

RULES OF THE VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GRADES, SECTIONS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

1. Grades shall be the categories of the premierships competition matches in which a player may be eligible to represent a Club.
2. The Grades shall be the Senior Grade, the Reserve Grade, the Under 19 Grade and the Club XVIII Grade.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
3. Sections shall be groups of Clubs represented in each Grade.
4. The number of Clubs represented in each Section shall be determined by the Board of the Association from time to time.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
5. Each Club of the Association shall be represented by a team in the Senior Grade provided that a Club obtaining most or all of their players from a body which has an age limit approximating that of the Under 19 Grade of the Association shall be permitted at the discretion of the Board to be represented in an Under 19 Grade in lieu of a Senior Grade.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
6. Each Club of the Association may nominate to be represented in a Section of the Under 19 Grade.
7. Each Club of the Association shall be represented in a reserve Grade unless granted an exemption by the Board.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
8. The Senior Grade Sections of the Association shall be designated in such manner as the Board considers appropriate.
(Amended Members' Meeting 1/3/2010)
9. The Under 19 Grade Sections of the Association shall be designated by successive numbers or letters or by such other designation as the Board determines and the composition of each such section shall be decided by the Board.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
10. The Reserve Grade Sections shall be designated by successive letters of the alphabet and shall include the Clubs represented in the corresponding Sections of the Senior Grade provided that should a Club in the Senior Grade be granted an exemption by the Board pursuant to **Rule 7** hereof the Board may admit to the premierships competition of such Section a second Reserve Grade team of the Club of the Association upon such terms and conditions as may be determined from time to time by the Board of the Association.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
11. The Clubs represented in the Senior Grades occupying the lowest two positions on the premierships lists of each Section, except for the lowest Section of each Grade, at the end of the season shall be transferred to the next lower Section in the following season and the two Clubs represented in the Grand Final of each Section of the Senior and Under 19 Grades, except for the highest of each Section shall be

transferred to the higher Section in the following season provided that the Board may in its discretion vary this procedure at any time.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

12. A Club which is represented by more than one team in a grade shall be considered as two Clubs of that grade and each such Club shall have the same rights privileges and obligations as every other Club represented in such grade.

13. In the first year a Club of the Association is represented in the Senior Grade such Club shall participate in the premiership competition of the lowest Section of the applicable Grade.

MEETINGS

14. Each Club shall conduct its Annual General Meeting not earlier than the date of the last premiership match under the control of the Association is played in any year, and not later than the 28th November in each year.
15. Each member or authorised proxy of a member of the Association shall attend the Annual General meeting of the Association provided that the date of such meeting shall be fixed by a resolution passed by the Board of the Association at a properly constituted meeting.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
16. Each member or authorised proxy of a member of the Association appointed by a club of the Association shall attend a meeting of the members of the Association which shall be conducted on the first Monday of each month from March to September inclusive provided that the date of any such meeting may be varied or cancelled by a resolution passed by the Board of the Association at a properly constituted meeting.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
17. Prior to any meeting of the Association at which it is intended that a proxy shall attend in place of a member of the Association nominated by a Club of the Association such Club shall lodge in writing the name and address of such proxy with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
18. A Club which expels a member shall advise the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the name and address of such member within fourteen days of the imposition of the penalty.
19. Any member other than an ex-officio member of the Board, Permit Committee or Umpire Committee who has without leave been absent from two consecutive meetings of such Committee shall cease to be a member thereof and the vacancy shall be reported to the next meeting of the Association.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

20. A Club shall be deemed to have received notice of any matter discussed or announced at a meeting of the Association at which the member or proxy of the member nominated by such Club is in attendance.
21. Each Club shall ensure that no later than the 20th day of March in each year a list of not less than two persons to act as the Club's Nominees for appointment as Field Umpire in the Reserve Section games in which the Club participates is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer on the Form prescribed by the Board.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
22. Prior to the 20th day of March in each year, each Club shall lodge with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association a plan of the Club's Home Ground, Pavilion and other buildings and facilities on the Form prescribed by the Board, such plan to be drawn to a standard acceptable to the Board.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
23. Prior to the 7th day of December in each year, each Club shall lodge in writing with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association a list containing the names and addresses of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing Officer, Press Correspondent, all other members of the Committee, and the Coach and Assistant Coaches and trainers of each team of the Club and shall advise of any changes in such list within fourteen (14) days of such change being effected.
(Amended Members' Meeting 3/5/1999)
24. Prior to the 7th day of December in each year each Club shall lodge in writing with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association a statement of the receipts and expenditure of such Club during the previous year.

FINANCIAL

25. Each Club shall make a good faith deposit of \$2,000.00 with the Association within fourteen (14) days of the first admission of a representative of such Club to the Association and the Association may at any time appropriate the whole or any part thereof for the payment of any outstanding liability of such Club to the Association.
26. Prior to the first day of October in each year each Club shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association a written application for each team by which such Club desired to be represented in the premierships competitions of the Association together with an initial instalment of the affiliation fees amounting to \$200.00 per team in respect of the Senior and Reserve team. In respect of any Under 19 or Club 18 team by which the Club desires to be represented, the instalment required shall be as determined by the Board.

(Amended Member's Meeting March 4, 2002)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

27. In the event that a Club withdraws its Under 19 team from the Under 19 Grade prior to the 1st day of March in the following year, the said instalment shall be refunded in full to the Club. In the event that a Club withdraws its Under 19 team after the 1st day of March in the following year, no part of the said instalment shall be refunded to the Club.
28. Each Club shall pay an affiliation fee for each team by which such Club is represented in the premierships competitions of the Association and such affiliation fees shall be determined by the Association at its Annual General Meeting and may vary from one Grade or Section to another as may be deemed equitable.
29. Each Club shall pay the balance of the affiliation fees in three equal instalments not later than the first day of May, June, July in each year or in fewer instalments or in full provided that the balance of the affiliation fees outstanding at any time shall not exceed that which would be outstanding if such balance is paid in three equal instalments as permitted by this Rule.
30. When the outstanding liability of a club to the Association has exceeded \$200.00 for more than thirty consecutive days the Treasurer of the Association shall give written notice to such Club of the amount of the outstanding liability and that payment is required to be made within seven (7) days. In the event of a Club failing to make payment of any outstanding liabilities as required, the Board may suspend the right of such Club to participate in the competitions of the Association.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

31. When a call for additional funds is levied in response to a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of the Association the Treasurer shall give written notice to each Club of the amount of such call and the payment shall be made within thirty (30) days.
32. Each body affiliated with the Association shall pay an annual affiliation fee of \$50.00 together with an annual appointment fee of \$50.00 when the Association appoints umpires for the matches of such body.
33. Upon the withdrawal of any Club from participation in the premierships competitions of the Association the good faith deposit or any remaining part thereof after the deduction of any outstanding liability to the Association shall be refunded to such club provided such withdrawal is made with the consent of the Board.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

PERMIT COMMITTEE AND PLAYER PERMITS

34. The quorum for all meetings of the Permit Committee shall be two members.
35. The Permit Committee shall be responsible to grant or refuse all applications for registration with the Association and permits to represent Clubs in matches under the control of the Association.
36. The Permit Committee shall be responsible to prescribe the form in which applications shall be made to the Association for registration with the Association and for a permit to represent a Club.
37. The Permit Committee is empowered to cancel the permit of any player without assigning a reason therefore.
38. The Permit Committee is empowered to cancel the permit of any player who has infringed his amateur status retrospectively to the date of his infringement or the commencement of the current season whichever date is the more recent notwithstanding the permit held by the player having been granted by the Permit Committee.
39. No player shall be eligible to represent a Club in premiership matches of the Association unless he obtains a permit to play with such club and is thereupon registered as a player with the Association.
40. Applications for a permit to play with a club and registration with the Association shall be made in such form as the Permit Committee shall prescribe from time to time and shall be submitted by the Secretary of such Club, or his authorised deputy, together with a request on behalf of the club that the registration be effected.
41. Applications for registration and a permit received by the Association after 30th June in each year shall not be granted.
42. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules the Permit Committee shall be empowered after the 30th of June in any year to register and grant a Permit to:-
 - (i) An applicant who is a member of the armed forces who is otherwise eligible for a permit to play in the Association and who is transferred after that date.
(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)
 - (ii) An applicant who is a registered amateur player in another State or Territory.
(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)
 - (iii) An applicant who is eligible to obtain a permit to play in the Under 19 Grade pursuant to the provisions of **Rule 51** hereof, provided that the application for such permit is lodged on or prior to the 31st July in each year.
 - (iv) An Applicant who is not currently registered to play in any football competition, and the last club with which he was registered is the VAFA club to which he is currently seeking registration.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2006)
43. If an applicant for a permit to play with a Club during the previous three seasons played or received a permit to play with another Club which is still a member of the Association such applicant must obtain a clearance from such other Club with which he had been granted the permit to play. Provided that a club may refuse to grant such clearance if the applicant has not been a registered player with the Club for a period during which the Club has participated in not less than 22 senior V.A.F.A.

matches. Provided further that if such clearance be not granted within fourteen (14) days of the date of application the applicant may appeal to the Permit Committee which is empowered in its discretion to grant the new application for a permit without a clearance.

44. The Permit of any player to represent a Club in a premiership match shall be cancelled if:-

- (i) The Permit Committee decides accordingly.
- (ii) The player forfeits his amateur status.
- (iii) The player plays in a team representing another club not a member of the Association in a regular Australian Football competition excluding the following sub-clauses:

- (a) AFL, VFL or TAC Cup listed players transferring between their Club and their nominated VAFA interchange Club. The Player is required to be released by his AFL, VFL or TAC Cup Club before being able to play for his nominated VAFA interchange Club otherwise he will be declared an ineligible player. An AFL, VFL or TAC Cup listed player must play a minimum of five (5) VAFA First Round matches including two (2) matches after 30th June for the team he wishes to represent in the Second Round. An Under 19 Grade player may combine Senior Grade and Under 19 Grade matches in order to be eligible to play for his Senior Grade team in the Second Round. If a player plays for both clubs over the one weekend, the VAFA match does not count towards finals eligibility.

- (b) The player plays in a team of a club in AFL Victoria Affiliate League up to and including Round 18 of the VAFA season, and

- (x) the Executive Committee has approved an arrangement between such Affiliate League club and an Under 19 team in the VAFA; and

- (y) the player establishes to the satisfaction of the Permit Sub-Committee that he has played in the Affiliate League as an "Amateur" as defined by the VAFA

Provided always that any player becoming eligible to play in the VAFA by virtue of sub-paragraphs (b) -

- (i) may play in only one game during any particular weekend;

- (ii) shall be subject to the Rules of the VAFA relating to eligibility to play in VAFA finals (second round matches).

- (iv) The player is granted a fresh permit to represent another Club of the Association.

- (v) The player has not represented the Club with which he is registered to play, in at least one premiership match in the preceding season.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

45. The registration of a player with the Association shall be cancelled automatically when the permit of a player to represent a Club is cancelled, provided that automatic re-registration of such player shall be effected when the cancellation of the permit has been effected to enable the player to receive a permit to represent another Club.

46. Any registered player who fails to make himself available for selection in a V.A.F.A. representative match without establishing an adequate reason to the satisfaction of the Board, shall be ineligible to play for such period as is determined by the Board.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

47. Notwithstanding anything herein contained in these Rules a player shall not be eligible to play -

- (i) In any Grade whilst under suspension by the Independent Tribunal.
- (ii) In any Grade pending investigation by the Independent Tribunal of any charge against such player unless the Independent Tribunal otherwise orders.
- (iii) Where the Board has determined that such player is ineligible pursuant to **Rule 46** hereof.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

48. A Club which includes a player who is not eligible in a team by which it is represented in a premiership match shall be fined as prescribed in the Schedule of Fines appended hereto and shall forfeit all matches in which such player played together with all scores registered by such Club in such matches. Each such match shall be awarded to the opposing club which shall have the option of including both scores in its percentage or of not including either, but if such option be not exercised within seven (7) days of notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the offence, both scores shall be included.

REINSTATEMENT

49. The investigation of the applications for reinstatement of amateur status shall be conducted as far as is practicable in the manner prescribed from time to time by the Board.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/5/1999) (Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

50. All applications for reinstatement of amateur status shall be made on the form prescribed by the Board and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association who shall present it to the Reinstatement Committee of the Association for investigation.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

51. The first round and second round of the Under 19 Grade shall be open to all eligible and registered players who are aged 19 years or under as at the 1st day of July in each year or where in the opinion of the Board special circumstances exist, such other age as the Board determines.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

52. The first round and second round of the Under 19 Grade shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit provided that players registered after the 30th June in any year to play in the Under 19 Grade shall be ineligible to participate in Senior or Reserve matches during the remainder of the season in which they receive a permit to play.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

53. (i) (a) The Second Round of the Under 19 Grade shall be open to all eligible and registered players within the age limits prescribed in Rule 51 to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.
 (b) Players who have played SIX (6) or more matches in the Senior Grade or Reserve Grade of a Club in the First Round in any season MUST have played SIX (6) or more matches in the First Round of the Under 19 Grade in the same season."
 (c) Where a Club is represented in a match in the Second Round of the Senior Grade on the same day OR on the same weekend the provisions of 53 (i) (b) above shall not apply. Where a Club is represented in a match in the Second Round of the Reserve Grade on the same day OR on the same weekend the 6 match provision above shall not apply only if the player has met the eligibility criteria for Second Round Reserve matches.

(Amended AGM 7/12/2009)

- (ii) (a) If a Club enters two (2) Under 19 Grade teams, a player must have played not more than ten (10) matches in the higher placed Under 19 Grade team to be eligible to play Second Round matches in the lower placed Under 19 Grade team
- (b) If a Club is represented in a Second Round match by both Under 19 Grade teams on the same day or on the same weekend, the provisions of rule 53 (ii) (a) shall not apply."
- (iii) (a) If a Club enters into a hybrid arrangement in entering an Under 19 Grade team in conjunction with an existing VAFA Club or a Club from another competition, a player must have played five (5) First Round matches for the hybrid Under 19 Grade team to be eligible to play Second Round matches
- (b) All other Under 19 Grade Second Round eligibility rules apply including players from a Club in another competition pursuant to Rule 44 (iii) (c)
- (c) Under 19 Grade teams obtaining "Top Up" players during First Round matches from another Under 19 Grade team is not considered to be a hybrid team arrangement. "Top Up" players are not permitted in Second Round matches."
- (iv) In the event of a draw taking place in a match in the Second Round of the Under 19 Grade, all players who took part in the drawn game shall be eligible to take part in the game to be replayed."

(Rule 53 amended AGM 4.12.2007)

54. First round of the Senior and Reserve Grades shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

54A. The First Round of the Club XVIII Grade shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.”

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

55. (a) The second round of the Senior Grade shall be open to all players who are eligible and registered to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.

(Amended 2/12/96 AGM)

(b) The second round of the Reserve Grade shall be open to all players who:

(i) are eligible and registered to represent the Club with which they have been granted a Permit;

(ii) have represented such Club in at least four (4) matches of the Reserve Grade in the first round in the same season; and

(Amended AGM December 3, 2002)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

(iii) if they have represented such Club in the Senior Grade in the first round in the same season, have participated in not more than ten (10) Senior Grade matches in the said first round.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

Provided that players registered after the 30th June in any year pursuant to **Rule 42 (iii)** hereof to play in the Under 19 Grade shall be ineligible to participate in Senior or Reserve Grade matches during the remainder of the season in which they receive a permit to play.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

Provided that if any Club is represented in a match in the second round of both the Reserve Grade and Senior Grade on the same day the second round match of the Reserve Grade shall be open to all players who:

(i) are eligible and registered to represent the Club with which they have been granted a Permit; and

(ii) have represented such Club in a total of at least two matches of the Senior or Reserve Grade in the same season.

In the event of a draw taking place in a match in the second round of the Reserve Grade all players who were eligible to take part in the drawn game shall be eligible to take part in the game to be replayed.

(c) The Second Round of the Club XVIII Grade shall be open to all players who:

(i) are eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit

(ii) have represented such Club in at least four (4) matches of the Club XVIII Grade team they wish to represent AND not have played in more than EIGHT (8) Senior Grade and Reserve Grade matches in the First Round

(iii) Where a club has more than ONE (1) Club XVIII Grade team, a player must have NOT played more than EIGHT (8) matches with EITHER of the higher placed team(s) in order to be eligible to play in the lower teams Second Round should the teams be in different sections.

(iv) Where BOTH teams are in the same section, a player CANNOT alternate between teams AFTER 30th June

(v) The player referred to in (iv) above is bound to the team he plays with after 30th June and is only permitted to play Second Round matches for this team.

- (vii) NOTWITHSTANDING the provisions contained in (iv) and (v) hereof, to be eligible to play in Second Round matches with EITHER team a player must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the team they wish to represent AND the player MUST have played MORE games for the team they wish to represent than the other team in the same section.”

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

PREMIERSHIP COMPETITIONS

56. The Board shall schedule a competition for the premiership of each Sections of each Grade.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
57. Without prejudice to these Rules the Board shall be at liberty at any time to re-schedule the premiership competition of any Section of any Grade and to cancel any prior premiership match and may order such match to be re-played at such time and place as it deems fit provided that the eligibility of the player concerned in any re-played match shall relate to the date of the cancelled match.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
58. Each premiership competition shall be conducted in two rounds.
59. The first round shall be the home and home matches in which each team shall be scheduled to play every other team twice provided that this may be varied by the Board to meet the contingencies of the number of Clubs represented in a Section.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
60. The Board shall be at liberty on the written request of both Clubs represented in a first round match to vary the scheduled time and or date and or location of such match provided that no inconvenience is occasioned to any other person or body and that the eligibility of the players concerned shall relate to the date the match was first scheduled.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
61. In each home and home match four premiership points shall be awarded to the winning team or two to each team if the result is a draw unless the Board determines otherwise.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
62. In the event of a match being abandoned by the Field Umpire the Board shall decide whether any premiership points should be awarded to the participating teams and the manner of allocation of any points so awarded and may impose such penalty on either participating team as it considers appropriate having regard to the circumstances of the abandonment.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)
(Amended AGM 7/12/2009)
63. At the conclusion of the home and home matches the Premiership list shall be determined by totalling the premiership points of each team provided that where two or more teams have the same number of premiership points the order shall be determined by the percentages of the aggregate scores retained by each team for and against during the first round.
64. The second round shall comprise the first semi-final match, second semi-final match, preliminary final match and grand final match in each Section provided that this may be varied by the Board to meet the contingencies of the number of Clubs represented in a Section. Extra time shall be played in any drawn second round final match, including grand finals, in senior, reserve, under-19 or Club XVIII Sections. When the final siren sounds the players will remain on the field, change ends and in the meantime the goal umpires will meet and confirm that the scores are in fact level. Once confirmation is notified to the field umpire, 5 minutes plus time-on will be played after which the siren will be sounded. The teams will cross straight over (without an address from the coach) and play another 5 minutes plus time-on. In the event that the scores are still level a second period of extra time will be played. The

coaches can have 3 minutes to address their teams following which, the teams will kick to the opposite end to which they kicked at the end of the first period of extra time. Three minutes plus time-on will be played after which the siren will be sounded. The teams will then cross straight over (without an address from the coach) and play another 3 minutes plus time-on. In the event that the scores are still level, the match will be declared a draw and replayed the following week.

(Amended 3/3/97)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

65. The first semi-final match shall be between the team of the Club standing third on the premiership list and the team of the Club standing fourth on the premiership list.
66. The second semi-final match shall be between the team of the Club standing first on the premiership list and the team of the Club standing second on the premiership list.
67. The preliminary final match shall be between the loser of the second semi-final match and the winner of the first semi-final match.
68. The grand final match shall be between the winner of the second semi-final match and the winner of the preliminary final match.
69. The premiership shall be awarded to the winner of the grand final match.
70. All matches played under the control of the Association shall be played under the Laws of the Game as adopted by the Association, together with the power to the Field Umpire to order from the field for such time as the Umpire thinks fit, any player who has been reported by the Umpire for an offence under the Laws of the Game, and no such player shall be replaced during the period for which he is ordered from the field. In the event of such player refusing to leave the field the match shall be awarded to the opposing side, and such conduct shall constitute a reportable offence on the part of such player.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

- 70A. If a player is ordered off by reason of an audible obscenity offence and replaced by another player, the name of the offending player shall be recorded by the field umpire on an Incident report Sheet to be forwarded to the Association. If a player commits a second such offence, the Association shall advise the player's club in writing of such fact and of the fact that if the player commits a further such offence in the same season, the player shall be suspended for 2 matches. If the player commits a third such offence in the same season, he shall be automatically be suspended for 2 matches.

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

71. Four interchange players shall be permitted in Senior and Reserve Grade in first round and second rounds matches and six (6) in Under-19 Grade first round and second round matches.

(Amended Members' Meeting 1/3/2004)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUBS IN PREMIERSHIP MATCHES

72. Each Club represented in each premiership match shall be responsible to:-

- (i) Ensure the team to take the field to represent the Club consists of at least sixteen players.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (ii) Ensure each player in the team representing the Club shall wear the uniform of the Club as set out in Schedule B of these Rules together with a number which shall differ from all numbers worn by other members of the team in the same match. Uniforms shall be of a make prescribed by the Board. Any Club which desires to alter its uniform shall make application to the Board for approval of such alteration.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (iii) Ensure that in the event of there being a clash of uniforms as set out in Schedule B of these Rules, between two competing teams, the team of the visiting Club shall wear a distinctively different uniform approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. The Secretary of the visiting Club shall make application for approval of the said uniform, in relation to the first round match, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the scheduled match, and in relation to a second round match not less than 72 hours prior to the date of such match.

Provided that not less than 28 days prior to the commencement of each season, the Secretaries of any two Clubs drawn to play in games where there is a clash of uniforms as set out in Schedule B of these Rules, may by joint application in writing signed by the Secretaries of both Clubs, submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association for his approval, details of the uniforms each Club proposes to wear during the games in which the clubs are opposed (including second round matches) in the said season. The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall advise the Secretary of each Club of his approval or otherwise, not less than seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the season.

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

- (iv) For the purpose of sub-rule (iii), in the second round matches, the visiting team shall be –

- (a) in the grand final, the team which did not win the second semi-final;
- (b) in all other second round matches, the club finishing lower on the ladder at the end of the first round matches.

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

- (v) Ensure that each player in the team representing the Club shall wear approved colour shorts when the Club is drawn to play at home and approved white shorts when the Club is drawn to play away. If there is not a clash as set out in Schedule B, the Board may on application in writing to the Chief Executive Officer not later than 1 April in any year, permit a club to wear its approved colour home shorts when drawn to play away.

(Amended Members' Meeting 1/3/2010)

- (vi) Ensure that each interchange player in the team representing the Club is prepared in all respects before taking the field to replace a player.

- (vii) Ensure it has a full complement of operating and active officials comprising - Team Manager, Timekeeper, Runner, Goal and Boundary Umpires and in the case of the home team an Interchange Steward and Duty Officer all of whom must be over the age of 15 years, together with two NON PLAYING OFFICIALS, all of whom shall be nominated on the team sheet. In the case of Reserve Sections (all matches) the Runner, Timekeeper, Goal and Boundary Umpires, and interchange Steward shall not be drawn from a selected player from the Reserve side, on the day of the match.
- (viii) Ensure that at least 5 minutes before the start of all games, the listed officials are presented and introduced to the Field Umpire of the day.
- (ix) Ensure that the Boundary and Goal Umpires enter the playing arena with the Field Umpire and walk to the centre of the Oval, and from there take up their respective position, both prior to the commencement of play and following the half time interval.
- (x) Provide an efficient boundary umpire dressed in white shorts, a white short, and either black or Club socks. Where no boundary umpire is appointed by the Umpire Committee or is in attendance at the time appointed for the match to commence, provided that the field umpire shall adjudge the efficiency of the umpire so appointed and may order a replacement.
- (xi) Provide an efficient goal umpire dressed in a white coat, if no goal umpire is appointed by the Umpire Committee or is in attendance at the time appointed for the match to commence, provided that the field umpire shall adjudge the efficiency of the umpire so appointed and may order a replacement. The goal umpire shall keep a record of all goals and behinds kicked in the match in the manner and on the form prescribed by the Board from time to time.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xii) Ensure that the timekeeper appointed under the Laws of the Game shall keep a record of all goals and behinds kicked in the match in the manner and on the form prescribed by the Board from time to time.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xiii) Ensure the Runner and all First Aid officials wear the appropriate uniform prescribed by the Board.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xiv) Ensure the team representing the Club shall take no more time between the end of the first quarter and the start of the second quarter than is prescribed from time to time by the Board.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xv) Ensure the playing members of the team representing the Club are on the field and prepared in all respects to commence the match at the time appointed by the Board.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xvi) Ensure the playing members of the team are on the field and prepared in all respects to re-commence the match immediately after the intervals set by the to be taken between the end of the second quarter and the start of the third quarter and the end of the third quarter and the start of the fourth quarter.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xvii) Give to the field umpire within ten minutes of the termination of the second quarter a list of players and officials representing the club on the Team Sheet form prescribed by the Board from time to time, such form to be signed by the Club Secretary or Team Manager before presentation to the Field Umpire and to include the following:-

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (a) Surname of each player in strict alphabetical order.
 (b) Given names of each player.

(Amended Members' Meeting 3/5/1999)

- (c) Number worn by each player.
 (d) Surname and initials of the Team Manager, Timekeeper and Runner.
 (e) Surname and initials of the Boundary Umpire if appointed by the Club.
 (f) Surname and initials of the Goal Umpire if appointed by the Club.
 (g) Surname and initials of the two Non Playing Officials referred to in Rule (vii) hereof.
 (h) Such other details as may be required to complete such form.

- (xviii) Provide an official of the club to wait on the field umpire at the conclusion of the match for the purpose:

- (a) Giving to the field umpire the record of the scores kept by the timekeeper and the goal umpire if the goal umpire has been appointed by the Club.
 (b) Acknowledging any report concerning the match recorded on the back of either team sheet and receiving a copy of such report.
 (c) Acknowledging any report concerning any player of either team made by a competent person.
 (d) Noting from any report required to be acknowledged, the person referred to therein who are reasonably identifiable as connected with the club which he represents. The said official shall be responsible for advising such persons that they shall be required to be present at any Tribunal investigation.

- (xix) Ensure the results and statistics of the match are presented in accordance with the requirements to Schedule "C" to these Rules.

- (xx) Ensure that the given names and number of each player representing the club in each Senior and Under 19 game are as set out in the "Amateur Footballer" appropriate to the particular game in which the Club participates provided that in the event that the list of players as set out in the "Amateur Footballer" is not accurate on a particular match day, each club shall indicate appropriate amendments to such list, prior to the commencement of the senior match, on an appropriate noticeboard, whiteboard of notice positioned in a place of prominence near as is practicable to the pavilion or the canteen.

(Amended Members' Meeting 3/5/1999)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xxi) (a) Ensure that a member of the Club (hereinafter referred to as "the Duty Officer") is appointed to be in attendance at each match in which the Club participates, that the said member is wearing the insignia prescribed by the Board, and that he is stationed at all practicable times throughout the duration of each match in the position on the

ground of the Home Club marked on the plan submitted by the Home Club pursuant to **Rule 22** hereof.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (b) Ensure that the said Duty Officer is on hand to escort the field umpire from the arena at all intervals and at the conclusion of the game in all Senior and Under 19 matches.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

- (xxi) Ensure that the goal and behind posts at the grounds designated by Clubs pursuant to **Rule 22** hereof are padded to a standard prescribed by the

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xxii) Ensure that a policy of insurance in respect of sports legal liability is obtained from an insurer such policy and insurer to be as prescribed from time to time by the Board.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xxiv) Ensure that any official, including any trainer or water carrier, who is permitted to be on the playing field during the course of any game, is at least 15 years of age as at the commencement of the current season.

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

73. The home Club in each first round premierships match shall be responsible to:

- (i) Rule 73 (i) Ensure the boundary, kick off lines, centre square and interchange area are clearly defined. At a ground where there is no fence to enclose the ground or any part of the ground, there must be a second line marked four metres outside the marked boundary line save behind the goals, where the second line shall be not less than five metres from the goal line. At a ground that is fully enclosed by a fence, the distance between the marked boundary line and the fence at all points must be at least three metres.

(Amended AGM 7.12.98) (Amended Members' Meeting 5/3/2001)

- (ii) Provide a training table, for the sole use of the visiting Club.
- (iii) Provide six goal flags of white material each not less than 50 centimetres square and to fit the right goal post with suitable brackets to hold two such flags and to fit the left goal post with a suitable bracket to hold one such flag.
- (iv) Provide two balls in a suitable condition, both of which shall be of a make approved by the Board, to be submitted for the choice of the visiting team provided that at the discretion of the field umpire and both captains if the chosen ball is likely to be unduly affected by the ground or weather conditions a fresh ball in a suitable condition may be used in each subsequent quarter to the first, or, alternatively, the chosen ball in the first and third Quarters and another used ball in suitable condition in the second and fourth quarters and further provided that:-

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (a) New balls shall be submitted for choice at the Senior Grade matches, and,
- (b) Used balls may be submitted for choice at Under 19 and Reserve Grade matches provided they are in suitable condition.
- (v) Provide a suitable scoreboard.

- (vi) Ensure the correct scores are displayed on the scoreboard throughout the match.
- (vii) Provide a suitable and audible device to enable the timekeepers to indicate clearly to the field umpire the commencement and conclusion of each quarter.
- (viii) Provide a suitable ball to replace a ball which is lost or becomes unfit for use during a match.
- (ix) Provide a first-aid stretcher available for use if required.
- (x) To supply a Steward to supervise the interchange of players:-
 - (a) The Steward shall position himself between the boundary line and fence on the centre wing within a marked area fifteen (15) metres in width and shall be attired in a white coat.
 - (b) All interchanging of players shall take place within the marked area and the official runner of the club concerned shall advise the Steward of each interchange. Any interchange made during the quarter time, half-time or three quarter time intervals must be notified to the Steward prior to the commencement of the next quarter.
 - (c) Interchanging of players may be made at any time during the course of a match. The Steward shall keep a record of all interchanges made during the game and shall hand such record to the field umpire at the conclusion of the match. The record shall consist of the numbers of the players involved in the interchange and the quarter or interval during which such interchange took place.
 - (d) A player who is replaced otherwise than as provided in these rules shall not be entitled to return to the field for the remainder of the match.
- (xi) Ensure that the names and initials and numbers of each player representing the Club in each senior and Under 19 game are as set out in the "Amateur Footballer" appropriate to the particular game in which the Club participates.
- (xii) Provide appropriate and suitable seating for the coach, interchange players and his support staff, such support staff not to exceed four (4) in number.
- (xiv) Display a "No Alcohol" sign, the materials, dimensions and contents of which shall be as prescribed by the Board

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (xiv) Have available sufficient food for all Reserve Section players and officials for their sustenance, immediately after the match in which they have participated.

74. Each Club represented in a second round match shall be responsible to:-

- (i) Provide one new ball of a make approved by the Board.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- (ii) Provide a suitable and laundered white coat for use by the goal umpire.

(iii) Provide a stretcher suitable for carrying a player from the field.

75. In each second round match, other than a grand final, the Club finishing in the higher position on the premierships ladder at the conclusion of the first round of matches, and in a grand final, the winner of the second semi-final, shall:-

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

(i) Have first choice of change rooms.

(Amended 3/3/97)

(ii) Provide six goal flags of white material not less than fifty (50) centimetres square.

(iii) Provide suitable numbers for use on the scoreboard throughout the match.

(iv) Ensure the correct scores are displayed on the scoreboard throughout the match.

(v) Provide a suitable and audible device to enable the timekeepers to indicate clearly to the field umpire the commencement and conclusion of each quarter.

(vi) Supply an interchange steward to carry out the duties referred to in **Rule 73 (x)** hereof.

(viii) Provide sufficient food for all Reserve Grade players and Officials for their sustenance immediately after the conclusion of the Reserve Grade matches unless an agreement has been made prior to the date of the match with the host club or ground manager (as the case may be) to attend to all catering requirements.

76. At the conclusion of each second round premierships match the winning club shall have the right to select which of the two balls provided it shall retain.

77. At the conclusion of each second round premierships match which is required to be replayed each club shall retain the ball provided by such Club.

78. The efficiency of a boundary umpire or a goal umpire appointed by a club represented in a premierships match may be disputed by only the captain of either team represented in such match.

79. The disputed efficiency of a boundary umpire or goal umpire in a premierships match shall be adjudged by the field umpire of the match who may order such umpire to be removed and/or replaced and shall report the dispute and his ruling on the back of either team sheet.

80. The suitability of any item to be provided by either club represented in a premierships match may be disputed by only the captain of either team represented in such match.

81. The disputed suitability of any item in a premierships match shall be adjudged by the field umpire who shall report the dispute and any ruling he may deliver on the back of either team sheet.

82. The field umpire shall be at liberty to declare unsuitable any item provided by either Club in a premiership match and shall report any ruling he may deliver on the back of either team sheet.

GROUNDS

83. A home Club failing to secure the ground originally arranged for a match shall in lieu thereof procure another suitable ground and shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and the opposing Club at least two clear days prior to the match of the location of such ground. In the event of the Club failing to secure a ground for the playing of the match such match shall be forfeited to the opposing Club.

(Amended AGM 1/12/2008)

84. If either captain considers that a ground is unfit for play, the game shall be abandoned. The field umpires shall report the circumstances in which the game has been abandoned to the Chief Executive Officer.
If, within 30 minutes of the time prescribed for the commencement of the match and the captains are in agreement, the match may be played on an alternative ground. The captains, in consultation with the field umpires, shall decide the suitability of such alternative.

(Amended AGM 1/12/2008)

85. If a match is abandoned in accordance with Rule 84, the Board shall determine how the premiership points for the game shall be allocated.”

FORFEITURE

86. A Club which forfeits a premiership match in which it is due to be represented by a Senior Grade team shall be deemed to have forfeited any reserve grade premiership match such Club has played or shall be due to play on the same day provided that such Club shall have the right to appeal to the Board within fourteen (14) days of such reserve grade match against such penalty forfeiture.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

86A. A match cannot be forfeited after it has commenced.

(Amended AGM 7/12/2009)

87. The Board shall be permitted on appeal to rule that the results and scores of a reserve grade premiership match forfeited under penalty as aforesaid are to stand when reasonable evidence can be shown that the forfeiture of the senior grade premiership match was due to unforeseen circumstances.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

88. A Club which has forfeited a reserve grade premiership match under penalty shall be fined the sum as prescribed in **Rule 128** hereof and the score registered by such Club in such match shall be voided. Such match shall be awarded to the team of the opposing Club which shall have the option of including both scores in its percentage or of not including either score but if such option is not exercised within seven days after receipt of notice from the Secretary of the Association that the penalty forfeiture has been imposed both scores shall be included.

89. A Club which forfeits a match in which it is due to be represented by a Senior Grade team, Reserve Grade team or Under 19 Grade team shall be fined as prescribed in **Rule 128** hereof.

90. In the event of a "one-off" forfeit in any section -

(a) the percentage of each team in respect of the forfeited match shall be determined as follows:

- (i) the team forfeiting shall receive the average score of the losing sides of that section in the round in which the forfeiture occurs;
- (ii) the team forfeited to, shall receive the average score of the winning sides of that section in the round in which the forfeiture occurs.

(b) The team forfeited to, shall receive four premiership points.

If a team be suspended or withdraws from the competition causing a "long term" forfeit in any section, the percentage of each team in respect of any game not played as a result of such suspension or withdrawal shall be calculated as follows:

- (i) the team suspended (or causing the forfeit) shall lose from its "points for" total, the average losing margin in games played on each date to which the suspension applies.
- (ii) the team drawn to play against such team shall have its percentage calculated in accordance with a formula to be determined by the Board, having regard to –

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

(w) the period of such suspension

(x) the date within the season of such suspension or withdrawal

- (y) the performance of such team prior to the date of such suspension or withdrawal
- (z) overall fairness to all clubs in the section or grade.
(Amended 3/3/97)

91. In the event that any team of a Club forfeits twice in any section in any one season, the Club shall be required to attend before the Board of the Association to show cause why its participation in that section should not be terminated.
(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

UMPIRES COMMITTEE AND UMPIRES

92. The quorum for all meetings of the Umpires Committee shall be two members.
93. The Umpires Committee shall be responsible to the Association to appoint all field umpires for all matches under the control of the Association and such boundary or goal umpires as the number of available persons permits.
94. The Umpires Committee shall be responsible to prescribe the form in which each Club may report the standard of management by the field umpire of each premierships match in which such Club is represented.
95. (i) The Umpires Committee shall as soon as practicable after receipt of the nominations referred to in **Rule 21** (Club Umpire Reserve Nominations) meet for the purpose of granting approval and accreditation of the nominees and may require the nominee to appear in person before the Committee before considering any such nomination. In the event that approval is not granted to a nominee the Club shall ensure that not later than seven days after receipt by the Secretary of the Club of notice of the decision of the Umpires Committee not to grant approval, a further nomination is lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- (ii) Each Club whose nominees for appointment as Reserve Section Field Umpires are approved and accredited by the Umpires Committee shall be reimbursed the appropriate Reserve Section umpires fee in respect of each game in which the Club's nominee acts as Field Umpire.
96. The field umpire appointed for a premierships match shall be responsible to:
- (i) Report to the Association all known or apparent offences by any player or persons or Club against these Rules and/or the Laws of the Game as adopted by the Association from time to time.
- (Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)**
- (ii) Make available the report or reports required by the Association made in accordance with Clause (i) of this Rule to the official from each Club who should wait on him in accordance with the requirements of these Rules.
- (iii) Give to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association within seventy-two hours of the conclusion of the match a concise report of the match together with the score cards and team sheet secured by him from the officials of the Clubs represented in such match.
- (iv) Have available team sheets of the competing teams for inspection by officials representing such competing teams.
97. The scores of each premierships match shall be recorded by both goal umpires and both timekeepers and the official scores of such match shall be those of the goal umpires provided that such scores are in agreement, or that of the majority of such officials when there is a discrepancy in the scores recorded by the goal umpires.
98. No boundary or goal umpire shall be permitted to coach or advise a team by signal or word of mouth.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

99. The President, Vice Presidents, and Chief Executive Officer of the Association together with all umpires appointed and paid by or on behalf of the Association shall be competent to report players of any team for offences against the Laws of the Game as adopted by the Association from time to time provided that any report which such competent persons may make of an offence or offences by any player or players shall be in writing and where appropriate given to the field umpire to obtain acknowledgement by the official of each club as required by these Rules.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

100. Valid reports by competent persons of an offence or offences against the Laws of the Game of football as may be adopted by the Association from time to time by any player or players in any team in any premiership match shall be investigated by the Independent Tribunal, together with all matters referred to the Tribunal by the Chairman of the Board or any sub-Committee of the Board appointed to carry out the duties and exercise the powers set out in Article 36(e) of the Articles of Association.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

101. The Tribunal shall so far as practicable adopt the procedures set out in Schedules A and AA to these Rules but where such procedure is not practicable in the circumstances the Tribunal shall regulate its own procedure.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

102. The Tribunal shall be permitted to adjourn any hearings of any charges from time to time and deal as it deems fit with any player found guilty of such charges and with any player found guilty of deliberately giving false or misleading evidence relating thereto or any player failing without reasonable excuse to attend at any meeting of the Tribunal.

103. The Tribunal in imposing any penalty for an offence or offences against the Laws of the Game of Football as may be adopted by the Association from time to time shall impose a penalty which is not less than the penalty prescribed by **Rule 106** of these rules.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

104. A player of a Club reported for an offence or offences in respect of which a penalty is prescribed pursuant to **Rule 106** hereof may consent to such penalty being imposed upon him without the necessity of a Tribunal Hearing.

Provided always that a reported player who is eligible to play Under 19 football (irrespective of the Grade in which he was playing when reported) may not consent to the imposition of such prescribed penalty, and the report must be heard and determined by the Tribunal.

(Amended AGM 1/12/2008)

105. Notwithstanding the consent of a reported Player to the imposition of a prescribed penalty upon him as aforesaid, the person making the report, or the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Amateur Football Association or his authorised representative shall be entitled in his absolute discretion to require that the report be heard and determined before the independent Tribunal.

106. The penalties prescribed for offences against the Laws of the Game of Football as adopted by the Association from time to time shall be those set out in Schedule D to these Rules.

(Amended Members' Meeting 15/2/1999)

107. The report in writing required to be made pursuant to the provisions of **Rule 99** hereof shall be in the form of Schedule D to these Rules.
108. The alleged offence or offences shall be indicated on the report in writing by marking a cross (x) on the square opposite the short description of the alleged offence or offences and the appropriate minimum penalty if appropriate.
109. A player reported by a competent person for an offence or offences in a premiership match who is not able to be present at the time appointed for the investigation by the Tribunal of the offence or offences may submit a Statutory Declaration setting out the reasons for his non-attendance which declaration shall include:
- (a) The player's consent to stand down from representing his Club in a playing and/or official capacity until such time as he is able to appear before the Tribunal at a subsequent meeting together with his undertaking to give to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association at least four clear days notice of the date of a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal which such player is able to attend, or
 - (b)
 - (i) The player's consent for such Tribunal to investigate the offence or offences in his absence.
 - (ii) Such relevant information as in the opinion of such player would be of benefit to such Tribunal to reach a decision.
- 109A. If the reporting umpire is not able to be present at the time appointed for the investigation by the Tribunal, the investigation shall be postponed until such umpire is able to attend.

PROVIDED ALWAYS:

- (a) If the umpire is unable to so attend, the reported player shall be eligible to represent his club until the investigation is conducted;
- (b) The investigation shall not be postponed for a period longer than the second Wednesday after the date upon which the game in which the report was made was played.

(Amended AGM 4.12.2006)

110. A player reported by a competent person for an offence or offences in a premiership match not being present at the time appointed for the investigation by the Tribunal of the offence or offences and failing to submit a Statutory Declaration relating to the absence as required by these Rules shall be considered in contempt of the Tribunal which shall be at liberty to investigate the offence or offences in the absence of such player and deal as it deems fit with the contempt and the reported offence or offences provided that the Tribunal may exercise its discretion to adjourn such investigations when force majeure can be reasonably shown to have prevented the attendance or the submission of a Statutory Declaration by such player.
111. Each player granted an adjournment of an investigation by the Tribunal through force majeure shall not be permitted to represent a Club in any capacity during the period of the adjournment and shall either:-
- (i) Give to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association at least four clear days notice of the date of a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal which such player is able to attend.

- (ii) Submit a Statutory Declaration setting out the reasons for his non-attendance which declaration shall include:-
- (a) the player's consent for the Tribunal to investigate the offence or offences by such player in his absence.
 - (b) such relevant information as in the opinion of such player would be of benefit to such Tribunal to reach a decision.
112. If Player or a Club reported for an offence or offences consents pursuant to the provisions of **Rule 104** hereof to the imposition of a minimum penalty prescribed pursuant to **Rule 106** hereof, the Secretary of the reported player's Club shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the V.A.F.A. or his authorised representative by telephone between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon on the Monday next following the game in which the report was made, that the said Player consents to the imposition of the said minimum penalty, at which time the Chief Executive Officer or his authorised representative shall either (1) confirm that the Tribunal will meet to impose the prescribed minimum penalty without a formal hearing or (2) advise that pursuant to **Rule 106** a formal hearing will take place before the Tribunal notwithstanding the consent of the reported player to a minimum penalty being imposed upon him.
113. If the reported Player consents to the imposition of a minimum penalty and provided that the person making the report or the Chief Executive Officer of the V.A.F.A or his Authorised representative does not decide pursuant to **Rule 105** that it is appropriate in all the circumstances that a formal hearing take place before the Tribunal, the Tribunal will record in its Minutes of Proceedings full details of the report and the minimum penalty imposed in accordance with **Rule 106** of these Rules.
114. If the reported Player does not consent to the imposition of a minimum penalty pursuant to Rule 106 hereof or if notwithstanding the Player's consent the person making the report or the Chief Executive Officer of the V.A.F.A. or his authorised representative decide that it is appropriate in all the circumstances that a formal hearing of the report take place before the Tribunal then a formal hearing will take place before the Tribunal in accordance with these Rules.
115. The person making the report is required to attend the Tribunal hearing unless contacted by the VAFA Administration and advised the reported player has been granted the prescribed penalty.
- (Amended Members' Meeting 3/5/1999)**
116. The period of suspension of a player by the Tribunal or in accordance with Rule 104 shall correspond with the number of first and/or second round matches of the team in which the player was playing at the time when he was reported.
- Provided always that the Chairman of the Tribunal which suspended the player (or a member of the Tribunal nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, if the player accepted the prescribed penalty in accordance with Rule 104) may, on application by the player not later than 5.00pm on the Thursday following the imposition of the period of suspension by the Tribunal or the acceptance of the prescribed penalty, determine that the period of suspension may be calculated by reference to other games in which the club of the player participates.
- (Amended AGM 1/12/2008)**
117. A player during suspension by a Tribunal shall not be permitted to represent a Club in any capacity.
118. The decisions and findings of a Tribunal shall be final and binding.

119. Any person other than a player who is found guilty by the Independent Tribunal of deliberately giving false or misleading evidence relating to any report being investigated by such Tribunal shall be reported to the Board who shall assess and impose such penalty as deemed fit.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

119A. An appeal from a decision of the Tribunal shall be permitted –

- (a) (i) if the charge against the player is one within part (ii) of the Report of Umpires form (Schedule D of the VAFA Rules) under the heading “Charges MUST be heard by Tribunal
Or
- (ii) if any suspension arising from a charge in Rounds 16, 17 or 18 of the First Round would prevent the player from participating in Round Two matches.
- (b) if the appeal is notified to the Chief Executive Officer not later than 3.00 pm on the day after the Tribunal hearing. The notification of the appeal must be accompanied by the prescribed appeal fee of \$750. If the appeal is successful, \$500 of the fee will be refunded.

(Amended AGM 7/12/2009)

119B. The appeal from a decision of the Tribunal shall be heard by an Appeal Tribunal comprising the Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal and/or other members of the Tribunal who did not participate in the initial hearing of the charge or charges the subject matter of the appeal.

- 119C. (a) Subject to sub-paragraphs (b)-(d), an appeal from the decision of the Tribunal shall be heard before the next round of matches is played.
- (b) The appeal may be adjourned to a date after the next round of matches is played by the Chairman or presiding member of the Appeal Tribunal or the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the President and/or Chairman of the Tribunals and Investigations Committee.
- (c) If the hearing of the appeal is adjourned to a date after the next round of matches is played, for any reason, the appeal cannot proceed before the next round is played, the reported player shall be ineligible to play until the appeal hearing is conducted, but any matches missed by the player shall be included in any penalty ultimately imposed.
- (d) At the hearing of an appeal from a decision of the Tribunal, evidence not called at the original hearing shall not be permitted unless the Chairman or presiding Member of the Appeal Tribunal is satisfied that good reason has been shown as to why such evidence was not called at the original hearing.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF V.A.F.A.

120. (i) Application in writing for membership of the Association shall be lodged with the Association on or before the 31st day of October.
- (ii) Each application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$100 and the Association may if the club is admitted to membership of the Association appropriate the whole of such fee towards the good faith deposit required pursuant to **Rule 25**. Such application fee of \$100 shall not be refunded to the club in the event of an unsuccessful application, unless such application has been revoked in writing by the applicant within 21 days of the written application being lodged.

- (iii) The Board shall take into account the following matters when considering an application for membership of the Association –

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

- A. Financial stability of the applicant club over the preceding three years.
- B. The attendance of the applicant before the New Clubs Sub-Committee of the Executive of the Association.
- C. The submission of completed documents as determined by the New Clubs Sub-Committee, such documents to include:
- (a) Declaration of player payments as per the Schedule appended to the rules of the Victorian Amateur Football Association.
- (b) Audited financial statements of the applicant club for the preceding three years (or such shorter time as the New Clubs Sub-Committee determines).
- (c) A list setting out the names and addresses of five Club Office bearers at the time of the making of the application.
- (d) Such other documents as may be required from time to time by the New Clubs Sub-Committee.

Provided that such documents shall be lodged with the Association at least seven days prior to the first interview with the Clubs Sub-Committee.

121. No Applicant for Membership of the Association shall be admitted to membership of the Association without having first served an appropriate period of probation as determined by the Board of the Association.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

122. The election for admission to Membership of the Association shall take place at a General Meeting held in accordance with the Articles of Association, after the Board has determined that the Applicant has satisfactorily concluded its period of probation.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

GENERAL

123. Permission from the Board shall be obtained by a Club which wishes to participate in a match on the same day that a team representing the Association is to participate in a match.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

124A. A protest or complaint or charge which a person, player or Club wishes to be investigated by the Board or its delegated sub-committee against any other person or player or Club shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association not later than 3pm on the Wednesday following the match in which the same is alleged to have arisen. In relation to matters arising in Round 18 or in a Second Round match (other than a grand final), before 3 p.m. on the Monday following the playing of the match. The protest, complaint or charge shall be accompanied by a fee of \$200.00. If the protest, complaint or charge relate to matters arising out of more than one incident, the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Investigations and Tribunals Sub-Committee, may require a fee in excess of \$200 (but in any event not more than \$200 in relation to each such protest, complaint or charge) to be lodged before the same is to be investigated by the Board. The fee deposited pursuant to this sub-rule may be forfeited in whole or in part if the Board considers any such protest, complaint or charge to be frivolous.

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

(Amended AGM 7/12/2009)

The protest, complaint or charge shall be heard by the appropriate body –

- a) in relation to matters arising in rounds 1-17, on the second Tuesday following the match in which the same is alleged to have arisen.
- b) in relation to matters arising in round 18 or in a finals match (other than a grand final).. These investigations must be heard on or before the Thursday following the match in which the alleged complaints arose.
- c) in relation to matters arising in a grand final, on a date to be determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

The hearing of any such matter may be adjourned or deferred only if, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer or the body hearing the matter, the circumstances giving rise to the request for adjournment or deferral are exceptional.

(Amended Members' Meeting 2/3/98 and Members' Meeting 6/3/2000)

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

(Amended AGM 7/12/2009)

124B Where the Board is requested by a club to investigate any "protest dispute or complaint" under Article 36(e) of the Articles, if the Chief Executive Officer deems it appropriate, a preliminary inquiry may be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee to determine whether any and what charges should be referred to the Board or its delegate pursuant to Article 46".

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

FINES

125. A Club breaching or failing to comply with the requirements of Rules 72, 73, 74 and 75 shall be notified of the offence by the Secretary of the Association and automatically penalised in accordance with the Schedule of Fines appended hereto to these Rules provided that such Club shall have the right of appeal against such penalty to the Board which shall have the power to remit the whole or any portion of such penalty.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

126. An appeal against any automatic penalty shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association within fourteen (14) days of the notification of the offence and such appeals shall be considered by the Board as it deems fit.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

127. A person who fails to appear when required before a properly constituted enquiry by the Board or by the Association may be reprimanded or penalised as such body shall deem fit.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

128. (1) The fines to be imposed on clubs under the provisions of Rules 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 48, 72, 73, 74, 75, 88 and 89 shall be not more than the amounts specified hereunder:

RULE PENALTY

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 15 | - | \$25.00 |
| 16 | - | \$25.00 |
| 17 | - | \$10.00 |
| 18 | - | \$10.00 |
| 21 | - | \$25.00 |
| 22 | - | \$10.00 |
| 23 | - | \$25.00 |
| 24 | - | \$25.00 |
| 30 | - | \$2.00 per day for each day during which the default continues |
| 31 | - | \$2.00 per day for each day during which the default continues |
| 48 | - | \$10.00 |
| 72 (ii), (v), (xii), (xiii), (xx), (xxiv) | - | \$5.00 |
| 72 (x), (xi), (xiii), (xvi), (xvii), (xviii) | - | \$10.00 |
| 72 (xxi) | - | \$25.00 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 72 (iii) & (iv) | - | \$100.00 |
| 72 (xiv) | - | \$5.00 - Provided that a team which is not ready to commence play after 5 minutes has elapsed since the appointed time for commencement of the second or third or fourth quarters as the case may be, shall be fined not more than the sum of \$2.00 for every minute which elapses thereafter until such team is ready to commence play. |
| 72 (xv) | - | \$100.00 - Provided that a team which is not ready to commence play after 5 minutes has elapsed since the appointed starting time shall be fined not more than the sum of \$2.00 for every minute which elapses thereafter until such team is ready to commence play. |
| 72 (xix) | - | Such fines as are presented in Schedule "C" to these Rules. |
| 72 (i)-(xi) inclusive | - | \$5.00 |
| 73 (iv), (x) | - | \$25.00 |
| 73 (xii) | - | \$20.00 |
| 73 (xiii) | - | \$50.00 |
| 74 | - | \$5.00 |
| 75 | - | \$5.00 |
| 88 | - | Not more than \$200.00 |
| 89 | - | Not more than \$200.00 |

(Amended Members' Meeting 6/3/2000 and Members' Meeting 5/3/2007)

- (2) Provided the amounts specified above shall be increased to the nearest dollar on the 31st day of March 1989 by the percentage increase in the All Groups Consumer Price Index Six Capitals as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in respect of the latest concluded quarter immediately preceding the said 31st day of March 1989.
- (3) Provided further that in each year following 1989 the amounts so specified (as increased pursuant to sub-paragraph 2 hereof) shall be increased to the nearest dollar on the 31st day of March in each following year by the percentage increase in the All Groups Consumer Price Index Six Capitals as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in respect of the latest concluded quarter immediately preceding the said 31st day of March in each following year.

129. The penalties set out in Rules shall be applied automatically for breaching or failing to comply with such Rule referred to in the appended schedule provided that the party penalised shall have the right of appeal against such penalty to the Board which shall have the power to remit the whole or any part thereof.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

130. Any party fined as aforesaid shall be notified in writing of such offence and fine by the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and any appeal against such penalty shall be lodged in writing with the Board through the Chief Executive Officer of the Association within fourteen (14) days of the date of such notification.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

SCHEDULE "A"**RULES OF PROCEDURE AT TRIBUNAL HEARINGS**

1. The Tribunal shall consist of at least two persons all of whom shall be members of the Independent Tribunal appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Victorian Amateur Football Association.
2. A brief written report of the offence or offences shall be in the hands of the Chief Executive Officer of the Association by midnight on the second clear day after the match otherwise the charge or charges shall lapse.
3. In the event of either or both Clubs participating in the match failing to provide an official to acknowledge the existence of the report the charge or charges may only be declared void at the discretion of the Tribunal.
4. The Tribunal shall elect a Chairman from amongst those of its members present.
5. Upon assembly and after the Tribunal has elected a Chairman the person who made the report and all persons named in the brief written report shall be summoned before the Tribunal.
6. The Tribunal Chairman shall ask the reported player if he was Number ... of the ... Football Club on the day stated and shall ask similarly of the other person or persons named in the brief written report. All except the person who made the report and the reported player shall retire until recalled.
7. The Brief written report shall be read aloud by the Chairman who shall be in possession of the team sheets and any other relevant documents.
8. After reading the report the Chairman shall ask the reported player to plead "guilty" or "not guilty" to the offence or offences.
9. When the reported player has pleaded the Chairman he shall ask the person who made the report to amplify his written words after which he may be questioned by the reported player and the Tribunal as they desire.
10. The person who made the report may now call such witnesses as he may wish who may be questioned by that person, the reported player and the Tribunal as they desire.
11. Each reported person who has been called to give evidence shall remain present until all other evidence has been presented to the Tribunal.
12. Any other person or persons mentioned in the report may be called in turn and asked to give their versions of the incident and may be questioned by the person making the report, the reported player and the Tribunal as they desire.
13. The Chairman shall then ask the reported player to give his version of the incident after which he may be questioned by the person making the report and the Tribunal, as they desire.
14. The reported player may now call such witnesses as he may wish who may be questioned by the reported player, the person making the report and the Tribunal, as they desire.
15. After the person making the report, the reported player, all other persons mentioned in the report and all witnesses have delivered their evidence, the person making the

report and the reported player shall be given the opportunity to summarise their cases and when the Tribunal is satisfied that it has all the evidence it can reasonably obtain to reach a decision, the Tribunal shall consider the case and record its findings and such penalty or penalties if any to be imposed.

16. When the Tribunal has recorded its findings all persons concerned shall re-assemble and the Chairman shall state its findings and such penalty or penalties if any to be imposed.
17. If the reported player gives consent to the Tribunal to investigate his alleged offence or offences in his absence and submits a statutory declaration of his case the following additional rules shall be observed as and where applicable:
 - (a) The Chairman of the Tribunal shall pronounce a plea on behalf of the player in the light of the statutory declaration by the player of his case.
 - (b) The statutory declaration of the player shall be read by the Chairman.
 - (c) Such persons who are mentioned by the player whom he would have called to give evidence on his behalf shall be called and may be questioned by the person making the report and the Tribunal as they desire.
18.
 - (a) A reported player who he is less than 21 years of age at the commencement of the relevant season may appear before the Tribunal either on his own behalf or with a person who may act as his advocate. Such player's advocate shall be the Secretary of the reported player's Club or a person duly appointed in writing by the Secretary.
 - (b) An umpire may appear before the Tribunal either on his or her own behalf or with a person who may act as his or her advocate if –
 - (i) such umpire is less than 21 years of age at the commencement of the relevant season; or
 - (ii) he/she has less that 2 years experience as an umpire at Under19 or senior level at the time of the Tribunal hearing."
 - (c) Where the reported player or umpire appears with an advocate, the advocate -
 - (i) may ask questions on behalf of the reported player of any witness called before the Tribunal;
 - (ii) may ask questions of the reported player;
 - (iii) may make oral submissions to the Tribunal on behalf of the reported player.
 - (d) No person shall act as a player's advocate who is a member of a police force, who is the holder of a degree in Law or who is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of any State of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

19. Subject to any direction of the Chairman of the Tribunal, the reporting umpire and witnesses are required to remain at the Tribunal hearing until the completion of the evidence.

(Amended AGM 4/12/2007)

20. An umpire's advocate shall be a member of the VAFA Umpires Association who is not a member of a police force, who is not the holder of a degree in law, and who is not a Barrister or Solicitor of the Supreme Court of any State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia."

(Amended Members' Meeting 5/3/2001 and Amended AGM 4/12/2006)

21. At the hearing of a complaint by the Tribunal other than a report by an umpire, the player charged and the player allegedly offended against shall be entitled to an advocate who shall not be –
- (a) a witness in the complaint;
 - (b) a member of a police force, the holder of a degree in law or a Barrister or Solicitor of any State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia.”

(Amended AGM 4/12/2006)

SCHEDULE "B" (RULE 72 (ii) (iii) & (iv))
Register of colours of Member Clubs.

SCHEDULE "C" (RULE 72 (xix) & RULE 128(1))

- (a) Failure to phone final scores as required - Reserves by 3 p.m.
All other Sections by 5 p.m. – FIRST OFFENCE - \$5.00, SECOND OFFENCE - \$25
AND \$50 FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE IN THE SAME SEASON.

(Amended Members' Meeting 5/3/2007)

- (b) Failure to phone scores by 5.30 p.m. - FINE - TEN DOLLARS.
- (c) Failure to phone scores (if required) or other match details to Press Correspondent
by 6 p.m. (B Section details - 6.30 p.m.) - FINE - TEN DOLLARS.
- (d) Failure to forward best players and goal kickers for inclusion in the Amateur
Footballer - FINE - FIVE DOLLARS.

PROVIDED the amounts specified above shall be increased to the nearest dollar on the 31st day of March 1989 by the percentage increase in the All Groups Consumer Price Index Six Capitals as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in respect of the latest concluded quarter immediately preceding the said 31st day of March 1989.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT in each year following 1989 the amounts so specified (as increased pursuant to sub-paragraph 2 hereof) shall be increased to the nearest dollar on the 31st day of March in each following year by the percentage increase in the All Groups Consumer Price Index Six Capitals as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in respect of the latest concluded quarter immediately preceding the said 31st day of March in each following year.

SCHEDULE "D"

(Report Form Rule 107)

REPORT OF UMPIRES

"SCHEDULE D"

(ONE FORM PER PLAYER REPORTED IN MATCH)

The following player was involved in a reportable incident during the (SECTION) match.

..... V.

PLAYER NO. CLUB
(SURNAME) (FIRST NME) SENIORS/RESERVES/UNDER-19/CLUB XVIII

(as per Rule 106 of VAFA Rules)

Prescribed Penalty

(i) Charges MAY be heard by Tribunal

UMPIRE TO TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Time-wasting | 1 match |
| Interference with a player kicking for goal | 1 match |
| Disputing an umpire's decision | 1 match |
| Assault of another person | 4 matches |
| Abusive or insulting language | 2 matches |
| Audible obscenity | 1 match |
| Shaking a goal post | 1 match |
| Throwing an opponent | 2 matches |
| Violently pushing an opponent | 2 matches |
| Attempting to strike | 1 match |
| * Striking a player (NB see (ii) below) | 2 matches |
| Charging an opponent | 2 matches |
| Unduly rough play | 3 matches |
| Remaining on the playing field after being previously warned for not wearing the proper uniform | 1 match |
| Wearing unacceptable equipment/clothing | 1 match |
| General misconduct | 2 matches |
| * Attempting to trip (NB see (ii) below) | 1 match |
| * Tripping (NB see (ii) below) | 3 matches |
| * Kicking (NB see (ii) below) | 3 matches |
| * Attempting to kick (NB see (ii) below) | 1 matches |
| * Elbowing (NB see (ii) below) | 2 matches |
| * Eye-gouging (NB see (ii) below) | 2 matches |
| * Headbutting (NB see (ii) below) | 3 matches |
| * Spitting (NB see (ii) below) | 2 matches |

(Amended AGM 4/12/2006)**(ii) Charges MUST be heard by Tribunal**

| | |
|--|------------|
| Striking a player | 4 matches |
| * Attempting to trip | 4 matches |
| * Tripping | 4 matches |
| Abuse/threats/assault of umpire | No minimum |
| Kicking/attempting to kick (of a serious nature) | 6 matches |
| Elbowing (of a serious nature) | 4 matches |
| Eye-gouging (of a serious nature) | 4 matches |
| Head-butting (of a serious nature) | 6 matches |
| Spitting (of a serious nature) | 4 matches |
| Intentionally, recklessly or negligently making contact with or striking an umpire | 8 matches |
| Attempting to make contact with or strike an umpire | 6 matches |

**(Amended Member's Meeting 5/3/2001)
(Amended AGM 4/12/2006)**

***NOTE:** It is the umpire's sole discretion as to whether striking/attempting to trip/tripping, kicking/attempting to kick, elbowing, eye-gouging, headbutting and spitting is category (i) or (ii).

(Amended AGM 4/12/2006)

DETAILS:

I was officiating as Field/Boundary/Goal umpire. During the quarter the incident indicated occurred.

Details of the incident are as follows.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

UMPIRE'S SIGNATURE: NAME (PRINT CLEARLY)

UMPIRES: Tick this box if you consider the incident in this instance is serious enough to require the matter heard.

CLUB (NOT CLUB OF REPORTED PLAYER): Tick this box if your club considers the incident is serious enough to require the matter heard. (For this option to be exercised a bond of \$200 must be lodged with the VAFA by 12 noon Monday following the match. Such bond to be refunded at the discretion of the Tribunal Chairman).

OFFICE USE ONLY:

PLEA:

CLUB REQUESTS PRESCRIBED PENALTY YES/NO

SUSTAINED/NOT SUSTAINED

APPROVED DATE

SUSPENDED MATCHES

PLAYER SUSPENDED MATCHES.

COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE:

SIGNATURE:.....