



BYLAWS

Updated at OMFNL SGM
5th December 2016

1. AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY RULES

These Bylaws must be read in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of the AFL Victoria Country (**the AFL VC Rules**). In the event of any inconsistency between these Bylaws and the AFL VC Rules, the provisions of the AFL VC Rules will prevail.

2. NAMES OF CLUBS

Each Club must register its name with the OMFNL. No Club may alter its name without the prior approval of the OMFNL.

3. COLOURS OF CLUBS

Each Club has the right to wear colours approved by the OMFNL and no Club will change its colours without the approval of the OMFNL.

The following colours have been approved:

Albury

Regular	Guernsey: Black with gold sash
	Socks: Black and gold hoops
	Shorts: Black with black and gold inserts
Alternate	Guernsey: Grey with white sash and tiger logo
	Socks: Black and gold hoops
	Shorts: White with black and gold inserts

Corowa - Rutherford

Regular	Guernsey: Royal blue and white vertical stripes
	Socks: Royal blue
	Shorts: Royal blue with royal blue and white inserts
Alternate	Shorts: White with royal blue and white inserts

Lavington

Regular	Guernsey: Black with teal, red and white
	Socks: Black with teal, red and white rings at top
	Shorts: Black with black and white inserts
Alternate	Socks: Red
	Shorts: White with black and teal inserts

Myrtleford

Regular	Guernsey: Black, white and red panels and black back. Socks: Red, white and black hoops Shorts: Black with red and white inserts
Alternate	Guernsey: Red top, white bottom and black cross Socks: Red, white and black hoops Shorts: White with black and red inserts

North Albury

Regular	Guernsey: Green with gold vee Socks: Green and gold hoops Shorts: Gold with green stripes
Alternate	Shorts: White with green and gold stripes

Wangaratta

Regular	Guernsey: Black and white stripes Socks: Black Shorts: Black with black and white inserts
Alternate	Shorts: White with white and black inserts

Wangaratta Rovers

Regular	Guernsey: Brown and gold vertical stripes Socks: Brown and gold hoops Shorts: Brown with brown and gold inserts
Alternate	Shorts: White with brown and gold inserts

Wodonga

Regular	Guernsey: Maroon with white side panels and monogram Socks: Maroon Shorts: Maroon with maroon and white inserts
Alternate	Shorts: White with maroon and white inserts

Wodonga Raiders

Regular	Guernsey: Navy with red yolk and Raider logo
	Socks: Red
	Shorts: Navy with navy and red inserts
Alternate	Shorts: White with red and navy inserts

Yarrowonga

Regular	Guernsey: Navy and white hoops
	Socks: Navy and white hoops
	Shorts: Navy with navy and white inserts
Alternate	Shorts: White with navy and white inserts

Each player who is a registered player of the OMFNL must wear the items of uniform and apparel directed by the OMFNL, including playing uniform and other items of apparel to be worn by players attending official OMFNL fixtures and events.

If a player fails to wear such items of uniform and apparel prescribed by the OMFNL pursuant to this Rule, a fine as set out in the Schedule will be imposed by the OMFNL upon the Club for each player of the Club in respect of whom there is a breach.

Each Club may obtain approval of the OMFNL for two sets of short colours to be designated by the Club as first selection and alternate selection respectively.

The "home team" will adopt its first selection of short colours and the "away team" will wear white shorts.

For final series matches, the selection of shorts to be worn will be determined by the OMFNL.

4. OMFNL AND CLUB LOGOS

a) OMFNL logo on players guernseys:

The emblem of the OMFNL must be included on all guernseys and in a position on each guernsey as approved by the OMFNL for each Club.

- i) On the left shoulder - to be of dimensions 61 mm high by 75 mm wide.
- ii) On the back of the guernsey and within each number at the bottom of each number - to be of dimensions 21 mm high and 17 mm wide.

b) AFLVC logo on guernseys:

- i) All guernseys must have the approved AFLVC logo on the guernsey as directed by the AFL VC.
- ii) All guernseys must be purchased through an approved AFL supplier.

c) AFL VC logo on shorts:

- i) Only shorts as approved by the AFL VC with the appropriate AFL VC insert may be worn and must be purchased through an approved AFL VC supplier.
 - ii) Shorts must be in the colours of the Club and must have the correct coloured inserts.
- d) **Sponsor's logos on guernseys & shorts:**
- i) The size of the sponsors' logos on guernsey's is not to exceed 18,000mm² or such other size directed by the OMFNL. The size of the sponsor's logo on players' shorts is not to exceed 7,500mm² or of such other size directed by the OMFNL.
 - ii) Sponsor's logos may be positioned on the front chest area of the guernsey and on the back of the guernsey above and/or below the number or in such other position approved by the OMFNL. Sponsor's logos may be positioned on the front left and/or right leg area of the shorts or such other position directed by the OMFNL.
 - iii) Logos are to be referred to the General Manager of the OMFNL ("the General Manager") for checking for compliance with this Bylaw prior to being included on a Club guernsey.
 - iv) Clubs are not permitted to conclude negotiations with a sponsor whose name or product would be detrimental to the image or interest of the OMFNL.
 - v) Prior to finalisation of arrangements with any new sponsors, contact is to be made with the General Manager to seek advice as to whether entering into arrangements with the sponsor may contravene Bylaw 4(d)(iv).
- f) **Lace-up guernseys:**
- Lace-up guernseys are not permitted to be worn in OMFNL matches.
- g) **Size of numbers:**
- The numbers on the back of guernseys must be not less than 27.9 centimetres in size.
- h) **Under-shorts:**
- Any protective gear or under-shorts worn must be skin toned or the colour of the Club shorts on the day.
- i) **Socks:**
- Only AFLVC approved socks may be used in OMFNL matches. Sockettes or shortened socks must not be used.

5. NUMBERS

- a)
 - i) Each player must wear the number notified by their Club. The number must be of a type and size and attached to the guernsey in a place directed by the OMFNL.
 - ii) If a player fails to wear the number notified by the player's Club to the OMFNL for publication, a fine as set out in the Schedule will be imposed upon the Club for each player of the Club failing to wear the notified number.
 - iii) If a player is not included in the players notified to the OMFNL for publication or if they play under a different number to that notified, the change of number must be announced over the public address system prior to the commencement of the match. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

- iv) If a player changes his number during the course of a match the change must be announced over the public address system prior to the commencement of the next quarter. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

6. COMPETITION CONDITIONS

a) **Home and away matches:**

- i) In all matches four points will be counted for a win, two for a draw. In the event of a forfeit the Club receiving the forfeit will receive four points. In the event of two or more Clubs tying on points at the end of the home and away matches, these Clubs will be positioned in order of percentage, determined by the proportion of points scored for and against each Club during the home and away matches.
- ii) In the event of there being a tie for first, third or fifth position on the ladder at the end of the home and away matches i.e. Clubs having the same points and percentage, then their positions will be determined by aggregating the points scored by the Clubs during the matches which they played against each other during the home and away matches, with the Club having the greater points total being awarded the higher position on the ladder.
- iii) Unless otherwise determined by the OMFNL:
- 1) All Third Grade home and away matches will commence at 10.00 a.m. and be played over four (4) quarters of twenty (20) minutes (no time-on);
 - 2) All Reserve Grade home and away matches will commence at 12.00 noon and be played over four (4) quarters of twenty two (22) minutes (no time-on); and
 - 3) All Senior Grade home and away matches will commence at 2.00 p.m. and be played over four (4) quarters of twenty (20) minutes plus time-on.
- iv) Clubs must observe the AFLVC Equalisation Guidelines, and the AFL Victoria Community Club Sustainability Program including AFL Victoria Player Points System and Allowable Player Payments Rules.

b) **Final series matches:**

At the conclusion of the home and away matches the first five Clubs on the premiership ladder ("the ladder") will play off for the premiership under the final five system.

- i) First Weekend:

Elimination Final

The Club placed fourth on the ladder will play the Club placed fifth on the ladder. The loser of the Elimination Final is eliminated from the final series.

Qualifying Final

The Club placed second on the ladder will play the Club placed third on the ladder.

- ii) Second Weekend:

First Semi-Final

The winner of the Elimination Final will play the loser of the Qualifying Final. The loser of the First Semi-Final is eliminated from the final series.

Second Semi - Final

The Club placed first on the ladder will play the winner of the Qualifying Final.

- iii) Third Weekend:

Preliminary Final

The winner of the First Semi-Final will play the loser of the Second Semi Final.
The loser of the Preliminary Final is eliminated from the final series.

- iv) Fourth Weekend:

Grand Final:

The winner of the Second Semi-Final will play the winner of the Preliminary Final.

c) **Final series matches duration:**

- i) All Third Grade final series matches will be played over four (4) quarters each of seventeen minutes (17) plus time-on;
- iii) All Reserve Grade final series matches will be played over four (4) quarters each of seventeen minutes (17) plus time-on; and
- iv) All Senior Grade final series matches will be played over four (4) quarters each of twenty (20) minutes plus time-on.

d) **Draws in final series matches:**

In the event of a draw in a final series match extra time will be played in the following conditions:

- i) There will be an interval of five (5) minutes between the end of regular time and the commencement of extra time. The timekeeper will sound the warning siren three (3) times at three (3) minutes and twice (2) at four (4) minutes. Clubs not having dispersed and moved to position at the sound of the four (4) minute sirens will be reported to the OMFNL by the field umpires. The timekeeper will sound the siren again at the five (5) minute mark to recommence play.
- ii) Extra time will consist of two (2) halves each of five (5) minutes duration plus time-on.
- iii) Teams will maintain the same ends as at the completion of regular time and will exchange ends after the first five (5) minute period.
- iv) In the event that scores are level following the first two (2) periods of extra time then this sequence will be repeated until a result is determined.
- v) Coaches and other Club staff other than those permitted to enter the arena during normal time, will only enter the field to address players during the interval between the end of regular time and the commencement of extra time.

e) **Grounds for final series matches:**

Final series matches will be played upon grounds determined by the OMFNL.

f) **Qualifying conditions for playing in final series matches:**

- i) For the purposes of final series qualification a player playing in two matches in the same home and away round will only be credited with the match played in the higher grade.
- ii)
 - 1) A player must play in at least three matches for their club to be eligible to participate in finals matches for that club ('the qualifying matches')
In the case of a reserve grade final, the player must have played no less than two of the qualifying matches in the reserve grade or lesser grade.
 - 2) A player who has played more than half the scheduled home and away matches in a higher grade team will be ineligible to play in final series matches in a lower grade team.

e.g. in an 18 week season a player is eligible to play finals in the lower grade team if he has only played 9 matches in the higher grade, but is ineligible if he has played 10 matches.
 - 3) The exception to Bylaw 6(g)(ii)(2) is when the player's club is engaged in both grades in that weekend of finals.
- iii) For permit player finals qualification refer to AFL Victoria Country Rules & Regulations or applicable Area Agreement.
- iv) If a Club has all three teams playing final series matches on the same weekend that Club can select players in such teams as it sees fit, subject to Rule 6(g)(ii)(1).
- v) If any Club has its Senior Grade or Reserve Grade and Third Grade teams playing on the same weekend that Club can only select a player in the Third Grade if the player has not played more than half the home and away matches in Senior Grade and Reserve Grade.

e.g. a player will be disqualified if they have played 6 Senior Grade matches and 4 Reserve Grade matches in an 18 match home and away season.
- vi) For the purposes of final series qualification, matches played in the AFL Victoria Under 18 competition (currently known as the "TAC Cup") will be considered as OMFNL Senior Grade matches.
- vii) Any player who is on an AFL or VFL club list must play at least half of the scheduled home and away matches to be eligible to play in final series matches or be delisted by their AFL or VFL club.
- viii) Matches played in the final series do not count toward qualification.

7. THIRD GRADE COMPETITION

- a) To be eligible to play in the OMFNL Third Grade competition a player must not turn eighteen (18) years before or on 31 December in the preceding year.

b) Teams competing in the Third Grade competition will consist of twenty two (22) players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom may take part in a match at any time, the remaining players being interchange players.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

The General Manager may postpone any match in the event of unfavourable weather. A decision to postpone a match will be made as soon as possible. The OMFNL will schedule the playing of any postponed match at any convenient time prior to the commencement of final series matches.

9. MATCHES BETWEEN CLUBS OUTSIDE SCHEDULED COMPETITIONS

Outside scheduled OMFNL competitions, a Club must not play another OMFNL Club without the OMFNL's approval.

10. BALL TO BE USED

- a) For each Senior Grade home and away match the home Club will submit two new red footballs (each approved by the OMFNL) to the visiting Club for choice, provided that in the event of a night game the home Club will submit two new yellow footballs.
- b) By agreement between Clubs, two new red footballs may be used in a Senior Grade match.
- c) For use in the event of emergency the home Club will arrange for not less than two additional footballs to be delivered to the Umpires' dressing room prior to the start of the match.
- d) For the purpose of this Bylaw the approved footballs are Sherrin with approved League sponsor logos.
- e) In Reserve Grade and Third Grade matches one new ball and one other ball of suitable condition (to be determined by the match umpires) must be supplied for the choice of the visiting Club.
- f) A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

11. ADMISSION PRICES

- a) At all grounds registered with the OMFNL for home and away matches there will be a uniform price of admission determined by the OMFNL. Aged and invalid pensioners will be admitted to all home and away matches on production of pension cards at a price determined by the OMFNL.
- b) Admission prices for the finals series will be decided by the OMFNL.
- c) The holders of carer's companion cards and children 12 years and under will be admitted to all matches free of charge. Proof of entitlement or age may be requested.
- d) OMFNL guest passes will be issued by the General Manager to media personnel, trophy donors to the OMFNL, Morris Medal winners, Wilson Medal winners, life members of the OMFNL, Hall of Fame inductees and recognised guests of the OMFNL.
- e) Holders of AFL Victoria service medallions and holders of guest passes issued by the OMFNL will be admitted free to all matches upon production of their medallions or guest passes.
- f) Normal admission charges will be paid by all visiting players and officials except for Third Grade football players and all netball players under the age of eighteen (18) years who will be given passes and will be admitted free to all matches upon production of their passes.

- g) The host Club for any final series match will pay a hosting fee as advised by the OMFNL and any entitlement to free admittance for its "workers" will be as provided in the OMFNL's Finals Hosting Rules.
- h) In the final series the host Club will after adding the privilege fee, account to the OMFNL for the net amount of the gate moneys and privilege fees.

12. OMFNL PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Clubs are to supply information in electronic format for OMFNL publications as requested, including accurate team lists, no later than 12.00 noon on the Tuesday before the commencement of the next round of scheduled matches. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEAMS

- a) All Clubs are to electronically lodge with the OMFNL particulars of their Senior Grade, Reserve Grade and Third Grade teams (consisting of a maximum of eighteen (18) players, three (3) interchange [four (4) for Third Grade] and three (3) emergencies).
- b) Electronic lodgement of teams is to be completed by:
 - i) 8.30 p.m. Thursday if they are playing on a Friday night or Saturday; and
 - ii) 5.00 p.m. Friday if they are playing on a Sunday or public holidays. Teams playing on a Sunday or public holidays are also required to announce an extended list consisting of eighteen (18) players, six (6) interchange [seven (7) for Third Grade] by 8.30 pm Thursday.
- c) Failure to electronically lodge any team as required by Bylaw 13(a) will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.
- d) The Senior Grade team will comprise eighteen (18) players in position, an interchange of three (3) and three (3) emergencies, making a total of twenty four (24) players. Teams must be named with the emergencies not included in the team listing of twenty one (21). No expanded bench is to be named, other than as provided in Bylaw 13(b)(ii).
- e) Late changes to selected teams will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.
- f) A fine as set out in the Schedule will be imposed upon Clubs who drop players from the original twenty one (21) Senior Grade players to the Reserve Grade or Third Grade team that particular weekend or who use players in the Senior Grade team after not including them in the twenty-four (24) players lodged with the OMFNL.

14. TEAM SHEETS

- a) The team manager of each Club must meet with the team manager of the other competing Club and the Umpires:
 - i) For Third Grade matches - 30 minutes before the scheduled time for commencement of the match; and
 - ii) For Senior Grade and Reserve Grade matches - at three quarter time of the preceding game,

and deliver to each of the opposing team manager and the umpires a team sheet listing:

- iii) The names of all players of the Club and their guernsey numbers;
 - iv) The interchange players;
 - v) The captain;
 - vi) The coach;
 - vii) The official runner;
 - viii) The water carriers;
 - ix) Any Club umpire;
 - x) The Club umpire escort;
 - xi) The official trainers of the team;
 - xii) the interchange steward; and
 - xiii) the timekeeper.
- b) All team sheets must be completed electronically. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule. The home team is responsible for printing off copies of all official team sheets for that day.
 - c) All day and/or area permit forms in respect of any player must be sighted by a responsible official of the opposing Club and signed by this official prior to the commencement of the match.
 - d) All team sheets are to be signed by a responsible official of the Club.
 - e) After each match the Secretary of the home Club must forward to the OMFNL Operations Officer of the OMFNL a copy of each team sheet along with the umpires' report of the match.

15. REPORTS OF MATCHES

- a) Team Managers of both competing Clubs must attend at the Umpires' rooms and complete and submit all necessary match day documents required by the OMFNL within twenty (20) minutes of the end of play.
- b) The home Club must electronically lodge all match day information the OMFNL requires including correct scores on a quarter by quarter basis, best players and goal kickers for all grades played:
 - i) On or before 5.30 pm for matches starting at 2.10 pm; and
 - ii) Within 30 minutes of the end of matches scheduled to start at other times.

The information submitted will include particulars of any reports made by umpires in any grade on that day or alternatively advise "all clear".
- c) The Secretary of the home Club will submit to the OMFNL Operations Manager:
 - i) All match day documentation and information designated by the OMFNL as "priority" to be received by 8.00 am the next business day after the match; and

- ii) All other required match day documentation and information by 5.00pm on the next business after the match or if sent by express post, to be posted not later than the closing time for express post on the next business day after the match.

The match day documentation currently required includes the official score card certified "correct" by both official scorers, team sheets, time cards, umpires reports, OMFNL awards, interchange sheets, and day and area permits (if any). A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

16. ATTENDANCE AT THE UMPIRES' ROOM

The Secretary or Team Manager of all Clubs must attend the Umpires' Room within twenty (20) minutes of the conclusion of the match to receive the "all clear" or to be notified of any report. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

17. PROOF OF COMMUNICATION

Wherever these Bylaws and the Articles of the OMFNL provide for a time limit for lodgement of any communication the onus of proof of lodgement within time is on the initiating Club.

18. TIMEKEEPING

a) Duties and Powers of timekeepers:

The provisions of the AFL Laws of the Game apply with respect to the duties and powers of timekeepers.

b) Clocks and Sirens:

- i) Each Club must supply one clock for the use of the Club timekeeper;
- ii) Each ground upon which OMFNL matches are played must have a bell or siren of a type approved by the OMFNL;
- iii) The operation of the siren is under the control of the timekeepers appointed for the match; and
- iv) The timekeepers will at the end of each quarter continue to ring or sound the bell or siren until the field umpire acknowledges that they have heard the bell or siren by blowing their whistle and holding their two hands over their head.

c) Times for starting matches:

The OMFNL will determine the starting time for matches, the times by which teams will enter the field for the commencement of matches and the penalties to be paid or incurred by Clubs for failure of their teams to enter the field by the times determined.

d) Start of Match:

- i) The siren will be sounded once when the umpires enter the field five (5) minutes prior to the start of the match.
- ii) Two (2) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the match a warning siren will be sounded twice (2).
- iii) The toss of the coin will take place at the next sound of the warning siren (once) at one minute prior to the scheduled starting time.

- iv) The timekeeper will sound the siren once (1) at the official starting time to commence play.
- v) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that their captain is at the toss area, which will be at the centre circle, prior to the one minute 30 second warning siren.
- vi) The umpires will be at the toss area at the two (2) minute warning sirens.
- vii) Clubs will be permitted to warm up until the two (2) minute warning sirens are sounded. Players must move to their field positions immediately following the toss.
- viii) Each club will be permitted the use of footballs on an agreed half of the field prior to the commencement of matches.
- ix) Clubs not ready to start when the timekeepers sound the siren at the official starting time will be reported to the OMFNL by the field umpires, who will complete an official report following the completion of the match. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

e) **Quarter-Time:**

- i) Senior Grade match: Interval time - five (5) minutes.

The timekeeper will sound the warning siren twice (2) at three (3) minutes and once (1) at four (4) minutes. Clubs not having dispersed and moved to their field positions at the sound of the four (4) minute sirens will be reported to the OMFNL by the field umpires. The timekeeper will sound the siren once (1) at the five minute (5) mark to recommence play.

- ii) Reserve Grade match: Interval time - five (5) minutes.

- iii) Third Grade match: Interval time - five (5) minutes.

f) **Half-Time:**

- i) Senior Grade match: Interval time - twenty (20) minutes.

The half-time entertainment (if any) must cease at the fifteen (15) minute warning sirens (one (1) sounding). Any instances of exceeding this time will be reported to the OMFNL. At the eighteen (18) minute mark the siren will be sounded twice (2) and Clubs must move to their field positions immediately. Clubs not ready to start will be reported to the OMFNL by the field umpires.

The time keeper will sound the siren once (1) at the official starting time (twenty (20) minutes) to recommence play.

- ii) Reserve Grade match: Interval time - ten (10) minutes.

- iii) Third Grade match: Interval time - ten (10) minutes.

g) **Three-Quarter time:**

- i) Senior Grade match: Interval time - six (6) minutes.

The timekeeper will sound the siren twice (2) at four (4) minutes and once (1) at five (5) minutes. Clubs not having dispersed and moved to their field positions at the sound of the five (5) minute sirens will be reported to the OMFNL by the field umpires.

The timekeeper will sound the siren again at the six (6) minute mark to recommence play.

- ii) Reserve Grade match: Interval time - five (5) minutes.
 - iii) Third Grade match: Interval time - five (5) minutes.
- h) If a team of a Club has not entered the field within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time the Club will (in addition to any fine set out in the Schedule) forfeit the match and the premiership points for the match unless a satisfactory explanation for the delay is provided to the OMFNL. In the event of a match being forfeited on the scheduled day, if the Club who has forfeited the match provides an explanation to the OMFNL which the OMFNL considers satisfactory, then the OMFNL in its absolute discretion may determine that the match be played on a subsequent day or otherwise finally decide the matter.

19. INTERCHANGE STEWARDS

- a) Each Club must provide one interchange steward for each match. Their name must be recorded on the official team sheet.
- b) Each interchange steward must record their own Club's player interchange records. This includes the numbers of players who leave and enter the field and the time they entered and left the field
- c) Interchange stewards must monitor players eligible to interchange throughout the match and must ensure they cross the boundary line at the same place within the marked lines, player off first, player on second.
- d) Interchange stewards must sit together in a location designated by the OMFNL .
- e) A player who does not leave the field as required by Bylaw 19(c) is unable to re-enter the field for the remainder of the match. Both interchange stewards must agree there has been a clear breach before this consequence is applied.
- f) Where a player does not enter the field as required by Bylaw 19(c), the interchange steward and/or a field umpire must report the circumstances to the OMFNL, including the scores at the time. The OMFNL may apply a sanction including the imposition of a fine or the reversal of the match result.
- g) In the case of a yellow card the interchange stewards of both Clubs must liaise with each other and agree upon the time the offending player(s) left the field. Based on that time both stewards then need to work out the 15 minute playing time penalty to reach the milestone time when the player can re-enter the field. These times are to be recorded on the offending player's Club Interchange sheet and initialled by each interchange steward.
- h) In the case of a red card the interchange stewards of both Clubs must liaise with each other and agree upon the time the offending player s) left the field. Based on that time both stewards then need to work out the 20 minute playing time penalty to reach the milestone when the red carded player can be replaced. The offending red carded player cannot re-enter the match and can only be replaced by another named player after 20 minutes. These times are to be recorded on the offending player's Club interchange sheet and initialled by each interchange steward.
- i) At the completion of the match each steward must sign their own interchange steward control sheet and initial the opposition Club's sheet.
- j) Interchange stewards are encouraged to report to the OMFNL any infringement of this Bylaw.

20. SCORE BOARDS, SCORE KEEPING AND TIME CLOCKS

- a) Score boards must be erected in a prominent position on each ground approved for use by the OMFNL and scores must be posted to the score boards by a competent person.
- b) The goal umpires are the official scorers. The goal umpires will confer and check their scores at the end of each quarter. In the event of any discrepancy between the scores kept by the goal umpires they will check the scores against the scores kept by the timekeepers.
- c) At the end of each quarter the goal umpires will communicate with the score board attendant to ensure that the scores displayed are correct.
- d) Time clocks must be erected in a prominent position on each ground approved for use the OMFNL and are to be of a design and size so that they may be easily read by all persons attending the match.

21. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

No form of electronic communication (such as walkie-talkie or mobile telephone) will be used on the field during the progress of a match, excepting in the area between the arena fence and the boundary line.

22. UMPIRES

- a) Any umpire who is directed to attend an OMFNL Board meeting or the OMFNL Tribunal and who fails to do so will be dealt with in the OMFNL's absolute discretion.
- b) An umpire (with the exception of "club umpires") is not eligible to officiate in a match involving the Club of which he was a player until a period of three (3) years has elapsed since he last played for that Club.
- c)
 - i) Umpires' dressing rooms must be kept clear of all persons except the umpires and no visit is permitted before, during or after the match by any persons except the Secretary or Team Manager of the competing Clubs.
 - ii) Separate shower facilities must be provided for the umpires and Clubs must work towards having separate shower facilities for female umpires.

A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

- d) Club officials, coaches and players must not engage in public comment on umpires. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.
- e)
 - i) It is the responsibility of each Club to supply an umpires' escort who must be listed on the official team sheet.
 - i) The escort must wear the escort identification supplied by the OMFNL.
 - ii) The escort must be a mature person, capable of assisting the umpire in a crisis.
 - iii) The escorts are to be at the umpires' room five (5) minutes prior to the umpires going on to the field.
 - iv) The escorts must accompany the umpires on to the field prior to the match and prior to the start of the second half and off the ground at the completion of the second and final quarters.

- v) The escorts must go to the centre of the field and stand with the umpires during quarter time and three quarter time breaks.
 - vi) The escort must move quickly to the umpires as soon as the end of each quarter is signalled.
 - vii) In the event of an incident involving the umpires the escorts must remain with the umpires and ensure their safe departure from the field.
 - viii) The Umpires must be escorted to the door of the Umpires' Room before the escorts are considered to have completed their duties
 - ix) The Umpires will record any breach of this Bylaw in the match day report.
 - x) Any breach of this Bylaw will result in the OMFNL imposing a fine as set out in the Schedule.
- f) No Club coach or Club official is permitted to speak to umpires during the progress of a match or at intervals. The club captain only is permitted to enter into the centre square during the intervals. All team addresses must be given outside the centre square. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.
 - g) The home Club is responsible for the security of the Umpires' Rooms and any possessions of the umpires left in the Umpires' Rooms e.g. tracksuit tops.

23. LEAGUE AWARDS

- a) This Bylaw applies to the following OMFNL awards for the player(s) adjudicated by the field umpires to be the fairest and best in home and away matches:
 - i) Senior Grade - the "Morris Medal";
 - ii) Reserve Grade - the "Leo Burke Medal"; and
 - iii) Third Grade - the "Leo Dean Medal".
- b) The player adjudged fairest and best will receive three votes, the player adjudged second fairest and best will receive two votes and the player adjusted third fairest and best will receive one vote.
- c) Within twenty (20) minutes of the conclusion of each match the field umpires will record their assessment of the three fairest and best players in the match in order of preference in a sealed, addressed and stamped envelope marked with the name of the award for that grade. The secretary of the home Club is responsible for lodging the envelope at the OMFNL Office on the first working day after the match with all other "non-priority" documentation.
- d) At the end of the home and away matches in each season the votes will be counted and the player(s) receiving the highest number of votes is/are to receive the award. In the case of two or more players receiving an equal number of votes, joint winners will be declared and will receive the award.
- e) Any player found guilty of an offence or who has accepted a set penalty suspension is ineligible to receive the award in that season, except in the instance of a time wasting offence(s) and offences where no period of suspension has been imposed.

A player who is ineligible is ineligible for awards in all grades, regardless of the grade in which the penalty was incurred.

- f) The umpires will be instructed that votes are to be awarded to players irrespective of whether they have been found guilty of an offence in a match during that season and irrespective of whether they have been reported during that match.
- g) A player to whom ByLaw 23(e) applies will only be ineligible for OMFNL awards in the season in which the relevant offence occurred. A player issued any form of penalty as result of an offence in a finals game will not be ineligible for OMFNL awards in that season, or in the following season or seasons, even if all or part of the penalty is to be served in the following season or seasons.

24. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- a) If a representative match is to be played in the same round as "home and away" matches have been scheduled then the OMFNL has first call on the services of players. If a selected player is not able to play he will not be permitted to play with his Club during that round unless the General Manager is satisfied that the reason for the player not representing the OMFNL is legitimate e.g. that the player cannot obtain leave of absence from his employment so as to travel to the venue of the match.
- b) The OMFNL will appoint the coaching staff of all representative teams.
- c) The OMFNL will appoint a chairman of selectors of each representative team and up to four selectors, one of whom will be the coach.
- d) The selectors will appoint captains and vice-captains of all representative teams.

25. TRAINERS/WATER CARRIERS/RUNNERS

- a) Prior to the commencement of each season each Club must submit to the General Manager a written list of their official trainers.
- b) Each trainer must be registered by the OMFNL. As a condition of registration the OMFNL may require:
 - i) That the trainer hold qualifications as determined by OMFNL.
 - ii) The payment of a fee as determined by the OMFNL.
- c) A Club may use a maximum of six (6) trainers and/or water carriers during any match.
- d)
 - i) All trainers must be dressed in white long pants and a shirt and/or jacket in the colours of their Club. All trainers must have a number on the back of their shirts or jackets.
 - ii) All water carriers must be attired in white long pants or white football shorts of their Club. OMFNL approved water carrier shirts must be worn and have Identification by Club and number.
 - iii) When not carrying water to players, all water carriers must stay within one (1) of four (4) marked squares (of 2m x 2m dimensions) on each boundary adjacent to the point where the 50m arc intersects with the boundary.
- e) Water carriers and trainers must be listed on the team sheet in the appropriate section showing their name and number.
- f) Both participating clubs in each match must have a stretcher and Jordan frame placed at their interchange bench. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

- g) No Coach or assistant Coach may act as a runner, trainer or water carrier in any OMFNL match.
- h) Team Runner(s)
 - i) The team runner(s) shall dress in the uniform determined by the OMFNL.
 - ii) Not have affixed to his or her person any communication device which includes but is not limited to portable radios, headsets, microphones or earpieces.
 - iii) Enter and exit the playing arena where (2) club runners are used with only (1) runner allowed on the field at any one time. Should a club use (1) runner only, the runner may enter and exit the playing arena from any point of the ground.

26. BREACH - LAWS OF THE GAME

- a) The AFL VC Rules will be applied for all reportable offences under the AFL Laws of the Game for field offences.
- b) The provisions of this Bylaw will apply to all matches including practice matches at which there are officiating umpires.
- c) Charges to be determined by the OMFNL Tribunal will be heard at a time and place determined by the General Manager of the OMFNL.
- d) Provided that the OMFNL Tribunal is satisfied that no substantial miscarriage of justice will result, the OMFNL Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine any charge even if there has not been compliance with one or more of these Bylaws.
- e)
 - i) Club officials and player must not publicly comment on the contents of a written report or a charge prior to the determination by the OMFNL Tribunal. A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.
 - ii) Club officials and player must not publicly comment on the OMFNL Tribunal or the OMFNL Board or staff and must not otherwise make public comments bringing the OMFNL into disrepute.

A breach of this Bylaw will result in a fine as set out in the Schedule.

- f) If a Club makes an allegations or complaint against an umpire the OMFNL may take such action in its absolute discretion as it may consider appropriate.
- g) An official of a Club who uses abusive, threatening or insulting language to an umpire on the day of a match or otherwise misconducts himself will be liable to a fine as set out in the Schedule.
- h) **AFL Victoria Country Investigation:**
In the event any party is determined by the OMFNL Independent Tribunal to be guilty of a charge resulting from an AFL Independent Investigation all expenses associated with that investigation as determined by the OMFNL will be payable by their club.

27. SET PENALTIES

- a) The Club of a reported player must notify the reporting umpire within twenty (20) minutes of the end of the match or of being advised of the report whichever last occurs, whether the reported player accepts a set penalty or wishes the matter determined by the OMFNL Tribunal.
- b) If after accepting a set penalty a player wishes to have the report determined by the OMFNL Tribunal, his Club must notify the General Manager by 10.00 am on the Monday after the report.

28. EXPULSION, SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- a) A Club expelling or suspending a player will within seven (7) days of the expulsion or suspension

provide in writing to the General Manager particulars of the name and address of the suspended or expelled player and of the offence. The General Manager will then give the player written notice of his rights pursuant to the AFL VC Rules. No suspended player will be allowed to play until either his suspension has expired or otherwise been removed.

- b) No disqualified player will be allowed to play with or coach any Club or hold any office or act in any capacity for a Club until the disqualification has expired or been removed. A player may play in Club practice matches or pre-season matches and any playing coach may act as a non-playing coach of his Club during the period of his disqualification. A disqualified coach may not enter the field or act in any official capacity for their Club and may not address the players (or speak to any individual player) of the Club whether on or off the field. These restrictions apply prior to, during and after the match (up to 6.00 pm on the day of the match). Any breach of this Bylaw will be dealt with by the OMFNL in its absolute discretion.

29. INFRINGEMENTS

- a) Where the OMFNL is of the opinion that a Club or any coach, player, trainer, official or employee of a Club has contravened the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association or the Bylaws the OMFNL may deal with the matter in any manner which in its absolute discretion it thinks fit.
- b) Where the OMFNL is of the opinion that a Club or any coach, player, trainer, official or employee of a Club has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming, is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute or is prejudicial to the interests of the OMFNL, then the OMFNL will refer the matter to its Investigations Officer for investigation pursuant to the "Conduct Unbecoming " provisions of the AFL VC Rules.
- c) Where the OMFNL is of the opinion that coach, player, trainer, official or employee of a Club may have committed a reportable offence under the Laws of the Game of Football the OMFNL may refer the matter to the Investigation Officer for investigation and if the Investigation Officer reports that there is a case to answer, then to the OMFNL Tribunal.

30. MATCH REVIEW

- a) The OMFNL will before the commencement of each season and otherwise as necessary from time to time appoint persons for the purpose of forming a Match Review Panel when requested.
- b) The members of the Match Review Panel must not hold any other office with the OMFNL or any OMFNL Club, nor have done so for a period of 12 months prior to their appointment. A person may not be both a member of the OMFNL Tribunal and Match Review Panel. The identity of Match Review Panel Members will not be disclosed or publicised. A Match Review Panel Member must not be involved in a review if they have been involved in any way with one of the Clubs who participated in the match under review. "Involved in any way" includes as a player, office bearer or holder of any other official capacity with one of the Clubs who participated in the match under review during the preceding 3 years.
- c) Any participating Club or the umpiring body to whom the officiating match day umpires are affiliated (**the umpiring body**) may request that any on-field incident with respect to which no AFL Victoria Country Notice of Report has been issued by the match day umpires (**the incident**) be reviewed by a Match Review Panel (**a review request**).
- d) The OMFNL "Match Review Form" which identifies the incident must be completed and signed by:
 - (i) the requesting Club's president and senior coach; or
 - (ii) the Umpire Development Manager of the umpiring body and one of the officiating match day umpires.
- e) If the party submitting a review request has footage of the incident which they want considered or upon which they may later seek to rely then this must be submitted with the review request together with a statutory declaration to the effect that the footage has not been altered or edited. Failure to produce relevant footage at this stage may result in the OMFNL Tribunal refusing to allow its admission as evidence at OMFNL Tribunal proceedings arising out of the review request.
- f) The Match Review Form must be received by the OMFNL by 12.00 pm the second day

after the match with respect to which the review request is received unless otherwise determined in writing by the OMFNL General Manager. If the Match Review Form is lodged by a club, a deposit of \$250 shall accompany the Match Review Form which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event the Match Review Panel considers it frivolous.

- g) Upon receiving the review request the OMFNL will as soon as possible appoint a 3 member Match Review Panel who must complete the review by 12.00 pm the third day after the match with respect to which the review request has been received unless otherwise determined in writing by the OMFNL General Manager.
- h) Upon a review request being received the OMFNL will inform the two Clubs and the umpiring body that a review is being conducted. If any of the parties who did not submit the review request has footage of the incident which they want considered or upon which they may later seek to rely then this must be submitted to the OMFNL as soon as possible together with a statutory declaration to the effect that the footage has not been altered or edited. Failure to produce relevant footage at this stage may result in the OMFNL Tribunal refusing to allow its admission as evidence at OMFNL Tribunal proceedings arising out of the review request.
- i) If there is no footage of the incident the subject of the review request then the OMFNL will inform each Club and the umpiring body and advise them of the reason for there being no footage of the incident.
- j) If there is footage of the incident then the OMFNL will then provide the footage (consisting of both OMFNL official footage and any footage submitted by any party) to the Match Review Panel members as soon as possible. The Match Review Panel members will then review the footage and determine if any AFL Victoria Country Rules have been breached. They may consider all possible breaches which are apparent from a consideration of the footage, not just those which may have been nominated by the review request.
- k) The Match Review Panel members may meet to review the footage together or may do so independently. The Match Review Panel may regulate their proceedings as they see fit. Decisions will be made by majority vote.
- l) Upon the Match Review Panel making its decision the 2 Clubs and the Umpiring Body will be informed of the decision as soon as possible.
- m) If the Match Review Panel determines that there is no case to answer this does not affect rights to request an AFL Victoria Country Independent Investigation.
- n) If the Match Review Panel determines that there is a case to answer then:
 - (i) The OMFNL General Manager may offer a set penalty under the guidelines of the AFL Victoria Country Report Form; or
 - (ii) A report may be referred to the OMFNL Tribunal for determination, in which case all parties will be provided with a completed report sheet.
- o) The umpiring body will provide an advocate to prosecute all reports referred to the OMFNL Tribunal for determination resulting from Match Review Panel reviews. Match Review Panels members will not attend and cannot be called as witnesses at OMFNL Tribunal proceedings.

31. CODE OF CONDUCT

Clubs are responsible for the actions and behaviour of their coaches, players, trainers, officials employees and supporters, before, during and after all matches and at all official OMFNL functions and at the OMFNL Tribunal. The Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their coaches, players, trainers, officials, employees and supporters comply with any OMFNL or AFL VC Code of Conduct and policies.

32. FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETING AS DIRECTED

- a) Any coach, player, trainer, official or employee of a Club who fails to attend any OMFNL Tribunal, OMFNL Board or other meeting of the OMFNL which they may have been directed to attend will be dealt with as the OMFNL Tribunal may think fit.
- b) Any person failing to attend upon the OMFNL Tribunal after having been requested by the Chairman of the OMFNL Tribunal to do so upon reasonable notice will be fined as set out in the Schedule in addition to any penalty which the Tribunal may impose.

33. PROTESTS - DISPUTED MATCHES

- a) Protests involving disputed matches must be lodged in writing with the General Manager not later than seventy two (72) hours after the completion of the match to be disputed and must be forwarded to the opposing Club at the same time. The onus of proving lodgement within the time limit is on the disputing Club.
- b) The disputing Club must deposit \$2,000.00 with the OMFNL at the time of lodging the protest.
- c) The General Manager will review the grounds of protest:
 - i) If the protest is frivolous - it may be dismissed:
 - ii) If the protest is irregular or involves the jurisdiction of the OMFNL Board - a meeting of the OMFNL Board will be called as soon as possible to consider the protest. The OMFNL Board may hear evidence. The OMFNL Board may in appropriate cases decline to make a determination and remit the protest to the OMFNL Tribunal for determination.
 - iii) Otherwise, the protest will be referred to the OMFNL Tribunal for determination.
- d) No protest may be withdrawn without the consent of the OMFNL.
- e) If the disputing Club does not have a determination made in its favour then the OMFNL Board may in its absolute discretion forfeit all or part of the moneys deposited by the disputing Club.
- f) Either Club affected by the determination may appeal to the AFL VC.
- g) In the event of evidence given in the appeal to the AFL VC being other than as given before the OMFNL Tribunal or OMFNL Board then this evidence must be forwarded to the Secretary of the opposing Club and also to the OMFNL.

34. CLUB IN DEFAULT

If a Club has not paid any moneys due by it to the OMFNL and the OMFNL gives it notice in writing that unless it remedies the default within seven (7) days that "sanctions" will apply and the Club fails to remedy the default within that time, then from the expiry of that period and until the default is remedied, the following sanctions will be applied:

- a) The Club's delegates may not participate in OMFNL decision making;
- b) The Club may play, but will not be awarded any premiership points for any match they win during this period (but no points will be awarded to the losing team). Points "for" and "against" will continue to be added for percentage purposes; and
- c) The Club will not participate in any final series match in any grade. In the event of this sanction being applied the final series will be played in the order of the first five (5) financial Clubs on the ladder.

Each of these sanctions will lapse upon remedy of the default, but will not be retrospectively removed.

35. FINES

Any fine imposed by these Bylaws on any coach, player, trainer, official or employee of a Club will be payable by their Club.

36. RELEASE OF VIDEO FOOTAGE

All Clubs acknowledge that footage of games conducted by the OMFNL and taken by the OMFNL, agents, employees or contractors, is the property of the OMFNL and the General Manager may release such footage, after consultation and with the approval of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, upon request, on a case by case basis.

SCHEDULE OF FINES

BYLAW	COMMENT	AMOUNT
3 & 4	Each incorrect item of playing uniform	\$50, maximum \$500
5	Failure by a player to wear number listed in publication	\$50
10	Failure to use OMFNL/AFL VC endorsed ball	\$100, maximum \$1000
12	Failure to meet OMFNL publication requirements	\$100
13 (c)	Failure to announce teams as required	\$100
13(e)	Late changes to selected team	\$100
13(f)	Selected players dropped from First Grade to lower grades	\$100
14(b)	Failure to complete team sheet correctly	\$100
15	Failure to correctly lodge match day documents	\$100
16	Failure to attend umpires rooms within designated time post match/ failure to receive "all clear"	\$100
18(d)	Late start – start of match Late start – after half time	\$10 per minute \$5 per minute
22 (c)	Approaches to umpires	1 st offence - \$100 2 nd offence – 200 Subsequent offence - \$400
22 (d)	Public comment on umpires	\$250 - \$1000
22 (e)	Failure to escort umpires	Under 18's - \$20 Reserves - \$50 Seniors - \$100
22 (f)	Speaking to umpires during course of game	\$100
25 (d)	Failure of water carriers/runners and trainers to fulfill roles correctly	\$100
25 (f)	Failure to supply stretcher & Jordan frame	\$100
26 (e)	Public comment on tribunal or OMFNL	\$250 – maximum \$1000
32 (b)	Failure to attend summoned meeting. i.e. board/delegate or tribunal	\$500

These fines are those which may be imposed by the General Manager or Operations Manager without seeking a determination from the Board of the OMFNL. In appropriate cases the General Manager or Operations Manager may refer the infringement to the Board in circumstances where it is considered that the fine in the Schedule is not sufficient given the gravity of the infringement.