



North Gippsland Football Netball League Inc. By-Laws

Amended May 2018

Interpretation

These By-Laws should be interpreted in conjunction with the following:-

- The North Gippsland Football Netball League(NGFNL) - Constitution
- The Australian Football League Victoria (AFL Vic) - Laws of Australian Football
- The Australian Football League Victorian Country (AFL Vic Country) - Laws and Regulations
- Netball Australia Official Rules of Netball

Where there is conflict with these By-Laws the AFL Vic., AFL Vic. Country, and Netball Australia rules take precedence.

Revision

These By-Laws can be altered from time to time as per the North Gippsland Football Netball League Inc. Constitution.

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SECTION 1 – General League By-Laws

1-1 THE LEAGUE

a) League Name

This body shall be known as "THE NORTH GIPPSLAND FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE" herein after referred to as the "League", or "NGFNL".

b) Members and Clubs

The League consists of Members of the Board, Life Members and Clubs duly admitted and affiliated in accordance with the Rules of Constitution of this League, as long as they remain a member.

The League shall consist of the following clubs:-

Churchill Football Netball Club
Cowwarr Football Netball Club
Glengarry Football Netball Club
Gormandale Football Netball Club
Heyfield Football Netball Club
Rosedale Football Netball Club
Sale City Football Netball Club
Traralgon Tyers United Football Netball Club
Woodside & District Football Netball Club
Yarram Football Netball Club

1-2 DUTIES OF CLUBS

The League directs all member Clubs to provide, maintain and enforce to the best of their ability the matters covered in these By-laws. Member Clubs shall provide the following:-

a) Provision Of Information

- i) All Club Secretaries shall provide and within such time as stipulated by the League Administrator, all such information as is required by the League Administrator for the completion of records.
- ii) All such requirements shall be circulated to Club Delegate/Secretaries before the commencement of the season and at such times as he/she may be directed to do so by the League Administrator.
- iii) Clubs repeatedly failing to do so will be fined 1 (one) penalty point per week.

1-3 LEAGUE OFFICIALS

a) Members of the Board

The Board of Management shall be structured in accordance with the Rules of the Constitution and duties allocated to the Board Members as prescribed.

b) Publicity Officer

- i) The Publicity Officer will be required to carry out all directions given at meetings of the League and shall be the League's liaison with the press, radio and television.
- ii) The Publicity Officer will also carry out any other duties as required by the League from time to time.
- iii) The Publicity Officer shall be appointed annually by the Board.
- iv) The Publicity Officer shall have no vote at League meetings.
- v) The Publicity Officer's appointment shall be terminable with a months' notice by either party.
- vi) The Publicity Officer shall be paid a fee as the Board may from time to time approve.

c) Tribunal Secretary

- i) The Tribunal Secretary is to be responsible to the League's Independent Tribunal and to arrange any hearings as may be required.
- ii) The Tribunal Secretary will keep a strict liaison with the League Administrator.

- iii) The Tribunal Secretary shall be appointed annually by the Board.
- iv) The Tribunal Secretary shall not have a vote at League meetings.
- v) The Tribunal Secretary's appointment will be terminable with one months notice by either party.
- vi) The Tribunal Secretary shall be paid a fee as the Board may from time to time approve.

d) Netball Hearing Officer

- i) The Hearing Officer shall be responsible for all investigations as referred by the League and lodged under, and in accordance with, Netball Victoria/League rules relating to unbecoming conduct and racial/religious vilification plus any other matter that from time to time may arise.
- ii) The Hearing Officer shall be appointed by the Board. The Hearing Officer shall be reimbursed such a fee as the Board may from time to time approve.
- iii) The Hearing Officer shall hold no voting rights within the League.

e) Secretary (Public Officer)

The Secretary is to comply with the provisions of the Australian Tax Act, Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs and the Associations Incorporations Act plus all other requirements as set out in the League's Constitution/By-laws from time to time.

f) Junior Development Officer

- i) The Junior Development Officer shall be responsible for liaison between clubs and the AFL Vic (regional) Junior Development Officers and work for the betterment of underage and/or Junior football within the League.
- ii) The Junior Development Officer shall be appointed annually as per AFL Vic/League requirements and such appointee may be paid such fee as the AFL Vic/League may from time to time approve.
- iii) The Junior Development Officer shall hold no voting rights within the League.

g) Proficient in Performance Of Duties

All officials as noted in the Constitution and By-Laws shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their duties as required under the laws of the game and the rules of the League.

1-4 MEETINGS

a) Delegates

Clubs shall appoint a Football and a Netball delegate prior to the commencement of the season and advise the League Administrator the name and contact details of the delegates as soon as possible after the appointment.

b) Attendance at Meetings

The club delegates shall attend meetings convened by the League including the League Annual Meeting, and Special Meetings.

c) Adjournments

Meetings shall unless otherwise decided be adjourned not later than 10.45pm.

d) Club Annual General Meetings

- i) The Annual General Meeting of each club must be held prior to the League Annual General Meeting.
- ii) The Secretary of each club shall notify the League prior to each Annual General Meeting of the League the names of the persons who will be representing the club at the League Annual General Meeting.
- iii) Failure to comply with this rule incurs an automatic penalty of 1(one) penalty point.

e) League Annual General Meeting

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include the deciding of match arrangements for the coming season, start date, draw etc.

f) Rules of Debate

At all meetings of the League the generally accepted rules of debate shall be adhered to except where they conflict with some particular rules set out herein for the convenience of Board Members.

g) Failure to Attend

Clubs failing to attend a properly constituted Special or Annual General Meeting of the League shall be penalised 1(one) penalty point and for consecutive non attendances 2(two) penalty points.

h) Alcohol at Meetings

No alcohol shall be consumed during the course of any formal meeting conducted by the League.

i) Special Meetings, Forums, Seminars, and Training

The Board can set Special Meetings, Forums, Seminars, or Training nights for clubs to attend from time to time. Where the Board requests the attendance is compulsory, a minimum of 14(fourteen) clear days notice must be given to clubs. Failure to provide the requested persons or numbers will result in a penalty of 1(one) penalty point per person on the club involved.

1-5 COMMUNICATIONS (External To The League)

a) Obtaining External Information

- i) At times when Clubs believe it is necessary to obtain information from bodies external to the League, the League Administrator shall be informed of this request and the League Administrator shall have the discretion as to whether the information be obtained by the League Administrator or the club concerned.
- ii) Only an Executive of a Club shall be authorised to make these requests of the League Administrator.
- iii) Should the matter pertain to the League Administrator and disadvantage the League Administrator, the request for information should be directed to the President of the League Board.

b) Player Clearances Excluded

- i) This regulation shall not pertain to normal Clearance negotiations between clubs, within or outside the League.
- ii) Any enquiries regarding Clearances, to be made by a member of the Club's Executive or a duly appointed Clearance Secretary.

1-6 FINANCIAL RULES

a) Admission Charges

- i) The Board shall determine the charges for admission to all matches and other charges associated with matches in the League.
- ii) All persons 16 (sixteen) years and over will pay admission to all League Home and Away and Finals matches where applicable.
- iii) All football and netball players who are Under 18 (eighteen) on the 1st of January in the current season shall be admitted free of charge to all home and away and finals games at venues in which they are competing in NGFNL matches. Such players shall produce on demand an authorised pass. Failure to present the pass will result in a demand for payment of gate entry.

b) Gate Takings (Finals)

- i) The gate takings at all deciding Finals matches shall be paid to the credit of the League.
- ii) The League shall meet all expenses in connection with such matches.

c) Gate Takings (Home games)

The gate takings at all home games shall be the property of the home Club.

d) Membership/Subscription Fees

Each club shall pay such annual membership/subscription fee as fixed by the Board and a monetary penalty shall be made for each day that the fee remains unpaid.

e) Fines for Late Payment

All payments, levies or fines payable to the League are due on the date set by the League Treasurer. Any amounts overdue shall incur a fine as provided as follows.

The following formula shall be used by the League Treasurer for fines on all late payments.

\$1.00 per day for amounts up to	\$100.00
\$2.00 " " " " " "	\$200.00
\$3.00 " " " " " "	\$300.00
\$4.00 " " " " " "	\$400.00

etc, etc.

f) Penalty Points

The Board may from time to time change the value of a Penalty Point.

The current value of 1(one) Penalty Point = \$40.00.

g) League Accounts

Accounts for amounts due must be sent by the League Treasurer to the club/clubs concerned at least fourteen days before the due date.

h) League Sponsorship

The Board are empowered to seek sponsorship from appropriate organisations and may form sub-committees to oversee or expedite this function.

i) Raffles

From time to time the Board may conduct raffles or other fundraising activities. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any tickets distributed to them are sold or the Club will be liable for any unsold portion.

j) Club Eligibility for Finals

To be eligible to play in Finals matches a Club must not owe any monies to the League except where an account has been forwarded and the time allowed for payment has not expired. In the event of a club being ineligible under this clause the next lower club on the ladder will then be elevated.

k) Club Eligibility to Vote

No Club shall be allowed to vote at any League meeting unless all monies due by his/her club are paid.

l) Finals Program Advertising

Each Club shall provide one or two advertisements totalling no more than half of one page of the Tagger. Clubs may sell this space to sponsors as a fund raising exercise.

m) Non-Attendance At Umpire Clinics

A fine of ½(one half) of a penalty point per person is placed on clubs for non attendance at compulsory Umpire Clinics declared by the Board.

1-7 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLUBS & OFFICIALS

a) Interpretation

An Official in this context means an individual who holds an official position with his or her Club as follows;

- i) A Member of the Club's Committee or a Sub Committee.
- ii) A Member of the Club's Football or Netball Coaching Staff.
- iii) A Person endorsed by the Club to make or write statements on behalf of the Club such as a Club Publicity Officer or Club Newsletter writer.

b) Rules & By-Laws

At all times Clubs must obey the Rules and By-Laws of the League that relate to the way a Club or their Officials should conduct themselves towards the League or any other associated body.

c) Written or Spoken Media

Clubs must ensure that all written or verbal comments made in relation to the League and its Employees, other Clubs and associated bodies such as the Umpires and the Tribunal are not of a derogatory, demeaning or racial offensive manner. Media in this context shall mean Newspapers, Newsletters, Face book and Internet pages representing the Club or a Club Official, statements made to Radio or Television, and any other Media that is accessible to members of the public.

d) Off Field & Court Behaviour of Club Officials, Players and Members.

The Club shall ensure all Officials, Players and Members conduct themselves in an acceptable manner off the field where involved in an official Club, or League function or at a fixture League match including finals.

e) Responsibilities towards Spectators

The Club shall take prompt and appropriate action where a spectator is acting in an unreasonable manner, such as the abuse of individuals, excessive use of foul language, or acting in a threatening manner towards an individual. The Club shall take prompt and appropriate action where the matter is brought to the Club's attention by an individual, another Club, a member of the Board or an associated body such as the Umpires.

f) Responsibility in Relation to Alcohol

Clubs shall at all times conduct themselves as per their Liquor Licence. Clubs shall act in a prompt and appropriate manner where their Officials, Members or Players are found to have brought alcohol to a ground, where there is signage prohibiting the entry of Alcohol.

g) Penalties for Clubs

Where a Club or one of its Officials has appeared to transgress any of the above codes and the Club has not acted in a prompt or appropriate manner in dealing with the transgression, then the Club shall be charged with Conduct Unbecoming under the terms of the League's Constitution, and shall be dealt with according to that rule.

h) Penalties for Officials

Any official not adhering to any By-Law shall incur a penalty of 1 (one) penalty point.

i) Disqualified Officials

No official who has been disqualified shall be permitted to act in any capacity in any match conducted by the League during the period of disqualification.

1.8 MATCH RECORDS

a) Provision Of Official Match Records

At the conclusion of each round of matches in the Football & Netball competition, the official records as listed below shall be collected by the Secretary of the Home Club who will forward them to the League Administrator in the post paid envelope supplied by the League Administrator.

b) List of Official Match Records

The Official Records are to be supplied for all grades of Football and Netball and are to include but not limited to the following:-

- Football Score Cards from both Goal Umpires and Timekeepers
- The Netball Score Sheets from the home club
- Football teams sheets from both Clubs correctly certified including the names of Goal Kickers and Best Players from each club
- Best & Fairest Voting cards for Football & Netball completed by the Umpires
- Football Penalty Sheets completed by the Umpires
- Football Day Permits
- Code of Conduct Cards for both Football and Netball completed by the Umpires
- Match day checklists for the ground and courts correctly certified
- Any Umpire report forms from the day
- Netball Day Pass information where applicable

c) Time Frame for the Provision of the Official Match Records

These records are to be supplied in time to reach the League Administrator no later than 6pm on the Wednesday following the day of the match.

d) Confirmation of Results

- i) On receipt of the Official Match Records the League Administrator shall check all results for accuracy, and if the results are verified as correct, the results will be deemed as official.
- ii) Where there are discrepancies in the results or in the case of the Netball scoresheets the Captains or Umpires have not signed, then the League Administrator shall bring the matter to the attention of the Board.

e) Penalties

Failure to supply the records to the League Administrator by 6 (six) pm on the Wednesday following the match will incur a fine of 3 (three) penalty points

1.9 RESULTS ENTRY

a) Entry by Home Club

At the conclusion of the games the home club secretary/representative shall enter the results of all games that day on the competition data bases or failing that, text or fax the results sheets to the League Administrator.

b) Supply of Results by Away Clubs

Representatives from the Away Clubs shall provide result details to the home club secretary/representative in a timely manner to enable those results to be entered to meet timeframes outlined in this By-Law.

c) List of Results to be Entered

- Football quarter by quarter scores taken from the Goal Umpire's cards
- Goal Kickers from both teams taken from club team sheets
- The 6 (six) best players from both teams taken from club team sheets
- Netball quarter by quarter scores taken from the home team score sheet.

d) Time Frame for the Entry of Results

All results must be entered into the competition data bases, or failing that text or fax to the League Administrator, no later than 5:30 (five thirty) pm on game day.

e) Penalties

Failure to enter the results or supply the records to the League Administrator by the time outlined above will result in a fine of 1 (one) penalty point. Where the failure was due to the Away Clubs late supply, then they shall incur the fine.

1.10 FINALS – CLUB ELIGIBILITY

- i) The Board shall determine, prior to the season commencing, whether 4 (four) or 5 (five) Clubs shall compete in the Finals.
- ii) At the conclusion of the program of home and away matches, the agreed number of Clubs in the premiership list shall play off for the premiership, except where a club is ineligible due to being un-financial.

1.11 FINALS – ORDER OF PLAY

a) For a Five Club Final Series;

- The Fourth and Fifth Clubs shall meet in the Elimination Final.
- The Second and Third Clubs shall meet in the Qualifying Final.
- The winner of the Elimination Final shall meet the loser of the Qualifying Final in the 1st Semi final.
- The winner of the Qualifying Final shall meet the First club in the 2nd Semi Final and the winner shall play off in the Grand Final.
- The loser of the 2nd Semi Final shall play the winner of the 1st Semi final in the Preliminary Final.
- The winner of the 2nd Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.
- The winner of this match shall be the premiers for that season.

b) For a Four Club Final Series;

- The Third and Fourth Clubs shall meet in the 1st Semi Final.
- The First and Second Clubs shall meet in the 2nd Semi Final and the winner shall play off in the Grand Final.
- The loser of the 2nd Semi Final shall play the winner of the 1st Semi Final in the Preliminary Final.
- The winner of the 2nd Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.

- The winner of this match shall be the premiers for that season.

1.12 **FINALS – VENUES**

a) **Decision by the Board**

Finals venues are to be decided by the Board.

b) **Independent Grand Final Venue**

The Grand Final Venue will be neutral in respect to the Senior Football teams participating. All other Finals Venues will be set by the Board as they see fit.

c) **Allocation of Finals**

- i) The Board, in the case of a 5 (five) team finals series will allocate the Elimination and Qualifying Finals or, in the case of 4 (four) team finals the First and Second Semi-Finals, to grounds deemed suitable, at the completion of the Home and Away matches.
- ii) In the case of 5 (five) team finals, the Board will allocate the First and Second Semi Final to a ground deemed suitable at the completion of the Qualifying Final.
- iii) The Board will allocate the Preliminary and Grand Final to grounds deemed suitable, no later than at the completion of the Second Semi Final.

d) **Changes to Venue**

The Board is empowered to allocate or change venues depending ground conditions or unforeseen circumstances which may arise.

e) **Ground Inspections**

Where a ground is being inspected by the Board, a representative of that Club may be invited to attend.

1.13 **FINALS – CATERING**

a) **Club Eligibility**

- i) From the 2014 season all Clubs shall be required to hold current Gippsport Goodsport level 3 (three) accreditation to be eligible to cater for NGFNL Finals.
- ii) Clubs who fail to hold the Goodsport accreditation will forfeit their spot in the rotation until accreditation is gained.
- iii) All Clubs involved in the serving of Alcohol at NGFNL finals shall use persons holding RSA (Responsible Serving of Alcohol) accreditation.
- iv) Failure to provide suitable proof of RSA accreditation when requested by the League may result in the forfeit of the clubs turn at Finals catering

b) **Catering Roster**

- i) Catering for finals shall be on a rotational basis and host Clubs are to make their facilities available at finals venues for any catering Club.
- ii) Two separate Rosters will be drawn up for the Grand Final & all other Finals with Clubs only Rostered to cater for a maximum of 1 (one) final per Season.
- iii) The Grand Final Catering shall be shared by 2 (two) Clubs with 1 (one) Club responsible for the canteen including a BBQ or any other food and Non Alcoholic drink sales, while the other Club will be responsible for Bar or Booth sales and the match day raffle.
- iv) Catering for Finals other than the Grand Final will be carried out by one Club.
- v) The Board shall advise each Club of their responsibilities and will rotate those responsibilities between the Clubs when their next turn occurs.

c) **Duties of Catering Clubs**

- i) Catering Clubs shall have sole rights to all catering and fund-raising activities at Finals venues from the commencement of the day until the final siren in the Senior Football match.
- ii) Catering Clubs are responsible for cleaning ground and court surrounds of rubbish at the completion of the days play.
- iii) Catering Clubs will be expected to provide afternoon tea at half time of the Senior football match for all Finals with the exception of the Grand Final.
- iv) Catering Clubs may be required to provide lunch and refreshments for League officials and will be reimbursed by the League Treasurer accordingly.

d) Host Clubs

- i) Clubs that have their ground used for a final but are not catering, shall make their catering facilities available to catering clubs free of charge.
- ii) Host Clubs cannot run any fund raising activity until after the final siren of the Senior Football match including opening their Bar or Booth facilities for their own use.
- iii) Host Clubs may be requested to provide afternoon tea and coffee making facilities at the Netball court area during finals matches.

e) Ground Rental

The Board shall determine the maximum amount payable, if requested, for ground rental on facilities used by the League for Finals matches.

f) Alcohol

- i) All alcohol sold at finals matches shall only be dispensed from a licensed booth or social club building.
- ii) The price for alcohol is set for all finals and will be decided by a simple majority of clubs at the Special General Meeting prior to the finals.
- iii) Alcohol shall not be dispensed in glass containers from the Bar or Booth for consumption outside of the social rooms during the course of games.

g) Gate Passes

The Board shall supply an appropriate number of Gate passes for Catering and Host Clubs to allow free entry to their members working on the day.

h) Penalties

Any club breaking catering By-Laws in any manner will be penalised appropriately as determined by the Board.

1.14 **FINALS – NON CATERING DUTIES**

a) Duties Roster

A roster will be drawn-up for all duties other than catering, such as Gate Keeping, Ground Perimeter Security, and Car Parking with all clubs sharing equally in the roster. Clubs will be provided with their Roster requirements a minimum of 5 (five) days prior to the final that they are required to provide persons for.

b) Penalties

A fine of 1 (one) penalty point per person will be levied against clubs that fail to provide the requested number of persons to perform the duties.

1.15 **BEST AND FAIREST AND OTHER PLAYER AWARDS**

a) Power To Conduct Awards

The Board shall have the power to conduct such awards for players as it deems fitting.

b) Counting of Best & Fairest Votes

The Board, at its discretion, may pre-count votes in all grades.

c) Venue

Following the last round of each season's matches, the votes are to be counted at a venue and function as determined by the League.

d) Club Representation at the League Vote Count

Each club will have a minimum of 10 (ten) football & 10 (ten) netball representatives present including 2 (two) officials.

e) Penalties for Non Attendance

A fine of 1 (one) penalty point will be placed on clubs for every person short of the minimum number required.

1.16 **LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS & CRITERIA**

a) Nominations

- i) Nominations for Life Membership of the League must be made in writing to the League Administrator at least 21 (twenty one) days prior to the League Annual General Meeting.

Such applications should outline in detail the service given by the Nominee to his/her Club and to the League and to the game in general.

- ii) Nominations for Life Membership can only be tabled / nominated by an NGFNL Club or by a member of the NGFNL Board.
- iii) Life Membership of the NGFNL does not rely on Life Membership status having been achieved within an affiliated Club of the NGFNL.

b) Criteria – Non Playing Nominee

- i) A person must be of good and responsible character.
- ii) They should have held positions of respect and responsibility within the League.
- iii) They should have a dedicated period of 20 (twenty) years service to and/or within the League which would have included specific tasks, duties or responsibilities in addition to any NGFNL duties or responsibilities.

c) Criteria - Playing Football-Netball Nominee

- i) A Player must be of a good and responsible character.
- ii) Their Tribunal record must be at an acceptable level throughout their playing history.
- iii) Must have played a minimum of 300 (three hundred) Senior games in either Football or Netball.
- iv) Must have dedicated themselves to the development of the game within their Club or Clubs and held positions of responsibility.

1.17 RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARD

a) Nominations

- i) Nominations may be made by any person but must be made in writing through a League Club to the League Administrator.
- ii) The Board will review the nomination and where appropriate refer it to a League AGM or SGM for a decision by clubs by a simple majority.

b) Criteria

- i) This award should be available to persons who have had an involvement in the League.
- ii) This award should not be limited to only sports persons or club or League personnel.
- iii) This award in no way replaces Life Membership of the League.
- iv) This award does not allow any special privileges other than recognition in League records and the presentation of a suitably worded certificate/plaque.

c) Presentation of the award

This award can be presented at a special function at any time, but is subject to all above guidelines.

1.18 HALL OF FAME AWARD

a) Nominations

- i) Nominations for this award can be made by member Clubs or Members of the Board
- ii) The Board will review the nominations and confirm where they feel the nomination is worthy of receiving the award.
- iii) The Board will determine how many awards will be presented per season.

b) Criteria

- i) Qualifications open to any position of leadership and dedication with the NGFNL Administration, NGFNL Clubs, Associated Affiliates such as Sale Umpire Association, Tribunal and Social Committees.
- ii) Nominee must have made a significant contribution in excess of 20 years service at one or more Clubs or affiliated body to qualify.
- iii) A person must be a well known and famed identity of the NGFNL which members of all other affiliated NGFNL Clubs/Bodies would recognise and/or could acknowledge as having a dedicated period of service to Clubs affiliated with the NGFNL.
- iv) Three time senior Best and Fairest in either Football or Netball.
- v) Three times Premiership Coach.
- vi) 250 (two hundred) Senior Games of Football or Netball.
- vii) 350 (three hundred) NGFNL Games of Football or Netball.



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- viii) A person must be of good and responsible character.
- ix) These above nominated criteria are not to be upheld as the only reference to a nomination for a Hall of Fame award.

c) Presentation of the Award

A suitably worded certificate will be presented to the recipient at a League Function. The recipient will also be recognised in League records.

1.19 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISIONS CLAUSE

Where this By-Law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the NGFNL is maintained at all times. The Board may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in this By-Law relating to the NGFNL Football and Netball competitions.

1.20 INDEMNITY

Except where provided or required by Law and such cannot be excluded, the NGFNL and its respective Directors, Officers, Members, Servants or Agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused arising whilst participating as a member.

SECTION 2 – Football Competition Specific By-Laws

2-1 GRADES & PLAYING NUMBERS

a) Grades

Each club shall consist of a Senior, Reserve and Thirds Grade or a combination of these teams agreed to by the League.

b) Seniors

Senior Grade teams shall consist of 18(eighteen) plus 4(four) interchange.

c) Reserves & Thirds

Reserve & Third Grade teams shall consist of 18 (eighteen) plus 4 (four) interchange but shall be subject to the Even Number Rule.

d) Fee Reductions

No Club fielding less than 3 (three) teams shall be entitled to a reduction in the affiliation fees payable to the League.

2-2 EVEN NUMBER RULE

a) Application

This rule is applicable to the Reserves and Thirds competitions only.

b) Commencement of Match

Where one or both teams are unable to field a full complement of 18 (eighteen) players at the commencement of the match, and day permit options between both teams have been exercised, then both teams shall commence the match with even numbers on the ground.

c) During the Match

After the commencement of the match should the team who has no reserves on the bench suffer an injury to a player that forces them from the ground, the opposition team is under no obligation to remove one of their players from the ground to even up numbers.

d) Late Player Arrivals

- i) After the commencement of the match, should a player arrive late to play, that player shall not be able to go onto the ground without consultation with the opposition club. In such an instant, the opposition club will be allowed to put their own player onto the ground to retain even numbers.
- ii) In relation to late arrivals, the club who has the player arriving late shall ensure the players name is added to the team sheet by advising the Umpires at the next appropriate break between quarters.

2-3 CLUB COLOURS

a) Registered Colours

Churchill	Jumper	Blue with Gold inverted V, & 4 white stars
	Shorts	Blue with Gold stripe (Home), white shorts (Away)
	Socks	Blue with Gold top
Cowwarr	Jumper	Red,White and Black stripes.
	Shorts	Black with Red and White side panels (Home), White shorts (Away).
	Socks	Red,White and Black hoops,with Black tops.
Glengarry	Jumper	Black and White stripes
	Shorts	Black and White side panels (Home), White shorts (Away)
	Socks	Black
Gormandale	Jumper	Black with Gold sash
	Shorts	Black with Gold side panel (Home), White shorts (Away)
	Socks	Black and Gold hoops
Heyfield	Jumper	Mid Blue and White hoops
	Shorts	Mid Blue with White side bands (Home) White

		shorts (Away)
	Socks	Mid Blue
Rosedale	Jumper	Navy Blue with RFC monogram
	Shorts	Navy Blue with White side band (Home), White shorts (Away)
	Socks	Navy Blue
Sale City	Jumper	Royal Blue with wide Red and White hoops
	Shorts	Royal Blue with Red and White side bands (Home), White shorts (Away)
	Socks	
Traralgon Tyers United	Jumper	Black with Red sash
	Shorts	Black with Red stripe (Home), White shorts (Away)
	Socks	Black with Red hoops
Woodside	Jumper	Navy Blue and White hoops with Cat monogram
	Shorts	Navy Blue with White band (Home), White shorts away
	Socks	Navy Blue with White hoops
Yarram	Jumper	Red with White "V" Emblem
	Shorts	Red at Home and White Away
	Socks	Red with White Top

b) Alterations to Uniforms

- i) The Secretary of each Club must notify the League via the League Administrator of any intended alteration of its colours at least three weeks prior to first match.
- ii) Any alteration of Club colours shall be subject to approval by the Board.
- iii) The Board shall arrange for an "Away Strip (uniform)" where colours of competing Clubs is the same or similar colours.

c) Correct Colours and Apparel

- i) All players must play in their correct registered colours.
- ii) The wearing of any other apparel which can be seen under a Football player's uniform (shorts) must be of skin colouring. Any offending player will be warned by the umpire and should this player continue to offend the umpire shall report the player as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football.
- iii) Any Player offending against this rule shall at the request of the opposing captain made to the umpire, be warned and compelled to change to his correct colour and shall be reported to the League and his Club shall be fined 1 (one) penalty point for each player so offending.
- iv) Should any player continue to offend in this manner, whether in this game or in any other future games, he shall be reported to the League who may suspend him or take further action as it deems fit.

d) Jumper Numbers

- i) Each Football player shall wear, attached to his back on his jumper, a distinguishing number of size of each numeral to be not less than 28cm long and 5cm wide.
- ii) No 2 (two) or more players in the same club shall wear the same number in the same match. Clubs and players offending in this respect shall be dealt with in the same manner as provided in clause 2-3 (c).

e) Sponsorship on Playing Apparel

- i) Sponsor's name to be allowed on the back of Football jumpers, all names, words or logos must not hinder the clear sighting of the player's number.
- ii) Sponsorship logos on the front of Football jumpers, runners/trainers shirts to be approximately the same size as the AFL Vic. logo.

2-4 PREMIERSHIP POINTS

The following premierships points shall be allocated for Home and Away Matches;-

- Winning team- 4 (four) Points.
Losing team - 0 (zero) Points.

Drawn Game –	2 (two) points each team.
Abandoned Game-	2 (two) points each team.
Abandoned Round-	0 (zero) points to each team.
Forfeit -	0 (zero) points to team forfeiting and 4 (four) points to their opponents.

2-5 GROUND FACILITIES ON MATCH DAYS

a) Playing Surface & Markings

- i) A playing area in good playing order, marked plainly for all matches under the control of the League, with regard to boundaries, goal squares, central square, interchange area, central bounce area an arc up to 50 (fifty) metres from each goal and playing surface free from all foreign matter. Refer to AFL Laws Of Australian Football Rule 3.3 Playing Surface And Goal Posts.
- ii) The boundary line shall be marked at least 3 (three) metres from any obstruction such as fences or coaches boxes, excluding the goal and behind posts.
- iii) A line be marked in front of each coaches box 1 (one) metre from boundary line and to 1 (one) metre past each end the of coaches box to allow the Boundary Umpire uninterrupted passage.
- iv) A Order Off/Interchange area is to be marked with 2 (two) lines 15 (fifteen) metres apart and suitably located between the Coaches boxes.
- v) It is the duty of Clubs to ensure all ground markings are made with non-toxic materials such as chalk or acrylic paint.

b) Dressing Sheds

- i) Dressing sheds with adequate hot and cold showers, sufficient accommodation for each of the three teams of both visiting and home teams.
- ii) Separate accommodation for all umpires.

c) Time keepers

Separate accommodation for duly accredited time keepers with prohibition of entry to unauthorised persons into same, and the provision of approved signal device, electric siren, bell or gong, installed at hand.

d) Toilets

Home clubs must supply adequate male and female conveniences with running water.

e) Scoreboard

- i) A scoreboard of satisfactory size with clearly visible letters and numbers.
- ii) During all matches progressive scores must be displayed and updated by competent scoreboard attendant.

f) Goal Posts & Goal Umpires Flag Holders

Sockets on goalposts for the use as goal umpires flag holders with padding of goal and behind posts to the Standards outlined in the AFL Rules of Australian Football Rule 3.5.

g) Gatekeeper

A gatekeeper who will enforce the payment of League designated entrance fees at home games, including officials not in possession of passes provided from time to time by the League.

h) Interchange/Coaches Boxes

The provision of adequate covered seating inside the fence line for the Coaches, Interchange players, Trainers, Penalty Steward etc. of each Club.

i) Stretcher

An approved stretcher for the use of participating teams in case of injury.

j) Communications

A Telephone and Facsimile are to be available for use at the ground.

k) Football Supply

- i) Each home Club shall provide 2 (two) new League approved footballs for the Senior match and the opposing captain shall have the choice of ball. It is recommended that in adverse weather conditions 1 (one) of the balls supplied is to be a new wet weather ball.
- ii) For Reserves and Thirds grade matches the home Club shall supply 2 (two) footballs in good condition. The umpire shall have the deciding authority in the case of dispute.

l) Ice Packs

- i) The home Club shall have on hand, refrigerated, 2 (two) ice packs per Club for the use by trainers.
- ii) In the event that the visiting Club does not return the ice pack the visiting Club shall replace the same.

2-6 PLAYING TIMES (Home and Away Matches)

a) Thirds

Third grade matches shall not start later than 10.00am, and will consist of 4 (four) quarters each of 22 (twenty two) minutes duration with NO TIME ON added. Not more than 5 (five) minutes intermission shall be allowed between the first and second quarters, not more than 15 (fifteen) minutes between second and third quarters and not more than 5 (five) minutes between third and fourth quarter.

b) Reserves

Reserve grade matches shall commence not later than 12.00pm with 4 (four) quarters each of 25 (twenty five) minutes duration with NO TIME ON added. Time allowed between quarters shall be the same as the Third grade matches.

c) Seniors

Senior grade matches shall commence no later than 2.15pm except in unforeseen circumstances where the second grade runs overtime. All matches shall consist of 4 (four) quarters each of 20 (twenty) minutes duration with TIME ON added. Time allowed at quarter & three quarter time breaks shall be as for the Third grade, while the half time break shall be a maximum of 20 (twenty) minutes duration.

d) Shortening of Reserve & Third Grade Matches

Reserve and Third grade games shall be shortened by the timekeepers to ensure they finish at least 5 (five) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the following match. This shall be achieved by determining the time left when play recommences after the half time break, deducting 5 (five minutes) for three quarter time and dividing by 2 (two). Both the third and fourth quarters shall be of equal time in whole minutes.

e) Teams Late on Ground

- i) This rule will be administered through the times recorded by the timekeepers on their official cards and will apply to Thirds, Reserves and Senior games.
- ii) Clubs will be penalised 1 (one) penalty point when a team is late on the ground for the commencement of the game and for the resumption of play after each interval.
- iii) When Reserves and/or Seniors are late on the ground due to previous games ending late, clubs will be fined for any additional time lost.

2-7 PLAYER REGISTRATION

a) Registration Process

- i) Prior to playing with any Club in this League each player shall complete a registration form to play with the League.
- ii) Such registration shall apply for the year in which the player registers with the League. They will be required to re-register each year thereafter as determined by the rules.

b) Incomplete Registrations

Registrations submitted with material details omitted shall not be classed as valid registrations until details are supplied.

c) Incorrect or False Registration Information

Any player guilty of furnishing false information in his/her registration form shall be ineligible to play in the League for such time as determined by the Board.

2-8 PLAYER CLEARANCES

a) Endorsement of Clearances

- i) When a player has been granted a clearance under these rules the clearance shall be forwarded to the League Administrator who shall have the power to endorse the approval of the League on such clearance.

- ii) If in order, the League Administrator shall forward the clearance to the applicant via his Club Secretary.
- iii) The League Administrator shall have the power to grant tentative permits in cases where the clearance has been advised by facsimile, telephone or written assurance signed by the President or Secretary of the Club clearing the player, but has not gone through the full clearance process.

b) Clearance Appeals

When a player appeals in writing to the League Administrator against a refusal of a Club to grant a clearance and the appeal is listed for hearing by the Area Appeals Board as per AFL Vic Country Rules.

c) Clearance Record Keeping

- i) Clubs are required to retain all original Clearance forms for their players for a period of 7 (seven) years.
- ii) Clubs shall be subject to audits to be carried out by the AFL Vic Country or NGFNL Board from time to time.
- iii) Failure to keep player records may result in a fine of 1 (one) penalty point per player, who's records are not retained as per this By-Law.

d) Open Radius

For the purpose of obtaining a Players Clearance, each Club in the League has an open radius.

a) Clearances for Players from Disbanded Clubs

- i) If a Club nominates for the competition and disbands or fails to carry out its program then such Club shall be suspended as determined by the Board and no registered player of such Club shall be granted a clearance to any other Club or Association without a permit from the League.
- ii) Any Club in the League playing any registered player of a suspended Club contrary to this rule shall forfeit each match in which such player takes part and shall be liable for a penalty of 5 (five) penalty points.
- iii) Any registered player of such Club who is desirous of transferring to another Club or Association must first be granted a clearance by the League Administrator.

2-9 PLAYER PERMITS

a) Club Permission

No player can play with a Major or District League unless his parent club shall first grant him the necessary permit required under the AFL Vic Country /League Rules.

b) Permits for Players Coming into the NGFNL

Permits required for players from outside of the NGFNL are only allowed where an Area Agreement is in place between the NGFNL and the players League. Rules governing the number of permits allowed, finals qualification, use of players when their club has a bye, and other relevant information shall be part of the Area Agreement.

c) Area Agreement

A new Area Agreement shall be negotiated annually between Leagues.

d) One Day Permits

- i) In the Reserve or Thirds grade NGFNL competitions, One Day Permits are permitted between opposing and non-opposing NGFNL teams for Home and Away matches but not during finals.
- ii) In the case of non-opposing Clubs the Club Secretary /Administrator who is supplying the players shall ensure the League Administrator is advised prior to the game commencing.
- iii) The maximum number of Permit players from one Club in non-opposing NGFNL teams is 3 (three).

2-10 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Any Club in the League playing an ineligible player under these rules or regulations, shall face a penalty of 2 (two) penalty points and the loss of Premiership points for all matches in which the ineligible player participated.

2-11 **ABANDONED PLAY**

Matches can be abandoned under the following circumstances:-

- a) Adverse Weather Conditions such as extreme heat, extreme cold or electrical storms
- b) Player Injury where the player cannot be safely removed from the playing surface and requires professional assistance causing a delay in waiting for that assistance.
- c) Any other Situation where it is considered unsafe to commence or continue the game.

Consent to have play abandoned

- a) Both team captains and/or coaches plus the central umpires must give consent to abandoning a match.
- b) Where consent is given, the officiating Umpires will not the circumstances behind the play being abandoned on the match report, and the home side will advise the League Administrator that the match has been abandoned.

The following match result considerations will be made in the even a match is abandoned.

a) Abandoned Play prior to Half Time

In the event of a match being abandoned after it has commenced but prior to half time, the provisions of "Laws of Australian Football" Rule 10.6.2 b) will be followed and the game will be declared a draw and each team shall receive 2 (two) premiership points and the scores at the time the match was abandoned will be used for the calculation of percentages. For the purpose of League awards, there will be no Best & Fairest votes cast, however goalkickers will be counted and Code of Conduct marks awarded.

b) Abandoned at Half Time or after

In the event of a match being abandoned at half time or after, the provisions of "Laws of Australian Football" Rule 10.6.2 c) will be followed and the scores at the point of the match being abandoned will be declared the final scores and points will be allocated and percentages calculated accordingly. For the purposed of League awards, Best & Fairest votes will be cast, Goalkickers will be counted and Code of Conduct marks awarded.

c) Abandoned Prior to match commencement

The result of a match unable to be commenced for reason beyond the control of either team will be decided by the League as per the provisions of "Laws of Australian Football" Rule 10.6.2 a)

d) No Consent

Where a match is abandoned and one or both teams did not consent to the play being abandoned such as where the umpires abandon the match, or a team abandons a match without consent from the other team, then the team who feels they have been disadvantaged by the decision, shall within 2 business days after the conclusion of the match day, advise the League Administration in writing of their complaint and the League shall investigate the circumstances and make a ruling accordingly.

e) Abandoned Round

In the event of a round being abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or another emergency, it shall be re-scheduled if possible.

2-12 **FORFEITURE**

a) Minimum number of Players

For the purpose of this rule no less than 14 (fourteen) players constitute a team.

b) Loss of Points & Payment of Umpire Fees

Except in cases where the League may rule that circumstances were beyond the control of

the offending Club, the offending Club shall forfeit all rights to premiership points and shall be liable for the umpire's fees.

c) Final Decision Rests with the Board

The Board shall have the final decision in defining a forfeit.

d) Application of Rules

The Board shall apply AFL Laws of Australian Football Rule 10.7.2 and AFL Vic. Country Rule 21.0 at the end of the Home and Away season in relation to points and percentages of any teams forfeited against".

2-13 **TEAM RUNNERS**

a) Attire

- i) The Official runner of the team must be attired in an orange coloured high visibility polo shirt with the Club name on the back. This shirt must be worn outside any other clothing so to be clearly visible to the umpires(s).
- ii) Runners must wear orange coloured Hi visibility shorts/long pants. Where shorts are worn the runner must not wear football socks.

b) Name on Team Sheet

The Runners name must appear on the team sheet and the runner may be reported by the Umpire(s) just like any other player.

c) Interference with Play

- i) Runners must not impede or interfere with the normal course of the game.

d) Use of 2 (two) Runners

- i) The Seniors, Reserves and Thirds Grade teams may have up to two Runners each.
- ii) Only one Runner, at a time, from each team, shall be allowed to enter the playing field.
- iii) When using two Runners, the Runners must enter and leave the playing field in front of the teams interchange box.
- iv) If both Runners, from the same team, are found to be on the playing field during play, at the same time, a Field Umpire shall send one Runner from the field with a Yellow Card and AFL Vic. Country Order off regulations shall be applied.
- v) For a second offence by the same team in the same match, one of the Runners will be sent off for the remainder of the match.

e) Penalties

In the event that any of the rules related to team runners as outlined above are broken, the offending club shall be fined 1 (one) penalty point.

2-14 **TRAINERS**

a) Attire

Trainers must be attired in white.

b) Qualifications and Training

- i) Trainers should be (where practicable) qualified in first aid and/or other medical qualifications
- ii) Trainers must be prepared to undergo training in sports medicine and familiarise themselves with the latest methods.
- iii) Trainers are encouraged to affiliate with a recognised Association.

c) Non Parochial

Trainers are expected to be non-parochial and if required to attend to a member of an opposition Club should do so.

d) Use of Communication devices

The use of headphones by trainers ONLY to assist in treatment of injuries is allowed in the League

e) Interference with Play

Trainers must not impede or interfere with the normal course of the game.

f) Penalties

In the event that a Trainer fails to comply with these rules, his club will incur a fine of 1 (one) penalty point.

2-15 UMPIRES ATTENDANT

a) **Supply and Attire**

Home clubs are to supply to each game an Umpires Attendant dressed in a red vest to act as an escort to umpires on and off the ground.

b) **Penalty**

A fine of 1 (one) penalty point per match shall be imposed where a club does not provide a person to carry out the Umpires Attendant role as required.

2-16 WATER CARRIERS

a) **Minimum Age**

All personal who carry a drinks container onto the playing field shall be 14 (fourteen) years of age or over for all NGFNL matches

b) **Attire**

All water carriers shall be dressed in white

c) **Maximum Number**

That the maximum number per team is 4 (four)

d) **Penalty**

In the event that a water carrier fails to comply with this rule, there club will incur a fine of 1 (one) penalty point.

2-17 PENALTY STEWARD

a) **Club Supply**

- i) The home club shall supply 1 (one) Penalty Steward per match for each grade.
- ii) Away clubs may also have a Penalty Steward in attendance.

b) **Responsibilities**

The Penalty Steward shall be responsible for the completion and certification by him/her and the officiating Umpires of these records after each match.

c) **Attire**

The Penalty steward shall be attired in Red coats or Red vests as supplied by the League.

d) **Penalty Stewards Box.**

Each club shall supply an enclosed/covered Penalty Steward's Box on the boundary adjacent to the interchange lines. The Box is to be painted Red.

e) **Penalty**

In the event of a Penalty Steward failing to comply with this rule, his club will incur a fine of 1 (one) penalty point.

2-18 TIMEKEEPING

To be read in conjunction with the Laws of Australian Football.

a) **Club Supply**

Each opposing team shall appoint a timekeeper to officiate at each match. Each timekeeper shall be in possession of an approved stop-watch or time-clock and an official timekeeper's card.

b) **Duties**

- i) Keep time in regard to playing time, length of breaks between quarters, and times of entry onto the field for Players and Umpires.
- ii) Keep an accurate record of progressive scores.
- iii) Sound a siren, bell or gong 3 (three) minutes prior to the commencement of each match and again at the commencement of each match.
- iv) Sound a siren, bell or gong 3 (three) minutes prior to the resumption of play in each match after the half time interval.

c) **Player Counts**

Should the captain of the third or second grade teams request a count of players during a game time on shall then be added.

d) **Penalty**

The club not ready or failing to start within 5 (five) minutes of the sounding of the siren, bell or gong as prescribed in b) iii and iv above shall incur an automatic penalty of 1 (one) penalty point.

e) **Provision of Timekeeping cards**

Timekeepers shall be provided with timekeeping cards as supplied by the League administration through their respective Club Secretaries.

2-19 **UMPIRES**

a) **Appointment of Umpires**

The Board shall appoint Field, Goal, and Boundary Umpires from an official Umpires Association prior to the season commencing.

b) **Failure to Supply**

Where an official Umpires Association is unable to supply a full complement of Umpires then opposing clubs will be required to supply.

c) **Over Ruling Of Non-Official Umpires**

The Board authorises Field Umpires to overrule non-official Goal and Boundary umpires if and when required.

d) **Umpires To Be Interviewed After Games**

It shall be the duty of both Club Secretaries and appointed officials to interview the Field Umpires at the conclusion of each match and ascertain whether any one or more of the Umpires has any reports to make. This should be done within 30 (thirty) minutes of completion of each match.

e) **Umpires Making a Report**

In the event of a report it shall be the responsibility of the Umpires Secretary to advise the League Administrator no later than 5 (five) pm on the following day of all reports lodged in all matches played.

f) **Complaints**

Complaints against any of Umpiring officials must be lodged in writing with the League Administrator and are to be forwarded to the relevant umpiring body.

g) **Non Official Goal Umpires**

- i) Where the affiliated Umpires Association is unable to supply a full complement of Goal Umpires, then clubs will be required to supply them.
- ii) Goal umpires when officiating as such shall wear white coats and be equipped with white flags. In the event that a club supplied goal umpire fails to comply with this rule, his club will incur a fine of 1 (one) penalty point.
- iii) Each Goal Umpire shall commence duties at the opposition goal and change ends at half time so that they will complete their duties at the opposition goal.

h) **Non Official Boundary Umpires**

- i) Where the affiliated Umpires Association is unable to supply a full complement of boundary umpires, then clubs will be required to supply them.
- ii) Club supplied boundary umpires shall be competent enough to carry out the duties required.
- iii) All club supplied boundary umpires must be attired in a white top and suitable shorts or long pants. In the event that that a club supplied boundary umpire fails to comply with this rule, his club will incur a fine of 1 (one) penalty point

i) **Provision of Score Cards**

Goal Umpires shall be provided with score cards supplied by the League Administration through the respective Club Secretaries.

2-20 **ORDER OFF RULE**

These By-Laws are to be applied in conjunction with AFL Vic. Country Order off Rules

a) **Application of Rule**

- i) An umpire ordering a player from the ground shall do so in accordance with AFL Vic. Country Order off Rule.
- ii) Field Umpires may order a player from the ground for the first time (for 15 minutes) with a yellow card without reporting said player.
- iii) A player ordered from the field during a match must leave the field through the order off/interchange area in front of the Penalty Stewards box.
- iv) A player ordered from the field under this rule and not leaving the field through the Order

Off/ interchange area cannot return to the field for the remainder of the match.

b) Procedure

- i) When a Player is ordered from the ground under the Order Off rule, the umpire shall show a Yellow or Red card to the player(s) and hold the card over their head for a period of 10 (ten) seconds facing in the direction of the interchange area.
- ii) The player(s) time off the ground shall not commence until he presents himself to the Penalty Steward providing the player(s) has left the ground through the interchange area.

2-21 **ORDER OFF PENALTY - Thirds Competition Only**

a) Application of Rule

- i) In regard to the Thirds competition, players shall receive an automatic 1 (one) week suspension if they accumulate 3 (three) order off reports during the home and away season.
- ii) The suspension shall preclude the player from playing in any match his club is involved in which also includes Senior or Reserve grade matches, and must be taken for the next round of matches their club is involved in.
- iii) This By-Law shall not be applicable for finals, however should a player accumulate their 3rd (third) order off in the last round of the season, then they shall be ineligible to play in the first final their team is involved in that season, should their team make the finals.
- iv) Any accumulated send offs will not carry over to the next season.

b) Procedure

- i) Players sent off will have their number recorded on the penalty sheet in the usual manner.
- ii) One of the officiating umpires will then complete the penalty sheet at the completion of the match, by filling in the player's name on the back of the sheet using details provided on the team sheet.
- iii) On receipt of the penalty sheet, the League Administrator shall record the players name on a spread sheet for that purpose.
- iv) When a player accumulates 2 (two) send offs for the season the League Administrator shall advise the players club secretary that the player has accumulated 2 (two) send offs and faces suspension with their next send off.
- v) Should a player receive a 3rd (third) send off, then the League Administrator shall advise the Club Secretary of the player's ineligibility for the next scheduled round of matches.

c) General By-Laws

- i) Once a player has served their 1 (one) match suspension under this By-Law, then the players send off record will reset at 0 (zero).
- ii) Should a player receive a suspension during the year via the set penalty or tribunal system, then any accumulated send offs the player has shall be reset at 0 (zero).
- iii) Any suspension under this By-Law shall not be recorded on the player's tribunal suspension record, or used in evidence in terms of any prior offences presented before the tribunal.
- iv) Players who receive a suspension under this By-Law shall still be eligible to receive a League Best and Fairest or Runner Up award.
- v) If a player does not serve their suspension when requested by the League Administrator via the player's Club Secretary, then the player's club shall be liable to a fine and/or loss of points. Such a penalty shall be decided by the Board.

2-22 **PRESCRIBED PENALTIES (Optional Set Penalties)**

a) Application of Prescribed Penalties

- i) For certain reportable offences players may accept an automatic suspension as set out under AFL Vic. Country Rule 12.0.
- ii) Reports for serious breaches of these rules and breaches not included in these regulations shall in all cases be determined by the Tribunal.

2-23 TRIBUNAL HEARINGS, PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

a) Independent Tribunal Members

- i) The League Administrator shall Co-opt the members of the Independent tribunal on an annual basis.
- ii) Those Tribunal Members appointed must qualify under the following conditions to be appointed to the tribunal panel;
 - Not to have held any office with any League Club within the previous 12 (twelve).
 - Not to have held any office with the League within the previous 12 (twelve) months.
 - Be of good honest character and respected by the community.
 - Have a good knowledge of Australian Rules Football.
- iii) The Board shall have the right to revoke or co-opt membership of the panel.
- iv) The Board shall appoint a Tribunal Chairman for each season selected from the appointed Tribunal Members.

b) Tribunal Rules

The Tribunal shall operate under AFL Vic. Country rules for Tribunal procedure.

c) Duty of Tribunal

- i) The Tribunal shall deal with all charges brought before it under the laws of the game and all protests and all disputes and other matters referred to them for decision by the Board.
- ii) It shall have full power to deal with all matters brought before it and to make decisions, impose penalties and to make and record findings as it thinks fit.
- iii) It may call for additional evidence and adjourn its meetings if thought necessary and may deal with any witness who, in its opinion, gives unsatisfactory evidence or when summoned, fail to appear without reasonable excuse.

d) Validity of Hearing

In any matters referred to the Tribunal, the validity of the hearing shall not be questioned or affected by reason of the incident or matter not having been previously notified or reported within the times mentioned in these rules within which protests, disputes, charges or reports shall be lodged with the League Administrator.

e) Lodging Protests, Reports, Etc

All protests, disputes, charges etc must be in writing and must be lodged with the League Administrator not later than midnight on the second day after the match of the incident under review.

f) Time Within Which Heard

- i) The hearing of all matters referred to the Tribunal shall commence within 7 (seven) days of the date of notification of the report, protest, charge, dispute or other matter other than incidents which did not arise from a football match in which case the hearing shall be commenced within 9 (nine) days.
- ii) In the event that the charged player, official, reporting Umpire or offended player cannot attend the Tribunal hearing due to prior commitments beyond their control, the Tribunal Secretary in conjunction with the Tribunal Chairman; and with due consideration to the application of Clause 2-23(n) Non-Attendance Bond, may in the absence of those involved, convene and then adjourn the hearing to a suitable time. When reconvened the Tribunal must be satisfied the reasons behind the inability of the person or persons to previously attend were of a valid nature. If the Tribunal is not satisfied the Tribunal may recommend further charges be brought against the individual or individuals involved.

g) Convening the Tribunal

Upon receipt by the Tribunal Secretary of any matter for consideration by the Tribunal he/she shall if such matters are in order and comply with the rules, forthwith call the tribunal together for the purpose of dealing with the case.

h) Affected Parties To Be Advised

The Tribunal Secretary shall advise each of the affected clubs, parties or bodies of the time and place of the hearing, provided that in regard to an official or player charged it shall be considered sufficient notice if the Secretary of his club is notified and who shall be held responsible for the delivery of the person concerned of such notice and shall be deemed in

order if the requisite notice has been given by the League Administrator to the Club.

i) Meeting Place

The Tribunal shall meet at such places as the Tribunal Secretary deems most suitable.

j) Expenses

- i) The expenses of the members of the Tribunal and the meetings shall be borne by the League but the expenses of the affected parties shall be borne by the Clubs, parties or persons affected by and concerned in the hearing.
- ii) Tribunal Members may be paid a travelling allowance as set by the Board.
- iii) Clubs who have a player found guilty of an offence by the Tribunal as a result of an umpires report, shall be levied 1 (one) penalty point per player.
- iv) Clubs, who have a player found guilty of an offence by the Tribunal as a result of an investigation, shall be levied 5 (five) penalty points per player.

k) Decision Final

- i) The decision of the Tribunal shall be final and binding on the League and shall not be subject to review without its permission.
- ii) No appeal shall be allowed except where provided under the rules of AFL Vic. Country.
- iii) Any decision of the Tribunal may only be varied by itself.

l) Representation at Hearings

Each affected club, party or person shall have the right to be represented at the hearing by a delegate or an official of the Club, but no member of the legal profession shall be allowed to appear before any Independent Tribunal or Appeal Board to interpret the Rules of the League.

m) Non-Attendance Bond

- i) Any concerned party who cannot attend a tribunal hearing must send a letter regarding the reported incident, a Statutory Declaration explaining why they cannot attend and a bond of \$200.00.
- ii) It is at the discretion of the Tribunal to decide what monetary amount, if any, should be recovered from the bond for this convenience.

2-24 **MATCH RULES**

a) Adherence to Program

- i) Every Club shall adhere to the program of matches drawn up by the Board.
- ii) Any Club failing to fulfil any engagement as scheduled shall, within 48 (forty eight) hours thereafter, furnish the League General Manger with a statement setting out the facts.
- iii) The Board shall decide whether a forfeit has occurred.
- iv) The Board will make a decision as to whether the offending club is liable for the umpires' fees and any other expenses.

b) Unplayable Grounds

The Board is granted the right to move games from grounds considered unplayable.

c) Use of Lights on Game Days

It is the decision of the Field Umpire/s regarding the use of ground lights during a match. Clubs must make their lights available if requested.

d) Blood Rule

Refer to the AFL Laws of Australian Football - Rule 22.

e) Exchange of Team Sheets - all Grades

- i) Clubs will exchange team sheets prior to the commencement of each match. The team sheet will be a copy of the sheet provided to the umpires.
- ii) Where a player arrives after the commencement of the match and he is not already noted on the team sheet, then his club will advise both the Umpires and opposition team of the addition to the sheet.
- iii) Clubs shall check the opposition's team sheet and can raise any discrepancy with the club involved. Where a no explanation or in the opinion of the requesting club an unsatisfactory explanation is provided, the matter should be referred to the League Administrator for further investigation and action as per the Rules.

2-25 **INTERCHANGE PLAYERS**

a) **Entering or Leaving the Playing Field**

- i) A player going on or off the field during a match, (other than on a stretcher) must enter and leave the playing field through the 15 (fifteen) metre wide order off/interchange area.
- ii) A player entering or leaving the field at any other point other than above cannot return to the field for the remainder of the match.

b) **Considered As Match Played**

Any player who has been selected and recorded in the official team lists as an interchange player shall be regarded as having played in the match in which they were selected as interchange provided that they were present and were able to take the field if required.

2-26 **FINALS - ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

a) **Home & Away Games Minimum**

- i) A player must have played for his club in a minimum of 5 (five) rounds by the completion of the home and away season with the Seniors, Reserves, or Thirds or a combination of all, to be eligible to play for their club in the finals of that season.
- ii) Once a player has played in a minimum of 5 (five) rounds as per above, then the player becomes subject to the majority rule in respect to finals eligibility.
- iii) A Player with Duel VFL/NGFNL registration or Senior Gippsland League player who has played on permit with a NGFNL club, must have played more games for his NGFNL club than their VFL club or Gippsland League club at the completion of the NGFNL home and away season, to be eligible to play for the NGFNL club in the NGFNL finals series.

b) **Senior and Reserve Grade Eligibility**

- i) If a player plays the majority of matches at the completion of the home and away season with the Senior team then he is only eligible to play in the Senior team finals series, except where covered by this By-Law in respect to teams playing the same day/weekend.
- ii) Where a majority of his matches as defined above are played in the Reserve team then the player is eligible to play in both Senior and Reserve finals series.

c) **Third Grade Eligibility**

- i) In the case of a player who is eligible by age to play in the Thirds competition, plays Reserve and/or Senior home and away matches in the current season, then the majority of the players games must be with the Thirds team when compared with the sum of matches played with the Senior and/or Reserves, for that player to be eligible for the Thirds final series.
- ii) Where a player who is eligible by age to play in the Thirds competition, plays the majority of their home and away matches in the current season in the Senior & Reserve grades or a combination of both, then they will become subject to the majority rule for Senior & Reserve grades as defined above, except where covered by this By-Law in respect to teams playing the same day/weekend.

d) **Equal Games Played**

Where a player plays an equal number of home and away matches in the current season in 2 (two) grades as defined above, then he will only be eligible to play in the higher of the grades except where covered by this By-Law in respect to teams playing the same day/weekend.

e) **Teams Playing on the Same Day or Weekend**

Where a club is required to field Senior, Reserve, or Thirds team for finals matches to be played on the same day/weekend, then the player can be selected to play in any grade provided they qualify in age in respect to the Thirds competition, and have played in a minimum of 3 (three) home and away rounds by the completion of the home and away season.

f) **Maximum Games per Day or Weekend**

No player may play more than 1 (one) finals game on the same weekend.

g) **AFL VIC Under 18 Players**

- i) A NGFNL registered player who also competes in the AFL Vic. Country Under 18 (eighteen) competition, shall be considered eligible to play in the NGFNL Finals series provided the player has played in a minimum of 3 (three) AFL Vic. Country Under 18

(eighteen) games in the current season prior to the commencement of the NGFNL Finals Series.

- ii) AFL Vic. Country Under 18 (eighteen) games are to be considered as Senior Grade NGFNL games for the purposes of Finals Qualification as per these By-Laws.
- iii) All of the above By-Laws in respect to Eligibility, Teams playing on the same day/weekend, and 1 (one) finals per day or weekend shall apply to an AFL Vic. Country Under 18 (eighteen) player.

2-27 FINALS – GAME TIMES

a) Third Grade Matches

- i) Third Grade matches will consist of 4 (four) quarters of 18 (eighteen) minutes duration WITH TIME ON ADDED.
- ii) Matches will commence no later than 9.45 a.m. except on Grand Final day when the commencement time will be no later than 9.30 a.m.

b) Reserve Grade Matches

- i) Reserve Grade matches will consist of 4 (four) quarters of 18 (eighteen) minutes duration WITH TIME ON ADDED.
- ii) Matches will commence no later than midday (12.00pm).

c) Senior Grade Matches

- i) Senior Grade matches will consist of 4 (four) quarters of 20 (twenty) minutes duration WITH TIME ON ADDED.
- ii) Matches will commence no later than 2.15 p.m. except on Grand Final day when commencement time will be no later than 2.30 p.m.

d) Breaks Between Quarters

Breaks between quarters will be the same as normal home and away matches.

2-28 FINALS – EXTENSION OF TIME

a) Replays

There shall be no Replays for any NGFNL Finals matches with all matches that are tied at the end of normal time to go into extra time.

b) Extra Time for all Grades

- i) Should the scores be level at the completion of normal time, there will be a 3 (three) minute break after which time further 2 (two) x 5 (five) minute periods WITH TIME ON ADDED will be played to determine the winner.
- ii) If scores are still level after the first 2 (two) quarters of extra time, a 3 (three) minute break will be taken, and an additional 2 (two) x 3 (three) minute quarters will be repeated until a winner is determined.
- iii) This additional time will be played as if 2 (two) more quarters are added with teams changing ends after each quarter.
- iv) Teams will not be allowed a break in between the additional periods of play other than the time taken to change ends

2-29 FINALS - GENERAL RULES

a) Thirds Additional Players

- i) The opposing Third Grade teams in any finals match may agree to put additional players on the team sheet providing both teams have an equal number of players listed.
- ii) The League Administrator is to be advised by both clubs in writing by 8 (eight) p.m. on the night before the final, of the agreement to use additional players.

b) Penalty Stewards

The Board shall appoint independent Penalty Stewards for all finals.

c) Timekeeping

- i) Clubs will supply competent Timekeepers familiar with time on procedures for all Finals with the exception of the Grand Finals.
- ii) The Board shall appoint independent Timekeepers for the Grand Finals.

d) Emergency Umpires

- i) Emergency Umpires will be used in all finals supplied by the Umpires Association.
- ii) The Board shall give power to report in the finals to Emergency Field Umpires.

e) Admittance Passes

The League Administrator may issue admittance passes to representatives of various organisations as approved by the Board.

f) Grand Final Presentations

- i) A Premiership Cup shall be presented to the winning team in all grades to be retained by the Club.
- ii) The Premiership team in each grade will be presented with the game ball.
- iii) Medallions shall be presented to participating players in the Premiership side in each grade.
- iv) Medallions shall be presented to all officiating Umpires in Grand Final matches in each grade.
- v) The best player on ground in the Grand Final of each grade shall receive a medal.

g) Police Protection

All finals matches shall be played under police protection if available or as determined by the Board.

2-30 INTERLEAGUE OR REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

a) Entering into Competitions

The Board may from time to time enter into competition with other Leagues.

b) Appointment of Interleague Coach

The Board shall appoint the Interleague Coaches from whom they see fit, on an annual basis.

c) Appointment of Interleague Selectors

Selectors will be appointed annually by the Board from nominations received from the Clubs.

d) Gate Passes

The Interleague Coach and selectors will be provided with gate passes to allow them free entry into matches to view prospective players.

e) Player Selection

- i) The Selectors or Interleague Coach has the power to second players as they deem fit.
- ii) The League Administrator or appointed official will notify in writing each Club Secretary of the players names, dates, times and venues of the training and any special circumstances at least 14 (fourteen) clear days prior to the commencement of the first training.
- iii) Each Club Secretary will notify the Coach of the Club and the players concerned of the requirements at least 7 (seven) days prior to the commencement of the first training.

f) Player Attendance at Training

- i) Nominated players are required to attend Interleague training even if injured unless the injury precludes travel in which case he must submit a doctor's certificate to the League Administrator within 48 (forty-eight) hours of non attendance.
- ii) If a player cannot attend training due to work commitments he must submit a letter of excuse signed by his employer to the League Administrator within 48 (forty-eight) hours of non-attendance.
- iii) If for unforeseen circumstances a player cannot attend training then the player must arrange a personal interview with a Selector or the Interleague Coach within 48 (forty-eight) hours of non-attendance.

g) Penalties for Non Participation

- i) In the event that players fail to attend training, without an acceptable excuse, the club will incur a fine of 1 (one) penalty point per player.
- ii) Any player who misses 1 (one) training without excuse will be suspended for 1 (one) home and away match.
- iii) For each subsequent unexcused absence the player will be suspended for an additional 1 (one) home and away match per non-attendance.

h) Medallions

The Board may present Medallions and/or other recognition as agreed, to player and coaches competing at Interleague level in under age and/or Senior teams.

2-31 **BEST & FAIREST AWARDS**

a) **Casting of Votes**

- i) Best and Fairest votes shall be cast by the Umpires in charge of each game.
- ii) It is a Club official's duty to supply the Umpire with a vote card and envelope prior to the commencement of the respective match and the cards and envelope should have the date of the match, applicable grade and teams competing filled in.
- iii) Immediately following the conclusion of each game the umpires shall record the numbers, names and Clubs of the 3 (three) players who in the Umpires opinion were the Best and Fairest players in the match.
- iv) These votes are to be recorded on the official card as supplied by the League and when completed are to be sealed in the envelope supplied.

b) **Colour of the Cards**

The vote cards for Football are colour coded as follows:-

Seniors = Blue

Reserves = Green

Thirds = Yellow

c) **System of Counting**

- i) Best and Fairest on the ground receives 3 (three) votes, second best receives 2 (two) votes and third best receives 1 (one) vote.
- ii) The player receiving the highest number of votes over the course of the home and away season shall be declared the winner.
- iii) In the event of a tie for first or second place, the players shall be declared equal winners or runners up.

d) **Eligibility for Best & Fairest Award**

To be eligible to win the award the player must have played at least 6 (six) home and away matches with their respective Club during the season.

e) **Disqualified Players**

- i) Any player who is found guilty of an offence for any home and away match shall be ineligible to receive any Best & Fairest award in the season the penalty was incurred.
- ii) A player who is found guilty of an offence for any finals match shall remain eligible for the current and following seasons Best & Fairest award

f) **Presentations to Winners**

Each winner shall receive a medallion for his respective grade suitably engraved with the players name and grade. In addition the winners will also receive a suitably engraved trophy. The medallions are named as follows:-

Seniors	Sel Burley Medal
Reserves	Lloyd Schacht Medal
Thirds	George Bland Medal

2-32 **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

a) **Player Eligibility**

Players, who play the majority of their games in the Senior grade in the current season for the first time, after playing the majority of their matches in the NGFNL Thirds competition, or an associated junior competition such as the S&DJFL or the T&DJFL the season before, shall be eligible to receive the NGFNL Football Rookie Award.

b) **System of Determining the Winner**

- i) Points shall be determined having consideration for the best players named by their club each week as follows: Best player = 6 (six) points, Second Best player = 5 (five) points etc.
- ii) At the end of the Home and Away season, the player or players with the highest number of points shall win the award.

c) **Disqualified Players**

Players who are suspended during the Home and Away season shall be ruled ineligible to win the award.

d) Presentation to the Winner

The winner shall be given a trophy with their name engraved upon it.

2-33 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

a) Annual Adoption

The NGFNL and its Clubs will follow the AFL Vic Country Point System published on an annual basis.

b) Point Allocations to Clubs

Where permitted the NGFNL Club point allocations will be based on where the Senior team finished on the ladder and how many games the team won in the previous season.

c) Advice to Clubs

- i) The League shall advise all clubs of their point allocations for the next season at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the League Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- ii) Any proposed changes to the Point System Guidelines must also be advised to the clubs at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the AGM for the purpose of adoption at the AGM

d) Point Allocations to Players

- i) Points shall be allocated to new players to Clubs on the basis of their previous playing history as per the NGFNL Points System Guidelines.
- ii) The Points allocated to each player will be entered against the players name on the competition data base, to ensure it is clearly visible when the Senior team sheet is compiled.

e) Point Allocation Updates

Updates of Players point allocations and overall Club point tallies against maximum allowances will be supplied to clubs by the League, on a regular basis from the 1st of February through to the close of Clearances each season.

SECTION 3 – Netball Competition Specific By-Laws

3-1 GRADES AND PLAYING NUMBERS

a) Grade Levels

The playing grades shall consist of Open Age Grades in A, B, C, & D and Under Age grades of 17 (seventeen) and Under, and 15 (fifteen) and Under.

b) Adjustment of Grades

Grades can be added to or deleted from season to season by a simple majority of Netball Delegates.

c) Field in Highest Level First

Each Club starting with the highest grade first shall provide; A grade, B grade, C grade, and D grade or a combination of these teams agreed to by the League.

3-2 CLUB COLOURS

a) Registered Colours

Churchill	Navy Blue, Yellow & Royal Blue.
Cowwarr	Red, Black and White.
Glengarry	Black and White.
Gormandale	Black and Yellow
Heyfield	Blue and White
Rosedale	Navy Blue and White
Sale City	Red, White and Royal Blue.
Traralgon Tyers United	Red and Black
Woodside & District	Navy Blue and White.
Yarram	Red & White

b) Alterations to Uniforms

- i) The Secretary of each Club must notify the League Administrator of any intended alteration of its colours at least three weeks prior to first match.
- ii) Any alteration of Club colours shall be subject to approval by the Board.

c) Correct Colours and Apparel

- i) All players must play in their correct registered colours.
- ii) Short bike shorts/regulation Netball pants are not to be below the skirt hem whilst playing.
- iii) Protective clothing can only be worn for medical or religious reasons. In the case of a medical reason, a medical certificate must be shown to the umpires prior to the player taking the court.
- iv) The umpire in charge of the match can refuse the player from taking the court where the correct colours or apparel are not worn.

d) Sponsorship on Playing Apparel

- i) Netball Victoria major sponsor must be worn on the front and back of playing bibs of all players in all grades.
- ii) Sponsorship logos may be worn on playing apparel but in each case they are not to exceed 64 (sixty four) sq centimetres in area.

e) Away Bibs

- i) All Clubs shall be required to wear suitable Fluorescent bibs for all away matches during the home and away season.
- ii) Teams who participate in the NGFNL finals and are nominated as the away team due to their ladder position shall also be required to wear their away bib.

3-3 PREMIERSHIP POINTS

The following premierships points shall be allocated for Home and Away Matches:-

Winning team-	4 (four) Points.
Losing team -	0 (zero) Points.
Drawn Game –	2 (two) points each team.
Abandoned Game-	2 (two) points each team.
Abandoned Round-	0 (zero) points to each team.

Forfeit - 0 (zero) points to team forfeiting and 4 (four) points to their opponents.

3-4 COURT FACILITIES ON MATCH DAY

a) Playing Area

Clubs must supply a playing area that is clearly marked as per the rules of the game, swept clean of all loose debris and has been inspected and found to be satisfactory in regards to items listed on the game day checklist.

b) Scoreboard

A score board of satisfactory size with clearly visible letters and numbers. During all matches progressive scores must be displayed and updated by competent scoreboard attendant. Failure to provide a scoreboard that is kept up to date during matches will incur a 1 (one) penalty point fine.

c) Match Ball

Each home club shall provide a match ball for each grade. The umpires shall have the deciding authority in the case of dispute over a match ball being satisfactory.

3-5 PLAYING TIMES

a) Starting Times

The time of starting home and away matches in the League shall be as follows;

15 and Under -	9:00 am
17 and Under -	10:00 am
D grade -	11:00 am
C grade -	12:00 Midday
B grade -	1:00 pm
A grade -	2.15 pm

b) Duration of Quarters

- i) The length of quarters in the A & B grades shall be made up of 4 (four) x 15 (fifteen) minute quarters with a 3 (three) minute break at the end of the first & third quarters, and a 5 (five) minute break at half time.
- ii) The length of the C, D, 17 Under, & 15 & Under grades shall be 4 (four) x 12 (twelve) minute quarters with a 2 (two) minute break at the end of the first and third quarters, and a 3 (three) minute break at half time.

c) Injury Time

Injury time will be allowed in accordance with Netball Australia Rule 7.1.

d) Unfavourable Conditions

- i) The length of quarters can be shortened with the agreement of both clubs in conjunction with the Officiating Umpires.
- ii) Should time be altered due to weather conditions for any one grade the following grade will commence play with full length quarters unless both clubs in conjunction with the Officiating Umpires agree to also shorten that match.
- iii) In all cases scheduled match starting times should be adhered to.

3-6 TEAMS ON COURT

a) Starting Numbers

The game can start if a minimum of 5 (five) players from each team are present and both Umpires.

b) Failure to Take the Court

Refer to Netball Australia Rule 21.

3-7 PLAYER REGISTRATION

a) Current Netball Victoria (VNA) Registration

- i) All netball players participating in League games must have a current Netball Victoria member registration or Single Game voucher at the time of taking the court.

- ii) Failure to comply with this requirement will see the offending players team lose any Premiership points they may receive for the game the player participates in, and may see the Board impose a fine of up to 5 (five) penalty points.

b) Registration Through Other Bodies

Players who have registered through other Netball Victoria affiliated bodies during the current calendar year are free to play with the League upon supply of their registration details to the League Administrator.

c) Incomplete Registrations

Registrations submitted with material details omitted shall not be classed as valid registrations until details are supplied.

d) Incorrect or False Registration Information

Any player guilty of furnishing false information in his/her registration form shall be ineligible to play in the League for such time as determined by the Board.

3-8 SINGLE GAME VOUCHERS

a) Issuing of Voucher

The League Administrator where requested can issue a Single Game Voucher for any player wishing to fill in for the day for a club, and the player does not have a current Netball Victoria registration and is unsure of future participation.

b) Payment for Voucher

Payment for the Single Game Voucher and the player's details must be sent to the League Administrator with the match day results.

c) Penalty

Where a club has failed to comply, they will be subject to the same penalty as outlined in NGFNL By-Law 3-7 a)

3-9 PLAYER CLEARANCES

a) General Requirements

- i) Clearances are only required where a player wishes to change NGFNL clubs during the season.
- ii) Players can transfer from one club or League to another out of season without a clearance.
- iii) Players who wish to play for another club in the League after the season has started can do so without a clearance provided they have not played with their club in the current season.
- iv) No player will be granted a clearance if they owe the club fees or are in possession of club property.
- v) A player must receive permission in writing from the League Administrator before they can play for their new club.

b) Closing Date

Clearances close at midnight of the half way point in the home and Away season .ie; in an 18 (eighteen) round season midnight on match day of round 9 (nine). Any clearances in progress at this point can still be processed through to conclusion.

c) Clearance Limit

No player will be granted more than 1 (one) clearance per season.

d) Clearance Procedures

- i) The player requiring a clearance must complete a Netball Victoria clearance form and forward it to the League Administrator.
- ii) On receipt of the form, the League Administrator must forward the clearance form to the players club for action.
- iii) On receipt of the form the players club has 7 (seven) days to complete the clearance or the League Administrator will grant the clearance automatically.
- iv) The players club will advise the League Administrator of the granting or refusal of the clearance.

- v) Where the clearance is granted, the League Administrator shall advise the player in writing, with copies going to both clubs.
- vi) Where the clearance is refused, the League Administrator will advise the player in writing indicating the reason for the refusal with copies going to both clubs.
- vii) Upon receipt of the refusal advice, the player has 48 (forty eight) hours to appeal in writing to the League Administrator in regard to the decision.
- viii) Upon receipt of the appeal, the League Administrator shall refer the matter to the League Netball Hearing Officer.
- ix) The Netball Hearing Officer shall consider the case as they see fit with any decision they make final.

3-10 PLAYING LEVEL QUALIFICATION

a) Recognised A Grade Player

No current recognised A grade player can play lower than B grade. A recognised A grade player is someone who has played 7 (seven) or more A grade games in the previous season or calendar year in a Netball Victoria registered Association or League.

b) Open Age Grades

- i) Once a player has played 7 (seven) home and away games for their club in a particular grade, they are deemed to be a qualified player in that grade.
- ii) Once a player becomes a qualified player for a particular grade, they can no longer play in a grade lower for the remainder of the season but can play in a grade higher. Eligibility to play in a grade higher for the finals is subject to the provisions of By-Law 3-24 (b)
- iii) When an open age player has played 2 (two) or more games on the same day, the game played in the highest grade will be counted first in relation to qualification requirements for other grades.

c) Under Age Grades

- i) There is no limit on the number of games a 17 & Under and 15 & Under players can play in any grade during the Home & Away season, except the case of a 17 & under player who cannot play in a 15 & Under grade.
- ii) An Underage player can play in both their Underage grade and a higher grade on the same day during the Home & Away season up to a maximum of 2 games.

d) Penalties

Clubs that do not comply under this By-Law shall face penalties such as loss of points, fines and player suspension as determined by the Board.

3-11 ABANDONED PLAY

Matches can be abandoned under the following circumstances:-

- a)** Adverse weather conditions, such as extreme heat, extreme cold or electrical storms
- b)** Player Injury, where the players cannot be safely removed from the playing surface and requires professional assistance causing a delay in waiting for that assistance.
- c)** Any other situation, where it is considered unsafe to commence or continue the game

Consent to have play abandoned

- a)** Both team captains and/or coaches plus the umpires must give consent to abandoning a match.
- b)** Where consent is given, the officiating umpires will note the circumstances behind the match being abandoned on the match report, and the home side will advise the League Administrator that the match has been abandoned.
- c)** Where a match has commenced the Timekeepers score cards will be marked completed at the point the match stopped and subsequently abandoned.

Time Frames related to Abandoning Play

Where a match is stopped and there is uncertainty if it can be restarted again then a time period of 15 minutes of elapsed playing time is to be applied after which the game is declared Abandoned. As an example a match is stopped 5 minutes into a quarter, then the case of 15 minute quarter a further 10 minutes is taken off the clock to get to the normal end of quarter break. After the break it taken the clock then starts when the match should recommence, and if the match has not re-commenced by the 5 minutes mark of the next quarter the match is declared Abandoned.

The following match results considerations will be made in the event a match is abandoned.

a) Abandoned Play Prior to Half Time

In the event of a match being stopped prior to half time and is subsequently abandoned, the game will be declared a draw and each team shall receive 2 (two) premiership points and the scores at the time the match was stopped will be used for calculation of percentages. For the purposes of League awards, there will be no Best & Fairest votes cast, however Code of Conduct marks are to be awarded.

b) Abandoned at Half Time or After

In the event of a match being stopped at half time or after and is subsequently abandoned, the score at the point that the match was stopped will be deemed the final scores and points and percentages will be allocated. For the purposes of League awards, Best & Fairest votes will be cast and Code of Conduct marks awarded.

c) Abandoned Prior to the Match Commencement

The result of a match unable to be commenced for reasons beyond the control of both teams, a results will be decided by the League after considering the circumstances.

d) No Consent

Where a match is abandoned and one or both teams did not consent to have play being abandoned such as where the umpires abandon the match, or a team abandons the match without consent from the other team, then the team who feels they have been disadvantaged by the decision, shall within 2 business days after the conclusion of the match day, advise the League Administration in writing of their complaint and the League shall investigate the circumstances and make a ruling accordingly.

e) Abandoned Round

In the event of a round being abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or another emergency, it shall be re-scheduled if possible.

3-12 FORFEITURE

a) Notification Time Frame

A Club that is intending to forfeit must advise the League Administrator and the opposition Club no later than 10am on the Friday before the game to avoid a fine.

b) Penalty for Failure to Notify

Where a club fails to meet the above time frame a fine of 1 (one) penalty point shall be levied.

c) Definition of a Forfeit

Except in cases where the Board may rule that circumstances were beyond the control of the offending club, the offending club shall forfeit all rights to premiership points. The Board shall have the final decision in defining a forfeit.

d) Adjustments to Opposing Team Points and Percentage

Where a team forfeits the match, the opposing team shall receive 4 (four) Premiership points for the game and shall have their percentage adjusted at the end of the season based on the following.

- i) The total for goals for the season of the team that forfeited is added on to the opposing teams total against goals for the season.
- ii) The total against goals for the season of the team that forfeited is added on to the opposing teams total for goals scored for the season.
- iii) The opposing teams percentage is then recalculated giving its revised percentage for the season.

e) Order of Forfeit

Forfeits must occur in the lowest Senior grade first ,ie; D Grade is forfeited first then C Grade and so on.

3-13 ADHERANCES TO PROGRAM

- i) Every Club shall adhere to the program drawn up by the League.
- ii) Any club failing to fulfil any engagement as scheduled shall within forty-eight hours (48) thereafter furnish the League Administrator with a statement setting out the circumstances.

- iii) The Board shall decide whether a forfeit has occurred or whether the match can be rescheduled.

3-14 **COACHES**

a) **Netball Victoria Membership (VNA)**

All coaches who act in the NGFNL competitions must be Netball Victoria Financial Members. Coaches who act in NGFNL matches and are not Netball Victoria members shall be asked to stand down until they become members, and their clubs shall be fined 1 (one) penalty point for each match that they act in without current Netball Victoria membership.

b) **Coaching Accreditation**

- i) Each club coach is to complete Netball Victoria's Coaches foundation course within the first season of coaching in the NGFNL and Netball Victoria's Coaches development course within the first 3 (three) seasons of coaching in the NGFNL.
- ii) Coaches are also expected to complete the section 1 (one) Umpires theory exam within 3 (three) seasons of coaching in the NGFNL.
- iii) Failure to achieve the accreditation standard outlined in this By-Law shall incur the club involved a levy of 1 (one) penalty point per round of matches that the coach acts in after the time frames outlined above.

c) **Coach Training**

- i) The League will provide the opportunity for coaches to receive training via courses run by Netball Victoria and sponsored by the League or held in conjunction with other neighbouring bodies.
- ii) Such opportunities shall be provided on an annual basis provided clubs are able to provide the minimum numbers required to run the course.

d) **Working with Children Checks**

- i) Coaches who will be unsupervised with players under the age of 18 (eighteen) years of age must undergo Working with Children checks (WWCC).
- ii) Coaches who do not undergo the Checks as required will be suspended from coaching until the checks are carried out.

3-15 **COURT SUPERVISOR**

a) **Home Club to Supply**

Each home club shall supply a person to act as Court Supervisor for all NGFNL home and away matches. The role of Court Supervisor can be rotated throughout the day amongst home club personal provided both clubs are made aware when a change is made.

b) **Courts Inspection**

The Court Supervisor shall inspect the court prior to the commencement of the first game of the day to ensure the court is of a suitable condition for Netball having regard for the points detailed in the match day check list.

c) **Match Day Checklist**

The Court Supervisor shall have both clubs sign the match day checklist prior to the commencement of the games on that day, and shall monitor compliance to the items outlined on the match day checklist during the course of the days play.

d) **Timing of Games**

The Court Supervisor shall ensure that all matches are conducted within the time frames outlined in the By-Laws. Consideration will be given to any persons who have been involved in the match before such as players officiating as umpires.

e) **Team Officials**

The Court Supervisor shall ensure that both teams provide the necessary number of officials such as Umpires, Scorers, Timekeepers and Scoreboard Attendants for the commencement of each game.

f) **Team Benches**

The Court Supervisor shall ensure that each team has a designated bench area, and that all team members and coaches are located at that bench.

g) Responsibility in relation to Postponed or Abandoned play

- i) Where conditions such as extreme weather render the court or playing conditions unsafe to play, the Court Supervisor shall decide if play should be postponed for a length of time during the day until conditions improve, or abandon play completely.
- ii) Such decisions shall be made in conjunction with both clubs and umpires, but ultimately shall be the responsibility of the Court Supervisor and should be done having consideration for the points detailed on the Match Day Checklist.

h) Umpire Mentors

It shall be the responsibility of the Court Supervisor to advise both clubs where an umpire is under Mentor instruction for a particular match.

i) Identification

The Court Supervisor shall wear a Green/Yellow Hi Visibility Vest during the course of the days play. Where the duties are carried out by more than one person during the day, then the armband will be transferred from person to person.

j) Penalty

Failure to carry out any of the duties outlined in this By-Law will incur a 1 (one) penalty point fine.

3-16 TIMEKEEPING

To be read in conjunction with the Netball Australia Rules relating to Timekeeping.

- i) Each opposing team shall appoint a Timekeeper to officiate at each match.
- ii) Each Timekeeper shall be in possession of a minimum of 1 (one) time clock.
- iii) It shall be the responsibility of 1 (one) Timekeeper to run the game clock, while the other shall be responsible for injury time.

3-17 SCORING DUTIES

a) Provision of Scorers

- i) Each club is required to supply 1 (one) scorer per game, with both scorers sitting together during the duration of the game.
- ii) The scorers will have no other responsibility other than scoring.

b) Provision of Score Sheets

The Home team will provide the Official score sheet during the Home and Away season, and the League Administrator shall provide the official score sheets for finals matches.

c) Score Sheet Details

- i) 1 (one) official score sheet will be used for each match. The score sheet will list the complete names (both given and Surnames) of all players intending to take the court prior to the commencement of play.
- ii) In an emergency substitution situation names can be added to the score sheet provided they are added before the player takes the court.
- iii) The score sheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter of the match.

d) Score Sheet Verification

At the completion of the game when both scorers are in agreement with the final scores, the Score Sheets are supplied to both Club captains and both Umpires for checking and signing.

e) Score Deemed Correct

Once the score sheet has been signed by both Captains, Scorers and both Umpires then the score shall be deemed to be correct and no further right of appeal is available, unless an intention to appeal the result is noted on the Official team sheet by 1 (one) of the officiating Clubs.

3-18 SCOREBOARD

a) Provision of Score Board Attendant

- i) The home club shall provide a score board attendant to keep a constantly updated score of each game.
- ii) The score board attendant cannot be the official scorer.

b) Failure to Supply

Failure to supply a score board attendant shall attract a fine of 1 (one) penalty point per match.

3-19 **UMPIRES**

These rules are based on the concept that all Netball Umpires shall be supplied by Clubs.

a) Netball Victoria Membership (VNA)

All Umpires who officiate in the NGFNL competition must be Netball Victoria Financial Members. Umpires who officiate in NGFNL matches and are not Netball Victoria members shall be asked to stand down until such time as they become members, and their club shall be fined 1 (one) penalty point for each match that they officiate in without current Netball Victoria membership.

b) Umpire Supply

Each club shall supply one Umpire per team. Where a club is unable to supply an Umpire, then that club will be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be liable for such fine as the Board sees fit.

c) Umpire Accreditation

- i) Each Club supplied Umpire is to have a minimum of Netball Victoria "C" grade badge and a current Level 1 (one) accreditation for all NGFNL A grade matches.
- ii) Each club shall supply Umpires with level 1 (one) accreditation for "B" grade and below.
- iii) Where a club supplies an Umpire without any badge or level 1 (one) accreditation as in the case of a learner Umpire, then that Umpire must be part of the League's Mentoring program for new Umpires and be prepared to progress towards a minimum of level 1 (one) accreditation.
- iv) Failure to supply umpires of the standard outlined in this By-Law shall incur the club involved a levy of 1 (one) penalty point per round of matches that the Umpire officiates in.

d) Number of Matches per Day

- i) No Umpire will officiate in more than 2 (two) NGFNL netball matches per day unless required to do so under the injury or exceptional circumstances provisions in this By-Law.
- ii) An Umpire who has officiated in 2 (two) NGFNL netball matches on the one day and also plays on the same day, can only play after they have completed officiating in the 2 (two) matches.
- iii) Where an injury or illness occurs to a regular Umpire during the course of a game and there is no other option available such as the use of an opposition umpire, other than a person who has already completed their maximum number of games, then that person can complete the duties without penalty.
- iv) Where there is an exceptional circumstance that arises prior to a match that results in a person being required to officiate in more than the maximum number of matches per day, and there is no other options available such as the use of an opposition umpire, then permission must be obtained from the League Administrator prior to the commencement of the match.
- v) The penalty for non compliance to this By-Law shall result in the club who supplies the Umpire receiving a 1 (one) penalty point fine.

e) Umpire Changes

Umpires can only be changed during the course of a match where injury of illness occurs.

f) Completing Match Documentation

- i) Umpires are expected to fill in documentation in relation to each match as stipulated by the League Administrator from time to time. Such documentation shall include but not be limited to Score Sheets, Best and Fairest cards and Code of Conduct cards.
- ii) Where an Umpire fails to fill in the stipulated documentation then the umpires club will be fined 1 (one) penalty point.

g) Training

- i) The Board will provide the opportunity for umpires to receive training via courses run by Netball Victoria and sponsored by the League or held in conjunction with other neighbouring bodies.
- ii) Such opportunities shall be provided on an annual basis provided clubs are able to provide the minimum numbers required to run the course.

h) Apparel

- i) All umpires officiating in the NGFNL shall wear as a minimum a white top when in control

of matches.

- ii) Rain jackets if worn must be white or clear. Failure to wear a white top will result in the Umpire's club receiving a fine of 1 (one) penalty point.

3-20 PRIMARY CARE PERSON

a) Clubs to Supply

Each club is required to supply a Primary Care Person to treat players for injuries in each match that they participate in.

b) Entering the Court

The Primary Care Person is authorised to enter the court to treat an injured player once the umpire has stopped play and started injury time.

c) Identification

The Primary Care Person shall wear a Red/Orange Hi Visibility Vest for the duration of the match that they are providing the support for.

d) Penalties for Non Compliance

Clubs shall be penalised 1 (one) penalty point where they fail to provide a Primary Care Person, or that person fails to wear the identification outlined in these By-Laws.

3-21 NAILS, JEWELLERY, & ADORNMENTS

a) Nails

Fingers nails must be short and smooth in accordance with Netball Australia rules.

b) Jewellery and Adornments

All removable jewellery or adornments must be removed prior to the player taking the court. Where jewellery or adornments cannot be removed then the item must be secure and protected with tape or a band aid to ensure the safety of the wearers and other players. The umpire will be the only person who will determine if the jewellery or adornment is secured and protected enough for the player to be allowed to take the court.

c) Medical Devices

Essential medical devices such as alert bracelets and hearing aids, etc, can be worn on court, but must be secured and worn in such a way as to offer protection to the wearers and the other players. Non-essential medical devices should be removed before a player takes the court. Where a player is required to wear an essential medical device, then that player must carry with them a doctor's authority advising of the requirement, and should be prepared to produce the doctor's authority if requested by an umpire.

d) Risk with Wearer

Where a player wears non removeable jewellery, adornments, or medical devices onto the court, then the risk of injury rests with the wearer.

3-22 INCIDENT REPORTING

a) Initial Report of Incident

Where an Umpire, League Official, or individual has occasion to witness any matter that may indicate a player, official or club has committed an act of misconduct during the course of a match or in relation to a match at the venue, then the matter can be reported via the NGFNL incident reporting form.

The report form must be sent to the League Administrator within 2 (two) working days of the alleged incident.

b) Club to Supply Bond

- i) Where an incident report form is initiated by an NGFNL club rather than an individual such as an officiating umpire, then a Bond of \$200 must accompany the incident report form.
- ii) Part of or the entire Bond may be retained by the League in event that the incident is deemed to be frivolous by the Netball Hearing Officer.

c) Hearing Officer

- i) The League Administrator shall forward the incident report form to the Netball Hearing Officer for his or her action.
- ii) The Hearing Officer shall investigate the incident as he or she sees fit and hand down any suspensions, fines or other sanctions that he or she deems applicable.

d) Decision Final

Any decision handed down by the Hearing Officer shall be final.

e) Time Frames

- i) It would be expected that the Hearing Officer should commence the investigation within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of incident, with a decision handed down within 28 (twenty eight) days of the date of the incident.
- ii) Where exceptional circumstances prevail, the Board can grant the Hearing Officer up to a 14 (fourteen) day extension of time to complete the investigation.

f) Expenses

Any expenses born by the Hearing Officer or the League in relation to the investigation of an incident shall be charged to the club of the offending party if they are found guilty.

3-23 PROTESTS REGARDING THE RESULT OF A GAME

a) Initiating the Protest

Clubs wishing to protest the result of a game must note on the official scoresheet when their captain signs it, that they wish to protest the result of the game, and lodge the protest in writing outlining the grounds for the protest to the League Administrator within 48 (forty-eight) hours of the conclusion of the match being played.

b) Actions by League Administrator

The League Administrator shall forward the details of the protest to the Board as soon as possible after receiving the protest in writing.

c) Actions by the Board

The Board can rule on the protest or choose to pass the details of the protest to the Hearing Officer for their consideration.

d) Appeal against the Decision

Where the Board rules in relation to the matter, the effected club has 48 (forty eight) hours to appeal the decision of the Board. Where a club appeals the decision of the Board, the matter will be forwarded to the Hearing Officer for their consideration.

e) Decision by the Hearing Officer

The decision of the Hearing Officer shall be final.

3-24 FINALS - ELIGIBILITY of PLAYERS

a) Qualification Period

For the purposes of finals eligibility, qualification finishes at the end of the Home and Away season.

b) Open Age Grades - Player Qualifications

- i) A player must play for their club in 4 (four) rounds for a specific grade in the current Home and Away season to be eligible to play for that grade in the finals.
- ii) Open Age Players are only permitted to play in one game per finals weekend except in the case of the granting of an exceptional circumstances request per By-Law 24(d). Where an exceptional circumstances request is granted the player can only play up a grade.

c) Under Age Grades - Player Qualifications

- i) A Player must play for their club in 6 (six) rounds during the current Home & Away season to be eligible to play in their club's finals.
- ii) Underage players are permitted to play in more than one game per finals weekend up to a maximum of two games.
- iii) To be eligible to play in a 17 & Under final or a 15 & Under final, the player must have played either a majority of their games in their underage grade, or the same amount of games in their underage grade and an open age grade. Where an underage player has played the majority of their matches in an open age grade, to remain eligible to also play finals in their underage grade, they must have played a minimum of 6 (six) games in their underage grade, except in the case of the granting of an exceptional circumstances request per By-Law 3-24(d)
- iv) To be eligible for an underage player to play in a higher grade as well as their usual grade during the finals, the player must have played a minimum of 6 (six) Home and Away rounds during the current season in the higher grade, except in the case of the granting of

an exceptional circumstance request per By-Law 3-24(d)

d) Exceptional Circumstances Application

- i) Where a Club has a requirement to use a player in contradiction to the player finals eligibility By-Laws 3-24 (b) & (c) due to exceptional circumstances, then the Club involved must make application for an exemption stating the reasons behind the exceptional circumstance application to the Director responsible for Netball or in their absence the League Administrator no later than 1 (one) hour prior to the commencement of the match.
- ii) The Director responsible for Netball or in their absence the League Administrator shall have the ability to grant or refuse the application as they see fit. The granting of any application may be conditional. ie the Player may have to be used only as an injury replacement on the day.

3-25 FINALS - STARTING TIMES

All start times for Finals except for the Grand final will be the same as the home and away season. The Grand Final Starting Times shall be set by the Board.

3-26 FINALS - EXTENSION OF TIME

In the event of a draw at the completion of normal time, the following shall apply

- i) In relation to Netball games involving 4 (four) x 15 (fifteen) minute quarters, the Netball Australia rule shall apply, however extra time of 2 (two) by 7 (seven) minute halves shall be played.
- ii) In relation to Netball games of 4 (four) x 12 (twelve) minute quarters, the Netball Australia Rule shall apply, however extra time of 2 (two) by 6 (six) minute halves shall be played.

3-27 FINALS – GENERAL RULES

a) Provision of Scorekeepers, Timekeepers, and Scoreboard Attendants

- i) All clubs will be rostered to provide scorekeepers, timekeepers and scoreboard attendants for the finals.
- ii) All scorekeepers, timekeepers and scoreboard attendants shall be neutral in relation to clubs playing the match.
- iii) Each club will be provided with entry gate passes for those officials.
- iv) Failure to provide any of the above officials will incur the club a fine of 1 (one) penalty point per official.

b) Supply of Time Clocks

The League shall provide Time Keepers clocks in all Finals.

c) Presentation to Premiers

- i) A Premiership Cup and a Flag shall be presented to the winning team in each grade which is retained by the club.
- ii) Medallions shall be presented to participating players in all Premiership teams.
- iii) The Premiership teams shall be presented with the game ball.

d) Best on Court

The best on court player in the Grand Final of each grade shall receive a medallion.

e) Presentations to Umpires

The officiating Umpires in the Grand Final shall be presented with an appropriate gift.

3-28 BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

a) Casting of Votes

- i) Best and Fairest votes shall be cast by the Umpires in charge of each game.
- ii) It is the Home Club official's duty to supply the Umpires with an official NGFNL umpire match report book and envelope prior to the commencement of the respective match, and report sheet and envelope should have the date of the match, applicable grade and teams competing filled in.
- iii) Immediately following the conclusion of each game the umpires shall discuss and decide on the awarding of the votes, and record the names and Clubs of the three (3) players who in the Umpires opinion were the Best and Fairest players in the match.
- iv) The votes are to be placed into the enveloped provided and sealed for forwarding with the

results by the Home Club to the NGFNL League Administrator.

b) Colour of Umpire Match Report Sheets

The Umpire Match Report book contains 3 colours for each match. The white copy containing the votes is to be sealed in a league provided envelope by the umpires and posted by the home club to the NGFNL League Administrator. The yellow copy is retained by the home club and the green copy is retained by the away club.

c) System of Counting

- i) Best on court receives 5 (five) votes, second best receives 4 (four) votes and third best receives 3 (three) votes.
- ii) The player receiving the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
- iii) In the event of a tie for first or second place, the players shall be declared equal winners or runners up.

d) Eligibility for Best & Fairest Award

To be eligible to win the award the player must have played at least 6 (six) home and away matches with their respective Club during the season.

e) Disqualified Players

- i) Any player found guilty of an offence for any home and away match shall be ineligible to receive a Best & Fairest award in the season the penalty was incurred.
- ii) A player found guilty of any offence for any finals match shall remain eligible for the current and following seasons Best & Fairest awards

f) Presentations to Winners

The winners will receive a suitable engraved trophy.

3-29 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

a) Eligibility

- i) To be eligible to win this award the Player must have qualified as a recognised A Grade player in the NGFNL competition during the current season.
- ii) The player must be playing A Grade for the first time
- iii) The player must have played in the NGFNL competition in the previous season in a lower Grade.

b) Determining the Winner

The player with the highest Best and Fairest votes in the A Grade competition shall be proclaimed winner.

Players who are suspended during the Home and Away season shall be ruled ineligible to win the award.

c) Presentation to the Winners

The winner shall be given a trophy with their name engraved upon it.

3-30 GAME BALL

A new match standard game ball must be supplied by the home club for its A Grade game