



Warrnambool & District Football Netball League

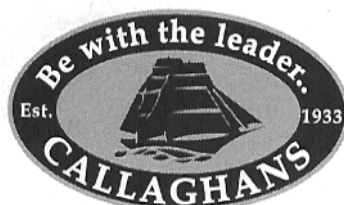
‘Rules of Competition’

for

Seniors/Reserves

Under 18, 15, 13

To be read in conjunction with the WDFNL Constitution, the AFL Victoria Country Handbook, Area Agreements and AFL Western District Equalization Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.



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WDFNL Football Rules of Competition

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Please note:

To be read in conjunction with the WDFNL Constitution, the AFL Victoria Country Handbook, Area Agreements and AFL Western District Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations

Revised: July 2024

WDFNL Football Rules of Competition

A. DEFINITIONS

'WDFNL' Players and membership of the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League, represented by the Board or their appointed agent.

WDFNL SECRETARY – provides administrative support for the WDFNL

'CLUBS' The football clubs enrolled as playing members of the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League.

For the purpose of these rules and where the contexts demand, the plural will impute the singular and vice-versa and muscular will input the feminine vice-versa.

B. GENERAL POWER

1. The WDFNL Board shall have complete control and management of all matches and shall have the power to settle disputes and act in the manner conducive to the best interests of football and netball in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Rules and Netball Victoria.
2. In the event of any matter arising which is not provided for in the AFL Victoria Country Rules or in the WDFNL Rules of Competition, the decision shall be that of the Board of the WDFNL.

C. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Through AFL PlayHQ the League shall maintain a complete record of all clearances and one day permits.
2. Should the WDFNL decide that any player of any club is playing illegally or in a manner contrary to the rules regulating clearances and permits, the club on receiving notice from the WDFNL Secretary shall discontinue to play such player in its matches until such notice so received by the club is withdrawn by the WDFNL.
3. Once a player has been cleared and registration finalised through AFL PlayHQ, the player is automatically registered to their new club and the League in which the club plays and shall be permitted to play for their newly registered Club.
4. Any League player cleared to the WDFNL after the first day of June in each year, must play four (4) games with the club at which they are registered to be eligible to play in the WDFNL final series. Any player affected under this rule or under Rules 8 or 10, and through circumstances beyond their control is unable to play four (4) games, may (provided they have not played with any other team or in any other grade, after the first day of July) apply to the WDFNL Board for special permission to play in the final series.
5. No WDFNL player shall be engaged by any major league club on a one-day permit basis unless the player's club first grants them the necessary permit. A player who obtains a one-day permit from their club shall not play with their club and the major league club on the same day. There is no appeal against the refusal of a one-day permit.
6. The age groups for the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League Junior football competitions for season 2023 will be as follows:

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Under 13 - must be under the age of 13 years on the 1st January 2024 (therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2011) and must be turning 9 years of age during the current year.

Under 15 - must be under the age of 15 years on the 1st January 2024. (Therefore, must have been born on or after 01/01/2009)

Under 18s – must be under the age of 18 years on the 1st January 2024. (therefore, must have been born on or after 01/01/2006)

7. **Seniors** – Senior teams will consist of twenty-two (22) players, eighteen (18) players shall take the field, with four (4) interchange players. The fourth interchange player must be a junior club player and must start on the interchange bench. The junior player is allowed to come on and off the interchange bench as required by the club coaching staff. On the team sheet besides the junior player's number the letters - JP, must be entered on Play HQ

8. **Reserves** – Reserves teams will consist of twenty one (21) players, eighteen (18) players shall take the field, with three (3) interchange players. If one or both teams have 19 or less players listed on their team sheet, the game will be played with 16 players for each team with a maximum of five (5) interchange players for Reserves eliminating the wing positions, with no less than 14 players per team on the ground when the game commences, unless both teams can by mutual agreement through the exchange of players both play 18 per side plus a minimum of 2 interchange players and maximum of 3 interchange players.

Under 18 teams will consist of twenty-one (21) players, eighteen (18) players shall take the field, with three (3) interchange players. However, if a team has less than a full list of players, then you refer to the Area Permit Agreement, and the AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations below – also refer By-Law H.6.

- Teams may play with 18, 16, 15, 14 or 12 players, as long as there are 2 on the bench.
- If a match will be played with 16 players on each team, it is the wing positions lost.
- Coaches of opposing teams can negotiate the positions lost when on-field players are 15 and below.

Under 15 teams will consist of twenty four (24) players, eighteen (18) players shall take the field, with six (6) interchange players. However, if a team has less than a full list of players, then you refer to the Area Permit Agreement, and the AFL Western District–Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations below – also refer to By-Law H.6.

- Teams may play with 18, 16, 15, 14 or 12 players, as long as there are 2 on the bench.
- If a match will be played with 16 players on each team, it is the wing positions lost.
- Coaches of opposing teams can negotiate the positions lost when on-field players are 15 and below.

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Under 13 teams will consist of twenty four (24) players, eighteen (18) players shall take the field, with six (6) interchange players. However, if a team has less than a full list of players, then you refer to the Area Permit Agreement, and the AFL Western District–Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations below – also refer to By-Law H.6.

The Under 13 competitions bench will have no restriction during the home and away season and during the Finals.

- Teams may play with 18, 16, 15, 14 or 12 players, as long as there are 2 on the bench.
- If a match will be played with 16 players on each team, it is the wing positions lost.
- Coaches of opposing teams can negotiate the positions lost when on-field players are 15 and below.

Senior player

9. An open age player must play in at least four (4) reserve grade home and away matches to be eligible to play in the final series of the reserve's competition in the same season.

A junior player must play in at least four (4) junior grade home and away matches to be eligible to play in the final series of the reserve's competition in the same season.

To remain eligible to play in the reserve's finals a player, other than a junior player, must not play more than eight (8) home and away matches in the senior competition in the current season.

10. Restrictions as to eligibility for finals players do not apply to players whose clubs have both senior and reserve grade teams playing in the finals series matches on the weekend. With the exception, however, that a senior eighteen player being ineligible under Rule 8, to play in the reserve's final series, shall not be allowed to play in both competitions on the same weekend.
11. A junior player to be eligible to play in the junior finals in that grade must have at least played four (4) home & away games in that grade for that club in the current season. This rule does not preclude a junior player from moving up in grades.
12. Any player that obtains a permit is ineligible to play in the WDFNL Final series.

D. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

1. All matches shall be played on the day allocated for such match, except by decision of the League Board to postpone, cancel or otherwise deal with such matches. Matches postponed by the League Board shall be played on a date to be fixed.

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2. Delayed start / match abandonment

This rule relates to clubs/officials who are faced with making a decision to cancel or delay a match due to dangerous ground or weather conditions on match day. Prior to a scheduled match starting time, consultation should occur between club officials, central umpires, and Warrnambool & District Football Netball League Boards, who should monitor the conditions of the venue and make a judgment as to whether a match should proceed, be delayed or abandoned. A match cannot be abandoned prior to the scheduled starting time.

When an agreement is reached, it is to be in writing, endorsed by the controlling central umpires on the day and forwarded to the WDFNL Secretary email 2 working days.

In the event that agreement cannot be reached between club officials, central umpires and League Board, the umpires officiating the match shall make the final decision.

In the event a match is abandoned, premiership points will be allocated as per AFL Laws of Australian Football (see current AFL Victoria Country Handbook).

In the event a junior/reserves match is delayed, such match must be commenced within 20 minutes of scheduled match starting time, or the match will be deemed to be abandoned.

In the event a senior match is delayed the following rules shall apply:

- A) Match must be commenced prior to 3.00 p.m. Or a decision made to abandon match.
 - B) If match commences within 30 minutes of scheduled match starting time, match duration will remain as per rules of competition.
 - C) If match commences after 2.50 p.m., the match duration will be as follows:
 - 4 x 15 minute quarters plus time on.
 - 5 minute quarter time breaks.
 - 10 minute half time break.
 - Clubs to remain on ground for all breaks.
3. A team which defaults shall forfeit the match except when such forfeit is caused through an accident by the way of traveling to the game, in which case the WDFNL may order that the match if necessary be played on a date to be fixed.
 4. All senior games shall start no later than 2.20 p.m. unless otherwise decided by the WDFNL.
 5. All Senior/Reserves/Under 18, Under 15 and Under 13 matches shall be played in four (4) quarters, the following times of quarters shall apply for the following grades:

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- **Seniors** consist of twenty (20) minute quarters plus time on.
- **Reserves** consist of eighteen (18) minute quarters with no time added. However, that the reserve game finishes no later than 2.10 pm. For this purpose, the last two (2) quarters of a reserve game may have to be shortened on an even basis to ensure that the finishing time is strictly adhered to.
- **Under 18s** consist of eighteen (18) minute quarters with no time added.
- **Under 15s** consist of fifteen (15) minute quarters with no time added.
- **Under 13s** consist of ten (10) minute quarters with no time added.

6. Clubs wishing to play unscheduled home and away matches for Senior/Reserves, Under 18, Under 15 and Under 13's shall request permission from the WDFNL Board in writing stating the reasons for the change of date at least fourteen days (14) days prior to the date of the game.

7. No club shall play another club during the progress of the competition without the sanction of the WDFNL. Pre-season practice matches are optional and shall be organised and administered between the participating clubs. WDFNL Clubs are to notify the WDFNL Board of all Club Pre-Season match/s fourteen days prior to each match.

8. The team managers of opposing sides shall thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the match, sign and exchange a list of the days players, team runners/trainers/water carriers in the format as provided by the WDFNL and lodged with the central umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game. After the team sheets have been exchanged in the Under 18, under 15 or Under 13's, the Board of the WDFNL may request that the umpire(s), team captains assist in the verification of personnel on the team sheets.

9. The secretary of the home team on any Round shall be responsible for forwarding to the WDFNL Secretary at Deakin Office. All team sheets (if released by the central umpires), score cards and best and fairest votes and all other relevant paperwork on the day for all senior & junior matches before the following **Monday at 10am**.

The home secretary shall be responsible for entering all results into Play HQ and Netball Connect programs.

The opposing club secretary must personally hand in the necessary team sheets and cards correctly filled in, to the home club secretary immediately after each game.

10. It is the duty of the home club secretary to supply the umpire two (2) footballs for each home match in the senior competition. AFL Victoria Country endorsed footballs only are to be supplied. A choice of two footballs (in acceptable condition) is to be made available for use in the reserve competition and the same shall apply for the Under 18 competition footballs.

In junior football the League's aim is to allow players in the under 15 and Under 13's to practice and develop their skills under the best possible conditions. Therefore, home clubs should provide the following for WDFNL junior competition matches using a school sized football No. 4 or a leather football of the same size and in good condition. Clubs should always have available rubber footballs for adverse conditions, yellow footballs must be

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provided if teams are playing in the evening. In the event of a disagreement between the captains as to the condition of the footballs, the umpire in control of the game shall make the selection of which football is to be used.

Senior Football	Sungold	Red	Size 5
Reserves Football		Red / Yellow	Size 5
Under 18		Yellow	Size 5
Under 15		Yellow	Size 4
Under 13		Red	Size 4 Synthetic Ball

11. Each club shall provide Central, boundary and goal umpires for matches where umpires are not provided by the controlling body and such umpires must be of sufficient maturity and stature to discharge their duties satisfactorily and wear the appropriate uniform for boundary and goal umpires.
12. Premiership points shall be allotted as follows:

Win	4 points
Draw	2 points
Bye	4 points
Forfeit	4 points
13. A team to which the match is forfeited by its opponents on the day shall score four (4) points. Percentage points for such a match shall be awarded as per AFL Victoria Country Rules.
14. Starting times for home and away games shall be :-

Saturday

Under 13	8.45 am
Under 15s	9.40 am
Under 18s	11.00 am
Reserves	12:40 pm
Seniors	2.20 pm

Starting times may vary if the WDFNL Board decide to change the junior games to a Friday or Sunday as conditions vary, clubs may, by arrangement, vary the time of starting matches provided the WDFNL Secretary is advised at least four (4) clear days prior to the commencement of the match and that each home club make similar arrangements with any other organisation or individuals so concerned with the match. Notwithstanding arrangements which may occur through the use of these rules, Under 18 matches shall not start after 11.00 am and Reserve matches shall not start after 12:40 pm. Reserve games shall be played in eighteen (18) minute quarters with no time added and Under 18 games shall be played in eighteen (18) minute quarters with no time added. However, the Reserves game finishes no later than 2.10 p.m. For this purpose the last two quarters of the reserve game may have to be shortened on an even basis to ensure that the finishing time is strictly enforced.

15. During the home and away series, it shall be the responsibility of both club runners to escort central and boundary umpires off the field to their dressing room, when leaving the ground after the final siren in all competitions and also at half time of the senior match.

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E. TEAM LISTS

1. Senior team lists are to be available to the media by 7.00 pm. 21 players with Christian and Surname names must be named in position (including interchange). Also included in the team sheets, players that are in and players that are out either omitted or injured. This rule shall apply to all senior home and away and final senior series matches including Sunday and weekday matches, and to all final matches, Reserve, Under 18 and Under 15 final matches.

Teams picked from shall receive a maximum penalty of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) per team.

F. OFFICIAL RUNNERS/TRAINERS/WATER CARRIERS

1. Each club shall name two (2) official runners on the senior team sheet in any competition within the WDFNL. Only One (1) runner may be on the field at any given time during play.

Official runners shall wear the official League top with navy or black tracksuit pants or shorts, club colored football socks.

Reserves, under 18, Under 15 and Under 13's each club shall name (1) Official runner on the team sheet. Only one 1 runner may take the field at any given time during play.

2. Official water carriers shall wear the official League top with navy or black tracksuit pants or shorts, club colored football socks. Also, each WDFNL club is allowed a maximum of four (4) water carriers to officiate at each game.
3. Official club trainers shall wear a white top with Club and number displayed on back and/or official League jacket with white, navy, or black tracksuit pants or shorts.
4. Water carriers must be a registered member of the club and be 13 years of age or over to officiate at the senior, reserves, under 18, Under 15 and Under 13 games.
5. Water carriers and trainers are the only people allowed to distribute water to players during a match.

Water carriers shall only enter the playing field when:

- (a) Any time a goal has been registered but must be off the playing area before play is restarted.
- (b) The umpire has stopped play, for an injured player to be stretchered from the playing area.
- (c) If there is an undue delay in getting the ball back when it has gone out of play and the central umpire has blown 'time off'. Once the umpire has indicated play is to resume by blowing "time on" the water carriers must vacate the ground.
- (d) Each club shall have a safety discretion which may be exercised having regard to weather conditions and safety issues during any match.

G. JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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1. The prime focus of WDFNL Junior football competition is on the ideals of junior football i.e. Skill development through participation and enjoyment. The League administration has a responsibility to see that the structure of the competition is such that it has an appeal for all junior players regardless of sex, culture, size or ability level and parents are able to view Australian Rules Football in the WDFNL Junior competition as a safe, responsibly organised and worthwhile leisure activity.
2. Age groups in the WDFNL Junior competition are Under 18s, Under 15s and Under 13's.

3. Junior Order Off Rule

- (a) Any junior player who is ordered off for the first time during the course of the home and away or finals matches shall consider this as their first and only warning.
- (b) Any junior player who is ordered off for a second time during the course of the home and away season or finals matches shall be handed a one match automatic suspension.
- (c) Any junior player who is ordered off for a third time during the course of the home and away season or finals matches shall be handed a two-match automatic suspension.
- (d) Any junior player who is ordered off for a fourth time during the course of the home and away season or finals matches shall face the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League Tribunal whose decision will be binding.
- (e) All Warrnambool & District Football Netball League junior players reported for using abusive, insulting, threatening and obscene language towards an umpire or official will receive a mandatory one match suspension, unless the umpire requests the matter go to the tribunal.
- (f) If a player wishes to contest a suspension, normal tribunal proceedings occur.

4. Overage Exemptions

The WDFNL Board will only consider an overage exemption for a junior player if the player has a psychological or physical disability that affects their ability to play at their age level and in playing as an overage player will not impact on the competition.

This Policy will be in accordance with AFL Victoria Country "National Age Dispensation Policy" and application/s to be filled in on the Age Dispensation Application Form" found on the AFL Vic Country Website under Forms.

5. Interchange of Junior Players

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For season 2024 only, clubs will be allowed to interchange players from another Club even though both clubs may not be playing against each other on that playing Day, subject to approval by AFL Western District.

Club/s who have players in excess of their team list, will be allowed to Interchange their junior players to another club/s for that weekend, provided the home club has full team lists in the equivalent age and next highest age junior football competitions.

The idea of this Junior Interchange Agreement is to allow junior players to participate in junior football within the WDFNL and enable WDFNL Clubs to support each other and enable Clubs to field junior sides each week.

AFL Western District and/or WDFNL Board have the right and power to revoke any or all Interchanges if Clubs are not using this By-Law in the spirit of its intended use or if it is found to contravene the junior review recommendations.

All interchange players will be eligible for WDFNL Awards. This by-law only applies to the home & away season.

H. GENERAL

1. The football season shall commence on such a date in each year as the WDFNL may decide. If a club wishes to change their colours or guernsey's the club may submit its colours or guernsey's to the WDFNL Board for approval and the order of registration of such colours shall determine the exclusive rights in respect of those colours. The proper uniform of each club including numbers shall be worn by each player. Sponsors logos on the front of club jumpers must not exceed (100mm square). Clubs shall be permitted to wear sponsor's names or club motto names on the back of club jumpers, provided however that the WDFNL Board's permission as to letter size and style is obtained prior to use.
2. Sponsor's logos on the front of shorts shall not exceed 100mm by 50mm and if only one sponsor's logo is requested that such logo shall be on the left leg of the shorts, if two sponsor's logos is requested the second logo shall be on the right leg however Board permission re design and colours to be obtained prior to use.
3. No club or other personnel shall gain an advantage by using radio or any other electronic equipment to deliver or receive messages on the ground during any game under our control.
4. That WDFNL clubs wear colored shorts on home games and white shorts on away games. Players are able to wear skins under their shorts which must be natural skin coloured tone

NOTE:- Under 13 players may wear long sleeve tops under their football jumper for additional warmth provided, they are the same colour as the club jumper.

Example:- Dennington – red long-sleeved tops Nirranda – navy long sleeve top

FINE \$20.00 PER PLAYER – ALL GRADES

- 5 Comments in the media towards umpires

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Any club member, player or official found to have made inappropriate comments in the media in relation to any Warrnambool & District Football Netball League football or netball umpire, shall have action taken against them. The Warrnambool & District Football Netball League Board shall decide upon the appropriateness of the alleged comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions. If the comments are found to be inappropriate, a fine as determined by the WDFNL Board will be levied against the offending party's club. ‘

6 Junior Clearances, Permits, Area Agreements and Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations

Clearances will be limited to once every three weeks.

All clubs, coaches and team managers must be familiar with AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.

Clubs are encouraged to utilise intra-league sharing of players via Rule 2.9 to permit players to opposing teams when player numbers are lacking. Clubs doing so need to consult the AFL Western District Junior Equalisation Policy and On-Field Number Regulations.

Players can play on permit between the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League and the Hampden Football Netball League under a renewed layered permit system across the Leagues. A renewed junior area agreement is introduced for permits from WDFNL to WDFNL and an area permit agreement is introduced for permits from WDFNL to WDFNL; both reinforce the on-field number regulations. Those playing on permit may only play one match in one league per day.

Players can play on a one-day permit between the WDFNL Club and WDFNL Club.

The WDFNL Board will decide with which other League/s an Area Permit Agreement will be agreed to for the upcoming season.

The Area Agreement/s and policies can be found on the WDFNL Website.

7 Concussion

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If Concussion Occurs the players time will start the day after the accident occurred.

-Eg Concussion happens on a Saturday then the starting day will be on Sunday. The Player will be out for 21 days and must send in their doctor's certificate to the League and club before returning.

Trainer and player together (if possible) to fill out the concussion form.

1. Copy for the club.
2. Copy for the player.
3. Copy to the league on the day via email. (Photo or scanned)

If the player is a Permit player, then the Club must notify the player's registered club the day the concussion has occurred.

WDFNL will also follow up with a phone call or email to the players league.

Once the player has doctor's clearance to play, a copy of the form must be forward to the WDFNL league.

Also refer to AFL guidelines.

I. GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

1. Each club shall provide a ground which in the opinion of the Board is suitable for match play or if the ground is unavailable or the ground is unsuitable for play the club shall be instructed to play at another ground designated by the Board and all costs borne by the club.
2. Goal posts must be adequately padded, with flag holders attached.
3. Stretchers (Jordan frames) must be provided by the home club and located in or near the trainer's box.
4. Change rooms and shower areas must be in a clean and serviceable condition with adequate hot water available.
5. Clubs are to execute the risk management match day checks prior to and during every home and away game. After the games a copy of the grounds and playing conditions, checklist is to be retained by Clubs for 7 years..

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J. CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS, WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS AND COACHES ACCREDITATION

1. Each Club must have an appointed Child Safety Officer (CSO) at all times with the league to be informed of the CSO name and contact details.
2. The club and CSO must be familiar with the “AFL Western District Child Safety Key Roles & Requirements” of the current season.
3. A copy of the Working with Children Check (WWCC) for all key roles must be supplied by each club to the league by 31 March of the current season or prior to the first day of club duty, if later. Any role that does not have a current WWCC and/or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a \$100 fine for each occurrence.
4. Coach Accreditation:
 - All coaches and Assist coaches shall be registered with CoachAFL and indicate the club which they will be registered to prior to the start of the current season.
 - Any coach/s who wishes to coach after the start of the current season must register with CoachAFL and indicate the club which they will be registered with prior to the match which they will coach. Each club shall inform the WDFNL Secretary prior to the commencement of the WDFNL season the accreditation status of all coaches.
 - All coaches shall have a WWCC and a copy of this must be supplied to the league prior to the 31 March of the current season or prior to the first match, they coach if appointed after the start of the season.
 - Any coach/s that does not have a current Working With Children Check and/or has failed to supply the league with a copy shall incur a fine of \$100 and the Club shall incur a \$100 fine.

FINALS AND GATES

1. The grounds for final games shall in all cases be decided by the Board of the WDFNL.
2. Catering rights for the final series shall be let at any time and for any period at the Board's discretion.
3. Finals admission prices will be determined by the WDFNL Board and clubs at the AGM each year.
4. All Reserve consists of eighteen (18) minute quarters TIME ON for goals and injury. However, that the reserve game finishes no later than 2.10 pm. For this purpose, the last two (2) quarters of a reserve game may have to be shortened on an even basis to ensure that the finishing time is strictly adhered to.
5. Under 18 final games shall consist of eighteen (18) minutes – TIME ON for goals and injury.
6. Under 15 final games shall consist of fifteen (15) minutes - NO TIME ON.

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7. Under 13 final games shall consist of ten (10) minutes – NO TIME ON.

Boards have the right to change game times according to the day of finals.

8. No PERMIT PLAYERS are to play in the WDFNL final series.

9. If there is a forfeit in the first week of finals the next rank team will come in.

9. Finals format – Seniors/Reserves, Under 18s and Under 15s

Qualifying final - second team v third team to be played on the Saturday following the final home and away game.

Elimination final - fourth team v fifth team to be played on the following day (Sunday).

Second semi final - the winner of the qualifying final v the first team to be played on the following Saturday

First semi final - the winner of the elimination final v the loser of the qualifying final to be played on the following day (Sunday).

Preliminary final - the winner of the first semi final v the loser of the second semi final to be played on the following Saturday.

Grand final - the winner of the second semi final v the winner of the preliminary final to be played on the following Saturday.

10. There shall be no drawn games in the finals series. Should a tie take place 2 (two) 5 (five) minute periods, with clubs exchanging ends after each period, will take place. This process will continue until there is a result.

a) Players of both competing sides must change ends immediately after the first period without consultation from coaching staff, selectors, trainers or any other club personnel.

11. No club shall undertake club organised end-of-season trips until four (4) weeks after the completion of the home and away matches.

12. No club shall conduct any trip or excursion during the season wherein the home and away matches are suspended in order to conduct inter-league contests.

13. No club shall conduct any social function during the playing times of final series.

14. A penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) will be imposed on any club in breach of the above rules 11,12 and 13.

15. Clubs playing in the final series can only train on their own grounds, not the grounds that the WDFNL play their final series on. A penalty of \$500 is payable by any club found to be in breach of this bylaw

16. To be awarded the title of Premiers & Champions, a team must win outright all home & away and finals matches throughout the season.

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L. WDFNL AWARDS

1. Any player reported in a home and away match by an umpire and found guilty by an Independent Tribunal shall be ineligible to win a WDFNL best and fairest award in that year.
2. Coaches are eligible to win WDFNL best and fairest awards.

M. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

1. The WDFNL shall have the power to elect Life Members as per the following criteria:
 - (i) Players concluding three hundred (300) senior games in the WDFNL shall qualify as a life member.
 - (ii) Board Members, Sub-Committee members or any person volunteering in a role delegated by the WDFNL Board who gives more than 10 years service shall qualify as a life member.
2. All nominations for life membership must be lodged with the League Secretary fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting and all nominations are to be accompanied by a history of the nominee.
3. Life members shall have the privileges of Board Members except they shall not be able to vote.
4. Successful nomination/s shall be presented with their life membership at a WDFNL Function.

N. TRIBUNAL AND APPEAL BOARD

1. Tribunal procedure shall be as detailed in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook issued yearly.
2. The elected Board of the WDFNL shall have the authority to refer charges against clubs, officials and players for breaches of the rules and/or laws adopted by this League and such charges must be in writing and delivered to WDFNL Secretary by midnight on the third day following the alleged occurrence of the alleged charge.
3. Any player referring a charge against any official of the WDFNL must do so through the committee of his club.
4. Once a protest has been lodged with the WDFNL Secretary of the WDFNL on no account can it be withdrawn.
5. Any member club in the WDFNL may protest against a club or clubs for breaches of the rules even though not competing with that club, in a match in issue.
6. Any player, official or club who neglects or refuses to attend any meeting of the League or tribunal to which they are summoned, shall be dealt with. Any player or official showing

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lack of courtesy at such meeting shall be disqualified for a period as may be determined by the Board and this may be in addition to any penalty imposed in connection with the original charge, such player or official shall be deemed to have received notice of such meeting, upon the League's Secretary having notified any official of the club concerned twenty four (24) hours prior to such meeting.

7. A player disqualified or suspended by their club must be notified in writing within (48) forty-eight hours of the decision of their club and a copy must be forwarded to their League's Secretary and RAC Administration Officer.
8. Notwithstanding as provided for in the AFL Victoria Country rules hereafter, should a player be disqualified or suspended by their club, they shall have one right to appeal only and that shall be to their League Independent Tribunal whose decision shall be final. Any player wishing to lodge an appeal to the League Independent Tribunal must adhere to the following:-
 - a) Within (9) nine days of being notified of club disqualification or suspension the player must appeal in writing to their League Independent Tribunal, this appeal must be accompanied by the required deposit amount of (\$300.00) three hundred dollars. The sum of \$100.00 will not be refundable and the other amount of \$200.00 which the League Independent Tribunal shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether to refund none, all or part thereof.
 - b) The hearing must be held within (14) fourteen days of receipt by the League's RAC Administration Office / General Manager of the appeal.
9. A club is required to pay to the League a fee of fifty dollars (including gst) (\$1000.00 inc. GST) for costs incurred at each tribunal sitting if its player has been reported.
10. The club presenting the video/dvd for evidence to the Independent Tribunal shall supply all the necessary equipment for the viewing of the video/dvd at the Independent Tribunal if equipment is not available from League.
11. **Investigation fees:** In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (unbecoming conduct) and lodges the required fee of \$500, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the League and will be refunded in full or part after completion of the investigation and subsequent tribunal (if applicable) as per the League's policy, as set out below.

The following policy in relation to payment of the Investigations Officer's payment will be enforced by the League for investigations:

- a) When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation will receive a refund of the bond less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- b) In cases where the investigations officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation will receive a refund of the bond less the Investigations Officer's fee for services.
- c) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of \$500. The club of the

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player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the amount of the Investigations Officer's fee for services. (in addition to any additional tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for services.

- d) In cases where the League has requested an investigation and the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the League's Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the amount of the Investigations Officer's fee for services. (in addition to any additional tribunal fine).

Note: The above financial policy part (a) & (b) shall be applied in cases where the investigations officer fee does not exceed \$500. In extenuating circumstances (e.g., More difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the investigations officer may request an amount over and above \$500 and which will be required to be paid by the club requesting the investigation over and above the bond paid.

64.13 Match Review Panel (MRP)

Umpires may request a review of an incident during a period of the match (authorised League video, Senior Football Matches only) when giving 'all clear'. Clubs will be advised verbally or shown a Written copy of the request at this time. Clubs may also make an official request to review specific incident/s of concern to the WDFNL Secretary by 10am the first working day after the match. The League will view the relevant footage, and if deemed appropriate may lay a charge to be heard by the Independent Regional Tribunal or recommend a set penalty.

The charged player may challenge the imposed set penalty at tribunal, but if found guilty by the tribunal panel will receive a penalty that is at a minimum that which was originally offered, and the club will be levied \$350. If a set penalty is applied or amended by the MRP, the charged player will have until 10.00am on that Tuesday to request the charge be heard at tribunal or the set penalty will apply as offered.

The Match Review Panel shall have the power to lay a report following analysis of WDFNL Official game day footage that has been raised with the League from any club or Umpiring Association.

The MRP shall follow AFL Victoria rules when laying a report from video footage. The WDFNL shall provide an advocate to prosecute all MRP cases that have been referred to the tribunal and at no point shall a member of the MRP be present during a tribunal case. The two systems shall remain independent to each other.

Where a Club or Umpire Association wishes to tender a Club/League authorised League video or non-authorised video as evidence in a case, the Club/Umpire Association must notify the League no later than 10.00am on the Monday following that weeks round and such video must be delivered to the League no later than Noon on day of the scheduled day of the Tribunal.

Set Sanctions

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- MRP – The MRP will be made up of the following members: League nominated representative and two selected independent panel members.

Levies will be set by the WDFNL Board on a yearly basis and provided to all Clubs prior to commencement of the season and may be subject to change at any time.

Tribunal Fees:

Player Reported sent directly to Tribunal and found guilty \$350

Player Reported sent directly to Tribunal and found not guilty No Charge

Investigations League/Club calling for investigation \$500

Refunded if not guilty

If a player/official being investigated is found guilty, \$500

Set Penalty - Player accepts set penalty \$100

Contests set penalty \$350

Match Review panel

Accepts MRP decision \$100

Contests MRP Set penalty decision - \$350

O. PENALTIES AND FINES

1. Any club found to be asking for a transfer fee for any player is to be fined (\$500.00) five hundred dollars.
2. Any club found to be paying a transfer fee for any player is to be fined (\$500.00) five hundred dollars.
3. Any club found to be accepting a transfer fee for any player is to be fined (\$500.00) five hundred dollars.
4. Any club fined by the WDFNL (fourteen) 14 days of receipt of advice of the fine failure to pay the fine by the due date results in the club receiving further penalties.
5. Any club against which a protest or charge has been lodged and such club having been found guilty according to these rules, shall at the discretion of the tribunal be made to forfeit match points to the opposing club and be subject to any further penalty imposed by the tribunal, within its powers.
6. All fines in this by-law shall be levied by the Board, but clubs wishing to appeal and submit reasons for default, must first pay the fine within (fourteen) 14 days of receipt of advice of the fine, and may appeal to the Board of the WDFNL in writing. All appeals shall be dealt with by the Board.

FINES WILL BE LEVIED INCLUDING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFENCES:

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- a) Nonattendance by the clubs at League club forums & other compulsory meetings as determined by the League Board. - \$100
 - b) Teams arriving on the ground late. - \$100
 - c) Players/officials wearing incorrect uniform (per individual offence). - \$20
 - d) Non provision of officials (per official). - \$20
 - e) Failure to supply correct match paperwork on time by 6.00pm (per item) - \$100
 - f) Failure to pay fines by due date (per day). - \$20
 - g) Failure to submit team sheets on Thursday night by designated time. – 7pm \$100
 - h) Incorrect team sheets. - \$100
 - i) Any conduct of club officials, players, volunteers, or spectators that places another (including Umpires) at risk of physical or psychological harm. If found guilty, \$500 to be paid by the club.
 - j) Any conduct of club officials, players, volunteers, or spectators that brings the WDFNL League into disrepute. If found guilty \$500 to be paid by the club
7. If a club is unable to field a Reserve, Under 18, Under 15 or a Under 13 side on any given playing day the club must notify the League's WDFNL Secretary/President 7:00pm on a Thursday prior to the game. A fine of up to (\$300.00) three hundred dollars shall be imposed for Reserves and if a club does not fulfill Under 18, Under 15 or Under 13 match engagements a fine of up to (\$500.00) five hundred dollars shall be imposed. The amount of the fines shall be determined by the Board having regard to the circumstances.
8. Any WDFNL club who fails to email their club updates (players names and numbers) for the football program by Tuesday 9.00am prior to the weekend game shall receive a penalty of \$100.00

P. INTERLEAGUE GAMES

- 1. Any WDFNL registered player who is not available for selection in a WDFNL representative team, without providing an adequate reason to the selection committee will incur a penalty of not being permitted to play in the next home and away match in which their club is engaged.
- 2. Any WDFNL registered player from the WDFNL representative team who shall bring the WDFNL into disrepute shall front the WDFNL Board to provide an explanation of their conduct and if found guilty a penalty shall be imposed by the WDFNL Board