

**AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited**



# **REGULATIONS**

## AFL (NSW/ACT) REGULATIONS

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## **AFL (NSW/ACT) REGULATIONS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The following regulations have been made by the AFL (NSW/ACT) COMMISSION LIMITED pursuant to its object to administer and promote Australian Rules Football in the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

In these regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

<b>AFL:</b>	the Australian Football League
<b>AFL (NSW/ACT):</b>	AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited
<b>Club:</b>	a club affiliated to a league
<b>League:</b>	a league that is currently conducting or may in the future conduct an Australian Football Competition within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.
<b>Regional Board:</b>	the board established by AFL (NSW/ACT) pursuant to clause 17 of its constitution.
<b>Under Age:</b>	a player who is under the age of eighteen (18) years as at the 1 <sup>st</sup> January in the year of the request.
<b>VCFL:</b>	Victorian Country Football League
<b>Regional Appeals Committee:</b>	the appeal committee established by the regional board in which the relevant league operates

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

In the interpretation of these regulations, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;
- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these regulations;
- (d) "including" and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (e) Any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these regulations shall have the meaning prescribed within the particular regulations; and
- (f) Words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these regulations shall be given their ordinary meaning.

### **4 AFFILIATION CONDITIONS**

Any football league, the membership of which includes any club or clubs in NSW or the ACT may apply to affiliate with the AFL (NSW/ACT). Such affiliation shall be subject to the following conditions:

- 4.1** The League to be incorporated pursuant to the relevant legislation in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory and its current constitution lodged with the AFL (NSW/ACT) at all times.
- 4.2** The League shall have adopted the Laws of the Games as administered and controlled by the AFL and as endorsed by the AFL (NSW/ACT)

- 4.3** The League shall submit to the AFL (NSW/ACT) in each year
- 4.3.1 A list of the names, addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers of its officials by 31<sup>st</sup> January in each year
- 4.3.2 A list of the clubs and teams affiliated to the League by 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year;
- 4.3.3 A list of the names, addresses and contact details of the officers (including the President & Secretary) of each club within such League by 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year; and
- 4.3.4 A list of the names, addresses and contact details of the players registered in the competitions conducted by such League by 31 July in each year.
- 4.4** The League shall agree to pay an annual affiliation fee as determined from time to time by the AFL (NSW/ACT)
- 4.5** The League shall ensure that it's officials and clubs, as a condition of affiliation to the league, are insured under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program as arranged by JLT Sport or any substitute policy as arranged or administered by the AFL.
- 4.6** The League shall engage umpires appointed by the League or shall appoint umpires from a panel of umpires to be approved by the AFL (NSW/ACT)
- 4.7** The league shall acknowledge and agree that:
- (a) the AFL (NSW/ACT) major sponsors provide in part the financial resources for the AFL to develop, implement and support the development of Australian football generally and specifically in the NSW and ACT;
- (b) it will not enter into any contract, arrangement, agreement or understanding with any corporation/person for the supply, endorsement, approval or sponsorship of goods or services of the type provided by or associated with the operations of the AFL (NSW/ACT) major sponsors.
- 4.8** The League shall agree to be bound by the Constitution of the AFL (NSW/ACT) and these Regulations insofar as they apply to such League and shall agree that in the event of any inconsistency between the Constitution of such League and the Constitution or Regulations of the AFL (NSW/ACT), then the constitution and/or by laws of such League shall be invalid to the extent of such inconsistency.
- 4.9** Any League which fails to comply with this regulation, either in whole or part, may be refused application for affiliation or have its affiliation cancelled.

## **5 PLAYER REGISTRATION**

Each League must agree to adopt and use the uniform system of registration of players set out in these regulations:-

### **5.1 Permission to Play**

Any person desiring to play with a Club which is a member of an affiliated league must first apply for registration in accordance with the procedures laid down by such league not inconsistent with these regulations. Upon written advice being given of the granting of such registration, the player shall be deemed to be a player of that Club until such time as the player has either been granted a transfer to play with another club or a period of twenty-four (24) calendar months has elapsed since the player last played competition football for the Club with which he had been granted a permit to play.

## **5.2 Register of players**

Each League must keep a register of all player registrations which includes the following information

2.2.1 Full name, address, date of birth and contact telephone number(s).

2.2.2 Date the player registration was granted.

## **5.3 Dual Registration:**

No player shall be permitted to be registered with more than one Club at the same time except as provided for under regulation 5.2 below or in special circumstances as determined by the league with which he is registered and its regional board.

## **5.4 Players Under 18 Years of Age:**

Players under 18 years of age as of January 1st in the year of registration must have their applications to play countersigned by a parent or guardian or a person authorised in writing by a parent or guardian so to act.

## **5.5 Temporary Permits**

Temporary permits for a player to play with a club other than the club with which he is registered may be issued in the following circumstances.

5.5.1 Subject to the provisions of clause 5.5.3, students who live away from home whilst attending school or university and are subsequently cleared to a club at their place of education, will be permitted to play with their former club during registered vacation periods.

5.5.2 Subject to the provisions of clause 5.5.3, students who undertake work experience related to their school-university programs at centres other than their home location, will be permitted to play with a club in another affiliated league during the period of work experience.

5.5.3 Students referred to in clause 5.5.1 must provide a school or university calendar which sets out vacation periods and students referred to in clause 5.5.2 must produced evidence of their work experience program one month in advance when applying for a permit to play.

5.5.4 At the request of the AFL (NSW/ACT), under age players may be granted a temporary permit to play with another affiliated club or team for the development of the player as an AFL player.

5.5.5 Permits issued under this regulation shall only be granted with the consent of the player's club and affiliated league and shall apply to home and away matches only.

# **6 PLAYER TRANSFERS**

## **6.1 Affiliated Leagues**

6.1.1 A player of a club of an affiliated league wishing to play with a club of another affiliated League must first submit an application on the prescribed form, AFL (NSW/ACT) Player Registration & Transfer Form, to the League with which his intended Club is affiliated.

6.1.2 A Player Registration and Transfer form must be completed and submitted as required by regulation 6.1.1 each time a player seeks a transfer to a new club. There is no restriction on the number of times a player can transfer within the one season up until the final date of June 30<sup>th</sup>, however leagues will remain to have discretionary powers to not accept an entering transfer application on the basis of extremely poor tribunal history or refusal to abide by the league's rules, By-Laws, Codes of Conduct and Regulations. This extends to the abuse of the system where a player may be transferring to play for a club while his former club has a bye before transferring back the following week. An appropriate action for this infraction would be the loss of competition points for the matches involved, a fine of up to \$500 and/or the deregistration of the involved player from both competitions for up to twelve (12) months.

- 6.1.3 Upon receipt of an application pursuant to Regulation 6.1.1, the future league shall forward the transfer application to the player's current league which has six (6) clear working days (date of receipt counted as day one) to answer the application in writing. If the transfer is not answered within the six (6) clear working days the new league will automatically grant the transfer.
- 6.1.4 A club is only entitled to refuse a transfer if the player:
- (a) Under contract to his former club;
  - (b) Has an outstanding financial obligation with his former club;
  - (c) Is in possession of property belonging to his former club;
  - (d) Is under contract to his former club;
  - (e) The player no longer wishes to be transferred.
- 6.1.5 Transfers cannot be refused for the following:
- (a) The player is under the age of 16 years at the time of the transfer application;
  - (b) 24 calendar months has elapsed from the date on which the player last played competition football.
- 6.1.6 Where the former club objects to a player's transfer, the club must clearly state the reason(s) why the transfer is declined and provide supporting documentation.
- 6.1.7 Where a transferor club refuses a transfer to a player, the player may lodge in writing, together with a \$100.00 bond, an appeal to the Secretary of the transferor League within five (5) business days from receipt of refusal. Upon advice from the League that an appeal has been lodged the transferor club has five (5) business days to lodge a \$100.00 bond to the Secretary of the transferor League for the matter to be heard by the Tribunal of the transferor League. The Tribunal shall hear the matter within five (5) business days of both monies being lodged. Bond monies may be forfeited at the discretion of the Tribunal if they deem either the appeal or refusal to be frivolous.
- 6.1.8 Where the Tribunal is satisfied that the transferor club does not have reasonable grounds for refusing the player a transfer, the Tribunal may grant the transfer.
- 6.1.9 The determination of the appeal shall be binding upon the player and club and an unsuccessful transfer application shall not be renewed during the season for which the transfer was sought, provided always that where a material change in relevant circumstances occurs later, the player may apply to the Appeals Board for a review by way of re-hearing.
- 6.1.10 The Tribunal shall report to the League Administration Committee any circumstances of which it may become aware which tend to suggest that false or misleading information has been provided to the Tribunal at or in connection with the hearing of any appeal.
- 6.1.11 Where, since the refusal of a transfer, the transferor club and the player have come to an agreement, the transfer will take effect when the League receives either the original transfer form or a second transfer form, which has been suitably endorsed by the transferor club.
- 6.1.12 The new club must ensure that the player is entitled to a transfer prior to lodging a transfer application. Where it has been shown that a player has applied for a transfer and the former club has proved adequate proof of contract/debt, owes property within the six (6) clear working days timeframe penalties may apply to the player's new club and the player. Penalties are to be a \$200.00 fine for the club and a two (2) week suspension for the player.
- 6.1.13 A player submitting a transfer application to transfer to a Club, is not entitled to play with that Club until his transfer is resolved.

- 6.1.14 The Transferor League is to forward the transferred players tribunal history to the Transferee League with three (3) business days. Nil reports are required.
- 6.1.15 A player who transfers from a Club of an AFL (NSW/ACT) Affiliated League to any other League and who wishes to transfer back to a club in the same AFL (NSW/ACT) Affiliated League within a period of 24 months, must transfer back to the Club he left or obtain a domestic transfer from that Club to the Club he wishes to join.
- 6.1.16 In the event of the transfer of a Club from one League to another, all registered players of that Club shall automatically be transferred with such Club to the new League. The Secretary or authorised person of the transferor League shall supply a certified list of all registered players of the Club concerned to the Club's new League.
- 6.1.17 If a player's Club has disbanded, the player must obtain a transfer from his League prior to playing with another Club.
- 6.1.18 If a player's Club has amalgamated, the player automatically becomes a player of the amalgamated Club.
- 6.1.19 If a player's League has disbanded, the player must obtain a transfer from the AFL (NSW/ACT).
- 6.1.20 No Club shall demand or receive a transfer fee for a player transferring between two AFL (NSW/ACT) Affiliated Clubs.

## **6.2 Area Agreements**

Neighbouring Leagues may enter into agreements for the movement of players between such Leagues other than as provided for in these Regulations. For such agreements to be binding, they must be in writing, formally adopted by each body and lodged with the AFL (NSW/ACT).

## **6.3 Interstate Transfers**

Except as provided for under the AFL (NSW/ACT)/VCFL agreement attached as Appendix A to these regulations, procedures for the transfer of players between States will be in accordance with the Interstate Player Transfer Regulations issued by the Australian Football League which is attached as Appendix B.

## **6.4 Transfer to AFL Clubs**

Procedures for the transfer of players between any State and Territory of Australia will be in accordance with the Interstate Player Transfer Regulations issued by the Australian Football League which is attached as Appendix B.

## **6.5 General**

- 6.5.1 Except as provided for in the following paragraph, an inward transfer application may not be lodged with an affiliated league between July 1 and December 31 of each year.

Affiliated leagues may make provision in their own by-laws for a player to register after July 1 subject to transfer approval by his club/league, where such player is transferred by the defence force or by their employer of at least 3 months to another branch of the same company.

- 6.5.2 Each League must keep a register of all transfer and transfer applications which contains the following information.

3.5.2.1 Sequence number, players name and date the application was received

3.5.2.2 Name of club/league from which the player desires to transfer and name of club/league to which the player desires to transfer

3.5.2.3 Date the application was forwarded for decision

3.5.2.4 Date the response was received and decision

- 6.5.3 A player or coach under disqualification by his League or Tribunal may be granted a transfer to a club in another League during his period of suspension but such player or coach must serve the remainder of his suspension before playing in competition matches with his new club.

## **7. CLUB TRANSFERRING**

- 7.1** Clubs desiring to transfer to another League shall first obtain the permission of that League to join it. They shall then lodge a written application with their League which shall be required to deal with such application. In the event of failure to determine the application within 60 days of lodgement, the Club shall be permitted to transfer without permission to the new League. A copy of the application must be lodged with the AFL (NSW/ACT) at the same time of lodgement with the League.
- 7.2** If any League is seeking a Club or Clubs from any other League, then the inviting League must notify the Secretary of the controlling body of such Club or Clubs at least 14 days prior to the invitation to the Club or Clubs. Any Club desirous of leaving a League must give notice of not less than 14 days of the intention of its League to apply for affiliation in another League.
- 7.3** Leagues shall require the approval of the AFL (NSW/ACT) prior to the acceptance of any newly formed Club.
- 7.4** In the event of a Club being refused permission to transfer to or join another League, the Club may appeal to the AFL (NSW/ACT) in terms as set down in the "Appeals" section of these regulations. The decision of the AFL (NSW/ACT) shall be final.
- 7.5** In the event of an Affiliated League disbanding the clubs from this League will be transferred to a League as directed by AFL (NSW/ACT).
- 7.6** Any League or Club may appeal the decision made by the AFL (NSW/ACT) in Regulation 7.5 in terms as set down in the "Appeals" section of these regulations.

## **8 DISQUALIFICATIONS**

### **8.1 Persons not to Act:**

Any person who has been refused a permit to play or has been suspended or de-registered shall not be allowed to hold any on field position with any AFL (NSW/ACT) League or Club until such permit be granted or the period of suspension or de-registration has expired or is removed by the body imposing the suspension or de-registration, excepting that a player acting as coach to his Club at the time of any suspension or de-registration for a field offence shall not be debarred from performing his duties as coach to that Club during the period of suspension or de-registration.

## **9 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

- 9.1** Subject to Regulation 9.5, any player chosen to represent his League, District, Region, State or Territory must make himself available to play for such team.
- 9.2** Subject to Regulation 9.5, any player who does not make himself available or declines selection will automatically be suspended for the two matches subsequent to the respective representative match.
- 9.3** Any player subject to Clause 9.2 will not be permitted to play with his Club on the weekend of the representative match and any player who does will be suspended for an additional two matches and the team in which he plays will lose all competition points for the matches in which such player has taken part and the Club may be fined up to \$250.00.
- 9.4** The AFL (NSW/ACT) will have first call on the services of all players for representative football.
- 9.5** Any player who declares himself unavailable because of injury or illness must present a medical certificate from a doctor of medicine and be prepared to undergo an examination by a doctor of the choice of representative body when required.

## **10 TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES**

Affiliated Leagues shall adopt the procedures laid down in the AFL (NSW/ACT) Tribunal Rules for the investigation of reports against players or officials arising from any matches played by teams representing its member clubs or the League.

## **11 OFFENCES IN INTER-LEAGUE MATCHES**

In the event of an umpire reporting a player in an inter-league match or in a match between clubs of different leagues, the Independent Tribunal of the League with which the player is registered shall hear such charge notwithstanding that the charge could not otherwise be heard by that tribunal under the constitution of the League concerned.

## **12 ORDER OFF RULE**

**12.1** Law 20 of the Laws of Australian Football 2007 applies to all games played in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory except where modified for State League and under-age competitions.

**12.2** The period of time referred to in Law 20.4 and 20.5 of the Laws of Australian Football 2007 is fifteen (15) minutes.

## **13 APPEALS**

### **13.1 Who may appeal?**

13.1.1 Any registered player, Club or League may appeal to its Regional Appeals Committee where constituted or where no such body exists, to the AFL (NSW/ACT) against a decision of his or its governing body.

13.1.2 Appeals from Tribunal findings arising out of on-field offences may only be lodged where there is evidence of an error of law or procedure.

### **13.2 Lodgement of Appeals**

13.2.1 Where a Regional Appeals Committee exists, appeals under regulation 13.1.1 shall be lodged and heard in accordance with the procedures laid down by the relevant Regional Board. In hearing any such appeal, Regional Appeals Committees shall ensure that the appeals procedures laid down in regulation 13.3 are observed.

13.2.2 Where appeals under regulation 13.1.1 are to be lodged with the AFL (NSW/ACT), they are to be forwarded to the General Manager within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$100 deposit.

The General Manager shall refer the matter to the AFL (NSW/ACT) Appeals Chairperson for consideration. Where the Chairperson decides that an appeal is to be heard, a committee of three independent persons ("Appeals Committee") shall be convened and the hearing shall commence within 14 days of the date the appeal was received by the AFL (NSW/ACT).

### **13.3 Hearing Procedure**

13.3.1 The Appeals Committee shall:

- (a) Provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
- (b) Hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
- (c) Make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.

To the extent that the rules of natural justice require that a person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for an appeal, those requirements are expressly excluded from these regulations.

13.3.2 The Appeals Committee shall deal with the appeal as a new hearing. The Appeals Committee may have regard to the record of the proceeding before the Tribunal or other body against whose decision an appeal is made, including a record of any evidence taken in a tribunal hearing

The Appeals Committee may, subject to these regulations, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

The hearing before the Appeals Committee shall be:

- (a) Inquisitorial in nature; and
- (b) Conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits.

The Appeals Committee is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

The question on appeal before the Appeals Committee must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeals Committee.

The Appeals Committee is not obliged to give reason for any decision it makes

### **13.4 Power of Appeals Committee**

13.4.1 Appeals Committees shall be empowered to meet when and where they consider necessary however at all times the economics of the situation must be observed.

13.4.2 Appeals Committees have the power to make any decision which may override that which is appealed against, impose any extra penalty or make any comment they consider necessary.

### **13.5 Decision Final**

The Appeals Committee shall make the formal announcement of the appeal at the conclusion of the hearing and shall inform the appellant in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

## **14. DOMESTIC MATTERS**

Each affiliated league shall have the power to draw up rules or by-laws not inconsistent with these regulations to provide for the management of its own affairs

## **15. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS**

In accordance with Rule 14.5 of the Constitution of the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited, the Board may from time to time change or repeal any of these regulations as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of the Commission and the regulation of its affairs.

**16. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

The Commission shall have the power to decide any matters not provided for in these regulations.