

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

(Last amended March 2019)

Definition:

In these By-laws unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter:

“EFL” means Eastern Football League Incorporated.

The referenced appendices and schedules should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-laws of the Eastern Football League.

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EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

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TWO	Best Conducted Junior Club
THREE	One Match Interchange – Policy and Form
FOUR	Discrimination & Vilification Policy
FIVE	Officials Role Descriptions & Summary Do's & Don'ts
	Team Manager
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	Interchange Steward
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SIX	Gambling Policy

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX NO.	APPENDIX NAME
ONE	Permit Committee Appeal Procedure
TWO	Tribunal Procedure
THREE	Grievance Committee Procedure
FOUR	Ground Inspection Report
FIVE	Privacy Policy
SIX	Mediation Agreement
SEVEN	Community Club Sustainability; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player Payment Rules & Guidelines • Player Points Rules
EIGHT	Eastern Region Womens Football Rules & Regulations
NINE	Eastern Region Girls Football Rules & Regulations
TEN	EFL Netball Rules & Regulations
ELEVEN	Gender Policy

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these by-laws unless the contrary intention appears:

“**EFL**” means Eastern Football League Incorporated. In these rules referred to as “EFL” or “the league.”

“**Laws of Australian Football**” means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the league, set out in By-laws Schedule 1.

“**League**” means the Eastern Football League Incorporated.

“**AFL Victoria**” means AFL Victoria Ltd

“**Junior**” unless otherwise stated refers to all under age (8-18) competitions for both males and females

“**Senior**” refers to both Senior Mens and Senior Women’s Divisions

“**Eastern Football League Incorporated**” means the Eastern Football League, Eastern Region Girls, Eastern Region Women’s and Netball EFL

1.2 The appendices and schedules attached should be read in conjunction with and form part of the by-laws of the Eastern Football League.

1.3 Any dollar amounts referred to in the bylaws will be subject to GST where applicable.

2. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

2.1 All games shall be played in strict accordance with the “Laws of Australian Football” as determined by the AFL, unless otherwise advised by the EFL.

2.2 Unless otherwise specified in these by-laws, the AFL “Laws of Australian Football” shall apply in all games. Where discretion is available under the AFL “Laws of Australian Football” for controlling bodies to nominate rule variations, the Board shall notify each club of the “Laws of Australian Rules Football” applicable to the EFL in each season.

2.3 The Rules and Regulations of the Eastern Region Women’s Football Competition are contained in schedule 8.

2.4 The Rules and Regulations of Eastern Region Girls Football Competition are contained in schedule 9.

2.5 The Rules and Regulations of EFL Netball are contained in schedule 10.

3. AFFILIATION FEE PLUS FIXED AND VARIABLE CHARGES

3.1 Each Affiliated Club shall pay as an annual affiliation fee and fixed and variable charges of the sum prescribed by the Board from time to time.

- 3.2** All monies due to be paid to the league by Affiliated Clubs shall be payable in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the monthly statement issued by the league unless contrary arrangements are specifically authorised by the CEO and/or Board. Unless contrary payment arrangements which must be received in writing by the CEO, a minimum of 30 days prior to the due and payable date of each invoice and such arrangement are subsequently approved by the CEO and/or the Board.
- 3.3** The full amount of each statement is to be paid in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the statement. In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with the CEO and/or Board, a range of penalties may be applied either jointly or independently including but not limited to;
- no team of that club will be eligible for match points until the account is remitted in full,
 - no team of that club will be eligible to play finals until the account is remitted in full,
 - the club may be fined a set penalty,
 - interest may be charged on the outstanding balance at bank overdraft rates or
 - any other penalty the board deems appropriate,
 - Percentages for any game played while ineligible for match points will be calculated on final scores submitted for each game and awarded as per by-law 7.1.
- 3.4** Any Affiliated club on a payment plan must meet their current financial obligations to the league in addition to their payment plan. Failure to do so will result in sanctions being applied as per by-law 3.3.
- 3.5** In the absence of contrary arrangements specifically authorised by the Board, Clubs shall be charged interest on amounts outstanding for more than thirty (30) days, as at the last day of each calendar month. Monthly interest shall be calculated by applying to the total amount outstanding for more than thirty (30) days one-twelfth of the annual interest rate then payable by the EFL for ordinary bank overdraft facility.

4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 4.1** (a) No person may play in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:
- (i) Lodged an application for registration with the EFL for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club; and received from the Chief Executive Officer notice that he is permitted to play for the nominated Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.
 - (ii) Attained the age of seven years by 30 April during that persons first year of registration with the EFL.
 - (iii) Age groups commence on the first of January of the current year. The date of birth of the player will determine the age group the player shall play in.
 - (iv) Prior to playing an official game each season, activated their EFL registration by updating personal details in footyweb and paying the EFL registration fee, as set by the Board from time to time.
- (b) Females are permitted to play in matches authorised or conducted by the EFL however, females who reach the age of 14 years as at 1st January in the year of play are specifically excluded from playing in any competition that is not a female competition. Refer to the League Gender Policy for further information.
- (c) Despite By-Law 4.1 (iii) the League CEO in his or her absolute discretion may allow a player to play in a lower age group where the CEO is satisfied that special

circumstances exist such as a serious medical condition (supported by relevant documents) that warrants a permit to be granted.

- (d) Males over the age of 35 as of 1st January in any year are permitted to play in a veteran's grade team provided they do not play in any senior grade match in the same season.
- (d) Any player found to have participated in a match authorised or conducted by the EFL without the appropriate permit granted pursuant to this By-law may be dealt with by the Board in accordance with by-law 4.2 (b), and the club whom fielded that player may be dealt with by the Board in accordance with by-law 4.2 (a).

4.2 Penalty for Playing Non-Permitted Players

- (a) Any Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club that allows a player to play in any home and away games or finals series where that player is:
 - (i) not registered with the EFL; or
 - (ii) not permitted to play with that Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club; or
 - (iii) is under suspension; or
 - (iv) playing in an age group they are not permitted to

shall be liable to:

- a fine not exceeding 40 penalty units; and/or
 - disqualification from the competition; and
 - loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams; as the Board thinks fit.
- (b) The Board may also deal with the player concerned as it thinks fit.

4.3 To Participate in Finals Matches

- (a)
 - (i) Players must play at least 3 matches with their Affiliated Senior or Junior Club in the home and away matches to qualify to play in the finals series for their senior or junior club.
 - (ii) To be eligible to play in the second 18 or under 19 team finals matches a player must have played in three home and away matches for that particular team during the current season. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where any club fields a first 18, second 18 or under 19 team in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.
 - (iii) To be eligible to play in the veteran's finals, a player must have played in 3 matches for that particular team during the current season.
- (b) Any player playing 10 or more matches with a club's first 18 team in the home and away matches is ineligible to play with that club's second 18 team or under 19 team in

the finals series. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where the player has played 6 or more games for the second 18 team or under 19 team during the home and away season, or when any club fields a first 18, a second 18 or under 19 team in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.

- (c)
 - (i) Any player drafted by an AFL club, placed on an AFL supplementary or rookie list or included on an official VFL list can, provided he has qualified under the rules, return to play with the EFL in the finals in the seniors and reserve grades only.
 - (ii) Any player that plays 12 or more games in any season in the AFL and/or VFL and/or TAC Cup competitions is ineligible to play EFL finals in that season.
 - (iii) Any player that plays 9 or more games in any season in the AFL and/or VFL and/or TAC Cup competitions is ineligible to play EFL junior finals in that season.
 - (iv) Any player that plays a senior grade game in the AFL and/or VFL competitions is ineligible to play EFL reserves unless that player has played 3 games for that specific team or has played a minimum of 5 games for the club during the particular season.
- (d) Where a player participates in more than one senior club match (seniors, reserves, under 19s) on any weekend, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played unless the player is an U19 player filling in for a Reserves team which is short of numbers.

See by law 38.1(d) for movement of players between teams during finals

4.4 Misrepresentations

- (a) Any player or club representative who makes any misstatement or mis-representation in applying for:
 - (i) registration;
 - (ii) a clearance approval

may be dealt with by the Board by way of:

- (a) a fine not exceeding \$500; and/or
- (b) disqualification from the competition; and/or

loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams.

4.5 Player Registration Fee

No player is eligible to play in any game if the EFL Player Registration Fee has not been paid in full.

5. FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

5.1 Senior Divisions

Where possible, the senior affiliated clubs shall be organised into competitions of ten clubs. Where this is not practical, the allocation of senior affiliated clubs into appropriate divisions shall be determined by the Board.

5.2 Junior Divisions

Junior affiliated clubs shall be organised into junior competitions by the Board after consultation with and recommendation from the Junior Committee.

5.3 Promotion/Relegation

- (a) Subject to clauses 5.3 (b) and 5.4, a club shall be entitled to participate in the division in which it participated in the previous season PROVIDED THAT the club whose first 18 teams were premiers in second, third and fourth divisions in the previous season shall be promoted to the next highest division and the club whose first 18 team finished bottom in each of first, second and third divisions, shall be relegated to the next lowest division.
- (b) The Board may otherwise promote, relegate or refuse to promote any club if:
 - (i) the club cannot field a full complement of teams for the forthcoming season;
 - (ii) playing facilities of the club are not of a sufficient standard for the division in which the team is to compete in the next season;
 - (iii) there are any other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Board, require a club to be promoted, relegated or refused promotion.

5.4 Under 19's

- (a) All clubs have the option of fielding an under 19 team each season in the EFL. Where possible, there will be at least three divisions of under 19s. The allocation of clubs into appropriate divisions shall be determined by the Board. Nomination dates to field an under 19 team will be advised on a yearly basis.
- (b) If any clubs under 19 team defaults for more than three games after the commencement of the season, then the club shall be liable to a penalty at the discretion of the Board, PROVIDED THAT:
 - (i) A penalty not exceeding \$500 for any one game forfeited and may be imposed by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with by-law 7.5 (a).
 - (ii) In addition to any financial penalty, the Board may, at its discretion withhold match points for the senior team(s) of the club for each subsequent game in which the under 19 team forfeits.
- (c) Over-age players;
Each team shall be permitted to apply to include **up to ten (10) players under 20 years of age on their under 19 list, of which a maximum of six (6) can be selected in any game**. This is intended for use of "development" type players who may be unsuitable for the move to senior football at this stage of their career. Application to include these players must be received by the EFL General Manager – Football Operations at least 48 hours prior to the first game played by the player. Conditions apply (refer to EFL GM FO). This permit to play can be revoked at any time.

If an **over-age player is reported and subsequently found guilty and/or suspended** the Board may at its discretion revoke the over-age permit for that player.

5.5 Joining Clubs

A club joining the EFL shall be entitled to participate only in the Division determined by the Board with appropriate consequent promotions or relegations being made to other clubs.

5.6 Team Nominations

- (a) To enable the Board to ascertain the most appropriate division structure for the EFL, all Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs shall advise the Chief Executive Officer no later than the date nominated each year by the Board, the number of teams it intends to field in the following season in the appropriate division.
- (b) Clubs that aren't affiliated with the EFL who play in a league where a competition isn't available will be able to enter the EFL competition at the discretion of the Board. Any team given permission will be bound by the rules and regulations of the EFL competition.

5.7 Junior Team Maximum Player Lists

No junior grade (under 11/12/13/14/15) is permitted to have more than 26 players registered in each competitive age group in each season. The exception to this rule is for under 17 who are permitted to have 30 players registered in each competitive age group in each season. Block lists may be amended throughout the season via approval of the league's Junior Manager.

5.8 Ground Equipment

Each club shall provide an oval and changing room facilities, to be approved by the Board for each season. Each oval and changing facilities must have the following:

- (a) for senior competitions, the ground length must be a minimum of 125 metres and no longer than 185 metres length; and not less than 95 metres and not more than 155 metres in width;
- (b) two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground;
- (c) two behind posts shall be placed at 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 metres;
- (d) the goal posts and the behind posts must be painted white;
- (e) between ground level and 2.5 metres, goal and behind posts must be suitably padded with a minimum of 35 millimetres thick foam padding covered in canvas or painted;
- (f) goal posts must be fitted with three flag holders on the goal umpire's right-hand post and one flag holder on the goal umpire's left-hand post;
- (g) all areas behind the goal and behind posts to be fenced;
- (h) a scoreboard which shall be operational for each game with numbers for scores at least 30 centimetres high;
- (i) playing surfaces satisfactory to the Board;
- (j) change rooms of not less than 40 square metres net useable floor space area for each competing club with separate showers and toilets serving each change room;

- (k) umpires' rooms which shall not be less than 20 square metres in area, containing a shower area separate from the player's area;
- (l) floors in the change rooms of solid construction such as concrete or timber;
- (m) a suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during matches being played;
- (n) a properly marked playing oval with a boundary defined by a white line, which white line must not be marked with builder's limit or slaked lime. The white line shall be drawn between the behind post and goal post to define the score line. The centre of the oval shall be marked with a square in the centre of the ground which shall be 45 metres along each side and shall be parallel to the goal and behind posts at each end;

A Centre Circle three metres in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter which shall:

- (i) be located as near as practical to the middle of the centre square; and
 - (ii) both are divided into two semicircles, by drawing a straight-line parallel with each goal line.
- (o) "kick off areas" which shall be 9 metres from each goal line; a line across joining the 2 goal lines;
 - (p) A line will be marked 19 metres from the goal line at each end of the ground to be used as the mark for a kick-in.
 - (q) Two coaches' boxes. No more than 4 officials (4 plus runner for senior, reserves and under 19 team) plus the approved number of interchange players shall be allowed in each coach's box at any one time;

Fine: Ten penalty units per person over the permitted number.

- (r) a suitable bell or siren to indicate to the players and umpires the commencement and conclusion of each quarter of a match;
- (s) an arc to be marked at each end of the playing surface a minimum of 40 metres and a maximum of 50 meters from the centre point of each goal;
- (t) a line directly in front of each coaches' box parallel with the boundary line at the midpoint between the boundary line and the arena fencing extending four metres either side of each coaches' box;
- (u) in all EFL matches there shall be a minimum of 3 metres clearance between the boundary line and fence or other hazard.
- (v) five Fence Stations for use by trainers and drink carriers must be marked at suitable positions, as directed by the EFL, around the ground.

Fine: Three penalty units to apply for any infringement,

5.9 FOOTBALLS

- (a) The Board shall from time to time specify approved footballs to be used in authorised matches of the EFL. No footballs may be used in any EFL authorised match that does not comply with the specifications as set down by the Board, including approved sponsor and EFL logos.

- (b) (i) At the commencement of each Senior match the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with one new full size red football and one full size red football in very good condition in accordance by-law 5.9 (a).
 - (ii) At the commencement of each Reserves, under 19 or Veterans grade match, the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with one new full-size football and one full size football in very good condition in accordance by-law 5.9(a). The colour selected shall be at the discretion of the home club.
- (c) At the commencement of each under 11 to under 12 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved synthetic footballs in very good condition. At least one of the two football balls supplied must be a red synthetic football.
- (d) At the commencement of each under 13 to under 17 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved leather footballs in very good condition. At least one of the two football balls supplied must be a red leather football.
- (d) At the commencement of each under 8 to under 10 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved footballs in very good condition.
- (e) Size 2 approved footballs shall be used in all under 8, under 9 and under 10 official EFL matches. Size 3 approved footballs shall be used in all under 11 and under 12 official EFL matches. Size 4 approved footballs shall be used in all under 13 and under 14 official EFL matches. Full size approved footballs shall be used in all under 15 and under 17 official EFL matches.
- (f) Yellow balls shall be used in senior/junior matches where the game is to be played during twilight or at night. Where the condition of the ground is such that the use of a yellow ball is more suitable than of a red ball, yellow balls maybe used at the agreement of both team captains. Should the captains fail to agree, the umpire shall determine the colour of ball to be used.
- (g) There is only an expectation from clubs that one new ball is used for any one game. Where it is appropriate due to conditions to use different balls at the start of the first and second quarters, a used ball in very good condition is suitable for use to start the second quarter.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

6. FIXTURES

6.1 Preparation

The Board shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in each division by preparing fixtures for each team in each division for each season.

6.2 Failure to Fulfill Engagements

- (a) Teams not ready to start the game at the appointed time shall render its club liable to a fine.

Fine: Five penalty units.

A further 5 penalty units shall apply for each additional minute late after five minutes.

- (b) Any team not ready to commence within 20 minutes of the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the match unless by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the match the Board is satisfied that the reason for the delay was excusable.

- (c) If in the opinion of the controlling umpires the specified quarter, half or three-quarter time allowance in accordance with by-law 14.6 (b) is exceeded by any team, it shall render its club liable to a fine.

Fine: Five penalty units per minute in excess of the specified time.

6.3 Alterations to Published Fixture

- (a) Clubs desiring to conduct Senior, Reserve, under 19 or junior grade matches on a day or time other than that published by the league in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied:
 - (i) that all appropriate licences and permissions to conduct the game have been received and copies forwarded to the EFL Office prior to the game.
 - (ii) that 14 days' notice is forwarded to the EFL office indicating times of commencement of all games and any alterations of venues to the published fixture.
 - (iii) that 14 days' notice in writing requesting approval from the Board that the fixture be altered is forwarded to the EFL office from each club.

7. LADDERS

7.1 Point Allocation and Match Ratio Calculations

- (a) In the home and away matches, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or walkover is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. Where an affiliated Senior Club or affiliated Junior Club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, they are ineligible to play for match points as per by law 3.3. Competition tables will record a win, loss or draw but the club will not be awarded competition points based on any win. Their opposition must win or draw the game to receive the four or two points respectively, as per normal match points allocation.
- (b) The Board shall prepare a weekly ladder for each Division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw or loss it shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and 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 lower percentage points. All decisions of the Board in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.
- (c) In the case of a bye occurring in any competition or an uneven number of games being played by the competing teams, Match Ratio will be used to determine the ladder.
- (d) Junior ladders will be calculated using Match Ratio in all competitive Divisions with tiebreakers determined by using Head to Head criteria.

7.2 Scores Used to Calculate

The scores used by the EFL to calculate the points and percentages for each Divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores contained in the goal umpire's cards. Should these scores disagree, the timekeeping cards will be used as the basis for calculating points and percentages.

7.3 Lodging of Match Day Scores

- (a) The home club in each match shall be responsible to lodge with the EFL by the means as stipulated by the EFL from time to time, between the hours of 4.30 pm and 5.30 pm on the day of each match the scores, goal kickers and best players for both the home and away teams of the senior, reserves and under 19 grade matches played that day.
- (b) The home club in each match must enter the Senior Live Scores into the EFL Sports TG online result database quarter by quarter (minimum requirement) and the final score immediately following the completion of the match.
- (c) The home club in each junior grade from under 10 to under 18 (inclusive) match shall be responsible to lodge scores by no later than 9.00 pm on the Sunday following the match into the EFL Sports TG online database.
- (d) All clubs must comply with the requirements for notifying scores to the EFL by the appropriate time. Prior to any scores being communicated to the EFL, the club shall check the scores obtained from both goal umpires officiating in the matches played that day.

Failure to comply with 7.3 (a), (b), (c) or (d): Five penalty units.

7.4 Forfeit Calculations

In the event of a game being forfeited, the defaulting team shall not include the game in club playing records. The team against whom the forfeiting team was to play, shall be awarded match points in accordance with By-law 7.1 and shall be entitled to include the game in the records of its players. Scores from the game in which the greatest winning margin occurred in that division and grade for that round will be applied to calculate percentage for both teams.

7.5 Non-Completion of Matches

- (a) Failure by any club to play an arranged match as set out in the fixture of the EFL from time to time shall render the club liable to a fine to be fixed by the Chief Executive Officer unless a satisfactory reason is received by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the failure to play the arranged match.
- (b) If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the affiliated Senior or affiliated Junior Club or Clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the officiating umpire, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (i) Subject to clause 7.5 (iii), if a game is concluded prior to the commencement of the third quarter and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the match will be declared a draw.

Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.

- (ii) Subject to clause 7.5 (iii), if a game has progressed beyond the commencement of the third quarter and is unable to proceed with the scheduled time for the match, the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages.

The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.

- (iii) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by the Board at its absolute discretion in any way it sees fit.

- (c) If the game delay extends beyond 30 minutes, based on the circumstances at the time, a final decision on how the match will proceed is to be made by the EFL GM-FO or his appointee, in consultation with the umpires and clubs/captains. The result of the game will be determined in accordance with by-laws 7.5 b (i) or (ii).

8. FINALS

8.1 Arrangements

The final series of matches will be developed at the discretion of the Board and published prior to the start of each season.

8.2 The Board

The Board shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all finals matches.

8.3 Entrance Fees

The Board shall be responsible for the fixing and collection of all entrance fees at all finals series matches. The Board may delegate its authority for the collection of entrance fees from time to time.

8.4 Club Finals Eligibility

All Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs participating in final series matches must be financial with the EFL before the conclusion of the home and away matches. If a participating club is not financial, the EFL may at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position in the final series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the finals series.

8.5 Finals Officials

- (a) In all senior finals games, two independent timekeepers shall be selected by the Board and shall be paid a fee for their services.
- (b) The EFL shall appoint a Ground Manager for all senior finals. The Ground Manager appointed by the Board has the power to adjudicate on all situations that may arise on the day of the game.

8.6 Finals Uniforms

The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall wear their registered guernsey and home (coloured) shorts unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.

8.7 Allocation of Rooms and Warm Up Areas

- (a) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall use the home team rooms unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.
- (b) When entering the playing surface for the start of the game and following half time, each team shall warm up at the end of the ground as instructed by the EFL Ground Manager. This will usually correspond with the end of the ground that corresponds with the change rooms and bench/coaches box they are using.

Fine: Twenty penalty units.

8.8 Draw during Finals Game

- (a) In the event of a draw in any finals series game, including grand finals, two further periods of five minutes each (plus time-on if applicable) shall be played to achieve a result. There shall be no break for team instructions either between the completion of normal match time and the start of the first additional five-minute period; nor between additional five minute periods. Teams will exchange scoring ends of the field following the first additional five-minute period.
- (b) If scores remain tied at the end of the second additional five-minute period, the game will continue without signal from the timekeepers until the next score is achieved by one team, whereon the timekeepers will immediately signal the completion of play.

9. MATCH CANCELLATION – ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

- 9.1** If the air temperature, as broadcast by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 5 degrees Celsius or more than 35 degrees Celsius on a training night, umpires are to sign the attendance book but are not to train.
- 9.2** If the air temperature, as broadcast by Bureau of Meteorology, is below 0 degrees Celsius, or more than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match at any grade, no umpire is permitted to officiate in such match and the match shall be cancelled.
- 9.3** If the air temperature, as broadcast by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 5 degrees Celsius or, more than 30 degrees Celsius, but less than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match in the senior, reserve, under 19 or veteran's grades, the game will be cancelled unless, in the opinion of the captains of both clubs, the game should proceed.
- 9.4** If the air temperature, as broadcast by the Bureau of Meteorology, is below 5 degrees Celsius or, more than 30 degrees Celsius, but less than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match in any junior grade (under 9 to under 17), the game will be cancelled unless, in the opinion of the coaches of both clubs, the game should proceed.
- 9.5** If any game is cancelled in accordance with 9.2, 9.3 or 9.4, a match ratio shall be applied to the ladder for that division in that grade.
- 9.6** If any senior, reserve, under 19 or veterans grade game has commenced, and in the opinion of the field umpire(s) the weather conditions have become too hazardous (e.g. lightning and/or thunder in the vicinity, heavy hail), the game will be stopped.
- 9.7**
 - (i) If any junior grade (under 8 to under 18) game has commenced, and in the opinion of either the field umpire(s) or both club coaches, the weather conditions have become too hazardous (e.g. lightning and/or thunder in the vicinity, heavy hail), the game will be stopped.
 - (ii) If the weather conditions improve and in the opinion of the umpires (senior grades) or both field umpire(s) and both coaches (junior grades), the game can recommence within 30 minutes, the following procedures should be adhered to:
 - (iii) In the event a game can recommence within 30 minutes of being stopped:
 - the umpire shall instruct each team to return to the field
 - the play shall be re-started at the centre square

- the time shall recommence at the time play was stopped and that quarter be finished
 - adjustments should then be made to any subsequent quarters and breaks between quarters to ensure the game finishes at the appropriate time (should there be a game following).
- (iv) Where a team directed to recommence play by a field umpire(s) and the team fails to, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- (v) If the game cannot be recommenced, the provisions of by-law 7.5 (b) shall be applied.
- 9.8** If two or more games are cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather in the same grade and division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be awarded or applied for that round.
- 9.9** If the Board of the league, or its representative, during the review of a match, is not convinced that match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or any penalty as it sees fit.

10. GROUND INSPECTIONS

- 10.1** All 'home' clubs are required to obtain and complete a ground inspection sheet on each Thursday night prior to a home game. As a result of this inspection, should any risk issues including, but not limited to, the items listed in the ground inspection sheet, be identified, the club must notify the league of these issues prior to 10.00 am on the Friday immediately prior to the scheduled match.
- 10.2** The league retains the right to take whatever action is deems necessary to address any issue arising from the ground inspection report, including but not limited to; moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.
- 10.3** On the day of any official senior, reserve, under 19 or veterans match arranged by the Eastern Football League, all players and officials must make a full inspection of the ground on which the match will be played prior to the match commencing.
- 10.4** By signing the clubs team sheet prior to the commencement of/or during a game, each player and official DOES HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE that:
- He/she has inspected the playing surface of the venue where the game is to be played and all fixtures and fittings thereon including but not limited to change rooms and toilet facilities, goal and point posts (and padding thereon), sprinklers, fencing, score and line markings; and
- Such playing surface, change rooms and toilet facilities and all other fixtures and fittings referred to above are in such a condition that it is safe and reasonable to allow the game to proceed.
- 10.5** Immediately prior to signing the team sheet, an official of the club is required to notify the player or official of the presence of the above waiver on the team sheet.
- 10.6** If any player or official believes the venue is unsafe for play for whatever reason, he/she should not sign the team sheet.
- 10.7** Any player or official, who does not sign the official team sheet, is ineligible to take part in any

match in accordance with by-law 14.2 of the Eastern Football League.

- 10.8** If on the day of any junior grade (under 9 to under 17) match, the umpire and both team coaches deem that the playing surface is unsafe for play to commence or continue, the game will be cancelled or abandoned.
- 10.9** If a game has commenced, the provisions of by-law 7.5 (b) shall be applied.
- 10.10** If only one game is cancelled or abandoned in the same grade and division, a match ratio will be applied to the ladder for that grade and division.
- 10.11** If two or more games are cancelled or abandoned in the same grade and division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be applied to the ladder for that round.
- 10.12** If the Board of the league, or its representative, during the review of the match, is not convinced the match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points, percentage or any penalty as it sees fit.
- 10.13** If the Board of the league, or its representative, during a review of the match, is convinced the game was cancelled, abandoned or not played for good reason and in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or percentage or any penalty as it sees fit.

11. UMPIRES

11.1 General

- (a) The Field umpire shall officiate the tossing of the coin for the choice of ends before the start of any match. The field umpire shall call both captains of each team together. The field umpire shall toss the coin. The visiting team captain shall call and the umpire shall determine the result of the toss. The umpire shall then ensure that the team that won the toss have the choice of ends.
- (b) All umpires appointed by the Umpires Board shall have the power to report players, clubs and officials in accordance with such of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" adopted by the EFL from time to time and for any breach of these by-laws.
- (c) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall ensure an official of the club waits upon the field umpire with the opposite club's official at the close of each match and ascertains if any reports are to be made and the nature of the reports, if any.

Fine: Two penalty units.

- (d) At the completion of the match the team managers will lodge with the field umpire(s) the goal umpires' score cards and the timekeepers card.

Fine: Two penalty units.

11.2 GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES AND SCORES

11.3 Official Powers

- (a) (i) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall provide a goal and boundary umpire for all matches other than senior grade matches unless otherwise advised by the Chief Executive Officer.
- (ii) EFL appointed field umpires have the power to overrule decisions made by club appointed goal and boundary umpires.

Fine: Five penalty units.

- (b) (i) Goal umpires provided by the respective Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs must be over 15 years of age and must be attired in a white uniform. Such umpires shall not have the power to report players or officials.
- (ii) Any club appointed goal umpires are to, at the completion of each game, check their scores with each other. The host club goal umpire is required to give the score cards to the field umpire within 15 minutes of the completion of the match.
- (c) Boundary umpires provided by the respective Affiliated Senior Clubs must be over 15 years of age and must be attired in a white uniform. Such umpires shall not have the power to report players or officials.

Fine: Two penalty units.

11.4 Umpire Escorts

- (a) At all Senior, Reserve, under 19 and all junior grade (under 9 to under 17) matches both competing clubs shall supply an Escort for umpires who shall:
 - (i) Escort the umpires from the ground at half time and at the completion of the game.
 - (ii) Where the club is the home club, offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter.
 - (iii) Remain in the centre of the ground with the umpires during quarter time and three-quarter time breaks.
 - (iv) Always show courtesy to the umpires and opposition escort.
 - (v) Be over the age of eighteen years.
 - (vi) Always wear approved EFL Umpires Escort Bib whilst officiating as an umpire's escort.

Fine: Three penalty units.

12. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

12.1 Jumpers

- (a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured guernseys, incorporating the EFL logo approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such guernseys shall be supplied by the manufacturers approved by the Board from time to time.

- (b) No player will be permitted to compete in any official EFL match without a number on the back of the playing guernsey. No two players in the one team shall have the same number. Each number shall be a whole number greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

- (c) Except with the prior permission of the EFL, clubs fielding seniors and reserves teams are to have one set of guernseys for both teams numbered in whole numbers greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.
- (d) Undergarments (i.e. compression skins) that extend beyond the length of the jumper are not permitted to be worn.

12.2 Jumper Clashes

- (a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered colour guernseys, however, if two clubs compete in the same division and those clubs' colours are the same or similar and are drawn to compete against one another, the away club must change its jumper. EFL Senior jumper clashes will be posted by the League on the website before the commencement of each season.
- (b) In the event of teams whose colours are the same or similar meeting in finals, the club finishing higher on the ladder at the completion of the season will retain its jumper, unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.
- (c) A list of recognized jumper clashes will be published prior to the start of each season.

12.3 Shorts

- (a) (i) Unless instructed otherwise by the CEO or their appointee all teams in the under 11 to open age grades (inclusive), shall wear their registered club coloured shorts at all home games. All teams visiting as the away team are required to wear their registered club white shorts. All shorts shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

- (i) All teams in the under 8 to under 10 grades (inclusive), shall wear their registered club coloured shorts, incorporating the side webbing in all games. All shorts shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

- (b) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to delete side webbing from shorts and include the EFL logo on the front of shorts.

12.4 Socks

- (a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured socks, incorporating the EFL logo approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such socks shall be supplied by the manufacturers approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

12.5 Bicycle Shorts, Gloves and Boots

- (a) Players who wear bicycle or lycra shorts extending on the legs below the line of the uniform shorts must wear such shorts which are beige in colour and must not extend below the knee.

- (b) Players are permitted to wear only EFL approved glove(s), manufactured for use in Australian Rules Football, in official EFL matches.
- (c) No players are permitted to wear metal or metal tipped stops in any official EFL match.

12.6 SPONSOR LOGOS

Jumpers

- (a) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on their guernseys.
- (b) Such logos shall be located:
 - (i) a minimum of 2 cm either above and/or below the player number and have a maximum height of 10 cm and a maximum width of 30cm; and/or
 - (ii) on the front of the guernsey on the breast opposite the approved EFL logo and of a maximum size of 90 square cm (9.45cmx9.45cm).

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

Shorts

- (c) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on the front and of the playing shorts.
 - Such logos shall be a maximum size of 64 square cm (8cm x 8cm).
 - No logos will be approved for addition to the back of playing shorts.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

13. PUBLICATIONS

- 13.1** All senior clubs shall forward to the EFL at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the first competition match in each season, one list for each of senior, reserve and under 19 grades accurately stating all the club registered players' christian names, surnames and jumper numbers for inclusion in EFL publications from time to time

Fine: Five Penalty units per week that the list is not submitted.

- 13.2** All clubs fielding teams in any grade of the Junior Grand Finals series, must lodge with the league a list as accurate as possible showing the number, name and age of all permitted players likely to participate in the finals match for inclusion in the record at least 5 days prior to the playing of the Junior Grand Final. Failure to comply shall render the club liable to a fine.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

14. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

14.1 Timing of Matches

- (a) Unless other arrangements have been approved by the Board all matches shall start as follows:

Saturday:	SENIOR MENS	2.10pm	All divisions
	RESERVES	12.05pm	All divisions
	UNDER 19s	10.00am	All divisions
Friday:	SENIOR WOMENS		7pm
Saturday:	SENIOR WOMENS		1pm/3pm/4.45pm
Sunday:	SENIOR WOMENS		10.00am/12.30pm
Friday:	VETERANS		7pm/7.30pm
Saturday:	VETERANS		4.45pm
Sunday:	VETERANS		2.30pm
Sunday:	UNDER 17/18s	2.45pm	All divisions
	UNDER 15/16s	12.55pm	All divisions
	UNDER 14s	12.55pm	All divisions
	UNDER 13s	11.25am	All divisions
	UNDER 12s	11.25am	All divisions
	UNDER 11s	10.05am	All divisions
	UNDER 10s	9.00am	All divisions
	UNDER 9s	9.00am	All divisions
	UNDER 8s	9.00am / 10.00am / 11.00am / 12.00pm	

Any home and away reserve grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the senior game and any home and away under 19s game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the reserve grade game. Once these times have been reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

Any under 9 (or under 10) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 11s (or under 12s). Any under 11 (or under 12) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 13s (or under 14s). Any under 13 (or under 14) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 15s (or under 17s). Once these times have been reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

- (b) Once it becomes apparent that the compulsory finish time may be imposed. Timekeepers may reduce the length of the 1/4, 1/2 and or 3/4 time breaks to ensure equal time periods are played, as outlined in EFL by-law 14.6. Once the compulsory finish time is reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

14.2 Match Day Players and Officials

- (a) Prior to the commencement of each match, each team of a Club shall prepare a "team list" of all players, on-field officials, runners, selectors, drink carriers and trainers, who are actively involved with the team on that day. All players are to be in numerical order. This list must contain an accurate statement of the players and their numbers allotted for that day. No two players are permitted to play in the same team wearing the same number. The team list shall be completed on the official form provided by the EFL.
- (b) For all games other than senior grade matches at half time of each match, team managers must hand to the field umpire of the match the original copies of their team lists.
- (c) For Senior Grade Matches only, each team shall:
 - (i) Complete an official team sheet for each match in which the club participates in duplicate and
 - (ii) Hand 2 copies of the completed official team sheet to the field umpires in the umpire's room no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of each match.
 - (iii) The official team sheet from each club/team when received by the field umpires shall be distributed to the team manager of the opposition club.
 - (iv) Each team sheet must identify the 22 players, emergency players (maximum 3) and all match day officials.
 - (v) A club may replace a player originally listed on its team sheet with an emergency player before the commencement of play of a match (as defined in Laws of Australian Football).
 - (vi) Where an emergency player replaces a player initially listed on the official team sheet, the amendment to the official team sheet must be made through the EFL umpires. The opposition team manager must also be informed of any change immediately after notifying the umpires. No changes to the selected team may be made once the game has commenced.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

- (d) All clubs must review the online team sheet and remove any players who didn't participate in the match for games record accuracy and finals qualification by 5pm on the Monday immediately following the game.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

- (e) First 18 Senior Grade Matches - teams online
 - (i) A club participating in an EFL Senior Grade Match must lodge its team online in the format nominated by the EFL by 10am Eastern Standard Time on the Friday before the game. The team list must include the name and Guernsey number of 18 Players in playing position, four Interchange Players and three Emergency Players.

Fine: 5 penalty units

- (ii) If a player participates in a Match and he was not listed on a Team's list at the time it was lodged with the EFL under by law 14.2 (d), the club shall be liable to a sanction.

Fine: 5 penalty units for each Player not listed

- (iii) On the day of the game, the procedures of by law 14.2 Match Day Players and Officials remain.

14.3 Runners

- (a) All club runners shall wear an EFL approved runner's uniform during any match, as determined by the Board from time to time.
- (b) No person shall act as a club runner unless they have attained the age of 18 years.

14.4 Trainers

- (a) Trainers appointed by clubs to officiate in matches, shall wear:
Top: White polo or club polo, white jacket or club jacket. Approved EFL trainers bib.
Bottom: Black shorts, black leggings or black tracksuit pants
Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.
- (b) Each club must provide at least one accredited trainer at all EFL official games. The below table explains the minimum accreditation required to comply with this by-law.

	Under 8-10	Under 11-13	Under 14-Senior
Level 2 First Aid (Incl. CPR)	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC)	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Level 1 Sports Trainer			Mandatory
Level 2 Sports Trainer	Not required for EFL trainers		

- (c) No person shall be permitted by any club to perform the duties of trainer in any official EFL games unless such trainer has a current accreditation. A minimum First Aid accreditation is required to comply with this by-law. Each team is permitted to have a maximum of six trainers in any one match, consistent with by-law 14.4(e).
- (d) Clubs must ensure that all trainers have lodged their appropriate documents in our online document storage system Everproof by 28 April each season.
Fine: One penalty unit per week for non-compliance.
- (e) A team may have no more than a combined total of six trainers and water carriers.
Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.
- (f) In the Junior competition, a trainer may only enter the playing surface for attending to an injured player and must not perform the duties of a drink carrier.
Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.
- (g) Trainers must remain in the designated fence stations or behind the boundary line against the fence in the coaches' box while the game is in progress. This will enable boundary umpires to carry out their duties. Trainers are not to remain on the field after performing their duties.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

14.5 Drink Carriers

- (a) Each team shall be permitted a maximum of three (3) persons to perform the duty of "drink carriers". Drink carriers can only deliver drinks to players while a set shot for goal is in progress, after a goal has been scored or when the ball is at the opposite end of the ground. Drink carriers must not perform the duties of a runner, must not be based near or out of the coaches' box/area, and must be stationed in designated fence stations outside the boundary while general play is occurring. They must not ever be on the ground near general play. Drink carriers are not to remain on the field after performing their duties.
- (b) In all Senior, Reserve and Under 19 grade games, drink carriers must be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age.
- (c) In non-competitive junior grades (under 8 to under 10) drink carriers must be a minimum of ten (10) years of age.
- (d) In competitive junior grades (under 11 to under 17) drink carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age.
- (e) The maximum age of water carriers in the junior competition is seventeen (17) years of age.
- (f) Drink Carriers officiating in matches shall wear:
Top: White polo or club polo, white jacket or club jacket. Approved EFL drink carrier bib.
Bottom: White shorts or white long pants. Senior competition only may wear club tracksuit pants or club shorts.

Fine: Five penalty units for each infringement.

14.6 Timekeepers

- (a) All clubs are to supply a timekeeper, but only one timekeeping card as supplied by the EFL shall be used at each venue. The home club shall supply the timecard. Both timekeepers from each club shall sign the timekeepers card on completion of the game clearly showing the appropriate details and their names and their clubs. No person shall be permitted to act as a timekeeper unless they have attained the age of 18 years.
- (b)
 - (i) Each senior game shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 15-minute break between the second and third quarters. In addition, the timekeepers shall stop the time clock running during each quarter at the direction of the field umpire, when the goal umpire signals a goal or behind is scored or when the boundary umpire signals the ball is out of bounds to ensure that there is exactly 20 minutes of playing time in each quarter. Timekeepers shall restart the clock in accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football.
 - (ii) Each reserve, under 19 and veteran's finals games shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters with time on added in the final 5 minutes of the 3rd and 4th quarters only. The timekeepers shall stop the time clock running only at the direction of the field umpire, when the goal umpire signals a goal or behind is scored, or when the boundary umpire signals the ball is out of bounds. Timekeepers shall restart the clock in accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football. There shall be a 5-minute break at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 15-minute break between the second and third quarters. During veteran's home and away matches each quarter shall comprise of 20 minutes with no time on.

- (iii) Each under 14, under 15 and under 17 games shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters (no time on) with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 10-minute break between the second and third quarters.
- (iv) Each under 12 and under 13 games shall comprise of four 15 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters. Each under 12 and under 13 games shall have a 10-minute break between the second and third quarters.
- (c) Each under 11 games shall comprise of four 12 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters. Each under 11 game shall have a 10-minute break between the second and third quarters.
- (d) Each under 8, under 9 and under 10 games shall comprise of four 10 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first, second and third quarters.

Time On

The timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of the match when:

- (a) directed to do so by a field umpire in accordance with law 10.5.3;
- (b) the goal umpires signal that a goal has been scored, or;
- (c) the goal umpires signal that a behind has been scored;
- (d) the boundary umpire signals that the football is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full

14.7 Score Board Attendant

Clubs are to provide a Score Board Attendant who is to be competent in the discharge of that duty.

14.8 Interchange

- (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary specified in the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football", all under 19 teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game. All reserve grade teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game, and all senior grade teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of four (4) interchange players in any game.
- (b) (i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary specified in the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football", under 8 to under 10 (inclusive) and veteran's teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of eight (8) interchange players in any game. All under 11 to under 17 (inclusive) teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game.
- (ii) Only the permitted number of interchange players may warm up with the team on the ground immediately prior to the start of the game and sit on the interchange bench at any stage following a team entering the ground for the beginning of all EFL matches.

Fine: Twenty penalty units.

- (c) Should the team manager observe the teams being lined up for a count under AFL "Laws of Australian Football", he should assist the field umpire if requested and note the scores at the time of the count. Refer by law 39.4.
- (d) Breaches of any of these instructions must be noted on the EFL Interchange Form.

- (e) After the match, the team manager is to lodge his Interchange Form as supplied by the EFL with the field umpire in the Umpires' Room for despatch to the EFL office.
- (f) In all grades except under 8, 9, and 10 the clubs team manager will manage the interchange.

Fine: Two penalty units.

- (g) There will be two lines, 15 metres apart, marked across the boundary line at which players can be interchanged. The team manager may position themselves in the vicinity of the Coaches box and/or the interchange area. The team manager shall observe all interchanges that occur during the game.

Fine: Three penalty units.

- (h) Once the match has started, no interchange of players will be permitted without the team manager being advised of the numbers of the players being changed.
- (i) Players intending to have a continued involvement in the game shall leave and enter the playing ground through the interchange area always during the match.
- (j) Where a player does not enter or leave the playing surface through the approved interchange area and subsequently continues to play in the game in breach of by law 14.8 (i), the Team Manager and/or field umpire(s) shall report the circumstances to the EFL, including the scores at the time. The EFL may determine the matter by way of fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate. Where a clear breach has occurred, the umpire(s) may rule that the player take no further part in the game.

14.9 25 METRE PENALTIES

A 25-metre penalty will apply in all official matches of the EFL.

14.10 KICKING FOOTBALL INTO PLAY AFTER A BEHIND HAS BEEN SCORED

A player of the defending team may only kick the football into play when the goal umpire has completed waving the flag to signal that a behind has been scored. If a defending player kicks the football before this time, the field umpire shall direct the player to kick the football again.

15. INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

- 15.1** The league may select any players registered with the EFL from time to time to participate in inter-league matches to represent the EFL.
- 15.2** Any player selected to participate in inter-league matches must play for the EFL and any failure to do so shall be dealt with by the Board as they see fit.

16. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARD

- 16.1** Each season clubs, trainer's association, umpire's association, coaches' association and league Board can nominate people for an EFL Recognition of Service Award. No more than three awards are to be issued each year. Nominations will be considered by the league Board. EFL life members and 300 game player life members are ineligible for this award. Nominees should have completed a minimum of 15 years' service to the club/league in a non-playing capacity. Awards are not retrospective and may only be bestowed upon individuals who are actively involved in the year of nomination.

17. ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

17.1 At all junior games the consumption of alcohol at grounds shall not be permitted except inside licensed clubrooms. In no case shall alcohol consumption be permitted other than inside licensed clubrooms before, during or after junior matches. Clubs shall be responsible for the conduct of their own members, supporters and followers. Breaches of this By-law will be considered serious and may attract monetary fines and other penalties at the discretion of the Board.

17.2 At all EFL games no person is permitted to smoke while inside the playing arena during a match or inside the change rooms while a match is in progress. During junior matches, smoking is also banned within 10 metres of the playing arena.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

17.3 The consumption of beverages in glass containers outside of licensed social rooms is prohibited at all EFL venues.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

17.4 The sale of alcoholic beverages (for consumption outside of licensed social rooms) at EFL venues is not permitted until the conclusion of the under 19's match.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

18. COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

18.1 General

In accordance with the Rules, a registered player, club, EFL registered umpire or member of the Umpires Board may raise a complaint with the office of the CEO concerning the result of a match or any act, matter or thing involving any club, registered player or official ("Complaint").

18.2 Lodgment of Complaints and Protests

The Complainant must lodge the Complaint with the office of the CEO by no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday (Saturday games) or Wednesday (Sunday games) following the date when the incident giving rise to the Complaint is alleged to have occurred. The Complainant should provide copies of all relevant documents and/or a detailed description of the event and circumstances within the knowledge of the Complainant that gives rise to the complaint. The Complainant may request the CEO to deal with the Complaint in a certain manner and the CEO will give due accord to the request.

18.3 Complaints Procedures

- (a) At his absolute discretion, the CEO may refer the Complaint to either the Grievance Committee ("Grievance Complaint"), to the Investigations Committee ("Investigation") or, to mediation, so that they may hear and determine the matter.
- (b) If the office of the CEO receives more than one Complaint on substantially the same matter, the CEO at his discretion may treat all subsequent Complaints in the same manner as the initial Complaint and shall inform the body to which the matters were referred of the new complaint.

18.4 Bond

- (a) In the case of a club, registered player, or club official, the Complainant must:

Lodge a bond of 20 penalty units (\$320.00) with the office of the CEO when lodging the Complaint. In the case of the Complainant being an EFL registered umpire or member of the Umpires Board, the lodgement of a bond is not required. The bond may be returned to the Complainant upon resolution of the complaint in accordance with the Rules and By-laws except in the case where it is determined that the Complaint was frivolous or vexatious in which case the CEO at his absolute discretion may retain whole or part of the bond.

- (b) An administration fee of five penalty units (\$80.00) will be withheld from the bond. In the case of a complaint being referred to the Independent Tribunal which results in a player/official being found guilty, the club to which the guilty party belongs will also be charged the administration fee of five penalty units (\$80.00).

19. COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

- 19.1** Once a Complaint has been referred by the CEO to the Grievance Committee, it shall be dealt with by the Grievance Committee in accordance with by-law 19.1 – 19.6 (“Grievance Complaint”).
- 19.2** The CEO shall take all reasonable steps to bring the Grievance Complaint to the attention of the player, club and/or official, the subject of the Grievance Complaint (“the Respondents”) within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the Grievance Complaint.
- 19.3** No later than ten (10) working days after receipt by the CEO of the Grievance Complaint the CEO shall convene a hearing into the Grievance Complaint by the Grievance Committee, such hearing to take place at a time, date and location at the discretion of the CEO. The CEO will take all reasonable steps to notify the parties involved of the time, date and location of the meeting of the Grievance Committee.
- 19.4** The operation of the Grievance Committee shall be in accordance with the Grievance Committee Procedures annexed to these by-laws.
- 19.5** After the consideration of the evidence put before it, the Grievance Committee shall give a decision to resolve the Grievance Complaint.
- 19.6** The Grievance Committee may:
 - (i) impose a fine on the Respondent up to a maximum of \$500 for each matter complained of; and/or
 - (ii) suspend the Respondent from participating in any matter organised by the league; and/or
 - (iii) recommend to the that match points awarded to the Respondent, if a club, be deducted; and/or
 - (iv) recommend to the Board that the Respondent be expelled from the league in accordance with the Statement of Rules.

20. INVESTIGATION OFFICER AND INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

- 20.1** Once a Complaint has been referred by the CEO to the Investigations Committee, it shall be dealt with by the Investigation Officer, and if necessary, the Investigation Committee, in accordance with by-laws 20.1 – 20.11.
- 20.2** Notwithstanding the provisions of by-laws 18.1 – 18.4 above, the CEO may refer a matter to the Investigation Officer under by-law 20.1 – 20.11 of his own motion.

- 20.3** The Investigation Officer may investigate any matter which has been deemed relevant by the CEO whether a person may have committed a reportable incident.
- 20.4** For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this by-law, upon request by the Investigation Officer, any person shall:
- (a) Fully cooperate with the Investigation Officer;
 - i) Truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Officer; and
 - ii) Provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Officer.
- 20.5** A person who fails to observe and comply with by-law 20.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner in any respect is false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the league and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion. The Investigation Officer must promptly notify the CEO of the failure of any person to observe and comply with by-law 20.4 above.
- 20.6** The Investigation Officer shall, as soon as practicable, but in any event no later than ten (10) working days after the Investigation commenced, compile a report of the Investigation, including transcripts of all interviews, and submit the report to the CEO.
- 20.7** After consideration of the report submitted by the Investigation Officer, at his discretion, the CEO may refer the matter the subject of the Investigation to the Investigation Committee for further investigation, or complete on behalf of the league an authorised report sheet of a reportable incident identified by the Investigation Officer, offer a set penalty as per authorized report sheet, offer a penalty which is in accordance with the tribunal penalty booklet or refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal.
- 20.8** If the matter is referred to the Investigations Committee, then the Investigation Committee shall convene a hearing within ten (10) working days of the date of the referral to consider the report of the Investigation Officer, together with all transcripts of all interviews conducted by the Investigation Officer during the Investigation, and the Investigation Committee shall have full power to request the cooperation of any person in the conduct of its investigation.
- 20.9** If deemed necessary by the Investigation Committee, a person may be requested to appear before the Investigation Committee at a specified time and venue to truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Committee, and to provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Committee.
- 20.10** Failure of a person to fully cooperate with the Investigation Committee, or if a person provides false or misleading information to the Investigation Committee or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, that person shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the league and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion and the Investigation Committee shall promptly notify the CEO of that person's failure to cooperate with the Investigation Committee.
- 20.11** After its investigation, the Investigation Committee shall compile a report of its investigation, including any recommendation as to further action to be taken against the person or person's subject of the investigation, and submit the report to the CEO.

21. MEDIATION

- 21.1** Pursuant to Rule 7 of the Statement of Rules, and/or pursuant to a recommendation made by the CEO of a Complaint made pursuant to by-law 18.1 – 18.4 a dispute referred for mediation shall be dealt with in accordance with by-law 21.1 - 21.5.

- 21.2** Where a dispute has arisen between a club and one of its members, and the club has resolved to refer the matter to the league for resolution, the parties may agree upon a mediator to mediate the dispute, or otherwise permit the league to appoint a mediator to assist the parties in resolving the dispute.
- 21.3** If the dispute is between any member club, registered player or official and another member club, registered player or official or between any member club, registered player or official and the league, the parties may nominate a preferred mediator or permit the league in its absolute and unfettered discretion to appoint a mediator.
- 21.4** The disputing parties and the appointed mediator shall read carefully the league's Mediation Agreement (a copy is annexed to these By-laws) and sign the Mediation Agreement. The conduct of the mediation shall proceed in accordance with the Mediation Agreement.
- 21.5** The outcome of the mediation shall be reported by the mediator to the CEO, including as to whether the parties resolve the dispute, but not the terms of any settlement between the parties, except with the permission of the parties. Should mediation not be successful in resolving the dispute, the parties shall observe the terms of the Mediation Agreement, and any further direction given by the CEO in accordance with By-law 18.3 (save as to any further mediation of the dispute).

22. REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

22.1 General

- (a) Reported players and officials shall advise the reporting umpire of their names immediately upon request.

22.2 Procedures

- (a) In any senior or junior official EFL match, any player can be ordered from the ground by the Field Umpire EFL appointed Emergency Umpire if they have breached the AFL rules of football/EFL players codes of conduct. At all times, the player ordered off can be replaced.
- (b) Any player reported for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.6(b), 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) must be ordered from the field and any player in breach of the EFL players codes of conduct may be ordered off the ground. The umpire will submit the name(s) of player(s) ordered off the ground during a match on the umpire's match report and in accordance with the following:
- (i) Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or the EFL appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) or EFL Players Code of Conduct, as published from time to time, (refer Schedule One) the offending player may be ordered off the ground for a period of 15 minutes of game time and can be replaced. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward the player's first order off under this by-law by holding up a yellow card. The 15 minutes shall start from the time play recommences following the yellow card being issued.
- (ii) Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or the EFL appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.6(b), 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) or the EFL Players Code of Conduct, as published from time to time, (refer Schedule One) for a second time in the same match, the offending player will be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match. The field

umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward the players second order off by holding up a red card.

- (iii) Where a player is reported under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" and the umpire deems the incident to be severe, the offending player may be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match and can be replaced. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward by holding up a red card.
 - (iv) A coach or any official in the Match may be issued a yellow or red card by an umpire. In such circumstance, the coach/official may not be involved in the game in any official capacity for the duration of penalty applicable to the yellow or red card. Where a coach is yellow or red carded, the provisions of by-law 24.6 (effect of coach under suspension) shall apply for the duration applicable to the yellow or red card.
- (c) The field umpire shall submit the name(s) of any player(s) or officials ordered from the ground to the EFL on the umpire's match report.
- (d)
- (i) If any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) has been sent off once in the match or once in the season an automatic suspension will apply. The EFL shall maintain a register of all players ordered from the ground in any junior matches (under 8 to under 17) and shall notify the Secretary of the club of the suspension of any player.
 - (ii) Any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) ordered from the ground twice in one match or twice in one season will incur a further automatic one-week suspension.
 - (iii) Any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) ordered off a third or more time in the same season the Junior committee may at its sole discretion apply a suspension and/or any other sanction or penalty it deems appropriate.
 - (iv) Any junior grade player (under 8 to under 17) reported under this rule will be dealt with in accordance with By-law 22.6(b).
 - (v) Should a player be reported in addition to receiving a yellow or red card, any suspension(s) resulting from accepting a set penalty or handed down by the Independent Tribunal shall be served concurrently with suspensions incurred because of receiving two or more yellow/red cards in one match or in one season. Should a player be found not guilty of the reported offence by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension(s) for receiving two or more yellow/red cards in one match or in one season shall remain.
- (e)
- (i) Any club who believes a junior player has been sent off unfairly have the right to appeal to the office of the CEO. Any such appeal must be lodged in writing to the EFL Junior Manager by no later than 5.00 pm on the Tuesday immediately following the game together with a \$100 bond.
 - (ii) If the appeal is subsequently upheld by the office of the CEO the bond shall be refunded in full and the record of the order off in question struck from the register.
 - (iii) If the appeal is subsequently dismissed by the office of the CEO the bond will be forfeited, the record of the order off will be retained on the register.
- (f)
- (i) Any player ordered from the ground by the Field Umpire will move quickly to the interchange area, depart the playing arena, and report to the Interchange Steward, or if no Interchange Steward is in attendance, to his Coach.

- (ii) An ordered-off player's penalty time will commence from when he reports to the Interchange Steward, or Team Coach.
 - (iii) An ordered-off player is not required to report to the Field Umpire prior to resuming play at the expiry of his penalty time. However, when returning to the field the player must return through interchange area.
 - (iv) Failure of an ordered-off player to depart the playing arena as quickly as possible, may be interpreted by the Umpire as deliberate waste of time. In such cases, the Umpire may award a free kick to the opposing team.
 - (v) Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. All cases of foul or abusive language will result in an automatic order-off without warning, (and report if necessary). This ruling applies to players and officials alike.
- (g) Where a junior grade player is reported and sent-off in a match, the record of the send-off in accordance with this by-law 22.2 shall remain unaffected by any subsequent Tribunal decision.
- 22.3** (a) A reportable incident in these by-laws is:
- (i) any reportable incident identified in the AFL "Laws of Australian Football"; or
 - (ii) any alleged breach of these by-laws relating to the conduct of matches in the EFL; or
 - (iii) any alleged breach of the codes of conduct published in the By-law by the Board from time to time.
- (b) In the event of any reportable offence taking place during the progress of any official match or on the day of the match, the field umpire(s) in all sections and all official EFL goal and boundary and emergency umpires shall have the power to report players or officials in respect of the offence to the Tribunal.
- 22.4** At the time of making any such report of any player or club official, the field umpire and the appropriate goal and boundary umpires shall take down the numbers of the players reported and the victim (if any) of the incident.
- 22.5** The reporting umpire shall ensure all details of the incident are contained in the authorised report sheet. It is the responsibility of the reporting umpire to forward the report sheet to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 22.6** (a) Both club delegates shall attend the umpire's rooms, twenty (20) minutes after the conclusion of the game. The field umpire(s) will then provide both delegates a copy of the report.
- (b) If the player/official has been reported for an offence under the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football" rules 19.2.2 (a) ii, (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), the case will automatically be heard by the Independent Tribunal.
- (c) For all other offences, if offered by the officiating umpire, the player has the choice of applying to accept the prescribed penalties specified in By-law 22.7(a) and 22.7(b).
- (d) Where the player has the option of choosing to accept the prescribed penalty, the club delegates, after receiving a copy of the report will then have fifteen (15) minutes in which to decide whether the player/club will accept the prescribed penalty or wish the report to be heard by the Tribunal. At the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, both delegates will again attend the umpire's room. If the player/club accepts the prescribed penalty and the reporting umpire concurs, the delegates representing the reported player and the reporting umpire(s) will then sign the report form where indicated.

Clubs who elect not to accept the set penalty have until 11 am on Monday morning immediately following the match to accept the set penalty. The club should call or email the General Manager – FO to advise of their decision

- (e) Should any party not apply for the prescribed penalty, the umpire will note the dissenting party on the report sheet.
- (f) The Chief Executive Officer or his appointee may refer any report to the Independent Tribunal.
- (g) Where a player does not accept a prescribed penalty, the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal. The Tribunal has the unfettered discretion to impose a penalty more than the prescribed penalty.
- (h) Where a player/club is offered and accepts a prescribed penalty the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official EFL match of that grade in which the club plays, unless notification is received by the club that the prescribed penalty has not been accepted and the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal.
- (i) Where a player/club is reported and subsequently suspended by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official EFL match of that grade in which the player was reported and the club competes.

- 22.7** (a) Where a player/official is reported, offered a set penalty by the umpire and applies to accept a prescribed penalty for the following offences under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" a one match suspension may apply in the grade in which the report occurred:

19.2.2 (j), (o), (m), (w), (x), (y).

Fine: One penalty unit.

- (b) Where a player/official is reported, offered a set penalty by the umpire and applies to accept a prescribed penalty for the following offences under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" a two-match suspension may apply in the grade in which the report occurred:

19.2.2 (a) i, v, vi, vii, xiii, (g), (i), (k), (l), (z).

Fine: One penalty unit.

- (c) Where a player is reported and is subsequently found guilty of the offence by the Independent Tribunal:

Fine: Three penalty units.

- (d) Where a player is reported and is subsequently found guilty of an offence by the Independent Tribunal or accepts the Set Penalty offered by the Investigation officer following an Investigation:

Fine: Eight penalty units.

- 22.8** Each club Secretary shall be responsible for the attendance and representation of any reported player, official or witness to any incident involved in any report.

- 22.9** All reported players, umpires and advocates or officials or any victim of any report in any EFL match, shall attend the Tribunal on the Tuesday night following the match.

Fine for failure to attend: Five Penalty units.

All club reported players, victims, officials and umpires are required to contact the EFL at its headquarters no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday after the game in which the report occurred to confirm their attendance at the hearing.

Fine: Five penalty units.

- 22.10** All players, officials and witnesses appearing before the Independent Investigation Tribunal are required to be accompanied by a club advocate, who shall not be a qualified legal practitioner.
- 22.11** Upon the completion of each hearing, the Tribunal shall issue to the reported player and/or official a penalty notification form detailing the penalty (if any) resulting from that hearing. Each club must comply with all penalties (if any) imposed by the Tribunal upon any player or official in respect of any report.
- 22.12** (a) Players and officials who are registered with the EFL or are seeking registration with any senior, reserve and under 19 grade team may be liable for de-registration/non-registration in accordance with the following:
- (i) Where a player has received any number of suspensions totalling 16 weeks or more.
 - (b) The General Manager - Football Operations will write to a player/official and their club where such individual is likely to be in breach of 22.12 (a). Should further suspension(s) be incurred, indicating that the player/official may be de-registered.
 - (c) Where a player has been previously de-registered and subsequently has been re-registered by AFL Victoria or any other state controlling body, the player must gain approval from the EFL Board prior to being eligible to play in the EFL.
- 22.13** (i) Where any one team receives a total of 10 yellow/red cards in one season (including finals), the club shall be fined 10 penalty units (\$160.00). For each additional card the team shall receive above 10, the club shall be fined a further 2 penalty units (\$32.00).
- (ii) Where any individual player receives 3 yellow cards in one season (including finals), his club shall be fined 5 penalty units. For each additional card the player receives in that year above 3, the club shall be fined a further 5 penalty units.
- 22.14** Where an official is reported under Laws of Australian Football offences they may be offered a set penalty by the reporting umpire and in addition to the number of weeks suspension offered, a fine of 10 penalty units, in addition to any other tribunal administrative fines, shall be applied.

23. PLAYER TRANSFER

All EFL clubs are subject to National Player Transfer Regulations. Please refer to these for all rules regarding Player Transfers. <https://aflvic.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/National-Player-Transfer-Regulations-final.pdf>

- 23.1** In the EFL junior competition, clubs are only permitted to gain a maximum of three players from one EFL junior club team to another, unless the club from which the players are transferring from allows more than three.

24. COACH REQUIREMENTS

- 24.1** No person may coach (playing or non-playing) in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:
- (a) a current Australian Football League Foundation level (or higher) coach accreditation certificate
 - (b) received advice from the Chief Executive Officer or Football Development Manager that he/she is not permitted to coach for the nominated affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.
- 24.2** A non-playing coach does not require a clearance application to coach any affiliated Senior or affiliated Junior Club.
- 24.3** Any coach and assistant coach of a junior grade team must wear an armband as approved by the Board while coaching in all EFL matches
- 24.4** Any person who purports to coach in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL without satisfying the requirements of this by-law 24.1 may be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit.
- 24.5** Clubs must ensure that all coaches have lodged their appropriate documents in the Leagues online document storage system Everproof by 28 April each season.

Fine: One penalty unit per week that the form is not submitted.

- 24.6** Where a coach is under suspension from the EFL he/she:
- (a) Cannot enter the playing field (including the coaches box) at any time (including the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time breaks).
 - (b) Cannot actively be involved in coaching the team in any way while the game is being played. e.g. From beside the coaches' box behind the fence, using a radio device to communicate with the bench from another part of the ground, addressing the players from outside the playing field or through a third person.
 - (c) Where a playing coach is suspended for a reportable offence that has occurred while playing, except in the case of an offence involving an umpire (abuse, insults, strike, etc.), the tribunal may rule at its discretion that he/she may continue to coach in a normal capacity whilst under suspension.
- 24.7** A person registered with the EFL as coach of a team may not act in the capacity as any other match day official for that team.

Fine: Up to Twenty penalty units and referred to the Board.

25. BEST AND FAIREST VOTES

- 25.1** Official EFL field umpires shall lodge one set of best and fairest votes in official EFL home and away games in all competitive grades. Where two EFL field umpires are officiating in a match, one set of best and fairest votes will be lodged on behalf of both umpires.
- 25.2** Any player who has been found guilty of a reportable offence in a home and away match or any other indiscretion as determined by the Board and subsequently served a suspension during the same season will be ineligible to win a best and fairest award.

26. PRESENTATION NIGHT TICKETS

- 26.1** All affiliated Senior Clubs shall be allotted 8 tickets for the EFL Senior Presentation Night in each season and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.
- 26.2** All affiliated Clubs with Women's teams will be allotted 4 tickets for the Women's Presentation Evening and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.
- 26.3** All affiliated Junior Clubs shall be allotted 10 tickets for the EFL Junior Presentation Night in each season, furthermore clubs with Junior Girls teams will be allotted 5 tickets for the Eastern Region Girls Presentation Night and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.

27. CLUB ACCOUNTS AND OFFICE BEARERS

27.1 Lodgment of Annual Reports

- (a) All Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs shall forward to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 31st December each year, one copy of their Annual Report.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

- (b) No later than 31st December, all Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs Shall forward to the Chief Executive Officer:
- (i) a Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet on an official "proforma" supplied by the EFL for the immediate past year,
 - (ii) a list of all club office bearers for the coming season.

Fine: Fifty penalty units.

28. ADMISSION PRICES – HOME AND AWAY

- 28.1** The Board shall determine from time to time the admission fees for senior and reserve grade home and away matches and all club gatekeepers shall collect those fees for each match. No admission charges are to be collected prior to 10.20 am or the end of the first quarter of the under 19's game (for night games) on the day of play Clubs shall cease collection at ½ time of the Senior Men's match on the day of play.

29. MEETINGS

Compulsory

- 29.1** The Board may convene compulsory meeting(s) for officials as stipulated by the Board from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: Club Administrator Courses, Senior and Junior Coaches Forums, Junior Meetings and Finals Participants Meetings.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

29.2 Time

Unless otherwise specified, all Annual and Special Meetings of the EFL shall commence at 7.00 pm and no new business will be introduced after 10.30 pm.

29.3 Representatives

- (a) Representatives of clubs must attend all Annual and Special Meetings of the EFL. Such representatives shall be the President and/or Secretary and/or one other member of the club.

Failure: Ten penalty units.

- (b) Representatives may, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer, appoint another person to attend Annual and Special Meetings in their place.

29.4 Juniors

- (a) At the discretion of the Junior Committee "Junior Meetings" shall be convened from time to time.
- (b) Each Junior Club shall be represented at all Junior Meetings by two people who shall be the president or secretary of the club and one other committee person.
- (c) The voting at all Junior Meetings of the league shall be as follows:
 - (i) every Junior Club Member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof, and shall be entitled to two votes on every resolution or amendment thereof PROVIDED THAT its right to vote is conditional upon it having paid all monies due to the league prior to each respective Junior Meeting;
 - (ii) every individual Junior Committee member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof and shall be entitled to one vote on every resolution or amendment thereof.

29.5 Unauthorised Meetings

Any club calling a meeting of other club's other than in accordance with the rules of the EFL without the prior authority of the Board shall be liable to:

- (i) a fine at the discretion of the EFL;
- (ii) suspension from the EFL;
- (iii) be expelled from the EFL in accordance with the rules of the EFL.

30. UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

30.1 No club shall permit any of its officers or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television, social media and all newspapers) about any policies or acts of the Board (or Junior Committee) without the prior approval of the Board (or Junior Committee). To do so shall render the club concerned liable to:

- (i) a fine at the discretion of the EFL;
- (ii) suspension from the EFL;

- (iii) expulsion from the EFL in accordance with the Rules of the EFL.

31. FINES FOR BREACHES

- 31.1** Unless otherwise specified in these by-laws, any infringement of the by-laws shall as a rule be subject to a penalty of one unit, unless otherwise specified, at the discretion of the Board. An actual list of applicable fines shall be published by the Board each year.
- 31.2** The nominal value of each penalty unit shall be determined by the Board from time to time and may be adjusted by the Board at any time.
- 31.3** The nominal value of one penalty unit applicable from 6th March 2017 until otherwise directed by the Board shall be \$16.00.

32. FINE FOR BREACHES – APPEALS

- 32.1** No appeals against fines by an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club shall be heard until the fines have been paid.

33. POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

- 33.1** All players and official at all EFL matches shall be subject to the league's Vilification and Discrimination policy as issued by the Board from time to time (refer Schedule Four).
 - (a)** In matters that require the assistance of the league's mediation officer, associated costs will be dispersed to the club/s involved. The percentage of the account paid by any club will be determined at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

- 33.2** No person may act in the capacity as coach, team manager, trainer or match official in age groups under 8 -under 19 in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, unless that person has:
 - (a)** obtained a Working with Children Check (WWC);
 - (b)** or lodged an application for a Working with Children Check (WWC);
 - (c)** sworn police officers who are not suspended from duty and teachers with current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching are exempt from this.
 - (d)** The abovementioned officials must lodge their WWC document into the online document storage system Everproof.

Penalty for non-compliance: 10 penalty units.

DRUG POLICY

- 33.3** Each affiliated club shall accept it has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment for its members, free of illegal drugs, it will adopt and publish to its members a drugs policy as adopted and distributed by the board from time to time and shall provide to the EFL confirmation of a club minute to confirm that a policy has been adopted by the club committee and the date of that approval.

GAMBLING POLICY

- 33.4** All players and officials shall be subject to the Gambling Policy as issued by the Board from time to time.

34. JUNIOR COMMITTEE

34.1 General

- (a) In accordance with rule 9.6 (f), the Junior Committee shall have the power to manage and control the day to day running of the Junior Competition in accordance with policy. The Junior Committee shall have the power to amend by-laws affecting the Junior Competition, such amendments shall not be affected unless ratified by the Board.
- (b) The Junior Committee of the league shall comprise:
- (i) one Chairman;
 - (ii) one Deputy Chairman;
 - (iii) eight Ordinary Members.
- (c) Each Junior Committee Member shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiration of his/her term.
- (d) Any retiring Junior Committee Member shall remain a Junior Committee Member and be eligible to vote and speak at all Junior Special Meetings until the conclusion of the meeting at which he or she is replaced.

34.2 Election

- (a) The Chief Executive Officer or his nominee shall inform all members of the meeting at which an election is to take place of the candidates for any position on the Junior Committee by posting to each of the members of the list of candidates' names in alphabetical order in respect of each position to be filled at the meeting at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (b) All elections of Junior Committee Members shall be by ballot unless there are not be sufficient numbers of candidates to require election, in which case the nominee shall be deemed to be elected to the vacant office.

34.3 Vacancy and Removal

- (a) The office of a member of the Junior Committee shall become vacant if a member of the Junior Committee:
- (i) submits his or her resignation in writing to the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee; or
 - (ii) is subject to a removal resolution, upon the passing of the resolution by a majority of members present at a Junior Meeting of the league; or

- (iii) dies or becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent which interferes with the performance of his/her duties as a Junior Committee Member; or
 - (iv) is absent without approval from meetings of the Junior Committee for more than 3 consecutive months; or
 - (v) holds any office of the league for pecuniary reward.
- (b) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office of the Junior Committee, the Junior Committee shall seek nominations to fill such vacancy or vacancies. If no nominations are received, the Junior Committee shall be empowered to fill such casual vacancy or vacancies with a person or persons qualifying in accordance with by-law 34.4 (d), and such person(s) so appointed shall serve in that office until the next Junior Meeting.

34.4 Junior Committee Elections

- (a) Any two Junior Affiliated Club Members may nominate any eligible person to stand for the position of a Junior Committee member.
- (b) Each nomination for the Junior Committee shall be in the form supplied by the EFL and signed by or on behalf of each of the nominee clubs (through their appropriate representatives) and on that form the nominee shall:
 - (i) acknowledge his/her willingness to stand for the position of which he/she is being nominated; and
 - (ii) specify the basis of his/her eligibility to stand for election.
 - (iii) if the election of the person would result in an Affiliated Junior Club Member of the league having more than two previous representatives sitting on the Junior Committee at the same time.
- (c) The nominating members shall cause the nomination to be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee at least twenty-eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (d) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Junior Committee:
 - (i) unless within one month of being elected, that person undertakes to and does cease to hold any official position of any Affiliated Senior Club Member or Affiliated Junior Club Member or any other Australian Rules Football Club or League;
 - (ii) unless the person nominated was a representative of an Affiliated Senior Club Member or Affiliated Junior Club Member or was a member of the Junior Committee during the season preceding the nomination for election.

35. CLUB PLAYING OUTSIDE LEAGUE

- 35.1** Clubs which play clubs from other competitions who supply umpires must in the event of their player or official being reported by those umpires, appear before that reporting umpire's league Independent Investigation Tribunal for investigation.

36. BLOOD AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES RULE

36.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football Law 22 and or policy on efl.org.au under resources. Infectious Diseases

37. RULES PERTAINING TO JUNIORS

- 37.1** All under 8 teams will comprise of 12 players per side, with no rucks/ruck-rovers and rovers. Centre players will contest all centre bounces.
- 37.2** Under 8, under 9 and under 10 grade matches are to be played on a reduced ground to a minimum of one half of a full-size ground unless the home club elects to play on a full-size ground.
- 37.3** In all under 8 and under 9 matches a player may not take full possession of the ball at a centre ball up. The ball must go to another player or touch the ground before the player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball. A centre ball up will occur after each score.
- 37.4** In all under 8 and under 9 matches field ball ups will be contested by two opponents of approximately the same height as selected by the umpire. The players selected do not have to be the closest or the tallest players. As with the centre ball ups full possession is not allowed.
- 37.5** If the ball goes out of bounds in all under 8 and under 9 a free kick is awarded against the team who last touched the ball either by foot or by hand. The free kick is to be taken by the nearest opponent. If there is any doubt as to which team last touched the ball, a free kick is awarded to the nearest player of the defending team. If the ball goes out of bounds in all Under 10- Under 18 games a free kick will be awarded where the ball has been clearly disposed of by hand or foot (last possession), if there is any doubt the umpire shall call for a ball-up 10 metres in from the boundary line.
- 37.6** In all under 8 and under 9 matches, players cannot tackle an opponent, bump a player, hold an opponent, push an opponent on the side or knock or take the ball out of an opponent's hands. Players are not allowed to barge or chop past an opposition player.
- 37.7** No player can shepherd or push an opponent not in possession of the ball in any under 8 or under 9 matches.
- 37.8** In all under 8 and under 9 matches a mark will be paid to a player who marks the ball from a kick regardless of the distance the ball has travelled, provided the ball is not touched in transit. In all under 10 matches a mark will be paid to a player who marks the ball from a kick provided that the ball has travelled a minimum of five metres and, provided the ball is not touched in transit.
- 37.9** In all under 8, under 9 matches a player shall not be permitted to bounce the ball before disposing by hand or by foot. In under 10 matches a maximum of one bounce before is allowed. After disposal that player cannot touch the ball until another player has contacted the ball.
- 37.10** No player can deliberately kick the ball off the ground in any under 8, under 9 or under 10 or match.
- 37.11** (a) In all under 8, 9 and 10 competitions if, prior to the commencement of the match, a team has less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground (for that age group), that team may request sufficient players from the opposition to bring the number of players up to the maximum number permitted. If the request is denied, both teams will play with the same number of players.
- (b) In all under 11-17 competitions if, prior to the commencement of the match, a team has less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground (for that age

group), their opposition may offer players in order to bring the number of players up to the maximum number permitted. If the request is denied, the team with greater numbers holds the right to play with a 2-player advantage on field.,

- (c) If a request for additional players in accordance with (b) above, an equal number of players on each team must be maintained throughout the game. A count of players on each team and subsequent exchange of players will be done at each quarter break.
 - (d) Where both teams have less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground, the total number of players will be divided equally. Where an odd number of players exist, the team with the highest number of players will retain the additional player.
- 37.11** A player who has been awarded a mark or free kick cannot play on in any under 8, under 9 or under 10 matches. A mark or free kick must be taken from behind the mark and the ball must be disposed of by either kick or handball. The advantage rule after a free kick will not be applied.
- 37.12** In all junior matches the coach of each team is not permitted onto the ground during the match. An official runner is permitted to be used.
- 37.13** No boundary umpires or interchange stewards are permitted in under 8, under 9 and under 10 matches.
- 37.14** Any team manager of a junior grade team must wear an armband as approved by the Board from time to time while officiating in all EFL matches.
- 37.15** Each club shall provide one goal umpire for all under 10 to under 18 matches. Goal umpires are not required in any under 8 or under 9 matches.
- 37.16** All girl's competitions must adhere to the Eastern Region Girls by-laws for that season.
- 37.17** If re-grading is considered necessary by the League, it will be affected at the discretion of the CEO. Where a side is re-graded, Best and Fairest votes awarded to players will not be transferrable.

38. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS AND AGE GROUPS

38.1 (a) Under 10 to 15

All players in the under 10 to 15 grades (inclusive) may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

- (i) Play more than two years above his/her registered age group.
- (ii) Play more than two (2) games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.

The first team a player plays his third (3) match in is the only team they can qualify for finals in. Once a player has qualified in a division, they are limited to two (2) matches in a higher division. They cannot move down to a lower division.

Under 17

All players in the under 17 grade may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

- (iii) Play nine (9) or more games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.

- (iv) Play nine (9) or more games in the senior competition or TAC Cup Competition and participate in the under 17 finals in that season

Players may qualify for finals in both under 17 and under 19/seniors.

(b) MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS WITHIN AGE GROUPS

Under 11 to 15

Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age grade a player is permitted to move between teams. However:

- (i) Once a player has played five (5) matches in the higher graded team, that player may not move to the lower graded team for the remainder of the season.
 - (ii) Players in the lower rated team are free to move to the higher rated team during home and away matches.
 - (iii) The first team a player plays 5 games is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.
 - (iv) Where a bye is fixture in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.
 - (v) If a club with multiple teams in one age group forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team.
- (c) Where a club field's more than one team (1) in the under 17 or 19 competition, a player is permitted to move between teams. However:**
- (i) Where a bye or split round is fixtured in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.
 - (ii) A player must play at least 3 matches (Under 19) or 5 matches (Under 17) for the respective team during the home and away season to qualify to play in the finals series for that team.
 - (iii) Any player playing more than 9 matches (Under 19) or 7 matches (Under 17) during the home and away season in the higher rated team is ineligible to play with the lower rated team in the finals.
 - (iv) A player is only permitted to play in the finals series for one of the clubs under 17 or 19 teams. Unless an 'exceptional circumstances' submission is lodged by the club, which outlines the grounds for consideration and is approved by the EFL Administration.
 - (v) If a club with two teams in the under 17 or 19 competition forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team.
 - (vi) Prior to either team playing an official game, a list of 15 players who are only eligible to play in the higher ranked team must be submitted to the EFL GM-FO (Under 19) or EFL Junior Manager (Under 17).
- (d) In circumstances where a club's senior team is the first team to play on any weekend or round (including finals), no player who plays in the senior team is eligible to play in the reserves or under 19 teams on subsequent days.**
- (e) In circumstances where 20 eligible players will not be available to take the field in a nominated match, the league CEO may at his absolute discretion grant a permit to play for a player/s for the nominated match only. A request for such a permit must be**

supported by a statutory declaration stating that 20 eligible players are not available for the match.

- (f) Unless by approval from 38.1 (e), players are not permitted to play in two games on any weekend or round within the same age group or between any age group that would usually share the same timeslot (e.g. 14, 15 & 17's).

Fine: Minimum Five penalty units and referred to Board or Junior Committee.

39. MELEE RULE

39.1 Definition

An incident involving six (6) or more players and/or officials who are pushing, grappling, wrestling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the umpire(s) is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the EFL or the competitions conducted by the EFL.

39.2 Incident and Penalty Procedure

- (a) In the event of a melee taking place and following three (3) continued instructions from the umpire(s) to break up the melee, if the melee continues, the umpire(s) shall report the incident to the league. The field umpire(s) appointed by the EFL shall record on the Umpires Match Report after the game an incident where the melee has taken place. This will include the quarter and the position on the field where the melee took place.
- (b) Such form shall be signed by the umpire(s) and a copy of the Umpire Match Report containing notification of the incident handed to each club as per normal match day procedure.
- (c) Fines shall be charged to the club's account.
- (d) All melees occurring during EFL finals games will be referred directly to the Board for consideration regarding penalty.

39.3 Penalties

Penalties for melees during home and away season;

Team 1st offence (in one season):	Ten (10) penalty units = \$160
Team 2nd offence (in one season):	Fifteen (15) penalty units = \$240
Team 3rd offence (in one season):	Twenty (20) penalty units = \$320
Team 4th offence (in one season):	Decision referred to Board

Should a club wish to dispute a melee fine, the club shall lodge an appeal to the fine in accordance with EFL by-law 32.1.

40. COUNTING OF PLAYERS

40.1 (a) Request for Player Count

The captain, acting captain or a player of a Team may at any time during a Match request that the field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

Procedure

- (b) Where a request is made under Laws of Australian Football Rule 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall: -
- (i) Stop play at the first available opportunity;
 - (ii) Call into line within the Centre Square the Players of both Teams who are at the time on the Playing Surface and count the number of Players;
 - (iii) Upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and then re-commence the match
 - (iv) As soon as practicable after the Match, report to the Controlling Body that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team and the number of Players counted.
- (c) The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is eighteen.
- (d) **Players Exceeding Permitted Number**
Where a Team has more than the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:
- A field umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing team, which shall be taken on the goal line of their attacking goal square. A report indicating a head count has been taken shall be given to the EFL by the controlling umpires with the match day paperwork.
- (e) **Correct Number and Request without Merit**
Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:
- (i) A Field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the Captain or acting Captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
 - (ii) A Twenty-Five (25) Metre Penalty shall be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
 - (iii) If a Field Umpire believes a request made under Laws of Australian Football rule 5.5.1 primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the Field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting under Laws of Australian Football rule 19.2.2.

41. COMMUNITY CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The EFL has adopted the Player Payment Rules and Player Points System as part of AFL Victoria's Community Club Sustainability Program. Total Team Points and Allowable Player Payments totals will be determined by the Board from time to time in accordance with the adopted policies. Please refer to Appendix 7 for the Player Payment Rules and Appendix 8 for the Player Point rules.

Player Payment Rules

Sanction: A monetary sanction up to a maximum of \$15,000 for each breach. In respect of a Player, in addition or alternatively to any monetary sanction, a suspension from playing a Match or Matches.

Player Point Rules

Sanction: A monetary sanction for each breach, relegation, loss of premiership points, suspension from finals, player/official suspensions or any other penalty as determined by the League.

Player Payment and Player Point Submission

Failure to submit any or all documents by the due date.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

42. BY-LAW AMENDMENT TABLE

Date if Issue	Amendment/Version	Remarks
April 2007- April 2010	Version 1,2,3,4	Review and updates approved by board
February 2011	Version 5	As above
February 2012	Version 6	As above
February 2013	Version 7	Full Review
February 2014	Version 8	Reviewed
February 2015	Version 9	Reviewed
February 2016	Version 10	Reviewed
November 2017	Version 11	Full Review
November 2018	Version 12	Full Review
March 2019	Version 13	Reviewed