

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

Definition:

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

“EFL” means Eastern Football League Incorporated.

The appendices and schedules attached (pages 53 - 101) should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-laws of the Eastern Football League.

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EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

2.1 All games shall be played in strict accordance with the “Laws of Australian Football” as determined by the AFL, unless otherwise advised by the EFL. In veteran grade games, the EFL will deal with all disciplinary matters involving any players and/or officials as it sees fit, in its absolute discretion.

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

3. AFFILIATION FEE

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

3.2 All monies due to be paid to the league by Affiliated Clubs shall be payable in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the monthly statement issued by the league unless contrary arrangements are specifically authorised by the Board.

3.3 The full amount of each statement is to be paid in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the statement. In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with the CEO, no team of that club will be eligible for match points until the account is remitted in full. Percentages for any game played while ineligible for match points will be calculated on final scores submitted for each game and awarded as per by-law 7.1.

- 3.4** In the absence of contrary arrangements specifically authorised by the Board, Clubs shall be charged interest on amounts outstanding for more than thirty (30) days, as at the last day of each calendar month. Monthly interest shall be calculated by applying to the total amount outstanding for more than thirty (30) days one-twelfth of the annual interest rate then payable by the EFL for ordinary bank overdraft facility.

4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 4.1** (a) No person may play in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:
- (i) Lodged an application for registration with the EFL for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club; and received from the Chief Executive Officer notice that he is permitted to play for the nominated Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.
 - (ii) Attained the age of eight years during that persons first year of registration with the EFL.
- (b) Females are permitted to play in matches authorised or conducted by the EFL however, females who reach the age of 14 years as at 1st January in the year of play are specifically excluded from playing in any competition that is not a female competition.
- (c) Males over the age of 32 as 1st January in any year are permitted to play a veterans grade team provided they do not play in any senior grade match with any Affiliated Senior Club in the same season.
- (d) Any player found to have participated in a match authorised or conducted by the EFL without the appropriate permit granted pursuant to this By-law may be dealt with by the Board in accordance with by-law 4.2 (b), and the club whom fielded that player may be dealt with by the Board in accordance with by-law 4.2 (a).

4.2 Penalty for Playing Non-Permitted Players

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

shall be liable to:

- a fine not exceeding 40 penalty units; and/or
- disqualification from the competition; and
- loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams;

as the Board thinks fit.

- (b) The Board may also deal with the player concerned as it thinks fit.

4.3 Club Player Lists

- (a) On or before the 1st March in each season, the Chief Executive Officer shall furnish to each Affiliated Senior and Affiliated Junior Club a list of players registered with the EFL as being permitted to play with the respective club in the previous season;
- (b) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall advise the Chief Executive Officer by no later than 30th June in each year detailing all players change of addresses and those players whose permits to play are no longer required.

Fine: Five penalty units.

- (c) Any player whose name is removed from the permitted players list shall not be entitled to play with the Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club or any other club without first:
- (i) re-applying for a permit to play; or
 - (ii) where appropriate, applying for a clearance approval.

4.4 To Participate in Finals Matches

- (a) Players must play at least 3 matches (service men 2) with their Affiliated Senior or Junior Club in the first round matches to qualify to play in the finals series.
(Amended 29 January, 2007)
- (b) Any player playing more than 9 matches with a club's first 18 in the home and away matches is ineligible to play with that club's second 18 team in the finals series. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where any club fields a first 18 and a second 18 in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.
(Amended March, 2006)
- (c) Any Player eligible to play in the under 16 or under 18 competitions organised or authorised by the EFL who plays with senior teams may only play in the final series of the under 16 or under 18 matches provided that the player concerned has played at least 6 games in the appropriate age group in the first round of matches.

- (d) (i) Any player drafted by an AFL club, placed on an AFL supplementary or rookie list or included on an official VFL list can, provided he has qualified under the rules, return to play with the EFL in the finals in the seniors and reserve grades only.
(Amended 21 January, 2007)
- (ii) Any player that plays 12 or more games in any season in the AFL and/or VFL and/or TAC Cup competitions is ineligible to play EFL finals in that season.
(Amended 21 January 2007, April 2008)
- (e) Where a player participates in more than one senior club match (seniors, reserves, under 18s) on any weekend, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played.
(Amended February, 2008)

4.5 Misrepresentations

- (a) Any player or club representative who makes any mis-statement or mis-representation in applying for:
 - (i) registration;
 - (ii) a clearance approvalmay be dealt with by the Board by way of:
 - (a) a fine not exceeding \$500; and/or
 - (b) disqualification from the competition; and/or
 - (c) loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams.

4.6 Player Registration Fee

Each affiliated senior club shall pay to the EFL \$3.00 for each current senior player and each affiliated junior club shall pay to the EFL \$5.00 for each current junior player as at 15 June in each season.

(Amended 26 March, 2007)

5. FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

5.1 Senior Divisions

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

5.2 Junior Divisions

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

5.3 Promotion/Relegation

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

5.4 Under 18's

- (a) All clubs have the option of fielding an under 18 team each season in the EFL. Where possible, there will be at least three divisions of under 18s. The allocation of clubs into appropriate divisions shall be determined by the Board. Nomination dates to field an under 18 team will be advised on a yearly basis.
- (b) If any club's under 18 team defaults for more than three games after the commencement of the season, then the club shall be liable to a penalty at the discretion of the Board, PROVIDED THAT:
 - (i) A penalty not exceeding \$500 for any one game forfeited and may be imposed by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with by-law 7.5 (a).
 - (ii) In addition to any financial penalty, the Board may, at its discretion withhold match points for the senior team(s) of the club for each subsequent game in which the under 18 team forfeits.
- (c) To ensure that under 18 players are afforded the best opportunity of playing on a regular basis, final under 18 lists shall be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) players plus VFL Under 18 listed players per club.
 - (i) No later than 31st January each year, clubs shall advise the EFL of all inactive under 18 players then currently registered.

- (ii) No later than the end of the first week in March each year, all first and second division clubs and all third and fourth division clubs intending to field an under 18 team shall provide to the EFL a minimum list of eighteen (18) players the names, addresses, contact telephone numbers and birth dates of under 18 players (both registered and yet to be registered) then available to the club for the forthcoming season. No later than the second week in March each year, all clubs intending to field an under 18 team shall provide to the EFL a list of eighteen (18) registered players. This list will be used, inter alia, to satisfy the Board of the club's ability to field an under 18 team.
- (iii) Clubs shall advise the EFL no later than the end of the second week in March of each year the names, addresses, contact telephone numbers and birth dates of under 18 players available to play but not included in the list of thirty (30). The Chief Executive Officer shall advise all clubs of the list of available, unregistered players.

5.5 Joining Clubs

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

5.6 Team Nominations

To enable the Board to ascertain the most appropriate division structure for the EFL, all Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs shall advise the Chief Executive Officer no later than the date nominated each year by the Board, the number of teams it intends to field in the following season in the appropriate division.

5.7 Junior Team Maximum Player Lists

No junior grade team is permitted to have more than 30 players registered in each competitive age group (under 12/13/14/15/16) in each season. Block lists may be amended throughout the season via approval of the league's General Manager - Football Operations.

5.8 Ground Equipment

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

- (a) for senior competitions, playing areas with a distance of not less than 125 metres and not more than 185 metres length; and not less than 95 metres and not more than 155 metres in width;
- (b) two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground;
- (c) two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres apart from each goal post and in a straight line with them, the minimum height of the behind posts shall be 3 metres;

- (d) the goal posts and the behind posts must be painted white;
- (e) between ground level and 2 metres, goal and behind posts suitably padded;
- (f) goal posts must be fitted with two flag holders on the goal umpire's right hand post and one flag holder on the goal umpire's left hand post;
- (g) all areas behind the goal and behind posts to be fenced;
- (h) a scoreboard which shall be operational for each game with numbers for scores at least 30 centimetres high;
- (i) playing surfaces satisfactory to the Board;
- (j) change rooms of not less than 40 square metres net useable floor space area for each competing club with separate showers and toilets serving each change room;
- (k) umpires' rooms which shall not be less than 20 square metres in area, containing a shower area separate from the player's area;
- (l) floors in the change rooms of solid construction such as concrete or timber;
- (m) a suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during matches being played;
- (n) a properly marked playing oval with a boundary defined by a white line, which white line must not be marked with builders limit or slaked lime. The white line shall be drawn between the behind post and goal post to define the score line. The centre of the oval shall be marked with a square in the centre of the ground which shall be 45 metres along each side and shall be parallel to the goal and behind posts at each end;

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

- (i) be located as near as practical to the middle of the centre square; and
- (ii) both are divided into two semicircles, by drawing a straight line parallel with each goal line. (Amended 26 March, 2007)
- (o) "kick off areas" which shall be 10 metres from each goal line;
- (p) a line across joining the 2 goal lines;
- (q) two coaches boxes. No more than 4 officials plus the approved number of interchange players shall be allowed in each coaches box at any one time;
- (r) a suitable bell or siren to indicate to the players and umpires the commencement and conclusion of each quarter of a match;
- (s) an arc to be marked at each end of the playing surface a minimum of 40 metres and a maximum of 50 meters from the centre point of each goal;
- (t) a line directly in front of each coaches box parallel with the boundary line at the mid point between the boundary line and the arena fencing extending four metres either side of each coaches box;
- (u) in all EFL matches there shall be a minimum of 3 metres clearance between the boundary line and fence or other hazard.

Fine: Three penalty units to apply for any infringement.

(Amended 26 March, 2007)

5.9 FOOTBALLS

- (a) The Board shall from time to time specify approved footballs to be used in authorised matches of the EFL. No footballs may be used in any EFL authorised match that does not comply with the specifications as set down by the Board.
- (b) At the commencement of each Senior grade match, the home club will provide the field umpires with two new full size footballs in accordance with by-law 5.9 (a). In reserve, under 18 and veteran grade matches, the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with one new full size football and one full size football in very good condition in accordance by-law 5.9 (a). At least one of the footballs supplied must be a red leather football. (Amended March, 2006; February, 2008)
- (c) At the commencement of each under 12 to under 16 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved leather footballs in very good condition. At least one of the two football balls supplied must be a red leather football. (Amended February, 2008)
- (d) At the commencement of each under 9 to under 11 grade match (inclusive) the home club will provide the field umpire(s) with two approved footballs in very good condition. (Amended February, 2008)
- (e) Size 2 approved footballs shall be used in all under 9 and under 10 official EFL matches. Size 3 approved footballs shall be used in all under 11 and under 12 official EFL matches. Size 4 approved footballs shall be used in all under 13 and under 14 official EFL matches. Full size approved footballs shall be used in all under 15 and under 16 official EFL matches. (Amended February, 2008)

Fine: Ten penalty units.

6. FIXTURES

6.1 Preparation

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

6.2 First Round

In each season, the clubs in each division shall play games consisting of two rounds. The first round shall consist of home and away matches between the teams in each division according to the fixture.

6.3 Failure to Fulfill Engagements

- (a) Teams not ready to start at appointed time shall render its club liable to a fine, if not ready to start within the first 5 minutes.

Fine: Five penalty units.

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

- (b) Any team not ready to commence within 20 minutes of the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the match unless by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the match the Board is satisfied that the reason for the delay was excusable.
- (c) If the specified half time allowance in accordance with by-law 14.6 (b) is exceeded by 5 minutes or more by any team, a penalty unit. per minute in excess of the specified time shall apply.

Fine: Three penalty units.

6.4 Alterations to Published Fixture

- (a) Clubs desiring to conduct Senior, Reserve, under 18 or junior grade matches on a day or time other than that published by the league in the official fixture may do so providing the following requirements have been satisfied:
 - (i) that all appropriate licences and permissions to conduct the game have been received and copies forwarded to the EFL Office prior to the game.
 - (ii) that 28 days notice is forwarded to the EFL office indicating times of commencement of all games and any alterations of venues to the published fixture.
 - (iii) that 28 days notice in writing requesting approval from the Board that the fixture be altered is forwarded to the EFL office from each club.
 - (iv) that an advertisement be taken in the EFL weekly record at least one week prior to the scheduled match advertising the change to the published fixture.

7. LADDERS

7.1 Point Allocation and Match Ratio Calculations

- (a) In the first round matches, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit or walkover is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. Where an affiliated Senior Club or affiliated Junior Club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, four points will be awarded to the opposition club in accordance with by-law 3.3.
- (b) The Board shall prepare a weekly ladder for each Division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw or loss it shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and in the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with lower percentage points. All decisions of the Board in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.

7.2 Scores Used to Calculate

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

7.3 Lodging of Match Day Scores

- (a) The home club in each Division (One to Four inclusive) match shall be responsible to lodge with the EFL by the means as stipulated by the EFL from time to time, between the hours of 4.30 pm and 5.30 pm on the day of each match the scores, goal kickers and best players for both the home and away teams of the senior grade match played that day.
- (b) The home club in each junior grade from under 12 to under 16 (inclusive) match shall be responsible to lodge scores by no later than 9.00 am on the Monday following the match in the manner stipulated by the EFL from time to time.
- (c) All clubs must comply with the requirements for notifying scores to the EFL by the appropriate time. Prior to any scores being communicated to the EFL, the club shall check the scores obtained from both goal umpires officiating in the matches played that day.

Amended February, 2008

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

7.4 Forfeit Calculations

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

7.5 Non-Completion of Matches

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

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

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

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

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

8. FINALS

8.1 Arrangements

The second round shall comprise the finals series which will be developed at the discretion of the Board and published prior to the start of each season. (Amended 29 January, 2007.)

8.2 The Board

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

8.3 Entrance Fees

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

8.4 Club Finals Eligibility

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

8.5 Finals Officials

- (a) In all senior finals games, two independent timekeepers shall be selected by the Board and shall be paid a fee for their services.
- (b) The EFL shall appoint a Ground Manager for all senior finals. The Ground Manager appointed by the Board has the power to adjudicate on any and all situations that may arise on the day of the game. (Amended Feb, 2009)

8.6 Finals Uniforms

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

8.7 Allocation of Rooms and Warm Up Areas

- (a) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall use the home team rooms unless this is varied by the Board or its appointee.
- (b) When entering the playing service for the start of the game and following half time, each team shall warm up at the end of the ground as instructed by the EFL Ground Manager. This will usually correspond with the end of the ground that corresponds with the change rooms and bench/coaches box they are using. (Amended Feb, 2009)

Fine: Twenty penalty units.

8.8 Draw during Finals Game

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

Finals Player Eligibility:- See By-law 4.4

9. MATCH CANCELLATION – ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

- 9.1** If the air temperature, as broadcast on ABC radio, is below 5 degrees Celsius or in excess of 35 degrees Celsius on a training night, umpires are to sign the attendance book but are not to train.
- 9.2** If the air temperature, as broadcast on ABC radio, is below 0 degrees Celsius, or in excess of 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match at any grade, no umpire is permitted to officiate in such match and the match shall be cancelled.
- 9.3** If the air temperature, as broadcast on ABC radio, is below 5 degrees Celsius or, in excess of 30 degrees Celsius, but less than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match in the senior, reserve, under 18 or veterans grades, the game will be cancelled unless, in the opinion of the captains of both clubs, the game should proceed.

- 9.4** If the air temperature, as broadcast on ABC radio, is below 5 degrees Celsius or, in excess of 30 degrees Celsius, but less than 35 degrees Celsius, one hour prior to the scheduled start time of an official Eastern Football League match in any junior grade (under 9 to under 16), the game will be cancelled unless, in the opinion of the coaches of both clubs, the game should proceed.
- 9.5** In the event that any game is cancelled in accordance with 9.2, 9.3 or 9.4, a match ratio shall be applied to the ladder for that division in that grade.
- 9.6** In the event that any senior, reserve, under 18 or veterans grade game has commenced, and in the opinion of the field umpire(s) the weather conditions have become too hazardous (e.g. lightning and/or thunder in the vicinity, heavy hail), the game will be stopped.
(Amended 26 March, 2007)
- 9.7** (i) In the event that any junior grade (under 9 to under 16) game has commenced, and in the opinion of either the field umpire(s) or both club coaches, the weather conditions have become too hazardous (e.g. lightning and/or thunder in the vicinity, heavy hail), the game will be stopped.
(Amended 26 March, 2007)
- (ii) If the weather conditions improve and in the opinion of the umpires (senior grades) or both field umpire(s) and both coaches (junior grades), the game can recommence within 30 minutes, the following procedures should be adhered to:
- (iii) In the event a game can recommence within 30 minutes of being stopped:
- the umpire shall instruct each team to return to the field
 - the play shall be re-started at the centre square
 - the time shall recommence at the time play was stopped and that quarter be finished
 - adjustments should then be made to any subsequent quarters and breaks between quarters to ensure the game finishes at the appropriate time (should there be a game following).
(Amended 26 March, 2007)
- (iv) Where a team directed to recommence play by a field umpire(s) and the team fails to, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.
(Amended 26 March, 2007)
- (v) If the game cannot be recommenced, the provisions of by-law 7.5 (b) shall be applied.
(Amended 26 March, 2007)
- 9.8** If two or more games are cancelled or abandoned due to adverse weather in the same grade and division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be awarded or applied for that round.

- 9.9** If the Board of the league, or its representative, during the review of a match, is not convinced that match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or any penalty as it sees fit.

10. GROUND INSPECTIONS

- 10.1** All 'home' clubs are required to obtain and complete a ground inspection sheet on each Thursday night prior to a home game. As a result of this inspection, should any risk issues including, but not limited to, the items listed in the ground inspection sheet, be identified, the club must notify the league of these issues prior to 10.00 am on the Friday immediately prior to the scheduled match.
- 10.2** The league retains the right to take whatever action it deems necessary to address any issue arising from the ground inspection report, including but not limited to; moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game or re-scheduling the game to another day or time.
- 10.3** On the day of any official senior, reserve, under 18 or veterans match arranged by the Eastern Football League, all players and officials must make a full inspection of the ground on which the match will be played prior to the match commencing.
- 10.4** Prior to any player or official signing the team sheet for a senior, reserve, under 18 or veterans grade match, an official of the club must read to the players the following waiver:

"By signing the clubs team sheet prior to the commencement of/or during the course of a game, each player and official DOES HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE that:

He/she has inspected the playing surface of the venue where the game is to be played and all fixtures and fittings thereon including but not limited to change rooms and toilet facilities, goal and point posts (and padding thereon), sprinklers, fencing, score and line markings; and

Such playing surface, change rooms and toilet facilities and all other fixtures and fittings referred to above are in such a condition that it is safe and reasonable to allow the game to proceed; and

He/she will release the Eastern Football League Inc, its servants or agents and voluntary workers, his club, its servants or agents and voluntary workers from all liability for any injury, loss or damage suffered by the player as a result of the use by the player of the venue, its facilities and fixtures."

- 10.5** Immediately prior to signing the team sheet, an official of the club is required to notify the player or official of the presence of the above waiver on the team sheet.

- 10.6** If any player or official is of the opinion that the venue is unsafe for play for whatever reason, he/she should not sign the team sheet.
- 10.7** Any player or official, who does not sign the official team sheet, is ineligible to take part in any match in accordance with by-law 14.2 of the Eastern Football League.
- 10.8** If on the day of any junior grade (under 9 to under 16) match, the umpire and both team coaches deem that the playing surface is unsafe for play to commence or continue, the game will be cancelled or abandoned.
- 10.9** In the event that a game has commenced, the provisions of by-law 7.5 (b) shall be applied.
- 10.10** If only one game is cancelled or abandoned in the same grade and division, a match ratio will be applied to the ladder for that grade and division.
- 10.11** If two or more games are cancelled or abandoned in the same grade and division, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages or best and fairest votes will be applied to the ladder for that round.
- 10.12** If the Board of the league, or its representative, during the review of the match, is not convinced the match should have been cancelled or abandoned or the reason for the cancellation or abandonment was not in good faith, it reserves the right to award points, percentage or any penalty as it sees fit. (Amended Feb, 2009)
- 10.13** If the Board of the league, or its representative, during a review of the match, is convinced the game was cancelled, abandoned or not played for good reason and in good faith, it reserves the right to award points or percentage or any penalty as it sees fit. (Amended Feb, 2009)

11. UMPIRES

11.1 General

- (a) The Field umpire shall officiate the tossing of the coin for the choice of ends before the start of any match. The field umpire shall call both captains of each team together. The field umpire shall toss the coin. The visiting team captain shall call and the umpire shall determine the result of the toss. The umpire shall then ensure that the team that won the toss have the choice of ends.
- (b) All umpires appointed by the Umpires Board shall have the power to report players, clubs and officials in accordance with such of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" adopted by the EFL from time to time and for any breach of these by-laws.

- (c) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall ensure an official of the club waits upon the field umpire with the opposite club's official at the close of each match and ascertains if any reports are to be made and also the nature of the reports, if any.

Fine: Two penalty units.

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

Fine: Two penalty units.

- (d) All clubs must lodge at the league offices a Report on Field Umpire form as supplied by the EFL for all official matches played by senior and junior grades of that club by no later than 5.00 pm on Tuesday following the weekend in which the match was played.

Fine: Two penalty units.

11.2 GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES AND SCORES

11.3 Official Powers

- (a) (i) Each Affiliated Senior Club and Affiliated Junior Club shall provide a goal and boundary umpire for all matches other than senior grade matches unless otherwise advised by the Chief Executive Officer.
- (ii) EFL appointed field umpires have the power to overrule decisions made by club appointed goal and boundary umpires. (Amended March, 2008)

Fine: Five penalty units.

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

Fine: Two penalty units.

11.4 Umpire Escorts

- (a) At all Senior, Reserve, Under 18 and all junior grade (under 9 to under 16) matches both competing clubs shall supply an Escort for umpires who shall:
 - (i) Escort the umpires from the ground at half time and at the completion of the game.
 - (ii) Where the club is the home club, offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter.
 - (iii) Remain in the centre of the ground with the umpires during quarter time and three quarter time breaks.
 - (iv) Show courtesy at all times.
 - (v) Be over the age of eighteen years.
 - (vi) Wear approved EFL Umpires Escort Bib at all times whilst officiating as an umpires escort.

Fine: Three penalty units.

11.5 Penalty for Assaulting

- (a) In the event of a player or club official of any Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club being found guilty on a charge of assaulting any umpire appointed to officiate by the Umpires Board, the club to which he/they belong may be dealt with by the Board by way of:
 - (i) a fine not exceeding \$500; and/or
 - (ii) disqualification from the competition; and/or
 - (iii) loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams.

12. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

12.1 Jumpers

- (a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered club coloured guernseys, incorporating the EFL logo approved by the Board from time to time, at all games. Such guernseys shall be supplied by the manufacturers approved by the Board from time to time.
- (b) No player will be permitted to compete in any official EFL match without a number on the back of the playing guernsey. No two players in the one team shall have the same number. Each number shall be a whole number greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

- (c) Except with the prior permission of the EFL, clubs fielding seniors and reserves teams are to have one set of guernseys for both teams numbered in whole numbers greater than zero (0) with a maximum of two digits.

12.2 Jumper Clashes

- (a) The teams of each club shall wear their registered colour guernseys, however, if two clubs compete in the same division and those clubs' colours are the same or similar and are drawn to compete against one another, the away club must change its jumper, upon instruction from the Chief Executive Officer.
- (b) In the event of teams whose colours are the same or similar meeting in finals, the club finishing higher on the ladder at the completion of the season will retain its jumper.

12.2 Shorts

- (c) (i) Unless instructed otherwise by the CEO or their appointee all teams in the under 12 to open age grades (inclusive), shall wear their registered club coloured shorts at all home games. All teams visiting as the away team are required to wear their registered club white shorts. All shorts shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by the Board from time to time.

(Amended Feb 2009)

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

- (ii) All teams in the under 9 to under 11 grades (inclusive), shall wear their registered club coloured shorts, incorporating the side webbing in all games. All shorts shall be supplied by manufacturers as approved by the Board from time to time.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

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

(Amended 27 February 2007)

12.3 Socks

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

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

12.4 Bicycle Shorts, Gloves and Boots

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

(Amended February, 2008)

- (b) Players are permitted to wear only EFL approved glove(s), manufactured for use in Australian Rules Football, in official EFL matches.
(Amended March, 2006; February, 2008)
- (c) No players are permitted to wear metal or metal tipped stops in any official EFL match.

12.5 SPONSOR LOGOS

Jumpers

- (a) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on their guernseys.
(Amended March, 2006)
- (b) Such logos shall be located:
- (i) a minimum of 2 cm either above or below the player number and have a maximum height of 10 cm and a maximum width of 30cm; and/or
 - (ii) on the front of the guernsey on the breast opposite the approved EFL logo and of a maximum size of 64 square cm (8cm x 8cm). (Amended February, 2008)

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

(Amended March, 2006)

Shorts

- (c) Clubs may apply to the Board for approval to incorporate sponsors' logos on the front of the playing shorts.
- Such logos shall be a maximum size of 64 square cm (8cm x 8cm).
(Amended February, 2008)
 - No logos will be approved for addition to the back of playing shorts.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

13. TEAM LISTS

- 13.1** All senior clubs shall forward to the EFL at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the first competition match in each season, one list for each of senior, reserve and under 18 grades accurately stating all the club registered players' christian names, surnames and jumper numbers for inclusion in the record for the first game.

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

- 13.2** All senior clubs shall forward to the EFL by no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday immediately before a scheduled game the club notes for publishing in the record.

Failure: Five penalty units.

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

Fine: Ten penalty units.

13.4 Records shall be allocated to home clubs for distribution at all first round games on the following:

- (i) First Division - 150
- (ii) Second Division - 100
- (iii) Third & Fourth Divisions – 50

13.5 All records shall be collected by home club from the Chief Executive Officer prior to 5.00 p.m. on the Friday prior to each match.

14. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

14.1 Timing of Matches

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

Saturday:	SENIOR	2.10 pm	All divisions
	RESERVES	11.55 am	All divisions
	UNDER 18s	9.40 am	All divisions
Sunday:	VETERANS	2.30 pm	All divisions
	UNDER 16s	2.30 pm	All divisions
	UNDER 15s	2.30 pm	All divisions
	UNDER 14s	12.30 pm	All divisions
	UNDER 13s	12.30 pm	All divisions
	UNDER 12s	10.55 am	All divisions
	UNDER 11s	10.55 am	All divisions
	UNDER 10s	9.30 am	All divisions
	UNDER 9s	9.30 am	All divisions

Any first round reserve grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the senior game and any first round under 18s game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the reserve grade game. Once these times have been reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

Any under 9 (or under 10) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 11s (or under 12s). Any under 11 (or under 12) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 13s (or under 14s). Any under 13 (or under 14) grade game shall finish no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the under 15s (or under 16s). Once these times have been reached, the siren will be rung regardless of the state of play.

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

(Amended March, 2006)

14.2 Match Day Players and Officials

- (a) Prior to the commencement of each match, each team of a Club shall prepare a "team list" of all players, on-field officials, runners, selectors, drink carriers and trainers, who are actively involved with the team on that day. All players are to be in numerical order. This list must contain an accurate statement of the players and their numbers allotted for that day. No two players are permitted to play in the same team wearing the same number. Each player on the team list must sign their usual signature beside their name. The team list shall be completed on the official form provided by the EFL.

(Amended March, 2006)

- (b) For all games other than senior grade matches at half time of each match, team managers must hand to the field umpire of the match the original copies of their team lists.

(Amended March, 2006 30 March, 2009)

Fine: Two penalty units.

- (c) For Senior Grade Matches only, each team shall:
- (i) Complete an official team sheet for each match in which the club participates in duplicate and
 - (ii) Hand 2 copies of the completed official team sheet to the field umpires in the umpires room no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of each match.
 - (iii) The official team sheet from each club/team when received by the field umpires shall be distributed to the team manager of the opposition club.
 - (iv) Each team sheet must identify the 21 players, emergency players (maximum 3) and all match day officials.
 - (v) A club may replace a player originally listed on its team sheet with an emergency player before the commencement of play of a match (as defined in Laws of Australian Football).
 - (vi) Where an emergency player replaces a player initially listed on the official team sheet, the amendment to the official team sheet must be made through the EFL umpires. The opposition team manager must also be informed of any change immediately after notifying the umpires. No changes to the selected team may be made once the game has commenced.

Fine: Ten penalty units.

(New 30 March, 2009)

14.3 Runners

- (a) All club runners shall wear an EFL approved runner's uniform during any match, as determined by the Board from time to time. (Amended February, 2008)
- (b) No person shall act as a club runner unless they have attained the age of 18 years.
- (c) Where a participating team is of the opinion that the runners uniform clashes with the uniform of a participating team, that team may provide EFL approved runners vests, to be worn over the runners uniform and to be used by both the home and visiting team.
(Amended March, 2006; February, 2008)

14.4 Trainers

- (a) Trainers appointed by clubs to officiate in matches, shall wear white trousers, white or club coloured tops and a club or EFL Trainers' Association cap.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement. (Amended March, 2006, Feb 2009)
- (b) Each club must provide at least one accredited trainer at all EFL official games. A minimum of Sports Medicine Australia Level One accreditation is required to comply with this by-law.
- (c) No person shall be permitted by any club to perform the duties of trainer in any official EFL games unless such trainer has a current accreditation. A minimum of Sports Medicine Australia Sports First Aid accreditation is required to comply with this by-law. Each team is permitted to have a maximum of six trainers in any one match, consistent with by-law 14.4(e).
(Amended March, 2006)
- (d) All clubs must complete and lodge an Official Trainer's Registration Form with the EFL by 31 March each season.

Fine: One penalty unit per week that the form is not submitted.
- (e) A team may have no more than a combined total of six trainers and water carriers.

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement. (Amended March, 2006)
- (f) In the Junior competition (under 9-16), a trainer may only enter the playing surface for the purpose of attending to an injured player and must not perform the duties of a drink carrier.
(New Feb 2009)

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.
- (g) Trainers must remain behind the boundary line against the fence while the game is in progress. This will enable boundary umpires to carry out their duties. Trainers are not to remain on the field after performing their duties. (New Feb 2009)

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

14.5 Drink Carriers

- (a) Each team shall be permitted a maximum of three (3) persons to perform the duty of "drink carriers". The activities of "drink carriers" must be limited strictly to the delivery of drinks to players. The time spent by "drink carriers" on the playing arena must be kept to the minimum essential for the actual delivery of drinks to players. "Drink carriers" must not perform the activities normally performed by runners or trainers, must keep clear of play at all times and must immediately obey any instruction from an official field, boundary, goal umpire or EFL official. All drink carriers must remain behind the boundary line while the game is in progress and enter the playing arena only when there is a clear break in play. When behind the boundary line, all drink carriers should be leaning against the fence. This will enable boundary umpires to carry out their duties. Drink carriers are not to remain on the field after performing their duties.
(Amended March 2006, Feb 2009)

- (b) In all Senior, Reserve and Under 18 grade games, drink carriers must be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age.
- (c) In non-competitive junior grades (under 9 to under 11) drink carriers must be a minimum of ten (10) years of age. (Amended March, 2006)
- (d) In competitive junior grades (under 12 to under 16) drink carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age. (Amended March, 2006)
- (e) The maximum age of water carriers in the junior competition is sixteen (16) years of age. (Amended March, 2006)
- (f) Drink Carriers officiating in matches shall wear white trousers or white shorts with a white or club coloured top. All drink carriers are to wear the league approved water carrier bib. (Amended Feb 2009)

Fine: Two penalty units for each infringement.

14.6 Timekeepers

- (a) All clubs are to supply a timekeeper, but only one timekeeping card as supplied by the EFL shall be used at each venue. The home club shall supply the timecard. Both timekeepers from each club shall sign the timekeepers card on completion of the game clearly showing the appropriate details and their names and their clubs. No person shall be permitted to act as a timekeeper unless they have attained the age of 18 years.
- (b)
 - (i) Each senior game shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 15 minute break between the second and third quarters. In addition, the timekeepers shall stop the time clock running during each quarter at the direction of the field umpire, when the goal umpire signals a goal or behind is scored or when the boundary umpire signals the ball is out of bounds so as to ensure that there is exactly 20 minutes of playing time in each quarter. Timekeepers shall restart the clock in accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football.
 - (ii) Each reserve, under 18 and veterans game shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 15 minute break between the second and third quarters. In addition, in all reserve and under 18 matches and in veterans finals games, the timekeepers shall stop the time clock running during the third and fourth quarters only at the direction of the field umpire, when the goal umpire signals a goal or behind is scored or when the boundary umpire signals the ball is out of bounds so as to ensure that there is exactly 20 minutes of playing time in each quarter. Timekeepers shall restart the clock in accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football.
 - (iii) Each under 13, under 14, under 15 and under 16 game shall comprise of four 20 minute quarters (no time on) with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters and a 10 minute break between the second and third quarters.
 - (iv) Each under 11 and under 12 game shall comprise of four 15 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters. Each under 11 and under 12 game shall have a 10 minute break between the second and third quarters.
- (e) Each under 9 and under 10 game shall comprise of four 12 minute quarters with 5 minute breaks at the completion of the first and third quarters. Each under 9 and under 10 game shall have a 10 minute break between the second and third quarters.

14.7 Score Board Attendant

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

14.8 Interchange

- (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary specified in the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football", all under 18 teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game. All reserve grade teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game, and all senior grade teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of three (3) interchange players in any game. (Amended May, 2009)
- (b)
 - (i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary specified in the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football", under 9 to under 11 (inclusive) and veterans teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of eight (8) interchange players in any game. All under 12 to under 16 (inclusive) teams shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) interchange players in any game.
 - (ii) Only the permitted number of interchange players may warm up with the team on the ground immediately prior to the start of the game and sit on the interchange bench at any stage following a team entering the ground for the beginning of all EFL matches. (New Feb 2009)

Fine: Twenty penalty units.

- (c) Should the steward observe the teams being lined up for the purpose of count under AFL "Laws of Australian Football", he should assist the field umpire if requested and note the scores at the time of the count. (Amended March, 2006)
- (d) Breaches of any of these instructions must be noted on the EFL Interchange Form.
- (e) After the match the steward is to lodge his Interchange Form as supplied with the EFL with the field umpire in the Umpires' Room for despatch to the EFL office.
- (f) Teams interchanging players during the intervals must advise the steward of such changes before the match recommences.
- (g) In all grades except under 9, 10, 11 both clubs must supply an interchange steward who must wear an EFL approved interchange steward armband.

Fine: Two penalty units. (Amended March, 2006)

- (h) There will be two lines, 15 metres apart, marked across the boundary line at which players can be interchanged. The steward will be stationed near to the fence between the two marked lines which will be situated in a central position of each ground. The steward shall note all interchanges that occur during the game.

Fine: Three penalty units.

- (i) Once the match has started, no interchange of players will be permitted without the steward being advised of the numbers of the players being changed.
- (j) Players shall leave and enter the playing ground through the interchange area during the match unless the player is assisted by an accredited trainer from the playing arena through injury, in which case he may be taken from the playing ground at any point. His replacement shall enter the playing ground through the interchange area and the interchange steward notified of the injured player's name and number. The replaced player may return to the playing arena by way of normal interchange. (Amended Feb 2009)
- (k) A player who is not injured in accordance with by-law 14.8 (j) and who does not leave the playing ground through the approved interchange may not be permitted to take further part in the match. (Amended March, 2006)

14.9 25 METRE PENALTIES

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

14.10 KICKING FOOTBALL INTO PLAY AFTER A BEHIND HAS BEEN SCORED

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

(New March, 2008)

15. INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

15.1 The league may select any players registered with the EFL from time to time to participate in inter-league matches to represent the EFL.

15.2 Any player selected to participate in inter-league matches must play for the EFL and any failure to do so shall be dealt with by the Board as they see fit.

16. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARD

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

17. ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

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

17.2 At all EFL games no person is permitted to smoke while inside the playing arena during a match or inside the change rooms while a match is in progress. (Amended Feb, 2009)

Fine: Ten penalty units.

17.3 The consumption of beverages in glass containers outside of licensed social rooms is prohibited at all EFL venues. (Amended Feb, 2009)

Fine: Ten penalty units.

17.4 The sale of alcoholic beverages (for consumption outside of licensed social rooms) at EFL venues is not permitted until the conclusion of the Colts match. (Amended Feb, 2009)

Fine: Ten penalty units.

18. COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

18.1 General

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

18.2 Lodgment of Complaints and Protests

The Complainant must lodge the Complaint with the office of the CEO by no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday (Saturday games) or Wednesday (Sunday games) following the date when the incident giving rise to the Complaint is alleged to have occurred. The Complainant should provide copies of all relevant documents and/or a detailed description of the event and circumstances within the knowledge of the Complainant that gives rise to the complaint. The Complainant may request the CEO to deal with the Complaint in a certain manner and the CEO will give due accord to the request. (Amended March, 2008)

18.3 Complaints Procedures

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

18.4 Bond

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

Lodge a bond of \$250.00 with the office of the CEO when lodging the Complaint. In the case of the Complainant being an EFL registered umpire or member of the Umpires Board, the lodgement of a bond is not required. The bond may be returned to the Complainant upon resolution of the complaint in accordance with the Rules and By-laws except in the case where it is determined that the Complaint was frivolous or vexatious in which case the CEO at his absolute discretion may retain whole or part of the bond.
- (b) An administration fee of five penalty units. will be withheld from the bond. In the case of a complaint being referred to the Independent Tribunal which results in a player/official being found guilty, the club to which the guilty party belongs will also be charged the administration fee.

19. COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

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

20. INVESTIGATION OFFICER AND INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

- 20.1** Once a Complaint has been referred by the CEO to the Investigations Committee, it shall be dealt with by the Investigation Officer, and if necessary, the Investigation Committee, in accordance with by-laws 20.1 – 20.11.
- 20.2** Notwithstanding the provisions of by-laws 18.1 – 18.4 above, the CEO may refer a matter to the Investigation Officer under by-law 20.1 – 20.11 of his own motion.
- 20.3** The Investigation Officer may investigate any matter which has been deemed relevant by the CEO to whether or not a person may have committed a reportable incident.
- 20.4** For the purpose of conducting an investigation under this by-law, upon request by the Investigation Officer, any person shall:
- (a) Fully cooperate with the Investigation Officer;
 - (b) Truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Officer; and
 - (c) Provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Officer.
- 20.5** A person who fails to observe and comply with by-law 20.4 or who provides any information or has acted in a manner in any respect is false or misleading or likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the league and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion. The Investigation Officer must promptly notify the CEO of the failure of any person to observe and comply with by-law 20.4 above.
- 20.6** The Investigation Officer shall, as soon as practicable, but in any event no later than ten (10) working days after the Investigation commenced, compile a report of the Investigation, including transcripts of all interviews, and submit the report to the CEO.
- 20.7** After consideration of the report submitted by the Investigation Officer, at his discretion, the CEO may refer the matter the subject of the Investigation to the Investigation Committee for further investigation, or complete on behalf of the league an authorised report sheet of a reportable incident identified by the Investigation Officer, and refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal.

- 20.8** If the matter is referred to the Investigations Committee, then the Investigation Committee shall convene a hearing within five (5) working days of the date of the referral to consider the report of the Investigation Officer, together with all transcripts of all interviews conducted by the Investigation Officer in the course of the Investigation, and the Investigation Committee shall have full power to request the cooperation of any person in the conduct of its investigation.
- 20.9** If deemed necessary by the Investigation Committee, a person may be requested to appear before the Investigation Committee at a specified time and venue to truthfully answer any questions asked by the Investigation Committee, and to provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation, whether requested to do so or not by the Investigation Committee.
- 20.10** Failure of a person to fully cooperate with the Investigation Committee, or if a person provides false or misleading information to the Investigation Committee or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead, that person shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the league and shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion and the Investigation Committee shall promptly notify the CEO of that person's failure to cooperate with the Investigation Committee.
- 20.11** At the conclusion of its investigation, the Investigation Committee shall compile a report of its investigation, including any recommendation as to further action to be taken against the person or person's subject of the investigation, and submit the report to the CEO.

21. MEDIATION

- 21.1** Pursuant to Rule 7 of the Statement of Rules, and/or pursuant to a recommendation made by the CEO of a Complaint made pursuant to by-law 18.1 – 18.4 a dispute referred for mediation shall be dealt with in accordance with by-law 21.1 - 21.5.
- 21.2** Where a dispute has arisen between a club and one of its members, and the club has resolved to refer the matter to the league for resolution, the parties may agree upon a mediator to mediate the dispute, or otherwise permit the league to appoint a mediator to assist the parties in resolving the dispute.
- 21.3** If the dispute is between any member club, registered player or official and another member club, registered player or official or between any member club, registered player or official and the league, the parties may nominate a preferred mediator or permit the league in its absolute and unfettered discretion to appoint a mediator.

21.4 The disputing parties and the appointed mediator shall read carefully the league's Mediation Agreement (a copy is annexed to these By-laws) and sign the Mediation Agreement. The conduct of the mediation shall proceed in accordance with the Mediation Agreement.

21.5 The outcome of the mediation shall be reported by the mediator to the CEO, including as to whether the parties resolve the dispute, but not the terms of any settlement between the parties, except with the permission of the parties. Should mediation not be successful in resolving the dispute, the parties shall observe the terms of the Mediation Agreement, and any further direction given by the CEO in accordance with By-law 18.3 (save as to any further mediation of the dispute).

22. REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

22.1 General

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

22.2 Procedures

- (a) In any senior or junior official EFL match, any player can be ordered from the ground by the Field Umpire EFL appointed Emergency Umpire if they have breached the AFL rules of football/EFL players codes of conduct. At all times the player ordered off can be replaced. (Amended 29 January, 2007)
- (b) Any player reported for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.6(b), 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) must be ordered from the field and any player in breach of the EFL players codes of conduct may be ordered off the ground. The umpire will submit the name(s) of player(s) ordered off the ground during a match on the umpires match report and in accordance with the following:
 - (i) Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or the EFL appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) or EFL Players Code of Conduct, as published from time to time, (refer Schedule One) the offending player may be ordered off the ground for a period of 15 minutes of playing time and can be replaced. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward the player's first order off under this by-law by holding up a yellow card. (Amended 29 January, 2007)
 - (ii) In veteran grade games (only), players given a yellow card will be ordered from the ground for the remainder of that quarter and all of the next quarter and they can be replaced. Players given a red card will be ordered from the ground for the remainder of the match and cannot be replaced and will be reported. (Amended March, 2006)

- (iii) Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or the EFL appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" for offence(s) listed under by-laws 22.6(b), 22.7(a) and 22.7(b) or the EFL Players Code of Conduct, as published from time to time, (refer Schedule One) for a second time in the same match, the offending player will be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward the players second order off by holding up a red card.
(Amended March, 2006; Amended 29 January, 2007; Amended 26 March, 2007)
- (iv) Where a player is reported under the Australian Football League's "Laws of Australian Football" for offences listed under by-law 22.6(b) the offending player will be ordered off the ground for the remainder of the match and can be replaced. The field umpire shall signal to the Interchange Steward by holding up a red card.
- (c) The field umpire shall submit the name(s) of any player(s) ordered from the ground to the EFL on the umpires match report.
- (d)
 - (i) If any junior grade player (under 9 to under 16) has been sent off more than once in the match or once in the season an automatic suspension will also apply. The EFL shall maintain a register of all players ordered from the ground in any junior matches (under 9 to under 16) and shall notify the Secretary of the club of the suspension of any player who has been ordered from the field twice or more in a game or twice or more in the same season.
 - (ii) Any junior grade player (under 9 to under 16) ordered from the ground twice in one match or twice in one season will incur an automatic one week suspension. (Amended 30 March, 2009)
 - (iii) Any junior grade player (under 9 to under 16) ordered off a third time in the same season will incur an automatic one week suspension.
(Amended 30 March, 2009)
 - (iv) Any junior grade player (under 9 to under 16) reported under this rule will be dealt with in accordance with By-law 22.6(b).
 - (v) Should a player be reported in addition to receiving a yellow or red card, any suspension(s) resulting from accepting a set penalty or handed down by the Independent Tribunal shall be served concurrently with suspensions incurred as a result of receiving two or more yellow/red cards in one match or in one season. Should a player be found not guilty of the reported offence by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension(s) for receiving two or more yellow/red cards in one match or in one season shall remain. (Amended 30 March, 2009)
- (e)
 - (i) Any club who believes a junior player has been sent off unfairly have the right to appeal to the office of the CEO. Any such appeal must be lodged in writing to the EFL by no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday immediately following the game together with a \$100 bond.
 - (ii) If the appeal is subsequently upheld by the office of the CEO the bond shall be refunded in full and the record of the order off in question struck from the register.
 - (iii) If the appeal is subsequently dismissed by the office of the CEO the bond will be forfeited, the record of the order off will be retained on the register.
- (f)
 - (i) Any player ordered from the ground by the Field Umpire will move quickly to the interchange area, depart the playing arena, and report to the Interchange Steward, or if no Interchange Steward is in attendance, to his Coach.
(Amended February, 2008)

- (ii) An ordered-off player's penalty time will commence from when he reports to the Interchange Steward, or Team Coach.
 - (iii) An ordered-off player is not required to report to the Field Umpire prior to resuming play at the expiry of his penalty time. However when returning to the field the player must return through interchange area.
 - (iv) Failure of an ordered-off player to depart the playing arena as quickly as possible, may be interpreted by the Umpire as deliberate waste of time. In such cases, the Umpire may award a free kick to the opposing team.
 - (v) Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. All cases of foul or abusive language will result in an automatic order-off without prior warning, (and report if necessary). This ruling applies to players and officials alike.
- (g) Where a junior grade player is reported and sent-off in a match, the record of the send-off in accordance with this by-law 22.2 shall remain unaffected by any subsequent Tribunal decision.

22.3 (a) A reportable incident in these by-laws is:

- (i) any reportable incident identified in the AFL "Laws of Australian Football"; or
 - (ii) any alleged breach of these by-laws relating to the conduct of matches in the EFL; or
 - (iii) any alleged breach of the codes of conduct published in the By-law by the Board from time to time.
- (b) In the event of any reportable offence taking place during the progress of any official match or on the day of the match, the field umpire(s) in all sections and all official EFL goal and boundary and emergency umpires shall have the power to report players or officials in respect of the offence to the Tribunal.

22.4 At the time of making any such report of any player or club official, the field umpire and the appropriate goal and boundary umpires shall take down the numbers of the players reported and the victim (if any) of the incident.

22.5 The reporting umpire shall ensure all details of the incident are contained in the authorised report sheet. It is the responsibility of the reporting umpire to forward the report sheet to the Chief Executive Officer.

- 22.6** (a) Both club delegates shall attend the umpires rooms, twenty (20) minutes after the conclusion of the game. The field umpire(s) will then provide both delegates a copy of the report.
- (b) If the player/official has been reported for an offence under the Australian Football Leagues' "Laws of Australian Football" rules 19.2.2 (a), (b), (g) (i) (x), (h), the case will automatically be heard by the Independent Tribunal.

- (c) For all other offences, if offered by the officiating umpire, the player has the choice of applying to accept the prescribed penalties specified in By-law 22.7(a) and 22.7(b).
- (d) Where the player has the option of choosing to accept the prescribed penalty, the club delegates, after receiving a copy of the report will then have fifteen (15) minutes in which to decide whether the player/club will accept the prescribed penalty or wish the report to be heard by the Tribunal. At the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, both delegates will again attend the umpire's room. If the player/club accepts the prescribed penalty and the reporting umpire concurs, the delegates representing the reported player and the reporting umpire(s) will then sign the report form where indicated.
- (e) Should any party not apply for the prescribed penalty, the umpire will note the dissenting party on the report sheet.
- (f) The Chief Executive Officer or his appointee may refer any report to the Independent Tribunal.
- (g) Where a player does not accept a prescribed penalty the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal. The Tribunal has the unfettered discretion to impose a penalty in excess of the prescribed penalty.
- (h) Where a player/club is offered and accepts a prescribed penalty the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official EFL match of that grade in which the club plays, unless notification is received by the club that the prescribed penalty has not been accepted and the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal.
- (i) Where a player/club is reported and subsequently suspended by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official EFL match of that grade in which the player was reported and the club competes.
(Amended March, 2006)

22.7

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

19.2.2 (e), (g) (iv) (vi), (k), (m), (n), (o)

Fine: One penalty unit.

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

19.2.2 (c), (d), (f), (g) (ii) (iii) (v) (vii), (i), (j), (p)

Fine: One penalty unit.

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

Fine: Three penalty units.

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

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

Fine for failure to attend: Five Penalty units.

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

Fine: Five penalty units.

22.10 All players, officials and witnesses appearing before the Independent Investigation Tribunal are required to be accompanied by a club advocate, who shall not be a qualified legal practitioner.

22.11 Upon the completion of each hearing, the Tribunal shall issue to the reported player and/or official a penalty notification form detailing the penalty (if any) resulting from that hearing. Each club must comply with all penalties (if any) imposed by the Tribunal upon any player or official in respect of any report.

- 22.12** (a) Players and officials who are registered with the EFL or are seeking registration with any senior, reserve and under 18 grade team may be liable for de-registration/non-registration in accordance with the following:
- (i) Where a player receives a single suspension of at least 10 years; or
 - (ii) Where a player has received a suspension that relates to any offence where the player has received a penalty of at least 4 matches on at least a total of 4 occasions; or
 - (iii) Where a player has received a suspension of at least 8 matches on 2 separate occasions; or
 - (iv) Where a player has received any number of suspensions totalling in excess of 16 weeks over a period of five years; or
 - (v) Where an official has received a suspension of at least 10 matches on 2 separate occasions.
- (b) The General Manager - Football Operations will write to a player/official and their club where such individual is likely to be in breach of 22.12 (a). Should further suspension(s) be incurred, indicating that the player/official may be de-registered.

22.13

- (i) Where any one team receives a total of 10 yellow/red cards in one season (including finals), the club shall be fined 10 penalty units. For each additional card the team shall receive above 10, the club shall be fined a further 2 penalty units.
- (ii) Where any individual player receives 3 yellow cards in one season (including finals), his club shall be fined 5 penalty units. For each additional card the player receives in that year above 3, the club shall be fined a further 5 penalty units.

23. PLAYER TRANSFER

23.1 No permit to play will be issued prior to 1st February in each season; and no permit to play will be issued to any player for any season for a nominated Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club unless a valid application for registration and playing permit is lodged with the Chief Executive Officer prior to 5.00 pm on the 30th June.

23.2 Any player registered with the EFL and permitted to play with an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club wishing to play with another Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club must apply for a clearance from the EFL.

- (a) A player who can satisfy the EFL that he has not played competitive football for a period of 24 months, can apply for a permit to play after 1st day of July. All players are still required to qualify under by-law 4.4 for finals;
- (b) A person who has never played competitive football may register with the EFL after the 1st day of July. All players are still required to qualify for finals under by-law 4.4.

23.3 Any player wishing to transfer his/her registration to another club, shall lodge a clearance application form in the manner stipulated by the EFL from time to time.

23.4 Upon receipt of a clearance application form, the Chief Executive Officer shall notify the Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club with whom the player is currently permitted to play of the application for a clearance by forwarding the clearance detail to the appropriate Club.

23.5 The Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club receiving notice of its player seeking a clearance to another Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club shall within 10 business days of forwarding such Clearance by the Chief Executive Officer, return it to the Chief Executive Officer specifying whether the Clearance is consented to or objected to and shall specify the reasons therefore.

23.6 In the event that an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club objects to a clearance application by a player the Chief Executive Officer shall notify the player of the objection and if requested to do so by the player shall refer the application to the Permit Committee to be dealt with under that Committee's procedures.

- 23.7** In the event the concerned Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club fails to respond the clearance application to the Chief Executive Officer within the 10 business days, the Chief Executive Officer shall grant the application.
- 23.8** In the event that the Permit Committee refuses a clearance application, no further application may be considered by the Permit Committee in the same season.
- 23.9** In the event that the Permit Committee or the concerned Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club refuses or objects to a clearance application by a player, the Board shall grant a clearance to the player concerned if that player satisfies the Board that for a continuous period of 12 months after the date of the refusal or objection to his clearance application the player did not play competitive football with any club, whether affiliated with the EFL or not.
- 23.10** Any player registered with the EFL and permitted to play for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club wishing to play with another club in another league affiliated with Football Victoria shall lodge a clearance application form with the Chief Executive Officer.
- 23.11** Upon receipt of such a clearance application form, the Chief Executive Officer shall notify the Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club, with whom the player is currently permitted to play, of the application for a clearance by forwarding the clearance application form to the appropriate club.
- 23.12** (a) The Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club receiving notice of its player seeking a clearance to another club or league affiliated with Football Victoria shall within 10 business days of receiving the clearance application form, return it to the Chief Executive Officer specifying whether the clearance is consented to or objected to and shall specify the reason therefore.
- (b) In the event that the Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club does not respond within the 10 business days, Football Victoria or its affiliate will issue the Chief Executive Officer with a 3 business day time limit in writing. If no response is made to the time limit within the 3 business days a permit to play will be granted.
- 23.13** A player who has not attained the age of fifteen years (15) as at 1st of January in a year, who wishes to transfer from one Affiliated Junior Club to another Affiliated Junior Club shall be granted an automatic clearance upon lodging the approved clearance form.
- 23.14** Any player registered to play with another club in a league affiliated with Football Victoria or VFL wishing to obtain a permit to play with an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club shall comply with the rules of Football Victoria applicable from time to time.

- 23.15** Any player registered to play with a club in a league not affiliated with AFL Victoria, wishing to play for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club shall apply to his previous club for a clearance and in the event it is not granted shall apply to the Permit Committee for a permit to play.
- 23.16** In the event that a player registered with the EFL and permitted to play with an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club who (or whose supporting parent) has been in service of an employer for 3 consecutive months is residentially transferred for his employment, the player may at any time during a season apply for a clearance approval to another club not being an Affiliated Senior Club or an Affiliated Junior Club.

The procedures shall be in accordance with the appropriate Affiliated or Non-affiliated League Clearance rules.

- 23.17** Any registered junior player with an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club who residence is transferred may apply at any time during the season for a clearance approval to play with another club not being an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.
- 23.18** (a) Any player previously registered with the EFL and has been permitted to play within in the last 24 months for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club who has transferred to a club in another league, wishing to again play in the EFL but with a different Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club must, in addition to any other clearance requirements, seek a clearance in accordance with the Inter-Club Clearance Rules from the Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club for whom he was last permitted to play.
- (b) Any player who is granted a clearance from any Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club to any other Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club and who subsequently seeks clearance to any further Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club during the same playing season must, in addition to any other clearance requirements, seek a clearance in accordance with the Inter-Club Clearance Rules from the Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club for whom he was first permitted to play in that season.

Any player or club which fails to comply with this by-law shall be referred to the Permit Committee who shall deal with the player and/or club in accordance with by-law 23.1.

- 23.19** In the EFL junior competition (under 9 to under 16) clubs are only permitted to gain a maximum of three players from one particular EFL junior club team to another, unless the club from which the players are transferring from allows more than three.

24. COACH REQUIREMENTS

- 24.1** No person may coach (playing or non-playing) in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:
- (a) a current accreditation certificate with the Australian Coaching Council of Level One standard or higher;
 - (b) lodged an application for registration and coaching permit with the EFL for an affiliated Senior Club or an affiliated Junior Club; and
 - (c) received advice from the Chief Executive Officer notice that he is not permitted to coach for the nominated affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.
- 24.2** A non-playing coach does not require a clearance application to coach any affiliated Senior or affiliated Junior Club.
- 24.3** Any coach of a junior grade team (under 9 to under 16 inclusive) must wear an armband as approved by the Board from time to time while coaching in all EFL matches.
- 24.4** Any person who purports to coach in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL without satisfying the requirements of this by-law 24.1 may be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit.
- 24.5** All clubs must complete and lodge an Official Coaches Registration Form with the EFL by 31st March each season.

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

- 24.6** Where a coach is under suspension from the EFL he/she:
- (a) Cannot enter the playing field (including the coaches box) at any time (including the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time breaks). (New Feb 2009)
 - (b) Cannot actively be involved in coaching the team in any way while the game is being played. E.g. From beside the coaches box behind the fence, using a radio device to communicate with the bench from another part of the ground, addressing the players from outside the playing field or through a third person. (New Feb 2009)

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

25. BEST AND FAIREST VOTES

- 25.1** Official EFL field umpires shall lodge one set of best and fairest votes in official EFL first round games in under 12, under 13, under 14, under 15, under 16, veteran, under 18, reserve and senior grades. Where two EFL field umpires are officiating in a match, one set of best and fairest votes will be lodged on behalf of both umpires.
- 25.2** Any player who has been found guilty of a reportable offence in a first round match and subsequently served a suspension in the course of the same season will be ineligible to win a best and fairest award.

26. PRESENTATION NIGHT TICKETS

- 26.1** All affiliated Senior Clubs shall be allotted 8 tickets for the EFL Senior Presentation Night in each season and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.
- 26.2** All affiliated Junior Clubs shall be allotted 10 tickets for the EFL Junior Presentation Night in each season and shall be billed for those tickets at the prices prevailing from time to time.

27. CLUB ACCOUNTS AND OFFICE BEARERS

27.1 Lodgment of Annual Reports

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

Fine: Ten penalty units.

- (b) No later than 31st December, all Affiliated Senior Clubs and Affiliated Junior Clubs Shall forward to the Chief Executive Officer:

- (i) a Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet on an official "proforma" supplied by the EFL for the immediate past year,
- (ii) a list of all club office bearers for the coming season.

Fine: Fifty penalty units.

28. ADMISSION PRICES – HOME AND AWAY

- 28.1** The Board shall determine from time to time the admission fees for senior and reserve grade home and away matches and all club gatekeepers shall collect those fees for each match. No admission charges are to be collected prior to 10.00 am on the day of play.

29. MEETINGS

Compulsory

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

Fine: Ten penalty units.

29.2 Time

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

29.3 Representatives

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

Failure: Ten penalty units.

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

29.4 Juniors

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

29.5 Unauthorised Meetings

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

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

30. UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

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

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

31. FINES FOR BREACHES

31.1 Unless otherwise specified in these by-laws, any infringement of the by-laws shall as a rule be subject to a penalty of one unit., unless otherwise specified, at the discretion of the Board. An actual list of applicable fines shall be published by the Board each year.

31.2 The nominal value of each penalty unit. shall be determined by the Board from time to time and may be adjusted by the Board at any time.

31.3 The nominal value of one penalty unit applicable from 1st March 2007 until otherwise directed by the Board shall be \$12.50. (Amended 1 March 2007)

32. FINE FOR BREACHES – APPEALS

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

33. POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

33.1 All players and officials at all EFL matches shall be subject to the Racial and Religious Vilification rules as issued by the Board from time to time (refer Schedule Four).

WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

- 33.2** No person may act in the capacity as coach, team manager or trainer in age groups under 9 - under 18 in any matches authorised or conducted by the EFL, unless that person has:
- (a) obtained a Working with Children Check (WWC);
 - (b) or lodged an application for a Working with Children Check (WWC);
 - (c) sworn police officers who are not suspended from duty and teachers with current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching are exempt from this.

Penalty for non compliance: 10 penalty units. (New March, 2008)

DRUG POLICY

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

34. JUNIOR COMMITTEE

34.1 General

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

34.2 Election

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

34.3 Vacancy and Removal

- (a) The office of a member of the Junior Committee shall become vacant if a member of the Junior Committee:
 - (i) submits his or her resignation in writing to the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee; or
 - (ii) is subject to a removal resolution, upon the passing of the resolution by a majority of members present at a Junior Meeting of the league; or
 - (iii) dies or becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent which interferes with the performance of his/her duties as a Junior Committee Member; or
 - (iv) is absent without approval from meetings of the Junior Committee for more than 3 consecutive months; or
 - (v) holds any office of the league for pecuniary reward.
- (b) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office of the Junior Committee, the Junior Committee shall seek nominations to fill such vacancy or vacancies. In the event that no nominations are received, the Junior Committee shall be empowered to fill such casual vacancy or vacancies with a person or persons qualifying in accordance with by-law 34.4 (d), and such person(s) so appointed shall serve in that office until the next Junior Meeting.

34.4 Junior Committee Elections

- (a) Any two Junior Affiliated Club Members may nominate any eligible person to stand for the position of a Junior Committee member.
- (b) Each nomination for the Junior Committee shall be in the form supplied by the EFL and signed by or on behalf of each of the nominee clubs (through their appropriate representatives) and on that form the nominee shall:
 - (i) acknowledge his/her willingness to stand for the position of which he/she is being nominated; and
 - (ii) specify the basis of his/her eligibility to stand for election.
 - (iii) if the election of the person would result in an Affiliated Junior Club Member of the league having more than two previous representatives sitting on the Junior Committee at the same time.

- (c) The nominating members shall cause the nomination to be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee at least twenty eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (d) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Junior Committee:
 - (i) unless within one month of being elected, that person undertakes to and does cease to hold any official position of any Affiliated Senior Club Member or Affiliated Junior Club Member or any other Australian Rules Football Club or League;
 - (ii) unless the person nominated was a representative of an Affiliated Senior Club Member or Affiliated Junior Club Member or was a member of the Junior Committee during the season preceding the nomination for election.

35. Club Playing Outside League

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

36. Blood and Infectious Diseases Rule

36.1 In the event that an umpire observes a player who is bleeding or has blood on any part of his person or uniform, the umpire shall take action as follows:

- (a) Field Umpire in Control of Play:

At the next stoppage of play (score, field bounce, out of bounds, free kick or mark) blow time on, signal (straight arms crossed above the head) and direct the player to leave the field. The replacement player is to be given a reasonable time to take up his position prior to play recommencing.

- (b) Field Umpire Not in Control of Play/Boundary Umpires/Emergency Umpires registered with the EFL:

At the next stoppage in play, attract the attention of the controlling field umpire (blow the whistle if necessary) and indicate verbally or visually (signal as per 36.1 (a), ensure the controlling field umpire acknowledges by verbal or visual indication (as above) then run to the player and direct him to leave the field.

- (c) Goal Umpires registered with the EFL:

At the next stoppage in play (except for a score) attract the attention of the nearest field umpire who shall respond in accordance with either (a) or (b), which ever is appropriate.

When the next stoppage is a score, the above action must be implemented after the score indication has been given and prior to waving the score.

- (d) If the Player leaves the field on the initiative of the Club, play is allowed to continue. The resumption of play is only to be detained when an umpire directs a player to leave the field.

- (e) Where a player is directed by an umpire to leave the field under this rule the umpire shall wait a reasonable period to allow the replacement player to take up position before recommencing play. If a replacement player does not enter the field at the same time as the directed player leaves the field, the umpire shall recommence play immediately.
- (f) On observing that a player is bleeding or where any item of uniform or any part of the player is otherwise covered in blood, the umpire shall cause the resumption of play to be delayed after the first break in play following detection of such injury or blood, so that the player can leave the field.
- (g) Any player failing or refusing to leave the ground when ordered to do so will be reported under the provisions of this by-law for "failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by a field umpire."
- (h) No Club shall allow any player to participate in any EFL match or continue to participate in any EFL match for so long as such player:
 - (i) is bleeding; or
 - (ii) has blood on any part of his person or uniform
- (i) No player shall participate in any EFL match or continue to participate in any EFL match for so long as such player:
 - (i) is bleeding; or
 - (ii) has blood on any part of his person or uniform
- (j) Without limiting the generality of paragraphs (h) and (i) hereof, a player shall immediately upon a direction by a field umpire, or an EFL registered boundary umpire, goal umpire or emergency umpire, leave the playing arena where such umpire is of the opinion that the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of his person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing arena, a player shall not return or take any further part in any match until and unless:
 - (i) the cause of any such bleeding has been abated;
 - (ii) the injury is securely covered to the extent that no visible blood shall emanate there from;
 - (iii) any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced; and;
 - (iv) any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.
- (k) A player who refuses to promptly obey a direction of an umpire given in accordance with this paragraph (j) shall be reported by the umpire and such refusal shall be deemed to constitute a reportable offence under the "Laws of Australian Football". Such player shall be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal as the Tribunal in its absolute discretion deems fit.
- (l) Notwithstanding by-law 14.8 (j) any player leaving the field as a result of this rule must exit the playing arena through the interchange area.

(Amended February, 2008)

36.2 Player and Club Responsibilities

- (a) Any player who is aware or becomes aware or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that he has Hepatitis B or HIV shall immediately report the fact of infection or that he suspects that he may be infected, to the Board.
- (b) A player shall if requested by the Board provide a sample of blood for testing for blood borne infections in accordance with any directions given by the Board.
- (c) The Board shall ensure so far as is practicable that the request that the player provide a sample of blood and the results of such testing remain confidential.
- (d) A player shall immediately upon request by the Board be vaccinated for Hepatitis B and/or provide evidence of Hepatitis B vaccination.
- (e) Each Club shall ensure that any bloodied item of uniform or clothing of a player is placed as soon as possible in a hygienic sealed container and laundered to ensure the removal of all blood.
- (f) Each Club shall ensure that all towels, wipes, bandages, dressings and other materials used in the treatment of bleeding players shall be placed in a hygienic sealed container and discarded or destroyed.
- (g) Each Club shall ensure that all dressing rooms and other areas occupied by the teams of the Club prior to, in the course of or immediately following the completion of any match are kept clean and that no blood shall remain on any surface, equipment and areas shall be cleansed and disinfected immediately after contact with blood.
- (h) Each Club shall ensure that players do not spit or urinate (other than in a receptacle provided for the purpose or a toilet) in or about any dressing rooms and other areas occupied by the teams of the Club prior to, in the course of or immediately following the completion of any match.
- (i) Each Club shall ensure that all players provide individual towels, razors, face washers and drink containers and that players shall not share any of those items in the course of their preparation for, participation in and following the completion of any match.
- (j) Each Club shall ensure that all trainers and other personnel having the responsibility for the treatment of players shall report any cut, abrasion or other injury involving the discharge of blood, to the Club Medical Officer immediately on becoming aware of such cut, abrasion or injury.

37. Rules Pertaining to Juniors

37.1 All under 9 teams will comprise of 15 players per side, with no rucks/ruck-rovers and rovers. Centre players will contest all centre bounces.

37.2 Under 9 and under 10 grade matches are to be played on a reduced ground to a minimum of one half of a full size ground unless the home club elects to play on a full size ground.

(Amended March, 2006)

- 37.3** In all under 9 matches a player may not take full possession of the ball at a centre ball up. The ball must go to another player or touch the ground before the player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball. A centre ball up will occur after each score.
- 37.4** In all under 9 matches field ball ups will be contested by two opponents of approximately the same height as selected by the umpire. The players selected do not have to be the closest or the tallest players. As with the centre ball ups full possession is not allowed.
- 37.5** If the ball goes out of bounds in all under 9 and under 10 matches a free kick is awarded against the team who last touched the ball either by foot or by hand. The free kick is to be taken by the nearest opponent. If there is any doubt as to which team last touched the ball, a free kick is awarded to the nearest player of the defending team.
- 37.6** In all under 9 matches, players cannot tackle an opponent, hold an opponent, push an opponent on the side or knock or take the ball out of an opponent's hands. A restrained bump in which the force of the contact is insufficient to knock the opposing player over is permitted. If a player is fairly bumped the ball must be disposed of within a reasonable time by hand or foot.
(Amended March, 2006)
- 37.7** No player is allowed to shepherd or push an opponent not in possession of the ball in any under 9 match.
- 37.8** In all under 9 matches a mark will be paid to a player who catches the ball from a kick regardless of the distance of the ball has travelled, provided the ball is not touched in transit.
- 37.9** In all under 9 and under 10 matches a player is allowed a maximum of one bounce before disposing of the ball by hand or by foot. After disposal that player cannot touch the ball until another player has made contact with the ball.
- 37.10** (a) No player is allowed to deliberately kick the ball off the ground in any under 9, under 10 or under 11 match.
- (b) In all under 9, 10 and 11 competitions if, prior to the commencement of the match, a team has less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground (for that age group), that team may request sufficient players from the opposition to bring the number of players up to the maximum number permitted. If the request is denied, both teams will play with the same number of players.
- (c) If a request for additional players in accordance with (b) above, an equal number of players on each team must be maintained throughout the game. A count of players on each team and subsequent exchange of players will be done at each quarter break.
- (d) Where both teams have less than the maximum number of players permitted on the ground, the total number of players will be divided equally. Where an odd number of players exist, the team with the highest number of players will retain the additional player.

- 37.11** A player who has been awarded a mark or free kick cannot play on in any under 9 or under 10 match. A mark or free kick must be taken from behind the mark and the ball must be disposed of by either kick or handball. The advantage rule after a free kick will not be applied.
- 37.12** In all under 10 matches a mark will be paid to a player who catches the ball from a kick provided that the ball has travelled a minimum of five metres and, provided the ball is not touched in transit.
- 37.13** In all under 9 and under 10 matches the coach of each team is not permitted onto the ground during the match. An official runner is permitted to be used.
(Amended March, 2006)
- 37.14** No boundary umpires or interchange stewards are permitted in under 9 and under 10 match.
- 37.15** Any team manager of a junior grade team (under 9 to Under 16 inclusive) must wear an armband as approved by the Board from time to time while officiating in all EFL matches.
- 37.16** Each club in all under 10 matches shall provide one goal umpire. Goal umpires are not required in any under 9 match.

38. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS

- 38.1** (a) All players in the under 9 to under 16 grades (inclusive) may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:
- (i) play more than two (2) games out of his/her registered age group in any one season;
 - (ii) play more than two years (grades) above his/her registered age group.
 - (iii) The first team a player plays his third (3) match in is the only team they can qualify for finals in. Once a player has qualified in a division they are limited to two (2) matches in a higher division. They cannot move down to a lower division. (Amended January 2007)
- (b) Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age group (under 9 to under 16) a player is permitted to move between teams. However,;
- (i) Once he/she has played three (3) matches in the higher graded team, that player may not move to the lower graded team for the remainder of the season.
 - (ii) Players in the lower rated team are free to move to the higher rated team during the first round of matches.

- (iii) Where a bye is fixtured in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.
 - (iv) The first team where the player plays 3 games is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series. (Amended Feb 2009)
 - (v) If a club with two teams in one age group forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team. (Amended March 2008)
- (c) Where a club field's more than one team (1) in the under 18 competition, a player is permitted to move between teams. However, (Amended Feb 2009)
- (i) Where a bye is fixtured in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye. (Amended Feb 2009)
 - (ii) A player must play at least 3 matches for the respective team during the home and away season to qualify to play in the finals series for that team. (Amended Feb 2009)
 - (iii) Any player playing more than 9 matches during the home and away season in the higher rated team is ineligible to play with the lower rated team in the finals. (Amended Feb 2009)
 - (iv) A player is only permitted to play in the finals series for one of the clubs under 18 teams. (Amended Feb 2009)
 - (v) If a club with two teams in the under 18 competition forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team. (Amended March 2008, Feb 2009)
- (d) In circumstances where a clubs senior team is the first team to play on any weekend or round (including finals), no player who plays in the senior team is eligible to play in the reserves or under 18 teams on subsequent days. (Amended Feb 2009)
- (e) In circumstances where 18 eligible will not be available to take the field in a nominated match, the league CEO may at his absolute discretion grant a permit to play for a player/s for the nominated match only. A request for such a permit must be supported by a statutory declaration stating that 18 eligible players are not available for the match. (Amended 29 January 2007, Feb 2009)

Fine: Five penalty units.

39. MELEE RULE

39.1 Definition

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

(New Feb 2009)

39.2 Incident and Penalty Procedure

(a) In the event of a melee taking place and following three (3) continued instructions from the umpire(s) to break up the melee, if the melee continues, the umpire(s) shall report the incident to the league. The field umpire(s) appointed by the EFL shall record on the Umpires Match Report at the conclusion of the game an incident where the melee has taken place. This will include the quarter and the position on the field where the melee took place.

(New Feb 2009)

(b) Such form shall be signed by the umpire(s) and a copy of the Umpire Match Report containing notification of the incident handed to each club as per normal match day procedure.

(New Feb 2009)

(c) Fines shall be charged to the club's account.

(New Feb 2009)

39.3 Penalties

Team 1st offence (in one season): Reprimand

Team 2nd offence (in one season): Five (5) penalty units

Team 3rd offence (in one season): Five (5) penalty units

Team 4th offence (in one season): Ten (10) penalty units

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

SCHEDULE ONE
CODES OF CONDUCT

CODES OF CONDUCT

COACHES:

- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Avoid over-playing the talented players, the "just average" players need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that players participate for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Take into consideration the maturity level of the players, when scheduling and determining the length of practice times and competition.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Keep yourself informed of the sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of players.
- Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour as well basic skills.
- Ensure that skill learning and appropriate sports behaviour have priority over highly structured competitions for young players.
- Help players understand the responsibilities and implications of their freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.

"A child's self-esteem is delicate and easily damaged, particularly by parents attempting to act out their own lives through the youngsters on the sports field. Participation in sports events must be something for children to enjoy. They should not be saddled with win-at-all costs attitudes at any early age."

Daily Telegraph editorial.

ADMINISTRATORS/OFFICIALS:

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all players, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex (for females under 14), age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating players.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember that players participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.

- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of players and their needs.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of players.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

- Encourage players to participate, if they are interested.
- Encourage players to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or losing the game.
- Remember that players learn best from example. Applaud good plays by all teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches.
- Remember that children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment to spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.

PLAYERS:

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or for your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Avoid using derogatory language.

Note: Codes of Conduct are part of the National Football Policy provided by the Australian Football League.

SCHEDULE TWO
BEST CONDUCTED JUNIOR CLUB

GORDON PARKER JUNIOR ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

"BEST CONDUCTED CLUB AWARD"

At the end of each season, the EFL Junior Committee presents the Gordon Parker Junior Encouragement Award for the Best Conducted Junior Club.

Points are allocated by the umpire at the end of each game and entered on the Umpire's Match Report on the basis of the following categories:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Attitude of Spectators/Officials | Maximum 5 points |
| • Player Uniforms/appearance | Maximum 5 points |
| • Discipline/attitude of players | Maximum 5 points |
| | <hr/> |
| | Maximum possible – 15 points |

The umpires have been instructed to take into account the number of Send-Offs or Player Reports when determining the points for Player discipline/attitude.

The Club with the highest aggregate of points will be awarded the trophy, subject to the approval of the Junior Committee who will take into account other matters of conduct that may have occurred during the season.

SCHEDULE THREE
ONE MATCH INTERCHANGE RULES & FORM

SCHEDULE FOUR
RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION POLICY

THE EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE POLICY

Section 1 Commitment

- 1.1. The Eastern Football League is committed to an environment which promotes racial and religious tolerance by prohibiting certain conduct and providing a means of redress for victims of racial and religious vilification and/or racial discrimination.
- 1.2. The League is bound by the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic)*, the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)*, and the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (Vic)* (**the legislation**). This Policy is consistent with the legislation and the Australian Football League's Rule 30 and the Victorian Football League's Rule 7.3. This Policy is not in substitution of the legislation.
- 1.3. The League will ensure that this Policy is communicated to spectators and participants of the League. It will also ensure that participants of the League receive anti-racial and religious vilification and racial discrimination training on an annual basis.
- 1.4. Nothing in this Policy prevents a person lodging a complaint in relation to racial and religious vilification and/or racial discrimination under the legislation. In the event a complaint is made under this policy the League shall ensure that the parties are informed of their rights

Section 2 Definitions

In this Policy-

"complaints process" means the procedure outlined in sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Policy.

"Club" means any football Club that is a member of the Eastern Football League.

"engage in conduct" includes use of the internet or email to publish or transmit statements or other material.

"League" means the Eastern Football League.

"detriment" includes humiliation and denigration.

"discrimination" means for the purpose of this Policy, conduct based on a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. Discrimination may be direct or indirect. Direct discrimination means treating or proposing to treat another person less favourably on the basis of a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. Indirect discrimination means imposing or intending to impose a requirement that a person of a particular race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin cannot comply with, but which a higher proportion of people without that attribute (or with a different attribute) can, when it is not reasonable in the circumstances to do so.

"participant" includes a player, director, officer, employee, volunteer to and agent of a Football Club that participates in the League.

"spectator" is a person that attends a football game or event conducted by a Club or the League.

Section 3 Prohibited Conduct

3.1 Racial and Religious Vilification

No person in his/her capacity as a spectator or participant in the League in the course of carrying out his/her duties or functions as or incidental to being a participant in the League shall engage in conduct that offends, humiliates, intimidates, contempts, ridicules, incites, threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

3.2 Serious Racial and Religious Vilification

No person in his/her capacity as a spectator or participant in the League in the course of carrying out his/her duties or functions as or incidental to being a participant in the League shall intentionally engage in conduct that he/she knows is likely to incite hatred against another person, or threaten physical harm or incite hatred in others to cause physical harm to a person or to a person's property because of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

3.3 Racial and Religious discrimination

No person in his/her capacity as a spectator or participant in the League in the course of carrying out his/her duties or functions as or incidental to being a participant in the League shall engage in conduct that discriminates, directly or indirectly against another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

3.4 Victimisation

3.4.1 No person in his/her capacity as a spectator or participant in the League in the course of carrying out his/her duties or functions as or incidental to being a participant in the League shall victimise another person.

3.4.2 A person will victimise another person (the victim) if:

- (a) the person subjects or threatens to subject the victim, or a person who acts as a witness, to any detriment because the victim (or a person associated with the victim) intends to or has lodged a complaint in contravention of this Policy; or
- (b) the person assists, requests, induces, encourages or authorises another person to subject the victim, or a person who acts as a witness, to any detriment because the victim (or a person associated with the victim) intends to or has lodged a complaint in contravention of this Policy.

Section 4 Authorised Persons

- 4.1 The League will appoint a Complaints Officer (**the League's Complaints Officer**) to ensure that any breach of this Policy is responded to in an equitable and prompt manner.
- 4.2 The League shall appoint an Authorised Person as the senior decision-maker in the League's Complaints Process. Should the Authorised Person be absent for a significant period, he/she must nominate a person to act on his/her behalf should the process need to be enacted.

Section 5 Confidentiality and Records

- 5.1 Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the complaints process. All parties to a complaint, the Authorised Person (or Delegate), the League's Complaints Officer, any witnesses and the Conciliator must all agree, in writing, to the maintenance of confidentiality. No person involved in the complaints process shall publicly comment on any aspect of the complaints process without the prior written agreement of all parties.
- 5.2 The League shall ensure that any documents relating to a complaint shall remain confidential and be retained for 7 years from the date that the complaint is made.

Section 6 Inter club Breach of the Policy

In the event that it is alleged that a spectator or participant has contravened this Policy:

- 6.1 an Umpire, spectator or participant of the Club may by 5.00pm on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing with Complaint's Officer of the Club;
- 6.2 the Complaint's Officer of the Club where the complaint was made shall, by 5.00pm on the next working day following the day that the complaint was lodged with the Club, lodge the complaint with the League's Complaints Officer;
- 6.3 the Club's Complaints Officer will take no further action once the complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaint's Officer.

Section 7 Management of Complaints

The League's Complaints Officer shall:

- 7.1 make every effort to ensure that:
 - 7.1.1 confidentiality is maintained at all times during the complaints process and that the outcome of the complaints process remains confidential;
 - 7.1.2 any breach of confidentiality is referred to the Eastern Football League's Tribunal no later than 5pm on the next working day following the day that the breach is discovered;
- 7.2 inform the person alleged to have contravened the Policy of the complaint, the complaint procedures and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the complaint;

- 7.3 inform only the President of the League or Nominee, that a Complaint has been received by the Complaints Officer;
- 7.4 obtain written statements from any witnesses identified by both parties to the complaint;
- 7.5 where available, obtain any other evidence;
- 7.6 Make available any witness statements or any other evidence obtained in the course of investigating a complaint to both parties, with an opportunity to comment, as part of the conciliation process or prior to a tribunal hearing.
- 7.7 arrange for the complaint to be conciliated, by a conciliator agreed upon by both parties except when the complaint is referred to the League's Tribunal in accord with clause 7.9.2 and 7.9.3 herein.
- 7.8 take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated within 10 working days from the day on which the incident is alleged to have occurred;
- 7.9 refer the complaint to League's Tribunal:
 - 7.9.1 when the Complainant informs the Complaints Officer that the matter has not been resolved through conciliation. The Complaints Officer will if requested by the Complainant within one working day from the day on which the conciliation failed, take all steps necessary for the complaint to be referred to League's Tribunal in accordance with clause 8.2 herein.
 - 7.9.2 when both the League's Complaints Officer and the Authorised Person have determined that the complaint was lacking in substance and/or was made vexatiously;
 - 7.9.3 when both the League's Complaints Officer and the Authorised Person determine that under sections 24 or 25 of the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001* (Vic) the complaint could be considered as "serious", he/she will take all steps necessary for the complaint to be referred to the League's Tribunal within 5 working days from the day on which the incident is alleged to have occurred;
- 7.10 ensure that any time limit referred to in this Policy may be extended by the League if in the opinion of the Authorised Person of the League it is just and equitable to do so;
- 7.11 ensure that where a matter is resolved by conciliation the only public statement that shall be made shall be agreed to by both parties to the complaint and the Authorised Person and that the terms of any settlement are finalised to the satisfaction of the complainant and respondent and signed by the parties and the conciliator.

Section 8 League Tribunal Process and Penalties

- 8.1 The League's Tribunal will be constituted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the League.
- 8.2 Where a complaint is referred to the League's Tribunal pursuant to clause 7.9.1 of this Policy or as a result of a referral from a Club's Complaint Officer arising from an intra club breach, the Tribunal will hear the complaint within 5 working days of the complaint being referred.

- 8.3 The League's Tribunal has the power to order any reasonable penalties or directions for breaches of this Policy as are allowable under the rules and regulations of the League in force at the time of the hearing.
- 8.4 If found to have contravened this Policy a Club may be vicariously liable for conduct engaged in by a participant acting as the club's agent or employee, if the Club is unable to establish that it took reasonable precautions to prevent the participant from engaging in that conduct.

Section 9 Appeals from the League Tribunal

- 9.1 Where a complainant or respondent is unsatisfied with the decision made by the League Tribunal, either party may request that the Club's Complaints Officer request that Football Victoria establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision made by the League Tribunal.
- 9.2 The Club's Complaints Officer must lodge the appeal within 5 days of the League Tribunal's decision together with a bond of \$550 (inclusive of GST) made payable to Football Victoria. 20% of the bond will be retained by Football Victoria as an administrative levy.
- 9.3 The panel to hear and determine the appeal will be comprised of 3 representatives of Football Victoria's Appeals Board or Football Victoria's Independent Panel.
- 9.4 The panel established to hear and determine the appeal has the power to order any penalties or directions which it decides are reasonable in the circumstances. Such penalties may include a monetary fine and/or exclusion from attending or participating in any football matches conducted by the League for a period of time.

Section 10 Monitoring and Review of the Policy

The Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the League's Eastern Football League Board.

Section 11 Policy Commencement

This Policy was passed by League's Board on 26 June, 2006 and will take effect from 26 June, 2006.

SCHEDULE FIVE
OFFICIALS ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

TEAM MANAGER

DRESS

Armband (junior competition only)

DUTIES

Although the responsibility of the Team Manager will vary from Club to Club, in general this position is responsible to see that all activities or League Rules associated with the actual playing of the game (other than coaching) are carried out or adhered to.

TEAM UNIFORM

Ensure that all players are correctly attired

OTHER OFFICIALS

Ensure that persons are designated for each of the following roles where required and that they are aware of all necessary dress requirements, age requirements and duties:

- Trainer
- Water carrier
- Runner
- Interchange steward
- Timekeeper
- Boundary Umpire
- Umpires

UMPIRES COMFORT

Ensure that the umpires room is adequate in terms of cleanliness and security.

Make sure that umpires are offered refreshments during quarter breaks.

SECURITY OF PLAYER BELONGINGS

This aspect should be considered prior to players taking the field. No home club can fully guarantee the safety of items that remain in change rooms during a game.

TEAM SHEETS

Fill out the team book in alphabetical order with correct jumper numbers, and ensure that all players and officials sign the book.

Team books have three copies:

- Original to umpire at half time
- Second copy to opposing team by half time
- Third copy is retained in the book

FOOTBALLS

Home team manager to present two footballs to the umpire before the game.

START TIMES

Be aware of the starting times of all quarters and ensure that the Coach has the players ready to start accordingly.

UMPIRES REPORT

The team manager and/or the Coach complete an Umpire's Performance Report following the game. Reports should be constructive including positives and negatives, and be completed every game regardless of result. Reports are to be placed in sealed envelopes and forwarded to the EFL office, these may be sent via facsimile.

MATCH REPORTS

Match reports are completed by umpires after all games. The team manager must attend the umpires room after the game to collect the report. If the team manager does not attend the umpires are instructed to leave the report in umpires the room.

LIST OF MEDICAL PHONE NUMBERS

Compile a quick reference list of local phone numbers for ambulance, doctors, dentists and medical centres for use at all games. Ensure that these numbers are given to the 'away' teams should the situation arise.

REPORTED PLAYERS

Ensure that all details of any reported players are handed to the appropriate club officials as soon as possible and that players involved are informed.

TRAINER

DRESS

White trousers or white overalls, and EFL Trainers Association Cap must be worn. A top in club colours is acceptable.

REQUIREMENTS

- At least one, level one accredited trainer needs to be in attendance at all matches. All other trainers are required to complete a recognised senior first aid course (e.g. Sports First Aid, St Johns or Red Cross). Details regarding the qualification of trainers can be obtained from the Eastern Football League Trainers Association.
- The minimum age for trainers is 15 years of age.
- Each team is permitted to have three trainers.

DUTIES

- Attend injured players on the ground. If any injury appears to be serious, qualified medical assistance should be obtained immediately.
- Trainers are responsible for having a stretcher on the ground for each game.
- It is also recommended that the phone numbers of each player's parents or guardian are available and that any relevant medical condition of players are known.
- A trainer is not permitted to act as second runner.

WATER CARRIER

DRESS

White trousers or white overalls with a white top (or their club's windcheater/tracksuit top) must be worn. All water carriers are to wear the league approved water carrier bib.

REQUIREMENTS

- The minimum age for water carriers in the senior competition is 15 years of age.
- The minimum age for water carriers in the junior competition is 12 years of age.
- Each team is permitted to have three water carriers.

DUTIES

- The job of the water carrier is to run water out to players when they require a drink and not stay out on the ground.
- Water carriers are to be based in different parts of the ground, behind the boundary line and not at the coaches box.
- Water carriers are not permitted to act as a second runner.

RUNNER

DRESS

Fluoro yellow shirt, with the word "RUNNER" on the back and black tracksuit pants/shorts.

REQUIREMENTS

- A runner must be at least 18 years of age.
- Only one runner per team is permitted.
- In the under 9/10 competition the coach of each team is not permitted onto the ground during the match. An official runner is permitted to be used.

DUTIES

- In all matches it is their job to relay messages from coach to players.
- Runners are only permitted on the ground when actually relaying a message. They must not remain on the ground continually. Umpires can order the runner from the ground if they feel the runner is on the ground too much.

INTERCHANGE STEWARD

DRESS

Must wear the appropriate EFL armband.

REQUIREMENTS

- Each side must appoint an interchange steward at least 18 years of age.

DUTIES

- There will be two lines, 15 metres apart, marked across the boundary line at which players can be interchanged. The steward will be stationed near to the fence between the two marked lines which will be situated in a central position of each ground.
- The steward shall note all interchanges that occur during the game.
- Players shall leave and enter the playing ground through the interchange area during the match unless the player is assisted from the playing arena through injury, in which case he may be taken from the playing ground at any point. His replacement shall enter the playing ground through the interchange area and the interchange steward notified of the injured player's name and number. The replaced player must return to the playing arena by way of normal interchange.
- A player who does not leave the playing ground through the approved interchange shall not be permitted to take any further part in the match.

- When a player has been, or appears to have been so seriously injured as to prevent his being removed immediately from the playing ground, the steward may approve his being replaced prior to the injured player leaving the ground, but if a replacement shall be made pursuant to such approval, the replaced player shall take no further part in the match. The official runner or captain shall immediately inform the field umpire that the player has been so replaced.
- Players who are ordered from the field by the field umpire are to leave at the nearest possible point. Players are to report to the interchange steward for time notification. Interchange stewards are to note the time the player reported to the steward and not allow that player to resume playing until 15 minutes playing time has elapsed if applicable.
- Teams interchanging players during the intervals must advise the steward of such changes before the match recommences.
- Should the steward observe the teams being lined up for the purpose of count under the AFL “Laws of Australian Football”, he should assist the field umpire if requested.
- Breaches of any of these instructions must be noted at the bottom of the interchange form.

TIMEKEEPER

DRESS

No specific requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

- A timekeeper must be at least 18 years of age.

DUTIES

- Each side must appoint a timekeeper who is a minimum of 18 years of age.
- To keep the time of each quarter on time cards. Timekeeper cards are not required for under 9s and 10s
- To keep a record of scores for use by the controlling body in the event of the goal umpires cards not agreeing.
- To sound a bell or siren at the start and finish of each quarter.
- No time on is added in any junior competition matches.
- Refer to the timekeepers card for a detailed explanation of timekeeping procedures and guidelines.

BOUNDARY UMPIRE

DRESS

White shorts or skirt with white shirt or plain white windcheater. In junior competition white tracksuit pants may be worn on cold days only.

REQUIREMENTS

- In all under 15 to senior grade matches boundary umpires must be at least 15 years of age In all under 11 to under 14 grade matches boundary umpires must be at least the same age as the grade in which they are officiating.
- In both the under 9/10 competition boundary umpires are not required.

DUTIES

- If the field umpire determines that a boundary umpire in any match is unable to perform his or her duties competently, the field umpire shall request a replacement boundary umpire. If a competent replacement boundary umpire cannot be found the field umpire shall direct a player from the offending club to throw the ball into play.

GOAL UMPIRE

DRESS

White coat and flags

REQUIREMENTS

- All goal umpires must be at least 15 years of age.
- Goal umpires are not required in the under 9 competition.

DUTIES

- Before the match ensure details of the match have been entered on the scorecard supplied by the EFL.
- During the match stand behind goal line in line with the flight of the ball. Wait for the field umpire to give the all clear before giving decision. Both goal umpires must wave the flags for each score. Enter score on card and check scores with other goal umpire at the quarter breaks and after the match. The scorecard must be handed to the team manager after the match.
- Club supplied umpires are not permitted to barrack or comment on play. If the field umpire is of the opinion that a club supplied goal umpire is making deliberately wrong or incompetent decisions he or she may demand the offending club to replace the goal umpire before re-commencing the match.

UMPIRES ESCORT

DRESS

Must wear the official EFL bib.

REQUIREMENTS

- All umpires escorts must be at least 18 years of age.

DUTIES

- To escort all umpires from the oval (where play ends) to the umpires room at half time and at the conclusion of the game.
- Where the club is the home club, they should offer umpires cool drinks between each quarter.
- Remain in the centre of the ground with umpires during quarter time and three quarter time break.
- Umpires escort must not abuse or criticise umpires and must show courtesy at all times.

APPENDIX ONE

PERMIT COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

PERMIT COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURE

1. In the event that an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club objects to a clearance application by a player, the Chief Executive Officer shall notify the player of the objections and if requested to do so by the player, shall refer the application to the Permit Committee to be dealt with under that Committee's procedures.
2. Every player, after having been refused a clearance to play with another club within the EFL, may appeal to the Permit Committee. Any player may appeal once only in the season.
3. The appeal must be lodged within seven days of receipt of the refusal by the club to which the player seeks a clearance that such clearance has been refused. Failure to lodge an appeal within seven days will result in the player having to submit a further clearance and have such clearance refused before any appeal can be heard.
4. The appeal must be lodged by the player and NOT by the club to which he seeks a clearance. The player may indicate all his reasons for seeking a clearance to the club he wishes to compete with.
5. The player must lodge a bond of \$250.00 together with his appeal. The club refusing the clearance, if intending to defend the appeal, must also lodge a \$250.00 bond a minimum of 3 clear prior to the scheduled date of the appeal.
6. All bond monies will be repaid in whole or part at the completion of the hearing, unless the hearing is considered frivolous. Any club who fails to lodge the bond, the Committee may register the player with the club he seeks a clearance to.
7. The Chief Executive Officer shall call all parties together for the purpose of conducting a hearing not later than ten days after all bond monies and appeals have been satisfactorily lodged with the League.
8. If the player or refusing club withdraws the appeal or objection within forty-eight hours prior to the scheduled hearing, the bond of the withdrawing party may be forfeited in whole or part at the discretion of the Permit Committee.
9. The Chief Executive Officer shall inform all parties of the hearing date at which all parties shall present themselves for the appeal.
10. The player may be represented by a friend who shall not be a solicitor or barrister. The club may be represented by two members of its Committee.

PERMIT COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURE

Procedure

Any player said to be unfinancial by the refusing club shall be ineligible to appeal unless the player intends challenging his financial status.

1. The Chief Executive Officer or his assistant shall invite all parties into the appeal room and shall introduce the following:
 - (a) The Permit Committee
 - (b) The player
 - (c) The club refusing the clearance
 - (d) The club to which the player sought a clearance.
2. The Chief Executive Officer shall acquaint all Permit Committee members with all relevant facts relating to the appeal:
 - (a) Date of registration
 - (b) Date of refusal
 - (c) Date of lodgement of appeal
 - (d) Date of lodgement of bonds.
3. The Chief Executive Officer or his assistant shall read to all concerned any correspondence from the player to which the Permit Committee Chairman will invite the player to add any further comments.
4. If any player claims to derive the whole or part of his livelihood from playing football, he shall produce to the Permit Committee proof of all matter relevant to deriving his livelihood.
5. The Permit Committee Chairman may question the player and may, at his discretion, invite the Permit Committee members to question the player at their convenience.
6. The Permit Committee Chairman shall invite the club refusing the clearance to give reasons why registration should not be permitted. At this time, the club refusing the clearance may rebut any statements of the player.
7. The Permit Committee Chairman, at his discretion, may question the club refusing the clearance and may invite members of the Permit Committee to further question the club refusing the clearance. Points of clarification may, at this time, be invited by the Permit Committee Chairman and/or the player or the club refusing the clearance.
8. The club to which the player seeks a registration shall be invited to address the Appeal Committee at which time the Permit Committee Chairman, Committee, player and club refusing the clearance may ask questions of the club to which the player seeks a clearance.

9. The Permit Committee Chairman shall invite all parties to raise final points and final questions before asking the player to summarise his case thereby closing the appeal.
10. The Permit Committee Chairman shall direct all parties to retire while the Permit Committee considers the appeal.
11. The Chief Executive Officer shall invite all parties to return and the Permit Committee Chairman shall make the following statement:

"On the evidence presented here tonight, the decision of the Permit Committee has been to..."

No discussions will take place after the appeal and all parties should leave quietly.

APPENDIX TWO

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

GUIDELINES:

1. A player or an official who has been reported by an approved umpire of a match controlled or authorised by the EFL, concerning the conduct of the player or an official before, during or after the match, must appear before the Independent Tribunal on the Tuesday night following the match, at the EFL offices, 256 Scoresby Road, Boronia at a nominated time.
2. All witnesses and infringed players notified of the report must also appear on the evening at the same time as nominated.
3. All reported players, officials and witnesses **MUST** be represented by an advocate who must be an official of the club, and shall not be a qualified solicitor or barrister.
4. The usage of, and production of video evidence at Tribunal Hearings and/or League Inquiries shall be permissible if such video evidence is forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer by no later than 5.00 pm on the Monday immediately following the game in question.

The Chief Executive Officer, or his appointee, will determine whether such video evidence is permissible as evidence at the tribunal.

The EFL will retain all video evidence for future reference. Under no circumstances will any video be returned. All decisions by the Chief Executive Officer or his appointee are final and no correspondence, whether verbal or written, will be considered regarding these decisions.

Any club given permission to use video evidence at the tribunal may be required to provide a television monitor and video cassette recorder (which has a slow motion facility) for the tribunal hearing.

PROCEDURE AT HEARING:

1. The Tribunal will call the following:
 - (a) The reported player's or official's name first and their advocate.
 - (b) Witnesses and advocate (if necessary)
 - (c) The umpire making the report and his advocate.
2. If an advocate intends calling any other witnesses during the hearing, then it is his responsibility to advise the Tribunal Chairman before the commencement of the case. Similarly, if an advocate intends challenging the validity of a report then it is his responsibility to also advise the Tribunal Chairman before the hearing commences.
3. A reported player or official will be asked to stand whilst the Tribunal Secretary reads the charge. The procedure is as follows:

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: "Are you player?"

PLAYER:gives his reply.

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: "On(date) you participated in the game-vs-, Division ..., Grade ..., Game and wore number guernsey for(team)?"

PLAYER:gives his reply.

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY: "You are charged with - (charge is read). How do you plead?"

PLAYER:delivers his plea - (Guilty / Not Guilty).

TRIBUNAL SECRETARY:advises the Tribunal of the player's or official's plea.

If video evidence has been approved in accordance with the guidelines, it will be viewed by the Tribunal prior to any evidence other being given. All parties shall remain while the video evidence is being viewed.

4. At this time the witness is requested to leave whilst evidence is taken from the umpire and the player.
5. The umpire, reported player, his advocate and the witness's advocate are present at all times.
6. The umpire is asked to deliver his version of the incident and is questioned at length by the Tribunal.
7. The advocates are then invited to question the umpire, if they desire.
8. The reported player then gives his evidence in front of the umpire and may be questioned by the Tribunal and both advocates. The umpire may ask questions, at the discretion of the Tribunal Chairman.
9. After the Tribunal Chairman has satisfied himself that all evidence from the reported player or official and the umpire has been collected, the witness will be recalled to the Tribunal Room.

At this time no further evidence from either the umpire or the reported player or official will be accepted.

10. The witness will be asked to give his version of the incident and will be questioned by the Tribunal. Both advocates will be entitled to question the witness.
11. At this time any witnesses that the player or official may have for their defence should be called. After giving evidence and being questioned by the Tribunal they will be asked to retire and not speak to other witnesses.
12. The Tribunal Chairman will then invite the advocate of the reported player or official to sum up the evidence and speak on the behalf of the player or official.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

13. The Tribunal will ask the parties to retire and when a decision has been reached the umpire, reported player or official and advocate will be invited back to the Tribunal and the decision advised. Thus:

"After hearing all evidence, the Tribunal has found"

The result of the case will also be delivered in writing through a penalty notification form.

Note:

If players or officials who do not attend the Tribunal when requested, the Tribunal may:-

- (a) Suspend the player or official until he appears.
- (b) Hear the case in their absence.
- (c) Impose a fine and/or suspension.

The above applies also to witnesses who do not appear.

Clubs who do not supply an advocate may be fined by the Tribunal.

Players, who in the opinion of the Tribunal, have delivered unsatisfactory evidence to the hearing can, and will, be dealt with at the discretion of the Tribunal by fine and / or suspension.

APPENDIX THREE

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

1. The Chief Executive Officer or his representative, on the night of the investigation, shall invite all parties into the committee room and shall:
 - (a) Introduce the Grievance Committee
 - (b) Introduce the complainant
 - (c) Introduce the respondent
 - (d) Introduce any other persons involved (i.e. Umpires and witnesses).
2. The Chairman shall invite the complainant to state his/their grievance detailing all relevant information. The Chairman, at his discretion, may question the complainant and invite the Committee to do so.
3. The Chairman shall ask the respondent to state his/their case detailing all relevant information to the grievance and may rebut any allegations by the complainant. The Chairman, at his discretion, may question the respondent and may invite the Committee to do so.
4. After the complainant and respondent have stated their respective cases they may, if they wish, call any witnesses to appear before the Committee. In this regard, no hearsay evidence by witnesses will be accepted.
5. After evidence by all concerned has been delivered, the Chairman may open the hearing for general questions at which all parties may question the other or seek points of clarification. At all times questions must be directed through the Chairman, who may allow or disallow the questions.
6. After all questioning, in the opinion of the Chairman, has been satisfied the Chairman shall ask the parties to summarise their respective cases and invite all parties to retire at the convenience of the Committee.
7. Upon re-entering, the Grievance Committee Chairman will indicate the decision as determined by the Committee.

"On the evidence presented to the Committee, the decision is as follows....."

All parties must then leave quietly.

APPENDIX FOUR
GROUND INSPECTION REPORT



EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

GROUND INSPECTION REPORT

DATE REPORT COMPLETED: _____

CLUB: _____ **VS** _____

LOCATION: _____

YES NO

GOAL AREA

' ' *Is the goal post padding present?*

Is the padding:

' ' at least 25 mm thick and in good condition?

' ' made from impact absorbing material?

' ' Are all goal and behind posts secure?

Section 1.01 CRICKET PITCH AREA

' ' *Is there sufficient soil covering the pitch where required?*

' ' Is synthetic covering for the pitch in good condition and properly secured?

' ' Is there a smooth surface created by the grading of the pitch edge?

' ' Is the turf wicket sufficiently watered to soften surface?

' ' Does the turf have grass cover to soften the surface?

BOUNDARY AREA

' ' Is the boundary line at least three (3) metres from any fence or other hazard?

' ' Are all drains properly covered by grates?

' ' Is there any wire or other material protruding from any fence?

' ' Is there any wire or other material protruding from any signage?

' ' Has appropriate material been used for all ground markings?

SPRINKLERS

- ' ' Are any sprinkler heads protruding?
- ' ' Are rubber protective covers in place on all sprinkler heads?
- ' ' Have any potholes surrounding sprinklers been adequately filled?

PLAYING SURFACE

- ' ' Have all potholes been adequately filled?
- ' ' Are all drainage trenches adequately filled?
- ' ' Is the surface even?
- ' ' Is the surface clear of debris/garbage i.e. cans, rocks, bottles etc?
- ' ' Has the ground been prepared correctly for an Australian Rules football match?

I, the undersigned, have undertaken the above inspection and will advise the Eastern Football League of any risk issues arising from the inspection by not later than 10.00 am on the Friday immediately preceding the home game indicated above.

Signature

Print Name

This form must be completed by the home club within 48 hours prior to the commencement of an official Eastern Football League match.

A copy of the form must be completed for each home game and retained on file by the home club for SIX (6) years. The form must be provided upon the request of the Eastern Football League.

APPENDIX FIVE
PRIVACY POLICY

EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE PRIVACY POLICY

1. Collecting your personal information

When you apply for clearance to play for a club affiliated with the Eastern Football League Inc. ("League") in competition(s) organised by the League, it is necessary that you supply us with sufficient information to enable us to process your application for clearance to play in the League's competitions, and to register you as a member of the League. The information we collect from you is the information set out on the clearance and registration form, which includes, for example, your name, address, date of birth, gender and playing history.

We collect this information in order to process your application. If you do not provide us with part or all of this information, then your application may be delayed or refused.

We also compile statistics of your playing history with the League, including the number of games you have played, with which club(s) you have played those games, and the number of times a suspension has been imposed upon you in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of the League.

We collect these statistics in order to properly administer the League, and to implement the Rules and By-Laws effectively.

2. Our use and disclosure of your personal information

We collect your personal information for the primary purpose of maintaining an accurate and up to date database of all players cleared and registered to play for clubs affiliated with the League in competitions organised by the League.

We may disclose your personal information without seeking your consent in the following circumstances:

- If we are required to do so by law;
- If we believe it is necessary to do so in order to provide you with a service you have requested;
- To implement our Statement of Rules and Statement of By-Laws;
- To protect the rights and property of the League, any club affiliated with the League, any member of the League, or a member of the public; or
- To lessen a serious and imminent threat to a person's life, health or safety or a serious threat to public health or public safety.

Additionally, we may disclose your personal information, with your consent, in the following circumstances:

- We may disclose your information to other leagues;
- We may disclose your personal information to Football Victoria;
- We may disclose your personal information to third parties who may notify you of certain events and other information;

- We may notify you of events and information which we consider, in good faith, potentially of value to you; or
- We may notify you of changes to our Statement of Rules, our Statement of By-Laws, or our web site.

For the purposes of the above, we assume that you consent to such disclosure, unless you advise us that you wish to withdraw your consent in the manner set out below.

You may withdraw your consent at anytime by emailing us at [insert address], providing us with sufficient information to allow us to identify you and notify us that you withdraw your consent to such disclosure. Please allow two (2) business days for your request to be processed.

Your withdrawal will not prejudice your membership of the League.

Please note that in the above situations, we will ensure that such use and/or disclosure is strictly for the purposes set out above. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the third parties to whom your personal information is disclosed to keep your personal information private and confidential. If you decide to withdraw your consent, we will take all reasonable steps necessary to recover your personal information from these third parties.

3. Storage and security of your personal information

The League will take all reasonable steps to secure and keep secure your personal information, and to ensure that your personal information is accurate and up to date.

Further, the League requires its employees, agents and contractors maintain the confidentiality of any personal information disclosed to them in the course of carrying out their tasks. However, the League will not be responsible for events arising from any unauthorised use, disclosure or access to your personal information.

4. Your access to your personal information

You may request access to your personal information that the League holds about you. Subject to the following exceptions, we will endeavour to grant your request within two (2) business days, or as soon as possible thereafter.

We reserve the right to deny your request for access to your personal information for the reasons listed in the National Privacy Policy 6, including the following:

- Providing access would pose a serious and imminent threat to the life or health of any individual;
- Providing access would have an unreasonable impact upon the privacy of other individuals;
- The request for access is frivolous or vexatious;
- Providing access would be unlawful;
- Denying access is required or authorised by or under law;
- Providing access would be likely to prejudice an investigation of possible unlawful activity; or

- Providing access would be likely to prejudice the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of criminal offences, breaches of a law imposing a penalty or sanction, or breached of prescribed law by or on behalf of an enforcement body.

5. Your feedback

We appreciate your feedback on the protection of the privacy of your personal information. You can contact us in relation to our privacy policy at the following email address [insert email address].

We will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of your information. However, if you become aware that your personal information has been used or disclosed in a manner that does not comply with the terms of this privacy policy and without your consent, please email us at [insert email address] and we will respond to your query or complaint as soon as possible.

6. Changes to this privacy policy

We reserve the right to change this privacy policy as and when our business requirements change and/or amendments to the law in Australia require us to do so. Any changes to this privacy policy will be posted to this web site, so we urge you to visit this site regularly to ensure that you are made aware of the most up to date privacy policy of the League.

APPENDIX SIX
MEDIATION AGREEMENT

MEDIATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

AND

(“the Parties”)

AND

(“the Mediator”)

RECITALS

- A. A dispute, as briefly set out in Item 1 of the Schedule, has arisen between the Parties (“**Dispute**”).
- B. Pursuant to Rule 7 of the Statement of Rules of the Eastern Football League Inc. (“**EFL**”), either or both of the Parties have requested the EFL mediate the Dispute.
- C. Pursuant to its Statement of Rules, the EFL has nominated the Mediator to conduct the mediation of the Dispute, and delegates the power of the EFL to mediate the Dispute to the Mediator.
- D. The Mediator has agreed, on the terms and conditions of this Agreement, to assist the Parties in their attempt to resolve the Dispute.

IT IS AGREED

1 Nomination of Mediator

- 1.1 In accordance with the Statement of Rules and the By-Laws, either or both of the Parties have approached the EFL to mediate the Dispute.
- 1.2 Acting pursuant to its Statement of Rules, the EFL nominates the Mediator to conduct the mediation pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 1.3 The Parties accept the nomination of the Mediator by the EFL to mediate the Dispute in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2 Functions of the Mediator

- 2.1 The Mediator will be neutral and impartial.
- 2.2 The Mediator will assist the Parties to identify the issues between them and to explore options for and, if possible to achieve, the expeditious resolution of the Dispute by agreement between them.
- 2.3 The Mediator would not advise a Party, nor make any decision for, nor impose any solution on the Parties.
- 2.4 The Mediator will not give legal or professional advice to any of the Parties.
- 2.5 The Mediator will have sole control of the Mediation at all times and may, at his absolute and unfettered discretion, throughout the Mediation determine when the Mediator may meet with the Parties, either together or separately.

3 Commitment to Mediation

- 3.1 The Parties agree to participate in the Mediation.
- 3.2 The Parties each agree to cooperate with the Mediator and with the other Parties with a commitment to negotiating towards a resolution of the Dispute.
- 3.3 The Parties acknowledge each other's right to be heard and agree to behave courteously and appropriately during the Mediation.
- 3.4 Each of the Parties will comply with all reasonable requests made by the Mediator that are intended to promote the efficient and expeditious resolution of the Dispute.

4 Conflict of Interest

- 4.1 Prior to the commencement of the Mediation, the Mediator must disclose to the EFL and to the Parties to the best of the Mediator's knowledge and prior dealings with any of the Parties as well as any interest in the Dispute.
- 4.2 If during the course of the Mediation the Mediator becomes aware of any circumstances that may adversely affect the Mediator's capacity to act neutrally and impartially, the Mediator must cease to act as mediator unless the situation permits the Mediator to inform the Parties of those circumstances and the Parties agree that the Mediator may continue to mediate the Dispute.

5 Preparation for Mediation

- 5.1 No later than four (4) days before the date set for Mediation, or at such other time as determined by the Mediator and made known to the Parties, each of the Parties must submit to the Mediator via the EFL a short statement in writing that briefly outlines that Party's position.

- 5.2 No later than two (2) days before the date set for Mediation, or at such other time as determined by the Mediator and made known to the Parties, each of the Parties must submit to the Mediator via the EFL those documents (or copies thereof) each of the Parties intends to rely upon during Mediation.

6 Location and Time of the Mediation

The Mediation will be conducted at the venue specified in Item 2 of the Schedule, at a date and time specified in Item 3 of the Schedule.

7 Confidentiality and Privilege

- 7.1 The Mediator and the Parties agree to keep confidential all information and documents concerning the Dispute which are disclosed during the course of the Mediation. Any disclosures, exchanges and all aspects of any communication occurring within the Mediation shall be "without prejudice".

- 7.2 Any information disclosed or furnished by a Party to the Mediator on a confidential basis will be kept confidential by the Mediator and will not be disclosed by the Mediator to any of the other Parties save with the consent of the Party who furnished such information.

- 7.3 Subject to clause 11, in any judicial proceedings, the following will at all times be kept confidential and will remain privileged, and the Parties and the Mediator will not disclose nor rely upon them nor issue nor cause to be issued any subpoena to give evidence or to produce documents concerning them:

7.3.1 any settlement proposal;

7.3.2 the willingness of a Party to consider any such proposal;

7.3.3 any statement, admission or concession made by any of the Parties;

7.3.4 any statement or document made by the Mediator;

7.3.5 any views expressed, suggestions made or exchanges passing (whether written or oral) between any of the Parties and the Mediator or between the Parties themselves; and

7.3.6 any document brought into existence for the sole purpose of the Mediation.

8 Authority to Settle

- 8.1 If a Party is a natural person, he or she shall attend the Mediation or have present at the Mediation a representative with full authority to negotiate and settle the Dispute and to make an agreement binding upon that Party.

- 8.2 If a Party is not a natural person (such as an incorporated association or a corporation), that Party shall be represented at the Mediation by an officer or other person who has full authority to negotiate and make a binding settlement on behalf of that Party.

9 Representation at the Mediation

- 9.1 At the Mediation, each Party may have one or more other persons, excluding legally qualified persons, to assist and advise the Party.
- 9.2 Such other person must, prior to becoming involved in the Mediation, sign a third party confidentiality agreement in the form annexed to this Agreement.

10 Settlement Agreement

In the event that the Dispute is settled during the Mediation, the terms of the settlement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Parties, or their authorised representatives, and the Mediator prior to the end of the Mediation (“**Settlement Agreement**”).

11 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement

- 11.1 Any Party will be at liberty to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement by judicial proceedings.
- 11.2 Any Party will be at liberty in such enforcement proceedings to adduce evidence of and incidental to the Settlement Agreement including evidence from the Mediator and any other person involved in the Mediation.
- 11.3 The Mediator will not accept appointment as an adviser to or advocate on behalf of any of the Parties in any proceedings in relation to the enforcement of a Settlement Agreement or in relation to the Dispute.
- 11.4 The Parties will not do anything that may cause the Mediator to breach the Mediator’s obligations under clause 11.3.

12 Exclusion of Liability; Indemnity

- 12.1 To the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the EFL nor the Mediator will be liable to any Party for any act or omission in the performance by the Mediator of the Mediator’s obligations under this Agreement unless the act or omission is fraudulent.
- 12.2 To the extent that such liability cannot be excluded under law, the EFL’s liability to each of the Parties shall be limited, at the option of the EFL, to either of the following:
- 12.2.1 In the case of the supply of services:
- (a) supplying the services again, or
 - (b) the payment of the cost of having the services supplied again.

12.2.2 In the case of the supply of goods, any one or more of the following:

- (a) the replacement of the goods or the supply of equivalent goods; or
- (b) the repair of the goods; or
- (c) the payment of the cost of replacing the goods or of acquiring equivalent goods; or
- (d) the payment of the cost of having the goods repaired.

12.3 Each Party, together and separately, indemnifies and keeps the Mediator and the EFL indemnified against any and all claims made by that Party or anyone claiming under or through that Party, arising out of or in any way referable to any act or omission by the Mediator in the performance or purported performance by the Mediator of the Mediator's obligations under this Agreement, unless the act or omission fraudulent.

13 Mediation Costs and Expenses

- 13.1 The costs and expenses of the Mediation are set out in Item 4 of the Schedule ("**Costs**").
- 13.2 Irrespective of the outcome of the Mediation, each Party agrees to pay one half of the Costs.
- 13.3 Each Party will bear its own costs and expenses of the Mediation.
- 13.4 The Parties agree that none of the Costs will be costs recoverable as part of the party/party costs of any judicial proceedings relating to the Dispute and/or the enforcement of the Settlement Agreement.

14 Termination of the Mediation

- 14.1 The Mediator may terminate the Mediator's involvement in the Mediation if, after consultation with the Parties, the Mediator draws the conclusion that the Mediator is unable to assist the Parties to achieve resolution of the Dispute. Upon the termination of the Mediator's involvement in the Mediation, this Mediation shall be terminated with immediate effect.
- 14.2 The execution of a Settlement Agreement by both Parties and the Mediator pursuant to clause 10 above shall be deemed to terminate this Mediation Agreement with immediate effect.
- 14.3 Any Party may terminate the Mediation at any time, after due and proper consultation with the Mediator.
- 14.4 The Mediator shall report the outcome of the Mediation to the Chief Executive Officer of the EFL, but shall not except with the express written permission of each of the Parties, disclose any terms of Settlement Agreement.

15 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

14.5 The terms of this Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the law of Victoria and Australia, and are subject to the provisions of any legislation that may be applicable to or govern the mediation, and in the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of the legislation will prevail.

14.6 The Parties and the Mediator on behalf of the EFL hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the State of Victoria (including the Victorian registry of the Federal Court of Australia) and all courts competent to hear appeals from those Courts.

EXECUTED AS AN AGREEMENT

SIGNED for and on behalf of)
[])
by its duly authorised representative in the)
presence of:)

.....
Signature of witness

.....
Signature of authorised representative

.....
Name of witness (block letters)
letters)

.....
Name of authorised representative (block
letters)

SIGNED by [])
in the presence of:)

.....
Signature of []

.....
Signature of witness

.....
Name of witness (block letters)

SIGNED by [])
in the presence of:)

.....
Signature of []

.....
Signature of witness

.....
Name of witness (block letters)

SCHEDULE

ITEM 1: Description of Dispute

[]

ITEM 2: Location of the Mediation

The Mediation shall be conducted at EFL House, 256 Scoresby Road, Boronia, Victoria.

ITEM 3: Time of the Mediation

The Mediation shall commence at [] on [], 20[].

ITEM 4: Costs of the Mediation

The costs of the mediation are as follows:

CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

[]

AND

[]

(“the Parties”)

AND

[]

(“the Mediator”)

have entered into a Mediation Agreement dated 20 in accordance with which the Mediator will conduct a Mediation.

1. The undersigned acknowledge by their signatures that they attend the mediation on the basis of their understanding and agreement to the terms of clauses 2 and 3, below.
2. Each of the undersigned undertakes to the Parties and to the Mediator:
 - 2.1 to keep confidential to themselves all information disclosed during the Mediation including the preliminary steps in the Mediation (“**confidential information**”);
 - 2.2 not to act contrary to the undertaking in clause 2.1 unless compelled to do so by law or with the consent of the Party who disclosed the confidential information;
 - 2.3 not to use confidential information for a purpose other than the Mediation.
3. Each of the undersigned undertakes to the Parties and the Mediator that the following will be privileged and will not be disclosed in or relied upon or be the subject of any subpoena to give evidence or produce documents in any judicial proceeding between the Parties:
 - 3.1 any settlement proposal;
 - 3.2 the willingness of a Party to consider any such proposal;
 - 3.3 any statement, admission or concession made by a Party;
 - 3.4 any statement or document made by the Mediator;
 - 3.5 any views expressed, suggestions made or exchanges passing (whether written or oral) between any of the Parties and the Mediator or between the Parties themselves; and
 - 3.6 any document brought into existence for the sole purpose of the Mediation.

SIGNED by)
.....

in the presence of:) Signature of

.....
Signature of witness

.....
Name of witness (block letters)

SIGNED by)
in the presence of:) Signature of

.....
Signature of witness

.....
Name of witness (block letters)

SIGNED by)
in the presence of:) Signature of

.....
Signature of witness

.....
Name of witness (block letters)