

OFFICIAL BY-LAWS

Approved 16th March 2026

MID GIPPSLAND FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE
OFFICIAL BY-LAWS

Interpretation

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

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

Where there is conflict with these publications and the MGFL By-Laws, the AFL Vic., AFL Vic. Country Handbook, and Netball Australia Rules will take precedence.

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SECTION 1. MGFNL BY-LAWS (GENERAL SECTION)

1. The League

This body shall be known as "The Mid Gippsland Football Netball League" hereinafter referred to as the “League”, or “MGFNL”.

2. Members and Clubs

The League consists of Member Clubs, Governance Committee, Executive Committee, Ex officio Members and Life Members duly admitted and affiliated in accordance with the Rules of Constitution of this League and these By-laws as long as they remain a member.

The League shall consist of the following member clubs:

2.1. Boolarra Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.2. Fish Creek Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.3. Foster Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.4. Hill End Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.5. MDU Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.6. Mirboo North Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.7. Morwell East Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.8. Newborough Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.9. Stony Creek Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.10. Tarwin Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.11. Thorpdale Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.12. Toora Football Netball Club (Inc.);

2.13. Yinnar Football Netball Club (Inc.).

3. 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:

3.1. Provision of Information

3.1.1. All Club Secretaries shall provide and within such time as stipulated by the League Secretary, all such information as is required by the League Secretary for the completion of records.

3.1.2. 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 Secretary.

3.1.3. Clubs repeatedly failing to do so will be fined 1 (one) penalty point per week.

4. League Governance Structure

4.1. Members of the Governance Committee (member club delegates)

The Governance Committee shall be structured in accordance with the Rules of the Constitution and responsibilities allocated to the Governance Committee Members as prescribed below:

4.1.1. For the avoidance of doubt, the duties of the Governance Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Constitution;

b. By-laws;

c. Strategic plans;

d. Annual budget approval;

e. Financial reporting;

f. Membership approvals, including new or amalgamated club applications to join the League;

g. Appointment of Sub Committees, including terms of reference, for specific purposes;

h. Appointment of auditor/s;

i. Remuneration arrangements of Executive and League officials as appropriate; and

j. Approval of annual fees schedule.

4.1.2. Clubs shall appoint, or reappoint to the Governance Committee, a Football and a Netball delegate and advice the League Secretary of the name and contact details of the delegates no less than seven (7) days prior to the first General meeting of the season.

4.2. Members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be structured in accordance with the Rules of the Constitution and duties allocated to the Executive Committee Members as prescribed below.

4.2.1. For the avoidance of doubt, the duties of the Executive Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Administer the finances, appoint bankers, and direct the opening of banking accounts for specific purposes and to transfer funds from one account to another, and to close any such account;

b. Fix the manner in which such banking accounts shall be operated upon, providing the Governance Committee passes all payments;

c. Fix fees and subscriptions payable by members and decide such levies, fines and charges as is deemed necessary and advisable, and to enforce payment thereof;

d. Adjudicate on all matters brought before it which in any way affect the operational management of the League.

e. Cause minutes to be made of all proceedings at meetings of the Committee and General Meetings of members;

f. Make recommendations to the Governance Committee to create, amend and rescind rulings and By-laws;

g. Have the power to form and appoint any working party as required for specific purposes;

h. Make recommendations to employ a person or persons to carry out certain duties required by the League, at salaries or remunerations for such period of time, as may be deemed necessary;

i. Should a vacancy occur on the Executive Committee during the season, the Governance Committee shall appoint a successor prior to, or at, the next Annual General Meeting; and

j. Appoint an officer/s or agent of the Executive Committee to have custody of the League's records, documents and securities.

4.2.2. Member Clubs, at the Annual General Meeting shall elect the Office Bearers of the League who will be referred to as Executive Officers of the League (Executives). These positions are to be consistent with the Constitution and will be as follows:

a. President;

b. Vice President Football;

c. Vice President Netball;

d. Vice President Governance;

e. Secretary;

f. Treasurer;

g. Junior Development Manager;

h. Sustainability Officer; and

i. Any additional Executive positions deemed necessary by the Governance Committee.

4.3. League Officer Positions

The Executive Committee, via the Governance Committee approval, will appoint the following positions to assist with the operational requirements of the League.

4.3.1. Publicity Officer Football and/or Netball

a. 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.

b. The Publicity Officer will also carry out any other duties as required by the League from time to time.

c. The Publicity Officer shall be appointed annually by the MGFNL Executive.

d. The Publicity Officer shall have no vote at League meetings.

e. The Publicity Officer's appointment shall be terminable with a months' notice by either party.

f. The Publicity Officer shall be paid an honorarium as the MGFNL Executive may from time to time approve.

4.3.2. Tribunal Secretary

a. The Tribunal Secretary is to be responsible to the League's Independent Tribunal and to arrange any hearings as may be required.

b. The Tribunal Secretary will keep a strict liaison with the League Secretary.

c. The Tribunal Secretary shall be appointed annually by the MGFNL Executive.

d. The Tribunal Secretary shall hold no voting rights within the League.

e. The Tribunal Secretary's appointment will be terminable with one month's notice by either party.

f. The Tribunal Secretary shall be paid an honorarium as the MGFNL Executive may from time to time approve.

4.3.3. Football Investigation Officer

a. The Football Investigation Officer shall be responsible for all investigations as referred by the League and lodged under, and in accordance with, AFL Victoria Guidelines and or League Rules relating to unbecoming conduct and racial/religious vilification plus any other matter that from time to time which may arise.

b. The Football Investigation Officer shall be appointed by the MGFNL Executive

c. The Football Investigation Officer shall be reimbursed expenses if requested and approved by MGFNL Executive.

d. The Football Investigation Officer shall hold no voting rights within the League.

4.3.4. Netball Hearing Officer

a. 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.

b. The Hearing Officer shall be appointed by the MGFNL Executive

c. The Hearing Officer shall be reimbursed expenses if requested and approved by MGFNL Executive.

d. The Hearing Officer shall hold no voting rights within the League.

4.3.5. Public Officer (Secretary)

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

4.3.6. Junior Development Officer (Football)

a. The Junior Development Officer shall be responsible for liaison between clubs and the AFL Victoria (regional) Junior Development Officers and work for the betterment of underage and/or junior football within the League.

b. The Junior Development Officer shall be appointed annually by the MGFNL Executive.

c. The Junior Development Officer shall be reimbursed such a fee as the MGFNL Executive may from time to time approve.

d. The Junior Development Officer shall hold no voting rights within the League.

4.3.7. 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 Governing Bodies and the rules of the League.

5. Meetings

5.1. League Meetings

5.1.1. All General Meetings of the League are called League Meetings.

5.1.2. In addition, specific purpose Special General Meetings can be called, consistent with the MGFNL Constitution requirements.

5.1.3. Annual General Meetings will be held, consistent with the MGFNL Constitution requirements.

5.2. Governance Committee

Each appointed delegate will, by appointment, become a member of the Governance Committee of the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League and be required to attend all classes of General Meetings of the League.

5.3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the League is elected at the Annual General meeting.

5.4. Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee of the League is responsible for the day to day operation of the league including the implementation of these by-laws and compliance to the constitution of the MGFNL. The Executive Committee will meet one week prior to the General Meetings to confirm the General Meeting agenda and confirm reports and briefing papers and correspondence to be circulated.

5.5. Attendance at Meetings

The club delegates shall attend all General Meetings convened by the League including the League Annual General Meeting, and specific purpose Special General Meetings.

5.6. Adjournments

Meetings shall, unless otherwise decided, be adjourned no later than 10.00pm.

5.7. Club Annual General Meetings

5.7.1. The Annual General Meeting of each member club must be held prior to the League Annual General Meeting.

5.7.2. 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 as League delegates at the Annual General Meeting.

5.7.3. Failure to comply with this rule incurs an automatic penalty of 1(one) penalty point.

5.8. League Annual General Meeting

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be as described within the constitution, but as a minimum, will be:

5.8.1. Opening of Meeting;

5.8.2. Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting;

5.8.3. Presentation of Annual Report;

5.8.4. Adoption of Annual Report;

5.8.5. Presentation of Treasurer's statement;

5.8.6. Election of New Executive and appointment of the Auditor;

5.8.7. Vote of thanks to outgoing Executive;

5.8.8. Determination of Annual Membership Fee;

5.8.9. Determination of Final Series Structure for the next season;

5.8.10. Removed,

5.8.11. Removed;

5.8.12. Removed;

5.8.13. Notice/s of Motion;

5.8.14. Urgent general business; and

5.8.15. Closure.

5.9. 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 Governance or Executive Committee Members.

5.10. Failure to Attend

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

5.11. Alcohol at Meetings

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

5.12. Special Purpose Meetings, Forums, Seminars, and Training

The Executive Committee can set Special Purpose Meetings, Forums, Seminars, or Training nights for clubs to attend from time to time. Where the Executive Committee requires that attendance is compulsory, a minimum of 7 clear days' notice must be given to clubs. Failure to provide the requested persons or numbers will result in a penalty of one (1) penalty point per person on the club involved.

6. Communications (External to the League)

6.1. Obtaining External Information

6.1.1. At times when Clubs believe it is necessary to obtain information from bodies external to the League, the League Secretary shall be informed of this request and the League Secretary shall have the discretion as to whether the information be obtained by the League Secretary or the club concerned.

6.1.2. Only an Executive of a Club shall be authorised to make these requests of the League Secretary.

6.1.3. Should the matter pertain to the League Secretary and disadvantage the League Secretary, the request for information should be directed to the President of the League Executive Committee.

6.2. Player Clearances Excluded

6.2.1. This regulation shall not pertain to normal Clearance negotiations between clubs, within or outside the League.

6.2.2. Any enquiries regarding Clearances, to be made by a member of the Club's Executive or a duly appointed Clearance Secretary.

7. Financial Rules

7.1. Admission Charges

7.1.1. The Executive Committee shall determine the charges for admission to all matches and other charges associated with matches in the League.

7.1.2. All persons, non-playing, 18 years and over will pay admission to all League Home and Away and Finals matches where applicable.

7.1.3. All football and netball players who are Under 18 on the 1st 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 MGFNL 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.

7.2. Gate Takings (Finals)

7.2.1. The gate takings at all deciding Finals matches shall be paid to the credit of the League.

7.2.2. The League shall meet all expenses in connection with such matches, unless otherwise agreed through the finals catering program.

7.3. Gate Takings (Home Games)

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

7.4. Membership/Subscription Fees

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

7.5. Fines for Late Payment

All payments, levies or fines payable to the League are due on the date set by the League Treasurer, unless alternative payment arrangements have been agreed. Any amounts overdue shall incur a fine of four (4) penalty points for each month overdue. All fines are GST exempt.

7.6. Penalty Points

The MGFNL Executive may from time to time change, with agreement from the Governance Committee, the value of a penalty point. The current value of one (1) penalty point is $50.00.

7.7. League Accounts

Accounts for amounts due must be sent by the League Treasurer to the club/clubs concerned at least 14 days before the due date.

7.8. League Sponsorship

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

7.9. Raffles

From time to time the Executive Committee may, with agreement from the Governance Committee, conduct raffles or other fundraising activities. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any tickets distributed to them are sold or returned. Each Club will be liable for any unsold portion not returned.

7.10. 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.

7.11. Club Eligibility to Vote

No Club shall be allowed to vote at any League meeting unless all monies, as appropriately advised, due to be paid by the club are paid, prior to the meeting notified starting time, excepting where the time allowed for payment has not expired.

7.12. Removed

7.13. Non-Attendance at Umpire Clinics

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

8. Code of Conduct for Clubs and Officials

8.1. Interpretation

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

8.1.1. A Member of the Club's Committee or a Sub Committee;

8.1.2. A Member of the Club's Football or Netball Coaching Staff; and

8.1.3. 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.

8.2. Rules and By-Laws

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

8.3. 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 racially offensive manner. Media in this context shall mean Newspapers, Newsletters, Facebook and Internet pages, other social media platforms, 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. Any League related media issues will be addressed/managed by the President or nominee.

8.4. Off Field and 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/court where involved in an official Club, or League function or at a fixture League match including finals.

8.5. 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 Executive Committee or an associated body such as the Umpires.

8.6. Responsibility in Relation to Alcohol

Clubs shall at all times prohibit the entry of alcohol into the ground of any scheduled League match by spectators, players or officials other than the Home Club Committee for sale purposes.

8.7. Penalties for Clubs

Where a Club or one of its Officials has appeared to transgress any of the above By-Laws 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 accordingly. Clubs are required to abide by their Liquor Licence requirements.

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.

8.8. Penalties for Officials

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

8.9. 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.

9. Match Records

9.1. Provision of Official Match Records

At the conclusion of each round of matches/games in the Football and Netball competition, the official records as listed below shall be collected by the game day secretary of the Home Club who will forward them to the MGFNL Secretary.

9.2. 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:

9.2.1. Football Score Cards from both Goal Umpires and Timekeepers;

9.2.2. The Netball Score Sheets from the home club;

9.2.3. Football team sheets from both Clubs correctly certified, by the umpire and team manager including the names of Goal Kickers and Best Players from each club;

9.2.4. Best and Fairest Voting cards for Football and Netball completed by the Umpires;

9.2.5. Football Penalty Sheets completed by the Umpires;

9.2.6. Football Day Permits;

9.2.7. Match day checklists for the ground and courts completed correctly using online applications certified;

9.2.8. Any Umpire report forms from the day; and

9.2.9. Netball or Football Day Pass information where applicable.

9.3. Time Frame for the Provision of the Official Match Records

These records are to be supplied by priority mail or by hand delivery, in time to reach the League Secretary no later than 6.00pm on the Wednesday following the day of the match.

9.4. Confirmation of Results

9.4.1. On receipt of the Official Match Records the League Secretary shall check all results for accuracy, and if the results are verified as correct, the results will be deemed as official.

9.4.2. Where there are discrepancies in the results or in the case of the Netball score sheets the Captains or Umpires have not signed, then the League Secretary shall bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee.

9.5. Penalties

Failure to supply the records to the League Secretary by 6 (six) pm on the Wednesday following the match will incur a fine of two (2) penalty points.

10. Results Entry

10.1. 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 electronic data bases or failing that, text or phone the results sheets to the League Secretary.

10.2. 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.

10.3. List of Results to be entered

10.3.1. Football quarter by quarter scores taken from the Goal Umpire’s cards

10.3.2. Goal Kickers from both football teams taken from club team sheets

10.3.3. The six (6) best players from both football teams taken from club signed team sheets

10.3.4. Netball quarter by quarter scores taken from the home team score sheet.

10.3.5. The three (3) best players from both netball teams taken from club signed team sheets.

10.4. Time Frame for the Entry of Results

All results must be entered into the competition data bases or failing that text or email to the League Secretary, no later than 5:30pm on game day.

10.5. Penalties

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

11. Finals

11.1. Club Eligibility

11.1.1. The Governance Committee, at the Annual General Meeting, shall determine, prior to the season commencing, the number of Clubs which shall compete in the Finals.

11.1.2. At the conclusion of the program of home and away matches, the agreed number of Clubs starting from the top of the premiership ladder, shall play off for the premiership, except where a club is ineligible due to being financially in arrears.

11.2. Finals – Order of Play for a Five (5) Club Final Series;

11.2.1. The Fourth (4th) and Fifth (5th) Clubs shall meet in the Elimination Final.

11.2.2. The Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) Clubs shall meet in the Qualifying Final.

11.2.3. The winner of the Elimination Final shall meet the loser of the Qualifying Final in the First (1st) Semi-final.

11.2.4. The winner of the Qualifying Final shall meet the First club in the Second (2nd) Semi Final and the winner shall play off in the Grand Final.

11.2.5. The loser of the Second (2nd) Semi Final shall play the winner of the Frist (1st) Semi-final in the Preliminary Final.

11.2.6. The winner of the Second (2nd) Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.

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

11.3. Finals – Order of Play for a Six (6) Club Final Series;

11.3.1. The Third (3rd) and Sixth (6th) Clubs shall meet in the First (1st) Elimination Final.

11.3.2. The Fourth (4th) and Fifth (5th) Clubs shall meet in the Second (2nd) Elimination Final.

11.3.3. The winner of the First (1st) Elimination Final shall meet the winner of the Second (2nd) Elimination Final in the First (1st) Semi Final.

11.3.4. The First (1st) and Second (2nd) Clubs will meet in the Second (2nd) Semi Final.

11.3.5. The loser of the Second (2nd) Semi Final shall play the winner of the First (1st) Semi Final in the Preliminary Final.

11.3.6. The winner of the Second (2nd) Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.

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

11.4. Finals – Order of Play for a Four (4) Club Final Series;

11.4.1. The Third (3rd) and Fourth (4th) Clubs shall meet in the First (1st) Semi Final.

11.4.2. The First (1st) and Second (2nd) Clubs shall meet in the Second (2nd) Semi Final and the winner shall play off in the Grand Final.

11.4.3. The loser of the Second (2nd) Semi Final shall play the winner of the First (1st) Semi Final in the Preliminary Final.

11.4.4. The winner of the Second (2nd) Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.

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

12. Finals – Venues

12.1. Decision by the Executive Committee

Finals venues are to be decided by the Executive Committee.

12.2. Independent Grand Final Venue - removed

12.3. Allocation of Finals (Irrespective of number of teams competing in the final series)

12.3.1. The Executive Committee will allocate the Elimination and Qualifying Finals to grounds/courts deemed suitable, prior to the completion of the Home and Away matches.

12.3.2. - Removed

12.3.3. The MGFNL Executive will allocate the Preliminary and Grand Final to grounds/courts deemed suitable, no later than the completion of the Home and Away matches.

12.4. Changes to Venue

The Executive Committee is empowered to allocate or change venues depending on ground and court conditions or unforeseen circumstances which may arise.

12.5. Ground Rotation

The Executive committee will endeavour to allocate finals, other than the Grand Final, to clubs on an annual rotational basis, pending availability and ground and facility condition.

12.6. Ground Inspections

Where a ground is being inspected by the Executive Committee, a representative of that Club must be invited to attend.

13. Finals – Catering

13.1. Club Eligibility

13.1.1. From the 2020 season all Clubs shall be required to hold current GippSport level 3 (three) accreditation (or working towards holding) to be eligible to cater for MGFNL Finals.

13.1.2. Clubs who fail to hold the GippSport accreditation will forfeit their spot in the rotation until accreditation is gained.

13.1.3. All Clubs involved in the serving of alcohol at MGFNL finals shall use persons holding RSA (Responsible Serving of Alcohol) accreditation.

13.1.4. 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.

13.2. Catering Roster Grand Final

13.2.1. Catering for the Grand Finals shall be on a rotational basis.

13.2.2. The Grand Final Catering shall be shared by Clubs, to provide, for the canteen, a BBQ or any other food and non-alcoholic drink sales, while other Clubs will be responsible for Bar or Booth sales and the match day raffle, if held.

13.2.3. Catering for Finals other than the Grand Final will be carried out by the host Club.

13.2.4. The Executive Committee shall advise each Club of their responsibilities and will rotate these responsibilities between the Clubs annually.

13.3. Duties of Clubs hosting Finals (other than Grand final)

13.3.1. Hosting 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.

13.3.2. Hosting Clubs are responsible for cleaning ground and court surrounds of rubbish at the completion of the days play.

13.3.3. Hosting 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.

13.3.4. Hosting Clubs may be required to provide refreshments for League officials.

13.3.5. Hosting Clubs may be requested to provide afternoon tea and coffee making facilities at the Netball court area during finals matches.

13.4. Ground Rental

The Executive Committee shall determine the maximum amount payable, if requested, for ground rental on facilities used by the League for Grand Final matches.

13.5. Alcohol

13.5.1. All alcohol sold at finals matches shall only be dispensed from a licensed booth or social club building.

13.5.2. 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.

13.5.3. 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.

13.6. Gate Passes

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

14. Finals – Extra Duties

14.1. Duties Roster (if needed)

A roster will be drawn-up for any duties other than catering, in the event that unforeseen circumstances limit any rostered club from fulfilling their allocated duties on any particular final.

15. Best and Fairest and Other Player Awards

15.1. Power to Conduct Awards

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

15.2. Counting of Best and Fairest Votes

The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may approve the pre-counting of votes in all grades of football and netball.

15.3. 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.

15.4. Club Representation at the League Vote Count

Each club must be represented by invited players and/or club officials.

15.5. Penalties for Non-Attendance

A fine of four (4) penalty points will be placed on any club not represented.

16. Life Membership Nominations and Criteria

Previous Life Members of the Mid Gippsland Football League and the Mid Gippsland Netball Association are accepted Life Members of the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League.

16.1. Nominations

16.1.1. Nominations for Life Membership of the League must be made in writing to the League Secretary at least 21 days prior to the League Annual General Meeting.

16.1.2. 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.

16.1.3. Nominations for Life Membership can only be tabled/nominated by an MGFNL Club or by a member of the MGFNL Executive Committee.

16.1.4. Life Membership of the MGFNL does not rely on Life Membership status having been achieved within an affiliated Club of the MGFNL.

16.2. Criteria – Non-Playing Nominee

16.2.1. A person must be of good and responsible character.

16.2.2. They should have held positions of respect and responsibility within the League.

16.2.3. They should have a dedicated period of 20 years' service to and/or within the League which would have included specific tasks, duties or responsibilities in addition to any MGFNL duties or responsibilities.

16.3. Criteria - Playing Football - Netball Nominee

16.3.1. A Player must be of a good and responsible character.

16.3.2. Their Tribunal record must be at an acceptable level throughout their playing history.

16.3.3. Must have played a minimum of 300 Senior games in either Football or Netball.

16.3.4. Must have dedicated themselves to the development of the game within their Club or Clubs and held positions of responsibility.

17. Recognition of Service Award

17.1. Nominations

17.1.1. Nominations may be made by any person but must be made in writing through a League Club to the League Secretary.

17.1.2. The Executive Committee will review the nomination and where appropriate refer it to a League AGM or SGM for a decision by clubs by a simple majority.

17.2. Criteria

17.2.1. This award should be available to persons who have had an involvement in the League.

17.2.2. This award should not be limited to only sports persons or club or League personnel.

17.2.3. This award in no way replaces Life Membership of the League.

17.2.4. This award does not allow any special privileges other than recognition in League records and the presentation of a suitably worded certificate/plaque.

17.3. Presentation of the award

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

18. Hall of Fame and Legends Award

The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee is responsible for the induction of persons recognised for their outstanding service and overall contribution to the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League.

In addition, the Sub-Committee is responsible for the induction of members of the Hall of Fame, to the special category of Hall of Fame – Legends status.

18.1. Hall of Fame - Sub-Committee Structure

18.1.1. The Hall of Fame Committee shall comprise of up to five (5) persons, all current life members of the MGFNL and will be confirmed by the Executive Committee, following the Annual General Meeting.

18.1.2. The Sub-Committee shall elect from its membership a member to act as chairman of the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee for the next 12 month period and this appointment shall be confirmed in the minutes of the Executive Committee.

18.1.3. One member of the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee is to be appointed as Secretary and take minutes, which are to be tabled at the next scheduled League Executive Committee meeting.

18.1.4. The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee can, with confirmation of the Executive Committee appoint one or more honorary historians to assist the Sub-Committee.

18.1.5. The Executive Committee of the MGFNL shall appoint or replace any members of the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee as it sees fit. The Sub-Committee will make recommendations to the Executive Committee if a replacement member is required.

18.1.6. The League appointed Officers are to have no formal involvement with the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee, other than the planning and participation, of the official function together with the Sub-Committee members.

18.1.7. The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee shall meet as many times as it deems necessary, plus the official Hall of Fame function, if person/s are being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

18.1.8. The League Executive Committee shall be the only body able to change the Hall of Fame structure or selection criteria, although the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee may from time to timetable proposed changes in a submission to the League Executive Committee.

18.1.9. The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee must at all times, work within the Hall of Fame Structure and Selection Criteria rules.

18.2. Hall of Fame – Selection Criteria

18.2.1. To be inducted into the Hall of Fame the candidate must be a Life Member of the League for more than 12 months.

18.2.2. The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee will consider the candidate's individual record, ability, integrity, sportsmanship and character, when determining eligibility, for induction into the Hall of Fame.

18.2.3. Candidates shall be adjudged on the basis of their overall contribution to the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League as opposed to one specific aspect.

18.2.4. A player may only be considered for induction into the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League Hall of Fame if that player has retired from playing for more than two (2) years.

18.2.5. A member of the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee may be a candidate but shall not vote for his or her induction into the Hall of Fame.

18.2.6. There shall be no special order of precedence given to Hall of Fame inductees.

18.2.7. There shall be a maximum of three (3) inductees to the Hall of Fame and a maximum of one (1) legend in each year. There is no minimum requirement.

18.2.8. For a candidate to be inducted into the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League Hall of Fame they must receive at least 80% of the votes in favour, from the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee Members.

18.2.9. For a candidate to be inducted into the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League Hall of Fame as a "Legend" they must receive at least 80% of the votes in favour, from the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee members.

18.2.10. Candidates shall be inducted into the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League Hall of Fame, based on the selection criteria. Inductees as determined by the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee shall not require further ratification by the League Executive Committee.

18.3. Legends Status - Selection Criteria

18.3.1. There shall be a special category of inductees of the Hall of Fame known as "Legends"

18.3.2. The classification of "Legend" will be applied to honour those persons who have had the most significant impact on the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League and caused the game or organisation to change significantly for the better.

18.3.3. The title of "Legend" should be bestowed by the Sub-Committee on no more than 20% of the enshrines of the Hall of Fame.

18.3.4. The Sub-Committee shall recommend to the Mid Gippsland League Executive Committee how to recognise "Legends" in the Hall of Fame.

18.4. Hall of Fame Recognition Ceremony

18.4.1. Subject to Clause 18.2.9 the Hall of Fame recognition ceremony will be conducted on a yearly basis on a date and time agreed by the Executive Committee.

18.4.2. If no persons are to be nominated as a Hall of Fame inductee or elevation to Legend status then there shall be no official function for that year.

18.4.3. The recognition ceremony will be officially hosted by the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee. The League Executive Committee will have the final say on venue and date depending on sponsorship agreements and/or expenses.

19. Pre-Season Launch

During the week prior to the first matches of the season the League Executive host an event to launch the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League season. The Executive preparing the agenda will consider relevant guest speakers, sporting celebrities, sponsors, and local affiliation partners, being AFL Gippsland and Netball Victoria, to be invited.

Each member club will host a table with guests to include senior coaches, club executives and major sponsors. Any club failing to attend, or partially fill the table will incur a fine of one (1) penalty point for each representative not in attendance.

20. Election of League Executive Committee

20.1. Election Process

20.1.1. The election of League Executives will occur at the Annual General Meeting.

20.1.2. The election of League Executive positions is the responsibility of the member clubs.

20.1.3. Each member club has one (1) vote for each elected position.

20.1.4. Each member club can nominate a person over the age of 18 years to any of the Executive positions vacated at the Annual General meeting.

20.1.5. All nominations must be completed on the prescribed nomination form, be seconded by another member club and received by the League Secretary prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.

20.1.6. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacant positions on the Executive, then nominated candidates will be deemed elected and further nominations may be received from the member clubs at the Annual General Meeting.

20.1.7. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, for that particular position, a ballot must be held at that Annual General Meeting.

20.1.8. If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled at the Annual General Meeting, the persons nominated, to that particular position, will be deemed to be elected.

20.1.9. If the nominations from member clubs, either prior to or at the Annual General Meeting, fail to fill all positions, any vacant positions will be filled at the earliest possible time, by the newly elected Executives, upon approval by the Governance Committee.

20.1.10. Any person can be nominated for more than one (1) Executive position but can only be elected to one (1) Executive position.

20.2. Holding Office

20.2.1. Persons elected to positions on the League Executive will remain in office until the next Annual General Meeting whereby all positions will be declared vacant.

20.2.2. Resignation, or removal, of elected officers of the league will be consistent with the League Constitution and these By-laws.

21. Special Circumstances / Provisions Clause

Where these By-Laws are silent on any particular matter, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the MGFNL is maintained at all times. The Governance Committee may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these By-Laws relating to the MGFNL Football and Netball competitions.

22. Indemnity

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

23. Penalties

The MGFNL Executive will apply penalties for non-compliance of these By-Laws. All fines are GST exempt. Penalties may include but are not limited to the following:

a. Loss of premiership point.
b. Penalty point = $50.00
c. Monetary fines up to $100

23.1. Fines and Late Payment

All payment levies or fines payable to the MGFNL are due by the date set by the MGFNL treasurer. Any amounts overdue shall incur a fine as decided by the MGFNL Executive. This decision shall be final.

23.2. Penalty Points, Summary of Fines See APPENDIX 2 for table.

24. Child Safety Standards (Including Working with Children Check)

Applicable to all persons working with people under the age of 18 years.

24.1. This check replaces the police check and is free for volunteers.

24.2. It is mandatory by law for coaches and volunteers to obtain this check if they undertake any of the following roles:

24.2.1. Club personnel including coaches, trainers etc. appointed or seeking appointment whether rewarded or not.

24.2.2. Volunteer personnel who will or are likely to travel away overnight with teams of players under 18 years of age; and

24.2.3. Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with players under 18 years of age.

24.3. Requirements for obtaining a Working with Children Check:

24.3.1. Complete a Working with Children Check application form. (Application forms are available online and from participating outlets of Australia Post).

24.3.2. Organise your proof of identity documentation and passport size photo.

24.3.3. Take your completed application form, proof of identity documentation, and passport size photo to a participating Australia Post outlet.

24.3.4. If you are in PAID employment, you must pay the appropriate fee.

24.3.5. If you are a Volunteer, there is no fee payable.

SECTION 2. FOOTBALL COMPETITION SPECIFIC BY-LAWS

These by-laws have been formed through the combining of the previous Mid Gippsland Football League and the Mid Gippsland Netball Association and best practice models used by Victorian Regional Football Netball Leagues.

25. Grades and Playing Numbers

25.1. Grades

Each club shall consist of a Senior, Reserve, Thirds and Fourth Grade or a combination of these teams agreed to by the League at the Annual General Meeting preceding the next season.

25.2. Seniors

Senior Grade teams shall consist of 18 plus three (3) interchange.

25.3. Reserves, Thirds and Fourths

Reserve, Third and Fourth Grade teams shall consist of 18 plus five (5) interchange but shall be subject to the Even Number Rule.

26. Junior Age Competition

26.1. Requests for amendments to the age limits of the third and fourth grade competitions shall be made at the League Annual General Meeting for submission to AFL Victoria for approval..

26.2. Should a junior grade competition be altered, that age group for that grade of competition shall not be able to be further altered for a minimum of two seasons of competition.

27. Qualification of Thirds Players

To qualify to play in the thirds team a player must be under 18 years of age on the first day of the current year.

28. Qualification of Fourths Players (U16 or U15 Competition)

28.1. If U16 competition is running, to qualify to play in the fourths team a player must be under 16 years of age on the first day of the current year.

28.2. If U15 competition is running, to qualify to play in the fourths team a player must be under 15 years of age on the first day of the current year.

29. Even Number Rule

29.1. Application

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

29.2. Commencement of Match

Where one or both teams are unable to field a full complement of 18 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.

29.3. 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.

29.4. Late Player Arrivals

29.4.1. 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.

29.4.2. 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.

30. Registered Club Colours

30.1. Registered Club Colours / *Clash Colours.*

Boolarra	Jumper	Dark Blue with Red V
	Shorts	Dark Blue with Red side stripe
	Socks	Red
Fish Creek	Jumper	White with Red V
	Shorts	Red
	Socks	Red with White stripes
Foster	Jumper	Black with Yellow diagonal stripe / *Yellow with black diagonal stripe*
	Shorts	Black with Yellow side stripe
	Socks	Black and Yellow stripes / *Rainbow stripes*
Hill End	Jumper	Green with Yellow V
	Shorts	Yellow with Green side stripe
	Socks	Green with Yellow band
Meeniyan Dumbalk United MDU	Jumper	Navy and Red / *White/Red/Navy*
	Shorts	Navy with Red stripe / *White, red stripe*
	Socks	Red
Mirboo North	Jumper	Black with Yellow Diagonal stripe
	Shorts	Black with Yellow side stripe
	Socks	Black and Yellow stripes
Morwell East	Jumper	Yellow and Brown vertical stripes
	Shorts	Brown with Yellow side stripe
	Socks	Brown and Yellow stripes
Newborough	Jumper	Blue with Red and White horizontal bands
	Shorts	Blue with Red and White side stripes
	Socks	Blue, Red and White stripes
Stony Creek	Jumper	Maroon and White
	Shorts	Maroon
	Socks	Maroon
Tarwin	Jumper	Royal Blue and White / *Pink and white*
	Shorts	Royal Blue
	Socks	Royal Blue
Thorpdale	Jumper	Blue with White V
	Shorts	Blue with White side stripes
	Socks	Blue and White stripes
Toora	Jumper	Grey with Teal, Black and White V
	Shorts	Black
	Socks	Black with Teal band
Yinnar	Jumper	Black and White vertical stripes
	Shorts	Black with White side stripes
	Socks	Black and White stripes

30.2. Alterations to Uniforms

30.2.1. The Secretary of each Club must notify the League via the League Secretary of any intended alteration of its colours at least three (3) weeks prior to first match.

30.2.2. Any alteration of Club colours shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

30.2.3. Removed.

30.3. Correct Colours and Apparel

30.3.1. All players must play in their correct registered colours.

30.3.2. The wearing of any other apparel which can be seen under a Football player's uniform (shorts) must be of Neutral/Beige 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.

30.3.3. 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 one (1) penalty point for each player so offending.

30.3.4. 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.

30.4. Jumper Numbers

30.4.1. Each Football player shall wear, attached to his back on his/ her jumper, a distinguishing number of sizes of each numeral to be not less than 28cm long and 5cm wide.

30.4.2. No two (2) 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 30.3.

30.5. Sponsorship on Playing Apparel

30.5.1. 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.

30.5.2. Sponsorship logos on the front of Football jumpers, shorts, runners/trainers' shirts to be approximately the same size as the AFL Victoria Logo.

31. Premiership Points

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

31.1. Winning team – four (4) Points.

31.2. Losing team – zero (0) Points.

31.3. Drawn Game – two (2) points each team.

31.4. Abandoned Game - two (2) points each team.

31.5. Abandoned Round - zero (0) points to each team.

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

31.7. BYE - four (4) points.

32. Ground Facilities on Match Days

32.1. Playing Surface and Markings

32.1.1. 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 metres from each goal and playing surface free from all foreign matter. (Refer to AFL Laws of Australian Football Rule Section on Playing Surface and Goal Posts).

32.1.2. The boundary line shall be marked at least three (3) metres from any obstruction such as fences or coaches' boxes, excluding the goal and behind posts.

32.1.3. A line be marked in front of each coach's box one (1) metre from boundary line and to one (1) metre past each end the of coaches box to allow the Boundary Umpire uninterrupted passage.

32.1.4. An Order Off/Interchange area is to be marked with two (2) lines 15 metres apart and suitably located between the Coaches boxes.

32.1.5. It is the duty of Clubs to ensure all ground markings are made with non- toxic materials such as chalk or acrylic paint.

32.1.6. At each home game the Match Day Checklist is to be completed at https://au.marsh.com/sport/afl/clubs.html#forms-docs making sure to enter all the details and include the league email address midgippsland@gmail.com

32.2. Change Rooms

32.2.1. Dressing sheds with adequate hot and cold showers, sufficient accommodation for each of the four (4) teams of both visiting and home teams.

32.2.2. Separate accommodation for all umpires.

32.3. Timekeepers

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

32.4. Toilets

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

32.5. Score Boards

32.5.1. A score management system of satisfactory size with clearly visible letters and numbers.

32.5.2. During all matches progressive scores must be displayed and updated by a competent score management attendant.

32.6. Goal Posts and 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 Rules.

32.7. Gatekeeper

A gatekeeper who will enforce the payment of League designated entrance fees at home games.

32.8. 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.

32.9. Stretcher

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

32.10. Communications

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

32.11. Football Supply

32.11.1. The home club shall supply the following match football, all of which are to be National Football League approved:

d. Seniors - two (2) new footballs;
e. Reserves - one (1) football;
f. Thirds - one (1) football; and
g. Fourths - one (1) football.

32.11.2. Should ground conditions be poor and or inclement weather prevail, an approved wet weather football shall be used.

32.12. Ice Packs

The home Club shall have on hand, refrigerated, two (2) ice bags per Club for the use by trainers.

33. Playing Times (Home and Away Matches)

33.1. Starting Times Unless otherwise decided starting and playing times shall be:

Grade	Start time	Quarter duration	Breaks between quarters
Seniors	2.20pm	20 minutes, plus time on	5 minutes, 15 minutes and 5 minutes
Reserves	12.30pm	20 minutes, with no time on	5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes
Thirds	10.45am	18 minutes, with no time on	5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes
Fourths	9.10am	18 minutes, with no time on	5 minutes, 8 minutes and 5 minutes

33.2. Finishing Times

33.2.1. Seconds games shall terminate not later than 2.15pm.

33.2.2. Thirds games shall terminate not later than 12.25pm.

33.2.3. Fourths games shall terminate not later than 10.40am.

33.3. Late Start or Finish penalties

33.3.1. The Club of any defaulting team not on the ground ready to start at the scheduled starting time shall be fined $5.00 for each minute after the scheduled starting time, the only excuse being unforeseen circumstances for which due allowance will be made.

33.3.2. This rule will be administered through the times recorded by the timekeepers on their official cards and will apply to Fourths, Thirds, Reserves and Senior games.

34. Player Registration

34.1. Registration Process

34.1.1. Prior to playing with any Club in this League each player shall complete a registration form to play with the League.

34.1.2. Such registration shall apply for the year in which the player registers with the League and they will be required to re-register each year thereafter as determined by the rules.

34.2. Incomplete Registrations

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

34.3. 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 Executive Committee.

35. Player Clearances

As per National Community Policy Handbook, Section 3, Player Registration and Transfers.

36. Player Permits

36.1. 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.

36.2. Permits for Players Coming into the MGFNL

Permits required for players from outside of the MGFNL are only allowed where an Area Agreement is in place between the MGFNL 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.

36.3. Area Agreement

Area Agreements shall be negotiated/amended or terminated annually between Leagues.

36.4. Match Day Permits

36.4.1. In the Reserve, Thirds or Fourths Grade MGFNL competitions, One Day Permits are permitted between opposing and those MGFNL teams with a scheduled bye, for Home and Away matches but not during finals.

36.4.2. Type 1 match day Permit must be processed before commencement of the match.

36.4.3. The maximum number of Permit players from one Club in non-opposing MGFNL teams is three (3).

36.5. Overage Special Permits

Please refer to the Football Overage Special Permit Policy found on the League website or via the League Secretary.

37. Ineligible Players

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

38. Abandoned Play

38.1. Matches can be abandoned under the following circumstances:

38.1.1. Adverse Weather Conditions such as extreme heat, extreme cold or electrical storms.

38.1.2. 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.

38.1.3. Any other Situation where it is considered unsafe to commence or continue the game.

38.2. Consent to have play abandoned

38.2.1. Both team captains and/or coaches plus the central umpires must give consent to abandoning a match.

38.2.2. Where consent is given, the officiating Umpires will note the circumstances behind the play being abandoned on the match report, and the home side will advise the League Secretary that the match has been abandoned.

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

38.3. Abandoned Play prior to Half Time

38.3.1. In the event of a match being abandoned after it has commenced but prior to half time, the provisions of “Laws of Australian Football Rules” will be followed and the game will be declared a draw and each team shall receive two (2) premiership points and the scores at the time the match was abandoned will be used for the calculation of percentages.

38.3.2. For the purpose of League awards, there will be no Best and Fairest votes cast, however goal kickers will be counted and Code of Conduct marks awarded.

38.4. Abandoned at Half Time or after

38.4.1. In the event of a match being abandoned at half time or after, the provisions of “Laws of Australian Football” Rule 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.

38.4.2. For the purposed of League awards, Best and Fairest votes will be cast, Goal kickers will be counted and Code of Conduct marks awarded.

38.5. 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.

38.6. 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 two (2) business days after the conclusion of the match day, advise the League Secretary in writing of their complaint and the League shall investigate the circumstances and make a ruling accordingly.

38.7. 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.

38.8. Abandoned Finals Game

In the event of a finals game being abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or another emergency. Where the game cannot recommence within 30 minutes, for games stopped:

- Before ½ time, the game will be 'won' by the team with the higher ladder position at Rnd 18,
- After ½ time, the scoreboard leader will be the winner, or in the event that scores are level then the team with the higher ladder position at Rnd 18 will be the winner.

39. Forfeiture

39.1. Minimum number of Players

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

39.2. Loss of Points and 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, shall be liable for the umpire's fees, and will pay a fine to the MGFNL of two (2) penalty points before the next game.

39.3. Final Decision Rests with the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have the final decision in defining a forfeit.

39.4. Application of Rules

The Executive Committee shall apply AFL Laws of Australian Football Rule 11.2 and AFL Vic. Country Rule 19.0 at the end of the Home and Away season in relation to points and percentages of any teams forfeited against.

40. Team Runners

40.1. Attire

The Official runner of the team shall be dressed in a uniform approved by the League which will include a 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).

40.2. 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.

40.3. Interference with Play

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

40.4. Use of Two (2) Runners

40.4.1. The Seniors may have up to two (2) Runners each.

40.4.2. Only one (1) Runner, at a time, from each team, shall be allowed to enter the playing field.

40.4.3. When using two (2) Runners, the Runners must enter and leave the playing field in front of the team's interchange box.

40.4.4. 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.

40.4.5. 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.

40.5. 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.

41. Trainers

41.1. Attire

Trainers shall be dressed in a uniform approved by the League but must identify the Trainers Club.

41.2. Qualifications and Training

41.2.1. Trainers should be (where practicable) qualified in first aid and/or other medical qualifications.

41.2.2. Trainers must be prepared to undergo training in sports medicine and familiarise themselves with the latest methods.

41.2.3. Trainers are encouraged to affiliate with a recognized association.

41.3. Non-Parochial

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

41.4. Use of Communication devices

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

41.5. Interference with Play

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

42. Umpires Escort

42.1. Supply and Attire

Home clubs are to supply to each game an Umpires Escort dressed in a Hi-visual vest to escort umpires on and off the ground.

42.2. Penalty

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

43. Water Carriers

43.1. Minimum Age

All personal who carry a drinks container onto the playing field shall be 14 years of age or over for all Senior MGFNL matches and 12 years or over for all MGFNL junior matches.

43.2. Attire

Water Carriers shall be dressed in a uniform approved by the League but must identify the Water Carriers Club.

43.3. Maximum Number

The maximum number, per team, is six (6).

44. Timekeeping

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

44.1. Club Supply

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

44.2. Duties

44.2.1. Keep time in regard to playing time, length of breaks between quarters, and times of entry onto the field for Players and Umpires.

44.2.2. Keep an accurate record of progressive scores.

44.2.3. Sound a siren, bell or gong three (3) minutes prior to the commencement of each match and again at the commencement of each match.

44.2.4. Sound a siren, bell or gong three (3) minutes prior to the resumption of play in each match after the half time interval.

44.3. Player Counts

If the captain of the Fourths, Thirds or Second grade teams request a count of players during a game, no time-on shall be added, during home and away games.

44.4. Penalty

The club not ready or failing to start within five (5) minutes of the sounding of the siren, bell or gong as prescribed in 44.2 above shall incur an automatic penalty of one (1) penalty point.

44.5. Provision of Timekeeping cards

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

45. Umpires

45.1. Appointment

45.1.1. The League shall arrange the appointments of all Senior Grade Match Umpires and only field umpires for thirds and fourth grade matches. It shall be the responsibility of competing Clubs to arrange all other Umpiring appointments and the appointment of a timekeeper to all grades.

Goal and Boundary Umpires shall be dressed in the recognised dress for Umpires.

45.1.2. Field Umpires shall be appointed by the League in a manner it may prescribe. The Umpires fees, payable by Clubs, shall be paid to the League Secretary no later than 14 days before the match.

45.1.3. Complaints against any of these Officials shall only be considered if made in writing to the League Secretary.

45.1.4. Umpire appointments for all grades of finals matches shall be the responsibility of the League. Timekeepers for such matches shall be appointed by the competing Clubs.

45.2. Club Supplied Umpires

45.2.1. Goal Umpires and Timekeepers shall be supplied, by the League through the Secretary of their respective Clubs, with official score and time keeping cards prior to each match.

45.2.2. Goal Umpires shall record the scores at the end of each quarter and at the finish of the game and if the scores do not agree they must consult the Timekeepers cards in an endeavour to reach agreement. If no agreement can be reached, they must report at once to the Central Umpire and both Captains shall endeavour to settle the matter immediately.

45.2.3. All the foregoing Officials shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under the laws of the game.

45.2.4. At the conclusion of each match all official cards and records shall be collected by the Home Club Secretary, who shall return them to the Secretary of the League no later than 6pm on the Wednesday following the day of the match.

45.2.5. It shall be the duty of both Club Officials to wait on the Umpire after the completion of each match to ascertain whether any player or players are to be reported.

45.2.6. Goal and Boundary Umpires provided by a Club shall not have the power to report players except where a player disputes his decisions or unduly interferes with or assaults or uses abusive, threatening or insulting language or behaviour towards them during the progress of the game or within or without the oval on the day of the match. Such reports to be lodged and dealt with similar to those of the Field Umpire.

45.2.7. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere Goal and Boundary Umpires appointed from a registered AFL COUNTRY Umpires Panel to officiate in MGFNL matches shall have the power to report players for field offences etc., as provided for under AFL Laws of Australian Football Rules.

46. Order Off Rule

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

46.1. Application of Rule

46.1.1. An umpire ordering a player from the ground shall do so in accordance with AFL Vic. Country Order Off Rule.

46.1.2. Field Umpires may order a player from the ground for the first time (for 15 minutes) with a yellow card and issuing a Notice of Report.

46.1.3. 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 (if applicable).

46.1.4. 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.

46.2. Procedure

46.2.1. 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 seconds facing in the direction of the interchange area.

46.2.2. 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.

47. Order Off Penalty (Thirds and Fourths Only)

47.1. Application of Rule for Thirds and Fourths

47.1.1. In regard to the Thirds and Fourths competition, players shall receive an automatic one (1) week suspension if they accumulate three (3) order off reports during the home and away season. 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 from the next round of matches their club is involved in and will exclude any byes.

47.1.2. This By-Law shall not be applicable for finals, however should a player accumulate their third (3rd) 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.

47.1.3. Any accumulated send offs will not carry over to the next season.

47.2. Procedure

47.2.1. Players sent off will have their number recorded on the penalty sheet in the usual manner.

47.2.2. 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.

47.2.3. On receipt of the penalty sheet, the League Administrator shall record the players name on a spread sheet for that purpose.

47.2.4. When a player accumulates two (2) send offs for the season the League Administrator shall advise the players club secretary that the player has accumulated two (2) send offs and faces suspension with their next send off.

47.2.5. Should a player receive a third (3rd) send off, then the League Secretary shall advise the Club Secretary of the player's ineligibility for the next scheduled round of matches.

47.3. Order Off Rule By-Law Administration

47.3.1. Once a player has served their one (1) match suspension under this By- Law, then the player's send-off record will reset at zero (0).

47.3.2. 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 zero (0).

47.3.3. 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 of fences presented before the tribunal.

47.3.4. Removed.

47.3.5. 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 Executive Committee.

48. Prescribed Penalties (Optional Set Penalties)

As per National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part E Disciplinary,

49. Tribunal Hearings, Protests and Disputes

49.1. Independent Tribunal Members

49.1.1. The League Administrator shall co-opt the members of the Independent tribunal on an annual basis.

49.1.2. Those Tribunal Members appointed must qualify under the following conditions to be appointed to the tribunal panel;

a. Not to have held any office with any League Club within the previous 12 months.

b. Not to have held any office with the League within the previous 12 months.

c. Be of good honest character and respected by the community.

d. Have a good knowledge of Australian Rules Football.

49.1.3. The Executive Committee shall have the right to revoke or co-opt membership of the panel.

49.1.4. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Tribunal Chairman for each season selected from the appointed Tribunal Members.

49.2. Tribunal Rules

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

49.3. Duty of Tribunal

49.3.1. 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 Executive Committee.

49.3.2. 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.

49.3.3. 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.

49.4. 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.

49.5. 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.

49.5.1. National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part E – Disciplinary, sets out how alleged reportable offences and policy breaches are dealt with. Incident Referral Forms in relation to Alleged Reportable Offences, Policy Breaches etc. must be lodged in accordance with 22.1.(b) (ii) & (iii).

49.5.2. An Incident Referral from any club will require a $500 payment must be submitted which may be refunded if it is determines that the Person who is the subject of the written complaint may have committed a Policy Breach.

49.6. Time within which Hearing is to Occur

49.6.1. The hearing of all matters referred to the Tribunal shall commence within seven (7) 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 nine (9) days.

49.6.2. 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 the 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.

49.7. 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.

49.8. 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.

49.9. Meeting Place

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

49.10. Expenses

49.10.1. The expenses of the members of the Tribunal and the meetings shall be borne by the League but the expenses of the parties or persons affected by and concerned in the hearing shall be borne by the Clubs,

49.10.2. Tribunal Members may be paid a travelling allowance as set by the Executive Committee.

49.10.3. Clubs who have a player found guilty of an offence by the Tribunal as a result of an umpire's report, shall be levied three (3) penalty point per player.

49.10.4. Clubs, who have a player found guilty of an offence by the Tribunal as a result of an investigation, shall be levied five (5) penalty points per player.

49.11. Decision Final

49.11.1. The decision of the Tribunal shall be final and binding on the League and shall not be subject to review without its permission.

49.11.2. No appeal shall be allowed except where provided under the rules of AFL Vic. Country.

49.11.3. Any decision of the Tribunal may only be varied by itself.

49.12. 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 Appeals Committee to interpret the Rules of the League.

49.13. Non-Attendance Bond

49.13.1. 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.

49.13.2. It is at the discretion of the Tribunal to decide what monetary amount, if any, should be recovered from the bond for this convenience.

50. Match Rules

50.1. Adherence to Program

50.1.1. Every Club shall adhere to the schedule of matches drawn up by the Executive Committee.

50.1.2. Any Club failing to fulfil any engagement as scheduled shall, within 48 hours thereafter, furnish the League Secretary with a statement setting out the facts.

50.1.3. The Executive Committee shall decide whether a forfeit has occurred.

50.1.4. The Executive Committee will make a decision as to whether the offending club is liable for the umpires' fees and any other expenses and fines.

50.2. Unplayable Grounds

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

50.3. 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.

50.4. Blood Rule

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

51. Interchange Players

51.1. Entering or Leaving the Playing Field

51.1.1. 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-metre-wide order off/interchange area.

51.1.2. 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.

51.2. 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.

52. Finals - Eligibility of Players

52.1. Eligibility for Finals

52.1.1. To qualify for senior grade finals matches a player must have played 4 games with Club in the current year.

52.1.2. To qualify for Reserve grade matches a player must have played 4 games with the Reserves grade and not more than fifty percent of the games with Senior grade in the current year.

52.1.3. To qualify for the Thirds finals a player must have played 3 games with the Club in the current year.

52.1.4. To qualify for the Fourths finals a player must have played 3 games with the Club in the current year.

52.2. Eligibility for Finals (Senior and Reserve Exception)

In the event of any one Club having Senior and Reserve teams playing on the same weekend in the finals, rule 52.1.2 shall not apply providing a player has played at least 4 games with the Club and only plays in either Senior or Reserve games on that weekend.

52.3. Maximum Games per Day or Weekend

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

52.4. AFL VIC Under 18 Players

52.4.1. A MGFNL registered player who also competes in the AFL Vic. Country Under 18 competition, shall be considered eligible to play in the MGFNL Finals series provided the player has played in a minimum of three (3) AFL Vic. Country Under 18 games in the current season prior to the commencement of the MGFNL Finals Series.

52.4.2. AFL Vic. Country Under 18 games are to be considered as Senior Grade MGFNL games for the purposes of Finals Qualification as per these By-Laws.

52.4.3. All of the above By-Laws in respect to Eligibility, Teams playing on the same day/weekend, and one (1) finals per day or weekend shall apply to an AFL Vic. Country Under 18 player.

53. Finals

53.1. Finals Structure

At the conclusion of the home and away matches, the leading clubs shall play off for the premiership. The leading clubs will be consistent with the nominated finals system, adopted at the

previous Annual General Meeting of the League. In any case, the structure will be consistent with the McIntyre System for either four (4), five (5) or six (6) team finals structure.

53.2. Drawn Final – No replays

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

53.3. Drawn Final - Extra time

In the event of a draw in any finals match there will be extra time played in all grades as follows:

53.3.1. Should the scores be level at the completion of normal time, there will be a three (3) minute break after which time further two (2) x five (5) minute periods (with time on added) will be played to determine the winner;

53.3.2. If scores are still level after the first two (2) quarters of extra time, a three (3) minute break will be taken, and an additional two (2) x three (3) minute quarters will be repeated until a winner is determined;

53.3.3. This additional time will be played as if two (2) more quarters are added with teams changing ends after each quarter;

53.3.4. Teams will not be allowed a break in between the additional periods of play other than the time taken to change ends; and

53.3.5. No team is to be addressed by their coach at change overs.

54. Finals - General Rules

54.1. Thirds and Fourths Additional Players

54.1.1. The opposing Third and Fourths 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.

54.1.2. The League Secretary is to be advised by both clubs in writing by 8.00pm on the night before the final, of the agreement to use additional players.

54.2. Interchange Stewards

The competing clubs shall appoint Interchange Stewards for all finals overseen by the League Executive.

54.3. Timekeeping

Clubs will supply competent timekeepers familiar with time on procedures for all Finals.

54.4. Removed

54.5. Admittance Passes

The League Secretary may issue admittance passes to representatives of various organisations as approved by the Executive Committee.

54.6. Grand Final Presentations

54.6.1. A Premiership Cup shall be presented to the winning team in all grades to be retained by the Club:
Seniors – TTMI Cup:
Seconds – Morwell RSL Cup;
Thirds – Evans Petroleum Cup; and
Fourths – The Doc Shop Cup.

54.6.2. The Premiership team in each grade will be presented with the game ball.

54.6.3. Medallions shall be presented to participating players in the Premiership side in each grade.

54.6.4. Medallions shall be presented to all officiating Umpires in Grand Final matches in each grade.

54.6.5. The best player on ground in the Grand Final of each grade shall receive a medal. The medals are named as follows:
Seniors – Bill McConville Medal and Vic. Country Medal:

Seconds – Trevor Callow Medal;
Thirds – Rod Lucas Medal and Vic. Country Medal; and
Fourths – Charlie Cauchi Medal

54.7. Police or Security Protection

All finals matches shall be played under police or security protection, if available, or as determined by the Executive Committee.

54.8. Medallions

The Executive Committee may present Medallions and/or other recognition as agreed, to player and coaches competing at Interleague level in underage and/or Senior teams.

55. Best and Fairest Awards

55.1. Casting of Votes

55.1.1. Best and Fairest votes shall be cast by the Umpires in charge of each game.

55.1.2. 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.

55.1.3. Immediately following the conclusion of each game, the umpires shall record the numbers, names and Clubs of the three (3) players who in the Umpires opinion were the Best and Fairest players in the match.

55.1.4. 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.

55.2. System of Counting

55.2.1. Best and Fairest on the ground receives three (3) votes, second best receives two (2) votes and third best receives one (1) vote.

55.2.2. The player receiving the highest number of votes over the course of the home and away season shall be declared the winner.

55.2.3. In the event of a tie for first or second place, the players shall be declared equal winners or runners up.

55.3. Eligibility for Best and Fairest Award

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

55.4. Disqualified Players

55.4.1. Any player who is found guilty of an offence for any home and away match shall be ineligible to receive any Best and Fairest award in the season the penalty was incurred.

55.4.2. A player who is found guilty of an offence for any finals match shall remain eligible for the current and following seasons Best and Fairest award.

55.5. 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	George Elder-Berwick Medal
Reserves	Joe Redmond Medal
Thirds	Norm Jacobs Medal
Fourths	Ray Robbins Medal

55.6. Presentation of Club Championship Trophies

Each year the league shall award a Club Championship Trophy based on clubs being awarded 4 points for each win in both football and netball matches. In the case of a draw or league endorsed cancellation of a match, each club will be awarded 2 points. The award is called the Cliff Greenwood Trophy.

56. Player Points System

Player points are to be allocated by the club in accordance with AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, and AFL Gippsland Community Club Sustainability Policy (CCSP) By-Laws. The League shall advise all clubs of their point allocations for the next season as soon as advised by AFL Gippsland.

57. Salary Cap Details (Club Sustainability Program)

The AFL Gippsland Region Commission will allocate the final figure for the Club Salary Cap to the MGFNL and for each Club affiliate, for the following season in accordance with Player Salary Cap policy.

58. Child Safety Standards (Including Working with Children Check)

See Section 1, No. 24.

59. AFL Victoria Policies and Guidelines

MGFNL and clubs are affiliated with AFL Victoria and will work within their related guidelines and policies. Some of these guidelines and policies include but are not limited to:

59.1. AFL Child Safety Policy;

59.2. AFL National Player Registration and Transfer System;

59.3. Risk Management Policy;

59.4. Senior Coaches Code of Conduct;

59.5. Senior Players Code of Conduct;

59.6. Junior Coaches Code of Conduct;

59.7. Junior Players Code of Conduct;

59.8. Parents and Spectators of Junior Football Code of Conduct;

59.9. AFL Affiliate to Affiliate Movement of Clubs;

59.10. AFL Football Player and Official National Deregistration Policy;

59.11. National Age Dispensation Policy;

59.12. AFL Affiliates Regulations;

59.13. AFL Member to Member – Movement of Clubs or Teams;

59.14. Anti - Doping Policy;

59.15. Vilification and Discrimination Policy;

59.16. Infectious Diseases Policy;

59.17. Gender regulations;

59.18. Heat Policy;

59.19. AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy; and

59.20. AFL Victoria Salary Cap Policy and Guidelines.

SECTION 3. NETBALL COMPETITION SPECIFIC BY-LAWS

These by-laws have been formed through the combining of the previous Mid Gippsland Football League and the Mid Gippsland Netball Association and best practice models used by Victorian Regional Football Netball Leagues.

60. Grades and Playing Numbers

60.1. Grade Levels

60.1.1. The playing grades shall consist of Open Age Grades in:

a. A Grade – Female competition

b. B Grade – Female competition

c. C Grade – Female competition

d. D Grade – Female competition

Underage grades of:

e. 17 and Under – Female competition

f. 15 and Under – Female competition with exception

g. 13 and under – Female competition with exception

60.1.2. Males who are 13 years of age (and older) are not permitted to participate in a female competition. To avoid any doubt:

a. Males must be less than 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the competition or season; and

b. Males that turn 13 years of age during that competition or season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that competition or season.

60.1.3. All clubs must field a senior A Grade first, and then B, C, and D. Junior teams 17 and Under,15 and Under and 13 and Under. If clubs are unable to field all seven (7) teams they must contact the MGFNL Executive.

61. Player/Official/Team Registrations and Eligibility

61.1. A player is considered to be registered with a club once they have taken the court with that club, either with a full Netball Victoria membership or a Single Game Voucher. A Player can only play with one MGFNL club at any one time during a season.

61.2. Players and officials (umpires, coaches, etc.) must register and pay their Netball Victoria membership on the Netball Connect system. Clubs need to register or transfer their players to their club on the Netball Connect system.

61.3. Players who need to use a Single Game Voucher must complete all details on the Netball Victoria website, including any payment required, prior to taking the court. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible. Penalties may apply.

61.4. Team fees are to be paid prior to the third week of the current season. If teams withdraw, the team fees shall not be refunded. Penalties may apply.

61.5. Players must play a minimum of one-third of the MGFNL season's playable games in a grade to qualify for that grade's finals. Players must be named on the score sheet and must have taken the court and marked as played on score sheet to be deemed to have played that game.

61.6. Players must have a full Netball Victoria membership before being allowed to play finals. Single Game Voucher (SGV) may not be used for finals.

61.7. Players from a lower grade may play in a higher grade, within their own club. Any senior player may not play more than 50% of the seasons games before becoming ineligible to play in a lower grade.

61.8. A 13andUnder, 15andUnder and 17andUnder player once qualified in a senior grade is ineligible to play in a lower senior grade, however they are still eligible to play in their appropriate age group.

61.8.1. A player who is turning 18 years of age in the competition year is not eligible to play in the under 17andUnder age group, A player who is turning 16 years of age in the competition year is not eligible to play in the under 15andUnder age group, A player who is turning 14 years of age in the competition year is not eligible to play in the under 13andUnder age group.

61.8.2. Participants' age is determined as at the 31st December of the current season year.

61.9. A 13andUnder player can qualify for the 15 and 17andUnder grade and still be eligible for the 13andUnder grade. A 15andUnder player can qualify for the 17andUnder grade and still be eligible for the 15andUnder grade.

61.9.1. Teams found playing an ineligible player during the season, including finals, will be considered to have lost that match and be subject to a penalty of two (2) penalty points.

61.10. An illegible player is defined by:

61.10.1. A player who is not a current Netball Victoria member (i.e. has not paid their VNA); or

61.10.2. A player who has not been registered for a Netball Victoria 'Single Game Voucher'; or

61.10.3. A player who has qualified in a higher grade and played in a lower grade; or

61.10.4. A player who has played with more than one MGFNL club during a season, without an approved clearance; and

61.10.5. A player who requires, but has not yet received, a clearance from another MGFNL club.

61.11. In a final series a player may only play one Senior game per weekend. Should a club require a player to play in a higher grade in the case of an emergency only, clubs need to apply to the MGFNL Executive Committee for consent.

61.11.1. To enable this to happen, clubs should submit an email to the executive via the secretary requesting permission to use an emergency player, please include the following information:

a. Club Name;

b. Grade;

c. Players Name;

d. Reason for needing an emergency only player/s; and

e. The secretary or Netball Vice President will notify the club of the executive decision.

61.12. If you require an emergency then you need to notify the secretary at least 48 hours before the game is scheduled to be played, with your request.

61.13. In the case of sudden illness or injury on the day of the game then notification to the secretary as soon as possible may be satisfactory.

61.14. Emergency players must be registered with the club and have qualified in a lower grade.

61.15. An 'emergency only' player can take the court when the team is down to six (6) eligible players on the court due to injury and/or illness. If the eligible injured or ill player is deemed fit to return to the court by the Match Day Finals Coordinator and MGFNL Vice President – Netball in consultation with the players club medical officer, the 'emergency only' player must be substituted to the bench.

62. Clearances

62.1. Within the MGFNL a player does not require a written clearance between seasons.

62.2. During the season a player can apply to the MGFNL Executive for a clearance from a MGFNL club to another MGFNL club showing a reason for the application. The MGFNL Executive will decide to grant or refuse a clearance request in consultation with the relevant clubs.

62.3. Clearances close at midnight of the halfway point in the home and Away season i.e. in an 18 round season midnight on match day of round 9 (nine). Any clearances in progress at this point can still be processed through to conclusion.

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

63. Uniform

63.1. MGFNL clubs shall register in writing the club uniform and design with the MGFNL Secretary. Such uniform must be approved by the MGFNL Executive before being adopted. Club colours and design must not be changed without written permission from the MGFNL.

63.2. Registered Colours for inclusive uniform of the same design and colour, approved by MGFNL:

Boolarra	Uniform	Dark Blue and Red / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Dark Blue with Red letters
	Socks	Black or White
Fish Creek	Uniform	Red and White / Red Knicks
	Bib Colour	White with Red letters
	Socks	Black or White
Foster	Uniform	Black and Yellow / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Yellow with Black letters
	Socks	Black or White
Hill End	Uniform	Green and Yellow / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Green with Black letters
	Socks	Black or White
Meeniyan Dumbalk United (MDU)	Uniform	Navy and Red / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Red with Navy letters
	Socks	Black or White
Mirboo North	Uniform	Black and Yellow / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Black with Yellow letters
	Socks	Black or White
Morwell East	Uniform	Yellow and Brown / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Yellow with Brown letters
	Socks	Black or White
Newborough	Uniform	Blue, Red and White / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Blue with Red letters
	Socks	Black or White
Stony Creek	Uniform	Maroon and White / Maroon knicks
	Bib Colour	White with Maroon letters
	Socks	Black or White
Tarwin	Uniform	Royal Blue, Pale Blue & White / Black knicks
	Bib Colour	Royal Blue with White letters
	Socks	Black or White
Thorpdale	Uniform	Blue and White / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Blue with White letters
	Socks	Black or White
Toora	Uniform	Teal, Black & White / Black knicks
	Bib Colour	Teal with White letters
	Socks	Black or White
Yinnar	Uniform	Black and White / Black Knicks
	Bib Colour	Black with White letters
	Socks	Black or White

63.3. The Worksafe logo must appear on bibs as per the approved design.

63.4. All players must be in full uniform by the third round each season. Socks, sports knickers and bibs are considered part of the uniform.

63.5. Uniform bib patches (front and back) must have the WorkSafe logo as per the Netball Victoria WCNL sponsorship arrangements.

63.6. Sponsor's name to be allowed on the back of Netball uniforms, all names, words or logos must not hinder the clear sighting of the player's bibs. Sponsorship logos on the front of Netball uniforms, to be approximately the same size as the WorkSafe Logo.

64. Alterations to Uniforms

64.1. The Secretary of each Club must notify the League Secretary of any intended alteration of its colours at least three weeks prior to first match.

64.2. Any alteration of Club colours shall be subject to approval by the MGFNL Executive Committee.

64.3. The Executive Committee may approve an "Away Strip (uniform)" where colours of competing Clubs are the same or similar.

65. Umpires

65.1. All clubs must appoint an umpire coordinator for the season. It is preferred that this person is a badged or accredited umpire.

65.2. MGFNL will appoint an Umpire Development Officer to oversee the development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.

65.3. Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided by MGFNL and included in the Match Day Envelope. It is to be clearly signed by both umpires on the card.

65.4. Both umpires are to complete the MGFNL Best and Fairest Votes immediately upon the completion of the game. Should either umpire be taking part in the following game, they must be given time to prepare.

65.5. Clubs must have a current rulebook and the competition by-laws at the court.

65.6. All Umpires are to be dressed appropriately as per the official rules of netball.

65.7. Umpires are only allowed to umpire two (2) consecutive games.

66. Club Umpires

66.1. It is preferred that all umpires officiating games have a minimum (or working towards) C Grade Umpires Badge.

66.2. Officiating umpires are not permitted to coach the team for which they are umpiring. If, in an emergency, a coach needs to umpire his/her team, then a substitute coach must take over.

67. Match Day Preparation

67.1. Each team is responsible for developing their squad/team on the Netball Connect system.

67.2. The score sheet will list the complete names (both first name and surname) of all players intending to take the court.

67.3. Extra names can be added to the score sheet on game day before the start of the game and need to be written clearly with the full NV registered first name and surname name of the players.

68. Score Bench

(In addition to Official rules of Netball section 5.3 Technical Officials)

68.1. The match officials of the game shall be the umpires, scorer and timekeeper and any other officials specified for the events.

68.2. As a general rule the home team will supply (2) scorers and the away team a timekeeper. The scorers and timekeeper must work together. No one under the age of 16 years of age may score or time keep.

68.3. The home team is to supply the MGFNL scoresheet and league votes in a separate folder for each grade and 2 timers; one for the quarters and one for the breaks..

68.4. All players must be written on the official score sheet prior to the start of play.

68.5. It is the responsibility of the coach/ team manager to inform the score bench of all team changes and substitutions during play and at the quarter time breaks.

68.6. Rolling Substitutions (all grades)

68.6.1. Substitutions may be made during play.

68.6.2. Substitutes may enter via the two designated substitution zones next to the team bench.

68.6.3. There is no limit to the number of substitutes that can be made per match.

68.6.4. Only one substitution may be made at the same time.

68.6.5. Play will not be held for a substitution to be made.

68.7. Rolling Substitutions – Court Markings

68.7.1. The court must be marked for the player substitution zones at each end of the court.

68.7.2. The zone must be a space of 1 metre wide that is not infringing on the umpire run off area that does not infringe with the team bench.

68.7.3. The zone may be a marked line or indicated with cones.

68.7.4. Players must remain behind the marked line/zone until the substitution occurs.

68.7.5. Players may leave the marked line/zone as the substitution is occurring however must tag hands with the departing player off the court.

68.8. For a substitution during play:

68.8.1. The substitute stands immediately behind their teams' substitution zone.

68.8.2. Before entering the playing area, the substitute tags hands with the player leaving the court.

68.8.3. Players must observe the offside rule as they enter/leave the court.

68.8.4. Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

68.8.5. A player leaving the court must cross into the substitution zone before returning to the team bench.

68.8.6. Sanctions for infringements: Free pass where the ball was when the interference or offside entry/exit occurred.

68.9. Notification of substitution changes (all grades)

68.9.1. Teams are required to complete an official MGFNL substitution form to notify the bench of the following subs, a) if either goaler is subbing, or b) if a player is taking the court for the first time in the match.

68.9.2. Removed.

68.9.3. Removed.

68.9.4. Removed.

68.9.5. Should a player be substituted out of the goaling positions. The scorers are to clearly mark on the scoresheet tally of goals when the substitution was made.

68.9.6. ID number to be visible on players uniform or leg for all grades (A-13/U).

68.10. Timekeepers of each game must signal to the umpire at the end of each quarter. They will do this by using a sound horn or similar device.

68.11. The score sheet is official once it is checked and signed by the scorer and timekeeper.

68.12. Procedure used for recording goals during the game:

68.12.1. Enter goals (tally marks), per line or position;

68.12.2. Cross off cumulative total;

68.12.3. Record next centre pass as it is taken; and

68.12.4. Goals recorded against GS and GA in each quarter is the official score.

68.13. Procedure for completing the official score sheet at interval breaks:

68.13.1. Total goals scored at the end of each quarter; and

68.13.2. At the end of each quarter, circle the current cumulative score.

68.14. Other general duties of the scorer, include:

68.14.1. Confirm centre pass with umpires when required;

68.14.2. At the end of the game ensure scorers and timekeepers' names are printed on the score sheet; and

68.14.3. Watch the umpires and play at all times and be aware of the 'no goal' call by the umpire.

68.15. Names cannot be added on the score sheet after the commencement of play.

68.16. The score sheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter, the goals scored and the match score.

68.17. Any players who take the court without having been named on the score sheet, must be removed immediately, once noticed, and cannot participate in the rest of the match.

Penalty: Offending player to be removed immediately from the court. For the period the player was on the court, the score for that team is removed – scorers to notate on score sheet – plus a two (2) penalty point fine to the offending club.

68.18. At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official score sheet is correct, it is to be signed by the captains of both competing teams and both team scorers.

68.19. Umpires must sign the score sheet to advise that they have officiated the game.

68.20. At the end of the day the home score secretary will need to record all players starting positions for each quarter and the following subs in NetballConnect:

- GS/GA substitutions and goals, and
- b) Players is taking the court for the first time in the match for qualification purposes.

69. Players Attire

Uniforms and attire during the conduct of matches must be maintained at the highest level consistent with these bylaws:

69.1. Nails. Fingers Nails must be short and smooth in accordance with Netball Australia Rules.

69.2. Jewellery and Adornments. All removeable 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.

69.3. Medical Devices. Essential medical devices such as alert bracelets and hearing aids, etc, can be worn on the 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.

Exemptions - Any player may seek a variation to the uniform for medical, cultural, religious, or other reasonable grounds and must submit a written request to the MGFNL, which may be granted or declined at the discretion of the MGFNL Executive.

69.4. Risk with Wearer. Where a player wears non removable jewellery, adornments, or medical devices onto the court, then the risk of injury rest with the wearers.

70. Conduct of Matches

70.1. Timing of Matches

Grade	Start time	Quarter duration	Breaks
13andunder	8.10am	10 minutes	2 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 3 min at ½ time
15andUnder	9.00am	12 Minutes	2 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 3 min at ½ time
17andUnder	10.00am	12 Minutes	2 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 3 min at ½ time
D	11.00am	12 Minutes	2 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 3 min at ½ time
C	12.00pm	12 Minutes	2 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 3 min at ½ time
B	1.00pm	15 Minutes	3 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 5 min at ½ time
A	2.15pm	15 Minutes	3 min at ¼ and ¾ time - 5 min at ½ time

70.1.1. The captains shall toss for choice of goal end or first centre pass and notify the umpires and the scorer bench of the result (Official rules of Netball).

70.2. Premiership Points

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

70.2.1. Winning team – four (4) points.

70.2.2. Losing team – zero (0) points.

70.2.3. Abandoned Game – two (2) points each team.

70.2.4. Abandoned Round – zero (0) points to each team.

70.2.5. Forfeit – zero (0) points to team forfeiting and four (4) points to their opponents and provide match payment to the opposing umpires. Any team forfeiting a match will pay a fine to the MGFNL of two (2) penalty points before the next game.

70.2.6. Drawn Game - two (2) points each team.

70.2.7. BYE - four (4) points.

70.3. Forfeiture

(The forfeiting club must notify the MGFNL Secretary immediately they become aware of a pending forfeit, or at a minimum of 48 hours' notice).

70.3.1. For the purpose of this rule no less than five (5) players constitute a team.

70.3.2. 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.

70.3.3. The Executive Committee shall have the final decision in defining a forfeit.

70.3.4. The Executive Committee shall apply Official Rules of Netball for the Home and Away season in relation to points and percentages of any teams forfeited against".

70.4. Abandoned Play

The decision to abandon a game shall be made by the court supervisor or opposing club delegates in consultation with the MGFNL Secretary under the following circumstances:

70.4.1. Adverse or dangerous weather conditions.

70.4.2. 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.

70.4.3. Any other Situation where it is considered unsafe to commence or continue the game.

70.4.4. Both team captains and/or coaches plus the central umpires must give consent to abandoning a match.

70.4.5. Where consent is given, the officiating Umpires will note the circumstances behind the play being abandoned on the match report, and the home side will advise the League Secretary that the match has been abandoned.

70.4.6. The score sheet shall be signed by the scorer and the umpire and include the time that the match was officially abandoned.

The following match result considerations will be made in the event a match is abandoned:

70.4.7. In the event of a game being abandoned after it has commenced but prior to half time, the following provisions will be followed and the game will be declared a draw and each team shall receive two (2) premiership points and the scores at the time the match was abandoned will be used for the calculation of percentages. There will be no Best and Fairest votes cast.

70.4.8. In the event of a game being abandoned at half time or after, the following provisions 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. Best and Fairest votes will be cast.

70.5. Abandoned Finals Game

In the event of a finals game being abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or another emergency. Where the game cannot recommence within 30 minutes, for games stopped:

- Before ½ time, the game will be 'won' by the team with the higher ladder position at Rnd 18,
- After ½ time, the scoreboard leader will be the winner, or in the event that scores are level then the team with the higher ladder position at Rnd 18 will be the winner.

71. Court Facilities on Match Day

71.1. All Clubs are required to download the Netball Australia safe Netball app – game/training Checklist and complete with a representative from the away team before the first game of the day.

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

71.3. At least one (1) Netball Victoria WCNL signage must be displayed courtside at each venue in a prominent location.

72. Scoreboard

A score board of satisfactory size with clearly visible letters and numbers. During all games progressive scores must be displayed and updated by a competent scoreboard attendant.

73. Match Ball

73.1. The M500 WorkSafe branded netballs must be used in all MGFNL games.

73.2. The home club shall provide the match ball in good condition for each grade.

74. Primary Care Person (Trainer)

74.1. Each club must have a fully equipped first-aid kit available at the court.

74.2. Each club is required to supply a Primary Care Person to treat players for injury/illness in each game.

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

74.4. The Primary Care Person shall wear appropriate clothing to distinguish them as the primary carer for the duration of the game. Examples include Hi Visibility Vest, arm band, trainer uniform or similar.

75. Best and Fairest Awards

75.1. Casting of Votes

75.1.1. Best and Fairest votes shall be cast by the Umpires in charge of each game.

75.1.2. It is the Home Club duty to supply the Umpires with an official MGFNL vote card and envelope prior to the commencement of the respective match, the cards and envelope should have the date of the match, applicable grade and clubs competing filled in.

75.1.3. 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. Full name must be written clearly, and club identified. Votes incorrectly written will not be counted.

75.1.4. The votes are to be placed into the envelope provided and sealed for forwarding with the results by the Home Club to the MGFNL Netball Score Secretary

75.2. System of Counting

75.2.1. Best on court receives three (3) votes, second best receives two (2) votes and third best receives one (1) vote.

75.2.2. The player receiving the highest number of votes during the home and away season shall be declared the winner.

75.2.3. Should more than one player receive the same number of votes in the Best and Fairest count it will be classified as a draw and each winner will receive a trophy. When this occurs, there will be no Runner Up Best and Fairest awarded.

75.3. Eligibility for Best and Fairest Award

To be eligible to win the award the player must have played at least a third of the home and away matches with their respective Club during the home and away season.

75.4. Disqualified Players

Any player found guilty of an offence for any home and away match or finals match shall be ineligible to receive a Best and Fairest award in the season the penalty was incurred.

76. Finals

The MGFNL will participate in a final series as described in section 11 of these by-laws.

76.1. Independent scorers and timers will be allocated to each junior and senior finals game by MGFNL Executive.

76.2. At the end of full-time in any Final game should there be a game tied, the following will apply:

76.2.1. There shall be a two (2)-minute interval at the end of full time. Substitutions and/or team changes are permitted.

76.2.2. 13/Under,15/Under, 17/Under, D Grade and C Grade - Extra time of two halves of five (5) minutes each shall be played. Teams change ends at half time with an interval of one (1) minute. Substitutions and/or team changes are permitted.

76.2.3. B Grade and A Grade - Extra time of two halves of seven (7) minutes each shall be played. Teams change ends at half time with an interval of one (1) minute. Substitutions and/or team changes are permitted.

76.2.4. The centre pass is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.

76.2.5. During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply

76.2.6. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

77. Netball Victoria Policies and Guidelines

MGFNL and clubs are affiliated with Netball Victoria (NV) and will work within their related guidelines and policies. Some of these guidelines and policies include but are not limited to:

77.1. 2013 Cyber Safety Policy

77.2. 2013 Social Inclusion Policy

77.3. NV Child Safety Policy

77.4. NV Code of Behaviour – General

77.5. NV Code of Behaviour – Junior Player

77.6. NV Code of Behaviour – Senior Player

77.7. NV Code of Behaviour – Coach

77.8. NV Code of Behaviour – Umpire

77.9. NV Code of Behaviour – Administrator

77.10. NV Code of Behaviour – Parent / Guardian

77.11. NV Code of Behaviour – Spectator

77.12. Hearing Officer Notification

77.13. Appeal Officer Notification

77.14. Complaint Form

77.15. Respondent Form

77.16. Notice of Appeal

77.17. Netball Australia Member Protection Policy

77.18. Member Protection Attachment A – Codes of Behaviour

77.19. Member Protection Attachment B – Employment Screening and WWCC Requirements

77.20. Member Protection Attachment C – National Complaint Handling Regulation

77.21. Member Protection Attachment D – Child Protection Reporting Requirement

77.22. NV Member Protection Charter

77.23. NV Competition Complaints Handling Regulation

APPENDIX 1 PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS (PHO) FRAMEWORK BY-LAWS OCTOBER 2021

1. Governing Principles

That the health and safety of each Community Football and Netball Club's players and volunteers and their broader communities remains the League's highest priority.

Individual players and club official's ability to participate will be determined by the restrictions in place within their Local Government Area (LGA's) of registered residence and the Victorian Government and Chief Medical Officer guidelines.

That whilst balanced competition is important, that the opportunity to participate whenever possible, will be of highest priority during any PHO restricted process.

That during a PHO effected season the equality in the draw will be of lesser importance than the continued opportunity to participate whenever possible.

That a minimum viable season which triggers a finals series be the maximum number of games possible and not influenced by traditional fixture requirements and expectations.

That where possible the Home & Away season and Final's series shall be conducted within the traditional timeframes.

That a Finals Series be played with a traditional final's series of 4 weeks duration, however, if this cannot be achieved then a minimum requirement of 2 weeks duration with the top 4 teams, is required.

If the final series has been abandoned, then minor Premiers be awarded to the top team of the end of the deemed end of the home and away season if a minimum of 13 rounds of the Home & Away season has been achieved.

Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the League Executive to determine at their absolute discretion.

2. Positive COVID or other PHO TEST

2.1. Player/Official immediately notify Club PHO Officer

2.2. Club PHO Officer immediately notify MGFNL. AFL Victoria Region Manager and Netball Victoria Regional Manager where appropriate.

2.3. Club and League must always follow advice of the Public Health Authority

2.4. Public Health Authority issues instructions to AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria of the approved Return to Play Strategies.

Subject to changes in Federal or State Government PHO Restrictions, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria Protocols, a season may be impacted which shall trigger the implementation of the following By-Laws.

3. Impact of a PHO Interruption on a Single Round

3.1. Should an entire Round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team.

3.2. The home and away season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.

3.3. The home and away season shall continue until the finals are scheduled to commence.

4. Impact of a PHO Interruption on a Multiple Rounds (2 or more)

4.1. Should multiple rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team

4.2. The home and away season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.

4.3. The home and away season shall continue until the finals are scheduled to commence.

5. Impact of a PHO Interruption on individual matches within any Round

5.1. Should individual matches within any Round be abandoned, effected teams shall be awarded 2 points each and the average weekly percentage of all participating teams of the same competition from that round of matches.

5.2. The individual games shall not be rescheduled.

5.3. The home and away season shall continue until the finals are scheduled to commence.

6. Return to Play following a PHO Interrupted Round or Match

6.1. If 1-3 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round at the discretion of the league.

6.2. If 4-6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum training period at the discretion of the League Executive but not less than a minimum 5-day training period

6.3. If more than 6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum training period at the discretion of the League Executive

6.4. Should the recommencement following any period of abandonment occur during the scheduled Finals Series, then the Finals shall be adjusted at the direction of the League Executive, at their absolute discretion, following consultation with the AFL Region Commission, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria.

7. Impact of a PHO Interruption on an individual FINALS matches

7.1. League Executive may reschedule FINALS matches at their absolute discretion.

7.2. Where time does not permit for a FINALS game to be rescheduled, should an individual FINALS match, excluding the GRAND FINAL be abandoned, the team with a higher ladder position at the end of the Home and Away season shall be deemed the winner by virtue of higher ranking.

8. Impact of a PHO Interruption on a GRAND FINAL

8.1. League Executive may reschedule the GRAND FINAL matches at their absolute discretion.

8.2. GRAND FINAL must be completed by the end of the first week of October.

9. Final Qualifications in a PHO interrupted Season

9.1. Should a season be impacted on by COVID the League Executive may determine FINAL Qualifications game requirements for Players at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season for Football at one-sixth, and for netball one -third, of the available games played by their respective clubs.

10. Consequence of a suspension in a PHO interrupted Season

10.1. All suspensions MUST be served in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria Rules on suspensions apply to games played by their respective clubs and not dates.

11. Impact of PHO Interruption on the Allowable Player Payment Rule

11.1. Should a round be abandoned, then the Allowable Player Payment Caps shall immediately be calculated on a pro rata of games played.

11.2. Leagues may make application to the AFL Region Commission or Netball Victoria (if applicable) to reduce the Allowable Player Payment Cap at any stage during the season should a minimum of 6 Rounds be abandoned.

11.3. Should any scenario occur which is not covered within this regulation, then the matter shall be referred to the AFL Region Commission or Netball Victoria to determine at their absolute discretion.

12. Impact of PHO Interruption on the Player Point System

12.1. Regardless of any Rounds being abandoned, the AFL Player Point System regulations and categories shall not be affected.

12.2. Should individual club matches be abandoned, clubs may make application to the AFL Region Commission for special consideration for individual Player Reassessment for the following season under relevant region processes and consistent with the Clause 7.3 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.

13. Matters not covered by PHO By-Laws

13.1. Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By-Laws then the matter shall be referred to the League Executive to determine at their absolute discretion.

APPENDIX 2 Penalty Points – Summary of Fines

3 Duties of Clubs

3.1 Provision of information

3.1.1 All Club Secretaries shall provide and within such time as stipulated by the League Secretary, all such information as is required by the League Secretary for the completion of records.

3.1.2 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 Secretary.

3.1.3 Clubs repeatedly failing to do so will be fined **one (1) penalty point** per week.

5 Meetings

5.7 Club Annual General Meeting

5.7.1 The Annual General Meeting of each club must be held prior to the League Annual General meeting.

5.7.2 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 as League delegates at the Annual General Meeting.

5.7.3 Failure to comply with this rule incurs an automatic penalty of **one (1) penalty point.**

5.10 Failure to Attend.

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

5.12 Special Purpose Meetings, Forums, Seminars and Training

The Executive Committee can set Special Purpose Meetings, Forums, Seminars or Training nights for clubs to attend from time to time. Where the Executive Committee requires that attendance is compulsory, a minimum of 7 clear days' notice must be given to clubs. Failure to provide the requested persons or numbers will result in a penalty of **one (1) penalty point** per person on the club involved.

7 Financial Rules

7.5 Fines for Late Payment

All payments, levies or fines payable to the League are due on the date set by the League Treasurer, unless alternative payment arrangements have been agreed. Any amounts overdue shall incur a fine of **four (4) penalty points** for each month overdue. All fines are GST exempt.

7.6 Penalty Points

The MGFNL Executive may from time to time change, with agreement from the Governance Committee, the value of a penalty point. **The current value of one (1) penalty point is $50.00**

7.13 Non- Attendance at Umpires Clinics.

A fine of **one half ½ of a penalty point** per person is placed on clubs for non- attendance at compulsory Umpire Clinics declared by the Executive Committee

8 Code of Conduct for Clubs and Officials

8.8 Penalties for Officials

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

9 Match records

9.3 Time Frame for the Provision of the Official Match Records

These records are to be supplied by priority mail or be hand delivery, in time to reach the League Secretary no later than 6.00 pm on the Wednesday following the day of the match.

9.4 Confirmation of Results

9.4.2 Where there are discrepancies in the results or in the case of the Netball score sheets the Captains or Umpires have not signed, then the League Secretary shall bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee.

9.5 Penalties

Failure to supply the records to the League Secretary by 6pm on the Wednesday following the match will incur a fine of **two (2) penalty points.**

10 Results Entry

10.4 Time Frame for the Entry of Results

All results must be entered into the competition data bases or failing that text or email to the League Secretary, no later than 5.30 pm on game day.

10.5 Penalties

Failure to enter the results or supply the records to the League Secretary by the time outlined above will result in a fine of **one (1) penalty point.**

15 Best and Fairest and Other Player Awards

15.4 Club Representation at the League Vote Count
Each club must be represented by invited players and/or club officials.
15.5 Penalties for Non- Attendance
A fine of **four (4) penalty point** will be placed on any club not represented.

19 Pre-Season Launch
Any club failing to attend, or partially fill the table will incur a fine of **one (1) penalty point** for each representative not in attendance.

23 Penalties
The MGFNL Executive will apply penalties for non-compliance of these By-Laws.
Refer to this By-Law for penalty rates.

30 Registered Club Colours
30.3 Correct Colours and Apparel
30.3.3 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 **one (1) penalty point** for each player.
30.4 Jumper Numbers
30.4.2 No two or more players in the same club shall wear the same number in the match. Clubs and players offending in this respect shall be dealt with in the same manner as provided in clause 30.3.

33 Playing Times (Home and Away Matches)
33.3 Late Start or Finishing Penalties.
Refer to this clause for the time penalty.

35 Player Clearances
35.3 Clearance Record Keeping
35.3.3 Failure to keep player records may result in a fine of **one (1) penalty point** per player, whose records are not retained as per this By-Law.
35.5.2 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 **five (5) penalty points.**

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

39. Forfeiture
39.2 Loss of Points and 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, shall be liable for the umpire's fees, and will pay a fine to the MGFNL of **two (2) penalty points** before the next game.

40 Team Runners
40.1 Attire
40.2 Name on Team Sheet.
40.3 Interference with Play
40.4 Use of Two (2) Runners
40.5 Penalties
In the event that any of the rules related to team runners as outlined above are broken, the offending club shall be fined **one (1) penalty point,**

42 Umpires Escort
42.1 Supply and Attire
Home clubs are to supply to each game an Umpire Escort dressed in a Hi-visual vest to escort umpires on and off the ground.
42.2 Penalty
A fine of **one (1) penalty point** per match shall be imposed where a club does not provide a person to carry out the Umpires Escort role as required.

44 Timekeeping
44.4 Penalty
The club not ready or failing to start within five (5) minutes of the sounding of the siren, bell or gong as prescribed in clause 44.2 shall incur an automatic penalty of **one (1) penalty point.**

49 Tribunal Hearings, Protests and Disputes

49.5.2 Lodging Protests, Reports, Etc.

An Incident Referral from any club will require a **$500** payment must be submitted which may be refunded if it is determines that the Person who is the subject of the written complaint may have committed a Policy Breach.

49.10 Expenses

49.10.3 Clubs who have a player found guilty of an offence by the Tribunal as a result of an umpire's report, shall be levied **three (3) penalty points** per player.

49.10.4 Clubs, who have a player found guilty of an offence by the Tribunal as a result of an investigation, shall be levied **five (5) penalty points** per player.

NETBALL

61 Players/Officials/Team Registrations and Eligibility

61.9.1 Player/Official/Team Registrations and Eligibility

Teams found playing an ineligible player during the season, including finals, will be considered to have lost that match and be subject to a penalty of **two (2) penalty points**.

68 Score Bench

68.17 Score Bench

Any players who take the court without having been named on the score sheet, must be removed immediately, once noticed, and cannot participate in the rest of the match.

Penalty: Offending player to be removed immediately from the court. For the period the player was on the court, the score for that team is removed – scorers to notate on score sheet – plus a **two (2) penalty point** fine to the offending club.

70 Conduct of Matches

70.2 Premiership Points

70.2.5 Forfeit – zero (0) points to team forfeiting and (4) points to their opponents and provide match payment to the opposing umpires. Any team forfeiting a match will pay a fine to the MGFNL of **two (2) penalty points** before the next game.

SPECTATOR - Player Numbers.

Spectator numbers. 1 penalty point per incorrect number

VERSION CONTROL TABLE

Date	By-Law	Detail
09.02.22	63.2	Netball Uniform - Replace ‘dress’ with ‘inclusive uniform of the same design and colour’.
10.08.22	52.3	Equal Games Played - Remove By-Law/
10.08.22	61.15	Emergency Only Player – amended to allow eligible player to return to the game if deemed fit.
10.08.22	63.1	Netball Uniform – amended to read ‘approved by MGFNL Executive’
12.10.22	77.23	NV Competition Complaints Handling Regulation added.
12.10.22	28	Updated to allow for Fourths at U16 and U15.
15.02.23	63.2	Hill End netball bibs changed to green.
11.10.23	63.2	Amended to allow all netball players to wear either black or white socks
10.12.23	68.6 - 68.9	Score Bench - Insert By-Laws for the 2024 introduction of Rolling Substitutes.
10.12.23	69.1 - 69.4	Netball Player Attire - altered regarding jewellery, adornments, or medical devices in the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League.
10.04.24	4.1.2	Advise MGFNL of Club Delegate to the Governance Committee no less that seven (7) days prior to the first general meeting of the season.
	4.3.1 & 2	Publicity Officer and Tribunal Secretary will be paid an honorarium, not fee.
	4.3.3 & 4	Investigation Officer and Hearing Officer will be reimbursed expenses, not fee.
	5.8.10-12	Not applicable. Removed.
	5.12	Special Purpose meetings etc, 7 days notification.
	7.5	Fine for late payment, four (4) penalty points.
	7.12	Finals Program Advertising, Removed.
	9.1	Match Day Records, sent to MGFNL Secretary.
	13.3.4	Hosting finals, provide refreshments.
	15.4	Vote Count, club to be represented by invited players and/or club officials.
	15.5	Club not represented, at Vote Count, four (4) penalty points.
	19	Season Launch. Each club will host a table. One (1) penalty point for each representative not in attendance.
	26.1	Junior Age Comp. Requests for amendments made at AGM for submission to AFL Victoria for approval.
	30.2.3	Alterations to Uniform - Away Strip. Remove.
	30.5.2	Sponsorship on player Apparel, to be same size as AFL Victoria logo.

	31.7	Added Premiership Points, BYE - four (4) points.
	32.1.6	Added match day checklist to be completed.
	33.2	Game finishing times updated to 10.40, 12.25 and 2.15.
	35	Player Transfers. As per National community Policy Handbook Section 3.
	39.2	Forfeiture. Add fine of two (2) penalty points before the next game.
	39.4	Forfeiture, Rules, AFL Laws Rule 11.2 and AFL Vic Country Rule 19.0.
	46.1.2	Order Off Rule. Yellow Card and Notice of Report.
	47.3.4	REMOVE Player with suspension still eligible to receive League Best and Fairest of Runner Up award.
	48	Reportable Offences. As per National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part E Disciplinary.
	52.1.1-4	Finals Eligibility. 4 club games to qualify for senior finals, 4 reserves and not more than 50% of senior grade games to qualify for reserve finals, and 3 club games to qualify for junior finals.
	54.4	Finals. Emergency Umpires. Remove
	56	Player Points System. As advised by AFL Gippsland.
	58	Child Safe Standards. Moved to Section 1.
	60.1.3	Clubs unable to field all seven (7) teams must contact the MGFNL Exec.
	61.7	Any senior player may not play more than 50% of games before ineligible to play lower grade.
	61.8	13/U, 15/U, 17/U, once qualified in snr grade is ineligible to play in lower senior grade, however still eligible for appropriate age group.
	61.8.1	Player turning 18 in competition year is not eligible to play 17/U, turning 16 not eligible for 15/U, turning 14 not eligible for 13/U.
	61.9	13/U can qualify for 15/U and 17/U and still be eligible for 13/U, 15/U can qualify 17/U and still be eligible for 15/U.
	61.9.1	Ineligible player in finals, fine of two (2) penalty points.
	63.6	Add Sponsorship allowed on back of netball uniforms, not hindering bibs, and allowed on front of uniforms to be same size as AFL Victoria logo.
	68.2	Score Bench, home team supply two (2) scorers and away team a timekeeper.
	68.17	Sore Bench, player not on score sheet, two (2) penalty points.
	68.18	Score sheet signed by captains and scorers of both competing teams.
	70.2.6	Premiership Points, add Drawn Game - two (2) points each team.
	70.2.7	Premiership Points, add BYE - four (4) points each team.
	70.3.5	Correct number to 70.2.5. Fine of two (2) penalty points.

17.02.25	30.1	Amend/add Clash strips for - Foster, yellow jumper with black diagonal stripe, and rainbow socks. MDU, With, red and navy jumper, shorts - white with red stripe, red socks. Tarwin, pink / white jumper.
	38.8	Add - Abandoned Finals game (Football)
	38.9.2-4	Removed
	49.5.1	Lodging Protests, Reports, Etc - Add - in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part E.
	49.5.2	Lodging Protests, Reports, Etc - Add - $500 payment required to lodge.
	49.10.3	Player found guilty at Tribunal, amend fine to 3 penalty points.
	52.2	Eligibility for Finals (Senior & Reserve Exception) correction, refers to rule 52.1.2
	63.2	Boolarra - amend to black knicks.
	68.5	Add - during play and at the quarter time breaks
	68.9.1	Amend - Teams are required to complete an official MGFNL substitution form to notify the bench of the following subs, a) if either goaler is subbing, or b) if a player is taking the court for the first time in the match.
	68.20	Add - At the end of the day the home score secretary will need to record all players starting positions for each quarter and the following subs in NetballConnect: GS/GA substitutions and goals, and b) Players is taking the court for the first time in the match for qualification purposes.
	70.5	Add - Abandoned Finals game (Netball)
08.12.25	8.3	Add - Any League related media issues will be addressed/managed by the President or nominee.
	12.2	Independent Grand Final Venue - removed.
	12.3.1	Allocation of Finals - now allocated prior to the completion of the H/A matches.
	12.3.2	Removed
	12.3.3	Amended from at the completion of the Second Semi Final to completion of the H/A matches.
	12.4	Add - and court conditions
	13.2.2	Remove - not nominated for another final in that season.
	13.4	Ground rental - amend to Grand Final matches.
	52.2	Amend to 4 games.
	52.3	Amend to No Senior or Reserves player.
	54.6.1	Add Premiership Cup names.
	61.1	Add - at any one time.
	61.11	Amend to - one Senior game per weekend.

	61.11.1 e	Amend to secretary or Netball Vice President
	68.8.1	Now - The substitute stands immediately behind their teams' substitution zone.
16.03.26	33.1	Playing time H/A. Thirds: from 20 to 18 minutes each quarter (no time on)