



**Maryborough Castlemaine
District Football Netball League**

INFORMATION BOOKLET & OPERATIONS MANUAL

2023 *(Includes the By Laws of the MCDFNL)*

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NEW MENU
ONLY AT *McCafé*

Apple Crumble Muffin
2770kJ

Double Choc Muffin
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Cheese Toastie
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+ ADD FOR \$3.50

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MADE WITH
SOURDOUGH BREAD
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2023 MCDFNL FIXTURE

RD1 - 15TH APRIL

Maldon	Campbells Creek	BW
Natte Bealiba	Dunolly	NY
Lexton	Harcourt	LR
Royal Park	Carisbrook	HO
Trentham	Navarre	TR
Newstead	Talbot	NR

RD1 - 16TH APRIL

Maryborough Rovers	Avoca	PP
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RD2 - 22ND APRIL

Maryborough Rovers	Natte Bealiba	PP
Harcourt	Avoca	HR
Lexton	Newstead	LR
Campbells Creek	Carisbrook	CC
Royal Park	Trentham	HO
Navarre	Talbot	NV

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7

Maldon	Dunolly	BW
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RD3 - 29TH APRIL

Maldon	Maryborough Rovers	BW
Natte Bealiba	Harcourt	NY
Avoca	Lexton	AP
Dunolly	Carisbrook	DR
Trentham	Campbells Creek	TA
Talbot	Royal Park	TR
Newstead	Navarre	NR

RD4 - 6TH MAY

Harcourt	Maldon	HR
Lexton	Natte Bealiba	LR
Avoca	Newstead	AP
Dunolly	Trentham	DR
Campbells Creek	Talbot	CC
Royal Park	Navarre	HO
Maryborough Rovers	Carisbrook	PP

RD5 - 13TH MAY

Maldon	Lexton	BW
Natte Bealiba	Avoca	NY
Carisbrook	Harcourt	CR
Trentham	Maryborough Rovers	TR
Talbot	Dunolly	TA
Navarre	Campbells Creek	NV
Newstead	Royal Park	NR

RD6 - 20TH MAY

Avoca	Maldon	AP
Natte Bealiba	Newstead	NY
Lexton	Carisbrook	LR
Harcourt	Trentham	HR
Maryborough Rovers	Talbot	PP
Dunolly	Navarre	DR
Campbells Creek	Royal Park	CC

RD7 - 27TH MAY

Maldon	Natte Bealiba	BW
Carisbrook	Avoca	CR
Trentham	Lexton	TR
Talbot	Harcourt	TA
Navarre	Maryborough Rovers	NV
Royal Park	Dunolly	HO
Newstead	Campbells Creek	NR

RD8 - 3RD JUNE

Newstead	Maldon	NR
Carisbrook	Natte Bealiba	CR
Trentham	Avoca	TR
Talbot	Lexton	TA
Navarre	Harcourt	NV
Royal Park	Maryborough Rovers	HO
Campbells Creek	Dunolly	CC

10TH JUNE - KINGS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

RD9 - 17TH JUNE

Maldon	Carisbrook	BW
Natte Bealiba	Trentham	NY
Avoca	Talbot	AP
Lexton	Navarre	LR
Harcourt	Royal Park	HR
Maryborough Rovers	Campbells Creek	JO
Dunolly	Newstead	DR

RD10 - 24TH JUNE

Trentham	Maldon	TR
Talbot	Natte Bealiba	TA
Navarre	Avoca	NV
Royal Park	Lexton	HO
Campbells Creek	Harcourt	CC
Dunolly	Maryborough Rovers	DR
Newstead	Carisbrook	NR

1ST JULY - JUNE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BYE

RD11 - 8TH JULY

Maldon	Talbot	BW
Natte Bealiba	Navarre	NY
Avoca	Royal Park	AP
Lexton	Campbells Creek	LR
Harcourt	Dunolly	HR
Newstead	Maryborough Rovers	NR
Carisbrook	Trentham	CR

RD12 - 15TH JULY

Navarre	Maldon	NV
Royal Park	Natte Bealiba	HO
Campbells Creek	Avoca	CC
Dunolly	Lexton	DR
Maryborough Rovers	Harcourt	PP
Talbot	Carisbrook	TA
Trentham	Newstead	TR

RD13 - 22ND JULY

Maldon	Royal Park	BW
Natte Bealiba	Campbells Creek	NY
Avoca	Dunolly	AP
Lexton	Maryborough Rovers	LR
Newstead	Harcourt	NR
Carisbrook	Navarre	CR
Trentham	Talbot	TR

RD14 - 29TH JULY

Campbells Creek	Maldon	CC
Dunolly	Natte Bealiba	DR
Avoca	Maryborough Rovers	AP
Harcourt	Lexton	HR

RD14 - 5TH AUGUST

Carisbrook	Royal Park	CR
Navarre	Trentham	NV
Talbot	Newstead	TA

RD15 - 12TH AUGUST

Dunolly	Maldon	DR
Natte Bealiba	Maryborough Rovers	NY
Avoca	Harcourt	AP
Newstead	Lexton	NR
Carisbrook	Campbells Creek	CR
Trentham	Royal Park	TR
Talbot	Navarre	TA

RD16 - 19TH AUGUST

Maryborough Rovers	Maldon	JO
Harcourt	Natte Bealiba	HR
Lexton	Avoca	LR
Carisbrook	Dunolly	CR
Campbells Creek	Trentham	CC
Royal Park	Talbot	HO
Navarre	Newstead	NV

QUALIFYING & ELIMINATION FINALS 26TH & 27TH SEPTEMBER

SEMI FINALS 2ND & 3RD SEPTEMBER

PRELIMINARY FINALS 9TH & 10TH OF SEPTEMBER

GRAND FINAL 16TH SEPTEMBER

AP - Avoca Public Park, BW - Bill Woodfull Rec Res, CC - Campbells Creek Res, CR - Carisbrook Rec Res, DR - Deledio Reserve, HO - Hedges Oval, HR - Harcourt Rec Res, JO - Jubilee Oval, LR - Lexton Reserve, NR - Newstead Rec Res, NV - Navarre Sports Complex, NY - Natte Yallock Rec Res, PP - Princes Park, TA - Talbot Rec Res, TR - Trentham Rec Reserve

MCDONALD'S MARYBOROUGH CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

Maryborough Castlemaine District FNL 2023 Key Dates				
League	Event	Date	Venue	Time
January				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Netball Executive Meeting	Monday 30th January	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5.30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Netball Delegates Meeting	Monday 30th January	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7.30pm
February				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 6th February	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Delegates Meeting	Monday 6th February	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7:30pm
March				
MCDFNL	Netball VIC Coach Training and Netball Connect Meeting	Tuesday 7th March	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
HOL	Labour Day	Monday 14th March		
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 20th March	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Delegates Meeting	Monday 20th March	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7:30pm
April				
HOL	Good Friday	Friday 7th April		
HOL	Easter Weekend	Saturday 8th April		
HOL	Easter Sunday	Sunday 9th April		
HOL	Easter Monday	Monday 10th April		
MCDFNL	Season Launch	TBD		
MCDFNL	Round 1	Saturday 15th April		
HOL	Anzac Day	Tuesday 25th April		
May				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 1st May	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
June				
MCDFNL	Netball Victoria Western Zone Association Championships	Sunday 4th June	Warrnambool	All Day
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Junior Football Interleague Carnival	Sunday 4th June	Bendigo	All Day
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 5th June	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Delegates Meeting	Monday 5th June	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL King's Birthday Bye Weekend	Saturday 10th June		
HOL	Kings Birthday	Monday 12th June		
July				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL School Holiday Bye Weekend	Saturday 1st July		
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 3rd July	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 31st July	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Delegates Meeting	Monday 31st July	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7:30pm
August				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Netball Delegates Meeting	Monday 7th August	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Finals Series - Week 1	Saturday 26th August & Sunday 27th August		
September				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Finals Series - Week 2	Saturday 2nd September & Sunday 3rd September		
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Junior Presentation Night	Wednesday 6th September	Maryborough Harness Racing Club	6:00pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Finals Series - Week 3	Saturday 9th September & Sunday 10th September		
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Berry Powell - Nalder Tracey Presentation Night	Monday 11th September	Maryborough Highland Society	6:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Grand Final	Saturday 16th September	Princes Park, Maryborough	All Day
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 25th September	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
HOL	AFL Grand Final Eve	Friday 29th September		
October				
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 16th October	Maryborough Golf Club (tbc)	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Delegates Meeting	Monday 16th October	Maryborough Golf Club (tbc)	7:30pm
November				
HOL	Ballarat Show Day	TBC		
HOL	Melbourne Cup Day	Tuesday 7th of November		
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Executive Meeting	Monday 20th November	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	5:30pm
MCDFNL	MCDFNL Annual General Meeting	DECEMBER, TBD	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	7:30pm
December				
HOL	Christmas Day	Monday 25th December		
HOL	Boxing Day	Tuesday 26th December		

MCDFNL / BALLARAT FNL CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

Kathie Teasdale
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MCDFNL OPERATIONS MANAGER

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VICE PRESIDENT

Samantha Chapman
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AFLG REGIONAL MANAGER

Jason Muldoon
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VICE PRESIDENT

Dallas Byars
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dallasbyars@gmail.com

BALLARAT FNL GENERAL MANAGER

Shane Anwyl
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shane@bfnl.com.au

NETBALL PRESIDENT

Katrina Turner
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katrinaturner04@outlook.com

BFNL FOOTBALL COMPETITION MANAGER

Matt Newton
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JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Dave Willis
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tammie.dave120@gmail.com

BFNL NETBALL MANAGER

Gemma Murphy
0401 152 906
gemma@bfnl.com.au

BFUA OPERATIONS MANAGER

Bill Mitchell
0400 477 251
ballaratumps@gmail.com

CLUB MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES - FOOTBALL

MCDFNL Clubs are requested to co-operate with all members of the media, who provide a valuable service in covering any MCDNFL news and stories. MCDNFL clubs are requested to provide any interesting news and stories (e.g., milestones, human interest, etc.) to the MCDNFL Operations Manager and/or media outlets who will try to ensure appropriate coverage.

MCDNFL clubs will have the following responsibilities regarding media and results coverage.

1. Submission of Selected Sides

a. Seniors:

Each club must submit their selected sides in the Senior grade into the system prior to 10:00am on the Friday preceding a round of matches. Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the system.

Clubs will be allowed to name no more than a squad of up to 24 players. The system will generate an automatic email that will be distributed to all media contacts for their use as they see fit. The above still applies to clubs competing on a Sunday.

b. Reserves, U/17.5, U/14.5 & U/11.5:

Each club must submit their completed team lists into the system any time prior to the commencement of their game with enough time to print out and use as the club's official team sheet for match days.

All grades must print off copies of their team sheet from the system. Team sheets which represent a 100% accurate account of the players who take the field on a weekly basis.

Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet however these changes must be submitted on the system immediately following each game in time for submission of results deadline.

2. Submission of Final Results

All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game. It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to enter the final scores of each game however each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for every match.

The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm. Night games will require results to be submitted online by 11:00pm. All final scores, best players and goal kickers must be submitted by this time.

3. Other Club/League News

Clubs are encouraged to share newsworthy items with the MCDNFL Operations Manager from time to time so that these items can be used to help with the promotion of the League. Special games, milestones and achievements are just some examples of League promotional material.

CLUB OPERATIONS – GAME DAY PREPARATIONS

Checklist

- Review team lists from weekend and submit any jumper changes to the MCDFNL Operations Manager.
- Send any paperwork that may have been left out of paperwork submission from the weekend to the MCDFNL Operations Manager via express post and inform MCDFNL Operations Manager of this.
- Advise if additional Footy Records are required **Prior to Tuesday 12pm**. (All clubs are issued 100 per home game)
- Final day for medical orders to be received (Have this completed by Tuesday so that it can be delivered by Friday)
- Contact the league regarding any queries ahead of forth coming match - this allows the Operations Manager to resolve any issues before the weekend.
- Confirm junior numbers with opposition club for forthcoming matches.
- Ensure Umpires Changeroom is prepared prior to the next home game e.g. Clean umpire changerooms, have all paperwork - report book, match report book, umpire signatory book.
- Prepare all matchday paperwork ready for the weekend - ensure cards, envelopes, score sheets, report books etc.
- Footy Records for home games to be collected (These are delivered to the home clubs every Friday)
- Submit selected senior football and A Grade Netball teams online by **Friday before the game at 10.00am**.

Post Gameday

- Review team sheets to ensure all details are correct and advise the league if there are discrepancies in submitted results and actual results.
- Inform any players who were reported that they may be requested to appear at the tribunal on Tuesday or Wednesday night.
- Contact the League by phone regarding any major concerns or email the League regarding any minor concerns.

See next page for Game Day Roles

CLUB OPERATIONS – GAME DAY ROLES

UMPIRES ESCORT

The role of the Umpire Escort is to escort all umpires to and from the ground at the beginning, half time and completion of the match.

GROUND MANAGER

The role of the Ground Manager consists of but is not limited to:

- Ensure the umpires change room has the necessary paperwork.
- Ensure both teams have supplied correct and timely team sheets to the umpires prior to the match.
- Ensure goal umpires and timekeepers have correct cards to score and record time with.
- Notify teams of time allocation for quarter time, half time and three-quarter time breaks.
- Ensure all relevant paperwork is collated at the completion of each match and passed onto the person responsible for results entry / submission.
- Ensure all football and netball paperwork submitted is correct and accurate.

RESULTS ENTRY / SUBMISSION

The role of the results entry / submission person is to

- Ensure that all required results and paperwork is communicated with the league results officer by the deadlines provided.
 - Collate all match day paperwork.
 - Ensure official umpires travelling to Ballarat are given the completed match day paperwork envelope.
 - If unable to send match day paperwork back with umpires, clubs will need to have need to do one of the following
1. Scan or provide photos of all team sheets, scoresheets, goal and time umpire cards, any Report Sheets and email through to League Operations Manager. And post via regular post with the Votes still enclosed in Vote Envelopes. and inform the Operations Manager
 2. Express Post this on Monday Morning and inform the Operations Manager

CLUB OPERATIONS – RESULTS SUBMISSION

TEAM SHEETS

All players must be registered to the club they are playing for before taking the field. Permit players must have completed the specific permit form on PlayHQ prior to 5.00pm on Friday.

Any player who is not available to upload on the online team sheet must not take the field.

RESULTS SUBMISSION

Online:

Home clubs are responsible for entering all football results online for both clubs and must be completed by 6.00pm.

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that both clubs have their results submitted to the league by this deadline.

PAPERWORK SUBMISSION

The following items must be included in the white A4 envelope upon completion of the day's play:

1. Netball Court Checklist signed by both clubs. (Can be completed online)
2. Any report sheets made and completed by the Umpire(s).
3. Match Report Sheet completed by umpires. (Can be completed online)
4. 2 x completed team sheets for each match of football.
5. 2 x Goal umpire cards for each match of football.
6. 2 x Timekeepers card for each match of football.
7. 1 x Football vote card in envelope supplied per game of football.
8. 1 x Netball score sheet per game of netball.
9. 1 x Netball vote card in envelope supplied per game of netball.

If you have Ballarat based umpires, hand them the match day envelope for return to Saxon House. If umpires are not Ballarat based, see above in Game Day Roles for options.

In the event that the umpire(s) or a senior club representative are unable to take the paperwork with them to Saxon House the following steps need to be taken:

1. Email any reports immediately after the game to MCDNFL Operations Manager
2. Enclose any report sheets that were sent and seal the envelope.

USING THE TIMEKEEPER / GOAL UMPIRE CARDS

Goal umpires and timekeepers are provided the same card for use to record the scores for the game.

Timekeepers are to record and complete the cards with all appropriate details of the match they are officiating. This includes both the timing of the game and recording of scores.

The timekeepers record of the score is used where there may be a discrepancy between goal umpire cards.

MCDFNL 2023 FINALS SERIES ROSTER, FORMAT & DATES

	BAR	CANTEEN	RAFFLE
GRAND FINAL	Lexton	Dunolly	Dunolly
2ND PRELIMINARY FINAL	Maryborough Rovers	Natte Bealiba	Campbells Creek
1ST PRELIMINARY FINAL	Avoca	Navarre	Carisbrook
2ND SEMI FINAL	Newstead	Campbells Creek	Harcourt
1ST SEMI FINAL	Royal Park	Carisbrook	Maldon
1ST QUALIFYING FINAL	Talbot	Harcourt	Maryborough Rovers
2ND QUALIFYING FINAL	Trentham	Maldon	Avoca
2ND ELIMINATION FINAL	Dunolly	Maryborough Rovers	Lexton
1ST ELIMINATION FINAL	Campbells Creek	Avoca	Newstead
	Carisbrook	Newstead	Natte Bealiba
	Harcourt	Royal Park	Royal Park
	Natte Bealiba	Lexton	Talbot
	Navarre	Trentham	Trentham
	Maldon	Talbot	Navarre

*If a club does not wish to complete their allocated raffle/fundraising please let the League Operations Manager know so this can be offered to another club.

2023 Qualifying & Elimination Finals

Saturday 26th August 2023

Qualifying Final 1: (1st) vs (4th)

Qualifying Final 2: (2nd) vs (3rd)

Sunday 27th August 2023

Elimination Final 1: (5th) vs (8th)

Elimination Final 2: (6th) vs (7th)

2023 Semi Finals

Saturday 2nd September 2023

Semi Final 1: Loser of Qualifying Final 1 vs Winner of Elimination Final 1

Sunday 3rd September 2023

Semi Final 2: Loser of Qualifying Final 2 vs Winner of Elimination Final 2

2023 Preliminary Finals

Saturday 9th September 2023

Preliminary Final 1: Winner of Qualifying Final 1 vs Winner of Semi Final 2

Sunday 10th September 2023

Preliminary Final 2: Winner of Qualifying Final 2 vs Winner of Semi Final 1

2023 McDonald's MCDFNL Grand Final

Saturday 16th September 2023

Grand Final: Winner of Preliminary Final 1 vs Winner of Preliminary Final 2

MATCH TIMES

The MCDNFL will adhere to the following schedule for ALL Home and Away Rounds:

FOOTBALL GRADE	START TIME	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS (mins)
Senior	2:35pm	4 x 20mins (plus TO)	5 - 20 - 7
Reserves	12:45pm	4 x 20mins (no TO)	3 - 6 - 4
Under 17.5	11:15am	4 x 15 mins (no TO)	3 - 4 - 3
Under 14.5	9:45am	4 x 15 mins (no TO)	3 - 4 - 3
Under 11.5	8:30am	4 x 12 mins (no TO)	2 - 4 - 2

- **If competition clubs agree to change the times to the non-COVID-19 structured timings for football. Clubs are required to use the below start times.**

- o *Note - This will need to be in writing with all clubs involved as well as the MCDNFL Operations Manager. This allows for all timing to be adjusted online*

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 (no TO)	3 - 6 - 4
Under 17.5	11:30am	4 x 15 mins (no TO)	3 - 4 - 3
Under 14.5	10:10am	4 x 15 mins (no TO)	3 - 4 - 3
Under 11.5	9:00am	3 x 12 mins (no TO)	2 - 4 - 2

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 MCDNFL. The times above are for Home & Away games and are provided for reference.

TIME ON PROCEDURE (FOOTBALL)

Time on shall be blown in accordance with Law of the Game 10.6.1:

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

1. Directed to do so by a field umpire in accordance with Law 10.6.3 (Signaling by blowing whistle and hand in the air).
2. The goal umpire signals that a goal has been scored.
3. The goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored; or
4. When the field umpire crosses his or her arms to indicate they are going to bounce or throw the ball up.

Please note: *The AFL laws of the game state that time on can also be blown when the boundary umpire signals that the ball is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full.*

In the MCDNFL do NOT apply "time on" when the ball is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full.

All timekeepers are to keep the clock running when the ball is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full.

2023 HOME & AWAY SEASON ADMISSION PRICES

Adults:	\$10.00 (Includes Footy Record)
JUNIOR GAMES ONLY	\$5 will be refunded when leaving the venue
Age 14.5 – 17.5:	\$2.00
Under 14:	FREE
Pensioner:	\$6.00



2023 Club Contacts

[illegible]




2023 Club Contacts

[illegible]

MCDONALD'S MARYBOROUGH CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

[illegible]

	<h1>2023 Club Contacts</h1>		
Club Name:	Dunolly Football Netball Club		
Club Postal Address:	PO Box 114 Dunolly 3472		
Club Website:	https://www.facebook.com/dunollyfnc		
CLUB			
Position	Name	Mobile	Email
COVID Safety Officer	Ric Lang	0417 110 922	truebluefloorsanding@gmail.com
President	Ric Lang	0417 110 922	Truebluefloorsanding@gmail.com
Vice President	Jamie Townsend	0413 203 272	jamie.townsend@gmail.com
Secretary	Natalie Conlin	0400 611 655	dunollyfncsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Melissa Freemantle	0409 350 192	melandbob82@inet.net.au
Child Safety Officer	Natalie Conlin Ric Lang Mel Schodde	0400 611 655	dunollyfncsecretary@gmail.com
Head Sports Trainer	Darren Freemantle	0400 125 798	melandbob82@inet.net.au
Netball Court Manager	Mel Schodde	0417 089 444	b_schodde@bigpond.com
Football Ground Manager	Darren Freemantle	0400 125 798	melandbob82@inet.net.au
Football Ground Manager			
Football Manager	Jamie Townsend	0413 203 272	jamie.townsend@gmail.com
Administration/Registrar			
Senior Football Coordinator	Jamie Townsend	0413 203 272	jamie.townsend@gmail.com
Junior Football Coordinator	Natalie Conlin	0400 611 655	dunollyfncsecretary@gmail.com
Junior Development Officer			
Tribunal Advocate	Jamie Townsend	0413 203 272	jamie.townsend@gmail.com
Senior Coach	Bailey Goodwin	0490 363 736	baileygoodwin20@hotmail.com
Reserves Coach	Andrew Bearpark	0448 692 195	aibearpark@gmail.com
U/17.5 Coach	Jamie Townsend	0413 203 272	jamie.townsend@gmail.com
U/14.5 Coach	Thomas Cox/ Rhys Brown	0407 753 737 0478 944 665	tc6678@gmail.com rhysbrown6@outlook.com
U/11.5 Coach	Hayden Wellard/Phillip Clifford	0407 509 673 0408 900 799	telcorhayden@hotmail.com phillipclifford91@gmail.com
Auskick Coordinator			
NETBALL			
Netball Manager	Mel Schodde	0417 089 444	b_schodde@bigpond.com
Senior Netball Coordinator			
Junior Netball Coordinator			
Administration/Registrar			
A Grade Netball Coach			
B Grade Netball Coach			
C Grade Netball Coach			
17&U Netball Coach	Dave Clausen	0409 979 863	
15&U Netball Coach	Julie & Teagan Cole	0418 507 174	
13&U Netball Coach	Shakiera Petersen	0457 190 439	
11&U Netball Coach	Mel Schodde	0417 089 444	b_schodde@bigpond.com
Net Set Go Coordinator			
OTHER CLUB ROLES			
League/Football Delegate	Melissa Freemantle	0409 350 192	melandbob82@inet.net.au
League/Football Delegate	Jamie Townsend	0413 203 272	jamie.townsend@gmail.com
Netball Delegate	Mel Schodde	0417 089 444	b_schodde@bigpond.com
Netball Delegate			



2023 Club Contacts

[illegible]



2023 Club Contacts

[illegible]



2023 Club Contacts

[illegible]



2023 Club Contacts

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MCDONALD'S MARYBOROUGH CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE



2023 Club Contacts

Club Name:	Trentham District Football And Netball Club		
Club Postal Address:	PO Box 133, Trentham, Vic, 3458		
Home Ground Address	25 Falls Road, Trentham.		
Club Website:	www.trenthamsaintsfnc.com		
CLUB			
Position	Name	Mobile	Email
President	Tim White	0459 099 383	timwhite3545@gmail.com
Vice President - Football	Rod Hay	0414 532 890	havlr2@bigpond.com
Vice President - Netball	Corina Sabo	0409 866 695	csa99188@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Peter Love	0411 736 736	trenthamsaints@gmail.com
Treasurer	Peter Love	0411 736 736	trenthamsaints@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Tim White	0459 099 383	timwhite3545@gmail.com
Child Safety Officer	Tracey Keogh	0408 508 364	tkeogh@dodo.com.au
Canteen Manager	Sarah Harvey	0427 449 024	lillygeorgeivvy80@gmail.com
Fundraising Co-Ordinator	Tim White	0459 099 383	timwhite3545@gmail.com
Grants Co-Ordinator	Rod Hay	0414 532 890	havlr2@bigpond.com
Sponsorship Manager	Tracey Keogh	0408 508 364	tkeogh@dodo.com.au
Social Events Co-Ordinator	Rob Evans	0400 241 140	slybrush@bigpond.com
Media Manager	Corina Sabo	0409 866 695	csa99188@bigpond.net.au
Media Manager	Elly Dovaston	0407 416 532	elly.dovaston@outlook.com
Merchandise Manager	Nick Shearer	0410 448 484	nick.shearer1448@gmail.com
COVID Safety Officer	Peter Love	0411 736 736	trenthamsaints@gmail.com
FOOTBALL			
Football Manager	Tim White	0459 099 383	timwhite3545@gmail.com
Football Administration/Registrar	Adrian Ogden	0417 593 156	adrianogden22@gmail.com
Football Administration/Registrar	Rod Hay	0414 532 890	havlr2@bigpond.com
Game Day Secretary	TBA		
Grounds/Facility Manager	Craig Dovaston	0408 141 598	dovos@bigpond.com
Junior Football Coordinator	Mez Thompson	0418 847 763	alimez81@hotmail.com
Senior Coach	Clive Raak	0419 006 635	clive@lrsr.com.au
Reserves Coach	Dolf Reid	0447 143 176	dolfreid22@hotmail.com
U/14.5 Coach	Jason Shaw	0466 778 466	jason.shaw@balcon.net.au
U/14.5 Coach	Jay Hamilton	0402 434 456	leenjay_49@hotmail.com
U/11.5 Coach	Dolf Reid	0447 143 176	dolfreid22@hotmail.com
Head Sports Trainer	TBA		
Trainer	TBA		
Auskick Coordinator	Mez Thompson	0418 847 763	alimez81@hotmail.com
NETBALL			
Netball Manager/Administrator/Registrar	Corina Sabo	0409 866 695	csa99188@bigpond.net.au
Netball Court/Facility Manager	Corina Sabo	0409 866 695	csa99188@bigpond.net.au
A Grade Netball Coach	Sharna Ford	0435 773 196	fordsharna@gmail.com
B Grade Netball Coach	Sharna Ford	0435 773 196	fordsharna@gmail.com
C Grade Netball Coach	Holly Wheeldon		
17&U Netball Coach	TBA		
15&U Netball Coach	Dan Thek		
13&U Netball Coach	TBA		
Trainer	TBA		
Net Set Go Coordinator	Madeline Sutton	0408 765 495	mads@suttonbuilding.com.au
Net Set Go Coordinator	Emma Whelan	0409 284 464	emwhelan.ew@gmail.com
OTHER CLUB ROLES			
League/Football Delegate	Craig Dovaston	0408 141 598	dovos@bigpond.com
League/Football Delegate	Mark Keogh	0418 518 458	tkeogh@dodo.com.au
League/Football Delegate	Nick Shearer	0410 448 484	nick.shearer1448@gmail.com
Netball Delegate	Corina Sabo	0409 866 695	csa99188@bigpond.net.au

MCDFNL BY LAWS - GENERAL

Valid from: January 2023

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

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. CODES OF CONDUCT & POLICIES

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

Refer to APEENDENCIES.

5. NON-ATTENDANCE AT FOOTBALL & NETBALL DELEGATES MEETINGS

Any Club not having at least one Delegate in attendance at a Delegates Meeting shall be fined;

Penalty – \$50 Fine

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

6. 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.

6.1. Clubs shall be given written formal notice and provided with seven (7) days to pay all

outstanding debt exceeding 60 days.

- 6.2.** 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:
 - 6.2.1.1.** Additional financial penalty at the discretion of the Executive
 - 6.2.1.2.** Loss of premiership points for the current and/or following season, which may be applied to age groups at the discretion of the Executive
 - 6.2.1.3.** 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.
- 6.3.** 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.
- 6.4.** All clubs must settle all outstanding debts with the League, FootyMart Ballarat, Ballarat FNL prior to the League's AGM in each year (with the only exception being debts relating to FootyMart Ballarat orders placed after November 1st).
- 6.5.** 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.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 7.1.** 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.
- 7.2.** "Refunds of Out of Pocket" expenses payable to League Officials shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.3.** The League Administration shall be reimbursed for any costs throughout the season.
- 7.4.** The MCD FNL shall affiliate with the AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria on an annual basis, and pay such fees as requested by that body to facilitate the affiliation.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. AFFILIATION: LEAGUE

10.1. 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.

10.2. 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.

10.3. 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.

10.4. 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.

11. AFFILIATION: BALLARAT FNL & NETBALL VICTORIA

11.1. BALLARAT FNL

11.1.1. 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.

11.1.2. Clubs will be invoiced directly by AFL Victoria for fees that are due to AFL Victoria (which includes player insurance and team registration).

11.1.3. Clubs shall be invoiced by the league for fees that are due to BALLARAT FNL and the MCDFNL.

11.2. Netball Victoria

11.2.1. 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.

11.2.2. Clubs must not play unaffiliated players.

Penalty: Loss of four premiership points.

12. 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.

13. MCDFNL SPONSORS

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

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

14. 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.

14.1. 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.

- MCDFNL 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
- MCDFNL EXECUTIVE: Complimentary admission to bearer, Guest and vehicle
- MEDIA PASS: Complimentary admission to bearer and vehicle.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

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

18.2. The following fines will apply to teams who forfeit scheduled MCDNFL fixtures.

18.2.1. Senior football	\$1,000.00
18.2.2. Reserves football	\$500.00
18.2.3. Any junior grade football	\$250.00
18.2.4. A Grade netball	\$1,000.00
18.2.5. B, C Grade netball	\$500.00
18.2.6. 17 & under, 15 & under netball	\$200.00
18.2.7. 13 & under, 11 & under netball	\$150.00

18.3. 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:

18.4. At the start of each season. Clubs will be billed for all grades across football and netball.

18.5. Each club will be billed for all grades each season. If a club is unable to field a side in a certain grade. The club will still be billed for that particular grade.

18.5.1. Your club may apply for a refund for not fielding that grade for the season to the League Executive. In doing so, the club will be required to show the following.

18.5.1.1. Proof of efforts made to field the side.

18.5.1.2. A Clear Plan of the club's approach to be able to field the side in the next season

18.5.1.3. Reasons why e.g., No juniors coming through the age group below etc.

18.6. 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).

18.7. Under exceptional circumstances the MCDNFL 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.

19. UNAVAILABILITY

Should a club or clubs be unavailable for play, and in such cases where the MCDNFL determines that an acceptable reason has been provided, and such advice is received prior to the due time for commencement of the Match, the MCDNFL 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.

20. POSTPONED

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

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

21. 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.

22. 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 MCDNFL 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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 Ballarat FNL's Media & Marketing officer to promote the MCDNFL through various publications.

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

- 25.1.** Compiling and submitting the MCDFNL Preview to any media outlets who request it.
- 25.2.** Compiling and submitting the MCDFNL Preview to the operations manager for publication in the weekly MCDFNL Footy Record.
- 25.3.** Compiling and submitting the MCDFNL Review to any media outlets who request it for publication every Monday.
- 25.4.** Doing any feature stories as & when appropriate.
- 25.5.** Doing the MCDFNL Review on the radio show when requested.
- 25.6.** Assisting the Football Netball Operations Manager with uploading newsworthy articles and media releases on the MCDFNL website.
- 25.7.** Compile votes for best & fairest awards, preparation of slideshows and occasional photography.

26. 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

27. 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

28. FOOTY RECORD CONTENT

- 28.1.** All participating Clubs are required to submit separate team lists for all competing teams in each grade of competition across football and netball.
- 28.1.1.** 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.
- 28.2.** 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.

29. 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 they do 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.

30. TRAINERS & INJURY MANAGEMENT

It is important that sports trainers and first aid providers are well trained in the first aid needs

relevant to Australian Football at the level at which they are involved.

A sports trainer or first aid provider involved with a Club should have a clear understanding of the role and importance of injury prevention and immediate emergency and injury management in Australian Football.

30.1. Minimum requirements

30.1.1. Each Club must ensure that at each Match or training session:

(i) at least one person with Appropriate Minimum Qualifications (see table below) for the relevant level of Australian Football is in attendance; and Netball is strongly recommended to adopt the same for the safety of all participants.

(ii) an appropriately stocked first aid kit and adequate sport-specific rescue/transport equipment (e.g., stretcher) are available.

30.1.2. Where the minimum requirements specified above are not met, the Match or training session may be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled and must not commence until such time as the minimum requirements are met.

30.2. Appropriate Minimum Qualifications

Appropriate Minimum Qualifications			
Level (Age)	Senior (18+)	Youth (13-17)	Auskick/Junior (5- 12)
Recommended	Sports Trainer (Level 1 or 2) or QMP	Sports Trainer (Level 1 or 2) or QMP	Sports Trainer (Level 1 or 2) or QMP
Minimum	Sports Trainer (Level 1) or QMP or ERC	Sports Trainer (Level 1) or QMP or ERC	Sports Trainer (Level 1) or QMP or ERC or First Aider

30.3. The terms specified above have the following meanings:

- 30.3.1.** ERC means a person who has completed an AFL-approved Emergency Response Coordinator Course which is current and up to date;
- 30.3.2.** First Aider means a person who has obtained a nationally accredited first aid certificate which is current and up-to-date and includes assessed competencies HLTAID003 (Provide First Aid);
- 30.3.3.** Level 2 Sports Trainer means a person who has completed an AFL approved Level 2 Sports Trainer Course which is current and up to date;
- 30.3.4.** Level 1 Sports Trainer means a person who has completed an AFL approved Level 1 Sports Trainer Course which is current and up to date;
- 30.3.5.** Qualified Medical Professional (QMP) means a qualified doctor, paramedic, physiotherapist, osteopath, chiropractor, registered nurse or firefighter with Emergency Management Competency and appropriate first aid competencies.

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.

- 30.4.** 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.
- 30.5.** Trainers can be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest.
- 30.6. Attire.** Trainers shall be attired in white, black or navy pants & a white top and recorded on the team sheet.
- 30.7. 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.

30. AWARDS

30.6. BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

- 30.6.1.** An award shall be made to the best and fairest player in all grades of competition both in Football and Netball.
- 30.6.2.** 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.
- 30.6.3.** 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 |
- 30.6.4.** 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.
- 30.6.5.** No player who has been found guilty of any charge by the Independent Tribunal of the MCDNFL or accepted a set penalty shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.
- 30.6.6.** In the event of a tie, additional awards will be made available.

30.7. Other awards that may be awarded include:

- 30.7.1.** Goal kicking awards,
- 30.7.2.** and any other presentation that may be required or approved by the Executive.

30.8. 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.

30.9. CLUB CHAMPION AWARD

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

30.9.2. One 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.

30.10. GRAND FINAL TROPHIES

30.10.1. 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 MCDNFL Grand Finals.

30.10.2. 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.

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

30.10.3.1. Football

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

30.10.3.2. Netball

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

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

30.12. The Premiership Cups are referred to as follows:

30.12.1. FOOTBALL:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| • Senior: | McDonald's Maryborough Cup |
| • Reserve: | Best Family Trophy |
| • Under 17.5: | Under 17.5 Premiership Cup |
| • Under 14.5: | Under 14.5 Premiership Cup |
| • Under 11.5: | Under 11.5 Premiership Cup |

30.12.2. 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 |

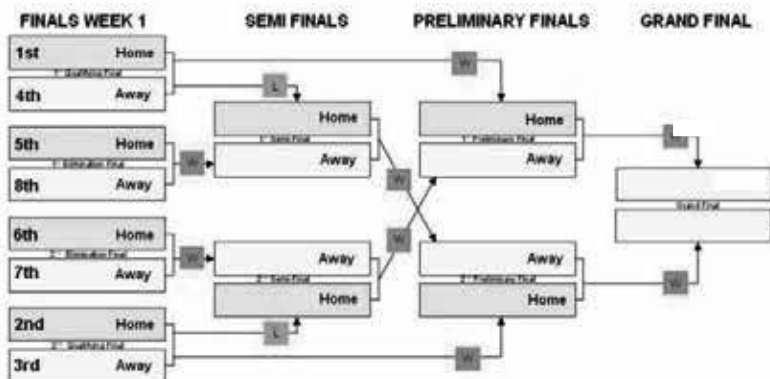
31. LEAGUES BEST & FAIREST MEDAL TICKET ALLOCATION

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

32. FINALS

31.1. FINALS FORMAT

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



32. 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.

32.1.1. 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.

33. FINALS HOSTING

All MCDNFL Finals venues will be decided by the League Executive, these decisions will be based on they deem to be in the best interests of the League.

Ability to lock and secure the facility,
Optimal visibility for spectators,
Ground Suitability.

33.1. FINALS CATERING, BAR & FUNDRAISING

The MCDNFL 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 another MCDNFL Club. Once passed on, the club must inform the League Operations Manager of this change.

33.2. 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 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.

33.3. 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.

34. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL & NETBALL**34.1. SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL & NETBALL**

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

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

34.1.3. The MCDFNL Executive shall appoint the MCDFNL Senior Football Interleague and Senior Netball Representative Coach at their discretion.

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

34.1.5. 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.

34.1.6. 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.

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

34.1.8. 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.

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

34.1.10. The League shall supply football jumpers, shorts, socks the appropriate colour for Open age teams. Football Jumpers & Netball Uniforms shall be returned after the game.

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

34.2. JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL & NETBALL

34.2.1. All MCDNFL 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.

34.2.2. All ancillary services and personnel shall be drawn from the Clubs, other than for the position of Coach.

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

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

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

35. GROUND & COURT LIGHTING

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, clubs or umpire shall have the authority to turn on ground or court 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.

36. 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 MCDNFL.

MCDNFL COMPETITION BY LAWS – FOOTBALL

37. CLUB COLOURS

37.1. All teams in all grades shall play in the colours of their Club. The registered colours of each MCDNFL 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 MCDNFL.

38. The registered colours of the MCDNFL are Maroon, Gold and Royal Blue.

39. 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 whereby exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Regional General Manager or Operations Manager.

40. 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.

41. MCDNFL 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).

42. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 42.1.** 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.
- 42.2.** 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.
- 42.3.** 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.
- 42.4.** 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.
- 42.5.** 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.
- 42.6.** If a player is playing on a permit, he must have played at least 6 of the home and away season matches for the grade they wish to participate in.
- 42.7.** 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.

Any disputes will be determined by the MCDNFL Executive.

42.8. 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 underage teams the above rule will apply to the Interchange between Grades from Saturday to Sunday.

42.9. 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.

42.10. 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.

42.11. CLUBS TO SUPPLY

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

- Team Sheets
- 1 x Timekeeper
- Cleaning of change rooms
- Umpires as below 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

42.12. MCDNFL TO SUPPLY

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

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

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

42.13. 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 MCDNFL Executive.

42.14. Drawn Games in Finals Series – FOOTBALL

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

42.14.1.1. The teams will change ends following a break of three (3) minutes.

42.14.1.2. 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.

42.14.1.3. 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.

48. UMPIRES

48.1. General

The Ballarat Football Umpires Association (BFUA) will supply central umpires for use in all senior games of the league, and a "Memorandum of Understanding" shall be negotiated with the BFUA to that respect on an annual basis.

For the Grand Final, the BFUA shall supply central and boundary umpires in all grades, and for other finals matches the BFUA will supply central umpires (only) for all games unless otherwise advised.

48.2. Club Umpires

All Clubs will be required to provide Boundary and Goal Umpires in Senior games, and a central, boundary and goal Umpire in all other grades.

48.3. Club central umpires shall have all other such powers and privileges as may be accorded the BFUA umpire, including the right to report and / or send off players. Club boundary or Goal Umpires also have the authority to report players.

48.4. Club Boundary and Club Goal Umpires

The umpires carrying out these duties shall be in all cases of such standard as to not affect the proper running or conduct of the game.

Each Club shall supply a set of white flags for their goal umpire in each game, who shall meet in the centre of the playing arena at the end of each quarter and check that the score cards agree with one another and that the correct score is displayed on the score board.

The Goal umpires are responsible for the correction of the score board should it be incorrect.

48.5. Age Limits – Club Boundary and Goal Umpires

Club boundary and goal umpires shall be of sufficient age and maturity to adequately perform the duties required.

These Umpires shall be attired in the correct fashion as laid down in by-law (48.9). The onus for supplying the correct umpires attired in the correct fashion will be on the Club supplying that or those umpire(s).

Should a Club not supply umpires for each match during the day, they may incur a fine or other penalty as seen fit by the League.

48.6. Club not supplying.

A Club not supplying an umpire for a game shall be responsible for the remuneration of a second umpire supplied by the opposing Club.

48.7. Inappropriate Umpires

Clubs who supply umpires who by way of age or other constraint are found to be unsatisfactory may incur a sanction or penalty as deemed appropriate by the League.

48.8. Club Umpire attire

The League requires Club Umpires to be dressed in the required manner when officiating in MCDNFL games. Club Umpires will be attired as follows:

- CENTRAL: White Top & white shorts, dark socks
- BOUNDARY: White Top, Club shorts and Club socks
- GOAL: White Coat with White Flags

48.9. Club Umpire reporting powers

Under AFL Victoria Country Rules and League by Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a BFUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an "officially accredited" umpire, and therefore can report or send off players.

Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the BFUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

It is further worth noting the following rules from the AFL Victoria Country Rules Handbook to clear up any confusion:

In the AFL Victoria Country Rule Book the definition of an umpire includes all the field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match.

Therefore, once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are "official umpires" they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire.

To ensure that your Volunteer Club Umpires are registered as Volunteer Club Umpires and that they have the full power as outlined above, all Clubs must ensure that these Volunteers do complete the official AFL Victoria Country Clearance/Registration Form – circling the Registration field, and then write at the top of this form "CLUB UMPIRE. The League shall then register these Umpires with the AFL Victoria Country Area Manager as a Club Umpire.

Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Country Insurance Policy.

Note: Further to this it is worth noting that the official BFUA Umpires Observer at any League does also have the power to report players/officials and due process will be followed under AFL Victoria Country Rules

49. GAME DAY & MATCH CONDITIONS**49.1. Game start times and quarter lengths.**

The MCDNFL will adhere to the following schedule for ALL Home and Away Rounds:

GRADE	START TIME	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS (mins)
Seniors	2.35pm	4 x 20mins + TO	5 – 20 – 7
Reserves	12.45pm	4 x 20mins (No TO)	3 – 6 – 4
Under 17.5	11.15am	4 x 15mins (No TO)	3 – 4 – 3
Under 14.5	9.45am	4 x 15mins (No TO)	3 – 4 – 3
Under 11.5	8.30am	4 x 12mins (No 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.

The Schedule for all finals matches will be advised by the MCDNFL after the completion of the final round of Home & Away matches.

49.2. Time on for Senior games

Time On for Senior matches will apply in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, and Timekeepers shall stop the clock only when:

- Directed to do so by a Field Umpires (AFL Laws of Game 10.5.3)
- The Goal Umpire signals that a goal has been scored.
- The goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored.

Note: The Clock DOES NOT stop when the ball is out of bounds or out on the full.

49.3. Team numbers - Number of players

49.3.1. Senior Football

The required number of players to constitute a legal game of Senior or Reserve Grade football is fourteen (14).

Failing to achieve this minimum number by playing start time shall result in a forfeit.

49.3.2. Junior Football

The Under 17.5's, Under 14.5 and Under 11.5 competitions policy if a team has less than 16 players then it is equal numbers on the field. The concept has always been and will continue to be to conduct the game with what you have got to give all kids "a go".

49.3.3. Please refer to Under 17.5, Under 14.5 and Under 11.5 Match conditions below for further information

NOTE: Again, it is pointed out that the principle is to have players playing, and the MCDNFL encourages clubs to always maintain this as the highest priority and in any decision making.

50. INTERCHANGE AGREEMENTS

- 50.1.** On an annual basis, all leagues affiliated with AFL Goldfields Region and AFL Central Victoria shall enter into an Area Agreement to allow those Clubs with Junior teams in those competitions to Interchange players to assist with player numbers.

Clubs need to be aware of the terms and conditions associated with the agreement and must have the appropriate approvals in place prior to allowing any player to take the field on an interchange/ area agreement.

The MCDNFL will also enter into Interchange Agreements with other Leagues as required.

51. USE OF TWO FOOTBALLS

- 51.1.** In the event of extreme weather conditions, two footballs may be used in a match with the change of footballs occurring at each quarter time break to ensure no advantage is gained by either club.

Both clubs must agree to the use of two footballs. If no agreement is reached, only one football may be used.

52. UNDER 11.5 MATCH CONDITIONS

52.1. The Under 11.5 competition shall be a 16 per side competition, with Clubs allowed unlimited players on the interchange.

52.2. Where both competing teams have more than 16 players, then the following shall apply:

52.2.1. Where both teams have less than 16 players, a team shall consist of equal players on the field of play and the balance as Interchange players.

52.2.2. Where both competing teams have 18 or more players a team shall consist of 18 players on the playing field with unlimited Interchange players.

52.2.3. Where teams have less than 16 players, then the following shall apply:

52.3. The minimum number required for a Club to start a game is 8 players.

52.3.1. If one side fails to field the required 8 players or falls below eight players during the course of the game (e.g., through injury or send off), the points are automatically forfeited to the other team providing they have at least eight players.

It is encouraged that the opposing team 'lend' players to that team so that a match (not subject to points) can be played

52.3.2. If both teams have less than 8 players, then the game cannot commence, however if agreed between the coaches, then the game can be played on a smaller oval – however this game will not count for premiership points.

52.3.3. If one team has less than 16 players, but more than 8, then pursuant to By-Law (a)i the opposing coach must equalize by "lending" players to the opposing team. If the opposing coach refuses to equalize accordingly, then this must be reported to the League.

52.4. A game is to proceed even if points are forfeited, and it be expected that players are loaned in any game to make numbers up to an even fourteen or as close to as possible.

52.5. Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked.

These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.

52.6. The team that has requested and/or received loaned players must provide playing jumpers in their team colours for the loaned players to wear.

52.7. Where Clubs are reliant on players covered under an Area or Interchange Agreement (e.g., MCDNFL / BFL Area Agreement) to field a team and who are not present for the start of a match then the game will commence with equal numbers on the playing field.

When such players arrive at the venue, they shall report to their Coach's Box ready to take the field. Each team can then always increase their numbers accordingly but equal numbers on the field shall apply.

This shall also apply to Finals matches.

52.8. Games will commence at 8:30am

52.9. Games will be played of 4 x 12min Quarters with no time on, excepting in any instance where there is less than the twenty-eight (28) players on the ground in which instance quarters are to be shortened to ten (10) minutes with no time on.

52.10. UMPIRING RULES

52.11. Out of bounds from a kick

A free kick shall be awarded against the player who last kicked the ball. If there is doubt, then the umpire shall call a ball up five (5) metres in from the boundary.

52.11.1. Out of bounds from hands or body

The umpire shall call a ball up five (5) metres in from the boundary.

52.11.2. Order off rule.

The central umpire may warn any players or officials if behavior is deemed to be inappropriate.

Any player who is heard swearing by the umpire shall, at the umpire's discretion, be sent from the field for 5 minutes without a replacement.

A free kick and distance penalty (15 metres) shall be awarded to the opposing team.

52.11.3. Any player who uses abusive or insulting language towards an umpire, official or another player shall be sent from the ground for the remainder of that quarter and the next quarter and cannot be replaced during that time.

Any second offence by a player will result in the removal of such player from the ground for the remainder of the game, and such player cannot be replaced.

52.11.4. Officials Behavior

Any official who uses abusive or insulting language towards an umpire, another official or player shall be sent from the ground for the remainder of that quarter and the next quarter, however such official can be replaced.

Any second offence by an official will result in the removal of such an official from the ground for the remainder of the game. Again, such an official can be replaced.

52.11.5. Bouncing the Ball

A maximum of 2 bounces is allowed by a player before disposing of the ball.

52.11.6. Kicking off the Ground

There is no kicking off the ground allowed, however accidental kicking off the ground shall not be penalised.

52.12. MERCY RULE

An automatic mercy rule shall be implemented when either side reaches a margin of ten goals (sixty points) in front.

At this point the Scores will **cease** to be updated on the Scoreboard **and** the Goal Umpires & Timekeepers will **cease** to record any further scores and the score upon the mercy rule being implemented will be the final and official score for the game.

In "mercy time" it is expected that in the fair spirit of the game Coaches will allow less skilled players to play in key roles or in circumstances where players are loaned, allow "better players" to be loaned.

Any player doubling up into Under 14.5 football has the option of being rested at this point.

52.13. Players must be under 11 years and 6 months at the first of January of the playing year, in question, to be eligible for matches in this competition.

52.14. Head guards are not mandatory and will be up to each club's discretion to enforce/implement. Clubs will compete in registered club colours.

52.15. UMPIRES

Clubs will provide all required Umpires unless otherwise advised. Central umpires are to ensure that players do not leave the field at the half timebreak.

52.16. Footballs

Size 4 Synthetic footballs must be used for all Under 11.5 games.

52.17. In line with AFL Victoria Rules, girls are permitted to play in the MCDNFL Under 11.5 competition.

52.18. The League will provide a Best and Fairest award for the Under 11.5 Football competition each year. The central umpires will collectively award 3, 2 and 1 in each home and away game throughout the season, to select the winner.

Umpires are encouraged to consult the team coaches to ensure votes awarded do identify the correct players and their registered Club, as boys playing for opposition Clubs on loan are eligible to be awarded Best & Fairest votes.

52.19. CLUB OFFICIALS

52.19.1. Runners

Teams are allowed two (2) runners per team. Runners must wear the official MCDNFL uniform. Runners must not "assist/coach" but relay messages only – and must leave the ground immediately after relaying the message.

52.19.2. Coaches

All MCDNFL junior coaches must wear an official MCDNFL vest whilst coaching. The coach is responsible for the behavior of assistant coaches, officials and players in the coach's box during games.

No persons, other than those mentioned above, are allowed inside the boundary fence and all authorized persons must wear a fluorescent vest at all times.

52.19.3. Mentors

Mentors are permitted in U/11.5 matches. Only 1 mentor permitted on the ground at any time per club. Club mentors can be the coach of the side. Mentors are not allowed to carry a coach's board on the field whilst the match is being played. Club mentors are only permitted on the ground to talk to players who are not in the direct play. At no stage should a mentor be anywhere near the ball. Mentors are to deliver their message to the player and return to the coaches' box straight away. The difference between a mentor and a runner is that the mentor can deliver coaching advice whilst on the ground while a runner cannot. A runner is to deliver a message and leave the playing field immediately. Mentors are allowed inside the forward 50m during a kick-out if they are not near the play. A free kick will not be awarded for this infringement.

53. UNDER 14.5 MATCH CONDITIONS

- 53.1.** The Under 14.5 competition shall be a 16 per side competition, with Clubs allowed unlimited players on the Interchange.
- 53.2.** Where both competing teams have more than 16 players the following shall apply
- 53.2.1.** Where both teams have less than 16 players, a team shall consist of equal players on the field of play and the balance as Interchange players.
 - 53.2.2.** Where both competing teams have 18 or more players, a team shall consist of 18 players on the playing field with unlimited Interchange players.
 - 53.2.3.** If one Club has less than 16 players and the opposing Club has 17 or more players, the side with the greater number is required to lend players to the club with the lesser number and the club with the lesser number is required to accept these players to ensure the teams shall play with equal numbers on the playing field.
- Note: This rule does not need to be applied in finals unless both competing Clubs agree.*
- 53.3.** Where teams have less than 16 players, then the following shall apply:
- 53.3.1.** The minimum number required for a Club to start a game is 8 players.
 - 53.3.2.** If one side fails to field the required 8 players or falls below eight players during the game (e.g., through injury or send off), the points are automatically forfeited to the other team providing they have at least eight players.
 - 53.3.3.** It is encouraged that the opposing team "lend" players to that team so that a match (not subject to points) can be played.
 - 53.3.4.** If both teams have less than 8 players, then the game cannot commence, however if agreed between the coaches, then the game can be played on a smaller oval – however this game will not count for premiership points.
 - 53.3.5.** If one team has less than 16 players, but more than 8, then pursuant to By-Law (a)i) the opposing coach must equalize by "lending" players to the opposing team. If the opposing coach refuses to equalize accordingly, then this must be reported to the League.
- 53.4.** A game is to proceed even if points are forfeited, and it is expected that players are loaned in any game to make numbers up to an even fourteen or as close to as possible.
- 53.5.** Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked.
- These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club. Loaned players are unable to change team's mid match.
- 53.6.** The team that has requested and/or received loaned players must provide playing jumpers in their team colours for the loaned players to wear.
- 53.7.** Where Clubs are reliant on players covered under an Area or Interchange Agreement (e.g., MCDNFL / BFNFL Area Agreement) to field a team and who are not present for the start of a match then the game will commence with equal numbers on the playing field.

When such players arrive at the venue, they shall report to their Coach's Box ready to take the field. Each team can then increase their numbers accordingly but always equal numbers on the field shall apply.

This shall also apply to Finals matches.

53.8. Games will commence at 9:45am

53.9. Games will be played of 4 x 15min Quarters with no time on, excepting in any instance where there are less than the twenty-eight (28) players on the ground in which instance quarters are to be shortened to ten (10) minutes with no time on.

53.10. MERCY RULE

53.10.1. An automatic mercy rule shall be implemented when either side reaches a margin of ten goals (sixty points) in front.

At this point the Scores will **cease** to be updated on the Scoreboard, **but** the Goal Umpires & Timekeepers will continue to record the official score and their score will be the final score for the game.

In "mercy time" it is expected that in the fair spirit of the game Coaches will allow less skilled players to play in key roles or in circumstances where players are loaned, allow "better players" to be loaned.

Any player doubling up into Under 17.5 football has the option of being rested at this point.

53.11. AGE ELIGIBILITY

Players must be under 14 years and 6 months at the first of January of the playing year, in question, to be eligible for matches in this competition

53.12. UMPIRES

Clubs will provide all required Umpires unless otherwise advised. Central umpires are to ensure that players do not leave the field at the half timebreak.

53.13. FOOTBALLS

Size 4 Leather footballs must be used for all Under 14.5 games.

53.14. FEMALE PLAYERS

In line with AFL Victoria Rules, girls shall be permitted to play in the MCDNFL Under 14.5 competition should they be Under 14 years of age as of the 1st of January of the playing year.

To clarify, girls turning 15 in the year of competition will not be allowed to participate in the Under 14.5 competition.

53.15. The League will provide a Best and Fairest award for the Under 14.5 Football competition each year.

The central umpires will collectively award 3, 2 and 1 in each home and away game throughout the season, to select the winner.

Umpires are encouraged to consult the team coaches to ensure votes awarded do identify the correct players and their registered Club, as boys playing for opposition Clubs on loan are eligible to be awarded Best & Fairest votes.

54. UNDER 17.5 MATCH CONDITIONS

54.1. The Under 17.5 competition shall be a 16 per side competition, with Clubs allowed unlimited Interchange.

54.2. Where both competing teams have more than 16 players the following shall apply:

54.2.1. Where both teams have less than 16 players a team shall consist of equal players on the field of play and the balance as Interchange players.

54.2.2. Where both teams have less than 20 players a team shall consist of 16 players on the field of play and the balance as Interchange players.

54.2.3. If one Club has less than 16 players and the opposing Club has 17 or more players, the side with the greater number is required to lend players to the club with the lesser number and the club with the lesser number is required to accept these players to ensure the teams shall play with equal numbers on the playing field.

Note: This rule does not need to be applied in finals unless both competing Clubs agree.

54.3. The minimum number required for a Club to start a game is 12 players.

54.4. If one side fails to field the required 12 players or falls below eight players during the game (e.g., through injury or send-off), the points are automatically forfeited to the other team providing they have at least eight players.

It is encouraged that the opposing team 'lend' players to that team so that a match (not subject to points) can be played.

54.5. A game is to proceed even if points are forfeited, and it be expected that players are loaned in any game to make numbers up to an even fourteen or as close to as possible. Ideally, we do not want to play with less than twenty-eight players on the ground.

54.6. Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked.

These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club. Loaned players are unable to change teams mid-match.

54.7. The team that has requested and/or received loaned players must provide playing jumpers in their team colours for the loaned players to wear.

54.8. Where Clubs are reliant on players covered under an Area or Interchange Agreement (e.g., MCDNFL / BFL Area Agreement) to field a team and who are not present for the start of a match then the game will commence with equal numbers on the playing field.

When such players arrive at the venue, they shall report to their Coach's Box ready to take the field. Each team can then increase their numbers accordingly but at all times equal numbers on the field shall apply.

54.9. Games will commence at 11:15am

54.10. Games will be played of 4 x 15min Quarters with no time on excepting in any

instance where there is less than the twenty-eight players on the ground in which instance quarters are to be shortened to 12 minutes with no time on.

54.11. MERCY RULE

An automatic mercy rule shall be implemented when either side reaches a margin of ten goals (sixty points) in front.

At this point the Scores will **cease** to be updated on the Scoreboard **but** the Goal Umpires & Timekeepers will continue to record the official score and their score will be the final score for the game.

In "mercy time" it is expected that in the fair spirit of the game Coaches will allow less skilled players to play in key roles or in circumstances where players are loaned, allow "better players" to be loaned.

54.12. Players must be under 17 years and 6 months of age at the first of January of the playing year, in question, to be eligible for matches in this competition.

54.13. Clubs will compete in registered Club colours.

54.14. UMPIRES

Clubs will provide all required Umpires unless otherwise advised. Central umpires are to ensure that players do not leave the field at the half timebreak.

54.15. FOOTBALLS

Full size SHERRIN MATCH Leather footballs must be used for all Under 17.5 games.

54.16. FEMALE PLAYERS

In line with AFL Victoria Rules, girls shall NOT be permitted to play in the MCDNFL Under 17.5 competition.

54.17. The League will provide a Best and Fairest award for the Under 17.5 Football competition each year. The central umpires will collectively award; 3, 2 and 1 in each home and away game throughout the season, to select the winner.

Umpires are encouraged to consult the team coaches to ensure votes awarded do identify the correct players and their registered Club, as boys playing for opposition Clubs on loan are eligible to be awarded Best & Fairest votes.

55. RESERVES MATCH CONDITIONS

55.1. The Reserves competition shall be a 16 per side competition, with Clubs allowed up to 6 on the interchange.

55.2. Where both competing teams have more than 16 players the following shall apply:

55.2.1. Where both teams have less than 20 players, a team shall consist of 16 players on the field of play and the balance as Interchange players.

55.2.2. Where both competing teams have 20 or more players, a team shall consist of 18 players on the playing field with a maximum of 4 Interchange players.

55.3. Where one competing team has less than 16 players the teams shall play with equal numbers on the playing field.

55.4. The team with 16 or more players can have up to but not exceeding 6 Interchange

players.

55.5. Games will commence at 12:50pm

55.6. Games will be played of 4 x 20min Quarters with no time on.

55.7. Should the Reserves game be delayed (for any reason) the timekeepers are to establish the time remaining at half time to allow for a 2.20pm finish and to calculate 2 even quarters (3rd and 4th Qtr.) and so alter the length of these Quarters to ensure a 2.25pm finish.

55.8. Clubs will compete in registered Club colours.

55.9. UMPIRES

Clubs will provide all required Umpires unless otherwise advised. Central umpires are to ensure that players do not leave the field at the half time break.

55.10. Full size Leather footballs must be used for all Reserve games.

56. SENIOR MATCH CONDITIONS

56.1. The Senior competition shall be an 18 per side competition, with up to 4 Interchange players. This will apply for both the home and away season and finals.

56.2. Games will commence at 2:35pm

56.3. Games will be played of 4 x 20min Quarters plus time on.

56.4. Clubs will compete in registered Club colours.

56.5. UMPIRES

The BFUA will supply all Central Umpires, with Clubs providing all other required Umpires.

56.6. Full size Leather footballs must be used for all senior games.

56.7. In the event of a Club not being ready by 2.25pm, a fine of \$20 per minute, or part thereof shall apply until the team arrives on the playing surface ready to play.

Should a Club not be on Ground ready to commence play by 2.45pm it shall forfeit the match and incur any such penalty as so determined by the executive of the MCDNFL.

57. BREACH OF ON-FIELD PLAYER NUMBERS

Any side who is found to have breached the pre-determined number of players allowed on the field during play will have the following sanctions imposed:

57.1.1. All points scored in the quarter that the breach occurred will be forfeited.

57.1.2. In addition, offending clubs may be issued a fine at the MCDNFL Executive's discretion.

58. TIMEKEEPERS

All Clubs shall supply a timekeeper, with all required equipment and documentation for each game. The home Club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signaling device and back up for the use of Timekeepers.

Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League.

59. PLAYER AND OFFICIAL ATTIRE

59.1. BIKE SHORTS

Bike shorts (or lycra shorts or similar) under a players Football short may be worn provided they are skin toned or the same colour as the Club shorts.

Full Leg Length versions of the above may be worn for junior grades only.

59.2. COLOUR OF SOCKS

Must be the players club colours

59.3. GLOVES

Gloves are permitted for use in all MCDFNL competitions.

59.4. TRAINERS

Refer to by-law 30.3

59.5. WATER CARRIERS

Club Water Carriers shall wear blue water carriers' shirts as provided by MCDFNL and club shorts. Clubs can use up to four (4) Water Carriers in any given game.

Water Carriers can be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. The MCDFNL understand that players do require fluids when playing, however water carriers are not permitted to remain on the oval, or to attempt to instruct players in any way, once having delivered the drink they must remove themselves from the playing surface as quickly as possible.

59.6. RUNNERS

Club Runners shall wear pink runners' shirts as provided by the MCDFNL and club shorts. Clubs using two runners must enter and exit through the interchange gates.

59.7. GOAL & BOUNDARY UMPIRES

Refer to by-law 48

59.8. GROUND MANAGERS

Ground managers are to wear fluoro yellow vests as provided by the MCDFNL and purchasable from the League Operations Manager

59.9. ALL OTHER OFFICIALS

Timekeepers, Medical Personnel [other than trainers], Interchange Stewards, Property Stewards, Coaches and their Ground Staff.

These officials are not required to wear a particular uniform or attire other than their Club attire, note however should a doctor be called on to the ground, the Central Umpires must be notified immediately, to avoid any problems with unidentified personnel on the playing arena.

59.10. NON-PLAYING - ON GROUND PERSONNEL

Any on ground official or player shall remain outside of the boundary line, and should the ground be so marked with lines to denote the coaches box, shall not move outside of that area, when not involved with play.

Failure to do so may lead to an Umpires report, or the game being held up until the

matter is resolved. All on Ground personnel must be listed on the team sheet.

59.11. JUNIOR COACHES

The club junior coach shall wear a fluoro vest as supplied by the MCDNFL which identifies this person as the coach of the game being played. The junior coach must wear this vest at all times to allow umpires to be aware of who is responsible for the personal within the coaches box

59.12. OFFICIALS IN BENCH AREA

Only persons authorized may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and must remain within the marked area around the interchange box.

Clubs competing in the MCDNFL Senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc.) within the marked confines of the Interchange box.

All officials, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box.

If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary fence. Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest.

All other personal not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground. Any Club desiring authorization of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorization, prior the commencement of the fixture.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised \$50 per offence.

60. GROUND MANAGER

Each MCDNFL home club shall appoint a Ground Manager who shall be responsible for the smooth running and operations of the MCDNFL Fixture at his Clubs ground.

Each MCDNFL Club shall list their Ground Manager in the MCDNFL Footy Record.

The Duties of the MCDNFL Ground Manager shall include, and are not limited to:

- Ensure Umpires Rooms are neat and clean, that toilets and showers are operative and that all required documentation is at hand.
- Deliver Team Sheets and Footballs (two) to the Umpires prior to them entering the players change rooms.
- To hand the Football not selected for play to the home Club Timekeeper.
- To escort the Umpires to and from the playing surface, when and as require, to remove and return Umpires warm up jackets as requested.
- Ensure that a stretcher is situated at the interchange area, in plain sight.
- To arrange for Umpires drinks to be available both on and off the ground during play.

Should a MCDNFL Club fail to appoint a Ground Manager for their home fixture, or so appoint a Ground Manager who fails to adequately perform the above duties, the Club shall be liable to a penalty as determined by the MCDNFL Executive.

61. SUBMISSION OF SELECTED SIDES

61.1. SENIORS

Each club must submit their selected sides in the Senior grade into the system prior to 12:00pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches.

Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the system. Clubs will be allowed to name no more than a squad of up to 24 players.

The system will generate an automatic email that will be distributed to all media contacts for their use as they see fit. The above still applies to clubs competing on a Sunday.

Failure in providing an accurate submission of the side will result in a fine to be determined by the MCDFNL Executive.

61.2. RESERVES, U/17.5, U/14.5 & U/11.5

Each club must submit their completed team lists into the system any time prior to the commencement of their game with enough time to print out and use as the club's official team sheet for match days.

All grades must print off copies of their own team sheet from the system.

Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet however these changes must be submitted on the system immediately following each game in time for submission of results deadline. Refer to page 5.

62. SUBMISSION OF FINAL RESULTS

All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game.

It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to enter the final scores of each game however each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for every match.

The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm. Night games will require results to be submitted online by 11:00pm.

All final scores, best players and goal kickers must be submitted by this time. Clubs failing to meet this deadline shall incur a \$50.00 fine for the first offence.

A reoccurrence of the above offence will see fines applied as per the discretion of the MCDFNL Executive.

63. SUBMISSION OF MATCH DAY PAPERWORK

The HOME SIDE must ensure that ALL Match Day Paperwork (Team Sheets, Vote Cards, Match Day Checklist, Score & Timekeeper Sheets) is enclosed in the Match Day Paperwork Envelope and given to the BFUA officiating umpire, where possible.

The BFUA umpire who has officiated in an MCDFNL Senior fixture is to be provided with the Match Day Paperwork in the appropriate envelope by the HOME SIDE, and is to deliver this envelope to the results officers at Saxon House by 7pm on the night of the game.

Refer to CLUB OPERATIONS – GAME DAY ROLES for options if unable to hand this to the umpires upon completion of all games.

Any paperwork not received by the Wednesday may incur a fine as determined by the MCDFNL Executive.

64. REGISTRATIONS

The minimum age of players shall be the attainment of 7 years of age in the calendar year. Each player must complete an online registration within SportsTg prior to the start of the season.

Any Club playing an unregistered player at any level will be penalised as per AFL Victoria Country Rule 1.3. Such penalties will include loss of match points and fines not less than \$500 (Senior, Reserve & Underage games) or not greater than \$250 (Underage games).

A player participating without completing an online registration through SportsTG is not insured and the Club may be held liable for any injury via negligence, therefore, such a process exists to protect Clubs.

Clubs will forfeit points from the match that an unregistered player plays in, unless extraordinary circumstance exist, and the decision is overruled by the Executive of the MCDFNL and the AFL Victoria Country Area Manager.

65. SCOREBOARDS

Each venue used for MCDFNL matches, both open age and underage, must be equipped with an operational scoreboard.

Scoreboard attendants must be of a suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job. Scoreboards should operate throughout all games and kept as accurate as possible. Clubs must supply scoreboard attendants for each and every game.

A fine may be applied for each game without the scoreboard attended and operational.

66. INCORRECT NUMBERS

All players must wear AFL Victoria Country approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their Club and including numbered jerseys, and wear shorts and socks of registered colours.

The numbers worn by players must correspond with the player's team sheet and official League program, otherwise the Club shall be liable to a fine as determined by the executive of the MCDFNL for each such offence.

In the event of the replacement of a jersey during a match, the Ground Manager and Central Umpire must be notified of the change of player's number, or the Club shall be liable to a fine.

67. RUNNERS

The MCDFNL allows Clubs to use TWO (2) Runners only in all MCDFNL games. Only ONE (1) Runner is allowed on the playing field at one time during the game and enter / exit the playing field through the interchange gate.

Runners must immediately leave the field after delivering their message – they are not to

loiter on the field and must not be used to "fill on holes" in a "zone".

Runners must wear appropriate uniforms as directed by the MCDFNL.

68. LOGOS ON UNIFORMS

A maximum of four logos may be attached to the front of all MCDFNL Club playing Guernsey's, each of which must not exceed 10 cm x 6 cm, one of which must be the AFL Victoria Country & AFL Victoria Country Sponsor logo (if applicable) and one the MCDFNL Major Sponsor logo (if applicable).

One logo would be permitted under the number on the back of Guernsey, it would not exceed 35cm by 15cm. One logo is also permitted above the numbers.

Two logos would be permitted on the shorts. Each logo is 10cm x 6cm and one must be the MCDFNL league logo, the other permitted for club use.

In special instances, Clubs may apply to the MCDFNL for permission for an additional sponsor on the front of their Guernsey, of such matters will be determined at the discretion of the League Executive.

69. ORDER OFF RULE

The MCDFNL has adopted the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rule 11.0 'Order Off Rule' as set out in the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Handbook.

MCDFNL COMPETITION BY LAWS – FOOTBALL DISCIPLINARY

- 70.** The following Disciplinary By-Laws should be read in conjunction with the Ballarat FNL Independent Tribunal, Match Review Panel and Investigations Overview documents available to clubs.

MELEE MATRIX

Where a melee occurs during any senior or junior football match, the following process shall be followed when a melee matrix form is completed:

1. Umpires to complete Melee Matrix form (one per club) noting the following:
 - a) Players actively involved from the one team
 - b) Duration of the melee
 - c) Level of aggression in melee
 - d) Umpires intervention in melee
 - e) Officials involved
2. The WHITE copy is submitted to the League. The YELLOW copy is retained by the Umpire. The PINK copy is retained by the away club and the BLUE copy is retained by the home club.
3. The League's Operations Manager will contact the clubs involved in the melee upon receiving a copy of the melee matrix form. At this point, clubs will be provided with an opportunity to:
 - a) Accept the resulting fine; or
 - b) Dispute the details completed in the form by provision of official club submission that outlines their version of events and witnesses who can attest to what is written
4. The club submission will be forwarded to the League Board to make final determination on:
 - a) Whether the initial fine shall remain in place and apply
 - b) Whether the initial fine may be reduced to a lower amount
 - c) Whether the initial fine should be overturned; or
 - d) Whether the initial fine should be increased
5. Clubs will be informed of the League's final decision (if Board intervention is required) and sent an invoice (if applicable) that must be paid within 30 days of the invoice being issued
6. Failure of clubs to adhere to the melee matrix process or pay a melee invoice within the 30-day terms may see the Clubs subjected to additional penalties that may range from additional fines, reduction of Player Points, loss of premiership points and percentage, etc.

71. Codes of Conduct

The MCDFNL has adopted various codes of conduct, which include (and are available from the league website):

- Junior Coaches & Club Officials
- Junior Players & Parents and Spectators of Junior Football
- Senior Coaches & Team Officials
- Senior Players & Spectators
- Club Officials

72. Investigations

Investigation procedure is dictated by AFL Victoria Country Rule concerning Unbecoming Conduct in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

When the League Investigations Officer conducts an investigation in the League, they shall provide

at least 48 hours' notice in writing to a club notifying of any interviews.

All interviews will be conducted at League Headquarters, or at a place to be determined by the Investigations Officer.

72.1. Investigation Fees

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (Unbecoming Conduct) the required fee of \$500 shall be lodged, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the league.

The following policy will be enforced by the league for investigations:

- a) When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200, and the balance of \$300 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
- b) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the Ballarat Football Netball League Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200 and the balance of \$300 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
- c) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the Ballarat Football Netball League Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$300 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.

NOTE: The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$300. In extenuating circumstances (e.g., more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$300 and which will be negotiated with the MCDNFL accordingly. In such instances, the MCDNFL will adjust the amount of \$300 to the revised amount in the above case.

Should a club fail to be able to commit to attend investigation interviews at Saxon House and as such the venue is changed to suit the need of the club affected, a flat fee of \$100 shall be charged to that club which shall be paid to the Investigations Officer.

Clubs who fail to cooperate with the investigation process shall be fined a minimum of \$200. The League, in conjunction with the Investigations Officer, shall determine if a club has failed to cooperate with the investigation process. Examples of failing to cooperate include players/officials not turning up for interviews, clubs failing to confirm availabilities for interviews or clubs withholding members from the investigation process.

Any other fines implemented as a result of recommendations from the Investigations Officer or as a result of a subsequent Tribunal hearing shall be issued to the club in question on top of any other fines or fees that apply.

72.2. Tribunal

The Ballarat FNL Independent Tribunal is held on the Tuesday following a round of matches at BFNL Headquarters. Hearings to commence from 6:30pm with a maximum of three hearings scheduled on any night.

If clubs wish to apply for a set penalty, then the club must notify the League by the following times:

- Games played on Saturday – by 12 noon on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested.
- Games played on Sunday – by 5pm on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested.

After the above listed times, the set penalty will be applied by the League if it is available to be

offered. Either club, the reporting Umpire or the MCDNFL may request the hearing proceed, prior to the above times. Tribunal will not commence a new case after 10.30pm with any pending cases held over until a later night. Club attire or smart casual attire must be worn at all tribunal cases.

Clubs not represented at Tribunal hearings shall incur a fine of \$250 in addition to any fine imposed by the Independent Tribunal. Wednesday nights will be used as a backup night for cases overflowing to the next day in any given week.

72.3. Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations may be accepted if any party to a report (i.e., the reported player, the player allegedly offended against and the reporting umpire), is unable to attend owing to work or study commitments, or in the case of illness or injury.

NOTE: A "letter" submitted as evidence will not suffice, and the Statutory Declaration must be signed by a certified signatory (E.g., Justice of Peace, Police Officer, etc.) and date stamped at least 12 hours earlier than the scheduled start time for a tribunal case.

Providing the League is notified as early as possible after the report, and that such Statutory Declaration is lodged with the league no later than 12 hours prior to start time on the day of the hearing, the Statutory Declaration may be accepted.

Any Statutory Declaration submitted must set out:

- i) The reason for the missing party's inability to attend the hearing of the person cannot attend the Tribunal on the scheduled night
- ii) A full description of the incident (or incidents) being the subject of the report. This must include – Time of incident (e.g., early in 3rd quarter), location of incident (e.g., right side wing), location of ball, any provocation, details of incident (e.g., blow with right hand), force of blow, result of impact / collision / blow, etc.

Any reported player who fails to attend or fails to submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined above, or fails to give notice as above, may have the charge or charges heard in their absence.

Similarly, any witness who fails to attend or submit a Statutory Declaration or fails to give notice as above, may be dealt with as the Tribunal sees fit. Any such non-attendance may result in action as determined by the Tribunal and can include fines upon a Club or the suspension of the player.

Any reported player, witness or umpire who has a legitimate request for an early hearing e.g., work or study commitments, must submit such request by telephone to the Ballarat FNL as early as possible, and no later than 12 noon on the day of the hearing.

72.4. Advocates / Appearance

The BFNL Independent Tribunal also requires that the reported player bring along a Club Advocate with them to the hearing.

The BFNL Independent Tribunal also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness, and their advocate(s), do dress in an appropriate manner (minimum of smart casual or Club attire) that recognizes and respects the sanctity of the Tribunal.

No tracksuits or hats will be allowed into the tribunal.

Anyone who is a Barrister or Solicitor or is qualified to act as a Barrister or Solicitor is prohibited from acting as an Advocate.

72.5. Video/DVD Evidence

If clubs wish to use their own video/DVD evidence they must provide a signed Statutory Declaration, which certifies that the video/DVD has not been altered or tampered with. League video evidence does not require a statutory declaration to be used as part of any tribunal case or investigation.

This does not apply to Match Review Panel vision.

72.6. Independent Tribunal and Appeal Board

An Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board, (The Tribunal), shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

Three members of such Tribunal shall form a quorum. Nominations for membership of the Tribunal and Appeals Board shall be advertised and intending nominee's names shall be forwarded to the General Manager seven days prior to the first meeting of the Board after the AGM.

72.7. Tribunal Duties

The Tribunal shall deal with and decide protests, disputes, and charges against Clubs, players, officials, and office bearers of Clubs and to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such protests, disputes or charges as they think fit.

72.8. Match Review Panel

A Match Review Panel, comprising up to 5 members, shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. The Match Review Panel is an independent panel of members who shall be asked to review incidents raised by clubs and Umpiring Associations from official league video evidence and asked to determine if a specific player or players in question may have a case to answer to under AFL Victoria Country rules (as stipulated on the AFL Victoria Country report form).

See page 72 for an overview of how the Match Review Panel process is conducted.

72.9. Tribunal & Match Review Panel Membership

The members of the Tribunal and Match Review Panel shall not hold any other office in the League, nor be an official of any Club affiliated with the League, nor have been an official of any Club affiliated with the League for a period of 12 months.

Any person wishing to become a member of the Ballarat FNL Independent Tribunal or Match Review Panel must have not played for a period of 24 months. A person may not be a member of both the Tribunal and Match Review Panels at the same time.

72.10. Unsatisfactory Evidence

The Tribunal shall have the power to fine any player or official who, in the opinion of the Tribunal, does not present their evidence in a satisfactory manner.

72.11. Representation

If desired, any Club or player concerned in any protest or charge, may be represented by a delegate or representative, provided such delegate or representative is not a qualified member of the legal profession. Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook "Tribunal Procedure Information".

72.12. Decisions Final

Notwithstanding any appeals to the AFL Victoria Country Appeals Board, the Tribunal's decisions and penalties shall be final and such penalties may extend beyond its term of office.

72.13. Sustained Reports

A Club who, in a grade, has six (6) sustained reports for the season shall show the League why they should not be suspended from the League.

72.14.Lack of Quorum

In the absence of a Quorum at a meeting of the Tribunal, or if for any other reason it is unable to meet, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their Club until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal. In the event of a member of the Tribunal reporting a player or an official of a Club, such person charged shall be dealt with by the officers of the League.

72.15.Player Attendance for Tribunal Hearing

In instances where a charged player is unable to attend a scheduled hearing of the Ballarat FNL Independent Tribunal due, they shall be ineligible to play until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal.

72.16.Attendance at Tribunal hearing

(i) Subject to Sections 25.3(b), a charged Person, and their representative, must attend a Tribunal hearing at the date, time and place/forum (including by video or telephone conferencing) notified by the Controlling Body.

(ii) Any Football Official, Player, parent, or guardian of a Player must appear before the Tribunal if requested to do so by the Controlling Body or Tribunal.

(iii) In respect of a Tribunal hearing:

(A) the Chairperson may excuse a Person from appearing at a Tribunal hearing if the Chairperson is satisfied that the Person is suffering from an injury or medical condition that will reasonably prevent that Person's attendance.

(B) any Person, including a charged Person's representative, who wishes to attend a Tribunal hearing via video or telephone must first seek the prior approval of the Controlling Body (except where video or telephone conferencing is the forum fixed by the Controlling Body).

(C) the Controlling Body or Tribunal may, at any time prior to the Tribunal hearing, vary the date, time and place/forum of the Tribunal hearing and upon doing so, must advise all directly interested parties of such variation; and

(D) if a Person issued with a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach, or that Person's representative, fails to appear at a Tribunal hearing at the notified date, time and place/forum, the Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine the matter and impose any sanction in the absence of that Person or that Person's representative or postpone the Tribunal hearing.

72.17.Guilty Verdict Fee for Independent Tribunal Hearing Outcomes

Any Club whose player is found guilty of an offence by the Independent Tribunal shall be fine \$200 per guilty offense in addition to any other penalty handed down by the Independent Tribunal.

This is to assist with the increasing costs associated with hosting tribunal cases. Funds received via this fee shall be retained by the League.

72.18.Using Video Evidence in Tribunal Cases

Where video evidence is available from an authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL Victoria Country guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non-authorised video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify the league no later than 10am on the day of the hearing and such video must

be delivered to the League no later than Noon on the scheduled day of the tribunal hearing.

The video evidence MUST also be accompanied by a signed statutory declaration confirming that the footage provided is true and correct and has not been altered in any way (excluding slow motion footage).

Video evidence received after this time, unless agreed to by the league, will not be accepted as evidence in the case. A member of the MCDNFL Executive, Regional General Manager, MCDNFL Operations Manager and the Umpiring Association General Manager or Umpiring Association Chairman have the right to lay a report and/or request an investigation based on video footage presented to them.

73. Club Umpire Reporting Powers

Under AFL Victoria Country Rules and MCDNFL By-Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a BFUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an "officially accredited" Umpire, and therefore can report or send off players at their discretion.

Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the BFUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

It is further worth noting the following rules from the AFL Victoria Country Rules Handbook to clear up any confusion – In the AFL Victoria Country Rule Book the definition of an umpire includes all field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match. Volunteer Club Umpires shall register with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager and Players can be umpires if there are insufficient numbers of umpires available.

Therefore, once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are "official umpires" they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire.

To ensure that your Volunteer Club Umpires are registered as Volunteer Club Umpires and that they have the full power as outlined above, all Clubs must ensure that these Volunteers do complete the official AFL Victoria Country Clearance/ Registration Form – circling the Registration field, and then write at the top of this form "CLUB UMPIRE". The League shall then register these Umpires with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager as a Club Umpire. Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Country Insurance Policy.

83.1 MCDNFL Executive Members/Umpires Observer Power to Report

Where a MCDNFL Executive Member or Umpires Observer is in attendance at a junior game (Under 17, Under 15, Under 13, Under 11 and Under 9, they shall have the same powers of reporting offences as the appointed umpire.

NOTE: In addition to the above, any official BFUA Umpires Observer/coach at any League game also has the power to report players/officials and due process will be followed under AFL Victoria Country Rules.

73.1. Tribunal Audio Files

Clubs will be provided with a copy of the audio file from a Tribunal Hearing when requested. The BFNFL shall charge a fee of \$100 for providing this copy.

73.2. Comments in the Media

Any Club Member (player or official) found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards a member of the MCDNFL, AFL Victoria Country, or Umpiring Association shall be fined an amount at the discretion of the Board.

The MCDNFL Executive shall decide appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to a fine being handed down.

73.3. Teams not Breaking from the Huddle

When the single siren is blown to indicate the end of a break the club/s not breaking from the huddle will be fined 5 penalty units per occasion with clubs to be named on the umpire's match report sheet.

73.4. Leaving Playing Field

The senior grade shall be permitted to leave the playing field during the half time interval - including the Finals Series. All other grades must remain on the field at ½ time, except under extreme weather conditions. Clubs leaving the playing field inappropriately shall be liable to a fine of 20 penalty units for all Senior teams and a fine of 10 penalty units shall apply to all other teams. Failure of Clubs to return to the playing field by the specified time will result in a fine of 2 Penalty Units per Minute being applied.

74. MATCH REVIEW PANEL PROCESS – In the event of an MCDNFL authorized match being filmed.

- 74.1. The MCDNFL/BFNL introduced a Match Review Panel of up to five members who are appointed to review incidents raised from official MCDNFL footage and asked to make a determination on whether the player(s) in question may have breached one of the AFL Victoria Country rules as outlined on the official report sheet. The process for incidents raised by clubs and referred onto the Match Review Panel is as follows:

Step 1: Incident Raised with the League

Any on-field incident that may have been missed by the officiating Umpire(s) can be raised with the league for further review. Requests to review footage must be submitted through a club's Executive or Umpiring Association and incidents must be raised with the league via email prior to **12pm** on a Tuesday following a round of matches. From there, the league puts in a request to our media partners to send a copy of the footage in three different speeds which is then forwarded on to all Match Review Panel members. If footage of the incident cannot be found, the person requesting the review will be informed and the case shall go no further. **NOTE:** At this point a club may wish to take the incident to investigation if they feel the incident still requires attention.

At this point, both clubs involved as well as the Umpiring Association are informed that a case is currently sitting with the Match Review Panel and a decision is pending on an incident that occurred during the game in question.

Step 2: Review of the Incident by the Match Review Panel

Once the footage has been found, it is sent to all panel members along with a copy of the official report sheet. Panel members are asked to review the footage and determine if an AFL Victoria Country rule (as listed on the report form) has been breached.

Step 3: Informing the BFNL of Final Decision

Once all Match Review Panel members have had a chance to review the footage, each member must then inform the League via email by the close of business on the same day of their decision on whether or not an AFL Victoria Country rule has been breached. The Match Review Panel is made up of an odd number of members at all times meaning the majority rules on any decision made on whether or not a case is referred to the tribunal.

Step 4: Informing the Club of the Match Review Panel Outcome

Once a decision has been determined by the Match Review Panel, all clubs will be informed of the decision made. Either of the following will happen:

- a) The Match Review Panel will determine whether a player or players may have a case to

answer to and the case will be referred to the Independent Tribunal for hearing.

- b) The Match Review Panel will determine that a player or players have no case to answer to and the case will go no further *NOTE: At this point a club may wish to take the incident to investigation if they feel the incident still requires attention.*

If a case is referred to the tribunal, both clubs and the Umpiring Association will be provided a completed report sheet informing the breach of AFL Victoria Country rule(s), this sheet will also be used during the tribunal case.

Step 5: Case Moves on to Tribunal Hearing (If Applicable)

Should the case be referred to the Independent Tribunal, the case shall run the normal course that any other tribunal case would run.

NOTE: A fee of \$200 shall apply for Match Review Panel requests in the following instances: - To the club who requests a MRP incident, and it DOES NOT proceed to the Tribunal - To the club who has a player sent to the Tribunal resulting from a MRP case review IMPORTANT: This fee is in addition to any guilty verdict fees or fees handed down by the Tribunal.

MCDFNL COMPETITION BY LAWS – NETBALL

These by-laws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the MCDFNL Netball Competition. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation. These By-laws are specific to the MCDFNL Netball competitions and are an appendix to the MCDFNL By-Laws. Rules in these Netball By-Laws can be overruled by the MCDFNL By-laws when deemed necessary by the MCDFNL Sub Committee.

Effective: April 2023

75. RULES & DUTY DESCRIPTIONS

- 75.1.** Ordinary meetings of the League shall be held on the directed day of the nominated months set at the first meeting of the year, being in February with the last ordinary meeting to be held 2 weeks prior to the first weekend of the finals series.
- 75.2.** The Executive or Ballarat FNL Administration shall call Special meetings as required and provide all clubs with reasonable notice of such meetings.
- 75.3.** At all meetings one (1) voting delegate from more than half the total number of Clubs competing will be necessary to form a quorum.

76. FIXTURES:

- 76.1.** The Netball competition follows the draw that has been arranged by the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League.

77. REGISTRATIONS:

- 77.1.** Player, coach, and umpire registrations must be completed by the individual on the Netball Connect system prior to taking the Court.

PENALTY: IF A TEAM PLAYS AN UNREGISTERED PLAYER, THEY WILL INCUR A LOSS OF FOUR PREMIERSHIP POINTS AND A \$50 FINE. IF TEAMS HAVE UNREGISTERED COACHES OR UMPIRES THAT OFFICIATE MATCHES, THEY WILL INCUR A LOSS OF FOUR PREMIERSHIP POINTS AND A \$50 FINE.

78. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- 78.1.** Any player having played 8 OR MORE games of the season (Including finals) in any senior grade shall NOT be permitted to compete in any remaining home and away games in a lower grade.
- 78.1.1.** For example, a club may not drop an A Grade player to their B Grade once that player has competed in more than 8 games of the season in the A Grade team.
- 78.2.** It is the HIGHEST graded game played on the day that will be recorded as a qualifying game. Any other game played on that day will not be recorded as a qualification game in a lower game.
- 78.3.** Players may play a maximum of 2 (two) games per round during the home and away season with their club e.g., one 17s & 1 A grade or 1 C Grade & 1 B Grade. (Normal qualification rules apply – see 90.1.)
- 78.4.** Any player who has played less than 8 games of the total home and away season in any grade or age group shall be allowed to move freely between grades or age groups that they are eligible for.
- 78.5.** Any player that has played in a higher level than A Grade, e.g. Suncorp Super Netball, Australian Netball League or the Victorian Netball League Championship Division within the last 12 months will be permitted to play NO LOWER than A Grade in the MCDNFL home and away and finals competition. There is one exception to this bylaw: If the player is a junior player and playing VNL Championship level they are able to play in their junior age group within the MCDNFL competition.

79. Finals Eligibility

- 79.1.** A player must play in at least five (5) matches (Senior Grades) and at least four (4) matches (Junior Grades) for their club in the home and away rounds, in a grade, to qualify to play in the finals series in that specific grade or higher

Example: Player A plays 5 games in B grade, 3 games in C grade & 5 games in A grade – then Player A is only eligible to play finals in either A or B grade:

- 79.2.** If Player A plays at least 8 games in 17&U & at least 5 games in A grade in the home and away rounds – then Player A is only eligible for 17s & A grade.
- 79.3.** Exemptions: A club seeking an exemption to qualify a player for the finals must apply to the MCDNFL Operations manager in writing. Exemptions must be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the final's series. Any requests after the 2-week mark will not be accepted. The exemption request will be presented to the MCDNFL Netball Sub Committee for a decision. The Executive will consider the following.

- The number of players who have qualified for finals in this team
- If the request for exemption is needed to put a team on the court in finals.

Exemptions are only given for extenuating circumstances, where the club can clearly articulate a need to put a team on the court.

Any disputes will be determined by the MCDFNL Executive.

Penalty if any of these are breached, loss of four premiership points, plus loss of match.

80. AGE REQUIREMENTS:

- 80.1.** The minimum age requirement for the senior competition is turning 15 years of age by the 31st of December, 'in the current year'.
- 80.2.** Participant age is determined as of 31st December of that year.
- 80.3.** Maximum age requirements are:
 - 80.3.1.** A, B & C grades - Open age
 - 80.3.2.** 17 & Under – Players must be 17 years of age or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 18 this year. This is a female only competition.
 - 80.3.3.** 15 & Under – Players must be 15 years of age or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 16 this year. This is a female only competition.
 - 80.3.4.** 13 & Under – Players must be 13 years of age or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 14 this year. This is a mixed competition.
 - 80.3.5.** 11 & Under – Players must be 11 years of age or younger as of 31st December 'of the current year'. Therefore, players cannot turn 12 this year. This is a mixed competition.
 - 80.3.5.1.** For 11 & under grade competition the minimum age limit set for participants must be turning 7 years old in the year of competition.
- 80.4.** Where clubs have players aged 5-7 years, they are encouraged to run a Tier 1 NetSetGo! program.
- 80.5.** Where clubs have players aged 8-10 years, they are encouraged to run a Tier 2 NetSetGo! program.
- 80.6.** The league observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation:
 - 80.6.1.** Males who are 13 years (and older) are not permitted to participate in the female competition. This means that males must be less than 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the competition or season; and
 - 80.6.2.** Males that turn 13 during that competition or season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that competition or season.
- 80.7.** There is no limit to the number of males on the court at any time in mixed competitions.
- 80.8.** Clubs may seek player exemptions for other grades. Exemptions may be granted

on the grounds of (but are not limited too):

- The person has never played before.
- Low numbers in the selected team.
- Medical reasons, proof must be shown.

80.8.1. Any exemption granted will be confirmed in writing by the MCDFNL Operations Manager and exemptions may also have conditions outlined (e.g., the exempted player may only play in the mid-court for the season). The MCDFNL Netball Sub Committee will observe any exemptions up until Round 7. If deemed by the Netball Sub Committee that the player has ability above their age group, the exemption may be revoked.

80.8.2. If after Round 7, the exempted players' Club feels that the exempted player has progressed further they are to contact the MCDFNL Operations Manager to come and observe again and ask for exemption to be revoked.

80.8.3. If the exempted player plays up a grade, the exemption is automatically revoked.

80.8.4. Clubs may only ask for a player exemption once (i.e., if an exemption has been approved once, the Club may not ask for an exemption again for the same player the following season).

For any breach of the age requirements above, a penalty will consist of loss of four premiership points, plus loss of match.

81. UNIFORMS:

81.1. It is important that netball recognises that everyone participating can wear a uniform that caters for individual preferences and religious beliefs.

81.1.1.* Each Team shall play in club colours and any changes to design or colour MUST be approved by the MCDFNL Executive. Netball bibs DO NOT have to be the same colour of the uniform, but must be in the team colours, excluding clash bibs. *

81.1.2. Uniform Options

81.1.2.1. A Dress

81.1.2.2. A Singlet

81.1.2.3. A Bodysuit

81.1.2.4. A T-shirt, long or short sleeved (See 93.6 for more information)

81.1.2.5. A Skirt

81.1.2.6. Shorts

81.1.2.7. Long Pants, either compression/lycra or tracksuit style

81.2. When teams wear the same colour uniform, the home team has the right to stay the same and the away team must change their bibs to another colour. All bibs must include the WorkSafe Logo.

81.3. * Sponsorship logos are permitted to be placed on player uniforms, all branding and placement of logos must be approved by the MCDFNL executive prior to production of uniforms. *

81.4. Gloves may be worn only if a MEDICAL CERTIFICATE is provided to the umpire (In Home and Away Matches) & Operations Manager (in Finals) before the player

takes the court. Only plain cotton gloves with no metal clips, sharp adornments, velcro, rubber spikes or any other covering to enhance the catching of the ball shall be allowed to be worn.

- 81.5.** No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
- 81.6.** Long sleeve t-shirts, home team in white and away team in black are permitted to be worn under the playing dress on days of adverse weather. No other-coloured t-shirt is permitted.
- 81.7.** *Unisex uniforms which may consist of a dress, skirt or shorts and singlet or T-shirts which must be of club colours can be worn. Must be approved by the MCDFNL Executive. *
- 81.8. Socks. The two options below are the only permitted in the MCDFNL.**

81.8.1. Black or white socks with no inappropriate logos/images/ wording.

81.8.2. League approved Club Socks with club colours and/or logos

82. HOME AND AWAY MATCHES:

- 82.1.** The playing rules shall be those of Netball Australia unless otherwise stated in these by-laws.
- 82.2.** Each Match must consist of four quarters, with the following starting times and breaks for each grade:

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A Grade	2.35pm	4 x 15 mins	3 – 4 – 3
B Grade	1.30pm	4 x 12 minutes	2 – 2 – 2
C Grade	12.25pm	4 x 12 minutes	2 – 2 – 2
17 & Under	11.30am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 2 – 2
15 & Under	10.35am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 2 – 2
13 & Under	9.45am	4 x 10 minutes	2 – 2 – 2
11 & Under	9.00am	4 x 8 minutes	2 – 2 – 2

- 82.3.** In the case of a draw, there will be **NO** extra time allowed during Home and Away season. Start times for matches can be changed prior to the match with approval from both delegates and notification to the League.
- 82.4.** Any club with **ONLY** one team will be an A grade team. A Grade team should always be the stronger side fielded. A and B grade must be filled before C grade; 17& under stay at the same time unless agreed by the clubs.
- 82.5.** All clubs must enter teams in all seven grades of netball. Any club unable to field a side must apply for a one-year exemption by the 1st of March of the given season. Clubs not fielding teams will be subject to appropriate fines and penalties as per MCDFNL affiliation policy.
- 82.6.** In the situation whereby teams entered in the Netball Competition are due to play Clubs without teams entered it shall constitute as a bye for the team entered and they will receive four premiership points.
- 82.7.** The Home Club shall supply the approved Worksafe Netballs for all Home matches and in the case of an inadequate Netball the Umpire's decision will be final.
- 82.8.** All Clubs must enter their teams for each grade in the Netball Connect system by

10.00am Friday morning.

PENALTY – 1ST OFFENCE – \$50 FINE
2ND OFFENCE – \$100 Fine
3RD & SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE – \$150 Fine
FINALS – \$150 Fine

83. UMPIRING:

- 83.1.** Each club shall supply one umpire who shall be suitably attired. Club delegates are to be responsible for the enforcement of the correct umpire uniform. Further details can be found in the MCDNFL Netball Umpire Handbook.
- 83.2.** Umpire attire is included.
 - 83.2.1.** Umpires must wear white skirt/shorts, a white top (which must be WorkSafe branded) and windcheater or wet weather garment in white.
 - 83.2.2.** Tracksuit pants, leggings, skins and any other 'bottom half' attire other than what is listed is not permitted.
- 83.3.** Umpire merchandise is available online for umpires to purchase (see the MCDNFL Netball Umpire Handbook).
- 83.4.** Umpires should be badged where possible and **MUST** be unbiased.
- 83.5.** Umpires are to attend training clinics where scheduled by the MCDNFL and must be registered with Netball Victoria.
- 83.6.** Umpires are not to umpire more than two (2) games in one day. 11&U, 13&U do not count as part of the 2 games, however an umpire cannot officiate more than 2 consecutive games (e.g. 11&U, 13&U and 15&U). See the MCDNFL Netball Umpires Handbook for further clarification.
- 83.7.** Players who umpire are only to umpire one game if they are playing on the same day unless the matches they umpire are before they play.
- 83.8.** Every umpire must attend one or more courses or sit the theory exam and achieve a pass of 70% or above if due for reaccreditation and must attend training clinics as scheduled.
- 83.9.** Clubs unable to supply an Umpire for a match are to make arrangements with the opposition to supply another umpire at the clubs cost of \$50 for EACH GAME or as agreed with otherwise prior to the commencement of the match. If a team cannot provide an umpire on the day, that team will be deemed to have forfeited the game.
- 83.10.** It is recommended umpires umpiring A + B Grade games should hold a minimum current C badges accreditation or are working towards attaining a C grade badge accreditation. A coach must not umpire the grade they are coaching.
- 83.11.** Umpires who officiate for clubs during the home & away season may be used in finals.
- 83.12.** Umpires booked for finals must be badged & can only officiate 2 games and sit as emergency for 2 additional games per day.
- 83.13.** The use of training bibs and umpire mentors is strongly encouraged. Further

information and guidelines for the use of training bibs and mentors can be found in the MCDNFL Netball Umpires Handbook on the MCDNFL website.

PENALTY – 1ST OFFENCE – \$50 FINE
2ND OFFENCE – \$100 Fine
3RD & SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE – \$150 Fine
FINALS – \$150 Fine

84. SCORERS & TIMEKEEPERS:

- 84.1.** The home team shall supply one scorer and one timekeeper, and the away team shall provide one scorer. The scorers from each team will officiate the Scoresheet and the Timekeepers from each team shall officiate the match time, interval time, injury/illness, and suspension times. The Scorers must be seated next to each other, and the timekeeper must also be seated next to the scorers for the duration of the match. Please note scorers and timekeepers are not permitted to use electronic devices e.g., Mobiles, iPads etc. for personal use whilst on the score bench.
- 84.2.** Scorers and Timekeepers cannot play in a game in which they are officiating on the official Bench.
- 84.3.** The home team must complete the starting positions on the printed scoresheet for their team list.
- 84.4.** The opposing team must complete the starting positions on the printed scoresheet for their team list.
- 84.5.** Scorers must fill in the following:
- The position of players at every quarter (even if no change).
 - Centre passes.
 - Each goal and ensure it is confirmed by opposing team's scorer.
 - All players who take to the court and their position marked against their name or the League shall not recognise the player for this game.
 - All goal attempts must be recorded on the score sheet, excluding 11&U and 13&U matches.
 - The score at the end of each quarter by tallying each goaler's score and circling the tally in the running numerals.
 - The final score
- 84.5.1.** All players who take the court must have their position marked against their name Player must be named on the team sheet prior to taking the court.
- 84.5.2.** At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by.
- The captains of both competing teams, and
 - The scorers
 - The officiating umpires only sign the score sheet to state they have officiated that game.
- 84.6.** If a scorer, Team, or Club believes the score sheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest. If the score sheet has been signed, but there is a simple addition error affecting the result, the scores can be amended by the MCDNFL and the amended result will stand
- 84.7.** A team wishing to protest must: -

98.6.1 Contact the MCDNFL Operations Manager in writing within 48 hours of the game being played. **(Refer to complaints/grievances process on page**

98.6.2. The MCDNFL Operations Manager will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.

98.7. A team official shall inform the scorers of all changes so they can complete their duties accurately.

98.8. The TIMEKEEPER must be a separate person to the SCORERS.

PENALTY – 1ST OFFENCE – \$50 FINE
2ND OFFENCE – \$100 Fine
3RD & SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES – \$150 Fine

99. TEAM OFFICIAL

99.1. All coaches must have the minimum Foundation level coaching qualification by Round 3 of the seasons.

99.2. The Match officials are Umpires, Scorers and Timekeepers. The Team officials are Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, and up to three (3) other personnel, one of whom must be a Primary Care Person who is qualified to diagnose and treat injured or ill players.

99.3. All coaches, team managers & umpires must have a Current Netball Victoria registration and be registered with the MCDNFL.

99.4. In addition, the maximum of five players not on court at start of play, shall constitute the Team Bench

99.5. Team Officials and bench players **MUST NOT** engage in any inappropriate comments or any form of inappropriate behaviour, including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines, during play.

99.6. Club Coaches and Team Officials must stay in the designated bench area during all Home & Away and Finals matches.

99.7. The appointed specified coach/s is the only member/s of the club that is/are allowed to coach on Match Day.

100. RESULTS:

100.1. All results including the scoresheet and league best and fairest vote cards must be to the Administration Hub by the Tuesday following the match. All team details and results must be entered by the home club into the Netball Connect System by 6.00pm on the day of play.

100.2. Entered match results must include quarter by quarter scores, best players (3,2,1 - 3 being the best) for each side and goal scorer's statistics.

PENALTY – 1ST OFFENCE – \$50 FINE
2ND OFFENCE – \$100 Fine
3RD & SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE – \$150

101. BEST AND FAIREST VOTES:

101.1. Umpire League vote cards must be signed by both umpires and the votes should be given as three (3), two (2) and one (1) vote. If voting envelopes are opened once they have been sealed on the day, then the Umpires are required to initial the back of the envelopes over the seal when they have been resealed.

102. Match Abandonment

102.1.1. Serious Injury

If a serious injury occurs and requires significant medical intervention (e.g., an ambulance to be called), advice from the medical team/trainers/paramedics regarding patient care will be followed (e.g., injured player to remain where they are, if they are not able to be safely moved).

The match can be postponed for no longer than 30 minutes, if required to accommodate medical assistance.

If the game cannot be re-started after the allocated postponement break of 30 minutes, the match will be abandoned.

If the injury occurs before half-time, a draw will be awarded, and 2 points will be allocated to each team. If the injury occurs at or after half-time, the score will stand, and 4 points will be awarded to the team that is leading the match.

If the game can be re-started within the allocated postponement break time, and one team wishes to abandon the match, and the other team wishes to play, the abandoning team are considered to have forfeited the match, and 4 points will be awarded to the team that wishes to play.

102.1.2. Other Serious Incident

A match may be postponed and/or abandoned in the event of a serious incident occurring that poses a danger or risk to players and/or umpires.

A match may be postponed for up to 30 minutes while the incident is appropriately managed, and the risk/danger is removed.

If the game cannot be re-started after the allocated postponement break or 30 minutes, the match will be abandoned.

The incident occurs before half-time, a draw will be awarded, and 2 points will be allocated to each team. If the incident occurs at or half-time, the score will stand, and 4 points will be awarded to the team that is leading the match.

If the game can be re-started within the allocated postponement break time, and one team wishes to abandon the match, and the other team wishes to play, the abandoning team are considered to have forfeited the match, and 4 points will be awarded to the team that wishes to play.

103. FINALS

103.1. All Netballs and scoresheets for the final's matches are to be supplied by the League and be approved WorkSafe netballs.

103.2. Start times will be as directed by MCDNFL. These times will be communicated to delegates as soon as available.

103.3. During a final at the end of the game when scores are tied there is a two (2) minute break during which time there may be substitutions and / or team changes. At the end of the 2 minutes once the score has been verified, there are a further 2 halves played.

DRAWN FINALS MATCHES

11 & Under	2 x 4 minutes	1-minute break
13 & Under	2 x 5 minutes	1-minute break
15 & Under	2 x 5 minutes	1-minute break
17 & Under	2 x 5 minutes	1-minute break
C grade	2 x 6 minutes	1-minute break
B grade	2 x 6 minutes	1-minute break
A grade	2 x 7 minutes	1-minute break

Teams change ends to begin the second half of time on, after a one-minute interval. 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.

103.4. During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply as per Netball Australia Rule Book.

103.5. If teams nominated to score and time keep in finals fail to provide required numbers to do so, a fine of \$100 per rostered game will be imposed.

103.6. Individual clubs score and time keep own matches with an independent scoring supervisor in attendance as nominated by the league.

103.7. If team sheets for finals are not entered by 10.00pm on the Friday prior to the game, a \$100 fine will be imposed.

104. CLEARANCES:

104.1. A clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club within the MCDNFL during the current season or at the end of a season. Each club must process a clearance through the Netball Connect Database System.

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

104.3. A clearance will not be granted after the 30th of June.

104.4. Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of Club property (uniform, equipment) will not be granted a clearance.

104.5. The player must complete all details including signing of the clearance form.

104.6. The exiting Club has 7 days to complete the clearance on the Netball Connect system or the League will automatically clear the player to the new Club.

104.7. If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearance), the system will notify the clubs advising the reason why. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt in accordance with the grievance procedure.

104.8. Approval must be processed on the Netball Connect System by the MCDNFL before the player can play for the new club. Approval can only be granted by the MCDNFL once the signed form has been sighted by MCDNFL Operations Manager.

Penalty: Loss of 4 premiership points for every match the non-cleared player has played.

105. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS:

- 105.1.** The MCDFNL Operations Manager & Netball President, in conjunction with the allocated coach/es, will organise the Representative Team Selection Trials
- 105.2.** Teams will be published on the MCDFNL website/Facebook page within seven (7) days of the final selection trial, as well as receive an email of the final selection.
- 105.3.** MCDFNL representative players **MUST** play for a club in the MCDFNL for the entirety of the current season (excluding finals.)
- 105.4.** The selector's decision shall be final.
- 105.5.** All appointed coaches must have the minimum Development level coaching qualification.

106. TEAM OFFICIALS FOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS:

- 106.1.** The Team Officials for Representative Teams are Coach, Manager, Scorer/Timekeeper, and Umpire
- 106.2.** Coaches
 - 106.2.1.** A coach shall be appointed for each selected team.
 - 106.2.2.** Calls for applications to coach shall be made no later than one month prior to the first tournament, unless already appointed.
 - 106.2.3.** Applications, if required must be in writing stating the applicant's qualifications and experience.
 - 106.2.4.** A Scorer/Timekeeper shall be appointed for each selected team.

107. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 107.1.** The MCDFNL Executive and/or the Hearing Officer will impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to any member that fails to adhere to Bylaws.
- 107.2.** Any club which does not agree with a penalty or action of the committee made under these bylaws may advise the Committee and/or the Hearing Officer within 48 hours of the penalty or decision being made.
 - 107.2.1.** This also applies to match day. Any club who wishes to submit a dispute from the previous weekend of football. Must do so within 48 hours of your scheduled game time. E.g., If your B grade match starts at 1:30 on Saturday. Your dispute must be submitted by 1:30pm on Monday.

This will need to be emailed to the league Operations Manager. A phone call, message or writing on the back of the scoresheet will not be accepted.

- 107.3.** The MCDFNL Executive/Hearing Officer may then discuss the issue with the relevant team or Club and decide regarding the matter. The MCDFNL Executive/Hearing Officer shall inform the parties involved of their decision either in writing or have an informal meeting with the relevant parties to discuss and resolve the dispute.
- 107.4.** The MCDFNL Executive/Hearing Officer's decision is final.

- 107.5.** All decisions made by the MCDNFL Executive/Hearing Officer are in accordance with Netball Victoria's competition regulation guidelines.

108. ADVERSE WEATHER:

- 108.1.** In the event of extreme bad weather conditions at the beginning of the match, if the teams do not wish to play, they can agree to two points each
- 108.2.** If one team wishes to proceed, and the umpires agree, and the other team refuses, the refusing team has 30 seconds to have five players present, and then another 30 seconds to take the court.

If the team takes the court within 30 seconds: the offending team will be penalised immediately following the whistle for the centre pass.

Sanction: *Penalty pass taken in centre third by the transverse line at the goal end of the non-infringing team – the whistle is blown to start play then the infringement is penalised. The Centre stands out of play for the penalty pass*

If the team does take the court within 30 seconds: the umpires will award the match to the opposing team.

- 108.3.** If prior to or during the match, the conditions change to make play unsafe the club delegates in consultation with the umpires will make a decision that is in the best interest of participant safety. Netball Victoria Infonets RM3 and RM5 will be referred to.
- 108.4.** In the event of a change of venue because of availability or ground conditions, the delegate of the Home Club shall contact the League and Opposing Club seeking approval for a change of venue. All decisions to be made not later than 6pm on the evening prior to play.
- 108.5.** In the case of extreme weather conditions, MCDNFL netball matches will be determined after the completion of Netball Victoria Infonets RM3 and RM5.

109. RISK MANAGEMENT:

109.1. Injury reporting

- All clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets available on the Netball Victoria Website.

109.2. Pre-match checklist

- A Willis Matchday checklist will be completed prior to the first match of the day. Another checklist can be done if conditions change. This checklist MUST be returned to the hub with the match day paperwork.
- Any hazards identified will be:
 - i) Documented
 - ii) Rectified if possible
 - iii) Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repair is required

109.3. Indemnity Clause

Except where provided or required by laws and such can't be excluded, the (Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL) and its respective Executive, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.

110. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISIONS CLAUSE:

Where this by-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League, netball competition is maintained always.

The Committee may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in this by-law relating to the MCDNFL.

The MCDNFL Adopts the following policies as conjunction with AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria.

Rules and Regulations

- [Laws of Australian Football 2022](#)
- [AFL Victoria Country Handbook 2022](#)
- [AFL Victoria Country Rules 2022](#)
- [Netball Victoria Code of Conduct](#)

Community Club Sustainability Program

- [Community Club Sustainability Program](#)

Player Transfer & De-registration

- [2023 National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations Addendum](#)
- [2022 National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#)
- [2021 National Player and Official De-registration Policy](#)

Online Media

- [AFL Social Media Engagement Policy](#)
- [Netball Victoria Cyber Safety Policy](#)

Coaches

- [AFL Coaches Code of Conduct](#)
- [National coaching accreditation policy](#)

Duty of Care

- [Negligence and the Law in Football](#)
- [Netball Victoria Concussion Policy](#)

National Age Dispensation Policy 2019

- [Age Dispensation Application Template](#)

AFL Respect & Responsibility Policy:

- [Respect and responsibility policy](#)
- [Make a report](#)

AFL Victoria Smoke Free and Alcohol Management Policy & Resources:

- [AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy](#)
- [AFL Victoria Alcohol Management Policy](#)

Infectious Control:

- [AFL Infectious Control Club Help](#)

Safeguarding Children and Young People

- [Safeguarding Children Commitment Statement](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Reporting Procedure](#)
- [AFL commitment to child safety \(poster\)](#)
- [Say something \(poster\)](#)
- [Safe kids code of conduct \(poster\)](#)
- [Make a report](#)

Affiliate Regulations:

- [AFL Vic Community League Affiliate Regulations](#)
- [AFL Vic Member to Member – Movement of Clubs or Teams](#)

Additional Resources:

- [AFL Victoria Extreme Weather Policy](#)
- [Member Protection Policy](#)
- [AFL Privacy Policy](#)
- [AFL Vilification Policy](#)
- [AFL Match Policy](#)

Female Community Football Guidelines

- [Female community football guidelines](#)

Young Person Resources

- [Flagging unsafe behaviours in footy](#)
- [Rights and responsibilities in footy](#)
- [Safe/unsafe behaviour in footy](#)
- [What does abuse in footy look like?](#)

Gender Diversity Policies

- [AFL community football GDP policy](#)
- [AFL GDP FAQs](#)
- [Gender diversity policy - companion guide](#)
- [Netball Victoria Inclusion Policy](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- [AFL mental health and wellbeing strategy](#)
- [The AFL industry mental health clinical governance framework](#)
- [How to seek help 2021 AFL community football](#)

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