suspension), or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate.

14.8 Citings by Clubs

- (A) Where a Club wishes to lodge a complaint against a Player or Official for an alleged "on field" offence (a citing), such complaint must be noted on the appropriate League Incident Referral Form (see sample Appendix 'B') which must be lodged in writing with the League no later than midday on the second business day after the incident out of which the complaint arises. An Incident Referral

Form must be submitted for each citing. An intermediate advice on the incident form may be initially emailed with the written lodgement to follow as required.

- a. This By-Law provides a means for the investigation of serious incidents which escaped the attention of Umpires.
- b. A serious incident for definition is a matter which may draw a base sanction of more than three (3) matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020 2020, or as otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee, based on the recommendation of the investigating officer.

Regional Variation

14.8.A (I): Where footage is available, the Competition Management Committee is able to grade the Club Citing in line with the State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines. In the event that the footage is reviewed, and the Competition Management Committee believes the cited player has committed a reportable offence, that does not meet a Base Sanction of three (3) games, as per By 14.8.A.B, the citing will still be accepted, and the cited player reported accordingly.

- (B) In the event a Club requests extra time to prepare the Incident Referral Form, the Competition Management Committee may, after receiving a notice of intent within the time requirements of By-Law 14.8 (A), extend the deadline to Thursday 5.00pm following the incident.
- (C) After advising of its intention to submit an Incident Referral Form in accordance with By-Law 14.8 (A), the citing Club may request extra time to negotiate an outcome with the opposing Club. In such circumstances, an agreed outcome is required to be received by the League in writing by Sunday 5.00pm following the incident and is subject to approval by the League.
- (D) Any and each such citing by a Club must be accompanied by a five hundred (500) dollar citing fee which may be forfeited should the Competition Management Committee deem in its ultimate discretion the complaint to be frivolous. The citing fee shall be paid by cheque or be evidenced as paid by attaching to the Incident Referral Form evidence that the citing fee has been electronically or deposited manually to the League's bank account. The Competition Management Committee will, at its absolute discretion, determine whether the fee will be reimbursed in part or full to the Club lodging the citing at the conclusion of the matter.
- (E) The Competition Management Committee shall decide whether the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for consideration. The person against whom such a complaint is lodged will be notified in writing of his or her rights (via Club Secretary or President) and the procedures to be followed for the investigation. Each of the Clubs concerned will receive a copy of such correspondence.
- (F) A Club may request the Competition Management Committee to review footage of an incident by submitting a fee of two hundred and fifty (250) dollar such fee which is only refundable if the matter results in an outcome as requested by the Club. The Competition Management Committee may proceed with processing a Report or a Code of Conduct breach. If it is determined not to take the matter further, the Club will be provided with an explanation within seven (7) days. If the Competition Management Committee decide to proceed the matter further the Club is not required to submit a citing.

COVID Variation

14.8.F (I) Clubs will not be required to pay for the review of footage of an incident. Clubs may be fined a minimum of fifty (50) dollars and no more than two hundred and fifty (250) dollars, if that request is found to be without reasonable grounds for review. The final fine amount will be determined by the Competition Management Committee.

- (G) Allegations relating to the conduct of Matches involving persons other than Players or Officials will be dealt with by a Code of Conduct Committee as designated by the League in accordance with Rule 14.8 (A) to 14.8 (C) above.

14.9 Appointment and Role of Tribunal

- (A) A panel of independent Tribunal members shall be appointed by the League in accordance with the requirements in the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020 or the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules and Procedures 2020 (as the case may be).
- (B) The Tribunal shall hear the following matters in accordance with the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020 or the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules and Procedures (as the case may be):
 - a. reports by Umpires against Players or Officials participating in League Competitions, pre-season or practice Matches;
 - b. such other matters (including citings by Clubs) as may be referred to it by the League;
 - c. referrals pursuant to By-Law 14.8;
 - d. any other matter as appropriate.

14.10 Tribunal Hearings

- (A) Attendance and provision of evidence at a Tribunal hearing is provided for under the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines – AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules and Procedures.
- (B) Legal representatives are permitted to attend Tribunal hearing's, but are not permitted to act as a Player, Official or Umpire advocate unless agreed to by the Tribunal Chair.
- (C) The Tribunal has jurisdiction over any Player whether registered, unregistered or ineligible as the case may be.

14.11 Report of Junior Players

The procedures for handling of reports of Junior Players 9 to 12 year's old and any subsequent disciplinary processes will be determined by the League.

14.12 Player and Official De-registration

The League and Clubs must comply with the AFL Player and Official Deregistration Policy (where applicable).

14.13 Club Websites

- (A) Any Club that operates or having operated on its behalf a website, blog or social media account representing the Club and its activities ("Club Website"), agrees that it is prohibited from publishing, displaying or otherwise disseminating on the Club Website any content, information, images or other form of communication that is inappropriate, offensive or damaging to the reputation of a Player, Official, Club, the League or AFL NSW/ACT ("Offending Material"), including by providing links to other websites that may contain Offending Material.
- (B) Any Club that is found to be in breach of By-Law 14.13 (A) as determined by the League or the Competition Management Committee in its absolute discretion, must immediately upon receipt of notification of the breach remove the Offending Material, confirm in writing to the League that is

has done so and shall be liable to sanctions as is deemed appropriate by the League or Competition Management Committee in their absolute discretion.

14.14 Media / Statements

- (A) Conduct occurring in Media or public forums is governed by the Code of Conduct.
- (B) Only authorised and approved personnel may make public statements regarding League matters.
- (C) For the By-Laws, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media or social media.
- (D) A Club whose Official or Player has made a statement contrary to the provisions of By-Law 14.14 (A), or 14.14 (B) in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred to the Competition Management Committee or Conduct Committee which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (1,000) dollars and forfeit past or future Match points.

15. ORDER OFF RULE

15.1 Yellow Card

- (A) A player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game may be ordered from the field of play for a period of fifteen (15) minutes. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a yellow card. At the discretion of the field Umpire, the Player may not be reported.
- (B) A Player ordered off with a yellow card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining the approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match.
- (C) For the purposes of this By-Law, a yellow card will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field of play for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only. E.g. a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- (D) Unless determined otherwise by the Competition Management Committee, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a yellow card can be replaced immediately.

Regional Variation

15.1 (A): The fifteen (15) minutes will commence once the player has left the field of play

15.2 Red Card

- (A) A Player who is reported by a field umpire or field umpires for a breach of the Laws of the Game twice in the same Match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in By-Law 15.2 (B) below), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match. In this instance, an Umpire will hold up a red card.
- (B) Serious breaches include but are not limited to where a Player:
 - a. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire;
 - b. Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire;

- c. Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;
 - d. Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person;
 - e. Commits an act of misconduct - if the Umpire is of the opinion the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.
- (C) A Player ordered off with a red card is required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area. The offending Player is not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the playing arena at any time (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.
- (D) Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Management Committee in its ultimate discretion, all Players who are ordered from the field of play with a red card can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed. The offending Player's Club is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the replacement Player to resume playing.
- (E) For the purposes of this By-Law, a red card will result in the Player concerned being unable to be replaced for a total period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters only. E.g. a Player sent off five (5) minutes before half time would not be permitted to be replaced until ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.
- (F) An Official reported for a breach of the Laws of the Game will automatically be issued with red card and can be replaced after a period of fifteen (15) minutes has elapsed.
- (G) All red cards are reportable offences and a Notice of Report must be submitted to the League.

Regional Variation

15.2 (A): The fifteen (15) minutes will commence once the player has left the field of play

15.3 Recording of Send Offs

- (A) When a Player is sent off from the field of play in accordance with this By-Law, the Umpire will show the appropriate yellow or red card to the timekeeper who will in turn acknowledge the send-off by showing the same colour card to the Umpire.
- (B) Timekeepers are required to record the time that Players, who are ordered off by the field umpires, leave the field of play and determine when such Players may resume playing in the Match, or be replaced in the Match (whichever is applicable). It is the offending Player's Club's responsibility to obtain approval from the timekeepers for such Player to resume playing in the Match

16. APPEALS

Any Player, Official, Umpire or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision relating to these By-Laws may appeal to the League and / or AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with the appeal procedures as outlined in the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020, the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Rules and Procedures 2020 and AFL NSWACT Regulations, as the case may be.

17. FINANCE

17.1 Fees

- (A) The Competition Management Committee will prepare a detailed budget each season taking into account all known and projected income and expenditure items.

- (B) Clubs will be levied an annual licence fee, which will be used to offset the operational cost of the respective competitions.
- (C) Licence fees and other relevant charges will be levied on an annual basis each season.

Regional Variation

17.1 (A): Clubs will be advised of the seasons Affiliation Fee for each competition prior to the season as per of the Team Nomination Process, by AFL Canberra Football Operations. Senior Clubs will be required to pay a one thousand (1000) dollar deposit, and Junior Clubs a two hundred and fifty (250) dollar deposit prior to the season as part of this process.

17.1 (B): Team Insurance Fees and any other associated costs for the season will be advised as soon as known, by AFL Canberra Football Operations.

17.2 Fines

- (A) The League will determine a schedule of fines that may be imposed for specific operational breaches of the By-Laws as follows.

Regional Variation

17.2 (A): Fines will be consistent with the amounts provided throughout, unless deemed unsatisfactory by the Competition Management Committee given the circumstances. The Competition Management Committee retains all discretion for the allocation of fines/sanctions.

- (B) Notwithstanding 17.2 (A), the Competition Management Committee may impose such sanctions as it sees fit.
- (C) Where a Club, Player, Official or Umpire has been fined by the Competition Management Committee or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the League. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the Player's or Official's Club or, in the case of an Umpire, the Umpires Association, is responsible to pay the fine to the League.

17.3 Outstanding Accounts

- (A) Except as provided for under By-Law 17.3 (B), any Club which is in arrears to the League for a period more than sixty (60) days from the date of the invoice, will be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its Teams and ineligible to play finals Matches, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid.
- (B) Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Competition Management Committee may in 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 financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

17.4 Dishonoured Cheques

Any Club which pays an account to the League by an instrument which is not honoured by its bank or other institution upon presentation, shall automatically be fined fifty (50) dollars on each occasion.

17.5 Club Finances

- (A) Each Club shall be required to furnish to the League 31 January each year, or as otherwise designated by the League in the Club Licence Agreement, a Financial Statement or Profit and Loss Statement of its operations for the previous season.
- (B) Each Club shall provide the League with a Club Budget for the ensuing season by 31 January each year or as otherwise designated by the League.

Regional Variation

17.5: Clubs are required to provide the above financial information and budget no later than the end of February each year. Any club who fails to meet this deadline will be ineligible to receive any Competition points which may be accrued by its Teams and ineligible to play finals Matches, until such point in time this information has been provided.

COVID Variation

17.5.B (I): AFL Canberra Football Operations recognises the inability for clubs to accurately forecast their club budgets due to the current pandemic. Clubs are still required to submit a club budget; however, a reduced level of detail will be accepted compared to what would usually be considered satisfactory.

17.6 Insurance

- (A) Each Club is covered by the League's compulsory insurance cover with JLT Sport under the AFL's National Risk Program. All Players and Officials of a Club will have minimum cover for public and products liability, association liability (subject to the Club being an incorporated body), personal accident and non-Medicare medical.
- (B) Each Club may elect higher levels of cover directly through JLT Sport. Specific details of cover shall be provided to Clubs each year and can also be viewed at www.jltsport.com.au/Afl/.

18. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER IMAGES GUIDELINES

The Guidelines in Appendix "C" are designed to assist Clubs, Officials, Players, families and supporters in dealing with the use of electronic and other images in Matches.

19. AWARDS

- (A) Each season, the Competition Management Committee shall arrange for the presentation of designated awards.
- (B) Any Player who has been suspended for any offence in the home and away season will not be eligible to win a Competition Best and Fairest award.

Regional Variation

19 (A): Refer to **Appendix M – Season Awards: Club Championship, Club of the Year and Associated Player Awards** for a summary of the designated awards for AFL Canberra.

COVID Variation

19 (A): The presentation of awards may be completed in a form different to what clubs traditionally expect, and what is traditional delivered by AFL Canberra Football Operations. Details of this will be provided when appropriate to allow clubs to plan accordingly.

20. GENERAL

20.1 Resolution of disputes within Clubs

- (A) Unless criminal in nature, issues or disputes arising within Clubs are in the first instance to be resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Club Constitution and to the reasonable satisfaction of the members of that Club in a timely and appropriate manner.
- (B) All Clubs and their members have a responsibility to participate in the Club's dispute resolution processes subject to the Club's Constitution.
- (C) If the matter is unable to be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties a Club may seek the assistance of the Competition Management Committee.
- (D) All persons involved in any dispute must act in a genuine attempt to resolve the dispute.

20.2 League Colours

The official colours of the League will be as designated by the League. The design of the League's representative jumpers is the responsibility of the Competition Management Committee.

20.3 Matters not provided for

The Competition Management Committee may regulate any matters not provided for in these By-Laws in its sole and absolute discretion.

20.4 Amendments to By-Laws

The League may from time to time amend or repeal any of these By-Laws as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of League and the regulation of its affairs.

Appendix “A”

PRESCRIBED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR REPORTED PLAYERS

Introduction

The League has adopted the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines for the purposes of dealing with Reportable Offences. Section 5 of the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines contains grading templates for various classifications of offences and outlines the prescribed penalties which can be offered to reported Players (where applicable).

The system will not apply to Officials who are reported. Those Reports will be heard by the Tribunal.

Procedure

Umpires shall report and charge Players in the usual manner. The reporting Umpire shall complete the Player Report Form template and forward it to the League by midnight on the Sunday immediately following the Match (where reasonably practicable).

Once the Player Report Form and Report Template has been received, the League’s Football Operations Co-ordinator will process the report and decide whether:

1. the offence by the Player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System; or
2. the Report should be referred to the Tribunal for determination.

If the offence and/or Player is suitable for determination under the Prescribed Penalty System, the prescribed penalty shall be offered to the Player (via the Club) on the Monday following the Match in which the Player was reported.

The Player (either directly or via the Club) shall notify the League of the acceptance or refusal to accept the set penalty by no later than 4.00pm on the Tuesday following the Match in which the Player was reported (or at a later date as reasonably prescribed by the League if the prescribed penalty was provided later than Monday). If accepted, the penalty shall be recorded against the player’s record kept by the League. If the prescribed penalty is rejected the Report shall be referred to the Tribunal for hearing at a time to be advised the League.

Regional Variation

Clubs will be **notified** via AFL Canberra Football Operations by **12:00pm Midday the Monday** immediately following the game in the event of a report, inclusive of the Details of the Report, Grading, Prescribed Penalty, Early Guilty Plea Sanction, if applicable, and any available Video Footage.

The Club President or Football Manger is to confirm whether the Player/Club will accept or contest the change no later than **12:00pm Midday the Tuesday** immediately following the notification.

Clubs may request an extension to this deadline as required, however in the event a request is not received, and this deadline passes, the Player will be found guilty of the Reportable Offence, and the Early Guilty Plea Sanction applied. The Club will be advised of this outcome, and the players SportsTG Tribunal History adjusted accordingly.

In the event a matter is to proceed to a Tribunal, the matter will be heard on **Wednesday Evening** immediately following the Tuesday Deadline, or as soon as a Tribunal can be convened.

COVID Variation

Tribunal Matters will be centrally managed and heard, with details of this to be advised to all clubs.

Appendix "B"

INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

TO: [Insert League]
E mail
Fax]

I, the undersigned give notice I wish to refer an incident which may constitute a Reportable Offence under the Laws of the Game or a Breach of the Code of Conduct.

Round: _____ Match: _____ vs _____

Venue: _____ Date: _____

Person(s) involved (please state offending person/s): _____

Reportable Offence or Code of Conduct Breach: _____

Type of Reportable Offence/ Infringement (s): _____

Note:

The spirit of a Citing by-law is to provide a means for the investigation of serious incidents which occur behind the play or which go unnoticed by the Umpires.

A serious incident for definition is a matter that may draw a base sanction of three or more matches in accordance with the grading table contained in the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020, or as otherwise determined by the CMC based on the recommendation of the investigating officer. See over for suggested grading Table.

With all citing submissions at least one witness statement should be included.

Vicinity at Venue: _____

Quarter: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Other relevant information: _____

Where a Classifiable Offence, as defined under 5.3 (a) of the AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal Guidelines 2020 is the reason for the citing use the table on next page to indicate the level of conduct alleged.

	Impact	Area struck	Tick suggested
Intentional Conduct	High	High/Groin	
		Body	
	Medium	High/Groin	
		Body	N/A
	Low	High/Groin	N/A
		Body	N/A
Careless Conduct	High	High/Groin	
		Body	N/A
	Medium	High/Groin	N/A
		Body	N/A
	Low	High/Groin	N/A
		Body	N/A

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

Print Name: _____ **Club:** _____ (if applicable)

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Umpire / Umpire Observer / Umpire Coach / Club Official / other _____

_____ (Please Circle)

This form is to be completed and lodged, along with the deposit in accordance with the League By-Laws

League use only: Lodged with League on ____ / ____ / ____ at ____ (time)
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Appendix “C” – Recording of Images

- (A) This Appendix governs the recording of images, video and/or audio by way of electronic or any other means (recording) of League activities where used by or for the use of or on behalf of Clubs and/or for, by or on behalf of their Officials (recorder). It must be read in conjunction with relevant Codes of Conduct and the Registration Terms and Conditions. Where this Appendix is inconsistent with specific provisions in the Registration Terms and Conditions, such specific provisions of the Registration Terms and Conditions will prevail.
- (B) This Appendix sets out the terms and conditions on which such recording can take place, seeking to balance the reasonable expectations of privacy by the participants and the reasonable use of such recordings for legitimate purposes.
- (C) In this Appendix, participant means all Players, Club appointed Umpires and Team Officials, and does not include spectators and officially appointed Umpires.
- (D) The law surrounding the taking of recordings, particularly of minors, is complex. AFL NSW/ACT takes this issue very seriously and the provisions below are designed to assist Clubs, Officials, Players, families and supporters, as stakeholders, to deal with this complex issue. However, these provisions are not legal advice, and all stakeholders must make their own enquiries. Whilst AFL NSW/ACT will provide information, guidance and assistance on these issues, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) provisions lies with individual stakeholders, as appropriate.
- (E) When a person enters private land, they consent to any requirements that the property owner may impose on them. This may include restrictions, including prohibitions on the making of a recording of events held on their land. There is nothing, however, to prevent a person from making a recording from outside of the borders of private land, regardless of the property owner’s preferences. In the absence of conduct that is offensive or threatening and unlikely to interfere with the public enjoyment of a public place, there is nothing to prevent a person from making a recording of minors in public places.
- (F) It is thus not generally illegal to make a recording of minors at sporting events, but a common-sense approach needs to be taken.
- (G) Persons making a recording and persons using such recordings must be mindful of the complex issues surrounding privacy.
- (H) Unless consent is specifically withdrawn, by reason of the Registration Terms and Conditions, the Player’s image in any form or medium is able to be used for general marketing and promotional activities.
- (I) These provisions seek to strike a balance between concerns regarding privacy and the reasonable use of such images
- (J) Recordings may only be used within the spirit of the game and within the Laws of the Game and consistent with the Code of Conduct.
- (K) By agreeing to the Registration Terms and Conditions, the participant irrevocably consents to the use of participant’s footage and likeness for competition management and administrative purposes
- (L) The recorder may only record Matches and other AFL related activities such as practice Matches, training and drills (**activity** or **activities**) for legal, instructional, Coaching and promotional purposes (**the accepted purposes**) and must not record activities for commercial, indecent, inappropriate or illegal purposes.

- (M) Subject to the direction and supervision of the League, and the direction or ruling by the relevant Conduct Committee or Tribunal, such recording may be used for legitimate purposes in Code of Conduct investigations and/or Tribunal hearings.
- (N) The recorder must inform the Ground manager (where appointed), the Coach and/or Team manager of the Club and any Club (**other Club**) whose participants are involved in the activity to be recorded, before the recording is commenced. The other Club may not object to the recording being made. The Coaches and/or Team managers must use their best endeavours to inform participants, and the parents and guardians of all participants who are minors, of the recording.
- (O) If a copy of the recording is requested by an official of the other Club (the **requestor**), the recorder must provide a copy within 3 working days after being provided by the requestor with suitable media on which to copy the recording. The requestor shall pay the amount identified in Table 1. The League may request a copy of the recording and advise the recorder of the media on which it wishes to receive the recording and such copy shall be provided to the League without charge within 3 working days.
- (P) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall provide a copy of the recording to any other party except with the written consent of both Clubs.
- (Q) None of the recorder, the requestor or the League shall post, stream or otherwise share the recording, including on the internet or social media. The recording may be shared for instructional, Coaching, Tribunal /Code of Conduct purposes but only by the Club, the other Club or the League. Except where used for the accepted purposes, none of the Applicant, the requestor or the League may make any other form of publication of the recording.
- (R) The requestor and the League may only use the recording for the purposes outlined in the clause above.
- (S) A recording may be used for promotional purposes unless the consent of the parent or guardian of any Players who are minors for the use of such recording has been withdrawn prior to its use (informed consent).
- (T) Where informed consent is required, it is the sole responsibility of the party who is required to obtain the informed consent to obtain such informed consent.
- (U) The provisions of this document apply to recordings however and by whomever made or obtained.
- (V) Table 2 sets out various activities and how they are covered by this Appendix. However, the Table is for guidance only, and if there is any discrepancy between the Table and this Appendix, the provisions of this Appendix prevail.
- (W) Breach of the terms of this Appendix, or the spirit of the game or the Code of Conduct is an act of Misconduct under the Laws of the Game, and will be dealt with pursuant to the By-laws accordingly

Table 1

Amount to be paid by the requestor pursuant to Clause (O) – Forty (40) dollars

Table 2

Consent of participants not required	Prior consent to use not required but consent may be withdrawn prior to use	Prohibited
Instruction* Coaching* Tribunal/Code of Conduct* <i>* no post, stream or otherwise sharing of the recording, including on the internet, social media</i>	Promotional (for example, use in Club newsletter, Club Annual report, Club social media or by the League.	Commercial Illegal Inappropriate Indecent

APPENDIX D

LINK: [PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY – MEN'S – AFL CANBERRA – AFL RIVERINA – HUME FNL](#)

APPENDIX E

LINK: [PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY – WOMEN'S – AFL CANBERRA](#)

APPENDIX F

LINK: [PLAYER INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT – AFL CANBERRA CLUBS AND CLUB ALIGNMENTS](#)

APPENDIX G

LINK: [PLAYER INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT – AFL CANBERRA & AFL SAPPHIRE COAST](#)

APPENDIX H

LINK: [PLAYER INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT – AFL CANBERRA & AFL SOUTH COAST](#)

APPENDIX I

LINK: [PLAYER INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT - AFL CANBBERRA & AFL CENTRAL WEST](#)

APPENDIX J

LINK: 2020 FINALS SERIES ELIGIBILITY

APPENDIX K

LINK: 2020 FINALS SERIES HOSTING ALLOCATION PROCESS AND HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES

APPENDIX L

LINK: [2020 COMPETITIONS SUMMARY: BALL SIZE, GAME/BREAK DURATIONS, PLAYER NUMBERS](#)

APPENDIX M

LINK: SEASON AWARDS: CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP, CLUB OF THE YEAR AND ASSOCIATED PLAYER AWARDS

APPENDIX N

LINK: [AFL CANBERRA CLUB APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT](#)

APPENDIX X

LINK: [ADDENDUM FOR SEASON 2020 - COVID GUIDELINES](#)