



RULES OF THE VAFA

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GRADES, SECTIONS, PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATION

Men's competitions of the VAFA

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 Third Grade, the Under 19 Grade, the Under 18 Grade and the Club XVIII Grade.
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.
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 an Under-age Grade of the Association shall be permitted at the discretion of the Board to be represented in an Under-age Grade in lieu of a Senior Grade.
6. Each Club of the Association may nominate to be represented in a Section of an Under-age Grade.
7. Each Club of the Association shall be represented in a reserve Grade unless granted an exemption by the Board.
- 7A. Each Club in a Premier Division shall be represented in a Third Grade unless granted an exemption by the Board.
8. The Senior Grade Sections of the Association shall be designated in such manner as the Board considers appropriate.
9. The Under-age 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.
10. The Reserve and Third 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 or 7A** hereof the Board may admit to the premierships competition of such Section a second Reserve or Third 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.
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.

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 premierships competition of the lowest Section of the applicable Grade.

Women's competitions of the VAFA

- 13A. The VAFA shall also establish and run a Women's Premier Competition (**WPC**) comprising one or more WPC Sections to which the following rules shall apply:
 - (i) the Rules set out in Schedule E to these Rules; **and**
 - (ii) these VAFA Rules, **but excluding** Rule 13B below as well as those Rules which apply only to the men's competitions of the VAFA (being Rules 1 to 13 above, Rules 56 to 71, and Rules 86 to 91 below).
- 13B. The VAFA shall establish and run a Women's Development Competition (**WDC**) comprising one or more WDC Sections to which the following rules shall apply:
 - (i) the Rules set out in Schedule F to these Rules; **and**
 - (ii) these VAFA Rules, **but excluding** Rule 13A above as well as those Rules which apply only to the men's competitions of the VAFA (being Rules 1 to 13 above, Rules 56 to 71, and Rules 86 to 91 below).

MEETINGS

14. Each Club shall conduct its Annual General Meeting not earlier than the date of the last premierships 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.
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.

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.

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 it shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer (on the Form prescribed by the Board) the following: (1) a list of not less than two persons to act as the Club's Nominees for appointment as Field Umpire in the Reserve and Third Grade games in which the Club participates; and (2) a list of not less than two persons to act as the Club's Nominees for appointment as Field Umpire in the women's competitions in which the Club participates. is submitted to the Chief Executive Officer on the Form prescribed by the Board
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.
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.
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 and Third Grade team, and/or in respect of the WPC and WDC team(s). In respect of any Under-age or Club 18 team by which the Club desires to be represented, the instalment required shall be as determined by the Board.
27. In the event that a Club withdraws an Under-age team from an Under-age Grade prior to the 1st day of March in the following year, and in the event that a Club withdraws a team from the WPC or the WDC 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 an Under-age team after the 1st day of March in the following year, and in the event that a Club withdraws a team from the WPC or the WDC 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.
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.

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 or her 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 premierships matches of the Association unless he or she 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 or her 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.
 - (ii) An applicant who is a registered amateur player in another State or Territory.
 - (iii) An applicant who is eligible to obtain a permit to play in an Under-age Grade pursuant to the provisions of **Rule 51 or 53** 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 or she was registered is the VAFA club to which he or she is currently seeking registration.
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 VAFA 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 or her 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) **For men** (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.
 - (A.1) **For women** (AFL, VFL, TAC Cup or other club listed players transferring between their Club and their nominated VAFA interchange Club): The Player is required to be released by her AFL Women's Club, VFL Club or other club before being able to play for her nominated VAFA interchange Club otherwise she will be declared an ineligible player.
 - (B) The player plays in a team of a club in AFL Victoria Affiliate League (including any Women's League) up to and including Round 18 of the VAFA season, and
 - (1) the Executive Committee has approved an arrangement between such Affiliate League club and an Under-age team in the VAFA;
 - (2) the player establishes to the satisfaction of the Permit Sub-Committee that he or she 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 subparagraphs (B):

- (a.1) may play in only one game during any particular weekend;
 - (a.2) shall be subject to the Rules of the VAFA relating to eligibility to play in VAFA finals 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 or she is registered to play, in at least one premierships match in the preceding season.
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 or herself available for selection in a VAFA 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.
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.
48. A Club which includes a player who is not eligible in a team by which it is represented in a premierships 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.
- 48A. The AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, the provisions of which are reproduced in Schedule G to these Rules, apply to all competitions conducted by the VAFA.

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.
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.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

51. The home and away matches of the Under 19 Grade (men) 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 and/or qualifying criteria as the Board determines from time to time.
52. The home and away matches of the Under 19 Grade (men) 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 (men) shall be ineligible to participate in Senior or Reserve matches during the remainder of the season in which they receive a permit to play.
53. The home and away matches of the Under 18 Grade (men) shall be open to all eligible and registered players who are aged 18 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 and/or qualifying criteria as the Board determines from time to time.
54. The home and away matches of the Senior, Reserve and Third Grades (men) shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.
- 54A. The home and away matches of the Club XVIII Grade (men) shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.
- 54B. The Home & Away matches of the WPC shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.
- 54C. The Grading matches and the Home & Away matches of the WDC shall be open to all eligible and registered players to represent the Club with which they have been granted a permit.
- 55A. The following definitions apply for the purposes of Rules 55B – 55D:
 - (i) 'Games' refers to VAFA home and away games during the season for which the player has signed the official team sheet.

- (ii) 'Weekend' refers to matches scheduled for a particular home and away round, regardless of the day played.
 - (iii) 'Ranked' refers to the ranking of Grades stated in Rule 55B and the ranking of Sections within Grades as is determined by the Board each year
- 55B. The ranking of Grades for men is Senior, Under 18, Under 19, Reserve, Third XVIII and Club XVIII; and the ranking of competitions for women is WPC and WDC.
- 55C. To be eligible for finals (and subject to the operation of Rule 55D) a player must be eligible and registered to represent the club; meet any applicable age requirement; and meet the games qualification stated below:
- (i) Senior (men); and WPC and WDC (women) – no games qualification.
 - (ii) Under 18 – a minimum of 2 games for the club in any grade PROVIDED THAT:
 - (A) a player who has played in 6 or more Open-age games must have played a minimum of 6 Under 18 games; and
 - (B) a player must not have played more than 10 Under 19 games.
 - (iii) Under 19 – a minimum of 2 games for the Club in any Grade PROVIDED THAT a player who has played in 6 or more Open-age games must have played a minimum of 6 Under 19 games.
 - (iv) Reserve – a minimum of 4 Reserve or Third Grade games and a maximum of 10 higher ranked games.
 - (v) Third – a minimum of 4 Third Grade games and a maximum of 10 higher ranked games.
 - (vi) Club XVIII – a minimum of 4 Club XVIII games and a maximum of 8 higher ranked games.
- 55D. Rule 55C must be read subject to the following special finals eligibility Rules:
- 55D.1 AFL, VFL or TAC listed players
- The qualification is a minimum of 5 games for the team a player wishes to represent in finals, 2 of which must be after 30 June or in the alternative, a minimum of 8 games in total during the season without any temporal limitation PROVIDED THAT an Under-age player may combine Senior and Under-age games in order to meet the 5 or 8 game qualification for Senior finals.

55D.2 Under-age hybrid teams

The finals qualification for a hybrid team comprising a combination of players from more than one Club (including a Club from another competition as referred to in Rule 44(b)) is a minimum of 5 games for that team.

55D.3 Playing more than one game on a weekend

- (i) If a player plays in more than one VAFA game on the same weekend, only the highest ranked game counts for finals eligibility purposes.
- (ii) If a player plays in an AFL/VFL/TAC game and a VAFA game on the same weekend, the VAFA game does not count for finals eligibility purposes.

55D.4 Clubs fielding more than one team in a Grade or women's competition

- (i) Open-age:
 - (A) If the teams are in different Sections – to be eligible to play finals for the lower-ranked team a player must not have played more than 10 games in the higher-ranked team.
 - (B) If the teams are in the same Section:
 - (1) a player cannot interchange between teams after 30 June;
 - (2) a player can only play finals for his post-30 June team; and
 - (3) the games qualification is a minimum of 4 games for the finals team, and more games for the finals team than the other team.
- (ii) Under-age:

To be eligible to play finals for the lower-ranked team a player must not have played more than 10 games in the higher-ranked team, unless both such teams are playing on the same weekend (in which case this special Rule does not apply).

55D.5 More than one team playing finals on the same weekend

Where a club has more than one team playing finals on the same calendar weekend the following special games qualifications apply:

- (i) [Senior and Reserve playing] – the qualification for Reserve is a minimum of 2 games in the Senior or Reserve or Third Grade.
- (ii) [Reserve and Third playing] - the qualification for Third is a minimum of 4 games in the Reserve or Third Grade, and a maximum of 10 higher ranked games.

- (iii) [Senior and Under-age team playing] – the qualification for the Under-age team does not include the 6 game provision in Rule 55C(b)(i) or 55C(c).
- (iv) [Reserve or Third and Under-age team playing] – the qualification for the Under-age team does not include the 6 game provision in Rule 55C(b)(i) or 55C(c) provided the player has otherwise met the games qualification for the Reserve or Third Grade, as the case may be.
- (v) [WDC and WPC playing] – the qualification for WDC is a minimum of 2 games in the WDC team or WPC team.

55D.6 Over-age players in Under-age Grades

An over-age player permitted by the Board in accordance with Rule 51 or 53 to play home and away games in an Under-age Grade is subject to a finals qualification of a minimum of 8 games for the team he wishes to represent in finals.

MEN'S PREMIERSHIP COMPETITIONS

- 56. The Board shall schedule a competition for the premiership of each Sections of each Grade.
- 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.
- 58. Each premiership competition shall be conducted as home and away matches and finals matches.
- 59. In home and away matches 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.
- 60. The Board shall be at liberty on the written request of both Clubs represented in a home and away 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.
- 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.
- 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.

63. At the conclusion of the home and away 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 home and away matches.
64. Finals matches 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.
- 64A. Extra time shall be played in any drawn finals match. When the final siren sounds, the players shall remain on the field while the goal umpires meet and confirm that the match is in fact a draw. While the goal umpires are conferring, the coaches may address the players, and the captains shall toss for the choice of ends in extra time. Once the goal umpires have confirmed that the match is a draw, extra time shall commence within five minutes of the final siren sounding. Extra time shall comprise 5 minutes plus time-on, after which the siren shall be sounded. The teams will then cross straight over without an address from the coach, and shall play another five minutes plus time-on. If the scores remain level after that period of time, the timekeepers shall not sound the siren until one team has scored. The team which scores shall be the winner of the match.
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.
- 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

71. Four (4) interchange players shall be permitted in Senior and Reserve Grade; six (6) in Third Grade and Under-age Grades; and eight (8) in Club XVIII Grade home and away and finals matches.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUBS IN PREMIERSHIP MATCHES

72. Each Club represented in each premiership match of the men's competitions and women's competitions of the VAFA shall be responsible to:

- (i) Ensure the team to take the field to represent the Club consists of at least fourteen players.
- (ii) Ensure each player in the team representing the Club shall wear the uniform of the Club as approved by the Board from time to time 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.
- (iii) Ensure that in the event of there being a clash of uniforms (as determined by the CEO of the Association) 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 a home and away match, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the scheduled match, and in relation to a finals 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, 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 finals 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

- (iv) For the purpose of sub-rule (iii), in the finals 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 finals matches, the club finishing lower on the ladder at the end of the home and away matches.

- (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 (except in the WPC and WPC, where the wearing of white shorts is not required). If there is not a clash, 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.
- (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 and Third Grades (all matches) the Runner, Timekeeper, Goal and Boundary Umpires, and interchange Steward shall not be drawn from a selected player from the Reserve or Third 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 shirt, 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.
- (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.
- (xiii) Ensure the Runner and all First Aid officials wear the appropriate uniform prescribed by the Board.

- (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.
- (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.
- (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 Board 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.
- (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:
 - (A) Surname of each player in strict alphabetical order.
 - (B) Given names of each player.
 - (C) Given names of 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-age 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.
73. The home Club in each home and away 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.
 - (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 (Size 4 Sherrin Match Balls in good condition, or like balls of a make approved by the Board, for matches in women's competitions; and Size 5 Sherrin Match Balls in good condition, or like balls of a make approved by the Board, for matches in men's competitions), 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:
 - (A) New balls shall be submitted for choice at the Senior Grade matches (men's competitions);

- (B) Used balls may be submitted for choice at Under-age, Reserve and Third Grade matches provided they are in suitable condition; and
 - (C) Used balls may be submitted for choice at matches in the WPC and the WDC.
- (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 an Interchange Steward (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) 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.
 - (C) Interchanging of players may be made at any time during the course of a match. The Steward shall keep a record of all interchange players starting on the bench at the beginning of each quarter and shall hand such record to the field umpire at the conclusion of the match.
 - (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 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.
 - (xiii) Display a "No Alcohol" sign, the materials, dimensions and contents of which shall be as prescribed by the Board.

74. Each Club represented in a finals match shall be responsible to:

- (i) Provide one new ball (Size 4 Sherrin Match Balls, or like balls of a make approved by the Board, for women's matches; and Size 5 Sherrin Match Balls, or like balls of a make approved by the Board, for men's matches).
 - (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 finals match, other than a grand final, the Club finishing in the higher position on the premiership ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches, and in a grand final, the winner of the second semi-final, shall:
- (i) Have first choice of change rooms.
 - (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.
76. At the conclusion of each finals 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 finals 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 premiership 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 premiership 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 premiership match may be disputed by only the captain of either team represented in such match.
81. The disputed suitability of any item in a premiership 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.

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.

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.

- 85A. The VAFA may fixture night matches.

- 85B. A Club wishing to conduct a night match must:

- (i) comply with the VAFA's night match policy as well as the Australian Standard – Sports Lighting (AS 2560.2.3-2007) for an Amateur Club Competition; and
- (ii) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the VAFA that the lights at the proposed venue have a minimum lux reading of 100 LUX.

- 85C. Where a light tower ceases to operate in the course of a night match:

- (i) The field umpires shall stop the match and direct the timekeepers to apply time on and record the time the match ceased;
- (ii) All umpires and players are permitted to leave the playing surface.

- 85D. The field umpires, a home team representative and the team captains shall meet. The home team representative will advise as to the ability to re-commence play.

- 85E. If the match does not recommence within the thirty minutes from the recorded time the match ceased, the field umpires shall terminate the match.

- 85F. Where a match is unable to commence or is terminated before the scheduled end due to light failure, the Board in its absolute discretion may determine the result or order the match be replayed at such time and place as it sees fit.

- 85G. If the match is to recommence within the thirty-minute period:
- (i) the field umpires shall direct both teams to enter the playing surface whereby a ten-minute warm up period is permitted.
 - (ii) Play will recommence from the time when the match ceased.
- 85H. Where the light continues to fail or is poor after the match has re-commenced this procedure will be repeated.

FORFEITURE: MEN'S COMPETITIONS

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.
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.
88. A Club which has forfeited a Reserve or Third 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, Third Grade team or Under-age Grade team shall be fined as prescribed in **Rule 128** hereof.
90. In the event of a "one-off" forfeit in any section:
- (i) the percentage of each team in respect of the forfeited match shall be determined as follows:
 - (A) the team forfeiting shall receive the average score of the winning sides of that section in the round in which the forfeiture occurs as their points against and no points for;
 - (B) the team forfeited to, shall receive the average score of the winning sides of that section in the round in which the forfeiture occurs as their points for and the average score of the losing teams for their points against. This will include zero points for the team that forfeited.
 - (ii) The team forfeited to, shall receive four premiership points.

- (iii) 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:
 - (A) 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.
 - (B) 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:
 - (1) the period of such suspension;
 - (2) the date within the season of such suspension or withdrawal;
 - (3) the performance of such team prior to the date of such suspension or withdrawal;
 - (4) overall fairness to all clubs in the section or grade

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.

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 premiership 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 and Third 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 and Third Grade Field Umpires are approved and accredited by the Umpires Committee shall be

reimbursed the appropriate Reserve and Third Grade umpires fee in respect of each game in which the Club's nominee acts as Field Umpire.

96. The field umpire appointed for a premiership 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.
 - (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 or her in accordance with the requirements of these Rules.
 - (iii) 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 or her in accordance with the requirements of these Rules.
 - (iv) Have available team sheets of the competing teams for inspection by officials representing such competing teams.
97. The scores of each premiership 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. General power to lay reports: 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.
- 99A. Video reports initiated by VAFA: A report by the Chief Executive Officer of the Association as referred to in **Rule 99** may be made on his or her own initiative after reviewing any available video or other recording of the match brought to his or her attention and making any other enquiries he considers fit. Such video report shall be in writing and made not later than 5.00pm on the Monday following completion of the match
- 99B. Video reports initiated by umpires: A report of an officiating umpire as referred to in Rule 99 may be made after reviewing any video or other recording of the match. Such video report shall be in writing and made not later than 5.00pm on the Monday following completion of the match, and communicated to the respective Clubs by the Association.

- 99C. Video reports initiated by Clubs: A report by the Chief Executive Officer of the Association as referred to in Rule 99 may also be made following a written request from one of the competing Clubs to review a video or other recording of the match or part thereof, if the Chief Executive Officer considers the recording and any other evidence presented warrants a report of any player being made. In forming his or her opinion the Chief Executive Officer may make or cause to be made such other enquiries as he considers fit. A Club's request must be made to the Association by not later than 12.00 noon on the Monday following completion of the match and shall be accompanied by a copy of the recording and prescribed video review fee of \$200. The Club shall at the same time also provide the other competing club with a copy of its request and the recording. The Chief Executive Officer will consider the request as expeditiously as possible, but without being bound by any specific time limit for making any report. The video report fee shall be refunded to the Club if the Chief Executive Officer lays a report arising from the request.
- 99D. Nothing in Rule 99C limits the rights of a person, player or Club to request the investigation of a protest, complaint or charge under Rule 124.
- 99E. The provisions of Rules 100 to 119C inclusive shall apply to any video report, save that any player reported under Rules 99A, 99B or 99C has until 3pm on the Tuesday following the match to advise the Chief Executive Officer of his or her consent to the imposition of a prescribed penalty.
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.
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.
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.
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 a penalty being imposed upon him or her without the necessity of a Tribunal Hearing.

- 104A. If a reported player:
- (i) consents in accordance with Rule 104 to the imposition of a penalty, and so advises the Chief Executive officer by 12 noon on the Tuesday following the match in which he was reported, the penalty that shall be one week less than the Prescribed Penalty;
 - (ii) is required to attend the Tribunal because the offence for which he was reported is within the charges in Part (ii) "Charges MUST be heard by Tribunal" of Schedule "D", the minimum penalty that may be imposed on such player shall be one week less than the Prescribed Penalty for such offence if he or she pleads guilty.
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.
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 or her non-attendance which declaration shall include:
- (i) The player's consent to stand down from representing his or her 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 or her 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
 - (ii) (A) The player's consent for such Tribunal to investigate the offence or offences in his or her absence. (B) 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:

- (i) If the umpire is unable to so attend, the reported player shall be eligible to represent his or her club until the investigation is conducted;
 - (ii) 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.
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 or her 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 or her 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 or her authorised representative by not later than 12.00 noon on the Tuesday 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 or her 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 or her.

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 or her 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 or her 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.
116. The period of suspension of a player by the Tribunal or in accordance with Rule 104 shall correspond with the number of home and away and/or finals 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 10.00 a.m. on the Friday 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.

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.
- 119A. An appeal from a decision of the Tribunal shall be permitted:
- (i) (A) 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

- (B) if any suspension arising from a charge in Rounds 16, 17 or 18 of the home and away matches or in a finals match which would prevent the player from participating in a finals match.
 - (C) if any suspension would cause the player to have suspensions (whether in the VAFA and/or other competitions) totalling 16 or more matches
- (ii) 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.

Provided that, if the appeal is brought pursuant to sub-paragraph a(ii), the prescribed appeal fee shall be \$1000, and if such appeal be successful, the amount of \$750 shall be refunded.

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. (i) An appeal from the decision of the Tribunal shall be heard as expeditiously as possible at a date and time notified to the parties by the Association.
- (ii) If the hearing of the appeal is not held before the next round of matches 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.
- (iii) 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.

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE VAFA

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:
- (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:
 - (1) Declaration of player payments as per the Schedule appended to the rules of the Victorian Amateur Football Association.
 - (2) Audited financial statements of the applicant club for the preceding three years (or such shorter time as the New Clubs Sub-Committee determines).
 - (3) A list setting out the names and addresses of five Club Office bearers at the time of the making of the application.
 - (4) 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.
- 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.

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.
- 124. (i) Any protest, complaint, incident or charge that 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 or his or her delegate not later than 12 noon on the Monday following the match in which the same is alleged to have arisen. In exceptional circumstances the Chief Executive Officer may extend the date for submission of any request for investigation to 12 noon on the Wednesday following the match.
- (ii) The protest, complaint, incident or charge shall be accompanied by a fee of \$200, or if it arises out of more than one incident, such higher fee (not exceeding \$200 per incident) as the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Investigations and Tribunals Sub-Committee shall determine. Any fee so lodged may, at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive

Officer, be applied to the cost of engagement of an Investigation Officer pursuant to sub-rule (c) or may be refunded in whole or in part to the Club that lodged such protest complaint or charge.

- (iii) Where the Board is requested by a Club to investigate any protest, complaint, incident or charge, the Chief Executive Officer may cause a preliminary inquiry to be conducted by an Investigation Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to determine whether any and what charges should be referred to the Independent Tribunal, or to the Board or its delegate pursuant to Article 36.
- (iv) Any resultant hearing of a protest, complaint or charge shall take place before the appropriate body at a time and venue as notified by the Chief Executive Officer (or his or her delegate). Wherever possible, hearings must be held prior to the next round of matches. A hearing 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.
- (v) A player may consent to the imposition of a prescribed penalty in accordance with the procedure in Rules 104 - 106 where the charge is for an offence for which a prescribed penalty is available. If the player advises the Chief Executive Officer not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing time of his or her acceptance of the prescribed penalty, the penalty shall be one week less than the prescribed penalty.
- (vi) Where the Board is requested by a Club to investigate any protest, complaint, incident or charge, the Chief Executive Officer may cause a preliminary inquiry to be conducted by an Investigation Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to determine whether any and what charges should be referred to the Independent Tribunal, or to the Board or its delegate pursuant to Article 36.
- (vii) Any resultant hearing of a protest, complaint or charge shall take place before the appropriate body at a time and venue as notified by the Chief Executive Officer (or his delegate). Wherever possible, hearings must be held prior to the next round of matches. A hearing 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.
- (viii) A player may consent to the imposition of a prescribed penalty in accordance with the procedure in Rules 104 - 106 where the charge is for an offence for which a prescribed penalty is available. If the player advises the Chief Executive Officer not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing time of his or her acceptance of the prescribed penalty, the penalty shall be one week less than the prescribed penalty.

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.
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.
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.
128. (i) 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) and (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 \$400.00

- (ii) 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.
 - (iii) 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.
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.

PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF AMATEUR STATUS

- 130A. If a Club or player is found by the Integrity Hearing Panel (as defined below) (or by the Board following an appeal to it from a decision of the Integrity Hearing Panel) to have breached the conditions relating to Amateur Status, the penalty to be imposed shall be determined by the decision-maker in question (i.e. the Integrity Hearing Panel or the Board). Such penalty may comprise any or all of the following:
- (i) In relation to a club:
 - (A) Loss of premiership points earned in the games played while the Club was so in breach;
 - (B) Demotion of the Club up to two sections;
 - (C) Loss of premiership points for the following season;
 - (D) A fine not exceeding \$5,000; or
 - (E) Suspension from any or all home and away and finals matches in a season or seasons.
 - (ii) In relation to a player, suspension for such period as the Board deem appropriate.

Provided that, if a club or player voluntarily admits prior to 1 July 2011 that it or he has breached such conditions, the decision-maker in question (i.e. Integrity Hearing Panel or the Board) may, in its discretion, determine that no penalty be imposed.

INDEPENDENT INTEGRITY DIVISION¹

131. The Board shall from time to time determine and fix player eligibility conditions and policies, which shall be defined as those conditions relating to Amateur Status.

Integrity Division

132. The Board shall appoint no later than December 30th each year an independent division known as the Independent Integrity Division whose role it is to investigate and report on any matter that may undermine the integrity of the competition such as the following: Amateur Status; drugs in sport; gambling; the behaviour of a player, coach, official or any support Personnel associated with any Club; and the behaviour of officers, employees and agents of the VAFA.
133. The Independent Integrity Division shall be made up of persons appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Victorian Amateur Football Association insofar as the Articles of Association relate to the appointment of members of the Independent Tribunal, and such persons shall not be an officer of any Club, a Player, a VAFA employee or a VAFA officer (including VAFA board member).
134. The Independent Integrity Division shall have the authority to:
- (i) conduct investigations in respect of alleged breaches of the following: (1) the Articles of Association of the VAFA (**Articles**); (2) these Rules (except breaches of the Rules identified in **Rule 128**; and (3) extant policies approved by the Board (**Policies**);
 - (ii) conduct such investigations in such a manner as it thinks fit;
 - (iii) appoint independent investigators to conduct such investigations on its behalf;
 - (iv) co-opt the services of other persons to provide advice and assistance on specific matters;
 - (v) inform itself of any matter it sees fit;
 - (vi) require and obtain production and take possession of all documents, records, articles or things in the possession or control of a Club or Person that are relevant to any investigation;

¹ In this part of the Rules headed "Independent Integrity Division", **Person** means a player, coach, official or any support Personnel associated with any Club as well as an officer, employee or agent of the VAFA.

- (vii) require a Club or Person to answer questions and provide information in connection with an investigation;
- (viii) refer a matter to the Integrity Hearing Panel for a formal hearing, subject to the terms of **Rule 138**;
- (ix) develop recommendations concerning integrity issues affecting, or having the potential to affect, the VAFA, including its operations and competitions; and
- (x) report any such recommendations to the Board and/or the Chief Executive Officer of the VAFA.

Conduct of Investigations

135. In respect of investigations conducted by or on behalf of the Independent Integrity Division:
- (i) a Club is required to co-operate fully with the investigator(s) for the purposes of any investigation;
 - (ii) a Club is required to produce documents, records, articles or things in that its possession or control that are relevant to any investigation;
 - (iii) subject to the privilege against self-incrimination, a Person is required to co-operate fully with the investigator(s) for the purposes of any investigation; and
 - (iv) subject to the privilege against self-incrimination, a Person is required to produce documents, records, articles or things in the Person's possession or control that are relevant to any investigation.
136. No Club or Person is to provide false or misleading information during the course of an investigation.
137. A failure to comply with **Rule 135** or **Rule 136** may constitute a breach of the Rules for the purposes of **Rule 138** below.

Referral of Matter

138. If, after an investigation, the Independent Integrity Division is comfortably satisfied that a Club or Person may have breached the Articles, the Rules or any Policy, then the Independent Integrity Division shall refer the matter to the Integrity Hearing Panel for formal hearing.
139. Any decision of the Independent Integrity Division to refer a matter pursuant to **Rule 138** shall be final, and without a right of appeal.

Integrity Hearing Panel

140. The Board shall appoint no later than December 30th each year an independent integrity tribunal known as the Integrity Hearing Panel whose role it is to hear and adjudicate on any matter referred to it pursuant to **Rule 138**.
141. The Integrity Hearing Panel shall be made up of persons appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Victorian Amateur Football Association insofar as the Articles of Association relate to the appointment of members of the Independent Tribunal.
142. As to composition of the Integrity Hearing Panel:
- (i) It shall comprise five appointed persons who shall not be an officer of any Club, a Player, a VAFA employee or a VAFA officer (including VAFA board member);
 - (ii) The Integrity Panel, when in session, shall comprise a Chairman and two other persons; and
 - (iii) the Board shall appoint the Chairman.
143. The Integrity Hearing Panel shall have the authority to:
- (i) hear and determine any matter referred to it pursuant to **Rule 138**;
 - (ii) hear and determine any matter referred to it by the Board; and
 - (iii) report any determinations, adjudications and recommendations to the Board.
144. Hearings before the Integrity Hearing Panel are to be heard by three (3) members of that body, which shall not include any member of the Independent Integrity Division.
145. Upon receiving a referral from the Independent Integrity Division pursuant to **Rule 138**, the Chairman of the Integrity Hearing Panel shall send a written notice to the relevant Club or Person(s) setting out the following:
- (i) The alleged breaches of the Articles, Rules or Policies the subject of the referral;
 - (ii) The consequences that may arise if it is found that a breach has occurred;
 - (iii) The entitlement of the Club or Person(s) to have the matter determined in their presence by the Integrity Hearing Panel; and
 - (iv) The obligation of the Club or Person(s) to provide a written response within 5 working days as to whether they wish to have the matter determined by the Integrity Hearing Panel in their presence.
146. If a Club or a Person does not provide a written response as set out in **Rule 145(iv)** or does not wish the matter to be heard in their presence by the Integrity Hearing Panel,

then the Integrity Hearing Panel shall make a determination within a further period of seven (7) days.

147. In the event that the Club or Person(s) wishes to have the matter determined in their presence by the Integrity Hearing Panel, the matter will proceed to a hearing at a time and date determined by the Integrity Hearing Panel.
148. In conducting a hearing in the presence of the Club or Person(s), the Integrity Hearing Panel:
 - (i) must determine the matter without bias;
 - (ii) must give the Club or Person(s) appearing before the hearing a fair hearing and otherwise observe the rules of procedural fairness;
 - (iii) is not bound by rules of evidence;
 - (iv) may inform itself of any matter it sees fit;
 - (v) shall determine the procedure of the hearing; and
 - (vi) is to conduct the hearing with as little formality and technicality as possible, having regard to these rules and the matters before the Integrity Hearing Panel.
149. A Club or any Person appearing before the Integrity Hearing Panel may be legally represented.
150. The Integrity Hearing Panel is not required to provide reasons for its decision.
151. The Integrity Hearing Panel shall be permitted to adjourn the hearing of any matter from time to time and deal as it deems fit with any player or club found by the Integrity Hearing Panel to have given false or misleading evidence to it thereto or any Club or Player failing without reasonable excuse to attend at any hearing of the Integrity Hearing Panel.
152. Nothing in these Rules precludes the ability of the Board to refer a matter directly to the Independent Integrity Division for investigation or to the Integrity Hearing Panel for adjudication and/or determination.

Appeals

153. Any decision of the Integrity Hearing Panel may be appealed to the Board. Notice of an intention to appeal a decision of the Integrity Hearing Panel must be in writing and be received by the Chief Executive Officer not later than 4.00pm on the 5th working day after the decision of the Integrity Panel is notified to the Club or Person. Any appeal shall be a hearing *de novo* and the Board shall be able to substitute its decision for the decision being appealed.
154. The determination of the Board will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal.

SCHEDULE "A"**RULES OF PROCEDURE AT TRIBUNAL HEARINGS**
(EXCLUDING THE INTEGRITY HEARING PANEL)

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 or she 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 or she 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 or her 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 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
 - (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 subject to the direction of the Chairman to the Tribunal on behalf of the reported player.

- (d) No person shall act as a player's advocate who is a witness in the hearing, 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.
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.
 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.
 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.
 22. Any recording of a VAFA game made by or at the direction of the Association shall be available for use by both the reporting umpire or umpires and by the reported player, and shall be admissible in evidence at the hearing of a charge or complaint by the Tribunal.

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.
- (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.
- (e) Failure to input Live Scores by a senior team within 5 minutes of the end of a quarter – FINE – \$10 per quarter.

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

SCHEDULE "D"**(i) Charges MAY be heard by Tribunal**
NB – 1 match deducted if Prescribed Penalty is accepted

UMPIRE TO TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

<input type="checkbox"/> Time-wasting	2 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Interference with a player kicking for goal	2 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Disputing an umpire's decision	2 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Assault of another person	5 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Abusive or insulting language	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Audible obscenity/obscene gesture	2 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Audible obscenity/obscene gesture towards an umpire	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Shaking a goal post	2 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Violently throwing or pushing an opponent	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Attempting to strike	2 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Striking a player (NB see (ii) below)	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Charging another person	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Unreasonably rough conduct	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Remaining on the playing field after being previously warned for not wearing the proper uniform/wearing unacceptable equipment/clothing	2 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> General misconduct	3 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Attempting to trip (NB see (ii) below)	2 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping (NB see (ii) below)	4 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking (NB see (ii) below)	4 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Attempting to kick (NB see (ii) below)	2 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Elbowing (NB see (ii) below)	3 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Eye-gouging (NB see (ii) below)	3 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Head-butting (NB see (ii) below)	4 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting (NB see (ii) below)	3 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Negligently making contact with an umpire (NB see (ii) below)	3 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Bumping or making forceful front-on contact (NB see (ii) below)	3 matches

(ii) Charges MUST be heard by Tribunal

NB – a guilty plea receives a 1 match reduction

<input type="checkbox"/> Striking a player	5 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Attempting to trip	5 matches
* <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping	5 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Abuse/threats/assault of towards an umpire	No minimum
<input type="checkbox"/> Kicking/attempting to kick (of a serious nature)	7 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Elbowing (of a serious nature)	5 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye-gouging (of a serious nature)	5 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Unreasonably rough conduct (of a serious nature)	5 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Head-butting (of a serious nature)	7 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Spitting (of a serious nature)	5 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentionally, recklessly or negligently making contact with or striking an umpire (of a serious nature)	9 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Attempting to make contact with or strike an umpire	7 matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Bumping or making forceful front-on contact	5 matches

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

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

SUSTAINED/NOT

APPROVED DATE

SUSPENDED MATCHES

PLAYER SUSPENDED MATCHES.

COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE:

SIGNATURE:.....

SCHEDULE "E"

WOMEN'S PREMIER COMPETITION

A. The Competition

1. The VAFA shall establish a competition called the Women's Premier Competition (**WPC**), and the WPC shall comprise one or more Sections (**WPC Sections**), and the WPC shall be conducted for women who are 16 years of age and over (and each 16 year old must be 16 years of age or over as at 1 April of the year in which she plays in the WPC).

B. Inaugural season of the WPC

2. In the inaugural season of the WPC, participating Clubs must field teams in the WPC Section or WPC Sections as determined by the VAFA in its absolute discretion.
3. In the inaugural season of the WPC, in each WPC Section, the competition shall comprise two distinct phases as follows:
 - (a) Phase 1 (**Home & Away matches**), in which:
 - (i) there will be a set number of matches, as determined by the VAFA in its absolute discretion;
 - (ii) in respect of those matches, premiership points shall be awarded as follows: (1) four points for the team that wins a match; and (2) two points to each team in the event of a tie;
 - (iii) each team's scoring percentage, being an expression of its proportion of points scored for every 100 points scored against it, shall be calculated and recorded at the end of each round of Home & Away matches;
 - (iv) during the phase comprising the Home & Away matches, and following the completion of all Grading matches in the WDC, the VAFA in its absolute discretion may promote up to four additional teams from the WDC to one or more WPC Sections;
 - (v) if a team is promoted from the WDC to the WPC, for the purposes of the competition in the WPC Section into which it moves, that team:
 - (A) shall retain and "carry over" the premiership points it obtained from the Grading matches in the WDC; and
 - (B) shall not retain the scoring percentage it obtained from Grading matches in the WDC.
 - (b) Phase 2 (**Finals matches**), in which:

- (i) at the conclusion of Phase 1, the teams gaining first, second, third and fourth positions in each WPC Section shall form the Final Four for the purposes of Final matches in that Section;
- (ii) such positions shall be determined by reference to the following:
 - (A) premiership points obtained by each team (including the premiership points of teams promoted from the WDC which were “carried over” from the Grading matches in the WDC); and
 - (B) each team’s scoring percentage in respect of matches played in the Home & Away matches of the WPC.
- (iii) **Rule 64** of the VAFA Rules shall apply to Finals matches of the WPC;
- (iv) **Rule 64A** of the VAFA Rules shall apply to any drawn finals match; and
- (v) in each Finals match, the team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the Finals matches shall wear its registered guernsey and home (coloured) shorts unless this is varied by the VAFA in its absolute discretion.

C. After the inaugural season of the WPC

4. At the end of the inaugural season of the WPC, the VAFA may in its absolute discretion implement a WPC promotion and relegation competition based on the Rules identified below.
5. If the VAFA decides to implement a WPC promotion and relegation competition as the basis of the WPC, it shall rank the WPC Sections to establish a hierarchy of such sections (in its absolute discretion), and it shall determine the number and identity of the teams allocated to each WPC Section so ranked (in its absolute discretion).
6. After the first season of the promotion and relegation competition, the team winning the premiership in any WPC Section may be promoted to the next higher WPC Section, and the team finishing on the bottom of the ladder in any division may be relegated to the next lower WPC Section.
7. If the VAFA forms the view in its absolute discretion that promotion or relegation of a team could be detrimental to the WPC competition, it may decide in its absolute discretion:
 - (a) against the promotion of a premiership team; or
 - (b) against the relegation of a team that finished on the bottom of the ladder.
8. If the VAFA does not establish a promotion and relegation competition, or if the VAFA decides to terminate a promotion and relegation competition, the WPC shall operate as a Section-based competition (based on the Rules set out in this Schedule), although

no team shall join any WPC Section after the commencement of Home & Away matches for that Section.

D. General Rules applicable in any event

9. Each team in a WPC Section shall have a maximum of 24 players with a maximum of 18 players being permitted on the field for a competition match at any time during a quarter, and quarters shall run for 20 minutes without time-on, except in finals matches when quarters shall run for 15 minutes without time-on.
10. All teams shall have a minimum of 14 players before play can commence in any WPC match.
11. Six (6) interchange players shall be permitted in any WPC match.
12. The VAFA shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in each WPC Section by preparing fixtures for each team in each Section for each season. The VAFA may amend a fixture in its absolute discretion.
13. The Board shall be at liberty on the written request of both Clubs represented in any Home & Away 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.
14. Without prejudice to these Rules the Board shall be at liberty at any time to re-schedule any WPC premiership match, including a Finals match, and to cancel any prior premiership match; and it 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.
15. All matches played under the control of the VAFA shall be played under the Laws of the Game as adopted by the VAFA, 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 she 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.
16. 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 VAFA. If a player commits a second such offence, the VAFA 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, she shall be automatically be suspended for 2 matches.

17. **Forfeitures:** If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the club or clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the Field Umpire, the following procedures shall apply:
- (a) Subject to subparagraph 17(c) below, if a game is concluded prior to half time and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the teams shall depart the arena and the match will be declared a draw. Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.
 - (b) Subject to subparagraph 17(c) below, if a game has progressed beyond half time and is unable to proceed with the scheduled time for the match, the teams will depart the arena and the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages. The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.
 - (c) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by the VAFA at its absolute discretion in any way it sees fit.
18. The following other general rules shall apply to the WPC:
- (a) in all WPC matches, all players in each team must wear short socks or long socks; and
 - (b) during any WPC match, in addition to items prohibited under the Laws of the Game (as adopted by the VAFA):
 - (i) a player shall not wear or maintain sharp and/or long fingernails, including fingernails made of any artificial substance; and
 - (ii) a player shall not wear jewelry of any kind.

SCHEDULE "F"**WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION****A. The Competition**

1. The VAFA shall establish a competition called the Women's Development Competition (**WDC**), and the WDC shall comprise one or more Sections (**WDC Sections**), and the WDC shall be conducted for women who are 16 years of age and over (and each 16 year old must be 16 years of age or over as at 1 April of the year in which she plays in the WDC).

B. Inaugural season of the WDC

2. In the inaugural season of VAFA women's football competitions, in each Development Section, the competition shall comprise three distinct phases as follows:

- (a) Phase 1 (**Grading matches**), in which:

- (i) there will be a set number of matches, as determined by the VAFA in its absolute discretion;
- (ii) in respect of those matches, premiership points shall be awarded as follows: (1) four points for the team that wins a match; and (2) two points to each team in the event of a tie; and
- (iii) each team's scoring percentage, being an expression of its proportion of points scored for every 100 points scored against it, shall not carry over from this phase into subsequent phases.

- (b) Phase 2 (**Home & Away matches**), in which:

- (i) the teams play a fixed number of matches;
- (ii) premiership points are awarded on the same basis as in the Grading matches;
- (iii) the calculation of each team's scoring percentage shall commence at the conclusion of the first round of matches in this phase.

- (c) Phase 3 (**Finals matches**), in which:

- (i) at the conclusion of Phase 2, the teams gaining first, second, third and fourth positions in each Section shall form the Final Four for the purposes of Final matches in that Section;
- (ii) such positions shall be determined by reference to (1) premiership points obtained by each team in Phases 1 and 2 and (2) each team's scoring percentage in respect of matches played in Phase 2;
- (iii) **Rule 64** of the VAFA Rules shall apply to Finals matches of the WDC;

- (iv) **Rule 64A** of the VAFA Rules shall apply to any drawn finals match; and
 - (v) in each Finals match, the team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the Finals matches shall wear its registered guernsey and home (coloured) shorts unless this is varied by the VAFA in its absolute discretion.
3. Upon the completion of all Grading matches, the VAFA in its absolute discretion may:
- (a) shift one or more teams from a Development Section to another Development Section for the purposes of Home & Away matches of that latter Section of the WDC;
 - (b) promote four or more teams from the WDC to play in the Women's Premier Competition of the VAFA (**WPC**), the rules for which appear in Schedule E to the VAFA Rules.
4. Upon the completion of all Grading matches, if a team is shifted into a different Development Section, for the purposes of Phases 2 and 3 matches in that different Section:
- (a) the shifted team shall retain the premiership points it obtained in the Grading matches; and
 - (b) that team's scoring percentage, being an expression of its proportion of points scored for every 100 points scored against it, shall not carry over from the Grading matches to the Home & Away matches.
5. Upon the completion of all Grading matches, if a team is promoted to the WPC, for the purposes of Phase 1 and 2 matches in the relevant WPC Section:
- (a) the promoted team shall retain the premiership points it obtained in the Grading matches in the WDC; and
 - (b) the promoted team's scoring percentage, being an expression of its proportion of points scored for every 100 points scored against it, shall not carry over from the Grading matches of the WDC to the WPC competition.
- C. After the inaugural season of the WDC**
6. If the VAFA decides to hold the WDC at any stage after its inaugural season, the Rules in this Schedule shall continue to apply to the WDC.
7. If the VAFA decides to terminate the WDC at any stage after its inaugural season, the VAFA will shift all teams which competed in the WDC into an expanded form of the WPC.

D. General Rules applicable in any event

8. Each team in a WDC Section shall have a maximum of 24 players with a maximum of 18 players being permitted on the field for a competition match at any time during a quarter, and quarters shall run for 20 minutes without time-on, except in finals matches when quarters shall run for 15 minutes with time-on.
9. Six (6) interchange players shall be permitted in Development Section matches, including Finals matches.
10. If the VAFA establishes more than one Development Section, participating Clubs must field teams in the Section or Sections as determined by the VAFA in its absolute discretion.
11. The VAFA shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in each Development Section by preparing fixtures for each team in each Section for each season. The VAFA may amend a fixture in its absolute discretion.
12. The Board shall be at liberty on the written request of both Clubs represented in any Phase 1 or 2 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.
13. Without prejudice to these Rules the Board shall be at liberty at any time to re-schedule WDC match, including a Finals match, and to cancel any prior premiership match; and it 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.
14. All matches played under the control of the VAFA 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 she 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.
15. 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, she shall be automatically be suspended for 2 matches.
16. **Forfeitures:** If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the club or clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the Field Umpire, the following procedures shall apply:

- (d) Subject to subparagraph 16(c) below, if a game is concluded prior to half time and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the teams shall depart the arena and the match will be declared a draw. Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.
 - (e) Subject to subparagraph 16(c) below, if a game has progressed beyond half time and is unable to proceed with the scheduled time for the match, the teams will depart the arena and the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages. The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.
 - (f) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by the VAFA at its absolute discretion in any way it sees fit.
17. **Evening Up rules (see paragraphs 17 to 29 of this Schedule):** The VAFA expects all team officials to understand and adhere to the 'spirit' of these rules, which is, the team that has the greater number of players available shall lend as many players as possible to equalise numbers with the other team so that all players available to participate in that match shall have the opportunity to play in as much of that match as possible. If both teams have full sides, an 18 a side game shall be played.
 18. Where one team has between 12 and 18 players and the second team has more players than the first team, both teams shall field the same number of players, therefore an equal number of players shall take the field. Exceptions to this rule apply in certain circumstances. See the rule in paragraph 21 below.
 19. If a team begins with less than 12 players the match will be forfeited, however a match must still occur as a scratch match.
 20. If during a match, a team's playing numbers drop to below 12 players a forfeit will occur and the match must continue with an equal number of players on the field for both sides.
 21. If players are not offered to the team with less than 18 players, then playing numbers must be reduced so that both teams field the same number of players. If players are offered, but not accepted, then the team with the greater number of players is not required to reduce playing numbers, i.e. the evening up rule does not apply.
 22. If players are not offered, the team refusing to offer players will have their interchange bench capped at 3 players. The players on the field and the 3 interchange are the only players permitted to participate in the match.
 23. Team Managers, particularly from the Team that requires the evening-up rule to apply, must ensure that the process is organised as early as possible and prior to the teams taking the field.

24. **Late Arrivals** - Should a player arrive late, that player may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:
- (a) The Team Manager shall inform the Officials of the other Team.
 - (b) The opposition team is to be informed when the players are ready to take the field that the playing numbers of each side are to be increased.
 - (c) Addition to the playing numbers on the field can only be made providing the numbers on the field remain equal for both teams.
 - (d) Where a head count is conducted and uneven playing numbers are evident the scores at the time of the head count shall be noted and the matter referred to the League for determination of the result of the match.
25. **Loss of players during the match due to injury or illness** - Should a player be removed from the field due to injury or illness and the team has no interchange players, as soon as practicable but no later than at the next quarter break teams should even the playing numbers. In this circumstance a player should be offered to the opposition to top up, if the team has players on the interchange or a player can be removed and the rule in paragraph 6 above does not apply.
26. **Daily loan of players** - When players are loaned, the Team Manager of both teams shall note on the Team Sheet the number of players loaned. Players may be loaned on a quarter by quarter rotating basis or for the whole match as appropriate.
27. The Evening up Rule is not to be applied in Finals matches of the WDC.
28. Where a player is ordered off the field by the Field Umpire, and there is no replacement available, there is no requirement to even-up the playing numbers on the field.
29. Any dispute regarding the Evening Up rules will be referred to the board of the VAFA which shall determine in its absolute discretion how the premiership points shall be allocated, or order the match to be replayed at such time and place as it sees fit.
30. The following other general rules shall apply to the WDC:
- (a) in all WDC matches, all players in each team must wear short socks or long socks; and
 - (c) during any WDC match, in addition to items prohibited under the Laws of the Game (as adopted by the VAFA):
 - (i) a player shall not wear or maintain sharp and/or long fingernails, including fingernails made of any artificial substance; and
 - (ii) a player shall not wear jewelry of any kind.

SCHEDULE "G"

AFL VICTORIA PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (PPS) POLICY

The VAFA Rules incorporate clauses 2 to 12 of the following policy:

<http://www.aflvic.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Player-Points-System-Policy-2017-season-Final.pdf>