

MCDFNL BY LAWS

Valid from: April 2019

This manual was prepared by the Operations Manager of the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football & Netball League (MCDFNL). The manual is designed to act as a reference source for all MCDFNL clubs and should be read in conjunction with the current AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

Should any club or club representative have suggestion for improvement of this publication, it would be appreciated if they could be passed on to the Operations Manager of the league, to ensure that the publication is as beneficial as it is intended.

GENERAL BY-LAWS (incorporating Football and Netball)

1. POWERS

The League shall, subject to its Statement of Purposes, and to its Rules, comply otherwise with the Laws of Australian Football (released by the AFL) and AFL Victoria Country.

2. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the Rules; in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football Foundation, or the AFL Victoria Country rules, the Executive shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter.

3. CHANGE OF VENUE

The League Executive shall have the right to review any venue that may be in use by one or more of its affiliated Clubs, and may make any determination on the use of that venue as it sees fit.

4. CLEARANCE & PERMIT CURFEW

In accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, the League imposes a clearance & permit curfew.

No clearance or permit shall be handled after 5pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following a round of matches unless & except where by exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Regional General Manager or Operations Manager.

5. CODES OF CONDUCT & POLICIES

The MCDFNL have adopted various Codes of Conduct and policies as provided by the respective governing bodies for football and netball.

Football Codes of Conduct and Policies are those endorsed by AFL Victoria Country and adopted by the MCDFNL, which include, but are not limited to:

- Junior Coaches, Players, and Parents or spectators of Junior Football
- Cyber Senior Coaches, players and spectators
- Bullying

Netball Codes of Conduct and Policies are those endorsed by Netball Victoria and adopted by the MCDFNL, which include:

- General
- Umpire
- Junior Player
- Administrator
- Senior Player
- Parent/Guardian
- Coach

- Spectator

Vilification Policies are:

- Vilification & Discrimination Policy
- Privacy Policy

These Codes of Conduct and policies are to be prominently displayed in all club rooms and change room areas. Clubs are held responsible for the actions of all personnel within their immediate control, i.e. Players, Officials, Members, Supporters, Invited Persons.

Any breach of these codes will be considered most serious and may lead to Investigation and tribunal action.

6. CLUB COLOURS

6.1. All teams in all grades shall play in the colours of their Club. The registered colours of each MCDFNL Club are:

CLUB	JUMPER	SHORTS	SOCKS
Avoca	Red, White & Royal Blue vertical stripes	Royal Blue	Red, White & Blue
Campbells Creek	Black with White V	Black	Black
Carisbrook	Black with Red CFC initials	Red	
Dunolly	Gold with Eagle Emblem	Royal Blue	Red & Black / Royal Blue & Gold
Harcourt	Royal Blue with Gold inverted chest panels	Royal Blue	Black & Yellow
Lexton	Grey, Black & Gold LFC	Black	
Maldon	Red & Black vertical stripes	Black (H) White (A)	Red & Black
Maryborough Rovers	Black & White vertical stripes	Black	Red & White
Natte Bealiba	Red with White V	Red	
Navarre	Bottle Green with Gold NFC	Bottle Green	Bottle Green / Gold Cuff
Newstead	Royal Blue & White vertical strips with Kangaroo logo	White	
Royal Park	Black with Yellow sash	Black	
Talbot	Brown with Gold V	Brown	
Trentham	Black, White & Red vertical stripes	Black	

Clubs will compete in their registered club colours or face sanctions as determined by the delegates of the MCDFNL

6.2. The registered colours of the MCDFNL are Maroon, Gold and Royal Blue.

7. NON-ATTENDANCE AT FOOTBALL & NETBALL DELEGATES MEETINGS

Any Club not having at least one Delegate in attendance at a Delegates Meeting shall be fined \$50.00, on the first occasion, \$100.00 on the second occasion and \$200.00 on the third and all subsequent occasions within the calendar year.

The MCDFNL Executive may waive any such fine if they believe a satisfactory explanation has been supplied by the Club in writing, to the MCDFNL Operations Manager within 7 days of the scheduled meeting.

8. OUTSTANDING DEBT

All clubs must ensure any outstanding debt to the League does not exceed 60 days.
The following process shall apply to clubs where outstanding debt exceeds 60 days.

8.1. Clubs shall be given written formal notice and provided with seven (7) days to pay all outstanding debt exceeding 60 days.

8.2. Should a club fail to pay the full amount that has exceeded 60 days within the seven (7) day period provided, the Executive shall determine which of the following penalty(ies) shall be applied:

8.2.1.1. Additional financial penalty at the discretion of the Executive

8.2.1.2. Loss of premiership points for the current and/or following season, which may be applied to age groups at the discretion of the Executive

8.2.1.3. Application to the AFL Goldfields Commission to apply for the loss of Community Club Sustainability Program points under the player points system for the current and/or following season

8.3. Clubs who have any debt exceeding 60 days on 1st August in each season, and unless approval has been given by the executive, may be deemed ineligible to compete in the Leagues finals series. In addition, the club will not be considered to host any finals matches, or provided with any Catering/Bar/Fundraising rights.

8.4. All clubs must settle all outstanding debts with the League, FootyMart Ballarat, AFL Goldfields and AFL Goldfields Trainers Association prior to the League's AGM in each year (with the only exception being debts relating to FootyMart Ballarat orders placed after November 1st).

8.5. Clubs who have not paid all debts (excepting FootyMart Ballarat orders as stated) will not be eligible to vote at the Leagues AGM.

Clubs who carry debt into the new year may be subject to the above stated penalties above being applied for the upcoming season.

Clubs may apply to the Executive for special consideration by providing a written submission outlining how the club's debt has exceeded 60 days and outlining the club's commitment to a repayment plan to clear in full all debt in a timely manner.

Submissions will only be accepted on club letterhead submitted via email and if the Executive is satisfied that the above criteria is met.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1. The League shall be empowered to impose a levy of all Clubs if necessary, for the purpose of carrying on the functions of the League.

9.2. "Refunds of Out of Pocket" expenses payable to League Officials shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

9.3. The League Administration shall be reimbursed for any costs throughout the season.

9.4. The MCDNFL shall affiliate with the AFL Goldfields and Netball Victoria on an annual basis, and pay such fees as requested by that body to facilitate the affiliation.

10. AUDITOR

The League shall appoint an Auditor for the Financial matters concerning the League, at the AGM of the League, the year prior to requirement.

The Auditor shall have all financial matters handed to them at such time as to have an Audited statement of the Financial affairs of the League ready for presentation to the AGM of the League in each year.

11. CLUB OFFICIALS, NOTIFICATION OF OFFICE BEARERS & ANNUAL REPORTS

The Operations Manager shall circulate each year a Club Contacts Template to be completed and returned by a date nominated by the Executive. The information on the form will be included in the Season Information Booklet and circulated to all other clubs and members of the media.

Clubs must inform the League immediately of any change of personnel after submission of the form or changes of communications details for any individual listed on the form.

All affiliated Clubs must, within fourteen (14) days of the holding of their Annual General Meeting, notify the Operations Manager of the League, in writing, of the names of all office bearers, their address, telephone number(s) and email address.

Clubs must also submit to the League a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting within fourteen (14) days of the AGM. Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report will see the MCDFNL impose a fine at the Executives Discretion.

12. AFFILIATION: LEAGUE

- 12.1.** Each club affiliated with the League during the previous season shall be deemed to be an affiliated member for the following season upon payment of the affiliation fee for such coming season.
- 12.2.** The MCDFNL Executive will determine the affiliation fee for the coming season as part of the budget process and advise clubs of all fees at the League's AGM, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 12.3.** The League may admit and duly affiliate such other clubs as it deems fit, from time to time, provided that said club(s) can comply or are able to comply with the rules of this League and the precepts of the AFL Victoria Country, and that the admission of new club is approved by the members of the MCDFNL as per the rules outlined in the MCDFNL Constitution.
- 12.4.** Any affiliated club neglecting or refusing to pay its affiliation fee, its declared share of any loss that may be incurred, any levy or any fine that may have been imposed by the League may, after one (1) calendar month of request for payment, be liable for expulsion, and held in contempt of the League until such time payment is made.

13. AFFILIATION: AFL GOLDFIELDS & NETBALL VICTORIA

13.1. AFL Goldfields

- 13.1.1.** Clubs shall be notified of the various fees for the following season by the league and shall be instructed as to the payment process of each.
- 13.1.2.** Clubs will be invoiced directly by AFL Victoria for fees that are due to AFL Victoria (which includes player insurance and team registration).
- 13.1.3.** Clubs shall be invoiced by the league for fees that are due to AFL Goldfields and the MCDFNL.

13.2. Netball Victoria

- 13.2.1.** Affiliation fees shall be fixed as part of the budget process (provided available from Netball Victoria) and payable before taking the court of the first game.
- 13.2.2.** Clubs must not play unaffiliated players.
Penalty: Loss of four premiership points.

14. NAMING RIGHTS

No affiliated Club shall be permitted to enter into an agreement with a Naming Rights sponsor that may bring them into opposition with the League and its sponsors.

Should there be any question, the matter is to be put in writing to the Operations Manager of the League, for decision by the League Executive.

Any action pertaining to this matter must be in hand and approved prior to the start of the season.

15. MCDFNL SPONSORS

Clubs shall, where requested, display MCDNFNL sponsor signage at their venue, at no charge to the MCDNFNL. The MCDNFNL will be responsible for maintenance of such signs.

Clubs shall, where requested, offer sponsor products for purchase at their venue. Failure to do shall result in a fine of \$100 per offence.

16. ADMISSION CHARGES

All admission charges will be determined by the League Executive and approved by the Delegates prior to the commencement of the forthcoming season.

16.1. League Passes

All passes that grant access to any game within the League shall be strictly governed by the League Executive. The various types of passes that will be available are listed below.

- MCDNFNL Life Membership: Complimentary admission to bearer only and vehicle
- SPONSORS: Complimentary admission to bearer & guest & vehicle
- BFUA: Umpires only. Complimentary admission to bearer only
- AFL VIC COUNTRY Pass: Complimentary admission to bearer and guest
- MCDNFNL EXECUTIVE: Complimentary admission to bearer, Guest and vehicle
- MEDIA PASS: Complimentary admission to bearer and vehicle.

17. UNDER 17.5 / UNDER 14.5 PASSES

All Under 17.5's and Under 14.5 players must use their MCDNFNL pass or pay the applicable admission cost.

18. ACCREDITATION: COACHES

All coaches within the League shall be accredited as per AFL Victoria Country Rules.

Such accreditation shall be completed prior to the commencement of the current season, and as per AFL Victoria Country regulations any coach not complying with this ruling may incur a loss of Premiership Points for all games that they remain unaccredited.

19. FIXTURE

The League Operations Manager shall be responsible for the production of the fixture for the ensuing year, and a draft of the fixture for the coming season will be issued for club consideration at the League's AGM.

Clubs shall be given the opportunity to lodge requests for any such fixtures as they so desire prior to the compilation of the draft fixture, with the League doing all it possibly can to include such requests.

20. CHANGE TO FIXTURE

The League reserves the right to alter any part of the fixture that will aid the good order of the running of the League.

Venues may need to be changed from time to time when in the opinion of the League a venue is deemed unsuitable for play due to the condition of the Oval, unsuitable "off field" facilities or for any such reason as so deemed by the MCDFNL Delegates.

No such change of venue will occur without the approval of the MCDFNL Delegates.

21. POINTS

All matches within the League shall have points allocated as follows:

- Win 4 points
- Draw 2 points each team,
- Bye 4 points,
- Forfeiture 4 points

If at the conclusion of the home and away season, two or more clubs are equal on points, the position on the ladder shall be determined by the percentage of the goals and points scored both for and against for such clubs.

22. FORFEITURE

Should any club forfeit a match in any grade of football or netball, or forfeit any grade for the entire season, provided such opposing club has a completed team sheet, four premiership points shall be awarded to the opposing club, which also shall have added to its percentage account, the average number of goals and behinds scored in matches against the defaulting club during the season.

22.1. Fines and Premiership point deductions will be imposed by the MCDFNL to clubs who forfeit scheduled fixtures or any scheduled match within the MCDFNL

22.2. The following fines will apply to teams who forfeit scheduled MCDFNL fixtures.

22.2.1. Senior football	\$1,000.00
22.2.2. Reserves football	\$500.00
22.2.3. Any junior grade football	\$250.00
22.2.4. A Grade netball	\$1000.00
22.2.5. B Grade netball	\$500.00
22.2.6. C Grade netball	\$250.00
22.2.7. 17 & Under netball	\$200.00
22.2.8. 15 & Under netball	\$200.00
22.2.9. 13 & Under netball	\$150.00

22.3. The following fines, up to the amount but not exceeding the amount, will apply to teams who fail to affiliate at the start of the season:

22.3.1. Senior football	\$2,500.00
22.3.2. Reserves football	\$2,000.00
22.3.3. Any junior grade football	\$750.00
22.3.4. A Grade netball	\$2,500.00
22.3.5. B Grade netball	\$2,000.00
22.3.6. C Grade netball	\$1,500.00
22.3.7. Any junior grade netball	\$500.00

22.4. In addition to the fines determined in 22.3, the following premiership points will be deducted from each grade that the club fields in all other MCDFNL football and netball competitions, at a total of one (1) deduction per grade per season.

22.4.1. 1st Year	Official Warning
22.4.2. 2nd Year	Four (4) premiership points
22.4.3. 3rd Year	Eight (8) premiership points

22.5. Should any affiliated team forfeit ten (10) or more scheduled fixtures in any one season, that team will be fined according to bylaw (22.3) and penalised according to by-law (22.4).

22.6. Under exceptional circumstances the MCDFNL Executive may consider an offending clubs appeal towards the sanctions set in by-laws (22.2), (22.3) and (22.4).

Offending clubs need to show cause why the above fines and penalties set in by-laws (22.2), (22.3) and (22.4) should not apply.

23. UNAVAILABILITY

Should a club or clubs be unavailable for play, and in such cases where the MCDFNL determines that an acceptable reason has been provided, and such advice is received prior to the due time for commencement of the Match, the MCDFNL may allow for the game to be played on another date.

Such by-law may not be invoked in the case of a game being called off owing to conditions of the day, however the League may make such determination in regard to replaying such match, or make such award of points, as it deems fit.

24. POSTPONED

Notwithstanding the above (in relation to by-law 23 "Unavailability"), no other match may be postponed without consent of the MCDFNL Executive and both clubs.

In cases where, following the ground inspection a decision to postpone a game is made, the MCDFNL Executive may consider the matter and make such decisions as it deems fit and for the good governance of the League.

25. WALKOVERS

Any senior team that gives two (2) walkovers in succession, or three (3) during the course of a season, may be disqualified for the remainder of the season.

Such disqualification will also result in the registered players of that club being disqualified for the remainder of the season, and be ineligible for a clearance to another AFL Victoria Country registered club.

26. ANY OTHER FIXTURE MATTER

In any other matters not catered for, and in instances as it deems for being in the best interests of the League and for the proper governance of the League, the MCDFNL Executive may make such decisions as it deems fit and order for any games to be played on any such day, any time and at any venue as it deems appropriate.

27. GROUND LIGHTING

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, clubs or umpire shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue.

The umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if they consider the conditions unsafe.

Prior to a venue being considered suitable for night games, Clubs must apply to the League for permission to host a night game, and meet criteria as determined by the League.

28. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL & NETBALL

28.1. SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL & NETBALL

28.1.1. All MCDFNL affiliated clubs will support the representative program for all grades, where the league delegates have approved the leagues participation in representative football and netball for the upcoming season.

28.1.2. All costs for representative Matches will be shared equally across the League.

28.1.3. All ancillary services and personnel shall be drawn from the clubs, where possible, other than for the position of Senior Coach.

28.1.4. The MCDFNL Executive shall appoint the MCDFNL Senior Football Interleague Coach at their discretion.

28.1.5. All players in all affiliated clubs are to make themselves available for selection in any representative game.

28.1.6. Any player who does not attend a training session or who makes themselves unavailable for Interleague or representative football & netball, will be required to show cause to the MCDFNL Executive as to why they should not be suspended for a period not exceeding three (3) matches during the minor rounds that his/her club is involved in. Suspension period to be determined by the MCDFNL Executive.

28.1.7. Any club that does not participate fully or support the MCDFNL in representative Matches or who does not comply with the League request to ensure their players attendance at the required sessions may incur a fine of an amount determined by the League, or the loss of premiership points.

28.1.8. In special or extenuating circumstances the League can deem to not invoke the above listed sanctions

28.1.9. Should a player have a legitimate reason for non-attendance at any session called by the senior coach, then an acceptable reason should be sent to the coach or League Operations Manager prior to the session in question.

28.1.10. Should this reason be considered frivolous and not be accepted then a penalty as above may apply.

28.1.11. The League shall supply jumpers, shorts, socks and netball dresses of the appropriate colour for Open age teams. Football Jumpers & Netball Uniforms shall be returned after the game.

28.1.12. Should any player receive serious injury in any representative match, Players must lodge any insurance claims through their Home Clubs insurance policy.

28.1.13. SELECTION OF NETBALL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

28.1.13.1. The AFL Goldfields Netball Manager, in conjunction with the allocated coach, will organise the Representative Team Selection Trials.

28.1.13.2. Selected Players will be notified

28.1.13.3. The selector's decision shall be final.

28.2. JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL & NETBALL

28.2.1. All MCDFNL affiliated Clubs will support the junior representative program for all grades, where the league delegates have approved the leagues participation in junior representative football and netball for the upcoming season.

28.2.2. All costs for Interleague Matches will be shared equally across the League.

28.2.3. All ancillary services and personnel shall be drawn from the Clubs, other than for the

position of Coach.

28.2.4. The MCDNFL Executive shall, in conjunction with the MCDNFL Junior Development Officers, appoint the MCDNFL Junior Interleague Coaching staff at their discretion.

28.2.5. All players in all affiliated Clubs are to make themselves available for selection in any representative game. Any player who does not attend all training session or who makes themselves unavailable for Interleague or representative football & netball shall miss the next round of minor matches that his/her Club is involved in.

28.2.6. In special or extenuating circumstances the League can deem to not invoke the 1 match suspension.

28.2.7. Any Club that does not participate fully or support the MCDNFL in junior representative Matches or who does not comply with the League request to ensure their players attendance at the required sessions may incur a fine of an amount determined by the League, or the loss of premiership points.

28.2.8. Should a player have a legitimate reason for non-attendance at any session called by the Junior coach, then an acceptable reason should be sent, faxed or e-mailed to the coach or League Operations Manager prior to the session in question.

28.2.9. Should this reason be considered frivolous and not be accepted then a penalty as above may apply.

28.2.10. The League shall supply jumpers, shorts, socks and netball dresses of the appropriate colour for Junior age teams. Football Jumpers & Netball Uniforms shall be returned after the game.

28.2.11. Should any player receive serious injury in any Inter-League match, Players must lodge any insurance claims through their Home Clubs insurance policy.

28.2.12. SELECTION OF NETBALL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

28.2.12.1. The AFL Goldfields Netball Manager, in conjunction with the allocated coach, will organise the Representative Team Selection Trials.

28.2.12.2. Selected Players will be notified

28.2.12.3. The selector's decision shall be final

29. MATCH DAY PAPERWORK

All Match Day Paperwork and other operational documentation shall be circulated to all clubs by the Operations Manager of the League Prior to the commencement of the Season.

30. RESTRICTIONS ON PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS BETTING

The MCDNFL strictly prohibits MCDNFL registered players and officials from placing bets or wagering in a game or competition where players or officials are engaged.

For the purposes of clarity, MCDNFL players and officials are not permitted to place bets on the MCDNFL premiership. Where players and/or officials do breach this bylaw, they shall face sanction(s) as determined by the Executive of the MCDNFL.

31. MCDNFL MEDIA OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The MCDNFL shall appoint suitably qualified and experienced media officer(s) each year

The media officer(s) shall work in conjunction with the AFL Goldfields Media & Marketing officer to promote the MCDNFL through various publications.

The role of the MCDNFL Media Officer(s) shall include:

31.1. Compiling and submitting the MCDNFL Preview to any media outlets who request it.

31.2. Compiling and submitting the MCDNFL Preview to the operations manager for publication in

the weekly MCDFNL Footy Record.

- 31.3.** Compiling and submitting the MCDFNL Review to any media outlets who request it for publication every Monday.
- 31.4.** Doing any feature stories as & when appropriate.
- 31.5.** Doing the MCDFNL Review on the radio show when requested.
- 31.6.** Assisting the Football Netball Operations Manager with uploading newsworthy articles and media releases on the MCDFNL website.
- 31.7.** Compile votes for best & fairest awards, preparation of slideshows and occasional photography.

32. CLUB MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES

MCDFNL Clubs are requested to co-operate with all members of the Media, who do provide a valuable service in covering any MCDFNL news and stories.

In particular, MCDFNL Clubs are requested to provide any interesting news and stories (e.g. milestones, human interest, etc.) to the Media, Marketing & Events Manager and/or media outlets who will try to ensure appropriate coverage

33. FOOTY RECORDS

Each Club shall have allocated a given number of football programs for all matches in the home and away season. All clubs may purchase additional records from time to time by contacting the League Operations Manager at least 2 weeks in advance

34. FOOTY RECORD CONTENT

- 34.1.** Each Club must supply notes via email (only) to the operations manager prior to 12pm on the Monday preceding each round. The notes must not be of more than 300 words.

Notes exceeding this amount may have any text after 300 words deleted. Failure to provide such notes may see a fine of imposed on the offending club(s). Clubs are also required to submit notes whilst they still have teams participating in the finals in any Grade of football and netball.

- 34.2.** All participating Clubs are required to submit separate team lists for all competing teams in each grade of competition across football and netball.

After the first three (3) home and away rounds are played, clubs player/number lists will be expected to be accurate and this will become mandatory after round 4. Players may appear on each list and up to 30 players may be named per list.

The League can impose financial penalties upon clubs where a club continues to list inaccurateteam lists.

- 34.3.** All information required and or requested shall be with the League by the close of business on the Monday prior to the match. A decision on the content, advertising, delivery time and notes included in the programs will be organised with the Clubs and the League on an individual basis.

35. OTHER MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES

Clubs should make coaches and players aware that media representatives may be in the rooms before, during and or after a match. It will be expected of media representatives that he/she not interfere in any way with the operations of the Team, its Coaches or Officials, during the preparation for play.

Clubs should make Coaches, Captains and players available for such events as the MCDFNL Executive determines are necessary for the promotion of MCDFNL. Such events may include the MCDFNL Season Launch, MCDFNL Awards Nights, Interleague Events, etc.

36. TRAINERS

It is a requirement for all trainers who take the field to register to the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA). Registration to the AFLGTA is free of charge for trainers. A membership levy will be issued to each club to cover these fees. All registered trainers must provide a list of current qualifications as part of their registration, with copies of certificates sent to the AFLGTA secretary prior to taking the field. A fine can be implemented for failure to provide this documentation, as set out by the League.

AFLGTA MCDNFL Club Membership Levy: \$100 per club

36.1 Requirements for a registered and qualified trainer is:

36.1.1 At Senior, Reserve, Under 17.5 and Under 14.5 level is:

36.1.1.1 Up to date CPR qualification; and

36.1.1.2 HLTAID002 Provide basic emergency life support; and

36.1.1.3 Emergency Response Coordinator certificate;

36.1.2 Requirements for a registered and qualified trainer for Under 11.5 level is

36.1.2.1 Up to date CPR qualification; and

36.1.2.2 HLTAID002 Provide basic emergency life support; and

Note: The above minimum requirements are recommended for trainers attending training sessions. It is overall the responsibility of clubs to provide a safe training environment. It is recommended all trainers have a Sports Trainers qualification

36.2 All clubs shall have an appropriately accredited and registered trainer in attendance at every match. Clubs are permitted to use up to four (4) trainers in a match.

36.3 Trainers can be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest.

36.4 All clubs are expected to be represented by at least one (1) representative at all AFLGTA meetings

36.5 Attire. Trainers shall be attired in white, black or navy pants & a white top and recorded on the team sheet

36.6 Stretchers. All clubs are to ensure that an approved stretcher is placed at the interchange area in plain sight. Additional stretchers may be available and kept in this area. Failure to carry out this instruction shall incur a fine or such other sanction as seen fit by the Executive.

36.7 WWCC. Trainers must complete a Working with Children Check to comply with state law, when applicable. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team Officials who have contact with children under the age of 18 to undergo a Working with Children Check.

37. AWARDS

37.1. BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

37.1.1. An award shall be made to the best and fairest player in all grades of competition both in Football and Netball.

37.1.2. Votes for these awards shall be made in secret by the Central Umpires, or controlling referee or their representative, as the case may be, at the end of each game and placed in the appropriately marked sealed envelope, which is to be sent in with the matchday paperwork

37.1.3. The awards will be known as:

- Senior Football: The Berry Powell Medal
- Reserves Football: The Reserves Football Best & Fairest Award
- Under 17.5 Football: The Under 17.5 Football Best & Fairest Award
- Under 14.5 Football: The Under 14.5 Football Best & Fairest Award
- Under 11.5 Football: The Under 11.5 Football Best & Fairest Award

- A Grade Netball: The Nalder Tracey Trophy
- B Grade Netball: The B Grade Netball Best & Fairest Award
- C Grade Netball: The C Grade Netball Best & Fairest Award
- 17 & Under Netball: The 17 & Under Netball Best & Fairest Award
- 15 & Under Netball: The 15 & Under Netball Best & Fairest Award
- 13 & Under Netball: The 13 & Under Netball Best & Fairest Award
- 11 & Under Netball: The 11 & Under Netball Best & Fairest Award

37.1.4. At the end of the home and away rounds, the league shall count all votes as cast during that time, and arrive at the conclusion as to whom has attained the greatest total of votes.

37.1.5. No player who has been found guilty of any charge by the Independent Tribunal of the MCDFNL or accepted a set penalty shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.

37.1.6. In the event of a tie, additional awards will be made available.

37.2. Other awards that may be awarded include:

37.2.1. Goal kicking awards,

37.2.2. and any other presentation that may be required or approved by the Executive.

37.3. On an annual basis, the Max Martin Medal will be awarded to a League Administrator who has rendered outstanding service in the previous year. This award is determined by the League Executive in conjunction with the League Operations Manager and Region Netball Manager.

37.4. CLUB CHAMPION AWARD

37.4.1. An award shall be made to the "Champion Club" of the MCDFNL on an annual basis, and will be known as the Carlton FC Club Champion Shield.

37.4.2. A vote will be awarded for each win in each grade of football and netball and will be compiled by the Operations Manager of the League.

37.5. GRAND FINAL TROPHIES

37.5.1. An award shall be made to the best and fairest player in all grades of competition in football and netball based on their performance in the MCDFNL Grand Finals.

37.5.2. In the Senior grade of football, this will be referred to as the "The Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Medal".

This League medal is presented in addition to the AFL Victoria Country Medal (as provided by the AFL Victoria Country) for Best On Ground.

37.5.3. Other awards that are to be awarded at the Grand Final include:

37.5.3.1. Football

- Premiership Medallions in all grades of competition,
- Premiership Cup for all grades of competition

37.5.3.2. Netball

- Premiership Medallions in all grades of competition,
- Premiership Cup for all grades of competition
- Runners up awards for junior grades only

37.6. In addition to the above, any other presentation for football or netball that may be required or approved by the Executive.

37.7. The Premiership Cups are referred to as follows:

37.7.1. FOOTBALL:

- Senior: McDonald's Maryborough Cup
- Reserve: Best Family Trophy
- Under17.5: Under 17.5 Premiership Cup
- Under 14.5: Under 14.5 Premiership Cup
- Under 11.5: Under 11.5 Premiership Cup

37.7.2. NETBALL:

- A Grade: McDonald's Maryborough Cup
- B Grade: Margaret Staley Cup
- C Grade: C Grade Premiership Cup
- 17 & Under: The 17 & Under Premiership Cup
- 15 & Under: The 15 & Under Premiership Cup
- 13 & Under: The 13 & Under Premiership Cup
- 11 & Under: The 11 & Under Premiership Cup

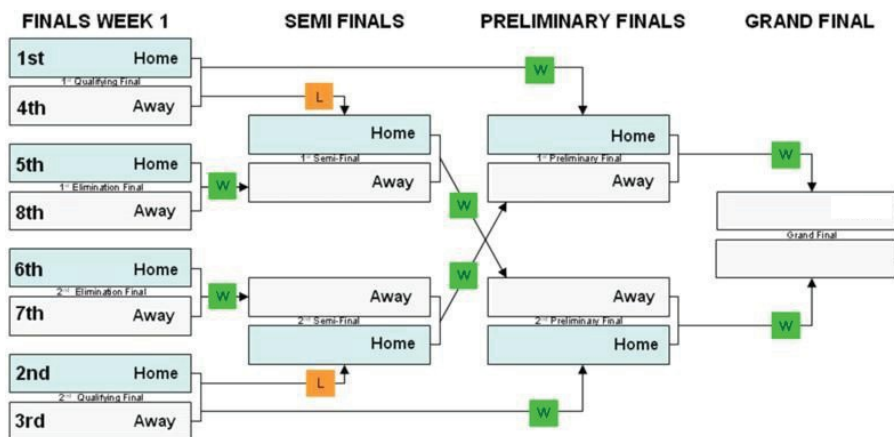
38. LEAGUES BEST & FAIREST MEDAL TICKET ALLOCATION

All senior Clubs will receive a minimum of twenty (20) tickets with the option to purchase more to the League Best & Fairest Medal – the Berry Powell Medal - which is the premier evening on the MCDFNL calendar.

39. FINALS

39.1. FINALS FORMAT

39.1.1. MCDDFNL finals for football and netball shall follow the "Final Eight" format (as pictured).



39.2. FINALS VENUES

In accordance with the By Laws, the League delegates shall make all determinations as to venues for the Finals. In the case of any emergency the League Executive shall have the power to make decisions they deem to be in the best interests of the League.

39.3. FINALS SERIES STRUCTURE

At the completion of the home and away rounds a final eight shall be drawn to play in a finals series of games for the Premiership of the League.

39.3.1. These games shall be played in the following order

- 2 x Qualifying finals,
- 2 x Elimination finals,
- 2 x Semi Finals,
- 2 x Preliminary Finals
- Grand Final.

39.4. MCDFNL FOOTBALL COMPETITION HEIRACHY

1. Senior Football

2. Reserves Football
3. Under 17.5 Football
4. Under 14.5 Football
5. Under 11.5 Football

When reading the Finals Eligibility by-laws, the above hierarchy of competitions, with Senior Football at the top and U/11.5 Football at the bottom should be taken into consideration when trying to figure out where a player can compete during the finals.

When players qualify to compete in finals they qualify for that competition and any competition that sits above them on the hierarchy (e.g. If a player qualifies in the U/17.5, that player qualifies for finals in competitions 3 up to 1, but not competitions 4 down to 5).

39.5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 39.5.1.** Subject to the provisions of (39.5.2) and (39.5.3) a player must have played at least three (3) matches with his club in any grade, on different days and must be registered to his Club in the case of Area Permit players.
- 39.5.2.** Under 17.5 and Under 14.5 players meeting the requirement of the above rule must have played the minimum three (3) games in the lowest grade qualifying for. That player may also play in any competition that sits above their grade in the competition hierarchy. This rule only applies if clubs are affiliated in the applicable grade.
- 39.5.3.** Any player eligible to play in the Senior Grade Final Series must have played in at least three (3) Home & Away games with his Club during the current season on different days. Such three games may have been in either Seniors or Reserves or both.
- 39.5.4.** Any player eligible to play in the Reserve Grade Finals Series must have played in at least three (3) Home & Away games with the Reserves but not more than half the number of Senior Games during the current season.
- 39.5.5.** Rules (39.5.3) and (39.5.4) do not apply in the event of a Club's Senior and Reserve Grade Teams playing on the same weekend. This exemption applies for that day only. Players may only move up a grade and not down.
- 39.5.6.** If a player is playing on permit he must have played at least one third of the home and away season matches for the grade they wish to participate in
- 39.5.7.** All club registered players who are qualified to play finals, either in their registered Age Group or who are registered in a lower Age group and who have played 6 or more games in the higher age group, must be selected before permit players can receive endorsement to play.
- 39.5.8.** **Any disputes will be determined by the MCDFNL Executive.**

39.6. REPLACEMENTS

Where a Club is involved in finals matches on a Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend in more than one grade, the following eligibility of player's requirements shall apply:

A player who has participated for the Senior side on the Saturday shall not be eligible to play with the Reserve side on the Sunday.

A player being in the twenty-two (22) for the Reserves on Saturday will, save as provided below, be ineligible to play with the Seniors on the Sunday, however a Senior team playing on Sunday will be permitted, where a replacement player is required due to a late withdrawal of a selected senior player, to draw a replacement from the Reserves team that has played on the Saturday. For all under age teams the above rule will apply to the Interchange between Grades from Saturday to Sunday.

39.7. SUSPENSIONS

Players suspended during the finals will be suspended for the following match(es) in the grade in which they were suspended. Other grade matches won't be counted as matches served.

39.8. CLUBROOM & COACHES BOX ALLOCATION

The MCDFNL will be responsible for the allocation of Change Rooms & Coaches Boxes.

Generally speaking, the highest placed side will be given the home clubrooms while the other competing side will use the Visitors rooms. The MCDFNL will make all room allocations, but special consideration will be given if a side has more than one (1) team competing.

The Club in the home rooms must use the Home Coaches' box, unless the MCDFNL has given specific approval to determine otherwise.

39.9. CLUBS TO SUPPLY

During the final series, the competing Clubs must supply the following:

- 1 x Timekeeper
- Cleaning of change rooms
- Umpires as previously outlined in 48.1
- Nominated team manager that the league ground manager can get best players and goal kickers from. (All Clubs must supply regardless of winning or losing)
- Trainers, Runner, Water boys
- Stretchers (All competing clubs to supply)
- And, where required, a scoreboard attendant (from Club rostered to conduct Canteen)

39.10. MCDFNL TO SUPPLY

During the final series, the MCDFNL will supply the following:

- Team list and Scorecards
- Ground Manager (from Host Club)
- Club room allocations (The MCDFNL will nominate rooms that Clubs will be in for the weekend's matches and send out Monday. No changing of rooms is allowed).
- Football Records
- Gate Keepers
- Report Book
- Ground Inspection – MCDFNL will complete Match Day Checklist
- Footballs and pump
- Umpires (Central, Boundary & Goal)

The MCDFNL requires that all Clubs participating in the final series are responsible for the cleaning of the Change Room they have used after they have finished playing.

For example, the U/17.5 team will clean up after their game, followed by Reserves after their game, and likewise by the Senior Club after their game - so the rooms will be cleaned three times during the day.

The MCDFNL Ground Manager will inspect the rooms after every finals game and if they aren't cleaned satisfactory the Club may be fined.

39.11. FINALS HOSTING

All MCDFNL Finals games will be played at Princes Park Maryborough. In cases where this venue may not be available, finals venues will be determined by the MCDFNL Executive.

39.12. FINALS CATERING, BAR & FUNDRAISING

The MCDFNL Executive shall allocate the rights to conduct Catering, Refreshments and Raffles at all Finals.

Once a Club has been drawn for catering, Refreshments or the Raffle, they will not be eligible again for that aspect of the Grand Final until all Clubs have had their opportunity.

Clubs may pass or on sell their opportunity if they choose to another MCDFNL Club, but that Club will not be placed in the draw until all other Clubs have had their opportunity.

39.13. SPONSORSHIP PROTECTION

The MCDFNL Executive shall have the authority to require for the clubs conducting the catering or bar for any such finals game to adhere to exclusive supply arrangements as per any applicable Sponsorship exclusivity agreement.

Failure to adhere to such requirements shall see offending Clubs incur such penalty as deemed appropriate by the MCDFNL Executive.

Note: It is very important that ALL CLUBS do abide by these conditions, as the MCDFNL does not want the actions of one Club who fails to comply with the sponsorship requirements to jeopardize the sponsorship arrangements that benefit all Clubs.

39.14. ROOMS

The Home Rooms will be allocated on the basis of superior ladder position after the game(s) in question.

Consideration will be given to a Club that has more than one (1) team participating on the same day. In cases of dispute, the final arbiter shall be the League Executive.

39.15. SHORTS

During Finals, only after a Club has approached their opponent and received that Clubs approval, can a request for change of shorts colour be approved by the MCDFNL Executive.

39.16. Drawn Games in Finals Series – FOOTBALL

39.16.1. In the event of a drawn game in any Finals match (including the Senior Football Grand Final), the following shall apply.

39.16.1.1. The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three (3) minutes.

39.16.1.2. A five (5) minute quarter will be played (plus time-on for senior football only) before immediately changing ends for another five (5) minute quarter (plus time-on for senior football only).

There is to be no break between these quarters.

39.16.1.3. For all grades of football, if at the end of the second five-minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends will occur and play will be restarted at the centre bounce and the first score will win.

39.17. Drawn Games in Finals Series – NETBALL

39.17.1. During a final at the end of the game when scores are tied there is a one (1) minute break during which time there may be substitutions and / or team changes.

39.17.2. At the end of the one minute, there are a further 2 halves played – U15 and U17 2 x 5 minutes, B grade 2 x 6 minutes, A grade 2 x 7 minutes. At the end of the first interval played teams simply change ends and there are no substitutions or team changes allowed. If at the end of the second interval the scores are still level, then play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

39.18. FINALS START TIMES

39.18.1. An estimation of the duration of matches in the MCDFNL Finals series will be as follows. Please note the below is subject to change at the discretion of the MCDFNL Executive.

FOOTBALL GRADE	START TIME	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS (mins)
Senior	2:35pm	4 x 20mins (plus TO)	5 – 20 – 7
Reserves	12:50pm	4 x 20mins (plus TO))	3 – 6 – 4
Under 17.5	11:30am	4 x 15 mins (plus TO)	3 – 4 – 3
Under 14.5	10:10am	4 x 15 mins (plus TO)	3 – 4 – 3
Under 11.5	9:00am	4 x 12 mins (plus TO)	2 – 4 – 2

Note (1): The half time break for senior games will be extended to 20mins when there is a little league, mini or Auskick game to take place at half time.

Note (2): Time on for the Reserves and Under 17.5, Under 14.5 and Under 11.5 games in finals matches shall only be used in cases of serious injury or where the ball enters the lake and where "time on" is signaled by the Field Umpire for excessive time lapse i.e. the football cannot be returned to the field of play.

NETBALL GRADE	START TIME	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS (mins)
A Grade	2:35pm	4 x 15mins	3 – 4 – 3
B Grade	1:30pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 2 – 2
C Grade	12:25pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 2 – 2
17 & Under	11:30am	4 x 10 mins	2 – 2 – 2
15 & Under	10:35am	4 x 10 mins	2 – 2 – 2
13 & Under	9:45am	4 x 10 mins	2 – 2 – 2
11 & Under	9:00am	4 x 8 mins	2 – 2 – 2

Note (1): Start times for finals matches will be as directed by the MCDFNL. The times above are for Home & Away games and are provided for reference.

40. RACIAL, RELIGIOUS & SEXUAL ORIENTATION VILIFICATION

The MCDFNL has adopted a Racial, Religious & Sexual Tolerance Policy. Please see the Appendix for further details.

41. DE-REGISTRATION / NON-REGISTRATION POLICY

The MCDFNL has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding De- Registration / Non - Registration. Please see Appendix for further details.

42. VILIFICATION

Any registered MCDFNL player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a MCDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a four (4) week suspension.

This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the MCDFNL executive and/or Independent Tribunal if they see fit.

Should a member or supporter of a MCDFNL club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a MCDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the spectator will incur a minimum of a twelve (12) week suspension from attending MCDFNL fixtures and

his/her club fined an amount of no less than \$250.

This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the MCDFNL executive and/or Independent Tribunal if they see fit.

Should a MCDFNL club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion of the MCDFNL executive and/or Tribunal if they see fit.

Should a MCDFNL club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the MCDFNL executive and/or Independent Tribunal if they see fit.

In addition, the club will be asked to undertake "Culture Awareness Training" for all players and members that will be presented by a facilitator appointed by the MCDFNL.

43. ALL OTHER MATTERS

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the Rules; in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football, or AFL Victoria Country, the league executive shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter, and make such decisions, issue directives, fines or any other decree as it deems fit for the good governance and which it determines is in the best interests of the MCDFNL.