



River Murray  
Football League Inc

By-Laws

**Adopted 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Amendments

Date	Item	Reference
August 2018	Adoption of by-laws	Special Delegates Meeting 6/8/2018
November 2018	Appendix 17 Offence Classification	Delegates Meeting 5/11/2018
November 2018	7.5 Qualifications for Finals	Delegates Meeting 5/11/2018
November 2018	1.1 Clubs General	Delegates Meeting 5/11/2018
December 2018	10. League Rules Changes Section 10	RMFL AGM 3/12/2018
January 2019	Add appendix 23. Procedure for appeal	RMFL Operational Appendix 5.1.2019
February 2019	2.12 Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificates. Add appendix 24 Dispute and Appeals Flowchart	SANFL/Legal Requirement Added to assist with understanding the process inserted by the RMFL Exec
March 2019	Amendment to Junior by-laws Section 3, including Junior Carnival Appendix 22.	RMFL Delegates meeting 4/3/2019
April 2019	Added clause 6.6 Umpires	RMFL Operational Meeting 15/4/19
May 2019	Amendments sections 2.3, 2.6, 2.8 and 10.1	RMFL Operational Meeting 20/5/19
May 2019	Substitute RMFL Vilification Policy with AFL National Policy	RMFL Operational Requirements 28/5/19
August 2019	Amendment Transfer Rules	RMFL Delegates Meeting 12/8/2019
August 2019	Adopt AFL/SANFL State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines	RMFL Delegates Meeting 12/8/2019
November 2019	Appendix 23 Tribunal Appeals	RMFL Operational Requirements 13/11/2019
December 2019	2.12 Child-Related Employment	Alterations to Governance Procedures
	6. Disputes and Tribunal	Add part (B) Fee as per AGM by-law Amendment
March 2020	Concussion Policy Update Media Policy Introduction	In line with AFL Standards-Passed at delegates meeting 24.2.2020
December 2020	2.7 Club Officials  2.8 (1) Home Club Paperwork Procedure 8.1.5 – APPS - Points notation due to Covid-19 AGM Age group alteration	Replace National Police Clearance with Working With Children's Check Uploading of matchday forms AGM Vote carried – Points Matrix  All references to Under 18, 16 and 14 ages
February 2021	Appendix 11. Umpire Payment Scheme	Pay rise for umpires, capped from increase for 3 years, expires end of 2023.
March 2021	AFL Laws of the Game Night Football Send off Rule	Refer rules being varied 10.10 and 10.11 Refer new inclusion 1.4 Refer 10.1 – Umpires powers and demerit point system
April 2021	Removal of Tribunal Information	Requested by SANFL, refer all queries to new State and Territory Guidelines 2021- Approved by delegates email 4.6.2021
August 2021	Under Age Carnival	Alter to Under 14
September 2021	Reword 7.5 Under age qualifications for finals	Play any Junior matches they are eligible for and 1 Senior Match on the same

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		weekend
Dec 2021	Appendix 14 – Investigation Procedure	Add that the club who is found guilty will pay the investigation fee, the club who initiated will get a refund. Add Regional co-ordinator can also be the Investigator.
March 2022	Appendix 26	Competition Management Policy
May 2022	PlayHQ  RMFL By-Laws 2.2 – Umpire Escorts:  RMFL By-Laws 2.10 Timekeepers and Appendix 10:  Appendix 13 Officials Match Attire	RMFL Operations requirements - Reference to Footyweb/SportsTG replaced with PlayHQ RMFL Delegate meeting 23.5.2022 -Umpire Escorts removed, replaced with Club Contacts. RMFL Delegate meeting 23.5.2022 Reserves completion times. RMFL Operations requirements - All reference to Timekeeper duties is transferred to appendix 10. Updated color alterations.
July 2022	Appendix 20 and rule 3.7	Free kick after 10 goal margin in junior football. Free taken on forward edge of square.
December 2022	AGM – By-law changes	Adjust ages, add two new clubs Mallee Districts and Southern Mallee, change Meningie to Coorong Cats. Alter junior Age groups from under 16 to under 15.5, Under 14 to Under 13. PlayHQ included where was Footyweb or SportsTG. Appendix 9 - Finals Rotation to include new clubs Appendix 12 - Modify Uniform requirements along with SANFL changes. Appendix 22 – Modify Junior Carnival rules
December 2023	AGM-By-Law changes	Under 13s Format now to become an official competition, includes Best & Fairest award, best on ground in Grand Final, Leading Goalkickers, best players and goal kickers published etc, also included in the Lyall Parker Champion Club award. 3.5 What constitutes a game for points – edited. Add appendix 17 – Club Behavior Management System

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**RIVER MURRAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Our Mission**

To provide all stakeholders with affordable, accessible, enjoyable and competitive games of Australian Rules football in a safe environment, whilst making a meaningful contribution to the community and the sustainable development of the game.

**Our Vision**

Strengthening Country Communities through Football.

**Our Values**

We rise to every challenge and do what we say we will do – we own the outcome. We thrive on pushing the boundaries beyond what we have done before to achieve the extraordinary for our people, supporters, partners and the community.

Respect, integrity, honesty, empathy and a great work ethic earns us the right to play.

We love what we do. Passion, energy, fun and perseverance is at the heart of our sport and is what drives how we work.

We work as one team because together we achieve better outcomes. We bring out the best in each other by embracing our diverse range of ideas, skills and backgrounds to achieve individual and shared success.

We define our position and defend this when appropriate.

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<b>Key Strategic Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
<b>Football Development</b>	<b>Integrity</b>	<p>Develop &amp; support an appropriate, affordable, accessible and safe competition for all RMFL players, supporters, umpires and club officials.</p> <p>Identify policies that maximise participation.</p>
	<b>Competition</b>	<p>Support local country community clubs to provide quality management &amp; environments to motivate volunteers, umpires, coaches, spectators and sports trainers for all levels of Australian Rules Football competition within our clubs.</p> <p>Continued focus on schools with low football participation rates, in particular multicultural schools.</p>
	<b>Talent Retention</b>	<p>Develop initiatives that support player retention in our league and talent identification.</p> <p>Encourage umpires Association to develop a recruitment, retention and recognition program</p> <p>Assist in the recruitment and retention program for umpires.</p>
<b>Sustainable Business Model</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<p>Maintain business best practice and corporate governance at The League and support the RMFL Clubs to do the same.</p>
<b>Business Development</b>	<b>Financial and Organisation Assets</b>	<p>Manage and maintain the financial assets of The League to maximise the best return for member clubs. Encourage retention of quality people and their development</p>
	<b>Marketing &amp; Partnerships</b>	<p>Use our brand strength and size to influence the positive growth of community football in the country area and to attract new partners.</p>

## **Objectives by Strategy**

### **Competition Strategy**

1. Maximize participation by developing an administration sporting framework that promotes & develops our clubs and their members. Ensure our player management system is accessible and user friendly
2. Develop a safe playing environment through educations programs, umpiring training & recruitment; continue reviews of our rules & regulations; providing an effective tribunal system

### **Talent Retention**

1. Develop talent retention & identification policies to attract, retain & develop players, umpires and club officials for the RMFL.
2. Contribute to the SACFL/SANFL review of the APPS and other state systems to ensure a playing environment that encourages max. player participation, a strong RMFL & encourages player retention/attraction

### **Infrastructure**

1. Advocate for the development of community facilities for the RMFL clubs & RMFL Dalwood/Underwood House.

### **Governance Sustainability**

1. Maintain rules, relationships, policies, systems and processes of The League including law, regulations, financial & constitution compliance
2. Develop business solutions to accelerate the business including best utilisation of financial resources of The League &, attracting new members
3. Attract, develop and retain quality staff/volunteers and promote a high-performance culture in line with our values

### **Business Growth/Marketing**

1. Maintain & Build partnerships with business partners, sponsors, all levels of government, affiliated leagues, SANFL, SACFL, AFL and other key stakeholders
2. Deliver quality events and marketing campaigns that effectively promote the brand, game, related competitions & development programs
3. Financial Strength of the RMFL to be improved to allow the implementation of new funding initiatives for member clubs

### **Raising Community Awareness**

1. Enhance our support of volunteers and club development activities, with particular focus on managing increasing diversity and dealing with social issues in the community.

**League By-Laws - Governance – Schedule 1**

**1. EXECUTIVE PROCEDURES**

**1.1 General**

The Executive's work may include the following:

- 1) Determine and collect subscriptions.
- 2) Develop, upgrade and implement:
- 3) A strategic plan;
- 4) An operational plan dealing with investments and processes;
- 5) Policies, procedures and by-laws;
- 6) Access resources to achieve the League's objectives;
- 7) Liaise with the Clubs and other stakeholders;
- 8) Communicate with all stakeholders about the League and its operations; and
- 9) Report regularly to Clubs about the progress of projects.

**1.2 Executive Powers**

- 1) The Executive can do anything it needs to do to manage the football league. It must act in the best interests of the League and its Clubs.
- 2) As examples, the League may:
  - a) Acquire, hold, deal with, and dispose of, any real or personal property;
  - b) Administer any property on trust;
  - c) Open and operate bank accounts;
  - d) Invest its moneys in any security in which trust moneys may, by Act of Parliament, be invested;
  - e) Borrow money upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit;
  - f) Give such security for the discharge of liabilities incurred by it as it thinks fit;
  - g) Appoint agents to transact any of its business on its behalf;
  - h) Enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.

**1.3 Qualification of directors**

The Executive must, as far as possible, encourage the nomination and appointment of a balanced Executive with experience in as many of the following areas:

- 1) Business management;
- 2) Corporate governance;
- 3) Sporting administration;
- 4) Legal;
- 5) Accounting; and
- 6) Community engagement.

**1.4 Appoint officers**

The Executive may appoint and remove from time to time on the terms it sees fit:

- 1) A director as Treasurer;
- 2) A Secretary of the League;
- 3) A Public Officer of the League;
- 4) A Chief Executive Officer;
- 5) A Football Operations Manager;
- 6) A Junior Development Officer; and
- 7) An Umpire's coach.

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### 1.5 Consider Auditor

The Executive must consider every year before it convenes an annual general meeting whether its accounts:

- (1) Should be audited; or
- (2) Are required to be audited by law.

If so, the Executive must determine an auditor who ought to be appointed and propose a resolution at the annual general meeting to appoint that auditor for this purpose.

### 2. What does the Chairman do?

The Chairman's work may include the following:

- (1) Liaise between the officers and the Executive;
- (2) Write and receive correspondence for the League and distribute and advise the responsible officers;
- (3) Chair meetings of the Executive and the League;
- (4) Represent the League at meetings of any affiliated body; and
- (5) Represent the League generally.

### 3. What are the directors' duties?

#### 3.1 Conflicts of interest

- (1) Directors must declare any conflict of interest before appointment and at any time a conflict may arise to:
  - (a) The Executive; and
  - (b) At the next annual general meeting.
- (2) This does not apply to an interest that exists only because the director is an employee of the League.
- (3) A director who has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a contract, or proposed contract, with the League must not take part in any decision of the Executive with respect to that contract but may take part in any deliberations with respect to that contract.

#### 3.2 Duties

Each officer of the League must:

- (1) Not commit an act with intent to deceive or defraud the League, the Clubs or creditors of the League or creditors of any other person or for any fraudulent purpose.
- (2) Not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of his or her position so as to gain, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit or material advantage for himself or herself or any other person, or so as to cause a detriment to the League.
- (3) Not make improper use of his or her position as such an officer or employee so as to gain, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit or material advantage for himself or herself or any other person, or so as to cause a detriment to the League.
- (4) At all times act with reasonable care and diligence in the exercise of his or her powers and the discharge of the duties of his or her office.

An **officer** is a director, secretary, treasurer, public officer or Chief Executive Officer of the League or any person who is concerned, or takes part, in the management of the affairs of the League.

#### 3.3 Treasurer

Treasurer shall receive all monies paid to the League and pay same into a bank authorized by the League as soon as possible after receipt of same. The Treasurer must issue receipts and prepare a financial statement for all League delegates meetings. The Treasurer must produce on demand all books, vouchers and documents being the property of the League to the President and to prepare the Balance Sheet and a report of the previous year's proceedings for the AGM.

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### **3.4. Delegates**

Delegates shall attend all meetings of the League when called by the President or the Secretary. Failure to comply with such a request, the offending club may incur a fine on each occasion they fail to attend such meeting unless an apology or satisfactory explanation be tendered to the president for non-attendance.

Refer to Appendix 16 Fines Schedule

No discrimination shall be permitted between any accepted delegates

### **4. Banking**

- (1) The League shall bank its monies in a bank to be decided by the League.
- (2) All accounts shall be paid by cheque or internet banking.
- (3) The Treasurer is authorized to hold petty cash for the purpose of paying incidental accounts
- (4) No withdrawals are to be made without the authorization of the Executive or Management Committee.
- (5) All cheques shall be signed by two of the following officers; President, Secretary or Treasurer.

### **5. Life Membership**

- (1) Life Membership of the League shall be limited to 10 years service rendered to this League in an official capacity at the discretion of the delegates.
- (2) Player Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Players who have played 250 League games (including RMFL representative matches) in the RMFL. Nominations to be substantiated by Club records and any other records including but not limited to written, photographic and electronic that can verify the nomination.
- (3) Player/Coach Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Player/Coach who have played and/or coached 250 League games (including RMFL representative matches) in the RMFL. Nominations to be substantiated by Club records and any other records including but not limited to written, photographic and electronic that can verify the nomination.
- (4) Player/Umpire Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Player/Umpire who have played and/or umpired 250 League games (including RMFL representative matches) in the RMFL. Nominations to be substantiated by Club records and any other records including but not limited to written, photographic and electronic that can verify the nomination
- (5) Nominations for Life Membership to be presented at the mid-year delegates meeting.
- (6) A vote is then taken and two thirds of the delegates to assent.
- (7) If the resolution is passed the Life membership will be awarded at the League presentation dinner in the same year provided the requirements of Life membership are met.

**League By-Laws – General**

**1. CLUBS**

**1.1 Clubs General**

- (1) A Club is required to nominate 4 TEAMS (UNDER 15.5, UNDER 18, RESERVES AND LEAGUE) at the beginning of the season or the Club may not be accepted as a member of the River Murray Football League. If a Club did not complete the previous year with 4 teams they must re-apply to the League and the League delegates to be accepted to continue in the League. The Club must show substantiated records as to how they will supply enough players to fill all 4 teams.
- (2) Each club shall subscribe an annual affiliation fee, which shall be determined at the AGM each year. Subscriptions are to be paid within 7 days of the commencement of the playing season for that year.
- (3) In addition, every new player of that club shall before being permitted to play apply to the League via Play HQ and obtain a registration and permit to play.
- (4) Upon registering online via Play HQ and accepting the conditions to play each applicant shall be deemed to be a member of the League and Club mentioned in his application.
- (5) Any member once having obtained registration and a permit to play and subsequently signs another application for registration and a permit to play for another Club without first having obtained a clearance from the first mentioned Club shall be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (6) Under no circumstances whatsoever shall a player be granted registration to play in this League after the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July in any one season.

**1.2. Club Colours**

Each new Club or existing Club shall register its colours or change of existing club colours with the League prior to the registration or change to determine exclusive rights to wear such colours.

As per SANFL CFL Regulation 34, player uniforms must comply with the requirements set out. This latest version of this regulation can be found on the SANFL Website and appendix 12 is specific on logos and where they are to be placed and sizes.

- (1) The RMFL Secretary will make available the RMFL requirements in addition to the SANFL specifications.
- (2) Clubs will be directed to preferred RMFL Suppliers which will be listed on the RMFL Website.
- (3) If a club wishes to construct a special “one off” type Guernsey then that club must apply in writing to the League Secretary 30 days prior to the date they are to be worn.
- (4) RMFL Requirements as per appendix12, RMFL Logo on the top right breast of Guernsey
- (5) The circular RMFL logo on the Guernsey should measure 80mm in diameter.

See Appendix 12 Uniform Requirements

**1.3 Grants to Clubs**

The RMFL will make Grants available each season for Clubs to apply to use in upgrading / improving facilities / infrastructure. Each Grant is to be capped at \$5000. Grant applications must meet the following criteria;

- (a) All applications are assessed on the merit of the project.
- (b) Applications to the League Secretary by 1st July each year. No application will be received after the 1st July in a playing season. The project must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funds.
- (c) Clubs may only be eligible for funding at least every 3 years for \$5000. (Special circumstances can apply if required sooner). If a club only uses a partial amount of the \$5,000.00, then they are eligible for further grants up to the maximum of the \$5,000.00. eg a club receives a \$2,000.00 Grant, they still have \$3,000.00 RMFL Grant balance.
- (2) The RMFL Executive Committee will make the final decision on the funding application.

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### **Requirements of the Application are;**

- (a) Complete the application form detailing an account of the project which requires the funding.
- (b) Must include a cash amount of up to \$5000.
- (c) The applicant must contribute at least the same amount as requested in cash.
- (d) Upon completion of the application form, forward it to the League Secretary.
- (e) Must submit a report form with photos describing the outcomes to show that the project has been completed (receipts and photos are acceptable).

### **Special Notes;**

- (1) The League Executive reserves the right to refuse applications should it feel the terms have not been met or the project doesn't meet the intent of the Grant System.
- (2) The League Executive has the right to limit the total amount of grant funding to \$10,000.00 per year, or greater only under special circumstances.

***Note\* Refer to Appendix 15 for application form***

### **1.4 Night Football**

If a club upgrades their lighting requirements for their oval to Community Football Standards the following may apply.

- (1) The RMFL must be notified and shown proof that the lights have been upgraded to Community Football Standard by certified documents from an appropriately qualified person.
- (2) The club may hold up to 4 twilight or night games throughout the season fixture.
- (3) Visiting or away club must provide to the RMFL Executive a substantial reason for the match not to be played under lights.
- (4) The game can be played by any grade that is in the competition.
- (5) The program each year can be made-up without any scheduled twilight or night games. These games can be added and advertised when decided upon.
- (6) The decision to hold a Twilight or night game is to be made at least 14 days before the event so as to allow each club to notify all people concerned including RMFL, patrons and residents.
- (7) Start and finish times must take into consideration and meet council requirements in relation to surrounding residents regarding noise and lighting.
- (8) If a final is held at a ground where the lighting has been approved, the RMFL Executive may in consultation with both teams involved schedule a night game for that final.
- (9) If on the day before, it is forecast inclement weather that may affect visibility for the game (e.g. heavy rain or fog) then the game is to be rescheduled back to its original programmed time. This decision is to be made by both clubs and the RMFL executive reaching an agreement.
- (10) Night games are to be held to help promote football in our region and as such the final decision to allow a night game to proceed will rest with the RMFL Executive and this decision will be made solely with that in mind.

## **2. MATCH DAY PROCEDURES**

### **2.1 Match-day Officials**

- (a) Each club must provide goal umpires, timekeepers, and boundary umpires unless provided by the RMFL.
- (b) Team managers are essential to each team competing on the day.
- (c) In all matches of the League Clubs are to ensure the runner(s), trainer(s), water carrier(s), and club appointed umpires wear the appropriate match attire as prescribed in Appendix 13 Match Attire - Officials

### **2.2 Umpires Escort**

Clubs are no longer required to provide an adult umpire escort. In lieu of this, A club contact point of reference is to be displayed in the Umpires Change Room. Umpires are to approach team Manager/Runners to advise the Club Contact of any issue that requires addressing.

### **2.3 Home Club Responsibilities**

- (a) Supply a new RMFL approved football for the league game, and a suitable used ball for each of the other grades. Junior grades where required may use a smaller sized football.
- (b) Ensure umpire's and player's change rooms are safe, clean and secure.
- (c) Ensure coach's boxes, timekeepers and interchange areas are safe, and clean.
- (d) Ensure Timekeeper's box has two working timers and a printed copy of the Appendix 10 Timekeeper Duties placed in a suitable position. Refer Appendix 10.
- (e) Provide a suitable and audible siren.
- (f) Supply a scoreboard operator for each grade.
- (g) Goal posts and point posts are fixed with compliant protective padding.
- (h) Provide a stretcher to be placed in a safe position on the boundary at the interchange area.
- (i) Ensure oval is marked to requirements 2.5 below. Refer to appendix 19
- (j) Ensure the JLT Oval Risk Assessment is carried out prior to commencement of the Under 15 (Junior Colts) match. This to be carried out electronically on phone or tablet app.
- (k) Ensure compliance with relevant acts of legislation, in particular the Liquor Licensing Act.
- (l) Ensure that home club paperwork procedure is completed as per By Law 2.8
- (m) Ensure Play HQ data for all grades is entered by 5.30pm of the day of competition unless the games have been negotiated for a later start for night football situations.

### **2.4 Gatekeepers**

- (a) The home club shall provide gatekeepers who will charge patrons the Fees set at the previous RMFL AGM by the League Delegates.
- (b) A sign must be displayed "Conditions of Entry" at the gate. Refer appendix 21.
- (c) Alcohol or any drinks in glass are not permitted to be taken onto to the playing field at any time.
- (d) Gatekeepers are to remind patrons that animals are not permitted to enter the football grounds.

### **2.5 Oval Marking**

- (a) Ensure the playing field is properly marked with; Boundary line, goal squares and a centre square
- (b) A centre circle three meters in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter located in the middle of the centre square.
- (c) An interchange area 15 meters wide centralized between the two coach's boxes.
- (d) A line drawn in the shape of an arc 50 meters from the goal/behind posts at each end of the playing field.
- (e) A line is to be marked at 45 degrees connecting each point post to the boundary fence in order to delineate a safe area for the goal umpire to move without tripping or colliding with a moveable object or spectator.
- (f) A two metre zone shall be marked around each coach's box.  
Refer to Appendix 19 Oval Marking for diagram.

## 2.6 Club Play HQ Responsibilities

PlayHQ is the platform in which each grade of the competition is administered. Functions include registration and transfer of players and officials, match results, teams selected tribunal history etc. Each club shall nominate their respective coordinator who will be responsible for all correspondence in relation to PlayHQ, pass on information to others in their club as required and make themselves available to attend meetings and training sessions.

- (a) Each Club shall enter information into Play HQ as directed by The League.
- (b) Registration of Players, Team Officials including coaches, team manager, trainers, timekeeper and runner shall be registered in PlayHQ and listed electronically prior to the commencement of each match.
- (c) Water boy registrations and electronic team sheet listing is optional, however they must at least be handwritten onto the paper copy team sheet prior to the match.
- (d) Select and submit team officials when selecting teams.
- (e) Enter teams for every grade before the start of the match to be played. As per RMFL AGM 11/12/00, Penalty for playing an un-transferred player. Refer to Appendix 16 Fines.
- (f) Print Team Sheets before the match to give to the opposition team and field umpire(s).
- (g) Final electronic edits to Team Sheets are required by the League before 12.00pm the following Monday.
- (h) Each club must enter its own final scores and include all goal kickers and five (5) best players into PlayHQ before 5.45pm on the day of the match.

## 2.7 Club Officials

- (a) The appointed coach of each team of all Clubs must be registered online prior to the season starting with the SANFL or Play by the Rules and complete the modules.
- (b) All coaches of Club's junior teams must consent to being subject to a (Working With Children's Check.
- (c) An appointed trainer of any team must have a current Senior First Aid, CPR Certificate and Level 1 Sports Trainers accreditation at the commencement of the current season.

## 2.8

### (1) Home Club Paperwork Procedure

- (a) Use the Approved AFL Risk management App to complete the Match Day Check List.
- (b) Team Manager of home club to collect umpire team sheets of both clubs from the umpires at end of the match.
- (c) 2 x scorecards which have been signed by goal umpires and timekeepers' sheets to be collected from goal umpires.
- (d) Results and Best Players – Home club to enter its own team' scores, goal kickers and best players after each grade into PlayHQ (straight after each game), but by no later than 5-45pm Saturday nights. Please make sure scores are correct.
- (e) Umpires to enter votes, reports and match reports into Officials PlayHQ.
- (f) Take a photo/or scan team sheets of own clubs (of each grade) and send to RMFL Secretary on [rivermurrayfl@sanflcfl.com.au](mailto:rivermurrayfl@sanflcfl.com.au) or 0429399782 (email or text) before 7pm Saturday nights
- (g) Home clubs are to hold all team sheets, score cards and timekeepers' sheets until the end of the season.

### (2) Away Club paperwork procedure

- (a) Take a photo/or scan team sheets of own clubs (of each grade) and send to RMFL Secretary on [rivermurrayfl@sanflcfl.com.au](mailto:rivermurrayfl@sanflcfl.com.au) or 0429399782 (email or text) before 7pm Saturday nights.
- (b) Make sure the Team Manager gives goal umpires score cards and timekeeper's sheets to Home club Team Manager.

### (3) After match day for home and away clubs

- (a) Club records officer is to sign into PlayHQ no later than midday on Monday following the match and update players on each team sheet as they played and remove those who didn't play.

## 2.9 Runners, Trainers and Water Carriers

Runners, Trainers and Water Carriers are essential personnel during matches. While conducting their respective activities, they must adhere to the following criteria;

- (a) Runners are to relay a message from the Coach and then immediately leave the playing area.
- (b) Trainers and Water Carriers are to attend players and then immediately leave the playing area.
- (c) There is to be a maximum of 6 Trainers or Water Carriers on the playing area at any one time.
- (e) They are not permitted to barrack whilst on the playing area, encourage their team in a general manner or speak to an opposition player.
- (f) They are not to interfere with the flow of play in any manner.
- (g) A free kick shall be awarded against an official who intentionally, recklessly or negligently, interferes with the football, a player of the opposition team, an umpire or general play.
- (h) Runners, Trainers or Water Carriers who operate outside their official role will be warned in the first instance. If they persist a free kick will be awarded against the offending Club official. They will be issued with a yellow card and may be reported for more serious breaches.
- (i) Water carriers must be a minimum age of 12 years.
- (j) Runner, Trainers and Water Carriers are to be dressed appropriately and follow Official Match Attire. Refer to Appendix 13.
- (k) All matchday personnel and players shall remain within the marked zone around their respective coach's box area and must not introduce hazards to the players such as chairs etc.

## 2.10 Time keepers - Refer appendix 10 for procedures.

Timekeepers are an integral part of the running of the game. The role of timekeeper involves not only blowing the siren and timing the quarters. It now involves writing down the scores quarter by quarter and recording players sent off the field under the Send off Rule.

**TIMEKEEPERS MUST USE TIME CLOCKS SUPPLIED BY THE RMFL- NO EXCEPTIONS**

## 2.11 Matches and times of Quarters – Also refer to Appendix 10-Timekeepers

- (a) The football season shall commence on the date to be fixed by the League. All matches shall commence at the time specified by the program.
- (b) Any Club not starting a match 15 minutes after the advertised or scheduled time may be fined. Refer to Appendix 16 Fines Schedule.  
In the event of not starting within 30 minutes after the advertised or scheduled time shall forfeit the match and report in writing to the League the reason for failing to comply with this rule.
- (c) The League reserves the right to order the match to be played on a subsequent date or otherwise finally decide the matter.

## 2.12 Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificates.

**As per The South Australian Children's Protection Act 1993**

**All coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers and runners over the age of 14 who work with children at any junior level-under 18 and below,** will be required to obtain a **Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificate from DCSI** and provide information to the Authorized Officer - MPIO (Member Protection Information Officer) of the RMFL and Club for assessment via their respective Club MPIO.

A complete list of all appointed volunteers in the above capacities is to be forwarded to the RMFL Secretary prior to the start of the season and is to be updated if any changes occur.

The RMFL will check to make sure the screening checks are done.

The following persons are exempt from this regulation in the RMFL.

- a) A parent or guardian of a child that is in the team they are volunteering for.
- b) A volunteer who is under 14 years of age
- c) A Police Officer

These applications are free and are to be obtained **when first commencing working with children and then renewed every five years thereafter.**

Refer to Appendix 6 for procedures

### 3. JUNIOR FOOTBALL

#### 3.1 RMFL Junior Football Mission Statement

The aim of the junior rules shall be to provide a viable, safe football competition which is fun but competitive. It shall aim to teach players sportsmanship, fairness, structure and discipline. The aim of the review is to Implement a simple set of rules which allow flexibility while addressing the low player participation levels at clubs.

#### 3.2 Definitions

##### Non-club player

A player who is not registered with that club. Refer rule2.

##### Club Permit

A player who is over aged for that level but is ability assessed and approved a permit to play down. Refer Rule 4.

#### 3.3 Contact between clubs

A coach's first point of call is to call the opposing coach or then junior delegate / official if uncontactable. The coach who has the low player count should initiate the contact. Under no circumstances are the players or parents to be involved when seeking non-club player transfer.

#### 3.4 Use of non-club players

The definition of non-club means players not registered for the club. Non-club players are either players from within the other RMFL clubs or a club from another league (permit player as per SANFL CFL). Non-Club players are to be eligible to be credited with Connolly or Bryan Medal votes and leading goalkicker award goals, however they will be recorded against the team they are representing. E.g. Bill Smith of Ramblers plays as a non-club player for Jervois. If he gets votes, they are assigned to Bill Smith of Jervois. They will not accumulate on his tally, Bill Smith of Ramblers.

##### Recommended Priority Order

1. Players from the opposing club that week and/or the club with the bye
2. Players from other RMFL clubs
3. Players from outside leagues

#### 3.5 What constitutes a game for points?

The RMFL's priority is to ensure that every effort shall be made to ensure that matches are played for premiership points. To constitute a game, it is preferred to have a minimum of 14 players per side. Each club must supply their own registered players for that grade first, then they can source non-club players to reach a maximum of 14 players. Refer to sliding scale for the numbers for each team below. Club will submit player numbers prior to the start of the season which will determine the amount of non-club players that are eligible to play, which will be published on the RMFL Website Junior Page.

As of the 2018 season a club will register all players for their appropriate age group (including under 13's). This list will determine the amount of "Non-club players" that each team is allowed for the season. From the registered numbers at the start of the season, that age group will be allowed to access the amount of non-club players that is required to ensure they can field the minimum 14 players to constitute a game.

##### Example Sliding scale formula:

Club	Number of players registered for their grade as at start of season	Number of Non-club players allowed to play each week
XXXX	8	6
YYYY	12	2
ZZZZ	14	0

If during the season a team may require alterations to non-club players due to the following;

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- Has a new player registered into the club?
- Has a player transfer out of the club?
- Has a player sustained an illness or injury?
- Suspension.
- Unavailable or at College.

Then the club involved must inform the RMFL as per usual process. Team managers are to list players who are unavailable with reasons on the team sheet.

If a new player is registered into the club then the amount of “non-club players” that team is allowed will decrease in line with requirements to make up the 14 players. Alternatively, a team has a player transfer out of the club, or sustain a “long-term injury”, then that team can apply to the Junior Delegation for increase in number of “non-club players” allowed to allow a game to proceed.

In addition to this sliding scale the coaches from each club playing that weekend may, at their discretion, allow more non-club players to play to allow up to 18 a side take to the field.

If a club doesn’t have access to lower grade players to assist the shortfall, then they may seek two extra non-club players as interchange players. (Duty of Care Obligations).

If the coaches agree to this situation the game will still proceed for points. In this instance it would be considered appropriate if these additional non-club players are provided by the opposition club first, before being sourced from elsewhere.

If numbers of players are still a problem after the above options have been exhausted, then the coaches can agree to play for premiership points with reduced number(s).

### Example

Club A has the minimum 14 players allowed to constitute a game.

Club B has 21 players and further 4+ players surplus who are able to play for the opposition.

With agreement of both coaches, the Coach from Club B may provide Club A with the additional 4 players required to make the game 18 per side (and up to 7 players if available to assist in providing a bench).

### Example:

Club	Number of Players Registered at start of season	Number of Non-Club players allowed to play	Total players available to play game	Number of players under agreement allowed to play in addition to non-club players	Total Players on the field
A	8	6	14	Between 4 & 7	18 + bench
B	28	0	21 +4-7	0	18 + bench

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If a club is struggling to field the minimum 14 per side, and no assistance is offered from the opposing club when you believe they are in a position to assist, the club shall provide a written report to the RMFL Secretary.

### 3.6 Over Aged Permit Rule

A club can apply for an Over Age Permit if they feel the player still requires further development or for some reason is physically or mentally impaired. The application will be assessed by the Junior review committee initially through correspondence/email and reviewed at the next scheduled meeting. The player must be listed as a permit player on the team sheet. The junior rule review committee will be consulted and can recommend as such to the RMFL Executive.

### 3.7 Ten Goal Free Kick Rule

This rule will apply to all junior games including finals.

After a goal is kicked by a team leading by 10 goals (actual major scores indicated on the scoreboard), a free kick (player must kick only) is awarded to the opposing team on the edge of the square toward their goals. (Opposing player stands on the square line). This only takes place while the margin is 10 goals or greater. If the losing side reduces the 10 goal gap, the play restarts with a ball up in the centre. The scoreboard goal margins are only considered, refer scenarios below;

Scenario 1) **Team A** 11.2(68) to **Team B** 1.1(7). Scores show a 10 goal gap. A free kick is awarded to Team B once the ball is returned to the centre. A re-set of players in positions takes place, Centre players (including wing positions) are to remain defensive side of the player awarded the ball. The player on the mark is to be positioned on the goal side square line.

Scenario 2 **Team A** 9.14 (68) to **Team B** 1.1 (7) Here the margin is more than 60 points, but not in full goals then the ball is thrown up at the centre circle as per normal.

**Refer appendix 20 for the diagram.**

### 3.8 Arm band rule

Green Velcro on the upper left arm only for players going up.

**Velcro tape will be supplied by the RMFL.**

### 3.9 Junior Player Qualification for finals

A Non-club player who qualifies for a team by playing 4 minor round games in that team, not just the club, can apply to the RMFL Executive to play for that team in the finals. E.g. a player from Ramblers can play 4 games for Jervois under 15.5s and qualify for finals to represent Jervois under 15.5s only, no other grade. Game can go from 18 to 16 players required for finals, still allowing a team with 21 players to play 16+5 bench. The final decision on what teams are to consist of will rest with the RMFL exec if required, number imbalance/ permits/ qualifications.

### 4.0 Under 13s Format

The under 13s will now play in the major round like the under 18s and 15.5s, however with modifications listed below.

- Umpires; if possible 1 club umpire from each club.
- Association goal kickers and medal votes awarded.
- Unlimited bench.
- Team sheets with scores only published, includes goal kickers and best players named.
- Team managers enter results into PlayHQ, a premiership table is maintained.
- Equal numbers on the ground as agreed prior with coaches.

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- Follow the RMFL junior rules.
- Use a size 4 football.
- Must qualify for finals as per junior rules.
- Full finals series, unlimited benches acceptable.
- Finals - RMFL Umpires Coach to approach clubs for their Under 15.5 & Under 13 umpires.
- Best on ground award in Grand Final is presented.
- Points are included in the Lyall Parker Champion Club award.

### 4. COMPETITION AND FINALS

#### 4.1 Premiership Conditions

- (a) In all matches 2 points will be awarded to the winning team and 1 point in the event of a tie. In the event of a forfeit the club to which the forfeit was made shall receive 2 points.
- (b) In the case of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit shall at the conclusion of the minor round of matches be credited with the average number of points scored against the forfeiting team in the minor round and forfeiting team shall be debited with the same number of points.
- (c) In the event of 2 or more clubs receiving the same number of points the position of such clubs shall be determined by the percentage of all points kicked for and against such club.
- (d) At the conclusion of the minor round of matches final matches shall be played in accordance with the rules of the SANFL.

#### 4.2 Forfeiture or cancellation of matches.

- (a) Any Club forfeiting a match shall notify the Secretary of the League of its reasons for doing so. The League may accept the explanation or deal with the Club so forfeiting or any of its members as it may deem necessary.
- (b) As far as practicable any club wishing to forfeit shall advise the Secretary no later than 4pm on the day prior to the match
- (c) If a match is to be cancelled by the League for any unforeseen circumstance (Covid Pandemic, Inclement Weather Conditions or any other condition the League sees fit to cancel a match or round) then the policy outlined in Appendix 26 Competition Management Policy is to be followed and adhered to.

#### 4.3 Matches other than league matches

No Club shall play any match other than Scheduled League matches without first obtaining prior approval of the League. The only exception being preseason trial games.

#### 4.4 Grounds for finals

- (a) The RMFL shares all finals and football related events as fair as possible across the delegate clubs. At the RMFL AGM on 11/12/2006, a motion was passed that a rotation system be adopted. Since the 2007 season, this has been in place and is the current system.
- (b) Finals match to be allocated on a rotational basis as per the "Finals Allocation Disc", with all finals, including the Grand Final, being shared between all Clubs. Catering will be the responsibility of the host Club. In exceptional circumstances the RMFL executive may use its discretion to re-allocate any finals match. Refer to appendix 9 Finals Rotation.

#### 4.5 Hosting Finals

Hosting RMFL Finals is a joint venture between the RMFL and the host club. Following is a list of requirements to ensure venue is safe and is efficiently run on the day.

##### Host Club Requirements

- (a) Host clubs is to book the ground with the appropriate authorities, prepare the oval, oval precinct, clean change rooms and umpire's rooms and provide adequate rubbish bins and disposal arrangements.
- (b) All line marking must be carried out with **white** line marking material only.
- (c) Mark a separate white line 2 meters from boundary line. This is for spectators to keep behind, as well as coaches.

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- (d) Mark a 'no go zone' behind the goals at each end of the ground. The area from the point posts to the boundary perimeter fence is a no-go zone for spectators and children.
- (e) Mark a line around Coaches box, for coaches to stand behind.
- (f) Interchange area must be clearly marked.
- (g) Oval must have a fit playing surface.
- (h) Ensure the siren is working and have a back-up system available if the siren fails to work.
- (i) Scoreboard to be manned and all signs for all clubs to be displayed. Scoreboard attendant must be over 16 years of age.
- (j) The host club is to ensure the gates are unlocked by 7.30am of the day of the match.
- (k) The host club will ensure it has the adequate liquor license approvals in place and provide security personnel if it intends to sell alcohol at the venue.
- (l) RMFL Secretary will advise which teams are playing; hence the change rooms need to have a sign on the respective change room door indicating which teams are changing where.
- (m) RMFL secretary is to be supplied with the host club's internet password so that scores can be input during the day by the League.
- (n) The host club must have a working ball pump for easy access for the umpires to use.
- (o) Provide a space on the fence for the RMFL marquee allowing participating clubs easy access to the RMFL secretary.
- (p) The host club must clean up oval precinct to council/owner's satisfaction after the league game.

### RMFL Executive Requirements

- (a) Supply gate keepers.
- (b) Supply security personnel at the gate.
- (c) May pay up to \$200.00 to the host club in lieu of issuing gate passes.
- (d) Ensure the Oval Risk Assessment prior to the first match is completed.
- (e) Enter the scores and results into Play HQ.
- (f) Arrange and pay all Central Umpires, Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires.

### 4.6 Shields or trophies

- (a) Any shield or trophy presented to the League for competition shall remain the property of the League until such time as it has been won outright and presented by the President of the League.
- (b) Any Club holding such shield or trophy after winning it in any season and not been won outright shall return same to the President of the League prior to the Grand Final of the following season.
- (c) The League reserves the right to institute legal proceedings for the recovery of same against any Club refusing to return it. All expenses incurred shall be debited against such Club.
- (d) The Club holding any shield or trophy shall be deemed to be responsible for its safekeeping.

### 4.7 Even scores at the end of finals match

In the event of the scores being even at the end of regular time for a finals match, the following procedure shall be adopted in all finals games.

- (a) Teams to change ends immediately scores have been checked at the end of full time to verify a draw with the umpires.
- (b) Then 5 minutes play to commence.
- (c) At the end of 5 minutes teams are to change ends again and play the second 5 minutes of extra time.
- (d) At the conclusion of the second 5 minutes if the game is still tied the game will continue without stopping or a siren being sounded until one of the team scores at which stage the siren will be sounded to end the game and the first team to score will be declared the winner.
- (e) The times are solely controlled by the timekeeper with no time on added.

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### 5. UMPIRES

The River Murray Football League Management Committee shall be empowered to appoint the umpires coach or coaches for the forthcoming season and to dismiss if proven to be unsuitable after due consideration.

#### 5.1 General

- (a) The River Murray Football League Umpires Association to form an umpire's panel each season.
- (b) The River Murray Football League Umpires Association is to appoint all League, Reserves, Senior and Under 18 and Under 15.5 Junior umpires for programmed minor round matches. At times, clubs will be required to provide a central umpire. This will be arranged with the clubs involved by the RMFL Umpire Panel Coach/Co-ordinator.
- (c) River Murray Football League Umpires Association together with the River Murray Football League Executive Committee representative is empowered to appoint all umpires for the major round.
- (d) No Club shall refuse to play under the field umpire appointed by the League or any umpire's association and no club shall forfeit any match because of objection to the appointed umpire. The Club so refusing to play or forfeiting a match for such reason shall be suspended or expelled. Any player or players who refuse to play or take part in the forfeiture of the match on account of objection to the appointed umpire may be disqualified for such period as the League may think fit.
- (e) No Club shall refuse to play under the field umpire appointed by the League or any umpire's association and no club shall forfeit any match because of objection to the appointed umpire. The Club so refusing to play or forfeiting a match for such reason shall be suspended or expelled. Any player or players who refuse to play or take part in the forfeiture of the match on account of objection to the appointed umpire may be disqualified for such period as the League may think fit.
- (f) Umpire Payments - During the minor rounds, each home club is responsible for the payments to the RMFL Panel umpires. Refer to Appendix 11 Umpire Payments.
- (g) Umpires are to be dressed to a standard. Refer to Appendix 13 Match Attire – Officials.

#### 5.2 Administration of Finals

RMFL Finals are administered by the RMFL League Executive and are responsible for appointing all umpires for the finals.

### 6. DISPUTES AND TRIBUNAL

**All clubs referring disputes, protests, charges against other clubs, delegates officials, players servants or umpires or reporting any infringement of these rules of the game shall refer to Appendix 14 for the Request and Investigating Procedure that is to be followed by all parties concerned.**

### 7. PLAYERS AND QUALIFICATIONS TO PLAY

- (a) Clubs shall only play members who have been duly registered and granted a permit to play, such permits to be granted prior to the match.
- (b) Junior players shall be under 18, 15.5 and 13 years of age on the first day of January of the current season to be eligible to play in the corresponding grade.
- (c) Any junior player whose age qualifications are questioned by the RMFL Executive must supply a birth certificate as proof of such age.

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### 7.1 Clearances and permits

The River Murray Football League operates under the National player transfer regulations and the SANFL Community Football Rules and Regulations which can be found on the website of the SANFL Community Football and we follow these rules in regard to Clearances and Permits to play in this League and all clearances or permits to play are to be conducted via PlayHQ procedures with any exception as mentioned in these by- laws.

### 7.2 Transfer of junior players

- (a) All junior transfers between clubs in this league must be submitted before the end of April in the current year unless approval is obtained first from the R.M.F.L Executive. Transfer of junior players from outside of this league have until the end of June to be submitted.
- (b) A junior player that is currently registered with one club in this league and has played 3 or more games for that club in the current year is unable to transfer to another club within this league unless both clubs agree to the transfer prior to it being submitted on Footyweb. An exception to this by law is a significant change of address of the junior player which must be authenticated.
- (c) Due to low numbers of Junior players only two (2) junior players maximum can be transferred from one club to another same club within this league in total from within the junior grades(Under 13 and above). Unless the two clubs mutually agree to transfer more players between them. These two players are also included in the total of three players maximum in by law 7.3 (f).
- (d) A current junior player or non junior player that has just commenced his senior career may be refused a transfer (clearance) between Clubs in the River Murray Football League on the grounds of required player if the Club considers that the player applying for a transfer (clearance) is still required by that Club to fulfil senior playing requirements in return for his junior playing years at the Club.  
Note: The transfer (clearance) is to be refused on the grounds of Under Contract for the purpose of Footyweb requirements and an explanation put in the additional information box provided.
- (e) A Player may be granted a transfer (clearance) if both Clubs come to a satisfactory agreement regarding the transfer (clearance) of the player.
- (f) All Junior transfers (clearances) must be co-signed by a parent or guardian.
- (g) A Club may on behalf of the player applying for the transfer (clearance) lodge an appeal, only after all other avenues have been exhausted, with the RMFL as per these by laws and the result of that appeal shall be binding. Refer to 7.3 (g) and appendix 23 for procedures.
- (h) **UNDER 15 TRANSFERS**  
All transfers (clearances) for Under 15.5 players on the 1<sup>st</sup> January that year-(including all ages below 15.5) can be completed online via Footyweb. An Under 15.5 transfer (clearance) cannot be denied unless it comes within By-laws 7.2 (c), 7.3 (f), or 7.3 (k).

### 7.3 Intra-League Transfers

Intra-League transfers involve player transfers who wish to transfer from one club, to another within the same Football League.

- (a) **TRANSFERS LEAGUE, RESERVES, UNDER 18 and UNDER 15.5 PLAYERS**  
Intra-League Transfers can be completed online via Play HQ only if the player is currently playing or is registered with a club in this League and wants to transfer to another club within this League.
- (b) A player who has played for a club in this league and left to play for an AFL or State League Club (e.g. SANFL), and wishes to return to another club in this League, must return to his club of origin in this league unless he first obtains a written clearance from the original club to go to a club of his choice. A request is to be submitted via the league secretary, not on Play HQ.
- (c) A player who has played for a club in this league and left to play for any other club in another league (Except for AFL and State League) and wishes to return to a club in this league must return to his original club unless he first obtains a written clearance from the original club to go to a club of his choice. Except where it is otherwise stated in (d) or (e). A request is to be submitted via the league secretary not on Play HQ.
- (d) A player who has played for a club in this league and has left to play for any other club in another league, (Except for AFL and State League) and wishes to return to a club in this

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league and has been away for two (2) or more full seasons, can go to a club of his own choosing without first obtaining consent from his original club.

- (e) A player who has played for a club in this league and has not played for any other Club in this league or any other league for two (2) or more full seasons can obtain a Transfer (clearance) to play for any club in this league. It is to be submitted via Play HQ.
- (f) As per the national player transfer regulations and community football regulations a Maximum of 3 players can only be transferred from one club to another same club in total across all grades within this League unless the two clubs mutually agree to transfer more players between them.
- (g) **APPEALING DENIED TRANSFERS**

After a maximum of two (2) attempts at a transfer (clearance) Clubs have the right to appeal the denial providing all avenues of negotiation have been exhausted between the clubs and players concerned.

The RMFL Independent Tribunal is elected annually at the RMFL Annual General Meeting. A club may appeal to the RMFL Independent Tribunal if a clearance between two affiliated RMFL Clubs has been refused.

Clubs are reminded before appealing that the leagues focus is to keep junior players playing football.
- (h) The procedure is that the Club to whom the player wishes to transfer to must lodge an appeal within seven days of refusal accompanied by a cheque/direct deposit for \$500 . The Club that has refused the clearance has seven days from lodgment in which to lodge a cheque/direct deposit of \$100 . Failure to lodge a cheque/direct deposit in the required time will result in the player being cleared by the RMFL. The appeal will be heard at the earliest possible date. If the appeal is heard by the Independent Tribunal there is no refund of any money unless the appeals board grants a refund. If a decision is reached before the start of an appeal all money will be refunded. All avenues of negotiations must be exhausted before coming to the RMFL Independent Tribunal which has to make a decision.
- (i) The procedure of the Appeals Tribunal is in Appendix 14 and 23 and the decision is final.
- (j) Prior to attending the appeal, the club appealing must provide to the River Murray Football League a summary of the communications which have taken place between the player, the original club and the appealing club. The communications can be in the form of meetings, phone calls, emails, text messages etc. In the case of a junior player transfer it is important the parent or guardian is involved. Also, specific reasons for the appeal and any other relevant information the league requests.
- (k) No player shall be granted a clearance from this League who is under disqualification, unpaid fine or suspension. However, if both leagues agree a player can serve the remainder of their suspension at their new club.

### 7.4 Disqualifications

- (a) Any League Club after having received written notice from the Secretary of the League to the effect that any of its members have been disqualified or suspended by the League and who shall play any such members so disqualified or suspended until such disqualification or suspension has been removed shall forfeit the match in which such member has played and in addition may be fined. Refer to Appendix 16 Fines Schedule
- (b) Any League expelling any of its members from its ranks shall forward within 7 days of such expulsion the name of such player or players together with particulars of the offence to the Club Secretary or any League Tribunal. The player or players shall have the right of appeal to the League provided the Appeal is lodged within 21 days of such verdict. No Club shall be allowed to play such players until his case has been fully decided upon by the League.

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- (c) Any Club forfeiting a match shall pay the Umpires fees for such match if required. This fee is to be paid to the League who shall be responsible to pay the umpire. Any Club refusing to pay such fee shall be automatically disqualified until such fee is paid.

### **7.5 Qualification for finals**

To qualify for finals selection in the RMFL the following Criteria shall apply:

- (1) For Players to be eligible to play in the finals round of matches the player must have played not less than 4 games at any level for that club in the minor round on separate days including Junior players.
- (2) If the League side and the Reserves side are both in the finals series then any qualified player can be selected in either grade but not in two matches on the same weekend unless it is a junior player then they can at the discretion of the club play any Junior matches they are eligible for and 1 Senior Match on the same weekend.
- (3) When a Club has only one senior side (either League or Reserves) in the finals series, then the following shall apply.
  - (a) The player must have qualified to play in Finals as per 1 above.
  - (b) If the League side is the only team in then the team can be picked from any player that has qualified as per 1 above and can include any Junior matches they are eligible for and 1 Senior Match on the same weekend.
  - (c) If the Reserves is the only team in then the team can only be picked from players that have played more Reserves games than League games during the minor round of matches unless approval is gained from the RMFL executive as per (4) and (5). If the number of games is equal they will qualify only for the higher grade. The team can also include any junior player that has qualified as per 1 above irrespective of the number of League or Reserves games.
- (4) Any alteration from these rules caused by illness, injury, lack of numbers or other unforeseen circumstances may be dealt with by the RMFL executive.
- (5) The club concerned must notify the League executive at its earliest convenience if it wishes approval for players to play in the reserves team if the league side is not in the finals series. A list must be provided of the league team, including number of games played, League and Reserves as if they were still competing so a decision can be made. The club can apply by email as soon as the League side is not in the final series. The League executive decision will be final and the club will be notified of the decision.
- (6) The RMFL executive will check team sheets and player qualifications to ensure this policy is adhered to and may issue penalties as it sees fit if it is not followed.

### **7.6 Playing disqualified or unregistered players**

No Club shall play any player which is under disqualification by any Australian Football Authority whether such authority is affiliated with the League or not. Neither will any club play an unregistered player. Any Club infringing this rule shall forfeit such match and be dealt with further penalty as the League management sees fit.

**8. RMFL APPROVED PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM**

Under Appendix 3 of the SANFL CFL Rules and Regulations every league is to adopt and implement an APPS (Approved Player Points System) in order to achieve the following objects;

- (1) Encourage the development and retention of local and junior players;
- (2) Encourage the recruitment of ex local players;
- (3) Encourage the loyalty of recruited players;
- (4) Assist in the equalisation of competitions;
- (5) Assist Regulation 31 in reducing player payments to sustainable levels,
- (6) Encourage Clubs to develop and promote the game in their local community.

**Recommendations**

The sub-committee recommended the following system and rules shall be applied;

- (1) A primary formula be adopted based on league game minor round win results over a 3 year period.
- (2) A set of criteria shall be met by a club in order to apply for additional points allocation to what the primary formula determined.
- (3) Rules to support the RMFL APPS and includes the composition of the RMFL Points committee, RMFL Points Officer and their roles and duties.
- (4) The adopted system shall be reviewed if the current delegate club composition changes such as merger(s), new club(s) entering the league or current club(s) exit the league.

**8.1 Primary Formula**

The following formula will apply based on games won of the previous 3 year periods in the league competition only. The 3 tier system is designed to balance out the advantages of clubs in relation to location and population.

Ave Games Won Range	Each Club Base Points	Add the points below for Location/population equalisation		
		Imperials Ramblers	Jervois Mannum Mypolonga Tailem Bend	Coorong Cats Mallee Districts Southern Mallee
0-4	15	0	0	0
5-6	12	0	1	3
7-8	9	0	1	4
9-10	8	0	1	4
11-12	7	0	1	4
13-16	6	0	1	4

- (1) The above formula is applied at the conclusion of the minor round (excludes finals), enabling clubs to have the immediate knowledge of their points allocation for the ensuing season.
- (2) At the conclusion of the minor round, the formula relates to average wins over the previous two seasons and the current season, a total of 3 minor round seasons only.
- (3) The points range operates on whole numbers only, e.g. club has 12.5 wins, then the score rounds down to 12.
- (4) A draw is counted as a loss and not included in the equation.
- (5) Due to the COVID -19 affected season in 2020, the above points matrix will exclude wins in the said (2020) season.

For season 2021, the matrix will include wins accumulated from 2017, 2018 and 2019.

For season 2022, the matrix will include wins accumulated from 2018, 2019 and 2021.

For season 2023, the matrix will include wins accumulated from 2019, 2021 and 2022.

From season 2024 and moving forward the system will revert to the regular pattern of the previous 3 seasons.

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### **8.2 Application for additional points**

Under SANFL Appendix 4, 3.4 clubs may apply to their league for an additional allocation of points. The RMFL is limited in its allocation to 15 points per club. SANFL Appendix 4.3 also covers the procedure for additional point's applications in excess of 15 per club.

### **8.3 Club must meet all three of the criteria below when applying for additional points;**

- (1) Loss of substantial quantity and quality players.
- (2) Lack of junior player stocks.
- (3) The club has been through a substantial period of low performance.

### **8.4 Application Procedure**

- (1) The opportunity for application for additional points commences after the RMFL AGM for the applicable season.
- (2) Must be submitted to the RMFL secretary by February 28th of the relevant season, unless exceptional circumstances prevail, then June 30 as per Appendix 4 of SANFL Rules and Regulations.
- (3) Application for additional Points to be assessed and an answer provided within 14 days of the application.
- (4) Must be approved by the RMFL League Executive Committee.

### **8.5 RMFL Points Committee**

Consists of 3 persons, 2 members of the RMFL league Executive who are to be elected at the RMFL AGM every year and the SANFL Regional Operations Co-ordinator (who will be the points Officer as per Appendix 4 of the SANFL Rules and Regulations).

### **8.6 Role of the Points Committee**

- (1) Assess club's applications for additional points.
- (2) Submits it's assessment of club application for a points increase to the RMFL Executive for its approval or decline within 14 days of the application.

### **8.7 Role of the Points Officer**

- (1) Points Committee Chair/Officer to advise the clubs by phone and follow up with a written reason for their points application approval or decline.
- (2) Manage a register or database of all applications and reasons for the approval or decline.
- (3) Communication of a club's application outcome to all other clubs with justification of the decision.
- (4) Assess individual player points declaration forms and advise the club along with the RMFL Secretary.
- (6) Ensure each club's player points list is sent to the RMFL Secretary and is also published on the RMFL website.
- (7) Record the player points as declared or assessed on a register or database.

### **8.8 Appealing a decision of the points committee**

- (1) A Club may appeal the decision of the Points Committee within 7 days of the original decision.
- (2) The Appeal must be in writing setting out the reasons for appeal and be accompanied by a fee of \$200.00, which is refundable if the appeal is won.
- (3) The Appeal is not to re hear the case but to determine if an injustice has occurred or the due process has not been followed.
- (4) The appeal is to be heard as soon as practicable and the procedure is in Appendix 23.

## **9. LEAGUE**

### **9.1 League Sub-committees**

The RMFL has various sub committees, which need to be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. Listed below are those committees, and it is a requirement that each year the Clubs nominate, and vote, who they would like to be on these committees.

Those positions for each season are:

- (1) RMFL Independent Tribunal – Elected RMFL Executive Committee. Refer to Appendix 8 for procedures.
- (2) RMFL Tribunal. Refer to Appendix 14 for procedures.
- (3) RMFL Tribunal Appeals Committee. To consist of the following officials; RMFL President, RMFL Secretary plus an Independent Club President Refer to Appendix 8 for procedures.
- (4) APPS Committee.
- (5) APPS Appeals Tribunal. 1 APPS committee person and 2 impartial Club Presidents.
- (6) The persons elected to these positions are recorded in the Minutes of the AGM.

### **9.2 League Colors**

The League colors shall be red Guernsey, with a gold and navy blue “V”, navy blue shorts and red socks.

### **9.3 Selection of junior and senior representative sides and coaches.**

- (a) The initial squad for a representative side shall comprise one member from each club.
- (b) Selection of Junior coaches to coach the RMFL Junior teams will be appointed by the RMFL Junior Executive Committee or if there is no Junior Committee by the RMFL League Executive . Two selectors along with a team Manager may also be appointed.
- (c) The position of Senior Interleague coach, coaching support staff and Chairman of selectors will be offered to the person or persons deemed to be the most suitable by the RMFL Executive.

### **9.4 Refusing after selection**

Any registered player selected to train for a League squad shall attend training as arranged by the selection committee and shall present himself to the selectors at a time and place as determined by the selectors. Any player who fails to train or play his Club Secretary shall notify the League Secretary within 48 hours the reason for non-attendance which shall be dealt with as the League shall deem fit.

### **9.5 Infringement of rules**

The Committee shall have the power to impose a fine on any club infringing the constitutions and by- laws. Refer Appendix 16 for fines schedule.

## **10. LEAGUE PLAYING RULES – ADOPTION OR VARIANCE FROM SANFL/AFL RULES**

### **10.1 Send-off rule**

A Yellow and Red card system is administered by the RMFL executive for all matches under the direction of the River Murray Football League Inc. Field umpires are the only officials that may order a player or any other official on the team sheet from the playing surface under this system. In conjunction with the send off rule, a Demerit point system will apply, details below.

#### **Yellow card – Send Off**

- (a) The player or any other official on the team sheet is to stay off (and cannot be replaced) for 10 minutes actual playing time, which does not include includes breaks and time on and off, so a player or any other official on the team sheet may be on the sidelines for more than 10 minutes which is to be administered by the Timekeeper.
- (b) Any offence under AFL, SANFL, or RMFL rules or by laws may attract a Yellow Card send off.
- (c) In the first or second instance if the breach is minor then a 25 or 50 metre penalty maybe awarded, but if the offence continues or a player is injured then the Yellow card may be given. This is entirely at the umpire’s discretion at the time.

#### **Red card – Send Off**

A player or any other official on the team sheet will be sent off for a serious breach of the rules for the remainder of the game. The player or any other official on the team sheet is automatically reported. The player or any other official on the team sheet is to stay off (and cannot be replaced) for 10 minutes actual playing time, which does not include includes breaks and time on and off, so a player or any other official on the team sheet may be on the sidelines for more than 10 minutes which is to be administered by the Timekeeper.

A player or any other official on the team sheet who refuses or does not immediately leave the playing surface after being ordered off with either a yellow or red card by the field umpire shall;

- (a) In the case of a yellow card, be reported for the offence which led to the player being ordered off, and
- (b) In the case of either card, be reported for misconduct as well as the original offence.

#### **Administering the Send Off**

- (a) Details of players or any other official on the team sheet ordered off shall be recorded by the Time Keeper on an interchange sheet.
- (b) The umpire must escort the player or any other official on the team sheet to the boundary close to the Time Keeper and indicate with either the Yellow / Red card.
- (c) He must request the player turn around, so the Time Keeper has clear vision of the player’s Guernsey number.
- (d) The Timekeeper must then indicate with a Yellow / Red Card in acknowledgement of the players Guernsey number and the category of his misdemeanor.
- (e) The Timekeeper must keep a record of 10 minutes actual playing time that the player or any other official on the team sheet must sit out of the game.
- (f) When the 10 minutes actual playing time is up, the Timekeeper must signal with a Green card to the Team Manager of the player’s team that he is eligible to go back on the field.

#### **Special Notes;**

Any player or any other official on the team sheet who is ordered from the playing surface (yellow card) twice during the same game will be ineligible to return to the playing arena for the remainder of the match.

- (a) The offending player (s) and /or the interchange player must enter or leave the ground through the interchange area.
- (b) Umpire to complete report or documentation at his earliest convenience after the match.
- (c) All documentation must be conveyed to the RMFL secretary via the appropriate app or email as soon as practicable.

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Demerit Points

- (a) Players and team sheet listed officials will have an allowance of 3 points per season.
- (b) Once the player or team sheet listed official accumulate a total of 3 Demerit points they are to be suspended for the following relevant match.
- (c) Every additional Demerit point issued after that will incur a further one match suspension.
- (d) Demerit points will be issued for Yellow and Red card breaches as the table below:

Description	Detail	Demerit Points	
		Normal Rounds & Finals	Grand Final Only
Yellow Card		1	2
Red Card	Early Plea Accepted	1	2
Red Card	Tribunal – Found Not Guilty	0	0
Red Card	Tribunal – Found Guilty	2	3

- (e) During the Grand Final Demerit points issued will be increased (as per table above) and carried over into the next year's competition.
- (f) The RMFL Secretary will keep records of all Demerit points issued.
- (g) The RMFL Secretary will notify the club the date in which the player or official are permitted to resume.
- (h) Demerit points are not administered by the tribunal or taken into account by the tribunal when handing down sentences.

### 10.2 Last Possession Rule (Variation to AFL Laws)

#### A Free Kick shall be awarded against a Player who:

- (a) Kicks or Handballs the football over the Boundary Line without the football being touched by another Player.
- (b) For the purposes of defining a kick, a kick shall be an intentional action, not accidental. When the ball comes off the foot or lower leg of a player without the intent of the player being to kick the ball, it will be deemed accidental contact and will not be determined as a kick by the umpire and therefore will result in a boundary throw in.
- (c) Where a Player who does not have possession stops the football being touched by an Opposition Player by Shepherding the ball across the Boundary Line where the ball could have otherwise been touched by the player being blocked, then the umpire will not award a free kick but will instead order a boundary throw in.

### 10.3 25 Metre Penalty

The RMFL uses both the 25 and 50 metre penalties. A Controlling Body may reduce the distance of a Fifty-metre Penalty to 25 metres for the Matches played in the competition conducted by the Controlling Body.

The player with the ball:

- (a) Must be allowed to advance the mark without the infringing player delaying the game.
- (b) Will be able to play on while the penalty is being measured out.

#### 10.4 Third man up in the ruck and Prior Opportunity (Variation to AFL Laws)

(a) A third man can take part in a ruck contest as long as the player does not contact, block or interfere with the opposing ruck. SANFL Rules still permit a "third man" contesting the ruck contest.

(b) A Ruck player who takes possession of the football while contesting a bounce or throw up by a field Umpire or a boundary throw in by a boundary Umpire, will not be regarded as having had prior opportunity.

#### 10.5 Marks / Free Kicks (Deep D50)

For all defenders who take a mark or gain a free kick within 9 metres of their own goal, the man on the mark for the attacking team will be brought in line with the top of the goal square (which is 9 metres).



#### 10.6 Umpire Contact

Players will be prohibited from setting up behind the Umpire at each centre bounce.

#### 10.7 Kicking for Goal post-siren – Centre of Goal Line

A Player who has been awarded a mark or free kick once play has ended will now be able to kick across their body using a snap or check-side kick. The player shall dispose of the football directly in line with the man on the mark and the goal.

#### 10.8 Marking Contest

'Hands in the Back' rule interpretation to be repealed, allowing a player to place his hands on the back of his opponent to protect his position in a marking contest but not to push the player in the back.

#### 10.9 Deliberate rushed behind (Variation to AFL Laws) – Refer rule 15.8

This is omitted from RMFL League Playing Rules, so a behind will result.

#### 10.10 A maximum of 75 total player interchanges per match

Rotations will decrease from 90 per match in 2020 to 75 per match in 2021. Each team will continue to be permitted four interchange players. This is omitted from RMFL League Playing Rules.

#### 10.11 Player Standing The Mark

The defending Player will only be permitted minimal lateral movement on The Mark. If the defending player moves off The Mark in any direction prior to "Play On" being called, a 50-metre penalty will apply. The defensive team is unable to substitute the Player on The Mark. This is omitted from RMFL League Playing Rules

**11. CODE OF CONDUCT**

- (1) At no time and under any circumstances will any Club Member, Player or General supporter exhibit unacceptable or extreme behavior to the detriment or embarrassment of Club Patrons at any football match or other social gathering.
- (2) All Executive Members including coaches and officials are expected to show impeccable behavior. Senior players are expected to set a good example of conduct to their young players and supporters.
- (3) Any contravention to this Code of Conduct by any member or visitor, shall render action being taken by the President or Executive Members, to expel or remove offending member/s or visitor/s from these premises or from the general oval area.
- (4) Contradiction of the code of conduct could face further sanctions by the RMFL

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 1 RMFL Zero Tolerance Policy**

River Murray Football league view very seriously abuse of officials in sport and has adopted the following policy to comply with direction from the SANFL to cover the “abuse of officials” in sport.

This policy cover Club Officials, Coaches, Players and Supporters respect for Umpires and Officials of the League and vice versa.

This policy is aimed at making football officials more comfortable in their role, knowing there will be support for the role they are undertaking.

No one is above this.

Football is a partnership comprising coaches, players, umpire’s officials, families and supporters.

We should at all times be privileged to be part of this partnership and we have certain expectations of all participants whilst observing the spirit of our great game.

- **no coach, player, club official or supporter will abuse or degrade an umpire or league official**
- **no coach, player, club official or supporter will take part in an exchange of heated words or debate with an umpire or league official during or after a game.**
- **no coach, player club official or supporter will be confrontational towards an umpire or league official.**
- **every coach, player, official or supporter will show a strong level of personal restraint and control.**
- **any club president, coach, team manager or club official observing a member of his “club” in this type of situation is to act immediately to remove the offender from this situation.**
- **Offender’s will be penalized under the constitution and or the rules of the River Murray Football League Inc.**
- **Any person who is deemed to be a repeat offender will be unable to participate in any official capacity.**

**ALL COACHES, PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS WILL ADHERE TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS.**

Penalties may range from a severe reprimand to a season ban with fines up to \$1,000.00 as determined by the RMFL League Executive and/or the RMFL tribunal.

All appeals will be heard by “The Appeals Committee” provided they are lodged with the RMFL Secretary within seven days from the date the suspension was issued along with \$1,000.

**APPENDIX 2 – RIVER MURRAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE VILIFICATION POLICY**

**1. Prohibited Conduct**

- 1.1 No League Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the ground of their: race religion gender colour sexual preference, orientation or identity; or special ability or disability
- 1.2 (Vilification & Discrimination) No League Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to be offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening, or which is otherwise unwelcome and a reasonable person would recognise it as being unwelcome and likely to cause the recipient to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated (Harassment).

**2. Appointment of League Complaints Officer/s & Club Complaints Officer**

- 2.1 The League shall appoint a League Complaints Officer/s to ensure that any breach of this Policy is responded to in an equitable and prompt manner in accordance with this Policy.
- 2.2 The League shall ensure that all Clubs have a Club Complaints Officer to whom all vilification and discrimination Complaints are initially directed.
- 2.3 The League Complaints Officer/s is responsible for liaising between Club Complaints Officers, in the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, or with a single Club Complaints Officer, in the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, in an attempt to achieve Informal Resolution of the Complaint.
- 2.4 The Club Complaints Officer and the League Complaints Officer/s shall liaise directly over incidents which in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer or League Complaints Officer/s are contrary to section 1
- 2.5 If club(s) have not appointed a complaints officer, the role defaults to the Club President, as does the RMFL.

**3. Preliminary Resolution Process**

- 3.1 In the event that it is alleged that a person subject to section 1.1 or 1.2 has engaged in Prohibited Conduct, a Participant may by 5.00pm on the first working day following the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred, or such other time as determined by the League, lodge a Complaint with the Club Complaints Officer.
- 3.2 In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer where the Complaint was made shall by 5.00pm on the next working day following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club, lodge the Complaint with the League's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaints Officer. In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the League Complaints Officer/s shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the League Complaints Officer/s to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution.
- 3.3 In the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution. If an Informal Resolution is not achieved or it is reasonably believed that the Complaint is incapable of an Informal Resolution, the Club Complaints Officer shall as soon as is reasonably practicable lodge the Complaint with the League's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaints Officer.
- 3.4 In circumstances where in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s a Complaint cannot be resolved by way of Informal Resolution, the League Complaints Officer/s shall proceed to Conciliation in accordance with section 5 below.

**4. Confidentiality and Records**

- 4.1 Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the Complaints Process. All parties to a Complaint, the League's Complaints Officer, the Club Complaints Officer, any witnesses and the conciliator must all agree to the maintenance of confidentiality. No person involved in the Complaints Process shall publicly comment on any aspect of the Complaints Process without the prior written agreement of all parties.
- 4.2 The League shall ensure that any documents relating to a Complaint shall remain confidential and be retained for 7 years from the date that the Complaint is made.

## **5. Conciliation Process**

- 5.1 The League Complaints Officer/s shall make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times during the Complaints Process and that the outcome of the Complaints Process remains confidential. The Complaints Officer shall also refer any breach of confidentiality to the League Tribunal no later than 5pm on the next working day following the day that the breach is discovered, with the Tribunal to be convened within 7 days from the day on which the referral is made;
- 5.2 The League Complaints Officer/s shall:
- 5.2 (a) ensure the person alleged to have contravened the Policy is informed of the Complaint Process and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the Complaint;
- 5.2 (b) inform the President or CEO of the League or his or her nominee that a Complaint has been received by the League Complaints Officer/s;
- 5.2 (c) obtain statements from any witnesses identified by the parties to the Complaint;
- 5.2 (d) where available, obtain any other relevant evidence;
- 5.2 (e) make available to both parties any witness statements or any other evidence obtained in the course of conciliating a Complaint, with an opportunity to comment, as part of the Conciliation process;
- 5.2 (f) appoint a conciliator to conciliate the Complaint; and
- 5.2 (g) ensure all steps necessary for the Complaint to be conciliated are taken within 10 working days from the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred.
- 5.3 Participants subject to Conciliation who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied at the Conciliation by a Club Official over 18 years of age.

## **6. Investigation**

- 6.1 In circumstances where a Complaint is not resolved in accordance with section 8 above, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the matter to investigation in accordance with the National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines (if applicable) if in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, further investigation is required to resolve the Complaint
- 6.2 The Investigation Officer shall report to the League Complaints Officer/s on any information or evidence obtained in accordance with section 6.1. Any information or evidence obtained by the Investigation Officer and provided to the League Complaints Officer/s shall be provided to all parties to the Complaint as part of the Complaint Process.
- 6.3 The Investigation Officer shall otherwise comply with the National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines (if applicable).

## **7. Tribunal Referrals, Process & Appeal**

- 7.1 Following an investigation under section 8, if any, or following a failed Conciliation under section 7, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the Complaint to a Disciplinary Tribunal, constituted in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines (if applicable), for determination. The League Complaints Officer/s shall take all steps necessary to make a decision about the referral of the Complaint to the Disciplinary Tribunal as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 7.2 The League shall determine who is responsible for prosecuting the Complaint at the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- 7.3 Where the referral to the Disciplinary Tribunal is made pursuant to section 7.1 of this Policy, the Tribunal will hear the Complaint within 5 working days of the Complaint referral being made.
- 7.4 The Disciplinary Tribunal has the power to order any reasonable penalties or directions for breaches of this Policy as are allowable under the rules and regulations of the League in force at the time of the hearing.
- 7.5 Where a party to a Complaint is dissatisfied with the decision made by the Disciplinary Tribunal, they may ask the Club's Officer to request that the League establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision in accordance with the appeal provisions in the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines (if applicable)

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 3 - Concussion**

**As of 12/4/2021, The RMFL have been advised the SANFL and AFL are reviewing the management of concussion. Until such time as the review is completed and policy re-issued, all clubs and leagues are bound by the information in the link below.**

[https://s.afl.com.au/staticfile/AFL%20Tenant/AFL/Files/Respect%20and%20Responsibility/2017\\_Community\\_Concussion\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://s.afl.com.au/staticfile/AFL%20Tenant/AFL/Files/Respect%20and%20Responsibility/2017_Community_Concussion_Guidelines.pdf)

**The River Murray Football League operates under the SACFL and has adopted its CYBERSAFETY POLICY as set out below. The RMFL will review this in line with its document reviews; refer to Appendix 12 SA Community Football League Rules and Regulations.**

### **Creating a Cybersmart Environment**

Social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube can be a great way for clubs to provide information, promote their sport, their activities and successes.

As with off-line communities, some social media users can act anti-socially and show disrespect for their online community with little consideration of the social and potentially legal implications. Issues like bullying and harassment, unwanted or inappropriate contact, uploading of inappropriate or offensive content can cause issues for individual club members or the club involved.

In the club environment you may choose to promote **Cyber safety** by recommending to you members to;

- Use the privacy settings
- Keep your private information private.
- Think before you post any content, video, images or text, online. You can put it up, but you can't necessarily take it down. Ask before posting images or stories about others. What you see as harmless fun may be embarrassing and humiliating for them and create a poor club image
- Don't project an undesirable self-image of yourself or the club
- Choose your online friends wisely. Others' inappropriate views and behaviors can reflect badly on you and the club.
- Communicate with others as you would do offline, with courtesy and respect.
- If you think someone is being bullied or harassed online, speak out. If club members are involved speak with your coach or club official. The club will not tolerate this behavior

### **Rationale**

The SA Community Football League (SACFL) has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for league officials, staff, registered players, umpires, coaches, club members, parents, spectators and sponsors. This responsibility is increasingly being linked to the use of the Internet and Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) and has seen the emergence of a number of related Cyber safety issues. The Internet and ICT devices/equipment bring great benefits to all users and to the effective operation of the SACFL, individual leagues and clubs.

The SACFL places a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT devices/equipment which will benefit members however; it recognizes that the presence in the sporting arena of these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, and even illegal behavior and activities. The SACFL aims, therefore, to maximize the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time to minimize the dangers and manage the risks.

### **Policy**

The SACFL and its member clubs encourage effective and safe Cyber safety practices which aim to maximize the benefits of the Internet and ICT and allow for the effective operation of the SACFL and member leagues and clubs, whilst minimizing and managing any risks.

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Appendix 4 (Cont)

The SACFL takes seriously its responsibility in providing robust policy and guidelines for its members in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online behaviors. The League and/or club name, motto, crest, logo and/or uniform must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for the league or club and its members.

Members of the SACFL and its clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the leagues expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with officials, coaches, umpires, players, parents, spectators and sponsors. Players will not post inappropriate comments about individual SACFL or club members which if said in person during the playing of a game would result in disciplinary action being taken.

#### **Images of Children**

In South Australia under the Summary Offences Act 1953 a person must not engage in indecent filming. Images of children and adults should not be used inappropriately or illegally.

Wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent knows the way the image will be used. The privacy of others needs to be respected and clubs should disallow the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

Clubs or Associations displaying an image of a child should avoid naming or identifying the child or, wherever possible, avoid using both the first name and surname.

Do not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian.

Additional information such as hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc. should not be included as this information can be used as grooming tools by pedophiles or other persons.

It is the responsibility of the organization to only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to the sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport.

#### **Cyberbullying**

"Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others." (Belsey 2007)

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, racially vilifying or threatening another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including social network sites e.g. Facebook or blogs) and the sending, receiving and/or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a person. Club members must also be aware that postings from their individual accounts, whether done by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner.

All members of the SACFL and individual clubs must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the league and/or club will have no control. This particularly applies to 'sexting' where the image is of a person under the age of 18 years whereby Police will be informed immediately a club becomes aware of the situation.

### Procedure

SACFL and/or club officials or members who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device. They should then print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the relevant club/league representative.

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully in accordance with SACFL Regulation 5.0 and may result in a notification to Police where the SACFL, league or club is legally obliged to do so.

If the SACFL and/or individual League's executive receives a complaint about an online issue, the allegations will be forwarded to the relevant League Investigation Officer.

If there is evidence, charges will be laid and the complaint will proceed to the league's Independent Tribunal, exactly the same as if the investigation relates to physical violence or other reportable offences.

### Penalties

Any proven charges will automatically lead to a minimum of a two (2) match suspension for a registered player. In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of the act, the impact on the victim, the impact on the club/league/ SACFL and the prior good history or otherwise of the player. Players charged with these types of offences for a second or subsequent time and where a suspension has been previously imposed will face deregistration.

Any player presented before the tribunal for the first or subsequent time on a cyberbullying offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal members will cover the complete range including deregistration.

In the case of a non-playing club member being proved to have engaged in harassment or bullying, the club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the League a penalty to be determined by the league.

### **Important terms used in this document:**

- a) *The abbreviation 'ICT' in this document refers to the term 'Information, Communication and Technologies.*
- b) *'Cyber safety' refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones*
- c) *The term 'ICT equipment/devices' used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), Gaming Consoles, and any other, similar, technologies as they come into use.*

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 5 – Weather Policy**

**The River Murray Football League operates under the SACFL and the SANFL and has adopted the SANFL HEAT POLICY as set out below. The RMFL will review this in line with its annual document reviews but users are encouraged to refer to Appendix 10.26 SANFL Rules and Regulations.**

Hot weather requirements include: Training sessions and matches, including pre-season trial matches, shall be cancelled if the temperature on the Bureau of Meteorology website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) is 34°C or greater one hour before training is proposed to occur or the match is proposed to be played.

Coaches and team managers shall provide additional drinks breaks during training sessions, trial matches and minor round matches and actively encourage junior players to remain hydrated when the temperature is forecast above 25°C. The coach and/or team managers should modify or terminate the training activity if they consider the conditions unsafe for the players.

If in their opinion of the field umpire(s) the temperature and humidity conditions have become unsafe for the players they shall advise both team managers that they consider the conditions unsuitable for play and shall terminate the match.

Inclement weather requirements include:

The field umpire(s) shall stop the match and order the players from the field if inclement weather conditions which they consider poses a safety risk to players and officials develop during the match.

The match shall restart when the field umpire(s) deem conditions to be safe to do so. The match shall be shortened to comply with rule Game times 2.11 (refer to Abandonment of matches 10.6 (2) AFL rule book).

**Appendix 6 - Child Safety Policy RMFL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**‘Looking after our kids today for a better RMFL tomorrow’**

**Process for obtaining Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificates- working with children.**

The safety of children is of paramount importance to the administrators of the RMFL. We must do all we can to ensure that people who are appointed by Clubs to coach children are appropriate, and the children are protected from possible risk.

**All coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers and runners who work with children at any junior level-under 18 and below,** will be required to obtain a **Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificate from DCSI** and provide information to the Authorized Officer - MPIO (Member Protection Information Officer) of the RMFL and Club for assessment via their respective Club MPIO.

These applications are free and are to be obtained **when first commencing working with children and then renewed every five years thereafter.**

The process of obtaining the certificate is as follows;

1. The Club and or applicant are required to fill out an application via the following link: <https://screening.sa.gov.au/> - follow links to make application and include the following details:  
Affiliated Club name - Volunteers full name - date of birth - personal email address of volunteer  
- and Role Title (e.g. coach Under 15)
2. The Applicant (Volunteer) will then receive a conformation email from Department of Human Services initially to advise they have received the application.
3. A further two (2) emails will then be sent to the Applicant advising them how to log onto the DCSI website with a link. Application number and password.
4. Follow these links and complete the application including the identification which can be done online by copying details from the identification documents. 100 point check.
5. The Applicant will get confirmation that they have finalized the application and a decision stating if you have a clearance or not. A certificate will be posted to you.
6. Once you receive the certificate it must be produced to your Club MPIO who will check it and advise the RMFL of the result of the check and provide the reference number and expiry date of the check (5 years from date of certificate) via Email.
7. As the Clearance check does not provide any history of the applicant a copy may be sent to the RMFL as confirmation which will be destroyed after checked.

**ALL APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORISED MPIO BEFORE ROUND 1 OF THE SEASON OR THE APPLICANT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO WORK WITH JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS UNTIL THE FORM HAS BEEN RECEIVED.**

**\*\*Non-compliance with this policy could lead to individual Clubs or the RMFL to be liable for criminal prosecution and/or civil legal action\*\***

Assessments of the information on the certificates will be conducted pursuant to the Child Safe Environment Policy. If, after assessing the Clearance Certificates, the Authorized Officer is concerned about the suitability of an applicant, the Junior Management Executive Committee (JMEC) will be informed and a meeting will be scheduled between the applicant, the Authorized Officer, the Club delegate and the JMEC to discuss the contextual factors surrounding the concern.

If, after that meeting the decision of the JMEC is that the applicant’s character is such that they are not suitable for working with children in the RMFL, the Club delegate and the applicant will be advised that the applicant will not be permitted to do so.

Due to the privacy provisions, the Authorized Officer or the JMEC will not retain or disclose any information contained within a clearance certificate to a third party without the express permission of the person named within the certificate.

The River Murray Football League operates under the SACFL and has adopted its DUTY OF CARE POLICY as set out below. The RMFL will review this in line with its annual document reviews; refer to Appendix 16 SA Community Football League Rules and Regulations.

#### FOR ALL SACFL LEAGUES & CLUBS WHO CONDUCT JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the AFL Junior Football Guide and the SACFL's Regulation 33.

It is acknowledged that some Clubs do not have sufficient players to fill all Club Junior sides (this is most prevalent in the Regional Clubs) and at times a younger player would benefit from 'playing up a grade' & to assist in making up the numbers for a team.

It is also acknowledged that Clubs, Coaches and Parents have a duty of care when deciding on a player moving up or down a grade. To assist Clubs to undertake reasonable duty of care to protect the younger children from any injury the following policy is considered the appropriate steps to take.

It is important for Clubs to use common sense when making decisions to play a child up a grade, or when from time to time, playing a child who is older, down a grade.

#### For a child playing up

- It is strongly recommended that the Club designate the Coaches from both grades to determine which child/children are skilled enough and would benefit from playing up, this can be done at the commencement of the season or on the day of a match if required.
- The Coach or a senior representative of the Club must seek approval from the child's parents or guardian, such approval must be in writing, deemed to be a Consent Form to ensure the parent or guardian is aware of the potential risk of injury and to show that the Parent/Guardian are supportive of the Child playing up against older children.
- The child/children must be appropriately identified during the match, (e.g. a colored arm band or bib or similar).
- The child must also be recognized on the team sheet as an underage player.
- The player should benefit from the opportunity to play up based on his/her skills and strength.
- Coaches should endeavour to match players by age and ability in accordance with the AFL Junior Match Guide.
- The umpire must be informed of this process and use his/her best endeavors to protect the child.
- This can only occur for a Child playing up **one grade only** (moving from U14 to U17 as an example only) or if the club only has one junior competition.

That Leagues on an annual basis discuss with Clubs possible modified rules or the sharing of junior players amongst clubs. Refer the AFL Junior Football Guild. *The AFL recognizes that in regional and rural areas the opportunity to conduct competitions with a 2 year age span is not always possible. That reducing player numbers is recommended (9-12 a side).*

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Appendix 7 (Cont)

#### For a child playing down

- Clubs must apply to its League for a 'permit' for an over-age player to play down a grade at the beginning of the season; this decision should be made based on the child's size, ability or possible disability.
- The Club must agree that the player or players are suitable to play against younger children
- The Coaches should Endeavour to match players by ability and size on match day.
- The parents of the younger age group should be informed that there will be an older child on the field.
- The player is to be noted on the team sheet.
- The umpire must be made aware by the Coach or the Club of the team of the older child.

#### Special Note:

The SACFL was required to provide satisfaction to the JLT Insurance Underwriters that a reasonable 'duty of care' is in place to enable Leagues and Clubs to play children up and down. This is particularly common in country areas where the 3 year competition age bracket is common place. The AFL acknowledges the need within its Junior Football Guide; this allows players to play up for the benefit of the sport, the Club and the Players.

Therefore; we request that the Duty of Care Policy be followed where the age gap is greater than 3 years.

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 8 - RMFL Independent Tribunal Procedure**

The procedure is as follows;

1. The player assisted by his Club representative is to give reason for his transfer.
2. The Independent Tribunal may ask the player and his Club representative any questions relating to his reasons.
3. The Club opposing the transfer may question the player or the Club representative.
4. The Club opposing the transfer must give reasons for their refusal. The Independent Tribunal may question the Club official opposing the transfer.
5. The player assisted by his Club representative may question the opposing Clubs reason for refusal of transfer.
6. A closing submission by the player assisted by the Club official seeking the transfer to be given.
7. A closing submission given by the Club opposing the transfer to be given.
8. All parties will be asked to withdraw from the room.
9. The Independent Tribunal will reach a decision

Some of the information which may be taken into account will be;

- A. The age of the applicant
- B. The interests of the league.
- C. The interests of the game.
- D. The interests in all respects of the person appealing.
- E. Any hardship (financial or otherwise) likely to be suffered in the event of the appeal being disallowed.
- F. Contractual obligations (if any) between the person appealing and the Club from which such clearance is sought.

The Tribunal has the power;

- To summon any person to appear before and give evidence
- To admit or reject any evidence which may be given it
- To adjourn proceedings at and to such time and place as it shall deem fit.
- The decision of the Independent Tribunal will be final and conclusive and no further appeal will be allowed during the current season.

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 9 - Finals Rotation**

**Refer to Rule 2-6 (a) and (b) -GROUNDS FOR FINALS**

Finals matches to be allocated on a rotational basis as per the "Finals Allocation Disc, with all Finals, including the Grand Final, being shared between all Clubs. Catering will be the Responsibility of the host Club. In exceptional circumstances the RMFL executive may use its discretion to re-allocate any finals match.

Year	Bye Year	Carnival	Qualifying	Elimination	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semi	1 <sup>st</sup> Semi	Preliminary	Bye Year	Grand Final
2023	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2024	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2025	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2026	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
2027	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
2028	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
2029	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
2030	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
2031	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1

**Club Reference**

9-Ramblers, 8-Mannum, 7-Tailem Bend, 6-Coorong Cats, 5-Imperials, 4-Mypolonga, 3-Jervois, 2-Southern Mallee, 1-Mallee Districts.

In addition to the allocation of finals, the RMFL holds the Annual Senior and Junior Dinners, Junior Carnival, Season Launch and other such events. Typically, these events will be made available to the club who is not due to host a final during the season, but the decision is at the discretion of the RMFL Executive Committee.

**Appendix 10 – Timekeepers**

**\*TIMEKEEPERS MUST USE TIME CLOCKS SUPPLIED BY THE RMFL- NO EXCEPTIONS**

**Timekeeper Duties**

- (a) The timekeeping will be the responsibility of one representative from each club in each grade.
- (b) Timekeepers shall follow the guidelines provided in each timekeeper’s box.
- (c) The timekeepers will use the timers provided, placed in the centre of the bench where both can view.
- (d) Timekeepers, as of 2017 AGM will record the players who are sent off under the yellow/red card system.
- (e) Refer to Appendix 10 Timekeeper Duties for this process which should also be provided in each Timekeepers box.
- (f) RMFL Reserves must finish by 2:20 – if any game is to be shortened it will be the Reserves, therefore at the beginning of Reserves (and review again at half time) – both Timekeepers are to agree on what length quarters are required and adjust to ensure the match finishes by 2:20pm.
- (g) All League matches shall be played in 4 quarters of 22 minutes not including time on.
- (h) All Reserves matches shall be played in 4 quarters of 20 minutes including time on.  
In the event of extraordinary loss of time the umpire is empowered to signal time on which shall be added to the time of play.
- (i) All Junior (Under 18) matches shall be played in 4 quarters of 20 minutes including time on. In the event of extraordinary loss of time the umpire is empowered to signal time on which shall be added to the time of play.
- (j) All Junior (Under 15.5) matches shall be played in 4 quarters of 15 minutes including time on. In the event of extraordinary loss of time the umpire is empowered to signal time on which shall be added to the time of play.

UNDER 13s	Quarter Length	Breaks	Match Duration	No time on-
9.00am start	4 x 12 minutes	3 x 2 minutes	48 min plus 6 min breaks	Finish by 9.54am

UNDER 15.5s	Quarter Length	Breaks	Match Duration	No time on-
10.00am start	4 x 15 minutes	2 x 3 x 2 minutes	60 min plus 7 min breaks	Finish by 11.08am

UNDER 18s	Quarter Length	Breaks	Match Duration	No time on-
11.15am start	4 x 20 minutes	2 x 3 x 2 minutes	80 min plus 7 min breaks	Finish by 12.42pm

RESERVES	Quarter Length	Breaks	Match Duration	No time on-
12.45pm start	4 x 20 minutes	2 x 3 x 2 minutes	80 min plus 7 min breaks	Finish by 2.12pm

LEAGUE	Quarter Length	Breaks	Match Duration	Time on- Finish by
2.30 pm start	4 x 22 min	3 x 10 x 5 minutes	88 min plus time on, 18 min breaks	4.45pm

**PLEASE NOTE AFTER 1/4 AND 3/4 TIME BREAKS TIMEKEEPERS MUST BLOW SIREN TO ADVISE A TWO (2) MINUTE AND ONE (1) MINUTE WARNING AND PLAY TO RESTART TIME - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LENGTH OF BREAKS ARE AS ABOVE.**

1. All timekeepers are to take note of the starting times of all grades especially the early grades.
2. Timetables must be adhered to at all times.
3. Timekeepers will blow the siren when the umpires hold up the ball as they walk onto the playing field.
4. Both timekeepers must advise one another when there is two minutes remaining until full time of the quarter, where a countdown will commence. As each minute ticks away both timekeepers must communicate before blowing the siren to end the game.

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Appendix 10 – Timekeepers cont'd.

5. If an error occurs the Timekeepers must blow the siren with 3 quick bursts to alert the field umpires that the siren had been blown in error.
6. After consultation with the timekeepers the field umpires will restart play as close as possible to where the game had stopped.
7. Time keepers must record the scores on the scorecards provided as well as the yellow and red card events.
8. The scorecards and interchange sheets are to be handed to the home club administrator at the completion of the match.
9. RMFL Reserves must finish by 2:20 – if any game is to be shortened it will be the Reserves, therefore at the beginning of Reserves (and review again at half time) – both Timekeepers are to agree on what length quarters are required and adjust to ensure the match finishes by 2:20pm.

### TIME ON/OFF REQUIREMENTS – LEAGUE MATCHES ONLY

Time at the start of the quarter,

- Clock starts when the ball is bounced or thrown up by the field umpire.

Clock stops-Goal

- If a goal is scored when the goal umpire signals that goal has been scored.
- And restarts - when the ball is bounced or thrown up by the field umpire.

Clock stops-Behind

- When the goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored.
- And restarts when the ball has been brought back into play after a behind has been scored. Clock stops-General play.
- When the umpire raises their arm vertically and blows their whistle.
- When a 50 metre penalty has been issued and the umpire raises their arm vertically and blows their whistle.
- When the umpires issues a red/yellow card and blows their whistle to signal time off.
- And restarts-When the umpire raises their arm vertically and blows their whistle a second time.

An umpire can signal time off for:

- 25 and 50 metre penalty
- Red/Yellow card
- Blood rule
- Out of bounds
- Injury time
- Or a general delay in the game.

\*In the case of Reserves, Under 18,15.5 and 13s, the central umpire can indicate to the time keepers to halt play in the event of a significant delay, e.g. stretcher/ambulance.

### SEND OFF RULE – RED AND YELLOW CARD.

1. Interchange forms are to be used to write down the time, player number and time back on, of the player.
2. When a player is sent off for a misdemeanor the umpire will escort him to as close to the time box as possible holding up the yellow or red card. The Umpire will request the player turn around for the time keepers to see their guernsey number. Once the Time Keepers have seen this and have registered the number, they are to hold up the relative color cardboard square to acknowledge they are aware of the player's number. If the time keepers cannot see the number of the player, they are to not to hold the card up until they have recorded the number.
3. The player is to stay off for 10 minutes actual playing time, which does not include includes breaks and time on and off, so a player may be on the sidelines for more than 10 minutes. When his time is up signal with your green card for the Team Manager to see.
4. The time off commences once the player has left the playing arena.

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 11 - Umpire Payment Schedule**

The River Murray Football League Umpires Panel provides central Umpires to the League and is an essential body. The RMFL Umpires Panel manages the payment of their fees solely.

The procedure for clubs and the RMFL paying the fees are as follows;

- An email is sent out prior to first game of the season to all club Secretaries & Presidents, advising of the amount to cover Umpires match day payment (U15.5s, U18s, Reserves & League) and details of Umpires bank account.
- It is expected that the Home club should then transfer funds into that bank account by Wednesday of the week following their home game.
- Once all 3 home clubs have made their payments into the account, the Umpires Treasurer electronically transfers the amount for each umpire into their nominated bank account.

The Treasurer then compiles a spreadsheet showing the amount paid to each umpire, less any deductions i.e. subs, uniform. This is sent as an attachment in an email to all umpires and confirmation the payment has been made into their nominated account.

Umpires fees are agreed from time to time through approval and a meeting of the RMFL Delegates. The current rates are set out below;

- League - \$450.00 (\$150 each - 3 umpires used)
- Reserves - \$240.00 (\$120.00 each if 2 Umpires or \$80.00 each if 3 umpires used)
- Under 18s - \$240.00 (\$120.00 each if 2 Umpires or \$80.00 each if 3 umpires used)
- Under 15.5 - \$140.00 (\$70.00 each x 2 umpires)

Panel League Boundary Umpires

- \$50 each x 4 boundary Umpires - Total \$200.00

***\*\*NOTE – The above rates are restricted from increasing until the conclusion of the 2023 season.***

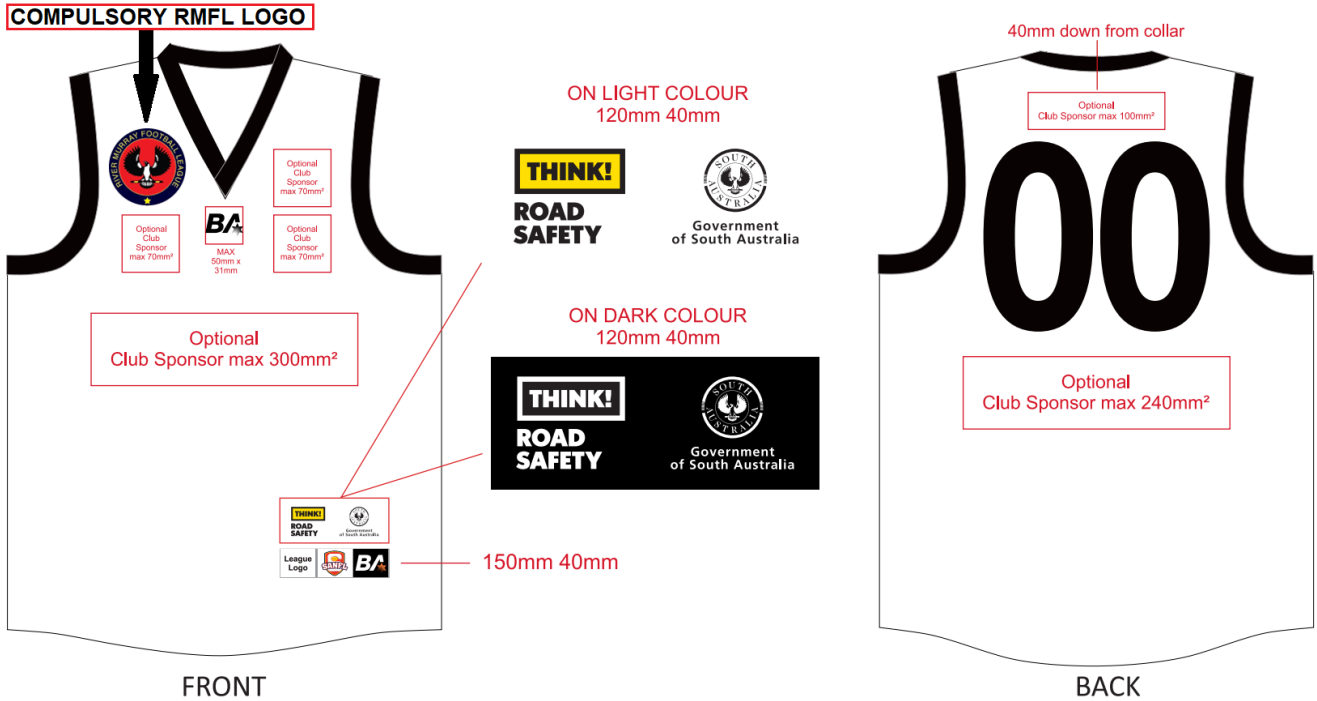
# River Murray Football League By-Laws

## Appendix 12 - Uniform Requirements

Club guernseys, shorts and socks must comply with SANFL requirements as stated in the SANFL regulations including approved suppliers.

### RMFL Compulsory Logo

All River Murray Football League guernseys must have the RMFL logo on the player's right-hand side breast. The logo must be a minimum of 70mm x 70 mm in size. There are no RMFL specific logo requirements on socks and shorts, only that specified by the SANFL.



## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Appendix 13 Officials Match Attire

In all matches Member Clubs shall ensure their officials wear the appropriate match attire as below:

- (a) **RMFL PANEL AND CLUB FIELD UMPIRES** • RMFL Green long or short sleeve collared shirt - Essential • RMFL Grey shorts - Essential • RMFL Green socks - Essential • Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential • Whistle - Essential
  
- (b) **CLUB TRAINERS**  
White long pants- Essential • Predominately plain white polo shirt, long sleeve shirt or jacket, with club name marked on rear - Essential • Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential
  
- (c) **CLUB GOAL UMPIRES**  
Green or white long or short sleeve collared shirt or white coat - Essential • Long black pants • Covered footwear - Essential
  
- (d) **RUNNERS**  
Hi visibility pink vest or polo top with the word "Runner" and club name marked on rear on the back - Essential • Plain dark shorts or plain dark long pants • Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential
  
- (e) **CLUB BOUNDARY UMPIRES**  
White polo shirt or green RMFL shirt - Essential • White/Grey shorts - Essential • RMFL Green socks preferred • Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential • Whistle - Essential
  
- (f) **WATER CARRIERS**  
Plain white polo top, plain white t-shirt or plain white vest with club name marked on rear - Essential • Plain dark shorts or plain dark long pants • Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential

**Appendix 14 – REQUEST AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE**

This procedure is written to ensure compliance of our Bylaws, national tribunal procedures and national investigation procedures are followed in an orderly and fair way for all parties concerned.

1. The Club President or Secretary requesting an investigation into an incident must notify the RMFL (Secretary or Football Operations Coordinator) in writing by 5 pm on the Monday following the Match that an investigation into an incident is requested.
2. The following must accompany that request.
  - A) A fee of \$250 to be paid by cheque, cash or bank transfer to the RMFL.
  - B) A full written description of the incident concerned.
  - C) A list of all witnesses including phone numbers so follow up interviews can be conducted.
  - D) Full written statements from the witnesses explaining what they observed.
  - E) Any medical evidence to support the injuries.
3. Upon receipt of the above information the Football Operations Coordinator will immediately notify the Secretary of the club concerned that an investigation has been requested into an incident involving their club.
4. Information that is to be supplied to the club being investigated will include but is not limited to Players involved, medical report if any, and a description of the incident as from witness statements. This is to enable the club to investigate internally.
5. The Football Operations Coordinator in consultation with the RMFL Secretary will appoint an independent investigator to commence an investigation. That investigator may be the Football Operations Coordinator.
6. A running sheet record will be kept by The Football Operations Coordinator and the investigator of the steps taken and investigation done. This will include but is not limited to date, time, person interviewed, statement taken, action taken etc.
7. All witnesses are to be made available to the Investigating officer and must be prepared to attend a tribunal hearing if required. They are to answer truthfully and give an accurate description of what occurred and sign a statutory declaration if required.
8. The investigation is to be carried out in a manner that requires professionalism and expedience according to the AFL National investigation guidelines 2013.
9. Once the investigation is complete the investigation officer will provide all of the information collected and any recommendations from the investigation to the Football Operations Coordinator and the RMFL Secretary.
10. The RMFL Secretary will advise the League Executive who will then decide if a charge is to be laid, or apply any sanctions based upon the evidence and recommendations.
11. If no charge is to be laid then the RMFL Secretary will notify the Football Operation Coordinator who will notify all the clubs concerned of the result and the matter will be closed. All the records will be kept on file at the office of the league.
12. If a charge is to be laid then the RMFL secretary will notify the Football Operation Coordinator who will organise the laying of the charge, notifying of all the parties involved and organising the tribunal hearing.
13. If the club, player or other person being investigated decides to challenge the allegations, then as per the national tribunal guidelines, they must provide full written particulars of all relevant matters and forward written copies of that information to the RMFL or Football Operations Coordinator by Midday on the day after the notification of the charge or matter to be heard by the tribunal.
14. The matter will then be heard by a tribunal and a decision made by them. All records will be kept on file at the office of the League.
15. If the club, player or other person being investigated is found guilty by the findings of this process (either by Tribunal or League Executive decision) then that club, players club or other persons club will pay the investigation costs (clause 2.a) to the league, and the club requesting the investigation will be refunded the fee (clause 2.A) previously paid.



**RIVER MURRAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE – SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

**FOOTBALL CLUB NAME** .....

**CONTACT NAME**.....

**CONTACT EMAIL/ PHONE NUMBER**.....

**PROJECT TITLE** .....

**APPLICATION AMOUNT** .....

**YOUR CLUB’S CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT** .....

**YOUR CLUB’S “IN KIND” LABOUR CONTRIBUTION IN HOURS**.....

**DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT AND THE BENEFITS YOU EXPECT TO GAIN**

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

**HOW URGENT IS YOUR PROJECT?**

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

**BANK NAME**.....

**BANK ACCOUNT NAME**.....

**BANK BSB NUMBER**.....**BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER**.....

**PLEASE EMAIL APPLICATION TO RMFL SECRETARY ON [rivermurrayfl@sanflcfl.com.au](mailto:rivermurrayfl@sanflcfl.com.au)**

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 16 – Fines**

**The amounts shown below are maximum fines for any individual breach of Constitution and By-Laws and any or all of the amount may be suspended at the discretion of the RMFL**

<b>Administrative Breach</b>	<b>Fine</b>
Non-attendance by Club at any compulsory meeting	\$50
Club changing official game times or dates without advising RMFL in writing at least 7 days beforehand	\$50
Failure to lodge team official information by due date/time	\$50

<b>Match Day Breach</b>	<b>Fine</b>
Incorrect uniforms e.g. runners, trainers etc	\$100
Placing junior scores (U13) in any social media	\$50
Failure by any match day official to follow umpire directions	\$100
Failure to provide team sheet to umpire	\$50
Late starting of matches (more than 15 minutes)	\$50
Failure to provide any Match Day Officials as required by RMFL Rules & Regulations	\$100
Failure of host club to provide stretcher and place in correct position	\$100
Failure to provide a working scoreboard	\$50
Any player playing under another name	\$500
Playing uncleared player	\$500
Playing unregistered player	\$200
Incorrect team sheet	\$100 or at the discretion of the RMFL. Max fine \$500
Runner on field excessively	\$100
Player numbers in budget incorrect	\$50 or at the discretion of the RMFL
Club notes for footy budget – minimum of 250 words	\$50 or at the discretion of the RMFL
Playing a player without submitting a points declaration form	At the discretion of the RMFL. Max fine \$500

<b>Other Breaches of Rules</b>	<b>Fine</b>
Code of Conduct Breach	At the discretion of the RMFL. Max fine \$500
Club Participants engaging in a melee, except where a player's sole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident	\$500

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Appendix 16 (cont)**

Other Breaches of Rules	Fine
Code of Conduct Breach	At the discretion of the RMFL, max fine \$500
Club Participants engaging in a melee, except where a player's sole intention is to remove a team mate from the incident	\$500.00
Club playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age players 6.13	
First instance	\$100 plus loss of match ratio
Second instance	\$250 plus loss of match ratio
Third instance	\$500 plus team withdrawn from competition

**SANFL CFL Rule 23. Playing Suspended or Disqualified Players**

An Affiliated League Club which knowingly plays a suspended or disqualified player, in any Football Match will, in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed under these Regulations, be liable to a fine of \$2,000.00 for each occasion on which a player so plays.

Many fines are listed in the SACFL regulations which apply also, e.g. player points and salary cap.

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

### Appendix 17 RMFL – Club Behaviour Management System

#### On Field Ranking:

- Yellow Card 5 Points for each individual card
  - Red Card 10 Points for each individual card
  - Report 10 Points (Note: Removed if player is found Not Guilty)
  - Report x 2 15 Points (Note: Penalty for any subsequent report in the same season by same player/repeat offender)
  - Suspension (4 games and under) 10 Points per game added to original 10 points for the card, capped at 4 games.
  - Suspension (Above 4 games) Capped at 50 Points, added to original 10 points for the card.
- \*\* Note: Any player/coach/official/spectator suspension will incur the points per game as listed above, either by Umpires report/tribunal process or RMFL sanction.

#### Player Behaviour Score

Umpires will rate this considering the following.

- 0 = well behaved
- 5 = any backchat, umpire whining, disputing decisions
- 10 = excessive umpire whining, wrestling, players involved in on field scuffles, mini brawls, perceived violence, and anger towards each other
- 20 = Excessive backchat, decision questioning, multiple 25/50 metre penalties incurred and poor general on field behaviour, a melee has occurred.

#### Officials/Coach's box Behaviour Score:

- 0 = well behaved
- 20 = umpires are abused / intimidated constantly
- 30 = Excessive abuse directed at umpires in a personal and degrading manner.
- 40= Umpires are approached between breaks or after the match and degraded, also those persons(s) are reported via Umpires match report.

#### Supporter Behaviour Score:

- 0 = well behaved
- 15 = umpires are abused / intimidated constantly
- 20 = Excessive abuse directed at umpires in a personal and degrading manner.
- 30= Umpires are approached between breaks or after the match and degraded, also those persons(s) are reported via Umpires match report.

#### Subsequent Rankings:

- 150 Total Points (Note: Combined across A Grade, Reserves & Under 18 grades) Automatic Club Fine of \$1000.00 payable to the Affiliated League
  - 200 Total Points (Note: Combined across A Grade, Reserves & Under 18 grades) Automatic Club Fine of \$500.00 payable to the Affiliated League
- Note: At this point Club will be required to meet the League Executive and SANFL representative to provide evidence of change management to be introduced by the club to avoid further indiscretions.
- 250 Total Points (Note: Combined across A Grade, Reserves & Under 18 grades) Automatic Club Fine of \$500 payable to the Affiliated League. In addition, the Club will incur the loss of the equivalent of 1 home and away win (e.g. 2 premierships points), across ALL grades both Senior and Junior
  - 300 Total Points – (Note: Combined across A Grade, Reserves & Under 18 grades) Automatic Club Fine of \$1000 payable to the Affiliated League. In addition, the Club will incur the loss of the equivalent of 1 home and away win (e.g. 2 premierships points), across ALL grades both Senior and Junior
  - 350 Total Points – (Note: Combined across A Grade, Reserves & Under 18 grades) Automatic Club Fine of \$1000 payable to the Affiliated League. In addition, the Club will incur the loss of the equivalent of 1 home and away win (e.g. 2 premierships points), across ALL grades both Senior and Junior
  - 400 Total Points & each subsequent 50 Point Increment - Note: Combined across A Grade, Reserves & Under 18 grades) Automatic Club Fine of \$1000 payable to the Affiliated League. In addition, the Club will incur the loss of the equivalent of 2 home and away win (e.g. 4 premierships points), across ALL grades both Senior and Junior
  - Finals Penalties – Fines to apply as listed – Premiership Point deductions to be carried into the next season

River Murray Football League By-Laws

**Match:** ..... V .....

**Date:** ...../...../..... **League Reserves U18 U15.5** (Circle One)

**Umpires:**.....

Home Team	<b>PLAYER BEHAVIOUR</b> <i>(Tick most appropriate)</i>	Away Team
	Well Behaved-0 points	
	Any backchat / Whining / Disputing Decisions -5 points	
	Excessive Whining / Wrestling / On field scuffles / Mini brawls / Perceived violence or anger towards each other -10 points	
	Excessive backchat / Questioning of decisions / multiple 25 or 50m penalties / Melee / Poor on field behaviour – 20 points	
Home Team	<b>OFFICIALS / COACH'S BOX BEHAVIOUR</b> <i>(Tick most appropriate)</i>	Away Team
	Well Behaved – 0 points	
	Umpires are abused / Intimidated constantly 20 points	
	Excessive abuse directed at Umpires in a Personal and/or Degrading Manner – 30 points	
	Umpires are approached at breaks or after the match / Umpires Degraded / Threatened or Intimidated – 40 points	
Home Team	<b>SUPPORTER BEHAVIOUR</b> <i>(Tick most appropriate)</i>	Away Team
	Well Behaved – 0 Points	
	Umpires are abused / Intimidated constantly – 15 points	
	Excessive abuse directed at Umpires in a Personal and Degrading Manner – 20 points	
	Umpires are approached at breaks or after the match / Umpires degraded / threatened / intimidated – 30 points	

**Additional Information regarding incidents of note to be detailed on the back of this form.  
Match Report Form MUST be completed for ALL games and forwarded to the RMFL Secretary in the envelope provided.**




## REPORT ON FIELD UMPIRE

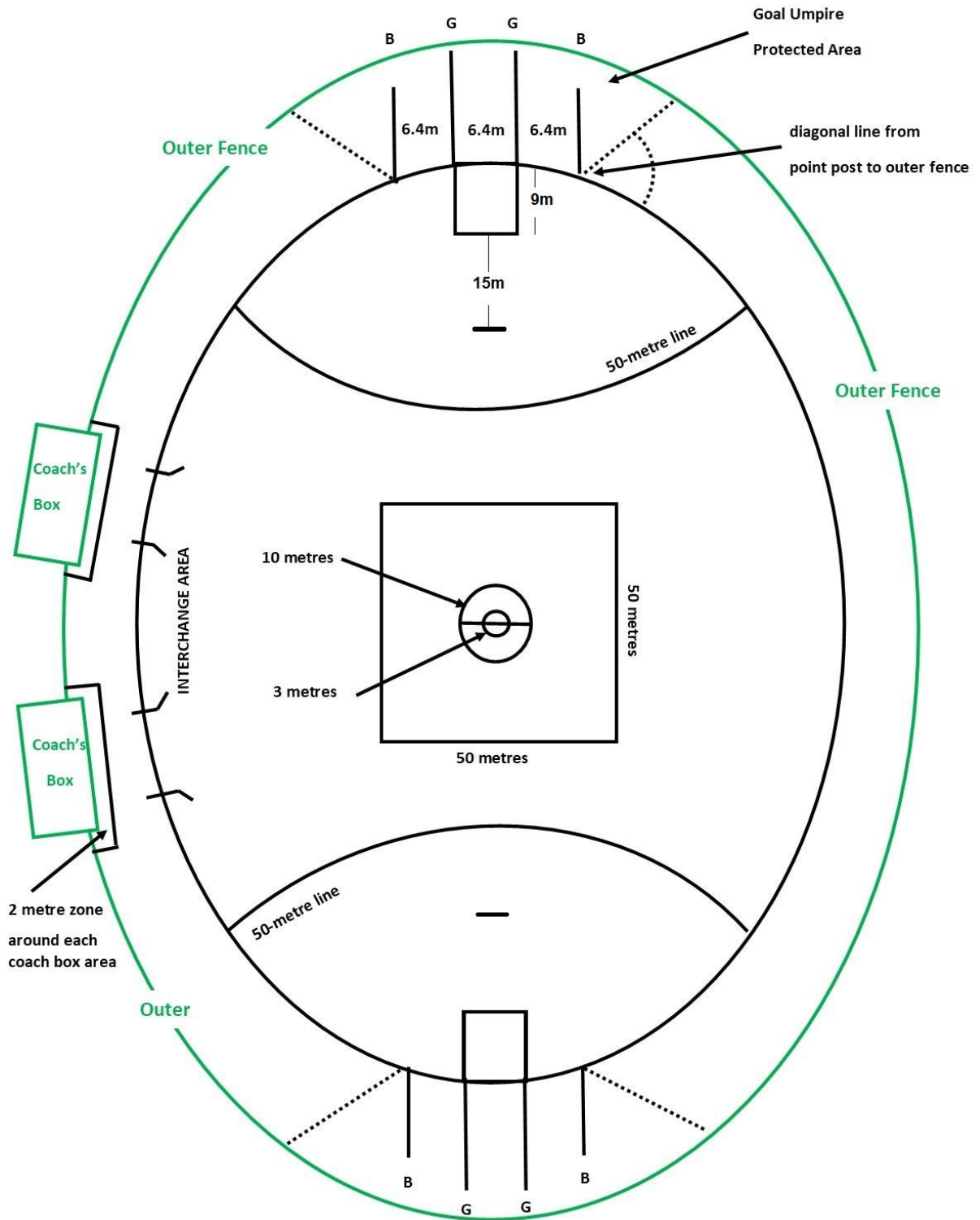
THIS FORM MUST BE EMAILED TO rivermfl@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 5.00 p.m.

TUESDAY FOLLOWING MATCH

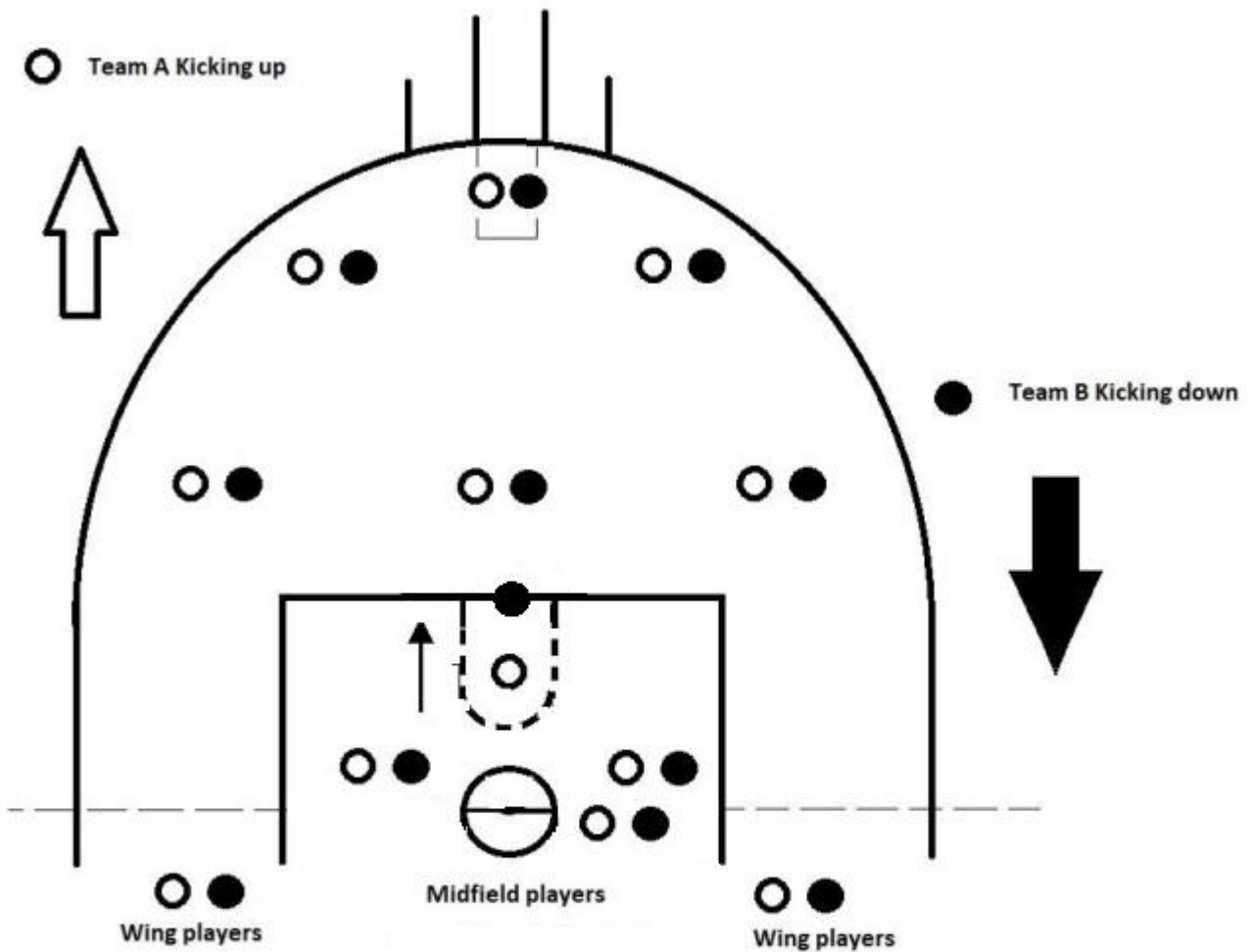
<b>DATE:</b>		<b>GRADE:</b>	
<b>MATCH:</b>		<b>VS</b>	
<b>VENUE:</b>			
<b>UMPIRE Names: 1.</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Did the umpires present themselves in a suitable manner before, during and after the match?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Did the umpires seek out the club coach and captain prior to the match?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Generally speaking, did the umpire protect the player trying to take possession of the ball?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Generally speaking, was the player in possession given reasonable time/chance to correctly dispose of the ball when legally tackled		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Did the umpires umpire to the "spirit of the game"?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Did the umpires communicate with players and officials appropriately, on and off the field?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Was the use of Yellow / Red Card correctly applied?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constructive comments and explanations are encouraged. If no please explain:			
Signature:		Club:	
PRINT NAME:			
Signature:		Club:	
PRINT NAME:			



River Murray Football League By-Laws  
Appendix 19 – Oval Markings



River Murray Football League By-Laws  
 Appendix 20 – Ten Goal Rule Diagram



Team A is down by a 10 goal margin, so the player in team A has a kick to commence play after the last goal is kicked. All mid-field and wing position players MUST remain behind the player who is kicking the ball and outside of the protected area as per the usual free kick or mark situation.

There must be no more than 6 players from both teams in the forward line of team A

This start procedure DOES NOT apply at the re-commencement of quarters, a standard ball up will take place.

\*\*\*PLAYER ON THE MARK STANDS ON THE EDGE OF THE SQUARE\*\*

A sign is to be displayed at each RMFL venue with the conditions of entry, refer to the format below;

## **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

It is a condition of entry to the venue for matches forming part of the  
River Murray Football League Inc. that patrons agree:

No alcohol, glass, cans, firearms, weapons, fireworks or other items deemed or considered dangerous will be brought into the venue.

That the playing field at the venue shall be out of bounds at all times on the day of any match at the venue without prior consent from the River Murray Football League and any persons entering the playing field whilst play is in progress without such consent will be banned and/or fined.

Not to engage in any conduct, act towards or speak to any player, umpire, or other official or other patron in a manner which offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies that other person on the basis of that other persons' race, religion, colour, sexual orientation, descent or national or ethnic origin.

Use indecent or obscene language or threatening or insulting words, or otherwise behave in a threatening, abusive, riotous, indecent or insulting manner to any other person.

That a patron who is deemed to be affected by the consumption of alcohol or drugs may, in the Clubs sole discretion, be refused entry to, or ejected from, the venue by an authorised event official.

That entry to the Venue is only permitted to spectators who agree to be searched (including their vehicles, bags, clothes or other possessions) on entry and continued presence in the venue is only permitted to spectators who agree to be searched (including their vehicles, bags, clothes or other possessions) whilst in the venue.

Ground Management reserves the right to refuse entry to any person.

Patrons are admitted to the venue at their own risk.

No Animals (except guide dogs and other bona fide assistance animals).

Patrons who cause a disturbance, are offensive, discriminatory, display anti-social behaviour, use foul or abusive language, make racial or threatening remarks or gestures or refuse to comply with reasonable requests by Ground Management may be evicted and may be banned from future attendance.

The Club promotes the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

Not to interfere with, obstruct or hinder the Club or its employees, agents or contractors in the exercise of their powers, functions or duties.

## **ENTRY OF ALCOHOL PROHIBITED**

### **Junior Carnival Rev3 17.5.2023**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this format is for the players to enjoy a final day of the season in playing a round robin competition with all clubs involved. The expectations are it will be fun, no pressure or competitive nature to the event. Parents, grandparents and friends can enjoy a casual day out.

#### **Hosting the Carnival**

Clubs will be advised by the League Secretary the following Information;

- Each will have an allocated section of the oval where they can set up their marquees etc.
- A program of the matches will be sent out.

#### **Matches**

Consist of 2 x 10minute halves with 2-3minute break at half time. Coaches will decide prior which ends they are kicking, can elect to toss a coin.

#### **The Ball**

The ball will be a size 3 synthetic type.

#### **Teams**

Teams will consist of 15 players on the field at any one time, with an unlimited bench. There will be 5 forwards, 5 mid fielders and 5 backs. Team Lists with players name, Guernsey Number and DOB to be forwarded to RMFL Carnival Manager by Monday prior to the Carnival. Coach, Team Manager and Field Umpires name is also required to be on list. \*\*Each team must have a team manager on the day.

#### **Qualifying**

- Players must be under 11 years old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the Carnival(subject to Carnival age group).
- Players must be registered for that age group before June 30, any registrations after June 30 will be subject to junior review committee approval.
- Permit players can play

#### **Goal Umpires**

Every club is to supply goal umpire for their games. It is desirable, but not essential they are to be dressed in white coat.

#### **Coaches**

There will only be 1 coach per team that can be on the field at any one time.

#### **First aid, Trainers Runners, Water Boys,**

Teams shall each provide their own first aid with equipment. Trainers will be allowed to go onto the ground in emergency situations, not coaches. There will be no need for runners or water boys.

#### **Field Umpires**

Every club to supply 1 or 2 umpires for the game allocated in the program. Normal age group rules apply. There should be focus on keeping the players in their sections to avoid congestion.

#### **Send offs.**

## River Murray Football League By-Laws

Bad Language will not be tolerated and umpires can send a player off and that player will not come on for the rest of the game and can't be replaced.

### Table/Scores/Awards

A premiership table will not be maintained, there will be no scores kept, best players or goalkickers. There will not be a final or a winner.

### Code of Conduct

The RMFL would ask that all Coaches, Players, Officials, Parents and Families behave in a respectful and courteous manner and show good sportsmanship.

### Administration

#### Planning/Checklist

- Arrange host club to book oval, have it marked out, meet all JLT Risk Assessment requirements.
- RMFL appoints a Carnival Manager.
- Arrange timekeepers who will ring the siren to commence both games, like a shotgun start.
- Assignment of a space for each club to set up a marquee on the oval perimeter.

### Duties

- Carnival Manager – co-ordinates proceedings on carnival day, carries out Marsh Risk Assessment with host club representative.
- Timekeepers – usually done by a couple of volunteers.
- Host club Representative – The host club will appoint a representative to ensure the fields are set up and be present should there be a need for any resources, equipment etc. not prepared for.

### Schedule

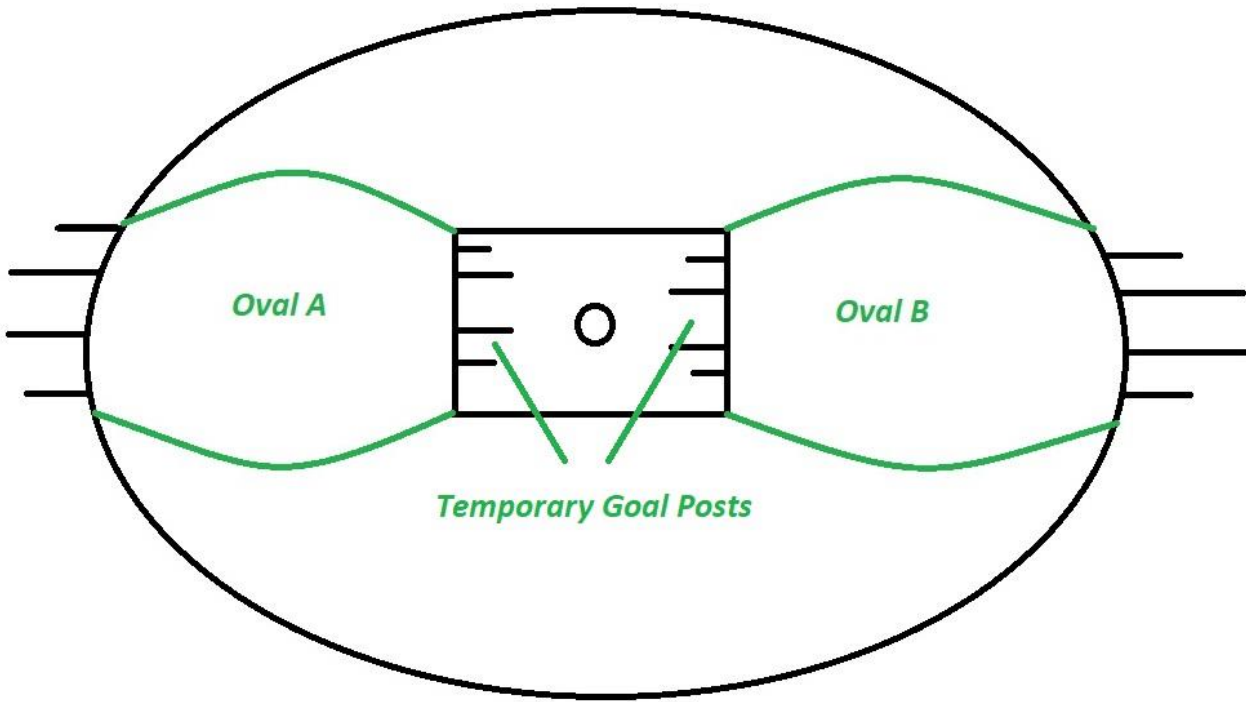
Club	Ref #
Ramblers	1
Imperials	2
Mypolonga	3
Mannum	4
Coorong Cats	5
Jervois	6
Tailem Bend	7
Southern Mallee	8
Mallee Districts	9

Time	Game	Oval A	Umpire		Game	Oval B	Umpire
9.30am	1	1x8	5		2	5x7	9
10.00am	3	3x6	7		4	4x2	1
10.30am	5	5x3	4		6	6x2	3
11.00am	7	7x1	2		8	8x4	6
11.30am	9	2x9	8		10	3x8	4
12.00pm	11	4x7	5		12	5x6	9
Lunch							
1.00pm	13	6x4	7		14	1x3	6
1.30pm	15	8x2	3		16	9x1	5
2.00pm	17	3x1	2		18	4x9	6
2.30pm	19	5x2	8		20	6x7	1
3.00pm	21	7x5	9		22	8x9	3

### Field Size

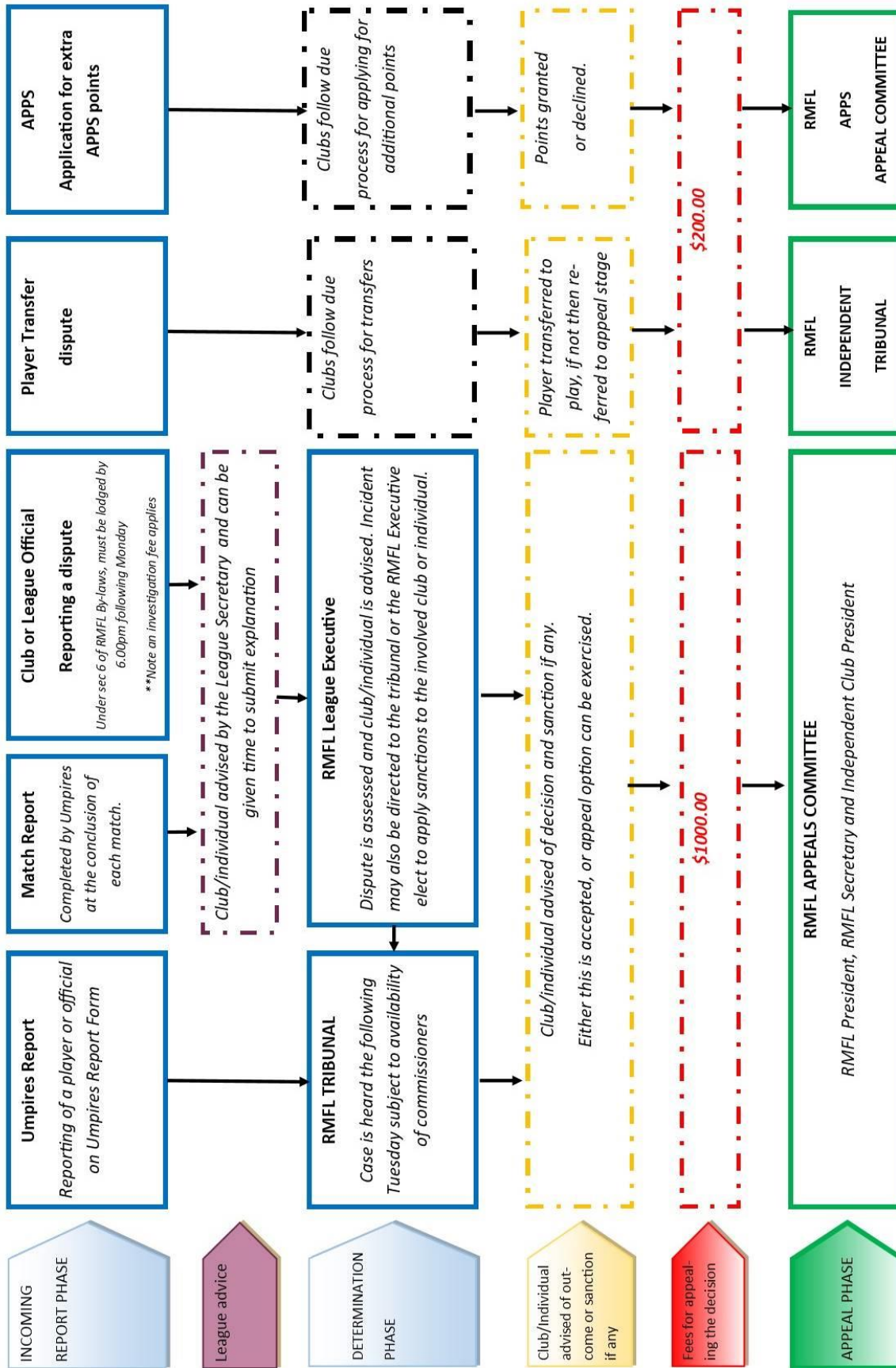
There will be two fields set up with temporary goal posts on either goals side of the centre circle/cricket pitch, running up/down the oval. See the diagram below as well as a more detailed map sent out with information prior to the carnival.

River Murray Football League By-Laws  
**Field Diagram**





Appendix 24- Disputes and Appeals Process Flowchart



**Appendix 25-Media Policy**

**FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

1. The use of photographic, video or audio equipment for commercial purposes is not permitted unless authorised by the RMFL and the clubs participating in the game.
2. Patrons at a game sanctioned by the RMFL are not permitted to transmit, broadcast, sell, license or otherwise publish, or reproduce any recordings (including photographic, video and sound recordings) of the match without the prior written approval of RMFL and the clubs participating in the game. Such recordings may be confiscated or erased.
3. Patrons may be filmed, recorded or photographed by official broadcasters or photographers and these images or recordings may be used without consent of, or payment or provision of other compensation to, patrons for all manner of official broadcast and promotional purposes.
4. Patrons acknowledge that RMFL and third parties authorised by RMFL may make, create, store, record, transmit, reproduce or use recordings and images or any likenesses at or in relation to the event (including, without limitation, of persons).
5. Patrons grant RMFL and third parties authorised by it, permission to use any recordings, images or likenesses of the Patron in any media world-wide and for any purpose without identification, compensation or payment of any kind.
6. Clubs are to advise the RMFL of their intention to video games or have an official photographer(s) throughout the season.
7. The RMFL will authorise and supply an official's badge for the club photographers or person's videoing. The RMFL will store those permitted on a database.
8. Every person prior to being authorised must obtain a Working with children check (DCSI) through the River Murray Football League.
9. Approved Photographers may take photographs and upload images to social media networks or web pages that the clubs have given permission to.
10. Any video footage is not to be uploaded to social media networks unless it has been first approved by the RMFL. It can only then be uploaded by the person or club taking the video or the RMFL.
11. Parents of individual players are still permitted to photograph or video their own children individually or in groups but must be mindful of Child protection laws if posting them on social media.
12. Any person or club contravening this by law or part of it will be dealt with by the RMFL executive as it sees fit under the circumstances.

**Appendix 26 – Competition Management Policy**

This Policy is made with regard to the following:

- 1 (a) The health and safety of the community remains the highest priority
- (b) That whilst balanced competition is important, that the opportunity to participate whenever possible be of higher priority (particularly for junior programs and competitions)
- (c) That where possible the Minor Round and Finals shall be conducted within the traditional timeframes
- (d) Equality in the draw be of lesser importance than opportunity to participate whenever possible
- (e) That a premiership will only be awarded once an agreed minimum of games is achieved
- (f) That a minimum viable season which triggers a Finals series be the maximum number of games possible and not influenced by traditional fixture requirements and expectations
- (g) That a Finals Series be played with a minimum of 1 week (1 v 2) and up to a traditional final's series of 4 weeks

With the above statements in mind the examples next explained are to be adhered to without exception.

2. **Impact of an interruption on a single round**

- (a) Should an entire round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- (b) The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
- (c) The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

3. **Impact of an interruption on consecutive rounds**

- (a) Should consecutive rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team for the abandoned rounds
- (b) The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
- (c) The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

4. **Impact of an interruption on multiple rounds**

- (a) Should multiple rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- (b) The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
- (c) The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

5. **Impact of an interruption on individual matches within any round**

- (a) Should individual matches within any round be abandoned, teams shall receive the points allocated for a draw and the average weekly percentage of all participating teams of the same competition from that round of matches
- (b) The individual games shall not be rescheduled
- (c) The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

6. **Impact of an interruption on individual teams/players/officials**

- (a) In the instance where players and/or officials are unable to participate in a match or matches due to directed quarantine/isolation/border closures, the League Executive should determine at season commencement what the minimum requirement is to field an individual team (eg 80% of senior playing body available to play)

7. **Return to Play following an interrupted round or match**

- (a) If 1-3 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round at the discretion of the League Executive.
- (b) If 4-6 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum of 7-day training period at the discretion of the League Executive but not less than a minimum 7-day training period

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- (c) If more than 6 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled Round following a minimum 14-day training period at the discretion of the League Executive but not less than a minimum 14-day training period
8. Impact of an interruption on individual finals matches
- (a) A league may reschedule finals matches at their absolute discretion
  - (b) Where time does not permit for a finals game to be rescheduled, should an individual match, excluding the grand final be abandoned, the team with a higher ladder position at the end of the minor round season shall be deemed the premier by virtue of higher ranking
9. Impact of an interruption on a grand final
- (a) A league may reschedule grand final matches at their absolute discretion
  - (b) Grand finals should be completed by a date agreed upon by the governing league
  - (c) Where time does not permit for the grand final to be rescheduled and the match is to be abandoned, the team who entered the grand final first by way of victory, or if not applicable, by a higher ladder position, at the completion of the minor round season shall be deemed the premier
10. Final qualifications in an interrupted season
- (a) Should a season be impacted on by an event as above the League Executive may determine qualifications game requirements for players at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season
11. Awards & Votes
- (a) Votes and awards should be awarded for games played and not prorated for missed matches
12. Consequence of a suspension in an interrupted Season
- (a) All suspensions MUST be served in accordance SANFL Community Football Regulations and suspensions apply to games played and not dates
13. Impact of an interruption on the Approved Player Points System
- (a) The APPS qualification has been reduced from 25 game to 20 to reflect shortened seasons over 2020 and 2021 The APPS will be reviewed as standard practice again in 2022.
14. Impact of an Interruption on the Total Player Payment System
- (a) Regardless of any rounds or matches being abandoned, the Total Player Point System regulations and categories shall not be affected
15. Matters not covered
- Should any scenario occur which is not covered by this guide, then the matter shall be referred to the League Executive to determine at their absolute discretion. However, SANFL should be consulted and notified of any scenarios that occur outside of this guide, so we can develop consistent advice and support across the community, that not only align with relevant health advice, but uphold the principles outlined in this policy.