

ESSENDON DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

Statement of By-Laws

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these By-Laws, unless the contrary intention appears:

“Affiliated Club” includes any team or teams of an Affiliated Club;

“AFL Victoria” means AFL Victoria Ltd.

“Football Season” means the period of time determined in accordance with By-Law 5.2.

“Laws of Australian Football” means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by Australian Football League (ACN 004 155 211).

“Reserves Match” means a reserves level match played in the open age football competition conducted by the League.

“Reportable Offence” means a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football.

“Rules” means the Statement of Rules of the League.

“Senior Match” means a senior level match played in the open age football competition conducted by the League.

“Team Sheet” means the document referred to in By-Law 15.1.

“Under Age Match” means a match played in the under age football competition conducted by the League.

1.2 Words and expressions contained in these By-Laws will have the same meaning as in the Rules, unless the contrary intention appears.

1A FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS [amended March 2013]

1A.1 The League, in furtherance of its objective shall, subject to its Rules and these ByLaws, conduct:

- (a) An open age football competition; and

- (b) underage football competitions for the age groups of under 18 (alternatively Under 18.5), Under 16, Under 14, Under 12 and Under 10; and
- (c) such other open age and underage competitions as the Board determines from time to time.

1A.2 The Board shall decide:

- (a) How many divisions will be conducted in the open age competition and in the underage competition; and
- (b) The number of teams in each Division.

1A.3 The Board shall also decide whether any open age or underage competitions shall have a reserves team.

1A.4 It is the expectation of the League and the obligation of each Affiliated Club (subject to any specific requirements laid down by the Board) to field one team in an open aged division, one reserves team in the open age division and one team in each of the Under 18 (alternatively Under 18.5), Under 16, Under 14, Under 12 and Under 12 age groups.

SENIOR DIVISIONS [amended March 2013]

1A.5 The top level division in the open age competition shall (for the purpose of these By Laws) be known as Division 1 and each descending lower level Division will be known as Division 2, Division 3, Division 4 etc.

1A.6 Divisions 1, 2 and 3 shall initially, comprise those teams from those Clubs which currently play in the top level division, the second top level division and the third top level division.

1A.7 The Board will be permitted to name each Division in the open age competition as it sees fit notwithstanding, for the purpose of these Rules, each of the divisions will be known by the name set out in ByLaw 1.5.

1A.8 Promotion and Relegation

Each club shall be entitled to participate in the same division in which it participated in the previous season provided that, and subject to ByLaw 1.10A:

- (a) the Clubs whose senior teams finished at the bottom in a Division (except for the lowest division) shall be relegated to the next lowest division; and
- (b) the Club whose team were the Premiers in each division (save for division 1 will be promoted to the next higher division).

1A.9 Notwithstanding By Law 1.8 above, the Board may:

- (a) Promote, relegate or refuse to promote any Club in the event that:
 - (i) The Club cannot field the full complement of teams for the forthcoming seasons;
 - (ii) Playing facilities at the Club are not of a sufficient standard for the Division for which the team is to compete in the next seasons; or
 - (iii) There are other circumstances, in the opinion of the Board require or make it desirable for a Club to be promoted, relegated or refused promotion.
- (b) Relegate up to 2 teams in a division to the next lower division
- (c) In the event that the Board makes a decision pursuant to ByLaw 1.2 altering the number of Divisions in the open age group, the Board may set in place a system or mechanism to determine, or may determine itself, the teams of which Clubs shall be relegated or promoted to give effect to the decision.

JUNIOR DIVISIONS / PROMOTION AND RELEGATION [amended March 2013]

1A.10 The Board, in furtherance of its objectives shall decide

- (i) Which of an Affiliated Clubs' teams play in which Division provided that unless the Board decides that there is good reason to the contrary, the first team of an affiliated Club in each of the under age groups known as Under 16, Under 14, Under 12 and Under 10 shall play in the same Division; and
- (ii) the first team of an affiliated Club in the Under 18/Under 18.5 age group competition shall play in the same Grade or Division as that affiliated Club's Senior and Reserves Grade team.

1A.11 Subject to the discretion of the Board as to which Division in which age group an affiliated Clubs' teams will play, the Board will develop and make known a Policy for the promotion or relegation of the teams from affiliated Clubs as between Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and such other Divisions as the Board deems necessary.

2. REGISTRATION

- 2.1 Before being eligible to play in the League, each player shall complete and sign the prescribed registration form.
- 2.2 Deleted.
- 2.3 No registrations shall be accepted after 31 July in each year.
- 2.4 Once a player registers with an Affiliated Club and the registration is lodged with the League, the player is deemed a playing member of the Affiliated Club.
- 2.5 In under age grades the Affiliated Club must produce evidence of date of birth in support of an application for registration. Only the following three documents will be accepted as evidence of date of birth:
 - Birth certificate;
 - Extract of Birth;
 - Passport.

- 2.6 A player's age shall be taken from his last birthday as at the first of January each year save that a player will nonetheless be eligible to play in the Under 18 competition providing that the player does not reach the age of 19 on or before 30 June in the year of competition.
- 2.7 Any player who makes a mis-representation or mis-statements in or as part of an application for registration or obtains registration in any way contrary to the Rules, By-Laws or directives of the League shall be dealt with by the Board of Management in any manner it deems fit.
- 2.8 Affiliated Clubs shall not register or permit to play any person under a name that is not the person's actual name, except with the prior written permission of the League.
- 2.9 A provisional registration may be granted by the League for no more than 2 rounds of a Football Season, to a player who has made an application for registration that has not been finalised where good reason can be shown by the player as to why a provisional registration should be granted. Where a provisional registration is granted the player and/or his Affiliated Club must use their best endeavours to proceed with the application for registration.
- 2.10 A registrations sub-committee consisting of at least 3 members of the Board of Management shall deal with registrations of players. The most senior member of the Board of Management at a meeting of the registrations sub-committee shall preside over the meeting and shall have a casting vote. Such sub-committee shall have power to review or revoke registrations.
- 2.11 The Board of Management or a sub-committee thereof may call for the personal attendance of any player applying for registration to answer questions in relation to the player's application for registration, and the Board of Management or a sub-committee thereof shall have the power to refuse any application for registration without giving reasons.
- 2.12 The Board of Management or a sub-committee thereof may at any time revoke any registration.

3. **PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS**

3.1 **Qualifications for Finals**

- (a) To be eligible to play in finals matches with an Affiliated Club, a player must take the field for an Affiliated Club in at least 4 (four) home and away matches played on separate weekends during the Football Season.
- (b) A player who is eligible to play in finals matches with an Affiliated Club may play in finals in any grade for which he is eligible by age.
- (c) If an Affiliated Club has a lower grade Open Age team (Reserves) playing in a final, to be eligible to play in the lower grade team, a player must have played with the lower grade team, during the current Home and Away season, MORE TIMES than with the higher grade team unless both teams are competing in finals matches on the same weekend.
- (d) If an Affiliated Club has a lower grade Under Age team in an age group playing in a finals match, to be eligible to play in the lower grade team, a player must have played with the lower grade team, during the current season, MORE TIMES than with the higher grade team in the same age group unless both teams are competing in a finals match on the same weekend.
- (e) If an Affiliated Club has Under Age teams in the same age group playing in both finals and home and away matches on the same weekend, players may play in any one of the Affiliated Club's teams in the age group on that weekend, provided that the player in the finals team or teams has previously met the requirements of By-Laws 3.1(a), (b), and (d).
- (f) In finals matches an eligible player may only take the field in one of the Affiliated Club's teams in the same age group over the same weekend.
- (g) In all finals matches when a player has played the same number of games in home and away matches for higher and lower grade teams, he qualifies for the higher grade team only.

- (h) Any player that plays 12 or more games in AFL Victoria's Under 18 competition in any one season, shall not be eligible to play in the League's Under Age finals matches. If a player has played less than 12 games in AFL Victoria's Under 18 Competition he must still comply with the requirements of By-Law 3.1 (a), (b) and (d) to qualify for finals matches. [amended December 2010].

3.2 Home and Away Matches

- (a) A player can play in matches in more than one under age group competition on the one day and/or weekend in any home and away round;
- (b) No player can play in more than one Grade or Division in the same under age group competition on the same weekend;
- (c) The term "weekend" shall be constructed as applying to all matches held in a particular round whether or not the matches in that particular round are actually played on the same weekend;
- (d) A player can play in an under age group competition and in the open age competition (whether Reserves and/or Seniors) on the same weekend; and
- (e) A player can play in both a Reserves Grade and Senior match on the same weekend.

3.3 Unqualified Players

Affiliated Clubs shall be held responsible for the eligibility of all players. If an unqualified, ineligible or unregistered player takes part in a match an inquiry shall, as soon as practicable, be held by the Board of Management. The Affiliated Club or player who has neglected to fulfil the necessary requirements may be dealt with by the Board of Management in the manner it deems fit.

4A MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS- Rules for Player Transfer System 2006

4A.1 The Rules and Guidelines set out in the AFL Victoria document entitled "Australian Football League National Player Transfer Regulations" or in any amended version thereof shall apply, with the exception of the "Local Rules" referred to hereunder, to the transfer of players as between:
[Amended December 2010]

- (a) Affiliated Clubs within the League; and
- (b) An affiliated Club in the League and another Club which is affiliated with a League which has similarly adopted the AFL Victoria "Australian Football League National Player Transfer Regulations" as amended from time to time. [Amended December 2010]

4A.2 The Local Rules applying with respect to the "Australian Football League National Player Transfer Regulations" for players transferring between affiliated Clubs within the EDFL are as follows: [Amended December 2010]

- (i) No more than two players per age group will be permitted to be transferred from an affiliated Club to another affiliated Club unless both affiliated Clubs consent to this number being exceeded;
- (ii) A player who transfers from an affiliated Club to another affiliated Club to accept a position, at the new affiliated Club, of Senior playing Coach, will not be included in the total of three players allowed to be transferred;
- (iii) A player who transfers from an affiliated Club to another affiliated Club to accept a position (at the new affiliated Club) as Assistant playing Coach, will be included in the total of three players allowed to be transferred;
- (iv) Players registered with the League will only be permitted to transfer once per season between affiliated Clubs unless both affiliated Clubs

involved in any second or subsequent transfer consent to the player being transferred;

- (v) Transfers must be lodged no later than 5.00pm on the 31 May in each year of competition. The Board will be entitled to refuse the registration/transfer of a player who transfers out of the League during that season, but wishes to be transferred back into the League after the 31 May deadline and prior to the 30 June deadline for players transferring from outside the League. [amended March 2013]
- (vi) Player registrations will close at 5.00pm on 31 July of each year of competition; and
- (vii) The Board will be entitled to refuse the registration/transfer of a third or subsequent player in the one age group or the open age group from or originally from one affiliated club to another affiliated club even if one or other of the players concerned has transferred from the first mentioned affiliated club to another club (a third club) and then to the second mentioned affiliated club in the one season. [amended March 2013]

4A.3 A player whose Club refuses:

1. to grant him a transfer to another affiliated Club in the League; or
2. to provide the consent required by By-Law 4A.2(i) to allow the transfer of the player because at least three other players in that particular age group have been transferred in that season from the affiliated Club at which the player is currently registered to the affiliated Club the other players have been transferred to; or
3. to provide the consent required to By-Law 4A.2(iv) to allow the transfer of the player because the player has previously transferred between affiliated Clubs in that season;

has the right to appeal to the Board of Management or any relevant Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Management upon payment of a fee of \$550.00 (inclusive of GST) which includes a non refundable administration fee of \$275.00 (inclusive of GST) and a bond of \$275.00 (inclusive of GST). The Board of Management (or any Sub-Committee thereof) has the power to hear and determine the appeal and its decision as to whether the player shall be entitled to be transferred shall be final and binding. The bond of \$275.00 (inclusive of GST) shall be refunded unless the Board of Management (or any Sub-Committee thereof) considers that the appeal is frivolous.

4B Movement of Players – Pursuant to Football Victoria’s “Member to Member – Movement of Players and Club Policy”.

4B.1 The transfer of a player between an affiliated Club of the League and another Club in another League which has not adopted the Australian Football League National Player Transfer Regulations (or its equivalent or successor) or with a Club in another League that otherwise operates pursuant to AFL Victoria’s “Member to Member – Movement of Players and Club Policy” shall be governed by the provisions set out in AFL Victoria’s “Member to Member – Movement of Players and Club Policy” as amended or in operation at the relevant time. [Amended December 2010]

4C Movement of Players Generally

4C.1 Any player and/or official obtaining a clearance in anyway contrary to the By-Laws shall be dealt with by the Board of Management in a manner it deems fit.

4C.2 No clearance shall be lodged or registration shall be granted after the closing date for clearance and registrations adopted by AFL Victoria or, if no such closing date or dates are adopted then by the 31st May and 30 June respectively in each particular year.

- 4C.3 Players wishing to transfer to affiliated Clubs from disbanded Clubs must have a clearance endorsed by the controlling body with which the disbanded Club was affiliated.

5. MATCHES

- 5.1 Subject to any inconsistent provisions in the Rules or By-Laws, matches in the football competitions conducted by the League will be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football
- 5.2 The Football Season shall commence and conclude when the Board of Management determines or made pursuant to the power granted to the Board pursuant to By-Laws 5.4 below,ö.
- 5.3 The number of interchange players shall be determined by the League. Entry and exit of interchange players onto and from the playing field shall be through a defined area, determined by the League.
- 5.4 The Board shall have the power to make special Rules for the conduct of play in the open age and the under age competitions provided that any special Rules are contained in a document which is either published on the League's website or otherwise notified to affiliated Clubs prior to the commencement of the first round of matches in any particular year or if such Rules are made at any later time such Rules must be approved by a majority of at least two thirds of the Delegates from the affiliated Clubs.

5.5 Finals system.

- 5.5.1 The League will conduct Finals matches in each Grade or Division of each of the open age competitions and the various under age group competitions for the purpose of determining the Premiership team in each Grade or Division of the various competitions.
- 5.5.2 For the purpose of the Finals series a minimum of four teams will participate in the Finals series with a second Semi-Final to be played between the teams finishing first and second on the ladder at the end of the

home and away series, the first Semi-Final to be played between the teams finishing third and fourth, a Preliminary Final between the losing team of the second Semi-Final and the winning team of the first Semi-Final and a Grand Final between the winner of the second Semi-Final and the winner of the Preliminary Final. However, the Board of Management has the power to increase the number of teams participating in the Finals series having regard to the number of teams participating in any particular Division or Grade of one of the League's competitions and shall conduct the finals series, as close as practicable, in one of the recognised Football Finals formats.

6 FORFEIT AND NON-COMPLETION OF MATCHES

- 6.1 An Affiliated Club not fielding at least 14 players 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match shall forfeit the match. If, during the course of a match a team is reduced to less than 14 players the match shall be forfeited and the Team Sheets shall immediately be signed on the ground in the presence of the field umpire, endorsed by him and forwarded in the usual manner to the General Manager. An Affiliated Club forfeiting the match shall pay all umpires fees in full.
- 6.2 In the event of an Affiliated Club commencing a game without eighteen players, any additional players entitled to play may take the field, after the captain of the relevant Affiliated Club has notified the field umpire of such intention. A player who has not signed the Team Sheet shall not be permitted to participate in a match after the Team Sheet has been lodged with the field umpire.
- 6.3 An Affiliated Club failing to participate in a match in the League's fixture of matches shall be fined by the League.
- 6.4 An Affiliated Club commencing a match in the League's fixture of matches and failing to complete the match shall be fined, unless a reason deemed satisfactory by the Board of Management is given.

- 6.5 An Affiliated Club infringing this By-Law shall be required to obtain the consent of the Board of Management to continue to participate in the football competition conducted by the League, under any terms and conditions the Board of Management sees fit to impose.
- 6.6 If an Affiliated Club is in serious breach of its obligation to field a full compliment of teams, The Board of Management will deal with the matter as it sees fit and may impose penalties including, but not limited to, loss of deduction of premiership points for that clubs Senior team.

7 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MATCHES

- 7.1 Each Affiliated Club shall have a ground approved by the Board of Management. The Board of Management shall have power to compel any Affiliated Club to bring its ground up to the required standard set out in the Laws of Australian Football.
- 7.2 Any Affiliated Club upon whose ground a match is to be played shall have the boundary marked, in the manner prescribed by the League and as set out in the Laws of Australian Football. The Affiliated Club should also provide a suitable sounding device, at least four goal flags and two footballs of a type, brand and style approved by the General Manager from time to time - in Senior Matches one of the footballs must be of new quality and the standard size of 720 to 735 mm by 545 to 555 mm and a dry weight of 450 to 500 grams. The goal posts must be a minimum height of five (5) metres, 6.4 metres apart (for Open Age matches), and set out in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football. The centre circle and centre square shall be as set out in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.
- 7.3 Each Affiliated Club shall supply the following persons for each match:
- (a) one boundary umpire - except where provided by the League;
 - (b) one goal umpire - except where provided by the League;

(c) an umpires' escort who must be properly attired in the uniform specified by the League;

(d) one timekeeper who shall officiate for the whole game.

7.4 In the event of the authorised representatives of each participating Affiliated Club agreeing that a ground is unfit for the playing of a match because of weather conditions, the game shall be declared a draw. If either authorised representative indicates a desire to play the match, the field umpire shall be appealed to and his decision shall be final.

7.5 If either captain refuses to play when ordered to do so by the umpire, the match shall be forfeited by his Affiliated Club. This shall apply to home and away games only.

7.6 The fitness of grounds for finals matches shall be decided by the office bearer of the League present at the ground when the question arises.

7.7 If during a match the field umpire determines that a football is unfit for use, the umpire shall adjourn the match and allow the Affiliated Club up to fifteen minutes in which to produce a suitable football. If at the end of fifteen minutes such a football is not forthcoming, the captain of the visiting team may elect to either play on or to claim the match. In the event of the captain of the visiting team deciding to play on, no subsequent claim to the match shall be entertained by the League. In event of a match being claimed it is umpire's duty to submit such a claim to the League.

7.8 In the event of a tie in a finals match extra time will be played comprising of two (2) five (5) minute halves at each end. "Time on" will only be allowed in matches where "time on" is normally recorded. This extra time procedure will be repeated until a result is obtained. Coaches are not to address the Affiliated Clubs at any change of ends or half time in extra time.

8 STARTING TIME OF MATCHES, TIMEKEEPERS AND BREAKS IN PLAY

- 8.1 All matches shall commence at times determined by the Board of Management.
- 8.2 Timekeepers shall keep the correct time and record the starting and finishing of each quarter on cards provided by the League, and ring or sound a device at the conclusion of each quarter.
- 8.3 The duration of a break in play shall be set by the Board of Management, and timekeepers shall record the length of each break on cards provided by the League.
- 8.4 The timekeepers shall record the scores at the conclusion of each quarter on cards provided by the League, and check the same between quarters and at the conclusion of the match. These cards must be signed by both timekeepers at the conclusion of the match.
- 8.5 Timekeepers must remain together during the whole of the match. Time-on must be recorded by the timekeeper provided by the home club with a time clock or watch.

9 PREMIERSHIP POINTS

- 9.1 At the conclusion of each home and away round of matches:
 - (a) premiership points shall be allocated to each Affiliated Club as follows:
 - (i) four points for a win, match won on dispute or a forfeit;
 - (ii) two points for a tie; and
 - (b) a percentage shall be calculated for each Affiliated Club based on the proportion of points scored for and against each Affiliated Club during the home and away matches.
- 9.2 In the event of a match being abandoned after commencement for whatever reason, the points shall be allocated as the Board of Management sees fit.
- 9.3 Should an Affiliated Club disband during a Football Season, all points scored for and against the Affiliated Club under By-Law 9.1(b) shall be cancelled. Premiership points to the time of disbandment shall stand and

each team drawn to play the disbanded team shall receive four points for the remaining games.

9.4 The Board of Management shall be sole determinant of points scored for and against Affiliated Clubs, and premiership points. Any decision of the Board of Management in this regard will be final and binding.

9.5 The League shall maintain a ranking of Affiliated Clubs (the Premiership Ladder) that determines the position of Affiliated Clubs participating in each grade of the League's football competitions. The ranking of each Affiliated Club on the Premiership Ladder at the completion of the home and away matches shall be determined in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) the order of Affiliated Clubs shall first be determined by the number of premiership points accumulated by each Affiliated Club, by placing in descending order the Affiliated Club with the highest accumulated premiership points through to the Affiliated Club with the lowest accumulated premiership points;
- (b) where two or more Affiliated Clubs have accumulated the same total of premiership points, the Affiliated Club with the highest percentage as calculated under By-Law 9.1(b) shall be placed first between them;
- (c) where two or more Affiliated Clubs at the completion of the home and away matches have accumulated the same premiership points and have the same percentage, the following procedure shall apply:-
 - (i) the position of the tied Affiliated Clubs shall be adjusted by accumulating the premiership points awarded to the relevant Affiliated Club as a result of the home and away matches played between them and placing the Affiliated Club with the highest premiership points, first as between them;
 - (ii) where the premiership points accumulated by the relevant Affiliated Clubs remain equal, the position of the tied

Affiliated Clubs shall be adjusted by calculating each such Affiliated Club's percentage based on the proportion of points scored for and against each such Affiliated Club from the home and away matches between them and placing the Affiliated Club with the highest percentage, first as between them;

- (iii) where two or more Affiliated Clubs still remain tied, the position of the Affiliated Clubs shall be adjusted by lot conducted by the General Manager so that any Affiliated Club drawn ahead of any other Affiliated Club shall be placed ahead of such other Affiliated Club or Clubs.

10 EMERGENCY GROUND

- 10.1 Any Affiliated Club failing to secure the ground originally arranged for a match, shall in lieu thereof, procure another ground (the emergency ground) and notify the General Manager and the opposing Affiliated Club not later than 8 P.M. on the Wednesday immediately preceding the match, as to the situation of the ground.
- 10.2 Should an Affiliated Club fail to give notice under By-Law 10.1 it shall forfeit the match.
- 10.3 The emergency ground must be approved by the Board of Management prior to the Affiliated Club providing notice to the General Manager under By-Law 10.1.

11 UNIFORM AND NUMBER

- 11.1 All players shall be attired in the current uniform of their Affiliated Club approved by the Board of Management.
- 11.2 The side strips on the shorts of an Affiliated Club must be the League strip or as otherwise approved by the Board of Management.

- 11.3 Players shall wear black shorts or coloured shorts for home games. White shorts shall be worn by players for away games. Approval may be given by the Board of Management to alter this arrangement. [amended March 2013]
- 11.4 Each player shall wear a conspicuous one or two figure number (between 1 and 99) either sewn or worked into the back of the jersey, and no two players in the same team shall wear the same number. Any Affiliated Club not having all its players so numbered shall be fined by the League.
- 11.5 Umpires shall notify the General Manager, via the Umpiresø Report, of every player not correctly attired.
- 11.6 The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured jersey, incorporating the EDFL logo as approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such jersey shall be supplied by the manufacturer(s) approved by the Board from time to time.
- 11.7 The teams of each club shall wear shorts that incorporate the EDFL logo as approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such shorts shall be supplied by the manufacturer(s) approved by the Board from time to time.
- 11.8 The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured socks, approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such socks shall be supplied by the manufacturer(s) approved by the Board from time to time.

12 REGISTERED OFFICIALS, AND LODGING OF DOCUMENTS WITH THE LEAGUE

- 12.1 Each Affiliated Club shall furnish to the General Manager, prior to the first match of each Football Season a list of all of the officials of the club for the Football Season. Any Affiliated Club failing to submit a list of officials before the commencement of the Football Season may be dealt with by the Board of Management as the Board of Management deems fit.
- 12.2 The Affiliated Club shall ensure that all officials agree to comply with the Rules, By-Laws, determinations and decisions of the League.

- 12.3 (a) No official of the Affiliated Club other than the registered runner, the registered trainers and registered first aid attendants shall be permitted to enter the playing field during any match. The trainers sole purpose for entering the ground is to attend injured players. A maximum of 4 water persons per Affiliated Club are allowed for any one match. Trainers, water persons and first aid attendants must be attired as prescribed annually by the League.
- (b) Any Affiliated Club utilising an unregistered runner, trainer or first aid attendant shall be dealt with by the Board of Management as the Board of Management deems fit.
- (c) The Board of Management reserves the right to refuse or review the registration of any runner, trainer or First Aid attendant without giving reason thereof.
- 12.4 Each Affiliated Club shall lodge a copy of its annual report and financial statement in respect of the period including the most recent Football Season with the League by 30 November in each year.

13 COACHES

- 13.1 All coaches of Affiliated Clubs shall be registered with the League and accredited to at least Level 1 standard by AFL Victoria. Any person who purports to coach in any matches authorised or conducted by the League without satisfying the requirements of this By-Law may be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit. The Club may also be subject to a penalty, which may include a fine, for allowing the Coach to officiate without the minimum accreditation. [amended March 2013]
- 13.2 Each coach must lodge the prescribed registration form with the League prior to the coach commencing his or her duties in that Football Season.

14 TRAINERS

14.1 All trainers of Affiliated Clubs shall be accredited to at least Level 1 standard by Football Victoria.

14.2 Each Affiliated Club must ensure that an accredited trainer attends and is available during each match in which its football teams participate.

15 TEAM SHEET

15.1 Each player participating in a Senior Match, Reserves Match or Under Age Match (other than in the under 10 or under 12 competition) shall sign the Team Sheet alongside his printed name and playing number. The original signed Team Sheet shall be lodged by the Affiliated Club with the field umpire during or prior to the half time interval, and a copy of the signed Team Sheet shall be exchanged between the Team Managers of the participating Affiliated Clubs. If an Affiliated Club does not comply with this By-Law then it shall be fined.

16 CONTROL AT MATCHES

16.1 Affiliated Clubs shall be held responsible for the maintenance of order prior to, during and after the matches (includes intervals in the match).

16.2 A registered official of an Affiliated Club disputing a decision of an umpire or using abusive language or threatening or insulting language before, during or after a match shall be dealt with as the Board of Management deems fit.

17 UMPIRES

17.1 The League shall appoint the Field Umpire(s) for each home and away and finals match.

17.2 The League may appoint Goal and / or Boundary Umpires for a home and away match.

17.3 The League shall appoint the Goal and Boundary Umpires for finals matches.

- 17.4 (a) Field, Goal and Boundary umpire fees shall be set annually.
- (b) In the event of a match not taking place, other than where the Adverse Weather Committee has cancelled a match or round or in the case of a forfeit, umpires shall receive half of their usual fees.
- (c) In the event of a match not taking place because of a forfeit, the Affiliated Club giving the forfeit must pay all of the umpire fees unless the umpires receive notice that the match will not take place at least twenty four hours before the scheduled commencement time for the match.
- 17.5 In all home and away matches, the field umpires shall have power to veto a decision made by a goal or boundary umpire (other than a goal or boundary umpire appointed by the League) and make an alternative decision, if the field umpire is of the opinion the goal or boundary umpire has made an incorrect decision. The field umpire's decision shall be final.
- 17.6 If the captain of either participating Affiliated Club is of the opinion a goal or boundary umpire (other than a goal or boundary umpire appointed by the League) is unfit, the captain shall be at liberty to ask the field umpire for that umpire to be replaced by a more competent person. This request shall be granted, if considered justified by the field umpire.
- 17.7 Where a person is involved in an incident which may constitute a Reportable Offence an umpire appointed by the League shall report that person and the matter will be referred to the Tribunal for hearing and determination.
- 17.8 Where an umpire appointed by the League reports a person for a Reportable Offence during the course of a Match, the umpire shall inform the person of the report:
- (i) at the time of the incident; or
- (ii) before the commencement of the next quarter; or
- (iii) where the incident occurs in the final quarter, as soon as practicable after the completion of the match.

- 17.9 An umpire appointed by the League may inform the captain, acting captain or Team Manager of an Affiliated Club of a report where it is impractical to inform the person who has been reported.
- 17.10 As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, an umpire who has reported a person under By-Law 17.8 shall complete a Notice of Report in a form prescribed by the League from time to time.
- 17.11 Within 15 minutes of the completion of a match, the Team Manager of each Affiliated Club shall attend the Umpire's room, at which time one of the field umpires shall hand a copy of the Umpire's Report and any Notice of Report to each Team Manager. The Team Manager must sign a copy of the Umpire's Report. Receipt by the Team Manager of a Notice of Report under this By-Law shall be deemed to be notice of the report to both the Affiliated Club and the reported person. If the Team Manager of an Affiliated Club fails to attend the Umpire's room as required by this By-Law, the Affiliated Club will be fined by the League.
- 17.12 An Affiliated Club and any reported person shall forfeit any entitlement to receive the Notice of Report where the Team Manager of an Affiliated Club fails to attend the Umpire's room in accordance with By-Law 17.11.
- 17.13 Where an umpire completes a Notice of Report under By-Law 17.10, the umpire shall:
- (i) lodge a copy of the Notice with the Secretary of the Tribunal or General Manager no later than 7.00pm on the day of the match; and
 - (ii) retain a copy of the Notice for the umpire's attendance at the Tribunal.
- 17.14 The Notice of Report must be lodged by delivering that Notice to the Secretary of the Tribunal, or to the General Manager personally or at the offices of the League.
- 17.15 Where the Notice of Report is lodged with the General Manager under By-Law 17.14, the General Manager shall provide the Notice of Report to the Secretary of the Tribunal as soon as practicable.

- 17.16 Where a person has been reported under By-Law 17.8 the matter shall be referred to and dealt with by the Tribunal. The umpire, all players and witnesses named in any Notice of Report must appear when required by the Tribunal to give evidence.
- 17.17 Where a person is involved in an incident which may constitute a breach of the Rules or By-laws (other than a Reportable Offence), or conduct that may adversely and improperly interfere with the umpire's ability to umpire a match, an umpire appointed by the League shall report that person's conduct on a Notice of Report in the same manner prescribed under By-Laws 17.13 and 17.14. The Secretary of the Tribunal is responsible for providing notice of the report to the charged person and the matter will be referred to the Board of Management for hearing and determination.
- 17.18 The General Manager must be notified in writing before noon on the following Monday after the round of matches has been completed if an Umpire, Player or Witness is not available to attend the next scheduled Tribunal Hearing stating the reason(s) for his/her unavailability. If no such notification is received or the explanation provided is considered unacceptable, the Player or Witness will have his Permit to Play withdrawn until he appears before the Tribunal, or the General Manager determines otherwise. The Players club will also incur a fine of \$110.00 (which includes GST).
In the case of an Umpire failing to appear without such notification the matter will be referred to the Umpires Appointment Board to deal with as they see fit. The Umpires Appointment Board will advise the General Manager what action, if any, is to be taken.
- 17.19 The League shall have set penalties for breaches of the Laws of Australian Football by players in Senior and Under 18 Matches as determined from time to time by the Board of Management. Notwithstanding the acceptance by a reported player of the set penalty, the nature of the report and the penalty are provisional until 5.00pm on the Monday following the report.

If, within this time, the General Manager advises the Club of the Reported Player of the nature of a new charge or that the existing charge is to be heard before the Tribunal pursuant to ByLaw 17 then the new charge or the existing charge will proceed in accordance with the provision of ByLaw 24.5. Alternatively if the General Manager does not contact the Club of the reported player by 5.00pm on the Monday following the report, the charge and the penalty shall stand. [amended March 2013]

- 17.20 Umpires shall wear the uniforms prescribed by the League. Umpires shall be on the playing field five minutes before the scheduled starting time of each match. The Secretary of an Affiliated Club shall notify the General Manager of any infringement of this By-Law.
- 17.21 The scores for a match must be approved by the field umpire after the completion of the match for the home club Team Manager to telephone the scores through to the nominated League official.
- 17.22 Umpires shall forward to the General Manager the Fairest and Best votes, the Umpires Report, the original Team Lists, and the Goal and Time cards. These documents are to be delivered to the General Manager not later than 7 P.M. on the day of the match.
- 17.23 An Affiliated Club may report any umpire for inefficiency or neglect of duty. Any such report must be in writing on Affiliated Club letterhead and forwarded to the General Manager, or other nominated League officer, by 6 P.M. on the Monday immediately following the match. A copy of the report shall be forwarded by the General Manager to the umpire involved.
- 17.24 No umpire appointed by the League shall travel to or from a match with any person or persons connected with a participating Affiliated Club, except with the prior approval of the General Manager.
- 17.25 The field umpire shall report any breaches of the Rules or By-Laws by an Affiliated Club or official of an Affiliated Club to the General Manager.

- 17.26 Umpires shall be required to attend meetings when notified by the Umpires' Appointment Board. Any umpire not present at roll call may be dealt with by the Umpires' Appointment Board as it deems fit.

18 GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES

- 18.1 The goal umpires shall record the scores on the cards provided by the League and check the scores on the cards between quarters and at the conclusion of the match. A fine shall be imposed by the League if the card supplied by the League is not used. Any discrepancy between the scores shall be rectified as soon as possible in consultation with the field umpire. The cards shall be properly completed and signed by the goal umpires. If the goal umpires disagree on the score, but the timekeeper's score is the same as one of the goal umpires' scores, this score shall be recognised as the official score of the match. Failing which, any disputes shall be referred for hearing and determination by the Board of Management.
- 18.2 Goal umpires shall be attired in white coats. Boundary umpires shall as a minimum be attired in a white top and, as far as practicable, in white clothing. Any Affiliated Club not having its umpires so attired shall be fined.
- 18.3 Each team shall provide an umpires' escort who shall be a person of mature age and wear the official uniform prescribed by the League. The umpires' escort shall escort the umpires onto the ground at the start of the game, assist them at each break and escort the umpires from the field on every occasion. An umpire shall report to the General Manager, via the Umpires' Report, any occasion an Affiliated Club's umpires' escort is not in attendance.
- 18.4 In all matches the home club shall be responsible for a scoreboard which shall be in operation throughout the whole game. The scoreboard must be clearly visible to the goal umpires who shall check its accuracy at the conclusion of each quarter. Umpires shall report to the General Manager,

via the Umpires' Report, any occasion on which an Affiliated Club fails to operate a scoreboard and a fine shall be imposed by the League.

19 RESULTS SHEET

- 19.1 The secretary of each Affiliated Club shall forward to the General Manager a Results Sheet setting out all results of matches (including walkovers), a report on each match and any other information required by the By-Laws not later than 6 P.M. on the day of the match in the case of a match played on a Saturday, and not later than 5.30pm on the day of the match in the case of a match played on a Sunday.
- 19.2 An Affiliated Club that fails to submit the Results Sheet by the stipulated time shall be fined.

20 ORDER OFF RULE

- 20.1 A Field Umpire who has reported a player for a breach of the laws of Australian Football **may** order the reported player to leave the ground.
- 20.2 A player who has been reported on two separate occasions in the same match by the Field Umpire/Umpires must be ordered to leave the ground.
- 20.3 A player ordered off the field under this Rule is not permitted to return to the ground to play for the remainder of the game. However a player ordered off the ground under this Rule can be replaced by the player's Club with another player at the commencement of the next quarter.

Temporary Order Off Rule

- 20.4 **In all reserve and under age games** a Field Umpire may order a player from the ground for the remainder of the quarter without reporting the player where the player is engaged in conduct or commits acts or omissions which could potentially constitute a reportable offence or would otherwise bring the game of football into disrepute.

- 20.5 No player will be allowed to replace a player temporarily removed from the ground for the remainder of the quarter.
- 20.6 Any player ordered from the ground on two occasions during a game under this Rule:
- (a) Shall not be permitted to return to the ground for the remainder of the match.
 - (b) Shall be automatically reported for committing the reportable offence of misconduct.
 - (c) Can be replaced by the player's Club with another player at the start of the following quarter.
- 20.7 A field umpire shall, in addition to informing a Player that he or she is to immediately leave the Playing Surface, signal that the Player has been ordered off the Playing Surface by pointing to the Interchange Area. He or she shall hold aloft a red card to signal that the Player has been ordered off for the remainder of the match or a yellow card to signify that the Player has been ordered off for the remainder of the quarter. [Amended December 2010].

21 CLUB REPORT

- 21.1 Where an Affiliated Club is of the opinion that an official, Affiliated Club or player has been involved in an incident in any match that constitutes a Reportable Offence, and/or breach of the Rules or By-Laws and that incident was not reported by an officiating umpire, the firstmentioned Affiliated Club may report the matter to the League.
- 21.2 Any report under By-Law 21.1 must be authorised by 3 (three) senior members of the Affiliated Club's committee, in writing on letterhead of the Affiliated Club and lodged with the General Manager by 6pm on the Monday following the match, together with a deposit of \$550 (which amount includes GST).

- 21.3 The General Manager shall advise the President of the details of all reports made to the League under By-Law 21.1 and unless the President, with the consent of both the affiliated Club making the report and the other Affiliated Club making the report and the other Affiliated Club/s involved, instructs the General Manager to refer the report to the Board, the report shall be referred to the Investigations Officer for investigation. Such investigation shall be completed within 7 days of the matter being referred to the Investigations Officer unless an extension of time is granted by the Board of Management at the request of the Investigations Officer.
- 21.4 Any report under By-Law 21.1 that is not referred to the Investigation Officer, shall be referred to the Board of Management, which in its absolute discretion, may deal with the report as it sees fit (including without limiting its powers) referring the report or any matter arising from it to the Tribunal.
- 21.5 The deposit made by an Affiliated Club under By-Law 21.2 shall be dealt with as follows:
- (a) if the Board of Management considers a report made by an Affiliated Club under By-Law 21 to be frivolous, then the Board of Management may determine that the Affiliated Club forfeit part or all of the deposit;
 - (b) if a matter directly arising from a report is referred to the Tribunal, the deposit shall be refunded in full;
 - (c) in all cases, the deposit may, at the reasonable discretion of the Board of Management be refunded in whole or part. In the event of any refund, to the extent that any GST paid under By-Law 21.2 for GST is no longer applicable, that amount shall also be refunded.

22 BOARD MEMBER REPORT

- 22.1 Where a Board Member is of the opinion that an official, Affiliated Club or player has been involved in an incident during, before or after any match that constitutes a Reportable Offence, and/or breach

of the Rules or By-Laws and that incident is not reported by an officiating umpire, a Board Member may report the matter to the League.

- 22.2 A report made under By-Law 22.1 is to be in writing and lodged with the General Manager prior to 6.00pm on the Monday following the match.
- 22.3 The General Manager will refer any report made by a Board Member immediately to the Investigations Officer for investigation. Such investigation shall be completed within 7 days of the matter being referred to the Investigations Officer unless an extension of time is granted by the Board of Management (excluding the Board Member who laid the charge under By-Law 22.1) at the request of the Investigations Officer.

23 INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER

- 23.1 The Board of Management shall appoint an Investigations Officer prior to the commencement of the Football Season for a period of time and with such honorarium as the Board of Management considers appropriate. The Investigations Officer shall not be a member of the Board of Management.
- 23.2 The Board of Management has the power to appoint a second or third Investigations Officer if the need arises.
- 23.3 Affiliated Clubs will be advised of the appointment of any Investigations Officer.
- 23.4 Affiliated Clubs are required to make personnel (including players) available to the Investigations Officer on request. Such request is to be made by giving 48 hours notice unless otherwise agreed.
- 23.5 Any Affiliated Club, official or player must make available any information or person(s) upon request of the Investigations Officer, and must cooperate fully with any reasonable request of the Investigations Officer. Any Affiliated Club, official or player who does not comply with any reasonable

request of the Investigations Officer or does not make information available upon request may be dealt with by the Board of Management at its discretion.

- 23.6 After investigating an allegation, the Investigations Officer shall lodge with the General Manager all relevant documents and a notice in writing setting out the results of his investigation, including the Investigations Officer's opinion as to whether the player, official or Affiliated Club under investigation has breached the Laws of Australian Football, the Rules or the By-Laws and whether the matter should be dealt with by the Board of Management or the Tribunal. Subject to By-Law 23.7, the Board of Management will consider the Investigations Officer's recommendation and may deal with the matter itself or refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination.
- 23.7 Where a Board Member makes a report under By-Law 23.1 that is investigated by the Investigations Officer, that Board Member shall not take part in any consideration, hearing or determination of the matter by the Board of Management.
- 23.8 In any matter referred to the Tribunal under this By-Law the Investigations Officer shall personally appear before the Tribunal to lay the necessary charges and assist the Tribunal in the presentation of the matter.
- 23.9 Then referring any matter to the Investigations Officer the General Manager shall supply all relevant and available details regarding the incident. The Investigations Officer shall view any available video evidence. The Investigations Officer shall interview all available witnesses (including players, umpires, officials or spectators) pertaining to the matter and take a written record of the interview. It is recommended that any interview be conducted in a question and answer format. At the conclusion of any interview the Investigations Officer is to read the record of interview to the interviewee and, if the interviewee agrees to its contents, have the interviewee sign the record of interview.

- 23.10 The Investigations Officer should investigate with an open mind and any doubt regarding the events being considered must go in favour of the investigated player, official or club.

24 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 24.1 The Board of Management shall appoint not less than six persons to a disciplinary tribunal to be known as the Tribunal prior to each Annual General Meeting. A person cannot be appointed to the Tribunal if he or she is connected with any Affiliated Club.
- 24.2 For the purpose of hearing and determining any matter coming before the Tribunal, the Tribunal shall be constituted by three members.
- 24.3 The Tribunal shall elect its own Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson at its first meeting. In the event the Chairperson is unavailable at a Tribunal hearing, the Deputy Chairperson shall act as Chairperson. In the event these persons are unavailable at a Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal members present must appoint a Chairperson before commencement of any hearing/s.
- 24.4 The Board of Management shall appoint a Tribunal Secretary who shall:
- (a) perform any function prescribed in these By-Laws;
 - (b) assist the Tribunal in the efficient and proper running of matters coming before it; and
 - (c) perform other functions as directed from time to time by the Tribunal.
- 24.5 The Tribunal may hear and determine:
- (a) a report made by an umpire that a person has committed a Reportable Offence; and
 - (b) any matter referred to the Tribunal by the Board of Management.
 - (c) any matter referred to the Tribunal by the Leagues Complaints Officer pursuant to its Racial and Religions and Tolerance Policy.
 - (d) Any matter referred to the Tribunal pursuant to By Law 17.19 [amended March 2013]

- 24.6 The Tribunal shall have the power to call witnesses. Players charged shall have the power to call witnesses, provided such witnesses are nominated in writing on a document on the Affiliated Club's letterhead and lodged with the Tribunal Secretary by 6.00 p.m. on the Sunday before the hearing.
- 24.7 No person not directly involved in a matter before the Tribunal shall be entitled to be present during a hearing by the Tribunal.
- 24.8 If a videotape of an incident is available it may be screened as evidence, provided:
- 24.8.1 advice is given to the Tribunal Secretary by 6.00pm on the day before the hearing on Affiliated Club letterhead; and
- 24.8.2 any person wishing to screen the video provides all equipment necessary to screen the video at the time fixed for the Tribunal hearing.
- 24.8.3 notification is given to the reported player's Club by 6.00pm on the day before the hearing that video evidence will be led;
- 24.8.4 gives reasonable opportunity to the reported player's Club so that the reported player and his advocate can view the video prior to the Tribunal Hearing;
- 24.8.5 provided that an assurance is given by the person or Club wishing to screen the video that the whole of the video relating to the whole of the incident will be made available to the Tribunal and to the Club of the reported player.
- 24.9 The Tribunal shall apply the procedures set out in Appendix A.
- 24.10 Subject to the procedures set out in Appendix A and the By-Laws, the Tribunal may regulate any proceeding brought before it in such manner as it thinks fit.
- 24.11 The procedure for the conduct of a Tribunal hearing must be outlined by the Chairperson of the Tribunal, to all parties prior to the hearing of the matter.

- 24.12 A player may have his case heard in his absence if that player makes a request to have the case heard in his absence. Such a request must be made in writing, signed by the player and an official of the Affiliated Club and forwarded to the Tribunal Secretary prior to the scheduled hearing.
- 24.13 A player who is suspended must serve his suspension in the Grade/Age Group in which he was reported/suspended (subject to any contrary ruling made by the Tribunal). The suspended player will not be eligible to play in any Grade/Age Group until the following Round after the completion of his suspension.

25 APPEAL FROM DECISION OF TRIBUNAL

- 25.1 This By-Law prescribes the procedure for an appeal by a person in respect of the decisions referred to in By-Law 25.9.
- 25.2 The Board of Management shall from time to time appoint persons to a body to be known as the Appeal Board.
- 25.3 Subject to 25.4, the Appeal Board shall consist of at least 6 person who in the opinion of the Board of Management possess a knowledge of Australian Football.
- 25.4 A person cannot be appointed to the Appeal Board if he or she is connected with any Affiliated Club.
- 25.5 The Board of Management shall appoint a Secretary of the Appeal Board.
- 25.6 The Secretary of the Appeal Board shall:
- (a) perform any functions prescribed by these By-Laws;
 - (b) assist the Appeal Board in the efficient and proper running of matters coming before it; and
 - (c) perform other functions as directed from time to time by the Appeal Board.
- 25.7 For the purpose of hearing and determining any matter coming before the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board shall be constituted by three members who shall appoint a Chairperson from their number.

- 25.8 The Chairperson of the Appeal Board must be a qualified barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria.
- 25.9 The Appeal Board may hear and determine any appeal in respect of:
- (a) a decision of the Tribunal; or
 - (b) a decision of the Board of Management in respect of a matter referred to it by the Investigations Officer.
- 25.10 An aggrieved person may appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of any decision identified in By-Law 25.9, provided the appeal is brought no later than 12.00pm on the day after which the decision of the Tribunal or Board of Management was made.
- 25.11 An appeal under By-Law 25 shall be brought by lodging with the Secretary of the Appeal Board a completed Notice of Appeal in the form attached as Appendix B and shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$1,100 (which amount includes GST).
- 25.12 Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Secretary of the Tribunal shall:
- (a) as soon as practicable, affix a date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal;
 - (b) advise all parties interested in the appeal in writing of those particulars;
 - (c) the Secretary of the Appeal Board may vary the date, time and place specified under By-Law 25.12(a) and upon doing so, shall immediately provide all parties interested in the appeal notice of any such variation.
- 25.13 Subject to By-Laws 25.14 and 25.15, the Appeal Board shall deal with the appeal as a new hearing.
- 25.14 The Appeal Board shall have regard to any record of the hearing by the Tribunal.
- 25.15 The Appeal Board may confirm, reverse or modify any decision the subject of the appeal and may make such orders and give such directions as it thinks fit.

- 25.16 Subject to the provisions contained in this By-Law 25, in hearing and determining the appeal, the procedures set out in Appendix A shall apply to an appeal.
- 25.17 (a) Where the Appeal Board upholds an appeal and reverses the decision of the Tribunal the payment under By-Law 25.11 shall be refunded.
- (b) Where the Appeal Board dismisses an appeal but increases the sanction imposed by the Tribunal, the payment under By-Law 25.11 shall not be refunded.
- (c) Where the Appeal Board:
- (i) dismisses an appeal (but does not increase the sanction); or
 - (ii) decreases the sanction imposed by the Tribunal,
- the Appeal Board shall have the discretion to determine the proportion of the payment under By-Law 25.11 that shall be refunded, unless the Appeal Board determines that the payment should not be refunded because the appeal was frivolous, vexatious and/or without sufficient merit.
- (d) In the event of refund of any payment under By-Law 25.11 to the extent that any GST was paid to the League and is no longer applicable, that amount shall also be refunded.
- 25.18 A person shall exercise his right of appeal under this By-Law 25 and must have any appeal heard and determined by the Appeal Board before commencing any proceedings or becoming a party to any proceedings in a court of law.

26 UMPIRES APPOINTMENT BOARD

- 26.1 Field, goal and boundary umpires shall be selected and appointed each season by an Umpires Appointment Board appointed by the Board of Management prior to each Annual General Meeting. The Umpires Appointment Board shall consist of at least one Board Member, including the Board Member responsible for umpiring who shall be the chairperson of

the Umpires Appointment Board The Umpires Appointment Board shall also include an umpires adviser, assistant adviser, and, if necessary two other assistant advisers. The Secretary of the Umpires Appointment Board shall be elected by a simple majority of the members of the Umpires Appointment Board.

27 ADVERSE WEATHER COMMITTEE

- 27.1 The Adverse Weather Committee shall comprise of three persons selected by the Board of Management prior to the commencement of the Football Season.
- 27.2 The Adverse Weather Committee shall have power to cancel or transfer any match or matches if in their opinion the condition of any ground is unsuitable for play.
- 27.3 The decision of the Adverse Weather Committee may apply to all matches conducted by the League.

28 SUB - COMMITTEES

- 28.1 The Board of Management shall from time to time set up any such sub-committees as it considers necessary for the effective administration of the League's activities.
- 28.2 The Board of Management shall determine the duties and composition of such sub-committees in accordance with the following requirements:
- (a) At least one member of each sub-committee shall be a Board Member and a Board Member shall be responsible for reporting on the sub-committee's progress to the Board of Management.
 - (b) The Board of Management may determine the number of the members of such sub-committee, and appoint such persons.
 - (c) The Board of Management may seek applications for any such sub-committee and select successful applicants.

- (d) The Board of Management may require that any number of members of such sub-committee be elected from the Club Delegates present at a meeting of the League.

29 PRIZES AND TROPHIES

- 29.1 A sum of money to be seasonally decided by the Board of Management, may be allocated to the Premiership team in each grade.

30 FAIREST AND BEST PLAYER

- 30.1 The field umpire officiating at each match during the home and away season shall lodge with the Umpires Report, a written list of votes for the three fairest and best players in the match. The votes shall be numbered 1, 2, 3.
- 30.2 The player thought by the umpire to be the fairest and best player in the match shall receive 3 votes, the second fairest and best player shall receive 2 votes and the third fairest and best player in the match shall receive 1 vote.
- 30.3 At the end of the home and away season the votes shall be counted and the player receiving the most votes shall receive the award.
- 30.4 In the case of an equal total number of votes being received by two or more players, each player shall be awarded a trophy as an equal winner.
- 30.5 A player who has been suspended from at least one match in a particular grade during a Football Season shall be ineligible for the award in that particular grade.
- 30.6 Any player who:
- (a) transfers from the League; or
 - (b) plays for an Affiliated Club that disbands or is expelled during the currency of the season and who does not transfer to another club within the League;
- shall be ineligible for the award for that particular Football Season.

31 GENERAL RULES OF ADMINISTRATION

- 31.1 An Affiliated Club must pay all debts in excess of \$500 (or such other sum as determined by the Board of Management from time to time) due to the League for 30 days or more. In the case of a club failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with the Board, no team of that club shall be eligible for match points until those outstanding payment(s) is remitted in full. Percentages for any game played while ineligible for match points will be calculated on final scores submitted for each game and awarded as per by-law 9.1 (b). [amended March 2013]
- 31.2 Any Affiliated Club expelled, retiring or disqualified during the currency of a season shall not be entitled to any claim whatsoever upon money, property, credits or other assets of the League, and upon such expulsion, retirement or disqualification the interests of the Affiliated Club in respect of the League shall automatically cease.
- 31.3 All Affiliated Clubs' accounts must be finalised by 31 October in each year.
- 31.4 Any Affiliated Club that has not paid all debts due to the league by January 31st will not be permitted to register new players without permission of the Board. [amended March 2013]

32 IRREGULARITIES

- 32.1 Any Board Member may attend any match played under the auspices of the League, and obtain signatures of participating players. It shall be the duty of any Board Member who attends any match and takes signatures, to report the findings to the Board of Management at the next meeting following the relevant match.
- 32.2 When any Board Member reports to the Board of Management that the Board Member suspects that the signature provided in respect of any player is not that of the player, the Affiliated Club and the player will be called upon to respond to the allegation. The Board of Management will hear and

determine the matter and there will be no right of appeal. If the Board of Management determines that a signature is not that of the player then the Affiliated Club shall automatically forfeit the relevant match.

33 DISPUTES

- 33.1 Where an Affiliated Club is of the view that, for any reason, a Match has not been conducted in accordance with the Rules or By-Laws of the League, the Affiliated Club may refer the dispute to the League.
- 33.2 An Affiliated Club referring a dispute to the League shall lodge a written notice of the dispute to the General Manager on or before 6 P.M. on the Monday immediately following the relevant match.
- 33.3 Any dispute referred to the League shall be heard and determined by the Board of Management and the Board of Management may take any action it deems necessary.
- 33.4 A dispute may only be withdrawn with the approval of the Board of Management. It shall be the duty of the General Manager to notify any Affiliated Club or other interested parties of a dispute that relates to it.

34 CONDUCT UNBECOMING, PREJUDICIAL OR LIKELY TO BRING GAME INTO DISREPUTE

- 34.1 Where the Board of Management is of the opinion that an affiliated Club or any Official, player or Member thereof, or Member or any other person has contravened the Statement of Purposes, Rules or By-Laws of the League or has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the reputation, or interests of the League, or to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Board of Management may deal with any such manner as the Board of Management in their absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting their power, they may;

- 34.1.1 appoint any person to enquire into any matter;

- 34.1.2 conduct their own enquiry into any matter;
- 34.1.3 refer any matter to the Tribunal;
- 34.1.4 impose any penalty that it deems fit including but not limited to, imposing a monetary penalty or bond, a suspension, a disqualification or providing for the loss of or forfeiture of or Premiership points or other privileges, benefits or entitlements.

35 INTOXICATING LIQUOR

- 35.1 Subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable liquor licence, intoxicating liquor is permitted to be sold by or on behalf of an Affiliated Club at its home club matches.
- 35.2 Liquor is not permitted on the playing field or on-field transport used by players and/or officials of participating Affiliated Clubs.
- 35.3 At finals series matches the host football club is responsible for the sale of intoxicating liquor, subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable liquor licence.

36 AFL VICTORIA POLICIES

- 36.1 The League and AFL Victoria are required to adopt complementary rules and regulations, in football competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction. [Amended December 2010]
- 36.2 The League shall in consultation with Affiliated Clubs develop so far as is practicable policies to be adopted by Affiliated Clubs that are complementary to the policies from time to time adopted by AFL Victoria including but not limited to: [Amended December 2010]
 - (a) Risk Management;
 - (b) Racial and Religious Tolerance;
 - (c) Health Through Football;
 - (d) Codes of Conduct.

37 MISCELLANEOUS

37.1 Untruthful Evidence

Any person who provides any false or misleading information to the League, any of its committees, the Tribunal, the Investigations Officer or any officer of the League shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the League and shall be dealt with by the Board of Management in a manner the Board of Management deems fit.

37.2 Failure to Attend

- (a) When a charge has been made against any Affiliated Club for playing a man illegally, such club shall be responsible for the appearance of such player before the Board of Management. Failure to produce such a player shall be taken as prima-facie evidence of the truth of the charge and the Affiliated Club may be dealt with by the Board of Management as the Board of Management deems fit.
- (b) Any player, umpire or official who fails to attend any meeting of the Board of Management to which he is summoned by not less than forty eight hours notice under the hand of the General Manager, shall be dealt with by the Board of Management as the Board of Management deems fit.

37.3 Club Playing Outside League

Affiliated Clubs shall not participate in a match involving any football club that is not affiliated with the League outside the fixture arranged by the League during the Football Season. Affiliated Clubs desiring to participate in matches involving a football club that is not affiliated with the League at times outside the Football Season shall first notify the General Manager of their intention and shall not participate in such a match without the prior written approval of the League.

37.4 Change of Ground

An Affiliated Club shall not alter or change its ground without the consent of the Board of Management.

37.5 Change of Officials

The secretary of an Affiliated Club shall immediately notify the General Manager in writing of any change of address of Club Delegates, Secretary or other officials of an Affiliated Club.

37.6 Communication to the League

All letters and written communications to the League shall be directed to the General Manager.

38. ALTERATION TO BY-LAWS

38.1 The By-Laws may be amended by the Board of Management from time to time pursuant to the Rules.

39. MELEE RULE (For Seniors, Reserves and Under 18 Competitions only)

39.1 A melee is an incident which occurs prior to, during (including the quarter time, half time and three quarter time intervals) or following the completion of an EDFL match, and:

- (a) is an incident of a character which in the opinion of the umpires and/or an EDFL Board Member and/or League General Manager is likely to:
 - (i) prejudice the interests or reputation of the EDFL; or
 - (ii) prejudice the interests or reputation of the EDFL competition; or
 - (iii) brings the game of football into disrepute.
- (b) involves eight or more players and/or officials of the opposing teams who;
- (c) are aggressively or forcefully engaging in grappling, pushing, shoving, tripping, wrestling or other like acts which would potentially constitute

a Reportable Offence in relation to that player or official of the opposing team; and

- (d) it occurs over sustained period of time where such incident has the effect of preventing or hindering the start or continuation of the game; and

39.2 Umpires are to report any melee (as defined above) that occurs on the ground on the official Match Report Sheet and Clubs will be fined \$110-00 (incl. GST) for the first offence in a game, \$220-00 (incl. GST) for a second offence in that game and \$330-00 (incl. GST) for each additional offence in that game. Depending on the circumstances of the incident(s) it is up to the Umpires discretion whether to impose a fine on either or both Clubs as per the above definition.

In using this discretion, the Umpires shall have regard to the following factors:

- (a) The team whose player/s and/or officials instigated, provoked and/or prolonged the incident that led to the melee: and
- (b) Whether the number of player/s and officials from one team involved in the melee were significantly greater than the number of players and/or officials from the opposing team.

39.3 An EDFL Board Member who considers that an incident witnessed by them at a match constitutes a melee within the above definition shall provide details to the League General Manager who can also impose a fine at the levels set out above.

39.4 Nothing in this Rule precludes an Umpire from reporting a player for a reportable offence committed during a melee.

39.5 This Rule may be reviewed and altered at the end of each season as necessary.

APPENDIX A

TRIBUNAL AND APPEAL BOARD PROCEDURE

1. Purpose

This document prescribes the procedures for a matter coming before the Tribunal and Appeal Board under the By-Laws.

2. Conduct of Matter

The matter before the Tribunal or Appeal Board shall be:-

- (a) inquisitorial in nature; and
- (b) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter permits.

3. Procedural Obligations

At any hearing before the Tribunal or Appeal Board, the Tribunal or Appeal Board shall:-

- (a) provide any person whose interests may be directly or adversely affected by its decision an opportunity to be heard;
- (b) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
- (c) make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.

4. Rules of Evidence

The Tribunal and Appeal Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

5. Onus of Proof

Subject to the By-Laws, no person appearing before the Tribunal or Appeal Board shall bear an onus of establishing that a person has or has not engaged in the alleged conduct.

6. Standard of Proof

The Tribunal and Appeal Board shall decide on the balance of probabilities whether a person has or has not engaged in the alleged conduct.

7. Decisions

- (a) At the conclusion of its hearing, the Tribunal or Appeal Board may make such determinations, impose such penalties, make such orders and give such directions in each case as it in its absolute discretion thinks fit.
- (b) The question before the Tribunal or Appeal Board must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of members constituting the Tribunal or Appeal Board.

8. Penalty

The Tribunal or Appeal Board may have regard to any matters which it considers relevant to the question of penalty and without limitation may consider:-

- (a) the seriousness of the reportable offence or matter sustained against the person;
- (b) the injury sustained and effect upon the person against whom the reportable offence has been committed; and
- (c) the prior record of reportable offences or conduct committed by the person.

9. Hearing on Penalty

Where a matter is sustained against the person and before imposing a penalty, the Tribunal or Appeal Board shall provide a person a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the question of penalty.

10. No Reasons

The Tribunal or Appeal Board is not obliged to give reasons for a decision made by it.

11. Questions of Law and Fact

In the hearing and determination of a matter, the Tribunal or Appeal Board shall decide all questions of law and fact and without limitation shall determine:-

- (a) the meaning of any words relevant to a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football; and
- (b) the meaning of any words contained in the Rules and By-Laws.

12. Determination of Appeal Board - Final and Binding

Any determination made by the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and a person shall not be entitled to appeal any determination of the Appeal Board.

13. Representation

- (a) At any hearing before the Tribunal or Appeal Board, a Player, Witness or Umpire may:-
 - (i) represent himself or herself; or
 - (ii) be represented by a registered official of the person's Affiliated Club/EDFL Umpires Association provided that person is not a legal practitioner.
- (b) For the purposes of this clause, a legal practitioner means a person duly qualified to be admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria or a person with equivalent qualifications in any other State or Territory of Australia.

14. Validity of Hearing

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which a matter has been brought before the Tribunal or Appeal Board, the Tribunal or Appeal Board may still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard.
- (b) Subject to Regulations 3 and 9 of this Annexure, any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Tribunal or Appeal Board is directory in nature and a decision of the Tribunal or Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

APPENDIX B

NOTICE OF APPEAL

**To: The Secretary
Essendon District Football League Incorporated**

I, *í .
of ..í .
(*player to complete)

OR

I, *í .
of ..í .
being a registered official of í .
(*club to complete)

OR

I, *í .
of ..í .
General Manager ó Essendon District Football League
(*General Manager – Essendon District Football League to complete)

give notice that I wish to appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of the decision made by the Tribunal/Board of Management (*delete if inapplicable*) under By-Law 25.8 of the By-Laws. I wish to appeal the decision in relation to:

- (i) liability and sanction; or
- (ii) sanction only.

The Tribunal/Board of Management *(delete if inapplicable)* on *(specified date)* decided that *(provide details of decision)*:

í
í
í
í í

Enclosed with this Notice of Appeal is the sum of \$1,100 as required under By-Law 25.10.

I agree to be bound by the decision of the Appeal Board.

í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .
Signed

í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .
Dated

This form must be lodged in the case of an appeal of a decision referred to in By-Law 25.9, no later than 12.00pm on the day after which the decision of the Tribunal or Board of Management was made.

Prior to the Appeal proceeding the Notice of Appeal must be signed by either the Appellant or the Club President or the Club Secretary on his behalf.