



AFL OUTER EAST

SENIOR FOOTBALL

BY LAWS



Modified March 2019



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1. AFFILIATION

1.1 Each Club affiliated with the AFL Outer East known as Outer East “Community Bank” Football & Netball shall pay an annual affiliation / subscription fee to be determined annually by the Commission.

1.2 Lodgment of Annual Reports

(a) All Affiliated Clubs and Associate Members shall forward to the league no later than 30th January each year, one copy of their Annual Report.

(b) No later than 30th January, all Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the AFL Outer East:

I. Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet.

II. list of all club office bearers and their contact details for the coming season are to be loaded into the online competition management system as stipulated by the league. The office bearers that are required to be loaded as a minimum are as follows;

- President
- Secretary
- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Clubs may load other roles into the competition management system as they see fit.

Note: Clubs must advise the Operations Manager of changes made throughout the season to the club office bearers and their contact details within 7 days of the change. The club must update their contact details in the competition management system within the above time frames.

1.3 Club Annual General Meetings

1.3.1 All Affiliated Clubs and Associate Members must conduct their AGM prior to **30th November** each year.

1.4 All clubs affiliated with the AFL Outer East must have an Automated External Defibrillator in sound operating order. This Defibrillator must be accessible by all participants when the venue is in use.

1.4 Affiliated clubs must adhere to all reasonable requirements that support the Commission and governing body sponsors. Items may include ground signage or exclusive purchase of all Commission sponsor’s products. Failure of a club to support Commission sponsors will result in a fine or increased affiliation fees as determined by the Commission.

1.5 Agreeing to be a member of an affiliated club with the AFL Outer East grants permission for the AFL Outer East to video and take photos of all netball & football games and promote that information on all available communication and information mediums (e.g. Internet, TV, newspapers etc.). The information will only be used for the promotion, development and betterment of Australian Rules Football and Netball.

1.6 Subject to these Rules, in respect of any matter not expressly dealt with in the by-laws, if the Commission is of the opinion that a member or registered player or official has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member, registered player or official or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL Outer East, the Commission may refer the matter to mediation under by law 56 or resolve to proceed under this rule and resolve to:-



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- a) fine that member, registered player or official; or
 - b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
 - c) expel that member from the League; or
 - d) deduct match points from that member; or
 - e) Disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.
 - f) Suspend that player or official from participating in league matches for a specific period of time.

1.8 Photography & Videography

Most people taking photos at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example, a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation or photographing their child on the field during play or a professional photographer taking photos for a Club. Where a sporting event is held on a Club's private property, privately owned land, a school or council owned facilities, the owner of private property or venue is able to restrict, ban or require permission of photography/videoing anywhere in their venue. (*Reference: Australian Sports Commission Website*)

(a) **Photography:** AFL Outer East employs photographers to attend various ground locations and these photos are placed in the weekly record and on the AFL Outer East website and Social Media. These photos are available to all clubs and players for purchase. Where a player does not want to have their photograph taken or published, **the onus is on the player to wear red tape on their upper arm which is visible.**

(b) **VIDEOGRAPHY** - Clubs wishing to video a game for training purposes should notify the opposition club prior to the game and a copy of the video will be made available to the opposition club at the conclusion of the game, or another time as agreed by both clubs. AFL Outer East also employs Videographers to attend various ground locations to record Senior Football, B or A Grade Netball matches & all Grand Finals of the AFL Outer East. These videos are placed on the AFL Outer East website and occasionally Social Media. These videos are also available to all clubs and to players for purchase. All videos are published, for the promotion of the AFL Outer East competitions & no player names are used for such purpose excepting where a match is classed as the match of the day & commentary of said match is made.

1.9 These Rules shall come into force forthwith, cancelling any previous Rules, and shall remain in force until altered, amended or repealed, as hereinafter provided.

2. ADMISSION CHARGES TO HOME AND AWAY GAMES

2.1 The AFL Outer East commission shall determine the admission fees for all home and away matches, on an annual basis, prior to the commencement of each season.

2.2 No admission charges are to be collected prior to 9.50 am or thirty (30) minutes before the start of a under 18's game on the day of play. Clubs shall cease collection by ½ time of the Senior Men's match on the day of play.

2.3 All players and officials shall pay admission charges. Club membership tickets admit to the clubs home games only.



2.4 AFL Outer East Passes:

Ticket Admits

Season Pass	Bearer Only (including finals)
Life Members Pass	Bearer Plus One (including finals), The Plus one MUST enter at the same time as the Life Member.
Umpire Pass	Bearer Only (excluding finals)

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1** The competition shall consist of Premier, Division One, Division Two, with Senior, Reserves, Under 18s, Veterans in Football and A, B, C, D, 17&U, 15&U, 13&U Grades in Netball with the option of 9&U and 11&U Grades.

4. RULES OF FOOTBALL/NETBALL

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria (as amended from time to time).

4.1 GENDER

- 4.1.1** The AFL is currently making amendments to the gender regulation policy. Any enquiries in regards to the gender regulations by AFL Victoria affiliates for 2019 should come through AFL Victoria.

- 4.1.2** As a guide – Players may be classed as a Gender which is verified by the appropriate Victorian State Government documentation.

5. FIXTURE/LADDERS

Home and Away Series:

- 5.1** The Region General Manager or his/her appointee will determine the Fixture annually with submission to the Commission for final approval.
- 5.2** The competition shall be for a Premiership and the fixture shall consist of a series of home and away and finals matches.
- 5.3** All clubs shall adhere to the fixture. If a club wishes to alter their scheduled match date or times in any way, they must do so by submission from all clubs involved to the RGM or his/her appointee not later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled match. Changes will not be final until they are confirmed by the RGM or his/her appointee.
- 5.4** In the home and away series, four (4) points will be allotted for a win, four (4) points for a team in whose favor a forfeit, four (4) points for a Bye or walkover. Two (2) points for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.
- 5.41** At the conclusion of each round of home and away matches, the Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall be responsible for the preparation of the ladder for each Division. In addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, bye or draw, he/she shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team. The use of Match Ratio (MR) may be required from time to time.



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- 5.42** In the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with the lower percentage points.
- 5.43** In the event that teams are level on points and percentage at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the higher position on the ladder shall be determined in the following manner:
- The team that has scored the most points 'for' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
 - In the event that the teams cannot be separated as in 5.5.3 (a), the team that has recorded the most away wins shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder
 - In the event that the teams cannot be separated, as in 5.5.3 (a) or (b), the effected teams shall compete in a 'play-off' match, under such conditions as determined by the AFL Outer East commission.
- 5.5** The scores used to calculate the points and percentage for each divisional ladder shall be those scores contained in the official goal umpires' card or scorers' sheet.
- 5.6** All matches shall be played on Saturdays, except where the Region General Manager or his/her appointee sanctions or directs that matches be played on any other day or night.
- 5.7** The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall, where possible, arrange the home and away fixture so that the senior, reserve and under aged team of any one club play at the same venue as each other on the day of the match and;
- 5.8** Notwithstanding By Law 5.9 and where it is necessary for the proper management of the competition or where exceptional circumstances exist, the Region General Manager or his/her appointee may schedule a match for any team of any club at another suitable venue other than what is set out in the published match fixture.
- 5.9** Failure by a club to comply with By Law Five (5.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and shall be subject to such penalty as determined by the AFL Outer East commission.

6. FORFEITURE OF TEAMS

- 6.1** Should a team forfeit a match, a fine as set out in Schedule 4 shall be applied to the forfeiting club. This fine will be administered by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee. Should the "home" team forfeit a match; the fine will be paid to the Commission. Should the "away" side forfeit, 50% of the fine will be paid to the Commission and 50% to the "home" club, in consideration of the inconvenience caused to that club and its loss of revenue.
- 6.2** In the event of match day forfeiture, the AFL Outer East as directed by the commission shall pay the umpires appointed to the forfeited AFL Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball match an amount as directed by the Region General Manager. The forfeiting club is then responsible for reimbursing the league for said costs of umpires.



7. CLEARANCES

- 7.1 Refer to AFL VIC Country Rules and Regulations 1.0 (National Player Transfer Regulations).
- 7.2 Local Procedures:
 - 7.2.1 Clearances shall be processed in an expeditious manner wherever possible.

8. REGISTRATION

- 8.1 Any club, player, coach or team official desiring registration with the Commission shall complete the Registration themselves & pay any fees due, prior to playing, coaching or officiating in any match.
- 8.2 The commission or its appointee shall retain the power to refuse, withdraw, or suspend the registration of any player, coach or team official, who fails to comply with any reasonable request from the commission or who, by his/her actions, has or may bring the game and the AFL Outer East into disrepute.
- 8.3 No person shall be registered or re-registered under an assumed name, unless such assumed name and the reason thereof is notified personally to the RGM, together with the player's correct name and address at the time of registration.
 - 8.3.1 The RGM or his/her appointee shall keep such information confidential.
- 8.4 Failure to comply with By Law Eight (8.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a Loss of match points &/or a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.

9. REPRESENTATIVE/INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

- 9.1 Interleague Policy: The Match Committee, comprising of Four (4) Selectors plus one (1) Chairman of Selectors and the Coach shall coordinate the selection of the training squad, and from time to time any additions or deletions to be made.
 - 9.2 All squad members (fit and injured) are expected to attend training unless excused by the General Manager or his/her appointee.
 - 9.3 Players who fail to make themselves available for selection without notification as above and/or clearance from the AFL Outer East appointed Medical Advisor will subject their club to fines as determined by the Commission.
 - 9.3.1 At the discretion of the match committee, allowances may be made for playing coaches.
 - 9.4 The official colours of the AFL Outer East representative sides shall be Navy Blue, Green, and White.
 - 9.5 The player adjudged best on ground in the Senior Football match will be awarded the Tony Mitchell Medal.
 - 9.6 The player adjudged best on ground in the Under 18 / 19 Football match will be awarded the Shane Smith Medal.
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10. COACH ACCREDITATION/REGISTRATION

- 10.1** Any player or person desiring to be appointed as a Coach (including Assistant Coaches) of a team in any grade must, as a minimum, have successfully completed the AFL Foundation Coaching Course (be an Accredited Coach) or be enrolled to participate in a Course in the current year.
- 10.2** All coaches (including Assistant Coaches) of a team are required to obtain Level One Accreditation prior to the commencement of the season. The penalty to be imposed if a coach continues to coach not having obtained accreditation are disclosed in the penalty section of these by-laws and the loss of match points for the matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach. In the event of no match points the fines will be applied. In the instance where coaches are not accredited and commit to completing the next available (or otherwise agreed upon) AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course a \$200 bond will be applied. Where a coach fails to complete agreed course the club will forfeit the bond.
- 10.3** All coaches shall be registered with the AFL Outer East as a coach.
- 10.4** Coaches/Umpires Meetings: Meetings will be convened as required between the AFL Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball competition and the Yarra Ranges Umpires Association. Failure to attend may result in a fine for the Coach and Club at the commission's sole discretion.
- 10.6** Compulsory meetings may be called by the commission Failure to attend may result in a fine for the Coach and Club at the commission's sole discretion.
- 10.7** All Coaches shall have a current Working with Children's Check and a copy of this must be supplied to the AFL Outer East by the 31st of March of the current season.
- 10.8** Failure to comply with By Law Ten (10) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.

11. MATCH PERMITS

- 11.1** Refer AFL VIC Country Rules and Regulations - Rule 2.0
- 11.2 Local Procedures:**
11.2.1 The AFL Outer East shall enter into "Local Area Agreements and Permit Agreements" with other affiliated Bodies for transfer of players within the Commissions, Competitions & Leagues.
- 11.3** Players who are on permits to TAC or VFL clubs (Male OR Female) are ineligible to play two games in one weekend of matches.

11.4 Where a club is unable to field an U18 team in any given season, they can upon submission to the Commission, apply to have any U18 age eligible players permitted to ONE other club only who have U18's, to allow these players to play underage football. These permits if approved by the Commission must be done as a Type 2 permit.

11.5 A player permitted under by law 11.4 is only eligible to play in the permitted too clubs U18's team. If they wish to play Reserves or Senior Football, they must play those matches with their originally registered club.



11.6 Failure to comply with By Law Eleven (11.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws as the player will be ruled ineligible and will be subject to a Loss of match points &/or a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.

12. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM/SALARY CAP (Community Club Sustainability Program)

12.1 Player point allocations will be set by the AFL Outer East Commission by September 1st of the previous season. Point allocations for season 2019 will be:-

- Premier will have a maximum limit of 44 points per match.
- Division one Clubs will have a maximum limit of 44 points per match.
- Division two clubs will have a maximum limit of 47 points per match

12.2 Refer the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, current for the year of play, which may be altered from time to time.

12.3 Clubs may make an application for additional points in any given season. A request in writing to the Region general manager must be made no later than 28 days before the the first Home and Away match of the season.

12.4 The CCSP Special Consideration Request will be sent to AFL OE Community Club Sustainability Advisory Committee for their consideration & assessment. The CCSP Advisory Committee will consider the matter and make adjudication. The club and AFL Outer East Commission will be informed in writing on whether the application was successful or not.

12.5 The AFL OE Community Club Sustainability Advisory Committee will consider the matter and make a determination on whether the application should be approved or not.

12.6 In the event the subcommittee is unable to reach a consensus decision the matter would be referred to the Commission for determination. Some matters may also be referred to the AFL Victoria CCSP Working Party as per the Policy.

12.7 Clubs shall submit their player points allocations by no later than two weeks prior to the first Home and Away match of the season. Any applications for re-assessment of an individual players points allocation must be made within the requirements of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.

12.8 SALARY CAP

The Salary Cap for each Division will be set as follows:

- Premier Division \$ 125,000
- Division 1 \$ 110,000
- Division 2 \$ 80,000

12.9 The AFL Outer East and its affiliated clubs will abide by the Salary Cap rules & regulations as set by AFL Vic from year to year.

12.10 Schedule 7 of these by laws details further policies in regards to the Salary Cap Rules.



12.11 Allowable Player Payment Rule Management: Privacy and Confidentiality Protocols can be located in Schedule 8 of these By Laws.

12.12 Failure to comply with By Law Twelve (12) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine or such other penalty as determined by the Commission in line with the **(Community Club Sustainability Program)**.

13. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

13.1 Senior teams

13.1.1 Senior teams shall consist of twenty-two (22) players for Premier and Division One & twenty-one players (21) for Division Two. Not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take the field in a match at any one time.

13.2 Reserve teams

13.2.1 Reserve teams shall consist of twenty-two (22) players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take the field in a match at any one time. Could we have the op

13.3 Under 18 or Amended Age Group Structure Team Composition

13.3.1 An under 18 team shall consist of a maximum of Thirty (30) players. Games will start with not more than 16 players whom should take the field at any one time. And:

13.3.2 If both teams have 20 or more players, coaches must agree to play 18 players on the field.

13.3.3 Coaches must contact each other before the game to confirm / clarify 'in-principle' playing numbers & details for the upcoming game. (e.g. If both teams have 19 players Coaches can agree to play with 18 players on the field).

13.3.4 If a team has less than 14 players they shall forfeit the game, subject to By Law 13.5.1

13.4 Veterans

13.4.1 Veterans teams shall consist of a maximum of Thirty (30) players, not more than eighteen (18) players on the field at any one time.

13.4.2 No team shall have more players on the field than their opposition. Should a team fall below the maximum of 18 players on the field, through injury alone (*not penalties through yellow and red cards*) the opposition is to even-up at the next possible opportunity.

13.4.3 If a team has less than 14 players they shall forfeit the game, subject to By Law 13.5.1

13.5 Premiership Points

To constitute a match, the minimum number of registered players in any grade of the clubs shall be fourteen (14).

13.5.1 Any team with less than Fourteen (14) registered players at the official starting time of the match shall forfeit the game unless:

- a. An agreement is reached between the Coach and Team Manager of each team, that the match will be played FOR PREMIERSHIP POINTS and;
- b. Registered player(s) loaned on the day by the opposing club to enable each team to field a minimum of Fourteen (14) players at the official starting time of the match and;



c. Registered player(s) that loaned are to be named and must sign the official Team Sheet. All loaned registered players must be identified by the letter (L) next to his name and;

- 13.5.2** An Agreement Form to play the match for PREMIERSHIP POINTS must be signed by the Team Manager and Coach of each team prior to the commencement of the match (see Schedule Five 5).
- 13.5.3** The Field Umpire(s) must be notified by the Team Manager of each team that a match will be played for PREMIERSHIP POINTS, and the signed agreement form is to be lodged with the Field Umpire(s), who will also sign the agreement form, for return to the League Office with the Match Documents.
- 13.5.4** Loaned registered players shall remain as a player(s) for that team for the duration of the match or as determined by the coaches.
- 13.5.5** Prior to the start of the 3rd quarter if registered players become available during the match, for the team without minimum numbers, then these registered players can replace loaned registered players, who then return to their team, and can take the field to play for their club.
- 13.5.6** If a match is played for PREMIERSHIP POINTS, umpires will award and record “Best on Ground Votes” for the Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball Best and Fairest Awards.
- 13.5.7** The Club(s) will also officially record those players who kicked goals during the match for the Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball Goal Kicking Awards.

13.6 No Premiership Points

If an agreement is NOT reached to play for Premiership points then a match may be arranged and played for NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS.

- 13.6.1** The Field Umpire(s) must be notified by the Team Manager of each team that a match will be played for NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS, and must agree to umpire the match if the clubs request the Field Umpire(s) to do so.
- 13.6.2** An Agreement Form must be signed by the Team Manager and Coach of each team, and the participating Field Umpire(s) to play a match for NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS, and the signed Agreement Form is to be lodged with the Field Umpire(s) and is to be returned with the match documents (see Schedule Six 6).

13.7 Two teams in an age group

- 13.7.1** Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age grade a player is permitted to move between teams. However:
- (i)** Once a player has played five (5) matches in the higher graded team, that player may not move to the lower graded team for the remainder of the season.
 - (ii)** Players in the lower rated team are free to move to the higher rated team during home and away Matches, subject to 5.10.1 (i).
 - (iii)** The first team a player plays 5 games in is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.
 - (iv)** Where a bye is fixtured in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.



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- (v) If a club with multiple teams in one age group forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team.

13.8 Failure by a club to comply with By Law Thirteen (13.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws, and will be subject to a fine as per the Fines Schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

14. TEAM SHEET/TEAM LIST/FOOTBALL RECORD

14.1 The Official Team Sheet shall include the jumper number, name in block letters in number order of each player, trainer, water carrier, runner, team manager, coach, and the identity of the team captain.

14.2 Team managers should ensure all participating players are acknowledged with a tick and players not participating are crossed out. Players added manually must be added on the submitted ORIGINAL copy to the Umpires.

14.3 The Team Manager of each team shall present the ORIGINAL copy of the team sheet to the field umpire(s) no later than half time of the match, except for Veterans who may hand their team sheet into the umpires after the game has concluded. A DUPLICATE copy is to be handed to the opposing Team Manager at the conclusion of the game (with Goal Kickers & Best players noted). It is not necessary for the duplicate copy to be signed.

14.4 Clubs must provide correct team lists for the AFL Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball Record before the first match of the season, which are to be finalized by each club by the conclusion of Round Four(4)

14.5 Clubs must complete and publish their Football match Team sheets in Sports TG, with players in position by Noon, the day before a match Or Friday (whichever is earlier). During the H&A Season this applies to Senior matches, during Finals this applies to All teams competing. Any match day changes to these teamsheets must be updated in Sports TG by Midnight on the Monday following the match.

14.6 Failure to comply with By Law Fourteen (14.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule, Loss of match points or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

15. FOOTBALL RECORD/PUBLICITY

15.1 The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall be the Editor of the 'Football Record' on behalf of the commission who shall be the Publisher.

15.2 The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall have the power to edit or withdraw any Club notes that are deemed to be detrimental to the interests of the AFL Outer East.

15.3 Clubs will be charged a yearly fee for the advertising space on their page in the record. Such fee will be determined by AFL Outer East each year.

15.4 Clubs will be on charged the cost of the records received for each HOME game. The amount of allocated records for HOME games will be determined annually by the AFL Outer East as will the cost per record.

15.5 Clubs must provide accurate player lists for the 'Football Record'. Failure to comply will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule.



16. AGE LIMITS

Age Limits will be decided by the AFL Outer East Commission on a year by year basis:

- 16.1** All Under 18 players must be under the age of Eighteen (18) years of age on the First (1st) of January in the year of play. Players born between the First (1st) of January and the Thirty First (31st) December in the preceding year may be eligible to apply to play in the Under 18 Competition under Permit. Qualifications will be provided by the Commission each year.
- 16.2** Veterans players must attain the age of thirty-five (35) years of age by the 31st of December during the year of play.
- 16.3** Documentary proof of age must be made available to the Region General Manager or his/her appointee upon request.
- 16.4** Proof of age shall be deemed to be copies of any document that verifies a player's date of birth. Such documents shall include: -
- a. Birth Certificate
 - b. Extract of Birth Entry
 - c. Drivers Licence
 - d. Passport
 - e. Any other 'official document' acceptable to the Region General Manager
- 16.6** A Statutory Declaration shall not be acceptable as proof of age.
- 16.7** Within seven (7) days of a written request from the Region General Manager or his/her appointee a player shall present proof of age to be sighted by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 16.8** In the event that the player cannot present his proof of age as in 16.6, the player shall not be permitted to play until such time as it has been presented to the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 16.9** Any Club found guilty of playing a player who is ineligible due to age shall automatically forfeit all matches in which the player competed, and shall be subject to a fine as per the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.
- 16.10** Under 18/19 Competition – The Over Age Permit Policy will be determined each season and as required by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 16.11** U16/U17 players may obtain a permit to play U18 football with a senior club. Permit players are also available for selection to play in Outer East Community Bank Football U18/19 interleague matches.
- 16.12** An U16 permit player can play senior football subject to the following conditions:
- Signed parental permission is submitted and approved by the AFL Outer East.
 - Commitment from the senior club that the junior players' development is the priority when permission is sought to play senior football.



16.13 Alcohol: Under age Players

The Commission may disqualify for up to four (4) matches any underage player who is under eighteen (18) years of age, who drinks alcoholic beverages within the precincts of Clubrooms and grounds, either on match days or at League functions. Clubs may be sanctioned for a breach of this By Laws and may be subject to a fine or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

17. MATCH TIMES.

- 17.1 Playing times of a match shall be determined by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee, and ratified by the commission annually. Starting times may be changed upon application in writing by the clubs and received and agreed to by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 17.2 Seniors: All senior matches will commence at 2.10 p.m. All quarters shall be twenty minutes plus time on, with a five-minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, fifteen minutes at half time and five minutes at three quarter time.
- 17.3 Reserves: All reserves matches will commence by 12.05p.m. All quarters shall be twenty minutes with no time on, with a five-minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, ten minutes at half time and five minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only to be added in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 17.4 Under 18's: All under 18's matches will commence by 10.20a.m. All quarters shall be twenty minutes with no time on, with a five-minute interval for change of ends quarter time, ten minutes at half time and five minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only to be added in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 17.5 Veterans: All veterans' matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be twenty minutes with no time on with a five minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, fifteen minutes at half time, and five minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only played in the case of extenuating circumstances
- 17.6 In the case of an interruption of a match due to extenuating circumstances, remaining time to be played is determined as per AFL Outer East By Law 34.0.
- 17.7 Failure by a club to comply with By Law Seventeen (17.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine as per the Fines Schedule or as determined by the commission.
- 17.8 For Netball playing times, see Netball By-Laws/Fixtures.

18. FOOTBALLS

- 18.1 The Commission shall specify footballs and netballs to be used in AFL Outer East Community Bank Football matches.
- 18.2 Prior to the commencement of each football match the home club will provide the Field Umpires with AFL Outer East approved full size footballs, as follows:
 - 18.2.1 Seniors – Two (2) new leather footballs (red or yellow). Must be Kangaroo Brand.
 - 18.2.2 Reserves – Two (2) new or one (1) new and (1) used (in good condition) leather football (red or yellow). Kangaroo OR Match Brand.



18.2.3 Under 18/19– Two (2) leather footballs new or used (in good condition, red or yellow).
Kangaroo OR Match Brand.

18.2.4 Veterans – Two (2) leather footballs, new or used (in good condition, red or yellow).
Kangaroo OR Match Brand.

18.3 The Field Umpire must approve all balls. (A spare ball of similar type to that chosen for the match shall be placed in the care of the timekeepers).

18.4 Whenever night matches have been approved in accordance with these By Laws, yellow leather footballs shall be used in all grades playing after dusk.

18.5 Subject to the agreement of the Captains, prior to the match, footballs of the same color may be alternated during the match due to wet or muddy conditions as required.

18.6 All match balls must feature the following logos:

- Worksafe
- AFL Victoria Country
- Bendigo Bank or Totally Work Wear
- AFL Outer East

18.7 Failure to comply with By Law Eighteen (18.0) will be subject to a fine as per the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.

19. CLUB UNIFORM AND COLOURS

19.1 Each Club shall register its uniform, including colored shorts and colors, with the AFL Outer East upon annual affiliation with the AFL Outer East Commission. Each Club shall have an individual uniform/design, consisting of: Socks, Shorts & Football Jumper.

19.2 No Club shall compete in any match in any uniform or colors other than its registered uniform or colors and may only change, modify or alter such registered uniform or colors with the written approval of the commission.

19.3 On match day no player shall wear lycra or like fabric bicycle shorts or under garments under their football shorts or jumpers unless they are of a colour approved by the Region General Manager. Where other types of shorts are required on medical grounds, the Region General Manager may approve the wearing of such shorts.

19.3.1 Visible lycra or like, upper body clothing does NOT constitute approved club/league uniform and cannot be worn.

19.4 All uniforms shall carry any AFL Outer East & AFL VIC Country logos, as specified by the AFL Outer East & AFL VIC Country respectively and must be purchased from an AFL Victoria and AFL Outer East approved supplier/s.



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- 19.5** When making their pre-game visits to the respective change rooms, the field umpire(s) are authorised to check that all players are attired in correctly licensed WorkSafe AFL VIC Country/AFL Outer East apparel. Any player not in the correct League attire will not be permitted to take the field until he is correctly attired and cleared to play by either the Region General Manager, Football Operations Manager, Commission Member “present at the game” or an Officiating Umpire. In addition, failure to comply with this bylaw will constitute a breach of the AFL Outer East Bylaws, with the club also being subject to a fine(s) according to the fine schedule contained within the AFL Outer East handbook or as determined by the commission. Serious or constant breaches of this bylaw will be subject to additional penalties which will be determined by and at the discretion of the Commission.
- 19.6** No lace-up Guernsey’s shall be worn.
- 19.7** Where a clash of uniform occurs, the home team shall wear its registered uniform and the visiting team shall wear an alternative uniform approved by the Region General Manager.
- 19.8.** Where a clash of uniforms occurs in any finals match, the team that finishes the home and away season higher on the ladder shall wear the Club’s registered uniform and the other Club shall wear the neutral uniform as approved by the General Manager. The Region General Manager shall have the authority to approve both Clubs wearing a neutral uniform if both Clubs agree to do so in writing.
- 19.9** Club jumper numbers must be maintained to an acceptable standard at all times. Poorly maintained jumper numbers may subject the club to a fine as determined by the commission.

20. MATCH PAPERWORK

- 20.1** Match information and match results shall be communicated to the AFL Outer East as directed by the Region General Manager annually.
- 20.2** Match paperwork shall be forwarded to the League as directed by the Region General Manager annually.
- 20.2.1** The home team must input onto the Website/Database the match results (final scores, best players and goal kickers) by 6.00 pm on the day of the match.
- 20.2.2** All team sheets, scorecards and timekeeper cards must be handed to the field umpire within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the match.
- 20.2.3** Where matches are played at times other than Saturday afternoon, the home Club shall make prior arrangements with the Region General Manager for the transmission of scores.
- 20.4** For the purposes of promotion of the game, Live Scores will be used for all Senior Matches & A Grade Netball matches and MUST be entered/submitted by the Home Club. Either through an App or Computer program. The suitable mechanism will be determined and communicated each year.
- 20.5** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty (20) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the Fines Schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.
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21. PLAYING ARENA/GROUND FACILITIES

21.1 As per AFL & AFL Vic Country guidelines, each club shall provide the following playing facilities as a minimum standard, which shall be approved by the Commission and comply with the JLT Sport AFL Match Day Checklist to be completed by a representative from each competing club, prior to the first match of the day:

- 21.1.1** Two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6.0 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground.
- 21.1.2** Two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres apart from each goal post and in a straight line with them: the minimum height of the behind posts shall be 3.0 metres
- 21.1.3** Between ground level and two point five (2.5) metres, the goal and point posts shall be suitably padded. (In accordance with the AFL VIC Country Risk Management Manual).
- 21.1.4** Clubs shall provide three (3) flag holders on the right hand goal post and two (2) flag holders on the left-hand goal post.
- 21.1.5** All areas behind the goal and behind posts, plus fifteen (15) metres in each direction shall be fenced.
- 21.1.6** A scoreboard, which shall be operational for each game, with legible numbers for scores. If an electronic scoreboard is used a useable manual scoreboard must also be available if required.
- 21.1.7** Changing rooms for home and visiting teams, plus hot and cold water for showers.
- 21.1.8** Umpire's changing rooms containing a shower area separate from the players' area.
- 21.1.9** A suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during the matches being played.
- 21.1.10** A properly marked playing arena in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, that shall not be marked with lime or lime product.
- 21.1.11** The boundary line markings shall be no less than 3.0 metres from the boundary fence or other obstacle.
- 21.1.12** Two interchange lines, fifteen (15) metres apart marked across the boundary line through which players can be interchanged. There shall be Two (2) interchange gates which shall be placed in front of each coach's box. The line furthest from the centre of the ground must align with the edge of the coach's box and extend 15 meters along the boundary line towards the centre of the ground.



21.1.13 A Timekeepers' box complete with efficient siren and back-up siren, bell or gong, located so that the timekeepers have access to an uninterrupted view of the entire playing arena.



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- 21.1.14** Adequately covered concrete cricket pitches (in accordance with the AFL VIC Country Risk Management Manual & local Council guidelines).
 - 21.1.15** Adequately covered stopcocks, valves or sprinkler heads where underground water reticulation is provided.
 - 21.1.16** All clubs to provide a suitable coaches box with seats for the home and visiting teams.
 - 21.1.17** Suitable fencing around playing arena.
 - 21.1.18** A restriction line in front of the coach's box, half way between the boundary line and the fence.
 - 21.1.19** Surfaces and surrounds, such as gates, fences, and advertising signs are in safe condition, well secured with no obstruction protruding.
 - 21.1.20** Netball courts must be to the standard approved by Netball Victoria.
 - 21.1.21** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty One (21.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.

22. MATCH OFFICIALS - GROUND MANAGER.

- 22.1** The Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the AFL Outer East or alternatively a person so appointed by the AFL Outer East shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties as determined by the AFL Outer East and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Region General Manager.
- 22.2** Ground/Match Managers shall be appointed to control all Finals Matches under the control of the AFL Outer East.

MATCH DAY PROCEDURES

23. CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS – GENERAL.

- 23.1** Only three (3) officials, plus the coach, plus correctly attired trainers/water carriers, runner and interchange players shall be allowed inside the fence of the playing arena.
- 23.2** A white line five (5) metres in length, shall be marked in front of each coaches box, halfway between the boundary line and the fence of the playing arena.
- 23.3** All officials, coach, runner plus interchange players listed in By Law 23.1 must remain behind the white line (refer By Law 21.1.18) at all times during the course of play, except when legitimately entering the playing arena (as in the case of a runner or interchange player).
- 23.4** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty-One (21.0) will be subject to a fine as per the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.



24. RUNNER

- 24.1** Each Club shall have only one runner.
- 24.2** The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of their Club.
- 24.3** A Club runner may enter the playing arena during any football match, provided that the runner: -
- 24.3.1** Wears an approved AFL Outer East runner's uniform.
 - 24.3.2** Enters the playing arena for the purpose of delivering a message or instruction of a coach to a player of the Club or other similar purpose.
 - 24.3.3** Exits the playing arena immediately upon fulfilling their task.
 - 24.3.4** Does not cajole, or in any way attempt to influence the conduct or performance of any player or players present on the playing arena.
 - 24.3.5** Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with any umpire or any player from the opposing club during any match.
- 24.4** The officiating Field Umpire may, upon any infringement of By Law Twenty-Four (24), order the offending runner from the playing arena for a period of fifteen (15) minutes playing time.
- 24.5** Any infringement of By Law Twenty-Four (24) or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire, who shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire, shall be referred to the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal to determine the penalty.
- 24.6** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty-Four (24.0) will be subject to a fine according to the Fines Schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

25.0 TRAINERS AND WATER CARRIERS

- 25.1** The sole duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.
- 25.2** Each Club must have a minimum of one accredited trainer (including CPR qualifications & Defibrillator training) present during the entire match in which the Club fields a team. Qualified trainers must be registered with the AFL Outer East.
- 25.3** All on-ground trainers shall hold a current First Aid Certificate & Emergency Response Coordinator Qualifications as a minimum requirement.
- 25.4** There shall be a maximum number of six (6) trainers/water carriers to be registered for each team, and permitted to participate in a match.



- 25.5** A Trainer may enter the playing arena during a match, provided that the Trainer:
- Is providing medical assistance and/or water to a player.
 - Wears an approved AFL Outer East Bib/polo (Club Polo under a Bib), plain Black pants or Club Shorts clearly identifying the Club to which he/she belongs.
 - Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or any player from the opposing Club during any match. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to assist an injured umpire/officials and players of the opposing team, where appropriate and without restriction, in the interest of that individual's personal health and well-being.
- 25.6** Water Carriers may only enter the field once a Goal has been kicked and must be off the ground before play has resumed. Water Carriers are to be stationed at the Arch's (50 Meter Line) around the playing arena between the boundary and the fence. Trainers may also be stationed in the Coaches boxes.
- 25.7** Water Carriers shall wear an approved AFL Outer East Bib/polo (Club Polo under a Bib), Club Shorts clearly identifying the Club to which he/she belongs.
- 25.8** Trainers shall be of an age to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 25.9** Water Carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years old to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 25.10** The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of By Law 25 order the trainer or water carrier off the offending club from the playing arena for a period of fifteen (15) minutes of playing time.
- 25.11** Any infringement of By Law Twenty Five (25) or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire who shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire, shall be referred to the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal, to determine the penalty.
- 25.12** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty Five (25.0) will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the commission.

26. TIMEKEEPERS

- 26.1** A club shall provide a Timekeeper for all grades. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signaling device for the use of Timekeepers. One Timekeeper at all matches shall be required to keep the scores the other Timekeeper shall be required to keep the time and operate the Siren. The Goal Umpires' scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeepers' scores will be forwarded as evidence to the AFL Outer East.
- 26.2** During the home and away and finals series (except the Grand Final) one responsible timekeeper is to be provided by each Club. The Home Club shall be responsible for the provision of time clocks. In all Finals matches the Hosting club shall be responsible for the provision of Time Clocks.
- 26.3** For Grand Finals, the Region General Manager or his/her appointee will appoint Timekeepers.
- 26.4** The matches shall be played in accordance with the starting times, and intervals set out in By Law Seventeen (17).



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- 26.5** A siren, capable of being heard across the ground at its most distant point, shall be sounded prior to the start of each quarter and at the conclusion of each quarter. A back-up or emergency siren, bell or gong shall be provided for all matches by the Home or Hosting Club.
- 26.6** Failure by teams to appear at the designated times will constitute a breach of By Law 17 and will be subject to a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Senior COM.
- 26.7** Timekeepers shall complete the required details on the official AFL Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball Timekeeper's card. Timekeepers shall be the only people to be located in the timekeeper's box or area designated for timekeeping during matches.
- 26.8** Timekeepers shall have the sole control of match time and no person shall interfere with the timing of a match.
- 26.9** The minimum age for Timekeepers shall be fifteen (15) years old.
- 26.10** Timekeepers are to keep record of any Yellow or Red Card incidents and be responsible for advising when players can recommence play by waving the appropriate flag provided by the Home or Hosting Club.
- 26.11** Timekeepers are also required to record any major stoppages (stretchers etc) in play on the time sheets in the space required.
- 26.12** Failure by a club to comply will constitute a breach of By Law Twenty Six (26) and will be subject to a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

27. SCOREBOARD ATTENDANT

- 27.1** Scoreboard attendant shall be appointed by the home team to accurately record the scores during the playing of a match.
- 27.1.1** During the finals series, the hosting club shall appoint a scoreboard attendant to accurately record the scores during the playing of a match.
- 27.2** Scoreboard attendant shall be responsible for adjusting the score, if required, by the Goal Umpires.
- 27.3** Scoreboard attendants shall be of an age to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 27.4** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty-Seven (27.0) will be subject to a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

28.0 UMPIRES ESCORT/PROTECTION

- 28.1** Clubs shall be responsible to take reasonable care to protect Umpires from abuse and violence on and off the playing arena.
- 28.2** Each club participating in a match, including finals, must supply one Umpire Escort, who is to be named as such on the team sheet, for that match. The delegated persons from both clubs, are to meet the Umpires in the center of the ground at the quarter time breaks and when leaving the ground at half time and after the match in all grades, shall escort umpires from the field to their dressing room. This shall apply in all home and away and finals matches.



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- 28.3** The Home Club shall be responsible for the provision of drinks to umpires at quarter time, half time, three quarter time and shall, where necessary, provide medical assistance.
- 28.4** Failure to comply with By Law Twenty-Eight (28.0) will be subject to a fine as per the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

29. PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS

- 29.1** All goal umpires, boundary umpires, timekeepers, interchange stewards and other match officials supplied by a Club shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these By Laws and the Laws of Australian Football.

30. UMPIRES (FOOTBALL)

- 30.1** The AFL Outer East Director of Umpiring is responsible for the appointment of official umpires.
- 30.2** All appointed umpires shall have the power to report players according to the Laws of Australian Football, (refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 19.0).
- 30.4** All clubs are liable for the Umpires' fees during the home and away series, payable by cheque or other agreed arrangements at the conclusion of the senior game. Payments of umpire's fees are the home club's responsibility, and should include all fees for all matches. (Refer to Umpires' Fees Schedule).

30.5 Approaches to Umpires:

Only the team captain shall be permitted to speak to Field Umpire during the progress of a match at intervals. Any player or official in breach of this rule shall be reported by the Umpire and the matter referred to the league independent tribunal and if found guilty their club shall incur the following maximum penalty: 1st offence \$100.00, 2nd offence \$200.00, 3rd or any further offence \$400.00.

- 30.6** Failure to comply with By Law Thirty (30) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fines schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.
- 30.7** All league appointed umpires must hold a minimum level 1 Umpires accreditation and wear AFL Outer East approved uniform. This includes colours and sponsors logos.

31. GOAL UMPIRES (FOOTBALL)

- 31.1** Goal Umpires may be appointed by the AFL Outer East, or by the clubs within the AFL Outer East.
- 31.2** Goal Umpires provided by Clubs must wear AFL Outer East approved uniform OR a white coat. Such Umpires do not have the power to report or order off players or officials. YRUA Umpires do have the power to report.
- 31.3** At the conclusion of each quarter, the goal umpires shall compare scorecards. If they agree at the conclusion of the game, they shall sign the cards. Final scores must be endorsed in ink on the scorecards.



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- 31.4** Should the Goal Umpires disagree with the final scores the Senior Field Umpire shall act as the arbitrator and will use the timekeepers' cards as an aid to resolve the disagreement.
- 31.5** Where the Clubs provide goal umpires, the Club shall supply three (3) goal umpires flags, at least 600mm square, for each grade.
- 31.6** The minimum age for Goal Umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.
- 31.7** Failure to comply with By Law Thirty-One (31.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

32. BOUNDARY UMPIRES (FOOTBALL)

- 32.1** Boundary Umpires may be appointed by the AFL Outer East, or by the clubs within the AFL Outer East.
- 32.2** Boundary Umpires provided by Clubs must wear AFL Outer East approved uniform OR white shirt, Club shorts and black socks, and must possess a whistle. Such Umpires do not have the power to report, order off players or report officials. YRUA Umpires do have the power to report.
- 32.3** Boundary Umpires will be responsible for the following: -
- Throwing the football back into play.
 - Signaling the football out of play.
 - Signaling the football out of the playing arena on the full and nominates the spot on the boundary line that the free kick will be taken.
 - Conveying the football back to the center of the ground to the Field Umpire to commence play after a goal is scored.
- 32.4** The minimum age for Boundary Umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.
- 32.5** Failure to comply with By Law Thirty-Two (32.0) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

33. NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRE

- 33.1** In the event of the non-attendance or incapacitation of any Field Umpire appointed, the remaining appointed umpires shall determine who shall replace the absent or incapacitated field umpire. Where Two (2) Field Umpires have been appointed, it shall be appropriate for the remaining umpire to continue the game on their own.
- 33.2** Where an appointed Field Umpire fails to attend the match and a substitute umpire is chosen, then that substitute field umpire shall submit a 3 - 2 - 1, Best and Fairest Vote Card to the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 33.3** Where an appointed Boundary Umpire or Goal Umpire fails to attend or is incapacitated, the home side shall provide a replacement.
- 33.4** For non-attendance of Netball Umpires see Netball By-Laws.
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34. DELAYS / CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

Background

This procedure will enhance processes associated with AFL Outer East Football matches which may be interrupted or delayed from time to time. In the past, incidents of this nature have typically resulted in games not being completed.

AFL Outer East Objective

The objective of these by laws is to allow for the completion of AFL Outer East Senior matches as often as possible, whilst providing both participating clubs an even match on game day. Completion of one half (two Quarters) constitutes a game of football in any grade. Existing AFL rules on incomplete matches must be adhered to once a match has begun.

34.1 A game may not start or reach its conclusion for the following reasons: -

- 34.1.1** An invasion of the playing arena and the umpire(s) consider it unsafe to continue and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.
- 34.1.2** A player or umpire is so seriously injured that it is deemed inappropriate to move him/her until medical assistance arrives.
- 34.1.3** If in the opinion of the umpire(s), the playing conditions deteriorate to a level that makes it unsafe to start or continue.
- 34.1.4** That if, in the course of a night match the power supply fails.
- 34.1.5** Thick fog, Lightning or any other extreme weather condition as part of the AFL Victoria Extreme Weather Policy.

DELAYS TO THE START OF MATCHES

34.2 Where the start of a **SENIOR MATCH** has been delayed due to factors as in By Law 34.1

- 34.2.1** The Umpires will have discretion on the match start time until 3:00pm in conjunction with the Region General Manager or Operations Manager.
- 34.2.2** If the match cannot begin by 3:00pm after consideration of the circumstances, the Region General Manager or Operations Manager will have the power to cancel or start the match at a later time. Lights may be used if it is safe to do so and improves playing conditions to an acceptable level up until 5.45pm.
- 34.2.3** If the match has not begun by 4:30pm the match will be considered abandoned.
- 34.2.4** Players must not leave the venue until the match has been officially called off.
- 34.2.5** For the purposes of this rule, games scheduled outside of the normal start times will be subject to discussions with the Region General Manager or Operations Manager. (As a guideline, a Senior match should finish no later than 3 hours & 35mins after its scheduled start time).
- 34.2.6** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to commence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match, in which case Law 10.7 shall apply.



34.3 Where the start of a **RESERVE GRADE** or **UNDER 18** game has been delayed due to factors detailed in By Law 34.1, **Time On / Extra Time Does Not Apply for Home & Away Matches.**

Timekeepers must maintain timing as if play was continuous.

- 34.3.1** In Under 18 and Reserve grade games, start times must be strictly adhered to regardless of whether teams take to the field or not. Actual play shall begin at any time but no later than the scheduled start time of the third quarter.
- 34.3.2** If, in the event of loss of time, the timekeepers must continue the time clock as if the match was still in progress and blow the sirens to signal the Start & Finish of each quarter or match. Contact should be made with the Region General Manager, Operations Manager for direction/confirmation as required.
- 34.3.3** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to commence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match, in which case Law 10.7 shall apply.
- 34.3.4** If during the finals of a Reserves or Under 18's match which has been delayed due to the factors in By Law 34.1, the continuation of play beyond the scheduled finishing time will be at the discretion of the Region General Manager, Operations Manager or Match Day Manager.

34.4 Latest start times for Reserves and U18.

- **For U18:** The latest a game can start is 11.20am (only one half of football can then be played)
- **For Reserves:** The latest a game can start is 1.05pm (only one half of football can then be played).

34.5 INCOMPLETE MATCH

If a Match is unable to continue 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)** Prior to Half Time: 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 Arena. 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.
- (b)** Half Time & Beyond: 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 Arena, or in the case of Half Time, not return to the Arena. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 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. 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.
- (c)** Match Not Able to Proceed: Immediate contact with the Region General Manager or Operations Manager must be made and 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. A field Umpire must determine that a Match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or Within the Immediate Proximity of the Arena where the Match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy outlined in the Member Protection Policy. The Region General Manager or Operations manager may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances, when Lightning is present.



- (d) Recommencing of 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, in which case Law 10.7 shall apply.
- (e) The Region General Manager or Operations Manager may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit practical circumstances.

Summary:

- Completion of one half constitutes a game of football in any grade.
- A senior match cannot be called off before 3:00pm
- The latest a match can start is
 - Seniors 4:30 pm
 - Reserves 1:15 pm
 - Under 18 11.15 am
- The latest a senior match can finish is 5.45pm
- Lights may be used to assist conditions
- Contact should be made with the Region General Manager, Operations Manager for direction/confirmation as required.
- Games played outside of normal playing times will require confirmation with the Region General Manager or Operations Manager if any delay, change or abandonment to a game is required.

35. PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 35.1** No player shall be permitted to play in a match with apparel or protective equipment, which may cause injury to the player or their opponents. This shall include:
- Boot studs or plates considered dangerous
 - A finger ring or other jewelry
 - Arm Guards/Shoulder Pads
 - Any form of solid body protection
 - Hard Shell Helmets
 - Knee Braces
- 35.2** A field umpire may inspect players' boots, hands, guards and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time prior to the conclusion of the match. The field umpire shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury and shall instruct the player to remove such apparel or protective equipment.
- 35.3** Any player refusing to follow the Field Umpire's instructions will be ineligible to play.
- 35.4** Gloves are permitted to be worn by AFL VIC Country open age and junior registered players in competition matches. All gloves must be approved by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 35.5** Failure to comply with By Law Thirty-Five (35) will constitute a breach of the By Laws and will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.



36.0 DEMAND FOR PLAYER'S SIGNATURE

36.1 The Captain, or his deputy, of any team shall have the power to demand the signature of any opposing player.

36.2 A player refusing to give his signature will constitute a breach of By Law Thirty Six (36.0) and shall be ineligible to participate in the match.

37. COUNTING OF PLAYERS

37.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football (Rule 5.5) AFL VIC Country handbook.

5.5 Counting Players

5.5.1 Request by Captain

The captain or acting captain of a Team may at any time during a Match request that the field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

5.5.2 Procedure

(a) where a request is made under Law 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall:-

- (i) stop play at the first available opportunity;
- (ii) call into line within the Centre Square the Players of both Teams who are at the time on the Playing Surface and count the number of Players;
- (iii) upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and then re-commence play at the position on the Playing Surface where the field Umpire stopped play; and
- (iv) as soon as practicable after the Match, report to the Controlling body that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team and the number of Players actually counted.

(b) The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is eighteen or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under Law 20, eighteen less the Players(s) ordered from the Playing Surface

5.5.3 Players Exceeding Permitted Number

Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a) field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b) a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- (c) the matter will be referred to the Region General Manager or his/her appointee to investigate and ultimately determine the outcome as they see fit – note the offending team does not lose all points scored in the Match up to the time of the count on matchday. Refer AFL VIC Country Rule 5.2 c i) for procedures for investigation.



5.5.4 Correct Number and Request Without Merit

Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team;
- (b) a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the free Kick was awarded; and
- (c) if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting under Law 19.2.2.

38. ORDER-OFF RULE

38.1 Refer to AFL VIC Country Rule 11.0

Implementation

Only field umpires and emergency field umpires have the power to send players from the ground.

When ordering a player off, an umpire shall signal his intention by pointing to the interchange area with an outstretched arm and holding a coloured card above his head with the other.

A Red Card indicates the player is ordered off for the remainder of the match and is able to be replaced after 20 minutes of actual match playing time.

A Yellow Card indicates the player is ordered off for 15 minutes of actual match playing time and cannot be replaced within that time.

A player ordered from the ground must leave the ground through the interchange area.

39. TREATMENT OF BLEEDING PLAYERS

39.1 Refer AFL VIC Country Rule 13.0 and AFL Laws of the Game Rule 22 or Netball Victoria's Rules

40. DOPING POLICY

40.1 Refer AFL VIC Country Rule 27.0 or Netball Victoria's Rules

41. INVESTIGATION / COMPLAINTS OFFICER

41.1 Annually, the AFL Outer East shall appoint one or more Investigation and Complaints Officers to deal with matters relating to unbecoming Conduct under AFL VIC Country Rule 5.0. and matters relating to Racial and Religious Vilification complaints.



42. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

- 42.1** Refer AFL VIC Country Rule 5.0
- 42.2** The Commission, Club Executive, Player, or AFL Outer East appointed Official who alleges that a Player or an Official of a Club, Umpire, Official of an Umpires Association, AFL Outer East Official, Club Player Advocate has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming of a player, umpire, such official or club, or which has or is likely to bring the game into disrepute, may lodge with the AFL Outer East a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the AFL Outer East within five days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the League agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to be the AFL Outer East may be subject to such conditions as the AFL Outer East sees fit.
- 42.3** A deposit of \$500.00 shall accompany the Notice which shall be forfeited in whole or part if the Investigating Officer or Independent Tribunal considers it frivolous.
- 42.4** The Region General Manager shall refer a Notice of allegation received under paragraph 42.2 to the Investigation Officer for investigation. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as they see fit (Refer to AFL VIC Country Tribunal Guidelines 3.2, AFL VIC Country Handbook). Such investigation shall be completed within Ten (10) days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of Ten (10) days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) days is then granted by the Region General Manager. The request of extension of time must be received in writing the Region General Manager. An extension agreed to by the Region General Manager may be subject to such conditions as the Region General Manager sees fit.
- 42.5** If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player, Official, or club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player, an Official, or club or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal as provided, he may lodge with the Region General Manager or his/her appointee a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.
- 42.6** If a Notice is lodged under paragraph 42.5 with the Region General Manager, determines that the matter should be referred to the Independent Tribunal, the Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation before the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than Nine (9) days after lodgment of the Notice and shall forward the Player, Official, or club, care of the club Secretary or Region General Manager in question, a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the club Secretary or Region General Manager of the Notice lodged under paragraph 42.5.
- 42.7** Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player, official, club prior to the hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and club at least forty eight (48) hours prior to the Hearing and the charged player, official, or club shall be informed at that time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses.
- 42.8** In any proceeding brought before the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal under By Law 42.0 the Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the AFL Outer East.
- 42.9** If the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the Player, Official, or Club in question has engaged in unbecoming conduct or conduct which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give directions in the matter as it thinks fit.



42.10 Without limiting the generality of By Law 42.9 the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal or the AFL Outer East may:

- i) Impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player, Official, or club in question.
- ii) May suspend the Player, Official, or club in question for such period as it thinks fit.

42.11 For the interpretation of By Law Forty-Two (42.0) the Investigation Officer shall not be deemed an advocate.

42.12 In the event of the AFL VIC Country accredited Investigation Officer charging the AFL Outer East for his/her services in relation to a request for an investigation, the following process will be applied in relation to payment of the Investigation Officer (subject to By Law 42.3)

- i) If the investigation does not proceed to a tribunal hearing, the body requesting the investigation will be liable for the Investigation Officer's entire fee, and such fee will be deducted from the security deposit of \$500.00 already paid by the body. If the fee exceeds the \$500.00 deposit, the body will remain liable for the payment of any such amount exceeding \$500.00.
- ii) If the investigation does proceed to a tribunal hearing, and the charged player is found not guilty by the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal, the Investigation Officer's fee will be paid by the AFL Outer East, and the security deposit will be refunded, in full to the relevant body.
- iii) If the investigation does proceed to a tribunal hearing, and the charged player is found guilty by the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal, the Investigation Officer's fee will be paid in full by the guilty Player's club. The security deposit will be refunded, in full to the relevant body.

43. MATCH REVIEW PANEL

Background

This procedure will enhance processes associated with alleged incidents that may have been missed by umpires but have been captured by official Outer East Community Bank Football & Netball footage. In the past, incidents of this nature have typically been referred to the AFL Outer East Independent Investigator. Please note that it is not practical or feasible for AFL Outer East staff or volunteers to review video footage of every game, every weekend. The AFL Outer East will still be reliant on clubs primarily to raise alleged incidents as appropriate.

AFL Outer East Objective

One of the AFL Outer East objectives is to provide a safe environment for all players within our competition. The intention also with this rule is to ensure workload is minimised by reducing the need for costly and time consuming investigations. The existing Investigation Process is still available if required.



43.1 Formation of Match Review Panel

Annually a Match Review Panel shall be formed which will be made up of one independent member (preferably an Investigation Officer), AFL Outer East Operations Manager and Region General Manger or representative of his/her choosing. The panel will review an incident (from official AFL Outer East footage) and determine whether that matter should be referred to the AFL Outer East Independent Tribunal. The Panel may refer any matter to the Tribunal via an Investigation Officer, if in the opinion of the Panel there is a breach of the (AFL) Laws of Australian Football. The AFL laws referred typically relate to the AFL's Reportable Offences (as per the traditional report sheet).

The match review panel via an Investigation Officer may offer a set penalty referred in the AFL's Reportable Offences (as per the traditional report sheet).

43.2 Match Review Process

An Official Representative for the purposes of the Match Review Panel is:

- Club (President or Secretary)
- Umpire (Officiating Umpire)
- Member of the Umpire Board
- Outer East Umpire Association (President or Secretary)
- AFL Outer East Commissioner, or staff member

43.2.1 Notice in Writing

Official representatives outlined in by-law 42.3 may lodge with the AFL Outer East a **Notice in Writing** setting out particulars of the matter for Video Incident Review. The Notice must pinpoint as accurately as possible when and where the incident occurred and what type of incident is required to be reviewed. The AFL Outer East Office in conjunction with the video supplier's staff will determine if any video evidence is available. If video evidence is available, the matter will be referred to a Video Incident Review Panel Member. The Video Incident Review Panel Member, if appropriate, shall refer the matter to the tribunal via an Investigation Officer whereby a nominated person shall prosecute the report.

43.2.2 Video Incident Review - Key Timings

- An Official Representative must submit to the AFL Outer East a Notice to Review by no later than **Noon on the Monday after the game**. *(If a game is **not** played on Saturday – noon on the second day following the match will be the deadline and all other timings to adjust accordingly)*
- If Video Footage is available, the footage will be referred to the Review Panel as soon as possible.
- The Match Panel will advise the AFL Outer East Office, by noon on Tuesday whether the player will be offered a set penalty under matter will be referred to the independent tribunal. All relevant details in relation to the report will be passed to respective clubs Tuesday afternoon.
- Where possible, the **independent tribunal will sit on Wednesday night following the game**.



43.2.3 A club's player or official who is reported and subsequently found guilty at the tribunal will be charged a fee of \$150. If the player or official is found not guilty, no fee is payable. If a request by a club to review an incident is deemed frivolous, the requesting club will be fined \$150.

44.0 TRIBUNAL – GENERAL

- 44.1** The Region General Manager will appoint on an annual basis members of the Independent Tribunal. The appointment of the Independent Tribunal is at the Region General Manager discretion.
- 44.2** The Independent Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and a panel of not more than ten persons who in the opinion of the Region General Manager possess knowledge of Australian Rules Football.
- 44.3** Such persons shall not be directly associated with any member Club of the AFL Outer East and shall be thoroughly conversant with the "Laws of Australian Football, and who in the opinion of the Region General Manager, will be thoroughly capable of handling any charges which may be brought before them. The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall interview prospective members prior to appointment.
- 44.4** At a hearing of the Independent Tribunal it shall comprise three persons being:
- 43.4.1** The Chairman or, in the Chairman's absence, the Deputy Chairman.
 - 43.4.2** Two Panel Members
- 44.5** The Operations Manager is responsible for the Independent Tribunal arrangements.
- 44.6** The Tribunal Secretary shall be appointed by the AFL Outer East and shall be responsible for the procedure of all Tribunal hearings.
- 44.7** The Tribunal Secretary shall assist the Independent Tribunal in the efficient and proper running of matters coming before it, and perform other functions as required from time to time.
- 44.8** If Players who are reported are found guilty by the Tribunal (includes suspended sentences & reprimands) their club will be subject to a fine according to the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

44.9 WITHDRAWAL OF REPORT

44.9.1 An Umpire may, upon approval of the Region General Manager or his/her appointee, withdraw any notice of report in writing prior to the hearing of the matter by the Independent Tribunal.

45. TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

- 45.1** Clubs will be responsible to have players and/or officials involved in any report, to be in attendance at a Tribunal hearing on the Tuesday night, or such other night as determined by the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 45.2** If players and/or witnesses are not in attendance, without satisfactory explanation to the Tribunal, the Tribunal shall have the power to suspend the offending players and/or officials or fine the Club of the offending player/s or official/s.
- 45.3** The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall have the power to defer any case should it be deemed necessary.
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- 45.4** Tribunal hearings required as the result of charges laid in a Grand Final shall be conducted no earlier than the second Tuesday after the Grand Final.
- 45.5** Umpires must attend the Tribunal of any report made by him/her.
- 45.6** If the umpire is unable to attend the hearing, written evidence may be submitted in accordance with the AFL VIC Country Rules. Umpires may be able to give evidence over the phone at the tribunal hearing.
- 45.7** Each affected party must be represented at the hearing by an advocate, as per the AFL VIC Country Rules. Advocates may be an appointed Independent Advocate, Delegates, or Officials of Clubs, but shall not be a member of the legal profession, as per the AFL VIC Country Rules.
- 45.8** Video evidence is permitted at Tribunal hearings; however the charged player and the umpire/s must have the opportunity to view the video prior to the hearing.
- 45.9** The Region General Manager or Investigation Officer may recommend that the Tribunal should view any video of any part of a match.
- 45.10** Where a player or official is found guilty of a charge, at the Independent Tribunal, or accepts the prescribed penalty, the Club may be subject to a fine, as determined by the Independent Tribunal or the Commission.
- 45.11** Should a player be found guilty and suspended, the penalty shall apply to the matches of the Club in the grade where the offence occurred.
- 45.12** A suspended player and/or official shall not be permitted to play with any team during the period of suspension nor shall he be permitted to act in any official capacity for the Club concerned.
- 45.13** The Independent tribunal's decision shall remain final unless the matter is referred to an appeals tribunal, which can overturn the said decision or verdict. An affiliated club and or official have until 2 p.m. on the second day following the decision of the Independent Tribunal to lodge such an appeal, otherwise the Independent Tribunal's finding will be upheld.
- 45.14** The Tribunal Procedure shall be in accordance with the AFL VIC Country Handbook - Tribunal Procedure.

46. FINES

- 46.1** The commission shall determine the schedule of fines annually. Refer to Schedule Four (4).
- 46.2** The Region General Manager shall administer all fines stated in Schedule Four (4).
- 46.3** Clubs wishing to appeal against such fines shall do so in writing to the Region General Manager and state the nature of their appeal.
- 46.4** The schedule of fines is used as a guide and the Commission shall have the power to confirm, increase, reduce, amend or withdraw such fines at any time.
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47. FINALS SERIES

- 47.1** The Region General Manager and his/her staff shall control all finals series, including the allocation of grounds. The AFL Outer East will manage the finals series on behalf of the Commission and Region General Manager.
- 47.2** In the event of a draw in any final match extra time shall be played. (Refer By Law 47.3)
- 47.3** Where extra time is to be played in a final, two (2) halves of five minutes each, with time on added, shall be played.
- 47.3.1** In the event of scores being level after the two (2) five-minute halves, the process shall continue until there is a result.
- 47.3.2** At the completion of the fourth quarter if scores are tied, the following shall apply:
- (a)** The teams shall change ends to those used in the fourth quarter
 - (b)** Coaches shall not be permitted to address players between the end of the fourth quarter and the start of extra time or at any change of ends during the playing of extra time.
- 47.4** The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall be responsible for the allocation of changing rooms and the color of shorts for each competing team in all finals matches.
- 47.5** The Region General Manager or on their behalf his/her appointee, may call for tenders from interested Clubs or groups to provide certain works or services.
- 47.6** The Region General Manager, or on their behalf, his/her appointee, may determine annually the number of passes allocated to clubs competing in the finals series.
- 47.7** The Region General Manager, or on their behalf, his/her appointee, may determine annually the number may determine annually the number of passes allocated to the hosting clubs.
- 47.8** Netball Finals shall be played as per Netball Victoria's Rules and the AFL Outer East By Laws. Refer to Netball By-laws and Match day Procedures.

48. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 48.1** In order to qualify for Senior Grade finals matches, a player must have played in at least four (4) matches with his club during the home and away series of matches.
- 48.2** In order to qualify for Reserves Grade finals matches, a player must have played in at least four (4) matches with his club's Reserves Grade, Veterans or Under 18's team, and not more than ten (10) matches with his club's Senior Grade during the home and away series of matches.
- 48.3** In order to qualify to play in the Under 18's Grade finals matches, a player must be qualified under the age provisions as determined by the AFL Outer East Commission, in the year of play, and have played at least four (4) matches with his club's under 18's team during the home and away series.



- 48.4** In order to qualify in the Veterans Grade finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of three (3) matches with his club in the Veterans Grade. If any Veterans player takes part in one (1) Senior game, that player shall be ineligible to continue in the Veterans grade for the remainder of the season, including finals. A Veterans player may play unlimited Reserves games without affecting his eligibility to play in the Veterans competition.
- 48.5** Where a club has both its Senior and Reserves Grade teams playing the Final Series on either the Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend, the only qualification requirement to play in either the Senior grade or Reserves grade shall be that a player must have played at least four (4) matches with his club during the home and away series of matches. No player may play in two (2) finals matches on the same day, finals round or weekend, with the exception for Under 18s who may play 2 games.
- 48.6** For the purposes of eligibility, an interchange player/s shall be deemed to have competed, whether or not he has taken the field during the match for which he was named as interchange. An interchange player must be in football uniform and on the clubs interchange bench during the match.
- 48.7** Under 18 TAC players. (Refer AFL VIC Country Rule 14) "For the purpose of finals qualifications and player eligibility, the V.F.L. & TAC Under 18 competitions shall be considered the equal of AFL VIC Country Senior competition and the TAC Under 18 matches shall be considered matches of the player's Senior AFL VIC Country team for the purpose of eligibility to play in finals". (Also refer to By Law 11.3).
- 48.8** VFL Players returning to their home club on permit can play senior or reserve grade football. However for the purposes of qualifying for senior finals, only senior grade matches played will apply (*also refer to by-law 48.6*). That means, any reserve grade game played by a VFL player on permit will not be counted for finals qualification. A VFL player cannot play Reserve Grade finals or in the final three rounds of the Reserve Grade competition. Further to this rule, if a VFL player represents the AFL Outer East in interleague, that interleague game will count towards senior finals qualification.
- 48.9** For purposes of finals eligibility within an AFL Victoria Country affiliated league, a player who has played more than twelve (12) 1st 18 home and away games for a club affiliated with a senior state league competition in that season will not be eligible to play finals within an AFL Victoria Country affiliated competition.
- 48.10** Any club found guilty of playing an ineligible player due to non-qualification shall be subject to such penalty as determined by the commission.
- 48.11** Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of the Region General Manager or his/her appointee.
- 48.12** Refer to Netball By-laws for netball eligibility.

49. PRACTICE MATCHES

- 49.1** Pre-season practice matches MUST be officiated by an Umpire from the YRUA or a registered Umpire from any other Commission or League. Both competing teams in all grades shall complete a 'team sheet' signed by all competing players and include guernsey numbers.
- 49.2** The Team Manager of each team shall present the ORIGINAL copy of his team sheet to the field umpire/s and the DUPLICATE copy to the opposing Team Manager, no later than half time of the match.



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- 49.3** In practice matches, umpires may report players as per the 'Laws of Australian Football.'
 - 49.4** Clubs are responsible to arrange Outer East umpires as required.
 - 49.5** If a player is reported the Tribunal will be held by the Hosting Commission/Leagues Independent Tribunal.

50. OFFICIAL LEAGUE FUNCTION

- 50.1** No Club shall conduct a function on the same date as an official AFL Outer East Function.
- 50.2** Where possible the Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall give adequate notice to all clubs of planned AFL Outer East functions, to avoid a clash with functions planned by clubs.

51. ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER

- 51.1** A Presentation Dinner will be held annually.
- 51.2** The Region General Manager or his/her appointee shall be responsible for the format and venue.
- 51.3** Affiliated clubs (Including Umpires) will be allocated 10 seats to the event (5 for Vets only clubs) to be charged at a rate decided annually.

52. BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS

- 52.1** The AFL Outer East shall provide an award/s for the Best and Fairest player in each grade of the competition each year.
- 52.2** The voting for the AFL Outer East Best and Fairest Award/s shall be determined as follows-
 - 52.2.1** At the conclusion of each of the home and away matches, the field umpire/s shall award three (3) votes to the player considered to be the fairest and best player in the match: two (2) votes to the player considered to be the second fairest and best: one (1) vote to the player considered to be the third fairest and best.
 - 52.2.2** Such votes shall be recorded on a special card provided by the AFL Outer East and returned to the AFL Outer East office in the envelope provided for match paperwork.
- 52.3** The Best and Fairest Medals have been named to honor individuals who have provided outstanding service to the AFL Outer East and to football/netball generally.

The Medals names will be ratified each season by the AFL Outer East Commission.

- 52.4** Any player who is found guilty of a charge by the Tribunal or has accepted the prescribed penalty during the home and away matches shall not be eligible to win an AFL Outer East Best and Fairest award, during that season.
- 52.5** In the event of a tie in a Best and Fairest count in any grade, the award shall be presented to each of the players involved in such tie.



53. MEDIA AWARDS

- 53.1 Media Awards may be awarded to both football/netball players and umpires. These awards will be determined as required each season.

54. GOAL KICKING/SHOOTING AWARDS

- 54.1 The leading goal kicker/shooter of each grade shall receive an award/s from the AFL Outer East
- 54.2 The tally of goals shall be determined only in home and away matches.
- 54.3 The commission shall grant naming rights to the award/s in any Grade.

55. PREMIERSHIP AWARDS

- 55.1 The Premiership team of each Grade shall receive a Premiership Cup, a Premiership Pennant and the match football.
- 55.2 Each player and the coach of the Premiership team in each grade shall receive a 'Premiership Medal' at the conclusion of the Grand Final.
- 55.3 The player nominated as the 'Best on Ground' in the Grand Final in each grade shall receive a medal to recognise their achievement, at the conclusion of the Grand Final.
- 55.4 The AFL Outer East shall grant naming rights to the Premiership Cup, Premiership Medal and Best on Ground/Court Medal.
- 55.5 Best on Ground Medals for Seniors (Premier Division, Division 1 & Division 2), Under 18 (Premier Division & Division 1) & Under 16 Competitions are provided by AFL VIC Country annually.

56. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

- 56.1 The aim of this By Law is to keep sport and specifically, Australian Rules Football, out of the legal system. This procedure shall not apply to any matter that is capable of resolution by procedures laid down elsewhere in these Rules/By Laws or by use of AFL VIC Country Rules.
- 56.2 Where a dispute arises between the AFL Outer East Commission and a member or registered player or official or between Clubs within the AFL Outer East, the following procedure shall be followed:
- 56.3 Direct negotiations must take place between the parties within five (5) days of the request of any party.
- 56.4 If, after direct negotiations, the dispute is not resolved, any party after service upon other parties of a notice, that they consider the negotiations have failed, may request in writing within (5) five days that an arbitrator be appointed to resolve the dispute.
- 56.5 In the case of a dispute between Clubs, the AFL Outer East Commission may intervene and direct that the dispute be referred to an arbitrator.



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- 56.6** It shall be the responsibility of the party requesting the appointment of an arbitrator to agree to the appointment. All parties must agree to the appointment.
- 56.7** An arbitrator appointed could be a member of the Legal Profession, or a suitably qualified person, and may be a local person if necessary, so that costs are minimized.
- 56.8** Any arbitrator appointed shall have sole discretion as to the manner, conduct and place of any hearing, and may vary in any way any fine, penalty, decision or determination that caused the dispute. Any decision will be final and binding on any parties to the dispute.
- 56.9** Any fees and expenses for the arbitrator, as negotiated, must be paid on an equal share basis, prior to the hearing.
- 56.10** Members of the legal profession shall be prohibited from representing any party at any hearing, unless the arbitrator grants specific approval.
- 56.11** Any decision of the arbitrator must be implemented within the time frame specified by the arbitrator.
- 56.12** The arbitrator shall be empowered to determine any penalties to be imposed if the arbitrator's determination remains unfulfilled. This may include financial penalties, de-registration, loss of Premiership points or such other penalty as is determined.

57. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION

- 57.1** No player in his capacity as a player of a Club or, in the course of carrying out his duties or functions as or incidental to a player of a Club or any director, officer, servant or agent of a Club, (including without limitation any coach, assistant coach, trainer, medical officer, runner or person entitled to enter the arena during the course of or prior to or during any break in play in any match) shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person, ('the vilified person',) on the basis of that person's race, religion, color, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- 57.2** In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened By Law 57.1, an umpire, Club or player may by 5.00pm on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing with the AFL VIC Country Football Development Manager of the AFL Outer East. The AFL VIC Country Football Development Manager Officer shall within 48 Hours of receipt of the complaint, forward this to the Complaints Officer.
- 57.3** The AFL VIC Country Football Development Manager Officer shall:
- 57.3.1** Inform the person alleged to have contravened By Law 57.1 of the complaint and provide that person with the opportunity to respond to it.
 - 57.3.2** Arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.
- 57.4** Where the Complaints Officer is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation, the AFL VIC Country Football Development Manager shall:
- 57.4.1** In the case of a player refer the complaint to the Independent Tribunal to be dealt with as a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football: or
 - 57.4.2** In the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the Region General Manager.
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- 57.5** Where a person alleged to have contravened By Law 57.1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as the person vilified), the Complaints Officer may refer the complaint directly to the Independent Tribunal to be dealt with as a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football in the case of a player, or directly to the Region General Manager to be dealt with under Rule 4.2 of AFL VIC Country Rules and Regulations.
- 57.6** Any conciliation referred to in By Law 57.3 shall be conducted by the nominee of the President for the time being of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, provided that if the President is unable or unwilling to nominate, the Region General Manager shall nominate a person to conciliate.
- 57.7** In the event that a complaint is referred to the Independent Tribunal or the Region General Manager under By Law 57.5, no evidence shall be given to or accepted by the Independent Tribunal or the Region General Manager relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to By Law 57.3.
- 57.8** In the event that the Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of these By Laws, or if appointed and is for any reason unavailable to act under these By Laws, the Investigation Officer for the purposes of these Rules shall be the Region General Manager.
- 57.9** The Complaints Officer shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that conciliation of a complaint under By Law 57.3 is completed by 5.00pm on the fifth working day following the day on which the incident is alleged to have occurred.
- 57.10** In any case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Independent Tribunal or to the Region General Manager, the complaint shall be referred in time for the Independent Tribunal or the Region General Manager as the case may be, to deal with it within forty-eight (48) hours of any cessation in the conciliation process.
- 57.11** Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this By Law may be extended by the Region General Manager if, in the opinion of the League Commission, it is just and equitable to do so.
- 57.12** In the event that a complaint under these By Laws in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Independent Tribunal, or where the Region General Manager determines that a person who is the subject of a complaint has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL Outer East, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the AFL Outer East League a penalty determined by the Region General Manager.
- 57.13** This by-law does not apply to a contravention by a person if, in the opinion of the Region General Manager, the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct, which contravened the vilification By Laws.

58. CLUB IN DEFAULT

- 58.1** No member shall be allowed to take part in any meeting, unless all monies due by his/her club are paid or unless a satisfactory reason for such delay is given.
- 58.2** The Commissions trading terms are 30 days to its affiliated clubs, any club that is not within the Trading terms of AFL Outer East Accounts and without the prior written consent of the AFL Outer East Commission, will play, but not be awarded any Premiership points won in any game commenced, until all outstanding monies are received by the AFL Outer East. No points will be awarded to the losing teams, but normal percentage conditions apply, as if the points were allocated. Any points so lost shall not be recoverable except by a ruling by the Commission.



- 58.3** At the end of Round 17 of the competition season, any club that is not within the trading terms of AFL Outer East Accounts, without prior written consent of the AFL Outer East Commission, will not be awarded any Premiership points and cannot partake in any Finals Matches. The final standings as per Finals contention will be from the first five (Division One) and first five (Division Two) financial clubs on the Premiership Ladder.
- 58.4** Any Club disputing this By Law Fifty-eight (58) may appeal in writing to the Commission.
- 58.5** Should any club fail to meet its obligations under an installment plan that has been:
- a. Initiated by adverse circumstances and duly approved by the AFL Outer East Commission an interest rate of 10% p.a. will be applied to the outstanding balance, calculated daily and applied to the club's trading account each month.
 - b. Clubs to which the interest rate described above has been applied may still be subject to the further penalties described in By Law 58.
- 58.6** Further penalties may be imposed on clubs in default including but not limited to, a reduction of the clubs allocated Points under the PPS policy. The Commission will have the sole discretion on this and any further penalties.

59.0 VETERANS

59.1 Ball Ins

If there is no boundary umpire, the home team is required to throw the ball in. Central umpire/s may throw up the ball 10 metres in from where the ball went out.

59.2 Marking

The player in front of the pack competing for a mark is to be given every protection and opportunity to take the mark. Any unnecessary or deliberate interference by an opponent player/s in attempting to mark or prevent the player in front of the pack from taking the mark shall result in a kick being awarded to the player in front of the pack. The interference could take the form of a knee or boot being put into a player's body.

59.3 Player Protection

- 59.3.1** All players making the ball their objective are to be given the utmost protection by the umpire. Any contact other than a legal side bump or legal tackle (between knee and shoulder) shall be deemed unduly rough play and a free kick awarded.
- 59.3.2** Charges (shirt front) are banned irrespective of ball proximity. A charge means an act colliding with an opposition player where the amount of physical force used is unreasonable or unnecessary, irrespective of ball proximity.
- 59.3.3** Slinging players to the ground, whether the player is in possession of the ball or not is illegal and shall result in a free kick being awarded or if it happens after the ball has been disposed of, a free kick shall be awarded down the field where the ball lands.



59.3.4 Late contact, in any form, when the ball has been disposed of, will result in a relayed free kick being paid down the field.

59.3.5 Chopping with a clenched fist will result in a free kick being awarded.

59.3.6 A free kick shall be granted against a player who deliberately kicks at the ball whilst an opposing player has his hand on or near the ball or is on the ground in the immediate vicinity of the ball.

59.4 Finals

In order to qualify in the Veterans Grade finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of three (3) matches with his club in the Veterans Grade. If any Veterans player takes part in one (1) Senior game, that player shall be ineligible to continue in the Veterans grade for the remainder of the season, including finals. A Veterans player may play unlimited Reserves games without affecting his eligibility to play in the Veterans competition.

59.5 Red/Yellow Card Rule

59.5.1 Yellow Card – Player off for 15 minutes match time. Player cannot be replaced but may reenter the playing field after the elapsed time.

59.5.2 Red Card – Player off for the remainder of the game but can be replaced by another player after 20 minutes of playing time.

59.5.3 If a player receives three (3) yellow cards over the course of the season including finals that player will receive a one (1) match suspension.

59.6 Ruck Contest

59.6.1 A ruck contest shall consist of two (2) people. One from each competing team.

59.6.2 A free kick shall be awarded against the club that allows an additional player to enter into the ruck contest.

60. COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE

60.1 The bottom team at the end of the home & away season in Premier Division shall be relegated to Division One (1).

60.2 The Premier Club of Division One (1) shall be promoted to Premier Division.

60.2.1 The Commission may at its sole discretion and under special circumstances, consider a submission in writing from the Premiers to remain in their current Division. This application must be submitted to the AFL Outer East no later than twenty-one (21) days following the Grand Final.

60.2.2 In the event of the commission approving a club's submission to remain in the same Division, the commission may seek expressions of interest from other clubs in that Division to be promoted.

60.2.3 In the event of no clubs being promoted to a Division, the composition of the League divisions will then be structured at the sole discretion of the commission.



60.3 If, at the beginning of a season the Premier Division competition has an odd number of teams, or the number of teams exceeds ten (10), the commission shall decide the relegation & promotion structure from each division prior to Round 2 of that season.

60.4 In 2019, promotion from Division Two (2) to Division One (1) in 2020, will be by application or invitation only, subject to commission approval and assessment.

61. LIFE MEMBERS

61.1 Nominations for Life Membership shall be made on the standard form, and shall be accompanied by any supporting evidence of their service and/or games played.

61.1.1 For Life Membership Qualification requirements, see Schedule Two of these by laws.

61.2 The commission shall assess all nominations for Life Membership on their individual merit and shall make a recommendation to the Annual General Meeting of the AFL Outer East Commission.

62. NEW AFFILIATION AND RESIGNATION OF CLUBS

62.1 All Applications for Affiliation of new member clubs and Resignation of existing member clubs are to be directed to the Region General Manager & the AFL Outer East Commission in accordance with AFL Vic rules & the AFL Outer East Constitution.

63. PATRONS

63.1 The commission may appoint any person or organisation as a patron of the League.

64. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE

65.1 Where these By-Laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the AFL Outer East is maintained at all times.

The Commission or the Region General Manager may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in the By-Laws relating to the AFL Outer East.

65. CHILD SAFE POLICY

Refer the yearly policy published on the AFL Outer East Website: www.afloutereast.com named Schedule 11 – Child Safe Standards Policy.

65.1 Each club participating in an AFL Outer East competition shall appoint a Child Safety Officer who complies with the AFL Outer East requirements from year to year, for each year of competition.

65.2 Failure to comply with By Law 25.0 will result in a fine according to the fine schedule or such other penalty as determined by the AFL Outer East commission.



66. CODES OF CONDUCT

The AFL OUTER EAST Code of Behaviour will be amended and altered to the needs of the AFL OUTER EAST by the AFL Commission each year

The Coaches Code of behaviour is now the standard code set by the AFL Victoria Country.

66.1 By-Law AFL Outer East will from time to time adopt and implement codes of conduct pursuant to advice obtained from AFL Victoria. These codes of conduct will be applicable to players, coaches, spectators and officials. Breaches of these codes of conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken pursuant to these By-Laws or the penalties prescribed in the spectator's "code of conduct".

66.2 Codes of Conduct Management – Condition of Entry: Refer to Schedule 9 of these By Laws.

66.3 Spectator Behaviour

Any patron attending a sanctioned AFL Outer East match must adhere to the AFL Victoria Codes of Conduct. A breach of these Codes of Conduct will see the offending person/s charged under the AFL Outer East Spectator By-Law (Schedule *)

66.4 Adverse Comments in the media

No Member or Official of any Club or Association affiliated with the AFL OUTER EAST is permitted to comment adversely on any aspect of the AFL OUTER EAST including Umpiring, AFL OUTER EAST Clubs, Players or Officials to any form of media, this includes Facebook, SMS Messaging. Penalty for offending affiliates is a minimum fine of \$500.00

66.5 Social Media

Refer to Social Media Policy (Schedule 11)

67. MELEE

Melee Definition

An incident involving six (6) or more players and/or officials who are pushing, grappling, wrestling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the umpire(s) is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of AFL Outer East or the competitions conducted by AFL Outer East.

67.1 Incident & Penalty Procedure

- (a)** In the event of a melee taking place and following three (3) continued instructions from the umpire(s) to break up the melee, if the melee continues, the umpire(s) shall report the incident to the league. The field umpire(s) appointed by the AFL Outer East shall record on the Umpires Match Report at the conclusion of the game an incident where the melee has taken place. This will include the quarter and the position on the field where the melee took place.



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- (b) Such form shall be signed by the umpire(s) and a copy of the Umpire Match Report containing notification of the incident handed to each club as per normal match day procedure.
 - (c) Fines shall be charged to the club's account.
 - (d) All melees occurring during AFL Outer East finals games will be referred directly to the Commission for consideration with regard to penalty.
 - (e) Players may be reported for engaging in a melee, except where the players sole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident.

67.2 Penalties for melees during home and away season;

- Team 1st offence (in one season): \$150
- Team 2nd offence (in one season): \$300
- Team 3rd offence (in one season): \$450
- Team 4th offence (in one season): Decision referred to Commission

67.3 Melee Appeal Process

67.3.1 Stage 1

Clubs can make a formal request to have a melee reviewed. This request must be made in writing no later than 48 hours following an infraction notice.

The Region General Manager or his/her appointee will review the melee and respond in writing within 7 days of receiving the Melee review request.

67.3.2 Stage 2

If a club wishes to challenge the league verdict, they may do so under AFL Victoria rule 7.3.1c. The matter can be referred to the League's independent tribunal for Hearing and determination.

68. MEETINGS

68.1. Compulsory

The league may convene compulsory meeting(s) for Club officials as stipulated by the league from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: League AGM, Club Administrator Courses, Coaches Forums, Presidents Meetings, and Finals Participants Meetings.

Fines apply for non-compliance, as per the fine schedule.



68.2. Representatives

- a. Two representatives of clubs must attend all Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings of the League. Such representatives shall be the President and/or Secretary and/or one other member of the club.
- b. Representatives may, with the prior approval of the league, appoint another person to attend Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings in their place. Fines apply for non-compliance