



Competition
Rules and Bylaws
2012

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1. Definitions

1.1 The following words, where shown, are defined to mean -

AFL	Australian Football League
AFLGSJ	AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc
AFLGSJ Website	aflgsj.com.au
AFL (NSW/ACT)	AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited
Board	Board of the AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc
Competition	AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Competition
Development Grades/Junior Rules	Under 9 – Under 12
Footyweb	Competition Management System
AFLGSJ Administration	Administration coordinator / Administration Support for AFLGSJ
HOST Club	First named Club or team in the fixture, usually the ground of the first named Club (i.e. the HOME Club). Where the match is being played on the ground of another Club, agreement on match day responsibilities is to be pre- agreed between each prior to the match.
ISC	A Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee appointed pursuant to Rule 2.14 or provided by these Rules
Laws	Laws of Australian Football, as issued by the AFL
Official	“Official” includes any person assuming a responsibility on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) of an affiliated member club of the controlling body, irrespective of whether or not that person was elected or appointed to a position by or on behalf of the club. For the avoidance of doubt, “Official” shall include any coach or assistant coach, team manager or assistant team manager, runner, trainer, interchange steward, “water boy”, ground manager, member of a Club’s committee or person officiating in any capacity on match day.
Regional Committee	The committee appointed by the Board to represent the nominated regional competitions
Reportable Offence	A reportable offence as identified under Law 19 of the Laws
Rules	Competition Rules and Bylaws of the AFLGSJ
Talented Pathway Player (TPP)	A TPP Player is one who is participating in the Greater Western Sydney, Sydney North, Sydney South or Northern Coast Talent Development Squads

1.2 Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and visa versa, and words importing the singular include the plural and visa versa.

1.3 References to matters described as being a Board responsibility may as appropriate, by agreement, be delegated by the Board to the Regional Committees.

2. Conduct

2.1

In the interest of the game of Australian Football, the Board requires all persons to treat Umpires, all Club Officials, Players and supporters, and all related property, with respect. Rule 2 applies in addition to the specific Rules governing Reports and Disciplinary Procedures.

Protocols

2.2 This will be achieved through engaging the following game day protocols:

- Setting a good example, including adherence to the various Codes of Conduct.
- Restraining Officials, Players and supporters who may be inclined to become over-excited, particularly if they use abusive, threatening or insulting language or physical action.

- Introducing Officials and Players to Umpires prior to the game, and encouraging those same Officials and Players to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires whatever the result.
- Welcoming Officials, Players and supporters of the opposition team on match day.
- Encouraging opposing teams to shake hands prior to commencement and also at the end of the game.
- Presenting the ground and Clubroom environment in a professional and welcoming manner.
- Introducing awards for sportsmanship other than for best and fairest.
- Total abstinence from consuming alcohol at matches.
- Total abstinence from any form of drug use.

2.3 Parents and Players are required to sign specific conduct codes on the registration form when first joining a Club. Players are requested to sign when age 12 and above. All Players should sign a new Code of Conduct form when they reach that age. Where the online registration process is utilised, acceptance of the Terms & Conditions will satisfy the requirement to sign the Code of Conduct. Parents and Players are bound by these Rules, including the relevant Code of Conduct in these Rules, as amended from time to time, irrespective of whether they have in fact signed any specific conduct codes or Codes of Conduct. All Coaches and Officials, by reason of their acting in such capacity, are bound by these Rules and the coaches Code of Conduct and Officials Code of Conduct, as the case may be, as amended from time to time. Supporters are also to abide by these Rules, in particular the Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct.

Code signoff and Acknowledgment

2.4 The registration form for AFLGSJ includes the following key statements regarding behaviour and expectations. Both Players and Parents are expected to sign, except as outlined in Rule 2.3.

For Players

- I agree to abide by the Competition Rules and Bylaws of the AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc.
- I will observe and obey these Rules and Bylaws and be bound by all rulings made by, or with the authority of, the Region that relates or applies to me.
- I agree to be bound by the Player's Code of Conduct as provided under the Rules.
- I declare that the information supplied by me is true and correct.

For Parents & Caregivers

- I/We hereby consent to the registration of my/our son/daughter with AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc.
- I/We acknowledge that I/we have been provided with, and understand, the Code of Conduct of AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc. under the Competition Rules and Bylaws (Rules).
- I/We hereby agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey this Code and all rulings made by the Region that relate to me/us, other family members and invited guests.
- I/We understand that the Region may withdraw or suspend my/our son(s)/daughter(s) registration to play in AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc. should I/we fail to comply with the Code, the Rules and/or any rulings of the Region.

Players Code of Conduct

2.5 Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct:

- Play by the rules – the rules of your Club and the Laws.
- Attend training sessions and matches at times advised by the Club. If unable, for a valid reason to do so, players will inform the Club as soon, as is practical.
- Act respectfully toward the Officials and Players of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Respect and follow the directions of coaching staff, match and Club officials.
- Treat all players with respect, as you would want them to treat you.
- Act respectfully towards match officials at all times. Abusive language is unacceptable.
- Avoid individual or collective behaviour, which may reasonably be held by spectators to be offensive.
- Avoid all acts likely to incite spectators to violence or disorder.

- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players or any policy decisions of the Club, or AFL GSJ.
- Abide by the Rules.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.

Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct

2.6 Parents and supporters are bound by the following Code of Conduct

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses. Supporters are there to support not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all Players, coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticise Umpires, rather raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private.
- Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players.
- Abusive language is unacceptable.

Role of the Coach

2.7 The coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The coach interfaces with all groups involved within a Club, and thus assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the game, both today, and in particular with coaches of junior teams, in the future. It is essential that every coach be aware of this unique position and so conducts themselves in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position.

2.8 All coaches, whether accredited or not, are bound by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, as well as these Rules, including the specific Rules governing Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures.

2.9 In these Rules the words "coach", means not only formally appointed coaches, but also all persons acting in such capacity, whether formally appointed or not, as well as to assistant coaches, whether formally appointed or not, who act in such capacity.

2.10 The Coach's Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- Teach fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- Be reasonable in setting demands, goals and expectations.
- Maintain a current knowledge of the Laws, the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical, and abide by those Rules.
- Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
- Never ridicule Players.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.

- Ensure that all Players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
- Ensure that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention and that doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
- Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of your Players.
- Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents and spectators.
- Abide by the Rules.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club, AFLGSJ or the AFL.

Coach and Administrators

- Remember the coach is a representative of the Club's administration and therefore it is important that coaches conduct themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
- Support the administration in policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be conducted behind closed doors in a composed manner.
- Adhere to Club policy in both letter and spirit.
- Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

Coach and Umpires

- Treat the Umpire with the utmost of good faith and respect.
- Introduce the umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the game and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
- Instruct Officials, Players and supporters that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the game, nor the intervals within a game, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
- Restrain any Official, Player or supporter from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
- Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
- Never publicly criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
- Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

Coach and Supporters (Spectators)

- Encourage supporters to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either team for good, fair play.
- Ensure that supporters do not interfere with the game, nor encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with supporter behaviour and request the Club administration to act in a manner to deflate any possible problems.

Coach and Parents

- At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the coaches guidelines.
- Request parents support the coach in any disciplinary action the coach is forced to undertake.
- Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the coach, the Club's Officials, the Umpires and the opposition Officials, Players and supporters.

- Request that if a parent has a problem with the coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to Club administration.

Official's Code of Conduct

2.11 The Officials of all Clubs are bound by the following Official's Code of Conduct:

- Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport not just as Players but also as coaches, umpires and administrators.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- Establish that qualified and competent Coaches and Officials capable of developing appropriate sports
- Help coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the Laws and the Rules.
- Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the Club, the GST or AFL.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or Supporter. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Ensure all Parents, Coaches, sponsors, Officials, medical staff and Players, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- Abide by the Rules.
- Display fairness and uniformly in applying the rules.
- Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- The health and safety of the Players must be the most important reason to be weighed in during the decision making process.
- Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- Ensure you remain up to date with any Law changes and/or interpretation of Laws.
- See continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.

Breaches

2.12 Penalties for breaches of the Code of Conduct include;

- Any Player guilty of offensive behaviour, fighting or causing others to fight on the field, should be subject to an immediate 15 minute send off by their coach, regardless of any action from the Umpires.
- Any Official, Player or supporter breaching a Code of Conduct, may be issued with a warning for a minor breach. Further for more serious breaches may result in dismissal or suspension from participation in Competition/s.

Where the nature of the breach warrants a stronger remedy commensurate with the seriousness of the code breach the matter may be referred to a Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee.

2.13 The following is indicative of the penalties that may be applied:

	Level	Remedy
1	Minor indiscretion	Individuals name recorded. Counselling or an apology if appropriate.
2	More serious infraction or repetition	In the case of an individual, the Club shall appoint a mentor for the individual for a period of time nominated by the Regional Committee. For a repeat violation, the Club will be contacted to discuss what executive action will be taken to avert future problems and/or the Club shall appoint a mentor.
3	Serious infraction	Suspension or removal of membership rights of an individual or for a team or Club plus potential loss of game wins and/or fines.

Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee

2.14 The Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee (ISC) is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the Board or Regional Committee may from time to time refer.

- The Board or Regional Committee shall appoint a pool of the ISC members. The ISC shall consist of not less than three members when performing its functions.
- Proxy members may be appointed in the absence of any ISC members.
- Wherever possible the ISC members should be independent of the junior football structure or at the very least independent of the matter at hand.
- When a conflict of interest arises, that member shall abstain themselves from any deliberations.

2.15 The provisions of these Rules in relation to representation at the Tribunal also apply to all ISC determinations and adjudications.

Duties of the Code of Conduct ISC

2.16 The ISC shall:

2.16.1 Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters that may be referred to it from time to time by the Board or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal;

2.16.2 Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on a Club by way of a fine, it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00);

2.16.3 Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Board or Regional Committee in the form of the template at Appendix 4;

2.16.4 Subject to the overall supervision of the Board, such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the ISC shall be final in all cases;

2.16.5 As a guideline to the Regions, and subject to the Rules, the Regional Committee should make its decision to refer, or not to refer, any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matter **within 3 working days** of the matter being referred to the Regional Committee. Following referral to an ISC, the ISC should endeavor to inquire, hear, adjudicate and determine any such matter referred to it **within 14 days** of the matter being so referred to it, with its report being issued **within 3 days** of any final hearing.

3. Competitions and Club Affiliation

Club Affiliation

3.1 To be eligible to enter teams in any of the competitions administered by the AFLGSJ, a Club must:

3.1.1 Lodge and have approved by the Board, an affiliation form as prescribed by the Board;

3.1.2 Pay any affiliation or other fee as prescribed by the Board;

prior to the commencement of the football season in which competitions the Club wishes to participate.

Football Season

3.2 The football season will commence and conclude within the dates prescribed by the AFLGSJ for under age competition.

Age Groups

3.3 Play will be conducted between teams, comprising of Players who were, as of **midnight on the 31st December** prior to the season, under the ages as prescribed by the Regional Committee and agreed by the Board for underage competition.

3.3.1 Where a draw is prepared for a divisional structure, any byes should be in the lower division.

3.3.2 Where a region regrades a team(s) post the commencement of a competition the wins and losses can be moved but the points for and against should be zero.

Match wins

3.4 In minor round matches:

- Match ratio will be used as the sole method of determining ladder position.
- Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of games played.
- In the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining match ratio.
- If a scheduled round is not played, the team with the bye in that round does NOT receive a match win.

3.5 In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible team will be awarded the lowest points for and the highest points against scored in the round in their Age Group or Division (Mercy Rule to apply). The non-forfeiting or eligible team will be awarded the highest points for and the lowest points against scored in the round in their Age Group or Division (Mercy Rule to apply). Ladders will be adjusted accordingly.

3.6 AFLGSJ website will display updated tables, showing match ratio and percentages to decide placing of teams on the tables, for each grade. All tables will include percentages calculated in accordance with the Mercy Rule.

4. Laws of the Game

4.1 As issued by the AFL, the Laws will apply at all matches, except where special provisions are made in these Rules. Where these Rules are inconsistent with the Laws, the Rules will prevail.

4.2 Use of gloves by Players in competition is not allowed. This is to encourage the development of handling skills. Umpires have discretionary power to allow the use of a glove(s) in special circumstances such as injury. The Ground Manager must sight a medical certificate where injury exists and a copy must be sent to AFLGSJ Administration.

4.3 Undergarments (Lycra shorts) must be either neutral colour or black or white. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) are not permitted.

5. Field Umpires

General

5.1 It is recommended that all Umpires (Field, Boundary and Goal), be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age.

Appointment & Remuneration

5.2 Field Umpires will be appointed, as far as possible, to all matches by the Regional Umpires Coordinator.

5.3 Should no appointed Field Umpire be present by the scheduled time of commencement of play, both team coaches are to decide upon an acceptable replacement/s who may share duty for the duration of the game. However, should the appointed Umpire or any other Umpire appointed for the day arrive during the course of the game, that Umpire may take control as soon as possible.

5.4 Rule 16.2 applies where any Field Umpire appointed by the Regional Committee, attends a match that has been forfeited or cancelled and who has not been advised in time to prevent the Umpire's attendance.

5.5 Fees to be paid to Field Umpires will be determined by the Regional Committee, from time to time (Refer Schedule 1). Payment of these fees is to be made by the HOST Club at the conclusion of the match. Regional Committees may vary this to allow the visiting team to share the costs on a match-by-match basis.

Powers & Duties

5.6 The powers and duties of Field Umpires will be in accordance with the Laws (other than reporting and send-off) and the Rules.

5.7 It is recommended that the age of a controlling Field Umpire of a match be a minimum of two (2) years older than the nominated Age Group when officiating.

5.8 A free kick or a 50 m penalty may be awarded against a Player, Official or Spectator who:

- Uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an umpire;
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards an umpire;
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently engages in conduct which affects, interferes with or prevents an Umpire from performing his or her duties.

5.9 Where required the Field Umpire may ask spectators to provide more space beyond the boundary and may refrain from recommencing the game until the request is complied with.

6. Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires

6.1 Each Club is to ensure the competency of any person who accepts responsibility as a Goal or Boundary Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to order replacements for any Boundary or Goal Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to consult with, and if necessary, overrule a Goal or Boundary Umpire where, in the Field Umpire's opinion, an obvious error has occurred. No third party is permitted to be involved in any such consultation (notwithstanding the Laws).

6.2 All Goal and Boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the Field Umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game.

Goal Umpires

6.3 A Goal Umpire must be provided by each competing team and is required to be dressed in something that is clearly identifiable. A white coat is recommended and Goal Umpires must have a set of white flags and scorecard.

Boundary Umpires

6.4 Boundary Umpires are to be supplied for Under 13's to Under 16's Age Groups and are required to be dressed with a white top to assist in recognition by the Field Umpire(s) and use an audible whistle.

6.5 In the case that a team does not provide a suitable Boundary Umpire, a member of that team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. In the case whether neither team provides a Boundary Umpire the attacking side will throw the ball in. Where a team has not provided a Boundary Umpire it will be noted on the appropriate match day paperwork.

7. Umpire Categories

7.1 In broad terms, there are two (2) visible categories of Junior Umpires in AFLGSJ.

Green Shirt

7.2 Green Shirt umpires are typically new Umpires in training who are learning and developing their umpiring skills. The 'Green Shirt' Umpire will generally only umpire Under 9's to Under 12's, however they may umpire higher Age Groups should the Regional Umpire Coordinator believe they are competent to do so. Where possible a Mentor (allocated by the HOME Club or Regional Umpire Coordinator) shall be available either on or off field depending on the competency of the Umpire to assist with their training and difficult decisions and situations. This Mentor must be approved by the Regional Umpire Coordinator. Two Green shirts should not umpire together where possible.

7.3 Promotion to Orange Shirt is by agreement between the Regional Umpire Coordinator, the Umpire, and the Umpire's parents (if appropriate).

7.4 Where Mentors are appointed to an on-field role, the Umpire's payment structure assumes two (2) Umpires.

Orange Shirt

7.5 'Orange Shirt' Umpires can be appointed to umpire any official AFLGSJ game as determined by the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

7.6 'Orange Shirt' Umpires are required to achieve Level 1 of the National Umpire Accreditation Scheme (NUAS).

7.7 AFLGSJ recognises this by paying higher match payments.

8. Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures

Reports by Umpires

8.1 The following is the procedure to be followed for all Reports made by an Umpire on match days. Scope will still exist to comment on other issues (send offs, warnings etc) on the match report document. This Rule prescribes the procedures for the lodgement and notification of Notices of Report, pertaining to a Reportable Offence, as well as the procedure for dealing with Prescribed Penalties. The following Rules are to apply to Officials, as well as to Players, as appropriate. The Rules for Reports of Players (Development Grades), does not apply to Officials in those Development Grades.

Prescribed Penalties (Under 12-16)

8.2 A Prescribed Penalty may be offered by the AFLGSJ, following receipt of a Notice of Report under this Rule 8, to a Player's Club President or delegate, copied to the Regional Committee Chairperson and Regional Umpire Coordinator, **by 5.00pm Monday following the match** or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practical. Where an offer of a Prescribed Penalty is made **later than 5.00pm Monday following the match**, the time to accept the offer as set out in Rule 8.5 is to be adjusted accordingly by AFLGSJ Administration. Where a Prescribed Penalty is offered or not is entirely within the discretion of the AFLGSJ

8.3 When making a Prescribed Penalty offer, the AFLGSJ will make available to the Player's Club President with sufficient details of the report on which basis the Prescribed Penalty offer can be accepted or rejected.

8.4 The following Prescribed Penalties are a guide only. In appropriate circumstances, a lesser or greater penalty may be offered.

Prescribed Penalty – One Match suspension

- Wilfully wasting time.
- Unduly interfering with a Player whilst such Player is kicking for goal.
- Disputing the decision of the Umpire.
- Using abusive, threatening or insulting language (low level).
- Shaking a goal post.
- Throwing an opponent.
- Violently pushing an opponent.
- Attempting to trip by foot or leg or attempting to strike a Player.
- Unduly rough play.
- Refusing to leave the ground after being warned for not wearing the proper uniform.
- Wearing unacceptable equipment.

Prescribed Penalty – Two Match suspension

- Intentionally trip by foot or leg.
- Striking a Player.
- Using abusive, threatening or insulting language (medium level).
- Charging an opponent.
- Failing to leave the ground when ordered off (misconduct).

8.5 The Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request that a report that is the subject of a Prescribed Penalty offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, rather than as a Prescribed Penalty. Such request, subject to Rule 8.2, is to be received by the AFLGSJ Administration **by no later than 4pm on the Tuesday following the match**. If advice to accept a Prescribed Penalty offer or otherwise is not received by that time, the offer will be deemed to be accepted. Where the Prescribed Penalty offer is rejected, the AFLGSJ Administration will inform the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson of the request and the Tribunal will hear and determine the Report.

8.6 Where a Player requests that a Prescribed Offence offer be dealt with by the Tribunal, and the Tribunal is of the opinion that the Prescribed Penalty offer to the Player was reasonable in all the circumstances, the Tribunal will impose a suspended sentence at least equal to the number of matches suspension offered to the Player as the Prescribed Penalty offer, such suspended sentence to remain in force for a period of 12 months from the date of the Tribunal hearing, or to the equivalent round in the following season.

Note: For example, if the Player is offered a Prescribed Penalty offer of two match's suspension, the Tribunal will, in addition to affirming the suspension of 2 matches, impose a suspended sentence of two matches.

8.7 Alternatively, the Tribunal may impose such additional penalty as in its absolute discretion it deems appropriate, in addition to the penalty it imposes for the Reportable Offence.

8.8 The Tribunal will hear and determine the Notice of Report and no offer of a Prescribed Penalty will be made where a Player:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Intentionally kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct where the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting the misconduct is serious in nature.

Application of Penalty

8.9 For the purpose of these Rules, a "match" shall mean a competition match of the same Age Group or Division in which the Player committed the offence, and shall also include as the one match, the matches in all grades in a particular round for which the Player would, but for the suspension be eligible, whether played on the one day or not. Any suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition match following the suspension for which the Player would, but for the suspension, be eligible.

8.10 A Player is ineligible to play in any representative match whilst under suspension. In addition to this, representative matches do not count towards part of the suspension.

8.11 Competition games which are forfeited, washed out or for any other reason not played shall not be counted for the purpose of reckoning a period of suspension.

8.12 In the event of a dispute as to the games or matches covered by a suspension, the dispute is to be referred to AFLGSJ Administration for determination. AFLGSJ Administration may seek the advice of the Board.

Action during Match

8.13 Where an Umpire reports a Player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the Report:

- At the time of the incident;
- Before the commencement of the next quarter; or,
- Where an incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.

8.14 The Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official against whom a Reportable Offence has been committed of the Report.

8.15 An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or an Official of a Team of the Report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.

8.16 Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made. It is a breach of these Rules for such reported Player, Official or any other Player or Official to seek to or speak to the Umpire about a Report. Any Player or Official who seeks to or speaks to the Umpire may be referred by the AFLGSJ Administration to the Tribunal to deal with as the Tribunal thinks appropriate.

8.17 The failure of an Umpire to inform a Player or Official of the Report does not invalidate the making of the Report.

Completing Notice of Report by the Umpire

8.18 In completing and lodging a Notice of Report, the Umpire will utilise the online Umpire Match Report process available through Google to document any reports. In such cases, the Umpire will, on the day, advise the Clubs and ensure that the proper notice of a Report is provided verbally. When the Report is processed by AFLGSJ Administration, full and complete details will be provided from the Umpire Match Report system to the Club of the reported Player.

8.19 As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, the reporting Umpire shall:

8.19.1 Provide advice to an Official from each team. Each team shall be responsible for the attendance of an Official at the end of the match in question in order to receive such advice and to be given an "all clear" from the Ground Manager. In the event of no such Official attending, the Reporting Umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Rule;

8.19.2 Verbally advise the Regional Umpire Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match, **by 8.00pm on Match Day or 10.00am next day** where a night match is involved.

Report where Notice of Report not completed

8.20 The following Rules apply where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season, but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report in any sending off.

8.21 Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one match playing suspension.

8.22 Any Player sent off twice in the same match will automatically receive a one match playing suspension, regardless of any and in addition to any further penalty that may be imposed by virtue of any incident that is the subject of the sending off.

8.23 Any Player sent off three times in the one season will automatically receive a two match playing suspension, regardless of any and in addition to any further penalty that may be imposed by virtue of any incident that is the subject of the sending off. Should the Player be sent off any further times during the season, on each occasion the Player shall incur an automatic one match playing suspension, regardless of and in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off.

8.24 Where a Player is sent off a third or further time during the season, AFLGSJ Administration may, in addition to the above, refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Umpires Coordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson, by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match of the referral. At such hearing, the Tribunal may impose such penalty, in addition to that prescribed above, on the Player as it deems appropriate. In the event of any inconsistency between these Rules and the Tribunal Rules, subject to any ruling by the Tribunal, the Tribunal Rules will apply.

8.25 Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by these Rules, the Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request the automatic suspension be referred to the Tribunal for hearing. The Tribunal may impose such conditions on the Player as it deems appropriate, pending the hearing. The Tribunal may, following the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension, (including increasing the suspension) or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate. Where the Tribunal is of the opinion that the automatic playing suspension was reasonable in all the circumstances, the Tribunal will impose a suspended sentence at least equal to the automatic match playing suspension imposed on the Player, such suspended sentence to remain in force for a period of 12 months from the date of the Tribunal hearing or to the equivalent round in the following season.

8.26 In the above instances, the AFLGSJ Administration will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Umpire Co-ordinator and the Tribunal Chairperson **by no later than 5:00 pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match the subject of these Rules.**

8.27 Where a Player is sent off and the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report, the AFLGSJ Administration may (where the send off was a Yellow card) and must (where the send off was a red card), refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee Chairperson and the Tribunal Chairperson, **by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match.**

Team Yellow/Red Cards

8.28 This Rule applies when a Player is sent off and that Player is the third Player from that team to be sent off in the season. The Player shall automatically receive a two match playing suspension, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off.

8.29 This Rule applies when a Player is sent off and that Player is the fourth or subsequent Player from that team to be sent off in the season. The Player shall automatically receive a one match playing suspension, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by virtue of the incident that is the subject of the sending off.

8.30 In addition to the preceding Rules, where any Player or Players from the same team are sent off during the course of a season and the number of Players being sent off for a breach of any of those Laws is three or more the AFLGSJ Administration will, on each occasion, advise the Regional Committee of same, and the Regional

Committee will be required to meet with Club representatives (including the President and the Coach(s) of the team concerned) **within 7 - 10 days** of such advice to seek, an appropriate explanation of action being taken to address and resolve potential behavioural issues. **Within 7 days** of the meeting the Regional Committee shall advise AFLGSJ Administration of the outcome of the meeting for such action as the AFLGSJ Administration and /or Regional Committee deems appropriate, including referral to an ISC or the Board.

Reports by AFLGSJ

8.31 If the AFLGSJ Administration is of the opinion that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, the AFLGSJ Administration may report such person and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination. The AFLGSJ Administration is to inform the Regional Committee of the Report **within 24 hours** of the Report being referred to the Tribunal.

Report by Regional Committee

8.32 If the Regional Committee is of the opinion that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence, the Regional Committee is to provide the AFLGSJ Administration with sufficient material, **no later than 7 days** after the alleged Reportable Offence, to enable the AFLGSJ Administration to consider whether same should be referred to the Tribunal and where it does so, it may report such person and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination. The AFLGSJ Administration is to inform the Regional Committee of the Report **within 24 hours of the Report** being referred to the Tribunal. In the event that the AFLGSJ Administration does not consider that the matter should be referred to the Tribunal, it shall inform the Regional Committee of its decision **within 24 hours**. Where the Report is referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee is responsible for the conduct of the prosecution of the hearing before the Tribunal.

Tribunal composition, procedures and guidelines

8.33 The Tribunal shall be comprised of such persons as may be appointed by the Board and shall enquire into reports by Umpires of any Player or Official of any team participating in a match being conducted by or under the control of AFLGSJ.

8.34 Specific Disciplinary Procedures (Tribunal Rules) and Tribunal Guidelines (to assist in understanding rules and procedures) documents are available on the AFLGSJ website and should be referred to by any person and their advocate prior to appearing before the Tribunal. In the event of any inconsistency between the Disciplinary Procedures (Tribunal Rules) and these Rules, the Tribunal may make its own determination as to which applies, and shall draw the inconsistency to the attention of the AFLGSJ.

8.35 Whilst legal representatives and the parents/guardians of a reported Player or Official, or a reporting Umpire are permitted to attend Tribunal hearings, they are not permitted to act in the role of Player, Official or Umpire advocate.

8.36 Following the decision of the Tribunal, the AFLGSJ Administration will provide a copy of the Minute of Tribunal finding to the President of the Club and the Regional Chairperson.

Reports on Players (Development Rules Under 9–Under 11)

8.37 Subject to Rule 8.40, Players reported in the Under 9's to Under 11 Age Groups will have the Report adjudicated by a Code of Conduct Committee of their Club, comprising the Club President, Football Manager and Coach, plus the Regional Umpire Coordinator. The decision of the Committee is to be unanimous. The **hearing is to be held within three (3) days** of the Report. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Competition games until the Committee has dealt with the Report. Where the Committee agrees on a decision, the Club will provide to the Regional Committee and AFLGSJ Administration a statement in writing (or electronically) of the outcome of the Report and any action taken **within five (5) days of the Report**.

8.38 If a decision is not agreed by the Committee, the Report is to be referred to the Regional Committee for hearing. The Club will provide its referral to the Regional Committee in writing (or electronically) **within two (2) days** of the failure of the Committee to agree to a decision. The Regional Committee may hear the Report itself, or refer the Report to an ISC for hearing. The Regional Committee or the ISC, where the matter is so referred to it, must hear the Report **within three (3) days of receipt** of the Report by the Regional Committee. The Player is

ineligible to participate in any Competition games until the Regional Committee or, where applicable, the ISC, has heard the Report. Following the hearing, the Regional Committee will provide to the Club and AFLGSJ Administration a statement in writing (or electronically) of the outcome of the Report and any action taken, **within three (3) days of the referral**.

8.39 Where it deems it appropriate, the Regional Committee may refer any Code of Conduct (Development Rules) hearing to an ISC and where it does so the hearing of any Report (Development Rules) will be heard by the ISC and not by the Club of the Player concerned. In such circumstances, the ISC will, so far as they are able, act in accordance with Rules 8.37 and 8.38

8.40 Where a Club fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rules 8.37 or 8.38, the Regional Committee may impose a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) on the Club.

8.41 Where the Regional Committee fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rule 8.38, the Board may impose a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) on the Regional Committee.

9. Send Off/Order Off

9.1 A Player or Official who breaches any of the Laws shall be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter or for the remainder of the game if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.

9.2 A Player or Official who breaches any of the Laws twice in the same match for separate incidents, or where there is a serious breach (such as those listed in Rule 9.3), shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match. In this instance the Umpire will hold up a Red card and must report the Player or Official.

9.3 Serious breaches **include** where a Player or Official:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct, if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

Sledging

9.4 “Sledging” may be described as insulting or verbally intimidating a Player or Players.

9.4.1 Sledging is not appropriate in AFLGSJ football competitions. AFLGSJ has a “no tolerance” attitude toward sledging and the interpretation and application of the Laws and these Rules will reflect this “no tolerance” attitude.

9.4.2 An Umpire may give a warning to a Player or Players sledging another Player or Players and where possible, should inform both captains of the warning as soon as reasonably practicable after issuing such a warning.

9.4.3 A Player who sledges another Player or Players shall, whether or not a warning has been given to that Player or any other Payer, be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter or for the remainder of the game if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a Yellow card.

9.4.4 For the purposes of these Rules, sledging will be deemed to be an act of misconduct under the Laws (Law 19.2.2(p)).

9.4.5 The Rules in relation to sledging will apply in addition to the Laws, including the Laws in relation to the use of an obscene gesture (Law 19.2.2(f)) and using abusing, insulting, threatening or obscene language (Law 19.2.2(m)).

General

9.5 In all instances, a Player ordered off shall leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area and in the case of a Yellow card can be replaced immediately and for Red Card after 15 minutes. The requirement for

evening up of Players (as noted in rule 10.7) does not apply where a Player sent off cannot be replaced. In the case of a Yellow card send-off for a period of time equivalent to one quarter, the timekeeper shall indicate when the Player is permitted to resume playing. In this case the Player must sit with the timekeeper.

9.6 For the purposes of this Rule any send-off will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter excluding breaks between quarters. For example, a Player sent off five (5) minutes before halftime in an Under 13 game would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.

9.7 The ordered-off Player will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter for the first offence and for the remainder of the game for the second offence.

9.8 A Player sent from the field with a red card for the remainder of the game must leave the field completely and can not sit with the interchange players or the coaches. This player must be reported.

9.9 AFLGSJ has a “no tolerance” attitude toward the use of audible obscenities, and the interpretation and application of the Laws and these Rules will reflect this “no tolerance” attitude. Players who use audible obscenities, regardless to whom they are directed, will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter and may be reported. If the obscenity is directed at the Umpire the Player shall be reported.

9.10 The Umpire will recommence the game once the Player has left the playing field.

9.11 In the event of a Player or Official failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, the Player or Official shall be reported for misconduct and the Player or Official’s team shall forfeit the match.

9.12 In addition to players, these rules also apply to officials, and these rules will be interpreted appropriately where the behaviour involves an official or officials

10. Teams

Numbers of Players in Teams

10.1 Player numbers are noted below under Rule 10.8 and 10.9. At all times other than for send – offs, Player numbers on the ground must be equal.

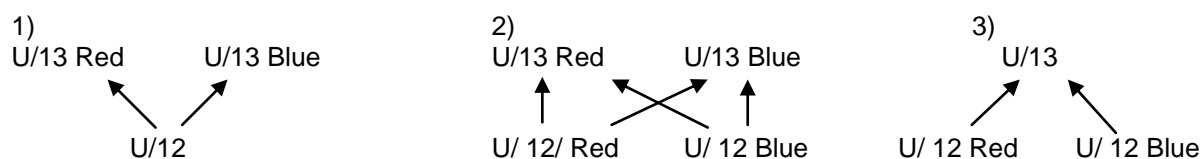
Multiple teams

10.2 Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same competition or division, after the initial 3 rounds no Player shall be permitted to play for more than one team (excluding younger players who play up), in the same competition or division, during the season.

Playing up an age level

10.3. The following examples are acceptable and relate to Players playing up an Age Group (from Under 12’s upwards).

Example – Playing up an Age Group during the regular season:



10.4 Splitting of Players in to teams of the same Age Group must be finalised after the initial 3 rounds and can not occur during the season. Division of Players into two (2) teams is a Club responsibility. The Board can provide guidelines only.

Player Numbers

10.5 In all cases, teams must have the MINIMUM number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a match to constitute an official match (Refer also Rule 11.2)

10.6 AFLGSJ strongly recommends that Clubs encourage the participation of Players in the game of AFL. To allow this, teams are encouraged to minimise reserves and to have the highest possible number of Players actually involved in the game on the day.

10.7 If during the course of a game, a Player injured has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that team, the Field Umpire and opposition coach are to be advised accordingly. The other side is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). For a Player returning to the field the same process in reverse applies.

10.8 To encourage maximum participation and teams to stand alone in terms of Player numbers, the term Match # specifies the ideal number of on-field Players per team. Where a team has the number of Players shown as Match # (but the other team has more), then borrowing Players from the opposition team is not compulsory to balance overall numbers. Where a team does not have the number of Players shown as Match # (and the other team has more than the first team), then it is compulsory to borrow/loan available Players to balance on-field Player numbers as far as possible up to the number shown as Match #.

10.9 The following table shows the on field Minimum, Match # and on field Maximum by Age Group for All Regions. During school holidays to assist Clubs to field teams the numbers below can be reduced by two (2) players.

Age Group	Min	Match #	Max. on field	Max. Interchange
U 9 - U10	9	12	15	Unlimited
U11 - U 12	9	12	15	6
U13	Harbour Div 1 & 2 - 15 Div 3 - 14 Other Regions - 12	16	18	8
U14	Harbour Div 1 & 2 - 15 Div 3 -14 Other Regions -12	16	18	8
U15	12	16	18	8
U16	Harbour Div 1 & 2 - 15 Div 3 -14 Other Regions -12	16	18	8

10.10 To provide an explanation of how a team structure may look refer to the following examples based on the above approach for the Under 12's.

Team A	Team B	Result
Has 12 Players	Has 21 Players	Team B provides 3 Players to Team A. Teams play 15/side
Has 12 Players	Has 14 Players	Even up Teams play 13/side
Has 13 Players	Has 17 Players	Team B provides 2 Players to Team A, Teams play 15 /side
Has 13 Players	Has 16 Players	Team B provides 1 Player to Team A. Teams play 14/side
Has 15 Players	Has 15 or more Players	No even up necessary play 15/side
Has 17 Players	Has 17 Players	Teams agree to play either 15/16/17/side

Team Nominations

10.11 Clubs nominating teams for entry into the Under 9's to Under 16's competition must have registered at least 75% of the minimum number of Players (as set out in these Rules) in that team by the date set down by the Regional Committee as the closing date for nomination of teams. This rule only applies to AFLGSJ competition grade fixtures. These numbers must not include anticipated 'play up' Players.

Restricted Player List (Under 12 to Under 16)

10.12 In the event that a Club has more than one team in the under 12's to under 16's Age Group with a divisional structure, the Restricted Player List is used to manage the movement of Players dropping from one (1) team in a division to a lower division of that Age Group.

10.13 **By the Monday following Round 1**, a minimum of ten (10) names is to be submitted. All recognised Talent Squad Players from the previous season must be included on this list. In the event of more than ten (10) Talent Squad Players belonging to one team, all names must be submitted. For the purposes of this Rule, Talent Squad Players are defined as TPP and Academy Players.

10.14 Players on the Restricted Player List cannot play down in their lower division team under any circumstances.

10.15 Should a club have a team in more than two Divisions, the RPL only applies to the top Division.

10.16 Any Player who has played 5 or more games in Under 18 Premier Cup during the course of the season will automatically be added or be deemed to be added to the Restricted Player List. It is the responsibility of the Club of the Player concerned to advise the Regional Committee as a soon as possible that a Player should be added to the Restricted Player List by reason of this rule.

10.17 It is the responsibility of the Coach, Team Manager and ultimately the Club to manage their Player lists to ensure compliance with the provision of these Rules.

11. Match Conduct

Match times

11.1 Matches **MUST** finish on time. If a start is late, then the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide the duration of the breaks at quarter, half and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters.

11.2 If minimum Player numbers are not present fifteen (15) minutes (or at quarter time in the Under 12's) after the scheduled time of commencement, then the offending team will forfeit the match. For matches where teams do not have the minimum numbers at the scheduled start time but Players are still due to arrive, the game shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. After the required 15 minutes (or quarter time in the Under 12's) if minimum number's are not achieved the match becomes a scratch match.

11.3 Starting times will be agreed between the HOST Club and Regional Committee and advised as follows:

- As per the draw for all matches.
- Starting times are indicated for all Age Groups at all grounds.

11.4 The competing Clubs may vary the above times, but any alternative agreed to MUST be decided upon at least seven (7) days beforehand, and the Regional Umpire Coordinator must be advised of the variation. A shorter period of time may apply, however a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be payable as determined by the Regional Committee, by the Club requesting the change, and only if agreed upon by all parties including the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

11.5 Failure of a team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine (see Rule 28). At that point, at the Field Umpire's discretion, they may commence play.

11.6 The Regional Committee, as agreed by the Board, may advise alterations to the starting times from time to time.

11.7 When it is necessary for a Player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the Field Umpire/s shall stop play at the first opportunity after being advised that a stretcher is on the playing ground. Play shall not recommence until the stretcher has left the playing ground and is outside the boundary.

11.8 No time-on will be allowed for the MINOR round matches.

11.9 In the case of a significant loss of playing time, the remaining time allocated for the match will be divided equitably by the Ground Manager and Umpire and the match will recommence and finish on schedule.

Match duration

11.10 By Age Group will be

- Under 9/10 4 x 10 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Under 11/12/13/14 4 x 15 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Under 15/16 4 x 20 minute quarters. (no time-on)

11.11 Breaks during the games will be: -

	Under 9/10/11	Under 12/13/14	Under 15/16
1/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes
1/2 time	4 minutes	7 minutes	10 minutes
3/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes

11.12 Timekeepers will sound a siren one (1) minute prior to the scheduled completion of each break. The HOST Club and umpires will ensure strict adherence to the quarter breaks.

Match Day Paperwork

11.13 Match Day documents are to be managed as follows:

Team Sheets <u>Retained by Clubs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs must use footy web – only record relied upon 3 copies produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 handed to <u>opposition</u> Team Manager 1 retained by Club Team Manager 1 provided to <u>Ground Manager & retained by Club</u> Each Club to verify each others list and each to sign off each Clubs copies. Both Clubs to retain. Umpires sign the Ground Manager copy after completing end of match duties. Clubs must retain for season and be able to present if required within 7 days
Goal Umpire Score Cards <u>Retained by Clubs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Home Club must enter results on footy web within 24 hrs of match played Clubs must advise AFLGSJ Administration of games not played by Monday midday
Match Report Completed by Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umpires to record match day presentation and issues / incidents via online facility
Umpire Review Completed by Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission to Regional Umpires Coordinator via online facility
Umpire Votes Completed by Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where required Umpires to submit via online facility Only required for Under 13 – Under 16
Umpire Notice of Report sheet	The process to be used by the Umpires to submit Notice of Report is the online Google facility
In the event of a forfeit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Umpire Votes should be taken No goal umpires cards to be kept Record result on Footy web noted as a forfeit 	

12. Protests and Disputes

Other than Players or Officials

12.1 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving persons other than participating Players or Officials will be dealt with by an ISC appointed by the Regional Committee with a quorum being at least three (3) members.

12.2 An email with details must be submitted **by 5:00pm of the Tuesday** following the incident with a hardcopy report (via Incident Referral Form) to be signed by the President of the reporting Club and forwarded to the Regional Committee Chairperson accompanied by one hundred dollars (\$100.00) refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit to reach AFLGSJ Administration **by 5:00pm of the Wednesday** following the incident. A copy is also to be sent to the Secretary/President of the Club against whose member(s) or spectator(s) the report is made. AFLGSJ Administration will immediately arrange a meeting of the Regional Committee to consider the report.

12.3 The Board may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements as set out in Rule 12.2 for the submission of the email. The Board may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements for the receipt of the deposit as set out in Rule 12.2. No reasons are required to be given by either the AFL GSJ or the Board where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by this Rule.

Involving Players or Officials

12.4 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving Players or Officials are to be dealt with by the Regional Committee, a quorum of which is to be at least three (3) members or, where the Regional Committee so delegates, by the Regional Committee Chairperson.

12.5 A Player or Official may be cited by a Club for unacceptable behaviour in circumstances where the Umpire officiating at the game has not reported the Player or Official. A Player may also be cited by a Club when not participating in a game but still under the jurisdiction of the AFLGSJ while attending a competition game.

12.6 A written report (via the Incident Referral Form) naming the Player or Official and describing the incident as recounted by eye witnesses should be forwarded (email or fax) to the Regional Chairperson and AFLGSJ Administration **by 5:00pm on the Tuesday following the weekend incident**. The report should be sent and signed by the President of the citing Club. A one hundred dollars (\$100.00) refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit should reach AFLGSJ Administration **by 5:00pm of the Wednesday following the incident**.

12.7 The matter will then proceed to the Regional Committee, or where so delegated pursuant to Rule 12.5, to the Regional Committee Chairperson to determine whether the incident should be referred to the Tribunal at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the next weekend's round of games, but in any event, **within seven (7) days** of the report being received.

12.8 If the matter is not referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee, or where delegated to the Regional Committee Chairperson, the Regional Committee Chairperson will furnish the citing Club with their reasons **within seven (7) days** of the report being received. Where the decision to not refer the matter to the Tribunal is made by the Regional Committee Chairperson as delegated by the Regional Committee, the Regional Committee Chairperson will also make their reasons available to the Regional Committee at the same time as furnishing their reasons to the Club.

12.9 If referred to the Tribunal, the matter will be treated according to the rules governing the Tribunal and be reported by the Tribunal to the Clubs and the Regional Committee.

12.10 The Regional Committee (or Regional Committee Chairperson where the Regional Committee delegates to the Regional Committee Chairperson) may waive the failure of any person or persons, in appropriate circumstances, to comply with the time requirements as provided in Rules 12.7 – 12.9. No reasons are required to be given by the Regional Committee (or Regional Committee Chairperson where the Regional Committee delegates to the Regional Committee Chairperson) where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by those Rules.

13. Postponements

Rescheduling

13.1 Postponed matches should be played, providing the duration of the competition will permit. **Clubs have seven (7) days** to agree on replaying the game and they must notify both the Regional Committee and AFLGSJ Administration of the details of any agreement or their inability to agree to replay the game. Postponed games are expected to be replayed within 4 weeks of a postponed match. In the event that the Clubs are unable to agree on replaying the game, the Regional Committee will determine whether the game should be abandoned, or alternatively direct the Clubs when and where the game should be replayed. Failure by a Club to comply with the direction of the Regional Committee will result in the forfeiture of the game by that Club. Where the game is abandoned, match ratio applies.

13.2 Where appropriate, the Regional Committee may recommend cancellation of a complete round. Where the draw includes a wet weather make-up day and the washout occurs before that day the whole round will be transferred, as is, if ground availability provides. If a second washout occurs and the proximity of the final round does not permit all games to be easily rescheduled, the Regional Committee will make a decision.

13.3 For instances (other than a complete washout) where advice of grounds closures is received by a Club **AFTER 8:00pm on the Friday evening, or 12.00pm for Friday night games**, the HOST Club will be responsible for advising the Regional Committee, and with concurrence, advising match postponements to the Regional Umpire Coordinator and the Secretary of ALL Clubs scheduled to play at that ground.

13.4 Where a Local Government policy on ground usage requires the governing body/association and not an individual Club (HOST) to adjudicate on and to administer matters of grounds being suitable for play, the Regional Committee may recommend to the Board for its approval a supplementary process for dealing with the issue of postponements and cancellations.

Minor Rounds

13.5 Unless a decision on any postponements is made **by 8:00pm Friday evening**, or subsequently, as outlined above, then the decision on play will be made at the ovals by the competing coaches, and in the event of a dispute, the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide.

13.6 Where advice of a ground closure is received **by 8:00 pm on the Thursday evening** before the scheduled game(s), the Regional Committee will attempt to reschedule the game(s) to an alternate venue within the round. Clubs will be notified of the venue change and normal competition procedures shall apply. i.e. if one team does not arrive, then a forfeit win will be given.

13.7 Alternatively in considering such a decision the Regional Committee will take all circumstances into account and the propositions put forward by the Clubs concerned. If playing the postponed match is determined as impractical the Regional Committee shall have the right to consider distribution of the match wins.

Finals Matches

13.8 The decision on any postponement rests with the Regional Committee, or its delegated authority at the grounds. A notice of such postponement will be posted at the ground(s) concerned. If a Finals Match is postponed, it will be replayed, unless otherwise directed by the Regional Committee.

Washouts

13.9 In the event of a WASH OUT ROUND the calculation of match ratio will ensure teams are ranked fairly in the finals series. The match ratio is determined by dividing the number of games won by the number of games played. This figure is multiplied by 100 to calculate a match ratio percentage.

13.10 It is the responsibility of the Host club to advise AFLGSJ Administration of any washouts of games, although advice may also be provided by the Regional Committee.

14. Allowed on the Field of Play

14.1 Only Players, Umpires, trainers, first aid attendants and runners are permitted on the field during the course of play (except where provided for under the Development Rules).

Runners

14.2 In the Under 13's to Under 16's Age Groups two (2) runners are allowed but only one on the ground at a time. In all other Age Groups, only one (1) is allowed. The runner is to wear a clearly visible and identifiable coloured top as determined by the Regional Committee. Only runners are permitted to deliver messages to Players and are not to loiter after delivering such messages.

Water Carriers /Trainers

14.3 Each team is allowed four (4) water carriers/trainers (identified at a minimum by a plain coloured t-shirt), as determined and or provided by the Regional Committee. They should only enter the playing field on the scoring of a goal or when play is at the opposite end of the field.

14.4 Minimum age of water carriers will be:

- For teams up to Under 11's – 11 years or older
- Under 12's – 12 years or older
- Under 13's - 16's – 13 years or older

Coaches

14.5 In Auskick, Under 9's and 10's, one coach from each team may advise the team from inside the field of play as per Appendix 3 of these Rules.

14.6 The Field Umpire shall have the power to move the coach back or order from the field completely and to ask any non-Players to leave the field of play.

15. Interchange

15.1 No Player may take the field before the Player being replaced has left the field.

15.2 Interchanging of Players is permitted at any time throughout the match. However, interchange can only occur through an appropriately marked interchange area. It should be clearly understood by both teams prior to the commencement of the match where the defined interchange area is located. It is to be the only portion of the oval's perimeter through which Players may enter the field.

15.3 Placement of the interchange ground markings should be on one wing equal distance from the two (2) coaching groups. In the U9/U10/U11/U12 Age Groups both teams are allowed to set up interchange gates on the wing (marked by low level orange cones) to be used through the course of the game.

16. Forfeits

16.1 A forfeit WILL be claimed against any team that CANNOT field the MINIMUM NUMBER of Players for the relevant Age Group in accordance with rule 10.9 within fifteen (15) minutes after the agreed starting time. The exception to this rule applies in finals (see Rule 17.1.1). If both teams cannot field the minimum number, the result is a non-game. Forfeit details must be listed on the team sheets with the umpire's signature. The teams may play a social match within the remaining allotted time. No votes are to be recorded.

16.2 Any forfeit (if known in advance) must be advised to AFLGSJ Administration, the opposing Club's Secretary and the Regional Umpire Coordinator **36 hours prior to the scheduled time of the match**. If an Umpire turns up to a game, because of late or non-notification of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is liable for the whole amount of the Umpire's fees (shared equally in the case of a double forfeit). If a scratch match/social match is played, the Umpire fees are paid as per normal Regional rules.

16.3 If a forfeit is not known in advance (essentially happens on the day) then advice must be provided to AFLGSJ Administration by the Host club as soon as possible after the forfeit is known.

16.4 For forfeit score calculations, refer Rule 3. 5.

16.5 For the purpose of games played, only the non-forfeiting team may enter a team into Footyweb.

17. Finals Series

Times and Player Numbers

17.1 The intention of this Rule is during the finals series to have the maximum number of Players on the field in accordance with the numbers set out in the table to Rule 10.9. Where a team has less than the match numbers shown under that table, they must play all those Players on the field and are not permitted to run an interchange bench. Evening down of total on-field numbers during the finals series is compulsory.

17.1.1 In finals minimum numbers must be in attendance prior to the commencement of play otherwise a forfeit will be given with less than minimum numbers.

17.2 Where a Regional variation determines that during the finals series the match number should be equal to the minimum number, it is incumbent on a team to ensure that Player lists during the year are managed appropriately.

17.3 In the event of a draw, additional time to be played for all Age Groups is five (5) minutes each way. The coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren. The coach will not be able to address the team and sides will change ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period.

If the game is still tied after additional time, teams do not change ends and the game restarts with a centre ball up. The coach will not be able to address the team. The team to score first will be declared the winner.

17.4 TIME-ON will be allowed for injury in the case of a stretcher being used on the field and also other incidents (e.g. a lost ball) at the Umpire's discretion. Timekeepers are to be notified if this is the case and must be able to record the time-on.

Format of Final Series

17.5 Where the number of teams in the competition is six (6) to eleven (11) teams, the top placed four (4) teams will participate. Where the number of teams in the competition exceeds eleven (11) teams then, the top placed six (6) teams will participate.

Format of the finals for four (4) teams:

Week 1	(A) 1v2 (B) 3v4	Week 2 (C) Loser A v Winner B	Week 3 Winner A v Winner C
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Format of the finals for six (6) teams:

Week 1	(A) 1v2	(B) 3v6	(C) 4v5
Week 2	(D) Winner A v lowest ranked winner of B and C (E) Loser A v highest ranked winner of B and C		
Week 3	Winner D v Winner E		

17.6 Mercy Rule does not apply during the finals series.

Eligibility

17.7 Any request to vary the application of Rules 17.8 to 17.11 inclusive is to be made to AFLGSJ Administration, but such variation is only to be applied by AFLGSJ Administration in extenuating circumstances (for example, injury to a Player or illness). Such request must be supported by a doctor's certificate or other acceptable evidence and a \$50 deposit fee (refundable in the discretion of AFLGSJ Administration). Any dispensation for a non-qualified Player to participate in finals will have to be recorded in Footyweb by AFLGSJ Administration. Dispensation applications must, unless AFLGSJ Administration otherwise agrees, be made to AFLGSJ Administration **at least seven (7) days before the finals begin**. The Board may impose such additional or other terms or conditions on the approval as it considers appropriate.

17.8 To play in finals, Players' registrations must have been approved and they must have played at least four (4) games during that season within the **team** that they wish to play.

17.9 With respect to all competitions (excluding Under 18's competition), any Player who plays more games in an older Age Group or higher division is ineligible for finals in the younger Age Group or lower division. If a player participates in all games in both Age Groups or division, and where the older Age Group or higher division has more games due to byes in the lower Age Group or division, this Rule does not apply.

17.10, Any Player who plays five (5) or more games in the Under 18's or Senior Competition must play a total of at least 10 games in a lower Age Group to be eligible for the finals in the younger Age Group. This rule 17.10 does not apply to players who participate in the BDAFL.

17.10.1 Players referred to in 17.10 must play in the Clubs highest Under 16 Division team.

17.11 A Player who plays up in two (2) teams in the same Age Group can only play in one team for the finals for the duration of the finals series i.e. the one most games were played for, or if equal, the one that 50% was first reached.

17.12 Presentations to be made on Grand Final day are determined by the Regional Committee and agreed to by the Board.

Umpires

17.13 The Umpires appointed to control finals matches shall be appointed by the Regional Umpires Coordinator and advised to the Regional Committee prior to the scheduled day.

18. Team Sheets and Results

Completion

18.1 All teams must use the official team sheet as produced from Footyweb. Separate instructions and training is provided on Team Sheet creation via Footyweb.

18.2 Clubs are to produce Team sheets in accordance with Rule 11.13 Match Day Paperwork.

18.3 Both Clubs are to retain their copies of the team sheets and scorecards for all games until after the end of the season or as stipulated by the Board and be able to present these within **seven (7) days if requested**.

18.4 All Players and interchange Players must be listed with the CORRECT jumper number. The Team Sheet must be signed by the Team Manager or Coach. If a Player plays in a higher Age Group, then the Age Group, in which the Player is registered, must be listed. (For example: SMITH, John Under 14 on Under 15 Team Sheet).

18.5 Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's Team Manager for identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day the following procedure should be followed:

- The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet.
- The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to AFLGSJ Administration.
- The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence **within two (2) working days** of receiving an official request from AFLGSJ Administration otherwise all match wins gained in that grade in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing side.

18.6 At the conclusion of each game, team sheets must be signed by the Field Umpire. The Field Umpire will complete the Match Report and submit via the online facility.

Submission (Documentation and Results)

18.7 The HOME Club, at which matches have been played shall collate the results and arrange **for entry into Footyweb within 24 hours of the match being played**. Each Club will retain the responsibility to upload changes to their own team sheets. Clubs must advise AFLGSJ Administration of any games not played by **midday** on the first working day following the scheduled match.

18.8 At the completion of the MINOR round of matches, AFLGSJ Administration will provide to the Regional Committee all Umpire best and fairest votes, by Player, by each Age Group.

18.9 Team Sheets will be the ONLY acceptable record of the Players who have played. Both Teams retain copies of Team sheets and Goal Umpire Score Cards.

18.10 Team Sheets MUST be in the hands of the Ground Manager by, at the very latest, the end of the half time break. Players arriving after the halftime break cannot be added to the Team Sheet. For finals matches, Clubs should provide Ground Managers with Team Sheets, at the latest, **FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES** prior to the match.

18.11 Any person wishing to query the validity of information contained on a team sheet must do so **within 7 days** of the day the match is played.

18.12 Any club requesting AFLGSJ Administration to make an adjustment to a team sheet must do so within **twenty one(21) days of the match** concerned being played and must provide a copy of the team sheet concerned.

19. Club Game Responsibilities

HOME Club

19.1 The designated HOME Club is to provide:

Timekeeper	Drinks for the umpires	A SAFETY check of the ground before the first match to remove any rocks, glass, needles or other debris from the playing surface i.e. JLT Match Day Checklist completed
Marked interchange area	Scoreboard/Sounding siren	
Padding for goal and behind posts	Ground Manager	Padding or other protection around structures within three (3) metres of the playing area for example taps, seats, concrete structures

Ground Manager

19.2 Ground Manager's match day responsibilities:

- Ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the game is available before the game.
- To ensure the ground is set-up through the movement and placement of goal posts and padding and the interchange area.
- Ensure a copy of the current GSJ By laws and a copy of the current AFL Laws are available for all games.
- Have available a spare set of Yellow & Red cards
- Arrange a timekeeper.
- Check the availability of Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires, interchange officials and time-keeping officials.
- Receive any formally submitted objections, protests or complaints from Officials of Clubs.
- Wear a distinctive vest with the title 'Ground Manager' printed on the back so as to be easily identified.
- Provide water for the Field Umpires at each break.
- Where possible, provide the Field Umpires with reasonable refreshments after their game(s).
- Accompany the Umpires on and off the ground and to and from the Umpire's rooms at breaks.
- Collect all required paper work, including team sheets & scorecards.
- Ensure Umpires review both team sheets for inclusion of all jumper #'s and then sign the sheets. (noting that both Clubs' are to retain both home and away team sheets plus appropriate score cards.
- Retain the umpire team sheets.
- Check where appropriate completion of Umpire paperwork and ensure the information is correct.
- Submission of Umpire Match Reports and Player reports will be the responsibility of the Umpires. A hardcopy pad double sided document for Umpire Match Report and Votes will be given to both Clubs and Umpires. Umpires will be provided with a separate instruction on utilising a new online process
- Arrange payment to Field Umpires as required.
- Ensure that both teams are aware of where the interchange area is.
- In appropriate circumstances, ensure that the Field Umpire is aware that a stretcher is needed on the field, noting that the Umpire shall then stop play at the first opportunity. The Ground Manager should also ensure that a phone is available to call an ambulance if required.
- In the event of a possible serious injury (e.g. neck), I dissuade any football Official from moving the injured Player and to wait for an ambulance. Note: The game will not continue until qualified medical personnel have removed the Player from the field. If the playing time of the game is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, terminate the game. NOTE: If the playing time of the game is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the coaches cannot agree on a final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- Keep a check on the behaviour of all Officials and supporters and to issue warnings for any misconduct or behaviour that is contrary to the spirit of the game. NOTE: This process should be completed by Officials of the Club involved after the Ground Manager has advised an Official of the offending Club. It is not the intent that a Ground Manager should be confrontational or assume direct responsibility for behaviour management. In the event that an offence is deemed reportable, the Ground Manager must obtain signed statements from witnesses and obtain any other relevant material, such as video footage. Such reports must be substantiated in this manner.
- Provide a faxed or electronic report to AFLGSJ Administration of any substantiated misconduct by supporters or Club Officials **within twenty-four (24) hours** of the game's completion.
- Facilitate the entry of scores, as required, through Footyweb by no later than 6pm following match day. .
- In the event of a postponed game, inform the Regional Committee in writing of the specific reasons for abandonment of any games.
- Ensure coaches wear their identification bib on match day.

Team Manager

19.3 For each team, the Team Manager must provide/arrange the following:

- Goal Umpire (with white coat, flags and scorecard)
- Boundary Umpire (with white top and whistle)
- One football in suitable match condition
- Team sheets (Refer to Rule 11.13)
- Spare whistle
- Official runner shirt that is clearly visible and identifiable as determined or provided for by the Regional Committee

19.3.1 Clubs are provided with Team Managers identification bibs which must be worn by Team Managers during match games. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and / or the loss of match points.

Injury Treatment

19.4 All Clubs are to comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia, as issued from time to time and as adopted by the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all Clubs have a copy of the Australian Dental Regions 'Dislodged Teeth' guidelines available at all games so that dislodged teeth can be best preserved.

Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (First Aid)

19.5 The AFLGSJ is proposing to adopt the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy (**Sports Trainers Policy**) released by the AFL in 2011, with effect from season 2013. All Clubs in AFLGSJ will be required to comply with the Sports Trainers Policy from season 2013, but are encouraged to comply with the Sports Trainers Policy in season 2012 if they are able.

19.6 From 2012, training courses will be available to Clubs that do not have the appropriate access to the necessary resources as required under the Sports Trainers Policy.

19.7 The HOST club is responsible for ensuring compliance to the minimum requirements of Sports Trainers Policy for all games for which it is the Host club.

19.8 There must be at least one person with the competencies in emergency management procedures and responses in attendance at any game. The non Host club should confirm with the Ground Manager prior to the commencement of each game that the Host Club is able to comply with the requirements of this by-law. In the event that the HOST club is unable to comply with these requirements, then, if the non HOST club agrees, the game will be postponed or rescheduled. [The game may proceed if the non HOST club is able to provide the appropriate resources under the Sports Trainers Policy.](#) If the non HOST club does not agree to postponement or cancellation of the game, then the non Host Club may claim a forfeit. The by-laws in relation to forfeits will apply.

19.9 The Sports Trainer Policy applies to all Youth matches (U13 – U16).

19.10 At Auskick Centres and Junior matches (up to and including Under 12), the attendance of a person with a current, nationally accredited first aid certificate* will generally satisfy the requirements if a person with a higher level trainer accreditation/qualification is not available.

*Must include assessed competencies HLTF301B (Apply First Aid) or HLTF201 (Provide Emergency Life Support)

19.11 In the event that a First Aid Official is required on to the playing field in Youth or Junior games, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after being so advised and invite the First Aid Official on to the field.

19.12 If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player should not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the qualified First Aid Official.

Note: Until such time as the Sports Trainers Policy comes into effect, a HOST CLUB that is unable to comply with the Sports Trainers Policy is bound by Rules 19.13 to 19.15 below

19.13 The HOST Club must use its best endeavours to ensure the attendance at all games of a First Aid Official with a current certification at least equal to:

- Nurse
- Sports Trainer
- St John Officer (plus Red Cross equivalent)
- St John Ambulance Certificate holder
- Paramedic
- Sports Trainer Certificate holder
- Doctor
- Basic First Aid Certificate (minimum)

19.14 In the event that a First Aid Official is required on to the playing field, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after being so advised and invite the First Aid Official on to the field.

19.15 If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player should not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the qualified First Aid Official.

Umpire Reviews

19.16 A process of review of umpires is contained in Appendix 1.

Bad Weather

19.17 Umpires and Clubs (in particular Ground Managers) should be aware of the dangers of allowing play during thunder/electrical storms. Play should cease if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. No risks should be taken in this regard.

19.18 When a match is stopped due to these circumstances, the result of the match is to be governed by the Laws rule 10.6.2 Incomplete Match.

Match Day Checklist

19.19 Under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program administered by JLT Sport, a Match Day Checklist must be completed prior to any football activity on match day. This is to be completed and signed by both HOME and away Clubs and shown to the Umpire prior to commencement of play in the first match of the day.

19.20 A copy of the completed checklist is to be filed and **kept by the HOME team** for each match conducted and be kept for a **minimum of seven (7) years**.

20. Player Registration

Forms

Note: The player registration form may be either in the form of a hardcopy or Footyweb system generated. Details of the online process are documented separately.

20.1 For new Players, a registration form needs to be completed. For returning Players a registration form update of details is required.

20.2 Every Player for each team must be registered using official registration forms, as approved by the Board.

20.3 Registration forms must be completed prior to a Player taking part in a competition activity.

20.4 New Player and correction to existing Player details are to be recorded in the Footyweb database.

20.5 Registration forms are retained by the Club. However on request from AFLGSJ Administration the document along with proof of date of birth, if requested, must be provided **within 3 working days**.

20.6 Violation of Rule 20.5 may result in a Player being disqualified and any dispensations withdrawn.

20.7 If a Player wishes to play in a team two (2) or more Age Groups higher than the Player's qualified Age Group as recognised by their date of birth, then special dispensation must be obtained from the Regional Committee. As this will require consultation with Club Officials and the Player's parent/guardian, adequate prior notice is required. In such cases the parents are to complete AFLGSJ Form 16.

20.8 Subject to the exceptions that apply in Rules 20.8.4 and 20.8.5, this Rule applies where a Player from a Club wishes to also play with another Club within GSJ (at the same time). The following applies:

20.8.1 This will only be allowed if the participation is with a Club that has a different age structure and the original Club does not have a team in that Age Group. The Player is permitted to play only where he/she plays up a level with the second Club;

20.8.2 The Player will be required to be registered with both Clubs. This must be advised to AFLGSJ Administration to system authorise;.

20.8.3 Approval to play is subject to the agreement of both Clubs and the Regional Committee/s. This includes any requirements set by the original Club /Regional Committee around such matters as Representative participation;

20.8.4 To encourage the playing of AFL in the wider community, Rule 20.8 does not apply to Players registered with Independent Schools as provided by Regulation by the Board, save that to allow the Player to play for the school, the Club is to provide a permit for the Player to play with the school;

20.8.5 AFL Academy Players are exempted from Rule 20.8 where they obtain an Academy Player Permit (**Permit**). The issuing of a Permit will be subject to the conditions set out in 20.8.5.1 to 20.8.5.10.

20.8.5.1 The Academy, on behalf of a Player, must apply for an AFL Academy Player Permit if the Academy deems it appropriate for that Player to obtain additional match time. Application for the Permit can be accessed through AFL GSJ and needs to be approved by the following parties in conjunction with the Player's parents:

- Academy Manager /Operations Manager
- Registered Club's President
- Permit Club's President
- Both Regional Committees

20.8.5.2 The Permit is for one season only.

20.8.5.3 Factors such as the Player's level of physical maturity, stage of development and/or level of talent, must be considered and approved by the Permit Club's President and parents to determine the appropriate Age Group before the Player is permitted to play. Apart from physical assessment, the capacity of the Permit Club and team in terms of numbers need to be considered by Regions. Engagement and signoff by all stakeholders is paramount.

20.8.5.4 An email request from Academy Manager / Operations Manager is sent to all parties (providing 7 days to respond). If acceptable by all parties, AFLGSJ Administration is to be advised for processing a Permit.

20.8.5.5 The Player must fulfil all playing and training commitments with his Registered Club before being permitted to play with the Permit Club. Failure to fulfil this requirement may result in a Permit being withdrawn.

20.8.5.6 If a Player leaves the Academy, then the Permit is automatically withdrawn.

20.8. 5.7 The Player under Permit will not train with the Permit Club under normal circumstances. The exception may be where Academy requirements prevent a Player from attending normal registered club training. Players cannot train 4 nights a week plus play on Saturday and Sunday.

20.8. 5.8 Provisions of AFL Greater Sydney Juniors rule 20.10.1 apply.

20.8. 5.9 The Permit Player cannot play in Finals at the Permit Club.

20.8. 5.10 All disputes involving Permits are to be referred to and determined by the Board.

Transfers

20.9 A transfer is deemed to include inter and intra league Player movements as defined by the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission. Transfers cannot be effected before Feb 1 and after June 30 each year.

20.10 Players are free to transfer between Clubs prior to the season commencing (round 1), provided they have not re-registered with their former Club (the former Club) and subject to the following restrictions:

20.10.1 Clubs to which the players are transferring (the new Club) are only permitted a maximum of three (3) Players from the one particular former Club team to the new Club, unless the former Club allows more than three (3). In circumstances where the former Club agrees to allow more than three (3) players, the approval of the Regional Committee must also be obtained by the new Club prior to the transfer;

20.10.2 Rule 20.10.1 does not apply where the former Club does not field a team in the Age Group of the players concerned and the former Club has informed the Regional Committee that they will not be fielding a team in the Age Group. For the purpose of this Rule, a team in the Age Group of the players concerned includes a combined team of a number of Clubs, where there is an agreement by the former Club to field its Players in or refer its Players to the combined team;

20.10.3 The maximum number of players that may transfer from a former Club to the new Club, across all teams and Age Groups, including the circumstances covered by 20.10.2, is five (5), unless the Regional Committee approves of same prior to the transfer;

20.10.4 Following the commencement of the season (round 1), players are only free to transfer after Regional Committee approval;

20.10.5 Rule 20.10 only applies to players in the under 9 to under 16 Age Groups;.

20.10.6 Registration with a Club does not include where the Player is playing with that Club pursuant to a permit only, or any similar arrangement;

20.11 The process of transfer requires the Player wishing to transfer to request such from the existing Club, including reasons for such a request. Once consent is provided the new Club will need to register the Player accordingly. If approval is not given the matter can be referred to the Regional Committee for determination;.

20.12 A Player playing for a Club without approval will result in the loss of any competition match wins and percentage awarded while the infringement of this rule continues;.

20.13 Transfers not officially approved by the Regional Committee will result in penalties to the teams and Clubs involved in accepting and playing a non-approved Player.

Proof of Age

20.14 The following documentary proof of age shall be acceptable to AFLGSJ:

- Original Birth Certificate or Original Extract of Birth
- Passport
- Original Baptism or similar Certificate
- Any original legal document certifying proof of age of applicant, or
- Any other such document as acceptable by the AFLGSJ such as School ID card, Letter from School Principal

20.15 Only those duly authorised by the Board shall be permitted to endorse such applications for sighting of proof of age.

Match Day Registrations

20.16 Match Day Registrations may be granted provided:

- Registration details are to be entered into Footyweb by **5.00pm on the Tuesday** following the game.
- New Player(s) name, address, birth date are noted on the back of the Team Sheet.
- The opposing Team Manager is informed that a new Player is being registered.

20.17 Should the Player later be found to be ineligible, the Player's team will lose match wins and the Club will be subject to the sanction imposed by the Board.

Board Jurisdiction

20.18 Clubs knowingly playing UNREGISTERED or INELIGIBLE Players or deliberately falsifying documents in any way will be liable to a fine (in addition to the loss of any match ratio), not exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars for each breach, and/or suspension of Club Official(s) and/or the Club from Competition/s.

20.19 In the event of any questions arising that are not provided for in these Rules, the opinion of the Board shall be sought and acted upon and its decision will be final.

Female Participation

20.20 The AFL policy strongly recommends that youth girls aged 13 and 14 years participate in a structured youth girl's competitions. However, if there is no youth girl's competition available the following applies:

- In accordance with the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)¹, persons aged under 12 years of age cannot be excluded on the basis of sex or gender identity from participating in a competitive sporting activity.
- Pursuant to section 42(1) of the Act, persons of one gender aged 12 and over can be excluded from participating in competitive sporting activities in which the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant.
- AFL GSJ will exclude females who reach 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a 'female competition'. A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the Players are female.
- The AFL NSW/ACT Dispensation policy applies to all participants in the game.

¹ The provisions of section 42 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) are essentially replicated in equivalent State legislation
Note: Please see the AFL National Junior Policy for further details regarding this philosophy

21. Blank

22. Coaches

Accreditation

22.1 All coaches officiating at AFLGSJ games must be accredited / registered with AFL coaching certificates. It is expected that non-accredited coaches will attend and complete courses provided by the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission during the course of the year of registration.

22.2 Coaches who coached in the previous year must commence a course in either the March or April courses (or early courses as designated).

22.3 New coaches appointed in the current year have until the mid year courses to commence.

22.4 After those dates coaches who have failed to comply will not be able to continue coaching unless given Board approval.

22.5 An unaccredited coach not provided approval to continue coaching by the Board will not be permitted to:

22.5.1 Display visible signs of coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant coach or coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game;

22.5.2 Enter the playing arena at any stage during the match. If, however, the coach is a parent of a Player participating in that finals match, the coach may enter the field at the quarter time and three quarter time breaks but must not address the team;

22.5.3 Be closer than 25 metres from the team's interchange bench during the game.;

22.6 Any coach suspended as a coach will not be permitted, during the period of suspension, to:

22.6.1 Display visible signs of coaching, which includes communicating to the Players, assistant coach or coaches, runners, water carriers, trainers etc, before or during the game;

22. 6.2 Enter the playing arena at any stage during the match;

22. 6.3 Be closer than 25 metres from the team's interchange bench during the game;

22. 6.4 Enter the change rooms before or during the game, including half time.

22. 7 Clubs are provided with Coach identification bibs which must be worn by coaches during match games. Failure to wear these identification bibs may result in a fine and / or the loss of match points.

23. Representative Football

23.1 From 2012 the AFL GSJ Representative program (Carnival) will be structured as follows or as determined from time to time by the Board

- The Carnival will involve U 13/14/16's.
- Eight weeks before the determined date for the carnival competing Regions will commence appointing Coaches and staff.
- Six weeks before the Carnival non AFL Academy nominated players may start training as a group.
- The AFL Academies will invite Representative Coaches to attend Academy training to oversee those players from their Region they may consider for their Representative team. In addition Academy coaches will be able to work with the Representative Coaches on up-skilling. It is expected that Representative Coaches will take up the invitations.
- In the last two weeks before the Carnival, Academy players selected in the Representative squad and Non Academy players will train together. In the last 2 weeks before the Carnival Academy players chosen will be excused from Academy requirements.

24. Uniforms

24.1 All Players must play in the Club uniform as agreed by the Regional Committee subject to overview by the Board. Players must wear different full numbers on the back of each jumper which are recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. Those numbers must correspond to those on the respective team sheet.

24.2 Where the Club colours as defined have been approved by the Regional Committee that Club will have the rights to that colour and design and no other AFLGSJ Club in that Region may apply to register that colour or design. If a Club wishes to change its colours or designs, it must first obtain approval from the Regional Committee subject to overview by the Board.

24.3 Any changes to a Regional Representative uniform must be approved by the Board.

24.4 All Club uniforms (Playing jumper, shorts and socks) must be approved by the Regional Committee at the time of team nominations. This is to avoid **uniform** clashes.

24.5 Jumpers worn by all Clubs must have the AFL (NSW/ACT) logo on the right breast. Club jumpers and shorts with the AFL (NSW/ACT) logo may only be obtained from official suppliers.

24.6 Sponsor's logo as approved by AFL GSJ may be worn either on the front or back of players' jumpers as follows –

- Front – The logo must be positioned on the left breast, directly opposite the AFL (NSW/ACT) logo. It is not to exceed 8 cm in size.
- Back – The logo must be positioned and centred above or underneath (or both) the player number. The size of the logo must not exceed 60 mm high and 200 mm wide if being placed above the number, or 100 mm high and 300 mm wide, if underneath the number.

24.7 Sponsor's logo as approved by AFL GSJ may be worn on shorts as follows –

- The logo must not exceed 70 sq cm with a maximum width of 11cm and a maximum depth of 6.3 cm.
- The logo must be placed on the front of the right leg.

25. Finance

Arrears

25.1 If any Club is in arrears to the AFLGSJ for a period of **fourteen (14) days** or more from the statement date, a fee of 10% of the amount owing may be charged for every **fourteen (14) day** period or part thereof that the amount is outstanding. Any such fee shall then become part of the amount outstanding.

25.2 If any Club is in arrears to AFLGSJ for a period of **fourteen (14) days or more**, that Club's representative(s) shall be ineligible to vote at any Regional Sub Committee meeting.

25.3 If any Club is in arrears to AFLGSJ or AFL (NSW/ACT) for a period of **fifteen (15) days or more beyond the date due noted on the Invoice**, that Club shall be ineligible for any match wins earned by any team from that Club whilst that Club is in arrears. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Board may at its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the AFLGSJ provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

25.4 If any Club is in arrears at a time **seven (7) days** prior to the date of the finals series commencing, that Club shall be ineligible to compete in that finals match. In the event of this occurring, teams placed next on the premiership ladder at the completion of the HOME and away matches for the respective Age Groups shall fill the place of the ineligible team.

25.5 If an appeal is made to the Board about an imposed financial penalty, then the Board may, in its discretion, allow for required time frames to be held over until resolution of any appeal.

Funds Management

25.6 The management of funds through AFLGSJ will include the establishment of a central account in the name of AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc. As provided in the Regional constitution, the funds of the Region will be used only in pursuance of the objects of the Region.

25.7 Funds and financial transactions will be managed for each Regional Committee separately through the establishment of separate cost centres for each Region. In this way funds sourced and costs incurred will be quarantined and allocated accordingly. On a regular basis as agreed by the Board, AFLGSJ Administration will provide the Regional Committees with transaction reports relative to each area.

Sponsorships

25.8 All sponsorships of Clubs or Regions must be referred for approval in advance in writing by the AFLGSJ. Sponsorships will not be approved for organisations or for products that are not suitable for junior sport. Sponsorship of tobacco, gaming and alcohol products or their retailing will be refused. AFLGSJ have developed a set of guidelines, which are available from the aflgsj.com.au website, to assist Clubs in determining suitability or otherwise.

26. Rule Amendments

26.1 Unless stated otherwise, changes to these Rules shall be deemed to commence on the next full season of football to follow the date of the change.

26.2 The Board, in its absolute discretion, may amend these Rules as required, to take effect from such date or dates as provided by the Board.

27. Statements

27.1 AFLGSJ is bound by and will enforce the AFL NSW/ACT Statement on Electronic Communications, a copy of which may be found on the AFLGSJ website (Resource Centre/Bylaws & Policies).

27.2 For the purpose of these Rules, "statement" includes any declaration, comment or remark, whether verbal, in print or by electronic media

27.3 Any Player, Official, or other person making a statement injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Player, Official, Umpire, any other person, Club, Regional Committee or the AFLGSJ shall be subject to the following provisions:

27.3.1 in the case of a Player or Official, AFLGSJ Administration may report such person for breach of this Rule and refer the Report to the Tribunal for hearing and determination;

27.3.2 in the case of any other person, AFLGSJ Administration may refer the matter to an ISC for determination;

27.3.3 Alternatively AFLGSJ Administration may refer the matter to the Board to be dealt with by the Board as it thinks fit.

27.4 A Club whose Official has made a statement contrary to the provisions of Rule 27.1, or 27.3 in the case of any other person, with the apparent authority, agreement, consent or approval of the Club, may be referred by AFLGSJ Administration to an ISC or to the Board which may, in the event of a breach, levy a fine of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and forfeit past or future match ratios.

28. Fines & Penalties

28.1 Where the Board or Regional Committee has fined a Club, Player or Official, any such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of receipt of an invoice from AFLGSJ. Failure to pay such money within the required time shall result in further action by the Board, including the loss of match wins.

Schedule - General

28.2 The following Schedule sets out the fines approved by the Board that may to be imposed for specific breaches of these Rules at an Administration and Match Day level:

Breach	Fine
Administration	
Club changing official game times or dates without agreement from the opposing Club and having not advised the Regional Umpire Coordinator seven (7) days beforehand or as agreed	\$100
Club deliberately advertising for players from schools designated as a feeder school to another Club as defined by the Board or Regional Committee will be deemed poaching	\$250
Club not represented at preseason GSJ education sessions as designated	\$100
Club playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age Players. Should a team be found guilty of three (3) of any of the above in any one season Any Player playing under another name other than their own	\$100 plus loss of match wins \$250 and the team withdrawn from the competition \$250 plus loss of match wins Max \$500 per breach
Club wishing to interview or approach a Player from another Club, with a view to having that Player transfer to and play in one of its teams, must first advise the Club Secretary with which the Player is registered in writing and a copy must be sent to AFLGSJ Administration at least seven (7) days prior to any interview or approach	Max \$200
Code of Conduct Breach	Max \$500
Forfeiting a match without correct prior notification	\$50
Statement breach	Max \$1000
Reports on modified rules players – Club failure to comply with the time limits	\$100
Reports on modified rules players – Regional Committee failure to comply with the time limits	\$100
Match Day	
Each Player must have a number on their jersey and such number must be listed on the team sheet. Should more than one Player wear a jersey bearing the same number	\$20 per breach
Failure of a team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s	\$50
Failure of advice of match day forfeit or washout by Host club	\$50
Failure to complete Team Sheets - Completion on match day in accordance with Rule 18	\$30
Incorrectly attired coach / team manager (non wearing of coaches/team managers bib) – from 2 nd breach	\$25
Runners, water carriers and trainers deemed to be contravening their duties will be sent from field of play after receiving one (1) verbal warning from the Umpire. Failure to comply	\$50
Team does not provide suitable Boundary – after 2 nd breach	\$50

28.3 The Board may fine a Club, Player or Official for any breach of these Rules, or subject a Club, Player or Official to such penalty as the Board in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

29. Appeals

Who may appeal? Appeals to the Regional Committee

29.1 Any registered player, official or Club (the appellant) may appeal against a decision of the Regional Committee. An appeal may be made with respect to the failure of the Regional Committee to make a decision.

29.2 The Regional Committee will constitute a Regional Appeals Committee (**the Appeals Committee**) consisting of three independent persons to deal with appeals pursuant to this clause.

Lodgement of Appeals

29.3 Appeals under clause 29.1 shall be lodged and heard in accordance with the procedures laid down by the relevant Regional Committee or its duly constituted Appeals Committee. In the absence of such procedures, an appeal shall be determined pursuant to the procedures set out in clause 29.4. The Appeals Committee shall ensure that the appeal procedures laid down in clause 29.4 are observed.

29.4 Any appeal is to be lodged with the Regional Committee within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision, or in the case of the failure to make the decision, when the decision ought reasonably to have been made and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal, together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$200 deposit. The Appeals Committee may call for submissions from, or further material by, the parties immediately affected by the original decision appealed against or by the Appeal. The Appeals Committee shall determine, following the appeal and in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to the Regional Committee. The hearing of the Appeal shall commence within 14 days of the date the appeal was received by the Regional Committee.

29.5 Where the Regional Committee does not have a duly constituted Appeals Committee, or considers that the Appeal should be dealt with by the Board, the Appeal shall proceed as an appeal to the Board and the Regional Committee will provide the Board with the material referred to in clause 29.3.

Hearing Procedure

29.6 The Appeals Committee shall determine the appeal by way of a re-hearing.

29.7 On the hearing, the Appeals Committee shall:

29.7.1 Provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable opportunity to be heard;

29.7.2 Hear and determine the appeal in an unbiased manner;

29.7.3 Make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at;

29.7.4 Proceed in an inquisitorial manner; and

29.7.5 Conduct the hearing with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the appeal permits.

29.8 The Appeals Committee is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

29.9 The Appeals Committee may, subject to these clauses, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

29.10 The Appeals Committee shall be empowered to meet when and where it considers necessary.

29.11 The question on appeal before the Appeals Committee must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeals Committee.

29.12 The Appeals Committee is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.

Power of Appeals Committee

29.13 After hearing the appeal, the Appeals Committee may make such determination as it deems fit, including allowing the appeal in whole or in part, substituting its own decision, vary the original decision (including any penalty) or dismiss the appeal. The Appeals Committee may impose such terms when making its determination as it deems fit.

Decision Final- Regional Committee

29.14 The Appeals Committee shall make the formal announcement of the outcome of the appeal at the conclusion of the appeal and shall inform the Regional Committee in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter. The Regional Committee shall inform the affected parties of the outcome of the appeal within 2 days of it being informed by the Appeals Committee of its decision. Subject to clause 29.15, the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties and is a decision of the Regional Committee.

Appeals to the Board

29.15 Any registered player, official or Club (the appellant) may appeal to the Board against a decision of the Regional Committee, including an appeal against the decision of the Appeals Committee. An appeal may be made with respect to the failure of the Regional Committee to make a decision. The Regional Committee may appeal against the decision of the Appeals Committee.

29.16 Any appeal to the Board is to be lodged with AFLGSJ Administration (for referral to the Board), within 10 days of the appellant receiving notification of any such decision, or in the case of the failure to make the decision, when the decision ought reasonably to have been made and must include full details of the event precipitating the appeal, together with any information which might assist in its consideration. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$400 deposit. This also applies to any appeal to the Board pursuant to Clause 29.5. The Board shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether the deposit should be refunded to the appellant or forfeited to the GSJ, or whether an additional amount should be paid.

29.17 Subject to clause 29.19, the provisions of clauses 29.6 to 29.12 inclusive shall apply to the hearing of the appeal by the Board, save that the word "Board" shall be substituted for the words "Regional Committee" in such clauses. As to clause 29.6, the Board may determine not to proceed with the hearing of an appeal by way of a re-hearing, but determine the appeal pursuant to clause 29.19.

29.18 After hearing the appeal, the Board may make such determination as it deems fit, including allowing the appeal in whole or in part, substituting its own decision, vary the original decision (including any penalty), remit the matter back to the appropriate person or body for determination in accordance with the Board's recommendations or dismiss the appeal. The Board may impose such terms when making its determination as it deems fit.

Basis of determining Appeal to Board

29.19 In the event that the Board determines not to proceed with the hearing of the appeal by way of a re-hearing, the Board will consider the appeal on the basis set out below:

29.19.1 An appeal is directed to correcting some error which may have been made in the original determination or hearing and affected its finding. That an aggrieved party considers that the ultimate decision is wrong or a penalty imposed is excessive does not constitute an appealable error;

29.19.2 The Board will only allow an appeal where, after considering the material placed before it, it determines that the appellant may have suffered a substantial injustice or where the Board considers the original decision:

- Was not fair or reasonable;
- Was against the weight of evidence;
- Involved a substantial denial of natural justice, or

- Ought to be reconsidered because significant evidence is now available that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing.

Decision Final - Board

29.20 AFLGSJ Administration shall inform the affected parties of the outcome of any appeal to the Board within 2 days of the Board's decision. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

30. Matters not provided for

30.1 In the event of any question or matter arising that is not provided for in the Rules, the Regional Committee or AFLGSJ Administration may refer same to the Board for decision, and the decision of the Board shall be taken and acted upon, and its decision shall be final.

31. Conduct Unbecoming, Prejudicial or likely to bring the Game into Disrepute

31.1 Where the Board is of the opinion that a Club or any Official, Player, or other person has contravened the Laws or the Rules, or has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or is prejudicial or likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the GSJ, or bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, the Board may deal with such matter in their absolute discretion as the Board thinks fit, and without limiting their powers, they may:

31.1.1 Appoint any person or persons to enquire into any matter, including an ISC;

31.1.2 Conduct their own enquiry;

31.1.3 Refer the matter to the Tribunal;

31.1.4 Impose any penalty that it deems fit, including but not limited to imposing a monetary penalty, suspension or disqualification or the loss of, or forfeiture of match points or match ratio or any other privileges, benefits or entitlement.

32. Legal (including Statutory) Compliance by Regional Committees and Clubs.

32.1 Regional Committees and Clubs are required to comply with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements governing their operations, including but not limited to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (as amended from time to time) and the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* (as amended from time to time).

32.2 Whilst the GSJ will provide information, guidance and assistance to Regional Committees and Clubs where it is able on issues affecting their governance and operations, the responsibility to ensure compliance with all legal (including statutory) and other provisions and requirements affecting their operations lies with Regional Committees and Clubs.

Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998

32.3 The attention of Regional Committees and Clubs is particularly drawn to the requirements of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* (the CCYP Act) (as amended from time to time).

32.4 Any person who has not complied with the requirements of the CCYP Act is in breach of these Rules and will be unable to act in any capacity at any competition game, including the finals. Such persons will be referred to an ISC by the Board or Regional Committee, to be dealt with as provided for in these Rules.

33. Racial & Religious Vilification Policy

AFL GSJ adheres to the Australian Football League's Racial Vilification Policy as per Appendix 5 to these By-Laws.

Schedule 1 – Umpires Fees 2012

Umpires Fees in AFLGSJ will be being brought into line across all Regions over 2012 / 2013. The following is 2012. In 2013 all will have a standard rate.

	Sydney South				Western Sydney				Sydney Harbour			
	Non Accredited		Accredited		Non Accredited		Accredited		Non Accredited		Accredited	
	One	Two	One	Two	One	Two	One	Two	One	Two	One	Two
U 9	25	20	25	20	25	20	25	20	25	20	25	20
U 10	25	20	25	20	25	20	25	20	25	20	25	20
U 11	25	20	30	25	25	20	30	25	25	20	30	25
U 12	35	25	40	30	35	25	40	30	35	25	40	30
U 13	50	30	50	35	45	35	55	40	50	35	55	40
U 14	50	38	55	43	48	38	60	45	55	40	60	45
U 15	55	45	60	48	55	45	65	50	60	45	65	50
U 16	60	50	65	53	60	50	70	55	65	55	70	55
Mentor Fee	15				15				15			

Central Coast & Newcastle				All Regions Finals Fees	
				Semi & Preliminary Finals	
Non Accredited		Accredited		Field	No Change
One	Two	One	Two	Boundary	\$15
One	Two	One	Two	Goal	\$10
U 9	20	15	20	15	
U 10	20	15	25	20	
U 11	20	15	25	20	
U 12	25	20	35	30	
U 13	35	25	45	35	
U 14	40	30	50	40	
U 15	45	35	55	45	
U 16	50	40	65	50	
Mentor Fee	15				

Grand Finals	
Field	\$10 increase
Boundary	\$20
Goal	\$15

Late arrival of umpire

Should an Umpire arrive late to an appointed match then the level of payment will be made on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata calculation is to be on the basis of whole quarters officiated during the game.

Standby Appointment

Where an Umpire takes control of a game that is underway (due to another Umpires non-arrival) then the minimum fee payable will be pro-rata to the whole quarters officiated during the game.

Appendix 1 – Umpire Review Process

The key components are:

- Completion of the Umpires Review form for Under 9's to Under 12's inclusive, is compulsory with non-compliance of a correctly completed form incurring a fine (i.e. non-submission/umpire identification or completing person's identification not provided). With the Under 13's to Under 16's inclusive, it is encouraged but not compulsory.
- In 2011 we have created a new online process which will enable coaches via the web at a more convenient time after the game to complete his or her views and provide constructive feedback
- Preseason Training and access to the necessary link on the website will be provided
- It is expected that a coach will complete the online form by 9.00am on the Monday following a match
- A review of feedback and comments by Regional Umpires Coordinator and any necessary follow up actions.

Summary

The aim of this process is to provide meaningful assessment of our junior umpires. To alleviate the "heat of battle" responses and to give a coach time to consider a constructive review the timing is extended. AFLGSJ is taking all steps to deliver an acceptable level of competency for the junior Age Groups. This can only be achieved if Club coaches and management of junior teams are prepared to provide constructive comment in their assessment of an umpire's performance.

Appendix 2 Development Grade / Junior Rules 2012

	UNDER 9 UNDER 10	UNDER 11 UNDER 12
1. Playing Field (min.)	105 m x 80m (cones or lines to mark zones) Increased by agreement. The field is divided into 3 equal zones	110m x 80m Increased by agreement.
2. Ball Size	Size 2 Ball (synthetic or leather ball by agreement)	Size 3 Ball (synthetic or leather ball by agreement)
3. The Team	9, 12 or 15 players with any number of reserves. (Refer Reg Var for Match #'s) Number of players on ground must be equal. Team consists of up to 5 equal numbers of forwards, backs and centres. Players remain in position for all of the quarter after which the players must change zone. Interchange of players may take place at any time All players should play at least 3 quarters of the match where possible	12 to 15 players with any number of reserves Number of players on ground must be equal. Interchange may take place at any time, but all players should play 3 quarters.
4.Zones/Positions and transition of the ball	Players will be instructed to by the umpire to stay in their correct position. When the ball is in transition from the back zone to the forward zone, it must be touched by a player in the mid zone. Failing this, a free kick will be awarded to the opposition team at the point where the ball entered the end zone.	
5. Scoring	Only forward zone players can score from within the forward zone. Forward players are marked with a clearly identifiable armband. Where a non forward scores, a free kick will be awarded to the opposition team at the point where the ball entered the end zone (forward). After a behind, the player kicking in cannot dispose to themselves	After a behind the player kicking in cannot dispose to themselves.
6. Playing Time	4 x 10 Minute Quarters	4 x 15 min Quarters
7. Starting and restarting play	A ball up is conducted between 2 centre players of similar height as nominated by the umpire. The umpire should nominate different pairs of players for subsequent ball ups after goals are scored. There is no full possession allowed. The full possession rule is applied as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A player contesting the ball up may not grab the ball and play on; and - The player must knock, palm or punch the ball to a teammate or open ground, and may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another player or hit the ground. 	A ball up is contested between 2 centre players of similar height as nominated by the umpire in the centre of the ground. Only centre line players attend centre bounces (20m clearance from all other players). The umpire is to enforce a similar 20m area for field ball ups. No Full possession permitted
8. Scrimmage and field ball ups	Field ball ups are contested by 2 players of similar height (selected by the umpire) after all other players have been sent back to their positions. There is no full possession permitted.	Field ball ups are contested by 2 players of equal size selected by the umpire. Before the ball up, the umpire should clear the area by sending players back to their positions. No more than 3 players from each team shall be closer to the ball up than about 20 metres. No Full possession permitted

9. Out of Bounds	<p>From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. If in doubt – ball up 5m in from boundary.</p> <p>Off hands or body – ball up 5m in from the boundary. No Full possession permitted.</p>	<p>From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. If in doubt – ball up 5m in from boundary</p> <p>Off hands or body – ball up 5m in from the boundary. No Full possession permitted.</p>
10. Gaining Possession	<p>A player's prime objective should be to gain possession of the ball (eyes on the ball). Restrained side (shoulder to shoulder) contact is permitted when players are contesting a loose ball, provided that the ball is within 5 metres. 'Running with' the player rather than 'running at' the player must be the intention. Front on contact or contact from behind is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>The ball is possessed by controlling it, catching it, grabbing it, or laying 2 hands on it when it is on the ground. Once the ball is possessed, other players may apply a hold and release tackle (refer to tackling rule)</p>	
11. Tackling	<p>Players can "Hold and Release" an opposition player in possession of the ball by grabbing the jumper only with one or two hands. When in possession of the ball there is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the player in possession of the ball to the ground. Grabbing the arms or applying a wrap around tackle is not permitted.</p> <p>If a player in possession of the ball is "Held and Released" without a prior opportunity to dispose of the ball they have 3 seconds to dispose of or attempt to properly dispose of the ball by handballing or kicking. If a player in possession of the ball has had prior opportunity before being "Held and Released" a free kick is awarded against the player in possession, for holding the ball.</p> <p>When the player is 'Held and Released' the umpire acknowledges that the hold has been applied (by calling out "Release") and instructs the player in possession to then dispose of the ball within 3, 2, 1 seconds (counting backwards out loud). A player in possession cannot be Held and Released again within the 3 seconds.</p> <p>Players cannot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knock the ball out of an opponent's hands • push the player in the side • steal the ball from another player • bump an opponent (other than in rule 10 above) 	<p>A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms (the wrap around tackle) around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball. No Player shall be deliberately dumped or thrown to the ground by a tackle. Where such a penalty is awarded the umpire will use the sling signal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A player in possession of the ball ,when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball. If he or she fails to do so, a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball - The field umpire shall conduct a ball up when the player with the ball has it held to the body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time to dispose of it prior to being tackled. In that case, a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball - The field umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a players hands by an opponent - A player, who is held by an opponent when not in possession of the ball, shall be awarded a free kick - Knocking or stealing the ball from an opponent's hands is permitted
12. Smothering	Not permitted	Smothering is permitted
13. Barging	No barging, fending off or chopping past opponents is permitted. A free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent.	No barging or chopping past opponents is permitted. Fending off with open hand to the body (provided it is not above the shoulders or in the back) is permitted.
14. Shepherding	Not permitted	Shepherding permitted as per the laws of Australian Football.

15. Marking	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches the ball directly from the kick of another player. Where a player drops a mark but has eyes on the ball, and hands out in front or above their head, and makes good contact on the ball then a mark can be awarded for a good attempt.	A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 10 metres
16. Distance Run and Bouncing the Ball	A player running with the ball must bounce it within 10 metres. Only one bounce is permitted. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.	A player running with the ball must bounce it within 15 metres, only 2 bounces are permitted. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.
17. Kicking Off the Ground	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental
18. Distance penalty	A 10m advancement may be awarded to a player after a mark or free kick if he or she is hindered by an opposition player	A 25m advancement may be awarded to a player after a mark or free kick if he or she is hindered by an opposition player
19. Order off rule	As per Rule 9 of AFL GSJ By Laws.	As per Rule 9 of AFL GSJ By Laws.
20. Spirit of the Game	Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game. No scores or ladders to be kept.	Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game. 10 goal mercy rule.
21. Coaches	Coaches allowed on field to teach but no closer than 15m from play.	Coaches are not allowed on the field. Messages delivered by a runner who must be an adult or a player that is mature enough to umpire the game...

Appendix 3 – Age Group Rules

3.1 Auskick

- This grade will not play for competition match wins.
- Auskick should remain as per the rules and regulations set out in the Auskick Handbook and Lesson Cards.
- The two (2) Clubs will play a game as a follow up to the Auskick program. The sides must be of equal size and played under the rules set out in the Aussie Footy Rules handbook. Children must be aged eight (8) and under. The size of the team should ideally be nine (9) a side (i.e. three (3) Players from each team in three (3) zones).
- The playing area shall be approximately half a standard size field. Standard field size is (ninety) 90 metres X sixty-five (65) metres.
- Players must be rotated at the start of each quarter allowing everyone to experience playing as a forward, centre and back.

3.2 Development Rules – Under 9 - 12

AFL Greater Sydney Junior Development Rules apply (refer Appendix 2).

3.3 Youth Rules

Unless provided for elsewhere in these Rules, teams will play under the Laws of Australian Football (the exception being rule 13.3 – Kick into play after goal umpire signal).

At all times other than for send offs the numbers of Players on the ground must be equal for each team

Ball Sizes

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| • Under 13/14 | Size 4 |
| • Under 15 | Full size |
| • Under 16 | Full size |

In the event of wet weather conditions, the umpire with the agreement of coaches has the discretion to allow the use of a wet weather (synthetic) football.

Spirit of the Game

At the end of a game all Players, coaches and umpires should gather in the centre of the ground and shake hands.

Tackling

Tackling is permitted as per the **Laws of Australian Football** however in Under 13's and Under 14's:

- No Player shall be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground via any tackle.

Mercy Rule

This rule is applied to Under 12 and wherever a Division 3 in any Age Group applies

- The Goal Umpires are to inform the Field Umpire at half time or three quarter time, where the score differential between the teams equals or exceeds a set amount (i.e. Sixty (60) points).
- The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires and any scoreboard attendants to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.
- Where the Mercy Rule is applied, the match shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play, with the coaches encouraged to even-up the skill levels of the teams.
- The official recorded result for the match shall be:
Losing team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied; Winning Team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, plus a margin equal to the points' differential.

Appendix 4 - ISC Code of Conduct Report Template

CODE OF CONDUCT INVESTIGATION SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

[details of game/incident]

[date of incident]

[location of incident]

Signature:

[name of member]

Investigation Sub
Committee

Signature:

[name of member]

Investigation Sub
Committee

Signature:

[name of member]

Investigation Sub
Committee

FOR DISTRIBUTION:

Club

[if and as required]

Club

[if and as required]

Umpires/Umpire Co-ordinator

[if and as required]

Regional Development Manager

[insert]

[INSERT NAME OF REGION] Regional Committee

AFLGSJ

[insert names]

Date:

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INVESTIGATION SUB COMMITTEE

FORMAT OF INVESTIGATION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS

RULING - ADJUDICATION

Investigation Sub Committee

The Investigation Sub Committee ("ISC") was appointed by the AFLGSJ [INSERT NAME OF REGION] Regional Committee to investigate and adjudicate on [describe incident etc the subject of the ISC] ("the incident").

The ISC appointed was independent of the incident and comprised the following:

- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]
- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]
- Mr/Mrs/Ms [insert name] – [insert any relevant position]

The duties of the Investigation Sub Committee:

- Inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters that may be referred to it from time to time by the Board or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal.
- Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on the .Club by way of a fine it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).
- Report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Board or Regional Committee. Subject to the overall supervision of the Board, such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee shall be final in all cases.

Format of Investigation

The ISC referred to and utilised the AFL Players' Code of Conduct in conjunction with specific clauses from the AFLGSJ 2010 Competition Rules and Bylaws. [delete or insert any other material specifically referred to, as appropriate]

The ISC gathered information and held a formal meeting/inquiry at [insert time] on [insert date], at [location].

In attendance were:

Investigation Sub Committee	As detailed above
[name of Club, if relevant].	[name and position of any representatives of Club]
[name of Club, if relevant].	[name and position of any representatives of Club]
[name of any person whose conduct is the subject of the ISC, Club and any position held, if appropriate]	[name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and position]
[name of other relevant persons attending/appearing, such as Umpires, and any relevant position they hold]	[name and position of any persons assisting the person, including, if appropriate, Club and any position held]
[names of witnesses, Club and any position they may hold, if applicable]	

This Report will not detail all the information collated and submitted during the course of the investigation.

All letters, documents and supporting evidence gathered/submitted during the investigation will be placed on the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee – [insert Region] file and kept with league records.

This report summarises the ISC findings, recommendations and ruling (adjudication) on the incident

Findings

- [insert specific findings made by the ISC as a result of its adjudication]

-
-

Recommendations

The ISC submits the following recommendations to the [insert name of Region] Regional Committee for implementation and/or action:

-

Appendix 5 Racial and Religious Vilification

a) Prohibited Conduct

No person subject to these Rules shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person ("the person vilified") on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

b) Lodging Complaint

In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened Rule (a), an Umpire, Club or Player may by 5.00 p.m. on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, may lodge a complaint in writing (using "Incident Referral Form" on the GSJ website under the forms tab of "Resources") with the person appointed from time to time by the GSJ Competition Manager as the Complaints Officer for the purposes of this proviso. The complaint must outline the circumstances of the allegations made against a person.

c) Complaints Officer

The Complaints Officer shall:-

- (i) inform the person alleged to have contravened Rule (a) of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it in writing;
- (ii) identify and obtain written statements from any available witnesses;
- (iii) obtain video or other relevant evidence; and
- (iv) arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.

d) Confidentiality and No Public Comment

Subject to Rule (g): -

- (i) the particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall at all times remain confidential; and
- (ii) a person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation.
- (iii) the Provisions of Rule 27 Statements continue to apply

e) Conciliator

A conciliation arranged under Rule (c) shall be conducted by the nominee of the GSJ Competition Manager.

f) Attendance at Education Program

- (i) Where:-
 - a person alleged to have contravened Rule (a) attends a conciliation for the first time (other than as a person vilified); and
 - the complaint against the person is resolved at conciliation,

the person may as part of the resolution, be directed by the conciliator and if so directed shall attend an education program approved by the AFL (NSW/ACT).

- (ii) Where a person employed, engaged or otherwise associated with a Club is required to attend an education program or similar body in another State, the Club shall pay the costs of that person's attendance.

- (iii) A person who fails to attend the education program shall be deemed to have contravened this Rule.

g) Public Statement

Where a complaint is resolved by conciliation, the only public statement that shall be made concerning the complaint and its resolution shall be that agreed upon by the parties and the GSJ.

h) Unsuccessful Conciliation

Where the Complaints Officer is of the opinion that the complaint has not been resolved by conciliation, the Complaints Officer shall:-

- (i) in the case of a Player, refer the complaint to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence; or
- (ii) in the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the Regional Committee (to be dealt with in accordance to the Code of Conduct Rules)

i) Previous Involvement

- (i) Where a person alleged to have contravened proviso (a) has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as a person vilified), the Complaints Officer may refer the complaint directly to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a Reportable Offence in the case of a Player, or directly to the Regional Committee to be dealt with as they see fit in the case of any other person.
- (ii) For the purposes of this Rule, conciliation includes a conciliation arranged under proviso (a) or such other form of conciliation arranged by the AFL or directly between the parties concerned.

j) Evidence before Tribunal or Chief Executive

In the event that a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this Rule, no evidence shall be given to or be accepted by that body or the Regional Committee relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to Rule (c).

k) GSJ Competition Manager

In the event that a Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of these Rules or if appointed is for any reason unavailable to act under these proviso's the Complaints Officer for the purpose of these Rules shall be the GSJ Competition Manager.

l) Referring Complaint

In any case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, the complaint shall be referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, as soon as practicable.

m) Legal Representation

Where a complaint is referred to the Tribunal or the Regional Committee under this Rule, the person alleged to have contravened Rule (a) may be represented by a legal practitioner.

n) Time Limit

Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this Rule may be extended by the GSJ Competition Manager if in the opinion of the GSJ Competition Manager it is just and equitable to do so.

o) Liability of Club

- (i) In the event that a complaint under these Rules in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Tribunal or where the Regional Committee determines that a person the subject of a complaint has been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be liable for the conduct of the person and shall be liable to a sanction to be determined by the Regional Committee.
- (ii) Rule (o)(i) does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the Tribunal or the Regional Committee, as the case may be, the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct which contravened the vilification Rules.

p) Continuous Education

Each Club must:-

- (i) ensure that all of its Players, Coaches, Officials and other employees attend any education program organised and conducted by the AFL; and
- (ii) maintain and keep a written record of all such attendees, (to be signed by each attendee and the President of the Club), and provide a copy immediately upon request to the GSJ Competition Manager.

q) False or misleading information

A person who:-

- (i) in a complaint lodged under Rule (b) or during the conciliation process, provides any information or acts in a manner which is in any respect false or misleading or likely to mislead; or
- (ii) falsely accuses a person of breaching Rule (a).

shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the AFLGSJ Competition Manager in his absolute discretion.

Appendix 6 – Zoning: (Under 9/10)

This brief guide is for the benefit of parents and other spectators to help them understand what is happening on the field. Modified rules are used in these Age Groups to give participants the best opportunity to participate in the great game of AFL.

- The field is divided into three (3) zones: forwards, centres and backs. The Players are rotated through the zones in each game to ensure that all Players experience the different field positions. Four (4) distinguishable markers (low domes) are placed on the sideline to mark the zones.
- The forwards are the only Players that can kick a score. These Players are marked with a clearly identifiable armband indicating that they are the forwards. Should a centre-zone Player kick the ball through the goal posts, no score is recorded and it is treated like any other out of bounds.
- It is important to realise that the marking of zones is to help both the Players and the umpire understand where Players should be. It is not a 'taboo' marker but an indication that a Player is close to the end of the zone. In essence there is a little 'grey area' where a Player may dispose of a ball just over the zone line. The umpire will communicate with the Players and attempt to ensure that the use of the 'grey area' is kept to a minimum. The use of armbands by the forwards helps the umpire identify where a Player is intended to be.
- Players are unable to take full possession of the ball at the start of play (ball up/centre bounce) or the recommencement of play around the ground. In fact, the umpire will use different Players from the zone that play is in to contest the bounce.
- The interchange gate for these Age Groups is marked by smaller witch's hats and is the area that the team will use to move Players from and onto the ground.

Should you have any questions, ask the coach (after the game!) or the manager from your Club and I am sure that they will help.

Just remember, the Players are out there to have fun and the Umpire is a volunteer.