



2026

FOOTBALL OPERATIONS MANUAL





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ACTING AS BY-LAWS

1. HOME & AWAY SERIES

- 1.1 In each season, the clubs in each division shall play a number of matches as defined in 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3 (or such number and configuration of matches as determined by the MPFNL), hereafter referred to as the 'home and away' matches, according to the fixture prepared by the MPFNL each season.
 - 1.1.1 MPFNL Men's Senior, Reserve & Under 19 Competitions - Eighteen (18) Games
 - 1.1.2 MPFNL Women's Competition - to be determined for each division following team nominations
 - 1.1.3 MPFNL Men's Thirds Competition – to be determined following team nominations
- 1.2 In the home and away series, four (4) points will be allotted for a win, four (4) points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or bye is ruled, two (2) points for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.
- 1.3 At the conclusion of each round of home and away matches, the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator shall prepare a ladder for each competition, and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, bye or draw, the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team.
- 1.4 In the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with the lower percentage points.
- 1.5 In the event that teams are level on points and percentage at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the higher position on the ladder shall be determined in the following manner
 - a. The team that has scored the most points 'for' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
 - b. In the event that the teams cannot be separated as in 1.5 (a), the team that has recorded the most away wins' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
 - c. In the event that the teams cannot be separated, as in 1.5 (a) or (b), the effected teams shall compete in a 'play off' match under such conditions as the MPFNL Board deems appropriate.
- 1.6 The scores used by the MPFNL to calculate the points and percentage for each competition ladder shall be based on the scores contained in the official goal umpires cards.

2. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

- 2.1 MPFNL Men's Competition
 - 2.1.1 All Senior teams shall consist of up to twenty-two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.
 - 2.1.2 All Reserves teams shall consist of up to twenty-two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.
 - 2.1.3 All Under 19 teams shall consist of up to twenty-two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time, except for circumstances as listed in 2.1.5.
 - 2.1.4 All Thirds teams shall consist of up to twenty-four (24) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.



2.1.5 In Under 19 or Thirds matches, if one of the teams is unable to field eighteen (18) players at the commencement of the match, both teams shall field a maximum of sixteen (16) players, and the team with sufficient players may have up to six players on the interchange bench. This By-Law shall not be applicable for finals matches.

2.1.6 The minimum number of players in any grade shall be fourteen (14) to constitute a match. Any numbers less than this shall be declared a 'walkover'.

2.2 MPFNL Women's Competition

2.2.1 All Division 1 Senior teams shall consist of up to twenty-two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.

2.2.2 All Division 1 Reserve and Division 2 teams shall consist of up to twenty-two (22) names players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time, except for circumstances as listed in 2.2.3.

2.2.3 In Division 1 Reserves and Division 2 matches, if one of the teams is unable to field eighteen (18) players at the commencement of the match, both teams shall field a maximum of sixteen (16) players, and the team with sufficient players may have up to six players on the interchange bench. This By-Law shall not be applicable for finals matches.

2.2.4 A minimum number of players shall take the field to constitute a match. Any numbers less than this shall be declared a 'walkover'.

- a. Division 1 Seniors: 16 Players
- b. Division 1 Reserves & Division 2: 14 Players

2.2.5 VFLW Player Eligibility

- a. A VFLW listed player must only play in the highest ranked team for their club.
- b. In the event that a bye occurs in the VFLW competition, no more than 3 players that played in the VFLW in the previous fixture game can play in a lower division for that round without prior consent from the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- c. A VFLW player is only eligible to play in a MPFNL team during a VFLW bye weekend, if they have previously played 1 game for that MPFNL division prior to the bye in the current season, unless approved by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator

3. PLAYERS IN MULTIPLE GRADES IN SAME ROUND

3.1 MPFNL Men's Competition

3.1.1 Only two (2) Reserve grade players may play in the Senior grade on the same day. Any player named in a Senior team shall not play in a Reserve grade match when games are played on different days in the same round or finals weekend.

3.1.2 Only four (4) players may play in both a Thirds grade and a Reserve grade match in the same weekend.

3.1.3 No players may play in both a Thirds grade and a Senior grade match in the same weekend.

3.1.4 No players may play in both a Thirds grade and an Under 19 grade match in the same weekend.

3.2 MPFNL Women's Competition

3.2.1 If a MPFNL Women's Club fields a Senior and Reserve side, only two (2) players may play in both teams in the same round.

3.2.2 Any player named in a higher graded team shall not play in a lower graded match when games are played on different days in the same finals weekend.



4. PLAYING TIMES & CONDITIONS

4.1 MPFNL Men's Competition Playing Times

THIRDS		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
Refer to Fixture	18 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 10 mins (8 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

UNDER 19s		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
10:00am	20 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 10 mins (8 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

RESERVES		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
12:00pm	20 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 15 mins (12 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

SENIORS		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
2:00pm	20 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 15 mins (12 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

- 4.1.1 In addition, the timekeepers shall stop the clock as per 10.6 – Laws of Australian Football during each quarter as to ensure that there is exactly 20 minutes (SENIORS), 20 minutes (RESERVES), 20 minutes (UNDER 19), and 18 minutes (THIRDS) of playing time in each quarter, HOWEVER, there shall be no time-on added in RESERVES matches, UNDER 19 matches, and THIRDS matches with the exception of when a stretcher and/or an ambulance enters the arena. The field umpire/s shall signal this to the timekeepers.
- 4.1.2 UNDER 19 and THIRDS teams shall not leave the arena at the half time break unless so directed by the field umpire, due to inclement weather.
- 4.1.3 Finals Games - The starting times and conditions of play shall be determined annually by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 4.1.4 Should any Quarter of a match be delayed in starting due to one team Club not being ready to begin, the club will be fined per minute that a quarter is delayed as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.



4.2 MPFNL Women's Competition Playing Times

DIVISION 2		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
Refer to Fixture	20 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 12 mins (10 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

DIVISION 1 RESERVES		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
Refer to Fixture	20 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 12 mins (10 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

DIVISION 1 SENIORS		
START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
Refer to Fixture	20 Minutes	Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)
		Half Time: 12 mins (10 min siren)
		Three Quarter Time: 5 mins (4 min siren)

- 4.2.1 There shall be no time-on added in any Division, with the exception of when a stretcher and/or an ambulance enters the arena. The field umpire/s shall signal this to the timekeepers.
- 4.2.2 All Women's Football teams are permitted to leave the arena at the half time break.
- 4.2.3 Finals Games - The starting times and conditions of play shall be determined annually by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 4.2.4 Should any Quarter of a match be delayed in starting due to one team Club not being ready to begin, the club will be fined per minute that a quarter is delayed as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.

5. COMMENCEMENT DATE

- 5.1 The date of commencement and duration of the season shall be determined by AFL South East Football Operations Manager/Coordinator and shall be presented to the member clubs no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting of the MPFNL.



6. MATCH CONDITIONS

- 6.1 The MPFNL shall have the power to change the venue or day of any match if the assigned ground is considered unfit for play or facilities do not meet minimum standards.
- 6.2 All matches shall be played on Saturdays, except where the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator sanctions or directs that matches be played on other days.
- 6.3 Clubs desiring to play on alternative days or at night under lights shall give notice to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the original fixture date.
- 6.4 Any MPFNL match may be played at other mutually agreed times and locations subject to prior approval. A minimum of fourteen (14) days notice to be given to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 6.5 The Football Operations Manager/Coordinator shall arrange the home and away fixture so that where possible the Senior, Reserve and Under 19 team of any one club play at the same venue as each other on the day of the match.
- 6.6 Notwithstanding 6.5 and where it is necessary for the proper management of the competition or where exceptional circumstances exist, the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator may, by giving a minimum of seven (7) days' notice to the effected clubs, schedule a match for any team of any club at another suitable venue other than what is set out in the published match fixture.

7. FINALS SERIES

- 7.1 The management of all finals is the responsibility of AFL South East Administration, while the allocation of grounds shall be determined by the MPFNL Board.
- 7.2 MPFNL Men's Senior, Reserve and Under 19 Competition Finals Structure
 - 7.2.1 At the conclusion of the home and away matches, a finals series will be conducted between the top five (5) teams in each division, under the 'Page System'. The finals series shall consist of an elimination final, a Qualifying Final, a first Semi-Final, a second Semi-Final, a Preliminary Final and a Grand Final.
 - 7.2.2 All Elimination Finals shall be played on the same day. All Qualifying Finals shall be played on the same day being the alternate day of the same weekend as the Elimination Final. The same shall apply to first and second Semi-Finals.
- 7.3 MPFNL Men's Thirds Competition Finals Structure
 - 7.3.1 At the beginning of the Home and Away Season, a finals series structure will be communicated with participating clubs, dependant on the number of participating teams.
- 7.4 MPFNL Women's Competition Finals Structure
 - 7.4.1 At the conclusion of the home and away matches, a finals series will be conducted between the top four (4) teams in each grade. The finals series shall consist of an Elimination Final, a Qualifying Final, a Preliminary Final and a Grand Final.
 - 7.4.2 The Elimination Final and Qualifying Final shall be played on the same weekend. The Preliminary Final will fall the following week and stand alone.



- 7.5 In the event of a draw in any finals match, including Grand Finals, extra time shall be played.
- 7.5.1 At the completion of the fourth quarter and scores are tied, the following shall apply:
- The teams shall kick to the same ends to those used in the fourth quarter
 - Coaches shall not be permitted to address players between the end of the fourth quarter and the start of extra time or at any change of ends during the playing of extra time
- 7.5.2 Where extra time is to be played in a final, two (2) halves of five (5) minutes each, with time on added if the match has been played with time on, shall be played.
- 7.5.3 In the event of scores being level after the two (2) five (5) minute halves, the process shall continue until there is a result.
- 7.6 The Football Operations Manager/Coordinator shall determine the use of change rooms and the colour of shorts for all finals matches.
- 7.7 No team may train at a finals venue after the final home and away round of matches, excepting, subject to the approval of the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator, where the finals venue is the home ground of a competing club.
- 7.8 AFL South East may call for tenders from interested clubs or groups to provide certain works or services.

8. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 8.1 MPFNL Men's Competition
- 8.1.1 To be eligible to play in SENIORS finals matches, a player must play in three (3) home and away matches in any grade for that club during the current season.
- 8.1.2 To be eligible to play in the RESERVES finals matches, a player must play in three (3) RESERVES home and away matches for that club during the current season and must not have played in ten (10) or more SENIOR home and away matches during the current season.
- 8.1.3 Where a club has SENIORS and RESERVES teams involved in finals matches on the same weekend, By-Law 8.1.2 does not apply, save that a player seeking to play in a RESERVES finals match shall have played in at least three (3) home and away matches in either SENIORS and/or RESERVES during the current season.
- 8.1.4 To be eligible to play in UNDER 19 finals matches, a player must play in three (3) UNDER 19 home and away matches for that club during the current season.
- 8.1.5 To be eligible to play in THIRDS finals matches, a player must play in three (3) THIRDS home and away matches for that club during the current season and must not have played in ten (10) or more SENIOR/RESERVE home and away matches during the current season.
- 8.1.6 Players who meet finals eligibility for both an UNDER 19 and THIRDS team must nominate one grade to participate in for the entirety of the finals series.
- 8.1.7 Finals Eligibility – Second UNDER 19 team.
- A player must play three (3) matches in Team A to be eligible to play in finals matches, regardless of how many matches are played in Team B, and players must play in three (3) matches in Team B to be eligible for finals.
 - Football Operations Manual 9.1.4 shall apply to both Team A and Team B



8.2 MPFNL Women's Competition

- 8.2.1 If a MPFNL Women's Club has only one (1) team, to be eligible to play finals for that team in their relevant grade, a player must play in three (3) home and away matches for that club during the current season, unless section 9.2.4 applies.
- 8.2.2 If a MPFNL Women's Club has Senior and Reserve grade teams, to be eligible to play in Senior grade finals matches, a player must play in three (3) home and away matches in any team for that club during the current season, unless section 8.2.4 applies.
- 8.2.3 If a MPFNL Women's Club has Senior and Reserve grade teams, to be eligible to play in Reserve grade finals matches, a player must play in three (3) home and away matches for the Reserve grade team during the current season, unless section 8.2.4 applies, and must not have played in eight (8) or more home and away matches in any higher graded team.
- 8.2.4 If a MPFNL Women's Football Player has played eight (8) or more state or talent league matches during a season, to be eligible to play in the MPFNL Finals Series, they must have played five (5) home and away matches to qualify under section 8.2.1, 8.2.2 or 8.2.3.

9. FOOTBALLS

- 9.1 The Home club shall provide footballs as follows:
 - 9.1.1 Senior Men's – Two, Size 5, MPFNL Branded footballs, both of which must be in new condition.
 - 9.1.2 Reserve , Under 19 and Thirds Men's – Two, Size 5, MPFNL Branded footballs, both of which may be used but in good condition.
 - 9.1.3 Division 1 & 2 Women's - Two, Size 4, MPFNL Branded footballs, both of which may be used but in good condition.
- 9.2 All footballs shall be red and of correct size and of a type and brand approved by the MPFNL Board prior to the commencement of each season.
- 9.3 The field umpire/s shall have the power to reject a football prior to the commencement of the game, and if it is considered unsatisfactory for match play, the home club shall supply a ball of satisfactory quality. The spare football shall be placed in the care of the emergency umpire, where provided, or in the absence of an emergency umpire, must be placed in the care of the home team manager, at the home team's interchange bench.
- 9.4 Whenever night matches have been approved in accordance with these By-Laws, yellow leather footballs of correct size and of a type and brand approved by the MPFNL Board shall be used in all grades.
- 9.5 In severe adverse weather conditions, yellow coloured footballs of correct size and of a type and brand approved by the MPFNL Board may be used in all grades subject to the agreement of the captains of the competing teams.
- 9.6 Wet Weather Provisions
 - 1st Ball - 1st and 3rd quarters
 - 2nd Ball - 2nd and 4th quarters
- 9.7 In finals matches, the Ground Manager shall determine whether footballs will be changed.



10. PROTECTION OF UMPIRES

- 10.1 Umpires shall be escorted from the field to their dressing room by the official runners from both teams, when leaving the ground at half time and at the end of the game in all grades. This procedure shall apply to all home and away games, as well as all finals games.
- 10.2 During the home and away series, it shall be the responsibility of both clubs to protect all umpires from unnecessary abuse or violence, on and off the field.
- 10.3 The home club shall be responsible for the provision of refreshments to umpires at break of play, and shall where necessary, provide medical assistance.

11. OFFICIALS INSIDE FENCE

- 11.1 Only officials and players listed on the team sheet shall be allowed inside the fence.
- 11.2 All team officials shall wear identifiable club apparel.
- 11.3 A white line, five (5) metres in length shall be marked in front of each coaches box, not less than 1.5 metres from the boundary line.
- 11.4 All officials listed in 11.1 must remain behind the white line at all times during the course of play.
- 11.5 Club doctors may enter the playing arena to administer medical assistance.
- 11.6 Any official, as referred to above, shall not smoke or vape whilst inside the fence at any time.

12. TEAM MANAGER

- 12.1 Each club shall have one (1) team manager listed on the official team sheet.
- 12.2 Match Day responsibilities of the team manager include:
 - 12.2.1 Updating team sheets with any changes.
 - 12.2.2 Recording goalkickers and best players on team sheets.
 - 12.2.3 Reporting to Umpires post-match to receive communication of reports or 'all clear'.
 - 12.2.4 Ensuring all match day paperwork is appropriately submitted to AFL South East.

13. OFFICIAL CLUB RUNNER

- 13.1 Each club shall only have one (1) runner per match.
- 13.2 A club runner may enter the playing arena during any football match, provided that the runner:
 - 13.2.1 Shall during any match wear only an approved MPFNL runner uniform, clearly designated as the club runner, whilst inside the boundary fence and during any match. Clubs shall be fined for incorrect officials uniforms as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.



- 13.2.2 Enters the playing arena for the purpose of delivering a message or instruction of a coach to a player of the club or similar purpose.
- 13.2.3 Exits the playing arena immediately upon fulfilling their task.
- 13.2.4 Does not cajole, or in any way attempt to influence the conduct or performance of any player or players present on the playing arena.
- 13.2.5 Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with any umpire or any player from the opposing club during any match.
- 13.2.6 Refer to Laws of Australian Football - Rule 6.0 "Team Officials and Team Runner".
- 13.2.7 The officiating field umpire, may upon infringement of this By-Law, order the runner of the offending club from the arena.
- 13.2.8 Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire which shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire, shall be referred to the MPFNL Independent Tribunal.
- 13.2.9 The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of their club and to immediately leave the playing arena.

14. TRAINERS / WATER CARRIERS

- 14.1 Each club must have a minimum of one (1) AFL Vic Country Level One accredited trainer present during the entire match in which a team is fielded by the club.
- 14.2 An AFL Vic Country Level One accredited trainer must be registered within PlayHQ as a Medical Officer in order to take the role of a trainer in any match.
- 14.3 There shall be a maximum number of six (6) trainers/water carriers per team within a match.
- 14.4 No trainer/water carrier shall enter the playing arena unless:
 - 14.4.1 The trainer/water carrier shall during any match wear only an approved MPFNL trainers/water carriers' uniform, clearly designated as the club trainer/water carrier, whilst inside the boundary fence and during any match. Clubs shall be fined for incorrect officials uniforms as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.
 - 14.4.2 The trainer/water carrier is required for medical treatment of an injured player, the replacement of damaged attire of a player or other like purpose.
- 14.5 No trainer/water carrier shall communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or any player from the opposing Club during any match. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to assist an injured person.
- 14.6 Trainers/water carriers may be stationed at various positions in the area around the playing arena between the boundary and the fence.
- 14.7 Trainers/Water carriers shall be a minimum age of fourteen (14) years old.



- 14.8 Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook – Rule 14 “Official Club Runners/Trainers/Water Carriers/Players”:
- 14.8.1 The sole duty of a water carrier shall be to convey water to players and to immediately leave the playing arena.
 - 14.8.2 The sole duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.
- 14.9 The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of this rule, order the trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the arena.
- 14.10 Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire which shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire, shall be referred to the AFL South East Independent Tribunal.

15. PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS

- 15.1 All goal umpires, boundary umpires, timekeepers and other match officials supplied by a club shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under this Operations Manual and the Laws of Australian Football.

16. MATCH OFFICIALS

16.1 Goal Umpires

- 16.1.1 Where official goal umpires are not provided, clubs shall provide a goal umpire to undertake this role. To identify this role, club appointed goal umpires shall wear approved MPFNL Club Umpire uniform.
- 16.1.2 At the conclusion of each quarter, the goal umpires shall compare scorecards. If they agree at the conclusion of the game, they shall sign the cards. Final scores must be endorsed in ink on the scorecards. Scorecards must be returned to the team manager.
- 16.1.3 Where goal umpires are provided by the clubs, the home clubs shall supply four (4) goal umpires flags, at least 600mm square, at each match. The minimum age for goal umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.

16.2 Boundary Umpire

- 16.2.1 Where official boundary umpires are not supplied, each club shall provide a boundary umpire to undertake this role.
- 16.2.2 To identify this role, club appointed boundary umpires shall wear approved MPFNL Club Umpire uniform.
- 16.2.3 The minimum age for boundary umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.

16.3 Timekeepers

- 16.3.1 One (1) responsible timekeeper is to be provided by each club. The home club shall be responsible for the provision of a time clock or stop watch. This operations procedure shall also apply to finals matches; however the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator may direct that neutral timekeeper/s be appointed to finals matches.
- 16.3.2 The matches shall be played in accordance with the starting times and intervals set out in the operations procedure 5.0.



- 16.3.3 A siren, bell or gong, capable of being heard across the ground at its furthest point, shall be sounded prior to the commencement of each quarter and at the conclusion of each quarter. A back up or emergency siren, bell or gong shall be provided for all matches.
- 16.3.4 Failure by teams to appear at the designated times will constitute a breach of operational procedure.
- 16.3.5 Timekeepers shall complete the required details on the official MPFNL Timekeeper's Report.
- 16.3.6 The minimum age for timekeepers shall be sixteen (16) years old.
- 16.3.7 The timekeepers shall be the only people to be located in the timekeeper's box or area designated for timekeeping during matches.
- 16.3.8 The appointed timekeepers shall have the sole control of match time and no person shall interfere with the timing of the match.

17. FORFEITURE OF A MATCH

- 17.1 Any club who forfeits a match will be fined as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines, based on the time the forfeit is communicated.
 - 17.1.1 Notified Forfeit – Over 24 hours prior to scheduled match time
 - 17.1.2 Late Forfeit – Less than 24 hours prior to scheduled match time
 - 17.1.3 Un-Notified Forfeit – No notification to Football Operations Manager/Coordinator prior to scheduled match time
- 17.2 Forfeits made by a club must be made in order of lowest to highest graded team when matches are played on the same day.
 - 17.2.1 Order of Forfeit Men's Football: Under 19's, Reserves, Seniors
 - 17.2.2 Order of Forfeit Women's Football: Reserves, Seniors

18. TEAM SHEET

- 18.1 The official team sheet shall include information as directed from time to time by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 18.2 Team sheets will be completed through the relevant on-line program or as directed by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 18.3 The jumper numbers on the official team sheet must be as per the Team List in the Football Record published by the MPFNL (if required).
- 18.4 All volunteers, including Time Keepers, Team Managers, Coaches, Runners, Doctors, Physios, Trainers, Water Carriers and Club Umpires, must be listed on the team sheet.
- 18.5 Only officials, volunteers and players listed on the team sheet are permitted to enter the playing arena during the course of a match.



19. PRE MATCH WARM UPS

- 19.1 In home and away matches, the Home team shall carry out their pre-match preparations at the end of the ground closest to the home changing rooms and, the Visiting team shall carry out their pre-match preparations at the end of the ground closest to the visitor change rooms.
- 19.2 Where there is doubt as to which changing room is applicable, the warm up area will be that closest to the relevant coaches box.

20. COUNT OF PLAYERS

- 20.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football - Rule 5.5 “Counting of Players”.
- 20.2 If the MPFNL has considered that the count was frivolous, the club calling for the count will be fined as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.

21. PLAYER BOOTS, JEWELLERY AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 21.1 No player or official shall be permitted to play or officiate in a match with apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to themselves or opponents. This shall include:
 - 21.1.1 Boot studs or plates considered dangerous.
 - 21.1.2 A finger ring, body piercings or other jewellery.
 - a. If Jewellery of any type is unable to be removed, it must be taped and padded (if necessary) as to cause no injury or harm to the player or opponents.
- 21.2 A field umpire may inspect players’ boots, hands, guards and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time during the match. The field umpire/s shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury.
- 21.3 Specialised protective equipment must be approved prior to use, by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 21.4 Refer to Laws of Australian Football – Rule 9.0 “Players’ Boots, Jewellery and Protective Equipment”.



22. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

- 22.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football – Rule 7.0 “Interchange”.
- 22.2 Two (2) short lines across the boundary lines fifteen (15) metres apart shall mark the interchange area. The interchange area shall be located on the centre wing, on the same side of the ground as the coaches boxes.
- 22.3 The procedure for the interchange of players shall be as follows:
- 22.3.1 Players shall leave and enter the playing arena through the interchange area during the match, player off first, player on second.
- 22.3.2 A player who does not leave the playing arena through the approved area, shall not be permitted to take any further part in the match, unless the player is taken from the field on a stretcher, in which case they may be taken from the ground at any point. Their replacement must enter the playing field through the interchange area. The injured player may return to the playing field by way of normal interchange.
- 22.3.3 When it is necessary for a player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the field umpire shall stop play at the first appropriate opportunity after they are advised that a stretcher is on the playing field and play will not commence until the stretcher has left the playing field and is outside the fence.
- 22.3.4 When a player has been, or appears to have been, so seriously injured as to prevent them being removed immediately from the playing field, the steward may approve their replacement prior to leaving the ground.
- 22.4 The timekeeper and field umpire shall respectively report any breach of the provisions of the operational procedure to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator, and the offending club/player shall be subject to penalty as determined by the MPFNL Board.

23. COMMUNICATION DEVICES ON FIELD OF PLAY

- 23.1 Listening/talking devices (such as telephone or two way radio) are banned from being used by club officials whilst on the field of play. This includes the prohibited use by runners, trainers and water carriers.
- 23.2 Coaching staff, located away from the coaches box such as an elevated position, may use a communication device between that position and the coaches box at ground level.

24. UNAUTHORISED ENTRY ON PLAYING ARENA

- 24.1 Any registered MPFNL participant or official who enters the playing arena during the course of a match and involves themselves in any type of incident may receive an automatic four (4) match suspension.
- 24.2 Such incident may be referred to the AFL South East Investigation Officer who will undertake an investigation under AFL Victoria Country Handbook – Rule 5.0, or any other relevant AFL Policy.
- 24.3 Supporters from Clubs who engage in unbecoming conduct may be banned from attending MPFNL matches for a period of time, which shall be determined by the MPFNL Board.



25. CANCELLATION OF GAME ONCE STARTED

- 25.1 In the event that a game does not reach its conclusion, due to factors which may include (but not necessarily be restricted to):
- 25.1.1 An invasion of the playing arena of which the umpire/s consider it unsafe to continue, and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.
 - 25.1.2 A player or umpire is so seriously injured that it is deemed inappropriate to move them until medical assistance arrives.
 - 25.1.3 If in the opinion of the umpire/s, the playing conditions deteriorate to a level that make it unsafe to continue.
 - 25.1.4 That if, in the course of a night match, the power supply fails.
- 25.2 Where a Reserves, Under 19 or Thirds Men's, or Reserve Women's match has been delayed due to the factors in 25.1, play may continue until no more that fifteen (15) minutes beyond the starting time of the next scheduled match.
- 25.3 Where a Senior Men's or Senior Women's match has been delayed due to factors as in 25.1, play may continue until no more than thirty (30) minutes beyond the estimated finishing time if in the opinion of the umpire that adequate light permits.
- 25.4 The minimum amount of playing time to be completed for a match to be considered 'completed', shall be one half.
- 25.5 If the match is deemed to be abandoned prior to the completion of the first half, both teams shall be awarded two (2) Premiership points and will receive the points scored for and against at the abandonment of the game.
- 25.6 If a match is deemed to be abandoned after the completion of one half of the match, the Premiership points shall be awarded to the team leading at the time of the abandonment of the game, notwithstanding, the MPFNL Board shall retain the right to over-rule, reverse or amend the result following an investigation into the abandonment of the game.
- 25.7 Umpires shall award votes for the Best and Fairest Award where a game has completed one half. No votes shall be awarded where a game is abandoned prior to the completion of the first half.
- 25.8 Refer to Laws of Australian Football – Rule 11.1.2 “Incomplete Match”.

26. EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

- 26.1 If the air temperature, as determined by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 0 degrees Celsius or in excess of 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official MPFNL match at any grade, the match shall be cancelled.
- 26.2 In the event of lightning, prior to a match commencing, or once a match has commenced, the 30/30 Safety Guideline will be used to determine if play must be stopped, and when play may recommence.
- 26.2.1 Where a Reserves, Under 19 or Thirds Men's, or Reserves Women's match is delayed due to the 30/30 Safety Guideline, play may continue until no more than thirty (30) minutes beyond the starting time of the next scheduled match.



- 26.2.2 Where a Senior Men's or Senior Women's match is delayed due to the 30/30 Safety Guideline, play may continue until no more than forty-five (45) minutes beyond the estimated finishing time if in the opinion of the umpire that adequate light permits.
- 26.2.3 Where an MPFNL Finals match is delayed due to the 30/30 Safety Guideline, the permitted estimated finishing time may be extended by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 26.3 In the event that any game is cancelled in accordance with 26.0, a match ratio shall be applied to the ladder for that League in that Grade.
- 26.4 In the event that a game has commenced, and in the opinion of both club captains, in consultation with the field umpire/s, that the weather conditions have become too hazardous, the game shall be abandoned and the provisions of Operational Procedure 26.0. shall apply.
- 26.5 If two (2) or more games are cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather in the same grade and League, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentage or best and fairest votes will be awarded or applied for that round.
- 26.6 If the MPFNL Board, or it's representative, during the review of a match, is not convinced that the match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or any appropriate penalty it deems fit.
- 26.7 For reference of practice matches, it is recommended that the provisions on 26.1 be considered for the health and wellbeing of all participants.

27. NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRE

- 27.1 In the event of non-attendance or incapacitation of any field umpire appointed, the remaining appointed umpires shall determine who shall replace the absent or incapacitated field umpire. Where two (2) field umpires have been appointed, it shall be appropriate for the remaining umpire to continue the game on their own.
- 27.2 In the case where an appointed field umpire fails to attend the match and a substitute umpire is chosen, then that substitute field umpire shall submit a 3 - 2 - 1, Best and Fairest Vote Card to the Team Manager.
- 27.3 Where an appointed boundary umpire or goal umpire fails to attend or is incapacitated, the home side shall provide a replacement. (Refer to Operational Procedure 16.1 and 16.2)

28. ORDER OFF PROCEDURES

- 28.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football – Rule 23.0 “Order Off Law”.



29. PLAYING FACILITIES

- 29.1 Each club shall provide the following playing facilities as a minimum standard, which shall be approved by the MPFNL Board.
- 29.1.1 Playing areas with a distance of not less than 135 metres and not more than 185 metres in length, and not less than 110 metres and not more than 155 metres in width. (The ideal playing area is 165m in length and 135m in width).
 - 29.1.2 Two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6.0 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground.
 - 29.1.3 Two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres apart from each goal post and in a straight line with them: the minimum height of the behind posts shall be 3.0 metres.
 - 29.1.4 The whole of the goal and behind posts shall be painted white.
 - 29.1.5 Padding is to be attached to each goal and behind post as follows:
 - a. of a minimum thickness of 35mm; and
 - b. of a minimum height of 2.5m from the bottom of each post.
 - 29.1.6 A scoreboard, which shall be operational for each game, with numbers for scores at least thirty (30) centimetres high.
 - 29.1.7 Changing rooms with at least (50m²) for home and visiting teams, plus hot and cold water for showers.
 - 29.1.8 Umpires changing rooms which shall not be less than (20m²) in area, containing a shower area separate from the players area.
- 29.2 A suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during the matches being played.
- 29.3 A properly marked playing oval in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football. The use of lime or limil products for line markings is prohibited.
- 29.4 The boundary line markings shall be no less than 3.0 metres from the boundary fence.
- 29.5 A timekeepers box complete with efficient siren and back-up siren, bell or gong.
- 29.6 Adequately covered concrete cricket pitches.
- 29.7 Adequately covered stop-cocks, valves or sprinkler heads where underground water reticulation is provided.
- 29.8 All clubs to provide a suitable coaches box with seats for the home and visiting teams.
- 29.9 Suitable fencing around ovals



30. GROUND / FACILITY INSPECTIONS

- 30.1 In the event that an away club has a concern in regards to a ground, they are to make notification to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 30.2 The League retains the right to take whatever action it deems necessary to address any issue arising from the ground inspection report, or concerns raised, including but not limited to: moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.
- 30.3 On the day of any official match arranged by the League, a representative from each Club shall undertake an inspection in accordance with the Match Day Checklist with the details entered electronically into the approved [Marsh AFL Match Day Checklist](#).
- 30.4 If the club representative is of the opinion that the venue is unsafe for play for whatever reason, he/she shall report these concerns to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.

31. SCOREBOARDS

- 31.1 Each venue used for MPFNL matches must be equipped with an operational scoreboard. Scoreboard attendants must be of suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job.
- 31.2 Scoreboards should operate throughout all games and must be kept as accurate as possible.
- 31.3 Where electronic scoreboards are provided, it shall be necessary for the Goal Umpires to identify where these are to be operated from, to signal correct scores or for adjustments made to correct the scores.

32. GROUND LIGHTING

- 32.1 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 however have the authority to call a game off if they consider the conditions unsafe.
- 32.2 Prior to a venue being considered suitable for night or twilight games, Clubs must apply to the MPFNL for permission to host a night or twilight game and meet criteria as determined by the MPFNL.

33. TURF WICKET MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 33.1 Clubs with turf wickets bear the responsibility of arranging the wickets to be covered and uncovered throughout the season to provide a safe playing surface.

34. PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

- 34.1 All clubs should provide a Public Address System; this will provide the opportunity to make announcements to the members and visiting public to provide warnings where considered appropriate for safety.
- 34.2 Clubs may utilise the PA Systems to advise of any changes to player numbers in the Record prior to commencement of games.
- 34.3 The provision of a PA System will become a requirement for all finals venues.



35. ADMISSION CHARGES TO HOME & AWAY MATCHES

35.1 The MPFNL shall recommend to the member clubs annually at the Annual General Meeting, the admission fees for all home and away matches and, upon a resolution as to admission fees being passed, all club gatekeepers shall collect such admission fees for each match.

MPFNL Women’s matches may charge admission fees at the discretion of the hosting club.

The gate will be open from 8am through to the beginning of half time of the last match.

GATE PRICES	
ADULT	\$13.00
CONCESSION	\$6.00
16 & UNDER	FREE
RECORD	ONLINE

Any cost associated with a card transaction will be surcharged to the customer

GATE ENTRY SIGNS: Sign/s must be on display at all times the club is charging admission into the ground/venue. Clubs are encouraged to check local council by laws in relation to removable signage on recreation reserves. Please ensure the club has accurate pricing that is clearly visible to all patrons.

RECORDS: The Record is now online.

PASS OUTS: The onus is on the home club to arrange any pass out system.

CONCESSIONS: A person must present the relevant concession documentation upon entry to the ground to be eligible for concession admission.

ACCEPTED PASSES:



35.2 All visiting players and officials of Senior and Reserves Men’s teams shall pay admission charges. Club membership tickets admit to home games only. Players in relation to Under 19 matches shall be admitted without charge on the presentation of a ‘players pass’, which shall be provided by the MPFNL. Visiting Women’s teams shall pay admission, should the home club wish to charge gate admission for their Women’s games.

35.3 Official passes shall admit to all home and away matches and finals. These passes shall be issued to Life Members, League Officials and other such officials of the MPFNL or persons as determined by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.



36. FIXTURES

- 36.1 The draw for the home and away matches and Finals Series dates will be arranged by the MPFNL and be presented to the member clubs no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting of the MPFNL.
- 36.2 Should the number of competing teams and the number of home and away matches vary from time to time, the MPFNL Board shall be empowered to make any necessary alterations to the fixture key to ensure that the teams are not disadvantaged.

37. AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 37.1 In accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook, section 3.1, a player's age group shall be based on a player's age as at 31 December the year prior to the applicable playing year.
- 37.2 To be eligible for Under 19s competition a player's age must be 16 years and shall not exceed 18 years, as at 31 December the year prior to the applicable playing year.
- 37.3 To be eligible for Women's Divisional competition a player's age must be 16 years, as at 31 December the year prior to the applicable playing year.
- 37.4 The Age Limit for the Under Age competition shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- 37.5 Within seven (7) days of a written request from the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator, a player shall present proof of age to be sighted by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 37.6 Proof of age shall be deemed to be copies of any document that verifies a player's date of birth. Such documents shall include:
 - a. Birth Certificate
 - b. Extract of Birth Entry
 - c. Passport
- 37.7 A Statutory Declaration shall not be acceptable as proof of age.
- 37.8 In the event that the player cannot present proof of age as in 37.6, the player shall not be permitted to play until such time as it has been presented to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator. Any Club found guilty of playing a player, who is ineligible due to age in the Under 19 competition or Women's competitions, shall automatically forfeit all match points gained in which the player competed, and shall be subject to such other penalty as determined by the MPFNL Board.

38. ALCOHOL - UNDER 19 PLAYERS AND UNDERAGE WOMEN'S PLAYERS

- 38.1 The MPFNL Board may disqualify for up to four (4) matches any Under 19 registered player who is under eighteen (18) years of age, who drinks alcoholic beverages within the precincts of clubrooms and grounds.
- 38.2 The MPFNL Board may disqualify for up to four (4) matches any Women's registered player who is under eighteen (18) years of age, who drinks alcoholic beverages within the precincts of clubrooms and grounds.



39. REPRESENTATIVE / INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

- 39.1 Clubs must make all players available for representative or interleague matches and training sessions.
- 39.2 Any player who is requested to train or is selected to play and does not make themselves available, may be suspended for up to four (4) home and away matches for non-appearance, unless declared unfit by a doctor appointed by the MPFNL, or provides a reasonable excuse, acceptable to the MPFNL Board.

Any suspension or penalty given under 39.2 shall not be subject to appeal.

- 39.3 Colours of the MPFNL shall be navy blue and gold.

40. CLUB UNIFORM & COLOURS

- 40.1 Each Club shall register its uniform and colours with the MPFNL Board upon affiliation with the MPFNL. Each Club shall have an individual uniform/design.
- 40.2 No Club shall compete in any match in any uniform or colours other than its registered uniform or colours and may only change, modify or alter such registered uniform or colours with the written approval of the MPFNL.
- 40.3 Home teams shall wear the club's registered colour shorts, and the away team shall wear white shorts, unless conditions of 40.9 apply.
- 40.4 No player shall wear lycra or like fabric bicycle shorts, that extend past the length of their playing shorts, unless they are of a colour approved by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator. Where other types of shorts are required on medical grounds, the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator may approve the wearing of such shorts.
- 40.5 All uniforms shall carry MPFNL and AFL Victoria Country endorsed logos on guernseys and/or shorts as required from time to time.
- 40.6 Advertising and logos may be included on club guernseys and/or shorts as required from time to time.
- 40.7 Where a clash of uniform occurs, the home team shall wear its registered uniform and the away team shall wear an alternative uniform.
- 40.8 Where a clash of uniforms occurs in any finals match, the team that finishes the home and away season higher on the ladder shall wear the club's registered uniform and the other club shall wear the neutral uniform as approved by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator. The Football Operations Manager/Coordinator shall have the authority to approve both clubs wearing a neutral uniform if both clubs agree to do so in writing.
- 40.9 Any team in the Men's or Women's Competition may choose to not have white shorts as an option for their players, granted they meet the following conditions:
- The team has approval from the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator to not wear white shorts.
 - For all away games the team wears its alternate uniform, unless advised otherwise by the Football Operations Coordinator.
 - The guernsey of the alternate uniform is light in colour and has been approved by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator prior to the beginning of the season.



41. FOOTBALL RECORD / PUBLICITY

- 41.1 Each club shall submit weekly Club notes to the Football Record of up to 1500 characters. These notes, as well as any alterations to player names/numbers must be sent via e-mail to the Editor by 9:30am Tuesday prior to the next round of matches.
- 41.1.1 Club notes shall not contain offensive words or subject matter and shall be used to promote the activities of the Club.
- 41.1.2 The AFL South East Media Manager/Coordinator shall be the Editor of the 'Football Record' on behalf of the Board who shall be the Publisher.
- 41.1.3 The AFL South East Media Manager/Coordinator shall have the power to edit or withdraw any Club notes that are deemed to be detrimental to the interests of the MPFNL.
- 41.1.4 All clubs shall register their 'scribes' with the 'Football Record' Editor, which shall include names, email contact and telephone number.
- 41.1.5 The 'Football Record' shall be published in such versions, numbers and formats as the Board shall direct.
- 41.2 Football Record - Team Lists
- 41.2.1 All clubs shall forward to the League, at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the first home and away match in season, the details of the Senior playing list (including Seniors and Reserves), one list for the Under 19 grade and the playing lists of Women's teams as applicable, accurately stating all the registered players first name, surname and jumper number for inclusion in the Record for the first game.
- 41.2.2 All clubs shall forward to the League, no later than 10am each Tuesday prior to the next round of matches, any changes to player names and numbers for publication in the Record.

42. COMMUNICATION OF MATCHES RESULTS

- 42.1 All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game.
- 42.2 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. The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm. For night matches, the deadline will be 11pm.
- 42.3 Match paperwork shall be submitted as directed by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 42.4 Failure to submit match paperwork and/or enter final scores will be penalised as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.



43. FINES

- 43.1 The MPFNL Board or Football Operations Manager/Coordinator shall be empowered to issue fines in accordance with the Fines Schedule as published in the Football Operations Manual and the MPFNL Statement of Rules.
- 43.2 All Fines or Demerit Points nominated in the Fines Schedule shall be automatically levied, however, Clubs wishing to appeal against such fines shall do so in writing to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator MPFNL within seven (7) days of receiving notification of the fine.
- 43.3 The Football Operations Manager/Coordinator may refer any such appeals to the MPFNL Board who shall have the power to confirm, reduce, amend or withdraw such fine. The decision of the MPFNL Board shall be final.
- 43.4 The Fine Schedule is shown in Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fines

44. PRACTICE MATCHES

- 44.1 Where pre-season practice matches are played, with official umpires in control, both competing teams in all grades shall complete a 'team sheet' that shall include information as directed from time to time by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 44.2 Team sheets shall be delivered to the umpire/s prior to the commencement of the game.
- 44.3 In practice matches, umpires may report players as per the 'Laws of the Game'.

45. BEHAVIOUR

- 45.1 Each Club shall be responsible for the behaviour of its members, supporters and spectators at matches during the pre-season, home or away season and finals series. The clubs shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that appropriate behaviour is maintained at all MPFNL matches by its members, supporters or spectators.
- 45.2 The types of behaviours to be monitored may include but no limited to excessive alcohol consumption, excessive foul or abusive language or aggressive behaviours.

46. PLAYER TRANSFER

- 46.1 Refer to AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations.
- 46.2 Local Procedures:
 - 46.2.1 Transfer & Permit Curfew - The MPFNL shall impose a clearance and permit curfew. No transfer or permit shall be handled after 4pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following the round of matches unless and except whereby exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 46.3 Clearance within the MPFNL: A player who transfers to another Club of the MPFNL shall not be eligible to transfer to a second club of the MPFNL, during the current playing season unless the player's original Club authorises such transfer on a clearance application.



47. REGISTRATION

- 47.1 Any player, coach or team official desiring registration with the MPFNL, shall register via the PlayHQ online platform, prior to playing, coaching or officiating in a match.
- 47.2 The MPFNL shall retain the power to withdraw or suspend the registration of any player, coach or team official, who fails to comply with any reasonable request from the MPFNL or who, by their actions, is deemed to have brought the game and the MPFNL into disrepute.

48. MATCH PERMITS / LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 48.1 Refer to AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations.
- 48.2 Local Procedures
- 48.2.1 Match Permits / Day Permits shall not be available for players to compete within the MPFNL.
- 48.2.2 The MPFNL shall enter into 'Local Area Agreements' with affiliated Junior Bodies for transfer and permits of players between the Leagues.
- 48.2.3 A MPFNL club may play up to 5 season permitted players from another MPFNL club per match, in Women's Reserves, or Men's Reserves, Under 19's or Thirds Football, without a MPFNL Board approved MoU.
- 48.2.4 A permit shall not be approved after 12 noon on the Friday preceding a round of matches, except whereby exceptional circumstances arise, approval is granted by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.

49. AFL VIC PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

- 49.1 The MPFNL adopts the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- 49.2 Player points will be allocated as prescribed in the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- 49.3 The total player points (TPP) cap for each club will be published by AFL South East each season. This does not apply to Reserve & Under 19 Men's competitions and Women's competitions.
- 49.4 Clubs shall have the opportunity to appeal individual Player Point Values as per AFL South East Region By-Laws.

50. NIGHT AND TWILIGHT GAMES PROCEDURE

- 50.1 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.
- 50.2 Only venues that meet the minimum lighting standards of 100 lux will be considered for night match approval. The MPFNL shall assess the conditions of lighting at the venue and will only provide approval for a match to be played if it will be conducted in a manner which is safe to all participants.



51. COACH ACCREDITATION

51.1 Any player or person who is appointed as Coach of a team in any grade must follow relevant AFL coaching protocols.

51.2 Refer National Community Football Handbook, Section 6 “Coach Accreditation”

52. COACHES / UMPIRES MEETING

52.1 Annually, a meeting will be convened between MPFNL coaches and the relevant Umpiring Body.

52.2 The structure of the meeting will be determined by the MPFNL and attendance by Coaches shall be compulsory.

53. INVESTIGATIONS

53.1 Refer to AFL Victoria Country Rule, Section 5.0 “Investigations”.

54. SUBMISSION OF SELECTED TEAMS

54.1 Each club must submit their selected teams in the Senior, Reserve, Under 19, and Thirds Men’s, and Division 1, 2 Women’s grades into the online program, no later than 9.30pm on the Thursday night preceding a round of matches.

54.2 Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the online program. Should any player take the field outside the named players and up to 5 emergencies, penalties shall apply per player not named, unless that club can provide evidence to support a valid reason for the change.

54.3 Participating clubs that are scheduled to play on a Sunday will be permitted to submit an extended bench of seven (7) players (four (4) interchange plus three (3) emergencies) however teams still need to have all players in position and with jumper numbers.

55. LIVE SCORES

55.1 For Senior Men’s and Division 1 Senior Women’s competition football matches, it will be the responsibility of the HOME club to conduct live scores via the program provided by the League.

55.2 For all other competitions, live scores are recommended but are not compulsory.

56. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

56.1 MPFNL Men’s Competition

56.1.1 Refer to the ‘Laws of Australian Football’ which shall be updated annually. Particular attention shall be given to ‘exemptions’ to the Rules which have been granted to AFL Victoria Country.

a. *Note: For the 2026 season, the MPFNL will uphold the 6-6-6 rule as outlined in the Laws of Australian Football (13.1) and will not apply any variation to this rule as per Section 27 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules.*



56.2 MPFNL Women's Competition

- 56.2.1 Refer to the 'Laws of Australian Football' which shall be updated annually. Particular attention shall be given to 'exemptions' to the Rules which have been granted to AFL Victoria Country. Some additional AFLW specific rules are to be used.
- 56.2.2 Between the 50-metre arcs, boundary throw-ins (or ball ups dependant on umpire numbers) happen 10m inside the boundary line, with the aim of landing approximately 25m into the field of play. Inside the forward and defensive 50-metre arcs, the boundary throw-ins happen from the boundary line.

57. DOPING POLICY

- 57.1 The Doping Policy of the Australian Football League shall apply to and be binding on all Leagues, Associations and Bodies affiliated with the AFL or affiliated with and Affiliated body of the AFL.
- 57.2 Refer to National Community Football Policy Handbook, Section 14 "Anti-Doping".

58. VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- 58.1 Refer to the AFL Victoria website under the Policies section for full details.
- 58.2 Summary of Policy: 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
 - Special ability or disability

59. NATIONAL COMMUNITY FOOTBALL POLICY HANDBOOK

- 59.1 Refer to the National Community Football Policy Handbook for details on:
- Social Media Policy
 - Privacy Policy
 - Gender Policy
 - De-Registration Policy
 - Wagering/Betting Policy – Players and Officials
 - Sports Trainers in Community Football Policy

60. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 60.1 Refer to the MPFNL website for the following:
- Coaches Code of Conduct
 - Player and Officials Code of Conduct
 - Parent and Spectators Code of Conduct



61. ALCOHOL & SMOKING MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 61.1 The MPFNL will adopt the AFL Victoria Country's Alcohol Charter to help facilitate a consistent approach to alcohol related issues across Community Football.
- 61.2 The MPFNL and all associate clubs must adopt the [AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy](#).

62. CLUB FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- 62.1 Charges to the clubs shall be fixed by the MPFNL Board annually, and such amount must be paid to the MPFNL as determined by the AFL South East Commission from time to time. Defaulting clubs shall be subject to such penalty as the MPFNL Board determines.
- 62.2 All monies outstanding to the League are to be paid in accordance with the payment schedule outlined in 62.3.
- 62.3 Clubs must be fully financial by 3pm on the Friday prior to the following rounds to be eligible for match points in all football matches:
- Round 1 of Senior Football
 - Round 5 of Senior Football
 - Round 9 of Senior Football
 - Round 14 of Senior Football
 - Any prior to the finals pursuant to rule 62.7
- 62.4 If a Senior Football Club is deemed to be un-financial in accordance with rule 62.3, all football teams will be deemed to be ineligible to earn match points until the club is deemed to be financial by the League Manager or Regional General Manager.
- 62.5 Where a match takes place with a club that is ineligible for match points, the opposition club must win the match to receive the match points. If the un-financial club wins the match, neither team shall receive the match points.
- 62.6 The League Manager or Regional General Manager shall have the right to approve an agreed payment plan for un-financial clubs. If a club breaches the agreed payments plan they will forfeit the right to another payment plan and will become ineligible for match points until they are deemed to be financial.
- 62.7 All affiliated clubs participating in finals series matches must be financial with the league before the conclusion of the home and away matches. If a participating club is not financial, the MPFNL Board may at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position in the final series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the finals series.
- 62.8 Clubs shall submit to the MPFNL, a copy of their budget of projected expenditures and income for their forthcoming season, prior to Round 1. In default of compliance herewith, the MPFNL Board may impose penalties.
- 62.9 By no later than January 31st each year, clubs shall submit to the MPFNL a copy of their:
- Audited profit and loss statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - Minutes of the AGM confirming acceptance of the financial report
 - Confirmation of the lodgement of Club Activity Statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria
- 62.10 In default of compliance herewith the MPFNL Board may impose penalties.
- 62.11 The provisions of the rule apply to Netball associates as well as to member clubs of the MPFNL.



63. ALLOWABLE PLAYER PAYMENT RULE (Community Club Sustainability Program)

- 63.1 AFL South East adopts the AFL Victoria Allowable Player Payment Rules in line with the Community Club Sustainability Program. [AFL Victoria Policies](#)
- 63.2 Any player paid in the MPFNL Men's or Women's Football Competitions fall under the AFL Victoria CCSP & MPFNL Total APP, and must:
- a. Have a signed player declaration
 - b. Be included in respective Men's or Women's Football Budget and Actual Club Payment Declarations
- 63.3 For the 2026 Season, the MPFNL Men's Football Total APP is:
- a. Division 1 - \$130,000
 - b. Division 2 - \$120,000
- 63.4 For the 2026 Season, the MPFNL Women's Football Total APP is:
- a. Division 1 - \$12,000
 - b. Division 2 - \$10,000

64. LEAGUE AWARDS

- 64.1 The league shall award a medal for the Best and Fairest player in each grade of the competition each year.
- 64.2 The voting of the Best and Fairest award/s shall be determined as follows:
- 64.2.1 At the conclusion of each home and away match, the field umpire/s shall award three (3) votes to the player considered to be the best and fairest player in the match: two (2) votes to the player considered to be the second best and fairest player in the matches: one (1) vote to the player considered to be the third best and fairest player in the match.
 - 64.2.2 Such votes shall be recorded on a special card provided by the MPFNL and returned to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator of the MPFNL electronically.
 - 64.2.3 The Best and Fairest awards have been named to honour individuals who have provided outstanding service to the MPFNL and football generally.
- 64.3 The awards for the following competitions shall be known as:
- 64.3.1 Division 1 Men's
Seniors (1st XVIII) – E.V. SHADE MEDAL
Reserves (1st XVIII) – ATHOL DAVIES MEDAL
U19's (1st XVIII) – KEN LYONS MEDAL
 - 64.3.2 Division 2 Men's
Seniors (1st XVIII) – GEORGE OSBOURNE MEDAL
Reserves (1st XVIII) – HOWARD ARMSTRONG MEDAL
U19's (1st XVIII) – BILL BOSSE MEDAL
 - 64.3.3 Thirds Men's – Best and Fairest
 - 64.3.4 Division 1 Women's
Seniors – Best and Fairest
Reserves – Best and Fairest
 - 64.3.5 Division 2 Women's – Best and Fairest



- 64.4 Any player who is found guilty of a charge by the AFL South East Tribunal or who accepts an early guilty plea, in the form of a suspension, or fine and reprimand, during the home and away matches shall not be eligible to win a league best and fairest award, during that season.
- 64.5 In the event of a tie in a best and fairest count in any grade, no count back shall apply, medals shall be awarded to each of the players involved in the tie.
- 64.6 Other awards may be awarded annually pursuant to such guidelines and voting systems as may be determined by the MPFNL Board annually.
- 64.7 Premiership Awards
- 64.7.1 The premiership team of each grade shall receive a Premiership Cup and a Premiership Pennant.
- 64.7.2 Each player and the coach of the Premiership team in each division shall receive a Premiership Medal at the conclusion of the Grand Final.
- 64.7.3 The player nominated the Best on Ground as adjudged by the umpires in the Grand Final in each grade shall receive a medal to recognise their achievement at the conclusion of the Grand Final.

65. MATCH REVIEW OFFICER

- 65.1 AFL South East adopts the AFL South East Tribunal and Match Review Officer Guide.

The Match Review Officer is independent who shall be asked to review incidents raised by clubs or officiating umpires that stem from MPFNL Filmed Matches only. Only official league video can be reviewed as evidence.

The MRO has the power to impose a sanction as stipulated under the AFL Victoria Country Rules and in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Report Sheet.

- 65.2 A review must be requested in writing by no later than 12:00pm the first business day post a match to the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.
- 65.3 An officiating umpire may make a referral to the MRO as per section 22.1(b) of the National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- 65.4 The following fees shall apply:
- The club requesting the match review will be required to pay a \$100 deposit.
 - If the MRO determine there is no case to answer the \$100 deposit will be forfeited.
 - If the MRO determine there is a case to answer and that case proceeds to tribunal the following will apply:
 - If the charged player is found guilty, the charged players club will be liable for the \$100.
 - If the charged player is found not guilty, the club that requested the match review shall forfeit their \$100 deposit.
 - If the MRO determine there is a case to answer and the charged player accepts a set penalty, the club of the charged player will be liable for the \$100.
- 65.5 The MRO shall have the power to assess all reports from a weekend on the first available business day and will possess the ability to impose, amend or withdraw any reports as they deem appropriate.



66. TRIBUNAL

- 66.1 In the event that a club does not accept an early guilty plea for the report of a player or official, they will be referred to the AFL South East Tribunal.
- 66.2 The Tribunal shall be a panel of independent members.
- 66.3 Should a club receive a guilty verdict at Tribunal, they will be fined as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.

67. STATEMENT OF RULES

- 67.1 Membership - Refer to MPFNL Statement of Rules for further details
 - 67.1.1 All affiliated clubs must, within fourteen (14) days of the holding of their Annual General Meeting, notify the MPFNL in writing, the names of all office bearers, their email addresses and phone numbers.
 - 67.1.2 Clubs must inform the MPFNL of any change of personnel or changes of contact details for any individual listed, within seven (7) days of the change.
 - 67.1.3 If a club fails to update AFL South East and the MPFNL of changes to club officials/executives, they may incur a fine as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.
- 67.2 League Meetings - Refer to MPFNL Statement of Rules for further details
 - 67.2.1 If a club fails to attend a league meeting without notification, the club will be fined as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.
- 67.3 Sub Committee's - Refer to MPFNL Statement of Rules for further details
 - 67.3.1 As Per the MPFNL Statement of Rules, Section 40.3(b), the board may establish subcommittees consisting of appropriately qualified or experienced persons with terms of reference it considers appropriate.
 - 67.3.2 Members do not have to sever ties at club level to be involved in these sub committees, and clubs will be asked to nominate members for positions on these sub committees.

68. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 68.1 To Be eligible to play in the Men's Senior, Reserve or Under 19, or Women's MPFNL Football Competitions, a player must:
 - 68.1.1 Have an active player registration with an MPFNL Member or Associate Member club; or
 - 68.1.2 Have an approved and active player permit to an MPFNL Member or Associate Member club and
 - 68.1.3 Be 16 years of age, as at 31 December the year prior to the applicable playing year.
- 68.2 To be eligible to play in the Men's Thirds Competition, a player must:
 - 68.2.1 Have an active player registration with an MPFNL Member club; or
 - 68.2.2 Have an approved and active player permit to an MPFNL Member club from a Senior Football Competition and



68.2.3 Be 19 years of age, as at 31 December the year prior to the applicable playing year, unless approved by the Football Operations Manager/Coordinator.

68.2.4 A player registered at an AFL South East affiliated Junior Club, with an active permit to an MPFNL Member club, will not be eligible to participate in the Men's Thirds Competition.

68.3 No Transfers or Permits will be granted for any player who is not turning 17 in the competition year to play in the MPFNL, there will be no consideration for special exemptions.

68.4 Should a club play ineligible players they will be penalised as set out in Appendix 1 - Schedule of Fines.

69. UNDER 19 TEAMS

69.1 Clubs will be limited to a maximum of 35 registered players who are age eligible for Under 19 Competitions, unless 69.1.1 applies.

69.1.1 Clubs will be able to make application for up to 10 additional Under 19 Competition registrations for players who;

- a. Are required for APS/AGS Competitions
- b. Are listed with a Talent League club

69.2 Any club who fails to field an Under 19 Competition team will be issued a show cause notice by the MPFNL Board, and may be subject to sanctioning.



APPENDIX

SCHEDULE OF FINES

Penalties will apply for non-compliance or breach of Rules/By Laws/Operations Manual, which may be by way of financial penalty, demerit points or both. The Schedule of Fines shall be subject to annual review

BY-LAW	OFFENCE	AMOUNT
4	LATE START FINALS (PER MIN)	\$25
4	LATE STARTS (PER MIN)	\$10
9	INCORRECT / UNSASTISFACTORY FOOTBALL	\$150
10	NO UMPIRE ESCORT	\$100
11, 18, 42	FAILURE TO COMPLETE TEAM SHEET	\$50
11, 13, 14	INCORRECT OFFICIALS UNIFORM (RUNNERS / TRAINERS / WATER CARRIER)	\$100
11	TEAM OFFICIALS SMOKING/VAPING INSIDE GROUND	\$250
12	NON ATTENDANCE BY TEAM MANAGER FOR ALL CLEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF MATCH	\$100
13	MORE THAN ONE CLUB RUNNER	\$100
14	UNACCREDITED TRAINER	\$250
14	MORE THAN SIX TRAINERS / WATER CARRIERS	\$100
17	NOTIFIED FORFEIT	\$100
17	LATE FORFIET	Umpire Fees
17	UN-NOTIFIED FORFEIT	\$200 + Umpire Fees
20	FRIVOLOUS COUNT OF PLAYERS	\$200
29	INSUFFICIENT GOAL PADDING	\$500
29	FAILURE TO PROVIDE A STRETCHER	\$500
29	FAILURE TO SUFFICIENTLY MARK GROUND	\$100
31	FAILURE TO OPERATE AND HAVE A FUNCTIONING SCOREBOARD (PER ROUND)	\$100
37, 47, 68	PLAYING NON PERMITTED / UNREGISTERED / INELIGIBLE PLAYER	\$200
41	FAILURE TO SUBMIT TEAM LISTS FOR RECORD	\$100
41	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB NOTES FOR RECORD	\$100
42	FAILURE TO ENTER CORRECT RESULTS	\$50
42	FAILURE TO PROVIDE MATCH PAPERWORK TO OFFICIALS	\$100
47	FAILURE TO REGISTER OFFICIALS	\$50
50	UNAPPROVED NIGHT / TWILIGHT GAME	\$1,000
51	UNACCREDITED COACH	\$250
54	FAILURE TO UPDATE ELECTRONIC TEAM SHEET AND OR CHANGES	\$50
55	FAILURE TO UPDATE LIVE SCORES FOR SENIOR MATCHES	\$50
66	GUILTY TRIBUNAL VERDICT	\$200
66	NON-ATTENDANCE OF PLAYER AND/OR ADVOCATE AT TRIBUNAL (PER OFFENCE)	Determined by Tribunal
67	NON ATTENDANCE AT LEAGUE MEETING	\$100
67	FAILURE TO SUBMIT LIST OF CLUB OFFICE BEARERS	\$200



AFL VICTORIA PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY

DIVISION 1 CLUB	2026 POINTS ALLOCATION
Devon Meadows FNC	42
Dromana FNC	42
Edithvale-Aspendale FNC	42
Frankston YCW FNC	42
Langwarrin FNC	42
Mornington FNC	42
Mt Eliza FNC	42
Pines FNC	42
Rosebud FNC	42
Sorrento FNC	42
DIVISION 2 CLUB	2026 POINTS ALLOCATION
Bonbeach FNC	44
Chelsea FNC	42
Crib Point FNC	43
Frankston Bombers FNC	42
Hastings FNC	45
Karingal FNC	46
Pearcedale FNC	42
Red Hill FNC	43
Rye FNC	44
Seaford FNC	45
Somerville FNC	42
Tyabb FNC	46



MPFNL OVERAGE PERMIT

Season 2026 will provide MPFNL clubs the opportunity to apply to the MPFNL for a maximum of up to 15 players to be considered as overage players in under 19 competitions.

This overage exemption is to be implemented for the purpose of allowing overage players (players who meet the MPFNL Overage Player Criteria) to play in under 19 competitions and allow their club the opportunity to field a team.

The MPFNL Overage Exemption Policy can only be used by clubs who have less than 20 registered players as of the 24th March, 2025.

If a club's registration numbers of age eligible U19 players reaches 28 during the season, all previously approved overage permits will be cancelled, unless exempt by the MPFNL Board.

It is the discretion of the MPFNL to reject and or accept applications to this policy based on:

- Age
- Impact on others
- Conduct – Past tribunal history

Players must not exceed 19 years and 11 months of age as of January 1st, 2026.

Overage exempt players will be eligible to play finals provided they meet the relevant leagues finals eligibility criteria; overage exempt players will be ineligible for league awards or representative opportunities.

If an overage exempt player plays one (1) game of senior grade football or more than three (3) games of reserve grade football their overage permit will be immediately revoked.

Applications must be submitted to the MPFNL with all relevant information.

[Overage Permit Application](#)



SUPPORTING POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

[2026 Laws of Australian Football](#)

[2026 AFL Victoria Country Rules](#)

[2026 AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy](#)

[2026 AFL South East Player Payment Rules](#)

[2026 AFL South East Player Payment Guidelines](#)

[2026 AFL South East Region Policy By-Laws](#)

[2026 National Community Football Policy Handbook](#)

[MPFNL Coach Code of Conduct](#)

[MPFNL Players and Officials Code of Conduct](#)

[MPFNL Spectator Code of Conduct](#)

[AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy](#)