

**Bendigo Bank**



**2025 RIDDELL DISTRICT FNL**

# Operations & Information Manual






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## Riddell District Football League Contacts 2025

### RDFNL President

*Brenton Knott*

knottbrenton@gmail.com  
0408 441 376  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Vice President

*Glen Shilling*

glen.shilling@outlook.com  
0408 507 293 PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Vice President

*Andrew Power*

Powerand72@gmail.com  
0418 510 299  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Executive/Senior Football

*Bevan Uren*

bevan@bctgroup.com.au  
0467 017 350  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Executive/Senior Football

*Ben Morse*

ben.morse@bulla.com.au  
0407 030 777  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Executive/Netball

*Kristine Clement*

krissy.clement@hotmail.com  
0402 205 702  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Executive Risk/ Governance

*Clive Fanning*

Clive.fanning@gmail.com  
0402 205 732  
PO Box 1607

### RDFNL Executive/Junior Football

*Sue Hynes*

suehynes82@hotmail.com  
0413 711 248  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Executive/Netball

*Lauren Nolan*

l.close@hotmail.com  
0433 778 996  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Women & Girls Executive

*Jacqueline Green*

jacqui.green04@gmail.com  
0439 637 767  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Chief Executive Officer

*Jordan Doyle*

jordan@rdfnl.com.au  
0403 210 709  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL General Manager- Operations

*Grace Bibby*

grace@rdfnl.com.au  
0448 422 397  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Football Operations Manager

TBC

PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Club Development Manager

*Grant McMillan*

grant@rdfnl.com.au  
0411 380 093  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Umpires Operations Manager

*Richard Thwaites*

richard@rdfnl.com.au  
0432 286 596  
PO Box 1607  
Melton West 3337

### RDFNL Junior Development Manager

*Rob Beatson*

brob@bigpond.net.au  
0472 509 353

### Calder Cannons Regional Manager

*Sebastian Spagnuolo*

sebastian.spagnuolo@afl.com.au  
8339 7482

### Western Jets

#### Regional Manager

*Luke Williams*

Luke.Williams@afl.com.au  
9391 0309

### Bendigo Pioneers Regional Manager

*Ricky Coburn*

ricky.coburn@afl.com.au

## Sponsors / Preferred Suppliers

### Action Forklift Training

Phone: 0414 953 133  
Email: aftraining@bigpond.com  
www.actionforklifttraining.com.au

### Bendigo Bank

Sarah Barton  
11 Nexus Way  
Gisborne VIC 3437  
(03) 5420 7210

### Buffalo Sports

Eane Whitton  
314 Albert Street  
BRUNSWICK VIC 3056  
FAX: 03 93875845  
9387 6022  
hq@buffalosports.com.au

### Citrine Advisory

Justin Bramble  
0481 570 661  
justin@citrineadvisory.com.au  
www.citrineadvisory.com.au

### Club Connect

Kelly Hinchliffe  
Kelly.Hinchliffe@asahibeverages.com

### D&M Craftline

Danny Gavaghan  
2 Kismet Street  
SUNBURY VIC 3429  
0418 543 359  
dan@dmcraftline.com.au

### Dome Security

Fred Reinking  
75 Spavin Drive  
SUNBURY VIC 3429  
0418 397 907  
8746 9000  
fred@domesecurity.com.au

### GameFace

Josh Rickard  
josh@gameface.cc

### Gisborne Driving School

Brian Woodward  
b.woody1@bigpond.com

### Gisborne Landscaping

Clayton Reinking  
0429 847 737  
info@gisbornelandscaping.com.au

### J8 Photography

Duncan McNiece  
https://www.facebook.com/  
J8photos/  
https://www.instagram.com/j8\_  
photography/

### Loco Sportswear (Mandatory)

Jeremy Corby  
10/15 Thackray Rd  
PORT MELBOURNE VIC 3207  
0431 715 091  
(03) 9645 4150  
Jeremy@locosportswear.com.au

### Macedon Ranges Family Law

Megan Puszkas  
Level 1 Hamilton St  
Gisborne VIC 3437  
03 5428 8711  
megan@mrfl.com.au

### Macedon Ranges Health

5 Neal Street  
Gisborne VIC 3437  
(03) 5428 0300  
healthcare@mrh.org.au

### Melton Entertainment Park

Gayle Harvey  
PO Box 685  
MELTON VIC 3337  
0439 455 186  
8746 0600  
gharvey@mepark.com.au

### Melton Toyota

Grant Harrison  
143 - 147 High Street  
MELTON VIC 3337  
0418 122 340  
8746 0300  
grant@meltontoyota.com.au

### Mr. Lumberjack

Brett Taylor  
brett@mrlumberjack.com.au  
0417 400 718

### Ontime Delivery Solutions

Walter Scremin  
Level 2 / 120 Miller Street  
WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003  
0418 990 001  
9322 2400  
wscremin@ontimegroup.com.au

### Premier Data

Cale Truran-Johnson  
info@premierdata.com.au  
0404 633 938

### Rent A Fence

Ralph Brunacci  
81 Spavin Drive  
SUNBURY VIC 3429  
0421 388 803  
Melbourne@rentafence.com.au

### Ring-A-Bin

Andrew Marriott  
admin@ringabinsunbury.com.au  
0418 392 622

### Ring Road Trophies

Barry Grant  
7 Ely Court  
KEILOR EAST VIC 3033  
9331 6256  
barrygrant@iprimus.com.au

### Romsey Dental

Kristine Clement  
41 Murphy Street  
Romsey VIC 3434  
03 5429 3322  
admin@romseydental.com.au

### Routley's Bakery

Cameron McIntyre  
322 Melbourne Road  
NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215  
0407 013 532  
5278 9299  
cameron@routleysbakery.com.au

### SEDA College

Steve Rogers  
stever@scv.vic.edu.au

### Sherrin

Chris Michaels  
5 Lakeview Drive  
SCORESBY VIC 3179  
9765 5912  
1300 367 582  
Chris.Michaels@fotlinc.com

### SuperSport Images

Daniel Boag  
daniel@supersportimages.com  
0411 381 241  
https://www.supersportimages.com

### Team Staffing

Brendan Blackshaw  
3 Parkside Drive  
MOE VIC 3825  
0407 352 399  
5127 3957  
info@teamstaffing.caom.au

### The Meadows

Scott Wuchatsch  
swuchatsch@grv.org.au  
9355 5222

### Victor Sports

Brent O'Leary  
brent.oleary@victorsports.com.au  
0418 311 162

# RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE



## DIGGERS REST JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** PO Box 26, Diggers Rest 3427

**Home Ground** Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve, Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest 3427

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Brendan Cue	0400 775 743	drjfc-president@outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Paula Anderson & Billie Lancaster	0417 597 549 & 0400 796 154	drjfc@outlook.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jason Noakes	0425 815 319	drjfc_treasurer1@outlook.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Rachael Oconnor		drjfc-vpnetball@outlook.com
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Rachael Oconnor		drjfc-vpnetball@outlook.com



## EYNESBURY JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Club Website:** [www.eynesburyfnc.com.au](http://www.eynesburyfnc.com.au)

**Home Ground** Eynesbury Recreation Reserve, 3 Avoca St, Eynesbury 3338

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Mark Heaney	0402 473 462	president@eynesburyfnc.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Pieter Scholten	0448 551 197	secretary@eynesburyfnc.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Pleitner	0448 675 662	treasurer@eynesburyfnc.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Brad Zahra	0449 831 708	bradzahra@yahoo.com.au
<b>Senior Football Manager</b>	Danny Whelan		kernafides@gmail.com
<b>Senior Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Sam Urch	0400 123 190	netball@eynesburyfnc.com.au



**GISBORNE ROOKIES JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

**Address** PO Box 208, Gisborne 3437  
**Club Website:** [www.gisbornerookies.com.au](http://www.gisbornerookies.com.au)  
**Home Ground** Gardiner Reserve, 8 Hamilton Street, Gisborne 3437

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Jodie Bannan	0422 268 002	<a href="mailto:president@gisbornerookies.com.au">president@gisbornerookies.com.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Louise Gauci	0417 500 187	<a href="mailto:secretary@gisbornerookies.com.au">secretary@gisbornerookies.com.au</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Liz Mitchell	0428 890 242	<a href="mailto:treasurer@gisbornerookies.com.au">treasurer@gisbornerookies.com.au</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Clay Reinking	0429 847 737	<a href="mailto:clay@gisbornelandscaping.com.au">clay@gisbornelandscaping.com.au</a>
<b>Junior Development Officer U9-U11</b>	Bridget Stubna	0457 936 871	<a href="mailto:bridget.stubna@gmail.com">bridget.stubna@gmail.com</a>
<b>Junior Development Officer U13-U17</b>	Casey Sullivan	0418 911 247	<a href="mailto:caseysully@hotmail.com">caseysully@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Maxine Parry	0407 348 596	<a href="mailto:rookiesnetballco@outlook.com">rookiesnetballco@outlook.com</a>

**GISBORNE GIANTS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

**Address** PO Box 299 , Gisborne 3437  
**Club Website:** [gisbornegiantsfnc.club](http://gisbornegiantsfnc.club)  
**Home Ground** Gardiner Reserve, 8 Hamilton Street, Gisborne 3437

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>Club Chairperson</b>	Matt Bourke	409015693	<a href="mailto:clubchairperson@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">clubchairperson@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Club Secretary</b>	Donna Parsons	0400 647 709	<a href="mailto:clubsecretary@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">clubsecretary@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brad Gauci	0408 527 738	<a href="mailto:treasurer@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">treasurer@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a> ;
<b>Senior President</b>	Anton Bant	0438 542 810	<a href="mailto:seniorpresident@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">seniorpresident@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Junior President</b>	TBC		<a href="mailto:juniorpresident@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">juniorpresident@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>General Club Operations Manager</b>	Gary Hester	0493 380 619	<a href="mailto:cluboperations@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">cluboperations@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Senior Football Director</b>	Aaron Mclean	0437 547 133	<a href="mailto:footballdirector@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">footballdirector@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Senior Netball Director</b>	AJ Craske	0402 346 465	<a href="mailto:netballdirector@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">netballdirector@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Junior Football Coordinator</b>	Brendan Du Kamp	0412 701 725	<a href="mailto:juniorfootballcoordinator@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">juniorfootballcoordinator@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Hayley Classeen	0430 404 374	<a href="mailto:netballcoordinator@gisbornegiantsfnc.club">netballcoordinator@gisbornegiantsfnc.club</a>

**KYNETON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

**Address** P.O. Box 53, Kyneton 3444  
**Club Website:** [www.kynetonfnc.com](http://www.kynetonfnc.com)  
**Home Ground** 184-194 Mollison Street, Kyneton Vic, 3444

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Guy Nelson	0404 046 173	<a href="mailto:president@kynetonfnc.com">president@kynetonfnc.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Pene Turner	0475 508 396	<a href="mailto:secretary@kynetonfnc.com">secretary@kynetonfnc.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Yunghanns	0417 587 987	<a href="mailto:treasurer@kynetonfnc.com">treasurer@kynetonfnc.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Emily Dellios	0406 260 800	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@kynetonfnc.com">vicepresident@kynetonfnc.com</a>
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Emily Dellios	0406 260 800	<a href="mailto:juniorfootball@kynetonfnc.com">juniorfootball@kynetonfnc.com</a>
<b>Senior Football Manager</b>	Ryan Pretty	0401 841 620	<a href="mailto:pretty7_94@hotmail.com">pretty7_94@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	James Bone	0413 998 144	<a href="mailto:KFNC.juniornetball@gmail.com">KFNC.juniornetball@gmail.com</a>
<b>Senior Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Loryn Savoia	0476 913 367	<a href="mailto:kfnc.netball@gmail.com">kfnc.netball@gmail.com</a>

**LANCEFIELD JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

**Address** PO Box 108, Lancefield 3435  
**Home Ground** Lancefield Park, 69 Chauncey Street, Lancefield 3435

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Dion Alderton	0499 353 515	<a href="mailto:dionalderton@gmail.com">dionalderton@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Lauren Alderton	0431 314 157	<a href="mailto:laurealderton13@gmail.com">laurealderton13@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Suzanne Brooks	0455 776 766	<a href="mailto:smbrooks7576@hotmail.com">smbrooks7576@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Emma Condron	0416 008 150	<a href="mailto:emxr6@hotmail.com">emxr6@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Football Co-ordinator</b>	Dave Condron	0491 288 835	<a href="mailto:david_condron_@hotmail.com">david_condron_@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Deb Beltrame	0412 051 002	<a href="mailto:deborahbljfnc@gmail.com">deborahbljfnc@gmail.com</a>

**MACEDON JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 256, Macedon 3440

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Brad Straughair	0459 601 310	macedonjfc.president@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Amanda Beezley	0404 861 083	macedonjfc.secretary@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Shane Nicholas	0408 154 971	macedonjfc.treasurer@gmail.com
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Ashley Cook	0419 562 961	ashley@kempco.com.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Kelly Nicholas		kelly.nicholas1982@outlook.com

**MELTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 367, Melton 3337**Club Website:** [www.meltonjfc.com.au](http://www.meltonjfc.com.au)**Home Ground** MacPherson Park, Recreation Reserve, Harkness Vic 3337

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Graeme Dreaver	0417 010 899	president@meltonjfc.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Craig Byham	0414 943 873	secretary@meltonjfc.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Veronica Wills	0402 207 073	treasurer@meltonjfc.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Jessica Evens	0431 772 077	vicepresident@meltonjfc.com.au
<b>Female Football</b>	Aaron Moloney	0430 316 560	femalefooty@meltonjfc.com.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>			netball@meltonjfc.com.au





## MELTON CENTRALS JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** 22 Long Tree Drive Melton West Vic 3337

**Club Website:** meltoncentralsjfn.com

**Home Ground** 22 Long Tree Drive Melton West Vic 3337

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Robert Auber	0419 354 887	presidentmcjfn.com.outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Brad Tellis	0491 009 889	secretarymcjfn.com.outlook.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jo McNabb	0425 847 485	treasurermcjfn.com.outlook.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Jarrold Vaughan	0416 170 836	jarroldvaughan@gmail.com
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Amy Taylor	0434 885 484	melton_centralsnetball@outlook.com
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Robert Auber	0419 354 887	robert.auber@live.com



## MELTON SOUTH JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** POBox 2171 Melton South

**Home Ground** Reserve Rd, Melton South

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Clinton Newbold	0425 859 991	president.msjfn.com@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Chelsea Graham	0419 301 954	secretary.msjfn.com@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rebecca Eastwood	0416 292 967	treasurer.msjfn.com@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Scott Paterson	0407 694 358	Scott.Paterson@startrack.com.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Glenn Roberts	0418 518 117	netballco.msjfn.com@gmail.com



## RIDDELLS CREEK JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** PO Box 252, Riddells Creek 3431

**Club Website:** www.riddellbombers.com.au

**Home Ground** Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve, 26-32 Sutherlands Rd, Riddells Creek 3431

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>Registrations</b>	Brad Taylor	0407 213 934	registrations@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Kate Molcik	0434 093 998	football.operations@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Marketing</b>	Emily McIntosh	0424 970 275	marketing@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Kelly Butler	0430 735 789	netball.operations@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>President</b>	Lucas Lambert	0406 557 447	president@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Michelle Karolik	0429 787 455	secretary@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim Bryant	0416 252 676	treasurer@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Bryant	0416 252 676	vice.president@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Child Safety Officer</b>	Kelly Butler	0430 735 789	child.safety.officer@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Registrations</b>	Brad Taylor	0407 213 934	registrations@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Kate Molcik	0434 093 998	football.operations@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Marketing</b>	Emily McIntosh	0424 970 275	marketing@riddellscreekjfn.com.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Kelly Butler	0430 735 789	netball.operations@riddellscreekjfn.com.au



## ROMSEY JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** PO Box 89, Romsey 3434

**Home Ground** Park Lane Romsey

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Cat Kruss	0417 590 928	presidentromseyjuniorfnc@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Vacant		secretaryrjfn.com@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carolyn Caspersz	0411 984 075	treasurerromseyjuniorfnc@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Hayley Binney	0407 137 801	redbackaccounts@bigpond.com
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Amanda Stevens	0417 935 469	footballopsrjfn.com@gmail.com
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Hayley Binney	0407 137 801	redbackaccounts@bigpond.com

**SUNBURY KANGAROOS JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 295, Sunbury 3429**Club Website:** [www.sunburykangaroosjuniorfc.sportingpulse.net](http://www.sunburykangaroosjuniorfc.sportingpulse.net)**Home Ground** Eric Boardman Reserve, Oval #3, Mitchells Lane,  
Sunbury 3429

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Trevor Castagnini	0408 566 880	president.skjfncl@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathleen Grimes	0411 882 908	secretary.skjfncl@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kelly Ploog	0419 540 908	treasurerskjfncl@gmail.com
<b>Vice President Netball</b>	Jessica Geary	0431 819 858	netball.skjfncl@gmail.com
<b>Vice President Football</b>	Joeb Ploog	0409 826 694	joeb.p@ulsgroup.com.au
<b>Netball Junior Coordinator/Netball Coach Coordinator</b>	Jessica Geary	0431 819 858	netball.skjfncl@gmail.com
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Joeb Ploog	0409 826 694	joeb.p@ulsgroup.com.au

**SUNBURY LIONS JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 434, Sunbury 3429**Home Ground** 222 Mitchells Lane Sunbury

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Chris Hanson	0406 079 354	president@sunburylionsjfncl.org.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Teahne Dillon	0401 290 630	Secretary@sljfncl.tidy.co
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sam Castles	0409 558 637	treasurer@sunburylionsjfncl.org.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter Livingston	0417 841 630	vicepreident@sunburylionsjfncl.org.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Bree McMahon	0419 364 320	netball@sunburylionsjfncl.org.au

**WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 382, Woodend 3442**Club Website:** <https://woodendhawks.teamapp.com/>**Home Ground** Gilbert Gordon Reserve, 1 Davy Street, Woodend 3442

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Danielle Galle	0404 148 145	president@woodendhawks.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Jodie Warner	0414 628 535	secretary@woodendhawks.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sam Bennett	0438 757 721	treasurer@woodendhawks.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Emma Tuck	0447 621 855	vice.president@woodendhawks.com.au
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Kristy Woodhouse and Brendan O'Connor	0427 585 162 and 0412 890 175	netball@woodendhawks.com.au

# RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE



# SENIOR CONTACTS





### DIGGERS REST FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** PO Box 120, Diggers Rest 3427  
**Club Website:** www.drnc.com.au  
**Home Ground** Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve, Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest 3427

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Shane Bishop	0404 843 874	riteupinstallations@outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Linda Stevenson	0439 479 610	diggersrestfnc@hotmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ashley Bishop	0478 083 644	treasurer.drnc@gmail.com



### GISBORNE GIANTS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** PO Box 299 , Gisborne 3437  
**Club Website:** gisbornegiantsfnc.club  
**Home Ground** Gardiner Reserve, 8 Hamilton Street, Gisborne 3437

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>Club Chairperson</b>	Matt Bourke	0409 015 693	clubchairperson@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Club Secretary</b>	Donna Parsons	0400 647 709	clubsecretary@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brad Gauci	0408 527 738	treasurer@gisbornegiantsfnc.club;
<b>Senior President</b>	Anton Bant	0438 542 810	seniorpresident@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Junior President</b>	TBC		juniorpresident@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>General Club Operations Manager</b>	Gary Hester	0493 380 619	cluboperations@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Senior Football Director</b>	Aaron Mclean	0437 547 133	footballdirector@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Senior Netball Director</b>	AJ Craske	0402 346 465	netballdirector@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Junior Football Coordinator</b>			juniorfootballcoordinator@gisbornegiantsfnc.club
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	Hayley Classeen	0430 404 374	netballcoordinator@gisbornegiantsfnc.club



### KYNETON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** P.O. Box 53, Kyneton 3444  
**Club Website:** www.kynetonfnc.com  
**Home Ground** 184-194 Mollison Street, Kyneton Vic, 3444

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Guy Nelson	0404 046 173	president@kynetonfnc.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Pene Turner	0475 508 396	secretary@kynetonfnc.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Yunghanns	0417 587 987	treasurer@kynetonfnc.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Emily Dellios	0406 260 800	vicepresident@kynetonfnc.com
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Emily Dellios	0406 260 800	juniorfootball@kynetonfnc.com
<b>Senior Football Manager</b>	Ryan Pretty	0401 841 620	pretty7_94@hotmail.com
<b>Junior Netball Coordinator</b>	James Bone	0413 998 144	KFNC.juniornetball@gmail.com
<b>Senior Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Loryn Savoia	0476 913 367	kfnc.netball@gmail.com



### LANCEFIELD FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** P O Box 110, Lancefield Vic 3435  
**Club Website:** lancefieldfnc.com.au  
**Home Ground** Lancefield Park, Chauncey St, Lancefield

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Joe Schembri	0407 526 501	joekit008@gmail.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Matt Harrop	0409 159 577	matt@silentway.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Balcam	0411 195 501	billb@grangecc.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Chris Dynon	0433 894 487	c.dynon@bigpond.com
<b>Football Manager</b>	Lucas Jowett	0436 946 427	lucas.jowett@auspost.com.au
<b>Senior Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Kerry Hammond	0408 103 396	Kerry.Hammond@education.vic.gov.au



### MACEDON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

**Address** PO Box 215, Macedon 3440  
**Club Website:** macedoncats.com.au  
**Home Ground** OnTime Oval at Tony Clarke Reserve, 37 Waterfalls Road, Macedon

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Steve Lambert	0409 853 189	president@macedoncats.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Chad Walker	0400 076 466	vicepresident@macedoncats.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Robert Hyland	0417 370 380	secretary@macedoncats.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Clytie Deering	0402 420 235	treasurer@macedoncats.com.au
<b>Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Megan Geary	0408 096 628	netballoperations@macedoncats.com.au
<b>Football Manager</b>	Bevan Uren	0467 017 350	footballoperations@macedoncats.com.au



**MELTON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 367, Melton 3337**Home Ground** MacPhersons Park, Coburns Road, Toolern Vale, 3337

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Matt Kerr	0408 661 476	toolerntreeservices@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Brian McNabb		brian@meltontoyota.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Bruce Jack	0447 607 435	bruce_jack@bigpond.com

**MELTON CENTRALS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 391, Melton 3337**Club Website:** <http://www.meltoncentralfnc.com.au>**Home Ground** Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve, Long Tree Drive, Melton West 3337

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Paul Sinclair	400355049	psinclair@asbg.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Drew Heath	408521035	drew.heath@hanson.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Rebecca Morabito	401940773	meltoncentralsfnc@outlook.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Taylor Pereira	401927598	tpereira@asbg.au
<b>Football Manager</b>	Drew Heath	408521035	drew.heath@hanson.com.au

**MELTON SOUTH FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** P.O. Box 2024, Melton South, VIC, 3338**Website:** [playhq.com/afl/org/melton-south-football-netball-club/6474f6c3](http://playhq.com/afl/org/melton-south-football-netball-club/6474f6c3)**Home Ground** 40-66 Reserve RD, Melton, VIC, 3337

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Matthew Collins	0408 031 423	admin@plus1homes.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Daniel Martin-Walker	0417 121 509	dmartinwalker@live.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Melissa Dawson	0411 425 125	mel_dawson@icloud.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Rhys Souter	0409 432 152	rhys.souter2@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jai Carlin	0414 244 211	Jaiicarlinnn@gmail.com
<b>Football Manager</b>	Sean Sutton	0400 356 256	seanss79@fastmail.com.au
<b>Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Melissa Dawson	0411 425 125	mel_dawson@icloud.com

**MT ALEXANDER FALCONS****Address** PO Box 789 Castlemaine VIC 3450**Club Website:** [mtalexanderfalcons.com.au](http://mtalexanderfalcons.com.au)**Home Ground** Harcourt Recreation Reserve

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Alana Wearne	0407 056 684	football@mtalexanderfalcons.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Gabe Smith	0438 870 577	football@mtalexanderfalcons.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sam Henty	0430 482 443	football@mtalexanderfalcons.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Emma Shannon	0419 593 299	football@mtalexanderfalcons.com.au
<b>Senior Football Manager</b>	Sam Henty	0430 482 443	football@mtalexanderfalcons.com.au
<b>Junior Development Officer</b>	Nicole Mclvor	0409 505 861	juniorfootball@mtalexanderfalcons.com.au

**RIDDELL FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 63, Riddells Creek 3431**Club Website:** [Riddellfnc.com.au](http://Riddellfnc.com.au)**Home Ground** Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve, 26-32 Sutherlands Rd, Riddells Creek 3431

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	James Nolan	0437 682 442	Jnolan19@hotmail.com
<b>Vice President-Men's Sport</b>	Darren Ponton	0400 288 050	ponton28@bigpond.com
<b>Vice President-Women's Sport</b>	Lauren Nolan	0433 778 996	lauren@otiumplanning.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Elise Sloss	0408 284 885	Elisesloss@icloud.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rachael Grabham	0408 337 533	rachael.grabham@bigpond.com
<b>Football Manager-Mens</b>	Darren Ponton	0400 288 050	ponton28@bigpond.com
<b>Football Manager-Womens</b>	Adrian Keltie		adriankeltie@gmail.com
<b>Netball Manager</b>	Tracey Brown/ Lauren Nolan		lauren@otiumplanning.com.au; tdbrown39@bigpond.com



**ROMSEY FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 174, Romsey 3434**Club Website:** [www.foxsportspulse.com/club\\_info.cgi?c=1-3351-36686-0-0&slD=271028](http://www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=1-3351-36686-0-0&slD=271028)**Home Ground** Romsey Park Recreation Reserve, Park Lane, Romsey 3434

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Eden Jedwab	403344462	president.romseymfnc@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Jo-Anne Carroll	408558531	secretaryrfnc@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kerrie Auer	407779112	treasurer.rfnc@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Louie Auer	438449924	louie.auer24@gmail.com
<b>Senior Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Fiona Auer	432611941	Netball.rfnc@gmail.com

**WALLAN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 127, Wallan 3756**Club Website:** <https://wallanmagpies.com.au>**Home Ground** Greenhill Reserve, Duke Street & Northern Highway, Wallan 3756

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Stuart Broomfield	0412 240 451	stuart@aywoncarpets.com.au
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Voss	0425 774 119	vossy123.kv@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Stephen Shephard	0407 411 148	stephen@stanfred.com.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Helen Mahoney	0407 233 935	hmahoney@activ8.net.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rebecca Broomfield	0413 047 159	treasurer.wallanfnc@gmail.com
<b>Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Jenni Wood	0438 411 147	Jenni.wood@westnet.com.au
<b>Football Manager</b>	Neal Langborne	0418 569 953	neallangborne@msn.com

**WOODEND-HESKET FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB****Address** PO Box 152, Woodend 3442**Club Website:** [www.woodendkesketfnc.org](http://www.woodendkesketfnc.org)**Home Ground** Gilbert Gordon Reserve, 1 Davy Street, Woodend 3442

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>President</b>	Paul Podbury	0418 542 484	president@woodendhesketfnc.org
<b>President</b>	James Chettle	0402 013 288	jeconstructions@hotmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Aaron Warner	0403 160 400	tailoredplumbing@bigpond.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Andrew Makin	0488 528 599	secretary@woodendhesketfnc.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Podbury	0418 542 484	treasurer@woodendhesketfnc.org
<b>Netball Director/Coordinator</b>	Kellie Duff	0419 535 062	dktduff@hotmail.com
<b>Football Manager</b>	Andy Wilson	0409 185 633	Andrew@supervised.com.au

**2025 Senior Club Ground Addresses**

CLUB	GROUND NAME	ADDRESS
<b>DIGGERS REST</b>	Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve	Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest 3427
<b>GISBORNE GIANTS</b>	Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct	Cnr Hamilton Rd & Barringo Rd, New Gisborne Vic 3438
<b>KYNETON</b>	Kyneton Showgrounds	184-194 Mollison Street Kyneton 3444
<b>LANCEFIELD</b>	Lancefield Park	69 Chauncey Street, Lancefield 3435
<b>MACEDON</b>	Tony Clarke Reserve	37 Waterfalls Road, Macedon 3440
<b>MELTON</b>	MacPherson Park	Coburns Road Toolern Vale 3337
<b>MELTON CENTRALS</b>	Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve	Long Tree Drive, Melton West 3337
<b>MELTON SOUTH</b>	Melton Recreation Reserve	Reserve Rd, Melton South
<b>MT ALEXANDER</b>	Harcourt Recreation Reserve	Corner of Mills Rd & Bingham Rd, Harcourt VIC 3453
<b>RIDDELL</b>	Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve	26-32 Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek 3431
<b>ROMSEY</b>	Romsey Park Recreation Reserve	Park Lane, Romsey 3434
<b>WALLAN</b>	Greenhill Reserve	Duke Street & Northern Highway, Wallan 3756
<b>WOODEND-HESKET</b>	Gilbert Gordon Reserve	1 Davy Street, Woodend 3442

**2025 Junior Club Ground Addresses**

CLUB	GROUND NAME	ADDRESS
<b>DIGGERS REST</b>	Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve	Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest 3427
<b>EYNESBURY</b>	Eynesbury Recreation Reserve	3 Avoca Street Eynesbury 3338
<b>GISBORNE GIANTS</b>	Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct	Cnr Hamilton Rd & Barringo Rd, New Gisborne Vic 3438
<b>GISBORNE ROOKIES</b>	Gardiner Reserve	8 Hamilton Street, Gisborne 3437
<b>KYNETON</b>	Kyneton Showgrounds	184-194 Mollison Street Kyneton 3444
<b>LANCEFIELD</b>	Lancefield Park	69 Chauncey Street, Lancefield 3435
<b>MACEDON</b>	Tony Clarke Reserve	37 Waterfalls Road, Macedon 3440
<b>MELTON</b>	MacPherson Park	Coburns Rd, Toolern Vale 3337
<b>MELTON CENTRALS</b>	Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve	Long Tree Drive, Melton West 3337
<b>MELTON SOUTH</b>	Melton Recreation Reserve	Reserve Road, Melton 3337
<b>RIDDELLS CREEK</b>	Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve	26-32 Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek 3431
<b>ROMSEY</b>	Romsey Park Recreation Reserve	Park Lane, Romsey 3434
<b>SUNBURY KANGAROOS</b>	Eric Boardman Reserve Oval #3	Mitchells Lane, Sunbury 3429
<b>SUNBURY LIONS</b>	Eric Boardman Reserve Oval #2	Mitchells Lane, Sunbury 3429
<b>WOODEND</b>	Gilbert Gordon Reserve	1 Davy Street, Woodend 3442



2025 Senior Club Postal Addresses

CLUB	ADDRESS
DIGGERS REST	PO Box 120, Diggers Rest 3427
LANCEFIELD	PO Box 110 Lancefield
MACEDON	PO Box 215, Macedon 3440
MELTON CENTRALS	PO Box 391, Melton 3337
RIDDELL	PO Box 63, Riddells Creek 3431
ROMSEY	PO Box 174, Romsey 3434
WALLAN	PO Box 127, Wallan 3756
WOODEND-HESKET	PO Box 152, Woodend 3442

2025 Junior Club Postal Addresses

CLUB	ADDRESS
DIGGERS REST	PO Box 26, Diggers Rest 3427
EYNESBURY	PO Box 320, Melton Vic 333
GISBORNE GIANTS	PO Box 299 , Gisborne 3437
GISBORNE ROOKIES	PO Box 208, Gisborne 3437
KYNETON	PO Box 53, Kyneton 3444
LANCEFIELD	PO Box 108, Lancefield 3435
MACEDON	PO Box 256, Macedon 3440
MELTON	PO Box 367, Melton 3337
MELTON CENTRALS	PO Box 479, Melton 3337
MELTON SOUTH	PO Box 2171, Melton South 3338
RIDDELLS CREEK	PO Box 252, Riddells Creek 3431
ROMSEY	PO Box 89, Romsey 3434
SUNBURY KANGAROOS	PO Box 295, Sunbury 3429
SUNBURY LIONS	PO Box 434, Sunbury 3429
WOODEND	PO Box 382, Woodend 3442

Event	Date	Venue
April		
RDFNL Season Launch	Wednesday 2nd April	The Meadows
Junior Season Starts	Sunday 6th April	Various
Round 1 Senior Matches	Saturday 5th April	Various
Women's Football Season starts	Saturday 5th April	Various
Junior & Youth Girls Football Season Starts	Sunday 13th April	Various
Anzac Day	Thursday 25th April	
Under 9's Sunday Competition Starts	Sunday 27th April	Various
RDFNL Board Meeting	Monday 28th April	Arnolds Creek - Board Room
Under 9's Wednesday Competition Starts	Wednesday 30th April	Various
Club 18 Season Starts	TBC	Various
May		
15 & Under and 17 & Under Netball Association Championships	Sunday 25th May	DNA, Thornbury
RDFNL Junior Interleague Program	TBC	TBC
June		
RDFNL Board Meeting	2nd June	Arnolds Creek - Board Room
RDFNL Junior Football Interleague program	Saturday 7th-Monday 9th June	Various
13 & Under Netball Association Championships	Sunday 22nd June	SNHC, Parkville
Kings Birthday	Monday 9th June	
RDFNL Junior & Senior Presidents Meeting	TBC	TBC
July		
RDFNL Board Meeting	14th July	Arnolds Creek - Board Room
August		
Women's Football Finals Begin	Saturday 2nd August	TBC
Junior Finals Begin	Sunday 3rd August	TBC
Junior Presentation Night	Wednesday 13th August	Tabcorp Park, Melton
Women's Grand Final	Saturday 16th August	TBC
RDFNL Junior & Girls Football Grand Final Day	Sunday 17th August	TBC
RDFNL Board Meeting	25th August	Arnolds Creek - Board Room
RDFNL Senior Finals Starts	Saturday 23rd August	TBC
RDFNL Club 18 Grand Final	TBC	TBC
September		
Senior Grand Final Day	Saturday 13th September	TBC
Bowen & Ryan Medal Night	Thursday 25th September	Tabcorp Park, Melton
AFL Grand Final Eve	Friday 26th September	
October		
RDFNL Board Meeting	20th October	Arnolds Creek- Board Room
November		
Melbourne Cup Day	Tuesday 4th November	
RDFNL Board Meeting	1st December	Arnolds Creek- Board Room
RDFNL AGM, Presidents & Secreataries Meeting	TBC	Arnolds Creek

# RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE



## STATEMENT OF RULES

TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC	START RULE NO.	START PAGE NO.
Membership	Life Members	4.2	2
Membership	Disputes and Mediation	8.1	7
Membership	Who can be members	4.1	2
Membership	Board Members	4.8	3
Membership	Clubs	4.3	2
Membership	Discipline, Suspension and Expulsion of Members	7.1.1	4
Membership	Voting Rights	6.1	4
Membership	Register of Members	5.1	4
Name		1.1	1
Notices		17.1	16
Seal		19.1	17
Winding Up or Cancellation		21.1	17
Withdrawal of Affiliation		9.1	8

### RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

#### STATEMENT OF RULES

#### SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE NUMBER	SCHEDULE NAME	PAGE NUMBER
1	Affiliated Clubs	19
2	Board Nomination Form	20
3	Notice of Motion	21

### RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

#### STATEMENT OF RULES

#### NAME

- 1.1 The name of the incorporated association is **RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.** (in these rules called "the League").

#### AFFILIATIONS

- 2.1 The League shall be affiliated with Football Victoria and Netball Victoria.

#### INTERPRETATION

- 3.1 In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears:



"Board" means the board of the League as constituted in rule 4.9 herein.

"Financial Year" means year ending on 30th September.

"Affiliated Club" means a club affiliated with the League in accordance with rules 4.3 or 4.7 herein.

"Eligible Club" means a club eligible to apply for affiliation with the League in accordance with rule 4.4 herein.

"Life Members" means all persons named in accordance with rule 4.2 herein.

"Annual Meeting" means a meeting as referred to in rule 11.1 herein.

"Relevant documents" has the same meaning as in the Act.

"Special Resolution" has the same meaning as in the Act.

"Special Meeting" means a meeting referred to in rule 11.7 herein.

"Registered Players" means players registered by the League to participate in matches approved or controlled or organised by the League.

"Official" means any person acting on behalf of an Affiliated Club in relation to these Rules or any By-Laws or any match approved or controlled by the League.

"Member" means a member referred to in rule 4.1 herein.

"The Act" means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and all amendments thereto from time to time.

"The Regulations" means regulations made by the Governor in Council from time to time under the Act.

"General Manager " means the person appointed from time to time pursuant to rule 15 herein.

"Season" means the time from the commencement of the first matches played in accordance with the League's fixture for each division until the completion of all final series matches.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 The League shall consist of the following members:

- (a) Life Members pursuant to rule 4.2 hereof.
- (b) Affiliated Clubs pursuant to rules 4.3 and 4.7 hereof.
- (c) Members of the Board pursuant to rule 4.8 hereof.

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

4.2 (a) The Board may in each financial year confer upon any one person who has rendered outstanding service to the League a Life Membership of the League (herein referred to as "Life Membership").

(b) All Life Members shall be entitled to:

- (i) free entry to all matches controlled by the League on presentation of their life membership medallion or such other identification as directed by the Board from time to time;
- (ii) attend all Annual and Special Meetings of the League and speak at such meetings but shall not be entitled to vote.

## **CLUBS**

4.3 The clubs affiliated with the incorporated associations known as Riddell District Football Netball League Inc., Riddell District Netball Association Inc. and Riddell District Junior Football League Inc. as at 13th December, 2023, which clubs are listed in Schedule 1 headed "Affiliated Clubs as at 13th December, 2024", shall be Affiliated Club Members of the League.

4.4 Any other club seeking membership with the League, which club satisfies the Board of the following, namely, that:

- (i) it is incorporated pursuant to the Act or it is a company incorporated pursuant to the Corporations Act;
- (ii) its facilities and financial circumstances are of a standard acceptable to the Board;
- (iii) its name and uniform are acceptable to the Board or will be altered to a uniform acceptable to the Board;
- (iv) it was a financial member for the previous seasons of the previous league or association with which it was affiliated (if applicable);
- (v) it is willing to pay a security bond of up to \$2,000.00 upon being

accepted into the League;

- (vi) it is willing to pay an acceptance fee as determined by the Board;

may make a written application to the League for membership as an Affiliated Club.

- 4.5 Every such written application shall be circulated by the General Manager to each member of the League within 30 days after receipt of the written application. The written application will be an item for discussion at any Annual or Special Meeting after receipt of the written application by the League.

- 4.6 All applications by Clubs wishing to become Affiliated Clubs will be voted on at any following Annual or Special Meeting after it has been discussed under rule 4.5 herein.

- 4.7 An applicant club shall become an Affiliated Club and a member of the League upon:

- (i) a majority decision of all members of the League actually attending and entitled to vote at the meeting at which the application is voted upon; and
- (ii) lodging with the League a security bond (not exceeding \$2,000.00) determined by the Board.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 4.8 The members of the Board from time to time shall be members of the League for such time only as they hold office.

- 4.9 The Board of the League shall comprise:

- (a) One President;
- (b) Two Vice-Presidents;
- (c) Up to seven (7) Executive Directors;
- (d) Any Board appointed Appointee pursuant to rule 10.4 (b)

#### **REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

- 5.1 The General Manager shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the name of each Affiliated Club Member, Life Member and Board Member from time to time and the date of the entry of the name of each member. The register shall be available for inspection by all members upon request to the General Manager.

- 5.2. Each Affiliated Club Member shall within 14 days of a change taking place notify the General Manager of:

- (i) any changes to their Board; and
- (ii) any changes to the Representative for Annual and Special Meetings of the League.

#### **VOTING RIGHTS**

- 6.1 The voting at all Annual and Special General Meetings of the League shall be as follows:

- (a) every Life Member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof but shall not be entitled to vote;

every Affiliated Club 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 PROVIDED THAT its right to vote is conditional upon it having paid all monies due to the League prior to each respective Annual or Special Meeting;

every Affiliated Club that is a single incorporated body comprising senior and junior teams 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 Annual or Special Meeting;

- (e) every individual Board member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof and the League Chairman shall be entitled to one vote on every resolution or amendment thereof on behalf of the Board.

#### **DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

- 7.1.1 Subject to these Rules, in respect of any matter not expressly dealt with in the by-laws, if the Board is of the opinion that a member or an official or a registered player of a member has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or an official or a registered player of a member or prejudicial to the interests of the League, the Board may refer the matter to mediation under Rule 8 or resolve to proceed under this rule and resolve to:-

- (a) fine that member; or
- (b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific



period; or

- (c) expel that member from the League; or
- (d) deduct match points from that member; or
- (e) disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.

7.1.2 If the matter is referred to mediation but is not resolved by that process, the Board may resolve to:-

- (a) fine that member; or
- (b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
- (c) expel that member from the League; or
- (d) deduct match points from that member; or
- (e) disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.

7.2 A resolution of the Board under rule 7.1.1 does not take effect unless:-

- (a) at a meeting held in accordance with rule 7.3 the Board confirms the resolution; and
- (b) if the member exercises a right of appeal to the League under this rule, the League confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.

7.3 A meeting of the Board to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under Rule 7.1.1 must be held not earlier than 14 days, and not later than 28 days, after notice has been given to the member in accordance with rule 7.4.

7.4 For the purpose of giving notice in accordance with rule 7.3; the General Manager must, as soon as practicable, cause to be given to the member-a written notice:-

- (a) setting out the resolution of the Board and the grounds on which it is based; and
- (b) stating that the member may address the Board at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after the notice has been given to that member; and
- (c) stating the date, place and time of that meeting; and
- (d) informing the member that the member may do one or both of the following:-
  - (i) attend that meeting;
  - (ii) give to the Board before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution;
- (e) informing the member that, if at that meeting, the Board confirms a

resolution to expel a member, the member may not later than 48 hours after that meeting, give the General Manager a notice to the effect that the member wishes to appeal to the League in general meeting against the resolution.

7.5 At a meeting of the Board to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under rule 7.1.1 the Board must:-

- (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
- (b) give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member, and;
- (c) determine by resolution whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.

7.6 If at a meeting of the Board, the Board confirms a resolution, to expel a member from the League the member not later than 48 hours after that meeting, may give the General Manager a notice to the effect that the member wishes to appeal to the League in general meeting against the resolution.

7.7 If the General Manager receives a notice under rule 7.6; he or she must notify the Board and must convene a general meeting of the League to be held within 21 days after the date on which the General Manager received the notice.

7.8 At the general meeting of the League convened under rule 7.7:-

- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
- (b) the Board may place before the meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution; and
- (c) the member must be given an opportunity to be heard; and
- (d) the members present must vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.

7.9 A resolution is confirmed if, at the general meeting, not less than half of the members vote in person, or by proxy, in favour of the resolution. In any other case, the resolution is revoked.

7.10 For the purposes of this Rule 7, a member shall be deemed to be responsible for and liable to be penalized for the action and conduct of a registered player or official of a member which relates in any way to these Rules or the By-Laws or any match approved or controlled by the League.

**DISPUTES AND MEDIATION**

8.1 The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between –

(a) a member club and another member club; or

a member club and the League; or

(c) a member and a registered player or official of that member, where the member has referred the dispute to the League for resolution.

8.2 The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.

8.3 If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.

8.4 The mediator must be –

(a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or

(b) in the absence of agreement –

(i) in the case of a dispute between a member club and another member club, a person appointed by the RDFL Board.

(ii) in the case of a dispute between a member and the League, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).

8.5 A member of the League can be a mediator.

8.6 The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.

8.7 The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.

8.8 The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must –

(a) give the parties in the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and

(b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and

(c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.

8.9 The mediator must not determine the dispute.

8.10 If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at Law.

**WITHDRAWAL OF AFFILIATION**

9.1 An Affiliated Club Member may apply to withdraw its affiliation with the League only between 4th September and 31st October in any year by giving notice in writing to the General Manager. Such notification shall be signed by the Executive Members of the Affiliated Club Member concerned and shall contain the reason for its decision to seek withdrawal together with a duly certified Minute of the Meeting of the member at which such decision was made.

9.2 The Board shall consider and rule upon any such application within 21 days of receipt of the notice in writing.

9.3 In the event the Board objects to the withdrawal application, the General Manager shall advise the Club in writing, of the reasons for its refusal within seven (7) days of that refusal.

9.4 Any Affiliated Club Member may within seven (7) days of receipt of the reasons set out in rule 9.3 appeal the decision to Football Victoria.

**BOARD**

10.1 A person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Board of the League if in the opinion of the League members the nominee shall have sufficient skills and experience to promote and further the best interests of the Riddell District FNL.

All members of the League Board shall be eligible to hold office on a Committee of an affiliated club, or other official position within a Board. (E.g Junior Coach) but no more than 2 RDFNL Board members can hold an official position at the same club, and no more than 4 Board members can hold a position at a club.

In such instances where the Board considers that a conflict may exist between an item of business and a role that a Board member may hold within a Club, that Chairman may ask for the Board member to be excused for that item of business.

10.2 Each Board Member shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiration of his/her term.

10.3 Any retiring Board Member shall remain a Board Member and be eligible to vote and speak at all Annual and Special Meetings until the conclusion of the Annual or Special Meeting at which he or she is replaced.

10.4 (a) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office of the Board, the Board shall seek nominations to fill such vacancy or vacancies. In accordance with rule 10.11 to 10.15 inclusive, at the next Special Meeting or at a Meeting called to consider a ballot, the elected



person shall hold office for the period of that office, as if it had not been vacated. In the event that no nominations are received within 28 days of that advertisement, the Board shall be empowered to fill such casual vacancy or vacancies and any person(s) so appointed shall serve in that office until the next Annual General Meeting.

- (b) The Board shall have the power to appoint not more than one person to act as a Board member for a term not exceeding two years should it decide in its absolute discretion that the particular skills and expertise of that person warrant his or her appointment as a Board member. Upon the expiration of the term, the Appointee shall be eligible for election at the next Annual General Meeting if upon expiration of the appointed term he/she gives notice in writing to the Board of the intention to seek election to the Board.

**POWERS**

10.5 The Affairs of the League shall be managed by the Board, constituted as provided in rule 4.9 herein. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies in any position of the Board, the remaining members of the Board may act provided their numbers are sufficient to maintain a quorum at Board meetings.

10.6 The Board, in addition to any specific powers in these rules:

- (a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the League;
- (b) shall, subject to these Rules, The Regulations and The Act, have power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Board to be necessary for the proper management of the business and affairs of the League;
- (c) shall appoint an Auditor from time to time for such time as the Board considers appropriate;
- (d) shall have power to discipline, suspend or expel members, officials of member clubs or registered players in such manner as is provided for in these rules or the by-laws.
- (e) make, amend, substitute or cancel such by-laws as the Board considers necessary for the League to implement from time to time; and
- (f) may delegate specified powers and responsibilities, set out in the by-laws, to the following committees:  
 A Netball Committee  
 or any other committee the Board considers necessary in the circumstances.

**CALL IN POWER**

10.7 Before any:

- (a) delegated committee of the Board;
- (b) independent tribunal; or
- (c) panel.

established under these rules or under the by-laws makes a decision in respect of any matter referred to it in accordance with the rules or by-laws, the Board may direct the relevant committee, tribunal or panel to refer the matter to it for determination, if it appears to the Board:-

- (d) the matter raises a major issue of policy in relation to the activities of the League and the determination of the matter may have a substantial effect on the affairs of the League and/or any of its members; or
- (e) any decision on the matter has been unreasonably delayed or is otherwise disadvantaging one of the parties or the consideration of the matter by the League Board would better facilitate the League in controlling and managing the affairs of the League.

- 10.8 In response to any such direction, the relevant committee, tribunal or panel must comply with the direction without delay and must not proceed further with the matter itself.
- 10.9 For the purposes of these rules upon directing that the matter be remitted to it, the Board of the League shall be entitled to exercise the power of the relevant committee, tribunal or panel and shall adopt the procedures set out in these rules or the by-laws applicable to that committee, tribunal or panel.
- 10.10 Subject only to the rights of any member, set out in rule 7.6 being exercised, any decision made by the Board in respect of a matter remitted to it for determination, shall be final and binding.

**ELECTIONS**

- 10.11 Any two Affiliated Club Members or the President may nominate any eligible person to stand for the position of a Board member.
- 10.12 Each nomination shall be in the form of Schedule 2 and signed by or on behalf of the Board by the President or on behalf of each of the nominee clubs (through their appropriate representatives) and on that form the nominee shall:
- (i) acknowledge his willingness to stand for the position of which he is being nominated; and
  - (ii) specify the basis of his eligibility to stand for election.
- 10.13 The nominating members, or the President, as the case may be, shall cause the nomination to be lodged with the General Manager at least twenty-eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 10.14 The General Manager shall inform all members of the meeting at which an election is to take place of the candidates for any position on the Board by posting to each of the members of the League 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.
- 10.15 All elections to elect Board Members shall be by ballot unless there shall not be sufficient numbers of candidates to require election, in which case the nominee shall be deemed to be elected to the vacant office.

**VACANCY AND REMOVAL**

- 10.16 The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if a member of the Board:
- (a) submits his or her resignation in writing to the General Manager; or
  - (b) dies or becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent which interferes with the performance of his/her duties as a Board Member; or
  - (c) is absent without approval from meetings of the Board for more than 3 consecutive months; or
  - (d) holds any office of the League for pecuniary reward.

**MEETINGS****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 11.1 Within three (3) months of the end of each financial year the Board shall convene an Annual General Meeting.
- 11.2 The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;

- (b) to receive from the Board reports upon the transactions of the League during the preceding financial year;
- (c) to elect members of the Board to fill any vacancies in Board offices;
- (d) to receive and consider a statement submitted by the League containing the following particulars:
  - (i) the income and expenditure of the League during its last financial year;
  - (ii) the assets and liabilities of the League at the end of its last financial year;
  - (iii) the mortgages, charges and securities of any description affecting any of the property of the League at the end of its last financial year; and
  - (iv) in respect of each trust of which the League was trustee during a period, being the whole or any part of the last financial year of the League:
    - (a) the income and expenditure of the trust during the period;
    - (b) the assets and liabilities of the trust during that period; and
    - (c) the mortgages, charges and securities of any description affecting any of the property of the trust at the end of that period.

- 11.3 The Annual General Meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- 11.4 The Annual General Meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.
- 11.5 Only the representatives of Affiliated Club Members for the financial year reported upon shall be eligible to speak and vote at any Annual General Meeting.
- 11.6 A Board Member shall be eligible to speak on all matters raised at an Annual Meeting and shall retain his office in the event of not being re-elected to office or not standing for office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which his term of office was terminated.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- 11.7 The General Manager shall convene extraordinary general meetings of the members of the League (to be referred to as Special Meetings) as follows:
- (i) at such times, places and dates nominated by the Board to deal with matters nominated by the Board;
  - (ii) upon receipt by the General Manager of a requisition setting forth proposed motions for the meeting signed by representatives of at least



ten (10) Affiliated Club Members.

- 11.8 If the General Manager does not cause a special meeting to be convened within one month after the date on which a requisition is received by him from the Affiliated Club Members, the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special meeting to be held not later than three months after the date on which the General Manager received the requisition.
- 11.9 A special meeting convened by members pursuant to rule 11.8 shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which Special Meetings are convened by the General Manager and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be reimbursed to the requisitioning members by the League.

#### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- 12.1 The General Manager shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the convening of an Annual or Special Meeting, cause to be sent to each member of the League at each member's address appearing in the register of members, a notice by pre-paid post stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 12.2 No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at any Annual or Special Meeting.
- 12.3 A member desiring to bring any business or motions before a meeting must give 14 days notice of the business in writing in the form of Schedule 3 to the General Manager, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next Annual or Special Meeting after receipt of that notice.

#### **BUSINESS OF AND PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- 13.1 All business that is transacted at a Special Meeting and all business that is transacted at the Annual Meeting, with the exception of that specially referred to in these rules as being the ordinary business of an Annual Meeting, shall be deemed to be special business.
- 13.2 No item of business shall be transacted at an Annual or Special meeting unless a quorum or members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- 13.3 A majority of members of the League entitled to vote at meetings personally present or represented being members entitled under these rules to vote at Annual and Special Meetings, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at any Annual or Special Meetings.
- 13.4 If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of an Annual or Special Meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to a time and place determined and announced by the Board.
- 13.5 The President, or in his absence, either of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside as Chairman at each Annual or Special Meeting of the League.

- 13.6 If the President and both the Vice-Presidents are absent from any Annual or Special Meetings, the members present shall elect one of the remaining Board members to preside as Chairman at the Meeting. If none of those persons are willing to act as Chairman, the Members may elect a Chairman from the Members present.
- 13.7 The Board of an Annual or Special Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the Meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 13.8 Where a meeting is adjourned for ten (10) days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an Annual or Special Meeting.
- 13.9 Except as provided in rule 13.8 it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- 13.10 A question or motion arising at an Annual or Special Meeting of the League, except as otherwise provided in these Rules, shall be determined on a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll or ballot is demanded, a declaration by the Board that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the League, is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the question or motion.
- 13.11 If at an Annual or Special Meeting a poll or ballot on any question is demanded by not less than two members, it shall be taken at the time and in such manner as the Board may direct and the resolution of the poll or ballot shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question or motion.
- 13.12 Upon any question or motion arising at an Annual or Special Meeting of the League, a member must vote personally by its representative/s. No proxies will be recognised. Where a Member is entitled to 2 votes, each vote must be given by a personally present representative.
- 13.13 In the case of an equality of voting on a question, at an Annual or Special Meeting the Board of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 13.14 (a) A poll or ballot that is demanded on the election of a Board or on a question of an adjournment of the Annual or Special Meeting must be taken immediately upon the demand being made.
- (b) A poll or ballot that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at any time, before the close of the meeting, as the Board may direct.

**PROCEEDINGS AT BOARD MEETINGS**

- 14.1 The Board shall meet at such places and at such times as the Board may determine from time to time.
- 14.2 Special meetings of the Board may be convened by the President or by any of the members of the Board.
- 14.3 Notice shall be given to members of the Board of any special meeting specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.
- 14.4 Any four members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Board.
- 14.5 No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week unless the meeting was a special meeting in which case, it lapses.
- 14.6 At meetings of the Board:
- (a) the President or in his absence, either of the Vice-Presidents shall preside; or
  - (b) if the President and both Vice-Presidents are absent, one of the remaining members of the Board as may be chosen by the members present shall preside.
- 14.7 Questions arising at a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee appointed by the Board shall be determined on a show of hands or, if demanded by a member, by a poll taken in such manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- 14.8 Each member present at a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee appointed by the Board (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote and, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- 14.9 Notice of each Board meeting shall be given to each member of the Board by communicating the time of the meeting to him at a reasonable time before the meeting.
- 14.10 Subject to rule 14.4 the Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the Board provided a quorum at all times is present.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

- 15.1 The Board shall appoint a full-time Manager of the League (to be known as "General Manager"), who shall be:
- (i) an employee of the League;
  - (ii) entitled to remuneration and other employment benefits as the Board may determine from time to time;

- (iii) The General Manager shall be a non-voting member of the Board and all duly appointed sub-committees of the League;
- (iv) responsible for the day to day activities of the League under the direction of the Board;
- (v) responsible for the recording and keeping of all minutes of meetings of the League and the Board, including all duly appointed sub-committees;
- (vi) responsible for the collection and receipt of all moneys due to the League;
- responsible for the custody and maintenance of correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the League with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the League, which accounts and books shall be open to inspection by any member of the League from time to time;
- (viii) responsible, in consultation with the Board, the appointment of other staff as required.
- (ix) the Public Officer of the League.

**INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL**

- 16.1 A Tribunal Secretary & Tribunal Chairman shall be appointed by the outgoing Board each year prior to the Annual General meeting. The Tribunal Secretary shall be responsible for the selection and notification of Tribunal Members on each occasion it is necessary and shall draw such members from the "list" presented to the Member Clubs at the Annual General meeting of the League. The Tribunal Chairman shall preside on all cases when practicable and available and additional Chairman may be appointed as needed by the Tribunal Secretary.
- 16.2 An independent Tribunal, hereafter referred to as the Tribunal, of three (3) shall be appointed by the Tribunal Secretary to deal with appeals, umpires reports and any other matters referred to it by the Board. A list of the independent Tribunal Members shall be presented at the Annual General meeting of the League. A substitute/s may be appointed to the Tribunal to act when any of the Tribunal Members may be unable to do so. Any Member Club objecting to a person nominated on the "list" referred to in Rule 16.1 may do so at the League Annual General meeting and a vote of Member Clubs present shall determine that persons eligibility.

**NOTICES**

- 17.1 Any notice required to be given to or served upon the League or the Board shall be addressed to the General Manager at the registered office of the League from time to time and shall be deemed to have been duly served:
- (a) at the time of personal service was effected on the General Manager; or
  - (b) at the time any notice was sent by pre-paid mail to the



registered office of the League would be received in the ordinary course of the post;

whichever is appropriate.

- 17.2 Any notice by the League or Board to any member, player or official of a member shall be posted by pre-paid ordinary mail or sent by electronic media and shall be deemed to have been duly served if addressed to the Secretary of the Member at the time it would ordinarily be received in the post, through electronic communication or in the case of personal service at the actual time service is effected.

#### **CHEQUES**

- 18.1 All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed as determined by the Board from time to time.

#### **SEAL**

- 19.1 The Common Seal of the League shall be kept in the custody of the General Manager.

- 19.2 The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Board and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Board or of one member of the Board and the General Manager.

#### **ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSES**

- 20.1 These rules and the Statement of Purposes of the League shall not be altered except by special resolution of the members of the League being a three-fourths majority of those attending, entitled to vote and actually voting.

#### **WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION**

- 21.1 In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the League, the assets of the League must be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

#### **CUSTODY OF RECORDS**

- 22.1 Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the General Manager shall keep in his custody or under his control, all books, relevant documents and securities of the League, which shall be made available within seven days to any member upon request in writing.

#### **FUNDS**

- 23.1 The funds of the League shall be derived from annual subscriptions, donations, fees and levies and such other sources as the Board determines from time to time.

#### **FEES**

- 24.1 Each Affiliated Club Member shall pay the prescribed annual subscriptions and other fees and levies of the League on or by the date prescribed from time to time by the Board.



**RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.**

## SCHEDULE 1

**AFFILIATED CLUBS AS AT 11th DECEMBER 2024**

(Rule 4.3 of the Statement of Rules)

**Diggers Rest Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Diggers Rest Football Club Inc.**  
**Eynesbury Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Gisborne Giants Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Gisborne Rookies Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Kyneton Football Netball Club**  
**Lancefield Football Club Inc.**  
**Lancefield Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Macedon Football Club Inc.**  
**Macedon Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Melton Central Football Club Inc.**  
**Melton Central Junior Football Club Inc**  
**Melton Senior Football Netball Club**  
**Melton Junior Football Netball Club Inc.**  
**Melton South Football Netball Club Inc.**  
**Melton South Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Mt Alexander Football Club**  
**Riddell Football Club Inc.**  
**Riddells Creek Junior Football Club Inc..**  
**Romsey Football Club Inc.**  
**Romsey Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Sunbury Lions Junior Football Netball Club Inc.**  
**Sunbury Kangaroos Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Wallan Football Club**  
**Woodend Junior Football Club Inc.**  
**Woodend/Hesket Football Club Inc.**

**RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INC.**

## SCHEDULE 2

## BOARD NOMINATION FORM

(Rule 10.12 of the Statement of Rules)

**TO:** THE GENERAL MANAGER

**TAKE NOTICE** that the two member Clubs specified below hereby wish to nominate:

(Insert name)

for the position as (Insert position)

**4th NOMINATING CLUB (Name)** Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary \*

**2ND NOMINATING CLUB** (Name) Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary \*

( \* cross out whichever not applicable)

DATED this                      day of                      20

### NOMINEE'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND BASIS OF ELIGIBILITY

I, (insert full name of nominee)

of (insert nominee's residential address)

the above named nominee hereby state:

1. I am willing to stand for the above position for which I am being nominated.
2. I am eligible to be nominated because (specify Rule 10 eligibility):

SIGNED:

Date:

NOTE: Nominating Members must cause the nomination form duly completed to be lodged with the General Manager at least 28 clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.



SCHEDULE 3

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING OF THE LEAGUE

(Rule 12.3 of the Statement of Rules)

TO: THE GENERAL MANAGER:

TAKE NOTICE THAT (Insert name of Club)

desires to bring the following business / motion before the next meeting of the League:

(Set out business / motion)

DATED this                      day of                      20

NAME OF CLUB:    Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary<sup>\*</sup>

(<sup>\*</sup> cross out whichever not applicable)

NOTE:  
This Notice must be lodged with the General Manager not less than 14 days before the meeting at which the Notice will be considered.

Riddell District Football & Netball League Inc

STATEMENT OF RULES

RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RULES

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**RDFNL By-Law 1****Interpretation**

In these By-Laws, unless the contrary intention appears;

- “League” means the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- “Seniors” are defined as First, Second, Third (Under 19.5) & Club 18’s Teams
- “Juniors” are defined as Under 17, Under 15, Under 13 & Under 11 & Under 9.
- “Female Football” means the female only football competitions that the RDFNL administers.
- “Board” means the Board of Directors constituted pursuant to Rule 20.
- “Rules” means the Rules of the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- “Penalty Unit” is defined as \$10.

**RDFNL By-Law 2****Powers**

The League shall, subject to its Statement of Purposes, and to its Rules, comply otherwise with the Laws of Australian Football (released by the AFL) and AFL Victoria.

**RDFNL By-Law 3****Matters not provided for**

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the Rules; in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football Foundation, or the AFL Victoria rules, the Board shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter.

**RDFNL By-Law 4****Admission Prices**

Admission prices will be determined by the Board prior to the commencement of each season, with sufficient time for clubs to complete their budgets for the coming year. Disbursement of gate receipts is covered by By-Law 18. The RDFNL Board will set the finals pricing for each season.

Admission prices:

Home & Away:

Adult: \$10

Concession: \$5

Children under 16: Free

Record: \$2

**RDFNL By-Law 5****Change of Venue**

The Fixture Committee consisting of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer and Football Operations Manager shall review all match venues on a weekly basis and determine any venue change no later than 5pm on the Wednesday preceding the round of matches. Match programming is covered in By-Law 31.

**RDFNL By-Law 6****Clearance & Permit Curfew**

In accordance with AFL Victoria Rules, the League imposes a clearance & permit curfew. No clearance or permit shall be handled after 5pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following a round of matches unless & except where by Exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager.

**RDFNL By-Law 7****Club Contact Lists & Annual Reports**

The RDFNL shall circulate each year a Club Contact List to be completed and returned by a date nominated by the Board. The information on the form will be included in the Season Information Booklet and circulated to all other clubs and members of the media. Clubs must inform the League immediately of any change of personnel after submission of the form or changes of communications details for any individual listed on the form. Clubs must also submit to the League a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting by the 28th February in the following year. Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report by this date will see the Riddell District Football & Netball League impose a fine of 25 penalty units.

**RDFNL By-Law 8****Football Records**

Football Records will be available on the league website. Each club must supply notes via email (only) prior to 5pm on the Tuesday preceding each round. The notes must not be of more than 250 words. Notes exceeding this amount may have any text after 250 words deleted. Failure to provide such notes will see a fine of 20 penalty units imposed on the offending club/s.

**RDFNL By-Law 9****Jumpers**

All jumpers in both Senior and Reserve matches must carry different numbers. Players must be wearing the number that corresponds to the RDFNL Record and the team sheet. Clubs will be penalised 2 penalty units per each duplicate jumper number across senior/ reserve matches. Clubs will be penalised 5 penalty units per each incorrect jumper number corresponding to the Official League Program and team sheet.

**RDFNL By-Law 10****Submission of Selected Sides****Seniors:**

Each club must submit their selected sides in the Senior Grade by 12pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches. Reserve and U/19.5 grades must submit their selected sides into the system prior to 8:30pm on the Friday night preceding a round of matches. Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the system. Should any player take the field outside the 22 named players and 3 emergencies, a 25-penalty unit fine per player not named will be enforced upon that club unless the club can provide evidence to support a valid reason for the change.

Clubs participating in matches that are scheduled to play of a Sunday will be permitted to submit an extended bench of 10 players (4 interchange plus 6 emergencies) however sides still need to submit all players in position and with jumper numbers. Failure of a Club to correctly submit a side to the system shall result in a fine of 25 Penalty Units. All teams must provide a copy of the team sheets to the umpires and opposition at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

**RDFNL By-Law 11****Submission of Selected Sides Juniors:**

Each club must submit their completed team lists into the system any time prior to the commencement of their game with enough time to print out and use as the club's official team sheet for match days. All teams must provide a copy of the team sheets to the umpires and opposition at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match. All grades must print off copies of their team sheet from the system. Team sheets must represent a 100% accurate account of the players who take the field on a weekly basis. Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet however these changes must be submitted on the system immediately following each game in time for submission of results deadline. Refer to By-Law 12.

**RDFNL By-Law 12****Submission of Match Results**

All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game. It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to enter the final scores of each game however each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for every match. AWAY clubs can request that the HOME club enter the best players and goal kickers for them and if agreeable it will be the responsibility of the HOME team to ensure all results are entered on time. The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm.

All final scores, best players and goal kickers must be submitted by this time, clubs failing to meet this deadline shall incur a penalty of 5 penalty units per offence. There is no longer a need for clubs to ring through scores to the league as this service will be provided by each club.

**RDFNL By-Law 13****Live Scores**

For senior competition football matches only, it will be the responsibility of the HOME club to conduct live scores via the program supplied by the league. Failure of a club to conduct the live scores service (without a valid excuse) shall incur a fine of 10 penalty units.

**RDFNL By-Law 14****Media Commitments**

Each club should attempt to make personnel available to the media as requested in order to aid the promotion of the League.

**RDFNL By-Law 15****Practice Matches**

The League must be notified of all practice matches, including the participating grades, clubs, date, times and venue to ensure Clubs & Players are insured. As outlined in By-Law 33, all Practice Matches must be officiated by Official Umpires. Both teams must submit a completed and accurate team sheet to the Umpires before the match begins. Clubs must ensure local government policies and procedures are followed to ensure booking of all venues and facilities are finalised well in advance to the commencement date of each practice match. It is also the responsibility of each club to place a booking at least 2 weeks prior to any practice match for any required umpires. Umpire bookings placed inside 2 weeks of any practice match cannot be guaranteed they will be filled.

**RDFNL By-Law 16****Cricket Wickets**

Clubs with Cricket wickets bear the responsibility of arranging the wickets to be covered and uncovered throughout the season in consultation with local councils.

**RDFNL By-Law 17****Umpires**

The Riddell District Football Umpires Association through the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the RDFNL, caters for all RDFNL Matches and supplies umpires as negotiated on a year to year basis. The RDFNL Board may enter into an agreement with an external supplier should the Riddell Umpires Association declare that they cannot meet the negotiated MOU.

**RDFNL By-Law 18****Gate Receipts**

The Board shall have power to establish policy from year to year in respect of the disbursement of gate receipts of the finals series matches.



**RDFNL By-Law 19****Special Arrangements**

The Board may in its discretion, make special allowances to affiliated Clubs in the defraying of expenses in conducting the affairs of the League and in so doing, shall honour agreements entered into or arrangements made with affiliated Clubs. The Board shall determine any such special allowances prior to the commencement of any season and advise all affiliated Clubs of any decisions in relation to special allowances and expenses.

**RDFNL By-Law 20****Duties of League Officers**

The Officers of the League appointed pursuant to its Rules, shall carry out such functions and perform such duties as are set out in the Rules and in addition such duties and functions as may be directed by the Board from time to time.

**RDFNL By-Law 21****Honorarium**

Office Bearers of the League shall be entitled to receipt of an Honorarium, such Honorariums to be fixed at a Board Meeting of the League.

**RDFNL By-Law 22****Other Duties**

The Board may in its discretion, delegate any one of its members to perform other duties and functions and if appropriate, may recommend that Honorariums relating to such duties, be fixed at a Board Meeting of the League and shall further have power to appoint from time to time, committees to carry out any of its duties and functions.

**RDFNL By-Law 23****League Passes**

The following outlines what passes entitle bearer to:

<b>Ticket</b>	<b>Admits</b>
RDFNL Life Members	Bearer, guest and vehicle to all H&A games and Finals
RDFNL Season Pass	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games and Finals
RDFNL Home & Away Pass	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games only
Bowen Medallist	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games and Finals
Ryan Medallist	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games and Finals

The following people shall be entitled to a season pass issued by the League. These people shall be entitled to admission free of charge to all matches in the League upon presentation of a season pass for that year to the gatekeepers.

**(I) League Officials****(II) Life members of the League & one guest****(III) Officiating Umpires (refer football rule 23) and Riddell Umpire Association “officially” appointed advisers and observers****(IV) Netball Umpires****(V) League Investigation Officer****(VI) League Sponsors****(VII) Regional Media****(VIII) Any other person, as determined by the Board.**

The Board shall issue each Member Club with twenty (20) passes, as determined by the Board, for its president, secretary, treasurer and coach or otherwise distributed at their discretion. Each named official shall be entitled to free admission to all games in which the named Club is participating on presentation of this pass during the home and away season only.

**RDFNL By-Law 24****Life Membership**

The Board may in each financial year confer upon a maximum of two persons who have rendered outstanding service to the League a life membership of the League.

Any nominations for consideration of RDFNL Life Membership shall be submitted on the approved RDFNL Life Membership Nomination Form and will include a full and detailed history of the nominee's service to the RDFNL and / or their Club. Any Member of the League whom the Board shall by resolution declare to have rendered outstanding service to the League, and who has played a minimum of 300 senior games and / or given a minimum of 10 years' service to their club and / or league, may be approved for life Membership of the League. This service will have incorporated recognisable achievement over a period of time.

Any member of the League who in the opinion of the Board has brought the RDFNL and / or a member club into disrepute shall not be eligible to be considered for Life Membership of the RDFNL.

Any member of a Club who has been nominated for Life Membership of the RDFNL shall only be considered eligible if they are a Life Member of an RDFNL Club. The Board may elect a nominee to a Life Membership by a majority of the Board present at any Meeting of the League.

Any such Members so elected a Life Membership shall be awarded this honour at the League's Presentation Night – the Bowen Ryan Medal.

**RDFNL By-Law 25****Smoking / Alcohol**

a) Smoking is prohibited within RDFNL Headquarters and at all official RDFNL functions. Under Section 5RI (1) of the Tobacco Act 1987, Victorian State Legislation, smoking is banned within 10 metres of a sporting venue that is an outdoor public place during an organised underage sporting event in Victoria from April 1, 2014. This ban also includes training or practice sessions to prepare for participation in an organised underage sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.

b) During any junior matches no alcohol is to be consumed around the ground or within any building constructed and used by the Club including any licensed premises without the written consent from the League which consent if given will only be valid for the year in which it is issued and on the conditions, it is issued. The Club shall be liable for any breach of this rule and shall be liable to a penalty of up to \$1000.00 for each breach of the rule.

**RDFNL By-Law 26****Surplus**

In the event a surplus is shown in the accounts at the completion of the season, the League may in its discretion, and prior to the declaration of a dividend, transfer to a Reserve Fund, such sum to be decided by the Board and such Reserve Fund shall be deemed to be the property of the League and any affiliated Club ceasing to be a member of the League shall have no equity in any monies then contained in such Reserve Fund.

**RDFNL By-Law 27****Dividend**

The League shall not declare a dividend in cash form. However, funds may be made available for all clubs to finance capital improvements or reduce club affiliation fees from time to time subject to the availability of funds.

**RDFNL By-Law 28****Affiliation**

- The League shall admit such Football Netball Clubs as it may from time to time determine provided such Football Clubs comply or are capable of complying with the Rules and these By-Laws and the Regulations of AFL Victoria.
- Each Football Netball Club affiliated with the League during the previous season shall be deemed to be an affiliated member of the League for the following season subject to payment of such affiliation fees as are specified and fixed by the League at its Annual General Meeting and any other outstanding monies due to the League.

**RDFNL By-Law 29****Affiliation Fee**

- Each affiliated Club shall pay to the League such affiliation fee as is fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- Affiliated Clubs neglecting or refusing to pay its affiliation fee; its declared share of any loss that may be incurred; any levy that may be made; or any fine as imposed by the Rules or these By-Laws, and such failure or refusal continues for one month after due notice has been given by the Board, shall be subject to the next following By-Law, be subject to expulsion.

**RDFNL By-Law 30****Expulsion**

A two thirds majority of members of the League present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, may expel such Club from the League or take such other action as it may determine in relation to the Club's affiliation with the League or permit its continued affiliation on such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable.

**RDFNL By-Law 31****Programming**

The Board shall arrange the programming of all matches and shall have the power to re-arrange the order of games and the grounds upon which matches are to be played if at any time, the question of suitability or availability of grounds arises.

**RDFNL By-Law 32****Fixture Procedure**

The Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the RDFNL Board and Football Operations Manager, shall determine the fixture for each season. Each club shall be entitled to make a submission to the League on issues to be taken into consideration, although no guarantee is made that all situations will be catered for. Such submission should be received by the League not later than a date as nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, for the following season. The fixture will be released publicly prior to Christmas each year, for the following season.

Junior clubs are required to notify the League Chief Executive Officer no later than 6 weeks prior to the start of the Junior Season of their team affiliations in Football and Netball. The Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the Junior Football Directors will devise the junior structure and the junior fixture. Any club who withdraws a team affiliation will not be refunded their affiliation fee and may be liable to other sanctions as deemed by the Board.

**RDFNL By-Law 33****Other Matches**

No affiliated Club shall, without the prior approval of the Board, engage in any match other than those programmed. All pre-season practice matches are to be umpired by official Umpires including Central Field Umpires. Any RDFNL club wishing to take part in any football competition that is not administered by the Riddell District Football & Netball League, must write to the Chief Executive Officer seeking approval from the RDFNL Board to compete. This excludes any pre-season competition organised by a club outside the league.

**RDFNL By-Law 34****Points and Ladder Format**

In all matches four points shall be counted for a win and two for a draw. At the conclusion of the minor rounds, if two or more Clubs have gained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs on the Premiership ladder, shall be determined by the percentage of points scored for and against any such Clubs. In the case the RDFNL fixture contains a bye, for the purpose of ladder calculation 4 points will be awarded to the team with the bye in a given round of matches. Competitions that have an uneven amount of games played by all clubs during the home and away season will be ranked on the ladder by win percentage, then by a percentage of points scored for and against.

**RDFNL By-Law 35****Forfeiture**

If any Club forfeits a match, provided such opposing Club has a completed team sheet, four points shall be awarded to the Premiership score of the opposing Club, which also shall have added to its percentage account, the average number of goals and behinds scored in matches during the round in that competition. Fines will be imposed by the RDFNL to Clubs who forfeit scheduled fixtures or any scheduled match within the Riddell District Football & Netball League. The following fines will apply –

- Senior Football - 200 penalty units
- Reserves Football - 150 penalty units
- U/19.5 Football - 50 penalty units
- Any Junior Football fixture - 20 penalty units
- A Grade Netball - 100 penalty units
- B Grade Netball - 50 penalty units
- C Grade Netball - 25 penalty units
- 19&U Netball - 25 penalty units

**Juniors**

Clubs with more than one team in any age group must play their highest ranked team each week. If a club forfeits their top age team, they will automatically forfeit all other teams in the same age group and will be fined 40 penalty units. Therefore, clubs cannot forfeit their highest ranked team in any grade if they have players available playing in their other team/s in that age group.

**RDFNL By-Law 36****Expenses**

Any Club which forfeits its engagement, shall on top of any penalty imposed by the league be responsible for the expenses incurred in the arrangements of such match, unless it gives notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the League not less than twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of such match of its notice of intention to forfeit. This will be in addition to the fine imposed by the League. Refer to By-Law 35.

**RDFNL By-Law 37****Calling off Games**

The Riddell District Football Netball League has a fixture committee comprising of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer and Football Operations Manager who shall monitor the condition of venues and make a judgement call as to whether matches shall proceed for a given round. Individual matches called off by clubs are deemed as forfeiture and nil points awarded for the fixture. If agreement is reached between clubs to call off a match, it is to be in writing, endorsed by the controlling umpire on the day and forwarded to the League Chief Executive Officer immediately and premiership points shall be shared. For all other matters not catered for in this By-Law, refer to the AFL Laws of the Game.

Team sheets must still be submitted for games even if a match is called off. In the event of a forfeit, the opposing team shall submit a team sheet and those players named are deemed to have played in the game. This information is important when determining finals eligibility. In the event where a suspended player is a representative of the non-forfeiting side, these games shall count as games served in reference to the suspension the player in question has received.

**RDFNL By-Law 38****Records of Players**

No later than 7pm on the night of a match, all match day paperwork as listed below, must be returned to RDFNL headquarters (or an alternative location nominated by the League). All paperwork of Clubs playing in such matches must be collected by either the home team's delegates or other accredited representative on the day and submitted to the league headquarters. The Home Club shall be responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted to the League by 9am on the Monday following the weekends matches.

Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 20 Penalty Units.

The following list of match day paperwork will be required for submission:

**SENIORS**

- Team sheets
- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)
- Timekeeper cards
- Goal Umpire cards
- Match results sheets
- Permits of any kind
- Match day report sheets
- Marsh Insurance Checklist completed online

**JUNIORS**

- Team sheets
- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)
- Timekeeper cards
- Goal Umpire cards
- Match result sheets
- Permits of any kind
- Marsh Insurance Checklist completed online

**NETBALL**

- Match day checklist
- Scorecards
- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)

**RDFNL By-Law 39****Scoreboards**

Each venue used for RDFNL matches, both senior and junior, must be equipped with an operational scoreboard. Scoreboard attendants must be of a suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job. Scoreboards should operate throughout all games and must be kept as accurate as possible. Clubs must supply scoreboard attendants for each and every game. A fine of 10 penalty units will be issued for each game where the scoreboard fails to be attended and/or operational.

**RDFNL By-Law 40****Time Clocks**

All time clocks displayed to the general public at RDFNL venues must run from zero upward without stopping for time on. A fine of 2.5 penalty units per occasion the clock is not used (or used incorrectly) will be imposed. Time clocks used by timekeepers may count down towards zero (stopping for time on in senior competition only).

**RDFNL By-Law 41****Board Meeting Format**

Correspondence raised by the Chief Executive Officer, General Manager-Operations, Football Operations Manager & Netball Manager to be restricted only to that which requires a decision from the Board. All other items will be listed, but only raised if questioned. General Business will take place immediately after Correspondence and any Director with an item requiring discussion or a decision should have the Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager list it as General Business rather than raise it in the report. Director's reports will be held at the end of the meeting, and these will be circulated with the meeting notice for review. Director's reports will only report on activity - issues requiring a decision should be listed in General Business. Directors with questions on reports should contact the reporting director, Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager. These reports will be duplicated and circulated with minutes.

**RDFNL By-Law 42****Match Report Sheet**

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that umpires fill out and sign off on a match report sheet for each competing team in each football game for seniors down to U/11's and have it inserted in the match day paperwork envelope.

Penalty 10 units per offence.

**RDFNL By-Law 43****Use of Two Footballs**

In the event of extreme weather conditions, two footballs may be used in a match with the change of footballs occurring at each quarter time break to ensure no advantage is gained by either club. Both clubs must agree to the use of two footballs. If no agreement is met, only one football may be used.

**RDFNL By-Law 44****Ground Lighting**

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue. The Umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if he/she considers the conditions unsafe.

Prior to a venue being considered suitable for night or twilight games, clubs must apply to the League for permission to host a night or twilight game, and meet criteria as determined by the League.

**RDFNL By-Law 45****Fundraising**

At venues, is the right of the Home Team, however Visiting Teams should be permitted to conduct activities that are internal based, and which form a part of a Club's week to week activities. E.g. Best player tickets.

**RDFNL By-Law 46****Interchange Agreement**

On an annual basis, the RDFNL shall enter into an Interchange Agreement with other leagues as it deems necessary. Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager to discuss an Interchange Agreement with another League.

**RDFNL By-Law 47****Outstanding Debt**

All clubs must ensure any outstanding debt to the League does not exceed 60 days. The following process shall apply to clubs who have outstanding debt that reaches the 60 day mark:

**a)** Clubs shall be given written formal notice and provided with seven (7) days to pay all outstanding debt exceeding 60 days.

**b)** Should a club fail to pay the full amount that has exceeded 60 days within the seven (7) day period provided, the Board / Executive shall determine which of the following penalty/ies shall be applied:

- i.** Additional financial penalty at the discretion of the Board / Executive
- ii.** Loss of premiership points for the current and/or following season, which may be applied to age groups at the discretion of the Board / Executive.



- iii. Application to the RDFNL Board to apply for the loss of Community Club Sustainability Program points under the player points system for the current and/or following season.

**c)** Clubs who have any debt exceeding 60 days on the 1st August in each season, and where and unless approval has been given by the Board, may be deemed ineligible to compete in the Leagues finals series. In addition, the club will not be considered to host any finals matches, or provided with any Catering/Bar/Fundraising rights.

**d)** All clubs must settle all outstanding debts with the League prior to the League's AGM in each year (with the only exception being debts relating to loco orders placed after November 1st). Clubs who have not paid all debts (excepting loco orders as stated) will not be eligible to vote at the Leagues AGM.

**e)** Clubs who carry debt into the new year may be subject to the above stated penalties in point b) being applied for the upcoming season.

Clubs may apply to the Board / Executive for special consideration by providing a written submission outlining how the club's debt has exceeded 60 days and outlining the club's commitment to a repayment plan to clear in full all debt in a timely manner.

Submissions will only be accepted on club letterhead submitted via email and if the Board /Executive is satisfied that the above criteria is met.

**f)** Any debt owed as at October 31st, will be deducted from the Total Player Payments Allowed for that club for the following season. E.g. If the current Salary Cap is \$85,000 and a club is in debt to the RDFNL of \$5,000, their following season Salary Cap will be \$80,000.

#### RDFNL By-Law 48

##### Hire of Facilities

The maximum charge for any club charging another Club for the use of their ground & facilities during the home & away season are as follows:

- Junior games: \$50
- Senior game: \$100

If clubs wish to use the social rooms at a venue during or following the completion of their match, then they must approach the venue's President and or venue representative to arrange a price and conditions of use for the social room and facilities.

#### RDFNL By-Law 49

##### Use of Facilities for Finals

In the event where a club requires the use of another club's facilities for a RDFNL Finals match day, a fee of \$250 per day of use shall be paid to the Home club to account for the cost and use of utilities on that match day. Please refer to the RDFNL Finals Hosting Agreement which will be circulated by the RDFNL in the lead up to the finals series.

#### RDFNL By-Law 50

##### RDFNL Sounding of Siren Policy

The RDFNL understands the importance of keeping to the running sheet for match days and ensuring all games finish at their scheduled finishing times. Therefore, the following policy must be adhered to for all matches (except Senior football) competing in any RDFNL competition:

- Both Timekeepers must make an assessment of time at half time of every match (except Senior football)
- If it is determined that the match is running behind schedule, the time remaining until the scheduled finishing time shall be split equally in half also factoring in enough time for a three-quarter time break (see division of breaks in By-Law 108).
- If further time is lost throughout the second half, regardless of how long the final quarter has been running for, the siren MUST be sounded at the scheduled finishing time.

#### RDFNL By-Law 51

##### Pre-Match Warm Ups

The Riddell District FNL has an expectation that clubs will avoid the opposing side during their entry onto the ground both at the start of the game and at half time, and during any on-ground "warm up". The Riddell District FNL requires that each club will warm up at opposing ends of the ground, with each club using the end that is located closest in proximity to their teams Coaches Box. It is understood and accepted that when clubs enter the ground they shall do a lap of the centre square, and when doing so they need to ensure they avoid the other side and their warm up area if the opposing side is already at one end of the ground. This By-Law shall apply to the Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 grades. It may also be applied to junior grades of football if an incident arises.

Clubs who breach this policy shall be determined to have acted in a provocative manner and may be fined up to an amount of \$500. In instances where this By Law is breached and the breach results to a more serious incident (e.g. a melee) the offending Club may face more serious charges as determined by the Board.

#### RDFNL By-Law 52

##### Codes of Conduct

AFL Victoria & Riddell District Football Netball League codes of conduct include:

- Junior Coaches & Team Officials – refer to appendix 1
- Junior Players, Parents and Supporters - refer to appendix 2
- Senior Coaches & Team Officials – refer to appendix 3
- Senior Players & Supporters – refer to appendix 4

Any breach of any codes of conduct will be referred to the RDFNL board.

Note this is not an exhaustive list and further codes of conduct can be found on the RDFNL, AFL Victoria and AFL website.

#### RDFNL By-Law 53

##### Investigations

Appointment of Investigation Officer:

Each league shall appoint an AFL Victoria accredited investigation officer to investigate any matter referred to him.

- (a)**
- (i)** The League, League Executive members, Club, Player, League or a AFL Victoria appointed official, who alleges that a player or an official of a club, umpire, official of an umpires' Association, AFL Victoria Official, League official, Club, player advocate, or League appointed official has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official, or club, or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. Unless the notice is lodged by the League a deposit of \$600 shall accompany the notice which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers it frivolous. A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the League by 12pm Friday after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the League agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to by the League may be subject to such conditions as the League thinks fit and such request for an extension is to be provided to the League in writing outlining the reasons for the extension request. When a League grants an extension it shall do so in writing and advise all parties to the matter.
  - (ii)** Within two (2) days of the request for an investigation the League is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the requested incident or matter for investigation.

- (b)** Notice of any allegation received under paragraph (a) shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation by him/ her. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 10 business days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of the 10 business days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) business days is then granted by the League at the request of the Investigation Officer.

Request for extension of time must be received in writing by the League.

- (c)** If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player, an Official or Club or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the League Independent Tribunal as hereinafter provided, he/she may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.

- (d)** If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), the League administrator who appointed the investigator may provide the alleged offender/s the discretion to plead guilty and take the relevant set penalty for the alleged offence as described in the set penalty schedule below. If a player wishes to enter an early guilty plea and accept the minimum set penalty offered by the League, the players club secretary must contact the League administrator no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered by email to the League Chief Executive Officer. If the alleged offence falls outside of the offences listed within the set penalty schedule below or either the investigation officer, player/s being investigated, the player/s allegedly offended against, the League or the President/Secretary of either club request that the matter proceeds to tribunal, by no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings, then no set penalty will be offered and the matter will be dealt with according to section (e) of RDFNL By-Law 53. Set Penalty Schedule (Please refer to RDFNL Notice of Report Sheet)

- (a)**
- (i)** Striking another person (1 or 2 match set penalty)
  - (iv)** charging an opponent (2 match set penalty)
  - (v)** engaging in rough conduct against an opponent (2 match set penalty)
  - (viii)** making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with the eye region of another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (ix)** making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of an opponent (1 match set penalty)
  - (x)** scratching another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (xi)** tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
  - (h)** using abusive, insulting or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire (2 match set penalty)
  - (j)** carelessly making contact with an umpire (2 match set penalty)
  - (k)** disputing a decision of an umpire (1 match set penalty)
  - (m)** attempting to strike another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (n)** attempting to kick another person (2 match set penalty)
  - (o)** attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
  - (p)** making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player (2 match set penalty)
  - (q)** engaging in a melee (1 match set penalty)
  - (r)** instigating a melee (2 match set penalty)
  - (s)** wrestling another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (t)** pinching another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (u)** engaging in an act of staging (1 match set penalty)
  - (v)** using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language (1 match set penalty)
  - (w)** use of an obscene gesture (1 match set penalty)
  - (x)** engaging in time wasting (1 match set penalty)
  - (y)** interfering with a player kicking for goal (1 match set penalty)
  - (z)** intentionally shaking a goal or behind post (1 match set penalty)
  - (aa)** failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an umpire (2 match set penalty)
  - (bb)** wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of Laws of Australian Football (1 match set penalty)

- (e)** If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), and the League determines that it should be heard at Tribunal the League Chief Executive Officer shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the allegation before the League Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than 9 days after lodgement of the Notice and shall advise the Player, official or club, in question of those particulars and forward to the Player, Official, or club, care of the Club Secretary in question a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the Club Secretary of the Notice lodged under paragraph (c). Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player or official or club prior to the Hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and club at least 48 hours prior to the Hearing

and the charged player or official or club shall be informed at the time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses. Notices should include any other relevant information pertaining to the matter at hand.

**(f)** In any proceeding brought before a tribunal or Appeals Board under this rule the Investigation Officer may personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the League.

**(g)** If the League Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question has engaged in unbecoming conduct or conduct which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the League Independent Tribunal:–

**(i)** may impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player, Official or club in question: or

**(ii)** must suspend the Player, Official or Club in question for such period as it thinks fit, if the Player, Official or Club is found guilty.

**(h)** In any hearing before an AFL Victoria Appeal Board the Investigations Officer will be the informant and witness for the league or Association but will usually not be the prosecuting advocate in the hearing.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 54**

##### **Investigations Fees**

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with RDFNL By-Law 53 Investigations the required fee of \$600 shall be lodged with the full amount of \$600 to be retained by the league.

The following policy 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 shall receive a refund of \$200, and the balance of \$400 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.

**b)** In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200 and the balance of \$400 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.

**c)** In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the RDFNL Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$600. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$400 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.

- Note: The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$400. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$400 and which will be negotiated with the Riddell District Football Netball League accordingly. In such instances, the Riddell District Football Netball League will adjust the amount of \$400 to the revised amount in the above case.

- Note: In the instance of an investigation being initiated by the league or an independent body, which results in a tribunal hearing being required, the following will apply in the event that a guilty verdict is returned. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$400 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 55**

##### **Tribunal**

The Riddell District Football Netball League will have all match report hearing heard at the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, held on the Tuesday following a round of matches at RDFNL Headquarters, Arnold's Creek. The RDFNL will set the hearing times and communicate with clubs, investigators and/or umpiring associations.

If clubs wish to apply for a set penalty then the club must notify the Football Operations Manager by 12 noon on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested. After 12 noon, it will be assumed the club is happy to take the set penalty if it is available to be taken. Either club, the reporting Umpire or the Riddell District Football Netball League may request the hearing proceed, prior to 12 noon on the Monday.

Tribunal will not commence a new case after 10.30pm with any pending cases held over until a later night. Club attire or smart casual attire must be worn at all tribunal cases. Clubs not represented at Tribunal hearings shall incur a fine of 25 Penalty Units in addition to any fine imposed by the Independent Tribunal. Wednesday nights will be used as a backup night for cases overflowing to the next day in any given week.

##### **• Statutory Declarations**

Statutory Declarations may be accepted if any party to a report (i.e.. the reported player, the player allegedly offended against and the reporting umpire), is unable to attend owing to work or study commitments, or in the case of illness or injury. Note: A "letter" submitted as evidence will not suffice, and the Statutory Declaration must be signed by a certified signatory (E.g. Justice of Peace, Police Officer, etc) and date stamped at least 12 hours earlier than the scheduled start time for a tribunal case. Providing the Riddell District Football Netball League is notified as early as possible after the report (no later than 12pm Monday), and that such Statutory Declaration is lodged with the Riddell District FNL no later than 12 hours prior to start time on the day of the hearing, the Statutory Declaration may be accepted.

Any Statutory Declaration submitted must set out:

- The reason for the missing party's inability to attend the hearing if the person cannot attend the Tribunal on the scheduled night.
- A full description of the incident (or incidents) being the subject of the report. This must include – Time of incident (e.g. early in 3rd quarter), location of incident (e.g. right side wing), location of ball, any provocation, details of incident (e.g. blow with right hand), force of blow, result of impact / collision / blow, etc.

Any reported player who fails to attend or fails to submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined above, or fails to give notice as above, may have the charge or charges heard in their absence. Similarly, any witness who fails to attend or submit a Statutory Declaration or fails to give notice as above, may be dealt with as the Tribunal sees fit. Any such non-attendance may result in action as determined by the Tribunal, and can include fines upon a Club or the suspension of the player. Any reported player, witness or umpire who has a legitimate request for an early hearing e.g. work or study commitments, must submit such request by telephone to the Riddell District FNL as early as possible, and no later than 12 noon on the day of the hearing.

##### **• Advocates / Appearance**

The Riddell District Football & Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness bring along a Club Advocate with them to the hearing. The Riddell District Football Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness, and their advocates, do dress in an appropriate manner (minimum of smart casual or Club attire) that recognizes and respects the sanctity of the Tribunal. No tracksuits or hats will be allowed into the tribunal.

##### **• Video/DVD Evidence**

If clubs wish to use their own video/DVD evidence they must provide a signed Statutory Declaration, which certifies that the video/DVD has not been altered or tampered with. League video evidence does not require a statutory declaration to be used as part of any tribunal case or investigation.

Note: Reporting and Tribunal procedures and rules not covered in these By-Laws are to be determined by RDFNL Chief Executive Officer, RDFNL Football Operations Manager or the RDFNL Board.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 56**

##### **Independent Tribunal and Appeal Board**

An Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board, (The Tribunal), comprising up to 12 members, shall be appointed by the Board. Three members of such Tribunal shall form a quorum. Nominations for membership of the Tribunal and Appeals Board shall be advertised if required and intending nominee's names shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 57**

##### **Tribunal Duties**

The Tribunal shall deal with and decide protests, disputes, and charges against Clubs, players, officials, and office bearers of Clubs and to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such protests, disputes or charges as they see fit.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 58**

##### **Match Review Panel**

A Match Review Panel, comprising up to 5 members, shall be appointed by the Board. The Match Review Panel is an independent panel of members who shall be asked to review incidents raised by clubs and Umpiring Associations from official league video evidence and asked to determine if a specific player or players in question may have a case to answer to under RDFNL rules (as stipulated on the RDFNL Notice of Report form).

#### **RDFNL By-Law 59**

##### **Tribunal & Match Review Panel Membership**

The members of the Tribunal and Match Review Panel shall not hold any other office in the League, nor be an official of any Club affiliated with the League, nor have been an official of any Club affiliated with the League for a period of 12 months. Any person wishing to become a member of the RDFNL Independent Tribunal or Match Review Panel must have not played for a period of 24 months. A person may not be a member of both the Tribunal and Match Review Panels at the same time.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 60**

##### **Unsatisfactory Evidence**

The Tribunal shall have the power to fine any player or official who, in the opinion of the Tribunal, does not present his/her evidence in a satisfactory manner.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 61**

##### **Representation**

If desired, any Club or player concerned in any protest or charge, may be represented by a delegate or representative, provided such delegate or representative is not a qualified member of the legal profession.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 62**

##### **Decisions Final**

Notwithstanding any appeals, the Tribunal's decisions and penalties shall be final and such penalties may extend beyond its term of office. The RDFNL Tribunal Memorandum of Understanding contains further information regarding appeals.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 63**

##### **Optional Penalties**

Optional penalty for players reported for some on field offences, and the guidelines for their implementation are as follows: Umpires shall report and charge players in the manner provided for in these regulations but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal unless so requested by one or more of the umpires who lodged the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or an official of either club. Such request shall be made in writing and emailed to the Football Operations Manager no later than 12.00 Noon on the Monday immediately following the match. If the tribunal subsequently finds the charge sustained it shall have the power to impose such penalty as it deems fit.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 64**

##### **Sustained Reports**

A Club who, in a grade, has six (6) sustained reports for the season shall show the League why they should not be suspended from the League.

- Note: Sustained report = guilty verdict at tribunal (i.e. does not include set penalties taken).



**RDFNL By-Law 65****Lack of Quorum**

- In the absence of a Quorum at a meeting of the Tribunal, or if for any other reason it is unable to meet, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their Club until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal. In the event of a member of the Tribunal reporting a player or an official of a Club, such person charged shall be dealt with by the officers of the League.

**RDFNL By-Law 66****Player Unavailability for Tribunal Hearing**

In instances where a charged player is unable to attend a scheduled hearing of the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, he/she shall be ineligible to play until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal.

**RDFNL By-Law 67****Guilty Verdict Fee for Independent Tribunal Hearing Outcomes**

Any club whose player is found guilty of an offence by the Independent Tribunal, shall be fined \$175.00 per guilty offence in addition to any other penalty handed down by the Independent Tribunal.

**RDFNL By-Law 68****Melee**

Where a melee occurs during any senior or junior football match, the following process shall be followed when a melee matrix form is completed:

- 1) Umpires to complete Melee Matrix form (one per club) noting the following:
  - a. Players actively involved from the one team
  - b. Duration of the melee
  - c. Level of aggression in melee
  - d. Umpires intervention in melee
  - e. Officials involved
- 2) The WHITE copy is submitted to the League. The YELLOW copy is retained by the Umpire. The PINK copy is retained by the away club and the BLUE copy is retained by the home club.
- 3) The League's Chief Executive Officer will contact the clubs involved in the melee upon receiving a copy of the melee matrix form. At this point, clubs will be provided with an opportunity to:
  - a. Accept the resulting fine; or
  - b. Dispute the details completed in the form by provision of official club submission that outlines their version of events and witnesses who can attest to what is written.
- 4) The club submission will be forwarded to the League Board to make final determination on:
  - a. Whether the initial fine shall remain in place and apply
  - b. Whether the initial fine may be reduced to a lower amount
  - c. Whether the initial fine should be overturned; or
  - d. Whether the initial fine should be increased
- 5) Clubs will be informed of the League's final decision (if Board intervention is required) and sent an invoice (if applicable) that must be paid within 30 days of the invoice being issued.
- 6) Failure of clubs to adhere to the melee matrix process or pay a melee invoice within the 30-day terms may see the Clubs subjected to additional penalties that may range from additional fines, reduction of Player Points, loss of premiership points and percentage, etc.

**RDFNL By-Law 69****Reports Resulting from Match Review**

The Match Review Panel shall have the power to lay a report following the analysis of RDFNL footage that has been raised with the league from any club or Umpiring Association. The Match Review Panel shall follow RDFNL rules when laying a report from video footage. The RUA shall provide an advocate to prosecute all Match Review Panel cases that have been referred to the tribunal and at no point shall a member of the Match Review Panel be present during a tribunal case. The two systems shall remain independent of each other.

**RDFNL By-Law 70****Using Video Evidence in Tribunal Cases**

Where video evidence is available from a Riddell District Football Netball League authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL Victoria and RDFNL guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non - Riddell District Football Netball League video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than 10am on the day of the hearing and such video must be delivered to the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than Noon on the scheduled day of the tribunal hearing. The video evidence MUST also be accompanied by a signed statutory declaration confirming that the footage provided is true and correct and has not been altered in any way (excluding slow motion footage). Video evidence received after this time, unless agreed to by the league, will not be accepted as evidence in the case.

A member of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager and the RUA Chief Executive Officer or RUA Chairman have the right to lay a report and/or request an investigation based on video footage presented to them.

**RDFNL By-Law 71****Club Umpire Reporting Powers**

Under RDFNL by-Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a RUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an “officially accredited” Umpire, and therefore can report or send off players at their discretion. Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the RUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

The definition of an umpire includes all field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match.

Volunteer Club Umpires shall register with the RDFNL and players can be umpires if there are insufficient numbers of umpires available. Therefore, once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are “official umpires” they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire. All Volunteer Club Umpires are to sign both team sheets and match report and indicate “CLUB UMPIRE”. The League shall then register these Umpires as a Club Umpire. Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Insurance Policy.

**RDFNL By-Law 72****RDFNL Board Members/Umpires Observer Power to Report**

Where a RDFNL Board Member or RDFNL Official is in attendance at an RDFNL fixtured match they shall have the same powers of reporting offences as the appointed umpire. The reporting RDFNL board member or official will report to the officiating umpire at the next quarter-break.

**RDFNL By-Law 73****Comments in the Media**

Any Club Member (player or official) found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards a member of the Riddell District Football & Netball League (RDFNL), AFL Victoria (AFL Victoria) or Riddell Umpires Association (RUA) shall be fined an amount at the discretion of the Board. The RDFNL Board shall decide appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to a fine being handed down.

**RDFNL By-Law 74****Teams not Breaking from the Huddle**

When the single siren is blown to indicate the end of a break the club/s not breaking from the huddle will be fined as per the Umpires Match Report sheet with clubs to be named on the umpire's match report sheet.

**RDFNL By-Law 75****Leaving Playing Field**

Senior, Reserve & Third Grade (Under 19.5) sides, shall be permitted to leave the playing field during the half time interval – including the Finals Series. Junior grade sides must remain on the field at ½ time, except under extreme weather conditions. Clubs leaving the playing field inappropriately shall be liable to a fine of 20 penalty units for all Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 teams and a fine of 10 penalty units shall apply to all Junior teams. Failure of Clubs to return to the playing field by the specified time will result in a fine of 2 Penalty Units per Minute being applied.

**RDFNL By-Law 76****Late Appearance**

Clubs who fail to appear on the playing arena at the scheduled time shall receive a fine of 2.5 penalty units per minute. The offence shall be recorded by the officiating Umpire on the match report sheet following the match and the club will be informed of their fine by the Chief Executive Officer.

**RDFNL By-Law 77****Incorrect Program Listings**

Players participating who are not listed in the program or are listed with a number that does not correspond to the number worn during a match shall be fined 5 penalty units.

**RDFNL By-Law 78****Incorrect Team Sheet Listings**

All players listed in the official team sheet for all Senior and Junior competitions must be identical to those who take to the playing field from the weekend's matches. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply for each instance a duplicate or incorrect listing occurs.

**RDFNL By-Law 79****Non-Attendance at Club Delegates Meetings**

Clubs who fail to attend or apologise for non-attendance of Club delegate at General Meetings held by the league will be fined 5 penalty units.

**RDFNL By-Law 80****Failure to Appear at RDFNL or AFL Victoria Training Session**

Any Club that fails to be represented at an official RDFNL or AFL Victoria Training course will be fined 10 penalty Units per offence.

**RDFNL By-Law 81****Bringing the RDFNL into Disrepute / Interfering with a League Official**

- a) Any club that in the view of the Board brings the Riddell District Football Netball League into disrepute can be fined any amount as determined by the Board. In such instances clubs will be given the opportunity to show due course as to why further action should not be taken against them.
- b) Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the League or any member of the Tribunal because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

### RDFNL By-Law 82 Suspension

In the event of the Tribunal deciding at any time that a player of any Club shall not be permitted to play with such Club the Club upon receiving such notice from the Chief Executive Officer of the League shall discontinue to play such player until such notice is withdrawn by the Tribunal.

### RDFNL By-Law 83 Disqualifications

A Club expelling a player or official from its Club shall forward within a week of such decision, particulars of such person and offence to the Chief Executive Officer of the League. The person so expelled shall have the right of appeal against his expulsion to the Board. No Club shall be permitted to play such player, nor shall an official be entitled to hold office until his appeal has been determined by the League.

### RDFNL By-Law 84 Unauthorised Entry on to Playing Arena

Any Player or Official who enters the playing arena during a match and somehow involves themselves in any type of incident shall receive an automatic four (4) match suspension. Suspensions are subject to approval from the Board of Directors of the Riddell District Football Netball League and further sanctions may also apply depending on the severity of the incident. Supporters from clubs who conduct similar behaviour shall be banned from attending RDFNL matches for a period to be determined by the Board.

### RDFNL By-Law 85 Bowen Medal / Matthews Medal

- a) /An award known as the “Bowen Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the senior grade competition. The runner/s up of the Bowen Medal shall be awarded the Alan Matthews Medal known as the “Matthews Medal”.
- b) Secret voting for such award shall be made by the Central Umpires officiating at all senior grade matches.
- c) The Field Umpires officiating at each senior grade fixture, shall immediately following the conclusion of the match, select their idea of the three fairest and best players in the match. They shall then number one, two and three in order of preference in a sealed addressed envelope their three nominations. Their number one nomination to receive three votes, number two selection to receive two votes, and number three selection to receive one vote. The votes shall then be entered into the RDFNL competition management platform.
- d) In the event that the two Central Umpire system is in operation, then the two Central Umpires shall confer, agree upon a joint nomination and otherwise comply with paragraph (c) hereof.
- e) At the end of the minor rounds of matches, the League shall gather all votes made during the minor rounds and the votes shall be counted and the player or players receiving the largest number of votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of an equal number of votes being awarded to more than one player, then players receiving such equal number of votes shall be declared joint winners and separate medals shall be struck and awarded.
- f) Any player who has incurred disqualification during the season shall be ineligible to receive the medal unless they have been suspended for refusing to play inter-league football for the Riddell District Football Netball League. Players who are suspended from an incident that occurred while playing inter-league football will be eligible to win the medal.
- g) Any player who has been reported in a game shall still be eligible for Best and Fairest Votes in the match that the player has been reported in.

### RDFNL By-Law 86 Scarborough Medal / O'Brien Medal

An award known as the “Scarborough Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Reserve Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the James Scarborough Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The runner/s up of the Scarborough Medal shall be awarded the Laurie O'Brien Medal known as the “O'Brien Medal”.

### RDFNL By-Law 87 Watson Medal / McIntyre Medal

An award known as the “Watson Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Third Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the Charlie Watson Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The runner/s up of the Watson Medal shall be awarded the Don McIntyre Medal known as the McIntyre Medal.

### RDFNL By-Law 88 Ryan Medal

An award known as the “Ryan Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the A Grade Netball competition and rules in relation to the Janine Ryan Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal.

### RDFNL By-Law 89 Player of the Year Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League shall award a Football Player of the Year and Netball Player of the Year from the players selected in the respective Team of the Year.

Football Player of the Year – The player with the highest votes received from the Team of the Year Votes will be awarded the Player of the Year. Players who receive the same number of votes will then have their Bowen Medal votes added to determine the winner. If there is still a tie, both or all players will be equally awarded Players of the Year.

Netball Player of the Year – The player with the highest votes received from the Team of the Year Votes will be awarded the Player of the Year. Players who receive the same number of votes will then have their Ryan Medal votes added to determine the winner. If there is still a tie, both or all players will be equally awarded Players of the Year.

### RDFNL By-Law 90 Team of the Year Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will ask all Senior Club Coaches to select their Team of the Year in starting positions. Each Senior Coach is unable to select any player from their own side. Each Senior Coach will also nominate a Senior Coach (other than themselves) for the Senior Coach of the Year with a 3-2-1 voting system to be used.

### RDFNL By-Law 91 Club of the Year Award

The League may arrange an award each season for the club judged the club of the year, which is considered to have conducted its affairs during the season in the most efficient and lawful manner conducive to the best administrative practices of a football club and most disciplined club within the League. Criteria for determining Club of the Year as follows:

- Starting balance of 500 points
- Add total points from the umpire ratings.
- For Under 19.5 comp, any club which does not have an Under 19.5 team, use the average of all clubs
- For Under 19.5 comp, average out each club in the event of uneven fixture (if we end up with uneven affiliation numbers).
- Deduct 10 points for each individual rating of zero in the umpire ratings
- Deduct 10 points per week that a club player is suspended (either set penalty, or tribunal verdict)
- Deduct 10 points for each fine handed down, as per umpire match report sheet
- Deduct 50 points for failing to have club attendance at an RDFNL mandatory meeting, inclusive of coach & umpire forum
- Deduct 20 points for failing to supply club notes prior to weekly deadline
- Points deduction for aged debt as at August 1st. 2 points per \$100 in the 61-90 day category, 5 points per \$100 in the 90+ day category

### RDFNL By-Law 92

#### Sponsors Awards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League shall award a best and fairest award and runner up best and fairest award in each of the Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 grades based on the votes of the Goal Umpires officiating each fixture match during the Home and Away Season. The Goal Umpires vote on the Best Defenders throughout the game. Rules in relation to the Sponsors Awards shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The Sponsors Awards shall be known as the Buffalo Sports Awards.

### RDFNL By-Law 93 RDFNL Unsung Hero Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will, on an annual basis, award an “Unsung Hero Award” to a Club/League volunteer for providing outstanding service. The Award will be known as “DOME Security Unsung Hero Award” and will be awarded at the Riddell District FNL Bowen / Ryan Medal Night.

### RDFNL By-Law 94 Grand Final Best on Ground Medals

- a) Best afield in Senior Grand Final shall receive the Doug McIntyre Medal.
- b) Best afield in Reserve Grand Final shall receive the Tom Sankey Medal.
- c) Best afield in Under 19.5 Grand Final shall receive the Noel Rainey Medal.

### RDFNL By-Law 95 Karman Medal

Best afield in the RDFNL Senior Interleague Match as adjudged by the Senior Coach and Coaching Panel shall receive the John Karman Medal and will be awarded at the Riddell District FNL Bowen / Ryan Medal Night.

### RDFNL By-Law 96 Coaches/Umpires Meeting

Meetings may be convened annually between RDFNL Coaches and representatives of the RUA. The structure of the meetings will be determined by the league with one meeting to be directed more towards senior football and the second meeting relating to junior football matters. A penalty of 5 penalty units per coach for non - attendance will be imposed on the offending club.

### RDFNL By-Law 97 Stretchers

Clubs must ensure a sports medicine approved ‘MES Scoop Frame’ style stretcher is placed at the interchange area. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 10 Penalty Units.

### RDFNL By-Law 98 Coaches Accreditation

All Coaches within the Riddell District Football & Netball League shall be registered with the Riddell District FNL and shall be accredited via Coach.AFL prior to Round 1. Under RDFNL Rules, the penalty to be imposed for failing to comply with this rule shall be the loss of Match Points for matches won when the unaccredited Coach continues to Coach. Information on coach accreditation courses and qualifications should be directed to the RDFNL.

Any newly accredited coaches (i.e.: first year coaches) regardless of the age group they are coaching, must attend a Coach Development Day prior to the season commencement. Any coaches attending Coach Development Days outside of the RDFNL region must provide proof of attendance to the RDFNL Football Operations Manager prior to the season commencement.



**RDFNL By-Law 99****Officials in Bench Area**

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the RDFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box. Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach. Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners (1 runner for U11's & U13's as per By-Law 100), six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 116 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire. All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box. If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line. Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

Any Club desiring authorisation of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorisation, prior to the commencement of the match.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised 10 penalty units per offense.

**RDFNL By-Law 100****Club Runner**

Clubs may use up to two (2) club runners for Seniors through to Under 15 for each match and only one (1) for Under 13 through to Under 11. Only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate. Runners must wear official top as determined by the RDFNL.

**RDFNL By-Law 101****Ground Manager / Umpire Escort**

a) For Senior match days, the Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. For Junior match days, the Junior Coordinators of both clubs, or an approved representative of both Clubs in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League.

b) The Umpires Escort's duties shall include the duties set forth on the AFL Club Help website, and any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the RDFNL.

**RDFNL By-Law 102****Water Carriers**

A maximum of up to four (4) Water Carriers can be used by Senior through to Under 15 teams and up to two (2) for Under 13 through to Under 11 teams. In extreme weather conditions, clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers however this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately. At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply to clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

**RDFNL By-Law 103****Timekeepers**

A Club shall for all grades provide a Timekeeper. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signalling device and a backup device for the use of Timekeepers. Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League. A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide a Timekeeper for any RDFNL fixture match. A fine of 20 Penalty Units shall apply if a Club fails to provide an audible signalling device and "back up" siren or bell.

**RDFNL By-Law 104****Interchange Stewards**

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will appoint representatives from the Riddell Umpires Association to act as Interchange Stewards during finals matches when possible. RDFNL clubs are encouraged to provide an Interchange Steward for each match of each round of the home and away season.

**RDFNL By-Law 105****Delayed Match**

A Senior match may only be delayed up to 1 hour from the starting time, unless agreed to by both clubs. E.g. a 2pm scheduled match must start before 3pm.

**RDFNL By-Law 106****Boundary Umpires**

A Club shall, where required, provide a Boundary Umpire who shall be attired in a white shirt or jumper. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate regarding the competency of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. Should a club fail to provide a Boundary Umpire where advised, a penalty of 5 penalty units may be imposed. This By-Law is relevant for all RDFNL competitions when competing for points (Senior and Junior).

**RDFNL By-Law 107****Goal Umpires**

A Club shall, where required, provide a mature person as a Goal Umpire who shall be attired in a white coat. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate in regards to the maturity of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. All Goal Umpires supplied by clubs are to wear white coats and use white flags. A 2.5 penalty unit fine will occur for any of the above per item for Junior Fixtures, and 5 Penalty Units for Senior Fixtures.

**RDFNL By-Law 108****Commencing Times and Time On**

All matches shall commence at such times that are fixed and appointed by the Board. Junior match times will vary from venue to venue dependent upon the number of games to be played each day. Any Club unable to field fourteen registered players (with the exception of By-Law 132 in junior football only) at the appointed time shall be fined such sum as is fixed by the Board, and if not ready by half an hour after the appointed time, shall forfeit the match (fines as per By-Law 35 for forfeiture of match also apply). Goal umpires must synchronise their watches with the timekeepers prior to the commencement of the match. Commencement times will be as follows for Senior Football:

**Senior Football****Grade Start Time Ground Quarters Breaks**

Senior Football 2:00pm Full 4 x 20min PLUS time on 5min - 20min - 5min

Reserve Football 12:00pm Full 4 x 20min No time on 5min - 15min - 5min

U/19.5 Football 10:00am Full 4 x 20min No time on 5min - 15min - 5min

**Junior Football****Grade Ground Quarters Breaks**

U/17 Football: Full 4 x 20min No time on 3min - 8min - 3min

U/15 Football: Full 4 x 16min No time on 3min - 6min - 3min

U/13 Football: Full 4 x 14min No time on 3min - 6min - 3min

U/11 Football: Half 4 x 12min No time on 2min - 4min - 2min

Fines of 1 penalty unit per minute shall apply for clubs who fail to adhere to the running sheet. The Central Umpire is to make note of clubs who do not comply with starting times of all matches.

**Time On****Seniors - first XV111.**

Field Umpire shall signal to the Timekeeper to stop the clock or re-start the clock used for the timing of the Match by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head.

The Timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of a Match when:

1. directed to do so by a field Umpire in accordance with the Field Umpire Signalling by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head.
2. the goal Umpire signals that a Goal or Behind has been scored;
3. the boundary Umpire signals that the football is Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full; or
4. the field Umpire crosses their arms to indicate they are going to throw the football up.

The Timekeepers shall recommence the clock used for the timing of a Match when:

1. directed to do so by the field Umpire in accordance with the Field Umpire Signalling by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head.
2. the football is bounced or thrown up by the field Umpire;
3. the football is brought back into play after a Behind has been scored;
4. the football is thrown back into play by the boundary Umpire or brought back into play by a Player (as the case may be), after it has gone Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full;
5. the football is obviously in play; or
6. the umpire calls 'Play On'.

In all other grades of football, reserves to under 11's inclusive. Time-on is added (clock) stops in 4 circumstances: -

1. The ball is lost;
2. The ball goes flat;
3. A stretcher enters the playing field where trainers consider an injured player should be stretchered from the field. Stretchers cannot enter the field of play until a Trainer signals that a stretcher is required. Time stops when the stretcher enters the playing field, and restarts when it crosses the boundary line; or
4. In rare and exceptional circumstances, the field umpire considers that time should be added, in which case the field umpires will communicate such to the time-keepers. An example of this may be, say, an unattended car rolls onto the playing surface. These instances will be rarely invoked.

**RDFNL By-Law 109****Colours and Uniforms**

The colours of the League shall be Blue, Red & White. The design of the League apparel, interleague jumpers and apparel, Logo and stationary shall be the responsibility of the Board.

Each Club shall register its uniforms and priority of registration shall determine the exclusive right to wear such colours and uniforms.

Any Club desiring to register new uniforms must submit a sample to the Board and seek approval for such registration.

The following concessions have been granted –

- a) Melton Bloods JFC have been granted approval to wear maroon shorts in all matches.
- b) Melton South JFNC have been granted approval to wear grey shorts in all matches.

**RDFNL By-Law 110****Footballs**

The League will supply one football per senior home game per senior club, plus two spares for the season. The Riddell District Football Netball League will supply all junior clubs with two leather or synthetic footballs at the beginning of the season.

The footballs to be used in Junior Grades are as follows –

- U/9 – Size 2 (Red/Yellow) synthetic
- U/11 - Size 3 (Red) synthetic
- U/13 - Size 3 (Red) leather
- U/15 - Size 4 (Red) leather
- U/17– Size 5 (Red) leather

**RDFNL By-Law 111****Counting of Players****5.5.1 Request by Captain**

The captain or vice-captain of a Team, or Team Runner(s), may at any time during a Match request that the field Umpire counts the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

**5.5.2 Procedure**

**(a)** Where a request is made under Law 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall:

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

**(b)** The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is 18 per Team or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under Law 22, 18 less the Player(s) ordered from the Playing Surface.

**5.5.3 Players Exceeding Permitted Number**

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

- (a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b) a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
- (c) the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that quarter up to the time of the count; and
- (d) the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by Law 5.5.3(c).

**5.5.4 Correct Number and Request Without Merit**

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

- (a)** a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b)** a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
- (c)** if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play, or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting; and
- (d)** if Law 5.5.4(c) applies, the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction it deems appropriate.

**5.5.5 Post-Match Review**

- (a)** A Club or other person may request post-Match review by the relevant Controlling Body of a Team exceeding the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface where a request under section 5.5.1 did not occur during a Match.
- (b)** Notification of the request and lodgement of relevant evidence must occur within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant Match in a form prescribed by the Controlling Body.
- (c)** The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction it deems appropriate.

**RDFNL By-Law 112****Logos on Uniforms**

A maximum of five logos may be attached to the front of playing Guernsey, each of which must not exceed 10 cm x 6 cm, two of which must be the RDFNL Major Sponsor (if applicable) and the RDFNL logo.

One logo is permitted under the number on the back of the Guernsey, it must not exceed 35cm by 15cm. A logo can also be placed above the number on the back of the Guernsey. Four logos 10cm x 6cm would be permitted on the front of shorts. In special instances, clubs may apply to the Riddell District Football & Netball League for permission for an additional sponsor on the front or rear of their Guernsey and Shorts, and such requests will be determined at the discretion of the Board. All jumper designs must be approved by the RDFNL Board.

**RDFNL By-Law 113****Numbers, Shorts & Socks**

All players must wear RDFNL approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club and including numbered jerseys, and wear shorts and socks of registered colours. The numbers worn by players must correspond with the submitted team sheets and official League program, otherwise the Club shall be liable to a minimum fine of 5 penalty units for each such offence. In the event of replacement of a jersey during a match, the Ground Manager and Central Umpire must be notified of the change of player's number or the Club shall be liable to a fine of 5 penalty units.

**RDFNL By-Law 114****Bike Shorts / Compression Garments**

Bike shorts and Compression Garments may be worn by players under their playing uniforms however they must be flesh toned. A fine of 2 penalty units will be imposed on clubs for each player on each occasion coloured bike shorts or compression garments are worn.

**RDFNL By-Law 115****Uniform Policy**

- Junior Coaches yellow vest must be worn.
- Trainers white or navy pants & white top, with a number must be worn.
- Water Carriers Light Blue shirt, with club home colour or white shorts / pants must be worn.
- Runners Fluorescent Pink shirt with pink shorts must be worn.
- Goal Umpires White coat must be worn.
- Club Volunteer Umpire White shirt must be worn.
- Ground Manager yellow vest must be worn.
- Mentor purple tops must be worn.
- Umpire Escort orange vests must be worn.
- Team Manager navy blue tops must be worn.

Dark coloured skins may be worn underneath shorts. Jeans are not considered to be pants and are strictly forbidden as part of the Water Carrier & Runner uniform.

Club Officials not wearing uniforms as outlined above shall be removed from the ground by the Central Umpire and shall not be allowed to return until correctly attired. On an annual basis, or when requested, the League will provide Clubs withall match officials uniforms, which will be paid for by Clubs. Clubs who have incorrectly attired officials, shall be fined 2.5 penalty units per offence.

**RDFNL By-Law 116****Interchange Players / Player Numbers on the field**

For the Senior age group, clubs must have twenty-two (22) players listed on the team sheet. For Reserve and U/19.5 age groups, clubs will be allowed a maximum of twenty-two (22) players that may be listed on the team sheet and participate in any given match. Where a duplicate copy of Team Sheets is exchanged between competing clubs that copy must be identical to which is handed to the Umpire. Failure to comply - 5 Penalty Units.

At junior level, U/11's through to U/17, the Riddell District Football Netball League will take the following stance regarding interchange players:

- a)** Clubs will be allowed to have up to six (6) interchange players per side in U/11, U/13, U/15 & U/17 competitions.
- b)** Clubs are encouraged to assist their opponent with numbers if sides are uneven.
- c)** Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request to loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
- d)** Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same number of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.
- e)** Clubs failing to follow this process will risk losing points and percentage.

**RDFNL By-Law 117****Registration**

Every club is responsible for the registration of their own players; however, all registrations expire on the 31st day of October. Players must be re-registered with their club on an annual basis should they wish to continue to play with that club.

Each player must complete their own re-registration from season to season online.

- a)** Any Club playing an unregistered player at any level will be penalised as per RDFNL Board ruling. Such penalties will include loss of match points and fines not less than 50 penalty units (Senior, Reserve & U/19.5 games) or not greater than 25 penalty units (Junior games). A player participating without registering is not insured and the club may be held liable for any injury via negligence, therefore, such a process exists to protect clubs.
- b)** Clubs will forfeit points from match that an unregistered player plays in, unless extraordinary circumstance exists, and the decision is overruled by the board of the Riddell District Football & Netball League.

The RDFNL adopts the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.



**RDFNL By-Law 118****Illegal Clearances**

Any player who illegally obtains a clearance or permit shall be disqualified and the League after consultation with AFL Victoria may impose such penalty it considers appropriate upon the Club playing such ineligible player. Further sanctions may also be applied by AFL Victoria and the RDFNL.

**RDFNL By-Law 119****Clearances**

Refer to the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations

**RDFNL By-Law 120****Football Stops**

Aluminium stops are not permitted. Magnesium stops are acceptable.

**RDFNL By-Law 121****Talking Devices Used on the Field of Play**

Listening/talking devices (such as a walkie talkie) are banned from being used by club officials whilst on the field of play. This includes the banning of use by water carriers, trainers and runners. The only exception to this rule is for Coaching staff sitting in an elevated position away from the Coaches box where players cannot hear their instructions.

**RDFNL By-Law 122****Wearing Gloves during Competition**

Gloves are permitted to be worn in RDFNL Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 competitions. Junior players must seek approval from the League Chief Executive Officer before wearing a glove/s.

**RDFNL By-Law 123****Finals – Venue**

In accordance with By-Law 128, the Board will determine all finals venues. Factors that will be considered include ground condition, participating teams, amenities, spectator attraction and the respective positions on the ladder of the participating senior teams. Clubs awarded finals hosting are required to comply with all criteria set out by the RDFNL.

**a) Catering**

Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any “exclusivity arrangements” that must be adhered to for Canteen / Catering sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors and must be adhered to for both Finals Catering and the regular season where advised. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units.

**b) Booth**

Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any “exclusivity arrangements” that must be adhered to for Booth sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors and must be adhered to for both Finals Booth and the regular season where advised. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units.

**c) Raffle**

Only the host club may conduct a raffle or any fundraising activity unless competing finals clubs are conducting internal fundraising such as best player tickets as outlined in By-Law 45.

**d) Rooms**

The Riddell District Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate the use of rooms to clubs during the senior and junior finals series. Consideration will be given to clubs who have more than one team participating in a finals series and clubs will be kept together as much as possible.

**e) Shorts**

The Riddell District Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate what colour shorts each club is required to wear during the course of senior and junior finals series.

**f) Final 6****Week 1**

A: 3 v 6 – 1st Elimination Final

B: 4 v 5 - 2nd Elimination Final

C: 1 v 2– Qualifying Final

**Week 2**

D: Loser C v Lower ranked winner from A, B – 1ST Semi-Final

E: Winner C v Higher ranked winner from A, B – 2nd Semi-Final

**Week 3**

F: Loser E vs Winner D - Preliminary Final

**Week 4**

G: Winner E vs Winner F - Grand Final

**g) Final 4 – Juniors****Week 1**

A -1 v 2 Qualifying Final

B – 3 v 4 Elimination Final

**Week 2**

C – Loser A v Winner B Preliminary Final

**Week 3**

Winner A v Winner C Grand Final

**RDFNL By-Law 124****Finals**

All playing arrangements, and the grounds upon which all finals matches are to be played, shall be determined at the discretion of the Board. The main criteria when scheduling will be the ability to attract the biggest crowd and profile for the league, ability to secure and collect the full gate revenue, suitable facilities for players and spectators and neutrality where possible.

**RDFNL By-Law 125****Drawn Football Finals**

In the event of a drawn game in any Finals match (including the Senior Football Grand Final), the following shall apply:

- a)** The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three minutes.
- b)** A five-minute quarter will be played (including time-on) before immediately changing ends for another five-minute quarter (including time-on). There is to be no break between these quarters.
- c)** If at the end of the second five-minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends will occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and the first score will win.

**RDFNL By-Law 126 –****Eligibility for Finals****SENIORS**

**a)** A player must play in at least four (4) premiership matches played over a minimum of four (4) rounds of the current season to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.

**b)** A registered player, playing four games with the Reserves or Under 19.5, or a total of four games in the Senior Grade, Reserve Grade and Under 19.5 during the minor rounds in any one season, shall be eligible to play in the final series in the Senior Grade competition.

**c)** In addition to 126 b, to be eligible to play Reserves finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of 1 game in that competition in the home and away season. The requirement to have played a minimum of 1 game in the Reserves in the home and away season to be eligible to play Reserves finals matches does not apply if both the Seniors and the Reserves of the player's club are playing finals on the same weekend.

**d)** Any player who, during the currency of the season, has played MORE THAN 9 matches in the minor rounds with the Senior Grade of his Club :

i. shall be ineligible to play in the finals of the Reserve Grade competition, except and unless, the player belongs to a Club which has its Senior Grade and Reserve Grade teams playing in the finals on the same weekend.

ii. shall be eligible to play in the finals of the Under 19.5 competition if they have played a minimum of four (4) Under 19.5's games during the Home & Away season, regardless of how many Senior, Reserves & TAC Cup games played.

**e)** A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals, the only exceptions to this rule are if a club has senior, reserve and U/19.5 teams in the finals and find themselves short of players in the reserves or U/19.5 competitions, it is then permissible to bring a player up from a lower age group to fill any vacancies.

**f)** A player is free to interchange between his VFL and Under 18 TAC Cup club team during the RDFNL home and away season.

**g)** A VFL listed player is eligible to play finals matches provided they have met the qualification rules as outlined in rule 126 a).

**h)** For the purpose of Senior Finals Eligibility, RDFNL Club 18 matches shall be counted towards Senior matches played in the RDFNL.

**JUNIORS**

**i)** A player must play in at least four matches for his Club in the minor rounds (home and away games) to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match. Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the Club, with which he has been granted a permit to play and shall be required to therefore complete no less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his new Club before being eligible to play in the final series of matches.

**j)** A player must play in at least four matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:

**i)** Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 19.5 or any open age side

**ii)** Where a registered junior player is selected to play in a higher age group on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy (e.g. under 15 players playing Under 17). This is not to be at the expense of a registered and available player in that age group.

**k)** A registered player, playing four games during the minor rounds (home and away) in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy.

**l)** Should any club be struggling for numbers in a particular age division and feel that there is a need to have players from a lower age division to assist the upper age division on more than 7 occasions, this request is to be submitted to League Chief Executive Officer for assessment.

**m)** A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player can play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals unless special approval is granted by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer to account for unique circumstances

**n)** The Calder Cannons or Western Jets are not recognised as a player's home club.

- o)** Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.
- p)** For the purpose of Junior Finals Eligibility, RDFNL Club 18 matches shall not be counted as Junior matches played in the RDFNL.
- q)** Please note that the above by-laws apply to RDFNL Junior & Youth Girls competitions however, players in these competitions are required to play 3 (three) matches to be eligible for finals.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 127** **Replacements**

Where a Club is involved in finals matches on a Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend in both seniors and reserves grades, the following eligibility of player's requirements shall apply:

- a)** A player who has participated for the Senior side on the Saturday shall not be eligible to play with the Reserve side on the Sunday.
- b)** A player being in the twenty-two for the Reserves on Saturday will, save as provided below, be ineligible to play with the Seniors on the Sunday, however a Senior team playing on Sunday will be permitted, where a replacement player is required due to a late withdrawal of a selected senior player, to draw a replacement from the Reserves team that has played on the Saturday. For all under age teams the above rule will apply to the Interchange between Grades from Saturday to Sunday.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 128** **Clubs making Grounds available for Finals**

Each club shall, as part of their standard User Agreement with their respective local government authority (LGA) for the use of their Reserve for the forthcoming season, shall arrange for their ground and facilities to be available for use by the Riddell District FNL for Finals fixtures, as and when required, and at no charge to the RDFNL. In most cases, such usage will include the use of the home tenant club, but in some cases may not do so.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 129** **Naming Rights or Ground Sponsorship**

No RDFNL Clubs shall be permitted to enter into a "Club Naming Rights" Sponsorship without the written authority of the RDFNL. All proposals must be submitted to the RDFNL by the 1st March each calendar year to be considered.

Note: The RDFNL will not consider any Club Naming Rights Sponsorship proposals where such agreements may conflict with any existing RDFNL Sponsorship.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 130** **RDFNL Sponsors**

Clubs shall, where requested:

- a)** Display RDFNL sponsor signage at their venue, at no charge to the Riddell District FNL. The Riddell District Football & Netball League will be responsible for maintenance of such signs.
- b)** Offer RDFNL Sponsors products for purchase at their venue. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of 10 penalty units per offence.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 131** **Ambush Marketing**

Riddell District FNL Clubs shall not be permitted to include inserts in or to provide handouts with the official Riddell District FNL Footy Record without the explicit permission of the Riddell District FNL. The Riddell District FNL will only provide permission for Riddell District FNL Clubs to include inserts within or to provide handouts with the Footy Record when such inserts, handouts or promotions do not conflict with any Riddell District FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement.

Riddell District FNL Clubs shall be permitted to issue handouts at or in the vicinity of RDFNL venues to promote games, club events, social activities & forthcoming functions, only when such handouts do not include logos, promotions or offers which conflict with any Riddell District FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement. Clubs found breaching this By Law shall be fined an amount up to \$500 at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 132** **Junior Football - Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game**

Junior Football – (U18 Youth Girls & U17 Boys Down)

For junior football only (U18 Youth Girls & U/17 boys down), the following shall apply:

- a)** Clubs who field a side with 12 or more players will be eligible to play for points. This means, the score, percentage, best players and all goal kickers will stand.
- b)** Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, point a) shall apply.
- c)** Clubs who field a side with 11 or less players will forfeit the points to the other side. Both teams are encouraged to still conduct a game with whatever players are available. The size of the ground can be reduced if need be.
- d)** Where possible, clubs must assist their opposition to field a side of 18 or more players.
  - i)** Where a team cannot field 18 players it can approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned. This request must be made at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the match and must be made by the Team Manager or highest ranking available team staff member.
  - ii)** Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked. These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.
  - iii)** Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
  - iv)** Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.

- e)** In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.
- f)** In any round, a team that has been allocated the bye should assist other clubs by supplying them with as many players as they can and comply with the permit procedure set out in the Interchange Agreement adopted by the RDFNL.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 133** **Red and Yellow Cards**

##### **Red Card Offences:**

A Player who commits a Red Card offence will be Reported and ORDERED OFF the ground for the REMAINDER OF THE GAME. The player may be replaced after 15 minutes playing time has elapsed.

Red card offences will usually be violent and intentional. Some descriptions of Red Card offences are:

- Unduly interferes with or assaults or uses threatening language to an umpire or behaves in a threatening manner towards an umpire.
- Assaults another player or official. Assault is defined as an unprovoked, callous and/or violent attack which is likely to inflict serious injury upon another player, like a king hit or eye-gouging.
- Intentionally kicks or seriously attempting to kick an opponent or official.
- Misconduct. (Misconduct covers all offences not specifically covered under the Laws, e.g. urinating in view of spectators, refusing to leave the ground when ordered off etc.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and it is up to the umpire/s what is deemed as a red card offence.

##### **Yellow Card Offences.**

A player who commits a Yellow Card offence may, or may not be reported, depending on the severity of the offence. In every red or yellow card offence, the player will be ordered from the field for 15 minutes playing time. The player cannot be replaced for the duration of the 15 minutes playing time. All yellow carded players may return to the field after 15 minutes, whereas red carded players cannot return to the field. However, red carded players may be replaced after the 15 minutes of playing time.

Red card offences will always be reported. Lesser offences will be "Yellow Carded" and may be reported. Minor offences may be Yellow carded without Report.

Offences that may be yellow carded, and reported include: -

- Uses abusive, insulting, or obscene language to an Umpire or behaves in an abusive, insulting or obscene manner towards an Umpire. Depending on severity This could be a RED CARD
- Intentionally, recklessly, carelessly, or negligently...
  - o Wasting time,
  - o Shaking a goal post while opponent is kicking (or has kicked) for goal,
  - o Throwing or violently pushing another player after a mark or when ball out of play,
  - o Tripping or attempting to trip by hand, foot or leg,
  - o Minor Striking or attempting to strike,
  - o Charging another person,
  - o Engages in rough conduct,
  - o Wrestling another person,
  - o Engaging in a melee.

Depending upon the severity of the following "Yellow Card" offences, a player may be sent off without a report if it is a first offence of the day.

- Any player ordered from the ground for committing a second offence must be reported and sent from the ground for the remainder of the match with a red card. The player must not return to the field but can be replaced after 15 minutes of playing time.
- Only field umpires may order a player from the ground, A player ordered-off MUST leave the ground though the interchange area, and report to the Ground Manager before returning.
- A "Yellow Card" player cannot be replaced for the duration of the 15 minutes playing time. After 15 minutes, the player may return to the field or be replaced.
- A "Red Card" player cannot return to the field for the duration of the game. The player may however be replaced by another player AFTER the expiration of the 15 minutes playing time.
- In the event of a player failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, they shall be reported for misconduct. The player's captain or deputy shall be advised by the umpire that their team will forfeit the match unless the player leaves the field immediately. These instances must be noted on the Match Report.
- In all grades of football, field umpires may order a player off the ground for fifteen (15) minutes without report. Note; this would only apply when a player HAS NOT committed a reportable offence detrimental to the image of the game.

THE INTENTION OF THIS RULE IS TO PROVIDE THE PLAYER WITH A COOLING OFF PERIOD.



### RDFNL By-Law 134 Under Age Grades

Qualification for underage competitions will be as follows for each age group:

- Under 19.5: Players must be aged 19 or under as at 1st July of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 20 years old prior to 1st July in the current year.
- Under 17: Players must be aged 17 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 18 years old in the current year.
- Under 15: Players must be aged 15 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 16 years old in the current year.
- Under 13: Players must be aged 13 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 14 years old in the current year.
- Under 11: Players must be aged 11 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 12 years old in the current year.
- Under 9's: Players must be aged 9 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 10 years old in the current year. Players must also be at least 7 years old by 30th April in the current year.

Female Football age groups are to be determined at the start of the season. Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager for more information.

### RDFNL By-Law 135 Player Age Group Exemptions

#### a) Playing Under Age

Players seeking to play up an age group for the full season can only do so if the League has received on club letterhead a signed letter from the players' parent / guardian. Players must be 15 years of age as of the 1st January in the current year to play Senior, Reserve or Under 19.5 Football.

This does not include Under 9's where players must have turned 7 years old by 30th April of the current season.

#### b) Playing Over Age

A Junior club may apply for approval to play a player in the age group below their age. To obtain approval clubs must submit the official Exemption and Permit forms to the RDFNL Football Operations Manager a request for each proposed player, supported with medical advice where applicable.

A player will not be considered for an exemption unless they meet the following parameters for each age group.

- Exemption to play Under 17: Height - < 175 cm, Weight - < 65 kg.
- Exemption to play Under 15: Height - < 170 cm, Weight - < 55 kg.
- Exemption to play Under 13: Height - < 155 cm, Weight - < 45 kg.
- Exemption to play Under 11: Height - < 145 cm, Weight - < 35 kg.

The Board in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to the member club within twenty-one (21) days. A player screening session may be required to assist with any player exemption request. The Board, Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time. Additionally, the Board can exempt or screen a player based on special circumstances deemed appropriate by the Board.

#### c) Open Age Player Playing Over Age

Players seeking to play over age in the Under 19.5 competition must in conjunction with their club submit in writing a request to play over age and may be required to attend a screening session. The Board of Management in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to the member club within twenty-one (21) days. The Board, Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time.

### RDFNL By-Law 136 Police Checks & Working with Children Checks

Police checks are no longer required in the Riddell District Football & Netball League, however, Team Officials of all junior clubs must complete a Working With Children Check to comply with state law. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team Officials undergo a Working With Children Check. Forms can be collected from any Post Office and WWCC are free of charge for volunteers. It is the responsibility of the club to have all Club Officials who have contact with children under the age of 18 undergo a WWCC. The club must then record the details of each Club Official's WWCC.

### RDFNL By-Law 137 Underage Players Attendance at Tribunal Hearing

Players competing in U/11 and U/13 age groups who have been reported for an offence that has been referred to the Independent Tribunal for hearing shall not be forced to attend in person. Instead of attending the hearing in person, the player will be asked to provide a written account of the incident and the player's parent or guardian and/or advocate will be asked to present the letter and related information on the player's behalf. This written account does not need to be a statutory declaration.

### RDFNL By-Law 138 Clash Jumpers

In the event of a clash of colours between 2 teams, it is up to the away team to wear their clash jumper unless otherwise agreed to or directed by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer or RDFNL Board.

### RDFNL By-Law 139 Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance Policy Sanctions

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following sanction outcomes regarding Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance. The following shall apply to all RDFNL football & netball competitions:

- Any registered RDFNL player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a 4-week suspension. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- Should a member or supporter of a RDFNL Club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the spectator will incur a minimum of a 12-week suspension from attending RDFNL fixtures and his/her Club fined an amount of no less than \$250. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- Should a RDFNL Club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the Club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- Should a RDFNL Club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the Club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit. In addition, the Club will be asked to undertake "Culture Awareness Training" for all players and members that will be presented by a Facilitator appointed by the Riddell District FNL.

### RDFNL By-Law 140 AFL / AFL Victoria Policies adopted by the RDFNL

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following AFL Victoria Policies which can be found in full on the RDFNL, AFL Victoria or AFL Website. Copies of any policy can be requested from the Chief Executive Officer.

- National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations
- National Player and Official De-registration Policy
- AFL Social Media Engagement Policy
- AFL Coaches Code of Conduct
- AFL Trainers Policy
- Negligence and the Law in Football
- National Age Dispensation Policy
- AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy
- AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy
- AFL Victoria Alcohol Management Policy
- AFL Victoria Infectious Disease Policy
- AFL Anti-Doping Code
- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Children Reporting Procedure
- AFL Victoria Extreme Weather Policy
- AFL Victoria Member Protection Policy
- AFL Privacy Policy
- AFL Vilification Policy
- AFL Junior Match Policy
- AFL Victoria Gender Regulation Policy
- AFL Victoria National Risk Protection Policy
- AFL Victoria No Surprises Policy
- Concussion Management Policy
- AFL Community Gender Diversity Policy

The RDFNL adopts the following policies from the AFL National Handbook:

- a)** Player Registration & Transfers
- b)** Coach Accreditation
- c)** Deregistration
- d)** Gender Diversity (participation of transgender and non-binary people)
- e)** Member Protection
- f)** Vilification and discrimination
- g)** Safeguarding Children and Young People
- h)** Social Media
- i)** Gambling and match fixing
- j)** Anti-doping
- k)** Injury Management
- l)** Protective equipment
- m)** Extreme weather
- n)** Concussion
- o)** Pregnant players
- p)** Infectious diseases and active bleeding
- q)** Reportable Offences
- r)** Policy Breaches
- s)** Disciplinary Officer
- t)** Tribunal
- u)** Appeal Board

The following AFL National Handbook policies have not been adopted by the RDFNL:

- Age dispensation
- Umpire Accreditation

Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager or Chief Executive Officer for a copy of the AFL National Handbook.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 141**

##### **Restrictions on Players and officials betting**

The Riddell District FNL strictly prohibits Riddell District FNL registered players and officials from placing bets or wagering in a game or competition where players or officials are engaged. For the purposes of clarity, Riddell District FNL players and officials are not permitted to place Bets on the Riddell District FNL premiership.

This restriction does not apply to players being registered on the Website and betting on contingencies not related to the game or competition in which they are engaged and on the broad range of contingencies in racing and sports wagering and gaming offered by the Website.

The Riddell District FNL shall have access to live reporting facilities on the Website in order to allow the League to view customer details and transaction histories, and in cases where Players and / or Officials do breach this By-Law they shall face sanction/s as determined by the Board of the Riddell District FNL.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 142**

##### **Photography & Video Footage at RDFNL Games**

Photography and taping of players at Riddell District Football Netball League football and netball matches shall be allowed so long as the photos and/or footage is taken of RDFNL competition matches in play. At no stage may any person take a camera into the change rooms of either club to take any kind photograph or video footage without the permission of the people whose image is being recorded.

Further to this, photographs and video footage of RDFNL games shall not be used for commercial gain without first obtaining the permission from the Riddell District Football Netball League and the participating clubs. Failure to adhere to this By-Law shall result in punishment as deemed necessary by the Riddell District Football Netball League Board of Directors.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 143**

##### **Appeals**

For all Tribunal and Appeals information please refer to the RDFNL Tribunal Memorandum of Understanding. This is available from the RDFNL Football Operations Manager.

#### **RDFNL By-Law 144**

##### **Interrupted Season**

In the event of an interrupted season (e.g. COVID19 lockdown) the adjustments and necessary changes will be determined by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer and RDFNL Board.

#### **U/11 Match Conditions:**

1. The U/11 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition player if they do not have enough to field a full side.
2. Game times will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior Clubs.
3. Game will be played of 4 x 12-minute quarters.
4. Players must be under 11 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2013. Players must have turned 9 years of age by April 30, 2024 in order to play matches.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
6. A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/11 matches.
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the RDFNL Under U/11 competition.
8. 10 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/11 matches.
9. The HOME club will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/11 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
10. All players competing in the U/11 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/11 side at their club. Swapping teams is not permitted.
11. Generally speaking, second year players and/or players who are faster to develop in this age group will be selected in the highest U/11 side at their club, as per the RDFNL Junior Grading Policy.

#### **U/13 Match Conditions:**

1. The U/13 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition player if they do not have enough to field a full side.
2. Game times will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior Clubs.
3. Games will be played of 4 x 14 minute quarters..
4. Players must be under 13 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2011. Players must be at least 11 years of age on game day to play Under 13's unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
6. A size 3 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/13 matches.
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/13 Competition.
8. 25 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/13 games.
9. Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/13 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
10. All players competing in the U/13 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/13 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
11. Clubs MUST adopt a best team policy when selecting teams for Senior and Reserve grades. Please refer to the RDFNL Junior Grading Policy.



**U/15 Match Conditions:**

1. The U/15 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
2. Game times will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing to the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior Clubs.
3. Games will be played of 4 x 16-minute quarters.
4. Players must be under 15 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2009. Players must be at least 13 years of age on game day to play Under 15's unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
6. A size 4 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/15 matches.
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL Under 15's competition.
8. 25-metre (not 50m) penalties shall apply in all U/15 matches.
9. Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/15 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
10. All players competing in the U/15 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/15 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
11. Clubs MUST adopt a best team policy when selecting teams for Senior and Reserve grades.  
Please refer to the RDFNL Junior Grading Policy.

**U/17 Match Conditions:**

1. The U/17A competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
2. The U/17B competition shall be a 16 player per side competition with up to eight (8) players on the interchange. If numbers of both teams are sufficient, and both competing clubs agree each team may have up to 18 players on the playing surface at any time with up to six (6) players on the interchange.
3. Game time will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing to the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior clubs.
4. Games will be played of 4 x 20-minute quarters.
5. Players must be under 17 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2007. Players must be at least 15 years of age on game day to play Under 17's unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
6. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
7. A size 5 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/17 matches.
8. In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/17 competition.
9. 50-metre penalties shall apply in all U/17 games.
10. Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/17 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
11. All players competing in the U/17 competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with another U/17 side at their club. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
12. Clubs MUST adopt a best team policy when selecting teams for Senior and Reserve grades.  
Please refer to the RDFNL Junior Grading Policy.

**U13's Junior Girls Match Conditions:**

1. The U/13's Junior Girls competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
2. Game times will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing to the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior Clubs.
3. Games will be played of 4 x 12-minute quarters.
4. Players must be under 13 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2011. Players must be at least 11 years of age on game day to play Under 13's unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
6. A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/13 Junior Girls matches.
7. The ground is to be reduced in size, please refer to diagram below.
8. In line with AFL Victoria rules, this is a female only competition.
9. Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/13 games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.

**U15's Youth Girls Match Conditions:**

1. The U/15 competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
2. Game times will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing to the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior Clubs.
3. Games will be played of 4 x 15-minute quarters.
4. Players must be under 15 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2009. Players must be at least 13 years of age on game day to play Under 15's unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
6. A size 4 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/15 Youth Girls matches.
7. A full size ground is to be used.
8. In line with AFL Victoria rules, this is a female only competition.
9. Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/15 Youth Girls games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.

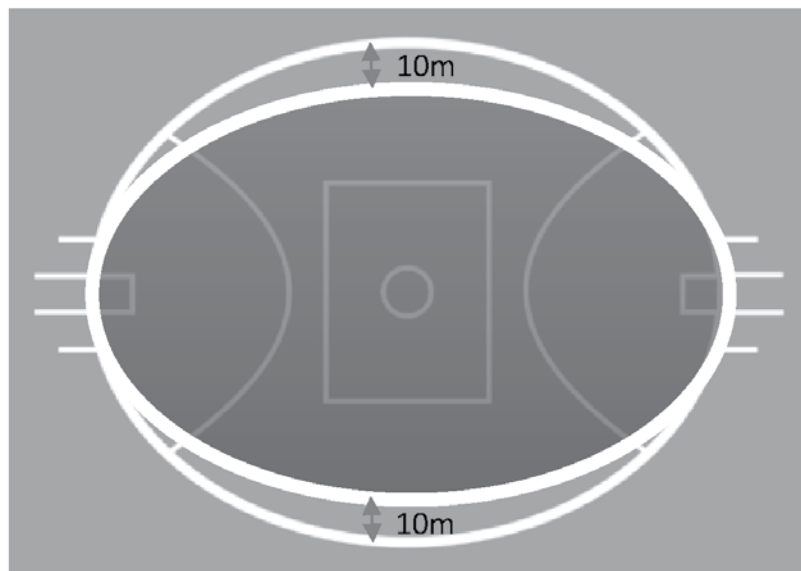
**U/18's Youth Girls Match Conditions:**

1. The U/18's Youth Girls competition shall be an 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
  2. Game time will be determined ahead of the season and will vary between clubs owing to the differences in team numbers among RDFNL Junior clubs.
  3. Games will be played of 4 x 15-minute quarters.
  4. Players must be under 18 years of age as at 1st January, 2024. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2006. Players must be at least 15 years of age on game day to play Under 18's unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
  5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
  6. A size 4 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/18's Youth Girls matches.
  7. A full size ground is to be used.
  8. In line with AFL Victoria rules, this is a female only competition.
  9. Both clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/18's Youth Girls games where the Riddell Umpires cannot.
- The RDFNL adopts the AFL National Female Community Football Guidelines.

RDFNL FEMALE FOOTBALL			
	Under 13	Under 15	Under 18
REGULATIONS			
Ground Size	Standard (reduced boundary – see diagram)	Standard	Standard
No. of players on ground	12 – 18-a-side	12 – 18-a-side	12 – 18-a-side
No. of players on bench	6 players	6 players	6 players
Ball Type	Syn only	Syn only	Leather
Ball Size	3	4	4
Quarter Duration (mins)	12	15	15
Break Lengths, ¼, ½, ¾	2-3-2	5-7-5	5-7-5
Scoring	Mercy Rule	Mercy Rule	Mercy Rule
Results	Standard	Standard	Standard
Mouth Guards	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
LAWS			
Tackling	Standard	Standard	Standard
Bouncing the ball	3 Max	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kicking off the ground	No deliberate kicking off ground	Standard	Standard
Throw-ins	Ball up (10mtrs in)	Ball up (10mtrs in)	Standard
Marking	15m Show Control	15m Direct Catch	15m Direct Catch
Penalty distance	25m	25m	25m
Deliberate out of bounds	X	X	X
Deliberate Rushed Behind	X	X	X
UMPIRES & COACHES			
No. Field Umpires	1 (Riddell Umpires)	1 (Riddell Umpires)	1 (Riddell Umpires)
Boundary Umpires	(0) Ball-Up Rule	(0) Ball-Up Rule	2 Club (when Available)
Goal Umpires	Club	Club	Club
Mentors	1 per club	X	X
Runners	1 per club	1 per club	1 per club

**U/13 JUNIOR GIRLS GROUND MARKINGS**

For the modified ground required in Under 13 football, all grounds shall be configured as below:

**U/19.5 Match Conditions:**

- The U/19.5 competition shall be a 16 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange bench. If numbers of both teams are sufficient, and both competing clubs agree each team may have up to 18 players on the playing surface at any time with up to four (4) players on the interchange.
- Games will commence at 10:15am
- Games will be played of 4 x 20-minute quarters with no time on.
- Players must be under 19 years of age as at 30th June, 2023. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st July 2004. Players must have turned 17 by the 1st January 2024 in order to play matches unless permitted to play above age by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer.
- Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
- A full size red leather football will be used for all U/19.5 matches.
- In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL U/19.5 competition.
- 50-metre penalties shall apply in all U/19.5 games.
- If the RUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/19.5 games.
- Gloves are permitted in any RDFNL U/19.5 competition.

**Reserves Match Conditions:**

- The Reserve competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with four (4) players on the interchange bench.
- Games will commence at 12:15pm
- Games will be played of 4 x 20-minute quarters with no time on.
- The Reserve competition is an open age competition and any male may compete provided all eligibility and registration criteria is fulfilled.
- Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
- A full size red leather football will be used for all Reserve matches.
- In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL Reserve competition.
- 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Reserve games.
- If the RUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all Reserve games.
- Gloves are permitted in any RDFNL Reserve competition.

**Senior Match Conditions:**

- The Senior competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench. Senior sides will be allowed to use four (4) interchange players for finals only.
- Games will commence at 2:15pm.
- Games will be played of 4 x 20-minute quarters PLUS time on.
- The Senior competition is an open age competition and any male may compete provided all eligibility and registration criteria is fulfilled.
- Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
- A full-size red leather football will be used for all Senior matches.
- In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall NOT be allowed to compete in the RDFNL Senior competition.
- 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Senior games.
- If the RUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all Senior games.
- Gloves are permitted in any RDFNL Senior competition.



## 2024 RDFNL Junior Important Information

### Contents

Interleague Policy / Selection Policy
Player Permits / Shortages and Forfeits
Player Exemptions
Match Official Duties
Complaints / Investigations Process



## RDFNL Junior Interleague Policy & Selection Policy

The RDFNL annually compete in up to 15 Interleague matches across a Round Robin Carnival (Under 13's level) and the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Development Series (Under 14's and 15's)

All squad selections are made by the RDFNL Club Development Manager who oversees the Junior Interleague Program, in conjunction with the RDFNL Junior Development Officer, and input from the appointed coaches as required.

As training commences prior to the season, please note that players can still be added to the squad in their relevant age group once the Home and Away matches commence.

The age groups are as follows:

- Under 13 Boys (2 teams)
- Under 13 Girls
- Under 14 Boys (2 Teams)
- Under 15 Boys (2 Teams)
- Under 15 Girls

### Under 15 Youth Girls Selection Policy

The RDFNL identifies players through a series of monitoring processes and outcomes for the Under 15 Youth Girls team and extends an invitation to train in the selected squad via their club. There is no minimum or maximum number of players who can be selected for the initial squad or final team from the one club. Any players not on the list of players invited can be nominated by their club for consideration to be included in the squad by the appointed RDFNL representatives. Addition to the squad is at the discretion of the RDFNL selection panel.

The Under 15 Girls selection is considered important because for some players, the next step in the development journey may be as an addition into a Coates League Club Futures Program in the Talent Pathway. The Youth Girls compete in the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Development Series.

### Under 15 and Under 14 Boys Selection Policy

The Under 15 Boys selection is considered important because for some players, the next step in the development journey may be as an addition into a Coates League Club Futures Program in the Talent Pathway.

The RDFNL identifies players through a series of monitoring processes and outcomes for the Under 15 and 14 Boys teams and extends an invitation to train in the selected squad via their club. There is no minimum or maximum number of players who can be selected for the initial squad or final team from the one club. Any players not on the list of players invited can be nominated by their club for consideration to be included in the squad by the appointed RDFNL representatives. Addition to the squad is at the discretion of the RDFNL selection panel.

Two teams of 26 players in each age group will be selected. The emergencies in the A team will be automatic selections in the B team and are required to play if called upon. Conversely, there are also 2 emergencies named for the B team in case of injury or withdrawal. The Under 15 and 14 Boys teams compete in the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Development Series.

### Under 13 Selection

The RDFNL identifies players through a series of monitoring processes and outcomes for the Under 13 Boys teams and extends an invitation to train in the selected squad via their club. There is no minimum or maximum number of players who can be selected for the initial squad or final team from the one club. Any players not on the list of players invited can be nominated by their club for consideration to be included in the squad by the appointed RDFNL representatives. Addition to the squad is at the discretion of the RDFNL selection panel. Where there is a sufficient depth of club representation, the RDFNL ensures that at least one player from each club is selected in each of the Under 13 final teams.

Two teams of 26 players in the Boys program will be selected. This will also be the aspiration for the Girls program once the number of participants playing in the Girls competition increases. The emergencies in the A team will be automatic selections in the B team and are required to play if called upon. Conversely, there are also 2 emergencies names for the B team in case of injury or withdrawal.

The Under 13 Boys and Girls teams compete in an Interleague Round Robin Carnival against the EDFL and WFNL and all matches are played on the same day.

**Rule 35 - Forfeiture**

Clubs with more than one team in any age group must play their highest ranked team each week. Therefore, clubs cannot forfeit their highest ranked team in any grade if they have players available playing in their other team/s in that age group.

**RDFNL By-Law 132****Junior Football - Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game**

For junior football only (U/17 down), the following shall apply:

**a)** Clubs who field a side with 12 or more players will be eligible to play for points. This means, the score, percentage, best players and all goal kickers will stand.

**b)** Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, point a) shall apply.

**c)** Clubs who field a side with 11 or less players will forfeit the points to the other side. Both teams are encouraged to still conduct a game with whatever players are available. The size of the ground can be reduced if need be.

**d)** Where possible, clubs must assist their opposition to field a side of 18 or more players.

- i)** Where a team cannot field 18 players it can approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned. This request must be made at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the match and must be made by the Team Manager or highest ranking available team staff member.
- ii)** Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked. These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.
- iii)** Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
- iv)** Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.

**e)** In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.

**f)** In any round, a team that has been allocated the bye should assist other clubs by supplying them with as many players as they can and comply with the permit procedure set out in the Interchange Agreement adopted by the RDFNL.

**PLAYER EXEMPTIONS**

Please read the following carefully before completing and submitting a Junior Player Age Exemption Form:

Under RDFNL by-law 135 a club may apply for approval to the Board to play a player in the age group below their age.

The RDFNL has a Duty of Care to ensure that players that are physically capable of playing in their own age group do not prejudice the safety of the younger players in a lower age group by being granted a permit under this rule. Similarly, the RDFNL owes a Duty of Care to players that are physically or intellectually at risk of playing in their own age group. These are the primary concerns in the application of this rule.

Factors that will be taken into account in determining the success of an application include –

- Age
- Height
- Weight

- Disabilities
- Experience
- Injuries
- Awards and honours

The following height and weight parameters will apply to all players applying for exemptions:

- **Exemption to play Under 17:** Height - < 175 cm, Weight - < 65 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 15:** Height - < 170 cm, Weight - < 55 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 13:** Height - < 160 cm, Weight - < 45 kg.
- **Exemption to play Under 11:** Height - < 150 cm, Weight - < 35 kg.

All applications must include a Parent's Statement, a Coach's or Junior Development Officer's Statement and must be signed by the Club President. Where disabilities are part of the application we ask that a letter from the players doctor be provided.

**There is no appeal process and the decision of the RDFNL designated representatives will be final.**

The decision will fall into one of three categories –

Status	Description
1. Permit Denied	the application for a permit has been denied
2. Permit Granted	the application for a permit has been approved for the season
3. Provisional Permit Granted	the application for a permit has been approved for a maximum of four matches during which the Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer will observe the player and review the issue of the provisional. The Provisional Permit can be revoked by the RDFNL at any time during the 4 week period and the player must cease playing in that age group.

**The RDFNL reserves the right to revoke any granted permit.**

**MATCH OFFICIALSDUTIES****1. Officials in BenchArea**

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the RDFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box. Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach.

Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners, six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 116 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire. All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box.

If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line. Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

Any Club desiring authorisation of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorisation, prior to the commencement of the match.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised 10 penalty units per offense.



## 2. Club Runner

Clubs may use up to two (2) club runners for Seniors through to Under 15 for each match and only one (1) for Under 13 through to Under 11. Only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate.

## 3. Ground Manager / Umpire Escort

A) For Senior match days, the Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. For Junior match days, the Junior Coordinators of both clubs, or an approved representative of both Clubs in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League. Ground Managers will be supplied with a vest from the Riddell District Football & Netball League and this vest must be worn on match days to ensure the Ground Manager stands out in the crowd on match days.

B) The Umpires Escort's duties shall include the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League.

## 4. Water Carriers

A maximum of up to four (4) Water Carriers can be used by Senior through to Under 15 teams and up to two (2) for Under 13 through to Under 11 teams. In extreme weather conditions, clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers however this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately. At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply to clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

## 5. Timekeepers

A Club shall for all grades provide a Timekeeper. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signalling device and a back up device for the use of Timekeepers. Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League. A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide a Timekeeper for any RDFNL fixtured match. A fine of 20 Penalty Units shall apply if a Club fails to provide an audible signalling device and "back up" siren or bell.

## 6. Interchange stewards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will appoint representatives from the Riddell Umpires Association to act as Interchange Stewards during finals matches. RDFNL clubs are encouraged to provide an Interchange Steward for each match of each round of the home and away season.

## 7. Trainers

### Minimum Qualifications required

The following information applies to Sports Trainers intending to take the field during a **match**.

The **minimum** requirements for a Qualified and Registered Trainer at **Senior (ages 18+) and Youth (ages 13-17) level** is;

- Up-to-date CPR qualification; and
- HLTAID011 Provide basic emergency life support; and
- Emergency Response Coordinator certificate;

The **minimum** requirements for a Qualified and Registered Trainer at **Auskick/Junior (ages 5-12) level** is;

- Up-to-date CPR qualification; and
- HLTAID011 Provide basic emergency life support

Although it is encouraged, not all trainers are required to have the minimum qualifications required. At least 1 trainer will need to have the minimum qualifications at RDFNL matches.

The above minimum requirements are recommended for Trainers attending **training** sessions. It is overall the responsibility of clubs to provide a safe training environment.

	<b>Senior (18+) and Youth (13-17)</b>	<b>Auskick/Junior 5-12</b>
<b>Recommended:</b>	Sports Trainer	Sports Trainer
<b>Minimum required for matches:</b>	Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC)	HLTAID011 – Provide Basic Emergency Life Support

• All Clubs shall have an appropriately accredited and registered trainer in attendance at every match. Clubs are permitted to use up to four (4) trainers in a match.

• Trainers can be spread around the ground but must positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest.

• Attire. Club Trainers shall be attired in white, black or navy pants & a white top bearing a number which corresponds to the Team Sheet of each match.

• Stretchers. All Clubs are to ensure that an approved stretcher is placed at the interchange area in plain sight. Additional stretchers may be available and kept in this area. Failure to carry out this instruction shall incur a fine or such other sanction as seen fit by the Executive.

• WWCC. Trainers must complete a Working with Children Check to comply with state law, when applicable. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team Officials who have contact with children under the age of 18 to undergo a Working with Children Check.

### COMPLAINTS / INVESTIGATION PROCESS

Any on field or off field incidents that in the opinion of the President or Committee of an RDFNL club requires disciplinary action or investigation must follow the complaints investigation process set out by the RDFNL.

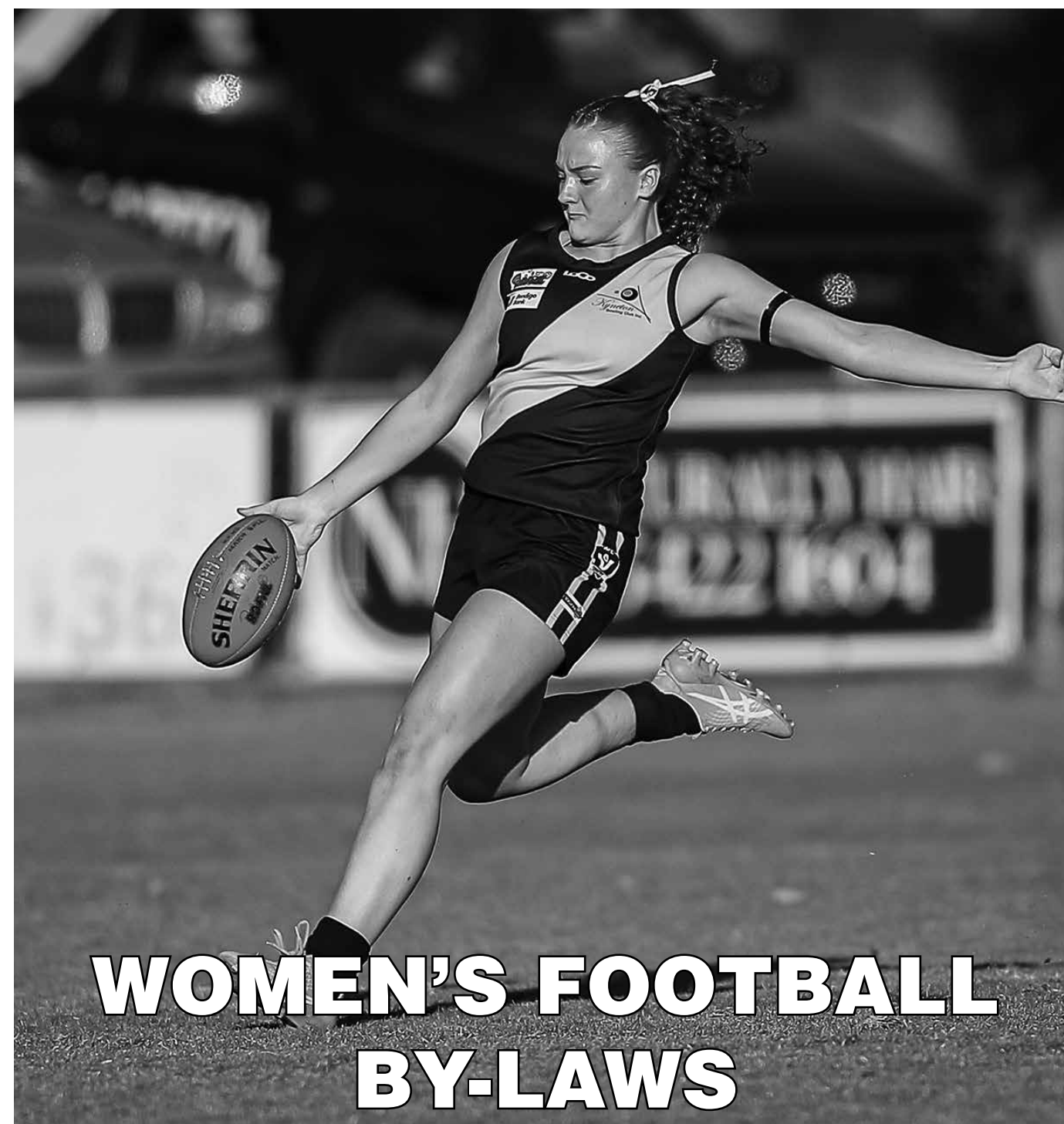
1. Player, Parent, Supporter or Coach makes complaint or Investigation request to the club President or Committee. **The RDFNL will not speak directly with any player, parent, supporter or coach – all complaints or investigation requests are to be communicated to the RDFNL through the Club President.**
2. Club President officially lodges complaint / investigation request to RDFNL General Manager. **Any investigation request must be made by 4pm on the Tuesday**

**immediately following the match in question.** The RDFNL Chief Executive Officer will advise if the club requesting the investigation is required to pay a deposit.

3. Should the RDFNL Operations Manager deem that the complaint made requires action from the club whom the complaint was made against, that club will be contacted immediately and required to reply with a statement. In the event of an Investigation request, the RDFNL Operations Manager will appoint an RDFNL Investigator immediately and issue advice of the investigation and club requirements to both clubs concerned.
4. The Operations Manager will present the complaint and response from the offending club to the RDFNL Board for review and resolution. In the event of an Investigation, the Investigation Officer appointed will contact both clubs to arrange interviews with required persons.
5. The Operations Manager will advise both clubs of the outcome of the complaint as soon as the Board has come to a resolution or sanction. In the event of an investigation, the Investigation Officer will have 10 days from the matter having been formally requested, in order to complete all interviews and provide a written report to the Operations Manager.
6. In the event of an Investigation, the Operations Manager will depending on the report from the Investigation Officer schedule a Tribunal or advise both clubs that no further action will be taken.
7. All outcomes/sanctions from complaints and investigations can be appealed within 7 days by either club in writing to the RDFNL Board. In the case of Tribunal appeals, the matter may be determined by an independent tribunal determined by AFL Victoria.

For more detailed explanations of RDFNL Investigations, Complaints, Tribunals and Appeals refer to **RDFNL By- Laws 53-60.**

## RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE





**By-Law 1 – Matters not provided for**

If any matters arise which are not provided for in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football League, or AFL Victoria Community Handbook rules, the RDFNL shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter.

**By-Law 2 – Clearance & Permit Curfew**

In accordance with AFL Victoria Rules, RDFNL imposes a clearance and permit curfew. No clearance or permit shall be handled after 5pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following a round of matches unless and except whereby exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager.

**By-Law 3 – Club Contacts**

Prior to the season commencing, the Football Operations Manager shall request the contact information for a minimum of one “Women’s Delegate” from each Club who will represent their Club for any Women’s matters. Clubs must inform the RDFNL immediately of any changes of personnel or communication details for their delegate(s).

**By-Law 4 – Football Records**

Football Records will be produced for Women’s matches and be part of the Senior Football and Netball weekly record. The RDFNL may include Women’s related content including results, ladders and media releases in the Riddell District Football Netball League’s Record which is now online only.

**By-Law 5 – Jumpers**

All jumpers in Women’s matches for each Club must carry different numbers. Players must be wearing the number that corresponds to the official team sheet.

**By-Law 6 – Submission of Selected Sides**

Each Club must submit their selected sides into the system by midday Friday or the day before competition and use the Club’s official team sheet for match days. All players’ numbers must also be entered correctly into the system.

Team sheets must represent a 100% accurate account of the players who take the field on a weekly basis. Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet, however, these changes must be submitted on the system immediately before each game in time for the submission of results and for umpires to record their best and fairest votes. Team sheets must also include coach(es), trainers, water persons and runners.

**By-Law 7 – Submission of Match Results**

All Clubs will be responsible for the submission of final match results immediately following the completion of each game. It is the responsibility of the HOME Club to enter the final scores for each game. The deadline for submission of all results is Saturday at 8.00pm.

**By-Law 8 – Practice Matches**

The RDFNL must be informed of all practice matches, including the Clubs, date, times and venue. Clubs must ensure local government policies and procedures are followed to ensure booking of all venues and facilities are finalised well in advance to the commencement date of each practice match. It is the responsibility of each Club to place a booking at least 2-weeks prior to any practice match for any required umpires. Umpire bookings placed inside 2 weeks of any practice match cannot be guaranteed they will be filled. All players must be registered to play in a practice match.

**By-Law 9 – Umpires**

Riddell Umpires Association shall cater for all Women’s matches and shall only supply Central Umpires, as negotiated on a year-to-year basis.

It shall be the responsibility of both clubs to supply Goal Umpires. The RDFNL Women’s Competition will implement the “last touch” rule where the last player to touch the ball before it goes out of bounds between the 50m arcs will be penalised with a free kick against. The Central Umpire shall also have the final call of the out-of-bounds-on-the-full ruling in these circumstances.

The last disposal rule is as follows:

- (a)** A free Kick shall be awarded against a player who kicks or handballs the football over the boundary line without the football being touched by another player.
- (b)** For the purposes of defining a kick, a kick shall be an intentional action, not accidental. When the ball comes off the foot or lower leg of a player without the intent of the player being to kick the ball, it will be deemed accidental contact and will not be determined as a kick by the Umpire. This will result in a ball-up 15 metres inside the field of play.
- (c)** Where a player who does not have possession stops the football being touched by an opposition player by shepherding the ball across the boundary line where the ball could have otherwise been touched by the player being blocked, then the Umpire will not award a free kick but will instead result in a ball-up 15 metres inside the field of play.
- (d)** The last disposal rule will only be applied between the 50-metre arcs. There will be a ball-up ordered if the ball crosses the boundary line inside-50.

**By-Law 10 – Competition Passes**

Riddell District Football Netball League season passes shall entitle bearer admission to Women’s matches.

The RDFNL Women’s Competition won’t charge an entry free for Home & Away matches. The RDFNL will communicate entry fees for finals matches in the lead up to the finals series.

**By-Law 11 – Affiliation**

The RDFNL shall admit Clubs into the competition from time-to-time provided such Football Clubs comply or can comply with the AFL Vic Community Football Handbook Rules, RDFNL By-Laws and the RDFNL Statement of Rules.

The RDFNL affiliated Clubs can submit a request to join the Women’s Competition for the following season at such a time as determined by the RDFNL during the “off-season”.

**By-Law 12 – Affiliation Fees**

Each affiliated Club shall pay such affiliation fees as determined by the RDFNL during the “off-season” for the following season, if applicable.

**By-Law 13 – Fixture Procedure**

The Football Operations Manager, in conjunction with the General Manager of Operations shall determine the fixture for each season. Each Club shall be entitled to give feedback on a draft fixture to be taken into consideration, although no guarantee is made that all situations shall be catered for. Deadlines for such feedback shall be determined by the RDFNL. The final fixture shall be publicly released prior to the season commencing.

**By-Law 14 – Points and Ladder Format**

In all matches, four points shall be counted for a win, and two for a draw. Following all home and away rounds, if two or more Clubs have gained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs on the ladder shall be determined by the percentage of points scored for and against any such Clubs. In the case where the Women’s fixture contains a bye, 4 points will be awarded to the team allocated the bye in any given round.

**By-Law 15 – Match-Day Paperwork**

The RDFNL shall, prior to the commencement of the season, allocate any necessary match-day paperwork to each competing Club.

Each round, all match-day paperwork must be submitted to the Riddell District Football Netball League office (or an alternative location nominated by the RDFNL) no later than 9.00am on the Monday following a round of matches. The HOME Club shall be responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted to the RDFNL on-time, either by Riddell Umpires or by the Club.

The following list of match-day paperwork will be required for submission:

- HOME Club team sheet
- AWAY Club team sheet
- Women’s Best & Fairest Vote Card sealed in envelope
- Scorecards & Timekeeper Cards
- Report Sheet (if applicable)
- Order off cards (if applicable)
- Permits of any kind (if applicable)

**By-Law 16 – Scoreboards**

Each venue used for Women’s matches must be equipped with an operating scoreboard. Scoreboard attendants must be of a suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job. Scoreboards should operate at all games and must be kept as accurate as possible. The HOME Club should supply a scoreboard attendant for every game.

**By-Law 17 – Time Clocks**

All time clocks displayed to the public at Women’s venues must run from zero upward. Time clocks used by timekeepers may count down towards zero.

**By-Law 18 – Ground Lighting**

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a match to continue. The Umpire shall have the authority to call off a game if they consider the conditions unsafe.

As per the AFL Facility Guidelines, venues must be a minimum of 100 lux to host night matches.

**By-Law 19 – Pre-Match Warm Ups**

The RDFNL have an expectation that clubs will avoid the opposing side during their entry onto the ground both at the start of the game and at half time, and during any on-ground “warm up”. It is required that each Club will warm up at opposing ends of the ground.

It is understood and accepted that when Clubs enter the ground they shall do a lap of the centre square, and when doing so they need to ensure they avoid the other side and their warm up area if the opposing side is already at one end of the ground.

**By-Law 20 – Codes of Conduct**

AFL Victoria and RDFNL endorse codes of conduct for the following:

- Club Official Code of Conduct
- Senior Coaches & Team Officials
- Senior Players & Parents and Spectators of Senior Football

All other codes of conduct and policies as per the RDFNL Operations Manual. For copies of any policy or code of conduct please get in contact with the Football Operations Manager or the Chief Executive Officer.

**By-Law 21 – Investigations**

Investigations

Appointment of Investigation Officer:

Each league shall appoint an AFL Victoria accredited investigation officer to investigate any matter referred on.

- (a)**
- (i)** The League, League Executive members, Club, Player, League or a AFL Victoria appointed official, who alleges that a player or an official of a club, umpire, official of an umpires' Association, AFL Victoria Official, League official, Club, player advocate, or League appointed official has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official, or club, or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. Unless the notice is lodged by the League a deposit of \$600 shall accompany the notice which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers it frivolous. A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the League by 12pm Friday after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the League agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to by the League may be subject to such conditions as the League thinks fit and such request for an extension is to be provided to the League in writing outlining the reasons for the extension request.
- When a League grants an extension, it shall do so in writing and advise all parties to the matter.
- (ii)** Within two (2) days of the request for an investigation the League is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the requested incident or matter for investigation.
- (b)** Notice of any allegation received under paragraph (a) shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 10 business days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of the 10 business days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) business days is then granted by the League at the request of the Investigation Officer.
- Request for extension of time must be received in writing by the League.
- (c)** If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player, an Official or Club or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the League Independent Tribunal as hereinafter provided, they may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.
- (d)** If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), the League administrator who appointed the investigator may provide the alleged offender/s the discretion to plead guilty and take the relevant set penalty for the alleged offence as described in the set penalty schedule below. If a player wishes to enter an early guilty plea and accept the minimum set penalty offered by the League, the players club secretary must contact the League administrator no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered by email to the League Chief Executive Officer. If the alleged offence falls outside of the offences listed within the set penalty schedule below or either the investigation officer, player/s being investigated, the player/s allegedly offended against, the League or the President/Secretary of either club request that the matter proceeds to tribunal, by no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings, then no set penalty will be offered and the matter will be dealt with according to section (e) of RDFNL By-Law 53.

Set Penalty Schedule (Please refer to RDFNL Notice of Report Sheet)

- (i)** Striking another person (1 or 2 match set penalty)
  - (ii)** charging an opponent (2 match set penalty)
  - (iii)** engaging in rough conduct against an opponent (2 match set penalty)
  - (iv)** making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with the eye region of another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (v)** making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of an opponent (1 match set penalty)
  - (vi)** scratching another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (vii)** tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
  - (viii)** using abusive, insulting or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire (2 match set penalty)
  - (ix)** carelessly making contact with an umpire (2 match set penalty)
  - (x)** disputing a decision of an umpire (1 match set penalty)
  - (xi)** attempting to strike another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (xii)** attempting to kick another person (2 match set penalty)
  - (xiii)** attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
  - (xiv)** making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player (2 match set penalty)
  - (xv)** engaging in a melee (1 match set penalty)
  - (xvi)** instigating a melee (2 match set penalty)
  - (xvii)** wrestling another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (xviii)** pinching another person (1 match set penalty)
  - (xix)** engaging in an act of staging (1 match set penalty)
  - (xx)** using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language (1 match set penalty)
  - (xxi)** use of an obscene gesture (1 match set penalty)
  - (xxii)** engaging in time wasting (1 match set penalty)
  - (xxiii)** interfering with a player kicking for goal (1 match set penalty)
  - (xxiv)** intentionally shaking a goal or behind post (1 match set penalty)
  - (xxv)** failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an umpire (2 match set penalty)
  - (xxvi)** wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of Laws of Australian Football (1 match set penalty)
- (e)** If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), and the League determines that it should be heard at Tribunal the League Chief Executive Officer shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the allegation before the League Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than 9 days after lodgement of the Notice and shall advise the Player, official or club, in question of those particulars and forward to the Player, Official, or club, care of the Club Secretary in question a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the Club Secretary of the Notice lodged under paragraph (c). Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player or official or club prior to the Hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and club at least 48 hours prior to the Hearing and the charged player or official or club shall be informed at the time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses. Notices should include any other relevant information pertaining to the matter at hand.
- (f)** In any proceeding brought before a tribunal or Appeals Board under this rule the Investigation Officer may personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the League.
- (g)** If the League Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question has engaged in unbecoming conduct or conduct which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the League Independent Tribunal:–
- (i)** may impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player, Official or club in question: or
  - (ii)** must suspend the Player, Official or Club in question for such period as it thinks fit, if the Player, Official or Club is found guilty.
- (h)** In any hearing before an AFL Victoria Appeal Board the Investigations Officer will be the informant and witness for the league or Association but will usually not be the prosecuting advocate in the hearing.

**By-Law 22 – Investigations Fees**

In instances where a Club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Rules 5.0 (Unbecoming Conduct) the required fee of \$600 shall be lodged, the full amount of \$600 shall be retained by the RDFNL.



The following policy will be enforced by the RDFNL for investigations:

- (a)** When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the Club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200, and the balance of \$400 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for their services.
- (b)** In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the Club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200 and the balance of \$400 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for their services.
- (c)** In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the RDFNL Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the Club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$600. The Club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$400 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the RDFNL for payment to the Investigations Officer for their services.

Note: The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$400. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$400 and which will be negotiated with the RDFNL accordingly. In such instances, the RDFNL will adjust the amount of \$400 to the revised amount in the above case.

Note: In the instance of an investigation being initiated by the RDFNL or an independent body, which results in a tribunal hearing being required, the following will apply if a guilty verdict is returned. The Club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$400 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the RDFNL for payment to the Investigations Officer for their services.

### By-Law 23 – Tribunal

The RDFNL will have all match report hearings heard by the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, held on the Tuesday or Wednesday following a round of matches at the RDFNL Headquarters, Arnold's Creek, Melton West.

If Clubs wish to apply for a set penalty then the club must notify the RDFNL by 12.00pm on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested. After 12.00pm, it will be assumed the Club is happy to take the set penalty if it is available to be taken. Either Club, the reporting Umpire or the RDFNL may request the hearing proceed, prior to 12.00pm on the Monday.

Tribunal will not commence a new case after 10.30pm with any pending cases held over until a later night. Club attire or smart casual attire must be worn at all tribunal cases. Clubs not represented at Tribunal hearings shall incur a fine in addition to any fine imposed by the Independent Tribunal.

If the reporting umpire, player offended against or other witness is unable to attend the hearing owing to work or study commitments, the RDFNL Independent Tribunal can request the use of a phone call to assist their decision. The offending player must attend the hearing.

#### • Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations may be accepted if any party to a report (i.e. the reported player, the player allegedly offended against and the reporting umpire), is unable to attend owing to work or study commitments, or in the case of illness or injury. Note: A “letter” submitted as evidence will not suffice, and the Statutory Declaration must be signed by a certified signatory (e.g. Justice of Peace, Police Officer, etc.) and date stamped at least 12 hours earlier than the scheduled start time for a tribunal case.

Providing the RDFNL is notified as early as possible after the report (no later than 12.00pm Monday), and that such Statutory Declaration is lodged with the RDFNL no later than 12 hours prior to start time on the day of the hearing, the Statutory Declaration may be accepted.

Any Statutory Declaration submitted must set out:

- The reason for the missing party's inability to attend the hearing if the person cannot attend the Tribunal on the scheduled night.
- A full description of the incident (or incidents) being the subject of the report. This must include – Time of incident (e.g. early in 3rd quarter), location of incident (e.g. right side wing), location of ball, any provocation, details of incident (e.g. blow with right hand), force of blow, result of impact / collision / blow, etc.

Any reported player who fails to attend or fails to submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined above, or fails to give notice as above, may have the charge or charges heard in their absence. Similarly, any witness who fails to attend or submit a Statutory Declaration or fails to give notice as above, may be dealt with as the Tribunal sees fit. Any such non-attendance may result in action as determined by the Tribunal, and can include fines upon a Club or the suspension of the player. Any reported player, witness or umpire who has a legitimate request for an early hearing e.g. work or study commitments, must submit such request to the RDFNL as early as possible, and no later than 12.00pm on the day of the hearing.

#### • Advocates/Appealance

The RDFNL also requires that both the reported player and the offended against player / witness bring along a Club Advocate with them to the hearing. The RDFNL also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness, and their advocates, do dress in an appropriate manner (minimum of smart casual or Club attire) that recognises and respects the sanctity of the Tribunal.

#### • Video Evidence

If Clubs wish to use their own video evidence they must provide a signed Statutory Declaration, which certifies that the video has not been altered or tampered with. The RDFNL video evidence does not require a statutory declaration to be used as part of any tribunal case or investigation.

### By-Law 24 – Tribunal Duties

The Tribunal shall deal with and decide protests, disputes, and charges against Clubs, players, officials, and office bearers of Clubs and to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such protests, disputes or charges as they think fit.

### By-Law 25 – Match Review Panel

The Match Review Panel, comprising of up to five members, is an independent panel of members who shall be asked to review incidents raised by Clubs and/or Umpiring Associations from RDFNL official video evidence and asked to determine if a specific player or players in question may have a case to answer to under RDFNL rules (as stipulated on the RDFNL report form).

### By-Law 26 – Decisions Final

Notwithstanding any appeals, the Tribunal's decisions and penalties shall be final and such penalties may extend beyond its term of office. The RDFNL Tribunal Memorandum of Understanding contains further information regarding appeals.

### By-Law 27 – Optional Penalties

Optional penalty for players reported for some on field offences, and the guidelines for their implementation are as follows:

Umpires shall report and charge players in the manner provided for in these regulations but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal unless so requested by one or more of the umpires who lodged the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or an official of either club. Such request shall be made in writing and emailed to the Football Operations Manager no later than 12.00 Noon on the Monday immediately following the match. If the tribunal subsequently finds the charge sustained it shall have the power to impose such penalty as it deems fit.

### By-Law 28 – Sustained Reports

A Club who, in a grade, has six (6) sustained reports for the season shall show the League why they should not be suspended from the League.

- Note: Sustained report = guilty verdict at tribunal (i.e. does not include set penalties taken).

### By-Law 29 – Player Unavailability for Tribunal Hearing

In instances where a charged player is unable to attend a scheduled hearing of the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, either the player shall be ineligible to play until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal, or the RDFNL Tribunal may hear the case without the charged player.

### By-Law 30 – Player Melee

Clubs are to instruct their officials, coaches and players that on field behaviour is to be such that the game of football is played in a fair manner that does not bring their Club or the RDFNL into disrepute.

Clubs may be sanctioned by the RDFNL following any report of such behaviour from the officiating umpire(s).

A melee is described as any act of jumping into packs, scrapping, wrestling or running from set positions to become involved in a skirmish.

### By-Law 31 – Reports Resulting from Match Review

The Match Review Panel shall have the power to lay a report following the analysis of the RDFNL footage that has been raised with the RDFNL from any Club or Umpiring Association. The Match Review Panel shall follow RDFNL rules when laying a report from video footage. Riddell Umpires shall provide an advocate to prosecute all Match Review Panel cases that have been referred to the tribunal and at no point shall a member of the Match Review Panel be present during a tribunal case. The two systems shall remain independent of each other.

### By-Law 32 – Using Video Evidence in Tribunal Cases

Where video evidence is available from a Riddell District Football Netball League authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL Victoria and RDFNL guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non - Riddell District Football Netball League video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than 10am on the day of the hearing and such video must be delivered to the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than Noon on the scheduled day of the tribunal hearing. The video evidence MUST also be accompanied by a signed statutory declaration confirming that the footage provided is true and correct and has not been altered in any way (excluding slow motion footage). Video evidence received after this time, unless agreed to by the league, will not be accepted as evidence in the case.

A member of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager and the RUA Chief Executive Officer or RUA Chairman have the right to lay a report and/or request an investigation based on video footage presented to them.

### By-Law 33 – Comments in the Media

Any Club Member (player or official) found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards a member of the Riddell District Football Netball League (the RDFNL), AFL Victoria or Riddell Umpires Association (RUA) shall be fined an amount at the discretion of the RDFNL. The RDFNL shall decide appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to a fine or suspension being handed down.

### By-Law 34 – Leaving Playing Field

Women's sides shall be permitted to leave the playing field during the half-time interval, including in the Finals Series. Clubs leaving the playing field inappropriately shall be liable to a fine at the discretion of the RDFNL. Failure of Clubs to return to the playing field by the specified time may result in a fine at the discretion of the RDFNL.

### By-Law 35 – Late Appearance

Women's sides who fail to appear on the playing arena at the scheduled time may receive a fine at the discretion of the RDFNL. The Club will be informed of their fine by the Football Operations Manager.

### By-Law 36 – Bringing the RDFNL into Disrepute/Interfering with an RDFNL Official

- (a)** Any Club that brings the RDFNL into disrepute can be fined any amount as determined by the RDFNL. In such instances, Clubs will be given the opportunity to show due course as to why further action should not be taken against them.
- (b)** Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a Club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the RDFNL or any member of the Tribunal because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the RDFNL deems fit.

### By-Law 37 – Unauthorised Entry on to Playing Arena

Any Player or Official who enters the playing arena during a match and somehow involves themselves in any type of incident shall receive an automatic four (4) match suspension. Suspensions are subject to approval from the RDFNL and further sanctions may also apply depending on the severity of the incident. Supporters from Clubs who conduct similar behaviour shall be banned from attending Women's and Riddell District Football Netball League matches for an amount of time to be determined by the RDFNL.

### By-Law 38 – Women's Best & Fairest Medal

- (a)** An award known as the "RDFNL Women's Best & Fairest Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the Women's competition. The runner/s up of the Women's Best & Fairest Medal shall be awarded a Women's Best & Fairest Runner-Up Medal.
- (b)** Secret voting for such award shall be made by the Central Umpire(s) officiating at all Women's matches.
- (c)** The Field Umpires officiating at each Women's fixture, shall immediately following the conclusion of the match, select their idea of the three fairest and best players in the match. They shall then number one, two and three in order of preference. Their number one nomination to receive three votes, number two selection to receive two votes, and number three selection to receive one vote. These votes shall be submitted to the RDFNL via the match day voting card.
- (d)** If the two Central Umpire system is in operation, then the two Central Umpires shall confer, agree upon a joint nomination and otherwise comply with paragraph (c) hereof.
- (e)** At the end of the home and away season, the RDFNL shall gather all votes made during the home and away rounds and the votes shall be counted and the player or players receiving the largest number of votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of an equal number of votes being awarded to more than one player, then players receiving such equal number of votes shall be declared joint winners and separate medals shall be struck and awarded.
- (f)** Any player who has incurred disqualification during the season shall be ineligible to receive the medal.

### By-Law 39 – Grand Final Best on Ground Medals

The player best afield in the Women's Grand Final, as judged by the officiating umpire, shall receive the "Grand Final Best on Ground Medal".

### By-Law 40 – Stretchers

Clubs must ensure a sports medicine approved 'MES Scoop Frame' style stretcher is placed at the interchange area. Failure to comply may result in a fine at the discretion of the RDFNL.

### By-Law 41 – Club Runner

Clubs may use up to two (2) Club runners for Women's matches. Only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate.

### By-Law 42 – Water Carriers

A maximum of up to four (4) Water Carriers can be used. In extreme weather conditions, Clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers, however, this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately. At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine at the discretion of the RDFNL may apply to Clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

### By-Law 43 – Timekeepers

Each competing Women's Club should provide a Timekeeper. The HOME Club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signalling device and a backup device for the use of Timekeepers. Timekeepers at all matches are required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the RDFNL.

Matches shall be allowed to proceed with just one timekeeper without penalty or dispute.

### By-Law 44 – Trainers

It is required for all Women's Clubs to Register all Trainers with the RDFNL. Furthermore, at Women's level, all Trainers that take the field must be appropriately qualified with a minimum requirement of an ERC qualification.

### By-Law 45 – Commencing Times & Match Durations

All matches shall commence at such times that are fixed and appointed by the RDFNL.

Commencing Times

Commencing times will be communicated in the fixture release at the beginning of the season.

Quarter Duration

- (a)** The default duration for a quarter is 18 minutes with no time-on. Time shall only be stopped if circumstances listed below occur.
- (b)** Breaks between the first and second quarter (1/4 time) and between the third and fourth quarter (3/4 time) shall be 5 minutes. The break between the second and third quarter (half-time) shall be 10 minutes.

Time-on shall not apply in Women's matches, unless in the following circumstances:

- The ball is lost;
- The ball goes flat;
- A stretcher enters the playing field where trainers consider an injured player should be stretchered from the field. Stretchers cannot enter the field of play until a Trainer signals that a stretcher is required. Time stops when the stretcher enters the playing field, and restarts when it crosses the boundary line; or
- In rare and exceptional circumstances, the field umpire considers that time should be added, in which case the field umpires will communicate such to the time-keepers. An example of this may be, say, an unattended car rolls onto the playing surface. These instances will be rarely invoked.

### By-Law 46 – Colours and Uniforms

Clubs are to notify the RDFNL on the team's intended uniform prior to the season commencing.

Any Club desiring to register new uniforms must submit a sample to the RDFNL and seek approval for such registration.

### By-Law 47 – Footballs

Size 4 leather match footballs shall be used in all Women's matches. Club will be provided footballs at the beginning of the season.

### By-Law 48 – Excess Numbers on the Ground

#### Counting of Players

#### 5.5.1 Request by Captain

The captain or vice-captain of a Team, or Team Runner(s), may at any time during a Match request that the field Umpire counts the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

#### 5.5.2 Procedure

**(a)** Where a request is made under Law 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall:

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



**(b)** The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is 16 per Team (unless 18 has been agreed to prior to the game commencing) or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under Law 22, 16 (18 if agreed to prior to game commencing) less the Player(s) ordered from the Playing Surface.

#### 5.5.3 Players Exceeding Permitted Number

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

- (a)** a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b)** a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
- (c)** the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that quarter up to the time of the count; and
- (d)** the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by Law 5.5.3(c).

#### 5.5.4 Correct Number and Request Without Merit

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

- (a)** a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b)** a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
- (c)** if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play, or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting; and
- (d)** if Law 5.5.4 (c) applies, the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction it deems appropriate.

#### 5.5.5 Post-Match Review

- (a)** A Club or other person may request post-Match review by the relevant Controlling Body of a Team exceeding the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface where a request under section 5.5.1 did not occur during a Match.
- (b)** Notification of the request and lodgement of relevant evidence must occur within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant Match in a form prescribed by the Controlling Body.
- (c)** The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction it deems appropriate.

#### By-Law 49 – Numbers, Shorts & Socks

All players must wear RDFNL approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their Club and including numbered jumpers, and wear shorts and socks of registered colours. The numbers worn by players must correspond with the submitted team sheets.

#### By-Law 50 – Bike Shorts/Compression Garments

Bike shorts and Compression Garments may be worn by players under their playing uniforms however they must be either flesh toned or the same colour as the uniform. A fine at the discretion of the RDFNL will be imposed on Clubs for each player on each occasion coloured bike shorts or compression garments are worn.

#### By-Law 51 – Uniform Policy

- Trainers white or navy pants & white top, with a number.
- Water Carriers Light Blue shirt, with club home colour or white shorts/pants.
- Runners Fluorescent Pink shirt with club home colour or white shorts/pants.
- Goal Umpires White top must be worn.
- Club Volunteer Umpire White shirt must be worn.
- Ground Manager Fluorescent Yellow Vest must be worn.

Dark coloured skins may be worn underneath shorts for officials. Jeans are not considered to be pants and are strictly forbidden as part of the Water carriers & Runner uniform.

Clubs who have incorrectly attired officials shall be fined at the discretion of the RDFNL.

#### By-Law 52 – Interchange Players/Player Numbers on the Field & Equalisation

- (a)** The team shall consist of a maximum of twenty-four (24) players with a maximum of 16 (18 if agreed to by both clubs) players from one team being permitted on the field at any time during a quarter.
- (b)** The team must consist of a minimum of twelve (12) players before play can commence and Equalisation Rules apply as per By-Law 52. If a team has less than twelve (12) players, that team will forfeit the match.
- (c)** In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however; the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.
- (d)** The RDFNL expects all team officials and players to understand and adhere to the 'spirit' of this rule, which is, the team that has the greater number of players available shall provide as many players as possible to equalise 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 the match as possible. If both teams have full sides, an 16 a side game shall be played.
- (e)** If during a match, a team's playing numbers drop to below 12 players a forfeit will occur and the match is encouraged to continue with an equal number of players on the field for both sides.
- (f)** Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, all scores, votes and goal kickers will stand.
- (g)** Where a team cannot field 16 players it can approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned. This request must be made at least 48 hours prior to the start of the match and must be made by the Team Manager or highest-ranking available team staff member. The RDFNL encourages clubs to be in contact with each other in the lead up to the match regarding their playing numbers, or alternatively contact the RDFNL, who will then advise the opposition.
- (h)** Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked. These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.
- (i)** Where the team that has less than 16 players does not request loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
- (j)** Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 16, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.
- (k)** 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, the opposing team does not have to even up the on-field playing numbers. However, if the result is beyond dispute, it is strongly encouraged.
- (l)** Opposition Day Permit - 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.
- (m)** Any dispute regarding this rule will be referred to the RDFNL 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 penalised as the RDFNL deems fit.
- (n)** The Equalisation Rule is not to be applied in Finals.

#### By-Law 53 – Registrations

All players who play a Women's match must be officially registered with the RDFNL. Every Club is responsible for the registration of their own players. Players must be re-registered with their Club on an annual basis should they wish to continue to play with that Club.

Players must be a minimum age of fifteen years as of the 1st of January of the current season.

Any Club in breach of these registration rules will be penalised at the discretion of the RDFNL and may include loss of match points and/or fines.

#### By-Law 54 – Talking Devices Used on the Field of Play

Listening/talking devices (such as a walkie talkie) are banned from being used by Club officials whilst on the field of play. This includes the banning of use by water carriers, trainers and runners. The only exception to this rule is for Coaching staff sitting in an elevated position away from the Coaches box where players cannot hear their instructions.

#### By-Law 55 – Wearing Gloves during Competition

Approved gloves are permitted to be worn in Women's matches.

**By-Law 56 – Finals Structure & Venues**

The top-four sides on the ladder following the completion of the home & away season shall compete in a 3-week Finals series.

Final 4:

Week 1 A -1st v 2nd Qualifying Final

B – 3rd v 4th Elimination Final

Week 2 C – Loser A v Winner B Preliminary Final

Week 3 D - Winner A v Winner C Grand Final

All playing arrangements, and the grounds upon which all Finals matches are to be played, shall be determined by the RDFNL. Factors that will be considered when determining Finals venues include ground condition, participating teams, amenities, spectator attraction and the respective positions on the ladder of the participating teams.

**By-Law 57 – Drawn Football Finals**

In the event of a drawn game in any Finals match, the following shall apply:

- (a)** The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three minutes.
- (b)** A five-minute quarter will be played (with no time-on) before immediately changing ends for another five-minute quarter (with no time-on). There is to be only a one-minute break between these quarters.
- (c)** If at the end of the second five-minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends will occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and the first team to score will win the match.

**By-Law 58 – Eligibility for Finals**

- (a)** A player must play in at least two (2) Women's home and away matches for their Club in the current season to qualify to play in the current seasons' Women's Finals Series.
- (b)** Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player with zero games for the Club, and therefore must qualify as per the rules above.
- (c)** Clubs found in breach of the above Finals eligibility rules shall be penalised at the discretion of the RDFNL, and risk disqualification from Finals.
- (d)** Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.
- (e)** RDFNL Youth Girls and Junior Girls matches are counted towards the eligibility of Women's finals.

**By-Law 59 – Naming Rights**

No Women's Clubs or teams shall be permitted to enter into a "Club/Team Naming Rights" Sponsorship without the written authority of the RDFNL. All proposals must be submitted to the RDFNL at least 6 weeks prior to Women's season commencing.

Note: The RDFNL will not consider any Club Naming Rights Sponsorship proposals where such agreements may conflict with any existing RDFNL Sponsorship.

**By-Law 60 – Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game**

As referenced in By-Law 52, both Clubs can compete in a match with 12-players-a-side on the field of play, but no less. Clubs are encouraged to assist their opposition to ensure play can commence. In the event where both sides are unable to field 12 or more players, the points will be evenly split.

**By-Law 61 – Red & Yellow Cards****Red Card Offences:**

A Player who commits a Red Card offence will be Reported and ORDERED OFF the ground for the REMAINDER OF THE GAME. The player may be replaced after 15 minutes playing time has elapsed.

Red card offences will usually be violent and intentional. Some descriptions of Red Card offences are:

- Unduly interferes with or assaults or uses threatening language to an umpire or behaves in a threatening manner towards an umpire.
- Assaults another player or official. Assault is defined as an unprovoked, callous and/or violent attack which is likely to inflict serious injury upon another player, like a king hit or eye-gouging.
- Intentionally kicks or seriously attempting to kick an opponent or official.
- Misconduct. (Misconduct covers all offences not specifically covered under the Laws, e.g. urinating in view of spectators, refusing to leave the ground when ordered off etc.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and it is up to the umpire/s what is deemed as a red card offence.

**Yellow Card Offences:**

A player who commits a Yellow Card offence may, or may not be reported, depending on the severity of the offence. In every red or yellow card offence, the player will be ordered from the field for 15 minutes playing time. The player cannot be replaced for the duration of the 15 minutes playing time. All yellow carded players may return to the field after 15 minutes, whereas red carded players cannot return to the field. However, red carded players may be replaced after the 15 minutes of playing time.

Red card offences will always be reported. Lesser offences will be "Yellow Carded" and may be reported. Minor offences may be Yellow carded without Report.

Offences that may be yellow carded, and reported include: -

- Uses abusive, insulting, or obscene language to an Umpire or behaves in an abusive, insulting or obscene manner towards an Umpire. Depending on severity this could be a RED CARD
- Intentionally, recklessly, carelessly, or negligently...
  - Wasting time,
  - Shaking a goal post while opponent is kicking (or has kicked) for goal,
  - Throwing or violently pushing another player after a mark or when ball out of play,
  - Tripping or attempting to trip by hand, foot or leg,
  - Minor Striking or attempting to strike,
  - Charging another person,
  - Engages in rough conduct,
  - Wrestling another person,
  - Engaging in a melee.

Depending upon the severity of the following "Yellow Card" offences, a player may be sent off without a report if it is a first offence of the day.

- Any player ordered from the ground for committing a second offence must be reported and sent from the ground for the remainder of the match with a red card. The player must not return to the field but can be replaced after 15 minutes of playing time.
- Only field umpires may order a player from the ground, A player ordered-off MUST leave the ground though the interchange area, and report to the Ground Manager before returning.
- A "Yellow Card" player cannot be replaced for the duration of the 15 minutes playing time. After 15 minutes, the player may return to the field or be replaced.
- A "Red Card" player cannot return to the field for the duration of the game. The player may however be replaced by another player AFTER the expiration of the 15 minutes playing time.
- In the event of a player failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, they shall be reported for misconduct. The player's captain or deputy shall be advised by the umpire that their team will forfeit the match unless the player leaves the field immediately. These instances must be noted on the Match Report.

- In all grades of football, field umpires may order a player off the ground for fifteen

(15) minutes without report. Note; this would only apply when a player HAS NOT committed a reportable offence detrimental to the image of the game.

The intention of this rule is to provide the player with a cooling off period.

**By-Law 62 – RDFNL Policies adopted by the Women's Competition**

Below is a list of AFL and AFL Victoria policies that have been adopted by the RDFNL:

- (a)** National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations
- (b)** National Player and Official De-registration Policy
- (c)** AFL Social Media Engagement Policy
- (d)** AFL Coaches Code of Conduct
- (e)** AFL Trainers Policy
- (f)** Negligence and the Law in Football
- (g)** National Age Dispensation Policy
- (h)** AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy
- (i)** AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy



- (j)** AFL Victoria Alcohol Management Policy
- (k)** AFL Victoria Infectious Disease Policy
- (l)** AFL Anti-Doping Code
- (m)** Safeguarding Children Policy
- (n)** Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct
- (o)** Safeguarding Children Reporting Procedure
- (p)** AFL Victoria Extreme Weather Policy
- (q)** AFL Victoria Member Protection Policy
- (r)** AFL Privacy Policy
- (s)** AFL Vilification Policy
- (t)** AFL Junior Match Policy
- (u)** AFL Victoria Gender Regulation Policy
- (v)** AFL Victoria National Risk Protection Policy
- (w)** AFL Victoria No Surprises Policy
- (x)** Concussion Management Policy
- (y)** AFL Community Gender Diversity Policy

The RDFNL adopts the following policies from the AFL National Handbook:

- (a)** Player Registration & Transfers
- (b)** Coach Accreditation
- (c)** Deregistration
- (d)** Gender Diversity (participation of transgender and non-binary people)
- (e)** Member Protection
- (f)** Vilification and discrimination
- (g)** Safeguarding Children and Young People
- (h)** Social Media
- (i)** Gambling and match fixing
- (j)** Anti-doping
- (k)** Injury Management
- (l)** Protective equipment
- (m)** Extreme weather
- (n)** Concussion
- (o)** Pregnant players
- (p)** Infectious diseases and active bleeding
- (q)** Reportable Offences
- (r)** Policy Breaches
- (s)** Disciplinary Officer
- (t)** Appeal Board

The following AFL National Handbook policies have not been adopted by the RDFNL:

- Age dispensation
- Umpire Accreditation
- Tribunal

Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager or Chief Executive Officer for a copy of the AFL National Handbook or any policy.

### By-Law 63 – Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance Policy Sanctions

The following sanction outcomes shall apply to in Women's competitions if necessary:

- (a)** Any registered Women's player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a Women's player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a 4-week suspension. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the RDFNL and/or the RDFNL Tribunal if they see fit. The AFL Vilification & Discrimination Policy will be followed in determining the outcome.
- (b)** Should a member or supporter of a Women's Club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a Women's player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the spectator will incur a minimum of a 12-week suspension from attending Women's or RDFNL fixtures and the Club will be fined an amount of no less than \$250. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the RDFNL and/or the RDFNL Independent Tribunal if they see fit.
- (c)** Should a Women's Club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the Club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion the RDFNL and/or the RDFNL Independent Tribunal if they see fit.
- (d)** Should a Women's Club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the Club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the RDFNL and/or the RDFNL Independent Tribunal if they see fit. In addition, the Club will be asked to undertake "Culture Awareness Training" for all players and members that will be presented by a Facilitator appointed by the RDFNL.

### By-Law 64 – Restrictions on Players and Officials betting

The RDFNL strictly prohibits Women's registered players and officials from placing bets or wagering in a game or competition where players or officials are engaged. For the purposes of clarity, RDFNL Women's players and officials are not permitted to place Bets on the RDFNL Women's premiership.

This restriction does not apply to players being registered with wagering companies and betting on contingencies not related to the game or competition in which they are engaged and on the broad range of contingencies in racing and sports wagering and gaming offered by the company.

The RDFNL shall have access to live reporting facilities with the wagering companies in order to allow the RDFNL to view customer details and transaction histories, and in cases where Players and/or Officials do breach this By-Law they shall face sanction/s as determined by the RDFNL.

### By-Law 65 – Photography & Video Footage at Women's Games

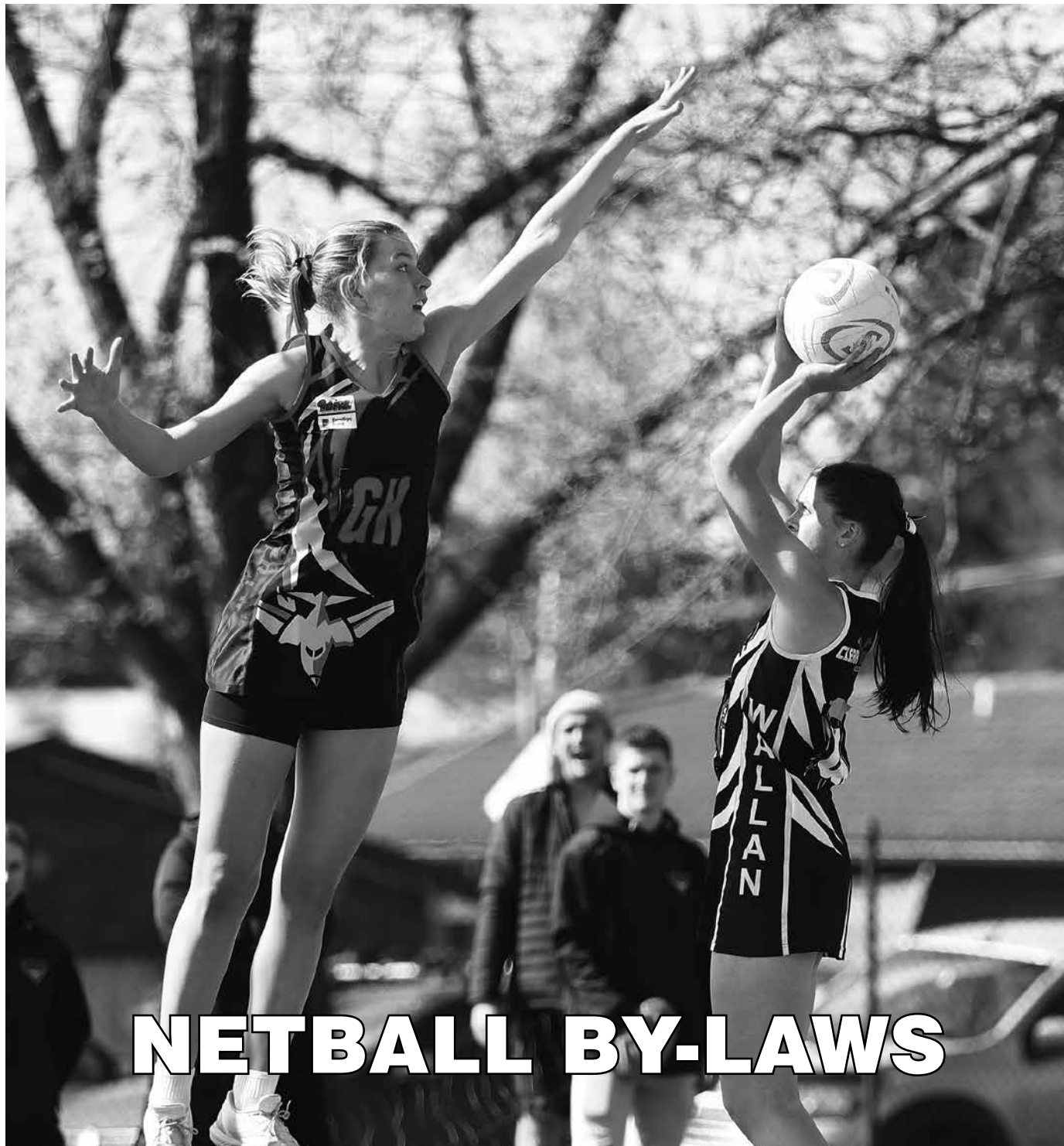
Photography and taping of players at Women's matches shall be allowed so long as the photos and/or footage is taken of Women's competition matches in play. At no stage may any person take a camera into the change rooms of either club to take any kind of photograph or video footage without the permission of the people whose image is being recorded.

Further to this, photographs and video footage of Women's games shall not be used for commercial gain without first obtaining the permission from the RDFNL and the participating clubs. Failure to adhere to this By-Law shall result in punishment as deemed necessary by the RDFNL.

### By-Law 66 – Media Commitments

Each Club should attempt to make personnel available to the media as requested to aid the promotion of the Competition including but not limited to captains and coaches at season launch.

# RIDDELL DISTRICT FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE



**NETBALL BY-LAWS**

## By law 1 – Committee of Netball Management

(a) A Committee of Netball Management consists of

- (i) Board Member – Senior Netball Portfolio
- (ii) Board Member – Junior Netball Portfolio
- (iii) Board Member – Netball Portfolio
- (iv) RDFNL Netball Manager
- (v) RDFNL CEO
- (vi) Any other member (general committee) as appointed by the RDFNL Board.

(b) The Committee of Management will impose the prescribed penalty to any member that fails to adhere to these by- laws, Netball Victoria policies or any other Association policies and guidelines.

## By law 2 – Meetings

(a) A meeting of club netball co-ordinators will be held when deemed necessary by the Netball Committee of Management.

(b) A minimum of three meetings to be held each financial year.

(c) All Clubs must be represented by at least one representative at all Netball Meetings.

Penalty for nonattendance: \$75.

## By law 3 - Correspondence

(a) All correspondence must be in writing from the Netball Co-ordinator, Club President or Club Secretary to the RDFNL Netball Manager.

(b) All correspondence from the League will be addressed to the Netball Coordinator and Club President unless otherwise specified by the club.

(c) The League shall provide the following information in writing to all Clubs prior to the start of the season:

- 1 League Contact Details
- 2 League venue address
- 3 League By-Laws
- 4 Fixtures
- 5 League Events
- 6 Details of courses

(d) Clubs shall provide the following information to the RDFNL Netball Manager by 31st of January each year:

- (i) Contact Detail
- (ii) Coach Detail
- (iii) Umpire Detail

(e) Clubs shall be responsible to update these details with the RDFNL Netball Manager if any changes are made during the year.

## By law 4- Finance

### Part (i) Affiliation Fees

(a) The RDFNL Board of Management shall set fees for the Riddell District Football Netball League.

(b) Any club un-financial shall be dealt with by the RDFNL Board of Management as per the Statement of Rules and the Football By-Laws in place at the time.

### Part (ii) Financial Management

(a) All financial matters will be handled by the Riddell District Football Netball League.

### Part (iii) Reimbursement/Payments

(a) The Committee of Netball Management shall be entitled to claim approved expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity. Receipts must be produced. All claims shall be submitted to the RDFNL Board of Management.



### By law 5 – Club Registration / Nomination of Teams

- (a)** The following fines, up to the amount but not exceeding the amount, will apply to teams who fail to affiliate at the start of the season.
- A Grade Netball: \$2500 19 & Under Netball: \$1500
  - B Grade Netball: \$2000 Any Junior Netball grade: relevant affiliation fee
  - C Grade Netball: \$1500
  - D Grade Netball: \$1500
- (b)** Under exceptional circumstances the RDFNL board may consider an offending club's appeal towards the sanctions set in part (a). Offending clubs need to show cause why the fine and penalties set in part **(a)** should not apply.

### By law 6 – Netball Victoria Membership

All players, coaches and umpires must be registered through the Netball Connect system by the individual through each club's specific Netball Connect gateway.

All netball club officials must also be Netball Victoria registered prior to undertaking their roles with their RDFNL Club. Single game vouchers (SGV) are also available through the RDFNL netball portal.

### By law 7– Age Requirements

- (a)** Minimum age requirement for the senior competition is turning 15 years by the December 31 'of the current year'.
- (b)** 19&Under: Player must be 19 or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 20 this year. This is a female only competition.
- (c)** 17&Under: Player must be 17 or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 18 this year. This is a female only competition.
- (d)** 15&Under: Player must be 15 or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 16 this year. This is a female only competition.
- (e)** 13&Under: Player must be 13 or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 14 this year. This competition is open to both girls and boys.
- (f)** 11&Under: Player must be 11 or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 12 this year. This competition is open to both girls and boys.
- (g)** The minimum age for 9&U is 7 years old at the commencement of the said year.
- (h)** Special age exemptions will be considered to assist with junior numbers, these must be submitted in writing to the RDFNL Netball Manager and RDFNL Netball Directors for approval.
- (i)** The RDFNL senior netball competition is a female only competition.
- (j)** The RDFNL Junior Netball competition is as a modified female competition and will allow boys to participate according to the following guidelines;
- 9&U Competition – Eligible boys will be permitted to play in this age group.
  - 11&U Competition – Eligible boys will be permitted to play in this age group.
  - 13&U Competition – Eligible boys will be permitted to play in this age group.
  - Males that turn 13 during the season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that season. If he is 13 by the first day of the season, the male will not be permitted to play that season.

### By law 8 - Venues

- (a)** Each Club must play their home matches within the confines of, or as close as possible to the ground where their Football Club is playing.
- (b)** Each home Club will be responsible for providing a court in fit condition, which must be approved by Netball Victoria & the Riddell District Football Netball league.
- (c)** All Club courts are to be situated outdoors, as the RDFNL is an outdoor competition, unless approved by the Netball Committee of Management.
- (d)** All 9 and Under rings must be set to a height of 2.4 metres and removed for other games of netball to take place.

### By law 9 – Competition structure

- (a)** Number of grades available is to be determined by the Netball Committee of Management.
- (b)** Please refer to Football By-law 35.
- (c)** Any Senior club who cannot field teams in all grades MUST field an A Grade team. A and B grade must be filled before C grade am so on.
- (d)** The Netball Committee of Management will be the sole adjudicator of all grading decisions.
- (e)** A grading day will take place across two days for all junior grades except 9 and Under. The committee of management will then decide which teams make up division one and division two and if further divisions are required.

### By law 10 – Dress Code

- (a)** Each Club must register its uniform with the Netball Committee of Management.
- (b)** The Netball Committee Management must approve all uniform colours, designs and styles. Position bibs shall be worn by all players. Letters must be 15cm high and worn front and back, above the waist of players.
- (c)** Clubs must notify the RDFNL Netball Manager in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform.
- (i)** The Netball Committee of Management shall recommend changes to the RDFNL Board of Management.
  - (ii)** The RDFNL Board of Management shall have the sole right to approve or decline any changes to playing uniforms, after receiving a recommendation from the Netball Committee of Management.
- (d)** All clubs should have a set of clash bibs. It is the away team's responsibility to change bibs in the event of a clash.
- (e)** The League uniform is Navy/Red dress and white socks.
- (f)** Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in full uniform. If uniforms are not ready, approval must be sought and given by the Netball Committee of Management.
- (g)** Extracurricular uniform/attire notes:
- (i)** Long nails are to be taped with appropriate netball tape in the following manner; one (1) piece of tape is to fully cover the top of the nail and one (1) piece of tape around the nail.
  - (ii)** Gloves are only permitted to be worn if accompanied by a current medical certificate. This certificate needs to be sighted by the match Umpire before the player takes the court. Only plain cotton gloves with no metal clips, sharp adornments, velcro, rubber spikes or any other covering to enhance the catching of the ball shall be allowed to be worn.
  - (iii)** No jewellery is to be worn.
  - (iv)** Body piercing (ears, nose & eyebrow) must be removed, unless approved by the RDFNL Netball Committee of Management and accompanied by a hard copy medical certificate prior to game day.
  - (v)** Taping, appropriate sports tape is to be used (no band-aids).  
TONGUE PIERCINGS MUST BE REMOVED.
  - (vi)** No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
  - (vii)** Elastic headbands are acceptable during play. Plastic headbands must not be worn during matches.
  - (viii)** Sponsors logos are not permitted on bibs unless approved by RDFNL committee of Management.
  - (viii)** Socks must be white, black or club colours with the club logo (if preferred) and must be purchased through the RDFNL approved supplier. All team members must wear the same socks.
  - (ix)** Bike pants or boy legged briefs can be worn but shall be no longer than the dress when a player is standing upright.
  - (x)** Long sleeved tops can be worn underneath the uniform. It must be similar colour to the uniform. Players may wear black leggings underneath the uniform.

### By law 11 - Clearances

- (a)** A Clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another RDFNL Club during the current home and away season if they have played in the RDFNL in the previous 3 years.
- (b)** No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season within the same league.
- (c)** A clearance is not required if transferring to another club within the RDFNL after three years away from the league.
- (d)** A clearance will not be granted after the 9th round in an 18-week season for the senior competition. A clearance will not be granted after the 7th round in a 14-week season.
- (e)** Players who owe outstanding playing fees, are under contract or are in possession of club property will not be granted a clearance.
- (f)** Each club must process a clearance through Netball Connect.
- (g)** The existing Club has seven (7) days to approve or deny the clearance. If the club fails to deny the clearance within 7 days, the league will automatically clear the player to the new club.
- (h)** All clearance notifications will be generated and sent via the RDFNL to relevant people. If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearance), the League will write to the player advising the reason why and forward a copy to both clubs. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the Grievance Procedure outlined by Netball Victoria.
- (j)** Penalty for playing without clearance: \$75 and loss of any competition points for the match(es) the player played in.



By law 12 – Conduct of Matches

(a) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:

(i) Timing - Refer part (c)

(b) The Board of Management shall determine a fixture and any changes thereof for the competition inclusive of the starting times, venues and days of play for all matches.

(c) Other than where prior arrangements have been made by the Board, games shall commence at the following times and shall consist of four quarters:

(d) The below times are set without taking filming into consideration. All games must be completed by 2pm where filming is taking place. These times will be communicated via the Netball committee of management and reflected on Netball Connect.

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A Grade	1.45pm	4 x 15 mins	3 – 5 – 3
B Grade	12.20pm	4 x 15 minutes	3 – 5 – 3
19 & Under	11.10am	4 x 12 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
C Grade	10.00am	4 x 12 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
D Grade	9.00am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
17 & Under	1.00pm	4 x 12 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
15 & Under	12.00pm	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
13 & Under	11.00am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
11 & Under	10.00am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 3 – 2
9 & Under	9.00am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 3 – 2

(i) The above times may be varied by the RDFNL Operations Staff.

(ii) Teams are to change ends at each quarter time break.

(iii) The Board of Management may vary the starting times and match conditions in finals.

(iv) If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season then the club must notify the RDFNL Netball Manager and opposing club's netball delegate five days prior to the match starting time. All changes must be approved by the League.

(v) A Netball Australia Game Day/Training Checklist must be completed via the Safe Netball app before the commencement of the first game of the day.

(e) Late Start

(i) All clubs are to be in position and ready to start at the time set by the League or the mutually agreed, prearranged time.

(ii) Team requires a minimum of 5 players for play to commence.

(iii) Late arrivals may join at goal intervals, quarter time break or injury time.

(iv) Once Umpires, Scorers, Time keepers and one team are in position and scheduled start time has passed the following action may be taken.

(v) If a team does not take the court at the required time - the clock shall commence. The Umpires shall instruct the scorer to award a 5 (five) goal penalty to the non-offending team. If the offending team still does not take the court within a further 30 seconds the game will be awarded to the non-offending team.

Penalty: 4 Premiership points to non-offending team no changes to %. Fine \$150.00 to offending team.

(vi) However, all due consideration must be given when a change of venue has occurred. When a delay has occurred due to circumstances beyond anyone's control both delegates are to arrange a start time within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time.

(vii) If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season then the club must notify the RDFNL Netball Manager and opposing club's netball Delegate five days prior to the match starting time. All changes must be approved by the League. Written consent from both clubs required before time change is considered.

(f) Injury/Illness/Blood Policy

(i) The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).

(ii) The player concerned MUST leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The time keepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.

(iii) Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.

(iv) In the event the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court.

(v) The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.

(vi) Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.

(vii) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.

(viii) If no substitution is made for the injured/ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play as centre to allow the match to continue.

(vi) If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:

(1) A goal has been scored (in this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant).

Penalty: Free pass where ball was when play stopped – the player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry.

(2) A stoppage for injury/illness or blood.

(3) An interval.

By law 13 – Scoring/Team Sheets

(a) All teams must provide their own scorers for all matches. Scorers must sit together at the section provided at the court. Scorers must be fifteen (15) years of age or older except in the case of an eligible registered senior player who may not yet have turned fifteen (15). One team member must stand down if the team has no scorer.

(b) The home club shall be required to supply all the necessary paperwork for the match including printing off of the scoresheet from the Netball Connect database management system. Clubs will be provided with all required paperwork by the League prior to the season.

(c) One official Scoresheet will be used for each match. This scoresheet must list the complete and full names (both Given and Surname) of all players intending to take court. This scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter and the match score.

(d) A team may have up to 12 players on a team sheet.

(e) The first named team is responsible to return the scoresheet, and all relevant paperwork to the League.

Required paperwork include:

- Scoresheet
- Vote Cards
- Umpire report sheet
- Umpire Rating Sheet

(f) A club official may add players to the team sheet at any time up until the commencement of the third quarter.

(g) At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by;

(i) The captains of both competing teams, and

(ii) The scorers

(iii) The officiating umpires only sign the score sheet to state they have officiated that game.

(h) If a scorer, team or club believes the score sheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest.

(i) A team wishing to protest must: -

(1) Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Committee of the intention to protest.

(2) Lodge the protest in writing with the RDFNL Netball Manager within 48 hours of the game being played.

(j) The RDFNL Netball Manager will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.

By law 14 - Scoreboards

(a) All clubs are required to supply a working scoreboard for each RDFNL match.

(b) The home club is to ensure that the scoreboard is being operated by a suitable club member and must ensure that the score is kept up to date always. It is recommended that all timing is done by the bench to avoid any unnecessary conflicts between players and also officials.

(c) A fine of \$50 shall apply for clubs who fail to supply a scoreboard or fail to have it operated to a suitable standard.

By law 15 – Match Results, Competition Scores and Ladders

- (a) Notification of results shall follow the below process:
- (i) All results of the days play must be entered into the Netball Connect on-line results system by 6:00pm on the day of the match. The details required to be entered shall be decided by the Netball Committee of Management and communicated to clubs before the commencement of the season. It shall include, but not limited to, the final scores, goal shooters and best players. If the scores are entered incorrectly the objecting team is to notify the RDFNL Netball Manager. Clubs who enter incorrect results repeatedly may be penalised at the Netball Committee of Managements discretion.

Penalty: Clubs who enter incorrect results repeatedly may be penalised at the Netball Committee of Managements discretion and will require further compulsory Netball Connect training.

- (b) Grades where teams do not play in an even number of games shall refer to match ratio ladder.
- (c) The competition scores and ladders shall be displayed on the League website via the Netball Connect competition database.

By law 16 – Player Qualification - Seniors

- (a) All other eligibility criteria and player registration rules and by-laws must be followed.
- (b) Players may play a maximum of 2 matches per round, during the home and away season with their club in any grade, subject to part (e).
- (c) A player who has played more than one match in a round in a day shall only have their higher match recorded as match played when determining finals eligibility. The second match will not count when determining finals eligibility. A 19 & Under player will have the underage and the senior grade match recorded as qualification matches for both age group/grade.
- (d) Any team may list up to 12 players in any one match, and there will be no limit on the number of substitutions made.
- (e) Any player who has played six (6) matches in a higher grade, cannot play in a lower grade for the remainder of the season (except 19 & Under players refer to 16(c)).

If a player is found to have played a game in lower grade after they have already played 6 games in higher grade, they will lose premiership points for that round and the club will be fined \$100.00.

- (f) Players must take the court in the match for it to be counted as a qualifying game. Players who remain on the interchange bench shall not have the match recorded as a qualifying game.
- (g) Players in all grades must play at least four (4) matches in that season in one grade/age group to be eligible to participate in that grade's final series.
- (h) A player can only play in one (1) finals match on the same weekend except for players in the 19 & Under competition who can play in two (2) matches maximum on the same weekend, as long as they have met the qualification requirements as stated in 16 (g).
- (i) Any player that has played in a higher level than A Grade, e.g. Suncorp Super Netball Competition, Australian Netball League or the Victorian Netball League within the past 12 months will only be permitted to play no lower than A Grade in the RDFNL competition, except if they are a 19 & under player, who are eligible to play in any grade.

By law 17– Player Qualifications – Junior Competition

- (a) All other eligibility criteria and player registration rules and by-laws must be followed.
- (b) Players may play a maximum of 2 matches per round, during the home and away season with their club in any grade.
- (c) A player who has played more than one match in a round in a day will have both matches recorded as matches played when determining finals eligibility.
- (d) Any team may list up to 12 players in any one match, and there will be no limit on the number of substitutions made.
- (e) Players named on the team sheet must have taken the court at some stage for the match to register as a game played
- (f) Players in all grades must play at least four (4) matches in that season in one grade to be eligible to participate in that grade's final series, subject to all other criteria as per these by-laws.
- (i) A player can only play in two (2) finals match on the same weekend.

By law 18 - Finals

- (a) The Board of Management shall select the venues for each final in conjunction with the football competition finals.
- (b) At the conclusion of the home and away matches the finals series shall be decided in the following manner:

Final Six System

Match A	Elimination1 3rd v 6th
Match B	Elimination2 4th v 5th
Match C	Qualification 1st v 2nd
Match D	Semi 1 Loser C v Lower ranked winner from A, B
Match E	Sem 2 Winner C v Higher ranked winner from A, B
Match F	Preliminary Final Loser E v Winner D
Match G	Grand Final Winner E V Winner F

The Board shall decide at the beginning of each season as to the number of teams to contest the finals series.

Junior finals will follow a McIntyre Four System

McIntyre Final Four System

Match A	1st Qualifying Final	Rank 1	V	Rank 2
Match B	1st Elimination Final	Rank 3	V	Rank 4
Match C	Preliminary Final	Loser A	V	Winner B
Match D	Grand Final	Winner A	V	Winner C

- (c) Rule 17 shall apply when determining player eligibility for finals.
- (d) Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match.
- (e) Matches shall be conducted for finals as per home and away rounds. The starting time for finals matches may alter slightly to home and away match times and shall be set by the Board of Management. (f) Drawn Finals:
- (i) There is a four (4) minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores will be verified on the official scoresheet.
- (ii) Positional changes and substitutions may be made during changeover time.
- (iii) The extra time is as follows:

GRADE	EXTRA TIME
A Grade B Grade	2 x 7 Minutes
C Grade 19 & U 17& U	2 x 6 Minutes
D Grade	2 x 5 Minutes
15&U and 13&U Grades	2 x 5 Minutes

- (iv) At the end of the first half there will be one (1) minute interval where substitutions again can be made. Teams change ends to begin the second half.
- (v) Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time. Play continues until one team has a 2 (two) goal advantage.
- (vi) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply as per rule 9.3 of the Rule Book.
- (f) 9 and Under competition will not score games and therefore will have no finals, no extra time and no votes.

By law 19 – Forfeits/Cancellation

- (a) If a game is cancelled before the match begins due to weather conditions, points shall be shared between the two competing sides. If a match is stopped after ½ time due to weather conditions, the scores will be recorded from the point at when the match was stopped. A Riddell District Football Netball League Official is to be contacted where possible, when a decision on whether the game shall continue or not due to adverse weather conditions is to be made. If a Riddell District Football Netball League Official can't be contacted the match must continue.
- (b) If a team wishes to forfeit, they must notify the RDFNL Netball Manager, opposing team, and umpires, at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time. The following fines for a forfeit will apply for the following grades:

A Grade Netball - <b>\$1000.</b>	17 & UNDER Netball - <b>\$100</b>
B Grade Netball - <b>\$750.</b>	15 & UNDER Netball - <b>\$100</b>
C Grade Netball - <b>\$500</b>	13 & UNDER Netball - <b>\$100.</b>
D Grade Netball <b>\$250</b>	11 & UNDER Netball - <b>\$100</b>
19 & Under Netball - <b>\$100.</b>	9 & UNDER Netball - <b>\$100</b>

- (c) If a team forfeits and fails to notify authorities an additional \$100 fine per team, plus all umpire costs will be imposed.
- (d) A team may submit a team sheet on the day of a scheduled game in the case where the opposing registered team forfeits. A team can name a maximum of 12 players on a score sheet where a forfeit applies which will count as a game played for all listed players when determining finals eligibility.

By law 20 – Protests/Appeals

Part (i) Protests

- (a) A Team wishes to protest must:
- (i) Not, sign the official scoresheet and notify the committee of the intention to protest.
- (ii) Lodge the protest in writing with the RDFNL Netball Manager within 72 hours of the match being played.
- (iii) Lodge a \$500 bond with the RDFNL within 72 hours of the match being played which may be forfeited if the appeal is considered frivolous by the RDFNL Board.
- (iv) If the complaint is considered severe enough, it may be referred directly to the hearing officer.



### Part (ii) Appeals

**(a)** A Club shall have a right of appeal

- (i)** Lodge the protest in writing with the RDFNL Netball Manager within 72 hours of the match being played or notification of the outcome of a protest.
- (ii)** Lodge a \$500 bond with the RDFNL within 72 hours of the match being played which may be forfeited if the appeal is considered frivolous by the RDFNL Board.
- (iii)** The Board of Management shall hear the appeal.
- (iv)** If the case is heard by the hearing officer then, under the RDFNL regulations, the outcome cannot be appealed.

### By law 21 – Selection of Representative Teams

The RDFNL will appoint a Senior, 17 & under, 15 & under and 13 & under coach on a minimum term of one year for all representative games involving the RDFNL.

Please Note: Players must play for a RDFNL club to be eligible for representative teams.

- (a)** The RDFNL Netball Directors, in conjunction with the RDFNL Netball Manager will organise the representative squad selection trials if required.
- (b)** Selection trials will be conducted under the following circumstances:
  - (i)** All players who have submitted a player registration form, shall be informed of the date, time and place where selections will be held.
  - (ii)** A minimum of three selectors must be appointed for each team and shall be made up of the team coach and two other selectors.
  - (iii)** Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel.
- (c)** Selected teams will be published on the RDFNL website/Facebook page within seven (7) days of the final selection trial.
- (d)** The selector's decision shall be final.

### By law 22 – Team Officials

The match officials are Umpires, Scorers and Timekeepers. The Team officials are Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, and up to three (3) other personnel, one of whom must be a Primary Care Person who is qualified to diagnose and treat injured or ill players.

- (a)** All coaches, team managers and umpires must have a Current Netball Victoria registration and be registered with the RDFNL.
- (b)** In addition, the maximum of five players not on court at start of play, shall constitute the Team Bench.
- (c)** Team Officials and Bench players MUST NOT engage in any inappropriate comments or any form of inappropriate behaviour; including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines, during play.
- (d)** Club Coaches and Team Officials must stay in the designated bench area during all Home and Away and Finals matches.
- (e)** The appointed specified Coach is the only member of the club that can Coach on Match Day.
- (f)** All coaches must have the minimum Foundation level coaching qualification by Round 3 of the season.

### By law 23 - Working with Children Check

- (a)** This check replaces the police check and is free for volunteers. This is applicable to all persons working with Juniors up to the age of 18. It is mandatory for all coaches and volunteers to obtain this check.
- (b)** Complying with the Child Safety Standards which the RDFNL adopt.

### By law 24 – Media

**(a)** Record

- (i)** All clubs shall submit netball team lists to the Netball Manager or authorised person for publication in the record by the required deadline as set down by the League.
- (ii)** All clubs will be required to be part of any media program as required by the league.
- (iii)** Any club not complying with the above shall incur penalties as determined by the Netball Executive Committee.

**(b)** Media Policy

Refer Riddell District Football Netball League "Media Policy".

**(c)** Social Media

Refer Riddell District Football Netball League "Social Media Policy".

### By law 25 - Accreditation

**(a)** The League shall ensure that all officials have current appropriate minimum qualifications.

- (i)** For Coaches: "Foundation – Entry Level" coach accreditation.
- (ii)** For Umpires: As per Rule 26 of these by-laws.

**(b)** The League will not appoint any person to an official position unless that person to be appointed has achieved the minimum standard qualification/accreditation.

### By law 26 – Umpires

- (a)** Umpires must be registered with Netball Victoria and, at a minimum complete the Rules of Netball Online Theory exam and complete the online Foundation Umpires course.
- (b)** Umpires must have attained the Level of a C grade badge within any Association under the administration of Netball Australia to be eligible to umpire in either A or B Grade.
- (c)** To be eligible to umpire a C grade, D Grade and 19 & under, & any junior grade the umpire must have
  - (i)** Completed the Rule of Netball Theory examination during the current season and obtain a pass mark of 70% AND complete the online Foundation umpires course.
  - (ii)** In the event of a pass mark not being achieved, that umpire must sit the exam again within two weeks and pass.
  - (iii)** Failure to sit the Umpires theory exam and pass, when required, the club is fined \$100 for every match umpired in that season.
- (d)** Each Umpire must supply the RDFNL Netball Manager with proof of accreditation prior to officiating their first game.
- (e)** A panel of badged umpires will be named by the RDFNL Netball Manager for all A B grade and 19 and Under games where possible.
- (f)** Each club to supply one umpire for the C grade and D Grade games & all junior grades. Umpire not provided, and no alternative arranged:

Penalty - Fine \$50.00

**(g)** Umpires on Competition Panels may not officiate:

- (i)** A Division in which they are a Coach, Player or Official.
- (ii)** A match involving a Club in which they are a Coach, Player or Official unless in exceptional circumstances deemed acceptable by the committee of management.

**(h)** Payment procedure shall be determined by RDFNL and shall be advised to clubs. **(i)** Umpire Uniform Requirements:

- (i)** All umpires must wear a white or navy skirt and or an RDFNL approved umpiring skirt/shorts. Suitable shoes shall be worn.
- (ii)** Track pants, compression pants and ¾ pants are NOT PERMITTED unless approved by the RDFNL Netball Manager.

### By law 27 - Awards

- (a)** Presentation of all awards shall be made at the RDFNL Presentation Night.
- (b)** Recognition of achievements shall be made at the RDFNL Presentation Night.
- (c)** The Board shall arrange for best and fairest medals/trophies to be struck each year for each grade of competition.
  - (i)** The A Grade Medal shall be known as "The Ryan Medal".
  - (ii)** Runners Up Trophy for each section
- (d)** Voting for Best & Fairest shall be as follows:
  - (i)** The match Umpires shall award votes for the best and fairest three players in each game. Voting shall be 3 votes for the best player, 2 votes for the second-best player and 1 vote for the third best player.
  - (ii)** Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided and attached to the scoresheet.
  - (iii)** In the event of a tie, two (or more) awards shall be presented.
- (e)** Team of the Year (seniors only) will be voted on by A grade coaches using a system sent out by the RDFNL Netball Manager. Clubs cannot vote for players from their own club.
- (f)** Player of the Year/MVP (seniors only) will be awarded to the player who receives the most Team of the Year nominations from A Grade coaches.
- (g)** Rising Star (seniors only) will be awarded to the player who receives the most votes in the team of the year nominations while being under the age of 21.

#### By law 28 – Presentation Night

- (a)** At the conclusion of the home and away season for both the senior and junior competition Presentation Night will be held. The evening for the senior competition shall be called the Bowen & Ryan Medal Night or Senior presentation Night.
- (b)** The dates and format shall be determined annually by the Board of Management of the Riddell District Football Netball League.

#### By law 29– Mediation & Grievance

- (a)** As per RDFNL Policies.

#### By law 30 – Disciplinary Procedures

##### Part (i) Interfering with League Officials

Any person from an RDFNL club who is seen to interfere with a league official shall be referred to the RDFNL board or independent tribunal.

##### Part (ii) Bringing the Game into Disrepute

Any person from an RDFNL club who is seen to bring the game into disrepute shall be referred to the RDFNL board or independent tribunal.

##### Part (iii) Discipline of a Member

The netball committee of management shall refer a dispute regarding the discipline of a member direct to the RDFNL board or independent tribunal as they see fit.

#### By law 31– Special Circumstances/Provisions Clause

- (a)** The Netball Committee of Management may in reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, recommend altering, vary or waive the requirements set out in all By-Laws relating to the Netball Competition.
- (b)** All recommendations by the Netball Committee of Management shall be referred to the Board of Management.
- (c)** Any matter not covered in these by-laws shall be referred to the Board of Management.

#### By law 32 – Risk Management

- (a)** First Aid
- (i)** Clubs must have a first aid kit on standby for all RDFNL matches.
  - (ii)** Primary carer must hold a current/valid first aid certificate.
  - (iii)** Clubs who fail to have a first aid kit on standby for all matches will be fined \$100.
  - (iv)** The team listed first otherwise known as the home team shall be responsible for supplying ice for both teams should an injury occur.
- (b)** Netball Australia Court Facility Audit
- All clubs must submit a Netball Australia Court Facility Audit to Netball Victoria to have the court approved for play.
- (c)** Pregnancy
- As per RDFNL Pregnancy Policy.
- (d)** Weather
- (i)** Heat - Player safety is always the first priority; it is a preference that games are not conducted when the forecast temperature is expected to reach 36 degrees.
  - (ii)** Inclement Weather - Home and away Games:
    - (1)** Play cannot commence if the court: has been considered unsafe due to -weather conditions, as per the Game Day checklist. PLAYER SAFETY IS TO REMAIN THE PRIMARY CONCERN AT ALL TIMES,
    - (2)** When it is agreed by both captains that it is unsafe for play to commence, 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams with no change to ladder percentage.
    - (3)** Team sheets are to be completed in full, with the complete details of those intending to play, this game will count towards a player's games tally in relation to finals qualifications. All players must be present, in the approved uniform and sighted by the umpire. A player's name cannot appear on the sheet if she is not present at the scheduled start time.
    - (4)** Team Sheets are to be signed by both Captains and Umpires and marked “washout “, then forwarded to the RDFNL Netball Manager as normal.
    - (5)** The result sheet is also to be completed and marked “washout” and forwarded to the RDFNL Office as per match day procedures.
    - (6)** If play has commenced and the weather changes the condition of the playing surface, the following is to occur:
      - If play is halted at or before half-time - Captains may choose to delay the start (or resumption) of play or take a temporary break in play for a period not exceeding ten (10) minutes, to assess if a change in weather conditions is likely. The game is to be considered a washout and 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams and no change will occur to the overall percentage if play cannot commence at an agreed start time.
      - If play is halted after the start of the third quarter - Captains also have the option of delaying the start or taking a break in play for a period not exceeding ten (10) minutes, to assess if a change in weather conditions is likely. If play is not able to resume, the game and 4 premiership points will be awarded to the team in the lead, as per the official score sheet, at the halt of play. This score line will stand in relation to the percentage points of the official association ladder. Team Sheets must be noted with the quarter and time remaining left in the game.

- (iii)** Cancelled Round: If more than half of the scheduled games per section are washed out. The whole round will be declared a washout. Two premiership points will be awarded to all participating teams -with no change to percentage points.
- (e)** Inclement Weather - Finals Games
- (i)** Play is not to commence if the weather conditions are at an unacceptable level where the court surface is considered unsafe. The decision will be made by, the two captains, the two umpires and the RDFNL Finals Match Manager.
  - (ii)** If play is not able to commence within an acceptable timeframe on the day, the game will be rescheduled and played at a mutually agreed time and place.
  - (iii)** If play has commenced and weather conditions deteriorate during the course of the game making the court unsafe, the game is to stop on the umpire's whistle. The following options are available;
    - (1)** Wait for a reasonable time, which is not to exceed twenty (20) minutes, to restart and complete the remainder of the game.
    - (2)** The game will be re-scheduled for the following finals day at a time that allows all players a 45-minute break between the rescheduled game and any subsequent final.

##### **(f)** Smokefree

As per Netball Victoria. This will include all outdoor courts and surroundings.

##### **(g)** Responsible Serving of Alcohol in Sporting Clubs

As per Netball Victoria Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy as prescribed by the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Accreditation Program.

##### **(h)** Sun Protection

As per SunSmart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council Victoria.

##### **(i)** Codes of Conduct

Codes of Conduct as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation.

##### **(j)** Drug Policy

As per Netball Victoria's policy.

### COURT PREPARATION

- All courts must be prepared to a suitable playing standard well in advance of the scheduled start time.
- The Netball Australia Safe Netball checklist must be completed via the Safe Netball app before the start of the day's first game. Penalty for non-completion: \$50 fine

### EQUIPMENT

- All clubs are to keep all playing equipment at a suitable playing standard
- Approved Goal Post padding
- Goal Post nets
- 9 and Under modified Rings
- RDFNL Paperwork including Score sheets and RDFNL Vote card
- Time Clock
- Approved Size 5 netball
- Approved size 4 netball (9 and Under only)
- First Aid Kit
- Airhorn

JUNIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Club:			
Age Group Involved With:			
Coach/Team Official's Name:			
Coach/Team Official's Signature:		Date:	

Our Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by RDFNL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered Coach or Team Official may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Junior Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct which is available in hard copy and online via the registration process.

It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by acknowledging they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

JUNIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
3. Do not discriminate against any of your players and always work at providing an inclusive environment where all players can participate.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time, if not more.
5. Remember that the players involved play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Emphasise the importance of the learning and development of skills and positive attitudes. Never ridicule or yell at your players for making mistakes or losing.
6. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play or train again.
10. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound junior coaching principles and developments. Attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of your local Coaches Association.
11. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
12. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
3. Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
4. Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
14. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

**NOTE:** League policies can be viewed online via your League's website.

By registering with my Club I/we agree to abide by these principles. I will ensure that I understand the expected behaviour of being a Coach or Team Official. I/we support my club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Coach/Team Official for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE JUNIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Coaches and Team Officials.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Junior Coaches/Team Officials of the Codes of Conduct

**Education Process:**

1. Junior Coaches and Team Officials advised of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Coach & Team Official's Codes of Conduct. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by Coaches and Team Officials.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Coaches and Team Officials will not be permitted to participate in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Coaches and Team Official's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of RDFNL Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion.

**Breaches:**

6. Junior Coaches and Team Officials acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct will be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A Junior Coach or Team Official failing to heed this caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Junior Coaches and Team Officials who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member may receive for breaching AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct will be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

**Regulations**

1. No Junior Coach or Team Official may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.
2. Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.
3. Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.
4. Any Junior Coach or Team Official in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The Junior Coach or Team Official may only return to the game at the Club's discretion.
5. If the Club/League believe that the Junior Coach or Team Official's behaviour is such that the Junior Coach or Team Official should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Junior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.
6. Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.
7. Repeated breaches of the Junior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct by a Junior Coach or Team Official may result in a Junior Coach or Team Official being de-registered from the Club.
8. A Club member or official failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the GroundCourt Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).
9. The Club member or official will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.
10. Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.
11. Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.
12. The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.

The Club is committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.



JUNIOR PLAYER’S, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Club:			
Player's Name:			
Player's Age Group:			
Player's Signature:		Date:	
Parent/Guardian's Name:			
Parent/Guardian's Signature:		Date:	
Please Note: The Parent/Guardian is signing this code of conduct on behalf of the child’s entire family			

I fully support the codes of conduct as introduced by the RDFNL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered player may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Player Code of Conduct with their parent or guardian. This process can be conducted either via the online registration process or by obtaining a hard copy of this document. It is the responsibility of junior players to ensure they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process and all codes of conduct can be viewed on league websites.

JUNIOR PLAYER’S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Abide by the rules of the game and rules set down by your coach, club and league.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the match.
3. Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team’s performance will benefit, so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team. Be proud to walk off the ground after each game knowing that you have given your best effort and never involve yourself in an argument with opposing players, umpires or officials.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Your involvement to play is for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it.
7. Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them there would be no game.
8. Always show respect for Umpires and respect decisions made even if you do not agree with the outcome.
9. Play for the ‘fun of it and not just to please parents and coaches.
10. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Agree to abide by your League’s policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
12. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
13. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
2. Focus upon the child’s efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember your child should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember your child learns best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official’s judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child’s involvement.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that your child is playing in so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your child far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Agree to abide by your League’s policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

**NOTE:** League policies can be viewed online via your League’s website.

As a member or supporter of my club, I/we agree to abide by these principles. We will ensure that we understand the expected behaviour of a member or supporter of our club. We support the club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Players, Parents/Guardians and/or Supporters for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE JUNIOR PLAYERS, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to help Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Players, Parents and Supporters.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Players, Parents and/or Supporters of the Codes of Conduct

- Education Process:**
1. Players and/or Parents are advised of the Club/League’s Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Players and Parents Handbook. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
  2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by both Players, Parents and Supporters.
  3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
  4. Players will not be permitted to play in a fixtured game for the Club unless they and their Parents/Guardians have acknowledged they have read and understood the Player and Parents and Supporter’s Codes of Conduct.
  5. Breaches of RDFNL Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League’s discretion. This may be on top of penalties issued by a Tribunal or Appeals Board.
- Breaches:**
6. Players, parents and supporters acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct may be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
  7. A player, parent or supporter failing to heed and on the spot caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
  8. Players, parents or supporters who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league’s Board to address the allegations.
  9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member or supporter may receive for breaching AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct may be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
  10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided ‘Report Incident’ sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
  11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.
- Red & Yellow Cards Shown to Junior Player:**
12. Any player who receives a red card during the course of any match, shall be asked to front the independent tribunal on the relevant charge.
  13. Any player who receives their first yellow card during the course of a season shall consider this as their first and only warning.
  14. Any player who receives a second yellow card during the course of a season shall be handed a one match suspension.
  15. Any player who receives a third yellow card and every yellow after that, shall be provided with a two match suspension.
  16. Clubs wishing to appeal a card shown by an Umpire should do so by emailing the Operations Manager of the League by no later than the close of business on the Monday after the match has taken place.
- Regulations**
1. No player or supporter may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.
  2. Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.
  3. Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.
  4. Any player, parent or supporter in the opinion of the Club’s committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The player, parent or supporter may return to the game at the Club’s discretion.
  5. If the Club/League believe that the player, parent or supporter’s behaviour is such that the player, parent or supporter should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Junior Player, Parent or Supporter Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.
  6. Club members found to have breached the League’s codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.
  7. Repeated breaches of the Junior Player, Parent or Supporter Code of Conduct by a Junior Player, Parent or Supporter may result in a Junior Player, Parent or Supporter being de-registered from the Club.
  8. A Club member or supporter failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the GroundCourt Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).
  9. The Club member or supporter will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.
  10. Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.
  11. Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.
  12. The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.

My Club and the League are committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in any breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.

SENIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Club:			
Age Group Involved With:			
Coach/Team Official's Name:			
Coach/Team Official's Signature:		Date:	

Our Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the RDFNL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered Coach or Team Official may participate in a fixtured game of football/netball until they have read and understood the Senior Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct which is available in hard copy and online via the registration process.

It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by having read and understood the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

SENIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Endeavour to attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of the local Coaches Association.
3. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and coaching developments.
4. Avoid verbal and physical confrontation with other club players and officials and umpires at all times - use the League's official vehicle of communication to report any unfair situations that you may believe arise.
5. Don't ask for, but rather earn the respect of your players through your dealings with them and the manner in which you perform your coaching duties.
6. Through your behaviour in the community develop personal respect to enhance the image of your club.
7. Never swear, or use abusive language during the game or when addressing the players. Be mindful of the presence of young people and other spectators.
8. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
9. Treat the umpires and opposition sides with respect. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
10. Be aware of the differing needs and attitudes of players at your club, particularly young players.
11. Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in players.
12. Be supportive of League activities such as Interleague and events such as Season Launches.
13. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
14. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
15. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
16. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a person is not willing do not force them.
3. Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
4. Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from Senior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
14. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

By registering with my Club I/we agree to abide by these principles. I will ensure that I understand the expected behaviour of being a Coach or Team Official. I/we support my club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Coach/Team Official for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE SENIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Coaches and Team Officials.

Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Senior Coaches/Team Officials of the Codes of Conduct

**Education Process:**

1. Senior Coaches and Team Officials advised of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Coach & Team Official's Codes of Conduct. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by Coaches and Team Officials.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Coaches and Team Officials will not be permitted to participate in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Coaches and Team Official's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of RDFNL Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion.

**Breaches:**

6. Senior Coaches and Team Officials acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct will be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A Senior Coach or Team Official failing to heed this caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Senior Coaches and Team Officials who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member may receive for breaching AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct will be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

**Regulations**

1. No Senior Coach or Team Official may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.
2. Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.
3. Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.
4. Any Senior Coach or Team Official in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The Senior Coach or Team Official may only return to the game at the Club's discretion.
5. If the Club/League believe that the Senior Coach or Team Official's behaviour is such that the Senior Coach or Team Official should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Senior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.
6. Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.
7. Repeated breaches of the Senior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct by a Senior Coach or Team Official may result in a Senior Coach or Team Official being de-registered from the Club.
8. A Club member or official failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).
9. The Club member or official will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.
10. Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.
11. Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.
12. The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.

The Club is committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.



SENIOR PLAYERS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT			
Club:			
Player's Name:			
Player's Age Group:			
Player's Signature:		Date:	
Parent/Guardian's Name:			
Parent/Guardian's Signature:		Date:	

I/we fully support the codes of conduct as introduced by the RDFNL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered player may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Player Code of Conduct with their parent or guardian. This process can be conducted either via the online registration process or by obtaining a hard copy of this document. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by acknowledging they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

SENIOR PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- At all times abide by the rules of the League in which you compete and the club for which you play. Rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
- Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition. Do not assault or attempt to assault an Umpire, another player, officials or spectators.
- Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
- Ensure that both on and off field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Swearing is not acceptable.
- Do not abuse, dispute or react in an obviously provocative or disappointing manner towards an Umpire.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Conduct yourself at a high level of personal behaviour on and off the field in such a manner so as not to bring your club or the game of Australian Football into disrepute.
- Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them there would be no game.
- Always show respect for Umpires and respect decisions made even if you do not agree with the outcome.
- Develop a respect for the League in which you compete, your club, team mates and opponents.
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
- Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
- Be willing to be involved in local football development and promotional activities.
- Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Do not be critical of others in their roles within the club either as players or officials. Always be supportive and mindful of those around you.
- Focus upon the individual's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the individual in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Encourage honest efforts and make it as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage others always to play by the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at others for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember those you are supporting should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Remember others learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
- If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for the involvement of others.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your club members and deserve your support.
- Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that you support so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your club far more satisfaction.
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
- Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
- Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

As a member or supporter of my club, I/we agree to abide by these principles. We will ensure that we understand the expected behaviour of a member or supporter of our club. We support the club in its undertakings and encourage the club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any Players, and/or Supporters for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE PLAYERS, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Players and Supporters.

- Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Players and/or Supporters of the Codes of Conduct
- Education Process:
- Players and/or Supporters are advised of the Club/League's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Club Handbook. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
  - Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by both Players and Supporters.
  - Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
  - Players and supporters will not be permitted to play in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Player and Supporter's Codes of Conduct.
  - Breaches of RDFNL Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion. This may be on top of penalties issued by a Tribunal or Appeals Board. **Breaches:**
  - Players and supporters acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct may be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
  - A player or supporter failing to heed and on the spot caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
  - Players or supporters who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
  - The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member or supporter may receive for breaching AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct may be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
  - Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
  - Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

- Regulations
- No player or supporter may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.
  - Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.
  - Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.
  - Any player or supporter in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The player or supporter may return to the game at the Club's discretion.
  - If the Club/League believe that the player or supporter's behaviour is such that the player, parent or supporter should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Senior Player or Supporter Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.
  - Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.
  - Repeated breaches of the Senior Player or Supporter Code of Conduct by a Senior Player or Supporter may result in a Senior Player or Supporter being de-registered from the Club.
  - A Club member or supporter failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the GroundCourt Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).
  - The Club member or supporter will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.
  - Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.
  - Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.
  - The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.

My Club and the League are committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.



## NATIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### 1. Application

The *National Social Media Engagement Policy* (**Policy**) applies to an Australian Football league that is conducted or administered by:

- (a) a State or Territory league or body that is affiliated with the AFL, including:
  - a. NSW/ACT: AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd ACN 086 839 385;
  - b. NT: AFL (Northern Territory) Ltd ACN 097 620 525;
  - c. QLD: AFL (Queensland) ACN 090 629 342;
  - d. SA: South Australian Football League Inc ABN 59 518 757 737;
  - e. TAS AFL (TAS) ACN 135 346 986;
  - f. Victoria: Australian Football League (Victoria) ACN 147 664 579;
  - g. WA: West Australian Football Commission Inc ABN 51 167 923 136); or
- (b) an entity or body that is affiliated with (or licensed by) an Affiliated State or Territory Body.

(**Football Body**)

Australian Football: players; coaches; officials; spectators; and administrators and all people reasonably connected to the Football Body (**Members**) must comply with the Policy.

### 2 Introduction

The Football Body acknowledges that Social Media has increasing prevalence in both the professional and private lives of its Members. The Football Body recognises the value in using Social Media to build more meaningful relationships with fans, communities and other relevant stakeholders. Social Media offers the opportunity for people to gather in online communities of shared interest and create, share or consume content in ways that can be beneficial for Australian Football.

### 3 Purpose & Scope

This *National Social Media Engagement Policy* (**Social Media Policy**) sets out the Football Body’s expectations of its Members when engaging with Social Media. Recognising that commonly-held perceptions of “social media” are likely to change from time to time, “Social Media” for the purpose of this Social Media Policy is specifically not limited to certain digital platforms.

However, the Football Body considers each of the following platforms/internet programs/digital interfaces as **Social Media** for the purpose of this Policy:

- a) External and internal social networking sites (eg Facebook, Twitter, Bebo, Linked In, MySite and Yammer);
- b) Video and photo sharing websites (eg Flickr, YouTube);
- c) Micro-blogging sites (eg Twitter);
- d) Weblogs, including corporate blogs, personal blogs or blogs hosted by traditional media publications (eg. ‘comments’ or ‘your say’ feature on theage.com.au);
- e) Forums and discussion boards (eg Whirlpool, Yahoo! Groups or Google Groups);
- f) Online encyclopaedias (eg Wikipedia);
- g) Instant messaging (including SMS);
- h) Vod and Podcasting; and
- i) Any other website that allows individual users or companies to use simple publishing tools.

(**Social Media**)

### 3 Non-Official Social Media Engagement Risks

The Football Body recognises that Members will from time to time engage with Social Media in a non-official, personal capacity. This Policy does not intend to discourage nor unduly limit personal expression or online activities. However, Members should recognise the risk and damage that may be caused (either directly or indirectly) to the Football Body in certain circumstances.

Some of the risks Members take by engaging in non-official Social Media include, but are not limited to:

- a) Unintentional Social Media content publication to a private audience;
- b) Unintentional Social Media content publication by a 3rd party to a private audience;
- c) Unintentional Social Media content publication to a public audience;
- d) Unintentional Social Media content publication by a 3rd party to a public audience; and
- e) Social Media “hacking”;

It is the expectation of the Football Body that all Members who engage in non-official Social Media are aware of the risks associated with Social Media.

#### 4. Non-Official Social Media Engagement Consequences

It is the expectation of the Football Body that Members understand that the risks of engaging in non-official Social Media listed above, as well as others, may result in the publication of content which, without limitation:

- a) Breaches employment obligations;
- b) Breaches the *National Vilification & Discrimination Policy*;
- c) Damages the brand and reputation of the Football Body, as the case may be;
- d) Misrepresents a personal view as that of the AFL or the Football Body; and
- e) Is criminal in nature or might otherwise give rise to the breach of a civil law.

Members are advised that engaging in Social Media may result in disciplinary action.

#### 5. Official Social Media Engagement by AFL & Affiliated State & Territory Bodies

To ensure a consistent and controlled approach, only a select number of representatives of the Football Body are authorised to speak to the media in an official capacity. This also applies to representing the Football Body on Social Media. Before engaging in Social Media as a representative of the Football Body, you must be formally authorised to comment. You may not comment as a representative of the AFL unless you are authorised to do so by the CEO and Corporate Affairs Manager of the AFL.

Once authorised to comment as a representative of the Football Body, you must:

- a) Liaise with the relevant Corporate Affairs Department to ensure you are adequately prepared;
- b) Disclose you are an employee/contractor of the Football Body, as the case may be, and use only your own identity, or an approved official account;
- c) Disclose and comment only on information classified as public domain information;
- d) Ensure that all content published is accurate and not misleading and complies with all relevant policies and agreed positions;

- e) Comment only on your area of expertise and authority (unless otherwise approved by the AFL);
- f) Ensure comments are respectful of the community in which you are interacting online;
- g) Respect copyright laws and fair use of copyrighted material and attribute work to the original author/source wherever possible;
- h) Adhere to the Terms of Use of the relevant Social Media platform/website, as well as copyright, privacy, defamation, contempt of court, discrimination, harassment and other applicable laws; and
- i) Redirect any questions to the AFL Corporate Affairs Department if you are unsure of the AFL response/view.

#### 6. Conditions of Official AFL Social Media Engagement

If you are authorised to comment as a representative of the Football Body you must not publish, or otherwise permit the publication by a 3rd party of, content which, without limitation:

- a) Breaches employment obligations;
- b) Breaches the *National Member Protection Policy* as well as any policy incorporated to it by reference including, but not limited to, breaches of the *National Vilification & Discrimination Policy*;
- c) Damages, or is likely to damage, the brand and reputation of the AFL or the Football Body, as the case may be;
- d) Misrepresents a personal view as that of the Football Body, as the case may be; and
- e) Is criminal in nature or might otherwise give rise to the breach of a civil law.

#### 7. Inappropriate Social Media Engagement

For illustrative purposes, the Football Body is likely to consider the following engagement in Social Media as inappropriate:

- a) Using discriminatory, defamatory, abusive or otherwise objectionable language in content;
- b) Accessing, downloading or transmitting any kind of sexually explicit material, violent and/or graphic images (without medical purpose);
- c) Accessing, downloading or transmitting information on the use and construction of weapons, explosives and/or other tools of violence or terrorism;
- d) Accessing, downloading or transmitting any material deemed to be illegal under Australian Commonwealth or state law;
- e) Accessing, downloading or transmitting hate speeches and/or racist material;



- f) Breaching the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person;
- g) Attempting to gain unauthorised access to the computing resources of the AFL, Affiliated State & Territory Bodies or Community Bodies.

### 8. Complaints, Investigation & Discipline

If a Member holds a good faith belief that content has been published on Social Media in contravention of this Policy, or which is otherwise inappropriate or unlawful and relates to the Football Body, the Member may make a complaint about the content in accordance with the *National Complaint Guidelines* (if applicable).

The CEO (or General Manager or nominee) of the Football Body may order an investigation into the content in accordance with *National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines* (if applicable). If a Member is reasonably believed to have breached this policy, the matter may be referred to a Disciplinary Tribunal in accordance with the *National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines* (if applicable).

If the AFL CEO (or nominee) deems the Social Media activity of any Member to be inappropriate, he or she may take whatever action he considers to be reasonably necessary in the circumstances.

[CLUB NAME]

### ILLEGAL DRUG POLICY

The **[Club name]** understands and accepts it has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment, free of illegal drugs. This policy reflects a commitment by the club to the health, safety and welfare of all its members.

This policy has been approved by the **[board/committee]** of **[Club name]** at its meeting on **[insert date]**.

The **[Club name]** is committed to:

- Encouraging and assisting members to realise their full potential within an environment that actively promotes their health, safety and well-being
- Preventing alcohol and other drug related harm to individuals, property and the reputation of the club
- Ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment for all members
- Providing support to members who wish to address their patterns of alcohol and/or illegal drug use
- Meeting legal requirements in relation to alcohol and illegal drugs
- Encouraging moderation and a responsible attitude to the consumption of alcohol

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure club members understand the club’s position regarding illegal drugs and explain how the club will respond to a drug-related incident within its jurisdiction.

#### Definitions

##### • Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs are used by many people in the community, including young adults, so it is likely that some members of our club will have access to them. Currently there are two distinct but related illegal drug issues confronting sporting clubs:

- performance enhancing drugs
- illegal drugs used for social purposes (e.g. at parties, raves, in the home, at the club, etc).

These two categories are not mutually exclusive. Some illegal drugs used for social purposes (such as amphetamines, e.g. speed) may be used to enhance sporting performance.

##### • Club jurisdiction

The Club jurisdiction extends to the club premises and all activities organised by or for the club at any location or venue.



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- **Application**

This policy applies to all members, employees, supporters and visitors of the **[Club name]**. Members and employees should ensure they do not attend the club if adversely affected by illegal drugs and/or alcohol.

- **Club confidant**

The Club will designate an appropriate individual to act as the 'Club confidant'. This person may, but does not have to be the Club President or another office bearer and will be responsible for the management of all illegal drug related incidents.

The Club will support this person to carry out their duties whenever required.

**Illegal Drug Use**

The possession, use, distribution or selling of illegal drugs for any purposes on club premises or at any function or activity organised by the club is prohibited.

- In the case of an incident involving an illegal drug, the initial actions and responses will focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. All responses and actions will reflect the club's duty of care to members, visitors and all other people.
- The club will investigate all apparent or alleged breaches of this policy and determine a course of action after all relevant facts and circumstances are known.
- The club may refer a member who is involved in illegal drug use to a medical or health service for assistance or, if the club deems it necessary in the circumstances, to the police.

**Managing illegal drug incidents**

Where a club member becomes aware that illegal drug use is occurring at the club or within its jurisdiction, the member should pass on this information to the President and/or Club confidant. Should the need arise, the Club will sanction the individual(s) in line with the club's rules and policies.

The Club confidant will;

- Speak to the individual(s) in private, expressing concern about their drug use
- Remind the individual(s) of the club policy and asked for a commitment that it will not happen again
- Offer options for support and referral for counselling or other help
- Leave the door open for further communication with the individual(s) concerned.
- Inform the Club President in the event of non-compliance
- If an individual(s) is under the influence of a legal or illegal drug at the club, the club will;
  - Ensure the health and safety of the individual(s)
  - Keep the individual under supervision and monitor them at regular intervals
  - Call for medical assistance if required.
  - Arrange safe transport to take them home, unless this involves further risk.
  - Take control of any remaining drugs in their possession, unless this involves further risk.



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- If the person becomes violent or aggressive, contact police to ensure the safety of all.
- Inform the Club President (and Club confidant) as soon as possible.

**Drugs found at the club or in the possession of an individual**

- If illegal drugs are found at the club or in the possession of an individual, the President and/or Club confidant will be contacted as soon as possible.

The Club will:

- Take possession of the drug if safe to do so.
- Place the drug in a clean (preferably "snap lock") plastic bag.
- Seal the plastic bag with masking tape to ensure it stays closed.
- The finder and/or club president should sign and date the tape/bag.
- Record details in an incident register.
- Contact local police and request they attend the club to collect the drugs.
- Store the plastic bag in a secure place until collected by police.
- Obtain the signature of attending police for the incident register to show the drugs have been taken into their possession.
- Ask the person suspected to be in possession of the drugs to leave the premises immediately (assuming it is safe for them to do so), if they deny possessing drugs or refuse to relinquish possession of the drugs to the club.

**Supplying illegal drugs**

- If it is suspected or known that a member is supplying illegal drugs to other members of the club, the Club confidant will;
  - Speak to the individual to determine if they are supplying illegal drugs to others.
  - If this is verified, or there is a strong belief this is occurring, the club will contact Crime Stoppers on 1300 333 000.
  - If it is unable to be verified, the club will monitor the situation and warn the individual that the matter will be reported to the police if the club has continued concerns.

**Privacy**

- Subject to its right to contact the police if necessary, the Club will maintain the privacy of those involved where possible
- The Club will act with discretion when absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed
- Club personnel will be informed on a need to know basis only

**Contacting parents**

- In the interests of health and safety, the Club will contact the parents or guardian of a minor where apparent or suspected illegal drug use has occurred (unless by doing so it will place the safety of the individual at risk of greater harm)
- The Club will inform all members aged under 18 years that parents will be notified if the club is aware (or strongly believes) they are using or supplying illegal drugs.



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- If the member is aged over 18 years, the club will determine each case on its merits and decide whether contacting parents or guardian is in the best interests of the individual.

#### Contacting police

- If the Club is aware that a member is supplying illegal drugs to other members, they will notify Crime Stoppers of this activity
- In the case of apparent or alleged illegal drug use, the club may report a person to, or seek the advice of the police

#### Medical emergency

The Club understands that medical assistance may be required if a person has been using drugs.

#### Media

- The Club will designate a club official to communicate with the media on behalf of the club should the need arise
- The Club may seek advice from the league/association prior to communicating with the media
- No other member of the club will communicate with the media on this issue, unless specifically requested by the club official

#### Non-compliance

All club committee members will enforce the illegal drug policy and any non-compliance will be handled according to the following process:

- The designated Club confidant (and President) will be informed of the breach of policy
- The individual(s) concerned will be reminded of the club policy
- Issue a warning of future sanctions for continued non-compliance

The Club confidant and President will use their discretion as to the action taken for non-compliance, based on:

- Whether it involved use or supply
- Whether the use or supply takes place within the club's jurisdiction or in private
- Age of the persons involved

In general, and depending on any other rules of the club, should an individual(s) continue non-compliance with this policy, the following will occur;

- suspension for a designated time period
- expulsion from the club.

#### Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.



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## NATIONAL VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

### 1. Policy Statement

The Australian Football League (AFL), State and Territory Bodies that are affiliated with the AFL (**Affiliated State & Territory Bodies**) and leagues and bodies that are affiliated with (or licensed by) Affiliated State & Territory Bodies (**Community Bodies**) are 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. This document establishes the means of redress for members who are aggrieved by what they reasonably consider to be vilification or discrimination based on their individuality (**Policy**).

### 2. Application & Scope of Policy

Affiliated State & Territory Bodies and Community Bodies are 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**).

This Policy is consistent with the AFL *Rules & Regulations* (specifically Rule 30) and is not in substitution of, the Legislation. This Policy is not in substitution of the *AFL Rules & Regulations* insofar as they apply to conduct within the scope of this Policy.

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 League shall ensure that the parties are informed of their rights.

### 3 Definitions

**“Affiliated State & Territory Body”** means the State and Territory bodies affiliated with the AFL, including:

- NSW/ACT: AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd (ACN 086 839 385)
- NT: AFL (Northern Territory) Ltd (ACN 097 620 525)
- QLD: AFL (Queensland) (ACN 090 629 342)
- SA: South Australian Football League Inc (ABN 59 518 757 737)
- TAS: AFL (TAS) (ACN 135 346 986)
- Victoria: Australian Football League (Victoria) (ACN 147 664 579);
- WA: West Australian Football Commission Inc (ABN 51 167 923 136)

**“Australian Football”** means the contest between two teams competing in accordance with the *Laws of Australian Football*.

**“Community Body”** means any organisation or body that exists for the purposes of playing Australian Football, or for purposes that are reasonably incidental to the playing of Australian Football, and is affiliated with, or a member of, or a licensee of, an Affiliated State & Territory Body.

**“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, and must be made in accordance with the *National Complaint Guidelines*.

**"Complaints Process"** means the procedure outlined in sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 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 a member of the League.

**"Club Complaints Officer"** means a person appointed by the Club to oversee this *National 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.

**"Disciplinary Tribunal"** means a tribunal convened in accordance with the *National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines*.

**"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.

**"Informal Resolution"** means an informal arrangement, understanding or agreement that, in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s or the 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 League in accordance with section 8 of this Policy to investigate a complaint and to provide a recommendation to the League Complaints Officer/s.

**"Leagues"** means the Australian Football League, Affiliated State & Territory Bodies and any other member, licensee or affiliate of an Affiliated State & Territory Body, as the context requires.

**"League Complaints Officer/s"** means either the League CEO, League President, League 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 5 and in the Complaints Process.

**"Member"** means a Participant.

**"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 League that is part of a Community Body or Affiliated State & Territory Body.

**"Prohibited Conduct"** means the conduct outlined in section 4 of this Policy

**"Social Media"** has the meaning ascribed to it by the *National Social Media Engagement Policy*.

#### 4. Prohibited Conduct

4.1 No League 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

(Vilification & Discrimination).

4.2 No League Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to be offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening, or which is otherwise unwelcome and a reasonable person would recognise it as being unwelcome and likely to cause the recipient to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated (**Harassment**).

#### 5 Appointment of League Complaints Officer/s & Club Complaints Officer

5.1 The League shall appoint a League 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.

5.2 The League shall ensure that all Clubs have a Club Complaints Officer to whom all vilification and discrimination Complaints are initially directed.

5.3 The League 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, in an attempt to achieve Informal Resolution of the Complaint.

5.4 The Club Complaints Officer and the League Complaints Officer/s shall liaise directly over incidents which in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer or League Complaints Officer/s are contrary to Section 4.

#### 6 Preliminary Resolution Process

6.1 In the event that it is alleged that a person subject to section 4.1 or 4.2 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, or such other time as determined by the League, lodge a Complaint with the Club Complaints Officer.

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

- 6.3 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 League's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaint's Officer.
- 6.4 In circumstances where in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s a Complaint cannot be resolved by way of Informal Resolution, the League Complaints Officer/s shall proceed to Conciliation in accordance with section 8 below.

## 7 Confidentiality and Records

- 7.1 Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the Complaints Process. All parties to a Complaint, the League'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.
- 7.2 The League 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.

## 8 Conciliation Process

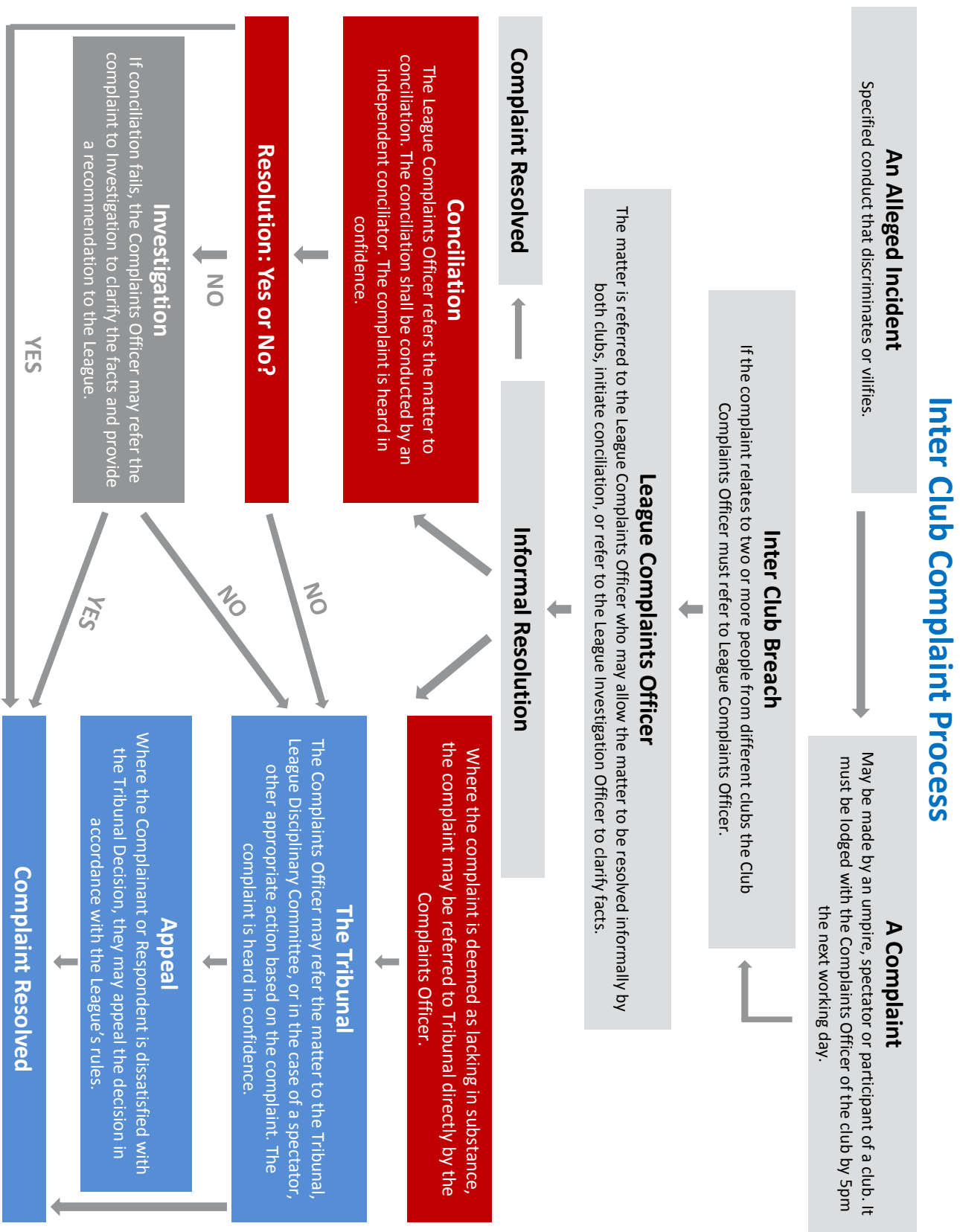
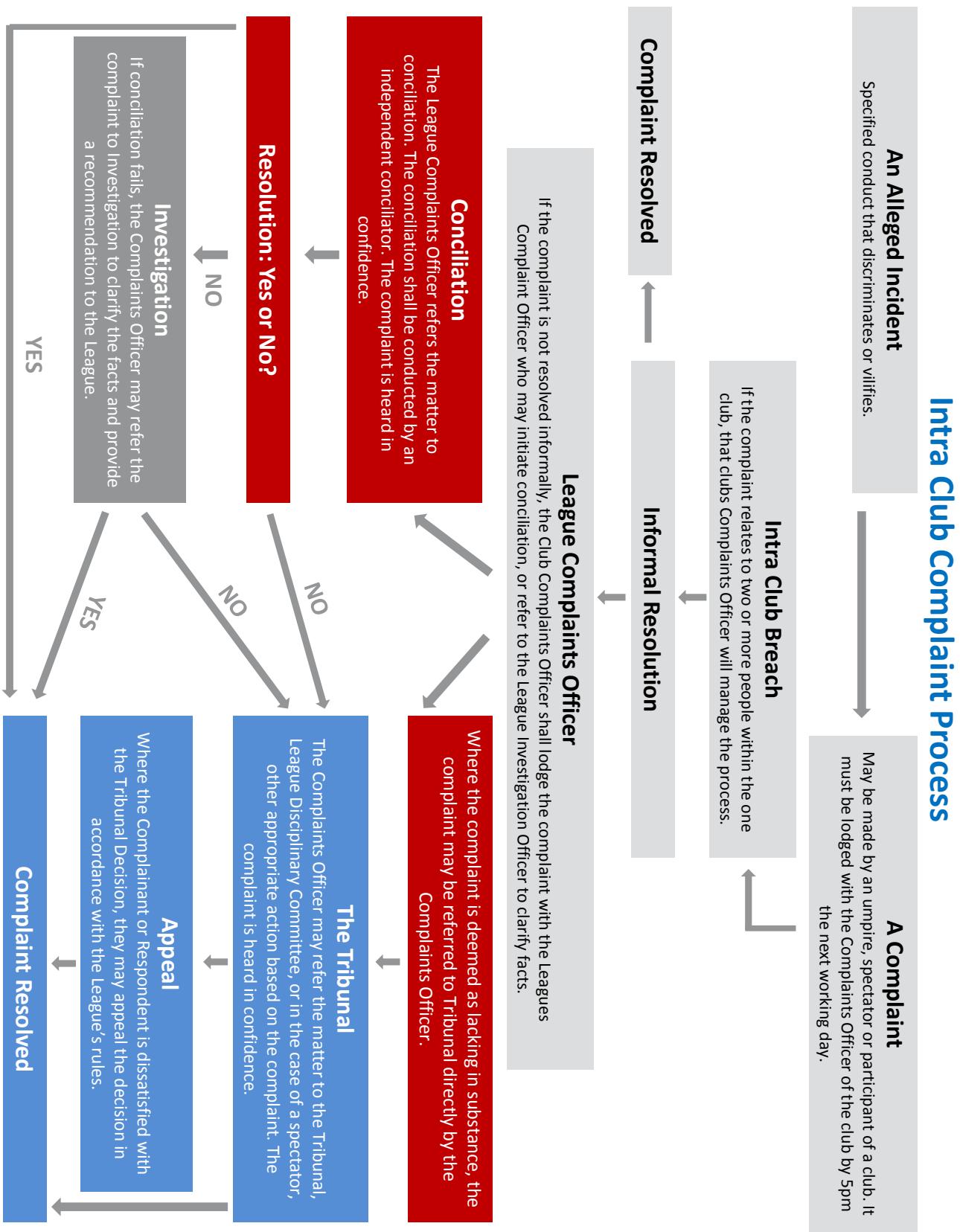
- 8.1 The League Complaints Officer/s shall make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times during the Complaints Process and that the outcome of the Complaints Process remains confidential. The Complaints Officer shall also refer any breach of confidentiality to the League Tribunal no later than 5pm on the next working day following the day that the breach is discovered, with the Tribunal to be convened within 7 days from the day on which the referral is made;
- 8.2 The League Complaints Officer/s shall:
- (a) ensure the person alleged to have contravened the Policy is informed of the Complaint Process and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the Complaint;
  - (b) inform the President or CEO of the League or his or her nominee that a Complaint has been received by the League Complaints Officer/s;
  - (c) obtain statements from any witnesses identified by the parties to the Complaint;
  - (d) where available, obtain any other relevant evidence;
  - (e) make available to both parties any witness statements or any other evidence obtained in the course of conciliating a Complaint, with an opportunity to comment, as part of the Conciliation process;
  - (f) appoint a conciliator to conciliate the Complaint; and
  - (g) ensure 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.
- 8.3 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.

## 9 Investigation

- 9.1 In circumstances where a Complaint is not resolved in accordance with section 8 above, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the matter to investigation in accordance with the *National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines* (if applicable) if in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, further investigation is required to resolve the Complaint
- 9.2 The Investigation Officer shall report to the League Complaints Officer/s on any information or evidence obtained in accordance with section 9.1. Any information or evidence obtained by the Investigation Officer and provided to the League Complaints Officer/s shall be provided to all parties to the Complaint as part of the Complaint Process.
- 9.3 The Investigation Officer shall otherwise comply with the *National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines* (if applicable).

## 10 Tribunal Referrals, Process & Appeal

- 10.1 Following an investigation under section 9, if any, or following a failed Conciliation under section 8, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the Complaint to a Disciplinary Tribunal, constituted in accordance with the *National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines* (if applicable), for determination. The League Complaints Officer/s shall take all steps necessary to make a decision about the referral of the Complaint to the Disciplinary Tribunal as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 10.2 The League shall determine who is responsible for prosecuting the Complaint at the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- 10.3 Where the referral to the Disciplinary Tribunal is made pursuant to section 10.1 of this Policy, the Tribunal will hear the Complaint within 5 working days of the Complaint referral being made.
- 10.4 The Disciplinary 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 League in force at the time of the hearing.
- 10.5 Where a party to a Complaint is dissatisfied with the decision made by the Disciplinary Tribunal, they may ask the Club's Officer to request that the League establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision in accordance with the appeal provisions in the *National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines* (if applicable).







**Riddell District Football Netball League**  
ABN 79 971 252 151



**RDFNL Racial Vilification Policy**

- 1) Any registered RDFNL player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a 4 week suspension. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- 2) Should a member or supporter of a RDFNL Club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the spectator will incur a minimum of a 12 week suspension from attending RDFNL fixtures and his/her Club fined an amount of no less than \$250. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District FNL Tribunal if they see fit.
- 3) Should a RDFNL Club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the Club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District FNL Tribunal if they see fit.
- 4) Should a RDFNL Club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the Club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District FNL Tribunal if they see fit. In addition, the Club will be asked to undertake “Culture Awareness Training” for all players and members that will be presented by a Facilitator appointed by the Riddell District FNL.



**AFL VICTORIA**

***ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT***

**POLICY AND CLUB TEMPLATE**

## SAMPLE ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT CLUB POLICY

*(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.3 – (c))*

### POLICY

AFL Victoria (AFLV) acknowledges its role in promoting healthy environment standards amongst the AFLV Members and their respective clubs. AFLV Members are required to have in place appropriate Smoking and Alcohol Management Policies.

AFLV shall provide relevant reference points to assist Members establish and / or maintain their own rules and process to deal with the issue of Smoking and Alcohol Management within Australian Football.

### CLUB SAMPLE

This policy aims to provide a basis for the responsible management of alcohol by the

..... **Football Club.**

The club recognises the importance in holding a liquor license in the value it adds to the club, enabling it to generate income and hold social functions, but in doing so the club also accepts the responsibilities and expectations of the community in strictly adhering to the liquor licensing laws.

#### Serving Alcohol

Alcohol will be served according to the requirements of the club's liquor licence and in accordance with the safety and wellbeing of patrons.

- The club will maintain a current liquor licence.
- The liquor licence will be displayed at the bar.
- Persons under the age of 18 years are not permitted to serve alcohol.
- Only Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) trained members/bar staff will be permitted to serve alcohol.
- The club will discourage excessive or rapid consumption of alcohol.
- Alcoholic drinks will be served in standard drink measures.
- The club will display posters on liquor license regulations and education.

#### Promoting the responsible use of alcohol

- The club will actively demonstrate its attitude relating to the responsible use of alcohol.
- The club will not advertise, promote or serve alcohol at junior events or activities.
- The club will educate club members and supporters about the alcohol policy.
- The club will pursue non-alcohol sponsorship and revenue sources.
- The club will provide at least one alcohol-free social events for Junior club's.
- Alcohol advertising will only appear at the bar.
- The club will not promote alcohol through 'cheap drink' strategies, such as happy hours.

#### Intoxicated patrons

- Alcohol will not be served to any person who is intoxicated.
- Servers will follow procedures, provided in their training, for dealing with and refusing alcohol to intoxicated patrons.
- Intoxicated patrons will be asked to leave the club.
- Intoxicated persons will be refused entry into the club.

#### Underage drinking

- Alcohol will not be served to persons under the age of 18 years.
- Staff will request proof of age, where appropriate.
- Only photographic ID will be accepted.

#### Safe Transport

- Bar staff shall encourage members and visitors to make alternate safe transport arrangements if they are considered to exceed .05 blood alcohol concentration.
- Telephone calls will be made free of charge to arrange a taxi or other transport.
- Contact telephone numbers for taxi services will be displayed at the bar.
- In specific cases, where a designated driver who has been nominated by the club and that person has accepted the responsibility to drive others home safely, will be provided non alcoholic drinks free of charge by the club.

#### Fundraising, Functions and Prizes

- Promotions such as drink promotions, drinking competitions and all-inclusive cover charges should not be conducted on club premises.
- The club will not promote or provide alcohol or drink vouchers for player awards.
- Prizes for raffles and fundraising will not have an alcohol focus.
- The club will use food or canteen awards rather than alcohol as prizes for player performance.
- The club will monitor and ensure any club trips, particularly end of season player trips, strictly adhere to responsible behaviour and alcohol consumption in accordance with the principles of this policy.

#### Food

- The club will wherever possible actively promote and sell food whenever alcohol is available.

#### Bar Management

- A list of all RSA trained club members will be displayed near the bar. The list will also highlight RSA trained committee members.
- Non and low alcoholic alternative drinks will be available at all times.
- Tap water will be provided free of charge from the bar.
- An incident register will be maintained to record any incidents that may occur in relation to compliance with this policy and the operation of the social rooms bar.
- Bar staff will not be permitted to drink alcohol while serving behind the bar.

#### Club Committee Responsibilities

The presence of committee members is essential to ensure the operation of the bar and policy compliance. At least two duty committee members who are RSA trained are required to be present at all club functions when the bar is open. Key responsibilities of the duty committee members are to:

- Meet visiting police, cooperate and assist with any inquiries.
- Ensure the admission of members and guests and completion of the visitor's book.
- Compliance in respect of persons under 18 years of age on premises.
- Ensuring intoxicated people are refused service and are asked to leave the premises.
- Ensuring strict compliance with the club policy in accordance with the key provisions of the Liquor Licence.
- Recording any incidents in the incident register.

**Non-compliance**

All club committee members will enforce the alcohol management policy and any non-compliance will be handled according to the following process;

- Explanation of the club policy to the person/people concerned, including identification of the section of policy not being complied with.
- Continued non-compliance with the policy should be handled by at least two committee members who will use their discretion as to the action taken, which may include asking the person/ people to leave the club facilities or function.

**Promoting the “Alcohol Management Policy”**


The club will promote the alcohol management policy regularly by;

- Distributing a copy to all club members.
- Displaying a copy of the policy in the club social rooms.
- Periodic announcements to members at functions.

The club recognises the importance of educating club members, particularly players in the benefits of implementing an alcohol management policy and will endeavour to provide information to assist this process.

**Policy Review**

To ensure this policy continues to be relevant for club operation and that it reflects both community expectations and the provisions of the Liquor Control Reform Act, the policy will be reviewed annually.



AFL VICTORIA

*SMOKEFREE*

POLICY AND CLUB TEMPLATE



SMOKEFREE POLICY

(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.3 – (c))

POLICY

AFL Victoria (AFLV) acknowledges its role in promoting healthy environment standards amongst the AFLV Members and their respective clubs. AFLV Members are required to have in place appropriate Smoking and Alcohol Management Policies.

AFLV shall provide relevant reference points to assist Members establish and / or maintain their own rules and process to deal with the issue of Smoking and Alcohol Management within Australian Football.

CLUB SAMPLE

The *(name of club)* recognised that passive smoking (inhaling second-hand smoke) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected from tobacco smoke. Passive smoking can lead to other serious illnesses such as bronchitis, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chest illnesses in children. Accordingly the following policy has been developed by *(name of club)* to help protect people’s health.

The move to go SmokeFree also complements the *(name of club)*’s desire to create a healthy family friendly environment. The *(name of club)* believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members and positively promoting the club in the community.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide reasons to have a SmokeFree club. Under common law the *(name of club)* has a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteers, players and officials are not exposed to potentially harmful situations. The Occupational Health and Safety Act also stipulates that employees and working volunteers must have a safe environment to work in. Victorian SmokeFree dining legislation also states that enclosed dinning areas must be SmokeFree.

Who is Affected by the Policy

This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players and visitors of the *(name of club)*.

Timing

This policy is effective from *(go live date for the policy)*

Designate SmokeFree Areas

The *(name of club)* requires the following areas to be SmokeFree:

- Club and social rooms
  - Administration and office areas
  - Changing rooms
  - Toilet blocks
  - Indoor spectator viewing areas
  - Playing areas
  - Eating areas
  - Grandstands and spectator viewing areas
  - Near entries and exits of buildings, facilities, and the ground
- (Show a map or sketch of your facility/venue to clearly indicate all SmokeFree areas)*

Behavioural Expectations

The *(name of club)* recognises that role modelling can have a significant impact upon the junior members of the club. Hence, the following individuals and groups are to refrain from smoking while they are acting in an official capacity for the club or while in club uniform:

- Coaches (when coaching or representing the club)
- Trainers (when training players or representing the club)
- Officials (when representing the club)
- Volunteers (when representing the club)
- Players (when in uniform and representing the club)

Coaches and trainers will also speak to junior players about the effects of smoking on performance.

Promotion of the Policy

The following mediums will remind patrons about the *(name of club)*’s SmokeFree policy:

- Non-smoking signs
- Club handbook
- Advertising and promotional resources (eg brochures, newspaper ads etc.
- Club correspondence (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.
- Announcements
- Table signage
- Function speeches
- Signage

Ashtrays will be removed from the clubrooms to discourage smoking.  
Cigarette butt bins will be provided outside to encourage smokers to smoke outside.

Non-Compliance Strategy

The following five step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the *(name of club)*’s SmokeFree policy.

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the SmokeFree policy.
2. A staff member or club representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking and remind them about the SmokeFree policy.
3. If the offence continues, then the most senior staff member or most senior club representative will verbally warn them again and hand over a formally written letter that outlines the club’s policy on smoking. The offending patron must also be made aware that if they don’t stop smoking then they will be required to leave the club’s facility. The club’s management committee will sign off on the letter. This letter will be pre-written and kept both behind the bar and in the club secretary’s office so that copies are readily available.
4. If the offence does continue then the patron will be escorted out of the facility by staff and/or a senior club representative.
5. Under no circumstances should the *(name of club)*’s SmokeFree policy be breached: No matter who the offender is.

Sale of Tobacco Products

The *(name of club)* will refrain from selling tobacco products.

Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed three months after its introduction and then on an annual basis thereafter. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.

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.



## RDFNL Junior Club Interchange With RDFNL Senior Club Form



Any player who is registered with a Junior Club in the Riddell District Football Netball League Junior Competition as an U/17 player who desires to play seniors, reserves or U/19.5 football with their affiliated Riddell District Football Netball League Senior club must fill out this form. Upon lodgement of the Interchange Form, the Junior Football Club must approve the player’s interchange to the senior club and the form must also be signed by their affiliated senior club the player wishes to play for. Finally, it must be approved by the RDFNL’s General Manager. A player will not be able to take the field until his permit has been submitted and granted by the RDFNL. Clubs will be notified of those players eligible to play on permit. Note that a player may only request interchange with their affiliated Senior club, a clearance must be sought if a player wishes to play for another Senior Club in the same competition. Permits with multiple clubs will not be allowed.

**THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PLAYER & THEIR JUNIOR CLUB**

**Name :** .....  
(Surname) (First Name) (D.O.B)

**Address :** .....  
..... **Postal Code :** .....

**Junior Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ in the Riddell District Football Netball League, and which competes in the RDFNL Junior competition.

I, the above mentioned player, desire temporary registration with the .....  
Football Club in the **RDFNL senior competition**.

I am / am not currently under disqualification for misdemeanour or financial reason.  
(strike out whichever is applicable)

**Player’s Signature :** ..... **Date:** .....

**Parent/Guardian Signature :** ..... **Date:** .....

**Junior Club President/Secretary Signature:**..... **Date:**.....  
**Name:** .....

**THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RDFNL  
SENIOR INTERCHANGE CLUB**

I confirm that the above player’s details are correct and we agree with the terms of this Interchange Agreement for the temporary registration of this player.

**Signed :** ..... **Date :** .....  
(Senior Club President/Secretary)

**Name:** .....





### RDFNL Junior Club Interchange With RDFNL Senior Club Form



**THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RDFNL SENIOR INTERCHANGE  
CLUB & RDFNL General Manager**

I confirm that the above player's details are correct and approve the temporary registration of the player with his affiliated RDFNL Senior Club.

**Signed :** ..... **Date :** .....  
(RDFL General Manager)

**Name:** .....

**Notes:**

- 1. An RDFNL Junior player cannot play in the RDFNL senior, reserve or U/19.5 whilst under suspension in the junior competition.
- 2. An RDFNL player who is granted a permit to play in the RDFNL shall retain registration with his Junior Club.
- 3. An RDFNL player that takes the field in a RDFNL Senior game without approval from the RDFNL risks automatic suspension from the RDFNL for four matches.
- 4. This permit is relevant to the senior (1<sup>st</sup> 18) grade of RDFNL competitions only.
- 5. Only Under 17 players are eligible to play on permit in the RDFNL senior competition.
- 6. An RDFNL junior player can only interchange to their affiliated Senior Club in the RDFNL Senior Competition and permits with multiple clubs will not be permitted.
- 7. An RDFNL Junior player who plays senior football on interchange is subject to the same finals eligibility rules as any other player in the competition.
- 8. Any RDFNL U17 player is permitted to play a maximum of 4 H&A games per season under this Interchange Agreement.
- 9. Any player who plays with their affiliated Senior Club on a Saturday can only play U17 football with their Junior Club on the following day (Sunday) provided they have played no more than 50 minutes of actual playing time on the Saturday.
- 10. For clarity, playing time is defined as “time on the ground” and does not include time spent on the Interchange Bench.
- 11. The Senior Club is to record the U17 players playing time when an U17 player plays under this Interchange Agreement and submit such record with the Match Day paperwork.





