

**WIMMERA
FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.**

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

November 2009

BY-LAWS OF THE WIMMERA FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

1. ADMISSION CHARGES TO HOME, AWAY GAMES AND FINALS

- 1.1 The Commission will advise all Member Clubs annually the admission fees for all home and away matches plus finals. All Club and nominated gatekeepers shall collect such admission fees for each match.
- 1.2 All visiting players and officials of 1st 2nd and 3rd XVIII teams shall pay admission charges. Club membership tickets admit to home games only.
- 1.3 Official passes shall be issued to Life Members, Commissioners and other such Officials of the W.F.L and W.N.A or persons as determined by the General Manager. Unless these official passes are displayed at all home and away matches plus finals by the recipients free entry will be refused.
- 1.4 All Umpires who cannot produce their official match appointment on the given day free entry will be refused.
- 1.5 Gate receipts for home and away games shall be retained by the clubs. Gate receipts for finals shall be retained by the Commission.

2. RULES OF FOOTBALL

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football (as amended from time to time).

3. STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The WFL shall consist of four grades Seniors, Reserves, Thirds (under 17), Fourths (under 14).

4. HOME AND AWAY SERIES

- 4.1 In each season, the clubs shall play sixteen (16) matches (or such number and configuration of matches as determined by the (Commission), hereafter referred to as the 'home and away' matches, according to the fixture prepared by the Commission each season.
- 4.2 In the home and away series, four (4) points will be allotted for a win, four (4) points for a team in whose favour a forfeit, walkover or bye is ruled, two (2) points for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.
- 4.3 At the conclusion of each round of home and away matches, the General Manager shall prepare a ladder for each Grade, and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, bye or draw, shall prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team.

- 4.4 In the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with the lower percentage points.
- 4.5 In the event that teams are level on points and percentage at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the higher position on the ladder shall be determined in the following manner
- (a) the team that has scored the most points 'for' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
 - (b) in the event that the teams cannot be separated as in 4 (a), the team that has recorded the most 'away wins' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder
 - (c) in the event that the teams cannot be separated, as in 4 (a) or (b), the effected teams shall compete in a 'play off' match under such conditions as the Board deems appropriate.
- 4.6 The scores used by the WFL to calculate the points and percentage for each divisional ladder shall be based on the scores recorded on the official Goal Umpires cards.

5. FINALS SERIES

- 5.1 The control of all finals, including the allocation of grounds, shall be in the hands of the Commission.
- 5.2 At the conclusion of the home and away matches, a finals series will be conducted between the top (5) five teams in each Grade. The finals series shall consist of an elimination final, a qualifying final, a first semi final a second semi final, a Preliminary Final and a Grand Final.
- 5.3 In the event of a draw in any finals match, other than the senior Grand Final, where the match shall be re-played, extra time shall be played.
- 5.4 Where extra time is to be played in a final, two (2) halves of five minutes each, with time on added, shall be played.
- 5.5 In the event of scores being level after the two (2) five minute halves, the process shall continue until there is a result.
- 5.6 At the completion of the fourth quarter of normal match time and scores are tied, the following shall apply:
- (a) the teams shall kick to the same ends to those used in the fourth quarter;
 - (b) coaches shall not be permitted to address players between the end of the fourth quarter and the start of extra time or at any change of ends during the playing of extra time.
- 5.7 The General Manager shall determine the use of changing rooms and the colour of shorts for all finals match.

- 5.8 The Commission may call for tenders from interested Clubs or groups to provide certain works or services.
- 5.9 No passes shall be allocated to Clubs playing in finals.

6. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 6.1 To be eligible to play in 1st XVIII finals matches, a player must play in a three (3) home and away matches in any grade for that Club during the current season.
- 6.2 To be eligible to play in the 2nd XVIII finals matches, a player must play in three (3) 2nd XVIII or 3rd XV111 home and away matches for that Club during the current season.
- 6.3 Any player who has participated in nine (9) or more 1st XVIII home and away matches during the current season shall be ineligible to play in the 2nd XVIII finals series, excepting where a Club has 1st XVIII and 2nd XVIII teams involved in finals matches on the same weekend, and as such, By-Law 8.2 does not apply.
- 6.4 To be eligible to play in 3rd XVIII finals matches, a player must play in three (3) 3rd XVIII home and away matches for that Club during the current season.
- 6.5 Finals Qualifications for players in Armed Forces - Refer V.C.F.L. Rule.
- 6.6 For the purposes of eligibility, the interchange player/s shall be deemed to have competed, whether or not he has taken the field during the match for which he was named as interchange.
- 6.7 To be eligible to play in 4 XVIII finals matches, a player must play in three (3) home and away matches for that club during the current season.
- 6.8 There will be no permits allowed to be used during the finals. Refer V.C.F.L. Rule for V.F.L. Under 18 players
For the purpose of finals qualifications and player eligibility, the V.F.L. Under 18 competition shall be considered the equal of V.C.F.L. senior competition and the V.F.L. Under 18 matches shall be considered matches of the player's senior V.C.F.L. team for the purpose of eligibility to play in V.C.F.L. finals'.
- 6.9 A player who has played nine (9) or more VFL/AFL games in the current season including senior and/or reserves, shall not be eligible to compete in senior or reserve grade WFL finals, irrespective of other qualification criteria, unless the player has played over fifty (50) club games and has not been cleared to any third party club in his career.

7. PLAYING TIMES AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Home and Away Games

	Start	Quarters	1/4 Time	1/2 Time	3/4 Time
1 st XVIII	2.20pm	20 min	5min (3)	15min (10)	5min (3)
2 nd XVIII	12.30pm	20 min	5min (3)	10min (7)	5min (3)
3rd XVIII	10.55am	18 min	5min (3)	5min (3)	5min (3)
4 th XVIII	9.20am	15 min	3min (1)	5 min (3)	3 min (1)

Note: Numbers in brackets denotes times for timekeepers to sound warning siren.

- 7.2 In addition, the timekeepers shall stop the clock during the senior matches only to allow for time on, there will be no time on allowed during reserves, thirds or fourths games. If necessary the time of the last two quarters of the fourths games is to be adjusted (equal length) to allow the final siren to be sounded at 10.30am. Where no Mini's match is scheduled add 20 minutes to the Fourth's starting time (Mini's start 10.30am finish 10.55am 2 x 10 minute quarters).
- 7.3 2nd XVIII, 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII teams shall not leave the arena at the half time break unless so directed by the field umpire, due to inclement weather.
- 7.4 Finals Games - The starting times and conditions of play shall be determined annually by the Commission.

8. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

- 8.1 All 1st XVIII teams shall consist of up to twenty-one (21) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.
- 8.2 All 2nd XVIII teams shall consist of twenty two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time.
- 8.3 All 3rd XVIII teams shall consist of twenty two (22) named players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part in a match at any one time, except for circumstances as listed in 10.
- 8.4 All 4th XVIII teams shall be able to name an unlimited number of players during the home and away season but will not be permitted to name more than twenty two (22) during the finals series.
- 8.5 In 2nd XVIII, 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII matches, if one of the teams is unable to field eighteen (18) players at the commencement of the match, both teams shall field a minimum of fourteen (14) players, and the team with sufficient players may have up to eight players on the interchange bench. Also clubs by agreement may lend players to opposing clubs to make up any shortfall of players.
- This By-Law shall not be applicable for finals matches.
- 8.6 The minimum number of players in any grade shall be fourteen (14) to constitute a match. Any numbers less than this shall be declared a 'walkover'.
- 8.7 In the event of a 'walkover', players listed on the opposing team sheet shall be deemed 'qualified' for the purpose of eligibility to play in WFL finals.

9. AGE LIMIT

- 9.1 All 3rd XVIII and 4th XVIII players must be under the appropriate age before January 1st in each year the age groups being under 17 and under 14.
- 9.2 Proof of age shall be deemed to be copies of any document that verifies a player's date of birth. Such documents shall include:-

- a) Birth Certificate

- b) Extract of Birth Entry
- c) Baptismal Certificate
- d) Passport
- e) Health Centre Book/Immunisation Card
- f) any other 'official document' acceptable to the General Manager

- 9.3 A Statutory Declaration shall not be acceptable as proof of age.
- 9.4 Documentary proof of age may be required when submitting the players completed Registration Form to the General Manager.
- 9.5 Within seven (7) days of a written request from the General Manager, a player shall present proof of age to be sighted by the General Manager.
- 9.6 In the event that the player cannot present his proof of age as in 9.4, the player shall not be permitted to play until such time as it has been presented to the General Manager.
- 9.7 Any Club found guilty of playing a player, who is ineligible due to age in the 3rd XVIII or 4th XVIII competition, shall automatically forfeit all match points gained in which the player competed, and shall be subject to such other penalty as determined by the Commission.

10. PLAYERS IN 1ST XVIII AND 2ND XVIII IN SAME ROUND

Only two (2) 2nd XVIII players may play in the 1st XVIII on the same day.

11. MATCH CONDITIONS

- 11.1 The Commission shall have the power to change the venue or day of any match if the assigned ground is considered unfit for play or facilities do not meet minimum standards (as per the Risk Management Ground Audit).
- 11.2 All matches shall be played on Saturdays, except where the Commission determines or directs matches be played on other days.
- 11.3 Clubs desiring to play on alternative days to submit requests in writing before 1st February.
- 11.4 When arranging the match fixture, the Commission shall ensure that there is no economic or geographic disadvantage to any Club.

12. COMMENCEMENT DATE

The date of commencement and duration of the season shall be determined by the Commission, and shall be presented to the member clubs no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting of the WFL.

13. FIXTURE

- 13.1 The Draw for the Home and Away matches will be arranged by the Commission and presented to the members no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting of the WFL.

14. FOOTBALLS

- 14.1 Footballs will be supplied to the WFL affiliated clubs by Western Vic Football Inc (WVF Inc) as per the adopted ruling.
- 14.2 If wet weather prevails, subject to the agreement of captains, prior to the match, footballs may be changed due to wet or muddy conditions.
- 1st Ball: 1st and 3rd quarters
2nd Ball: 2nd and 4th quarters
- 14.3 In finals matches, the General Manager shall determine whether footballs will be changed.

15. UMPIRES ESCORT / PROTECTION

- 15.1 Umpires shall be escorted from the field to their dressing room by an official from both Clubs, when leaving the ground at half time and final sirens in all grades. This By-Law shall apply to all home and away fixtures. During finals this duty will be the responsibility of the Commission.
- 15.2 During the home and away series, it shall be the responsibility of both Clubs to protect all umpires from unnecessary abuse or violence, on and off the field.
- 15.3 The home Club shall be responsible for the provision of refreshments to umpires at break of play, and shall where necessary, provide medical assistance. The host club shall be responsible during the final series.

16. OFFICIALS INSIDE FENCE

- 16.1 Only three (3) officials, other than the coach, plus suitably attired trainers, and runner, plus interchange players and an interchange steward, shall be allowed inside the fence.
- 16.2 A white line five (5) metres in length, shall be marked in front of each coaches box, halfway between the boundary line and the fence.
- 16.3 All officials listed in 16.1 must remain behind the white line at all times during the course of play.
- 16.4 Medical Practitioner may enter the playing arena to administer medical assistance .
- 16.5 Any official, as referred to above, shall not smoke whilst inside the fence at any time during the course of play.

17. OFFICIAL CLUB RUNNER

- 17.1 Each Club shall have only one runner.
- 17.2 Official Club Runners must conduct their duties in accordance with VCFL Handbook rules 17, 17.1 and 17.2 as endorsed by the Commission.
- 17.3 Shall during any match wear only an approved WFL Runners Uniform clearly designating as the Club Runner, while inside the boundary fence during any match.

18. TRAINERS / WATER CARRIERS

- 18.1 Each Club must have a minimum of one (1) V.C.F.L. Level One accredited trainer present during the entire match in which a team is fielded by the Club.
- 18.2 A qualified trainer must be registered with the WFL General Manager. No approval shall be given unless the person seeking appointment is qualified as a Level One accredited trainer with the V.C.F.L.
- 18.3 There shall be a maximum number of six (6) trainers/water-carriers to be registered for each team
- 18.4 No trainer/water carrier shall enter the playing arena unless-
 - 18.4.1 The Trainer/Water Carrier shall during any match wear only an approved WFL uniform clearly designated as Trainer or Water Carrier whilst inside the boundary fence during any match.
 - 18.4.2 The Trainer/Water Carrier is required to provide medical treatment to an injured player. The replacement of damaged attire of a player or other like purpose.
- 18.5 No Trainer/Water Carrier shall communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or any player from the opposing Club during any match. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to assist an injured person if a Medical Practitioner is unavailable.
 - 18.5.1 Trainers/Water Carriers may be stationed at various positions in the area around the playing arena between the boundary and the fence.
 - 18.5.2 Trainers/Water carriers shall be a minimum age of fourteen (14) years old.
- 18.6 **Official Club Trainers/Water Carriers (As in accordance with the VCFL Rules)**
 - 'The sole duty of a water carrier shall be to convey water to players and to immediately leave the playing arena'
 - 'The sole duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance and he/she may carry water'
 - 'The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of this rule, order the trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the arena.'
 - Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire and shall be referred to the League's Independent Tribunal.

19. PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS

- 19.1 All goal umpires, boundary umpires, timekeepers, interchange stewards and other match officials supplied by a Club shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these By-Laws and the Laws of Australian Football.

20. MATCH OFFICIALS

20.1 Interchange Steward.

20.1.1 The home Club shall provide an interchange steward.

20.1.2 During final matches W.F.L shall provide an interchange steward.

20.1.3 The minimum age for interchange steward shall be eighteen (18) years old.

20.2 Goal Umpires

20.2.1 Goal Umpires provided by Clubs must wear a white coat. At the conclusion of each quarter, the goal umpires shall compare score cards. If they agree at the conclusion of the game, they shall sign the cards. Final scores must be endorsed in ink on the scorecards. Score cards must be returned to the General Manager.

20.2.2 Where goal umpires are provided by the clubs, each club shall provide their own goal umpires flags.

20.2.3 The minimum age for goal umpires shall be eighteen (18) years old.

20.3 Boundary Umpires

Boundary Umpires supplied by clubs must wear white shirt, white shorts and black socks, and must possess a whistle.

20.3.1 During final games the listed match officials all have the power to report any official or player deemed to bring the game into disrupt within and beyond the playing field.

Eg Field Umpires, Emergency Umpire, Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires plus Interchange Steward; All reports will be submitted to the General Manager and Commission who will in turn refer to the relevant body.

(1) Independent tribunal

(2) Investigation officer.

20.4 Timekeepers

One responsible timekeeper is to be provided by each club. Each club shall be responsible for the provision of a time clock or stop-watch.

This By-law shall also apply to finals matches.

20.4.1 The matches shall be played in accordance with the starting times and intervals set out in By-Laws 7.1 (home and away), and 7.4 (finals).

20.4.2 A siren, bell or gong, capable of being heard across the ground at its

furthest point, shall be sounded prior to the start of each quarter and at the conclusion of each quarter. A back-up or emergency siren, bell or gong shall be provided for all matches.

Failure by teams to appear at the designated times will constitute a breach of By-Laws. Penalty determined by the Commission.

20.4.3 Timekeepers shall complete the required details on the official WFL timekeeper's card.

20.4.4 The minimum age for timekeepers shall be sixteen (16) years old.

20.4.5 The timekeepers shall be the only people to be located in the timekeeper's box or area designated for timekeeping during matches.

20.4.6 The appointed timekeepers shall have the sole control of match time and no person shall interfere with the timing of a match.

21. TEAM SHEET

21.1 The Official team sheet shall include the jumper number, registration number of each player, trainer / water carrier, runner, team manager and coach and must be entered onto the web site by noon on the Friday preceding the game. (The correct number of players allowed for each grade must be entered. Changes may be made on the day up until the team sheet is handed to the umpires).

21.2 The Team Manager of reserves, thirds and fourths grades shall present a copy of his team sheet to the field umpires and the opposing team manager at the scheduled starting time of the game. Seniors team sheets are to be given to the umpires and the opposing team manager ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time. All Clubs participating in finals must present team sheets thirty (30) minutes to the General Manager and Field Umpires prior to the scheduled starting time.

21.3 The jumper numbers on the official team sheet must be as per the Team List in the Football Record published by the WFL or \$200 penalty will be applied by the Commission for each offence.

22. COUNT OF PLAYERS

22.1 The procedure for counting of players shall be in accordance with The Laws of Australian Football

(Refer VCFL Handbook rules 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.4)

22.2 A fine of up to \$200.00 shall be imposed on the club calling for the count, if the Commission has considered that the count was frivolous.

23. PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

23.1 No player or official shall be permitted to play or officiate in a match with apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to themselves or opponents. This shall include:-

23.1.1 Boot studs or plates considered dangerous.

23.1.2 A finger ring, body piercings or other jewellery.

23.2.1 A field umpire may inspect players' boots, hands, guards and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time prior to the conclusion of the match. The field umpire shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury.

Specialised protective equipment to be approved prior to use by the General Manager.

23.2 The wearing of gloves by players in the 3rd XVIII competition is governed by the provisions in the VCFL Rule: "Underage Competition Players – Gloves".

24. ALCOHOL – 3rd XVIII PLAYERS

The Commission may disqualify for up to four (4) playing matches any 3rd XVIII player who is under eighteen (18) years of age and consumes alcoholic beverages within the precincts of Clubrooms and Grounds.

25. REPRESENTATIVE / INTER-LEAGUE MATCHES

25.1 Clubs must make all players available for representative or inter-league matches and practice sessions.

25.2 Any player who is requested to train or is selected to play and does not make themselves available, will be suspended for up to four (4) Premiership matches for non-appearance, unless declared unfit by a Medical Practitioner appointed by the WFL, or provides an acceptable to the Commission.

25.3 Any suspension or penalty determined under 25.2 shall not be subject to appeal.

26. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS AND INTERCHANGE STEWARDS

26.1 Two (2) short lines across the boundary lines fifteen (15) metres apart shall mark the interchange area. The interchange area shall be located on the centre wing, on the same side of the ground as the Coaches Boxes.

26.2 The home team shall provide an steward (except in finals where the Commission shall appoint same) with a watch, who shall be responsible for all changes made by the competing teams and shall accurately record the required information on the official card, sign same and return it to the General Manager at the conclusion of the game.

26.3 The steward/s will be positioned and seated inside the boundary fence in the interchange area.

- 26.4 The procedure for the interchange of players shall be as follows:-
- 26.4.1 The official runner or team manager shall advise the Interchange Steward of the intention to make the replacement of one named player by another named player.
 - 26.4.2 Players shall leave and enter the playing arena through the interchange area during the match, player off first, player on second.
 - 26.4.3 A player who does not leave the playing arena through the approved area, shall not be permitted to take any further part in the match, unless the player is taken from the field on a stretcher, in which case he may be taken from the ground at any point. This replacement must enter the playing field through the interchange area. The injured player may return to the playing field by way of normal interchange.
 - 26.4.4 When it is necessary for a player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the field umpire shall stop play at the first appropriate opportunity after he is advised that a stretcher is on the playing field and play will not commence until the stretcher has left the playing field and is outside the fence.
 - 26.4.5 When a player has been, or appears to have been so seriously injured as to prevent his being removed immediately from the playing field, the Interchange Steward may approve his replacement prior to leaving the ground.
- 26.5 The steward and Field Umpire shall respectively report any breach of the provisions of this By-Law to the General Manager, and the offending player/club shall be subject to such penalty as determined by the Commission.

27. PLAYING FACILITIES

- 27.1 Each club shall provide the following playing facilities as a minimum standard, which shall be approved by the Commission.
- 27.1.1 Two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6.0 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground.
 - 27.1.2 Two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres apart from each goal post and in a straight line with them: the minimum height of the behind posts shall be 3.0 metres.
 - 27.1.3 The whole of the goal and behind posts shall be painted white.
 - 27.1.4 Padding is to be attached to each goal and behind post as follows:
 - of a minimum thickness of 35mm; and
 - of a minimum height of 2.5m from the bottom of each post.
 - 27.1.5 All areas behind the goal and behind posts, plus fifteen (15) metres in each direction shall be fenced.
 - 27.1.6 A scoreboard shall be operational for each game, with numbers for scores, at least thirty (30) centimetres high.
- 27.2 A suitable stretcher is to be placed on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during matches being played.
- 27.3 A properly marked playing oval in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, and shall be provided.

- 27.3.1 The boundary line markings shall be no less than 3.0 metres from the boundary fence.
- 27.4 A timekeepers box complete with efficient siren and back-up siren, bell or gong.
- 27.5 Concrete or line cricket pitches to be adequately covered.
- 27.6 Adequately covered stop-cocks, valves or sprinkler heads where underground water reticulation is provided is to prevail.
- 27.7 All clubs to provide a suitable coaches box with seats for the home and visiting teams.
- 27.8 Suitable fencing around ovals is to be in place for the safety of all concerned.

28. CLUB UNIFORM AND COLOURS

- 28.1 Each Club shall register its uniform and colours with the Commission upon affiliation with the WFL. Each Club shall have an individual uniform/design.
- 28.2 No Club shall compete in any match in any uniform or colours other than its registered uniform or colours and may only change, modify or alter such registered uniform or colours with the written approval of the Commission.
- 28.3 Home teams shall wear the Club's registered colour shorts and the away team shall wear white shorts.
- 28.4 No player shall wear lycra or like fabric bicycle shorts under their football shorts unless they are of a colour approved by the General Manager. Where other types of shorts are required on medical grounds, the General Manager may approve the wearing of such shorts if deemed appropriate.
- 28.5 All uniforms shall carry the V.C.F.L. endorsed products logo on jumpers and shorts.
- 28.6 Advertising and logos may be included on Club Guernseys and/or shorts, subject to the prior approval of the Commission.
- 28.7 No lace-up Guernseys shall be worn.

29. CANCELLATION OF GAME ONCE STARTED

- 29.1 In the event that a game does not reach its conclusion, due to factors which may include (but not necessarily be restricted to):-
 - 29.1.1 An invasion of the playing arena of which the umpire/s consider it unsafe to continue, and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.
 - 29.1.2 A player or umpire is so seriously injured that it is deemed inappropriate to move him until medical assistance arrives.
 - 29.1.3 If in the opinion of the umpire/s, the playing conditions deteriorate to a level that makes it unsafe to continue.

- 29.1.4 That if in the course of a night match, the power supply fails.
- 29.2 Where a 2nd XVIII or 3rd XVIII match that has been delayed due to the factors in 29.1, play may continue until no more than fifteen (15) minutes beyond the starting time of the next scheduled match.
- 29.3 Where a 1st XVIII match has been delayed due to factors as in 29.1, play may continue until no more than thirty (30) minutes beyond the estimated finishing time if in the opinion of the umpire that adequate light permits
- 29.3.1 The minimum amount of playing time to be completed for a match to be considered 'completed', shall be one half.
- 29.3.2 If the match is deemed to be abandoned prior to the completion of the first half, both teams shall be awarded two (2) Premiership points and will receive the points scored for and against at the abandonment of the game.
- 29.3.3 If a match is deemed to be abandoned after the completion of one half of the match, the Premiership points shall be awarded to the team leading at the time of the abandonment of the game, notwithstanding, the Commission shall retain the right to over-rule, reverse or amend the result following an investigation into the abandonment of the game.
- 29.4 Umpires shall award votes for the Best and Fairest Award where a game has completed one half. No votes shall be awarded where a game is abandoned prior to the completion of the first half.

30. NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRE

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

31. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 31.1 The Commission shall appoint an Independent Tribunal panel annually, three of whom shall constitute the tribunal for any one sitting.
- 31.2 Such persons shall not be directly associated with any member Club of the WFL, and shall be thoroughly conversant with the 'Laws of the Game', the Rules and By-Laws of the WFL, and who, in the opinion of the Commission, will be thoroughly capable of handling any charges which may be brought before them. The General Manager shall interview prospective members prior to appointment.

- 31.3 Clubs will be responsible to have players or officials involved in any report, to be in attendance at a Tribunal hearing on the Monday night, or such other night as determined by the General Manager, immediately following the match.
- 31.4 If players or witnesses are not in attendance, without satisfactory explanation to the Tribunal, the Tribunal shall have the power to suspend the offending players or officials or fine the Club of the offending player/s or official/s
- 31.5 The General Manager shall have the power to defer any case should it be deemed necessary.
- 31.6 Tribunal hearings required as the result of charges laid in a Grand Final shall be conducted no earlier than the second Monday after the Grand Final.
- 31.6.1 Umpires must attend a hearing before the Tribunal of any report made by them.
- 31.6.2 If the umpire is unable to attend the hearing, written evidence may be submitted in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules.
- 31.7 Each affected party must be represented at the hearing by an advocate, as per the V.C.F.L. Rules.
- Advocates may be Delegates or Officials of Clubs, but shall not be a member of the legal profession, as per the V.C.F.L. Rules.
- 31.8 Video evidence is permitted at Tribunal hearings, however the charged player and the umpire/s must have the opportunity to view the video prior to the hearing.
- 31.8.1 The Commission , General Manager or Investigation Officer as appointed refer to rule 50 hereof may recommend that the Tribunal should view any video of any part of a match.
- 31.9 Should a player be found guilty and is suspended, the penalty shall apply to the matches of the Club in the competition where the offence occurred.
- 31.10 A suspended player and/or official shall not be permitted to play with any team during the period of suspension nor shall he be permitted to act in any official capacity for the Club concerned.
- 31.11 The Tribunal Procedure shall be in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Handbook - Tribunal Procedure.

For the application of Prescribed Penalties, refer to VCFL Rule Handbook.

32. FINES

- 32.1 The Commission shall be empowered to issue fines in accordance with these Rules and By-Laws.
- 32.2 All fines stated in these Rules and By-Laws shall be automatically levied, however, Clubs wishing to appeal against such fines shall do so in writing to the Commission.
- 32.3 The Commission shall have power to confirm, reduce, amend or withdraw such fine. The decision of the Commission shall be final.

The Fine Schedule as per the Incentive scheme is shown in Appendix 1.

32.4 Failure to Field a Team

When a club is disadvantaged by another club forfeiting a match, up to 50% of the fine shall be paid as compensation to the disadvantaged club.

33. FOOTBALL RECORD/PUBLICITY

33.1 Each Club shall submit weekly Club notes to the 'Footballer' on the Monday noon prior to the next round of matches.

33.2 Club notes shall not contain offensive words or subject matter and shall be used to promote the activities of the Club.

33.3 The General Manager shall be the Editor of the 'Footballer' on behalf of the Commission who shall be the Publisher.

The General Manager shall have the power to edit or withdraw any Club notes that are deemed to be detrimental to the interests of the WFL.

The 'Footballer' shall be published in such versions, numbers and formats as the Commission shall direct.

Clubs will be levied an amount, as determined by the Commission to finance the cost of publishing the Footballer.

34. BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS

34.1 The League shall award a medal and trophy for the Best and Fairest player in each grade of the competition each year.

34.2 The voting for the League Best and Fairest Award/s shall be determined as follows-

34.2.1 At the conclusion of each of the home and away matches, the field umpire/s shall award three (3) votes to the player considered to be the best and fairest player in the match: two (2) votes to the player considered to be the second best and fairest: one (1) vote to the player considered to be the third best and fairest.

34.2.2 Such votes shall be recorded on a special card provided by the WFL, and returned to the General Manager of the WFL in the envelope provided for match paperwork.

34.3 The Best and Fairest Awards have been named to honour individuals who have provided outstanding service to the WFL and to football generally.

The Awards shall be named as follows.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 st XVIII | - P. J. TOOHEY MEDAL' plus \$300 from the WFL |
| 2 nd XVIII | - 'HANK NEIL MEDAL' |
| 3 rd XVIII | - 'TED KING MEDAL' |
| 4 th XVIII | - MAX MAGRATH MEDAL |

- 34.4 Any player who is found guilty of a charge by the WFL Tribunal or who has taken an optional set penalty during the home and away matches shall not be eligible to win a League Best and Fairest award, during that season.
- 34.5 In the event of a tie in a Best and Fairest count in any grade, no count-back shall apply, and medals/trophies shall be presented to each of the players involved in such tie.
- The Commission shall conduct a Vote Counting Night for Senior and Reserves, which shall be held no later than the Monday prior to the Grand Final of these Divisions and a Vote Counting Day for the both junior grades the Monday following the last round of the competition
- 34.6 The format and venue for the Vote Count shall be determined by the Commission annually.

35. OTHER AWARDS

Other awards may be awarded annually pursuant to such guidelines and voting system as may be determined by the Commission annually.

36. GOAL KICKING AWARDS

- 36.1 The leading goal kicker of each grade shall receive a trophy and \$200 from the WFL.
- 36.2 The tally of goals shall be determined only in the home and away matches.
- 36.3 The Commission shall have the power to award naming rights to the Goal Kicking Award in any Grade.
- 36.4 A special award shall be presented to recognise any player who has kicked 100 goals or more in the season, including finals matches.

37. ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER

- 37.1 An Annual Presentation Dinner may be held with the format and venue to be determined annually by the Commission.

38. PREMIERSHIP AWARDS

- 38.1 The Premiership team of each grade shall receive a Premiership Cup, a Premiership Pennant
- 38.2 Each player and the coach of the Premiership team in each grade shall receive a 'Premiership Medal' at the conclusion of the Grand Final. Runners up in 3rd XV111 and 4th XV111 shall receive a runner up medallion.
- 38.3 The player nominated as the 'Best on Ground' in the Grand Final in each grade shall receive a medal to recognise their achievement, at the conclusion of the Grand Final. The medal for the senior grade shall be named the Greg Binns Memorial Medal.

39. COMMUNICATION OF MATCH RESULTS

- 39.1 The home team shall transmit by email the correct final scores to the General Manager, no later than 5.30pm on the day of the match and shall forward the detailed Match Result Information by mail no later than first mail after the match to the General Manager.

40. PRACTICE MATCHES

- 40.1 Where pre-season practice matches are played, with official umpires in control, both competing teams in all grades shall complete a 'team sheet' signed by all competing players and jumper numbers.
- 40.2 Team sheets shall be delivered to the umpire/s prior to the commencement of the game.
- 40.3 In practice matches, umpires may report players as per the 'Laws of the Game'.

41. CLEARANCES

- 41.1 **As in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules and Regulations**
- 41.2 A fee of \$10 plus GST will be placed on the handling of each clearance application of players entering the WFL senior grades and transferring within the WFL.
- 41.3 Clearances may be lodged by electronic mail, provided it complies with all aspects of the VCFL procedure.

42. REGISTRATION

- 42.1 Any player, coach or team official desiring registration with the VCFL shall complete the VCFL Re- Registration Form, prior to playing, coaching or officiating in a match.
- 42.1.1 A fee of \$5 plus GST will be placed on the handling of re-registrations of all players of all grades in the WFL.
- 42.2 Each player, coach or team official shall be issued with a Registration Number which must be used on all team sheets and any other match paperwork, as requested by the WFL General Manager.
- 42.3 The Commission shall retain the power to withdraw or suspend the registration of any player, coach or team official, who fails to comply with any reasonable request from the Commission or who, by their actions, is deemed to have brought the game and the WFL into disrepute.

43. MATCH PERMITS

- 43.1 **As in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules and Regulations.**

43.2.1 Match Permits / Day Permits shall not be available from minor leagues to be used in the reserves competition.

43.2.2 The WFL shall enter into 'Local Area Agreements' with affiliated Junior Bodies for transfer of players within the Leagues.

44. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

44.1 As in accordance with the V.C.F.L Rules and Regulations.

45. APPEALS

45.1 As in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules and Regulations.

46. ORDER-OFF RULE

46.1 As in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules and Regulations.

47. TREATMENT OF BLEEDING PLAYERS

47.1 As in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules and Regulations.

48. COACH ACCREDITATION

48.1 Any player or person desirous of being appointed as Coach of a team in any grade must have successfully completed the V.C.F.L. Level One Coaching Course, within one year of their appointment being approved by the General Manager and proof provided to the Commission.

49. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

49.1 As in accordance with the V.C.F.L. Rules and Regulations.

50. INVESTIGATION OFFICER

50.1 Annually, the Commission shall appoint one or more Investigation Officers (to be sanctioned by the VCFL) to deal with matters relating to Unbecoming Conduct under V.C.F.L. Rule and matters relating to Racial and Religious Vilification complaints.

51. OFFICIAL LEAGUE FUNCTION

51.1 No Club shall conduct a function on the same date as an official WFL Function. This shall include, but not be limited to, the Annual Presentation Dinner, WFL and/or League Vote Counting Night/Day and the WFL Annual General Meeting.

52. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

52.1 The aim of this Rule is to keep sport and specifically, Australian Rules Football, out of the legal system. This procedure shall not apply to any matter that is capable of resolution by procedures laid down elsewhere in these Rules / By-Laws or by use of the V.C.F.L. Rules.

52.2 The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these rules between

- A member and another member; or
- A member and the League.

- 52.3 The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all parties.
- 52.4 If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- 52.5 The mediator must be –
- A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - In the absence of agreement-
 - In the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the Commission of the league.
 - In the case of a dispute between a member and the Commission, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice)
- 52.6 A member of the League can be a mediator.
- 52.7 The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.
- 52.8 The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 52.9 The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must-
- Give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
- Allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
- Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.
- 52.10 The mediator must not determine the dispute.
- 52.11 If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the act or otherwise at law.

53. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION

- 53.1 **As in accordance with the VCFL Rules and Regulations.**

54. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

- 54.1 Any amendments to the V.C.F.L Rules and Regulations and to the Laws of Australian Football shall automatically be included in these by-laws, and to any levels of inconsistency the VCFL Rules and Regulations and the Laws of Australian Football shall prevail.

55. DEFINITIONS AND MEANINGS

- 55.1 These by-laws have the same definitions and meanings as are set out in the Rules of the WFL.

56. GENERAL

- 56.1 The League shall comprise the following clubs: Ararat, Dimboola, Horsham, Horsham United, Horsham Saints, Minyip Murtoa, Nhill, Stawell and Warrack Eagles; and other such clubs as may be admitted to the League.
- 56.2 The League shall be governed by a Commission of Management (herein called the Independent Commission) which shall consist of eight persons four to be elected each Annual General Meeting or appointed by the Commission to fill casual vacancy as detailed in the constitution of the WFL .
- 56.3 Each Commissioner of the League shall hold office for a term of two years expiring at the Annual General Meeting after the date of his/her election but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 56.4 The Commission shall have entire control and management of all matches appoint all necessary officials and employees, and may do all other acts and deeds which it may consider to its interest or the game of football.
- 56.5 The Commission reserves the right to review the position of any club or clubs in this League and to make recommendations to exclude such club or clubs from the League in accordance with the Constitution of the WFL.
- 56.6 The Commission may also at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose re-admit any such club or clubs representation in the League upon such conditions as the Commission may deem advisable in accordance with the Constitution of the WFL.

57. GENERAL MANAGER

- 57.1 A league General Manager shall be appointed pursuant to these rules. His/Her appointment must meet the criteria and terms of employment agreement through Western Vic Football Inc (WVF Inc) after consultation with the WFL Commission. This agreement contains strict guidelines. However, the applicant will have continuing employment with WVF Inc subject to funding being continued for that position. This agreement is signed by the chairman of Western Vic Football Inc and countersigned by the Chief Commissioner of the WFL.

58. MEETINGS

- 58.1 The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held on the last Thursday in November or as deemed appropriate by the commission.
- 58.2 A Presidents and Secretaries Meeting shall be held twice a year in March and June or as deemed appropriate by the commission.
- 58.3 A Junior Delegates Meeting shall be held twice a year in March and June or as deemed appropriate by the commission.

59. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

- 59.1 The Commission shall have the power to deal with all matters not provided for under these rules or those of the VCFL as a majority of the Commissioners at a meeting shall deem fit.

60. Annexure to Constitution Ruling 3.1 RE Commissioners Independent Commission

- 60.1 The affairs of the league shall be managed by an Independent Commission as Constituted By Rule 3.1
- 60.2 May subject to the constitution, the regulations and the act exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the league other than those powers and functions that are required of the constitution to be exercised by General Meetings of the members of the league and which powers and functions are known as reserved powers.
- 60.3 Subject to this constitution ruling the Commission has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Commission to be essential for the Proper Management of the business and affairs of the league.
- 60.4 Shall have the power from time to time to make recommendations to the league that would alter and repeal such regulations and By Laws as the Commission deems for proper conduct and management of the affairs of the league.

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