



GREAT
NORTHERN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE (INC)

BY-LAWS

Last Updated: Wednesday 22nd July 2015

INDEX PAGE

Accreditation	21
Appeals – Refusal of Clearance.....	14
Blood and Blood Products.....	21
Charges - by Umpires	7
Charges - other Protests and Disputes.....	7
Clearances - General	12
- Within League.....	13
- Outside League and Interstate	13
- Costs.....	19
- Loss	13
Colours and Logos	8
Default of Clubs	8
Defaulting Players	16
Disqualifications	16
Duties of Ground Manager.....	22
Fairest and Best	27
Finance.....	26
Footballs	18
Forfeit	23
Ineligible Player	11
Injury Report	25
Incorrect Uniform	19
Mandatory Interchange.....	25
Matches.....	22
Melee.....	27
Miss Football.....	21
Night Fixtures	25
Notices.....	8
Offences and Penalties	5
Officials	18
Other Protests and Charges.....	7
Permit Yearly and Weekly	25
Permit Committee	8
Personnel and Playing Arena.....	18
Premiership	24
Protective Gear	19
Protests and Disputes Tribunal	2
Qualification of Players	9
Registration of Players	9
- of Rules of Clubs and Associations	16
Regulations Governing Colts.....	20
Regulations Governing League Players	24
Regulations Governing Reserves Players	19
Starting Times of Games	22
State Representation	27
Team Sheets.....	17
Umpires.....	25
Umpires Board	7
APPENDIX 1 Maurie Drennan Rising Star	29

PROTESTS AND DISPUTES TRIBUNALS

1. Constitution

There shall be a Protests and Disputes Tribunal panel, which shall consist of at least three (3) members, as the Directors may from time to time appoint. Any two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. A person who holds office of any kind in the League or in a League Club shall not be eligible for appointment.

2. Functions

A Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall exercise the following functions and its decision shall be final.

- (a) Hear all charges in respect of offence under the Laws or under these Rules.
- (b) Hear all protests and all disputes and charges against players and officials and any other matters referred to it by the Directors.
- (c) In its absolute discretion reopen and rehear any matter previously dealt with by it provided that by if the Protests and Disputes Tribunal proceeds pursuant to By-Law 3(r), in the absence of a person charged with an offence upon that person showing reasonable cause for his absence it shall reopen and rehear that matter.
- (d) Hear and determine any appeal made by a player who has been disqualified pursuant to Rule 51.
- (e) Impose such penalties authorized by these Rules as it deems fit or it may give a caution.
- (f) Every decision of a Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall be reported to the Directors, and shall be received without comment. A record of same shall be kept by the Football Operations Manager.
- (g) Allow any clerical error on Report Forms to be corrected providing that the correction/s do not substantially alter the charges laid in the report.
- (h) Written notification of the penalty involved for each guilty verdict shall be supplied to the club involved at the conclusion of each case before the P&D.

3. Procedure

The Operations Manager shall in all cases satisfy himself that the relevant Rules have been compiled with before submitting a protest charge or other matter for the hearing and determination of a Protests and Disputes Tribunal.

- (a) A Tribunal shall meet, if possible, to consider any charge at any time convenient to it and the parties involved, but such meeting should commence no later than 8.00pm on the Tuesday night following the event giving rise to the charge.

- (b) A Tribunal shall meet to consider any matter other than a charge at a time convenient to it and the parties involved.
- (c) The Tribunal meetings shall be held at such place as the Directors shall from time to time direct, unless the Tribunal dealing with a particular charge or matter directs some other place of meeting and due advice of such place is given to the parties involved.
- (d) A Tribunal meeting may be adjourned or postponed to another time and or place, as decided upon by League Football Operations Manager or his appointee or Tribunal Chairman or his appointee. Due advice will be given to the parties involved. It is not necessary for the Tribunal to meet to adjourn or postpone a hearing.
- (e) An umpire who lodges a charge against any player or official of a Club shall attend at the Tribunal hearing of that charge.
- (f) Umpires preferring charges against players, officials or Clubs, shall report by post, email or by hand such charges to the League so that such charge will be received in the League Office by 4pm the next business day after the conclusion of the match in which the incident occurred.

Amended: 21/07/2015

- (g) Any player or official of any Club against whom a charge has been lodged shall attend at the Tribunal hearing of the charge.
- (h) Any player or official of any Club against whom an offence has been committed in respect of which a charge has been lodged, shall attend the Tribunal hearing of the charge.
- (i) Any person referred to in paragraphs (e), (g) and (h) of this Rule may be excused from attendance by the Tribunal but only if exceptional circumstances can be established to require such excuse.
- (j) The Tribunal may, of its own motion or at the request of any party to a matter before it, require the attendance at a Tribunal hearing of any player or official of a Club or any umpire and such player, official or umpire shall attend as required.
- (k) Any person required to attend at a Tribunal hearing shall give evidence if required by the Tribunal to do so.
- (l) A player or an official of any Club who appears before a Tribunal as a result of a charge made against him pursuant to the Laws or these Rules shall, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, be represented and/or accompanied at the hearing by a representative of his Club. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph constitutes an offence.
- (m) An umpire preferring a charge under the Laws or these Rules against a player or an official of any Club shall, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, be represented and/or accompanied at the hearing by a

representative of the Umpires Association. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph constitutes an offence.

- (n) A player or any official of any Club or umpire against whom an offence is alleged to have been committed and the offence is the subject of a charge shall, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, be represented and/or accompanied at the hearing of the charge by a representative of his Club or the Umpires Association as the case may be. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph constitute an offence.
- (o) In any other proceeding before a Tribunal a person required to appear may be accompanied and represented at the proceedings by a representative of his Club or the organization to which he belongs.
- (p) In any of the cases referred to in paragraphs (l), (m), (n) and (o) of this Rule the representative of the Club, association or organization shall not be a legal practitioner.
- (q) A Protest and Disputes Tribunal may accept such evidence as it in its discretion determines including, but not limited by, oral evidence, written evidence in any form and video or audio taped evidence.
- (r) A Protest and Disputes Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine any matter it is empowered to hear in the absence of any person who by these By-Laws is required to attend any such hearing providing always that if it does so and within seven days of the date of the hearing a person charged with an offence who was absent and was found guilty of that offence requests the Football Operations Manager, in writing, for a rehearing of the matter the Protest and Disputes Tribunal on being satisfied that reasonable cause exists for so doing shall reopen and rehear the matter as soon as is reasonably convenient. Any suspension imposed on that person shall continue to have full force and effect until the matter is reheard and determined.
- (s) Any player or official required to appear before the Permits Committee or the Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall be paid by the League all such travelling expenses, loss of remuneration or emoluments which in the opinion of the League were reasonably and necessarily incurred by the layer or official in attending such meeting of the Committee or Tribunal. A player shall mean any player whilst playing in League,

Reserves or Colts teams in the Competition. The travelling expenses shall be equivalent to umpires travelling costs and shall be claimed within 30 days of such hearing. This remuneration shall only apply to the reported player if the reported player is found not guilty.

- 4. (a) Any person required by these By-Laws to attend a hearing by a Protest and Disputes Tribunal who fails to attend as required and who on being required in writing to show reasonable cause for such failure does not in the opinion of the Protest and Disputes show reasonable cause for such failure to attend within the time allowed by the tribunal to so do, shall be

guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the Protest and Disputes Tribunal may determine in accordance with these By-Laws.

- (b) any person who -
 - (i) attends a hearing of the Protest and Disputes Tribunal and refuses to answer any questions save one whereby the answer may tend to incriminate that person, or
 - (ii) attends a hearing of the Protests and Disputes Tribunal and in the course of giving evidence wilfully attempts to mislead that tribunal,
or
 - (iii) attends a hearing of a Protest and Disputes Tribunal and acts in an unseemly manner or who wilfully insults any member of the Protest and Disputes Tribunal or disrupts the hearing shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the Protest and Disputes Tribunal may determine in accordance with these By-Laws.
- (c) any player or official who acts or conducts himself or herself in any manner which is prejudicial to the good order, management, control or administration of football or which in any way whatsoever may bring or tend to bring the game into disrepute shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to penalty as the Protest and Disputes Tribunal may determine in an accordance with these By-Laws.

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- 5. (a) Any player or official who is convicted of any reportable offence as defined by the Laws of Football or any offence the directors may from time to time by resolution declare to be an offence by a player, official, club or umpire shall be subject to the penalties set out in this By-Law except where the directors by resolution declare the penalty in respect of a specific offence in which case any person convicted of such a specific offence shall be subject to the specific penalty provided.
- (b) A Protest and Disputes Tribunal and/or the Directors may impose the following penalties in respect of an offence pursuant to the Laws of Football or by these by-laws where no specific penalty or otherwise provided.
 - (i) disqualification from playing or acting as an official as the case may be, in a match or fixture conducted by or under the auspices of the Great Northern Football League for such a period as the Tribunal shall determine.
 - (ii) Deleted 2.04.07
 - (iii) a fine not exceeding \$1000
 - (iv) a fine as set out in (iii) which fine may be wholly or partly suspended for such period of good behaviour of the person so fined, as the tribunal shall determine.

- (v) Deleted 2.04.07
- (vi) Deleted 2.04.07
- (c) Any player who receives a red card and wishes to appeal the decision and requests a Tribunal Hearing shall, if found guilty by the Tribunal serve the prescribed penalty set out on the report plus receive a further suspension as prescribed by the Tribunal. A player shall only be exempt from suspension if found not guilty.
- (d) Any player who plays in any match in the League in breach of these Rules shall in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed be disqualified from playing in any League match for such period as the Tribunal may determine on referral by the Directors.
- (d) While any fine imposed on a player under these Rules remains unpaid the player shall not be eligible to play in any match conducted pursuant to these Rules.
- (e) While any fine imposed on any official or a Club under these Rules remains unpaid after 14 days that Club is not eligible to participate in any match pursuant to these Rules until the fine is paid.
- (f) Any player who has a period of suspension that carries over from one season to the next WILL be permitted to play in any pre-season scratch matches, carnivals or competitions sanctioned by the league. Games played in these pre-season matches, carnivals or competitions shall not count towards reducing the original penalty which shall be served in normal home & away fixtures. Should a player re-offend in pre-season games then the penalty shall be at least double the prescribed penalty plus the original term and the player will be required to appear before the Protests & Disputes Board who will ratify the penalty at their discretion.

(By Law 5(f) amended 5/02/2001)

CHARGES BY UMPIRES

6. Umpires preferring charges against players shall do so in accordance with and shall otherwise comply with the Laws.
7. Umpires may also prefer charges against Clubs or against coaches or other officials of any Club in respect of matters arising out of or in the course of any game and in relation thereto shall so far as possible follow the same procedure as in the case of charges against players.
8. A field umpire who officiates at any match controlled by the League shall have the power to prefer charges regardless of age.
9. Boundary and goal umpires under the age of fifteen (15) years officiating at matches controlled by the League are not empowered to prefer charges.
10. The GNFL order off rule as approved by the West Australian Football Commission will apply in all games conducted/sanctioned by the League.

OTHER PROTESTS AND CHARGES

11. Any Club *or Umpire* making any protest or charge against another Club or player or official or member of another Club or reporting any infringement of these Rules or the Laws shall lodge the same with particulars in writing with the Football Operations Manager, together with the sum of *\$100.00* within forty eight hours after the date upon which the occurrence complained of took place. Any protest or charge under this Rule shall be referred to the Directors and be considered by them no later than at the meeting of the Directors next following the date upon which such protest or charge was received by the Football Operations Manager. The Directors may dismiss any such protest or charge if they consider it frivolous or vexatious, but otherwise they shall refer it to the Tribunal for determination. The said sum of *\$100.00* shall be forfeited to the League upon dismissal by the Directors or if it be decided by the Tribunal that the protest or charge was frivolous or groundless, but shall be refunded if the protest or charge is upheld if the Tribunal so directs.
Amended 18/08/03
12. Any Club making a protest or charge against another Club or player, or official, or member of another Club shall give notice thereof and of the particulars to such Club Secretary with 24 hours after lodging the same with the League Football Operations Manager.

UMPIRES' BOARD

13. An independent umpires' appointment board, comprising not more than six members shall be appointed by the Directors, and the Chairman of such Board shall be the Director of Umpires and such Chairman will have the casting vote.
14. Umpires' observers/advisors shall be appointed by the Umpires Appointment Board. The observers are to submit written reports to the umpires' board on the performance of the umpires at the game observed.

PERMIT COMMITTEE

15. There shall be a permit committee that shall comprise the Directors, the Chairman shall be the Director of permits and clearances. The committee shall exercise the following functions:
- (a) Hear and determine all applications relating to clearances.
 - (b) Grant or refuse a permit to any player.
 - (c) Hear and determine any question relating to the right or qualification of any person to play with any particular Club.
16. Rules 18 and 19 of the Constitution shall apply to all meetings of the Permit Committee.
17. All fines or other penalties imposed under or pursuant to these Rules shall be paid into the funds of the League.

DEFAULT OF CLUBS

18. If any player shall fail to pay any fine imposed upon him under these Rules such player shall be disqualified from playing in any match controlled by the League until such fine has been paid.
- (a) A player shall be deemed to be in default until the fine is paid.
 - (b) The payment of fines imposed on an official under these Rules shall be the responsibility of his Club. They shall be paid by the Club within seven (7) days after imposition. Failure by the Club to pay shall carry the same consequence as under Rule 5(e).

NOTICES

19. Any notice to be given for the purposes of these Rules may be given by registered letter and if so given will be deemed to have been received by the addressees in the ordinary course of post. Notices to Club members, players and officials may be addressed to them care of their Club.

COLOURS AND LOGOS

20. Every Club upon admission to the League shall apply for and obtain permission of the Directors to use the colours, logo, uniform and design under which the Club proposes to play and the same when approved by the League shall be registered by the League Football Operations Manager.
21. Any Club desiring to vary or alter its colours, logo, uniform or design shall first apply for and obtain the permission of the Directors to make such variation or alteration and when approved the same shall be registered by the League Football Operations Manager provided always that notice of such change of colours logo or alteration of design is given to the League not later than the first day of February in the year to that in which such change is to be effected.
22. Registration of such colours, logo, uniform and design by Clubs shall give such Clubs the exclusive right to such colours, logo, uniform and design as against any other Club subsequently attempting to register the same colours, logo, uniform and design.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS

23. In Rules 24 to 53 inclusive the context otherwise requires the expressions:
- a) "Club" shall mean a Club which is a member of the League;
 - b) "Player" shall mean any person who shall have been granted a permit *to play* by the *Football Operations Manager*, permit committee or *delegated agent* to play with a Club which is a member of the League;
 - (c) "State" shall mean any of the States and territories of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Amended 18/08/03

This section PERMITS through to "Registration of Players' Page 10 were deleted and replaced with the following By-Laws 24 –32 18/08/03

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 24 (a) Subject as herein provided any person desiring to play with any Club after 1 February in the League, Reserves or Colts competition, must first apply for and be granted a permit to play by the Football Operations Manager or its delegated agent, before he is eligible to play with such Club.
- (b) Registrations may be granted at any time throughout the season and prior to the qualifying round of games.
- 25 If any person being otherwise duly qualified under these Rules shall desire to play with his Club prior to a permit to play having been granted to him, then provided he lodges with the Field Umpire in the match in which he desires to play a Registration application for permit to play on the prescribed form before the commencement of the match such person shall be eligible to play with his Club until such time as his application for permit to play has been finally dealt with by the Football Operations Manager.
- 26 All applications for registration must be submitted on the official form and must be in the hands of the League before 4.00pm on the Monday following the day on which the applicant plays. (Use of Umpire Red Bags permitted.)
- 27 Any person wishing to obtain a clearance within these Rules & Regulations must make application for registration as a player of the Club with whom he wishes to play, which then must be **attached** to the application for clearance. Together, they may be faxed to the League Office and originals forwarded to the League Office.
- 28 (a) No permit to play shall be granted on any clearance unless the Clearance application was lodged using the Sportingpulse Online system or with the League Football Operations Manager by 30 June in each year.
- (b) In the case of any person applying for a permit to play, subject to written confirmation who is a full time member of the Armed Services or a Reservist on active duty, or a person genuinely transferred into the region by their employer, or to operate a business venture – the Football Operations Manager may grant a permit to play after the normal 30 June cut off. Any player granted such a permit may only participate in Finals provided the normal qualifying criteria have been met.
- (c) If any person shall have applied on a Registration form for a permit to play with a Club and before such application shall have been dealt with by the Football Operations Manager, he shall have made further application on a Registration form for a permit to play with another Club, then and in such case the Directors may refuse such player any permit at all for such period as it may think fit.
- (d) A permit to play shall be subject to review by the Directors at any time.

- 29 On receipt of registration the Football Operations Manager or delegated agent will check all details for eligibility and record on Club's Players List. Registration form with permit to play signed by the Football Operations Manager or delegated agent will be returned to Club – original to be filed in League office.
- 30 Any person who makes a false declaration on his Registration Form ***renders himself liable to a fine of \$100 or suspension and*** shall not be eligible to play until such time as a new application has been lodged and approved by the Directors.
- 31 A registration will be cancelled and the player de-registered if:
- The Directors decide accordingly; or
 - The player is cleared to a club in another League or Association; or
 - A Club deletes the player off the player's list at the beginning of each season. (see Re-Registration)

RE-REGISTRATION -

Prior to the commencement of each season, unless the Directors should decide otherwise, each Club shall forward to the League a list arranged in alphabetical order of such of its players of the previous season as it may desire to re-register. Any other player of the previous season may be re-registered at any subsequent time during the qualifying round of games provided he completes a new application for a registration to play and no such player shall be eligible to play until he is so registered.

INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 32 (a) An ineligible player shall be defined as any one of the following persons:
- A person who is not registered with the League.
 - A person who is not cleared to the League.
 - A person who is registered with the League but has been suspended.
 - A person who has had his permit withdrawn.
 - A person over the age defined to be eligible to participate in the Colts competition.
 - A person who fails to comply with eligibility for a final round game as defined in By-Law 61 and 62.
- (b) Any Club which includes in its team an ineligible player, defined above, will be fined the sum of **\$50** dollars for each ineligible player and shall automatically lose any match points gained by winning or drawing the game in which such player or players participated. Irrespective of scores in such game the opposing team shall be declared the winner and shall be accredited with the match and the offending team shall lose all points scored by it in such game.
- (c) The premiership table shall be adjusted by:
- (i) deducting the number of points scored by the team playing the ineligible player.
 - (ii) Deduct the four (4) match points of the team playing the ineligible player if it won the game.
 - (iii) Correcting the percentage figure

The team awarded the match has:

- (i) the number of points scored by the other team deducted from their "against" figure.
- (ii) Receives four (4) match points if it lost the game.
- (iii) The percentage figure adjusted

CLEARANCES

- 33. A player who desires to play with another Club must first obtain a clearance from his original Club.
- 34. (a) A player who has been cleared by his Club in any other League or Association who subsequently desires to return and play with a Club, other than his former Club, shall be required to obtain a clearance from his former Club as well as from the Club in the other League or Association.
- (b) Any player not having played during the previous 24 calendar months shall receive an automatic clearance provided he is not under disqualification or bound by contract to his former Club and this clearance may be granted at any time during the season. Whilst the clearance is automatic the normal clearance and registration papers must be completed and presented. *Amended 16/12/05*
- 35. The Clearance and Permit Regulations of the National Player Transfer Regulations shall apply to all interstate clearances and applications for a clearance interstate shall be made and dealt with in accordance with such regulations using the Sportingpulse online clearance system.
- 36. A player or a person who is bound to a Club who has not played football within 18 months of the date of refusal of his first application for a clearance hereunder shall not require a clearance from his former club or affiliated body. For the purposes of this rule "football" shall mean football matches between teams whether or not organized or controlled by the League.
- 37. All applications for clearances and/or permits and the grant/refusal of a clearance/permit shall be made using the Sporting Pulse online player clearance system.
- 38. If the clearance is approved, the Football Operations Manager will then register the player or person as a player of the Club to which he has been cleared but no such registration shall be effected in any year except on a clearance application which was lodged with the League Football Operations Manager before 1 July in that year.

CLEARANCE - WITHIN LEAGUE - ATTENTION BY CLUBS

- 39. (a) As and from the first day of February in each year if a player shall have applied to his club for a clearance to another club, and such Club shall not reply to such application within six (6) business days after the same application has been submitted into the Sporting Pulse online player clearance system then the clearance applied for will be automatically processed. The six (6) Business day period shall begin from the date the clearance is submitted into the Sporting Pulse online player clearance system..
- 39(b) A Club or Controlling Body which refuses to grant an application for transfer lodged by a player shall be required to state on the application its reason for refusing to grant the application. Such reasons for refusal, together with the players stated reasons for

seeking a transfer, shall be the basis on which any subsequent appeal shall be determined. Failure to do so may be taken into consideration by an Appeals Board in any relevant subsequent appeal

Added 16/12/05

CLEARANCES - OUTSIDE LEAGUE AND INTERSTATE

40. (a) As and from the first day of February in each year if a player shall have applied to his club for a clearance to another club, and such Club shall not reply to such application within 6 business days after the same application has been submitted into the Sporting Pulse online player clearance system then the clearance applied for will be automatically processed.
- (b) The six (6) business day period shall begin from the date the clearance is submitted into the sportingpulse online player clearance system. This also includes some Public Holidays and is indicated in brackets in the transfer list.

LOSS OF CLEARANCES

41. If a clearance is lost, it may be resubmitted within twenty four hours by the Club requiring the clearance.

APPEALS – REFUSAL OF CLEARANCE

Amended 18.08.03

42. (a) A player or person who is bound to a Club who desires to transfer from a Club to another Club, other Country Club or WAFL shall after having made two (2) applications for a clearance to that end in the prescribed manner and which application has been refused be entitled to appeal to the GNFL Appeals Board.
- (b) An appeal to the GNFL Appeals Board shall be made in writing to and lodged with the League Football Operations Manager within 14 days after the date upon which the second application for such a clearance has been refused. Such notice of appeal shall have annexed to it a further clearance application completed by the player or person. The League Football Operations Manager shall immediately upon receipt of such appeal transmit it to the Chairman for the time being of the GNFL by or on behalf of the player or person to the club from which he is seeking a clearance within 24 hours of lodgement.
- (c) The GNFL Appeals Board shall hear any such appeal within a period of 21 days after such appeal has been lodged or within such further period of time as the Chairman of the GNFL Appeal Board may direct.
- (d) The player or person making the appeal and the club against whose refusal of a clearance the appeal has been made shall be the parties to the appeal.
- (e) An appeal heard by the GNFL Appeals Board shall be heard at a place appointed by its Chairman.
- (f) The provisions of this rule shall not apply to a player or person disqualified under these rules so long as he shall remain disqualified.

43. (a) The player or person making the appeal to the GNFL Appeals Board and the Club against whose refusal of a clearance such an appeal has been brought shall be entitled to appear upon the hearing of such appeal with such representative as he or it shall nominate providing that such representative shall not be a person legally qualified to practice as a barrister and/or solicitor.
- (b) The GNFL Appeals Board may grant or refuse a clearance to the player or person appealing to it, and in reaching its decision the GNFL Appeals Board shall consider and take into account all the circumstances and matters relevant to the appeal for the clearance in respect of which the appeal has been made including but without being limited to:
- (i) the interest of the public and the game of Australian Football;
 - (ii) the interest of the club from whom the clearance has been sought;
 - (iii) the interest of the club to whom the clearance is sought;
 - (iv) the interest in all respects of the player or person making the appeal;
 - (v) any hardships (whether financial or otherwise) likely to be suffered by the player or person making the appeal in the event of the appeal being disallowed and a clearance refused;
 - (vi) the age of the player or person making the appeal;
 - (vii) the interest of the League;
 - (viii) the service given by and the value of the player or person appealing to the club from which such clearance is sought;
 - (ix) the consideration of appropriate transfer fees in regards to :
 - 1) in the case where a Club has requested a clearance for a player with AFL experience tied to another GNFL Club and a transfer fee has been requested by the former Club and the Clubs' cannot reach agreement, at appeal the Appeal Board may adjudicate and direct that a transfer fee up to a maximum of \$1200.00 be awarded to the losing Club, payable by the gaining Club, prior to the said player being cleared and being granted a permit to play in the GNFL.
 - 2) Similar to rule (1) above if the player concerned is an ex WAFL or Westar Rules player returning to the GNFL the maximum fee shall be \$750.00.
 - 3) Similar to rule (1) and (2) above if the player is a League player under the age of 21 years and has not given the losing Club service in excess of 35 League games then the maximum transfer fee shall be \$600.00.
- (c) (i) the GNFL Appeals Board may decide to grant a clearance on such conditions as the GNFL Appeals Board shall consider fair and reasonable in all circumstances having regard to the matters referred to in paragraph (b) of this rule;

- (ii) in the event of the GNFL Appeals Board deciding that it will grant a clearance subject to conditions the GNFL Appeals Board shall not grant the clearance sought until the conditions imposed have been fulfilled.
- (d) Where the GNFL Appeals Board allows the appeal of a player or person and grant him the clearance he has sought the Chairman shall endorse all documents and do all other matters and things necessary and required to give effect to the decision of the GNFL Appeals Board and the granting of such clearances.
- (e) The decision of the GNFL Appeals Board shall be final and conclusive and binding upon all parties to the appeal and no further appeal shall lie from it to any other tribunal, Board or body whether judicial, quasijudicial, administrative or otherwise (other than any similar tribunal of the National Football League).
- (f) Each of the paragraphs or sub-paragraphs of this rule is and I {intended to be constituted separately and independently from each other paragraph and sub-paragraph and in the event of any one of such paragraphs or sub-paragraphs being held to be invalid for any such reason whatsoever such validity shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining paragraphs or sub-paragraphs.
- (g) Where no GNFL Appeals Board is in place the GNFL name will be replaced by the WACFL Appeals Board.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS BY FORM 4

- 44. *Deleted 18.08.03*
- 45. *Deleted 18.08.03*
- 46. *Deleted 18.08.03*
- 47. *Deleted 18.08.03*

REGISTRATION OF RULES OF CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- 48. Every club admitted to the League shall deposit with the League Football Operations Manager forthwith upon admission or affiliation a copy of the rules of such club and shall also deposit with the Secretary a copy of every amendment thereof certified as aforesaid within 14 days after such amendment shall have been made.

DEFAULTING PLAYERS

- 49. The Secretary of every club shall send to the League Football Operations Manager the name of any member of the club who is in default by reason of breach of rules of such club together with particulars of the default and of the rule infringed within 14 days after such default shall have been discovered. At least 3 days before sending to the League Football Operations Manager the name of such defaulting player, the Secretary of his club shall give notice in writing to such member of his intention to do so.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

50. Any player who is reported by his Club to the League Football Operations Manager as a defaulter shall be disqualified from playing in any match controlled by the League until his Club has reported to the League Football Operations Manager that it does not desire such disqualification to continue or until such player has appealed to the Protests and Disputes Tribunal against a charge of default made against him by his Club, and such appeal has been allowed.
51. Any player who has been selected and has signified his willingness to play in any Interstate or other combined match who fail to play without having given at least 24 hours notice to the Secretary of the League shall be disqualified from playing in any match controlled by the League for such a period as the Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall determine on referral by the Directors.
52. Any Club which plays a player who is ineligible to play with such Club or who is disqualified from playing under these rules shall forfeit the match in which such player takes part.
53. (a) A player who has played with any Club represented in an Unaffiliated Body must obtain a permit *to play* from the League before being allowed to play with any League Club and/or affiliated body. A player (as defined) desiring to transfer to a Club or an Unaffiliated Body and/or affiliated body shall obtain a clearance from his Club endorsed by the League.

Amended 18.08.03

- (b) Any player who plays in a match arranged by any body which is not affiliated with the League, except where clearance has been granted, *the Directors may:*
- (i) Disqualify the player from playing in any match in competition arranged by the League or in which the League, or Clubs of the League participate for a period of *up to* two (2) years from the time he last played in a match with the unaffiliated body.
 - (ii) Impose any other penalty, including a fine, suspended sentence, reprimand or not impose a penalty as deemed appropriate to the particular case. Rule 53b

Amended 26/04/99

- (c) Any player *penalised* by reason of sub-rule (b) of this rule may appeal against his *penalty* by notice in writing to the Directors who may in their absolute discretion *remit or vary the penalty* if they are satisfied that the circumstances of the case are so special as to justify them so doing. Rule 53c

Amended 26/04/99

DEFINITION A player shall mean any player who has received permission to play with League, Reserves or Colts or on who is a playing member of any Club the rules of whose controlling body demand the passing of a clearance through the GNFL before being eligible to transfer to an Unaffiliated body and/or affiliated bodies.

TEAM SHEETS

54. (a) Prior to the commencement of each game in any grade of GNFL the participating team's manager shall present to the officiating field umpires an Official team sheet in duplicate showing the following:

- (i) Surname, Christian name and guernsey number of each player participating in the game, listed in alphabetical order of Surname.
 - (ii) Which players are starting the game as interchange players.
 - (iii) Full name of official team runner(s).
 - (iv) Name and signature of the team manager.
 - (v) Name of the Coach and Assistant Coach(es)
 - (vi) Name of at least one (1) team Trainer.
- b) Any Club whose team fails to provide any or all of the above information shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00.

FOOTBALLS

55. The home Club is to provide the football(s) to be used in all matches apart from the Finals, where the League will provide all match footballs.

PERSONNEL AND PLAYING ARENA

56. The maximum number of personnel permitted in the area between the boundary line and the arena fence or inside the marked coaches box shall be twelve (12).

OFFICIALS

57. (a) A suspended player may not act as a Club runner, trainer or waterboy.
- (b) A team coach and/or assistant coach may not be the team runner.
- (c) A maximum of two people may act as the official team runner; however only one team runner will be permitted on the field of play at any one time during play and must enter through the interchange area. Note if only one runner is being used they may enter the ground directly from the team bench. The official team runner must wear dark blue track pants/shorts and a fluorescent green top. Exception to this is Northampton Football Club who will wear orange.
Amended 18/02/2009
- (d) There shall be an automatic fine of not less than \$25 on any runner, trainer or waterboy who in any way interferes, handles or verbally abuses any player from the opposing team. An umpires report to the P&D shall take precedence over this By-Law.
- (e) Waterboys and trainers are to be attired in white clothing and wear appropriate enclosed footwear. *Amended 29/4/05*
- (f) Runners are to wear iridescent green tops.
- (g) The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of his/her club and to immediately leave the playing arena.

- (h) The sole duty of a water carrier shall be to convey water to player and to immediately leave the playing arena.
- (i) The officiating field umpire may upon infringement of the rule order the runner, trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the arena for a period of 15 minutes. *Inserted g,h & ,i 16/12/05*

PROTECTIVE GEAR

58. Before any protective gear may be worn in a match it must be submitted to the League for approval along with a Doctor's certificate stating the reason for the need of protective gear.

INCORRECT UNIFORMS

59. The fine for each incorrectly attired player shall be \$10.

CLEARANCE COST

60. *Deleted 29/4/15*

REGULATIONS GOVERNING RESERVE PLAYERS

61. (a) Subject to Rule (c), a player qualifies for final round matches after he has played in three (3) Reserves matches in the relevant season.
Amended 16/12/05
- (b) Subject to Rule c, if a player has played in one or more matches for his Clubs League team in the relevant football season, he may only be selected in his Clubs Reserve team for a final series game if he has played a total of at least four (4) matches in his Clubs reserve team in that season.
Amended 29/04/15
- (c) If a Clubs League team and Reserves team are both engaged in final series games on one day, Rule (a) & (b) shall not apply.
- (d) A League player means any player who has played in a League match in season then current.
- (e) A player who is nominated as an interchange player is deemed to have played on the day on which he was nominated as an interchange player.
- (f) Any player who plays in a Reserves match prior to playing in a League match will have both matches count towards finals qualification.
Amended 2015
- (g) A League player is not eligible to play in the Reserves competition on that weekend that his League team has a bye if he played in the League team's previous game. A final round game is not considered to be a bye.
- (h) If a Reserves game is played on the same weekend as an inter-league game then a player is not eligible to play in that Reserves game if he played in his league team's previous game.
- (i) If a qualified Reserves player takes part in a League final series game he shall not be eligible to play in a postponed or replayed Reserves final series game the following weekend.

- (j) All Reserves games shall be played over four twenty minutes quarters plus time on for stretcher or unforeseen stoppage only.
- (k) Commencement time for the Reserves fixtures will be 12:30pm unless otherwise approved by the Football Operations Manager.
Amended 24/04/02
- (l) Each participating Reserve team shall consist of 22 players consisting of 18 on-field players and 4 interchange players. Should any team have less than 18 players, then the opposing team must even-up. E.g. If Team A has 16 players total, Team B can only play with 16 on the field and up to 6 on the bench. A decision on whether to use the even-up ruling will be made by the umpires when they receive the teams lists prior to the commencement of the game.

Amended 6/06/02/ Amended 19/12/03

NOTE: The minimum number of players required to play a game is 14.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING COLTS PLAYERS

- 62. (a) Age: 19 years or under as of December 31st in the current season.
E.g Players turning 20 at any stage of the year are NOT eligible for Colts.
Amended 29/4/15
- (b) Subject to rule (d) a player qualifies for the final series after he has played in three (3) matches in the current year. *Amended 24/04/02& 16/12/05*
- (c) Subject to rule (d), if a player has played in one or more matches for his Clubs League team or Reserves team in the relevant football season, he may only be selected in his Clubs Colts team for a final series game if he has played a total of at least four matches in his Clubs Colts team in that season.
- (d) If a Club's League team and Colts team are both engaged in final series games on one day, rules b & c shall not apply. If a Club's Reserves team and Colts team are both engaged in final series games on the same day, rules b & c shall not apply to a Reserves player.
Amended 04/09/06
- (e) A League player shall mean any player who has played a League match during the current season. A Reserves player shall mean any player who has played a Reserves match and has NOT played a League match during the current season.
- (f) All matches played will count towards finals qualifications, even if the player plays in multiple matches on the same day.
Amended 29/04/15
- (g) A player is not eligible to play in a Colts match on the same weekend as there is an inter-league game if that player played for his League or Reserves previous game.
- (h) A Colts player named as a player under the provision of rule (f) is exempt from rule (g).

- (i) If a qualified Colts player takes part in a final series match of the League or Reserves competition, he shall NOT be eligible to play in a postponed or replayed final series match of the Colts competition the following weekend.
- (j) Each participating Colts team shall consist of 22 players consisting of 18 on-field players and 4 interchange players. Should any team have less than 18 players, then the opposing team must even-up. E.g. If Team A has 16 players total, Team B can only play with 16 on the field and up to 6 on the bench. A decision on whether to use the even-up ruling will be made by the umpires when they receive the teams lists prior to the commencement of the game.

NOTE: The minimum number of players required to play a game is 14.

- (k) Colts matches shall be played over four twenty minute quarters plus time on for stretcher time or unforeseen stoppage only. Fixtures will commence at 10.30 am unless otherwise approved by the Football Operations Manager.

Amended 24/04/02

- (l) All players named as interchange players must be interchanged into the game at least once during the game.
- (m) Deleted 8/11/99
- (n) A colts player selected to represent the League at an Inter-League match or representative carnival shall be credited with one colts game to count towards finals qualification.

MISS FOOTBALL

- 63. (a) Each League Club *shall* supply a nomination for the Miss Football before the start of the season. Miss Football is a fundraising activity by the League for the Clubs.

Amended to remove costing details 8/11/99

- (b) *Deleted 8/11/99*

BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS

- 64. Any player who is bleeding while on the field of play shall be interchanged and may only return when the bleeding has been stopped and the blood cleared from the affected area. Blood stained clothing must also be changed.

ACCREDITATION

- 65. All Coaches, Trainers and Umpires of all affiliated Clubs of the GNFL are to be accredited to at least Level 1 prior to 30th June of the year of appointment.

Amended 29/4/05 & 15/03/06

- (a) If an unaccredited coach continues to coach, a penalty will be imposed by the GNFL in the form of a financial fine for the club involved, and/or loss of match points for matches won. This penalty shall be at the discretion of the League Directors.

Added 29/4/05

DUTIES OF GROUND MANAGER

66. (a) To prepare Wages and Salary sheet for the day of the game.
- (b) To prepare Best player and score sheets.
- (c) Ensure accurate Records of: Scores quarter by quarter
All goal kickers
Club nominated best players
- (d) Collect fairest and best envelopes from umpires and seal in envelope supplied.
- (e) Give envelope (containing completed League documents) to League field umpires for return to League Football Operations Manager.
- (f) Ensure that all necessary ground staff are in place prior to commencement of play i.e. Timekeepers, Interchange Steward and Score Board Attendant.
- (g) Ensure all adequate crowd control measures are available and implemented, including the restriction of patrons consuming alcohol inside licensed area(s).
- (h) Ensure the venue and playing surface are inspected prior to the commencement of play and free of any objects which have the potential to cause injury to players and/or spectators

MATCHES

67. No Club which is a member of the League shall play any match without the sanction of the League.

STARTING TIMES FOR GAMES

68. (a) COLTS Commence 10.30am. All quarters 20 minutes flat with allowance for time off for stretcher time and other unforeseen stoppage. *Amended 24/04/02*
- RESERVES Commence 12.30pm. All Quarters 20 minutes flat with Allowance for time off for stretcher time and other unforeseen stoppage. *Amended 24/04/02*
- LEAGUE Commence 2:30pm. All Quarters 20 minutes plus time on. *Amended 24/04/02*

TIME BETWEEN QUARTERS

- 1st Quarter - 3 minutes (Siren after 1 min)
Half time - 15 minutes (Siren after 12 min) (20 minutes if a junior game is being played, Siren after 17 min)
3rd Quarter - 5 minutes (Siren after 2 min)

- (c) **For Reserves and Colts final's games all quarters will be 15 minutes plus time on. League game will be 20 minutes plus time on.**

Inserted 25/10/04 & 16/12/05

Timekeepers shall indicate the end of each quarter by sounding the siren and play shall end when the field umpire signifies that he has heard it by sounding his whistle and holding up both hands.

- (b) The League may vary starting times where it is deemed necessary.
69. (a) If a team is late for the start of any quarter according to the official reports, then that team shall be fined \$50. Two or more minutes shall be deemed to be late.
- (b) If any Club shall not be ready to start play within ten minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of any quarter, such Club shall forfeit the match unless the Directors be satisfied that the delay was unavoidable.
- (c) Each quarter shall not commence until both teams are in position and the Umpires have been advised by the captains or acting captains of their teams readiness to play.
70. At all matches played in the League competition unless otherwise especially arranged, a siren or other approved device shall be sounded to commence the match and to terminate each period therein.
71. In the event of any disagreement between the 2 timekeepers as to the length or variation of any quarter such dispute shall in the case of the first or second quarter such dispute shall be reported to the field umpire at half time and in the case of the third and fourth quarters it shall be reported at the conclusion of the game. The field umpire shall note such disagreement in his report to the League. Such report shall be referred to the next meeting of the Directors and in the event of a protest on the result of the match on the ground of an error in timekeeping a copy of the report will be made available to the Protest and Disputes Tribunal.
72. Any Club may protest the result of a match to the Protests and Disputes Tribunal on the ground that the result was affected by an error in timekeeping. The P&D Tribunal may confirm the result of the match or may award it to the losing club. In the event of the Tribunal hearing awarding the match to the losing Club, the total points scored by both teams shall stand and count in the general percentages.

FORFEIT

Included 18.08.03

73. (a) Where a team forfeits a match, the full match Premiership points shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit. The team receiving the forfeit shall be credited with 60 points for and 0 points against. The team forfeiting the match shall be credited with 0 points for and 60 points against.
- (b) A forfeiting team is responsible for match payments and travelling costs incurred by all umpires for the forfeited match. All payments will be made by the ground manager but in the case of an away team forfeiting, the home Club may claim the relevant amount from the League. This amount

with any fine imposed by the League shall be debited against the forfeiting club.

74. No Club shall abstain from playing any match without first obtaining the permission of the Directors.

PREMIERSHIP

75. The Football Operations Manager shall arrange and submit for the approval of the Directors the programme of Premiership matches to be played by the Clubs in each year. Such a programme shall consist of qualifying and final rounds.

Amended 18.08.03

76. In the qualifying round of matches each Club will play against each of the other clubs as many matches as the programme will permit. Four points shall be counted for a win and two points for a draw. In the event of any Clubs gaining the same number of points at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds, the position of such clubs shall be determined by percentage.

77. The Final round of matches shall commence after the Qualifying round has been concluded and shall consist of at least four matches to be played between the four clubs leading at the conclusion of the qualifying round and the draw shall be as follows:

First Semi-Final - The third team shall play the fourth team.

Second Semi-Final - The first team shall play the second team.

Final - The winner of the first final shall meet the loser of the second final.

Grand Final - The winner of the second final shall meet the winner of the Final. The winner of such Grand Final shall be premiers of that season.

78. In the event of a draw in any finals match, other than the League Grand Final, then 5 minutes each way with time on shall be played to determine a winner. If then still a draw, the match shall be replayed. The League Grand Final MUST be replayed if drawn after normal playing time.

79. Where a match result is altered on a protest the team winning the protest shall be awarded full premiership points. Points scored 'for and against' in such match will be recorded as usual for both teams.

UMPIRES

80. Field umpires shall lodge with the League Football Operations Manager before 8.00pm on the day of the match, a report in writing containing the following particulars:

- (a) The time when the match commenced.

- (b) The final scores and such other information as is required on the form of the umpire's report prescribed for same.
- (c) Such other remarks and observation as the umpire may think proper to report.
- (d) The carrying out of the duties as to reporting players in accordance with the Laws of the game.
- (e) Any dispute reported to him regarding the correctness of the time interval of any quarter or the start to finish of any quarter.

81. *Deleted 8/11/99*

NIGHT FIXTURES

- 82. (a) Yellow footballs are to be used in all night games, supplied by the home club.
- (b) In the event of a power failure and the lights are not restored to power within 15 minutes, then the game will be abandoned not to be replayed.
- (c) In an abandoned match, each team shall receive 2 points. All scores for and against shall be added to each teams totals.

INJURY REPORT

- 83. If a player requires hospital treatment as a result of playing in a GNFL match, the player's club must report the injury to the League Football Operations Manager within 48 hours on the Injury Report Form.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING LEAGUE PLAYERS

- 84. Each team shall consist of a maximum of 22 players consisting of 18 on the field at any one time and 4 interchange players not withstanding that subject to the send-off rule shall not be replaced during their penalty time. The only variation to the maximum number of players will be at the discretion of the GNFL Board of Directors, however at no stage may more than 18 players for one team take the field.

YEARLY & WEEKLY PERMIT

- 85. a) A player who is qualified to play with one club may gain a permit to play for one season with another club providing that the former club approves the permit. The permit must be lodged with the GNFL Secretary. It expires on 30 November of that year.
- b) Weekly permits, for players registered with a Westar club, whose immediate previous registration was with a GNFL club, will be allowed in the following circumstances:
 - When their Westar club has a bye.
 - When they are not selected and did not participate in a game for their Westar club or an affiliated club of their Westar club on the weekend of their application.
 - The permit is approved and signed by their Westar club and the player.

- The *initial permit* is lodged with a *Registration Form* and be in the hands of the League before 4.00pm on the Monday following the day on which the applicant plays. (Use of Red Bags permitted).
 - No more than two players in total from Westar clubs may participate on weekly permits for a GNFL club (league reserves and colts) in any one round.
- c) A weekly permit will not be allowed between clubs other than from Westar Rules clubs except as allowed for under West Australian Country Football League rules pertaining to students living away from home. Adopted 7/6/99
Amended 18.08.03

FINANCE

86. Annual subscriptions as prescribed by the Directors shall be paid by the club as follows:
- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Prior to the - | First Premiership match | 30% |
| | Second round | 30% |
| | Final round | 40% |
87. All fines and penalties imposed by the Directors shall be paid within 14 days.
88. All other monies owing to the League by clubs, players and officials shall be paid within 30 days unless otherwise stated.
89. The Directors may by resolution impose a fine or penalty on a club who is in default of paying outstanding monies to the League.
- (a) Any funds owed to the League not paid by the due date shall be deemed to be outstanding.
 - (b) Any fine or penalty imposed under this rule shall be at the Directors discretion.
 - (c) Any fine or penalty imposed on a club for a contravention of this rule shall be paid within fourteen days and any failure of a club so to effect payment shall carry the same consequences as are provided under rule 5(e) governing fines imposed on officials and clubs.
90. The directors may from time to time impose a fine or other penalty for any act or omission by any club official, or member, or player, or umpire or official of the League.
- (a) A fine shall not exceed \$1000
 - (b) Consequences for non payment of a fine shall be the same as for rules 5(d) and 5(e).
91. Deleted 8/11/99

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

92. A State Representative will be credited with local home and away games at the level they were playing prior to selection.

GNFL FAIREST AND BEST

93. (a) The field umpire(s) will select 5 players (league) and 3 players (reserves and colts) and place them in order of preference. The highest number of votes going to the first choice.
- (b) The player with the highest number of votes at the end of the season prior to the finals will be adjudged the winner.
- (c) In the event of a tie then there shall be joint winners.
- (d) No player will be eligible to win the GNFL fairest and best if he has been found guilty of an offence while playing for his Club or a representative GNFL side in the current season unless his penalty was no greater than a CAUTION.
94. The Directors shall appoint a Secretary and Treasurer or a Secretary/Treasurer. Duties of the position are as specified in these rules or as determined by the Directors and subject thereto will be responsible to the Directors and for promoting the affairs of the League. The appointment will be for a one year term and the position may also be known as the Football Operations Manager or similar title.
95. All official correspondence from the Clubs to the League shall be in writing.

MELEES

96. A melee involves six (6) or more players and/or officials and their behaviour is such that it brings the game into disrepute.
Where players come into dispute during a game and this involves pushing, chesting and wrestling, this will be interpreted by the GNFL as a melee. In this situation it will be the responsibility of the Field Umpire to use the send-off rule, 50 metre penalty or reporting to discipline players as required.
Fines for a melee will be a minimum \$250.00 up to a maximum \$1,000.00 and, in addition a further suspended penalty of the same will be imposed and remain in force for a period of twelve (12) months. It will be in force during the finals and will apply to all three grades.
In this by-law, Official of a Club includes any Director, committee member, employer, coach, team support person or any person acting as or holding themselves as an agent of a Club.

Amended 24/04/02

WHITE SHORTS

97. Clubs are permitted to wear White Shorts when a Uniform clash has been identified by the GNFL Operations Manager. Uniform clashes are to be announced at the commencement of each season when the fixtures are finalised.

VIDEO FOOTAGE – LEAGUE FIXTURES

98. It is a requirement of the home club to film the League match. Failure to do so When provided with a GNFL Video Camera will result in an automatic \$200 fine.

GNFL REPRESENTATIVE SIDES

99. Any player who is announced in a GNFL representative side at the time of the Official Jumper Presentations and then fails to attend the respective carnival, except where exceptional personal circumstances are involved as approved by the GNFL Board of Directors, will be automatically suspended for one match immediately following the relevant competition/carnival.

APPENDIX 1

MAURIE DRENNAN RISING STAR AWARD

Awarded to the best young player in the Great Northern Football League each year.

RULES

- The award will be presented at the League presentation night at the end of the season. To be eligible a player must be under 20 years of age on the presentation night and to have played less than 50 league games on the date of nomination, and previously not won the award.

Amended 29/04/05

- Eligible players will be marked by asterisk by the team manager on the players list.
- It will be voted on by the field umpires in charge of League games only.
- The voting slip contains provision for three nominations. However, the umpires will only nominate deserving players. Ie. If there is only one eligible player worthy of a nomination they will only nominate that player and not fill in the other spaces. Or they may nominate two people and leave one space blank. If they consider there is no eligible player worthy of a nomination they will enter a nil return. The voting slips will be placed in the supplied envelope and returned in the bag to the League Office.
- Each week all new nominations will be released to the press. However, each nominated players name will only be released once during the season. This will create an interest in the award without giving away the voting trends of the umpires.

Included 18/08/03

APPENDIX 2

YELLOW CARD - SUSPENSION

- A Player upon receiving his third yellow card in the same season will be automatically suspended for one playing date. Once this suspension has been served the players count will revert back to zero. Should the player accumulate another three yellow cards in one season, a further one week suspension will be imposed.

APPENDIX 3

GNFL RACIAL VILIFICATION POLICY

1. An Alleged Incident – Conduct that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, colour, decent or national or ethnic origin. This conduct must take place between bona-fide registered players of the district and does not include incidents off the playing arena.

2. Resolution – The clubs and individuals concerned will take immediate action to resolve the matter. This process **MUST** be in camera and **NO** public statement is allowed by the clubs, players or any representative(s) of the clubs involved.

3. Complaint – This can be made by an JCC, DFDC, Umpire, Player or Club. It must be lodged with the GNFL Football Operations Manager on the first working day after the alleged incident.

Is this the first complaint against this player?

No – 4(b) – See Below.

Yes – 4(a) – Conciliation – Refers the matter to conciliation, to be resolved within three working days of the incident. The players meet with club representatives and the Tribunal or an appointed mediator. The complaint is heard in camera.

Mediator/Tribunal decides if the conciliation was successful.

Yes – Complaint Resolved.

No – 4(b) Tribunal Hearing – The Protests & Disputes Tribunal to make a determination on the matter in accordance with the guidelines set out.

APPENDIX 4

PROTESTS & DISPUTES TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES & PENALTIES

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING A TRIBUNAL

1. BACKGROUND

As described on page 10 of the Laws of Australian Football, the Purpose of the Laws explain how the game is played and seeks to attain the objectives of ensuring the game is played in a fair manner and spirit of true sportsmanship; and to prevent injuries to players where it can be reasonably achieved, considering the body contact nature of the sport. The new definitions of Charging and Engaging in Rough Play has reduced the unnecessary rough contact and together with the Law related to prohibiting contact in marking contests, the issue of protecting the player making the ball his object has been addressed.

Australian Football is built around courage to get the ball and the Laws are framed to encourage this value. It is essential that the Football Industry is seen to deal with offenders in a consistent manner across the State.

In 1998, the Standard Order Off Rule (Red and Yellow Card System) was introduced to assist Umpires and the Football Industry to achieve consistency in controlling unacceptable behaviour on the field. This strategy has been very successful and continues to complement the game. It is logical that the same principle of dealing with consistency be implemented throughout the Tribunal system.

The following information has been produced to promote consistency in procedures and penalties set by the Football Industry of Western Australia. It is envisaged that the Standard Tribunal Guidelines and Penalties for Community Football will be reviewed on an annual basis, ensuring that the administrative structures and image of Australian Football will continue to be enhanced.

2. GENERAL INTERPRETATION AND EXPECTATIONS:

WAFC Manager Community Development will oversee these Tribunal Protocols.

2.1 In the interpretation of these guidelines, unless the context requires otherwise:

2.1.1 Words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;

2.1.2 Words importing any gender shall be deemed to include the other gender;

2.1.3 "Including" and similar words are not words of limitation;

2.1.4 Words terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these guidelines shall be given their ordinary meaning.

2.1.5 Any report, charge or notice of report shall be deemed to and be read as alleging that the conduct was either intentional, reckless or negligent.

2.1.6 A Player or Official found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match days while the penalty remains unserved.

2.2 EXPECTATIONS

Controlling Body: Notwithstanding the Controlling Body's overall administrative role: It is expected to uphold the integrity of the game and its Laws and ensure that procedures are in place to manage offenders of the game including but not limited to implementing the following:

- Standard Tribunal Guidelines
- Standard Tribunal Penalties for Reportable Offences and
- A fair and consistent procedure to deal with reported Players or Officials.

- Appointing competent Tribunal participants and provide appropriate training to enhance the game's ideals.

Players are expected to play the game in a fair manner and spirit of true sportsmanship and can expect to play in a safe environment.

Umpires are expected to adjudicate a game of Football with integrity, apply the Laws and interpretations in conjunction with the Spirit of the Laws and attend to the administrative requirements associated with the game.

The **Tribunal** is expected to hear and consider charges or investigate matters referred to it by the Controlling Body and if necessary apply sanctions, penalties or fines set by the Controlling Body. It is expected to uphold the integrity of the game and its Laws.

Tribunal Members are expected to be conversant with the By-Laws of the Controlling Body and the Laws of Australian Football, in particular Law 15.4, *Permitted and Prohibited Physical Contact*, Law 19, *Reporting Players and Officials* and Law 20, *Order Off Law*

3. DEFINITIONS:

Advocate: means a person representing a witness at a Tribunal who is not a legal practitioner.

Arena: means the *Playing Surface* and all the area between the *Playing Surface* and the Perimeter Fence, including any break in the perimeter fence.

Controlling Body: as defined in the *Law 2.1 of Laws of Australian Football*, generally is the overall Administrator of the game and is responsible for the organisation and conduct of matches of Australian Football.

Defendant: means a person called before the Tribunal to answer a charge or report.

Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings Form: a standard form used to record the decision of the Tribunal for the Controlling Body.

Intentional conduct: means a deliberate action

Match: means a contest of Australian Football played between two Teams.

Mitigating Circumstances: means circumstances that may be considered to lessen the culpability or blame of an offender.

Negligent conduct: means lacking attention, care or concern.

Official: includes but is not limited to an officer, coach, assistant coach, trainer, runner, employee or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of the club or Team

Other Appointed Person: A Person authorized by the Controlling Body to report any Player or Official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a Reportable Offence. The Person shall have the same powers and duties as imposed upon an Umpire under Law 19.

Perimeter Fence: is the physical barrier surrounding the playing surface. Where an Arena does not have a Perimeter Fence, then the Perimeter Fence shall be interpreted as being located 10m outside and parallel to the *Playing surface*.

Player: means a person who plays or is selected to play with a Team or a person who otherwise trains with a Team or who is included within the scope of the Laws of Australian Football.

Playing Surface: means the field of play inside the Boundary Line, Goal Line and Behind Line, excluding the area between such lines and the *Perimeter Fence*.

Prescribed Penalty: means a set sanction or penalty for a reportable offence that is offered to an offender by the Controlling Body or its Delegated Authority in lieu of attending a Tribunal Hearing.

Note: the Prescribed Penalty is derived from the minimum penalty of a specific reportable offence listed on the Standard Range of Penalties.

Reckless conduct: means showing no regard for danger or the consequences.

Spear Tackle: is a tackle of where an opponent is driven ‘head first’ into the Playing Surface. It is considered unreasonable and outside the laws of the game.

Standard Range of Penalties: are a set range of sanctions, fines or penalties for offenders who commit reportable offences that are either negligent, reckless or intentional acts.

Note: The Standard Range of Penalties are set by the Controlling Body to assist Tribunals achieve consistency in determining sanctions in all grades of Community Football; and they signify a clear direction to Football Participants that unlawful and unfair play will not be tolerated.

Suspended Player or Official – Effect of Suspension: Where a player or Official is suspended by a Controlling Body, then for the period of suspension or while the suspension remains unserved, he shall be prohibited from playing or participating in a Match conducted by the Controlling Body imposing the suspension and shall be prohibited from playing or participating in a Match conducted by any other Controlling Body.

Note: A Player or Official found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match days while the penalty remains unserved.

Team: means a group of Players competing against other group of Players in a Match of Australian Football.

Tribunal: means an independent body appointed by the Controlling Body to hear and consider charges or investigate matters referred by the Controlling Body. It has the authority to apply sanctions, penalties or fines set by the Controlling Body.

Note: The Tribunal shall comprise of a Chairman and Secretary and can include any number of Tribunal Members.

Tribunal Members: A person or persons appointed by the Controlling Body to assist the Tribunal Chairman in the execution of his duties.

Umpire: means all Field, Boundary, Goal and Emergency Umpires officiating in or at a match.

Victim: means a person attending a Tribunal who is the person offended against on the designated report or charge form.

Week, Game or Match: a term used by the Tribunal to describe a scheduled game or match penalty of a Home and Away fixture or a Final fixture of the offender’s club.

Witness: means any person attending a tribunal convened by the Controlling Body, including but not limited to a Defendant, Advocate, Official, Player or Victim.

4. TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES

These guidelines are set by the Controlling Body to assist all Tribunal Members achieve consistency with their deliberations, reflecting the *Purpose* of the Game and its Laws (i.e. encouragement of fair play and injury prevention) and to reinforce the premise that Offenders who commit Reportable Offences or bring the game into disrepute will not be tolerated. The guidelines are provided to assist in conducting effective Tribunals, clarify the duties and apply consistent penalties to offenders that are found guilty of reportable offences:

5 PROCEDURES FOR ADVOCATES

5.1 ELIGIBILITY:

An Advocate may be any person representing a witness but shall not be a Legal Practitioner.

5.2 DUTIES:

- (a) Arrange for reported player and any witnesses to be present at the Tribunal hearing at the allocated time.
- (b) Prior to the hearing, assist the player or witness to fully prepare his account of the incident.
- (c) Make submissions on the penalty if the report is upheld.

5.3 ADVOCATES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO:

- (a) Directly ask questions of his clubs' player or witnesses.
- (b) Directly Cross-examine umpires or witnesses.
- (c) Make submissions as to guilt or otherwise.

5.4 CROSS EXAMINATION:

Any matter to be asked for the purpose of cross-examination shall be asked through the Tribunal Chairman who shall consider its relevance and if appropriate, raise the issue with the appropriate witness.

6 TRIBUNAL MEMBERS AND TRIBUNAL ROOM SETUP

The **Tribunal** shall comprise of a Chairman and Secretary and can include any number of Tribunal Members as determined by the Controlling Body.

Tribunal Members are expected to be conversant with the By-Laws of the Controlling Body and the Laws of Australian Football, in particular Law 15.4, Permitted and Prohibited Physical Contact, *Law 19, Reporting Players and Officials* and *Law 20, Order Off Law*. Any matter to be asked for the purpose of cross-examination shall be asked through the Tribunal Chairman who shall consider its relevance and if appropriate, raise the issue with the witness.

Tribunal Members should be impartial and where possible should have no other role within the structure of the Controlling Body.

7 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TRIBUNAL:

The Tribunal shall hear and adjudicate on all protests, charges, reports, disputes, reopen cases or any other matter referred to it by the Controlling body;

- (a) It shall insure that offending Players or Officials are heard in a fair and consistent manner in accordance with the procedures set by the Controlling Body.
- (b) It shall use the *Standard Range of Penalties* to determine an Offender's penalty and shall take into consideration any injury sustained by a victim and/or any previous convictions of the offender prior to the last 2 years of the Tribunal sitting, by increasing the *Standard Penalty*. The use of a Suspended Sentence may be used as an additional penalty to the *Standard Penalty*.
- (c) It may find a report proven if it is **reasonably satisfied** that conduct was intentional, reckless or negligent. *Law 19.2.1(b)*.
- (d) It may adjourn any hearing from time to time. If a Defendant is granted an adjournment, unless exempted by the Tribunal, he shall be ineligible to participate or represent a Club or Team in any capacity during the period of adjournment.
- (e) It may deal with any witness who fails without reasonable excuse to attend the Tribunal hearing and at its absolute discretion; impose any penalty, sanction or fine.
- (f) It may, in the case of a Defendant not attending the Tribunal, suspend that person from participating or representing a Club or Team in any capacity until he attends a reconvened hearing.
- (g) It shall deal with any untruthful, misleading, uncooperative or contemptible witness on the day of the tribunal and impose any penalty, sanction or fine consistent the misconduct charges in the *Standard Range of Penalties*.
- (h) It may deal with other offences arising out of a report on the day of the tribunal and at its absolute discretion; impose any penalty, sanction or fine consistent with the *Standard Range of Penalties*.
- (i) It shall endeavour **not** to dismiss any case on the grounds of a technicality, but shall review the circumstances of the technicality and if necessary amend the original charge to reflect the expectations of upholding the integrity of the game and its Laws.

- (j) It shall have the right to admit or refuse entry to any person wishing to attend a hearing of the Tribunal.
- (k) It may allow the attendance of persons to witness Tribunal procedures
- (l) It may accept evidence from the Standard Umpire's Evidence Form or Statutory Declaration from any witness provided always that the witness satisfies the Tribunal that he is unable to attend the Tribunal.
- (m) It shall endeavour to arrange for a teleconference for any witness unable to attend the Tribunal provided always that the witness satisfies the Tribunal that he is unable to be present.
- (n) It may proceed and deal with a charge in the absence of any witness or adjourn the hearing to such date and time at its absolute discretion.
- (o) At the conclusion of a hearing the Chairman shall sign off and record the Tribunal's decision on the Standard Disciplinary Record of *Tribunal Proceedings* form. Where an Offender has been given a suspension, a specific date shall be recorded by the Chairman to reflect the period of suspension up to and including that specific date.

8 CONDUCTING A TRIBUNAL

8.1 WHEN AN OFFENDER PLEADS NOT GUILTY:

- (a) Chairman invites the reported Player or Official, his Advocate and the person making the charge (usually the Umpire) with his Advocate into the hearing. The only other person in the room should be the Tribunal Secretary unless persons have been permitted by the Chairman to observe procedures.
- (b) Chairman reads the charge and asks the Defendant's plea. *Guilty or Not Guilty*
- (c) Chairman asks for Umpire to outline the charge. *The Umpire may be questioned by the Chairman. The Defendant's Advocate may ask questions to the Chairman and if necessary the Chairman will redirect the questions to the Umpire.*
- (d) Chairman asks for the Victim's evidence. *The Defendant's Advocate may ask questions to the Chairman and if necessary the Chairman will redirect the questions to the Victim.* Chairman asks for Defendant's evidence (e) Chairman asks if the Defendant's Advocate has any witnesses to offer other evidence. Questions may be asked by those in attendance through the Chairman.
- (f) Chairman may view Video evidence of the incident provided the game was independently recorded and authorised by the Controlling Body. *Video evidence should include vision leading up to and after the reportable incident. Slow motion and frame by frame facilities for viewing the incident is recommended.* Umpires and Witnesses may be asked to provide further evidence relating to the charge
- (g) Chairman thanks the Reporting Umpire/ Authorised Person and the Victim for their evidence and dismisses them from the Tribunal
- (h) Chairman asks the Defendant's Advocate to summarise his case.
- (i) Chairman may ask all persons to leave the room. Chairman deliberates to determine whether the charge is sustained or dismissed.
The Defendant returns with his Advocate (if they have left the room).
- (j) Chairman announces the verdict
- (k) Chairman asks the Defendant's history from his Advocate.
- (l) Chairman confirms the Defendant's history from the Tribunal Secretary
- (m) Chairman may ask all parties to leave the Tribunal Room
- (n) Chairman recalls Defendant with his Advocate and announces the penalty in accordance with the *Standard Range of Penalties*.
- (o) Where an Offender has been given a suspension, the Chairman shall record the Tribunal's decision on the *Standard Disciplinary*

Record of Tribunal Proceedings form. A specific date shall be recorded by the Chairman to reflect the period of suspension up to and including that specific date. The form shall be signed by the Chairman and the Offender (or his representative).

(p) In the event of any witness who acts in an untruthful, misleading, uncooperative or contemptible manner on the day of the Tribunal hearing shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct and be dealt with at the conclusion of the hearing.

The Chairman shall record the Tribunal's decision on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form. A specific date shall be recorded by the Chairman to reflect the period of suspension up to and including that specific date. The standard form shall be signed by the Chairman and the Offender (or his representative).

NOTE: A Player or Official found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match days while the penalty remains unserved.

8.2 WHEN AN OFFENDER PLEADS GUILTY:

(a) The Chairman invites the reported Player or Official, his Advocate and the person making the charge (usually the Umpire) with his Advocate into the hearing. The only other person in the room should be the Tribunal Secretary unless persons have been permitted by the Chairman to observe procedures.

(b) Chairman reads the charge and asks the Defendant's plea. Guilty or Not Guilty

(c) Chairman asks for Umpires evidence. *The Umpire may be questioned by the Chairman. The Defendant's Advocate may direct questions to the Chairman and if necessary the Chairman will direct the questions to the Umpire.*

(d) If required by the Club defending the charge, the Chairman asks for the Victim's evidence. *Defendant's Advocate may direct questions to the Chairman and if necessary the Chairman will direct the questions to the Victim.*

(e) Chairman asks for Defendant's evidence

(f) Chairman may view Video evidence of the incident provided the game was independently recorded and authorised by the Controlling Body. *Video evidence should include vision leading up to and after the reportable incident. Slow motion and frame by frame facilities for viewing the incident is recommended.* Umpires and Witnesses may be asked to provide further evidence relating to the charge.

(g) Chairman thanks the Reporting Umpire/ Authorised Person and the Victim for their evidence and dismisses them from the Tribunal

(h) Chairman asks the Defendant's history from the Advocate

(i) Chairman asks for the Defendant's history from the Tribunal Secretary.

(j) Chairman may ask all parties to leave the Tribunal Room

(k) Chairman recalls Defendant with his Advocate and announces the penalty in accordance with the *Standard Range of Penalties*.

(l) Chairman records the Decision and Penalty on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form, ensuring it is signed by the Chairman and the Defendant (or his representative). Designated official to input all guilty sentences, suspended sentences, fines or other on the WA Football approved website database. * Note this includes prescribed penalties as well. (All enquiries to WAFC Manager Community Development)

(m) In the event of any witness who acts in an untruthful, misleading, uncooperative or contemptible manner on the day of the Tribunal hearing shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct and be dealt with at the conclusion of the hearing. The chairman would then record the Decision and Penalty on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form, ensuring it is signed by the Chairman and the offending witness.

9 PRESCRIBED PENALTIES:

Prescribed Penalties are adopted by the Controlling Body to eliminate excessive distances travelled by participants attending tribunal hearings and/or to lessen the time and inconvenience placed on club volunteers.

Prescribed Penalty: means a set sanction or penalty for a reportable offence that is offered to an offender by the Controlling Body or its Delegated Authority in lieu of attending a Tribunal Hearing. Unless a Yellow Card is issued by the Umpire for the First Offence, the **Prescribed Penalty** is derived from the minimum penalty of a specific reportable offence listed on the *Standard Range of Penalties*. If an Offender elects to attend the Tribunal in lieu of accepting the Controlling Body's offer of a **Prescribed Penalty** and is subsequently found guilty of that offence, then the resultant penalty shall be equal to or greater than the Prescribed Penalty. It shall not be less than the Prescribed Penalty for that offence, unless mitigating circumstances are established at the hearing. If mitigating circumstances are established, The Tribunal Chairman shall state and record the circumstances on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form.

9.1 STANDARD RANGE OF PENALTIES FOR REPORTABLE OFFENCES:

The WAFC Manager Community Development will adjudicate on any anomalies, inconsistencies or interpretive issues that arise in relation to the range of penalties. Any request for rulings will be initiated by the District Competition Director in writing to the WAFC Manager Community Development. *The Standard Range of Penalties* shall apply to any Player or Official found guilty of a Specific Reportable Offence listed in Law 19.2.2 of the Laws of Australian Football or as described in the Rules and Regulations of the Controlling Body.

Where an Offender commits two (2) or more offences within the current 2 year period, then the "Second Offence" Range of Penalties shall be used to determine the penalty. The "Second Offence" Range of Penalties have been set at double the "First Offence" Range of Penalties to clearly signify that repeat offenders will not be tolerated. In determining an Offender's penalty, the Tribunal shall use the Standard Range of Penalties and may increase the penalty after taking into consideration any injury sustained by a victim and/or any previous convictions of the offender prior to the last 2 years of the Tribunal sitting. The use of Suspended Sentences may be used as an additional penalty to the *Standard Range of Penalties*.

The Tribunal shall **not reduce** the minimum *Standard Range Penalties*, unless mitigating circumstances are established at the hearing. If mitigating circumstances are established, the Tribunal Chairman shall state and record the circumstances on the *Standard Disciplinary Record of Tribunal Proceedings* form.

9.2 THE STANDARD RANGE OF PENALTIES

(RELATING TO SPECIFIC REPORTABLE OFFENCES UNDER LAW 19.2.2)

(a) Making contact with an umpire;

1st Offence: Range: 4 weeks to 2 years

Negligent 4-10 weeks, reckless 10 weeks- 1 year, intentional 1 -2 years

2nd Offence: Range 8 weeks to 4 years

Negligent 8-20 weeks, reckless 20 weeks- 2 years, intentional 2 -4 years

Striking an Umpire;

1st Offence: Range: 2 years to Life

Negligent 2-4 years, reckless 4-10 years, intentional 10 years – Life

2nd Offence: Range: 4 years to Life

Negligent 4-8 years, reckless 8-20 years, intentional 20 years – Life

(b) Attempting to make contact with an Umpire;

1st Offence: Range: 2 weeks to 1 year

Negligent 2-5 weeks, reckless 5-10 weeks, intentional 10 weeks-1 year.

2nd Offence: range: 4 weeks to 2 years

Negligent 4-10 weeks, reckless 10 weeks – 1 year, intentional 1-2 years

Attempting to strike an Umpire;

1st Offence: Range: 1 year to 10 years

Negligent 1-2 years, reckless 2-5 years, intentional 5-10 years

2nd Offence: Range: 2 years to Life

Negligent 2-4 years, reckless 4-10 years, intentional 10 years -Life

(c) Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an Umpire;

1st Offence: abusive/obscene 2-4 weeks, insulting/threatening 4-10 weeks

2nd Offence: abusive/obscene 4-8 weeks, insulting/threatening 8-20 weeks

(d) Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;

1st Offence: abusive/obscene 2-4 weeks, insulting/threatening 4-10 weeks

2nd Offence: abusive/obscene 4-8 weeks, insulting/threatening 8-20 weeks

(e) Disputing a decision of an Umpire; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Yellow Card by Umpire – Cool Off for 15 minutes

2nd Offence: 1 week

(f) Use of an obscene gesture; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: 1-2 weeks

2nd Offence: 2-4 weeks.

(g) Intentionally, recklessly or negligently:-

(i) Kicking another person;

1st Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 3-6 weeks, intentional 6-10 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 4-20 weeks

Negligent 4 weeks, reckless 6-12 weeks, intentional 12-20 weeks

(ii) Striking another person;

1st Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 3-6 weeks, intentional 6-10 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 4-20 weeks

Negligent 4 weeks, reckless 6-12 weeks, intentional 12-20 weeks

(iii) Tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg;

1st Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 2-4 weeks, intentional 4-10 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 4-20 weeks

Negligent 4 weeks, reckless 4-8 weeks, intentional 8-20 weeks

(iv) Engaging in Time Wasting; (Prescribed Penalty offer–1 week)

1st Offence: Yellow Card by Umpire–Cool Off for 15 minutes

2nd Offence: 1 week

(v) Charging another person; (refer to law 15.4.4)

1st Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 3-6 weeks, intentional 6-10 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 4-20 weeks

Negligent 4 weeks, reckless 6-12 weeks, intentional 12-20 weeks

(vi) Throwing or pushing another player after that player has taken a Mark, disposed of the football or after the football is otherwise out of play; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Yellow Card by Umpire – Cool Off for 15 minutes

2nd Offence: 1 week

(vii) Engaging in rough play against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable;

Examples such as but not limited to: Using hands to claw, gouge or scratch an opponent in the region of the head, including the face, mouth, eyes, nose, and ears; Spear Tackles, Head Butting, Biting, Elbowing, Kneeing, Choking, Head Locking, Swinging an arm to the head region (“Coat Hanger”), Making unreasonable contact to an opponent who is marking or attempting to mark the football.

1st Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 3-6 weeks, intentional 6-10 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 4-20 weeks

Negligent 4 weeks, reckless 6-12 weeks, intentional 12-20 weeks

(viii) Engaging in a melee, except where a player’s sole intention is to remove a teammate from the incident; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Yellow Card by Umpire – Cool Off for 15 minutes

2nd Offence: 1 week

(ix) Spitting at or on another person;

1st Offence: Range: 2-4 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 2-3 weeks, intentional 3-4 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 4-8 weeks

Negligent 4 weeks, reckless 4-6 weeks, intentional 6-8 weeks

(h) Attempting to kick another person; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Range: 1-5 weeks

Negligent 1 week, reckless 1-2 weeks, intentional 2-5 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 2-4 weeks, intentional 4-10 weeks

(i) Attempting to strike another person; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Range: 1-5 weeks

Negligent 1 week, reckless 1-2 weeks, intentional 2-5 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 2-4 weeks, intentional 4-10 weeks

(j) Attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Range: 1-5 weeks

Negligent 1 week, reckless 1-2 weeks, intentional 2-5 weeks

2nd Offence: Range: 2-10 weeks

Negligent 2 weeks, reckless 2-4 weeks, intentional 4-10 weeks

(k) Intentionally shaking a goal or behind post when another player is preparing to Kick or is Kicking for Goal or after the Player has Kicked Goal and the ball is in transit; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: 1 week

2nd Offence: 2 weeks

(l) Wrestling another person; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Yellow Card by Umpire – Cool Off for 15 minutes

2nd Offence: 1 week

(m) Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: abusive/obscene 1-2 weeks, insulting/threatening 2-5 weeks

2nd Offence: abusive/obscene 2-4 weeks, insulting/threatening 4-10 weeks

(n) Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by a field umpire; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 2 weeks)

1st Offence: 2 weeks

2nd Offence: 4 weeks

(o) Wearing boots, jewellery or equipment prohibited under Law 9; (Prescribed Penalty offer – 1 week)

1st Offence: Yellow Card by Umpire – Cool Off for 15 minutes

2nd Offence: 1 week

(p) Any act of misconduct. (Prescribed Penalty offer – 2 weeks)

Examples such as but not limited to: Indecent Exposure, Biting, Instigating a Melee, Failing to follow the Direction of a Field Umpire or any Behaviour Detrimental to Football.

1st Offence: 2-4 weeks

2nd Offence: 4-8 weeks

OR Law 20.2(f) below – misconduct of a serious nature

(RELATING TO THE SPECIFIC REPORTABLE OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDER OF LAW 20.2)

20.2(f) an act of misconduct if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature;

1st Offence: 3-6 weeks

2nd Offence: 6-12 weeks

Examples such as but not limited to serious acts of misconduct: Indecent Exposure, Biting, Instigating a Melee, Failing to follow the Direction of a Field Umpire or any Behaviour Detrimental to Football.