



## WRFL BY-LAWS

Issue Date – 22 November 2016

WRFL By-laws with issue date 4 April 2013 represented the first stage of a process of major revision. Following adoption of revised Statement of Rules in June 2012, the previous by-laws were reviewed for any inconsistency with the Statement of Rules and the AFL Laws of Australian Football (LAF). By-laws duplicating any provisions of LAF were deleted unless deemed to warrant inclusion for the sake of clarity. Only a limited number of by-laws were amended in a material sense at that stage – clubs were advised of those changes at a special general meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013. WRFL By-laws were further amended in 2014 (Issue Date – 19 May 2014) to include by-law changes adopted by the WRFL Board since the previous revision; in March 2015; in March 2016 (the previous version) and November 2016 (this current version).

Some issues covered in previous Statement of Rules and by-laws have yet to be incorporated in the revised by-laws. Those issues are detailed in the document “**ADDENDUM TO WRFL BY-LAWS**” and will be deemed to apply as WRFL by-laws pending further notice. A further process of review and revision will be conducted during the 2016 season with a view to consolidation of all by-laws in a single document. Member clubs will be advised of any further amendments as and when they occur.



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**APPENDICES:**

- A WRFL Code of Conduct
- B National Player Transfer Regulations
- C Standard Playing Contract – Community Football
- D WRFL Tribunal and IHC Procedure Guidelines
- E WRFL Appeals Board Procedure Guidelines
- F AFL Victoria / WRFL Vilification & Discrimination Policy
- G AFL Victoria Community Club Sustainability Policy (October 2015)



## 1 INTERPRETATION

These By-laws shall be read in conjunction with the Statement of Purposes and Statement of Rules of the Western Region Football League Inc. Where any conflict may arise between provisions of these By-laws and the Statement of Rules, then the Statement of Rules shall prevail.

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

“**Affiliated Club**” means a football club affiliated with the League whose application for Membership has been approved in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

“**Appeals Board**” means the Appeals Board appointed in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

“**Board**” means the Board of the League appointed in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

“**Board Member**” means a Member of the Board, elected in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

“**CEO**” means the **Chief Executive Officer** of the League appointed in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

“**Club Official**” includes any person acting on behalf of an Affiliated Club in relation to any match approved or controlled by the League or any elected office bearer of an Affiliated Club.

“**Director of Umpiring**” means the person appointed by the Board to manage all aspects of umpire recruitment, education, training, discipline and allocation of umpires to officiate in matches controlled by the League.

“**Financial Year**” means the year ending 31st October.

GMFO added  
March 2015

“**General Manager Football Operations (GMFO)**” means the person appointed by the Board having overall responsibility for the scheduling, conduct and administration of football competitions and programs.

“**Independent Hearing Committee**” or “**IHC**” means the Independent Hearing Committee appointed in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

“**Juniors Board**” means a sub-committee appointed by the Board to oversee Junior Football.

“**Junior Club**” means any club admitted to the League with only teams in an underage competition of the League, but no team in an open age competition of the League.

“**Junior Official Competition**” means competition involving under-age teams (boys and/or girls) up to and including Under 17, normally (but not necessarily) scheduled for Sundays and overseen by the Juniors Board.

“**League**” means the Western Region Football League Incorporated.

“**League Official**” means any person appointed by the League to act in any official capacity and includes the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”), Executive member, member of the Junior Board and any umpire appointed by the League.

“**Member**” when used in isolation refers to an Affiliated Club of the League.

“**Open age**” refers to competitions or teams for which no maximum age limit is specified in these Rules or the By-Laws.

**“Penalty unit”:** Monetary fines, penalties, deposits and bonds defined under these By-Laws may be expressed as a number or “Penalty Units”. The value of a penalty unit may be varied from time to time by the Board. The current value of a penalty unit is: **\$10.00** (GST excl.)**“Registered Player”** means a person registered by the League to play in the competitions conducted by it.

**“Reserve Grade Game”** means a game contested between Reserve Grade Teams of opposing clubs.

**“Reserve Grade Team”** means an open-age team selected by a member club from eligible, registered players as its “second 18” (plus interchange players).

**“Senior Club”** means any club admitted to the League with a team playing in an open age competition of the League.

**“Senior Grade Game”** means a game contested between Senior Grade Teams of opposing clubs.

**“Senior Grade Team”** means an open-age team selected by a member club from eligible, registered players as its “first 18” (plus interchange players).

**“Senior Official Competition”** means competition involving open-age teams and those Under 18 and older, normally (but not necessarily) scheduled for Saturdays.

**“Tribunal”** means the Independent Tribunal appointed in accordance with the Statement of Rules.



## 2 COMPETITION STRUCTURES

### 2.1 DIVISIONS

- 2.1.1** Where practical, senior official competitions shall be organised into divisions of ten (10) teams each. Where this is not practical, the allocation of senior teams into appropriate divisions shall be determined by the Board.
- 2.1.2** Junior teams shall be organised into age-based competition grades at the discretion of the Board, taking account of the number of team applications received, advice and recommendations from the Juniors Board.
- 2.1.3** All clubs competing at Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 Senior Official Competition levels shall be required to field Senior and Reserve teams.
- 2.1.4** All clubs competing at Division 1 Senior Official Competition level shall be required to field an Under 19 team, unless otherwise permitted by the Board
- 2.1.5** Subject to by-laws 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.6, a club shall be entitled to participate in the division in which it participated in the previous season provided that:
- those clubs whose first 18 teams were premiers in the previous season shall be promoted to the next higher division.
  - those clubs whose first 18 teams finished in last place on their respective ladders in the previous season shall be relegated to the next lower division.
- 2.1.6** The Board may otherwise promote, relegate or refuse to promote any club in the event that:
- the club cannot field a full complement of teams for the forthcoming season;
  - the playing facilities of the club are not of a sufficient standard for the division in which the team is to compete in the next season;
  - the club is in default of any financial obligation to the League;
  - there are any other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Board, require a club to be promoted, relegated or refused promotion.

### 2.2 LEAGUE COMPOSITION

Unless otherwise directed by the Board, competitions conducted by the League shall comprise the following:

- Division 1: Senior grade (first 18), Reserve grade (second 18), Under 19
- Division 2: Senior grade (first 18), Reserve grade (second 18), Under 19
- Division 3: Senior grade (first 18), Reserve grade (second 18), Under 19
- Juniors (as per team nominations):
- Under 18 Girls, Under 17, Under 16, Under 15 Boys, Under 15 Girls, Under 14, Under 13, Under 12Boys, Under 12 Girls, Under 11, Under 10, Under 9, Under 8.

Division 3  
added 2014

Max limit of  
2 teams per  
age group  
confirmed  
November  
2013

Unless otherwise approved by the Board, no club shall be entitled to field more than two (2) teams in any junior age group in any given season.

### 3 PLAYING RULES & CONDITIONS

#### 3.1 LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

Unless otherwise specified in these by-laws, the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" (as amended from time to time) and the AFL "Australian Football Match Policy" (as amended from time to time) shall apply in all games. Where discretion is available under the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for controlling bodies to nominate rule variations, any such variations approved by the Board will be reflected in these by-laws.

#### 3.2 MODIFIED RULES FOR JUNIOR GAMES

##### 3.2.1 Spirit of Game

All junior games must be conducted with an emphasis on fun, involvement, learning of skills and good sportsmanship. Within reason, coaches must ensure that all players, irrespective of ability, are given sufficient time on the playing field to experience the game and achieve a sense of involvement.

Club officials, parents and spectators must demonstrate behaviours and attitudes consistent with this spirit. Clubs must promote and enforce a "zero tolerance" to behaviours and attitudes inconsistent with the spirit, especially (but not limited to) abuse or dissent with umpires, officials and players. At the end of the game, players and officials of both teams must meet in the centre of the ground and shake each other by the hand.

##### 3.2.2 Under 8 Match Programs

Under 8 match programs shall be conducted in accordance with the AFL publication "Australian Football Match Policy", except that the distance penalty shall be reduced from 25 Metres to 15 Metres.

New by-law 3.2.2 added  
March 2016

##### 3.2.3 Under 9 and Under 10 Modified Rules

The following modified rules shall apply in all Under 9 and Under 10 games. In all other respects, games shall be conducted in accordance with total WRFL by-laws.

Modifications to Game Conditions:

- a) Scores shall not be recorded
- b) No scoreboard shall operate
- c) No premiership points shall be awarded
- d) Ladders shall not be compiled/published
- e) No final series to be played
- f) No WRFL awards shall be made to individual Players.

##### 3.2.3.1 Playing Ground

At the discretion of the home club, games may be played on grounds marked to range in size from full-size down to a minimum of half the size of a full ground. Home clubs must notify opposition clubs no later than the Thursday before the game should they determine to play on a reduced sized ground.

Clubs are encouraged to use reduced size grounds wherever possible for Under 9 and Under 10 games.

### 3.2.3.2 Teams

Teams shall comprise of 18 players per side, unless the coaches of both teams agree to a lesser number. There shall be no limit to the number of interchange players and players may be interchanged at any time during a game. Players should be rotated every quarter, eg. centres, backs, forwards. Coaches are encouraged to share excess players with the opposition team if they are short. Except in the cases of injury, incapacity, discipline or a player ordered off the field by an umpire, all players shall be allocated a minimum on-field game time equivalent to half of the game.

### 3.2.3.3 Playing Time

Game duration shall be four (4) quarters, each of 15 minutes duration (no time-on) with breaks as follows:

- a) Quarter-time: 3 minutes
- b) Half-time: 7 minutes
- c) Three-quarter-time: 3 minutes

### 3.2.3.4 Start of Play (each quarter)

In each quarter, play shall be started by a ball up between rucks. Player must not grab ball at ball up. It must be knocked, palmed or punched. This applies to centre throw ups only.

### 3.2.3.5 Start of Play (following goals)

Each time a goal is scored by either team, play will be restarted with a player of the team that did not score the goal given possession in the centre circle. The player awarded such possession will be selected at the discretion of the umpire. A maximum of four (4) players per team shall be permitted in the centre square until the player has disposed of the ball.

### 3.2.3.6 Scrimmage

Ball up between two (2) players of equal height.

### 3.2.3.7 Out of Bounds

When out of bounds from a kick, a free kick shall be awarded to nearest opponent. If in doubt to which team kicked it out, a ball up will take place five (5) metres in from boundary.

### 3.2.3.8 Tackling

A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind, providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball (i.e push the player in the back).

If the player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the umpire feels the player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalised for holding the ball.

A player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap-around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or

Amended to conform  
with AFL Junior Football  
Match Guide, March  
2014

by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.

The field umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.

The field umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is accidentally knocked out of a player's hands by an opponent.

There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition player in possession of the ball to the ground.

Players cannot:

- a) knock the ball out of an opponent's hands;
- b) push the player in the side;
- c) steal the ball from another player; or
- d) smother an opponent's kick.

A free kick shall be awarded to any infringed player.

Free kick penalty added, March 2015

#### **3.2.3.9 Barging**

No barging, fending off or chopping past opponents is allowed. A free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent.

#### **3.2.3.10 Shepherding**

A player is not permitted to push, shoulder or block an opponent not in possession of the ball. A free kick shall be awarded to any infringed player.

Free kick penalty added, March 2015

#### **3.2.3.11 Mark**

A mark is awarded, no matter how far the ball has travelled, to any player who catches the ball directly from the kick of another player.

#### **3.2.3.12 Bouncing the Ball**

A player may bounce the ball only once, and then must dispose of it. In the case of any infringement, the umpire shall effect a ball-up at the spot where the second bounce occurs.

Ball-up in case of infringement added, March 2015

#### **3.2.3.13 Kicking off the Ground**

Deliberate kicking the ball off the ground in general play is not permitted and will result in a free kick being awarded against the offending player.

#### **3.2.3.14 Staying in Position**

Insofar as practical, players must stay in or near their allocated positions. Umpires will have discretion to stop play and demand players return to their positions when they deem play to be overly congested.

#### **3.2.3.15 Order off Rule**

The order-off rule applying in other WRFL grades will apply in Under 9 and Under 10 games.

### 3.2.3.16 Player Reports & Tribunals

If a player is reported in an Under 9 or Under 10 game, he/she will not appear before the Independent Tribunal or the Independent Hearing Committee. Instead, the following will apply:

- a) clubs to take action, and a copy of action taken to be forwarded to WRFL General Manager Football Operations, by Thursday 12noon after game;
- b) If the General Manager Football Operations deems fit or the player has been previously reported or disciplined then the General Manager Football Operations can request the player and the club appear before a disciplinary panel consisting of a WRFL Board Member and a member of the Tribunal and/or IHC. The Board can deal with the matter as it deems fit and may impose any penalty that the Tribunal or Independent Committee can impose.

### 3.2.3.17 Coach on Ground

The coach is allowed on the ground during play for the sole purpose of providing immediate feedback to players. He or she must not pressure, instruct or make comment to or about officiating umpires or decisions that they make. The coach must not pressure, instruct or make comment to players or officials of the opposition team.

When the coach elects to remain on the ground during play, then no runner for that team will be permitted on the ground at the same time as the coach.

The order-off rule (refer by-law 3.21) applies to all players and officials in all junior games.

### 3.2.4 Under 11, Under 12 Boys and Under 12 Girls Modified Rules

The following modified rules shall apply in all Under 11 and Under 12 games. In all other respects, games shall be conducted in accordance with total WRFL by-laws.

#### 3.2.4.1 Kicking off the Ground

Deliberate kicking the ball off the ground in general play is not permitted and will result in a free kick being awarded against the offending player.

#### 3.2.4.2 Mercy Rule

The Mercy Rule will apply to the U11 and U12 age groups and will be invoked by the umpires if the score differential at half time or three quarter time of a match is sixty (60) points or greater. Once invoked the rule will remain in place for the remainder of the match.

Once invoked the following change to match conditions will be implemented by the umpires:

- After any score by the winning team, play is restarted with the losing team given possession of the ball in the centre circle.

There is no discretion for club officials to agree to non-implementation of the Mercy Rule. The Mercy Rule does not apply in finals matches.

This rule is not designed to achieve an even sharing of the ball between all players irrespective of their ability. The purpose of the rule is, however, to create a more fair and even contest once one team has a significant lead in a match. The WRFL expects all team officials,

Mercy rule extended to U12 age group and trial period ended November 2013

Clarification that no discretion for club officials re Mercy Rule, April 2014

players and supporters to adhere to the spirit of this rule and reserves the right to monitor all matches to ensure clubs are meeting this responsibility.

### **3.2.5 Evening Up of Player Numbers – Under 11 to Under 14 Games**

Where a team in grades up to and including Under 14 has less than 18 players on their teamsheet, the following modified rules shall apply:

- 3.2.5.1** If a team does not have 14 of its own registered players a scratch match will be played with the opposing team receiving a win by forfeit (as per by-law 3.5).
- 3.2.5.2** Where a team does not have a full 18 players, it must approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned to even up team numbers. This request should be made at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the match. If the team requiring players does not make this request, then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players (up to the maximum player numbers of 18 eg.: team A has 15 players and does not request players be loaned, team B may take the field with 17 players).
- 3.2.5.3** Where a team has requested players be loaned and still takes the field with less than 18 players, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players.
- 3.2.5.4** Any goals kicked or best player votes received whilst playing for the opposing team should appear for the player's regular team.
- 3.2.5.5** Players on loan can be rotated back each quarter.
- 3.2.5.6** If a club requiring players does not have sufficient jumpers available the evening up rule will not apply.
- 3.2.5.7** Player send offs or injuries incurred during the game will not result in evening up of players.
- 3.2.5.8** The evening up rule does not apply in finals matches.
- 3.2.5.9** The evening up rule can be used for junior grades above Under 14 with the mutual approval of both coaches.

Teams failing to comply with these by-laws will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the General Manager Football Operations.

### **3.3 MATCH WARM UPS AND RUN THROUGHGS**

This by-law applies to all official matches in the WRFL.

- 3.3.1** The two (2) competing teams must do their pre-game and halftime warm ups in separate halves of the ground, with the home team using half of the ground nearest the clubrooms, with the opposition club using the other end of the ground furthest from the home teams clubrooms. Any breach of this by-law will be deemed to be conduct unbecoming and reported to the Tribunal.
- 3.3.2** Players and officials must avoid interfering with players and officials of opposition teams during warm ups, at club huddles and other situations not directly relating to play. Team and/or individual player(s) must not run through opposition team huddles, warm up areas or

the immediate vicinity of opposition team coaches benches. Offending clubs and players shall be reported and the matter dealt with by the Tribunal.

- 3.3.3** Where the ground has only one (1) entry/exit then both teams, at halftime and at the end of the game, shall form separate huddles and (subject to by-law 3.3.1), the away team will leave the ground first, and then the home team. If either team unduly wastes time so forming the huddle and/or leaving the ground, that team shall be fined ten (10) penalty units.

### 3.4 TIMES OF MATCHES

- 3.4.1** All premiership matches shall commence at times directed by the Board prior to the commencement of the season or as directed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) during the season. Any club not ready to start at that time will be fined one (1) penalty unit and if exceeded by five (5) minutes or more will be fined three (3) penalty units.

- 3.4.2** Should any club not be ready to start within 20 minutes of the appointed starting time, the opposing captain may claim the match on forfeit. The field umpire shall advise the correct time of day (official time) to the timekeepers or any other responsible official of each competing club, not later than 15 minutes before the appointed starting time on the day of the match.

- 3.4.3** Unless otherwise directed by the Board, the following starting times, match durations and intervals shall apply for all home & away matches:

Grade	Start Time	Match Duration	Interval Duration (minutes)		
			¼ Time	½ Time	¾ Time
Division 1 Seniors	2.15pm	20 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 1 Reserves	12noon	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	15	5
Division 2 Seniors	2.15pm	20 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 2 Reserves	12noon	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	15	5
Division 3 Seniors	2.15pm	20 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 3 Reserves	12noon	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	15	5
Under 19	9.45am	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	15	5
Under 17	2.05pm	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	15	5
Under 16	2.05pm	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	10	5
Under 15	2.05pm	22 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	10	5
Under 14	12.05pm	20 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	10	5

Grade	Start Time	Match Duration	Interval Duration (minutes)		
			¼ Time	½ Time	¾ Time
Under 13	12.05pm	20 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	10	5
Under 12	10.20am	17 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	10	5
Under 11	10.20am	17 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	5	10	5
Under 10	8.50am	15 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	3	7	3
Under 9	8.50am	15 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	3	7	3
Under 18 Girls	2.05pm	17 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	3	10	5
Under 15 Girls	12.05pm	15 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	3	10	5
Under 12 Girls	10.20am	12 minutes for each quarter with no time on added. However clock stops while stretcher on ground.	3	6	3

**3.4.4** Unless otherwise directed by the Board, the following starting times, match durations and intervals shall apply for all finals matches:

Grade	Start Time	Match Duration	Interval Duration (minutes)		
			¼ Time	½ Time	¾ Time
Division 1 Seniors	2.15pm	20 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 1 Reserves	11:50am	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 2 Seniors	2.15pm	20 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 2 Reserves	11:50am	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 3 Seniors	2.15pm	20 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Division 3 Reserves	11:50am	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Under 19	9.30am	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	15	5
Under 17	2.05pm	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 16	2.05pm	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 15	2.05pm	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 14	12.05pm	15 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 13	12.05pm	15 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5



Grade	Start Time	Match Duration	Interval Duration (minutes)		
			¼ Time	½ Time	¾ Time
Under 12	10.20pm	14 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 11	10.20am	14 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 18 Girls	2.05pm	17 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 15 Girls	12.05pm	15 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5
Under 12 Girls	10.20am	12 minutes for each quarter with time on added.	5	10	5

**3.4.5** Under 9 and 10 games must finish by 10.15 am. Failure to so finish will incur a fine of five (5) penalty units for each team.

**3.4.6** Should the third quarter of a Reserves game not commence by 1.10pm, the remaining time before 2.00pm is to be determined, subtracted by five (5) minutes (three quarter time) and divided by two (2). This figure shall be the length of the remaining two quarters.

### **3.5 DEFAULTING CLUBS OR MATCHES NOT COMPLETED**

**3.5.1** In the event of a club failing to play or complete a match as listed in the League's official fixtures:

- a) Any match not completed shall be referred to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will either forward charges direct to the IHC or refer the matter to the Investigation Officer.
- b) In the event of a match not being completed, and the matter being forwarded to the Investigation Officer, the Investigations Officer shall investigate the matter and shall recommend the match result, and any fines applicable to the Board or IHC.

**3.5.2** Subject to by-law 3.5.4 herein any team forfeiting a match must, as soon as possible, notify the opposing team that they are forfeiting the game. The forfeiting team shall pay all cost involved with umpires, unless that team has notified the League by close of business on the Tuesday before the match. The forfeiting team shall pay a fine of ten (10) penalty units. The team that should have played against the forfeiting team shall be awarded the four (4) match points for that game. This team will be credited with the "for" and "against" score recorded by the team that recorded the greatest winning margin in a game in that division of that round. The offending team will receive the "for" and "against" for the team defeated by the greatest margin in a game in that division of that round.

**3.5.3** Where a match is forfeited on the day scheduled for play, the percentage and match points are only awarded to the team forfeited against if that team lodges a duly completed team sheet signed by all players and officials at the League office by 6.00pm on the Sunday following the forfeiture.

**3.5.4** Where any club has more than one (1) team in a division/grade it must forfeit the team in the lower grade first (eg Reserves before Seniors, Under 16B/C before Under 16A and so on). If a higher team is forfeited before the lower team(s) then the club will lose any points and

percentage earned for that game played by the lower teams and fined a sum of up to fifty (50) penalty units after a hearing by the Board who may decide no deliberate intention to forfeit existed contrary to the intention that clubs are required to field their best team wherever possible in which case no penalty shall be imposed.

- 3.5.5** Any club that has been involved in an incomplete match may be liable to pay an amount not exceeding fifty (50) penalty units (amount of which shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)) for the investigation which may be refunded pending the outcome of the IHC Hearing. If the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) determines that any amount is payable by a club in the circumstances set in this clause, the amount will be invoiced to the club.

### **3.6 50 METRE RULE**

- 3.6.1** In all WRFL Senior, Reserves, Under 19, Under 17, Under 16 and Under 15 Boys matches, the 50 metre penalty rule will apply.
- 3.6.2** In under age (Under 9-14 and Under 12 Girls) matches, the 15 metre penalty rule will apply.
- 3.6.3** In Under 18 Girls and Under 15 Girls matches, the 25 metre penalty rule will apply.

3.6.3 added,  
March 2015

### **3.7 GOAL AND BEHIND POSTS, BELL OR SIREN AND FLAG**

- 3.7.1** The club on whose ground the match is being played, shall provide a suitable bell or siren for the use of the timekeeper. Each club shall provide flags for the use of their respective club goal umpires, if required in accordance with by-law 5.6.1. Penalty for unsatisfactory bell/siren – fine of three (3) penalty units.
- 3.7.2** All goal and behind posts must be covered with a protective covering of sufficient height and thickness as per the Laws of Australian Football guidelines to ensure the safety of players. Penalty for not adhering to this is a fine of five (5) penalty units.

### **3.8 EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS**

- 3.8.1** The home club on whose ground the game is being played must provide emergency vehicle access to the playing ovals and that access must be kept clear at all times (if locked they must have a key). A fine of \$100.00 shall be imposed if this by-law is not adhered to.
- 3.8.2** The home club must ensure that a safe stretcher is in clear site of every playing arena and available for the use of both clubs at all times. A fine of ten (10) penalty units shall be imposed if this by-law is not adhered to.

### **3.9 BALLS**

- 3.9.1** The Board shall from time to time specify approved footballs to be used in WRFL authorised matches. No football may be used in any WRFL authorised match that does not comply with the specifications as set down by the Board. From the commencement of the 2014 playing season, Sherrin brand footballs bearing the WRFL logo must be used in all senior official competition games and all junior official competition games.
- 3.9.2** Prior to each home & away match, the home club shall provide the field umpire(s) with two (2) match balls. Match balls may be either red or yellow in colour, at the choice of the home club, but both balls must be the same colour. Ball(s) of the same colour must be used throughout the entire match. At least one (1) of the balls supplied shall be a new ball, while the other may be used but in very good condition. Balls will be subject to approval by the field

Sherrin brand  
footballs added  
November 2013

Requirement to  
use a new ball to  
start Senior  
games deleted  
March 2015.

umpire(s) prior to the start of each match. Ball pressure shall comply with manufacturer's specifications. A fine of ten (10) penalty units shall be imposed for any/each breach of this by-law.

**3.9.3** In the event that both balls provided by the home club have become unfit for play during the progress of the match, and no other satisfactory ball is available, they shall be impounded by the field umpire(s). The match shall be abandoned and referred by the field umpire(s) to the Board. The Board will determine whether the match is to be replayed or not, or determine the result and allocation of points and percentage.

**3.9.4** Ball sizes and types to be used in the various grades of WRFL authorised matches are as follows:

Match Grade	Ball Size / Type
Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10	Size 2 synthetic
Under 11 and Under 12 Boys	Size 3 leather
Under 12 Girls	Size 3 synthetic
Under 13 and Under 14	Size 4 leather
Under 15 Girls	Size 4 leather
Under 15, Under 16 and Under 17	Full size leather (Match or Kangaroo brand)
Under 18 Girls	Size 4 leather
Under 18	Full size leather (Match or Kangaroo brand)
Reserves	Full size leather (Match or Kangaroo brand)
Seniors	Full size leather (Kangaroo brand only)

Table updated to specify Match and Kangaroo brands  
November 2013

### 3.10 GROUND MARKINGS

**3.10.1** The home club shall ensure that the ground is provided with markings as specified in the Laws of Australian Football and by-law 5.3 unless otherwise permitted by the Board. Failure to provide these ground markings will render the club liable for a fine of two (2) penalty units.

**3.10.2** Where grounds are fully or partially fenced (which includes either rockery embankment or any other form of permanent fixtures) the boundary line must be four (4) metres away from such fixture starting 10 metres from the point posts. In breach of this by-law the club will firstly be fined a sum of ten (10) penalty units, second breach (in the same season) it will forfeit the match.

### 3.11 TEAM SHEETS

**3.11.1** A list of players of each team in surname alphabetical order (including players' given names) with their jumper numbers shown on official team sheet provided by the League, shall be handed to the field umpire before the commencement of the match.

- 3.11.2 Additional players (to complete the team's *permitted* number) may take their place in the team at any time before the *start of the final quarter*, provided that the umpire is advised by the runner by giving to the umpire at a break in play a completed approved "Late Arrival Form" and the names and signatures of such players be added to the team list immediately after the conclusion of either the first half, or the final quarter.
- 3.11.3 Players, if requested to do so must sign the team sheets in the presence of officials of the opposing team and must submit their signatures to any Board member of the League if requested to do so.
- 3.11.4 Players in Under 10 and younger grades are not required to sign the teamsheet, however the list of players must be signed by the team Manager to confirm its accuracy.
- 3.11.5 Failure to comply with the above by-laws will render the club liable to a fine of up to one hundred (100) penalty units and loss of match points. Percentage shall be dealt with as per that of an ineligible player (by-law 4.2) should a club be found guilty of any breach.
- 3.11.6 In the event of a club forfeiting an engagement, the opposing team must submit an official team sheet of its players for the match to the umpire(s) (if available) of the League before the starting time of the match in question should have been played or, if no League umpire, to the League before 6.00pm on the day of the forfeited match.
- 3.11.7 Jumper numbers must not be duplicated in a club's Senior and Reserve team.

### **3.12 RESULT OF MATCHES**

- 3.12.1 The timekeeper(s) and goal umpires shall, at end of each quarter and at the conclusion of the match, compare scores together and if there is a dispute then the goal umpires' scores shall be final.
- 3.12.2 Any dispute as to correctness of scores shall be referred to the General Manager Football Operations for decision.
- 3.12.3 The home club shall be responsible for entering the results online at the conclusion of each match by 5:30pm or as directed by the Board each season and clubs failing to comply shall be fined three (3) penalty units.
- 3.12.4 Clubs with Senior Grade teams may be required to forward scores on match days in the way of short message service "SMS" to a designated WRFL representative. Failure to comply will result in a fine of one (1) penalty unit for each indiscretion.

### **3.13 CLUB MATCH REPORTS**

It shall be the duty of the administrator of each club to forward any official report on umpire form to reach the GM – Football Operations of the League by 12 **noon** on the Wednesday following the match. Failure to comply with this by-law in any particular way will render the club liable to a fine of three (3) penalty units.

### **3.14 REPORTABLE OFFENCES**

#### **3.14.1 Definition**

A reportable offence includes but is not limited to:

- a) reportable offences identified in the Rules and by-laws of the WRFL;
- b) reportable offences identified in Laws of Australian Football; and
- c) any offence under any of the above as amended from time to time including without limitation a breach of the WRFL Anti-Doping rules or a breach of the WRFL Racial and Religious Vilification rule.

#### **3.14.2 Deemed Misconduct**

Where it is alleged that a person has engaged in an activity constituting misconduct, a finding by the League, Tribunal, IHC or Appeal Board that activity has in fact occurred, shall be deemed misconduct.

#### **3.14.3 Reporting of Players and/or Match Officials**

**3.14.3.1** Where a person is involved in an incident which may constitute a reportable offence, any umpire(s) appointed by the WRFL or deemed under these by-laws shall report that person with such reportable offence and, subject to these by-laws, that person shall be referred to the Tribunal for hearing and determination by the Tribunal. Where any person involved in an incident which may constitute a reportable offence cannot be identified but can be shown to be with a club, the club can be reported. If the umpire reports during a match, subject to these by-laws the person reported shall be informed of the report at the first practicable time during the match.

**3.14.3.2** All umpires appointed by the WRFL shall be provided by the League with an approved form (or if not available, paper of any description may be used) on which particulars of any charge or charges he/she may make against players or match officials shall be shown. Such form shall be filled in quadruplicate and shall be signed by the umpire making the charge(s).

**3.14.3.3** The field umpire, at the termination of the match, shall hand one (1) copy of each form containing the charge to an official of each club. Players agreeing to take an automatic suspension shall follow the procedure that has been shown in by-law 3.14.4 herein. The original form containing the charges laid shall be lodged by the field umpire with the General Manager Football Operations or representative of the League by 6.00pm on the Sunday of the same weekend of the match.

**3.14.3.4** Each club shall be responsible for the attendance of an official at the door of the umpires room at the termination of the match for a period of thirty (30) minutes (or such longer time that may be reasonable if multiple reports are involved, or such longer time when the umpires safety may be a risk), and in the event of non-attendance the club in default shall be fined up to ten (10) penalty units.

**3.14.3.5** The umpire making charge(s); the alleged offending player(s) and/or official(s); and player(s) and/or person(s) offended against, whose name or names appear on the charges sheet, shall all attend the meeting of the Tribunal at which the charge made by the umpire shall be heard.

**3.14.3.6** All cases reported to the Tribunal will be heard at 6.00pm or as directed by the League on the Tuesday following the match. All parties must be present at the scheduled time, and no additional notice to attend will be issued by the League.

**3.14.3.7** In the event of any party not being in attendance at the Tribunal by the specified time, it will be the sole prerogative of the Tribunal to deal with or defer the hearing as they deem fit. Any alteration to these arrangements will be officially conveyed to all parties in sufficient time to permit them to be present at the time and place to be indicated in the amending notice.

**3.14.3.8** Umpire(s) may direct on their report charge(s) for the attendance of any player in a match to appear at the meeting of the Tribunal as a witness and if not in attendance such player may be dealt with as the Tribunal deems fit.

#### **3.14.4 Procedure for automatic suspension**

**3.14.4.1** The club Delegate, when receiving the ALL CLEAR from the umpires, should be advised that their player has been reported and if the player has been offered a set penalty as provided for herein. The reporting official may, at their sole discretion, offer the prescribed set penalty for the following offences:

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>SET PENALTY</b>
Disputing a decision of an umpire;	1 match
Use of an obscene gesture;	1 match
Intentionally, recklessly or negligently tripping or attempting to trip, another person whether by hand, foot, arm or leg;	1 match
Engaging in time wasting;	1 match
Intentionally, recklessly or negligently throwing or pushing another player after that player has taken a mark, disposed of the football or after the football is otherwise out of play;	1 match
Intentionally, recklessly or negligently engaging in rough play against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable;	1 match
Attempting to strike another person;	1 match
Wrestling another person;	1 match
Using abusive, Insulting, threatening or obscene language;	1 match
Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by the field umpire;	1 match
Wearing boots, jewellery or equipment prohibited under law 9 of the Laws of Australian Football	1 match
Using language or behaving in a manner that is abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene towards or in relation to an umpire;	2 matches
Intentionally, recklessly or negligently striking another person;	2 matches

OFFENCE	SET PENALTY
Intentionally, recklessly or negligently charging another person;	2 matches
Any act of misconduct (details to be provided);	2 matches

**3.14.4.2** If the player has been offered a set penalty, the club Delegate must confer with the reported player to ascertain the player's willingness to accept the set penalty, and report back to the umpires with the player's decision within 20 minutes of receiving notification of the report.

**3.14.4.3** In the event that it is not possible for the club Delegate to confer with a player who has been offered a set penalty after receiving notification of the report, then the report will be referred to the Tribunal for determination. In all such cases, the General Manager Football Operations shall have sole discretion, prior to the Tribunal hearing the case, to accept or reject a request from the player that the set penalty be applied and the Tribunal hearing be cancelled.

**3.14.4.4** In the event that a player initially refuses to accept the offer of a set penalty and subsequently changes his mind prior to the Tribunal hearing, the General Manager Football Operations shall have sole discretion to accept or reject a request from the player that the set penalty be applied and the Tribunal hearing be cancelled.

Amended March 2016.

In the event that a player accepts the offer of a set penalty, the General Manager Football Operations shall have absolute discretion to withdraw/overturn the set penalty and refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal for determination. Any decision by the GMFO to withdraw/overturn a set penalty and refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal for determination must be communicated to the player's club no later than 5:00pm on the Monday following the game in which the matter was reported.

**3.14.4.5** Set penalty provisions do not apply to:

- a) any club official reported; or
- b) any player that has already taken a set penalty in the same season (a player is entitled to accept one (1) set penalty in each and every season he/she plays in).

**3.14.4.6** if the League records show the player was not eligible to receive the set penalty, but accepted a set penalty which was offered, then and in that case the GMFO shall refer the offence to the Tribunal for hearing in accordance with these by-laws;

**3.14.4.7** if the set penalty was given by the umpire as a result of the player or the club Delegate advising the umpire that the player had not already taken a set penalty in the same season the player shall receive a two match suspension and the offence will be handled under by-law 3.14.4.8 herein;

**3.14.4.8** any player reported who is:

- a) not offered a set penalty; or
- b) who chooses not to accept the set penalty offered; or
- c) is reported for any of the following offences:

- intentionally, recklessly or negligently making contact with or striking an umpire;
- attempting to make contact with or strike an umpire;
- intentionally, recklessly or negligently spitting at or on another person;
- intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicking or attempting to kick another person;

must attend the Independent Tribunal for the charges to be heard.

- 3.14.5** A player or official found guilty of intentionally striking or making serious contact with the umpire will receive a – life suspension. (NB: Life means 20 years with the right of appeal only against finding of guilt (not severity of penalty)). The Tribunal may find the player not guilty under this by-law if, on the facts, it appears the contact was not intentional but reckless or negligent or only attempted to make contact with or strike the umpire.
- 3.14.6** A player or official found guilty of recklessly making contact with an umpire, or, attempting to make contact or strike an umpire, will receive a minimum 12 month suspension, with the right of appeal only against finding of guilt (not severity of penalty).
- 3.14.7** A player or official found guilty of negligently making contact with an umpire, will be suspended with the term of suspension to be determined by the Tribunal, with the right of appeal only against finding of guilt (not severity of penalty).
- 3.14.8** Any club official that is found guilty of striking or attempting to strike a player or official, misconduct in that they actively engaged in melee, or any other relevant act shall receive a minimum 12 month suspension from any official capacity, with the right of appeal against finding of guilt (not severity of sentence).
- 3.14.9** Where a Senior team player or official from one WRFL club coaches a Junior team from another WRFL club and incurs a Tribunal or IHC penalty, at either club, he will serve that penalty both as a player and a coach simultaneously.
- 3.14.10** A player who is suspended in any grade for any number of matches, shall be suspended for the number of rounds in which that team he/she was reported in plays. Any suspension carrying over from one season to the next shall be served in the grade in which the player is registered. A round consists of all games played in any weekend and a bye representative or exhibition match shall not be considered as match being played.

### **3.15 BEST AND FAIREST VOTING**

- 3.15.1** The field umpire shall include on his/her official match report his/her selection of the three (3) best and fairest players in the match umpired by the umpire to be Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in order of preference. No. 1 to receive three (3) votes, No. 2 to receive two (2) votes and No. 3 to receive one (1) vote.
- 3.15.2** At the end of the home and away matches, the votes will be counted and the player receiving the most votes will receive the trophy. The count back shall not apply, and in the case of a tie, the award shall be shared.
- 3.15.3** Any player who has incurred disqualification at home and away matches shall be ineligible to receive the award in the year in which the penalty was incurred.



### **3.16 REPORTING OF UMPIRE BY CLUBS**

- 3.16.1** Any affiliated club shall have the power to report any League umpire for inefficiency or neglect of duty.
- 3.16.2** Any charge against a League umpire shall be in writing and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) by 6.00pm on the Monday following the match accompanied with a deposit to the value of ten (10) penalty units. One (1) copy of the charge shall be forwarded to the umpire concerned by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and both clubs and umpire concerned advised of the time and place where the charge will be dealt with by the Independent Hearing Committee.

### **3.17 CLUB UNIFORMS AND COLOURS**

- 3.17.1** For Under 8, Under 9 and 10 teams shorts to be worn shall be special colour registered with the League for all home and away matches.
- 3.17.2** For all other grades the home team shall wear their club-colour shorts registered with the League, while the visiting team must wear white shorts.
- 3.17.3** Undergarments (eg compression shorts or tops) worn by players must be beige in colour. Upper body undergarments must not extend beyond the player's jumper (ie sleeveless upper body undergarments must be worn with sleeveless jumpers); and lower body undergarments must not extend below the knee.
- 3.17.4** Other garment types in addition to a player's uniform are not permitted to be worn unless prior approval is granted by the League.
- 3.17.5** A fine of \$100.00 will be imposed if five or more players in any team are incorrectly attired. In addition, the following fines will apply for each individual player's uniform breach:
- incorrect shorts (colour) 0.5 penalty units per player;
  - incorrect socks 0.5 penalty units per player;
  - incorrect jumper one (1) penalty unit per player, and
  - incorrect undergarments (eg bike shorts or undergarments) colour and/or style 0.5 penalty units per player.
- 3.17.6** all players must wear WRFL "webbing insert" shorts, from Season 2002 onwards. Penalty for non compliance 0.5 penalty units per player.
- 3.17.7** The colours of the League shall be red, white and blue.
- 3.17.8** Alterations of club uniforms including attachment of advertising logo badges, etc., shall be submitted to the CEO for approval. Umpire apparel advertising must also be approved.

### **3.18 SPONSOR LOGOS**

#### **3.18.1 Jumpers**

**3.18.1.1** Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on their jumpers. Such logos shall be located:

- a) on the back of the jumper, a minimum of 2 cm either above OR below the player number and have a maximum height of 10 cm and a maximum width of 30cm; and/or
- b) on the front of the jumper on the breast opposite the approved WRFL logo and have a maximum size of 64 square cm (8cm x 8cm).

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

#### **3.18.2 Shorts**

**3.18.2.1** Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on the front of the playing shorts. Such logos shall be a maximum size of 64 square cm (8cm x 8cm).

**3.18.2.2** No logos will be approved for addition to the back of playing shorts.

Fine: one (1) penalty unit per player.

### **3.19 LACE UP JUMPERS**

Lace up jumpers are not to be worn during home and away games and finals.

### **3.20 ROPING OFF GOAL AND BEHIND AREA**

Each home team playing on unenclosed arenas shall secure off the area immediately behind the goal/point post area of not less than four metres, unless a second line has been provided, making certain nobody goes into that area except the goal umpire PROVIDED HOWEVER it shall not be secured with any form of stake or other device that may represent a danger to any player or other person. Failure to comply, the game will not start until it is complied with and the offending club shall be fined for a late start and the other provisions by-law 3.4 shall apply.

### **3.21 ORDER OFF RULE**

**3.21.1** Any player or match official may be ordered from the field, for any offence of manhandling, assault or threatening an umpire during the progress of any match and shall be precluded from returning to the field for the remainder of the match, and shall be reported by the field umpire. The umpire will show a RED card. Any such player so ordered off cannot be replaced.

**3.21.2** The field umpire shall have the power to report to the Tribunal and/or order from the field any player or official who during any match commits a reportable offence or whose actions are not considered in the best interest of the League. The offender shall be shown a YELLOW card and is to remain off the field for a period of 15 minutes, in which time they cannot be replaced.

**3.21.3** Upon being shown the YELLOW card the offender must go directly to the coaches box, save any match official who must leave the playing arena (behind the fence or four meters behind the boundary line), and remain there for the duration of the order off period. The official team

runner must report to the timekeepers who will note the time that the report was received (not the time of the incident triggering the send-off) and advise the official or player through the runner when a further period of 15 minutes is completed.

- 3.21.4** Any player ordered off who does not go straight to the coaches box, or remain there (unless carried off or via the blood rule), will not be able to return for the remainder of the match, but can be replaced after the 15 minutes has elapsed, unless the player had been ordered off for the second time in the match.
- 3.21.5** In the event of a player or official failing or refusing to leave the ground when ordered off, they shall be reported for misconduct, the match shall terminate and the offending player's team deemed to have forfeited.
- 3.21.6** Any player or match official ordered from the field for the second time during any match, shall be precluded from returning to the field for the remainder of the match, and shall be reported by the field umpire. The umpire shall show a RED card, the player cannot be replaced.
- 3.21.7** In the event of a player or players being ordered off while on the interchange bench, the team shall be required to remove the equivalent number of players from the field for the duration of the send-off (example: two players are sent off while on the bench, the team must play with 16 players for the duration of the send-off). The player or players who received the order off cannot play during the order off period.
- 3.21.8** In all home/away and finals games, all officially appointed umpires in addition to the field umpire appointed to that game shall have the power to order players or match officials from the playing field. They shall contact the field umpire at the first opportunity who shall direct the player or match official in accordance with by-laws 3.21.1 and 3.21.2.
- 3.21.9** Any player or match official ordered off for a third occasion during the one (1) season shall automatically receive a one (1) week suspension. A fourth order off shall incur a two (2) week suspension, a fifth order off shall incur a three (3) week suspension. Further send offs shall result in the player appearing before the WRFL Board.
- 3.21.10** Any such suspensions shall be served cumulatively with any penalty handed down by the Tribunal, IHC or accepted under by-law 3.14.4 (automatic penalty). Any player/official ordered off who is reported for the incident for which they were ordered off, and subsequently found not guilty, the send-off shall not apply for the purpose of calculating a suspension under this by-law.

### **3.22 PROTECTION OF UMPIRES**

- 3.22.1** It is the responsibility of both competing clubs to protect the safety of all umpires in all grades appointed to officiate at any WRFL match before, during and after the completion of such matches.
- 3.22.2** Each club shall supply one (1) escort at the quarter-time, half-time, three quarter-time and end of match breaks during home and away matches and two (2) escorts during finals matches. It is also the clubs' responsibility to ensure that all officials appointed as umpire escorts are fully conversant with the duties involved in their role as umpire escort, in protecting the officiating umpires.

- 3.22.3** It is the responsibility of all WRFL Clubs to ensure that the umpires escort is of a mature age (18 years of age or older) and a responsible person who in case of trouble can come to the umpires aid.
- 3.22.4** All team escorts must have an official WRFL escort jacket or other form of identification approved by the Board which must be worn at all times, to indicate to the officiating umpire they are the official umpires escort. These persons must offer all umpires drinks at all breaks and will be the umpires' contacts for the duration of the match.
- 3.22.5** All club officials representing their clubs as umpire escorts must stand in close attendance to the field umpires' huddle at both quarter and three quarter time and must line up one (1) escort each side and close to the umpiring panel when they are leaving the ground at half time and upon completion of the game to the umpires' change rooms and return to escort the League goal umpires to the umpires change rooms.
- 3.22.6** The escorts must be at the entrance to the playing arena, together at the end of the quarter ready to move onto the ground and assume their duties to protect the umpires.
- 3.22.7** It is the officiating umpire's responsibility to report any umpires escort who do not meet the above umpires escort criteria for protecting WRFL umpires and specify the failure in the report.
- 3.22.8** Clubs may be requested to provide two (2) or more escorts to certain games, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or representative.
- 3.22.9** Clubs failing to provide escorts or where escorts fail to properly attend to the field or other League umpire the offending club(s) will be liable to a fine of five (5) penalty units for each offending quarter.
- 3.22.10** This by-law applies to all Senior and Junior grades, both home & away and finals. In all home and away and finals games in all senior and junior grades, the home club shall supply four (4) large cones which must be placed, by the Umpires' escorts, in the centre of the ground at all breaks that the umpires stay on the ground. The only people allowed inside the coned area are the umpires and any other umpire or observer in official uniform, any trainer the umpires' may have requested and the escorts. If the cones are not supplied the home club shall be fined twenty (20) penalty units and if not taken out at the prescribed breaks the offending club shall be fined five (5) penalty units for each quarter not taken out.

### **3.23 LOCKABLE FACILITY**

Every home club must provide a key to the away clubs and umpires rooms in order to provide a lockable facility. These keys can only be given to the club administrator, President or nominated club official and officiating umpires (fine for non-compliance ten (10) penalty units). Providing the home club has lockable facilities and has a key readily available (at canteen or with some known/nominated official) it shall have complied with this by-law.

### **3.24 SCOREBOARDS**

All home clubs shall provide and operate a satisfactory scoreboard. Failure to comply with this by-law will render the club liable to a fine of three (3) penalty units.

### 3.25 COACHES BOX

*This By-law will be revised to require coaches' boxes to be on the same side of ground, either side of interchange area. As negotiation with Councils will take some time, by-law provision will be made for both current and proposed locations of coaches' boxes for an interim period. Where coaches' boxes are located on the same side of ground, players shall interchange in accordance with Law 7.2 (Laws of Australian Football). This by-law will be further revised at a future time.*

*Exclusion zone added March 2015.*

By the commencement of Season 2005 all clubs must have two "coaches' boxes" being all weather facilities able to hold all interchange players and authorised persons for each team and those boxes are to be located on opposite sides of the ground. The home team's box shall be the one located nearest its club rooms, the opposition box will be that on the other side of the ground.

#### Coaches' Box – White Line

A marked white line must be placed one (1) metre outside the boundary line immediately in front of the coaches' box. All approved club officials occupying the coaches' box must stand behind this line during the course of the game in order not to hinder the movement of the boundary umpires around the boundary line.

Failure to stand behind the white line will incur a fine of five (5) penalty units for each offence. All such approved club officials cannot go around the boundary line further than 5 metres from either side of the "coaching bench area" save the runner or the trainer in the course of performing their duties and interchange players during warm up runs. Failure to comply is a fine of five (5) penalty units for each offence.

#### Coaches' Box – Exclusion Zone

Each home team shall secure an exclusion zone immediately around each of the coaches' boxes of not less than one (1) metre behind and three (3) metres to both sides, making certain nobody goes into that area except those eligible under by-law 3.26 to be on the coaches bench. The club whose officials occupy each of the coaches' boxes shall be responsible to ensure that no unauthorised person(s) enter the exclusion zone. The game will not start/continue until both exclusion zones are clear. Where applicable the offending club(s) shall be subject to fine(s) of ten (10) penalty units for each failure to comply.

### 3.26 NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE CLUB OFFICIALS

The only persons allowed on the bench are the coach, three (3) assistant coaches, team manager, club runner, one (1) trainer and the interchange players. The players are to be in the box or nearby unless warming up, but cannot stand or be within two (2) metres of the boundary line. No other person on the playing arena may be within five (5) metres of the coach's box (this includes parents and non-officials and any other persons, but does not mean behind the coaches box/fence line). If any team breaches this by-law that team's club shall have a free kick paid against them to be taken where it is awarded or where the football is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.

*Where coaches' boxes are located on the same side of the ground, interchange of players shall be conducted as specified in the Laws of Australian Football (refer also By-law 3.25)*

### 3.27 INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

Senior grade teams shall be permitted to have four (4) interchange players. Reserve grade teams six (6) interchange players, Under 18 teams seven (7) interchange players, Under 16 to Under 11 teams seven (7) interchange players. Clubs shall have free interchange at their discretion during home and away games and finals. The player leaving the ground must interchange at the coach's box with the player entering the ground (with the exception of seriously injured players). If not adhered to player cannot re-enter the arena for the remainder of the game.

### **3.28 FINALS MATCHES**

In the event of a draw in any of the final series of matches up to and including the Grand Final, the match shall be continued for a period of five (5) minutes with no time on each end until one of the competing teams is deemed to be the winner. At the completion of official time both goal umpires will confer and confirm to the field umpire the scores are level and if this is confirmed both teams will change ends and play for five (5) minutes.

After five (5) minutes, both teams will again change ends and play for five (5) minutes at which time both goal umpires will confer again. During such extra play, coaches are not permitted to address their players. The above by-laws apply to the senior divisions but extra time will include time on.

### **3.29 DRUG AND TESTING PENALTIES**

All WRFL players and officials are bound by the provisions of the AFL Anti-Doping Code.

### **3.30 ALUMINIUM STOPS**

The wearing of aluminium football stops in all grades of WRFL competition is not permitted.

### **3.31 MELEES**

#### **3.31.1 Definition**

An incident involving **3 or more** players who are pushing, scragging, wrestling or otherwise struggling with one another. The incident, in the opinion of the umpire or any other appointed officer of the WRFL, is likely to bring the game of Australian Rules football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the WRFL or the competitions conducted by the WRFL.

#### **3.31.2 Melee Involving Spectators**

In the event that spectator(s) should enter the playing field to become involved in a melee, the field umpire(s) shall have discretion to immediately abandon the game if it is perceived that there is undue risk to umpires, players or match officials.

#### **3.31.3 Incident & Penalty Procedure**

- a) All umpires appointed by the WRFL, and WRFL League officials shall be provided by the League with an approved incident advice form (or if not available, paper of any description may be used) on which the incident of a melee shall be reported.
- b) Such form shall be filled in quadruplicate and shall be signed by the umpire(s) making the incident report.
- c) The field umpire, at the termination of the match, shall hand one (1) copy of each form containing the melee report to an official of each club.
- d) The original form containing the melee report shall be lodged by the field umpire with the GM – Football Operations or representative of the League by 6.00pm on the Sunday of the weekend of the match.
- e) Fines shall be charged to the club's account

#### **3.31.4 Penalties**

Team 1st offence (in one season): ten (10) penalty units  
Team 2nd offence (in one season): thirty (30) penalty units  
Team 3rd offence (in one season): fifty (50) penalty units

## 4 ADMINISTRATION

### 4.1 PLAYERS

#### 4.1.1 Registration

**4.1.1.1** To gain registration, every player must register on the League's prescribed forms which must be lodged prior to 12noon Friday prior to the commencement of the first match in which he/she takes part. The forms must be completed IN FULL. If they are not they will be returned to the club. Such registration shall be confirmed when they appear on the WRFL website and Online Database. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that all players participating are registered players within the League.

**4.1.1.2** Any player wishing to transfer between clubs must register a transfer on the League's prescribed form (in full), enter the transfer online and submit a copy to the League office. The defending club must reply to the transfer within six (6) full working days, with day one (1) being the day it was received at the League office. If the defending club fails to reply to the transfer within that time the transfer will be automatically granted.

#### 4.1.1.3 Limit to Number of Players Transferring Between Member Clubs:

- a) Definitions: For the purpose of this By-law:
- "age group" refers to the Junior Official Competition grades and to the Under 18 grade.
- b) No more than three (3) players of any single age group shall be permitted to transfer in any year from any one affiliated club to any other particular affiliated club unless:
- i. the club from which more than three (3) players of any single age group apply to transfer agrees in writing to such transfer(s); and
  - ii. every such application is approved, in his/her absolute discretion by the General Manager Football operations.
- c) In the event that a club from which more than three (3) players wish to transfer in accordance with 4.1.1.3 (b) (i) does not agree to the transfer(s), the player(s) so refused may make written application to the General Manager Football Operations for special permission to transfer. The General Manager Football Operations shall consider all materials and matters relevant to the application, including but not limited to the impact on the club from which transfer is sought and may approve or refuse the application in his/her absolute discretion.

By-law 4.1.1.3  
added 19 Aug.  
2013

**4.1.1.4** Notwithstanding any other rule or rules to the contrary but subject to the two year rule where two members being a Senior club and a Junior club share the same ground and facilities and are declared "Special Clubs" (a register of Special Clubs will be held at the League) [for example Altona Football Club Inc. and Altona Junior Football Club Inc.] at the beginning of the year, the Junior club shall have the right to grant a permit to play to an Under 18 player to play with the Senior club on a particular day or a particular series of days on whatever terms and conditions that Junior club wishes to impose then that player can play with that Senior club strictly in accordance with the permit without being cleared to the Senior club providing that permit is lodged at the League by no later than 2.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the game or games depending on the terms of the permit.

- 4.1.1.5 The Junior club as defined under by-law 4.1.1.4 shall have the sole discretion on whether to grant the permit or not and the right to revoke the permit if the Senior club breach any other the conditions set.
- 4.1.1.6 If such a permit is granted then when playing under the permit the player will be regarded a member of the Senior club and the Senior club shall have the same liability for the player as it has for its own registered players.
- 4.1.1.7 This by-law provides for a playing permit only and is not to be deemed as a transfer and the Senior club has no right to automatically claim the player when he leaves the Junior club.

#### 4.1.2 Under-Age Eligibility

- 4.1.2.1 To be eligible for registration, all players must attain the age of 7 years no later than 30 April of the year of the season in which they wish to play.

The eligibility of an under-age competition player shall be determined by the age of the player on the last day of December immediately prior to the start of the current season.

In all Junior grades, subject to by-law 4.1.2.3, no player shall be permitted to play if any more than two (2) years younger than the eligibility date of the oldest Junior age group in which he/she qualifies to play.

- 4.1.2.2 For Under 18 grades only, a maximum of six (6) "overage" players of Under 19 age qualification may be registered to compete in each Under 18 team. All such overage players must have been registered to play with the club's Under 18 team in the season immediately prior. Registration as an overage player will not be granted to any player who has previously played a senior (first 18) official game. Registration as an overage player will automatically lapse and will not be reinstated in the event that the player plays in any Senior (first 18) game or in more than four (4) Reserves official games.

- 4.1.2.3 An application can be made to the General Manager Football Operations for a player to play in a higher age group than permitted in 4.1.2.1 and General Manager Football Operations shall not give permission unless:

- a) the application has been made in writing by the club (signed by the President and Secretary of that club) and nominating in that application the team the player will play in;
- b) written permission of the player's parents or legal guardian, giving their consent to the player playing in a higher division (outside his/her age group); and
- c) in the opinion of the General Manager Football Operations:
  - iii. there is a genuine reason for the player to play in a higher age group/division; and
  - iv. the player has the necessary skill and physique to play in the higher age group.

- 4.1.2.4 The WRFL may grant a player permission to play in the age group below their age where a legitimate disability exists. A disability is defined as having a physical, sensory or intellectual impairment which has caused significant loss or reduction in ability. A club may apply for an exemption for a player by providing relevant medical evidence to the General Manager Football Operations for assessment. The application for exemption will be

By-law 4.1.2.1  
amended  
March 2016



approved or denied at the discretion of the General Manager Football Operations, and the WRFL will reserve the right to review or rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time.

- 4.1.2.5** If either the General Manager Football Operations or the Board challenge eligibility then the onus is on the club to prove to the Independent Hearing Committee (“IHC”) (their decision may be appealed to the Appeal Board herein) that the player is eligible and until proved the player will be deemed not eligible.

**Movement of players between teams during home and away season:**

- 4.1.2.6** Where a club has multiple teams in the under 11 to under 16 age groups movement of players between teams is subject to the following:
- a) When a higher grade team has a bye no player who played in that team in the previous round will be permitted to play with a team in a lower grade in the same age group or lower age group.
  - b) If the lower grade or lower age group team has a genuine shortage of players the club may seek approval of the General Manager Football Operations for utilisation of players from the higher grade or age group team.

Penalty for breach: treated as per ineligible player (refer by-law 4.2)

**Under-age Player Registration (all under age divisions up to and including Under 18's):**

- 4.1.2.7** No person may play in any competition match authorised or conducted by the League, unless that person has:
- a) lodged an application for registration on-line with the League for an affiliated club;
  - b) lodged a copy of the registration form to the League not later than 12noon on the Friday prior to the commencement of the first match in which he/she takes part.

- 4.1.2.8** The registration will be confirmed when the player appears on the WRFL website and on line database.

- 4.1.2.9** Proof of age must be obtained by the club when a player registers with the League and may be:

- a birth certificate or extract; or
- a passport; or
- such other proof of age, documentary or otherwise, that the GMFO shall in his or her absolute discretion deem appropriate in a particular case.

Evidence obtained as proof of age must be provided to the League by the club within 24 hours if requested by the League.

- 4.1.2.10** No permit to play will be dealt with prior to the first day of February in any season and transfer requirements still apply.

- 4.1.2.11** It is the responsibility of all club officials to carry out the above procedures. Failure to comply will result in loss of match points. The offending team will be credited with the “for” and “against” score recorded by the team that was defeated by the greatest winning

By-law 4.1.2.9  
amended  
March 2016

margin in a game in that division of that round. The team that played the offending team shall receive the “for” and “against” score for the team that won by the greatest winning margin in a game in that division of that round. Should the greatest winning margin be the game in question, then the teams shall receive the “for” and “against” for that game. A fine of up to fifty (50) penalty units per player can also be applied by the Board.

#### **4.1.3 Female Participation**

**4.1.3.1** Females can play in mixed competition within the WRFL up to and including the Under 14 grades.

**4.1.3.2** Females can participate in all under age competitions if they are all same sex participants.

## **4.2 UNREGISTERED OR INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

The onus of the eligibility of players shall be placed on the club concerned and in any instances of unregistered ineligible or unqualified players taking part in matches shall be referred to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or representative and an investigation immediately put in hand. If after due investigation, either the club or the player is found guilty, the club loses all match points from that or any other game the unregistered or ineligible player has played in and the points in question will be awarded to the opposition team. The offending team will be credited with the “for” and “against” score recorded by the team that was defeated by the greatest winning margin in a game in that division of that round. Should the greatest winning margin be the game in question, then the teams shall receive the “for” and “against” for that game. The club shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit and a fine of up to one hundred (100) penalty units per player can be imposed by the Board.

## **4.3 PLAYER PERMITS AND TRANSFERS**

### **4.3.1 Control:**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall ensure that permits of players are dealt with in accordance with the Rules of AFL Victoria or other body controlling football at State level, and this League and the applicant must appear in person, if required, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall have the power to ask for any proof required, without giving any reason therefore, and may at his/her discretion cancel or withdraw any permit. Players and officials who are registered with the WRFL or seeking registration with any Senior, Reserve and Under 18 grade team will be subject to de-registration/non-registration in accordance with the AFL Player & Official National De-registration Policy.

### **4.3.2 Transfer Appeal (Domestic):**

**4.3.2.1** A player who has been refused a transfer may appeal to the League. The appeal must be lodged within seven (7) full working days of the refused transfer being received by the League. The appeal will be heard by the IHC and a player will have the right to one (1) appeal only in any given season. Upon lodgement of the appeal the club will be invoiced a sum equivalent to twenty five (25) penalty units. This comprises a non-refundable administrative fee equivalent to five (5) penalty units, and deposit equivalent to twenty (20) penalty units. Upon notification of such an appeal, the defending club must acknowledge their intentions to defend the appeal within two (2) full working days of the notice and will be invoiced a deposit equivalent to twenty (20) penalty units. Player requiring a domestic transfer must have had one (1) refused transfer prior to lodging his/her appeal. Clubs reaching transfer agreement prior to the scheduled appeal hearing must advise the League no later than 48 hours prior to the said hearing.

Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of twenty (20) penalty units lodgement fee. Clubs reaching transfer agreement following a denied appeal may have the transfer approved by lodging with the League.

**4.3.2.2** Either appeal or defence, which is deemed frivolous, may result in the deposit being forfeited. If either party fails to attend, their deposit will be forfeited.

**4.3.2.3** The following players are granted an automatic transfer under these by-laws:

- a) any player who has not played in any home and away or finals games, or WRFL organised pre-season games, for a continuous period of twenty four (24) months within this League, provided however if he/she was suspended from playing under these by-laws then the twenty four (24) month period shall not commence to run until that suspension has been completed;
- b) where the player is registered with a club, which does not have any team in which he/she is eligible to play, provided the player does not owe his/her club any money/property.

**4.3.2.4** The IHC shall only hear evidence relevant to the submitted transfer/appeal forms. One (1) advocate only shall be permitted to represent player at appeal hearings.

**4.3.2.5** No transfers will be dealt with before the first day of February or lodged after the first day of July each year. Internal transfers only, may be lodged with the approval of all parties as from the first day of October until the last day of November each year.

**4.3.2.6** Player lodging appeal must be in attendance at the appeal.

**4.3.3** Playing of AFL or VFL or any Senior Interstate Grade First Eighteen Players:

**4.3.3.1** A player selected to play a match in either VFL Senior or Reserve grade or TAC Cup competition shall not be allowed to play with OR be selected by his WRFL club during that same round/weekend.

#### **4.4 INELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

**4.4.1** Disqualified Players:

No player who has been disqualified for on field breaches or a misdemeanour in any way by the AFL, VFL or any affiliated club with AFL Victoria or other body controlling football at State level, shall be allowed to play with any club of this League until such disqualification expires or has been removed by the body which made the disqualification.

**4.4.2** Suspended Players and/or Officials:

Any club, in suspending a player or official from its ranks, shall forward to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or representative of the League within one (1) week of such suspension the name of the person together with particulars of the offence for which he/she was suspended and that suspension shall be deemed to be a suspension by the League and the League's records will show that suspension.

**4.4.3** Any player subject to challenge under by-law 4.1.2.5 herein shall be ineligible to play until the matter is determined.

#### **4.5 PLAYING OF PLAYERS CONTRACTED TO THE AFL, VFL, TAC CUP AND ANY SENIOR INTERSTATE GRADE CLUB**

- 4.5.1** A player who is contracted to one of these bodies and is selected to play for his contracted club cannot play for his WRFL club on the same weekend (a player on the supplementary list may be excluded from this by-law upon special circumstances).
- 4.5.2** VFL clubs will nominate a list of players or such number set by the VFL or body that administers football for the VFL prior to Round 1 of their season. These players will remain as registered players of their original club providing they are registered within the by-laws. If a player is nominated by a VFL club on their list of then he cannot play with his registered club without written permission from his VFL club.
- 4.5.3** All WRFL Senior players shall be deemed to participate under the terms and conditions as stated in the Standard Playing Contract – Community Football, regardless of being contracted or not (see Appendix C).
- 4.5.4** WRFL clubs which sign up players on contracts must use the Standard Playing Contract – Community Football, regardless of being contracted or not (see Appendix C).

#### **4.6 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR FINALS**

- 4.6.1** Eligibility to play in Senior Official Competition Finals Games:

**4.6.1.1** To be eligible for Senior and/or Reserve grade finals games, players must play a minimum of six (6) home and away games with that club. Any player who has played half the possible home and away games (taking account of any byes) plus one (1) game during the season with teams in a higher grade may not play in a finals game in a lower grade. Players who play in two (2) or more games in the same weekend can only count the game played in the higher grade as qualifying for finals.

4.6.1.1 & 4.6.1.2  
clarified March  
2015.

**4.6.1.2** Clubs who have their Senior and Reserve grade teams (subject to by-law 4.1.2.1) playing in finals games on the same weekend will be allowed free interchange of players between those teams for that weekend's finals games provided that no player may play more than one (1) finals game on the same weekend (unless special circumstances arise, which must be approved by the General Manager Football Operations (GMFO) or his/her representative.

4.6.1.2, 4.1.6.4 &  
4.6.1.5 amended  
March 2016

**4.6.1.3** Subject to by-law 4.6.1.2, to be eligible for Reserve grade finals games players must have played in at least two (2) Reserve grade games in that season.

**4.6.1.4** To be eligible for Under 19 finals games, players must have played at least five (5) Under 19 grade games in the team they wish to represent in finals or, subject to by-law 4.1.2.1 (the "two year rule"), a lower division with their own club. This includes players participating in the TAC Cup Competition. Players who play in two (2) or more games in the same weekend can only count the game played in the highest grade towards qualification for finals.

**4.6.1.5** VFL and/or TAC Cup listed WRFL players are eligible to participate in WRFL finals when not selected in VFL/TAC Cup on any weekend, provided that they satisfy the minimum game provisions specified in by-laws 4.6.1.1 and 4.6.1.4.

4.6.1.5 added  
March 2015.

- 4.6.2** Eligibility of Under Age (U11 to U16) Players in Finals Games:

**4.6.2.1** To be eligible to compete in a finals team, a player must have played the minimum number of matches required in the team concerned. This minimum number may vary depending on the number of home and away matches the team is eligible to play (as specified in the following table):

Number of matches team plays in season	Minimum matches required to be eligible
10/11 matches	4
12/13/14 matches	5
15/16 matches	6

Table amended, March 2015.

Ineligibility amended from 6 or more to 7 or more matches March 2015.

**4.6.2.2** If a player has played seven (7) or more matches in a higher grade team in the same or higher age group he/she shall be ineligible to play in finals in a lower grade team in the same or lower age group.

**4.6.2.3** Clubs who have more than one (1) team in any grade of the same age group playing in finals matches on the same weekend will be allowed free interchange of players for that weekend's finals matches provided players do not play more than one (1) game on the same weekend. If special circumstances arise an exemption to this rule may be approved by the General Manager Football Operations.

**4.6.2.4** Where a team has a genuine shortage of eligible players for a finals match because of injury or other special circumstances the club may seek approval from the General Manager Football Operations for the utilisation of players from other teams. League approval will only be considered for players from a team playing in a lower grade of the same age group. If the club does not have a team in a lower grade of the same age group it may seek approval to use players from a lower age group.

## 5 OFFICIALS

### 5.1 COACH

Coach accreditation requirements updated, March 2015.

**5.1.1** For the purpose of this by-law, "duties" shall include all training and coaching activities during matches and training.

**5.1.2** All persons performing coaching duties at Senior and/or Junior levels must be accredited by the Australian Football Coaches' Association (AFCA) to Level 1 or higher; and such accreditation must be maintained at current status at all times while coaching duties are performed. It is the responsibility of individual coaches and their clubs to ensure that current accreditation is maintained. All coaches shall be subject to the Rules and By-laws of the WRFL.

**5.1.3** A registration card issued by AFCA demonstrating current accreditation OR a letter from the General Manager Football Operations granting an interim permission to coach must be produced to the umpire(s) or to a League official upon request. No person shall be entitled to be included on the team sheet as coach in the event that he/she is unable to produce either a current AFCA accreditation card or interim permission letter from the GMFO.

**5.1.4** The GMFO has the power to grant interim permission to coach to a person who has not yet received his/her accreditation under the following circumstances only:

**5.1.4.1** where he/she provides evidence of attendance at an approved course and is currently subject to a subsequent assessment period. In that case, interim permission is only valid until expiry of the assessment period;

**5.1.4.2** where he/she provides evidence of registration to attend an approved course within a reasonable timeframe. In the event that a person granted interim permission under this provision fails to attend the course (without a valid reason) then the interim permission will be immediately revoked and any penalties shall apply as if that person was never eligible to coach;

**5.1.4.3** in exceptional circumstances such as an accredited coach becoming unavailable during the season and being replaced by an unaccredited coach for a short period; or at the end of the season. In such circumstances, interim permission from the GMFO will only be valid for the period it is given and may be cancelled on 24 hours' notice.

**5.1.4.4** Penalty for Coaching when not accredited or when under suspension for any reason:

If a person carries out any coaching duties when not accredited or when under suspension for any reason then at the discretion of the Board the following penalties shall apply:

- a) that person shall be disqualified from holding any coaching position for 12 months (whether subsequently accredited or not);
- b) any match points obtained by the team that person coached shall be forfeited for all and any matches where the person acted as coach;
- c) the coach's club may be fined a sum of:

First Offence: (Seniors) up to twenty five (25) penalty units

(Juniors) up to twelve and one half (12.5) penalty units

Second Offence and subsequent offences in the same season:

(Seniors) up to fifty (50) penalty units

(Juniors) up to twenty five (25) penalty units

The Board will hold a hearing (with the club) before imposing any penalty.

## **5.2 TRAINERS**

**5.2.1** Clubs are permitted to appoint trainers from time to time and they shall act in accordance with the Rules and By-laws of the WRFL. No trainer shall be permitted to enter the playing arena except for the purpose of attending injured players, officials or umpires; or delivering drinks to players or umpires and at no time shall more than five (5) trainers (inclusive of water persons) from any team be permitted on to the playing arena during home and away games and finals. All trainers must:

- a) be over 16 years of age;
- b) sign the club's team sheet;
- c) be accredited to a minimum Sports First Aider standard or higher (Sports Medicine Accreditation); and
- d) be registered with the WRFL in accordance with by-law 5.2.2.

If not accredited he/she can only act as a water person. Only accredited trainers shall sign the team sheet as trainers and shall act and be subject to all Rules and By-laws of the WRFL but cannot be ordered off.

### **5.2.2 Register of Accredited Trainers**

No trainer shall officiate in any game until registered with the League. Registration will be required annually and will expire on 31 December each year. Each trainer's nominated club will be invoiced a registration fee of \$10.00 per trainer per year. Registration fees will be applied solely for the purpose of administration, education, training and professional development of WRFL registered trainers, having regard to advice from the WRFL Trainers' Association.

### **5.2.3 Reporting of Trainers**

Any accredited trainer may be reported but not sent from the ground.

### **5.2.4 Accreditation of Trainers**

**5.2.4.1** Each home team shall have a minimum of one (1) accredited trainer at each game, if there is no such accredited trainer present at the game, the game shall not be played, unless the away team has an accredited trainer present. If the game is not played, the game shall be deemed to have been forfeited by the home team.

**5.2.4.2** ALL teams participating in ALL finals games shall supply a minimum of one (1) accredited trainer. If a club fails to supply one (1) accredited trainer included in the team sheet then and in that case that club shall forfeit that final.

### 5.3 WATER PERSON

5.3.1 Clubs are entitled to field a maximum of **five (5)** persons to deliver water inclusive of trainers. **At least one (1) of those MUST be a registered trainer.**

5.3.2 Each water person is required to sign the team sheet and is permitted to enter the playing arena only provided he/she is wearing the official League identification uniform.

5.3.2.1 If either the team sheet is not signed and/or the correct uniform not worn, any offending water person is to be ordered off the ground by the umpire.

5.3.2.2 No water person shall be permitted to enter the playing arena except for the purpose of delivering drinks to players or umpires. At all other times, water persons shall be stationed in marked locations against the arena fence line and adjacent to the intersections of the boundary line and 50 metre arcs (refer to diagram 1). The precise location of water person stations may be varied in the event that coaches boxes or other interfering structures are located adjacent to the 50 metre arcs.

5.3.3 In all Senior and Junior matches water persons must have a number clearly displayed on the back of their pink vest (a different number for each water person), and that number must be recorded on the team sheet.

5.3.4 Water Persons are subject to by-law 3.21 (the "order off rule").

Requirement for  
water person  
stations added  
March 2015

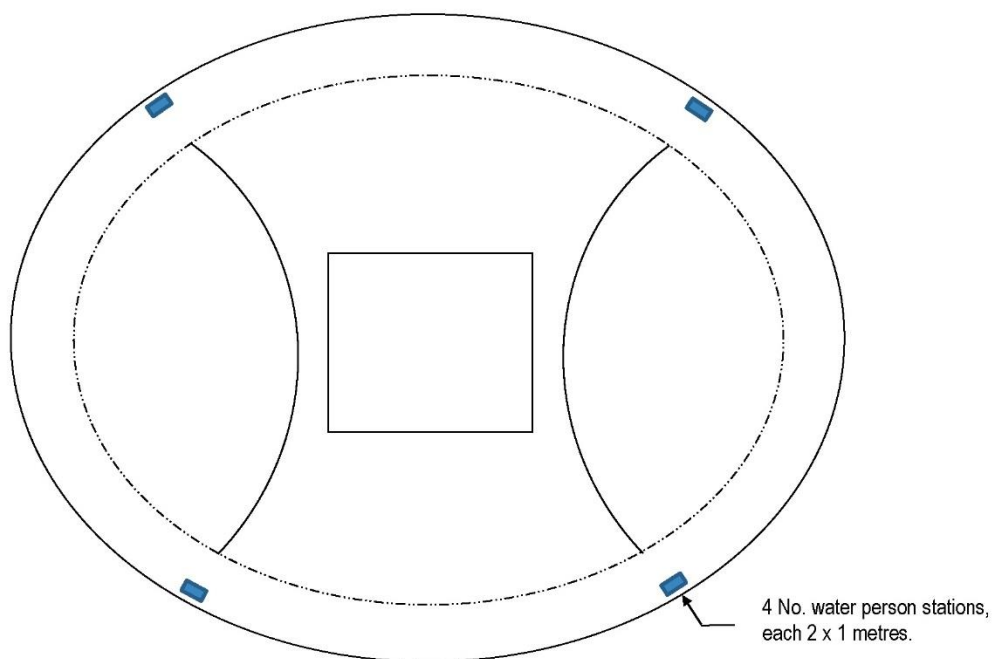


diagram 1



## **5.4 RUNNER**

Clubs may nominate one (1) runner for a team in any match in which it is playing. The official runner shall sign his/her club's team sheet and be permitted to enter the playing arena provided he/she is wearing an official orange top (WRFL approved); carry out his/her duties as defined by the Laws of Australian Football; and shall act and be subject to all Rules and By-laws of the WRFL and the direction of all umpires. The minimum age for a runner in Junior competitions is sixteen (16) years. The minimum age for a runner in Senior competitions is eighteen (18) years of age. Failure to wear the official orange top will result in a fine of five (5) penalty units and the runner can be ordered from the field.

## **5.5 TIMEKEEPERS**

- 5.5.1** Each club must supply a timekeeper who shall sign the official time card and who shall carry out the duties in the presence of the timekeeper of the opposing club during the course of the match.
- 5.5.2** The two competing teams in any final series match are to provide a competent timekeeper. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or WRFL Match Manager on request of either competing club may appoint a neutral timekeeper, or if they consider any club timekeeper incompetent or unsuitable to replace him/her at any time with a neutral timekeeper.
- 5.5.3** In the case of the two (2) clocks differing then half the variation will signify the actual time to ring the bell/siren, in all grades, club shall provide their timekeeper with an approved stop clock. A fine of five (5) penalty units shall be imposed for non-compliance.
- 5.5.4** A weatherproof area shall be provided for timekeepers:
  - a) if this area is not elevated, then a 180° view must be provided clear of all persons bar those keeping time;
  - b) in the event of timekeeper(s) vision being obstructed as would impede them seeing the umpires signalling time on, the umpires shall be informed and the game stopped until such vision of the game is restored; and
  - c) seating shall be provided for timekeepers.

## **5.6 GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES**

- 5.6.1** For all home and away matches each club (unless provided by the League) shall provide a boundary umpire who shall be correctly dressed in a white shirt and shorts and a goal umpire who shall at all times during the match wear a white coat. Goal umpire flags must also be available.
- 5.6.2** In the event of a club not providing these officials a fine of five (5) penalty units in each case will be inflicted and if either is not correctly attired the fine will be three (3) penalty units. The names of club goal and club boundary umpires must appear on the official team sheet of the club with his/her signature.
- 5.6.3** Goal umpires must be sixteen (16) years of age. Boundary umpires must be at least fourteen (14) years of age for Senior matches, and for Junior matches old enough to competently throw the ball back in to play and to keep up with play.

#### **5.6.4 INCOMPETENT GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES**

If either captain considers a club goal or club boundary umpire incompetent he/she shall be at liberty to request the field umpire to ask for the official to be replaced. If the umpire considers the request justified or at the time himself/herself considers a club goal or club boundary umpire incompetent, he/she shall ask for that official to be replaced and his/her request to the club concerned shall be granted. This by-law shall apply to home and away matches only.

#### **5.6.5 VETO OF CLUB GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES DECISION**

In all home and away matches the field umpire, if he/she considers a club goal or boundary umpire has given an incorrect or unfair decision he/she shall have the power to veto such decisions and the field umpires decision shall stand.

#### **5.6.6 OFFICIAL RELINQUISHING DUTIES**

In the event of a club boundary umpire, goal umpire, or club timekeeper relinquishing his/her duties during the process of a match, the club on whose behalf such official is acting shall immediately notify the field umpire and appoint another person to act in his/her stead and shall be responsible for the signing of the official team sheet by the duly appointed official.

### **5.7 UMPIRES APPOINTMENT DUTIES**

#### **5.7.1 Field Umpires:**

In all matches under the control of the League the field umpire shall be appointed by the WRFL Umpiring Department. It shall be the duty of the field umpire to see that the competition Rules, By-laws and match conditions of the League are carried out and to report all instances wherein a club has neglected to make proper arrangements. It shall be in his/her power to reject any ball which in his/her opinion is unfit for play. Field umpires shall advise the team manager at conclusion of match of their intention to report fineable offences and the nature of same. The result of all matches and any comments thereon, on the official form provided by the League together with team sheets and score cards must be forwarded by the field umpire or their nominee so as to reach the GM – Football Operations of the League by 6.00pm Sunday following the match.

#### **5.7.2 Boundary and Goal Umpires:**

Prior to the commencement of the season, the Executive may decide that independent League boundary and/or independent goal umpires shall be appointed by the WRFL Umpiring Department to officiate for the home and away series for all grades where possible and carry out respective duties as set down in the Laws of Australian Football. The umpires selected on the panel for the boundary and goal umpiring will be required to attend classes as the Umpire's Adviser considers necessary.

### **5.8 LEAGUE UMPIRES TRAVELLING WITH CLUBS**

No League umpire shall travel to and from a match with any person, persons connected with the participating clubs, unless granted permission to do so by the Umpires Board.

## 5.9 CLUB FIELD UMPIRES

**5.9.1** Each club must have a person to act as a club umpire, subject to by-law 5.6.1 and in the event that a League umpire is not appointed or available or does not turn up, then each competing team shall have that person umpire, if in attendance. Club field umpires must be sixteen (16) years or older and have attended an accreditation course conducted by the Umpires Adviser. After the course he/she is to be registered with the WRFL as a club umpire and accredited to umpire matches when required.

The club field umpire(s) must:

- a) wear white top and shorts with no club or League logo and must be equipped with a whistle and note book (supplied by his/her club);
- b) must record their name on their club's team sheet, sign the team sheet and also list their accreditation number. If there is any breach there will be a fine of three (3) penalty units.

**5.9.2** In the event of a League umpire or accredited club umpire not being available, the **coach** of each team shall appoint, by mutual agreement, some other person to officiate, and he/she shall carry out all duties of the umpire appointed. The result of the match shall be officially recognised by the League providing a letter is received from each club confirming the appointment of the person who officiated.

**5.9.3** In the event of the coaches of each side not reaching a mutual agreement on the person to officiate, no play shall take place, and the match shall be referred to the Board, who shall decide the date and place it shall be played, or whether the premierships points shall be divided.

**5.9.4** The clubs shall be responsible for any payment to club or accredited umpires and in any situation where one club does not have an accredited umpire officiating, shall pay half any fee the umpire agreed to or half the WRFL Umpire Payment Schedule for the appropriate grade.

## 5.10 UNIFORMS FOR LEAGUE UMPIRES

All League umpires shall appear in uniforms approved by the Board and shall be on the field five (5) minutes before the appointed time of starting of the match. Should he/she be late he/she may be fined three (3) penalty units and shall umpire the match only with the consent of both captains.

## 5.11 UNIFORMS FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

Unless specified elsewhere in these by-laws, the following match officials shall wear the uniforms as set out in the following table:

Match Official Role	Required Uniform	Effective from season:
Trainer	White or black long pants or shorts White vest (WRFL approved)	2014
Water Person	Pink vest (WRFL approved)	2015
Runner	Orange polo shirt (WRFL approved)	2015

Table added and uniform requirements updated March 2015.

<b>Match Official Role</b>	<b>Required Uniform</b>	<b>Effective from season:</b>
Umpire Escort	Hi-vis yellow spray jacket Yellow vest (WRFL approved)	2015 and prior 2016
Junior Coach	Blue vest (WRFL approved)	2014

All official uniform vests and T-shirts shall be as specified from time to time by the General Manager Football Operations, including any requirements for role identification wording, numbers, logos and sponsor displays.

## **5.12 JUDICIAL PERMIT HOLDERS**

- 5.12.1** Any advocate appearing before the Tribunal, IHC or Appeal Board must hold a current Judicial Permit issued by the WRFL.
- 5.12.2** A judicial permit may be obtained on application to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the WRFL by submitting an appropriate form which provides details of the club to which the advocate belongs, his/her relevant experience or reasons for seeking a permit, submitted no later than four weeks before the commencement of the first senior WRFL game of the season.
- 5.12.3** A Judicial Permit will be granted for a period of three (3) years, and must be renewed upon expiry.
- 5.12.4** At a time or times directed by the CEO each season, advocates will be required to attend an advocates training course conducted by the WRFL, and produce at that time a copy of all relevant Tribunal rules, hearing procedures and forms. If an Advocate fails to do this, he/she cannot appear before the Tribunal until copies of those documents are produced by the Advocate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or a nominee of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- 5.12.5** If in the view of the hearing body an advocate conducts him/herself in the course of a hearing in an improper manner, or a manner likely to bring the WRFL into disrepute, the Chairperson of the hearing body may report the advocate's conduct to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the WRFL, and recommend that his/her permit be revoked.
- 5.12.6** The WRFL Board will publish the criteria for appointment of persons as Advocates under this rule no later than six (6) weeks prior to the commencement of each season.

## 6 CLUBS & GENERAL

### 6.1 SMOKING RULES

6.1.1 The following WRFL facilities and areas are to be designated Smokefree:

- administration and office areas;
- social/club rooms; and
- all Interleague change rooms and toilets.

6.1.2 Functions:

All official WRFL functions will be 100% Smoke free. Such functions include:

- dinners;
- fund raising events;
- prize giving;
- meetings;
- social occasions; and
- any other event, seminar, course or function.

6.1.3 Representatives:

The following WRFL representatives are to refrain from smoking while in uniform and in public, and or while acting in an official capacity for the WRFL:

- staff;
- Board and Junior Board members;
- officials including umpires;
- Interleague players;
- Interleague coaches; and
- Interleague trainers.

6.1.4 Non Compliance Strategy:

The following five step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches WRFL Smoke free policy:

- a) assume that the person is unaware of the Smoke free policy;
- b) a WRFL official will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking and advise them about the Smoke free policy;
- c) if the offence continues then the most senior official or most senior representative will verbally warn them again and hand over a formally written letter. The offending patron must also be made aware that if they don't stop smoking then they will be required to leave the facility. The letter will outline WRFL Smoke free policy and state that if the patron continues to breach the policy he/she will be asked to leave. A representative of WRFL Board or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will send a letter which has been pre-written and kept ready for use at WRFL office and at functions and events;
- d) if the offender does continue then the patron will be escorted out of the facility by staff and or senior representative;
- e) under no circumstances should WRFL Smoke free policy be breached, no matter who the offender is.

### 6.1.5 Sale of Tobacco Products:

Tobacco products will not be sold at any of the facilities or events under the direct control of the WRFL.

### 6.1.6 Junior Sport:

The following steps will be taken to ensure that all Junior football under the control of the WRFL conforms to our Smoke free policy:

- all coaching courses will highlight the importance of role modelling Smoke free behaviour to our Junior members.

## 6.2 OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

No club player, official or member shall bring any offensive weapon onto the playing arena or into any official League function. If found guilty of such an offence a minimum **suspension** of five (5) years shall apply.

## 6.3 INTOXICATING LIQUOR

**6.3.1** Participating players and/or match officials of any team having been found guilty of consuming intoxicating liquor in or around the playing arena, or in the dressing room prior to the conclusion of the match, the club and/or offending person shall be dealt with as the Executive deems fit. The field umpire shall report to the Executive any club, club official and/or registered players infringing this by-law or any player under the influence of liquor.

**6.3.2** 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 by-law and shall be liable to a penalty of up to fifty (50) penalty units for each breach of the by-law (example: if three people are found consuming alcohol in breach of this by-law that will represent three offences and so on).

**6.3.3** Alcohol cannot be consumed in any glass container (glass or bottle) outside the licensed clubrooms. Penalty for any breach will be up to ten (10) penalty units for each breach of the by-law (example: if three people are found consuming alcohol in breach of this by-law that will represent three offences and so on).

## 6.4 PROPERTY DIVISION

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be responsible for all property activities.

Clubs must purchase through the WRFL Property Division from the following WRFL endorsed suppliers:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Footballs                        | Sherrin Footballs                               |
| • On-field apparel <sup>(1)</sup>  | Sherwood, Starsub, Ascot Vale Sports & Trophies |
| • Medical supplies/tapes           | Club Warehouse                                  |
| • Pies, pasties, sausage rolls etc | Routleys  |
| • Hot dogs, bacon, smallgoods      | Dons / T&T Smallgoods                           |
| • Confectionery, canteen supplies  | Dicksons  |

<sup>(1)</sup>Note: "On-field apparel means shorts, socks, jumpers and run-on (warm-up) tops.

Sherrin footballs specified November 2013

Starsub replaced BLK as endorsed supplier in November 2013

Suppliers of footballs and on-field apparel have been licensed to incorporate the WRFL logo (trademark) on their goods. All such equipment used in competition matches must incorporate the WRFL logo.

Clubs found in breach of the Properties Division by-law shall be penalised in the following way:

- 1st Offence: fine of ten (10) penalty units;
- 2nd Offence: fine of twenty (20) penalty units;
- 3rd Offence: fine of fifty (50) penalty units;
- 4th Offence: fine of one hundred (100) penalty units.

## 6.5 CLUB FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

**6.5.1** All recurring League fees and charges payable by affiliated clubs (*eg* affiliation fees, umpire payments, insurance charges, match video expenses, Football Records, function tickets, *etc*) will be payable as an annual Management Fee, the schedule of which shall be published at the Annual General Meeting each year, following preparation of the League's budget for the next following year. Management Fees payable by each affiliated club will be invoiced in instalments, payable as follows:

- First instalment (10% of total): payable by 31 March;
- Second instalment (20% of total): payable by 30 April
- Third instalment (30% of total): payable by 31 May
- Fourth instalment (20% of total): payable by 30 June
- Final instalment (20% of total/balance): payable by 31 July

All other monies payable by affiliated clubs to the League (*eg* properties, fines, *etc*) shall be invoiced separately and are payable no later than the last day of the month immediately following that of the invoice date.

**6.5.2** Any affiliated club that disputes liability for any payment invoiced by the League is required to:

- render the payment in full to the League by the due date; and
- notify the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a "disputed payment".

Failure to lodge a disputed payment as above shall result in the affiliated club being declared as "unfinancial" pursuant to by-law 6.5.3.

The CEO shall investigate the dispute, make a determination and, if it is held that the affiliated club was not liable, then the disputed payment will be refunded in full or credited to that club's debtor account.

**6.5.3** An affiliated club shall be declared as "unfinancial" if, in the absence of written agreement authorised by the Board, it fails to meet any or all payment obligations owing to the League by the due date(s). Unless otherwise specified, payments owing by affiliated clubs to the League are due and payable in full no later than the last day of the month immediately following that of the invoice date.

**6.5.4** The CEO may, on behalf of the Board, negotiate a payment plan (agreement) for overdue payments owing by an affiliated club. Any such payment plan must be acknowledged in writing by the CEO on behalf of the Board; and by the President and Treasurer of the affiliated club.

Failure to meet any condition specified in a payment plan shall result in the offending club being declared “unfinancial” pursuant to by-law 6.5.3.

- 6.5.5** In any case where an affiliated club has overdue amounts owing to the League in excess of fourteen (14) days past the due date, interest shall be charged on the entire overdue balance, calculated from the date when the amount first became overdue. Any such interest shall be charged at the rate payable by the League to its bankers for overdraft balances, compounding daily.
- 6.5.6** Credit payment terms for properties purchases specified in by-law 6.5.1 may be suspended for the period that an affiliated club is declared to be “unfinancial”. In such cases, payment in full for the cost of purchases shall be required prior to ordering and/or delivery of goods.
- 6.5.7** In the event that any payment rendered by an affiliated club to the league, whether by electronic funds transmission, cheque or any other method is dishonoured for any reason, the club may be declared “unfinancial” pursuant to by-law 6.5.3, at the discretion of the CEO; and all costs to the league resulting from the default shall be immediately payable by the defaulting club.
- 6.5.8** In the event of an affiliated club being declared “unfinancial” pursuant to by-law 6.5.3, all competing teams fielded by that club shall be ineligible for premiership points resulting from games that they win in official competition for the duration of any period of default. All teams of clubs declared as “unfinancial” will still be required to play in fixtured matches, and to prepare and submit team sheets pursuant to by-law 3.11. In the event that an affiliated club declared as “unfinancial” pursuant to by-law 6.5.3 does not field one or more teams as fixtured, The Board may apply a **penalty of up to fifty (50) penalty units per instance of team default**.
- In the event that a team of an unfinancial club should win a game in official competition:
    - no premiership points shall be awarded to either competing team; and
    - for the purpose of ladder percentage calculation, the average of winning-team points recorded in that grade for that round shall be awarded to the unfinancial club’s team; and the average of losing-team points recorded in that grade for that round shall be awarded to the opposition team.
  - In the event that a team of an unfinancial club should lose a game in official competition:
    - the opposition team (if not also declared “unfinancial”) shall be awarded the premiership points for that game; and
    - for the purpose of ladder percentage calculation, points for and against will be awarded to the winning and losing teams respectively.
  - In the event that a team of an unfinancial club should draw a game in official competition:
    - the opposition team (if not also declared “unfinancial”) shall be awarded two (2) premiership points for that game; and
    - for the purpose of ladder percentage calculation, points for and against (identical scores) will be awarded to each team.
  - In the event that two (2) unfinancial teams should be fixtured to play against each other in official competition:
    - no premiership points shall be awarded to either team; and



- for the purpose of ladder percentage calculation (except in the case of a drawn game), the average of winning-team points recorded in that grade for that round shall be awarded to the winning unfinancial club's team; and the average of losing-team points recorded in that grade for that round shall be awarded to the losing unfinancial club's team; or
- in the event of a drawn game, for the purpose of ladder percentage calculation, the actual points (identical) scored by each team shall be awarded.

**6.5.9** No team of any affiliated club declared as "unfinancial" pursuant to by-law 6.5.3 shall be permitted to play in finals matches. In the event that a participating club is not financial, the Board may at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position(s) in finals series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the finals series.

**6.5.10** All affiliated clubs shall forward to the (CEO) no later than 31 December each year, copies of their Annual Reports, Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheets for the immediate past year. Financial statements must be the official records of the club for the year under review, as required for submission to Consumer Affairs Victoria pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, as amended. Fine for non-compliance: 10 penalty units.





## APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX A**

### **WRFL CODE OF CONDUCT**



## **APPENDIX B**

### **NATIONAL PLAYER TRANSFER REGULATIONS**





## **APPENDIX C**

### **STANDARD PLAYING CONTRACT – COMMUNITY FOOTBALL**



**APPENDIX D**

**WRFL TRIBUNAL AND IHC PROCEDURE GUIDELINES**



**APPENDIX E**

**WRFL APPEALS BOARD GUIDELINES**

**APPENDIX F**

**AFL VICTORIA / WRFL VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

## **APPENDIX G**

### **AFL VICTORIA COMMUNITY CLUB SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**