# HDFNL

# BY-LAWS

Revised and adopted 08/12/2025

# Contents


1. **Powers of the Board** ..... 4
2. **Meetings** ..... 4
3. **Club Documents** ..... 5
4. **Authorised League Passes** ..... 5
5. **Clubs** ..... 5
6. **League Competitions** ..... 6
7. **Admission** ..... 7
8. **Fixture** ..... 7
9. **Other Matches** ..... 7
10. **League Sanctioned Functions/Events** ..... 7
11. **HDFNL Record** ..... 8
12. **Media – all platforms** ..... 8
13. **Child Safety Policies** ..... 8
14. **Premiership Points and Percentage** ..... 8
16. **Grievances – refer to Constitution clause # 35** ..... 10
17. **Finals Format** ..... 10
18. **Finals Venues** ..... 11
19. **Reporting Misconduct** ..... 11
20. **Codes of Behaviour** ..... 11
21. **Conduct** ..... 11
22. **Fines** ..... 12
23. **Investigations - Football** ..... 12
24. **Investigations - Netball** ..... 13
25. **Working with Children's Checks** ..... 13
26. **Game Day checklist** ..... 13
27. **Awards-** ..... 14
28. **On Field Communication Devices** ..... 17
29. **Team Lists** ..... 17
30. **League Representative Teams** ..... 17
31. **Football Coordinator** ..... 18
32. **Players** ..... 18
33. **Permits** ..... 19
34. **Area Permits** ..... 19

35. **Coaches** ..... 19
36. **Team Managers** ..... 19
37. **Trainers / Runners / Water Carriers** ..... 19
38. **Interchange Steward** ..... 20
39. **Umpires - Field, Boundary & Goal** ..... 20
40. **Footballs** ..... 21
41. **Player Uniforms** ..... 22
42. **Game Times** ..... 22
43. **Teams** ..... 23
44. **Mercy Rule for Under 17 and Under 14 Football** ..... 28
45. **Timekeepers** ..... 29
46. **Finals** ..... 30
47. **Finals Eligibility** ..... 30
48. **Independent Tribunal** ..... 31
49. **Ground Lighting** ..... 31
50. **Netball Coordinator/Director** ..... 32
51. **Players** ..... 32
52. **Finals Eligibility** ..... 33
53. **Player Clearances** ..... 34
54. **Coaches** ..... 34
55. **Team Managers / Primary Carers – refer 'World Netball rule 3, #14 & 15'** ..... 34
56. **Umpires – refer 'World Netball rule 4 to 5 #2'** ..... 34
57. **Netballs** ..... 35
58. **Player Uniforms – As per 'World Netball rule 3, #9'** ..... 35
59. **Game Times** ..... 36
60. **Playing Conditions** ..... 38
61. **Scorers / Timekeepers** ..... 38
62. **Finals** ..... 39
63. **League Representative Teams** ..... 39
64. **Rolling subs** ..... 40

# SECTION 1 – General By-Laws

***The following By–Laws shall be read in general across all grades of football and netball competitions.***

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the:

Horsham District Football Netball League Constitution

Laws of Australian Football

AFL Victoria Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL VICTORIA Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL VICTORIA after the printing of the AFL VICTORIA Handbook

World Netball Rules & Netball Australia Rules

Netball Victoria Affiliate Policies & Fact Sheets

## 1. Powers of the Board

1.1 The Board shall have entire control and management of all League games, appoint all necessary officials and employees, and may do other acts and deeds which it considers conducive to the interests of the games of football and netball.

1.2 The Board shall make all decisions on any case arising which is not provided for in the HDFNL By-Laws.

1.3 No additions or changes to By-laws are to be made without majority vote of eligible clubs and board members at a general or special meeting.

1.4 The Board shall appoint a League Administrator. The League Administrator shall carry out all directions given by the Board and shall keep all necessary records in accordance with the Constitution and the By-Laws of the League.

1.5 The Board shall appoint an Independent Investigation Officer. The Independent Investigation Officer shall carry out any investigation that has been referred by the Board. All directions given by the Board and all necessary records in accordance with the Constitution and the By-Laws will be retained by the League Administrator.

1.6 As per the Wimmera District Football Netball Association Constitution the HDFNL Board executive of the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary shall be appointed as representatives to the Wimmera District Football Netball Association board (WDFNA). The board shall liaise with clubs regarding appropriate matters as required.

## 2. Meetings

2.1 ***Annual General Meetings-*** refer to Constitutions Part 4 #30

2.2 ***Special General Meetings-*** refer to Constitutions Part 4 #32

2.3 ***Meetings Information-*** refer to Constitution Part 4 #33 to #41

2.4 ***Meetings-*** The board shall call a delegates meeting at a date and time of their choosing. Delegates meetings are for information sharing and purposes. Member clubs are expected to be represented at these meetings by members of their committee.

2.5 Meetings shall be minuted as required.

## 3. Club Documents

3.1 Each club secretary shall provide, by the 15th of January each year, the list of the club's office bearers elected at the AGM.

## 4. Authorised League Passes

4.1 The following passes shall be distributed by the league for the Home and Away Season.

- Life Members & Board Members
- League Partners/Sponsors
- 4 Club Passes to each club
- Any official football and netball umpires appointed for that day
- Any Individual Season Pass as determined by the Board.

4.2 Authorised League Pass for finals games shall be distributed by the Board at their discretion.

## 5. Clubs

5.1 Each club within the league during the previous season shall be deemed to be an affiliate of the league for the following season subject to payment of such affiliation fees due as per *Rule 4* of the *HDFNL Constitution*.

5.2 Each club shall register its playing uniform prior to 28th of February of the current season.

5.3 The board must approve all uniform colours and designs.

5.4 Clubs must notify in writing of any proposed changes to their playing uniform prior to 15th of January of the current season.

5.5 Clubs may submit applications for special occasion apparel with the Board, providing no less than 28 calendar days' notice.

5.6 The board must approve all changes to the club's uniform.

5.7 All players are to be in the approved uniform by the first match of the season. Should approved uniforms not be ready, approval from the board must be given for an agreed interim uniform.

5.8 The club of all players not in the approved uniform by the first match of the season and who have not received approval from the board for an agreed interim uniform may incur a fine set at the discretion of the HDFNL Executive.

5.9 The club of all players not in the approved uniform by the first game of the season and who have not received approval from the board for an agreed interim uniform may incur a fine of $100.

5.10 The clubs of the league shall be:

- Edenhope Apsley Football Netball Club Inc
- Harrow Balmoral Football Netball Club Inc
- Kalkee Football Netball Club Inc
- Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club
- Laharum Football Netball Club Inc
- Natimuk United Football Netball Club Inc
- Noradjuha Quantong Football Netball Club Inc
- Pimpinio Football Netball Club Inc
- Rupanyup Football Netball Club Inc
- Swifts Football Netball Club Inc
- Taylors Lake Football Netball Club Inc

## 6. League Competitions

6.1 The HDFNL shall run a single competition that comprises football and netball in both senior and junior grades.

6.2 In football grades a player's age is determined as at 1st January of that year.

6.3 In netball grades a player's age is determined as at the 31st of December of that year.

6.4 Football grades shall be Senior, Reserves, Under 17s, Under 14s, Under 11s, Under 8s

6.5 Netball grades shall be A Grade, B Grade, C Grade, C Reserve, 17 & Under, 15 & Under and 13 & Under.

6.6 All clubs shall enter teams into all grades from the higher grade down. The HDFNL reserves the right to review the position of any club or clubs in the league and to make decisions to include or exclude a team from entering the competition at their discretion.

6.6.1 Junior players are required to register by 24 February. Any club with insufficient player numbers by the cut-off date will be required to meet with the Board to discuss the viability of entering a team.

## 7. Admission

7.1 All Admission fees will be set at a Delegates meeting prior to the beginning of a season.

7.2 Admission fees shall be paid upon entry to all League games.

7.3 Admission fees shall be retained by the Home club for Home and Away games and the League will retain all admission fees for finals games.

## 8. Fixture

8.1 The administration shall complete the fixture for each season for both the senior and junior competition. Each club shall be entitled to make a submission to the league on issues to be taken into consideration, although no guarantee is made. Such submission should be received by the board no later than the 31st of August. The fixture shall be approved at the Annual General Meeting of the current season, for the forthcoming season.

## 9. Other Matches

9.1 No club shall, without the prior approval of the Board engage in any match other than the approved fixture for each season. Any club wishing to take part in any other competition that is not within the approved fixture for each season, must provide written notice fourteen (14) days prior to the match taking place with the League seeking the Boards approval.

## 10. League Sanctioned Functions/Events

10.1 It is Compulsory that all HDFNL Affiliated Clubs attend and or participate in all sanctioned League Functions or Events as determined by the HDFNL Board and as advised to all Clubs. This is related to any official event or a sponsored event. Nonparticipation by a Club without a valid reason will incur a fine of $100.

## 11. HDFNL Record

11.1 The HDFNL will produce a match day record for each round. This will be in both a digital and physical form.

11.2 Each home club will be allocated 50 physical records for distribution at all games during the home and away season.

11.3 Each club shall make its own arrangements to collect their allocated records.

11.4 Clubs can request more than their allocated HDFNL records for any game, provided that notice is given to the League fourteen (14) days prior to the game day. These extra copies will be at the club's cost.

## 12. Media – all platforms

12.1 Any league registered player or official found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards the League's Board, AFL Victoria County, AFL Wimmera Mallee or its employees, Netball Victoria, Wimmera and District Umpires Group, league netball panel umpires, clubs, teams or players will be investigated by the League.

Social Media - Toyota AFL Club Help - AFL.com.au

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - Netball Australia

12.2 The Board shall decide the appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to the fine being given.

12.3 If found that the comments are inappropriate, the Board shall have the power to decide on the penalty that the offending party is given.

## 13. Child Safety Policies

13.1 The Horsham District Football Netball League and its affiliated clubs shall know and adhere to the AFL Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy for both football and netball.

**Safeguarding-Children-and-Young-People-Policy-version-dated-05032021-.pdf (afl.com.au)**

## 14. Premiership Points and Percentage

14.1 In all home and away matches, the following shall apply in all competitions played as per By-Law 7:

- Four (4) points shall be awarded for a win
- Two (2) points shall be awarded for a draw

· Zero (0) points shall be awarded for a loss

· Four (4) points shall be awarded for a forfeit

- In football the score shall be recorded as 0 points to the side that forfeited and 60 points for the opposition
- In netball the score shall be recorded as 0 goals to the side that forfeited and 40 goals for the opposition

14.2 In football, where a team does not field a side after round 1, for that season the opposing side shall receive 4 ladder points and a score of 30 points.

14.3 In netball, where a team does not field a side after round 1, for that season the opposing side shall receive 4 ladder points and a score of 10 points.

14.4 In the event of Clubs having equal points at the end of the home & away season, the position of Clubs shall be determined by the percentage equated from points for and against of games played by each Club.

14.5 Percentage shall be calculated as points scored for v's points scored against in all Home and Away games.

14.6 In the event any grade has an uneven number of teams and/or games played, the league may at its discretion use a Match Ratio Ladder where current ladder points are divided by the number of matches played.

14.7 If the match ratio is instigated for the grade, for that season, this will be determined prior to round 1. The match ratio calculation will be calculated as per the HDFNL preferred online management system.

14.8 **FORFEITS**

14.8.1 If a team wishes to forfeit, the club executive must notify the Horsham District Football Netball League Operations Manager and the opposing netball or football director/s in writing, by 12pm Friday of that round prior to the scheduled starting time.

14.8.2 The following fines for a forfeit will apply for the senior football and senior netball grades:

Teams forfeiting will pay a penalty of:
$200 for First Forfeit
$300 for Second Forfeit
$400 for Third Forfeit

14.8.3 If a team forfeits and fails to notify authorities an additional $100 fine per team, plus all umpire's costs will be imposed.

14.8.4 A team may submit a score sheet on the day of a scheduled game in the case where the opposing registered team forfeits. A team can name a maximum of 12 netball players on a score sheet, and 26, 22, 20, 21 football players in Under 14s,

Under 17s, Reserves and seniors respectively where a forfeit applies which will count as a game played for all listed players when determining finals eligibility.

14.8.5 The penalty will be divided in half; half going to the club who receives the forfeit and half being accumulated by the Board.

## 15. Game Day Results

15.1 The home club is responsible for entering each game result correctly into HDFNL preferred online management system by 5:30pm game day.

15.2 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that all game day paperwork be sealed in the league game day envelope and delivered to the league's office by 4pm on the Monday following the game and must include:

- Official League Scoresheet, including goal scores
- Best Players (recorded on official scoresheet)
  - Football best players 1 to 6 for each team
  - Netball best players 1 & 2 for each team
- Best and Fairest vote cards
- Best Opposition player vote cards (Senior Football and A Grade Netball only)
- Signed league timekeepers' card (Football only)
- Signed league goal umpires' card (Football only)
- Blue Ribbon Award sheet (Under 17 Football and 17 & Under Netball only)

15.3 Should the home club not deliver the game day envelope to the league's office by 10am on the Monday following the game or be missing game day paperwork as required they shall incur a fine of $100.

## 16. Grievances – refer to Constitution clause # 35

## 17. Finals Format

17.1 17. Finals Format
17.1 Clubs positioned 1 to 5 on the league ladder shall play in the league's finals.
17.2 The leagues finals fixture shall be:

Week 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | 2 v 3 | Qualifying Final |
| B | 4 v 5 | Elimination Final |

Week 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| C | 1 v Winner A | 2nd Semi Final |
| D | Loser A vs Winner B | 1st Semi final |

Week 3

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| E | Loser C v Winner D | Preliminary Final |

Week 4

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| F | Winner c v Winner E | Grand Final |

## 18. Finals Venues

18.1 Elimination, Semi, Preliminary and Grand Finals venues shall be selected at the discretion of the HDFNL Board.

18.2 Elimination, Semi, Preliminary Finals shall be catered for by the host club.

18.3 Clubs shall be selected to cater for the Grand Final at the discretion of the board.

## 19. Reporting Misconduct

19.1 No official, player, member of the League or member of a Club shall, on the day of a game;

19.1.1 Use abusive, threatening or insulting language to League Members, Club Officials, Umpires, Players or the General Public.

19.1.2 Interfere with or assault any league Members, Club Officials, Umpires, Players or the General Public.

19.1.3 Be guilty of any conduct which is detrimental to the best interests of Australian Football and Netball.

19.1.4 Take, keep, swap, destroy, steal or dispose of in any manner any property of the League.

19.1.5 Refuse or neglect to observe or comply with the Rules and /or By-Laws of the League.

19.2 All reports, accusations, objections and complaints shall follow the ***Investigations*** sections of these By-Laws.

## 20. Codes of Behaviour

20.1 All players, coaches, team officials and spectators shall comply with AFL Victoria Country Codes of Conduct, Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct and the Sport & Rec Victoria Fair Play code.

20.2 Should any players, coaches, team officials and spectators fail to comply with the levant code the matter will be referred to the league's tribunal.

## 21. Conduct

21.1 Non participating players who disregard warnings for bad behaviour will be called upon to show cause why their registration should not be revoked.

21.2 Where a Club Official or member disregards warnings for bad behaviour, he/she shall be liable to a fine which shall be determined by the League, and may also be dealt with as the League may think fit.

21.3 Payment of such fine shall be the responsibility of the offending officials or members club.

## 22. Fines

22.1 The League reserves the right to fine any Member Club for a breach of the By-Laws. Fines shall be paid in full by the club responsible to the League.

## 23. Investigations - Football

23.1 The League shall appoint an Investigation Officer, who shall be called upon when a club wishes the League to investigate a matter.

23.2 The Club requesting an investigation shall notify the League in writing outlining the exact details of the disputes, protests or charges requiring investigation within five (5) days of the incident.

23.3 The club shall pay a fee of $500, which shall be retained by the League as a bond.

23.4 It is Compulsory that The League shall refer the matter to the League's appointed Ivestigation Officer.

23.5 The Investigation Officer shall use all means necessary to investigate and make a judgement.

23.6 The findings of the Investigation Officer shall be final.

23.7 Any investigation requested by a club, must be lodged in writing with the league Operations Manager or their designated representative within five (5) days after the alleged incident or act, accompanied by a deposit of $500 into the HDFNL bank account, which may be refunded in part or whole. Refer to AFL Vic Country Handbook, Rule 5.0 Unbecoming Conduct.

23.7 **Investigation Financial Policy**

A club requested investigation requires the payment of a $500 fee deposited into the HDFNL bank account, which is retained by the league until the investigation is finalised.

The following fees will be invoiced to clubs:

1. When the investigation officer determines there is no case to answer, the club that requested the investigation may receive a fund of any funds remaining after the payment to the investigator for his/her services.

2. When the investigations officer refer the matter to the WDFNA independent tribunal and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall also be required to pay the tribunal fee.

3. When the investigations officers refer the matter to the WDFNA independent tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of $500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be invoiced for all investigation and tribunal fees relating to this case (in addition to any tribunal fines).

Clubs who fail to cooperate with the investigation process shall be fined a minimum of $300. The League, in conjunction with the Investigations Officer, shall determine if a club has failed to cooperate with the investigation process. Examples of failing to cooperate include players/officials not turning up for interviews, clubs failing to confirm availabilities for interviews or clubs withholding members from the investigation process.

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

## 24. Investigations - Netball

24.1 All netball investigations will be held as required following the guidelines laid out in the Netball Victoria Federations disciplinary and dispute resolutions regulations. https://vic.netball.com.au/dispute-resolution

24.2 A club requested investigation requires the payment of a $500 fee deposited into the HDFNL bank account, which is retained by the league until the investigation is finalised.

## 25. Working with Children's Checks

25.1 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all team officials working directing with children under 18 years of age must have a Working with Childrens Check unless an exemption applies. This includes, but not limited to, directors, coaches, trainers, runners, personal carers, and umpires.

## 26. Game Day checklist

26.1 A home and away club representative must complete the Marsh Australian Football, and Howden Group netball game day checklist prior to the start of the first game of the day's competition on the approved electronic apps, or paperwork.

## 27. Awards-

### 27.1 Premiership Awards

A Premiership Cup, Perpetual Shield and Medals shall be provided to clubs that win Grand Finals in all grades of football and netball. Clubs can request extra Cups, Medals, or Flags at the expense of the club. Runner Up Medals will be provided for all junior grades for football and netball only.

### 27.2 Club Championship Award

On an annual basis, the league will award a Club Championship which will be awarded at the league's senior best and fairest presentation. The Club that accrues the most points in that season will be awarded the Club Championship. Points towards this award will be accrued as follows:

2 points per grade for a win
1 point per grade for a draw
2 points per grade if receiving a forfeit
0 points per grade for a loss

### 27.3 HDFNL Best and Fairest Awards

27.3.1 Individual awards shall be awarded to the best and fairest player in each grade of competition. These awards shall be known as the "Best and Fairest" award.

27.3.2 The umpires officiating each competition game shall at the conclusion of the game select three (3), best and fairest players in the game. The three nominations shall then be awarded either three (3) votes, two (2) votes or one (1) vote on an *official league vote card* provided by the home club and placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the home club or entered electronically into the match day data base.

27.3.3 The board and administration staff shall tally all votes from each game at the conclusion of the home and away season.

27.3.4 The player or players with the most votes shall be declared the best and fairest player. In the case of multiple players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared, and separate awards shall be presented to each player.

27.3.5 The player or players with the second most votes shall be declared the runner up best and fairest player. In the case of multiple players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared, and separate awards shall be presented to each player.

27.3.6 Any player who has been found guilty of an on-field offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the award.

27.3.7 An award known as the "Dellar Medal" shall be made each year to the best and fairest player or players in the Senior Football competition.

27.3.8 An award known as the 'Michele Mibus Medal' shall be made each year to the best and fairest player/s in the A Grade Netball competition.

27.3.9 An award known as the 'Jennifer Kirchner Medal' shall be made each year to the best and fairest player/s in the B Grade Netball competition.

## 27.4 HDFNL Best Opposition Player – Senior Football and A Grade Netball

27.4.1 An award known as the "Best Opposition Player" shall be made each year to the best player or players in the Senior Football and A Grade Netball competition.

27.4.2 Voting for Best Opposition Player shall be made by the opposing club participating in each Senior football and A Grade netball competition game.

27.4.3 At the conclusion of the game each club will select three (3) best opposition players in the game. The three nominations shall then be awarded either three (3) votes, two (2) votes or one (1) vote on an *official league vote card* provided by the home club and placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the home club or entered electronically into the match day data base.

27.4.4 The board and administration staff shall tally all votes from each game at the conclusion of the home and away season.

27.4.5 The player or players with the most votes shall be declared the Best Opposition Player. In the case of multiple players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared, and separate awards shall be presented to each player.

27.4.6 Any player who has been found guilty of an on-field offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the award.

## 27.5 HDFNL Best Under 21 Player

27.5.1 An award known as the "Best U/21 Player" shall be made each year to the best player under the age of 21 in the Senior football competition and the A Grade netball competition.

27.5.2 Any player under the age of 21 as of the 1st of January for that season shall qualify for the Best U/21 Player award.

27.5.3 Qualifying players with the most votes from the Senior football and A Grade netball Best and Fairest Awards shall be declared the Best U/21 Player. In the case of multiple players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared, and separate awards shall be presented to each player.

27.5.4 Any player who has been found guilty of an on-field offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the award.

## 27.6 HDFNL Leading Goal Kicker/Leading Goal Shooter

27.6.1 An award known as the "Leading Goal Kicker" shall be made each year to the leading goal kicker in the Senior and Reserve football competitions.

27.6.2 The player or players with the most goals kicked shall be awarded the leading goal kicker award. In the case of multiple players kicking the most goals, joint winners shall be declared, and separate awards shall be awarded to each player.

27.6.3 Any player who has been found guilty of an on-field offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the award

27.6.4 An award known as the “Leading Goal Shooter” shall be made each year to the leading goal shooter in the A grade, B grade, C grade and C Reserve netball competitions

27.6.5 The player or players with the most goals shot shall be awarded the leading goal shooter award. In the case of multiple players shooting the most goals, joint winners shall be declared, and separate awards shall be awarded to each player.

27.6.6 Any player who has been found guilty of an on-court offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the award.

## 27.7 Blue Ribbon Spirit of Football/Netball Award is injunction with Victoria Police

An award known as the Blue Ribbon Award, shall be awarded each round to a player from the under 17 football and 17 & under netball. Umpires vote on the criteria supplied on the Performa. Clubs failing to submit these awards will incur a fine of $100 per game missed.

27.7.1 Each round 1 x under 17 football and 1 x 17 & under netball player will be selected and awarded a medal and certificate by a police representative prior to the commencement of the game. Players home club is to provide a photo and brief write up of the player by 6pm Sunday to the nominated contact.

27.7.2 Parent or guardian will be required to sign a media release document.

27.7.3 Each year an under 17 football team and coach, and 17 & under netball team and coach will be awarded the Blue Ribbon Spirit of Football / Netball team of the year. This is awarded to the team with the most Blue Ribbon votes during the home and away season.

*Any player who has been found guilty of an on-field offence during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win the award.*

## 27.8 HDFNL Best on Ground/Court in Grand Final

A medal known as the “Best on Ground” or “Best on Court” shall be presented each year to the player judged Best on Ground/Best on Court in all Grand Final games.

27.8.1 The League shall appoint Three (3) independent people for each Grand Final game who shall vote on this medal.

27.8.2 Each independent person shall at the conclusion of the game select three (3) best players in the game. The three nominations shall then be awarded either three (3) votes, two (2) votes or one (1) vote on an *official league vote card* provided by the league and placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the league.

27.8.3 The league shall tally all votes from each game at the conclusion of the game.

27.8.4 The player or players with the most votes shall be declared the “Best on Ground” or “Best on Court”. In the case of multiple players receiving equal votes, joint winners shall be declared, and separate medals shall be presented to each player.

## 28. On Field Communication Devices

28.1 Listening/talking devices shall not be allowed to be used on the field or court during games.

28.2 Should any club use listening/talking devices on the field or court during games they shall incur a fine of $100.

## 29. Team Lists

29.1 Team lists must be lodged on the Play HQ database by 12:00pm the Friday prior to each game. Team lists must be printed for use on game day. The printed team list must also include coaches, runners, trainers, water carriers, team managers, interchange stewards and club umpires if known. Refer AFL Rules.

29.2 Should a player need to be withdrawn/replaced from the named players, the club shall amend their team sheet and update the team list in Play HQ database prior to the start of the game.

29.3 Any club who does not provide the team sheet as per By–Law 31.1 may incur a fine of $100 per game.

## 30. League Representative Teams

30.1 The League shall participate in

- Interleague at the discretion of the League Board
- Netball Victoria Zone Association Championships
- Tournaments as approved by the League

30.2 The League shall advertise and appoint representative team coaches for a period of one (1) year for each team participating in

30.3 The League shall appoint representative team umpires for a period of one (1) year for each team participating in

30.4 The League shall appoint representative team coaches and umpires upon a final recommendation by the League’s Board.

30.5 The League shall hold selection days for all squads to represent the league.

30.6 All clubs that send players to selection days are required to supply 1 umpire and 1 selector for all selection dates.

# SECTION 2 – Football By-Laws

***The following By–Laws shall be read in general across all League's Football Competition.***

***This shall be read in conjunction with the League's General By-Laws.***

## 31. Football Coordinator

31.1 Each club shall appoint a senior football coordinator/s.

31.2 Each club shall appoint a junior football coordinator/s.

31.3 Each football coordinator/s must **sign an AFL Victoria Country registration form** and be registered on Play HQ with their club prior to the start of the current season.

## 32. Players

32.1 Each player must be registered on Play HQ with their club prior to the start of the current season. Players are no longer permitted to be written in on team sheets.

32.2 Any player wishing to play after the start of the current season and who is not registered with AFL Victoria Country on AFL Play HQ with their club, must complete the registration prior to the game they wish to participate in.

32.3 Any player registered with their club may play in Senior Football, Reserve Football, Under 17 Football and Under 14 Football Grades. Players ages for underage grades are determined as per AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

32.4 Clubs may request an exemption for an overage player. The request must be submitted in writing to the League outlining the reasons for the overage request. All approved overage requests shall be monitored by the Board and clubs as per the official application form. if a player who has been granted an overage request is deemed to have sufficient skills to play in the older age group then the exemption will be revoked.

32.5 Overage Female Exemption– Girls turning 15 years of age can apply to the league to play on an overage agreement. This is only open to girls 1 year over only. Applications must be on the leagues official application form.

32.6 An exemption has been granted to allow juniors to play 32 games for the 2023 season.

## 33. Permits

33.1 All permits shall refer to the AFL Victoria Country handbook.

33.2 All Clubs shall adhere to all league area permits per season as per By-Law 37. Clubs are only permitted 4 permits per Senior game. Any club that exceeds this number per game per senior grade will incur a fine of $250.

33.3 Any player who is not registered to a club or on permit shall not play in home & away games or finals.

## 34. Area Permits

34.1 For Underage Competitions, AFL Wimmera Mallee approved agreements where players can play on permit between the Horsham District Football Netball League and the Wimmera Football Netball League under a current layered permit system across the Leagues. The current junior area agreement is for permits from WFNL to HDFNL and an area permit agreement is for permits from HDFNL to WFNL; both reinforce the on-field number regulations. Those playing on permit may only play one game in one league per weekend. Clearances will be limited to once every three weeks. A maximum of 4 player permits per team, each game. Permit players are ineligible for HDFNL Best & Fairest votes.

The HDFNL Board will decide which other League/s an Area Permit Agreement will be requested as per AFL Vic Country Handbook rule # 2 – Area Permits.

## 35. Coaches

35.1 All coaches (U14 through to seniors) in the HDFNL must be registered with the HDFNL and be accredited to the level as determined by the AFL Vic Coaches Accreditation policy.

35.2 The club of any unregistered coach shall incur a fine of $200.

## 36. Team Managers

36.1 Each team manager must be registered with their club prior to the start of the officiating match.

36.2 The club of any team manager who is unregistered shall incur a fine of $100.

## 37. Trainers / Runners / Water Carriers

37.1 A Trainer or Runner must be registered and at least 16 years of age.

37.3 A Water Carrier must be registered.

37.4 Each club shall have a minimum of one (1) trainer holding a level 1 Australian Football Trainer Education Centre (AFTEC) accreditation.

37.5 Clubs may appoint up to two (2) team runners per grade and only one (1) runner may enter and remain on the field at any one (1) time.

37.6 Runners must escort umpires from the ground in all grades.

37.7 Runners must enter and leave the field by the designated interchange area.

37.8 Trainers, runners & water carriers shall be attired in a uniform approved by the board and will have the club name and identifying number on the back of the shirt

37.9 Each home club must ensure that an appropriate stretcher is placed at the Interchange area for all matches.

37.10 Clubs in breach of these rules will incur a fine of $100.

## 38. Interchange Steward

38.1 Interchange Stewards shall be used only in finals games and will be appointed by the League.

38.2 The Interchange steward shall watch and record all player interchanges, blood rule interchanges and order offs during a game on the form provided by the league.

## 39. Umpires - Field, Boundary & Goal

39.1 The following umpires shall officiate home and away games:

| | |
|---|---|
| Senior Football | 2 x Association Central Umpires, 2x Club Boundary Umpires,<br>1 x Club Goal Umpire per home & away team |
| Reserve Football | 1 x Club Central Umpire per home and away team,<br>1 x Club Goal Umpire per home and away team |
| Under 17 Football | 2 x Association Central Umpires,<br>1 x Club Goal Umpire per home and away team |
| Under 14 Football | 1 x Club Central Umpire per home and away team,<br>1 x Club Goal Umpire per home and away team |
| Under 11 Football | 1 x Club Central Umpire per home and away team |

39.2 The following umpires shall officiate finals games:

| | |
|---|---|
| Senior Football | 2 x Association Central Umpires, 2 x Association Boundary Umpires,<br>2 x Association Goal umpires |
| Reserve Football | 2 x Association Central Umpires, 2 x Association Boundary Umpires,<br>2 x Association Goal umpires |
| Under 17 Football | 2 x Association Central Umpires, 2 x Association Boundary Umpires, |

| | |
|---|---|
| | 2 x Association Goal umpires |
| Under 14 Football | 2 x Association Central Umpire, 2 x Association Goal Umpires,<br>2 x boundary spotters – As assigned by the board |

39.3 In Reserve, Under 17 and Under 14 games during home and away games, boundaries are to be monitored by the central umpire. When the ball is deemed to be out of bounds the central umpire shall take the ball ten (10) metres into the playing area and resume play by throwing the ball up.

39.4 In Under 14 football during finals, boundaries are to be monitored by boundary spotters that are assigned by the League. When the ball is deemed to be out of bounds the central umpire shall take the ball ten (10) metres into the playing area and resume play by throwing the ball up.

39.5 The league shall cover the cost of association umpires. Club umpires shall be paid at the discretion of the club.

39.6 The goal umpires shall record on cards as provided by the league exact scores and shall be returned to the home match day secretary.

39.7 Each club umpires must be registered as a volunteer prior to the start of the official match.

39.8 The club of any unregistered volunteer club umpire shall incur a fine of $200.

39.9 A club central umpire must be at least 18 years of age. A club goal umpire must be at least 16 years of age.

39.10 The 2 central umpires are to complete the League Best & Fairest award together on the official form or by digital means at the completion of the game.

39.11 Club central and boundary umpires must wear a uniform that is approved by the League. Club Goal Umpires must wear the league approved uniform of a white jacket/coat

## 40. Footballs

40.1 The league shall supply, at the Leagues expense, footballs for all finals games.

40.2 Cost for balls in the home and away season will be covered by clubs.

40.3 The league shall supply game balls to clubs for each Senior home game plus one spare for the season.

40.4 The home club shall provide a football in good condition for all Reserve, Under 17 games.

40.5 The home club shall provide a Size 4 synthetic football to be used in Under 14 games.

40.6 The choice of ball for Senior games will be at the discretion of the league.

40.7 The choice of ball for Reserve and Under 17 games shall be either “Sherrin” or “Ross Faulkner” branded footballs. Footballs previously used in Senior games shall be used in either Reserve or U/17 games.

40.8 Clubs who do not use the correct approved league sponsor logo football in senior games as stated by the league shall incur a fine of $100.

## 41. Player Uniforms

41.1 All players must wear AFL Victoria Country approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club including numbered playing jumpers, shorts and socks.

41.2 The league must approve all uniform colours and designs as per By-Law 6.2, 6.3 & 6.4.

41.3 Clubs must notify in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform prior to the current season.

41.4 The away club for all games shall wear white shorts. However, clubs may wear a single colour of shorts for all games provided they are approved by the board, as per By–Law 5.

41.5 Bike shorts may be worn, but must be either Beige/Cream coloured or the same colour as the club shorts worn for that game. Black gloves are permitted to be worn.

## 42. Game Times

42.1 Starting times for all home and away games are as follows:

- Senior Football – 2.25pm
- Reserve Football – 12.40pm
- Under 17 Football – 10:55am
- Under 14 Football – 9:30am
- Under 11 Football - 8:45am (one oval)
- Under 11 Football - 11am (two ovals)

42.2 Starting times for Elimination, Semi and Preliminary finals are as follows:

- Senior Football – 2.20pm
- Reserve Football – 12.25pm
- Under 17 Football – 10:35am
- Under 14 Football – 9:00am

42.3 Starting times for Grand Final games are as follows:

- Senior Football – 2.40pm

- Reserve Football – 12.00pm
- Under 17 Football – 10:00am
- Under 14 Football – 8:30am

42.4 Should a game be running late; the siren is to be sounded immediately after the completion of the previous game.

42.5 Game times for all home and away games shall be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Senior Football | 4 x 20 minute quarters plus time on with breaks of 5 minutes, 20 minutes and 5 minutes |
| Reserve Football | 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on with breaks of 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes |
| Under 17 Football | 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on with breaks of 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes |
| Under 14 Football | 4 x 15 minute quarters with no time on with breaks of 3 minutes, 5 minutes and 3 minutes |

42.6 Game times for all final games shall be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Senior Football | 4 x 20 minute quarters plus time on with breaks of 5 minutes, 20 minutes and 5 minutes |
| Reserve Football | 4 x 16 minute quarters plus time on with breaks of 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes |
| Under 17 Football | 4 x 16 minute quarters plus time on with breaks of 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes |
| Under 14 Football | 4 x 15 minute quarters with no time on with breaks of 3 minutes, 5 minutes and 3 minutes |

42.7 Teams that are not ready to resume play at the beginning of a quarter shall be fined $100.

42.8 Teams that are not ready to resume play five (5) minutes after the beginning of a quarter shall be fined $200. At this time the Timekeepers shall signal to the central umpire to resume the game.

## 43. Teams

### 43.1 Senior Football – Home and Away Games

43.1.2 The number of players in a Senior football team shall be 21. Each team can have up to 18 players on the playing surface at one time with 3 players on the interchange.

43.1.3 Teams shall have 14 players on the ground ready to start play at the designated starting time.

43.1.4 Any team with less than 14 players on the ground ready to start play at the designated starting time may be fined $100.

43.1.5 Teams failing to field 14 players cannot play for premiership points and shall forfeit the game.

### 43.2 Reserve Football – Home and Away Games

43.2.1 The total number of players in a Reserves football team shall be 20. Teams can have up to 16 players on the playing surface at one time with 4 players on the interchange.

43.2.2 Teams can field a minimum of 14 players in total. Teams are required to share players to meet the minimum requirement.

43.2.3 Where teams have less than the minimum number of fourteen (14) players and the other team has more than fourteen (14) players the team with more players must share the excess players until each team has equal numbers of players. If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the team with the greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench.

43.2.4 Clubs are encouraged to share players to ensure equal numbers up to sixteen (16) per side.

43.2.5 The number of players on the ground for a game must be agreed upon by both coaches before the start of the game.

43.2.6 Teams must not have more than the agreed upon number of players on the field for the duration of the game.

43.2.7 Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench.

43.2.8 Should a team not be able to field 14 players, including shared players from the other team, the game shall be forfeited by the team with the lower number of players.

## 43.3 Under 17 Football – Home and Away Games

43.3.1 The maximum number of players in a U/17 football team shall be 22. Teams can have up to 18 players on the playing surface at one time with 4 players on the interchange.

43.3.2 Teams can field a minimum of 10 players in total.

43.3.3 The number of players on the ground for a game must be agreed upon by both coaches before the start of the game.

43.3.4 Teams must not have more than the agreed upon number of players on the field for the duration of the game.

43.3.5 Teams are required to share players to meet the minimum requirement.

43.3.6 If one team has more players than the other team, the team with more players than the team with fewer players must share the excess players until each team has equal numbers of players. If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the team with the greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench.

43.3.7 Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench.

43.3.8 Should a team not be able to field 10 players, including shared players from the other team, the game shall be forfeited by the team with the lower number of players.

43.3.9 Where games are cancelled, teams are encouraged to play a practice match where possible.

## 43.4 Under 14 Football – Home and Away Games

43.4.1 The total number of players in an Under 14 football team shall be 26.

43.4.2 Teams can have up to 18 players on the playing surface at one time with 8 players on the interchange. Where there is an uneven number of players Clubs must share players to ensure maximum and equal numbers up to eighteen (18) per side.

43.4.3 Teams can field a minimum of 10 players in total.

43.4.4 The number of players on the ground for a game must be agreed upon by both coaches before the start of the game.

43.4.5 Teams must not have more than the agreed upon number of players on the field for the duration of the game.

43.4.6 Teams are required to share players to meet the minimum requirements.

43.4.7 If one team has players more than the other team, the team with more players than the team with fewer players must share the excess players until each team has equal numbers of players. If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the team with the greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench.

43.4.8 Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench.

43.4.9 Should a team not be able to field 10 players, including shared players from the other team, the game shall be forfeited by the team with the lower number of players.

43.4.10 Where games are cancelled, teams are encouraged to play a practice match where possible.

43.4.11 Overage Female Exemption– Girls turning 15 years of age can apply to the league to play on an overage agreement. This is only open to girls 1 year over only.

## 43.5 Under 11 Football – Home and Away Games

43.5.1 The Under 11 competition shall be a 16 per side competition, with Clubs allowed unlimited players on the interchange.

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

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

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

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

43.5.6 The minimum number required for a Club to start a game is 8 players. It is encouraged that the opposing team 'lend" players to that team so that a match can be played.

43.5.7 If both teams have less than 8 players, if agreed between the coaches, then the game can be played on a smaller oval.

43.5.8 If one team has less than 16 players, but more than 8, the opposing coach must equalize by "lending" players to the opposing team. If the opposing coach refuses to equalize accordingly, then this must be reported to the League and the club may receive a sanction by the board.

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

43.5.10 Where Clubs are reliant on players covered under an Area or Interchange Agreement to field a team and who are not present for the start of a match then the game will commence with equal numbers on the playing field. When such players arrive at the venue, they shall report to their Coach's Box ready to take the field. Each team can then always increase their numbers accordingly but equal numbers on the field shall apply.

43.5.11 Games will commence at 8.45am where 1 ground only is available and 11am where a 2nd oval or green space is available.

43.5.12 Games will be played of 4 x 10 min Quarters with no time on

43.5.13 UMPIRING RULES

43.5.14 Out of bounds from a kick.

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

43.5.15 Out of bounds from hands or body

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

43.5.16 Order off rule.

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

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

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

43.5.19 Any player who uses abusive or insulting language towards an umpire, official or another player shall be sent from the ground for the remainder of that quarter and the next quarter and cannot be replaced during that time. Any second offence by a player will result in the removal of such player from the ground for the remainder of the game, and such player cannot be replaced.

43.5.20 Officials Behaviour

43.5.21 Any official who uses abusive or insulting language towards an umpire, another official or player shall be sent from the ground for the remainder of that quarter the next quarter, however such official can be replaced. Any second offence by an official will result in the removal of such an official from the ground for the remainder of the game. Again, such an official can be replaced.

43.5.22 Bouncing the Ball

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

43.5.23 Kicking off the Ground

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

43.5.24 Players must be under 11 years of the playing year, in question, to be eligible for matches in this competition.

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

43.5.26 UMPIRES

Home Clubs will provide central umpires are to ensure that players do not leave the field at the halftime break.

43.5.27 Footballs

Size 4 Synthetic footballs must be used for all Under 11 games.

43.5.28 In line with AFL Victoria Rules, girls are permitted to play in the HDFNL Under 11 competition.

43.5.29 CLUB OFFICIALS

43.5.30 Runners

Teams are allowed 1 runner per team. Runners must wear the official HDFNL uniform. Runners must not “assist/coach” but relay messages only – and must leave the ground immediately after relaying the message.

43.5.31 Coaches

43.5.32 The coach is responsible for the behaviour of assistant coaches, officials and players in the coach’s box during games.

43.5.33 No persons, other than those mentioned above, are allowed inside the boundary fence.

### 43.6 Reserve Football – Finals Games

43.6.1 The number of players in a Reserve football team shall be 20. Each team can have up to 16 players on the playing surface at one time with 4 players on the interchange, irrespective of the number of players the opposition team has.

### 43.7 Under 17 Football – Finals Games

43.7.1 The maximum number of players in an Under 17 football team shall be 22. Each team shall have equal numbers to start the game, with a minimum of 12, and a maximum of 18.

### 43.8 Under 14 Football – Finals Games

43.8.1 The maximum number of players in an Under 14 football team shall be 26. Each team shall have equal numbers to start the game, with a minimum of 12, and a maximum of 18.

## 44. Mercy Rule for Under 17 and Under 14 Football

44.1 The League is committed to encouraging more junior players to maintain their interest in football and increase their longevity in the sport. Young people lose interest in football when the margin between two teams on any one day is excessive. This is exacerbated when teams are regularly “hammered”. In junior football we aim to shift the focus toward developing skills and having fun and enjoyment among young footballers and away from the score. Reinforce the concept of sportsmanship; ethical, respectful, polite, and fair behaviour while participating. Coaches will be proactive and use alternate strategies with their teams to ensure the Mercy Rule is only implemented as a last resort.

44.2 When the score differential between teams equals or exceeds sixty (60) points in an Under 14 game and seventy-two (72) in an Under 17 game prior to three quarter time the Goal Umpires will inform the Field Umpires.

44.3 The Field Umpire will signal the end of the game to the Timekeepers who will blow the siren twice to signal the end of the game.

44.4 The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires & scoreboard attendants to record scores. The scoreboard shall be cleared then re started to reflect the current score for the remainder of the game. Field umpires are to award the league Best Player votes irrespective of any team changes.

44.5 A break of three (3) minutes shall be taken. During this time Coaches from both sides shall work together to even up the teams.

44.6 After teams have been evened, the game shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play. **The scoring and recording of goal kickers will cease.**

44.7 The official recorded result for the game shall be:

- Losing team - the score of the losing team, at time the Mercy Rule was applied;
- Winning Team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, plus 60 points for Under 14 games and plus 72 points for Under 17 games. **Eg: 1.3 (9) def 10.12. (69) 1.3(9) def 10.12.(72) notes mercy rule applied.**

44.8 Field umpires are to award League Best Player votes irrespective of any team changes.

44.9 When the Mercy rule is invoked, both coaches MUST mix the teams in a sportsmanlike manner to ensure an even contest. If this is not done, at the discretion of the League Board:

- The points may be forfeited, and/or
- The club fined and/or
- The coaches brought before the Independent Tribunal and charged with a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- Continued breaches of the Mercy rule may result in Coach AFL accreditation being removed under the Junior Coach Policy.

44.10 Coaches need to adhere to the AFLWM Junior Coach Policy (2019) to focus on the development and enjoyment of their players.

44.11 Any club who is found to be not adhering to By-Law 44 shall be fined $500 per game and any premiership points awarded for a win be removed.

## 45. Timekeepers

45.1 Each participating club shall provide a timekeeper per game. Timekeepers must be 16 years of age or older.

45.2 The club of any timekeepers that are under 16 years may incur a fine of $100.

45.3 The siren shall only be sounded by the timekeepers prior to, during and at the completion of a game.

45.4 Stopwatches must be synchronised, if only one stopwatch is available, that shall be the official time.

45.5 The timekeepers shall record on cards as provided by the league and return these signed to the home match day secretary.

## 46. Finals

46.1 In the event of a drawn game in any final, including the grand final, the following shall apply:

- A break of five (5) minutes shall occur. During this time Goal Umpires shall confirm the scores and Coaches may address their players.
- Five (5) minutes, plus time on, shall be played. At the conclusion of this five (5) minutes teams must immediately change ends. Coaches shall not address their players during this time
- Five (5) minutes, plus time on, shall be played
- If at the end of the extra time scores are still level, no change of ends shall occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and continue until one team has a one (1) point advantage.

## 47. Finals Eligibility

47.1 Any player registered with their club to be eligible to play finals must have played in three (3) games over three (3) separate weekends with that club during the current home and away season.

47.2 Any player registered with their club who plays Reserve Football must take the field in three (3) or more home and away Reserve Grade Football games to be eligible to play finals in Reserve Football.

47.3 Any player registered with their club who plays Reserve Football cannot take the field in more than seven (7) home and away games in Senior Football to be eligible to play finals in Reserve Football.

47.4 Should a club be playing Senior Football and Reserve Football on the same weekend during finals, By-Laws 52.2, and 52.3 are removed; but a player can only play one game per weekend.

47.5 Any VFL or Coats Talent listed player may play with their registered home club during finals in senior football only; but a player can only play one game per weekend between their club and VFL club. Refer VFL Victoria Country Handbook, Finals Eligibility 12 Coats Talent and VFL Players.

47.6 Should a player play more than one game per weekend during finals, the club shall incur the loss of the second game that the player played in.

47.7 Area permit players are ineligible to play finals.

## 48. Independent Tribunal

48.1 The independent tribunal comprising of up to 10 members shall be appointed by the executive prior to the current season.

48.2 Three (3) members of such an independent tribunal shall form a quorum.

48.3 The members of the independent tribunal shall not hold any other position of office in the league or an official position with a club affiliated with the league within a period of twelve (12) months prior to nomination.

48.4 The members of the independent tribunal shall not have been a AFL Victoria Country registered player within a period of twenty-four (24) months prior to nomination.

48.5 The Elected members of the independent tribunal shall receive the following prior to the current season

- League season pass including finals
- AFL Victoria Country Handbook
- HDFNL By-Laws

48.6 The league's tribunal shall be held in the week following a round of games at a venue and time determined by the league.

48.7 Matters shall be referred to the independent tribunal as per AFL Victoria Country handbook.

48.8 Any matter referred to the independent tribunal as per AFL Victoria Country handbook can be appealed as per AFL Victoria Country rule 8.0.

48.9 The league's tribunal shall consult with the league for interpretation of any AFL Victoria Country rule or league By – Law as required whether the tribunal hearing has commenced or not. The league may also request further interpretation of any AFL Victoria Country rule from the AFL Victoria Country.

48.10 In the absence of a quorum at a hearing of the independent tribunal, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their club until the matter is heard and determined by the independent tribunal.

## 49. Ground Lighting

49.1 If natural light is deteriorating during a game, the two participating club coaches and officiating central umpires can agree to turn on ground lighting to assist with the natural light at the ground to allow the game to complete.

# SECTION 3 – Netball By-Laws

***The following By–Laws shall be read in general across all League's Netball Competition.***

***This shall be read in conjunction with the League's General By-Laws.***

## 50. Netball Coordinator/Director

50.1 Each club shall appoint a netball coordinator/s / directors.

50.2 Any club that does not appoint a netball coordinator/director prior to round 1 shall incur a fine of $200.

## 51. Players

51.1 All players shall be registered with Netball Victoria's and the HDFNL's preferred online management system.

51.2 Each player must be registered with their club on the HDFNL preferred online management system/s.

Any player wishing to play after the start of the current season must complete the registration prior to the game they wish to participate in. Players can obtain a Single game voucher to play on no more than 2 occasions during the season.

51.3 Age requirements to play in a senior grade. Participant age is determined as at December 31st of that year.

Minimum age requirements as per Official Netball Victoria Guideline are:

i. **A, B, C or C Reserve grades Female Competition** :15 years or written parental/legal guardian consent for players under 15 years of age

ii. **17 and Under Female Competition**: 14 years or written parental/legal guardian consent for players under 14 years of age

iii. **15 and Under Female Competition**: 12 years (males 13 ineligible) or written parental/legal guardian consent for players under 12 years of age

iv. **13 and Under Female Competition**: 10 years or written parental/legal guardian consent for players under 10 years of age

v. Required documentation to be submitted to the league prior to participation, Friday 10.00am.

51.4 Clubs may request an exemption for an overage player. The request must be submitted in writing to the League on the official application form.

51.5 Any player registered with their club who plays in more than seven (7) home and away games in a higher grade is ineligible to play in a lower grade, this excludes junior grades.

51.6 Senior or Junior players may take the court in no more than two (2) games on any one (1) weekend, excluding finals. No senior player will be eligible to play in 2 games with 2 or more grades difference, per round, below their usual grade.

**Example**: If a player plays in A grade, they are then ineligible to play in C grade or below.

51.7 Junior players shall still be eligible to play in junior grades regardless of the number of A Grade, B Grade, C Grade or C Reserve games played.

51.8 If a winning club has been found to breach this By-Law or the intent of this By-Law their premiership points and goals scored will be forfeited. The club will also be fined $500.

51.9 If a losing club has been found to breach this By-Law or the intent of this By-Law their goals scored will be forfeited. The club will also be fined $500.

## 52. Finals Eligibility

52.1 To be eligible to play in any A Grade, B Grade, C Grade and C Reserve final, players must have played four (4) matches with the team and have played six (6) matches with that club over six (6) separate rounds, in that season.

52.2 To be eligible to play in any 13 & under, 15 & under and 17 & under grade, players must have played four (4) matches with the team in that season over four (4) separate rounds.

52.3 All players must have participated in a minimum of four (4) separate Home and Away games in EACH of the respective grade(s) they wish to qualify for.

***Example:*** Player X plays 8 A Grade and 10 B Grade. That player is ineligible to play B, C and C Reserve finals.

52.4 Any player registered with their club who plays in more than seven (7) home and away games in a higher grade is ineligible to play in a lower grade, this excludes junior grades. Eg Player X has played eight (8) games in B Grade; they are ineligible to C Grade or C Reserve but can play A Grade or B Grade. Player Y (junior) has played eight (8) 17 & under games and seven (7) B Grade games, they can only play their junior grade, B Grade or A Grade.

52.5 Game Day Permits are not permitted for use during the final's series.

## 53. Player Clearances

53.1 A clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another HDFNL club during the current season. Such clearance cannot be refused if clauses 58.1 (a) and 58.1 (b) have been satisfied

(a) No player will be granted more than one clearance per season.
(b) A clearance will not be granted after the 7th round of matches unless extenuating circumstances exist.

53.2 Best and Fairest votes will transfer with the player should they remain in the league.

53.3 At the end of the season, all players are free to transfer to another club for the next season without any necessity to obtain a clearance.

## 54. Coaches

54.1 All coaches shall be registered with the online management system, approved by Netball Australia, Netball Victoria and the league.

54.2 All coaches must hold a current minimum Netball Victoria Foundation Coaching accreditation by the 1st of May of each year.

54.3 The club using an unregistered coach shall incur a fine of $200.

## 55. Team Managers / Primary Carers – refer 'World Netball rule 3, #14 & 15'

55.1 All Team managers and Primary Carers shall be registered with Netball Victoria.

55.2 All Primary Carers shall wear an identifying vest as required by the league.

55.3 All Team Primary Carers are preferred to hold a current First Aid Certificate and must have a working with children's check.

## 56. Umpires – refer 'World Netball rule 4 to 5 #2'

56.1 All umpires shall be registered with the online management system, approved by Netball Australia, Netball Victoria and the HDFNL. Currently this is a two-step process.

56.2 All Home and away season umpires must hold a current accreditation of a passed theory exam result or obtain it within 7 days of umpiring.

56.3 The club supplying an umpire not registered with an online management system approved by Netball Australia & Netball Victoria shall incur a fine of $100.

56.4 The league shall be responsible for the overall development of umpires and shall be responsible for organizing the badging of umpires in conjunction with clubs throughout the season.

56.5 Clubs shall supply one (1) umpire, per grade, every home and away round.

56.6 Umpires shall officiate no more than two (2) games on any given day, within HDFNL.

56.7 An inclusive umpires attire of Black/white skirt/ or black/white shorts, No Club colours are to be worn whilst officiating a match.

56.8 Both Umpires are required to complete the official league Best and Fairest votes together on the official forms where the envelope is to be signed on the back or via digital means. This also applies to umpires umpiring U17's completing the Blue Ribbon Votes.

56.9 Players who umpire MUST be given reasonable time to complete all official duties, vote cards and change between games.

## 57. Netballs

57.1 The league shall supply, at the Leagues expense, netballs for all finals games. Cost for balls in the home and away season will be covered by club.

57.2 The league shall supply game balls to clubs for each home game plus one spare for the season for each A Grade game.

57.3 The home club shall provide a netball in good condition for all B Grade, C Grade, C Reserve, 17 & Under, 15 & Under and 13 & Under games.

57.4 Clubs who do not use the correct approved league sponsor logo netball in A Grade game as stated by the league shall incur a fine of $100.

57.5 The choice of ball for B Grade, C Grade, C Reserve, 17 & Under 15 & Under and 13 & Under games shall be at the discretion of the clubs with a preference for "Gilbert" branded netballs to be used. Netballs previously used in A Grade games shall be used in either B Grade, C Grade, C Reserve, 17 & Under 15 & Under and 13 & Under games.

## 58. Player Uniforms – As per 'World Netball rule 3, #9'

58.1 All players must wear approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club, including socks in conjunction with INF rule # 5.1.1 and as per HDFNL By–Law 6.2 to 6.4. This must meet the all inclusive guidelines set by Netball Australia and Netball Victoria.

.1(a) Jewellery & Nails, refer to World Netball rule 3, #12

58.2 Players are permitted to wear plain socks in their teams dominant sock colour under an ankle brace.

58.3 Compression shorts may be worn, underneath uniform, shorts/bummers but must be the same colour as the club uniform worn for that current season. Gloves, leg/arm braces, medical devices, may be worn, with prior league approval. The approval must be court side for umpires to view if requested. If the league requires further

clarification, this will be done in consultation with Netball Victoria. Refer to World Netball rule 3, #12

## 59. Game Times

59.1 Starting times for all home and away games where ***1 court*** is used are as follows:

- C Reserve Netball – 4:00pm
- C Grade Netball – 3:00pm
- B Grade Netball –-1:45pm
- A Grade Netball – 12.30pm
- 17 & Under Netball – 11:30am
- 15 & Under Netball – 10:30am
- 13 & Under Netball – 09:30am
- Modified Netball – 8:45am

If during the Home and away current season, a club is not fielding a grade, upon written request by the home club to the League a change in times may be considered. i.e No U17's, Junior games may start later.

59.2 Starting times for all home and away games where ***2 courts*** are used are as follows:

- C Grade Netball – 2:30pm
- C Reserve Netball – 1:15pm
- B Grade Netball –-1:15pm
- A Grade Netball – 12:00pm
- 17 & Under Netball –11:00am
- 15 & Under Netball –10:00am
- 13 & Under Netball –11:00am
- Modified Netball –10:00am

59.3 Starting times for Elimination, Semi and Preliminary finals are as follows:

- C Reserve Netball – 3:30pm
- C Grade Netball – 2:30pm
- B Grade Netball – 1:15pm
- A Grade Netball – 12:00pm
- 17 & Under Netball – 11:00am
- 15 & Under Netball – 10:00am
- 13 & Under Netball – 09:00am

59.4 Starting times for Grand Final games are as follows:

- C Reserve Netball – 3:45pm
- C Grade Netball – 2:40pm
- B Grade Netball – 1:20pm
- A Grade Netball – 12:00pm
- 17 & Under Netball – 10:30am
- 15 & Under Netball – 09:30am
- 13 & Under Netball – 08:30am

59.5 Game and interval times for all games shall be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| A Grade Netball | 4 x 15 minute quarters with breaks of 3 minutes, 5 minutes and 3 minutes |
| B Grade Netball | 4 x 15 minute quarters with breaks of 3 minutes, 5 minutes and 3 minutes |
| C Grade Netball | 4 x 12 minute quarters with breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes |
| C Reserve Netball | 4 x 12 minute quarters with breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes |
| 17 & Under Netball | 4 x 12 minute quarters with breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes |

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 & Under Netball | 4 x 12 minute quarters with breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes |
| 13 & Under Netball | 4 x 10 minute quarters with breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes |

## 60. Playing Conditions

60.1 If during a game, conditions (weather, court or equipment) change, making playing conditions dangerous, the umpires shall consult with the Coaches. A decision may be made to stop the game that is in the best interests of participant safety. Games can be halted temporarily due to weather or abandoned.

60.2 Any game that has been halted due to weather shall commence or resume upon the direction of the umpires. Any team which fails to take the court when so directed will be declared as forfeiting the game.

60.3 Should a game be abandoned due to dangerous conditions before half time, a draw will be awarded and percentage shall be worked out as twenty (20) goals both for and against to each team.

60.4 Should a game be abandoned due to dangerous conditions after half time points shall be awarded as determined by the scores at the stop in play.

## 61. Scorers / Timekeepers

61.1 Each team is to provide one (1) non participating Scorer/Timekeeper per game. The home club is to provide the scoresheet and time clock.

61.2 Each home team must provide a scoreboard and non-participating scoreboard attendant for the A Grade game and all other home games if possible.

61.3 The official scoresheet and timing device must at all times be placed in full view of both Scorer/Timekeeper for the duration of the game.

61.4 Scorers and Timekeepers must be at least 16 years of age. Scorers and Timekeepers are to decide the media votes 1 & 2, on scoresheet per team.

61.5 Should the official scoresheet not list all players full names prior to the commencement of the game they cannot be added and the player cannot take the court once the game has commenced.

61.6 At the conclusion of the game, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed /approved by the following:

- The captains of both competing teams
- Both officiating Umpires
- The scorer and timekeeper of both competing teams

61.7 A club cannot protest a match result after the scoresheet is signed by their captain. Once the scoresheet is signed, all results are final.

## 62. Finals

62.1 In the event of a *drawn* game in any final, including the grand final, the following shall apply:

- A break of a minimum of (4) minutes shall occur immediately after the 4th quarter concludes. During this time Coaches may address their players and make team changes. Teams will change ends for the commencement of overtime. Play will not commence until the scorers, both captains and both umpires have had sufficient time to confirm that the scoresheet is correct and that a drawn game has occurred and allow the entry of any team changes.
- Extra time shall be played as follows and team changes can occur.
- For 13 & under games Five (5) minutes shall be played. A one (1) minute break will occur during which teams shall change end. Following the break Five (5) minutes shall be played.
- For 15 & under, 17 & under, C Reserve and C Grade games Six (6) minutes shall be played. A one (1) minute break will occur during which teams shall change ends. Following the break Six (6) minutes shall be played.
- For A Grade and B Grade games Seven (7) minutes shall be played. A one (1) minute break will occur during which teams shall change ends. Following the break Seven (7) minutes shall be played.

- If at the end of the extra time scores are still level, a visual signal shall be placed at the official bench to indicate play will continue until one team leads by two (2) goals. ***No stoppage occurs once visual signal appears.***

## 63. League Representative Teams

63.1 The League shall participate in

· Interleague at the discretion of the League Board

· Netball Victoria Zone Association Championships

· Tournaments as approved by the League

63.2 The League shall advertise and appoint representative team coaches for a period of one (1) year for each team participating in

63.3 The League shall appoint representative team umpires for a period of one (1) year for each team participating in

63.4 The League shall appoint representative team coaches and umpires upon a final recommendation by the League's Board.

63.5 The League shall hold selection days for all squads to represent the league.

63.6 All clubs that send players to selection days are required to supply 1 umpire and 1 selector for all selection dates.

## 64. Rolling subs

64.1 Rolling Substitutions (all grades)

64.2 Substitutions may be made during play.

64.3 There is no limit to the number of rolling substitutes that can be made per quarter/match

64.4 Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.

64.5 The substitute stands at the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court. Player waiting to roll onto court must not move off designated dot, until player rolling off court has reached said dot and tagging has occurred.

64.6 A rolling substitution is not allowed to be used for any other substitution. ie injury or blood.

64.7 Players must observe the offside rule as they enter/leave the court.
Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, or advantage is applied.

64. 8 Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.
Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied).

64.9 If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.
*3.8. Any late player may, after advising the umpire, take the court in the vacant position/s at the next break in play.*
*Action: Any late player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry and possession is awarded to the opposing team where the ball was when play stopped.*
*Terminology: Incorrect entry*

64.10 Notification of substitution changes (all grades)

64.11 Teams are required to complete an official HDFNL Rolling substitution form and submit to the score bench at the end of each quarter. Scorer is required to record all players first and last positions for the quarter. Rolling sub positional changes need to be made by one of the 5 officials that are allowed to be seated at team excluding the Primary carer. Rule ref rule 3.14&16. These notifications are to be made during interval and before.30 sec umpire whistle.

6412 All teams must complete the rolling substitution form before a rolling substitution is made throughout the game.

64.13 Should a player be substituted out of the goaling positions. The scorers are to clearly mark on the scoresheet tally of goals when the rolling substitution was made.

64.14 All official HDFNL rolling substitution forms (for all grades) must be returned with the official scoresheet. Should a team make no substitutions then the form must still be returned with NO SUBS made written on the form.

**65. Mercy rule voting for Netball**

65.1

The mercy rule will be applied when the score difference reaches or exceeds 30 points in U13, 40 points in U15, and 50 points in U17. Once this occurs, scoring will stop, and the scores will notify the umpires at the next break that the mercy rule is now in effect.

After the rule is enforced, it is highly recommended that both coaches collaborate to mix the teams or rotate players to balance the competition.