EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

(Last amended November 2017)

Definition:

In these By-laws unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter:

"EFL" means Eastern Football League Incorporated.

The appendices and schedules attached (pages 47 - 151) should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-laws of the Eastern Football League.

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EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these by-laws unless the contrary intention appears:

"**EFL**" means Eastern Football League Incorporated. In these rules referred to as "EFL" or "the league."

"**Laws of Australian Football**" means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the league, set out in By-laws Schedule 1.

"**League**" means the Eastern Football League Incorporated.

"AFL Victoria" means AFL Victoria Ltd

"Eastern Football League Incorporated" means the Eastern Football League, Eastern Region Girls, Eastern Region Women's and Netball EFL

1.2 The appendices and schedules attached should be read in conjunction with and form part of the by-laws of the Eastern Football League.

1.3 Any dollar amounts referred to in the bylaws will be subject to GST where applicable.

2. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

2.1 All games shall be played in strict accordance with the "Laws of Australian Football" as determined by the AFL, unless otherwise advised by the EFL.

2.2 Unless otherwise specified in these by-laws, the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" shall apply in all games. Where discretion is available under the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for controlling bodies to nominate rule variations, the Board shall notify each club of the "Laws of Australian Rules Football" applicable to the EFL in each season.

2.3 The Rules and Regulations of the Eastern Region Women's Football Competition are contained in schedule 8.

2.4 The Rules and Regulations of Eastern Region Girls Football Competition are contained in schedule 9.

2.5 The Rules and Regulations of EFL Netball are contained in schedule 10.

3. AFFILIATION FEE

3.1 Each Affiliated Club shall pay as an annual affiliation fee of the sum prescribed by the Board from time to time.

3.2 All monies due to be paid to the league by Affiliated Clubs shall be payable in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the monthly statement issued by the league unless contrary arrangements are specifically authorised by the Board.

3.3 The full amount of each statement is to be paid in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the statement. In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with the CEO, a range of penalties may be applied either jointly or independently including but not limited to; no team of that club will be eligible for match points until the account is remitted in full, the club may be fined a set penalty, interest may be charged on the outstanding balance at bank overdraft rates or any other penalty the board deems appropriate. Percentages for any game played while ineligible for match points will be calculated on final scores submitted for each game and awarded as per by-law 7.1.

3.4 In the absence of contrary arrangements specifically authorised by the Board, Clubs shall be charged interest on amounts outstanding for more than thirty (30) days, as at the last day of each calendar month. Monthly interest shall be calculated by applying to the total amount outstanding for more than thirty (30) days one-twelfth of the annual interest rate then payable by the EFL for ordinary bank overdraft facility.

4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

4.1 (a) No person may play in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:

(i) Lodged an application for registration with the EFL for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club; and received from the Chief Executive Officer notice that he is permitted to play for the nominated Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.

(ii) Attained the age of seven years by 30 April during that persons first year of registration with the EFL.

(iii) Age groups commence on the first of January of the current year. The date of birth of the player will determine the age group the player shall play in.

(iv) Prior to playing an official game each season, activated their EFL registration by updating personal details in footyweb and paying the EFL registration fee, as set by the Board from time to time.

(b) Females are permitted to play in matches authorised or conducted by the EFL however, females who reach the age of 14 years as at 1st January in the year of play are specifically excluded from playing in any competition that is not a female competition. Refer to the League Gender Policy for further information.

(c) Despite By-Law 4.1 (iii) the League CEO in his or her absolute discretion may allow a player to play in a lower age group where the CEO is satisfied that special circumstances exist such as a serious medical condition (supported by relevant documents) that warrants a permit to be granted.

(d) Males over the age of 35 as of 1st January in any year are permitted to play in a veteran's grade team provided they do not play in any senior grade match in the same season. To assist clubs with the transition to the new age criteria, for 2017 and 2018, players over the age of 33 as of 1st January 2017 who played in the Veterans competition in the 2016 season will be permitted to play in the Veterans competition for the same club they played for in 2016, for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. In the event a Veterans Team that fielded a team in 2016 and fails to field a team in 2017 or 2018, that team's players will be eligible to play in another Veterans team and if age restricted (below 35), registration and eligibility will be at the discretion of the EFL Board.

(d) Any player found to have participated in a match authorised or conducted by the EFL without the appropriate permit granted pursuant to this By-law may be dealt with by

the Board in accordance with by-law 4.2 (b), and the club whom fielded that player may be dealt with by the Board in accordance with by-law 4.2 (a).

4.2 Penalty for Playing Non-Permitted Players

(a) Any Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club that allows a player to play in any home and away games or finals series where that player is:

(i) not registered with the EFL; or

(ii) not permitted to play with that Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club; or

(iii) is under suspension; or

(iv) playing in an age group they are not permitted to

shall be liable to:

- a fine not exceeding 40 penalty units; and/or
- disqualification from the competition; and
- loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams;

as the Board thinks fit.

(b) The Board may also deal with the player concerned as it thinks fit.

4.3 To Participate in Finals Matches

(a)

(i) Players must play at least 3 matches (service men 2) with their Affiliated Senior or Junior Club in the home and away matches to qualify to play in the finals series for their senior or junior club.

(ii) To be eligible to play in the second 18 or under 19 team finals matches a player must have played in three home and away matches for that particular team during the current season. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where any club fields a first 18, second 18 or under 19 team in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.

(iii) To be eligible to play in the veteran’s finals, a player must have played in 3 matches for that particular team during the current season.

(b) Any player playing 10 or more matches with a club's first 18 team in the home and away matches is ineligible to play with that club's second 18 team or under 19 team in the finals series. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where the player has played 6 or more games for the second 18 team or under 19 team during the home and away season, or when any club fields a first 18, a second 18 or under 19 team in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.

(c) (i) Any player drafted by an AFL club, placed on an AFL supplementary or rookie list or included on an official VFL list can, provided he has qualified under the

rules, return to play with the EFL in the finals in the seniors and reserve grades only.

(ii) Any player that plays 12 or more games in any season in the AFL and/or VFL and/or TAC Cup competitions is ineligible to play EFL finals in that season.

(iii) Any player that plays 9 or more games in any season in the AFL and/or VFL and/or TAC Cup competitions is ineligible to play EFL junior finals in that season.

(iv) Any player that plays a senior grade game in the AFL and/or VFL competitions is ineligible to play EFL reserves.

(d) Where a player participates in more than one senior club match (seniors, reserves, under 19s) on any weekend, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played unless the player is an U19 player filling in for a Reserves team which is short of numbers.

See by law 38.1(d) for movement of players between teams during finals

4.4 Misrepresentations

(a) Any player or club representative who makes any misstatement or mis-representation in applying for:

(i) registration;

(ii) a clearance approval

may be dealt with by the Board by way of:

(a) a fine not exceeding $500; and/or

(b) disqualification from the competition; and/or

loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams.

4.5 Player Registration Fee

No player is eligible to play in any game if the EFL Player Registration Fee has not been paid in full.

5. FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

5.1 Senior Divisions

Where possible, the senior affiliated clubs shall be organised into competitions of ten clubs. Where this is not practical, the allocation of senior affiliated clubs into appropriate divisions shall be determined by the Board.

5.2 Junior Divisions

Junior affiliated clubs shall be organised into junior competitions by the Board after consultation with and recommendation from the Junior Committee.

5.3 Promotion/Relegation

(a) Subject to clauses 5.3 (b) and 5.4, a club shall be entitled to participate in the division in which it participated in the previous season PROVIDED THAT the club whose first 18 teams were premiers in second, third and fourth divisions in the previous season shall be promoted to the next highest division and the club whose first 18 team finished bottom in each of first, second and third divisions, shall be relegated to the next lowest division.

(b) The Board may otherwise promote, relegate or refuse to promote any club if:

(i) the club cannot field a full complement of teams for the forthcoming season;

(ii) playing facilities of the club are not of a sufficient standard for the division in which the team is to compete in the next season;

(iii) there are any other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Board, require a club to be promoted, relegated or refused promotion.

5.4 Under 19's

(a) All clubs have the option of fielding an under 19 team each season in the EFL. Where possible, there will be at least three divisions of under 19s. The allocation of clubs into appropriate divisions shall be determined by the Board. Nomination dates to field an under 19 team will be advised on a yearly basis.

(b) If any clubs under 19 team defaults for more than three games after the commencement of the season, then the club shall be liable to a penalty at the discretion of the Board, PROVIDED THAT:

(i) A penalty not exceeding $500 for any one game forfeited and may be imposed by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with by-law 7.5 (a).

(ii) In addition to any financial penalty, the Board may, at its discretion withhold match points for the senior team(s) of the club for each subsequent game in which the under 19 team forfeits.

(c) Over-age players;

Each team shall be permitted to apply to include **up to ten (10) players under 20 years of age on their under 19 list, of which a maximum of six (6) can be selected in any game**. This is intended for use of "development" type players who may be unsuitable for the move to senior football at this stage of their career. Application to include these players must be received by the EFL General Manager – Football Operations at least 48 hours prior to the first game played by the player. Conditions apply (refer to EFL GM FO). This permit to play can be revoked at any time.

If an **over-age player is reported and subsequently found guilty and/or suspended** the Board may at its discretion revoke the over-age permit for that player.

5.5 Joining Clubs

A club joining the EFL shall be entitled to participate only in the Division determined by the Board with appropriate consequent promotions or relegations being made to other clubs.

5.6 Team Nominations

(a) To enable the Board to ascertain the most appropriate division structure for the EFL, all Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs shall advise the Chief Executive

Officer no later than the date nominated each year by the Board, the number of teams it intends to field in the following season in the appropriate division.

(b) Clubs that aren't affiliated with the EFL who play in a league where a competition isn't available will be able to enter the EFL competition at the discretion of the Board. Any team given permission will be bound by the rules and regulations of the EFL competition.

5.7 Junior Team Maximum Player Lists

No junior grade (under 11/12/13/14/15) is permitted to have more than 26 players registered in each competitive age group in each season. The exception to this rule is for under 17 who are permitted to have 30 players registered in each competitive age group in each season. Block lists may be amended throughout the season via approval of the league's Junior Manager.

5.8 Ground Equipment

Each club shall provide an oval and changing room facilities, to be approved by the Board for each season. Each oval and changing facilities must have the following:

(a) for senior competitions, the ground length must be a minimum of 125 metres and no longer than 185 metres length; and not less than 95 metres and not more than 155 metres in width;

(b) two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground;

(c) two behind posts shall be placed at 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 metres;

(d) the goal posts and the behind posts must be painted white;

(e) between ground level and 2.5 metres, goal and behind posts must be suitably padded with a minimum of 35 millimetres thick foam padding covered in canvas or painted;

(f) goal posts must be fitted with three flag holders on the goal umpire's right-hand post and one flag holder on the goal umpire's left-hand post;

(g) all areas behind the goal and behind posts to be fenced;

(h) a scoreboard which shall be operational for each game with numbers for scores at least 30 centimetres high;

(i) playing surfaces satisfactory to the Board;

(j) change rooms of not less than 40 square metres net useable floor space area for each competing club with separate showers and toilets serving each change room;

(k) umpires' rooms which shall not be less than 20 square metres in area, containing a shower area separate from the player's area;

(l) floors in the change rooms of solid construction such as concrete or timber;

(m) a suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during matches being played;

(n) a properly marked playing oval with a boundary defined by a white line, which white line must not be marked with builder's limit or slaked lime. The white line shall be drawn between the behind post and goal post to define the score line. The centre of the oval shall be marked with a square in the centre of the ground which shall be 45 metres along each side and shall be parallel to the goal and behind posts at each end;

A Centre Circle three metres in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter which shall:

(i) be located as near as practical to the middle of the centre square; and

(ii) both are divided into two semicircles, by drawing a straight-line parallel with each goal line.

(o) "kick off areas" which shall be **9** metres from each goal line;

(p) a line across joining the 2 goal lines;

(q) Two coaches' boxes. No more than 4 officials (4 plus runner for senior, reserves and under 19 team) plus the approved number of interchange players shall be allowed in each coach's box at any one time;

Fine: Ten penalty units per person over the permitted number.

(r) a suitable bell or siren to indicate to the players and umpires the commencement and conclusion of each quarter of a match;

(s) an arc to be marked at each end of the playing surface a minimum of 40 metres and a maximum of 50 meters from the centre point of each goal;

(t) a line directly in front of each coaches' box parallel with the boundary line at the midpoint between the boundary line and the arena fencing extending four metres either side of each coaches' box;

(u) in all EFL matches there shall be a minimum of 3 metres clearance between the boundary line and fence or other hazard.

(v) five Fence Stations for use by trainers and drink carriers must be marked at suitable positions, as directed by the EFL, around the ground.

Fine: Three penalty units to apply for any infringement,

5.9 FOOTBALLS

(a) The Board shall from time to time specify approved footballs to be used in authorised matches of the EFL. No footballs may be used in any EFL authorised match that does not comply with the specifications as set down by the Board, including approved sponsor and EFL logos.

(b) (i) At the commencement of each Senior match the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with one new full size red football and one full size red football in very good condition in accordance by-law 5.9 (a).

(ii) At the commencement of each Reserves, under 19 or Veterans grade match, the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with one new full-size football and one full size football in very good condition in accordance by-law 5.9(a). The colour selected shall be at the discretion of the home club.

(c) At the commencement of each under 11 to under 17 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved leather footballs in very good condition. At least one of the two football balls supplied must be a red leather football.

(d) At the commencement of each under 8 to under 10 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved footballs in very good condition.

(e) Size 2 approved footballs shall be used in all under 8, under 9 and under 10 official EFL matches. Size 3 approved footballs shall be used in all under 11 and under 12 official EFL matches. Size 4 approved footballs shall be used in all under 13 and under 14 official EFL matches. Full size approved footballs shall be used in all under 15 and under 17 official EFL matches.

(f) Yellow balls shall be used in senior/junior matches where the game is to be played during twilight or at night. Where the condition of the ground is such that the use of a yellow ball is more suitable than of a red ball, yellow balls maybe used at the agreement of both team captains. Should the captains fail to agree, the umpire shall determine the colour of ball to be used.

(g) There is only an expectation from clubs that one new ball is used for any one game. Where it is appropriate due to conditions to use different balls at the start of the first and second quarters, a used ball in very good condition is suitable for use to start the second quarter.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

6. FIXTURES

6.1 Preparation

The Board shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in each division by preparing fixtures for each team in each division for each season.

6.2 Failure to Fulfill Engagements

(a) Teams not ready to start the game at the appointed time shall render its club liable to a fine.

Fine: Five penalty units.

A further 5 penalty units shall apply for each additional minute late after five minutes.

(b) Any team not ready to commence within 20 minutes of the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the match unless by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the match the Board is satisfied that the reason for the delay was excusable.

(c) If in the opinion of the controlling umpires the specified quarter, half or three-quarter time allowance in accordance with by-law 14.6 (b) is exceeded by any team, it shall render its club liable to a fine.

Fine: Five penalty units per minute in excess of the specified time.

6.3 Alterations to Published Fixture

(a) Clubs desiring to conduct Senior, Reserve, under 19 or junior grade matches on a day or time other than that published by the league in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied:

(i) that all appropriate licences and permissions to conduct the game have been received and copies forwarded to the EFL Office prior to the game.

(ii) that 14 days' notice is forwarded to the EFL office indicating times of commencement of all games and any alterations of venues to the published fixture.

(iii) that 14 days' notice in writing requesting approval from the Board that the fixture be altered is forwarded to the EFL office from each club.

7. LADDERS

7.1 Point Allocation and Match Ratio Calculations

(a) In the home and away matches, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or walkover is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. Where an affiliated Senior Club or affiliated Junior Club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, they are ineligible to play for match points as per by law 3.3. Competition tables will record a win, loss or draw but the club will not be awarded competition points based on any win. Their opposition must win or draw the game to receive the four or two points respectively, as per normal match points allocation.

(b) The Board shall prepare a weekly ladder for each Division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw or loss it shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and 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 lower percentage points. All decisions of the Board in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.

(c) In the case of a bye occurring in any competition or an uneven number of games being played by the competing teams, Match Ratio will be used to determine the ladder.

7.2 Scores Used to Calculate

The scores used by the EFL to calculate the points and percentages for each Divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores contained in the goal umpire's cards. Should these scores disagree, the timekeeping cards will be used as the basis for calculating points and percentages.

7.3 Lodging of Match Day Scores

(a) The home club in each Division (One to Four inclusive) match shall be responsible to lodge with the EFL by the means as stipulated by the EFL from time to time, between the hours of 4.30 pm and 5.30 pm on the day of each match the scores, goal kickers and best players for both the home and away teams of the senior, reserves and under 19 grade matches played that day.

(b) The home club in each Division (One to Four inclusive) match must enter the Senior Live Scores into the EFL Sports TG online result database quarter by quarter (minimum requirement) and the final score immediately following the completion of the match.

(c) The home club in each junior grade from under 10 to under 17 (inclusive) match shall be responsible to lodge scores by no later than 9.00 pm on the Sunday following the match into the EFL Sports TG online database.

(d) All clubs must comply with the requirements for notifying scores to the EFL by the appropriate time. Prior to any scores being communicated to the EFL, the club shall check the scores obtained from both goal umpires officiating in the matches played that day.

Failure to comply with 7.3 (a), (b), (c) or (d): Five penalty units.

7.4 Forfeit Calculations

In the event of a game being forfeited, the defaulting team shall not include the game in club playing records. The team against whom the forfeiting team was to play, shall be awarded match points in

accordance with By-law 7.1 and shall be entitled to include the game in the records of its players. Scores from the game in which the greatest winning margin occurred in that division and grade for that round will be applied to calculate percentage for both teams.

7.5 Non-Completion of Matches

(a) Failure by any club to play an arranged match as set out in the fixture of the EFL from time to time shall render the club liable to a fine to be fixed by the Chief Executive Officer unless a satisfactory reason is received by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the failure to play the arranged match.

(b) If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the affiliated Senior or affiliated Junior Club or Clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the officiating umpire, the following procedures shall apply:

(i) Subject to clause 7.5 (iii), if a game is concluded prior to the commencement of the third quarter and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the match will be declared a draw.

Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.

(ii) Subject to clause 7.5 (iii), if a game has progressed beyond the commencement of the third quarter and is unable to proceed with the scheduled time for the match, the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages.

The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.

(iii) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by the Board at its absolute discretion in any way it sees fit.

(c) If the game delay extends beyond 30 minutes, based on the circumstances at the time, a final decision on how the match will proceed is to be made by the EFL GM-FO or his appointee, in consultation with the umpires and clubs/captains. The result of the game will be determined in accordance with by-laws 7.5 b (i) or (ii).

8. FINALS

8.1 Arrangements

The final series of matches will be developed at the discretion of the Board and published prior to the start of each season.

8.2 The Board

The Board shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all finals matches.

8.3 Entrance Fees

The Board shall be responsible for the fixing and collection of all entrances fees at all finals series matches. The Board may delegate its authority for the collection of entrance fees from time to time.

8.4 Club Finals Eligibility

All Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs participating in final series matches must be financial with the EFL before the conclusion of the home and away matches. If a participating club is not financial, the EFL may at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position in the final series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the finals series.

8.5 Finals Officials

(a) In all senior finals games, two independent timekeepers shall be selected by the Board and shall be paid a fee for their services.

(b) The EFL shall appoint a Ground Manager for all senior finals. The Ground Manager appointed by the Board has the power to adjudicate on all situations that may arise on the day of the game.

8.6 Finals Uniforms

The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall wear their registered guernsey and home (coloured) shorts unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.

8.7 Allocation of Rooms and Warm Up Areas

(a) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall use the home team rooms unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.

(b) When entering the playing surface for the start of the game and following half time, each team shall warm up at the end of the ground as instructed by the EFL Ground Manager. This will usually correspond with the end of the ground that corresponds with the change rooms and bench/coaches box they are using.

Fine: Twenty penalty units.

8.8 Draw during Finals Game

(a) In the event of a draw in any finals series game, including grand finals, two further periods of five minutes each (plus time-on if applicable) shall be played to achieve a result. There shall be no break for team instructions either between the completion of normal match time and the start of the first additional five-minute period; nor between additional five minute periods. Teams will exchange scoring ends of the field following the first additional five-minute period.

(b) If scores remain tied at the end of the second additional five-minute period, the game will continue without signal from the timekeepers until the next score is achieved by one team, whereon the timekeepers will immediately signal the completion of play.

9. MATCH CANCELLATION – ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

9.1 If the air temperature, as broadcast by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 5 degrees Celsius or more than 35 degrees Celsius on a training night, umpires are to sign the attendance book but are not to train.

9.2 If the air temperature, as broadcast by Bureau of Meteorology, is below 0 degrees Celsius, or more than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match at any grade, no umpire is permitted to officiate in such match and the match shall be cancelled.

9.3 If the air temperature, as broadcast by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 5 degrees Celsius or, more than 30 degrees Celsius, but less than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match in the senior, reserve, under 19 or veteran's grades, the game will be cancelled unless, in the opinion of the captains of both clubs, the game should proceed.

9.4 If the air temperature, as broadcast by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 5 degrees Celsius or, more than 30 degrees Celsius, but less than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match in any junior grade (under 9 to under 17), the game will be cancelled unless, in the opinion of the coaches of both clubs, the game should proceed.

9.5 If any game is cancelled in accordance with 9.2, 9.3 or 9.4, a match ratio shall be applied to the ladder for that division in that grade.

9.6 If any senior, reserve, under 19 or veterans grade game has commenced, and in the opinion of the field umpire(s) the weather conditions have become too hazardous (e.g. lightning and/or thunder in the vicinity, heavy hail), the game will be stopped.

9.7 (i) If any junior grade (under 8 to under 17) game has commenced, and in the opinion of either the field umpire(s) or both club coaches, the weather conditions have become too hazardous (e.g. lightning and/or thunder in the vicinity, heavy hail), the game will be stopped.

(ii) If the weather conditions improve and in the opinion of the umpires (senior grades) or both field umpire(s) and both coaches (junior grades), the game can recommence within 30 minutes, the following procedures should be adhered to:

(iii) In the event a game can recommence within 30 minutes of being stopped:

- the umpire shall instruct each team to return to the field
- the play shall be re-started at the centre square
- the time shall recommence at the time play was stopped and that quarter be finished
- adjustments should then be made to any subsequent quarters and breaks between quarters to ensure the game finishes at the appropriate time (should there be a game following).

(iv) Where a team directed to recommence play by a field umpire(s) and the team fails to, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

(v) If the game cannot be recommenced, the provisions of by-law 7.5 (b) shall be applied.

9.8 If two or more games are cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather in the same grade and division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be awarded or applied for that round.

9.9 If the Board of the league, or its representative, during the review of a match, is not convinced that match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or any penalty as it sees fit.

10. GROUND INSPECTIONS

10.1 All 'home' clubs are required to obtain and complete a ground inspection sheet on each Thursday night prior to a home game. As a result of this inspection, should any risk issues including, but not limited to, the items listed in the ground inspection sheet, be identified, the club must notify the league of these issues prior to 10.00 am on the Friday immediately prior to the scheduled match.

10.2 The league retains the right to take whatever action is deems necessary to address any issue arising from the ground inspection report, including but not limited to; moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.

10.3 On the day of any official senior, reserve, under 19 or veterans match arranged by the Eastern Football League, all players and officials must make a full inspection of the ground on which the match will be played prior to the match commencing.

10.4 By signing the clubs team sheet prior to the commencement of/or during a game, each player and official DOES HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE that:

He/she has inspected the playing surface of the venue where the game is to be played and all fixtures and fittings thereon including but not limited to change rooms and toilet facilities, goal and point posts (and padding thereon), sprinklers, fencing, score and line markings; and

Such playing surface, change rooms and toilet facilities and all other fixtures and fittings referred to above are in such a condition that it is safe and reasonable to allow the game to proceed.

10.5 Immediately prior to signing the team sheet, an official of the club is required to notify the player or official of the presence of the above waiver on the team sheet.

10.6 If any player or official believes the venue is unsafe for play for whatever reason, he/she should not sign the team sheet.

10.7 Any player or official, who does not sign the official team sheet, is ineligible to take part in any match in accordance with by-law 14.2 of the Eastern Football League.

10.8 If on the day of any junior grade (under 9 to under 17) match, the umpire and both team coaches deem that the playing surface is unsafe for play to commence or continue, the game will be cancelled or abandoned.

10.9 If a game has commenced, the provisions of by-law 7.5 (b) shall be applied.

10.10 If only one game is cancelled or abandoned in the same grade and division, a match ratio will be applied to the ladder for that grade and division.

10.11 If two or more games are cancelled or abandoned in the same grade and division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be applied to the ladder for that round.

10.12 If the Board of the league, or its representative, during the review of the match, is not convinced the match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points, percentage or any penalty as it sees fit.

10.13 If the Board of the league, or its representative, during a review of the match, is convinced the game was cancelled, abandoned or not played for good reason and in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or percentage or any penalty as it sees fit.

11. UMPIRES

11.1 General

(a) The Field umpire shall officiate the tossing of the coin for the choice of ends before the start of any match. The field umpire shall call both captains of each team together. The field umpire shall toss the coin. The visiting team captain shall call and the umpire shall determine the result of the toss. The umpire shall then ensure that the team that won the toss have the choice of ends.

(b) All umpires appointed by the Umpires Board shall have the power to report players, clubs and officials in accordance with such of the AFL “Laws of Australian Football” adopted by the EFL from time to time and for any breach of these by-laws.

(c) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall ensure an official of the club waits upon the field umpire with the opposite club's official at the close of each match and ascertains if any reports are to be made and the nature of the reports, if any.

Fine: Two penalty units.

(d) At the completion of the match the team managers will lodge with the field umpire(s) the goal umpires' score cards and the timekeepers card.

Fine: Two penalty units.

(e) All clubs must lodge at the league offices a Report on Field Umpire form as supplied by the EFL for all official matches played by senior and junior grades of that club by no later than 5.00 pm on Tuesday following the weekend in which the match was played.

Fine: Two penalty units.

11.2 GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES AND SCORES

11.3 Official Powers

(a) (i) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall provide a goal and boundary umpire for all matches other than senior grade matches unless otherwise advised by the Chief Executive Officer.

(ii) EFL appointed field umpires have the power to overrule decisions made by club appointed goal and boundary umpires.

Fine: Five penalty units.

(b) (i) Goal umpires provided by the respective Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs must be over 15 years of age and must be attired in a white uniform. Such umpires shall not have the power to report players or officials.

(ii) Any club appointed goal umpires are to, at the completion of each game, check their scores with each other. The host club goal umpire is required to give the score cards to the field umpire within 15 minutes of the completion of the match.

(c) Boundary umpires provided by the respective Affiliated Senior Clubs must be over 15 years of age and must be attired in a white uniform. Boundary umpires provided by the respective Affiliated Junior Clubs must be at least the same age as the grade in which they are officiating and must be attired in a white uniform. Such umpires shall not have the power to report players or officials.

Fine: Two penalty units.

11.4 Umpire Escorts

(a) At all Senior, Reserve, under 19 and all junior grade (under 9 to under 17) matches both competing clubs shall supply an Escort for umpires who shall:

- (i) Escort the umpires from the ground at half time and at the completion of the game.
- (ii) Where the club is the home club, offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter.
- (iii) Remain in the centre of the ground with the umpires during quarter time and three-quarter time breaks.
- (iv) Show courtesy to the umpires and opposition escort at all times.
- (v) Be over the age of eighteen years.
- (vi) Wear approved EFL Umpires Escort Bib at all times whilst officiating as an umpire's escort.

Fine: Three penalty units.

12. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

12.1 Jumpers

(a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured guernseys, incorporating the EFL logo approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such guernseys shall be supplied by the manufacturers approved by the Board from time to time.

(b) No player will be permitted to compete in any official EFL match without a number on the back of the playing guernsey. No two players in the one team shall have the same number. Each number shall be a whole number greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

(c) Except with the prior permission of the EFL, clubs fielding seniors and reserves teams are to have one set of guernseys for both teams numbered in whole numbers greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.

(d) Undergarments (i.e. compression skins) that extend beyond the length of the jumper are not permitted to be worn.

12.2 Jumper Clashes

(a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered colour guernseys, however, if two clubs compete in the same division and those clubs' colours are the same or similar and are drawn to compete against one another, the away club must change its jumper. EFL Senior jumper clashes will be posted by the League on the website before the commencement of each season.

(b) In the event of teams whose colours are the same or similar meeting in finals, the club finishing higher on the ladder at the completion of the season will retain its jumper, unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.

(c) A list of recognized jumper clashes will be published prior to the start of each season.

12.3 Shorts

(a) (i) Unless instructed otherwise by the CEO or their appointee all teams in the under 11 to open age grades (inclusive), shall wear their registered club coloured shorts at all home games. All teams visiting as the away team are required to wear their registered club white shorts. All shorts shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

(i) All teams in the under 8 to under 10 grades (inclusive), shall wear their registered club coloured shorts, incorporating the side webbing in all games. All shorts shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

(b) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to delete side webbing from shorts and include the EFL logo on the front of shorts.

12.4 Socks

(a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured socks, incorporating the EFL logo approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such socks shall be supplied by the manufacturers approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

12.5 Bicycle Shorts, Gloves and Boots

(a) Players who wear bicycle or lycra shorts extending on the legs below the line of the uniform shorts must wear such shorts which are beige in colour and must not extend below the knee.

(b) Players are permitted to wear only EFL approved glove(s), manufactured for use in Australian Rules Football, in official EFL matches.

(c) No players are permitted to wear metal or metal tipped stops in any official EFL match.

12.6 SPONSOR LOGOS

Jumpers

(a) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on their guernseys.

(b) Such logos shall be located:

(i) a minimum of 2 cm either above and/or below the player number and have a maximum height of 10 cm and a maximum width of 30cm; and/or

(ii) on the front of the guernsey on the breast opposite the approved EFL logo and of a maximum size of 90 square cm (9.45cmx9.45cm).

Application may be made by clubs for logos, outside of the above listed dimensions, which may be approved at the absolute discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Shorts

(c) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on the front and of the playing shorts.

- Such logos shall be a maximum size of 64 square cm (8cm x 8cm).
- No logos will be approved for addition to the back of playing shorts.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

13. TEAM LISTS

13.1 All senior clubs shall forward to the EFL at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the first competition match in each season, one list for each of senior, reserve and under 19 grades accurately stating all the club registered players' christian names, surnames and jumper numbers for inclusion in the record for the first game.

Fine: Five Penalty units per week that the list is not submitted.

13.2 All senior clubs shall forward to the EFL by no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday immediately before a scheduled game the club notes for publishing in the record.

Failure: Five penalty units.

13.3 All clubs fielding teams in any grade of the Finals series, must lodge with the league a list as accurate as possible showing the number, name and age of all permitted players likely to participate in the finals match for inclusion in the record at least 5 days prior to the playing of the first finals series game. Failure to comply shall render the club liable to a fine.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

13.4 Records shall be allocated to home clubs for distribution at all home and away games on the following:

(i) First Division - 150

(ii) Second Division - 100

(iii) Third & Fourth Divisions – 50

13.5 All records shall be collected by home club from the League office prior to 5.00 p.m. on the Friday prior to each match.

14. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

14.1 Timing of Matches

(a) Unless other arrangements have been approved by the Board all matches shall start as follows:

Saturday:	SENIOR MENs	2.10pm	All divisions
	RESERVES	12.05pm	All divisions
	UNDER 19s	10.00am	All divisions
Friday:	SENIOR WOMENS		7pm

Saturday:	SENIOR WOMENS		1pm/3pm/4.45pm
Sunday:	SENIOR WOMENS		10.00am/12.30pm
Friday:	VETERANS		7pm/7.30pm
Saturday:	VETERANS		4.45pm
Sunday:	VETERANS		2.30pm
Sunday:	UNDER 17/18s	2.45pm	All divisions
	UNDER 15/16s	12.55pm	All divisions
	UNDER 14s	12.55pm	All divisions
	UNDER 13s	11.25am	All divisions
	UNDER 12s	11.25am	All divisions
	UNDER 11s	10.05am	All divisions
	UNDER 10s	9.00am	All divisions
	UNDER 9s	9.00am	All divisions
	UNDER 8s	9.00am / 10.00am / 11.00am / 12.00pm	

Any home and away reserve grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the senior game and any home and away under 19s game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the reserve grade game. Once these times have been reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

Any under 9 (or under 10) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 11s (or under 12s). Any under 11 (or under 12) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 13s (or under 14s). Any under 13 (or under 14) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 15s (or under 17s). Once these times have been reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

(b) Once it becomes apparent that the compulsory finish time may be imposed. Timekeepers may reduce the length of the 1/4, 1/2 and or 3/4 time breaks to ensure equal time periods are played, as outlined in EFL by-law 14.6. Once the compulsory finish time is reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

14.2 Match Day Players and Officials

(a) Prior to the commencement of each match, each team of a Club shall prepare a "team list" of all players, on-field officials, runners, selectors, drink carriers and trainers, who are actively involved with the team on that day. All players are to be in numerical order. This list must contain an accurate statement of the players and their numbers allotted for that day. No two players are permitted to play in the same team wearing the same number. Each player on the team list must sign their usual signature beside their name. The team list shall be completed on the official form provided by the EFL.

(b) For all games other than senior grade matches at half time of each match, team managers must hand to the field umpire of the match the original copies of their team lists.

(c) All clubs must review the online team sheet and remove any players who didn't participate in the match for games record accuracy and finals qualification by 5pm on the Monday immediately following the game.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

(c) For Senior Grade Matches only, each team shall:

(i) Complete an official team sheet for each match in which the club participates in duplicate and

(ii) Hand 2 copies of the completed official team sheet to the field umpires in the umpire's room no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of each match.

(iii) The official team sheet from each club/team when received by the field umpires shall be distributed to the team manager of the opposition club.

(iv) Each team sheet must identify the 22 players, emergency players (maximum 3) and all match day officials.

(v) A club may replace a player originally listed on its team sheet with an emergency player before the commencement of play of a match (as defined in Laws of Australian Football).

(vi) Where an emergency player replaces a player initially listed on the official team sheet, the amendment to the official team sheet must be made through the EFL umpires. The opposition team manager must also be informed of any change immediately after notifying the umpires. No changes to the selected team may be made once the game has commenced.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

(d) First 18 Senior Grade Matches - teams online

(i) A club participating in an EFL Senior Grade Match must lodge its team online in the format nominated by the EFL by 10am Eastern Standard Time on the Friday before the game. The team list must include the name and Guernsey number of 18 Players in playing position, four Interchange Players and three Emergency Players.

Fine: 5 penalty units

(ii) If a player participates in a Match and he was not listed on a Team's list at the time it was lodged with the EFL under by law 14.2 (d), the club shall be liable to a sanction.

Fine: 5 penalty units for each Player not listed

(iii) On the day of the game, the procedures of by law 14.2 Match Day Players and Officials remain.

14.3 Runners

(a) All club runners shall wear an EFL approved runner's uniform during any match, as determined by the Board from time to time.

(b) No person shall act as a club runner unless they have attained the age of 18 years.

14.4 Trainers

(a) Trainers appointed by clubs to officiate in matches, shall wear:
Top: White polo or club polo, white jacket or club jacket. Approved EFL trainers bib.
Bottom: White shorts or white long pants.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

(b) Each club must provide at least one accredited trainer at all EFL official games. A minimum of Sports Medicine Australia Level One accreditation is required to comply with this by-law.

(c) No person shall be permitted by any club to perform the duties of trainer in any official EFL games unless such trainer has a current accreditation. A minimum of Sports Medicine Australia Sports First Aid accreditation is required to comply with this by-law. Each team is permitted to have a maximum of six trainers in any one match, consistent with by-law 14.4(e).

(d) Clubs must ensure that all trainers have lodged their appropriate documents in our online document storage system Everproof by 15th May each season.

Fine: One penalty unit per week for non-compliance.

(e) A team may have no more than a combined total of six trainers and water carriers.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

(f) In the Junior competition (under 8-17), a trainer may only enter the playing surface for attending to an injured player and must not perform the duties of a drink carrier.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

(g) Trainers must remain in the designated fence stations or behind the boundary line against the fence in the coaches' box while the game is in progress. This will enable boundary umpires to carry out their duties. Trainers are not to remain on the field after performing their duties.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

14.5 Drink Carriers

(a) Each team shall be permitted a maximum of three (3) persons to perform the duty of "drink carriers". Drink carriers can only deliver drinks to players while a set shot for goal is in progress, after a goal has been scored or when the ball is at the opposite end of the ground. Drink carriers must not perform the duties of a runner, must not be based near or out of the coaches' box/area, and must be stationed in designated fence stations outside the boundary while general play is occurring. They must not ever be on the ground near general play. Drink carriers are not to remain on the field after performing their duties.

(b) In all Senior, Reserve and Under 19 grade games, drink carriers must be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age.

(c) In non-competitive junior grades (under 8 to under 10) drink carriers must be a minimum of ten (10) years of age.

(d) In competitive junior grades (under 11 to under 17) drink carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age.

(e) The maximum age of water carriers in the junior competition is seventeen (17) years of age.

(f) Drink Carriers officiating in matches shall wear:
Top: White polo or club polo, white jacket or club jacket. Approved EFL drink carrier bib.
Bottom: White shorts or white long pants. Senior competition only may wear club tracksuit pants or club shorts.

Fine: Five penalty units for each infringement.

14.6 Timekeepers

(a) All clubs are to supply a timekeeper, but only one timekeeping card as supplied by the EFL shall be used at each venue. The home club shall supply the timecard. Both timekeepers from each club shall sign the timekeepers card on completion of the game clearly showing the appropriate details and their names and their clubs. No person shall be permitted to act as a timekeeper unless they have attained the age of 18 years.

(b) (i) Each senior game shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 15-minute break between the second and third quarters. In addition, the timekeepers shall stop the time clock running during each quarter at the direction of the field umpire, when the goal umpire signals a goal or behind is scored or when the boundary umpire signals the ball is out of bounds to ensure that there is exactly 20 minutes of playing time in each quarter. Timekeepers shall restart the clock in accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football.

(ii) Each reserve, under 19 and veteran's finals games shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters with time on added in the final 5 minutes of the 3rd and 4th quarters only. The timekeepers shall stop the time clock running only at the direction of the field umpire, when the goal umpire signals a goal or behind is scored, or when the boundary umpire signals the ball is out of bounds. Timekeepers shall restart the clock in accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football. There shall be a 5-minute break at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 15-minute break between the second and third quarters. During veteran's home and away matches each quarter shall comprise of 20 minutes with no time on.

(iii) Each under 14, under 15 and under 17 games shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters (no time on) with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 10-minute break between the second and third quarters.

(iv) Each under 12 and under 13 games shall comprise of four 15 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters. Each under 12 and under 13 games shall have a 10-minute break between the second and third quarters.

(c) Each under 11 games shall comprise of four 12 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters. Each under 11 game shall have a 10-minute break between the second and third quarters.

(d) Each under 8, under 9 and under 10 games shall comprise of four 10 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first, second and third quarters.

Time On

The timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of the match when:

(a) directed to do so by a field umpire in accordance with law 10.5.3;

(b) the goal umpires signal that a goal has been scored, or;

(c) the goal umpires signal that a behind has been scored;

(d) the boundary umpire signals that the football is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full

14.7 Score Board Attendant

Clubs are to provide a Score Board Attendant who is to be competent in the discharge of that duty.

14.8 Interchange

(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary specified in the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football", all under 19 teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game. All reserve grade teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game, and all senior grade teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of four (4) interchange players in any game.

(b) (i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary specified in the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football", under 8 to under 10 (inclusive) and veteran's teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of eight (8) interchange players in any game. All under 11 to under 17 (inclusive) teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game.

(ii) Only the permitted number of interchange players may warm up with the team on the ground immediately prior to the start of the game and sit on the interchange bench at any stage following a team entering the ground for the beginning of all EFL matches.

Fine: Twenty penalty units.

(c) Should the team manager observe the teams being lined up for a count under AFL "Laws of Australian Football", he should assist the field umpire if requested and note the scores at the time of the count. Refer by law 39.4.

(d) Breaches of any of these instructions must be noted on the EFL Interchange Form.

(e) After the match, the team manager is to lodge his Interchange Form as supplied by the EFL with the field umpire in the Umpires' Room for despatch to the EFL office.

(f) In all grades except under 8, 9, and 10 the clubs team manager will manage the interchange.

Fine: Two penalty units.

(g) There will be two lines, 15 metres apart, marked across the boundary line at which players can be interchanged. The team manager may position themselves in the vicinity of the Coaches box and/or the interchange area. The team manager shall observe all interchanges that occur during the game.

Fine: Three penalty units.

(h) Once the match has started, no interchange of players will be permitted without the team manager being advised of the numbers of the players being changed.

(i) Players intending to have a continued involvement in the game shall leave and enter the playing ground through the interchange area always during the match.

(j) Where a player does not enter or leave the playing surface through the approved interchange area and subsequently continues to play in the game in breach of by law 14.8 (i), the Team Manager and/or field umpire(s) shall report the circumstances to the EFL, including the scores at the time. The EFL may determine the matter by way of fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate. Where a clear breach has occurred, the umpire(s) may rule that the player take no further part in the game.

14.9 25 METRE PENALTIES

A 25-metre penalty will apply in all official matches of the EFL.

14.10 KICKING FOOTBALL INTO PLAY AFTER A BEHIND HAS BEEN SCORED

A player of the defending team may only kick the football into play when the goal umpire has completed waving the flag to signal that a behind has been scored. If a defending player kicks the football before this time, the field umpire shall direct the player to kick the football again.

15. INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

15.1 The league may select any players registered with the EFL from time to time to participate in inter-league matches to represent the EFL.

15.2 Any player selected to participate in inter-league matches must play for the EFL and any failure to do so shall be dealt with by the Board as they see fit.

16. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARD

16.1 Each season clubs, trainer's association, umpire's association, coaches' association and league Board can nominate people for an EFL Recognition of Service Award. No more than three awards are to be issued each year. Nominations will be considered by the league Board. EFL life members and 300 game player life members are ineligible for this award. Nominees should have completed a minimum of 15 years' service to the club/league in a non-playing capacity. Awards are not retrospective and may only be bestowed upon individuals who are actively involved in the year of nomination.

17. ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

17.1 At all junior games the consumption of alcohol at grounds shall not be permitted except inside licensed clubrooms. In no case shall alcohol consumption be permitted other than inside licensed clubrooms before, during or after junior matches. Clubs shall be responsible for the conduct of their own members, supporters and followers. Breaches of this By-law will be considered serious and may attract monetary fines and other penalties at the discretion of the Board.

17.2 At all EFL games no person is permitted to smoke while inside the playing arena during a match or inside the change rooms while a match is in progress. During junior matches, smoking is also banned within 10 metres of the playing arena.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

17.3 The consumption of beverages in glass containers outside of licensed social rooms is prohibited at all EFL venues.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

17.4 The sale of alcoholic beverages (for consumption outside of licensed social rooms) at EFL venues is not permitted until the conclusion of the under 19's match.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

18. COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

18.1 General

In accordance with the Rules, a registered player, club, EFL registered umpire or member of the Umpires Board may raise a complaint with the office of the CEO concerning the result of a match or any act, matter or thing involving any club, registered player or official ("Complaint").

18.2 Lodgment of Complaints and Protests

The Complainant must lodge the Complaint with the office of the CEO by no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday (Saturday games) or Wednesday (Sunday games) following the date when the incident giving rise to the Complaint is alleged to have occurred. The Complainant should provide copies of all relevant documents and/or a detailed description of the event and circumstances within the knowledge of the Complainant that gives rise to the complaint. The Complainant may request the CEO to deal with the Complaint in a certain manner and the CEO will give due accord to the request.

18.3 Complaints Procedures

(a) At his absolute discretion, the CEO may refer the Complaint to either the Grievance Committee ("Grievance Complaint"), to the Investigations Committee ("Investigation") or, to mediation, so that they may hear and determine the matter.

(b) If the office of the CEO receives more than one Complaint on substantially the same matter, the CEO at his discretion may treat all subsequent Complaints in the same manner as the initial Complaint and shall inform the body to which the matters were referred of the new complaint.

18.4 Bond

(a) In the case of a club, registered player, or club official, the Complainant must:

Lodge a bond of 20 penalty units ($320.00) with the office of the CEO when lodging the Complaint. In the case of the Complainant being an EFL registered umpire or member of the Umpires Board, the lodgement of a bond is not required. The bond may be returned to the Complainant upon resolution of the complaint in accordance with the Rules and By-laws except in the case where it is determined that the Complaint was frivolous or vexatious in which case the CEO at his absolute discretion may retain whole or part of the bond.

(b) An administration fee of five penalty units ($80.00) will be withheld from the bond. In the case of a complaint being referred to the Independent Tribunal which results in a player/official being found guilty, the club to which the guilty party belongs will also be charged the administration fee of five penalty units ($80.00).

19. COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

19.1 Once a Complaint has been referred by the CEO to the Grievance Committee, it shall be dealt with by the Grievance Committee in accordance with by-law 19.1 – 19.6 ("Grievance Complaint").

19.2 The CEO shall take all reasonable steps to bring the Grievance Complaint to the attention of the player, club and/or official, the subject of the Grievance Complaint ("the Respondents") within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the Grievance Complaint.

19.3 No later than ten (10) working days after receipt by the CEO of the Grievance Complaint the CEO shall convene a hearing into the Grievance Complaint by the Grievance Committee, such hearing to take place at a time, date and location at the discretion of the CEO. The CEO will take all reasonable steps to notify the parties involved of the time, date and location of the meeting of the Grievance Committee.

19.4 The operation of the Grievance Committee shall be in accordance with the Grievance Committee Procedures annexed to these by-laws.

19.5 After the consideration of the evidence put before it, the Grievance Committee shall give a decision to resolve the Grievance Complaint.

19.6 The Grievance Committee may:

(i) impose a fine on the Respondent up to a maximum of $500 for each matter complained of; and/or

(ii) suspend the Respondent from participating in any matter organised by the league; and/or

(iii) recommend to the that match points awarded to the Respondent, if a club, be deducted; and/or

(iv) recommend to the Board that the Respondent be expelled from the league in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

20. INVESTIGATION OFFICER AND INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

20.1 Once a Complaint has been referred by the CEO to the Investigations Committee, it shall be dealt with by the Investigation Officer, and if necessary, the Investigation Committee, in accordance with by-laws 20.1 – 20.11.

20.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of by-laws 18.1 – 18.4 above, the CEO may refer a matter to the Investigation Officer under by-law 20.1 – 20.11 of his own motion.

20.3 The Investigation Officer may investigate any matter which has been deemed relevant by the CEO whether a person may have committed a reportable incident.

20.4 For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this by-law, upon request by the Investigation Officer, any person shall:

(a) Fully cooperate with the Investigation Officer;

i) Truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Officer; and

ii) Provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Officer.

20.5 A person who fails to observe and comply with by-law 20.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner in any respect is false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the league and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion. The Investigation Officer must promptly notify the CEO of the failure of any person to observe and comply with by-law 20.4 above.

20.6 The Investigation Officer shall, as soon as practicable, but in any event no later than ten (10) working days after the Investigation commenced, compile a report of the Investigation, including transcripts of all interviews, and submit the report to the CEO.

20.7 After consideration of the report submitted by the Investigation Officer, at his discretion, the CEO may refer the matter the subject of the Investigation to the Investigation Committee for further investigation, or complete on behalf of the league an authorised report sheet of a reportable incident identified by the Investigation Officer, offer a set penalty as per authorized report sheet, offer a penalty which is in accordance with the tribunal penalty booklet or refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal.

20.8 If the matter is referred to the Investigations Committee, then the Investigation Committee shall convene a hearing within ten (10) working days of the date of the referral to consider the report of the Investigation Officer, together with all transcripts of all interviews conducted by the Investigation Officer during the Investigation, and the Investigation Committee shall have full power to request the cooperation of any person in the conduct of its investigation.

20.9 If deemed necessary by the Investigation Committee, a person may be requested to appear before the Investigation Committee at a specified time and venue to truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Committee, and to provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Committee.

20.10 Failure of a person to fully cooperate with the Investigation Committee, or if a person provides false or misleading information to the Investigation Committee or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, that person shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the league and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion and the Investigation Committee shall promptly notify the CEO of that person's failure to cooperate with the Investigation Committee.

20.11 After its investigation, the Investigation Committee shall compile a report of its investigation, including any recommendation as to further action to be taken against the person or person's subject of the investigation, and submit the report to the CEO.

21. MEDIATION

21.1 Pursuant to Rule 7 of the Statement of Rules, and/or pursuant to a recommendation made by the CEO of a Complaint made pursuant to by-law 18.1 – 18.4 a dispute referred for mediation shall be dealt with in accordance with by-law 21.1 - 21.5.

21.2 Where a dispute has arisen between a club and one of its members, and the club has resolved to refer the matter to the league for resolution, the parties may agree upon a mediator to mediate the dispute, or otherwise permit the league to appoint a mediator to assist the parties in resolving the dispute.

21.3 If the dispute is between any member club, registered player or official and another member club, registered player of official or between any member club, registered player or official and the league, the parties may nominate a preferred mediator or permit the league in its absolute and unfettered discretion to appoint a mediator.

21.4 The disputing parties and the appointed mediator shall read carefully the league's Mediation Agreement (a copy is annexed to these By-laws) and sign the Mediation Agreement. The conduct of the mediation shall proceed in accordance with the Mediation Agreement.

21.5 The outcome of the mediation shall be reported by the mediator to the CEO, including as to whether the parties resolve the dispute, but not the terms of any settlement between the parties, except with the permission of the parties. Should mediation not be successful in resolving the dispute, the parties shall observe the terms of the Mediation Agreement, and any further direction given by the CEO in accordance with By-law 18.3 (save as to any further mediation of the dispute).

22. REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

22.1 General

(a) Reported players and officials shall advise the reporting umpire of their names immediately upon request.

22.2 Procedures

(a) In any senior or junior official EFL match, any player can be ordered from the ground by the Field Umpire EFL appointed Emergency Umpire if they have breached the AFL rules of football/EFL players codes of conduct. At all times, the player ordered off can be replaced.

(b) Any player reported for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.6(b), 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) must be ordered from the field and any player in breach of the EFL players codes of conduct may be ordered off the ground. The umpire will submit the name(s) of player(s) ordered off the ground during a match on the umpire's match report and in accordance with the following:

(i) Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or the EFL appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) or EFL Players Code of Conduct, as published from time to time, (refer Schedule One) the offending player may be ordered off the ground for a period of 15 minutes of game time and can be replaced. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward the player's first order off under this by-law by holding up a yellow card. The 15 minutes shall start from the time play recommences following the yellow card being issued.

(ii) Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or the EFL appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.6(b), 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) or the EFL Players Code of Conduct, as published from time to time, (refer Schedule One) for a second time in the same match, the offending player will be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward the players second order off by holding up a red card.

(iii) Where a player is reported under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" and the umpire deems the incident to be severe, the offending player may be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match and can be replaced. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward by holding up a red card.

(iv) A coach or any official in the Match may be issued a yellow or red card by an umpire. In such circumstance, the coach/official may not be involved in the

game in any official capacity for the duration of penalty applicable to the yellow or red card. Where a coach is yellow or red carded, the provisions of by-law 24.6 (effect of coach under suspension) shall apply for the duration applicable to the yellow or red card.

(c) The field umpire shall submit the name(s) of any player(s) or officials ordered from the ground to the EFL on the umpire's match report.

(d) (i) If any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) has been sent off more than once in the match or once in the season an automatic suspension will also apply. The EFL shall maintain a register of all players ordered from the ground in any junior matches (under 8 to under 17) and shall notify the Secretary of the club of the suspension of any player who has been ordered from the field twice or more in a game or twice or more in the same season.

(ii) Any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) ordered from the ground twice in one match or twice in one season will incur an automatic one-week suspension.

(iii) Any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) ordered off a third or more time in the same season will incur an automatic one-week suspension.

(iv) Any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) reported under this rule will be dealt with in accordance with By-law 22.6(b).

(v) Should a player be reported in addition to receiving a yellow or red card, any suspension(s) resulting from accepting a set penalty or handed down by the Independent Tribunal shall be served concurrently with suspensions incurred because of receiving two or more yellow/red cards in one match or in one season. Should a player be found not guilty of the reported offence by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension(s) for receiving two or more yellow/red cards in one match or in one season shall remain.

(e) (i) Any club who believes a junior player has been sent off unfairly have the right to appeal to the office of the CEO. Any such appeal must be lodged in writing to the EFL by no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday immediately following the game together with a $100 bond.

(ii) If the appeal is subsequently upheld by the office of the CEO the bond shall be refunded in full and the record of the order off in question struck from the register.

(iii) If the appeal is subsequently dismissed by the office of the CEO the bond will be forfeited, the record of the order off will be retained on the register.

(f) (i) Any player ordered from the ground by the Field Umpire will move quickly to the interchange area, depart the playing arena, and report to the Interchange Steward, or if no Interchange Steward is in attendance, to his Coach.

(ii) An ordered-off player's penalty time will commence from when he reports to the Interchange Steward, or Team Coach.

(iii) An ordered-off player is not required to report to the Field Umpire prior to resuming play at the expiry of his penalty time. However, when returning to the field the player must return through interchange area.

(iv) Failure of an ordered-off player to depart the playing arena as quickly as possible, may be interpreted by the Umpire as deliberate waste of time. In such cases, the Umpire may award a free kick to the opposing team.

(v) Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. All cases of foul or abusive language will result in an automatic order-off without warning, (and report if necessary). This ruling applies to players and officials alike.

(g) Where a junior grade player is reported and sent-off in a match, the record of the send-off in accordance with this by-law 22.2 shall remain unaffected by any subsequent Tribunal decision.

22.3 (a) A reportable incident in these by-laws is:

(i) any reportable incident identified in the AFL "Laws of Australian Football"; or

(ii) any alleged breach of these by-laws relating to the conduct of matches in the EFL; or

(iii) any alleged breach of the codes of conduct published in the By-law by the Board from time to time.

(b) In the event of any reportable offence taking place during the progress of any official match or on the day of the match, the field umpire(s) in all sections and all official EFL goal and boundary and emergency umpires shall have the power to report players or officials in respect of the offence to the Tribunal.

22.4 At the time of making any such report of any player or club official, the field umpire and the appropriate goal and boundary umpires shall take down the numbers of the players reported and the victim (if any) of the incident.

22.5 The reporting umpire shall ensure all details of the incident are contained in the authorised report sheet. It is the responsibility of the reporting umpire to forward the report sheet to the Chief Executive Officer.

22.6 (a) Both club delegates shall attend the umpire's rooms, twenty (20) minutes after the conclusion of the game. The field umpire(s) will then provide both delegates a copy of the report.

(b) If the player/official has been reported for an offence under the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football" rules 19.2.2 (a) ii, (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), the case will automatically be heard by the Independent Tribunal.

(c) For all other offences, if offered by the officiating umpire, the player has the choice of applying to accept the prescribed penalties specified in By-law 22.7(a) and 22.7(b).

(d) Where the player has the option of choosing to accept the prescribed penalty, the club delegates, after receiving a copy of the report will then have fifteen (15) minutes in which to decide whether the player/club will accept the prescribed penalty or wish the report to be heard by the Tribunal. At the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, both delegates will again attend the umpire's room. If the player/club accepts the prescribed penalty and the reporting umpire concurs, the delegates representing the reported player and the reporting umpire(s) will then sign the report form where indicated.

Clubs who elect not to accept the set penalty have until 11am on Monday morning immediately following the match to accept the set penalty. The club should call or email the General Manager – FO to advise of their decision

(e) Should any party not apply for the prescribed penalty, the umpire will note the dissenting party on the report sheet.

(f) The Chief Executive Officer or his appointee may refer any report to the Independent Tribunal.

(g) Where a player does not accept a prescribed penalty, the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal. The Tribunal has the unfettered discretion to impose a penalty more than the prescribed penalty.

(h) Where a player/club is offered and accepts a prescribed penalty the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official EFL match of that grade in which the club plays, unless notification is received by the club that the prescribed penalty has not been accepted and the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal.

(i) Where a player/club is reported and subsequently suspended by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official EFL match of that grade in which the player was reported and the club competes.

22.7 (a) Where a player/official is reported, offered a set penalty by the umpire and applies to accept a prescribed penalty for the following offences under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" a one match suspension may apply in the grade in which the report occurred:

19.2.2 (j), (o), (m), (w), (x), (y).

Fine: One penalty unit.

(b) Where a player/official is reported, offered a set penalty by the umpire and applies to accept a prescribed penalty for the following offences under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" a two-match suspension may apply in the grade in which the report occurred:

19.2.2 (a) i, v, vi, vii, xiii, (g), (i), (k), (l), (z).

Fine: One penalty unit.

(c) Where a player is reported and is subsequently found guilty of the offence by the Independent Tribunal:

Fine: Three penalty units.

22.8 Each club Secretary shall be responsible for the attendance and representation of any reported player, official or witness to any incident involved in any report.

22.9 All reported players, umpires and advocates or officials or any victim of any report in any EFL match, shall attend the Tribunal on the Tuesday night following the match.

Fine for failure to attend: Five Penalty units.

All club reported players, victims, officials and umpires are required to contact the EFL at its headquarters no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday after the game in which the report occurred to confirm their attendance at the hearing.

Fine: Five penalty units.

22.10 All players, officials and witnesses appearing before the Independent Investigation Tribunal are required to be accompanied by a club advocate, who shall not be a qualified legal practitioner.

22.11 Upon the completion of each hearing, the Tribunal shall issue to the reported player and/or official a penalty notification form detailing the penalty (if any) resulting from that hearing. Each club must comply with all penalties (if any) imposed by the Tribunal upon any player or official in respect of any report.

22.12 (a) Players and officials who are registered with the EFL or are seeking registration with any senior, reserve and under 19 grade team may be liable for de-registration/non-registration in accordance with the following:

(i) Where a player has received any number of suspensions totalling 16 weeks or more.

(b) The General Manager - Football Operations will write to a player/official and their club where such individual is likely to be in breach of 22.12 (a). Should further suspension(s) be incurred, indicating that the player/official may be de-registered.

(c) Where a player has been previously de-registered and subsequently has been re-registered by AFL Victoria or any other state controlling body, the player must gain approval from the EFL Board prior to being eligible to play in the EFL.

22.13 (i) Where any one team receives a total of 10 yellow/red cards in one season (including finals), the club shall be fined 10 penalty units ($160.00). For each additional card the team shall receive above 10, the club shall be fined a further 2 penalty units ($32.00).

(ii) Where any individual player receives 3 yellow cards in one season (including finals), his club shall be fined 5 penalty units. For each additional card the player receives in that year above 3, the club shall be fined a further 5 penalty units.

22.14 Where an official is reported under Laws of Australian Football offences they may be offered a set penalty by the reporting umpire and in addition to the number of weeks suspension offered, a fine of 10 penalty units, in addition to any other tribunal administrative fines, shall be applied.

23. PLAYER TRANSFER

All EFL clubs are subject to National Player Transfer Regulations. Please refer to these for all rules regarding Player Transfers.
http://www.aflvic.com.au/index.php?id=99

23.1 In the EFL junior competition (under 8 to under 17) clubs are only permitted to gain a maximum of three players from one EFL junior club team to another, unless the club from which the players are transferring from allows more than three.

24. COACH REQUIREMENTS

24.1 No person may coach (playing or non-playing) in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:

(a) a current accreditation certificate with the Australian Coaching Council of Level One standard or higher;

(b) lodged an application for registration and coaching permit with the EFL for an affiliated Senior Club or an affiliated Junior Club; and

(c) received advice from the Chief Executive Officer notice that he is not permitted to coach for the nominated affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.

24.2 A non-playing coach does not require a clearance application to coach any affiliated Senior or affiliated Junior Club.

24.3 Any coach and assistant coach of a junior grade team (under 8 to under 17 inclusive) must wear an armband as approved by the Board while coaching in all EFL matches

24.4 Any person who purports to coach in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL without satisfying the requirements of this by-law 24.1 may be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit.

24.5 All clubs must complete and lodge an Official Coaches Registration Form with the EFL by 31st January (Senior Clubs) and 31st March (Junior Clubs) each season.

Fine: One penalty unit per week that the form is not submitted.

24.6 Where a coach is under suspension from the EFL he/she:

(a) Cannot enter the playing field (including the coaches box) at any time (including the ¼ and ¾ time breaks).

(b) Cannot actively be involved in coaching the team in any way while the game is being played. e.g. From beside the coaches' box behind the fence, using a radio device to communicate with the bench from another part of the ground, addressing the players from outside the playing field or through a third person.

(c) Where a playing coach is suspended for a reportable offence that has occurred while playing, except in the case of an offence involving an umpire (abuse, insults, strike, etc.), the tribunal may rule at its discretion that he/she may continue to coach in a normal capacity whilst under suspension.

24.7 A person registered with the EFL as coach of a team may not act in the capacity as any other match day official for that team.

Fine: Up to Twenty penalty units and referred to the Board.

25. BEST AND FAIREST VOTES

25.1 Official EFL field umpires shall lodge one set of best and fairest votes in official EFL home and away games in under 11, under 12, under 13, under 14, under 15, under 17, veteran, under 19, reserve and senior grades. Where two EFL field umpires are officiating in a match, one set of best and fairest votes will be lodged on behalf of both umpires.

25.2 Any player who has been found guilty of a reportable offence in a home and away match or any other indiscretion as determined by the Board and subsequently served a suspension during the same season will be ineligible to win a best and fairest award.

26. PRESENTATION NIGHT TICKETS

26.1 All affiliated Senior Clubs shall be allotted 8 tickets for the EFL Senior Presentation Night in each season and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.

26.2 All affiliated Junior Clubs shall be allotted 10 tickets for the EFL Junior Presentation Night in each season and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.

27. CLUB ACCOUNTS AND OFFICE BEARERS

27.1 Lodgment of Annual Reports

(a) All Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs shall forward to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 31st December each year, one copy of their Annual Report.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

(b) No later than 31st December, all Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs Shall forward to the Chief Executive Officer:

(i) a Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet on an official "proforma" supplied by the EFL for the immediate past year,

(ii) a list of all club office bearers for the coming season.

Fine: Fifty penalty units.

28. ADMISSION PRICES – HOME AND AWAY

28.1 The Board shall determine from time to time the admission fees for senior and reserve grade home and away matches and all club gatekeepers shall collect those fees for each match. No admission charges are to be collected prior to 10.20 am or the end of the first quarter of the under 19's game (for night games) on the day of play.

29. MEETINGS

Compulsory

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

Fine: Ten penalty units.

29.2 Time

Unless otherwise specified, all Annual and Special Meetings of the EFL shall commence at 7.00 pm and no new business will be introduced after 10.30 pm.

29.3 Representatives

(a) Representatives of clubs must attend all Annual and Special Meetings of the EFL. Such representatives shall be the President and/or Secretary and/or one other member of the club.

Failure: Ten penalty units.

(b) Representatives may, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer, appoint another person to attend Annual and Special Meetings in their place.

29.4 Juniors

(a) At the discretion of the Junior Committee "Junior Meetings" shall be convened from time to time.

(b) Each Junior Club shall be represented at all Junior Meetings by two people who shall be the president or secretary of the club and one other committee person.

(c) The voting at all Junior Meetings of the league shall be as follows:

(i) every Junior Club Member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof, and shall be entitled to two votes on every resolution or amendment thereof PROVIDED THAT its right to vote is conditional upon it having paid all monies due to the league prior to each respective Junior Meeting;

(ii) every individual Junior Committee member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof and shall be entitled to one vote on every resolution or amendment thereof.

29.5 Unauthorised Meetings

Any club calling a meeting of other club's other than in accordance with the rules of the EFL without the prior authority of the Board shall be liable to:

(i) a fine at the discretion of the EFL;

(ii) suspension from the EFL;

(iii) be expelled from the EFL in accordance with the rules of the EFL.

30. UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

30.1 No club shall permit any of its officers or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television, social media and all newspapers) about any policies or acts of the Board (or Junior Committee) without the prior approval of the Board (or Junior Committee). To do so shall render the club concerned liable to:

(i) a fine at the discretion of the EFL;

(ii) suspension from the EFL;

(iii) expulsion from the EFL in accordance with the Rules of the EFL.

31. FINES FOR BREACHES

31.1 Unless otherwise specified in these by-laws, any infringement of the by-laws shall as a rule be subject to a penalty of one unit, unless otherwise specified, at the discretion of the Board. An actual list of applicable fines shall be published by the Board each year.

31.2 The nominal value of each penalty unit shall be determined by the Board from time to time and may be adjusted by the Board at any time.

31.3 The nominal value of one penalty unit applicable from 6th March 2017 until otherwise directed by the Board shall be $16.00.

32. FINE FOR BREACHES – APPEALS

32.1 No appeals against fines by an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club shall be heard until the fines have been paid.

33. POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

33.1 All players and official at all EFL matches shall be subject to the league's Vilification and Discrimination policy as issued by the Board from time to time (refer Schedule Four).

(a) In matters that require the assistance of the league's mediation officer, associated costs will be dispersed to the club/s involved. The percentage of the account paid by any club will be determined at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

33.2 No person may act in the capacity as coach, team manager or trainer in age groups under 8 - under 19 in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, unless that person has:

(a) obtained a Working with Children Check (WWC);

(b) or lodged an application for a Working with Children Check (WWC);

(c) sworn police officers who are not suspended from duty and teachers with current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching are exempt from this.

(d) The abovementioned officials must lodge their WWC document into the online document storage system Everproof.

Penalty for non-compliance: 10 penalty units.

DRUG POLICY

33.3 Each affiliated club shall accept it has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment for its members, free of illegal drugs, it will adopt and publish to its members a drugs policy as adopted and distributed by the board from time to time and shall provide to the EFL confirmation of a club minute to confirm that a policy has been adopted by the club committee and the date of that approval.

GAMBLING POLICY

33.4 All players and officials shall be subject to the Gambling Policy as issued by the Board from time to time.

34. JUNIOR COMMITTEE

34.1 General

(a) In accordance with rule 9.6 (f), the Junior Committee shall have the power to manage and control the day to day running of the Junior Competition in accordance with policy. The Junior Committee shall have the power to amend by-laws affecting the Junior Competition, such amendments shall not be affected unless ratified by the Board.

(b) The Junior Committee of the league shall comprise:

(i) one Chairman;

(ii) one Deputy Chairman;

(iii) eight Ordinary Members.

(c) Each Junior Committee Member shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiration of his/her term.

(d) Any retiring Junior Committee Member shall remain a Junior Committee Member and be eligible to vote and speak at all Junior Special Meetings until the conclusion of the meeting at which he or she is replaced.

34.2 Election

(a) The Chief Executive Officer or his nominee shall inform all members of the meeting at which an election is to take place of the candidates for any position on the Junior Committee by posting to each of the members of the list of candidates' names in alphabetical order in respect of each position to be filled at the meeting at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place.

(b) All elections of Junior Committee Members shall be by ballot unless there are not be sufficient numbers of candidates to require election, in which case the nominee shall be deemed to be elected to the vacant office.

34.3 Vacancy and Removal

(a) The office of a member of the Junior Committee shall become vacant if a member of the Junior Committee:

(i) submits his or her resignation in writing to the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee; or

(ii) is subject to a removal resolution, upon the passing of the resolution by a majority of members present at a Junior Meeting of the league; or

(iii) dies or becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent which interferes with the performance of his/her duties as a Junior Committee Member; or

(iv) is absent without approval from meetings of the Junior Committee for more than 3 consecutive months; or

(v) holds any office of the league for pecuniary reward.

(b) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office of the Junior Committee, the Junior Committee shall seek nominations to fill such vacancy or vacancies. If no nominations are received, the Junior Committee shall be empowered to fill such casual vacancy or vacancies with a person or persons qualifying in accordance with by-law 34.4 (d), and such person(s) so appointed shall serve in that office until the next Junior Meeting.

34.4 Junior Committee Elections

(a) Any two Junior Affiliated Club Members may nominate any eligible person to stand for the position of a Junior Committee member.

(b) Each nomination for the Junior Committee shall be in the form supplied by the EFL and signed by or on behalf of each of the nominee clubs (through their appropriate representatives) and on that form the nominee shall:

(i) acknowledge his/her willingness to stand for the position of which he/she is being nominated; and

(ii) specify the basis of his/her eligibility to stand for election.

(iii) if the election of the person would result in an Affiliated Junior Club Member of the league having more than two previous representatives sitting on the Junior Committee at the same time.

(c) The nominating members shall cause the nomination to be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee at least twenty-eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.

(d) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Junior Committee:

(i) unless within one month of being elected, that person undertakes to and does cease to hold any official position of any Affiliated Senior Club Member or Affiliated Junior Club Member or any other Australian Rules Football Club or League;

(ii) unless the person nominated was a representative of an Affiliated Senior Club Member or Affiliated Junior Club Member or was a member of the Junior Committee during the season preceding the nomination for election.

35. CLUB PLAYING OUTSIDE LEAGUE

35.1 Clubs which play clubs from other competitions who supply umpires must in the event of their player or official being reported by those umpires, appear before that reporting umpire's league Independent Investigation Tribunal for investigation.

36. BLOOD AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES RULE

36.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football Law 22 and or policy on efl.org.au under resources. Infectious Diseases

37. RULES PERTAINING TO JUNIORS

37.1 All under 8 and under 9 teams will comprise of 15 players per side, with no rucks/ruck-rovers and rovers. Centre players will contest all centre bounces.

37.2 Under 8, under 9 and under 10 grade matches are to be played on a reduced ground to a minimum of one half of a full-size ground unless the home club elects to play on a full-size ground.

37.3 In all under 8 and under 9 matches a player may not take full possession of the ball at a centre ball up. The ball must go to another player or touch the ground before the player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball. A centre ball up will occur after each score.

37.4 In all under 8 and under 9 matches field ball ups will be contested by two opponents of approximately the same height as selected by the umpire. The players selected do not have to be the closest or the tallest players. As with the centre ball ups full possession is not allowed.

37.5 If the ball goes out of bounds in all under 8, under 9 and under 10 matches a free kick is awarded against the team who last touched the ball either by foot or by hand. The free kick is to be taken by the nearest opponent. If there is any doubt as to which team last touched the ball, a free kick is awarded to the nearest player of the defending team.

37.6 In all under 8 and under 9 matches, players cannot tackle an opponent, bump a player, hold an opponent, push an opponent on the side or knock or take the ball out of an opponent's hands. Players are not allowed to barge or chop past an opposition player.

37.7 No player can shepherd or push an opponent not in possession of the ball in any under 8 or under 9 matches.

37.8 In all under 8 and under 9 matches a mark will be paid to a player who catches the ball from a kick regardless of the distance the ball has travelled, provided the ball is not touched in transit.

37.9 In all under 8, under 9 and under 10 matches a player is allowed a maximum of one bounce before disposing of the ball by hand or by foot. After disposal that player cannot touch the ball until another player has contacted the ball.

37.10 (a) No player can deliberately kick the ball off the ground in any under 8, under 9 or under 10 or match.

(b) In all under 8, 9 and 10 competitions if, prior to the commencement of the match, a team has less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground (for that age group), that team may request sufficient players from the opposition to bring the number of players up to the maximum number permitted. If the request is denied, both teams will play with the same number of players.

(c) If a request for additional players in accordance with (b) above, an equal number of players on each team must be maintained throughout the game. A count of players on each team and subsequent exchange of players will be done at each quarter break.

(d) Where both teams have less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground, the total number of players will be divided equally. Where an odd number of players exist, the team with the highest number of players will retain the additional player.

37.11 A player who has been awarded a mark or free kick cannot play on in any under 8, under 9 or under 10 matches. A mark or free kick must be taken from behind the mark and the ball must be disposed of by either kick or handball. The advantage rule after a free kick will not be applied.

37.12 In all under 10 matches a mark will be paid to a player who catches the ball from a kick provided that the ball has travelled a minimum of five metres and, provided the ball is not touched in transit.

37.13 In all junior matches the coach of each team is not permitted onto the ground during the match. An official runner is permitted to be used.

37.14 No boundary umpires or interchange stewards are permitted in under 8, under 9 and under 10 match.

37.15 Any team manager of a junior grade team (under 9 to Under 17 inclusive) must wear an armband as approved by the Board from time to time while officiating in all EFL matches.

37.16 Each club shall provide one goal umpire for all under 10 to under 17 matches. Goal umpires are not required in any under 8 or under 9 matches.

37.17 All girl's competitions must adhere to the girl's match day guidelines for that season.

37.18 If re-grading is considered necessary by the League, it will be affected at the discretion of the CEO. Teams involved will take premiership points and scores into the division they are regraded to. Margins will however be limited to 30 points.

Best and Fairest votes awarded to players will not be carried forward.

38. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS AND AGE GROUPS

38.1 (a) **Under 10 to 15**

All players in the under 10 to 15 grades (inclusive) may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

(i) Play more than two years above his/her registered age group.

(ii) Play more than two (2) games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.

The first team a player plays his third (3) match in is the only team they can qualify for finals in. Once a player has qualified in a division they are limited to two (2) matches in a higher division. They cannot move down to a lower division.

Under 17

All players in the under 17 grade may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

(iii) Play nine (9) or more games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.

(iv) Play nine (9) or more games in the senior competition or TAC Cup Competition and participate in the under 17 finals in that season

Players may qualify for finals in both under 17 and under 19/seniors.

(b) **MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS WITHIN AGE GROUPS**

Under 11 to 17

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.

(iii) The first team a player plays 5 games is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.

(iv) Where a bye is fixture in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.

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

(c) Where a club field's more than one team (1) in the under 19 competition, a player is permitted to move between teams. However:

(i) Where a bye or split round is fixtured in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.

(ii) A player must play at least 3 matches for the respective team during the home and away season to qualify to play in the finals series for that team.

(iii) Any player playing more than 9 matches during the home and away season in the higher rated team is ineligible to play with the lower rated team in the finals.

(iv) A player is only permitted to play in the finals series for one of the clubs under 19 teams. Unless an 'exceptional circumstances' submission is lodged by the club, which outlines the grounds for consideration and is approved by the EFL Administration.

(v) If a club with two teams in the under 19 competition forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team.

(vi) Prior to either team playing an official game, a list of 15 players who are only eligible to play in the higher ranked team must be submitted to the EFL GM-FO.

(d) In circumstances where a club's senior team is the first team to play on any weekend or round (including finals), no player who plays in the senior team is eligible to play in the reserves or under 19 teams on subsequent days.

(e) In circumstances where 20 eligible players will not be available to take the field in a nominated match, the league CEO may at his absolute discretion grant a permit to play for a player/s for the nominated match only. A request for such a permit must be supported by a statutory declaration stating that 20 eligible players are not available for the match.

(f) Unless by approval from 38.1 (e), players are not permitted to play in two games on any weekend or round within the same age group or between any age group that would usually share the same timeslot (e.g. 15 &17's).

Fine: Minimum Five penalty units and referred to Board or Junior Committee.

39. MELEE RULE

39.1 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 the EFL or the competitions conducted by the EFL.

39.2 Incident and 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 EFL shall record on the Umpires Match Report after 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.

(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 EFL finals games will be referred directly to the Board for consideration regarding penalty.

39.3 Penalties

Penalties for melees during home and away season;

Team 1st offence (in one season):	Ten (10) penalty units = $160
Team 2nd offence (in one season):	Fifteen (15) penalty units = $240
Team 3rd offence (in one season):	Twenty (20) penalty units = $320
Team 4th offence (in one season):	Decision referred to Board

Should a club wish to dispute a melee fine, the club shall lodge an appeal to the fine in accordance with EFL by-law 32.1.

40. COUNTING OF PLAYERS

40.1 (a) **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.

Procedure

(b) Where a request is made under Laws of Australian Football Rule 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 the match.

(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 counted.

(c) The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is eighteen.

(d) **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 on the goal line of their attacking goal square. A report indicating a head count has been taken shall be given to the EFL by the controlling umpires with the match day paperwork.

(e) **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:

(i) 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;

(ii) A Twenty-Five (25) Metre Penalty shall be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and

(iii) If a Field Umpire believes a request made under Laws of Australian Football rule 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 Laws of Australian Football rule 19.2.2.

41. COMMUNITY CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The EFL has adopted the Player Points System and Player Payment Rules as part of AFL Victoria's Community Club Sustainability Program. Total Team Points and Allowable Player Payments totals will be determined by the Board from time to time in accordance with the adopted policies.

42. BY-LAW AMENDMENT TABLE

Date if Issue	Amendment/Version	Remarks
April 2007- April 2010	**Version 1,2,3,4**	**Review and updates approved by board**
February 2011	**Version 5**	**As above**
February 2012	**Version 6**	**As above**
February 2013	**Version 7**	**Full Review**
February 2014	**Version 8**	**Reviewed**
February 2015	**Version 9**	**Reviewed**
February 2016	**Version 10**	**Reviewed**
November 2017	**Version 11**	**Full Review**

SCHEDULE ONE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CODES OF CONDUCT

CODES OF CONDUCT

COACHES:

- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Avoid over-playing the talented players, the "just average" players need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that players participate for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Take into consideration the maturity level of the players, when scheduling and determining the length of practice times and competition.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Keep yourself informed of the sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of players.
- Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour as well basic skills.
- Ensure that skill learning and appropriate sports behaviour have priority over highly structured competitions for young players.
- Help players understand the responsibilities and implications of their freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.

"A child's self-esteem is delicate and easily damaged, particularly by parents attempting to act out their own lives through the youngsters on the sports field. Participation in sports events must be something for children to enjoy. They should not be saddled with win-at-all costs attitudes at any early age."

Daily Telegraph editorial.

ADMINISTRATORS/OFFICIALS:

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all players, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex (for females under 14), age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating players.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember that players participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.

- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of players and their needs.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of players.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

- Encourage players to participate, if they are interested.
- Encourage players to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or losing the game.
- Remember that players learn best from example. Applaud good plays by all teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches.
- Remember that children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment to spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.

PLAYERS:

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or for your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Avoid using derogatory language.

Note: Codes of Conduct are part of the National Football Policy provided by the Australian Football League.

SCHEDULE TWO

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BEST CONDUCTED JUNIOR CLUB

GORDON PARKER JUNIOR ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

"BEST CONDUCTED CLUB AWARD"

At the end of each season, the EFL Junior Committee presents the Gordon Parker Junior Encouragement Award for the Best Conducted Junior Club.

Points are allocated by the umpire at the end of each game and entered on the Umpire's Match Report based on the following categories: -

• Attitude of Spectators/Officials	Maximum 5 points
• Player Uniforms/appearance	Maximum 5 points
• Discipline/attitude of players	Maximum 5 points
	Maximum possible – 15 points

The umpires have been instructed to consider the number of Send-Offs or Player Reports when determining the points for Player discipline/attitude.

The Club with the highest aggregate of points will be awarded the trophy, subject to the approval of the Junior Committee who will consider other matters of conduct that may have occurred during the season.

SCHEDULE THREE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ONE MATCH INTERCHANGE RULES & FORM

Under 9 to 18 One Match Interchange Form

This form is to be completed and given to the field umpire with team sheet at half time of the match. Age group of players listed below: _____

PLAYER NAME	PLAYER SIGNATURE	REGISTERED CLUB	INTERCHANGE CLUB

Summary of Interchange Rules:

- An official EFL Interchange form must be completed and given to the field umpire with team sheet at half time of the match listing any interchanged player(s) who must sign the team sheet of the interchange club (i.e. the club to which they have been interchanged).
- No player may be interchanged on more than three (3) occasions in any one season.
- No player may be interchanged during the finals series.
- Should a player be reported while on interchange, his registered club shall represent him at any subsequent tribunal hearing.
- No player may be interchanged if their registered club is having a bye in their age group.
- This form must be signed below by an official of the players registered club.
- No player may be interchanged if they have a clearance application pending.

Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

SCHEDULE FOUR

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Effective as at: July 2nd 2012

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THE EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Eastern Football League EFL is committed to fostering and maintaining a sporting environment which promotes understanding, accepts the unique differences of all persons affiliated with or interested in Australian Football, and recognises the need to prohibit certain discriminatory or vilifying conduct. To this end the EFL, adopts this policy which establishes the means of redress for players and officials aggrieved by what they reasonably consider to be vilification or discrimination based on their individuality.

1. Application & Scope of Policy

1.1 The EFL is bound by applicable provisions of State-based legislation as well as the:

a) *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth);
b) *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth);
c) *Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986* (Cth); and
d) *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) (Legislation).

1.2 This Policy is consistent with the Legislation and not in substitution of the Legislation

1.3 The EFL will ensure that this Policy is communicated to Participants of the EFL. It will endeavour to ensure that Participants of the EFL receive vilification and discrimination training.

1.4 Nothing in this Policy prevents a person lodging a Complaint in relation to vilification or discrimination under the Legislation. In the event a Complaint is made under this Policy the EFL shall ensure that the parties are informed of their rights and that endeavours are made to maintain the confidentiality of the Complaints This Policy applies to all Clubs that are affiliated with the EFL.

2 Definitions In this Policy-

“Complaint” means an allegation, contention or assertion made by a Participant or Participants in relation to the conduct of another Participant or Participants which the first Participant or Participants claim is Prohibited Conduct. Complaints will be either an Intra-Club Complaint or an Inter-Club Complaint.

"**Complaints Process"** means the procedure outlined in sections 3 to 10 of this Policy.

“Conciliation” means a method of alternative dispute resolution to which a third party (the “conciliator”) attempts to facilitate an agreed resolution of the

dispute through active input and advice to Participants about the best way to resolve the Complaint.

"Club" means any football Club that is an affiliate of the EFL.

“Club Complaints Officer” means a person appointed by a Club to oversee this Vilification & Discrimination Policy, the education of Participants, and to liaise with all persons relevant to the Complaints Process to the extent that it involves a Complaint made in respect of a Participant of the Club, and to act in accordance with section 5.2 and 5.3.

“Club Official” includes committee members, coaches, coaching staff, trainers, runners, persons involved in the every-day administration of the Club and any person who may reasonably be perceived to hold an official Club position.

“Engage in Conduct” is defined with reference to the ordinary meaning ascribed to the phrase but also expressly includes use of the internet, Social Media or email to publish or transmit statements or other material.

“EFL Complaints Officer/s” means either the EFL CEO, EFL Chairman EFL General Manager or such other person as thought fit and proper to hold the position, having regard to the obligations as set out in section 5in the Complaints Process.

“Informal Resolution” means an informal arrangement, understanding or agreement that, in the reasonable opinion of the EFL Complaints Officer/s or a Club Complaints Officer, has been reached in relation to either an Inter-Club Complaint or an Intra-Club Complaint between the Participant or Participants alleged to have engaged in the Prohibited Conduct and the Participant or Participants alleged to have been the subject of the Prohibited Conduct. Such informal arrangements or agreements may involve an oral apology or a retraction.

“Inter-Club Complaint” means a Complaint by a Participant or Participants from one Club involving an allegation of Prohibited Conduct directed at a Participant or Participants from a second Club.

“Intra-Club Complaint” means a Complaint by a Participant or Participants from one Club involving an allegation of Prohibited Conduct directed at a Participant or Participants from within the same Club.

“Investigation Officer” means an independent person selected by the EFL in accordance with section 8 of this Policy to investigate a complaint and to provide a recommendation to the EFL Complaints Officer/s.

"EFL" means the Eastern Football League.

“Participate” means to engage in any activity or behaviour which is either directly or indirectly related or reasonably incidental to Australian Football as that term is understood under the Laws of Australian Football.

"Participant" includes a player, spectator, umpire, employee, volunteer to and agent of a Football Club that Participates in the EFL.

“Prohibited Conduct” means the conduct outlined in section 3 of this Policy.

“Social Media” refers to what may reasonably be perceived to involve communication involving novel digital formats and platforms including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Instagram, Snapchat, instant-messenger and derivations of email.

3 Prohibited Conduct

3.1 Vilification & Discrimination

No EFL Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the ground of their:

- race;
- religion;
- gender;
- colour;
- sexual preference, orientation or identity; or
- special ability or disability.

4 Appointment of EFL Complaints Officer/s & Club Complaints Officer

4.1 The EFL shall appoint an EFL Complaints Officer/s to ensure that any breach of this Policy is responded to in an equitable and prompt manner in accordance with this Policy.

4.2 The EFL shall ensure that all Clubs have a Club Complaints Officer to whom all vilification and discrimination Complaints are directed.

4.3 The EFL Complaints Officer/s is responsible for liaising between Club Complaints Officers, in the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, or with a single Club Complaints Officer, in the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, to achieve Informal Resolution of the Complaint.

4.4 The Club Complaints Officer and the EFL Complaints Officer/s shall liaise directly over incidents which in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer or EFL Complaints Officer/s are contrary to Section 3.

5 Preliminary Resolution Process

5.1 If it is alleged that a person contrary to section 3.1 has engaged in Prohibited Conduct, a Participant may by 5.00pm on the first working day following the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred, lodge a Complaint with the Club Complaints Officer.

5.2 In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, in respect of prohibited conduct the Club Complaints Officer where the Complaint was made shall by 5.00pm on the next working day following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club, lodge the Complaint with the EFL's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the EFL unless otherwise instructed by the EFL's Complaint's Officer. In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the EFL Complaints Officer/s shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the EFL Complaint Officer/s to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the EFL Complaints Officer/s, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution.

5.3 In the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution. If an Informal Resolution is not achieved or it is reasonably believed that the Complaint is incapable of an Informal Resolution, the Club Complaints Officer shall as soon as is reasonably practicable lodge the Complaint with the EFL's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the EFL unless otherwise instructed by the EFL's Complaint's Officer, who shall attempt to resolve the matter by way of informal resolution.

5.4 In circumstances where in the reasonable opinion of the EFL Complaints Officer/s a Complaint cannot be resolved by way of Informal Resolution, the EFL Complaints Officer/s shall proceed to Conciliation in accordance with section 7 below.

6 Confidentiality and Records

6.1 Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the Complaints Process. All parties to a Complaint, the EFL’s Complaints Officer, the Club Complaints Officer, any witnesses and the conciliator must all agree to the maintenance of confidentiality. No person involved in the Complaints Process shall publicly comment on any aspect of the Complaints Process without the prior written agreement of all parties.

6.2 The EFL shall ensure that any documents relating to a Complaint shall remain confidential and be retained for 7 years from the date that the Complaint is made.

7 Conciliation Process

7.1 The EFL Complaints Officer/s shall make every effort to ensure that:

7.1(a) confidentiality is maintained always during the Complaints Process and the outcome of the Complaints Process remains confidential;

7.1(b) the person alleged to have contravened the Policy is informed of the Complaint, the Complaint Process and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the Complaint;

7.1(c) the EFL Chairman or CEO of the EFL or his or her Nominee is informed that a Complaint has been received by the EFL Complaints Officer/s;

7.1(d) statements are obtained from any witnesses identified by the parties to the Complaint;

7.1(e) where available, obtain any other relevant evidence;

7.1(f) a conciliator is appointed to conciliate the Complaint; and

7.1(g) all steps necessary for the Complaint to be conciliated are taken within 10 working days from the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred.

7.2 Participants subject to Conciliation who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied at the Conciliation by a Club Official over 18 years of age.

8 Investigation

8.1 In circumstances where a Complaint is not resolved in accordance with section 7 above, the EFL Complaints Officer/s may refer the matter to an Investigation Officer to investigate aspects of the allegation or circumstances surrounding the Complaint which, in the reasonable opinion of the EFL Complaints Officer/s, require further investigation to resolve the Complaint.

8.2 The Investigation Officer shall report to the EFL Complaints Officer/s on any information or evidence obtained in accordance with 8.1.

9 Tribunal Referrals, Process & Appeal

9.1 Following an investigation under section 8, if any, or following a failed Conciliation under section 7, the EFL Complaints Officer/s may refer the Complaint to an EFL Tribunal for determination. The EFL Complaints Officer/s shall take all steps necessary to make a decision about the referral of the Complaint to the EFL Tribunal as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Should the matter be related to a person who does not come under the jurisdiction of the EFL tribunal the matter will be referred to the EFL Board or its appropriate subcommittee for consideration.

9.2 The EFL Tribunal will be constituted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the EFL and the EFL shall determine who is responsible for prosecuting the Complaint at the Tribunal.

9.3 Where the referral to the EFL Tribunal is made pursuant to this section 9.1 of this Policy, the Tribunal will hear the Complaint within 5 working days of the Complaint referral being made.

9.4 The EFL Tribunal has the power to order any reasonable penalties or directions for breaches of this Policy as are allowable under the rules and regulations of the EFL in force at the time of the hearing.

9.5 Where a party to a Complaint is unsatisfied with the decision made by the EFL Tribunal, they may ask the Club's Officer to request that the EFL establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision in accordance with the EFL's appeal regulations.

10 Club Liability

10.1 If found to have contravened this Policy a Club may be vicariously liable for Prohibited Conduct engaged in by a Participant connected to the Club if the Club is unable to establish that it took reasonable precautions to prevent the Participant from engaging in that Prohibited Conduct.

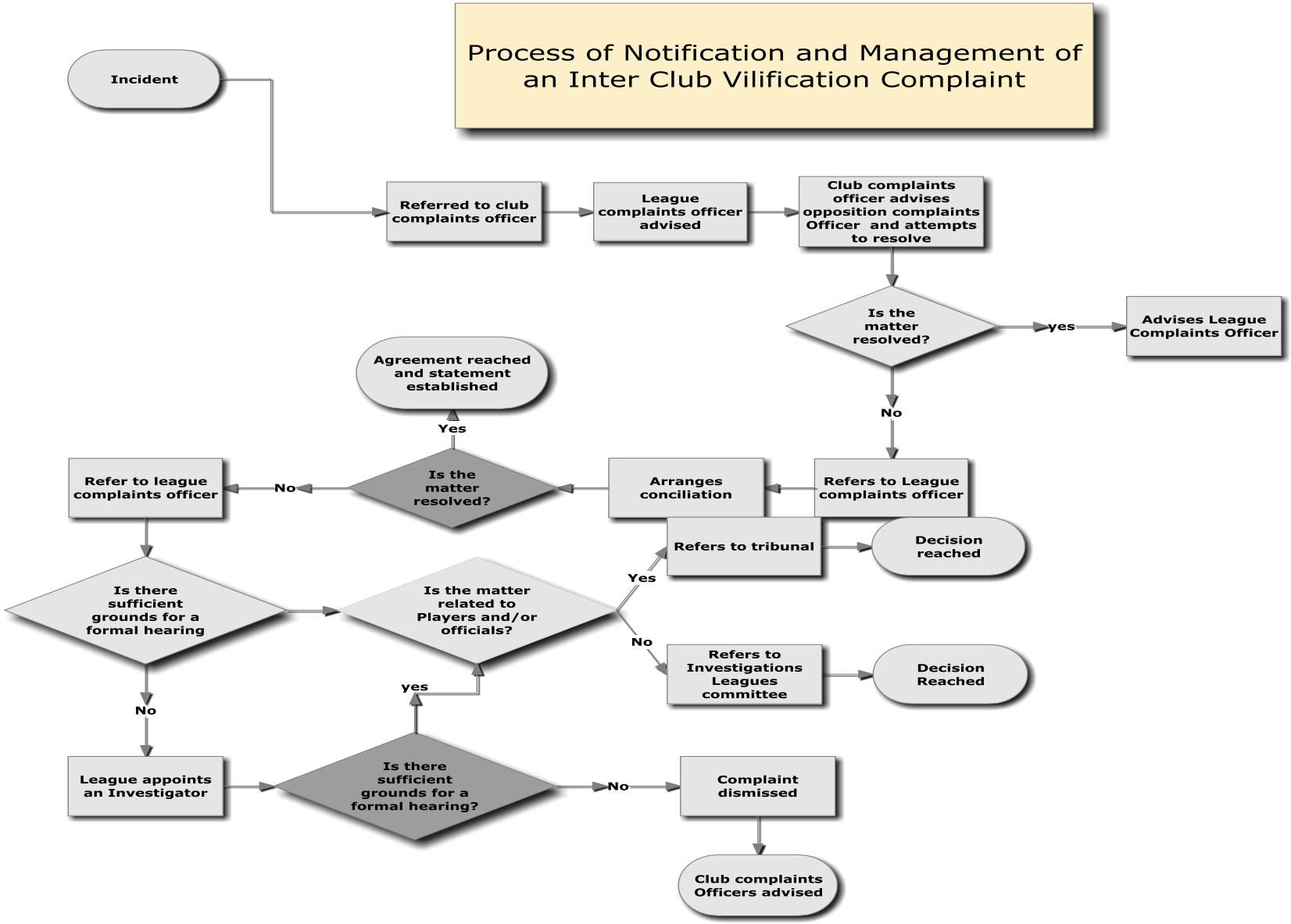
11 Monitoring and Review of the Policy

11.1 The Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the EFL Board

12 Policy Commencement

12.1 This Policy was passed by EFL Board and will take effect from .2nd July 2012.

Appendix 1


Process of Notification and Management of an Inter Club Vilification Complaint
Incident
Referred to club complaints officer
League complaints officer advised
Club complaints officer advises opposition complaints Officer and attempts to resolve
Is the matter resolved?
yes
Advises League Complaints Officer
No
Refers to League complaints officer
Arranges conciliation
Is the matter resolved?
Yes
Agreement reached and statement established
No
Refer to league complaints officer
Refers to tribunal
Decision reached
Yes
Is the matter related to Players and/or officials?
Is there sufficient grounds for a formal hearing
No
Refers to Investigations Leagues committee
Decision Reached
No
yes
Is there sufficient grounds for a formal hearing?
No
Complaint dismissed
League appoints an Investigator
Club complaints Officers advised

SCHEDULE FIVE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

OFFICIALS ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Team & Match Officials

Team Official	Age	Dress (EFL)	Match Official	Age	Dress (EFL)
Coach	Accreditation	Armband	Interchange Steward	18+	Armband
Assistant Coach	Accreditation	Armband	Timekeeper	18+	n/a
Team Manager		Armband	Umpire Escort	18+	Bib
Runner	18+	Uniform	Goal Umpire	15+	White coat
Trainer/s	15+	Uniform	Boundary Umpire	15+ or min year of age group	White top/shorts
Drink Carrier	12+ Junior 15+ Seniors	Bib			

Team & Match Officials	
Do	**Don't**
Fulfil your responsibilities and ask questions if required	Interfere verbally or physically with players, officials or spectators
Wear correct attire	Be aggressive and loud from the sidelines
Conduct yourself in accordance with the League (and club) code of conduct	Interact with the umpire
Play by the Rules – know them and follow them	Solely focus on winning
Be on time, be prepared and concentrate on your role	Engage in unnecessary conversation not relevant to the match
	Coach (except for the coaches), barrack, comment on play or any umpiring decisions

TEAM MANAGER

DRESS

Armband (junior competition only)

DUTIES

Although the responsibility of the Team Manager will vary from Club to Club, in general this position is responsible to see that all activities or League Rules associated with the actual playing of the game (other than coaching) are carried out or adhered to.

TEAM UNIFORM

Ensure that all players are correctly attired

OTHER OFFICIALS

Ensure that persons are designated for each of the following roles where required and that they are aware of all necessary dress requirements, age requirements and duties:

- Trainer
- Water carrier
- Runner
- Interchange steward
- Timekeeper
- Boundary Umpire
- Umpires
- Must ensure that they or any other officials do not interfere with any players or officials throughout the match.

UMPIRES COMFORT

Ensure that the umpires room is adequate in terms of cleanliness and security.

Make sure that umpires are offered refreshments during quarter breaks.

SECURITY OF PLAYER BELONGINGS

This aspect should be considered prior to players taking the field. No home club can fully guarantee the safety of items that remain in change rooms during a game.

TEAM SHEETS

Fill out the team book in alphabetical order with correct jumper numbers, and ensure that all officials sign the book. The Team manager will sign off the team sheet on behalf of ALL players in ALL junior grades who play on a given day. Any players listed on the team sheet but not playing needs to be crossed out on the team sheet and post-game removed from the online team sheet in Sports TG. The Team Manager must ensure that the team sheet both online and in hard copy format is 100% accurate.

Team books have three copies:

- Original to umpire at half time
- Second copy to opposing team by half time
- Third copy is retained in the book

FOOTBALLS

Home team manager to present two footballs to the umpire before the game.

START TIMES

Be aware of the starting times of all quarters and ensure that the Coach has the players ready to start accordingly.

UMPIRES REPORT

The team manager and/or the Coach complete an Umpire's Performance Report following the game. Reports should be constructive including positives and negatives, and be completed every game regardless of result. Reports are to be placed in sealed envelopes and forwarded to the EFL office, these may be sent via facsimile.

MATCH REPORTS

Match reports are completed by umpires after all games. The team manager must attend the umpires room after the game to collect the report. If the team manager does not attend the umpires are instructed to leave the report in umpires the room.

LIST OF MEDICAL PHONE NUMBERS

Compile a quick reference list of local phone numbers for ambulance, doctors, dentists and medical centres for use at all games. Ensure that these numbers are given to the ‘away’ teams should the situation arise.

REPORTED PLAYERS

Ensure that all details of any reported players are handed to the appropriate club officials as soon as possible and that players involved are informed.

LIVE SCORES

The home club in each Senior Division (One to Four inclusive) match must enter the Senior Live Scores into the online result database quarter by quarter (minimum requirement) and the final score immediately following the complete of the match.

TRAINER

DRESS

White trousers or white pants, a white or club coloured top and EFL Trainers bib.

REQUIREMENTS

- At least one, level one accredited trainer needs to attend all matches. All other trainers are required to complete a recognised senior first aid course (e.g. Sports First Aid, St Johns or Red Cross). Details regarding the qualification of trainers can be obtained from the Eastern Football League Trainers Association.
- The minimum age for trainers is 15 years of age.
- Each team is permitted to have three trainers.

DUTIES

- Attend injured players on the ground. If any injury appears to be serious, qualified medical assistance should be obtained immediately.
- Trainers are responsible for having a stretcher on the ground for each game.
- It is also recommended that the phone numbers of each player's parents or guardian are available and that any relevant medical condition of players is known.
- Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game.
- A trainer is not permitted to act as second runner.

DRINK CARRIER

DRESS

White trousers or white overalls with a white top (or their club's windcheater/tracksuit top) must be worn. All water carriers are to wear the league approved water carrier bib.

REQUIREMENTS

- The minimum age for water carriers in the senior competition is 15 years of age.
- The minimum age for water carriers in the junior competition is 12 years of age.
- Each team is permitted to have three water carriers
- Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game

DUTIES

- The job of the water carrier is to run water out to players when they require a drink and not stay out on the ground.
- Water carriers are to be based in fence stations, behind the boundary line and not at the coach's box.
- Water carriers are not permitted to act as a second runner.

RUNNER

DRESS

Fluoro yellow shirt, with the word "RUNNER" on the back and EFL black tracksuit pants/shorts.

REQUIREMENTS

- A runner must be at least 18 years of age.
- Only one runner per team is permitted.
- In the under 9/10 competition the coach of each team is not permitted onto the ground during the match. An official runner is permitted to be used.
- Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game
- Must not communicate with opposition players, team or match day officials unless a stretcher is required
- Must not loiter on the ground, deliver message and immediately leave the field

DUTIES

- In all matches, it is their job to relay messages from coach to players.
- Runners are only permitted on the ground when relaying a message. They must not remain on the ground continually. Umpires can order the runner from the ground if they feel the runner is on the ground too much.

INTERCHANGE MANAGED BY TEAM MANAGER

DRESS

Must wear the appropriate EFL team manager armband.

REQUIREMENTS

- Each side must appoint a team tanager at least 18 years of age.
- Club supplied team managers are not permitted to coach, barrack, comment on play or any umpiring decisions.
- Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game.

DUTIES

- There will be two lines, 15 metres apart, marked across the boundary line at which players can be interchanged. The team manager will be stationed in the vicinity of the coaches box and the interchange area.
- The team manager shall note the numbers of all players from both teams that start each quarter on the interchange bench.
- The team manager shall observe all interchanges that occur during the game.
- Players shall leave and enter the playing ground through the interchange area during the match unless the player is removed from the playing arena by stretcher, in which case he may be taken from the playing ground at any point. His replacement shall enter the playing ground through the interchange area and the interchange steward notified of the injured player's name and number. The replaced player must return to

the playing arena by way of normal interchange after 20 minutes, not including breaks, has elapsed.

- Where a player does not enter or leave the playing surface through the approved interchange area and subsequently continues to play in the game in breach of by law 14.8 (j & k), the team manager and/or field umpire(s) shall report the circumstances to the EFL, including the scores at the time. The EFL may determine the matter by way of fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.
- When a player has been, or appears to have been so seriously injured as to prevent his being removed immediately from the playing ground, the team manager may approve his being replaced prior to the injured player leaving the ground, but if a replacement shall be made pursuant to such approval, the replaced player shall take no further part in the match. The official runner or captain shall immediately inform the field umpire that the player has been so replaced.
- Players who are ordered from the field by the field umpire are to leave via the interchange area. Players are to report to the team manager for time notification. Team Managers are to note the time the player reported to the steward and not allow that player to resume playing until 15 minutes game time has elapsed, from the time play recommences following the yellow card being issued.
- Should the team manager observe the teams being lined up for count under the AFL "Laws of Australian Football", he should assist the field umpire if requested.
- Breaches of any of these instructions must be noted at the bottom of the interchange form.

TIMEKEEPER

DRESS

No specific requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

- A timekeeper must be at least 18 years of age.
- Club supplied timekeepers are not permitted to coach, barrack, comment on play or any umpiring decisions

DUTIES

- Each side must appoint a timekeeper who is a minimum of 18 years of age.
- To keep the time of each quarter on time cards. Timekeeper cards are not required for under 9s and 10s
- To keep a record of scores for use by the controlling body in the event of the goal umpire's cards not agreeing.
- To ensure the game starts and finishes on time
- To sound a bell or siren at the start and finish of each quarter.
- No time on is added in any junior competition matches.
- Refer to the timekeeper's card for a detailed explanation of timekeeping procedures and guidelines.

BOUNDARY UMPIRE

DRESS

White shorts or skirt with white shirt or plain white windcheater. In junior competition white tracksuit pants may be worn on cold days only.

REQUIREMENTS

– In all under 15 to senior grade matches boundary umpires must be at least 15 years of age. In all under 11 to under 14 grade matches boundary umpires must be at least the same age as the grade in which they are officiating.

– In both the under 9/10 competition boundary umpires are not required.
– Club supplied umpires are not permitted to coach, barrack, comment on play or any umpiring decisions
– Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game

DUTIES

Responsibilities;

- Determining whether a football is out of bounds or on the full and signalling to the field umpire when that has occurred.
- Adjudicating on which team has last touched the ball before it crossed the boundary line and signalling to the umpire which team will receive the free kick (if applicable).
- Throwing the football back into play if it has gone out of bounds (if applicable).
- Determining whether a player has incorrectly entered the centre square (if applicable).
- Bringing the football back to the centre square after a goal has been scored (if applicable).

If the field umpire determines that a boundary umpire in any match is unable to perform his or her duties competently, the field umpire shall request a replacement boundary umpire. If a competent replacement boundary umpire cannot be found the field umpire shall direct a player from the offending club to throw the ball into play.

GOAL UMPIRE

DRESS

White coat and flags

REQUIREMENTS

– All goal umpires must be at least 15 years of age.

– Club supplied umpires are not permitted to coach, barrack, comment on play or any umpiring decisions
– Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game

DUTIES

– Before the match ensure details of the match have been entered on the scorecard supplied by the EFL.

– During the match stand behind goal line in line with the flight of the ball. Wait for the field umpire to give the all clear before giving decision. Both goal umpires must wave the flags for each score. Enter score on card and check scores with other goal umpire at the quarter breaks and after the match. The scorecard must be handed to the team manager after the match.

– Club supplied umpires are not permitted to barrack or comment on play. If the field umpire believes a club supplied goal umpire is making deliberately wrong or incompetent decisions he or she may demand the offending club to replace the goal umpire before re-commencing the match.

UMPIRES ESCORT

DRESS

Must wear the official EFL bib.

REQUIREMENTS

– All umpire's escorts must be at least 18 years of age.
– Club supplied umpire escorts are not permitted to coach, barrack, comment on play or any umpiring decisions
– Must not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game

DUTIES

– To escort all umpires from the oval (where play ends) to the umpire's room at half time and after the game.

– Where the club is the home club, they should offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter.

– Remain in the centre of the ground with umpires during quarter time and three-quarter time break.

– Umpires escort must not abuse or criticise umpires and must show courtesy always.

CLUB VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION OFFICER

REQUIREMENTS

No EFL Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the ground of their:

- race;
- religion;
- gender;
- colour;
- sexual preference, orientation or identity; or
- special ability or disability.

DUTIES

The Club Complaints Officer and the EFL Complaints Officer/s shall liaise directly over incidents which in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer or EFL Complaints Officer/s are contrary to Section 3. All EFL clubs are required to have an officially appointed Club Complaints Officer

SCHEDULE SIX

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

GAMBLING POLICY

Eastern Football League Gambling Policy

1.Corrupt Conduct

A person must not corruptly contrive or attempt to corruptly contrive the result of a Match or any aspect of a Match or any contingency related to the Competition in exchange for any bribe, benefit or reward.

2.No Gambling

2.1 A Club Person must not in any Match in which they are involved as a player or as an official:

(a) bet on any Contingency;

(b) have an interest in any bet or have someone else place a bet on their behalf on any Contingency;

(c) facilitate or assist the making of a bet on a Contingency; or

(d) without the prior permission of the Eastern Football League (EFL) encourage, induce, advertise or promote betting on a Contingency.

2.2 An EFL Official must not in any Match:

(a) bet on any Contingency;

(b) have an interest in any bet or have someone else place a bet on their behalf on any Contingency;

(c) facilitate or assist the making of a bet on a Contingency; or

(d) without the prior permission of the EFL encourage, induce, advertise or promote betting on a Contingency.

3.Performance on Merits

A Club Person, being a player, coach or assistant coach, must always perform on their merits, and must not induce or encourage any player, coach or assistant coach not to perform on their merits, in any Match or in relation to any aspect of a Match for any reason whatsoever.

4.Notification

Any person who directly or indirectly, formally or informally receives an approach from any other person, corporation or entity, to engage in any conduct prohibited by this Policy, must within 24 hours of first receiving such approach, advise and provide a written statement containing full details of such approach to the EFL

5.Obligations

(a) A club must provide to the EFL upon request the names and other personal details of persons to whom this Policy applies for the purposes of monitoring compliance with this Policy.

(b) A club must ensure that all relevant persons are advised of the provisions of this Policy and procure the consent of any relevant person to the provision of information in accordance with clause 5(a).

(c) Any person, who does not fully and strictly comply with the provisions of this Policy, shall be dealt with in such manner as the EFL in its absolute discretion thinks fit and without limiting its power it may:

(i) impose a monetary sanction on the person or the relevant club;

(ii) prohibit a person from competing in or attending the Competition for any period of time; and/or

(iii) require any person to attend counselling or any course in relation to responsible gambling.

6 Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy:

Competition means any competition in which the person is registered to compete or in which the person is associated with, which is a competition affiliated with the EFL or conducted under the auspices of the EFL.

Match means any match conducted in an EFL conducted Competition.

Club means club affiliated with the EFL.

Club Person includes a club, social club associated with a club, player, committee person, director of a club or a league, any employee, servant or agent of a club or any volunteer who has any role in the administration of a match or club affiliated with the EFL.

EFL Official includes an EFL employee, registered EFL umpire, EFL director, or any volunteer who has a role in the administration of the league.

APPENDIX ONE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PERMIT COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

PERMIT COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURE

1. If an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club objects to a clearance application by a player, the Chief Executive Officer shall notify the player of the objections and if requested to do so by the player, shall refer the application to the Permit Committee to be dealt with under that Committee's procedures.

2. Every player, after having been refused a clearance to play with another club within the EFL, may appeal to the Permit Committee. Any player may appeal once only in the season.

3. The appeal must be lodged within seven days of receipt of the refusal by the club to which the player seeks a clearance that such clearance has been refused. Failure to lodge an appeal within seven days will result in the player having to submit a further clearance and have such clearance refused before any appeal can be heard.

4. The appeal must be lodged by the player and NOT by the club to which he seeks a clearance. The player may indicate all his reasons for seeking a clearance to the club he wishes to compete with.

5. The player must lodge a bond of $250.00 together with his appeal. The club refusing the clearance, if intending to defend the appeal, must also lodge a $250.00 bond a minimum of 3 clear prior to the scheduled date of the appeal.

6. All bond monies will be repaid in whole or part at the completion of the hearing, unless the hearing is considered frivolous. Any club who fails to lodge the bond, the Committee may register the player with the club he seeks a clearance to.

7. The Chief Executive Officer shall call all parties together for conducting a hearing not later than ten days after all bond monies and appeals have been satisfactorily lodged with the League.

8. If the player or refusing club withdraws the appeal or objection within forty-eight hours prior to the scheduled hearing, the bond of the withdrawing party may be forfeited in whole or part at the discretion of the Permit Committee.

9. The Chief Executive Officer shall inform all parties of the hearing date at which all parties shall present themselves for the appeal.

10. The player may be represented by a friend who shall not be a solicitor or barrister. The club may be represented by two members of its Committee.

PERMIT COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURE

Procedure

Any player said to be unfinancial by the refusing club shall be ineligible to appeal unless the player intends challenging his financial status.

1. The Chief Executive Officer or his assistant shall invite all parties into the appeal room and shall introduce the following:

   (a) The Permit Committee

   (b) The player

   (c) The club refusing the clearance

   (d) The club to which the player sought a clearance.

2. The Chief Executive Officer shall acquaint all Permit Committee members will all relevant facts relating to the appeal:

   (a) Date of registration

   (b) Date of refusal

   (c) Date of lodgement of appeal

   (d) Date of lodgement of bonds.

3. The Chief Executive Officer or his assistant shall read to all concerned any correspondence from the player to which the Permit Committee Chairman will invite the player to add any further comments.

4. If any player claims to derive the whole or part of his livelihood from playing football, he shall produce to the Permit Committee proof of all matter relevant to deriving his livelihood.

5. The Permit Committee Chairman may question the player and may, at his discretion, invite the Permit Committee members to question the player at their convenience.

6. The Permit Committee Chairman shall invite the club refusing the clearance to give reasons why registration should not be permitted. At this time, the club refusing the clearance may rebut any statements of the player.

7. The Permit Committee Chairman, at his discretion, may question the club refusing the clearance and may invite members of the Permit Committee to further question the club refusing the clearance. Points of clarification may, at this time, be invited by the Permit Committee Chairman and/or the player or the club refusing the clearance.

8. The club to which the player seeks a registration shall be invited to address the Appeal Committee at which time the Permit Committee Chairman, Committee, player and club refusing the clearance may ask questions of the club to which the player seeks a clearance.

9. The Permit Committee Chairman shall invite all parties to raise final points and final questions before asking the player to summarise his case thereby closing the appeal.

10. The Permit Committee Chairman shall direct all parties to retire while the Permit Committee considers the appeal.

11. The Chief Executive Officer shall invite all parties to return and the Permit Committee Chairman shall make the following statement:

    "On the evidence presented here tonight, the decision of the Permit Committee has been to..."

    No discussions will take place after the appeal and all parties should leave quietly.

APPENDIX TWO

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

GUIDELINES:

1. A player or an official who has been reported by an approved umpire of a match controlled or authorised by the EFL, concerning the conduct of the player or an official before, during or after the match, must appear before the Independent Tribunal on the Tuesday night following the match, at the EFL offices, 256 Scoresby Road, Boronia at a nominated time.

2. All witnesses and infringed players notified of the report must also appear on the evening at the same time as nominated.

3. All reported players, officials and witnesses MUST be represented by an advocate who must be an official of the club, and shall not be a qualified solicitor or barrister.

4. The usage of, and production of video evidence at Tribunal Hearings and/or League Inquiries shall be permissible if such video evidence is forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer by no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday immediately following the game in question.

   The Chief Executive Officer, or his appointee, will determine whether such video evidence is permissible as evidence at the tribunal.

   The EFL will retain all video evidence for future reference. Under no circumstances will any video be returned. All decisions by the Chief Executive Officer or his appointee are final and no correspondence, whether verbal or written, will be considered regarding these decisions.

   Any club given permission to use video evidence at the tribunal may be required to provide a television monitor and video cassette recorder (which has a slow-motion facility) for the tribunal hearing.

PROCEDURE AT HEARING:

1. The Tribunal will call the following:

   (a) The reported player's or official's name first and their advocate.

   (b) Witnesses and advocate (if necessary)

   (c) The umpire making the report and his advocate.

2. If an advocate intends calling any other witnesses during the hearing, then it is his responsibility to advise the Tribunal Chairman before the commencement of the case. Similarly, if an advocate intends challenging the validity of a report then it is his responsibility to also advise the Tribunal Chairman before the hearing commences.

3. A reported player or official will be asked to stand whilst the Tribunal Secretary reads the charge. The procedure is as follows:

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: "Are you player .....?"

PLAYER: .....gives his reply.

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: "On .....(date) you participated in the game .....-vs- ....., Division ..., Grade ..., Game .... and wore number .... guernsey for .....(team)?"

PLAYER: .....gives his reply.

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: "You are charged with - (charge is read). How do you plead?"

PLAYER: .....delivers his plea - (Guilty / Not Guilty).

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: .....advises the Tribunal of the player's or official's plea.

If video evidence has been approved in accordance with the guidelines, it will be viewed by the Tribunal prior to any evidence other being given. All parties shall remain while the video evidence is being viewed.

4. At this time, the witness is requested to leave whilst evidence is taken from the umpire and the player.

5. The umpire, reported player, his advocate and the witness's advocate are present at all times.

6. The umpire is asked to deliver his version of the incident and is questioned at length by the Tribunal.

7. The advocates are then invited to question the umpire, if they desire.

8. The reported player then gives his evidence in front of the umpire and may be questioned by the Tribunal and both advocates. The umpire may ask questions, at the discretion of the Tribunal Chairman.

9. After the Tribunal Chairman has satisfied himself that all evidence from the reported player or official and the umpire has been collected, the witness will be recalled to the Tribunal Room.

   At this time, no further evidence from either the umpire or the reported player or official will be accepted.

10. The witness will be asked to give his version of the incident and will be questioned by the Tribunal. Both advocates will be entitled to question the witness.

11. At this time, any witnesses that the player or official may have for their defence should be called. After giving evidence and being questioned by the Tribunal they will be asked to retire and not speak to other witnesses.

12. The Tribunal Chairman will then invite the advocate of the reported player or official to sum up the evidence and speak on the behalf of the player or official.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

13. The Tribunal will ask the parties to retire and when a decision has been reached the umpire, reported player or official and advocate will be invited back to the Tribunal and the decision advised. Thus:

    "After hearing all evidence, the Tribunal has found ....."

The result of the case will also be delivered in writing through a penalty notification form.

Note:
If players or officials who do not attend the Tribunal when requested, the Tribunal may: -

(a) Suspend the player or official until he appears.

(b) Hear the case in their absence.

(c) Impose a fine and/or suspension.

The above applies also to witnesses who do not appear.

Clubs who do not supply an advocate may be fined by the Tribunal.

Players, who in the opinion of the Tribunal, have delivered unsatisfactory evidence to the hearing can, and will, be dealt with at the discretion of the Tribunal by fine and / or suspension.

APPENDIX THREE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

1. The Chief Executive Officer or his representative, on the night of the investigation, shall invite all parties into the committee room and shall:

   (a) Introduce the Grievance Committee

   (b) Introduce the complainant

   (c) Introduce the respondent

   (d) Introduce any other persons involved (i.e. Umpires and witnesses).

2. The Chairman shall invite the complainant to state his/their grievance detailing all relevant information. The Chairman, at his discretion, may question the complainant and invite the Committee to do so.

3. The Chairman shall ask the respondent to state his/their case detailing all relevant information to the grievance and may rebut any allegations by the complainant. The Chairman, at his discretion, may question the respondent and may invite the Committee to do so.

4. After the complainant and respondent have stated their respective cases they may, if they wish, call any witnesses to appear before the Committee. In this regard, no hearsay evidence by witnesses will be accepted.

5. After evidence by all concerned has been delivered, the Chairman may open the hearing for general questions at which all parties may question the other or seek points of clarification. At all times questions must be directed through the Chairman, who may allow or disallow the questions.

6. After all questioning, in the opinion of the Chairman, has been satisfied the Chairman shall ask the parties to summarise their respective cases and invite all parties to retire at the convenience of the Committee.

7. Upon re-entering, the Grievance Committee Chairman will indicate the decision as determined by the Committee.

   "On the evidence presented to the Committee, the decision is as follows....."

   All parties must then leave quietly.

APPENDIX FOUR

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

GROUND INSPECTION REPORT

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
GROUND INSPECTION REPORT

DATE REPORT COMPLETED: _____

CLUB: _____ vs _____

LOCATION: _____

YES	NO	
		GOAL AREA
☐	☐	*Is the goal post padding present?*
		Is the padding:
☐	☐	at least 25 mm thick and in good condition?
☐	☐	made from impact absorbing material?
☐	☐	Are all goal and behind posts secure?
		CRICKET PITCH AREA
☐	☐	*Is there sufficient soil covering the pitch where required?*
☐	☐	Is synthetic covering for the pitch in good condition and properly secured?
☐	☐	Is there a smooth surface created by the grading of the pitch edge?
☐	☐	Is the turf wicket sufficiently watered to soften surface?
☐	☐	Does the turf have grass cover to soften the surface?
		BOUNDARY AREA
☐	☐	Is the boundary line at least three (3) metres from any fence or other hazard?
☐	☐	Are all drains properly covered by grates?
☐	☐	Is there any wire or other material protruding from any fence?
☐	☐	Is there any wire or other material protruding from any signage?
☐	☐	Has appropriate material been used for all ground markings?

SPRINKLERS

☐	☐	Are any sprinkler heads protruding?
☐	☐	Are rubber protective covers in place on all sprinkler heads?
☐	☐	Have any potholes surrounding sprinklers been adequately filled?

PLAYING SURFACE

☐	☐	Have all potholes been adequately filled?
☐	☐	Are all drainage trenches adequately filled?
☐	☐	Is the surface even?
☐	☐	Is the surface clear of debris/garbage i.e. cans, rocks, bottles etc?
☐	☐	Has the ground been prepared correctly for an Australian Rules football match?

I, the undersigned, have undertaken the above inspection and will advise the Eastern Football League of any risk issues arising from the inspection by not later than 10.00 am on the Friday immediately preceding the home game indicated above.

_____	_____
Signature	**Print Name**

This form must be completed by the home club within 48 hours prior to the commencement of an official Eastern Football League match.

A copy of the form must be completed for each home game and retained on file by the home club for SIX (6) years. The form must be provided upon the request of the Eastern Football League.

APPENDIX FIVE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRIVACY POLICY

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PRIVACY POLICY

1. Collecting your Personal Information

When you apply for clearance to play for a club affiliated with the Eastern Football League Inc. ("League") in competition(s) organised by the League, it is necessary that you supply us with sufficient information to enable us to process your application for clearance to play in the League's competitions, and to register you as a member of the League. The information we collect from you is the information set out on the clearance and registration form, which includes, for example, your name, address, date of birth, gender and playing history.

We collect this information to process your application. If you do not provide us with part or all this information, then your application may be delayed or refused.

We also compile statistics of your playing history with the League, including the number of games you have played, with which club(s) you have played those games, and the number of times a suspension has been imposed upon you in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of the League.

We collect these statistics to properly administer the League, and to implement the Rules and By-Laws effectively.

2. Our Use and Disclosure of your Personal Information

We collect your personal information for the primary purpose of maintaining an accurate and up to date database of all players cleared and registered to play for clubs affiliated with the League in competitions organised by the League.

We may disclose your personal information without seeking your consent in the following circumstances:

- If we are required to do so by law;
- If we believe it is necessary to do so to provide you with a service you have requested;
- To implement our Statement of Rules and Statement of By-Laws;
- To protect the rights and property of the League, any club affiliated with the League, any member of the League, or a member of the public; or
- To lessen a serious and imminent threat to a person's life, health or safety or a serious threat to public health or public safety.

Additionally, we may disclose your personal information, with your consent, in the following circumstances:

- We may disclose your information to other leagues;
- We may disclose your personal information to Football Victoria;
- We may disclose your personal information to third parties who may notify you of certain events and other information;
- We may notify you of events and information which we consider, in good faith, potentially of value to you; or

- We may notify you of changes to our Statement of Rules, our Statement of By-Laws, or our web site.

For the purposes of the above, we assume that you consent to such disclosure, unless you advise us that you wish to withdraw your consent in the manner set out below.

You may withdraw your consent at any time by emailing us at [insert address], providing us with sufficient information to allow us to identify you and notify us that you withdraw your consent to such disclosure. Please allow two (2) business days for your request to be processed.

Your withdrawal will not prejudice your membership of the League.

Please note that in the above situations, we will ensure that such use and/or disclosure is strictly for the purposes set out above. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the third parties to whom your personal information is disclosed to keep your personal information private and confidential. If you decide to withdraw your consent, we will take all reasonable steps necessary to recover your personal information from these third parties.

3. Storage and Security of your Personal Information

The League will take all reasonable steps to secure and keep secure your personal information, and to ensure that your personal information is accurate and up to date.

Further, the League requires its employees, agents and contractors maintain the confidentiality of any personal information disclosed to them while carrying out their tasks. However, the League will not be responsible for events arising from any unauthorised use, disclosure or access to your personal information.

4. Your Access to your Personal Information

You may request access to your personal information that the League holds about you. Subject to the following exceptions, we will endeavour to grant your request within two (2) business days, or as soon as possible thereafter.

We reserve the right to deny your request for access to your personal information for the reasons listed in the National Privacy Policy 6, including the following:

- Providing access would pose a serious and imminent threat to the life or health of any individual;
- Providing access would have an unreasonable impact upon the privacy of other individuals;
- The request for access is frivolous or vexatious;
- Providing access would be unlawful;
- Denying access is required or authorised by or under law;
- Providing access would be likely to prejudice an investigation of possible unlawful activity; or

- Providing access would be likely to prejudice the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of criminal offences, breaches of a law imposing a penalty or sanction, or breached of prescribed law by or on behalf of an enforcement body.

5. Your Feedback

We appreciate your feedback on the protection of the privacy of your personal information. You can contact us in relation to our privacy policy at the following email address [insert email address].

We will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of your information. However, if you become aware that your personal information has been used or disclosed in a manner that does not comply with the terms of this privacy policy and without your consent, please email us at [insert email address] and we will respond to your query or complaint as soon as possible.

6. Changes to this Privacy Policy

We reserve the right to change this privacy policy as and when our business requirements change and/or amendments to the law in Australia require us to do so. Any changes to this privacy policy will be posted to this web site, so we urge you to visit this site regularly to ensure that you are made aware of the most up to date privacy policy of the League.

APPENDIX SIX

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MEDIATION AGREEMENT

MEDIATION AGREEMENT

THIS MEDIATION AGREEMENT is made

BETWEEN

AND

("the Parties")

AND

("the Mediator")

RECITALS

A. A dispute, as briefly set out in Item 1 of the Schedule, has arisen between the Parties ("**Dispute**").

B. Pursuant to Rule 7 of the Statement of Rules of the Eastern Football League Inc. ("**EFL**"), either or both Parties have requested the EFL mediate the Dispute.

C. Pursuant to its Statement of Rules, the EFL has nominated the Mediator to conduct the mediation of the Dispute, and delegates the power of the EFL to mediate the Dispute to the Mediator.

D. The Mediator has agreed, on the terms and conditions of this Agreement, to assist the Parties in their attempt to resolve the Dispute.

IT IS AGREED

1 Nomination of Mediator

1.1 In accordance with the Statement of Rules and the By-Laws, either or both Parties have approached the EFL to mediate the Dispute.

1.2 Acting pursuant to its Statement of Rules, the EFL nominates the Mediator to conduct the mediation pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

1.3 The Parties accept the nomination of the Mediator by the EFL to mediate the Dispute in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2 Functions of the Mediator

2.1 The Mediator will be neutral and impartial.

2.2 The Mediator will assist the Parties to identify the issues between them and to explore options for and, if possible to achieve, the expeditious resolution of the Dispute by agreement between them.

2.3 The Mediator would not advise a Party, nor make any decision for, nor impose any solution on the Parties.

2.4 The Mediator will not give legal or professional advice to any of the Parties.

2.5 The Mediator will have sole control of the Mediation at all times and may, at his absolute and unfettered discretion, throughout the Mediation determine when the Mediator may meet with the Parties, either together or separately.

3 Commitment to Mediation

3.1 The Parties agree to participate in the Mediation.

3.2 The Parties each agree to cooperate with the Mediator and with the other Parties with a commitment to negotiating towards a resolution of the Dispute.

3.3 The Parties acknowledge each other's right to be heard and agree to behave courteously and appropriately during the Mediation.

3.4 Each of the Parties will comply with all reasonable requests made by the Mediator that are intended to promote the efficient and expeditious resolution of the Dispute.

4 Conflict of Interest

4.1 Prior to the commencement of the Mediation, the Mediator must disclose to the EFL and to the Parties to the best of the Mediator's knowledge and prior dealings with any of the Parties as well as any interest in the Dispute.

4.2 If during the Mediation the Mediator becomes aware of any circumstances that may adversely affect the Mediator's capacity to act neutrally and impartially, the Mediator must cease to act as mediator unless the situation permits the Mediator to inform the Parties of those circumstances and the Parties agree that the Mediator may continue to mediate the Dispute.

5 Preparation for Mediation

5.1 No later than four (4) days before the date set for Mediation, or at such other time as determined by the Mediator and made known to the Parties, each of the Parties must submit to the Mediator via the EFL a short statement in writing that briefly outlines that Party's position.

5.2 No later than two (2) days before the date set for Mediation, or at such other time as determined by the Mediator and made known to the Parties, each of the Parties must submit to the Mediator via the EFL those documents (or copies thereof) each of the Parties intends to rely upon during Mediation.

6 Location and Time of the Mediation

The Mediation will be conducted at the venue specified in Item 2 of the Schedule, at a date and time specified in Item 3 of the Schedule.

7 Confidentiality and Privilege

7.1 The Mediator and the Parties agree to keep confidential all information and documents concerning the Dispute which are disclosed during the Mediation. Any disclosures, exchanges and all aspects of any communication occurring within the Mediation shall be “without prejudice”.

7.2 Any information disclosed or furnished by a Party to the Mediator on a confidential basis will be kept confidential by the Mediator and will not be disclosed by the Mediator to any of the other Parties save with the consent of the Party who furnished such information.

7.3 Subject to clause 11, in any judicial proceedings, the following will always be kept confidential and will remain privileged, and the Parties and the Mediator will not disclose nor rely upon them nor issue nor cause to be issued any subpoena to give evidence or to produce documents concerning them:

7.3.1 any settlement proposal;

7.3.2 the willingness of a Party to consider any such proposal;

7.3.3 any statement, admission or concession made by any of the Parties;

7.3.4 any statement or document made by the Mediator;

7.3.5 any views expressed, suggestions made or exchanges passing (whether written or oral) between any of the Parties and the Mediator or between the Parties themselves; and

7.3.6 any document brought into existence for the sole purpose of the Mediation.

8 Authority to Settle

8.1 If a Party is a natural person, he or she shall attend the Mediation or have present at the Mediation a representative with full authority to negotiate and settle the Dispute and to make an agreement binding upon that Party.

8.2 If a Party is not a natural person (such as an incorporated association or a corporation), that Party shall be represented at the Mediation by an officer or other person who has full authority to negotiate and make a binding settlement on behalf of that Party.

9 Representation at the Mediation

9.1 At the Mediation, each Party may have one or more other persons, excluding legally qualified persons, to assist and advise the Party.

9.2 Such other person must, prior to becoming involved in the Mediation, sign a third-party confidentiality agreement in the form annexed to this Agreement.

10 Settlement Agreement

If the Dispute is settled during the Mediation, the terms of the settlement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Parties, or their authorised representatives, and the Mediator prior to the end of the Mediation ("**Settlement Agreement"**).

11 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement

11.1 Any Party will be at liberty to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement by judicial proceedings.

11.2 Any Party will be at liberty in such enforcement proceedings to adduce evidence of and incidental to the Settlement Agreement including evidence from the Mediator and any other person involved in the Mediation.

11.3 The Mediator will not accept appointment as an adviser to or advocate on behalf of any of the Parties in any proceedings in relation to the enforcement of a Settlement Agreement or in relation to the Dispute.

11.4 The Parties will not do anything that may cause the Mediator to breach the Mediator's obligations under clause 11.3.

12 Exclusion of Liability; Indemnity

12.1 To the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the EFL nor the Mediator will be liable to any Party for any act or omission in the performance by the Mediator of the Mediator's obligations under this Agreement unless the act or omission is fraudulent.

12.2 To the extent that such liability cannot be excluded under law, the EFL's liability to each of the Parties shall be limited, at the option of the EFL, to either of the following:

12.2.1 In the case of the supply of services:

(a) supplying the services again, or

(b) the payment of the cost of having the services supplied again.

12.2.2 In the case of the supply of goods, any one or more of the following:

(a) the replacement of the goods or the supply of equivalent goods; or

(b) the repair of the goods; or

(c) the payment of the cost of replacing the goods or of acquiring equivalent goods; or

(d) the payment of the cost of having the goods repaired.

12.3 Each Party, together and separately, indemnifies and keeps the Mediator and the EFL indemnified against all claims made by that Party or anyone claiming under or through that Party, arising out of or in any way referrable to any act or omission by the Mediator in the performance or purported performance by the Mediator of the Mediator's obligations under this Agreement, unless the act or omission fraudulent.

13 Mediation Costs and Expenses

13.1 The costs and expenses of the Mediation are set out in Item 4 of the Schedule ("**Costs**").

13.2 Irrespective of the outcome of the Mediation, each Party agrees to pay one half of the Costs.

13.3 Each Party will bear its own costs and expenses of the Mediation.

13.4 The Parties agree that none of the Costs will be costs recoverable as part of the party/party costs of any judicial proceedings relating to the Dispute and/or the enforcement of the Settlement Agreement.

14 Termination of the Mediation

14.1 The Mediator may terminate the Mediator's involvement in the Mediation if, after consultation with the Parties, the Mediator draws the conclusion that the Mediator is unable to assist the Parties to achieve resolution of the Dispute. Upon the termination of the Mediator's involvement in the Mediation, this Mediation shall be terminated with immediate effect.

14.2 The execution of a Settlement Agreement by both Parties and the Mediator pursuant to clause 10 above shall be deemed to terminate this Mediation Agreement with immediate effect.

14.3 Any Party may terminate the Mediation at any time, after due and proper consultation with the Mediator.

14.4 The Mediator shall report the outcome of the Mediation to the Chief Executive Officer of the EFL, but shall not except with the express written permission of each of the Parties, disclose any terms of Settlement Agreement.

15 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

14.5 The terms of this Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the law of Victoria and Australia, and are subject to the provisions of any legislation that may be applicable to or govern the mediation, and in the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of the legislation will prevail.

14.6 The Parties and the Mediator on behalf of the EFL hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the State of Victoria (including the Victorian registry of the Federal Court of Australia) and all courts competent to hear appeals from those Courts.

EXECUTED AS AN AGREEMENT

SIGNED for and on behalf of)
[ ])
by its duly authorised representative in the)
presence of:)

……. ……
Signature of witness Signature of authorised representative

……. ……
Name of witness (block letters) Name of authorised representative (block letters)

SIGNED by **[ ]**)
in the presence of:)

……
Signature of [ ]

……
Signature of witness

……
Name of witness (block letters)

SIGNED by **[ ]**)
in the presence of:)

……
Signature of [ ]

……
Signature of witness

……..
Name of witness (block letters)

SCHEDULE

ITEM 1: Description of Dispute

[ ]

ITEM 2: Location of the Mediation

The Mediation shall be conducted at EFL House, 256 Scoresby Road, Boronia, Victoria.

ITEM 3: Time of the Mediation

The Mediation shall commence at [ ] on [ ], 20[ ].

ITEM 4: Costs of the Mediation

The costs of the mediation are as follows:

CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

[ ]

AND

[ ]

(**"the Parties"**)

AND

[ ]

(**"the Mediator"**)

have entered into a Mediation Agreement dated 20 in accordance with which the Mediator will conduct a Mediation.

1. The undersigned acknowledge by their signatures that they attend the mediation based on their understanding and agreement to the terms of clauses 2 and 3, below.

2. Each of the undersigned undertakes to the Parties and to the Mediator:

   2.1 to keep confidential to themselves all information disclosed during the Mediation including the preliminary steps in the Mediation (**"confidential information"**);

   2.2 not to act contrary to the undertaking in clause 2.1 unless compelled to do so by law or with the consent of the Party who disclosed the confidential information;

   2.3 not to use confidential information for a purpose other than the Mediation.

3. Each of the undersigned undertakes to the Parties and the Mediator that the following will be privileged and will not be disclosed in or relied upon or be the subject of any subpoena to give evidence or produce documents in any judicial proceeding between the Parties:

   3.1 any settlement proposal;

   3.2 the willingness of a Party to consider any such proposal;

   3.3 any statement, admission or concession made by a Party;

   3.4 any statement or document made by the Mediator;

   3.5 any views expressed, suggestions made or exchanges passing (whether written or oral) between any of the Parties and the Mediator or between the Parties themselves; and

   3.6 any document brought into existence for the sole purpose of the Mediation.

SIGNED by) ……
…

in the presence of:) Signature of

……
Signature of witness

……
Name of witness (block letters)

SIGNED by) ……
in the presence of:) Signature of

……
Signature of witness

……
Name of witness (block letters)

SIGNED by) ……
in the presence of:) Signature of

……
Signature of witness

……
Name of witness (block letters)

APPENDIX SEVEN

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

COMMUNITY CLUB SUSTAINABILITY

PLAYER PAYMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

Community Club Sustainability - Player Payment Rule

1. Objectives

In order to maintain, support and grow Australian football at the community football level it is important that teams fielded by community Clubs are as strong and well matched as possible.

The support for community football competitions and participating Clubs and the opportunity for players to develop and display their skills depends upon those competitions being conducted between evenly matched and financially viable Clubs.

It is also important that stronger Clubs do not obtain an unfair proportion of the best Players at the expense of the weaker Clubs, and that there is sufficient stability in the membership of Club teams to enable team spirit and public support to be maintained.

The pursuit of these objective assists in attracting and maintaining the interest of players, supporters, officeholders, sponsors and volunteers, all of whom are essential for community football competitions and Clubs.

To assist in achieving these objectives, the Eastern Football League has adopted this Player Payment Rule. This Player Payment Rule will operate in conjunction with the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, which is directed to similar objectives.

2. Player Payments not to exceed Allowable Player Payments

(a) **Subject to any guidelines that may be issued from time to time or in any particular case by the Eastern Football League:**

(i) a Club shall not in any Football Year, give or provide to or apply for the benefit of, or offer to give or provide to or apply for the benefit of, any Player or any Associate of a Player any Player Payments or cause or offer to cause any Player Payments to be so given, provided or applied if the aggregate of all the Player Payments given, provided or applied by the Club or any Associate of a Club, would exceed the Allowable Player Payments for that Club for that Football Year; and

(ii) a Person must not engage in conduct in breach of the Allowable Player Payment provisions contained in this Player Payment Rule.

(b) **Any conduct in breach of this Rule engaged in:**

(i) by a Club Official, Player, servant or agent of a Club; or

(ii) by any other person at the direction or with the knowledge, consent, agreement or authorisation (whether express or implied) of a Club Official, Player, servant or agent of a Club,

(a) **shall be deemed for the purposes of this Rule to have also been engaged in by the Club.**

(c) **For the purposes of this Rule, "knowledge" includes reckless indifference to whether the conduct in question was occurring or not.**

3. Determination of Allowable Player Payments and Individual Player Payments Threshold

(a) **[Eastern Football League to determine**

(i) The [Eastern Football League shall determine from time to time:

(A) the Allowable Player Payments; and

(B) the Individual Player Payments Threshold,

(b) to apply in any Football Year.

(ii) The Eastern Football League must notify each Club of the amount of the Allowable Player Payments and the Individual Player Payments Threshold for the forthcoming Football Year no later than 30 August in the Football Year immediately before the commencement of the forthcoming Football Year or such other date before the commencement of the forthcoming Football Year as determined by the Eastern Football League.

(iii) **A Club may apply to the Eastern Football League for an increase in the Allowable Player Payments that will apply to that Club in a Football Year and the [Eastern Football League may, in its absolute discretion, decide to increase the Allowable Player Payments for that Club.**

(iv) **The Eastern Football League may in its absolute discretion take into account one or more of the following factors when determining whether, if at all, to increase the Allowable Player Payments for a Club following a request from a Club under Rule 3(a)(iii):**

(A) ***the location of the Club's training venue and venue for the Club's home Matches and, in particular, the distance of such venues from any town or city with a large population base;***

(B) ***if the Club has endured significant hardship or lack of on-field success;***

(C) ***if the Club has recently come into existence or merged with another Club; and***

(D) ***if the Club has no or limited under age teams or is otherwise not capable, due to reasons outside of its reasonable control, to develop junior players who will play in the Club's Senior Team.***

(b) **One whole amount**

(c) **The Allowable Player Payments shall so far as practicable be a gross amount with all margins, payments, expenses and allowances included in one whole amount.**

4. Reporting

(a) **Player Declaration**

(i) **If the Club expects that it, or any Associates of the Club, will make Player Payments to a Player and/or Associates of the Player in a Football Year which are in excess of the Individual Player Payments Threshold then, by no later than 30 April in each Football Year, the Club must lodge, or procure that the Player lodge, with the Eastern Football League a statement in the form prescribed by the Eastern Football League from time to time and such statement shall:**

(A) ***set out the name of the Player;***

(B) ***set out the total Player Payments which the Club expects that it, or an Associate of the Club, will make to the Player and/or any Associates of the Player in that Football Year, which may be expressed in whole or in part as an amount per Match; and***

(C) ***be signed by the Player and one of the president (or their equivalent), the secretary, treasurer or football manager of the Club,***

(ii) **If a Player Declaration in respect of a Player has not already been lodged in accordance with Rule 4(a)(i) and the Club or Associate of the Club comes to an agreement, arrangement or understanding with the Player or an Associate of the Player to make any Player Payment to the Player or an Associate of the Player which means that Player Payments received by the Player and any Associate of the Player in the Football Year will be in excess of the Individual Player Payments Threshold then, within 7 days of entering the agreement, arrangement or understanding, the Club must lodge, or procure that the Player lodge, with the Eastern Football League a Player Declaration for that Player.**

(b) **Non Declared Player**

(i) **In respect of any Player of the Club for the relevant Football Year who, for that Football Year:**

(A) ***will play a Match in the Senior Team but either the Player or an Associate of that Player will not receive any Player Payments; or***

(B) ***either the Player or an Associate of that Player will receive Player Payments and those Player Payments will be less than the Individual Player Payments Threshold (Non Declared Player),***

then by no later than 30 April or, where a player is not included in the 30 April lodgement, within 7 days of that Non Declared Player playing a Match for the Club in the Football Year the Club must lodge, or procure that each Non Declared Player lodge, with the Eastern Football League a statement in the form prescribed by the Eastern Football League from time to time and such statement shall:

(C) set out the name of the Non Declared Player;

(D) state that the Player will:

i. play a Match in the Senior Team but either the Player or an Associate of that Player will not receive any Player Payments; or

ii. receive total Player Payments by either the Player or an Associate of the Player for the relevant Football Year less than the Individual Player Payments Threshold; and

iii. be signed by the Non Declared Player and one of the president (or their equivalent), the secretary, treasurer or football manager of the Club.

(ii) If a Player Declaration or Non Declared Player statement is not lodged in accordance with, and within the prescribed times in Rule 4 (a) or 4 (b), the Club and the Player to which the Player Declaration relates shall be liable to a sanction.

(d) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(c) ***Player Payments budget***

(i) By no later than 30 April in each Football Year or such other date as determined by the Eastern Football League, each Club shall lodge with the Eastern Football League a statement in the form prescribed by the Eastern Football League from time to time and such statement shall:

(A) set out the name of each person who is expected to be a Player of the Club for that Football Year who:

1. will play a Match in the Senior Team for that Football Year; or

2. either the Player or an Associate of that Player, will receive Player Payments for that Football Year;

(B) set out the total Player Payments which the Club expects that it, or an Associate of the Club, will make in that Football Year;

(C) set out the name of any person who is to be a Player of the Club for that Football Year and also employed or engaged by the Club or an Associate of the Club (including as coach or assistant or specialty coach of the Club) and the details of that employment or engagement, including job description and consideration paid, or to be paid, to the Player for the employment or engagement;

(D) be accompanied by such other documents and information as specified or requested from time to time by the Eastern Football League; and

(E) be signed by the president of the Club (or their equivalent) and one of the secretary, treasurer or football manager of the Club.

(ii) Within 14 days of a request by the Eastern Football League, a Club shall provide to the Eastern Football League with an updated statement with the information prescribed in Rule 4(c)(i).

(iii) If:

(A) the Club lodges a statement under Rule 4(c)(i) which shows that the amount or value of all Player Payments that are budgeted to be given to or applied in the Football Year by the Club or Associates of the Club for the benefit of Players and the Associates of the Players of the Club is greater than 80% of the Allowable Player Payments; and

(B) the Player Payments made, or budgeted to be made, by the Club or Associates of the Club for the benefit of Players and the Associates of the Players of the Club increases by 10% or more of the amount set out in the statement lodged under Rule 4(c)(i). or

(C) there is a material increase in the amount or value of all Player Payments that are budgeted to be given to or applied in the Football Year by the Club or Associates of the Club for the benefit of Players and the Associates of the Players of the Club,

the Club must immediately provide the Eastern Football League with an updated statement with the information prescribed in Rule 4(c)(i).

(iv) A Club who does not complete and lodge the statement or updated statement within the prescribed time in Rule 4(c)(i) 4(c)(ii) or 4(c)(iii) shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(d) **Player Payments reporting**

(i) By no later than 31 October after the conclusion of each Football Year and at such other times as requested by the Eastern Football League, each Club shall lodge with the Eastern Football League a statement in the form prescribed by the Eastern Football League from time to time and such statement shall:

(A) disclose all of the Players of the Club for the relevant Football Year who received or will receive, or any Associate of that Player received or will receive, Player Payments for the relevant Football Year;

(B) identifies all of the Players who participated in the Club's Senior Team;

(C) disclose the total Player Payments for the relevant Football Year (including any Player Payments which have been committed in respect of the Football Year but have not yet been paid to the relevant Player or Associate of the Player);

(D) disclose any Player who was employed or engaged by the Club or an Associate of the Club (including as coach or assistant or specialty coach of the Club) during the relevant Football Year and the details of that employment or engagement, including job description and consideration paid, or to be paid, to the Player for the employment or engagement;

(E) be accompanied by such other documents and information as specified or requested from time to time by the Eastern Football League; and

(F) be signed by the president of the Club (or their equivalent) and one of the secretary, treasurer or football manager of the Club.

(ii) If a statement is not lodged in accordance with, and within the prescribed times in, Rule 4(d)(i), the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

5. Integrity Officer

(a) **Appointment of Integrity Officer**

The Eastern Football League may from time to time appoint an Integrity Officer. The Integrity Officer may exercise any of the powers conferred upon them under these Rules or such other powers conferred upon or delegated to them by the Eastern Football League.

(b) **No false or misleading information**

No Person shall knowingly provide to the Integrity Officer or the Eastern Football League (including under Rule 4, 6 and 7) any statement or information which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead.

Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

6. Clubs to do all things necessary to assist Integrity Officer

(a) **Full and free access**

(e) Each Club shall permit the Integrity Officer to have full and free access to:

(i) any premises occupied by or in the control of the Club;

(ii) copies of all financial statements (including bank statements) relating to the Club and all cheques issued and financial transfers made by or on behalf of or for the benefit of the Club together with copies of all cash payments journals and other accounts kept by or for the Club; and

(iii) such books, files, documents, records, articles or things in the possession or control of the Club or any person or entity controlled by the Club as the Integrity Officer believes may be relevant to their enquiries,

and the Club shall provide the Integrity Officer with a copy, including electronic copy, of any of the items referred to in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above within 7 days' of a request from the Integrity Officer.

(f) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(b) **Provision of information**

Upon a request by the Integrity Officer and within 7 days' of that request, a Club shall provide to the Integrity Officer such information or details concerning or relating to any payments promised, given or provided to, or applied for the benefit of a Player or any Associate of a Player, by the Club or any Associate of the Club.

(g) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(c) **Attendance before Integrity Officer**

(i) Each Club shall within 7 days' of a request by the Integrity Officer procure and ensure the attendance before the Integrity Officer of a Player, any Associate of a Player or any Associate of a Club, including without limitation any director, Club Officer, servant, agent, supporter, sponsor or financial contributor to the Club and the Club shall ensure that such person or persons:

(A) fully co-operates with the Integrity Officer;

(B) fully and truthfully answers any questions asked by the Integrity Officer; and

(C) provides any document in his, her or its possession or control as requested by the Integrity Officer.

(ii) Where a Player, any Associate of a Player or any Associate of a Club including without limitation any director, Club Officer, servant, agent, supporter, sponsor or financial contributor to the Club, fails to attend before the Integrity Officer, fails to fully co-operate with the Integrity Officer or otherwise fails to comply with any of the requirements under Rule 6(c)(i), the Club shall be liable to a sanction.

(h) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

7. Players to assist Integrity Officer

(a) **Full and free access to Players' records**

(i) Each Player shall permit, and procure that any Associate of a Player permits, the Integrity Officer to have full and free access to such of the Players' books, files, documents, records, articles or things as the Integrity Officer believes may be relevant to their enquiries and the Player shall provide, and procure that any Associate of a Player provides, the Integrity Officer with a copy, including electronic copy, of any of the items referred to in this paragraph within 7 days' of a request from the Integrity Officer.

(j) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(b) **Companies, trusts and accounts**

(k) Without limiting the foregoing each Player shall provide or ensure that any Associate of a Player and any other relevant person provides to the Integrity Officer within 7 days' of any request:

(i) full and complete details of any and all companies in respect of which the Player or any Associate of a Player is a shareholder or otherwise entitled to the benefits which normally accrue to a shareholder or where there is any contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding for the Player to acquire a shareholding or rights akin to a shareholding or where the Player or any Associate of a Player is in a position to control or direct any votes which may be cast either at a general meeting of the company or a meeting of the board of directors of the company;

(ii) full and complete details of any and all trusts in respect of which the Player or any Associate of a Player holds a power of appointment or is a trustee, a primary, general or other beneficiary (discretionary or otherwise) or where the Player or any Associate of a Player holds any units or is legally or beneficially interested in any person or entity which holds any units in any unit trust;

(iii) full and complete details of all and any partnerships or joint ventures in which the Player or any Associate of a Player has a legal or beneficial interest;

(iv) satisfactory evidence of all income earned or otherwise received by or on behalf of the Player or any Associate of a Player for any period up to three (3) years;

(v) full and complete details of each and every account with any bank, building society, credit union or other financial institution held by or conducted on behalf of the Player or any Associate of a Player including copies of all statements in relation thereto; and

(vi) full and free access (with the right to make copies) to the books, files, papers, documents, records, articles or things of any manager or financial or other adviser of the Player or any Associate of a Player.

(l) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(c) **Provision of information**

(i) Upon a request by the Integrity Officer and within 7 days' of that request, a Player shall provide to the Integrity Officer such information or details concerning or relating to any payments promised, given or provided to, or applied for the benefit of the Player or any Associate of the Player, by the Club or any Associate of the Club.

(m) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(ii) Upon a request of the Integrity Officer and within 7 days' of that request, a Player shall provide a signed statutory declaration in relation to information or details concerning or relating to any payments promised, given or provided to, or applied for the benefit of the Player or any Associate of the Player, by the Club or any Associate of the Club.

(n) Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(d) **Player to ensure attendance of persons**

(i) Within 7 days' of a request by the Integrity Officer each Player will attend, and will procure and ensure the attendance of any Associate of a Player, before the Integrity Officer. The Player shall ensure that they and each such person:

(A) fully co-operates with the Integrity Officer;

(B) fully and truthfully answers any questions asked by the Integrity Officer; and

(C) provides any document in their possession or control as requested by the Integrity Officer.

(ii) Where the Player or any Associate of a Player fails to attend before the Integrity Officer, fails to fully co-operate with the Integrity Officer or otherwise fails to comply with any of the requirements under Rule 7(d)(i), the Player shall be liable to a sanction.

Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of $15,000. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

(e) **No breach of statute**

(o) Each of the powers, requirements and obligations hereinbefore set out shall be read and construed so as not to infringe or breach any statute or law and shall be limited or severed to the extent that any statute or law requires.

8. Determination of payments

(a) **Extent of Player Payments**

(p) The Integrity Officer or the Eastern Football League may determine that the value of all or any part of any payment, consideration, advantage or other benefit given or provided to, or applied for the benefit of, a Player or an Associate of a Player by or at the direction of a Club or any Associate of a Club, or pursuant to any contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding between a Club, an Associate of a Club, and a Player or an Associate of a Player, constitutes a Player Payment for the purpose of these Rules.

(b) **Payments to be included if explanation unsatisfactory**

(q) The Eastern Football League or the Integrity Officer may seek an explanation from a Club or a Player as to the nature of any payment made by or on behalf of the Club or an Associate of the Club in relation to a Player or an Associate of a Player. In the event that the Club or Player (as applicable) fails to explain the payment to the satisfaction of the Eastern Football League or the Integrity Officer then the Eastern Football League or Integrity Officer may deem such payment to be a Player Payment to a Player of the Club for the purposes of these Rules.

(c) **Eastern Football League may issue guidelines**

(r) The Eastern Football League may from time to time issue guidelines as to the application of the Allowable Player Payments provisions in this Player Payment Rule and valuation of Player Payments, provided those guidelines are not inconsistent with the Rules.

(d) **Rulings**

(s) A Club may at any time submit to the Eastern Football League true, complete and accurate particulars of all payments, consideration, advantages or other benefits given, provided or applied or proposed to be given, provided or applied to or for the benefit of a Player and/or any Associate of a Player with a request that the Eastern Football League issue a ruling as to whether such payments, consideration, advantages or other benefits constitute Player Payments and as to their value for the purposes of these Rules. Any ruling of the Eastern Football League shall be final and binding on the Club.

9. Laying of charge

(a) **Eastern Football League may lay charge**

If the Eastern Football League suspects that any Person has or may have engaged in conduct in breach of the Allowable Player Payments provisions or otherwise in breach of this Player Payment Rule, the Eastern Football League may lay a charge against:

(i) where the Person is a Club or Player, the Club or Player;

(ii) where Rule 2(b) applies, the Club.

(b) **Player Payments Disciplinary Committee**

(i) The Eastern Football League shall from time to time appoint persons to a body to be known as the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee.

(ii) Any charge laid by the Eastern Football League under this Player Payment Rule shall be heard and determined by the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee.

(iii) The Player Payments Disciplinary Committee shall consist of 3 persons, being:

(A) a Legal Practitioner nominated by the Eastern Football League, who shall be the chairperson of the Player Payment Disciplinary Committee; and

(B) two other persons nominated by the Eastern Football League.

(iv) A person shall not be appointed to the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee to hear a charge if that person:

(A) has been a Club Official of a Club; or

(B) has been a Player of a Club,

in the twenty four months preceding the appointment.

(c) **Notice of charge and hearing**

Where a charge is laid under Rule 9, the Eastern Football League shall give notice of the charge to each Club and Player charged and the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee appointed to hear the charge. The Eastern Football League shall fix a time and date for a hearing of the charge by the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee and inform each member of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee and each Club and Player charged of those particulars at least 7 days before the date for the hearing.

(d) **Statement of grounds**

(i) A notice of charge under Rule 9(c) shall be accompanied by a statement of the grounds for the laying of the charge.

(ii) The grounds for the laying of the charge shall constitute sufficient reasons for the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee to declare the charge sustained, unless the Club or Player charged discharges the burden of proof referred to in Rule 10(h).

(e) **Eastern Football League may vary time and place of hearing**

The Eastern Football League may vary the time or place specified under Rule 9(c), and the Eastern Football League shall give to each member of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee and each Club and Player charged at least 3 days' written notice of any such variation.

10. Hearing by Player Payments Disciplinary Committee

(a) **Conduct of hearing**

At the time and place referred to in the notice of charge, or as varied under Rule 9(e), the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee shall conduct a hearing into the matters the subject of the charge.

(b) **Informal**

The hearing shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality, and with as much expedition, as a proper consideration of the matters before the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee permits.

(c) **Rules of evidence not to apply**

The Player Payments Disciplinary Committee is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record but may inform itself of any matter in such manner as it thinks appropriate.

(d) **Procedure**

Subject to Rule 10(e), the procedure of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee at a hearing conducted under Rule 10(a) is within the discretion of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee.

(e) **Procedural fairness**

At any hearing conducted under Rule 10(a), the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee shall:

(i) provide to every Club and Player charged an opportunity to be heard and to be represented by any person including a Legal Practitioner; and

(ii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner.

(f) **Statement of grounds prima facie evidence**

The statement of grounds and any report prepared by the Integrity Officer shall be prima facie evidence of the matter or matters therein contained, provided that a copy of the statement of grounds and report has been provided to any Club and Player charged prior to the commencement of the hearing.

(g) **Standard of proof**

The Player Payments Disciplinary Committee shall decide any charge laid under Rule 9 on the balance of probabilities whether a Club or Player has or has not engaged in the alleged conduct.

(h) **Onus of proof**

A Club or Player charged by the Eastern Football League under Rule 9 shall bear the onus of establishing on the balance of probabilities that the alleged conduct was not engaged in.

(i) **Decision**

(i) At the conclusion of its hearing, the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee may:

(A) declare the charge sustained and may impose a sanction as provided for under Rule 11;

(B) declare the charge dismissed; or

(C) adjourn the hearing to a fixed date or indefinitely.

(ii) Any decision of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee under this Rule is final and binding, subject to any appeal under Rule 12.

(j) **No reasons**

The Player Payments Disciplinary Committee shall not be obliged to give reasons for a decision under Rule 10(i).

(k) **Validity of hearing**

Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which a matter has been brought before the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee, the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee may still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard.

11. Sanctions

(a) ***Imposition of sanctions***

(i) Subject to Rule 11(a)(ii), the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee may impose any sanction on any Club or Player contravening this Player Payment Rule that, in their absolute discretion they think fit.

(ii) Where a Rule provides for a maximum sanction, the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee must not impose any sanction on a Club or Player for contravening that Rule that is in excess of the maximum sanction set for a breach of that Rule. For the avoidance of doubt, no maximum sanction is specified for a breach of Rule 2.

(iii) Without limiting the ordinary and legal meaning of any of the words in Rule 11(a)(i), if a Club or Player contravenes this Player Payment Rule the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee may do one or more of the following:

(A) impose no sanction on the Club or Player;

(B) reprimand the Club or Player;

(C) impose a monetary sanction on the Club or Player;

(D) order that a Club has forfeited the right to register as a Player of the Club the Player or any of the Players to whom the conduct relates for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;

(E) order that a Club has forfeited the right to employ or engage or register as a Club Official of the Club a Club Official involved in the conduct for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;

(F) order that a Player has forfeited the right to play for, or be a registered Player of, any Club for an unlimited period or for a specified period of time;

(G) order that no club shall for such period as the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee may determine permit or allow a person to occupy any office or perform any functions (including without limitation attendance at matches and training sessions) for or on behalf of a club;

(H) declare, in respect of a Club, the loss of or ineligibility to receive Premiership Points for past or future Matches in which a team or teams of the Club participated or will participate;

(I) declare, in respect of a Club, the loss of or ineligibility to receive Total Team Points for past, current or future Football Years;

(J) in respect of a Club, relegate any of the Club's teams to a competition or league in a lower division to the division that the team is currently competing in; and

(K) impose a sanction on any terms or conditions seen fit.

(b) ***Matters that may be taken into account regarding sanctions***

Without limiting the ordinary and legal meaning of any of the words in Rule 11(a) the Player Payment Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion take into account one or more of the following factors when determining what sanction, if any, to impose on a Club or Player for any contravention of this Player Payment Rule:

(i) whether, and if so to what extent, the Club authorised the conduct;

(ii) whether, and if so to what extent, the Club benefitted from the conduct;

(iii) whether the conduct was intended or likely to have the effect of enabling the Player to play with a particular Club;

(iv) the period of time over which the conduct occurred;

(v) any prior contraventions of this Rule;

(vi) whether, and if so to what extent, the Club or Player has provided substantial assistance to the Eastern Football League which results in the Eastern Football League discovering or establishing a contravention of this Player Payment Rule; and

(vii) whether the Club or Player had knowledge of the breach and/or wilfully engaged in the breach.

(c) ***Club or Player may be excused for co-operation***

The Eastern Football League may excuse any Club or Player in whole or in part from any liability under this Player Payment Rule in consideration of that Club's or Player's co-operation and assistance in establishing a breach of these Rules by any other Club or Player.

12. Appeal

(a) **A Club or Player may appeal to the AFL Victoria Appeal Board in respect of a determination by the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee under this Player Payment Rule in respect of a charge laid against that Club or Player by:**

(i) making payment to AFL Victoria of any applicable appeal fee; and

(ii) submitting a notice of appeal to AFL Victoria (in any form prescribed by AFL Victoria), on one or more of the following grounds:

(A) that there was an error of law;

(B) that the decision was so unreasonable that no Player Payments Disciplinary Committee acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it; or

(C) that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive,

no later than 12.00 noon on the fifth day following the decision of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee.

(b) **The Eastern Football League may appeal to the AFL Victoria Appeal Board in respect of a determination of the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee under this Player Payment Rule within the time and on one or more of the grounds referred to in Rule 12(a) or on the ground that the sanction imposed was manifestly inadequate.**

(c) **Any appeal heard by the AFL Victoria Appeal Board shall be held in accordance with the rules governing the AFL Victoria Appeal Board, as determined by AFL Victoria from time to time.**

13. Rule paramount

To the extent that any Rule in this Player Payment Rule is inconsistent with any other rule of the Eastern Football League, the provisions of this Player Payment Rule shall prevail.

14. Premiership Points, Final Premiership Ladder and Total Team Points

All other rules of the Eastern Football League relating to or impacting on Premiership Points, the Final Premiership Ladder and Total Team Points shall be read subject to and as including any sanctions imposed by the Player Payments Disciplinary Committee under Rule 11.

15. Relevant Definitions

In this Player Payment Rule, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith, the following expressions will have the following meanings:

Allowable Player Payments means the amount from time to time determined by the Eastern Football League as the maximum aggregate amount or value of all Player Payments that may be given to or applied in any Football Year for the benefit of Players with each Club and the Associates of a Player of the Club.

Associate of a Club includes any of the following:

(a) **a Club Official;**

(b) **a sponsor, member, supporter or financial contributor of the Club;**

(c) **a body corporate which is related to the Club within the meaning of s. 50 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), and any director, secretary or other officer of a related body corporate;**

(d) **a partner of the Club or a partnership in which the Club is a member;**

(e) **a trustee of a trust estate where the Club, or another person who is an associate of the Club by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition, benefits or is capable (whether by the exercise of a power of appointment or otherwise) of benefiting under the trust, either directly or through any interposed companies, partnerships or trusts;**

(f) **a body corporate:**

(i) **in which the Club, or a person who is an associate of the Club by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition, has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in shares in the body corporate, or an entitlement thereto, where the nominal value of those shares is not less than 10% of the nominal value of all issued shares of the corporation falling within the same class;**

(ii) **where the body corporate is, or its directors are, accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the Club or of another person who is an associate of the Club by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition; or**

(iii) **the Club is, or persons who are associates of the Club by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition are, in a position to cast, or control the casting of, more than 50% of the maximum number of votes that might be cast at a general meeting of the body corporate.**

(g) **any person who is or was acting, or who proposes to act, on behalf of or in concert with the Club.**

Associate of a Player includes any of the following:

(a) **any relative of the Player;**

(b) **the spouse or partner (legal or defacto) of the Player or any of his or her relatives;**

(c) **a body corporate where:**

(i) **the Player or a person referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) has, or two or more such persons together have, a direct or indirect beneficial interest in shares in the body corporate, or an entitlement thereto, where the nominal value of those shares is not less than 10% of the nominal value of all issued shares of the corporation falling within the same class;**

(ii) **the body corporate is, or the directors are, accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the Player, or of another person or body corporate who or which is an associate of the Player by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition; or**

(iii) **the Player is, or a person or persons who are associates of the Player by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition is or are, in a position to cast or control the casting of, more than 50% of the maximum number of votes that might be cast at a general meeting of the body corporate;**

(d) **a body corporate which is related to a corporation referred to in sub-paragraph (c) above within the meaning of s. 50 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth);**

(e) **a director, secretary, or officer of a corporation referred to in sub-paragraph (c) or (d) above;**

(f) **a partner of the Player of any partnership which the Player or any person referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) above is a member;**

(g) **a trustee of a trust estate where the Player, or another person who is an associate of the Player by virtue of another sub-paragraph of this definition, benefits or is capable (whether by the exercise of a power of appointment or otherwise) of benefiting under the trust, either directly or through any interposed companies, partnerships or trusts;**

(h) **any person who is or was acting, or who proposes to act, on behalf of or in concert with the Player.**

Club means a football club which participates in a Football League.

Club Officer means an 'officer' (as defined in the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)) of a Club and without limitation shall include the president, chairman, vice president, vice chairman, general manager, chief executive, football manager, coach, assistant coach, specialist coach, any director or committee member of the Club and any servant or agent who makes or participates in the making of decisions that affect the whole, or a substantial part, of the business of the Club.

Club Official means:

(a) **any Club Officer, employee (excluding Players), servant or agent of a Club; or**

(b) **any other person, whether volunteer or paid, who is engaged by a Club or engaged by a contractor or sub-contractor of a Club:**

(i) to work with, treat, advise or assist a Player or the football operations of a Club; or

(ii) to at any time undertake official duties for the Club in connection with the playing of a Match.

conduct in breach of the Allowable Player Payments provisions means conduct which has the purpose or has or is likely to have the effect of contravening, circumventing or evading the operation of the Allowable Player Payments provisions in these Rules and, without limiting the foregoing, includes:

(a) **conduct in contravention of this Player Payment Rule;**

(b) **entering into, making or being a party to any agreement, arrangement, understanding, promise or undertaking, whether express or implied and whether or not enforceable or intended to be enforceable, or entering into or carrying out any scheme, plan, proposal, action, course of action or course of conduct which has the purpose or which would have or would be likely to have the effect of:**

(i) contravening, circumventing or evading the operation of the Allowable Player Payments provisions in these Rules; or

(ii) offering or paying to a Player or an Associate of a Player benefits in cash or kind which would result or would be likely to result in the Allowable Player Payments limit of a Club being exceeded.

Final Premiership Ladder means the ranking of Clubs in a Football League as determined by the Eastern Football League at the conclusion of the final series of Matches for a Football Year taking into account any sanctions imposed under this Player Payment Rule.

Football League means an Australian Football league or competition controlled by the Eastern Football League.

Football Year means the twelve-month period commencing on 1 November in one year and concluding on 31 October in the next year.

Individual Player Payments Threshold means the amount from time to time determined by the Eastern Football League (which may be expressed as an amount per Match) as the maximum amount or value of Player Payments that may be given to or applied in any Football Year for the benefit of a Player with each

Club and the Associates of a Player of the Club before the Club is required to lodge a Player Declaration in respect of the Player.

Integrity Officer means any person from time to time appointed by the Eastern Football League to that position. A reference to the Integrity Officer in these Rules shall include a reference to any person or persons appointed by the Integrity Officer to act on their behalf.

Legal Practitioner means a person duly qualified to be admitted or who has previously been admitted to practice as a barrister and/or solicitor in the State of Victoria.

Match means any football Match played between or directly or indirectly involving any Club including without limitation any practice Match, trial Match, representative Match or exhibition Match.

Metropolitan League means Eastern Football League.

Person includes a Club, Player, Club Official, servant or agent of a Club, trainer, runner, medical officer, employee, independent contractor or volunteer of a Club.

Player means save as otherwise provided a person who is registered to play for the Club, including any person who is registered to compete in any of the Club's under age teams during the relevant Football Year.

Player Declaration has the meaning given to it in Rule 4(a).

Player Payments Disciplinary Committee means the independent disciplinary committee appointed pursuant to Rule 9(b).

Player Payments means in respect of a Player, any payment, consideration, award, advantage, advance, bonus, fringe benefit, remuneration, salary, superannuation benefit, property or other rights or benefit directly or indirectly given or provided to, or applied for the benefit of, the Player or any Associate of the Player and which:

(a) **relates in any way to, or which is connected with, the Player's past, present or future services with a Club as a football player, or any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the Player to join a Club or to refrain from joining a Club; or**

(b) **is so given, provided or applied by a Club, or by any Associate of a Club, unless the Player, the Club or the Associate of a Club proves to the satisfaction of the Integrity Officer that the payment, consideration, advantage or benefit was paid, given or provided to the Player, or applied for the benefit of the Player or any Associate of a Player, in consideration of bona fide:**

(i) employment with the Club or the Associate of a Club; or

(ii) provision of services to the Club or the Associated of a Club,

not falling within sub-paragraph (a), rendered by the Player.

Premiership Points means the points awarded to a Club during home and away Matches.

Region Commission means Eastern Football League Inc.

Senior Team means a team fielded by a Club in the first 18 team, including all persons selected as interchange Players in such team

Underage Player means any Player who is eligible to compete in any of the Club's under age teams during the relevant Football Year.

Eastern Football League
Community Club Sustainability -
Guidelines for Player Payment Rules
November 2017

The following guidelines (**Guidelines**) are issued by the Eastern Football League to assist Clubs, Club Officials and Players with the application of the Eastern Football League Player Payment Rules (**Player Payment Rules**) and the valuation of Player Payments.
These Guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the Player Payment Rules. In the event of any inconsistency between the Player Payment Rules and the Guidelines, the Player Payment Rules are to prevail. Any terms used in these Guidelines are to be given the same meaning as in the Player Payment Rules.
It is the intention of the Eastern Football League to update these Guidelines from time to time, and prior to the 2019 Season.

Transition Provision - Pre-Existing Playing Contracts

Where a Club and a Player are parties to a written contract in relation to the provision of playing services for a Club (**Pre-Existing Playing Contract**) and:

(a) the Pre-Existing Playing Contract was entered into prior to December 12th 2016;
(b) the Pre-Existing Playing Contract includes the information of the kind required under Rule 4(a)(i)(A) and (B); and
(c) the Pre-Existing Playing Contract is signed by the Player and on behalf of the Club,

then the Club or the Player may lodge the Pre-Existing Contract with the Eastern Football League as the Player Declaration in respect of that Player (and will not be required to lodge a Player Declaration in the form set out in Attachment 1 in respect of that Player).

Club related expenses
Club related expenses that will be deducted by or on behalf of the Club from any payments to a Player (or any Associate of a Player) must be clearly identified and detailed in the Player Declaration and will constitute a Player Payment. Examples of these types of expenses include annual player registration fees, payments for playing apparel and fees for attending social functions.

Club related expenses must be treated in a consistent manner across all Players of a Club.

Coaches / Coaching Staff

A payment made to a coach or coaching staff who is not also a Player (i.e. non-playing coaches and non-playing coaching staff) is not a Player Payment and is not included in the calculation of a Club's Player Payments (unless that payment otherwise constitutes a Player Payment).

Playing coach

Where a Club appoints a single Player as the coach of the Club's Senior Team (i.e. a playing coach), the coaching element of that Player's payments should be specifically identified in the Player Declaration lodged in accordance with Rule 4(a).

For the purposes of the Player Payment Rules, 50% of the payments the Club has given or applied to a playing coach, to a maximum of $20,000 is not a Player Payment and may be excluded from the calculation of the Club's Player Payments. For example, if a playing coach is paid $30,000, then $15,000 would not be a Player Payment and would not be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments. If a playing coach is paid $50,000, then $30,000 would be a Player Payment and be included in the calculation of the Club's Allowable Player Payments.

Co-coaching

Where a Club appoints one coach of the Club's Senior Team who is not a Player, and one coach who is a Player (in a co-coach arrangement), the amount paid to the coach who is a Player that is not a Player Payment and may be excluded from the calculation of the Club's Player Payment calculations is no more 25% of their total remuneration, to a maximum of $10,000.

Where a Club appoints two coaches of the Club's Senior Team who are both Players (in a co-coach arrangement), the amount paid to the coaches that is not to be considered a Player Payment and may be excluded from the calculation of the Club's Player Payments is no more than 25% of the total payments to both coaches, to a maximum of $10,000 per coach.

The exclusion under this guideline applies up to a maximum of two co-coaches. For all Co- Coaching arrangements, clubs must seek a ruling under Rule 8 (d).

Coaching Other Teams

Where a Player coaches any open age team, (other than the Club's Senior Team) or the oldest under age team at the Club (e.g. Under 19, Under 18 or Under 17 team), the payment to the Player for coaching this team must be specifically identified in the Player Declaration, and any payment, to a maximum of $3000, will not be considered a Player Payment and may be excluded in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

General

The guidelines above that allow for the exclusion of certain parts of payments to coaches from Player Payments will only apply where:

(a) all payments to the coach have been specifically detailed in the Player Declaration and the Declarations lodged by the Club under Rule 4(a);

(b) the relevant playing coach or other team coach holds a current AFL Coaching Accreditation; and

(c) the relevant playing coach or other team coach is specifically identified on the team sheet for the relevant Match to which the payment applies.

Any amount not excluded from the calculation of the Club's Player Payments will be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Assistant Coaches
All payments to Players in relation to services to the Club as an assistant coach will be a Player Payment and included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Employment
For the purposes of the Player Payment Rules, when assessing whether an employment arrangement with a Club or an Associate of a Club is bona fide, consideration will be given to, among other things, current commercial practices, market rates for payments for similar employment arrangements and any relevant industry awards.

All employment related payments associated with the operations of the Club (e.g. bar manager, canteen, ground maintenance etc.) must be declared under Rule 4. Clubs may apply for a Ruling under Rule 8(d) as to whether such payments constitute Player Payments and as to their value for the purposes of the Player Payment Rules.

If a Club wishes to employ a Player to fulfil a (non-coaching) Club related role (e.g. groundskeeper) and is of the view that the payments paid to a Player for that employment has not assisted in the recruitment and/or retention of that Player to play in a team of the Club, and it can be shown the Player's qualification and or experience are relevant to the employment, the Club may apply to Eastern Football League for a ruling under Rule 8(d) as to whether such payments constitute Player Payments and as to their value for the purposes of the Player Payment Rules.

Provision of Services
For the purposes of the Player Payment Rules, when assessing whether the provision of services by a Player or an Associate of a Player to a Club or an Associate of a Club is bona fide, consideration will be given to, among other things, current commercial practices and market rates for payments for similar services.

All services related payments associated with the operations of the Club (e.g. bar manager, canteen, ground maintenance etc.) must be declared under Rule 4. Clubs may apply for a Ruling under Rule 8(d) as to whether such payments constitute Player Payments and as to their value for the purposes of the Player Payment Rules.

If a Club wishes to engage a Player to provide (non-coaching) Club related services (e.g. grounds keeping services) and is of the view that the payments paid to a Player has not assisted in the recruitment and/or retention of that Player to play in a team of the Club, and it can be shown the Player's qualification and or experience are relevant to the role, the Club may apply to the Eastern Football League for a ruling under Rule 8(d) as to whether such payments constitute Player Payments and as to their value for the purposes of the Player Payment Rules.

Awards / Incentives
Player incentives / match awards paid in cash are Player Payments and are included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments. This includes Weekly Awards, or incentive / bonus payments made to a Player for awards that relate to (but is not limited to) Club and best and fairest awards, goal kicking and like awards.

Non-cash benefits in the form of an award provided by a Club to Players up to a maximum value of $300 per week per Club, and to a maximum of $100 per week for any one Player of the Club, may be treated as not being a Player Payment and therefore not included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

For the avoidance of doubt, any media, or League awards provided to a Player shall not be a Player Payment and is not included in the calculation of a Club's Player Payments.

Player Affiliation / Player Registration Fees / Player Insurance

Any payment for player affiliation, player registration or insurance which the Club has agreed to pay under their arrangements with an affiliated League, Region Commission or AFL Victoria shall not be a Player Payment and is not included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Any additional insurance (including health and / or income insurance) obtained by a Club on a per team basis shall not be a Player Payment and is not included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Any health and / or income insurance paid by a Club or an Associate of a Club for and on behalf of an individual Player shall be a Player Payment which is included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Loss of income paid to a Player via an insurance policy obtained by the Club shall not be a Player Payment and is not included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Injury Payments / Medical Expenses / One Off Lump Sum Compassionate Payments

A Club may apply to the Eastern Football League for a ruling under Rule 8(d) to approve the payment by a Club of:

(a) injury payments;
(b) the payment of medical expenses; or
(c) a one-off lump sum payment via fundraising activities to be provided to a Player on compassionate grounds,

in respect of a Player, such that these payments are not a Player Payment and are not included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Any such applications must be made to the Eastern Football League before any payment is given or applied to the Player.

The Eastern Football League will consider any such application on a case-by-case basis.

Bonus Payments

All incentive based payments to Players (including playing coaches) shall be treated as a Player Payment, and therefore included in the calculation of a Club's Player Payments. For example, a bonus payment to a Player associated with winning a grand final.

The arrangements for such payment should be detailed in both the Player Payments Budget / Final Declaration statements completed by the Club (see Rule 4(c) & (d)) and the Player Declaration completed by the Player (see Rule 4(a)).

Finals Appearances

Clubs should be aware that any payments relating to finals appearances by Players will be Player Payments, and will be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Travel and Accommodation

Any cash or non-cash payments and benefits given or applied by or on behalf of a Club for travel expenses of a team nature, for example the hiring of a bus to travel to away games, in which the benefit is not received by a Player on an individual basis is not a Player Payment and is not included in the calculation of a Club's Player Payments.

Cash or non-cash payments and benefits given or applied to a Player in connection with their travel or accommodation costs associated with a Player's past, present or future services with a Club as a football player shall be treated as a Player Payment, and therefore are included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

If a Club has any questions about whether its specific travel or accommodation arrangements may constitute a Player Payment it should contact the Eastern Football League. If necessary, a Club may also apply for a ruling under Rule 8(d) in relation to such payments.

Forms

The Player Declaration, Budget / Final Declaration and Non Declared Payment Statement forms for 2018 are annexed as Attachments 1, 2 and 3 of this Guideline respectively.

Rulings

Any ruling made by the Eastern Football League under Rule 8(d) shall be made on the basis of the information provided by the Club. Each such ruling shall be final and binding on the Club making the application for the ruling and shall apply to the particular circumstances of the application. Each ruling will have no precedential value and the Eastern Football League will make each ruling based on the information provided to it by the Club in respect of that application.

Further questions

Should you have any questions about the Player Payment Rules or these Guidelines or if you require information about obtaining a ruling under Rule 8(d), please contact:

Troy Swainston at the Eastern Football League
Tel (03) 9762 5766
t.swainston@efl.org.au

Attachment 1

STANDARD PLAYER DECLARATION *(Rule 4(a))*

NAME, CLUB AND LEAGUE

This Declaration is made by: . . . . . (‘the Player’)
Of: . . . . . Football Club (‘the Club’)
An affiliated club of the: . . . . . .Football League (‘the League’)
Affiliated with: . . . . . (‘State Football Body’)

VALIDITY PERIOD Valid until: . . . . . /. . . . . /. . . . . .

PLAYER PAYMENTS For Home and Away matches (strike through where not applicable)

Per senior match won: $ . . . . . Per senior match lost or drawn: $ . . . . . .
Per non-senior match won: $ . . . . . Per non-senior match lost or drawn: $ . . . . . .
Incentives: $ . . . . . for . . . . . .
Deductions from match pay: Annual subs: $ . . . . . Detail: . . . . . .
Social functions: $ . . . . . Detail: . . . . . .
Club property: $ . . . . . Detail: . . . . . .
Other: $ . . . . . Detail: . . . . . .
Coaching (if applicable): $ . . . . . for . . . . . .
Other payments: $ . . . . . for . . . . . .

DATE FOR PAYMENT ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other (describe): . . . . . .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (strike through where not applicable)

☐ I volunteer in the football and other Club activities as a hobby or pastime.

☐ Any services I provide to the Club are provided as a hobby or pastime.

☐ I do not rely on the above payments (if applicable) for my regular personal income.

☐ I have (if applicable) submitted a ‘statement by a supplier’ to the Club (available at https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/statement-by-a-supplier-not-quoting-an-abn/)

(Note: It is the responsibility of the Player to satisfy themselves that the above acknowledgements are true and correct. Players are encouraged to obtain their own tax advice in respect of the payments they receive in connection with AFL football).

By signing this Declaration, Player and Club confirm they will comply with all applicable rules, regulations and policies including the National Player Transfer Regulations, National Deregistration Policy and applicable State Football Body rules.

SIGNED By the Player: . . . . . Date: . . . . . /. . . . . /. . . . . .
By parent or legal guardian . . . . . Date: . . . . . /. . . . . /. . . . . .
(where Player is under 18 years of age)

For the Club: . . . . . Date: . . . . . /. . . . . /. . . . . .
Position: President | Secretary | Treasurer | Football Manager (delete inapplicable titles)

Attachment A

To assist with allocating the appropriate player points under the Player Points system, Players that are requiring a transfer to this club are required to tick the box if answering yes to the following questions:

In the previous season at the players former club, did the player

☐ Finish top 5 at the former clubs Best and Fairest in the Senior Competition

☐ Represent the VAFA in their Premier A Representative Team

Attachment 2

(*Insert Name*) FOOTBALL CLUB - PLAYER PAYMENTS *(Rule 4(c) & (d))*

201x PLAYER PAYMENTS - BUDGET / FINAL DECLARATION

PLAYERS			SENIORS			NON SENIOR			TOTAL MATCH PAYMENTS $
	Surname	First name	No. Of Games	Rate $	Amount $	No. Of Games	Rate $	Amount $	
1					$0			$0	$0
2					$0			$0	$0
3					$0			$0	$0
4					$0			$0	$0
5					$0			$0	$0
6					$0			$0	$0
7					$0			$0	$0
8					$0			$0	$0
9					$0			$0	$0
10					$0			$0	$0
11					$0			$0	$0
12					$0			$0	$0
13					$0			$0	$0
14					$0			$0	$0
15					$0			$0	$0
16					$0			$0	$0
17					$0			$0	$0
18					$0			$0	$0
19					$0			$0	$0
20					$0			$0	$0
21					$0			$0	$0
22					$0			$0	$0
23					$0			$0	$0
24					$0			$0	$0
25					$0			$0	$0
26					$0			$0	$0
27					$0			$0	$0
28					$0			$0	$0
29					$0			$0	$0
30					$0			$0	$0
31					$0			$0	$0
32					$0			$0	$0
33					$0			$0	$0
34					$0			$0	$0
35					$0			$0	$0
36					$0			$0	$0
37					$0			$0	$0
38					$0			$0	$0
39					$0			$0	$0
40					$0			$0	$0

Match Awards	SENIORS			NON SENIOR			
	No. Of Games	Rate $	Amount $	No. Of Games	Rate $	Amount $	TOTAL PAYMENTS $
Cash			$0			$0	$0
Non Cash			$0			$0	$0

Other Player Payments				
	Surname	First Name	Detail of other Player Payments (e.g. incentives for best and fairest)	AMOUNT $
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Any other payments to a Player (or their Associates) in respect of coaching, employment, provision of services or otherwise.				
	Surname	First Name	Detail of Arrangements	AMOUNT $ $
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Detail of arrangements to be attached as necessary and consistent with Rule 4 (c)(i)(C) and Rule 4(d)(i)(D)

TOTAL PLAYER PAYMENTS $
$

Notes:

1. Where a Player may be on a different rate for win/loss, please enter that Player's details on separate lines.
2. A Club should detail all Player Payments, and advise if they believe that any discount or exemptions apply under the Guidelines or any rulings under Rule 8.

We hereby verify that this is an accurate summary of the **Budget / Final Declaration** (delete as relevant) of Player Payments given or applied by a Club or Associate of the Club in the Season in respect of Players of the Club and Associates of the Players.

_____ ../../20xx _____ ../../20xx

President Secretary/ Treasurer / Football Manager (delete as relevant)

Attachment 3

(*Insert Name*) FOOTBALL CLUB *(Rule 4(b))*

NON DECLARED PLAYER STATEMENT

	Surname	First name	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

In signing this document, the Player hereby confirms and declares that he or she and their Associates will:

(a) receive Player Payments for the 201x season less than the [#insert individual threshold for each Metropolitan League/Region Commission]; or

(b) not receive any Player Payments for the 201x season and is expected to, or has played in the Senior Team in the current season, and is not required to sign a Player Declaration in accordance with the provisions of Eastern Football League Player Payment Rules.

We hereby verify that this is an accurate statement of all of Non Declared Players registered with the club.

_____ ../../20xx

_____ ../../20xx

President Secretary/ Treasurer / Football Manager (delete as relevant)

Eastern Region Women's Rules & Regulations 2017

This document will set out the official guidelines governing Eastern Region Women's Football. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the EFL By-Laws.
Any matter not referred to in the document will be addressed in the EFL By-Laws.
These guidelines may be updated from time to time at the discretion of the ERWFL.

DEFINITIONS
SEWF – 'South East Women's Football' – A collective group consisting of AFL South East, Eastern Football League and Southern Football Netball League, administering women's football competitions, including the regional divisional competitions.

ERWFL – 'Eastern Region Women's Football League' - The ERWFL women's competition will be recognised as a sub division of the SEWF

VFLW – Women's State League competition.

1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Players in the ERWFL must be of the female gender as verified by the appropriate Victorian State Government documentation.

1.2 Players in the ERWFL must be 16 years of age as of 1st January for the season in which they wish to register.

1.3 A player shall be eligible to play in official matches for the ERWFL after the completion of the online registration and subsequent approvals.

1.4 Players under the age of 18 years as of the 1st January each season must have Parental / Guardian consent.

1.5 Players must seek a transfer from their club to play at a different club regardless of if that club nominates for the ensuing season.

1.6 Any player found to have participated in a match authorized or conducted by the ERWFL without the appropriate permit / transfer granted may be dealt with by the League.

1.7 Any club that allows a player to play in any home and away games or finals series where that player is: a) not registered with the ERWFL; or
b) not permitted to play with that club; or
c) is under suspension; or
d) is not qualified under ERWFL regulations shall be liable to:

• a fine for breach not exceeding $500; and/or Disqualification from the competition; and /or Loss of 4 premiership points for each match in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams as ERWFL deems fit. ERWFL may also deal with the player concerned as it deems fit.

1.8 No person shall be qualified to play for a club in any match played under the auspices of the ERWFL:
a) who is not for the time being a duly registered playing member of such club or holder of a permit to play;

b) who is under any disqualification or who has not paid any fine for breach imposed by any competent authority. A record of such disqualification or fine for breach (as far as known) shall be kept by the League and shall be available for inspection by all officials at any time.
c) unless she is the holder of all required clearances and permits.

1.9 A reported player may continue to play with her club until her case is heard by the Tribunal and any suspension that may be given shall commence from the date of the Tribunal's decision, unless the league rules otherwise. The suspended player is not permitted to play in any division of the SEWF or VFLW competition whilst under suspension.

1.10 Any player or club representative who makes any misstatement or misrepresentation in applying for: a) registration;
b) a clearance approval
may be dealt with by ERWFL by way of:

- a fine for breach not exceeding $500.00; and/or
- disqualification from the competition; and/or
- loss of 4 premiership points for each match in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams.

2. PERMITS

2.1 Youth Girl players wanting to play in the SEWF must request their SEWF or Development League club to apply for a '2. Local Interchange Permit'; this allows the permitted player to play for both clubs for the duration of the permit.

2.2 Youth Girl players must not apply for:
a) Match Day Permits
b) Temporary Transfers

2.3 SEWF players wanting to play in another state out of the official SEWF season should apply for a Transfer. No interstate interchange agreements exist and permits are not allowed

2.4 Interstate players wanting to play in the SEWF must also apply for a Transfer. No interstate interchange agreements exist and permits are not allowed.

3. FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

3.1 All ERWFL divisions shall consist of a maximum of 25 players with a maximum of 18 players from one team being permitted on the field at any time during a quarter.

3.2 A team must consist of a minimum of 12 players before play can commence, and the evening up rules apply as per regulation 4.

3.3 Promotion and Relegation
a) The team winning the premiership in a division may be promoted to the next higher division.
b) The team finishing on the bottom of the ladder in any division may be relegated to the next lower division.
c) SEWF may decide not to promote a premiership team, or not to relegate a team that finished on the bottom of the ladder if it was deemed detrimental to the competition for that team to be promoted or relegated.

d) The promotion or relegation of a team that was not the premiership team or did not finish on the bottom of the division will be by determined by SEWF in consultation with the club involved.

3.4 A club joining the League shall be entitled to participate only in the division determined by SEWF.

4. Evening Up Rule

4.1 ERWFL expects all team officials to understand and adhere to the 'spirit' of this rule, which is, the team that has the greater number of players available shall lend as many players as possible to equalize numbers with the other team so that all players available to participate in that match shall have the opportunity to play in as much of that match as possible. If both teams have full sides, an 18 a side game shall be played.

4.2 Where one team has between 12 and 18 players and the second team has more players than the first team, both teams shall field the same number of players, therefore an equal number of players shall take the field. Exceptions to this rule apply in certain circumstances – refer to 4.6.

4.3 If a team begins with less than 12 players the match will be forfeited, however a match must still occur as a scratch match.

4.4 If during a match, a team's playing numbers drop to below 12 players a forfeit will occur and the match must continue with an equal number of players on the field for both sides.

4.5 If players are not offered to the team with less than 18 players, then playing numbers must be reduced so that both teams field the same number of players. If players are offered, but not accepted, then the team with the greater number of players is not required to reduce playing numbers, i.e. the evening up rule does not apply.

4.6 If players are not offered, the team refusing to offer players will have their interchange bench capped at 3 players. The players on the field and the 3 interchange are the only players permitted to participate in the match.

4.7 Team Managers, particularly from the Team that requires the evening-up rule to apply, must ensure that the process is organized as early as possible and prior to the teams taking the field.

4.8 Late Arrivals - Should a player arrive late, that player may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:

a) The Team Manager shall inform the Officials of the other Team.

b) The opposition team is to be informed when the players are ready to take the field that the playing numbers of each side are to be increased.

c) Addition to the playing numbers on the field can only be made providing the numbers on the field remain equal for both teams.

d) Any head count to be performed inline with the ERWFL By-Laws.

4.9 Loss of players during the match due to injury or illness - Should a player be removed from the field due to injury or illness and the team has no interchange players, as soon as practicable but no later than at the next quarter break teams should even the playing numbers. In this circumstance a player should be offered to the opposition to top up, if the team has players on the interchange or a player can be removed and guideline 4.6 does not apply.

4.10 Daily loan of players - When players are loaned, the Team Manager of both teams shall note on the Team Sheet the number of players loaned. Players may be loaned on a quarter by quarter rotating basis or for the whole match as appropriate.

4.11 Any dispute regarding this rule will be referred to ERWFL who will determine penalties, if any, to be applied. Penalties may include loss of premiership points and/or score by the offending team and/or the Club of the offending team shall be penalized as ERWFL deems fit.

4.12 The Evening up Rule is not to be applied in Finals.

4.13 Where a player is ordered off the field by the Field Umpire and there is no replacement available. There is no requirement to even-up the playing numbers on the field.

5. FORFEITS

5.1 Should any Member Club not be ready to start a match within twenty (20) minutes of the appointed starting time, the opposition Member Club will be deemed to have won the match.

5.2 Should a Member Club be aware in the week prior to a match that it will be unable to participate in the match, it must give written notice of such inability to the secretary of the opposing Member Club and the General Manager - Operations by the business day prior to the date fixed for the match.

5.3 A Member Club failing to field a team with a minimum of twelve (12) Players within twenty (20) minutes of the appointed starting time of the match shall automatically forfeit the match at that point in time.

5.4 If, during the course of a match a Member Club's team is reduced to less than 12 Players the match shall be forfeited as a consequence and the team sheets shall immediately be signed on the ground by the two Team Managers in the presence of the Field Umpire, who shall endorse the team sheets with his signature, date and time. The Field Umpire shall forward the team sheets to the League office in the usual manner, marked to the attention of the General Manager - Operations.

5.5 Any Member Club failing to fulfil its obligation shall:

a) pay all umpires expenses relative to the match.
b) submit to the CEO a written statement of reasons for non-completion of the match.
c) deliver a team sheet to either the senior Field Umpire on the day the match was scheduled to have been played, or to the General Manager - Operations by 9:00 am on the next business day following the scheduled match.

5.6 Aside from failing to fulfil its obligation, a Member Club may also forfeit a match if:

a) When required by the CEO, it fails to give notice of a suitable replacement venue for a match to the CEO and the opposing Club by 5.00pm on the Thursday preceding the date of the scheduled match.
b) it refuses to play when so ordered by the Field Umpire unless either both team captains have agreed that the playing arena is unsuitable for play, in which event contact must be made with the General Manager - Operations or, if the match is a Finals match, the CEO has determined that the playing arena is unsuitable for play.

5.7 The CEO will review the reasons for the Member Club not fulfilling its obligation and, if he/she thinks necessary, may impose a penalty allowed by these By-Laws.

5.8 Where no result has been achieved in a match, the team of the Member Club not responsible for such a result shall be awarded a forfeit.

5.9 Where a Member Club receives a forfeit, it shall be entitled to lodge an official team sheet for the match in question, whereupon the Players named on the list will be recorded as having played in the round, provided that the team sheet is lodged with the General Manager - Operations on the next business day.

5.10 Where a team receives a forfeit due to the other team not being able to fulfil its obligations to play, that team shall be granted the four (4) match points and the scores shall be calculated as follows:

a) When a team forfeits a scheduled match it shall be credited the lowest 'FOR' points scored in that grade on that day and be debited with the highest 'AGAINST' points scored in that grade on that day.
b) Their opponent shall be credited the highest 'FOR' points scored in that grade on the day and be debited the lowest 'AGAINST' points scored in that grade that day.

5.11 In addition, the Board Executive may disqualify a Member Club who has failed to fulfil its engagement from further premiership matches or otherwise deal with such Member Club as it thinks fit as allowed by these By-Laws.

6. FIXTURE CHANGES

6.1 Clubs desiring to conduct matches on a day or time other than that published by the League in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied: a) a Fixture Change Request is forwarded via email to the Operation Manager 10 business days prior to the fixture match indicating any alterations to time of commencement, venues or day of the published fixture, including confirmation of the change from the opposition;

6.2 request for matches to be fixtured at night are forwarded to SEWF office accompanied with verification the lights at the proposed venue have a minimum lux reading of 100 LUX.

7. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

7.1 **To Participate in ERWFL Finals Matches**

a) To be eligible to play in the clubs second SEWF team finals matches a player must have played in three home and away matches for that particular division during the current season.
b) Any player playing 7 or more matches with a club's first SEWF team in the home and away matches is ineligible to play with that club's second SEWF team in the finals series.
c) Any player included on an official VFL list can, provided she has qualified under the Rules described in rule 7, return to play with the SEWF in the finals.
d) Any player that plays 7 or more games in any season in the VFLW Competitions is ineligible to play any SEWF finals in that season.
e) SEWF players are not permitted to play more than one SEWF game during the finals series in a weekend.

f) Players that play a second game on the same weekend during the home and away season due to lack of numbers must be noted with an asterisk and SEWF should be informed in writing as to why this occurred by Monday 12pm following the scheduled match.
g) Where a player participates in more than one SEWF match on any weekend during the home and away season, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played.
h) All Players shall be entitled to free movement between grades, where the Member Club fields more than one team in the SEWF provided that only two (2) Players, who have played in eight (8) or more games in a higher grade, shall be permitted to play in a lower grade during the subsequent Home and Away matches.

7.2 **Eligibility of players to play between the SEWF and VFLW Competitions**

a) In the event that a bye occurs in a VFLW division, no more than 3 players that played in the VFLW in the previous fixture game can play in a lower division for that round without prior consent from ERWFL.
b) A VFLW player is only eligible to play in a SEWF team during a VFLW bye weekend, if they have previously played 1 game for that SEWF division prior to the bye in the current season.

Rule 7.1 b and c are disregarded where any club fields both SEWF teams in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.

8. MATCH TIME FRAMES

8.1 Each match shall consist of four 20 minute quarters for all divisions ¼ and ¾ time breaks are 5 minutes and ½ time break is 15 minutes.

8.2 Time on shall be called for interruption of play due to injury as determined by the umpire.

8.3 The umpire may, at their discretion, indicate time on for any other reason.

8.4 Match time frames may be adjusted by the ERWFL due to logistical reasons to ensure games days run to schedule.

9. EQUIPMENT

9.1 The home team shall supply two official ERWFL Sherrin match balls (Size 4), in good condition. The endorsed ERWFL sponsor logo must appear on the match ball when applicable.

10. UNIFORM

10.1 Metal boot studs, bobby pins, jewellery and piercings and not permitted to be worn at any time on the field of play.

10.2 A player on the field of play who is not wearing the correct uniform as per the above Regulation shall be sent from the ground until the item is removed. The player can be replaced in this time.

11. UMPIRES

11.1 Teams must supply a goal and boundary umpire for each match unless arrangements have been made with the ERWFL to supply official league umpires. Club supplied goal and boundary umpires must be 15 years of age or over.

11.2 If a team fails to supply a boundary umpire or goal umpire, the game shall not commence and the umpire shall direct the offending team's captain to appoint players from their team, who are on the ground, to fulfil these positions. Players who are instructed to fill the positions of goal or boundary umpire shall not take part in the match. If a team fails to comply with the request of the umpire to supply a goal or boundary umpire, that team shall forfeit the match.

11.3 The goal umpires shall record the scores on the cards provided by ERWFL and check the scores on the cards between quarters and at the conclusion of the match. Any discrepancy between the scores shall be rectified as soon as possible in consultation with the field umpire. The cards shall be properly completed and signed by the goal umpires.

11.4 Clubs are also responsible for supplying goal umpires with a set of flags and, a pen and goal umpire cards. Club boundary umpires shall, as a minimum, be attired in in league approved uniform, as sourced from ERWFL.

11.5 Official Powers a) Only umpires appointed by the ERWFL shall have the power to report players, clubs and officials in accordance with such of the Laws of Australian Football, adopted by SEWF from time to time and for any breach of these Regulations.

12. ORDER OFF / REPORTING / TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE – AS PER EFL BY-LAWS

For the avoidance of doubt:
-Yellow Card- 15 minutes playing time off ground. Can be replaced.
-Red Card or Second Yellow Card- Off ground for remainder of game. Can be replaced.

13. *25 METRE PENALTY*

13.1 A 25 metre penalty shall replace the 50 metre penalty as referred to in section 18 of the Laws of Australian Football.

EASTERN REGION GIRLS BY-LAWS

These guidelines relate to specific scenarios unique to the Eastern Region Girls competition. If there is no guideline listed on an occasion, all teams operate under the rules and by-laws of their home competition.

Girls

Under 10	Sherrin – Size 3 (Synthetic)
Under 12	Sherrin – Size 3 (Synthetic)
Under 14	Sherrin - Size 3 (Leather)
Under 16	Sherrin – Size 4 (Leather)
Under 18	Sherrin – Size 4 (Leather)

All footballs used must have league approved sponsors logo.
In age groups (under 10 - 12) two synthetic footballs in good condition must be supplied. In the age groups (Under 14 -18) two approved red or yellow leather footballs in good condition must be supplied.

Preferred Starting times;

Under 10/12	10.05 am
Under 14	11.25 am
Under 16	12.55 pm
Under 18	2.45 pm

Game Duration

Under 10/12	Quarter: 4x10 mins	Breaks 3-5-3
Under 14	Quarter: 4x15 mins	Breaks: 5-10-5
Under 16/18	Quarter: 4x17 mins	Breaks: 5-10-5

1. PLAYERS AGE

To be eligible to play in the Eastern Region Girls Competition, players must fall in the following age brackets:
Under 10: January 1st, 2008 – December 31st, 2010
Under 12: January 1st, 2006 – December 31st, 2007
Under 14: January 1st, 2004 – December 31st, 2005
Under 16: January 1st, 2002 – December 31st, 2003
Under 18: January 1st, 2000 – December 31st, 2001

1.2 Players may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:
- Play more than two years above her registered age ground

2. PLAYING NUMBERS

To constitute a game, a team must start the game with the at least the minimum number of players. Failure to do so will see the team forfeit the game.

Age Group	Minimum Numbers	Maximum playing numbers (on ground)
Under 10	12	16
Under 12	12	16
Under 14	14	18

Under 16	14	18
Under 18	14	18

Where a team has less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground, the opposition can offer players to even number numbers on field.
Where this offer is made it cannot be refused by the team with less numbers.

2.3 Should the team with lesser numbers lose a player, through injury alone (*not penalties through yellow and red cards*) the opposition is to even-up at the next possible opportunity.

2.4 Where a side falls below the minimum numbers to continue a match, umpires and officials shall record the score, time of game and any other relevant information and send to the league to gain a final decision on the outcome of the game. The match will continue to its scheduled completion time.

3. **INTERCHANGE**

3.1 At the commencement of any match, a maximum of eight (8) interchange players from each competing team will be allowed. Should on field playing numbers decrease during a game, interchange numbers can increase in equal measure.

3.2 Players must interchange through designated interchange area.

4. MATCH OFFICIALS

4.1 Officials required;

Team Coach	(Accredited)	All age groups
Team Manager		All age groups
Trainer	(Accredited)	All age groups
Water Carrier		All age groups
Runner		All age groups
Timekeeper		All age groups
Boundary Umpire		All age groups (except Under 10/12)
Goal Umpire		All age groups
Umpires Escort		All age groups

4.2 Each team shall be permitted no more than four (4) non-playing officials on the bench during matches;

Coaches and officials must remain in the designated interchange area when coaching from the bench, to keep a clear path for the boundary umpire to pass.

4.3 Each team shall be permitted a maximum of three (3) persons to perform each duty of water carriers and trainers. A team may have no more than a combined total of six trainers and water carriers.

Trainers can be positioned inside the teams' bench when actively treating a player. Once treatment is complete the trainer must move back to the designated boxes around the ground should the number of non-playing officials exceed four.

4.4 Each club must provide at least one accredited trainer at all ERGFL games. A minimum of Sports Medicine Australia Level One accreditation is required to comply with this; No person shall be permitted by any club to perform the duties of trainer in any official ERGFL games unless such trainer has a current accreditation. A minimum of Sports Medicine Australia Sports First Aid accreditation is required.

A trainer may only enter the playing surface to attend to an injured player and must not perform the duties of a drink carrier or runner.

4.5 Drink carriers may only deliver drinks to players while a set shot for goal is in progress, after a goal has been scored or when the ball is at the opposite end of the ground.

- Drink carriers must not perform the duties of a runner, must not be based near or out of the coaches' box/area, and must be stationed in the designated area where the boundary line intersects with the 50m arc.
- Drink carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age (In Competitive Age groups). The maximum age of drink carriers is eighteen (18) years of age – In All Age Groups.

5. TEAM LISTS

5.1 All teams must hand a signed team sheet to the officiating umpire prior to the commencement of the second half.

- All participating players and officials must sign the team sheet.
- All players listed on the team sheet must be registered and permitted to the ERGFL database.

6. FINALS QUALIFICATION

6.1 A player must play a minimum of three (3) home and away matches in a division to qualify for finals.

6.2 The first team a player plays her fifth (5th) match in is the only team they can qualify for finals in.

6.3 Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age grade a player is permitted to move between teams, however:

- 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.
- Players in the lower rated team are free to move to the higher rated team during the first round of matches.
- The first team a player plays 5 games is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.

- Where a bye is fixture in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.
- If a club with multiple teams in one age group forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team.

6.4 Female players, should they meet the qualification criteria for both competitions. May qualify for finals in both female and mixed competitions.

7. PERMITS

7.1 Permits will only be considered for development players in the Under 18's competition however all permits are granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the league.

7.2 Permit players will be monitored during the season. The league reserves the right to rescind a permit at any time, if a permit player's performance is seen to exceed what is reasonably expected from a development player.

7.3 Players are ineligible if:

- They have played in the TAC Cup
- Club is fielding a development women's team

8. ORDER OFF RULE

8.1 Players in any grade may be ordered from the field by a field umpire and may be reported.

- Any player who receives a yellow card will be ordered from the field for a period of 15 minutes of playing time, with the time commencing once play has been resumed following the yellow card being issued. The offending player can be replaced.
- If a player receives a second yellow card in the same match, the offending player will be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match. The field umpire shall signal to the Timekeepers the player's second order off by holding up a red card.
- Time-keepers will record the order-off by noting the elapsed time of the quarter & the player may return once the penalty time has elapsed not including breaks. Timekeepers are to waive the, Hosting club provided, Red & Yellow flag to signal to the team benches that the send-off time has elapsed.

8.2 A coach or any official in the match may be issued a yellow or red card by an umpire. In such circumstance, the coach/official may not be involved in the game in any official capacity for the duration of penalty applicable to the yellow or red card.

8.3 Any player receiving more than one yellow card during the season will receive an automatic 1-week suspension.

9. UNIFORM

9.1 Clubs must adhere to the uniform by-laws of their affiliated league for club and team officials.

9.2 Players must wear club jumper, home shorts and club football socks at all games. No jewellery is to be worn under any circumstances. Taped jewellery is NOT allowed.

- Club jumpers must have either the logo of their affiliated league or the Eastern Region Girls competition logo.
- When a colour clash occurs, it is the responsibility of the away team to organise an alternate strip for the game.
- In all finals matches, it is the responsibility of the lower ranked side to organise an alternate strip for the game.

9.3 Runners must wear league approved tops and shorts/pants.

9.4 Drink Carriers and trainers are required to wear;
Top: club polo and/or club jacket. Approved League drink carrier uniform
Bottom: club tracksuit pants or club shorts.

10. COACHES

10.1 All Coaches are to hold a current coaching accreditation and comply with their affiliated leagues by laws.

11. MODFIED GROUND SIZES (U10&U12).

11.1 The Maximum ground field size for U10 & U12 games is: 120m x 80m.

12. COMPETITION LADDERS

12.1 4 Match Points will be awarded for H&A wins & Forfeits For. 2 Match Points awarded to each team for a Draw. Match Ratio may be used where uneven games are played. Scores will be recorded to assist with Grading. No Percentage will be used. To determine a finishing position where a TIE in

Points &/Or MR, please refer to the Tie Breaker rules which will be determined and distributed each season.

13. TRIBUNALS AND APPEALS

13.1 Refer to the Tribunal and Appeals procedures of their home competition.

Age Group	UNDER 10	UNDER 12	UNDER 14	UNDER 16	UNDER 18
Phase	Introductory	Development	Competition	Competition	Competition
Ground Size	Max: 120m x 80m	Max: 120m x 80m	Full	Full	Full
Age Qualification	1/1/2008 – 31/12/2010	1/1/2006 – 31/12/2007	1/1/2004 – 31/12/2005	1/1/2002 – 31/12/2003	1/1/2000 – 31/12/2001
Maximum Player Lists	24	24	26	26	26
Players on Ground	Min:12 Max:16	Min:12 Max:16	Min: 14 Max: 18	Min: 14 Max: 18	Min: 14 Max: 18
Players on Bench	8	8	8	8	8
Officials on Bench	4	4	4	4	4
Evening up Rule	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Ball	Size 3 (Synthetic)	Size 3 (Synthetic)	Size 3 (Leather)	Size 4 (Leather)	Size 4 (Leather)
Start Time	10:05am	10:05am	11:25am	12:55pm	2:45pm
Quarter Duration	10	10	15	17	17
Break Duration *(1/4-1/2-3/4)*	3-5-3	3-5-3	5-10-5	5-10-5	5-10-5
Scoring/Results/ Ladders	✔ *(Not published)*	✔ (Top 5)	✔ (Top 5)	✔ (Top 5)	✔ (Top 5)
Finals	✕	4 Week – Top 5	4 Week – Top 5	4 Week – Top 5	4 Week – Top 5
Umpires	Field: 1 (EFL/ AFLYR) Boundary: 0 Goal: 0	Field: 1 (EFL/ AFLYR) Boundary: 0 Goal: 2	Field: 1 (EFL/ AFLYR) Boundary: 0 Goal: 2	Field: 1 (EFL/ AFLYR) Boundary: 2 Goal: 2	Field: 1 (EFL/ AFLYR) Boundary: 2 Goal: 2
Tackling/ Bumping	✕	✔	✔	✔	✔
Barging/ Stealing	✕	✔	✔	✔	✔
Yellow Card	15 Mins – Can be replaced	15 Mins – Can be replaced	15 Mins – Can be replaced	15 Mins – Can be replaced	15 Mins – Can be replaced
Red Card	Remainder – can be replaced	Remainder – can be replaced	Remainder – can be replaced	Remainder – can be replaced	Remainder – can be replaced
Shepherding	✕	✔	✔	✔	✔
Bouncing	1 max	1 max	✔	✔	✔
Deliberate kick off the Ground	✕	✕ (No accidental Score)	✕ (No accidental Score)	✔	✔
Marking	Any distance	No less than 5m	✔	✔	✔
Playing on	✕	✕	✔	✔	✔
Advantage	✕	✕	✔	✔	✔
Ball-ups	2 opponents' Same height/ Must tap	✔	✔	✔	✔
Throw-ins	Free kick against last touch	Free kick against last touch	Free kick against last touch	✔	✔
Behind Scored	Ball returned to centre	Kick-in	Kick-in	Kick-in	Kick-in
Penalty Distance (m)			25	25	25

NETBALL EFL

RULES & REGULATIONS 2018

1. DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

a) The Netball EFL Rules and Regulations are the statement of rules of the competition.

b) Where the Netball EFL Rules and Regulations are silent on a particular matter, refer to the Eastern Football League Bylaws, which shall apply. a decision can be made by the League. In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the League may, acting reasonably, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these Rules and Regulations relating to the League. The League may also apply, at its discretion, one of it Bylaws in relation to the Netball competition.

c) As a Netball Victoria (NV) Affiliated competition; players, officials (including league umpires) and spectators are to abide by all NV stipulated Codes of Behaviour. Copies of these codes are available at https://nvclubhouse.com.au/document/1019/nv-codes-of-behaviour

2. AFFILIATION

a) The League that all Netball teams entered into the competition are affiliated with an EFL Football Club.

3. PERSONNEL

a) Netball Manager is an employee of the Eastern Football League appointed to manage the Netball competition.

b) Umpire Coordinator is an employee of the Eastern Football League appointed to oversee the recruitment, appointments, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a) All correspondence from the club must be from the Club Secretary or authorized contact to the EFL.

b) All correspondence from the Eastern Football League shall be directed to the club Secretary or the Authorized Netball Contact.

5. CLUBS/TEAMS CONDITIONS

A Club applying for entry into the Competition shall;

a) agree to abide by the policy and rules of NetballEFL

b) agree to abide by the rules and conditions of entry of the venues

c) agree to abide by Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct

d) In the event of a Club withdrawing a team from the competition;

   i. Once competition matches have commenced – there will be no reimbursement of Club Registration fees received.

   ii. Club registration Fees/Insurance for 2018 will be $1300.00

6. MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATIONS

a) Netball Victoria's membership fee is set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc. and shall be communicated to all Club's annually.

b) All players, coaches and umpires must be registered with the Eastern Football League

c) All players must have a current Netball Victoria Membership (VNA) prior to taking the court or commencing participation. 2018 VNA fees are: $73.00 (senior) and $53.00 (junior)

d) Penalty for playing a player who is not registered with the league and/or financial with Netball Victoria:

i. Loss of 4 Premiership Points; and/or
ii. $50 fine;
iii. Second offence: penalty to be determined by the League.

7. TRANSFERS/CLEARANCES

a) Any player wanting to obtain a transfer permit to another Club prior to or during the season must complete a Clearance form and forward to the NetballEFL Manager for processing.
b) No player will be granted more than one (1) transfer permit per season. No transfer permit shall be granted after the seventh (7) round of matches.
c) A player must have received notification in writing from the League before playing for the new Club.
d) A transfer permit may also be refused if there are any outstanding fees or equipment.
e) The exiting club has six (6) business days to respond the transfer or the player will automatically transfer to the new club.
f) An email will be sent to the new club detailing whether the transfer has been accepted or rejected.
g) If the transfer permit is refused by the club, then it is up to the player to ensure that the issue is resolved before another transfer permit application is submitted.
h) Best and Fairest votes will transfer with the player should they remain in the NetballEFL competition.
i) The number of games played in the current season will NOT transfer with a player to the new club, i.e. they will need to qualify for finals with the new club.

Penalties: Penalty for breaking any part of Rule (a)-(d), shall result in a forfeit with a 10-nil score or the highest winning margin from that round, recorded in favour of the non-offending team, as well as a fine of $100 for each game an unregistered or uncleared player takes the court.

8. PLAYERS

a) Players must have a current Netball Victoria Membership (VNA) to take the court. Any fill in players will need to note their VNA number on the scoresheet.
b) Single game vouchers will be available and will only constitute a current Netball Victoria Membership for the game granted.
c) Any Player found playing in the competition with no current VNA will incur the penalties as outlined in 6.d).
d) Players must also be registered on SportsTG before playing any game.
e) Players must complete the online registration form or a paper Netball EFL Registration Form (should time not permit them to go online) prior to taking the court.
f) Players must have turned or be turning 15 during the season to compete in the competition.
g) A player is eligible to play in a competition if they are listed on the Clubs/Team entry for that competition.
h) Players may not take the court in more than one game on a night.
i) If a club enters teams into multiple sections, players may transfer between teams until that player plays their fourth home and away game with a particular team, they may not play further games for any lower section during the Home and Away season or during finals.
j) A Player may play no more than 4 games in a higher division to be able to return down to the lower division.

k) Players must take the court and compete in 4 games with the same team during the home and away season to be eligible to participate in that team's finals. Participation in at least one week of grading will be the equivalent to one home and way game.
l) They must have played one of those games before the last four games.
m) Teams found playing an ineligible player during the home and away season and finals series will be considered to have lost the match. The game score or forfeit result, whichever the greater will be used.

9. COACHES

a) All official coaches must hold a senior Netball Victoria Membership (VNA)
b) Coaching is permitted during any stoppage by appointed coach that is listed on Team sheet. That coach shall be the only person that may approach the players at the Side Line. Bench players may also approach the Side Line if coaching occurs.
c) During a Stoppage any Team Official may approach the players at the Side Line for the purpose of providing rehydration.
d) Coaching is not permitted from the team's allocated scorer at any point throughout play or at any stoppage. During breaks the scorer can approach the bench.
e) At no time during a match (including intervals) are coaches permitted to approach umpires. Any discussion made with the umpires MUST be made by the team captain.

Penalty: $100.00 fine to the offending club for any breach of the above.

10. UMPIRES

a) The Eastern Football League will appoint an Umpire Coordinator to oversee the recruitment, appointments, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.
b) Umpires will be appointed to matches by the Eastern Football League.
c) Umpires officiating must be A, B or C Grade accredited or approved trainees through the umpire development program.
d) All netballlEFL Umpires will be dressed appropriately in umpire's attire: White T-Shirt, White shorts or skirt and appropriate sports shoes.
e) Finals Umpires will be appointed by the Umpire Coordinator.
f) Umpires will be required to complete a Match Report after each game, noting any warnings/cautions given, team and crowd behaviour or any other notes the umpire deems necessary to report to the Netball Manager.
g) Any conduct deemed to be unbecoming or bringing the game into disrepute (behaviour that is beyond the issuing of a warning/sanction) will be reportable by one or both officiating umpires.
    i. Any report is to be recorded and submitted to the Eastern Football League by 10am Monday post match. The Eastern Football League will consider any report. Offenders may receive any or all of the following penalties as deemed suitable by the Eastern Football League.

Penalty: Loss of Premiership points for the team, Suspension from NetballEFL home and away games & finals or club fines.

11. BEST AND FAIREST VOTING

a) Voting for Best & Fairest shall be as follows:

i. The match umpires shall award votes of the three best and fairest players in each Home and Away game, voting shall be 3 votes for the best and fairest player, 2 votes for the second best and fairest player and 1 vote for the third best and fairest player.
ii. Votes are to be recorded on the Umpire Match Report, placed in the provided envelope and then handed to the Venue Manager or NetballEFL Manager.

12. DRESS CODE:

a) Each Club must register its uniform prior to the commencement of the season.
b) In the Clubs first year in the competition, uniforms may be a club coloured skirt, shorts, tops or dresses. From year two onwards Clubs shall register an official netballEFL uniform.
c) All players are to be in correct uniform for matches with the whole team being in the same uniform.
d) No bikini pants, see through pants, slacks, leggings or track suit pants are permitted.
e) Skins/bike pants may be worn under dress, but must be skin or black in colour and must not extend below the dress.
f) If there are religious or medical reasons why a player should wear particular head coverings or other items of clothing, the club or team must notify the Netball Manager in writing BEFORE the season commences, or as soon as possible, if for medical reasons. It must state the reason for the non-standard uniform. Only the player(s) named in the correspondence will be permitted to be "out of uniform" during match times. Any item to be worn must not interfere with play or be a hindrance or danger to other players on the court.
g) For future compliance, the final design of new uniforms must be approved by the EFL and must include the netballEFL and Bendigo Bank logo on the right-hand breast. Uniforms must be ordered through the leagues three licences suppliers (Hanes Brands, Sherwood or ESP Clubhouse).

Nails

h) Nails must be short and smooth OR taped using the approved material tape or approved sporting gloves.
i) Long nails must be tapped even if players choose to wear gloves.
j) Long Fingernail - 1 piece of tape over the top and one 1 piece of tape around the nail

Jewellery

k) No item of jewellery except a wedding ring and or a medical alert bracelet may be worn and shall be taped.
l) Body piercing (ears, nose and eyebrow) which cannot be removed should be taped. No adornment that may endanger player safety may be worn.

Penalty: The Umpire shall have the right to stand off a player out of uniform before the start of a game, however once they have taken the court, they may not be removed. If a nail or jewellery infringement occurs during the match, the player may be asked to remove the jewellery or tape over the top.

13. GRADING

a) There will four (4) grading games at the start of each season. Scores shall be entered with the winning team receiving 4 points for a win, 0 points for a loss and 2 points for a draw. Percentage will not be given.
b) After the four grading games, adjustments will be made to team's divisions if required. The Netball Manager shall have the final decision regarding grading.

c) Grading allocations will be subject to final ladder positions from the previous season (based on promotion and relegation).
d) If a team is re-graded during a season, premiership points and goals for and against accrued in the initial grade in that season will be transferred and apply in the new grade the team has been entered into for the remainder of the season.

14. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

a) All matches shall be played on a Friday night at Knox Regional Netball Centre, Oxley College, Fair Hills Secondary College and Gloria Pyke Netball Complex.
b) Matches will be scheduled at the following timeslots: 6:45pm, 7:45pm, 8:45pm and 9:45pm.
c) Premier Division Games will play 4 x 15 minute quarters with an interval of 2 minutes between the first and second quarters, an interval of 4 minutes at half time and another 2 minutes between third and fourth quarter.
d) All other divisions' will play games of 4 x 10 minute quarters with an interval of 2 minutes between the first and second quarters, an interval of 4 minutes at half time and another 2 minutes between third and fourth quarter.
e) The timing of each quarter and break must be displayed on the courts clock (if available)
f) Teams must have a minimum of 5 eligible players to take the court.
g) All players must be listed on the score sheet.
h) Any team failing to start on time shall, forfeit a goal per minute to the non-offending team, and a further goal per minute until 10 minutes has elapsed. A forfeit shall then be declared, providing the non-offending team has at least 5 or more players present.
i) The first named team on the scoresheet shall be awarded the centre pass and the second named team will have choice of end.
j) In the event that two teams have similar coloured uniforms and an obvious 'clash' exists or the officiating umpire(s) requests; the second named team will be required to wear an alternate colour bib. Clash bibs will be provided by the league.

Injury Time/Blood Policy shall apply as follows;

k) No Injury time – All matches will be centrally timed. A match may be stopped by the Umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained however the clock will not stop. If a player calls "injury time" they will be required to leave the court within 30 seconds.
l) The bleeding player shall leave the court; substitution rule applies with no time allowance.
m) Should blood be present on the ball, a sterilizing wipe will be available court side to clean the ball. Should this not be sufficient and time is a factor the spare match ball provided will be used.
n) Play is Resumed

15. SCORING

a) Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. Scorers must sit together at scorer's bench. Scorers must be 14 years or over.

   Penalty: $20.00 fine to the offending club.
b) All players are to be listed on the score sheet with complete given and surname of those players intending to take the court prior to the commencement of play. Any player, who takes the court without having been named on the score sheet, must be removed immediately and cannot participate in the remainder of the match.

c) The score sheet must also indicate the player's positions played each quarter, the goals they score and the match score.
d) Any Players "filling in" will need to have their VNA number noted on the scoresheet
e) At the conclusion of the match, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official score sheet is correct, it is to be signed by:
   i. The captains of both competing teams
   ii. The officiating umpires
   iii. The scorers.

   Penalty: $20 fine to offending Club.

f) The EFL shall be responsible for entering of all results onto the Leagues Website, and is to include the following
   i. Team players
   ii. ¼ by ¼ scores and Full time scores
   iii. Goals.

16. LADDERS

a) Four (4) premiership points will be awarded for a win in the Home and Away matches.
b) Zero (0) premiership points will be awarded for a loss in the Home and Away matches.
c) Two (2) premiership points will be awarded to each side in the event of a drawn Home and Away match.
d) No premiership points for a bye.
e) Two (2) premiership points to be awarded to each side in the event of the game being abandoned due to equipment fault, before half time.
f) If a game is abandoned due to equipment fault, Four (4) premiership points will be awarded to the team which is leading after half time.

Forfeits

Penalty for forfeits:

g) A 10- nil score line or the greatest winning margin from the night's games, whichever is greater, Four (4) Premiership points will be awarded to the non-offending team and 4 premiership points taken from the offending team.
h) In the event of a match day forfeit the penalties outlined in rule 14. h). apply and in addition the offending team shall be fined $120.
i) In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, games shall only be awarded to nominated players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
j) Persistent forfeits may result in that Club/Team being excluded from further competitions.

Match Ratio

k) In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, the League shall also prepare a match ratio ladder which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.

17. FINALS

a) The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being on equal points, positions shall be determined by percentage of goals

scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal in percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.

b) Teams found playing an ineligible player during the finals will be considered to have lost that match and be subject to a fine set by the Eastern Football League.
c) Matches shall be conducted for finals as per home and away matches. The start time may vary and clubs will be advised accordingly.
d) All divisions shall consist of a minimum of a top 4 for finals purposes. However, the number of teams eligible for finals may increase at the discretion of the Netball Manager should it be determined the number of teams in each division warrants an increase in the number of finalists.

Drawn Games in Finals

e) There is to be a one-minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on score sheet.
f) Positional changes and/or substitutions may be made during change over time and also at half time.
g) 2 x 5 minute halves to be played.
h) Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time, play continues until one team has a 2 goal advantage.

18. APPEALS /PROTESTS/DISPUTES RESOLUTIONS

a) A team wishing to protest a scoring issue must:
    i. Not sign the Official score sheet, immediately notify the NetballEFL Manager of the intention to protest.
    ii. Lodgement of the protest in writing to the netballEFL Manager within 24 hours of the match being played.
b) A club shall have the right to appeal to the Eastern Football League within 24 hours of notification of a penalty and must do so in writing to the CEO. If a club wishes to appeal a cheque of $250 should be forwarded to Eastern Football League of which: $200 will be returned to the club if the appeal is upheld.
    i. Up to $150 will be returned to the club if the appeal is dismissed. (At the discretion of the EFL).
    ii. Up to $150 will be returned to the club if the appeal is not heard. (At the discretion of the EFL)
c) The club will be notified in writing if the appeal will not be heard.
d) The Eastern Football League decision is final.

19. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

a) The Netball Manager will organise the Representative Team selection trials and matches.
b) Selection trials will be conducted under the following conditions:
    i. All players registered to play in the competition will be informed of the selection trial date(s), time and place.
    ii. Notice of selection trials must be received at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the trials.

20. AWARDS

a) The following player awards will be presented for each section for each season.

i. Best and Fairest in each division
ii. Best Goal Shooter in each division

Other forms of recognition will be awarded by Eastern Football League as deemed appropriate.

Presentation Night

b) At the conclusion of the playing season, a Presentation Night shall be held alongside the Senior Football Presentation night
c) Presentation of the above awards shall be made on the evening.

21. RISK MANAGEMENT

Injury Reporting

a) All Clubs/teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the back of the official scoresheet.

Pregnancy

b) As per Netball Victoria Infonet RM1 – Pregnancy & Netball

First Aid.

c) Trained Level 2 First Aid personnel and first aid kits will be provided at the venue.
d) Extra services such as trainers must be provided by the club.

21.2 BLOOD POLICY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The EFL will adopt Netball Victoria Infonet U4 and RM6 relating to blood policy and infectious diseases.

21.3 CODES OF CONDUCT

Please refer to the EFL By-Laws codes of conduct.

21.4 VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Please refer to the EFL By-Laws vilification & Discrimination Policy

22. CROWD BEHAVIOUR

a) Crowd Behaviour that is deemed to be inappropriate, cause disruption to the game and/or players or is offensive to any or all persons participating in the league will not be tolerated.

b) Offending spectator(s) will be given two (2) warnings to discontinue their behaviour.

c) Should the behaviour continue after the second warning, the Venue Manager will reserve the right to undertake either of the following actions:

i. Ask the offending spectator(s) to leave the venue for the remainder of the evening or;

ii. Stop the game and declare a forfeit

- Should a clear association between the offending spectator(s) and a competing team be able to be determined, this team will be considered to have forfeited the game. A 10- nil score line or greatest winning margin from that round (whichever is greater) and 4 premierships points will be awarded to the non-offending team.

- Should no association with either team or club be able to be determined the game will be stopped and, if after half time, the scores at half time will stand as the final

score. Should the game not have reached half time the game will be considered a draw and 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams.

d) The Venue Manager reserves the right to use their discretion in taking either action, whichever is deemed more appropriate.

e) The EFL will apply a warning to the Club of which the offending spectator(s) holds an association with. Should a Club receive two warnings in relation to crowd behaviour they will be subject to a fine to be determined by the EFL.

f) The Venue Manager will be responsible to contact the netballEFL Manager and provide a written report to the EFL as soon as possible after the incident has taken place.

g) Should the situation be perceived to be threatening, Venue Managers are advised to call 000.

AFL VICTORIA

GENDER REGULATION

POLICY

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Effective from February 2012

AFL VICTORIA
GENDER REGULATION
(AFL Victoria Regulation 4)

The following is an extract from the AFL Victoria (AFLV) Affiliate Regulations (Regulation 4 – Gender Regulation) in relation to the participation of males and females within Australian Football competitions conducted by AFLV and AFLV Affiliates.

4. GENDER REGULATION

a) In accordance with the *Equal Opportunity Act* 1995 (Vic.) ("the Act"), people aged under 12 years of age cannot be excluded on the basis of sex or gender identity from participating in a competitive sporting activity.

Pursuant to section 66 (1) of the Act, people of one sex or gender aged 12 and over can be excluded from participating in competitive sporting activities in which the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant.

AFL Victoria Affiliates will exclude females who reach 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a „female competition".

b) People who have been through the Gender re-assignment process shall be deemed the gender as verified by the appropriate Victorian State Government documentation.

Definition: Female competition
A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the players are female.