

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED



TEAM MATCH DAY GUIDE

2024

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

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BY-LAWS
of the
YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

STATUS

These By-Laws are made by the Board under the powers conferred on it by the Rules.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1. Words and phrases defined in the Rules have the same meanings in these By-Laws, which are to be read in conjunction with the Rules.
2. In these By-Laws, unless the contrary intention appears:

“CIT” means the Conduct Investigation Tribunal.

“LoAF” means the Laws of Australian Football as published by the AFL.

“Tribunal” means the Independent Tribunal.
3. In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears, the interpretation of words and phrases will be in accordance with the provisions for interpretation specified in Rule 4.2.

1. RULES OF THE GAME

- 1.1** All football matches under the control of the League will be played in accordance with these By-Laws and the LoAF. In the event of an inconsistency between the LoAF and these By-Laws, these By-Laws shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 1.2** The By-Laws and the LoAF are binding upon all Registered Players, supporters and parents of Registered Players, Member Clubs and Officials.

2. COMPETITION

2.1 Home & Away Games

- 2.1.1** The Premiership shall be determined by rounds of home and away matches followed by a final's series.
- 2.1.2** Four Premiership points shall be awarded in respect of each match won.
- 2.1.3** Two Premiership points shall be awarded for each match drawn.
- 2.1.4** Ladders will be calculated using match ratio in all competitive Divisions with tiebreakers determined by using head-to-head criteria (refer to Schedule AB). This is also applicable where a bye is included in a League competition, where match ratio (%) will be applied to reflect the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.
- 2.1.5** In the event that a club shall fail to field a team in any premiership match, the opposing team shall be granted a walkover and shall be awarded four (4) premiership points. Where a forfeit occurs, the team forfeited against must lodge a team sheet if it wishes its players to be credited with a game. The team giving the forfeit cannot lodge a team sheet.
- 2.1.6** A team shall be given a warning in the first instance that they forfeit. Any subsequent forfeits in that season by the same team shall result in a fine of \$250 from the League. The fine will not be applied where the teams organize and still play a practice match. Where the team who forfeits is the away team, at the discretion of the CEO, the home club may receive part or all of any fine issued as compensation for the loss of a scheduled match.
- 2.1.7** At the end of the home and away round of matches the respective positions of the Clubs shall be decided by the application of 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5 and 2.1.6.
- 2.1.8** Prior to any season, where two clubs do not have a sufficient number of players to field a team each in a particular age group, they may apply to the League to merge their teams for one season only and must re-apply the following year if there is a requirement beyond one season for the same team. One of the clubs must be nominated as the club responsible for the merged team for the season, and all issues such as fees, fines, conduct and nomination of players for representative teams. League approval for the entering of the merged team, and the name of the team, is required.

2.2 Re-grading

- 2.2.1** Re-grading will be affected by the League in its absolute discretion from Round 4 of the season, and in doing so the League will have regard to the Guidelines contained in Schedule A. Any re-draws of competitions resulting from re-grading will take effect from Round 5.
- 2.2.2** Grading Pools will be used for all competitions (Under 11 - Youth), Ladders will be adjusted after the grading period so that only premiership points in matches against teams who end up in the same division will count.
- 2.2.3** If re-grading is considered necessary by the League at any other time during the season it will be affected at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 2.2.4** Should the League regrade any team from Round 10 of the home and away season onwards, that team will not be eligible to compete in the finals series.
- 2.2.5** Best and Fairest votes awarded to players during the grading rounds will be carried with any player who changes grades.

2.3 Withdrawal of Team

If a Club withdraws a team from an Age Group, it will be withdrawn from the lowest Division of the Age Group in which the Club fields a team. The Club may approach the League if any variance is sought. The final decision as to location (Grading) of the Team will be made by the League.

2.4 Team Sheets

- 2.4.1** Team sheets must be created on-line in the Competition Management Platform prior to the commencement of the match.
- 2.4.2** Should a player arrive late they may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:
- (a)** The Team Manager and/or player shall inform the Opposition Team Manager of the player's arrival when such player is ready to take the field.
 - (b)** Before the player takes the field, the player must have been selected to play on the Competition Management Platform team sheet.

Where an additional player would have implications for the evening-up of player numbers on the field refer to By-Law 8.5.7.

- 2.4.3** Where it has been necessary to make changes to the On-Line team sheet created pursuant to By Law 2.4.1, a club must ensure that the Online Team Sheet is altered accordingly by no later than midnight on the Sunday evening of the match.

2.5 Premiership Points

The League may at its discretion remove or alter points if a properly convened Conduct Investigation Tribunal finds against clubs for major rules breaches in a match.

2.6 Finals

At the end of the Home and Away Season the leading clubs in each division based on ladder positions shall play in a finals series in such manner as the League determines. The successful club at the end of this series shall be the Premier Club of the division.

2.6.1 All clubs competing in the Finals series must comply with the guidelines set out in Schedule I.

2.6.2 Finals venues will be selected at the discretion of the CEO, with preference for Division 1 and Division 2 finals to be played at neutral grounds.

2.7 Drawn Finals

2.7.1 There shall be no drawn games in finals series.

2.7.2 Should scores be drawn at the end of normal time then, after a four (4) minute break **when coaches may address their players**, a further ten (10) minutes shall be played with the teams changing ends after five (5) minutes.

2.7.3 No officials, **except Runner and/or Trainer in the normal performance of their duties**, shall be allowed on the ground at the five (5) minute change of ends.

2.7.4 Should scores still be tied then revert back to 2.7.2 until a result is achieved.

3. MATCH RULES

3.1 Starting Times

Play in all matches shall commence at times determined by the League.

3.1.1 Clubs not ready to start play within five [5] minutes of the scheduled starting time shall be liable to a fine and after 10 minutes the game shall be forfeited. The Field Umpire shall have the discretion as to whether a game shall be forfeited or played as a normal game.

3.2 "All Clear" After Match

Within Fifteen (15) minutes of the termination of a match, Team Managers shall ascertain from the Officiating Umpire whether there were any reports made or whether the match was "All Clear".

3.3 Centre Square Infringement

The Centre Square Infringement Rule will only be adjudicated by League appointed Umpires.

3.4 Score Disputes

In the event of a dispute between goal umpires as to the scores, the score card that is agreed between that of both Timekeepers and that of one Goal umpire shall be final. If a dispute remains the matter is to be referred to the CIT for decision.

3.5 Length of Quarters Home and Away games

Under 11 Mixed - Under 13 Mixed: 15 Minutes

Under 11 Girls - Under 14 Girls: 15 Minutes

Under 14 Mixed, Under 15 Girls, Under 16 Girls, Youth Girls: 17.5 Minutes

Under 15 Boys, Under 16 Boys, Youth Boys: 20 Minutes

Under 8's, 9's, 10's Mixed & Girls: Refer to 10.1 to 10.4.

Instructions to Timekeepers relating to adding time and sounding siren to end play are shown at By-Law 5.6

3.6 Times Between Quarters

QUARTER TIME	5 MINUTES	HALF TIME	10 MINUTES
THREE QUARTER TIME	7 MINUTES		

3.6.1 No spectators are to enter the centre third of the playing field (between each arc, including the centre square at any break). Only match officials, umpires, and players, identified clearly in the bib relevant to their role, may enter the playing field during this period.

Parents and spectators may not cross the boundary line at any break for the purpose of approaching the team huddle.

There is no restriction on where the huddle may be positioned (but must be between the forward arcs).

The Ground Manager and/or Umpire Escort should ensure during breaks that parents/spectators are not to approach the umpires or officials.

In any grade, parents or spectators are permitted to cross the oval and kick the football inside the forward arcs.

3.6.2 Teams competing in the next fixtured game may warm up on the ground at $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Teams must have vacated the playing field prior to the commencement of the fourth (4th) quarter.

3.7 Termination of Game

3.7.1 If a match is terminated prior to the half time period the match shall be deemed to be drawn.

3.7.2 If a match is terminated at or after the half time period and before the scheduled completion, the scores at the time shall be deemed the final scores of the match. The team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the match.

3.7.3 Only a Field Umpire can terminate a game. Where a team has refused to continue a game, the matter will be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action. In any circumstances where a game has been terminated the Field Umpire/s must provide a detailed report to the League.

3.8 Kicking the ball off the Ground

In the following competitions kicking the ball off the ground is not permitted:

- Mixed - Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10
- Girls - Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10

3.9 Incident Reporting

Where an incident requiring an emergency service such as an ambulance occurs at a venue on match day, and a league appointed medic is not in attendance, a report on the incident must be completed and sent to the League in writing.

3.10 Use of Audio or Visual Recording Equipment on Ground

The use of audio or visual recording equipment is not permitted on the field of play while the match is in progress.

3.11 Starting Positions

At each centre bounce in a match, the following starting positions shall be observed by each team (backs. Mids. forwards):

18 players	6.6.6
17 players	6.5.6
16 players	5.6.5
15 players	5.5.5
14 players	4.6.4
13 players	4.5.4
12 players	4.4.4
11 players	4.3.4

4. GROUNDS

4.1 Grounds

Matches shall be played on such grounds as may be approved and allocated by the League.

4.2 Ground Size

If both Coaches agree, the size of the ground for games up to and including the Under 11 level may be reduced in size.

4.3 Home Team Responsibilities

The home team shall be responsible for the provision of:

- 4.3.1** A suitable ground.
- 4.3.2** Four Goal and Behind posts of standard size and suitably padded.
- 4.3.3** Two footballs of a size required for the grade and in good match condition: Ball size and colour as per Schedule C.
- 4.3.4** A clearly defined and visible white or black Boundary line:
- 4.3.5** A bell or siren of sufficient tone to be easily heard all over the ground. (No vehicle horn may be used)
- 4.3.6** A goal line 9 metres long, a centre circle 3 metres in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter shall be clearly defined. Both circles to be divided into two semi circles, by drawing a straight line parallel with each goal line. A forty-five (45) metres centre square shall be clearly defined.
- 4.3.7** Two (2) sets of interchange lines:
- One (1) to be placed near the Pavilion for injured Players only.
 - One to be placed away from the major spectator area (Pavilion) for normal player interchange.
- 4.3.8** A line one metre from the boundary in from each coach's area, marked on the ground. All playing and coaching personnel shall remain behind the line at all times. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.
- 4.3.9** Where grounds are unfenced -
- the area behind the goals shall be fenced or roped off for an area of twenty-five (25) metres wide, and five (5) metres deep; and
 - a second line shall be marked not less than three (3) metres out from the boundary line around the perimeter of the ground, to indicate where spectators should stand.
- A failure to comply with any part of this By-Law shall result in a fine being imposed in accordance with Schedule Q.
- 4.3.10** Each venue shall have two coaches' benches, one for the home team and one for the away team. Each shall have adequate shelter from inclement weather and sufficient seats or bench space for six people to sit.
- All Coaching Bench areas shall be located opposite pavilion where crowds gather unless permanent structures in place dictate otherwise. All Coaching bench areas shall be roped off for an area of Three (3) metres either side by Three (3) metres deep. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.
- 4.3.11** A pair of Goal Flags.

4.3.12 An approved Clock Timer.

4.3.13 A stretcher at all home grounds. The stretcher should be located in a visible and easily accessible location.

4.3.14 Score Boards

The Home Team Shall be responsible for the provision of a Scoreboard so that the scores of the game being played are displayed. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.

4.3.15 Ground Inspection

The Home Team shall be responsible for conducting, prior to each day's play, a ground inspection and must complete a Ground Inspection Report Form as set out in Schedule L – Risk Management.

If any player or official is of the opinion that the venue is unsafe for play for whatever reason, they should discuss this with their team manager who can then consult with the umpire(s) and/or ground manager.

If on the day of any match the umpire(s) and both team coaches deem that the playing surface is unsafe for play to commence or continue, the game shall be cancelled or abandoned. If the coaches cannot agree on the suitability of the ground for play the umpire(s) shall have the final decision.

4.3.16 Recording of Scores

Home teams are responsible for entering scores through the Competition Management Platform by 6.00pm on match day. A fine will be imposed where scores are entered late (see Schedule Q)

4.4 Away Team Responsibilities

4.4.1 The Visiting Team shall supply a pair of Goal Flags

4.5 Adverse Weather

4.5.1 In the event that the Chief Executive Officer of the League shall decide that conditions are such that matches will not be played, they shall if possible be allocated to an alternate day.

4.5.2 Where it is not possible to replay ALL matches, the round may be considered void in the unfettered discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

4.5.3 Where weather conditions are adverse on match day, or conditions deteriorate during a match, the field umpire(s) may determine that a match should be abandoned in which case By Law 3.7 applies.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1 Authorised Persons

Authorised persons within the Coaches area may stand inside the fence provided they are identified by approved League apparel.

5.1.1 **The maximum** number of officials allowed in this area is Four (4) comprising of:

- 1 – Coach
- 1 – Assistant Coach
- 1 – Runner
- 1 – Trainer

Coaches must coach from within the designated Coaches area. One Assistant Coach is allowed to be within the designated Coaches area.

From Under 15's up, a second Assistant Coach may be utilised and must be positioned outside the fence, within the zoned off area behind the coach's box.

5.1.2 A second trainer may be positioned inside the fence on the opposite side of the oval to the coaching area.

5.1.3 Where the area is not secure (4.3.10), umpires shall report the Club and/or Officials.

5.1.4 The Coaches area is the area in front of the Coaches Box which is bordered by the line one metre from the boundary line as stipulated in By Law 4.3.8, and three metres each side of the coaches' box.

5.1.5 Match Officials, including Trainers, Runners, Boundary Umpires, Goal Umpires, shall not Coach from the sidelines or from the field or interfere with opposition players or officials, either verbally or physically.

5.2 Coaches

5.2.1 All Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be registered with Coach AFL at a minimum Foundation Course prior to coaching. Coaches and assistant coaches are required to associate their Coach AFL account with the club and age group they are coaching and enter their WWCC into the League provided platform.

Coaches and Assistant Coaches are required to maintain their currency within Coach AFL system by registering and meeting the requirements annually.

1.2.2 Clubs must ensure all coaches and assistant coaches have a current Foundation Level accreditation or higher prior to the commencement of the season.

5.2.3 Coaches are not permitted inside the boundary line while a match is in progress, except to attend to an injured player where there is insufficient

help from a trainer or other recognized Official. Non-compliance with this Rule will result in disciplinary action by the League.

5.2.4 Coaches and Assistant Coaches must wear approved identification as supplied by the League. This apparel must be the outer most garment worn.

5.2.5 To coach in the YJFL all coaches need to attend a YJFL sanctioned coaching session prior to the commencement of each season.

5.3 Runners

5.3.1 Runners must wear approved League apparel, visible at all times. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.

5.3.2 A Runner may remain on the field only long enough to deliver two (2) messages and shall return directly to the coaching area immediately thereafter.

5.3.3 Failure to conform will result in a demand from the Umpire for the replacement of the offender and disciplinary action by the League.

5.3.4 If the Coach refuses to comply with the request for replacement, the match will be abandoned, and full points awarded to the opposing team.

5.4 Trainers and Water Carriers

5.4.1 All Trainers shall wear approved League apparel, visible at all times. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.

5.4.2 The Trainers role is to:

- Attend to injured players on the ground. If any injury appears to be serious, qualified medical assistance should be obtained immediately.
- Be responsible for the venue's stretcher to be readily available and visible at the edge of the ground
- A trainer is not permitted to act as second runner or to coach players and may remain on the field only for the length of time taken to treat an injured player. Failure to conform will result in a demand from the umpire for the replacement of the offender and disciplinary action by the League.
- A Trainer may carry water when attending an injured player, but is not permitted to act as a Water Carrier

It is also recommended that the phone numbers of each player's parents or guardian are available and that relevant medical conditions of players are known.

5.4.3 Each team will be permitted to have one (1) water carrier. The designated water carrier must be eighteen (18) years of age or younger.

Water Carriers are to be positioned in the designated location (as per By-Law 4.3.14) on the opposite side of the ground to the coaches' boxes. Water Carriers are only permitted to enter the playing arena during a substantial break in play (e.g., when a goal is kicked, or where there is a significant stoppage for injury). Water Carriers must wear approved League apparel and must not coach, barrack or engage in any interaction with players. The Field Umpire(s) may pay a free kick against the offending team where a Water Carrier is on the arena during general play.

5.4.4 Concussion Management. All clubs are to adopt the AFL position statement 'The Management of Concussion in Australian Football with Specific Provision for Children 5-17 years' for all age groups, and to ensure that all Team Managers, Coaches and Trainers adhere to the policy.

5.4.5 Each venue shall have an attending qualified medic organised by the League. The Trainer shall remain the first level of care for injured players. The attending medic will offer additional support and guidance, such as first aid treatment and/or monitoring symptoms, as required.

5.5 Goal Umpires

Goal Umpires shall each wear a white coat.

5.6 Timekeeper

Each team must supply a Timekeeper. Both Timekeepers are to complete all details on the timekeeping card, including the scores, and sign the timekeeper's card on completion of the game.

5.6.1 The Field Umpire can instruct the Timekeepers to add time. This includes when the match is held up to remove an injured player from the field or for any other abnormal time lost. Any time added for that quarter will be for that quarter only. The remaining quarters will be of the prescribed length for the competition.

5.6.2 The Timekeepers shall sound the siren to signal the end of a quarter until a field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end.

5.6.3 Where the Umpire has mistakenly heard the siren to sound the end of playing time or the siren sounds mistakenly prior to the end of a quarter the Timekeepers must alert the Field Umpire as soon as possible of the error.

5.7 Boundary Umpires

5.7.1 Minimum requirements for Club appointed Boundary Umpires shall be a white top and whistle.

5.8 Umpire Escort

An adult Umpire Escort shall be supplied by both the Home Club and the visiting Club. The Umpire Escort must wear the League approved Bib identification. The Umpire Escort shall be required to escort the Field Umpire/s from the field at half time and after

the match and to stand with the Field Umpires during the quarter and three-quarter time breaks.

5.9 Team Manager

A Team Manager must wear the League approved Bib identification. Team Managers must not approach, or interact with, opposition players and officials apart from liaising with the opposition Team Manager. Team Managers are not to be in the Coaches areas.

5.10 Contact with Umpires

Team managers may only approach the Umpires at breaks in play regarding administrative matters, such as ground condition, team sheet compliance or clarification of red/yellow cards. They are not permitted to approach the umpires to discuss umpiring decisions. As per the Laws of Australian Football (5.5) – the captain, vice-captain or runner may request that the field umpire count the number of players of the opposing Team who are on the playing surface at any time during a match.

No other match official is permitted to approach the umpires during a match.

5.11 Ground Manager

At each venue, the Tenant Club shall supply a Ground Manager for each match who will be responsible for monitoring crowd behaviour and bringing any inappropriate conduct to the attention of club officials. The Ground Match Manager will also be the point of contact for any queries or concerns about the venue. A Ground Manager must wear the League approved identification. The Ground Manager must be a responsible adult and should not hold any other match day official role (e.g., the Ground Manager should not be the Team Manager or the Canteen Manager).

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

6.1 Age groups

6.1.1 The clubs of the league shall play in their respective age groups for Premiership points.

6.1.2 Age groups shall commence on the first of January of the current year. Exceptions may be permitted upon application to the League.

6.1.3 In accordance with the Youth Boys Player Retention Policy contained in Schedule Z, permission may be granted for players that are born between 1 January – 30 June of the year they turn 18 (and so are otherwise ineligible for the U17.5 competition) to play if they:

- Played in the YJFL in the prior year; or
- Have not played any competitive football in the prior year; or
- Do not believe they are ready for a full senior football season for their mental & emotional wellbeing, or for reasons as defined in the National Age Dispensation Policy.

Refer to Schedule Z (player permit guidelines).

- 6.1.4** Application must be made to the YJFL in writing on the form contained in Schedule AA by the YJFL Club, for each player requesting an exemption to play under the Youth Boys Player Retention Policy.
- 6.1.5** A Youth Boys team may only play a maximum of 5 players on an overage exemption in each Youth Boys match.
- 6.1.6** A male Player must not play in an age group game involving other players who are more than two [2] years above the player's actual age as of 1 January of the current year. i.e., an Under 10 may not play in an Under 13 Match. The coach of the player's team is responsible for assessing whether the "under-age" player has the physical and mental maturity to safely play in the older age group. In undertaking this assessment, the coach must take into consideration the Coaches Code of Conduct requirements to consider maturity levels and to stress safety always.
- 6.1.7** A female Player must not play in an age group game involving other players who are more than three [3] years above the player's actual age as of 1 January of the current year. i.e., an Under 10 may not play in an Under 14 Match. The coach of the player's team is responsible for assessing whether the "under-age" player has the physical and mental maturity to safely play in the older age group. In undertaking this assessment, the coach must take into consideration the Coaches Code of Conduct requirements to consider maturity levels and to stress safety always.
- 6.1.8** Before a coach can allow a female player to play in an age group game involving other players who are more than 2 years above the players actual age as of 1 January of the current year, the coach must obtain a signed consent from a parent or guardian of such player. The consent form to be signed by the parent or guardian of such player is Schedule Y to the By-Laws.

6.2 Player Registration

- 6.2.1** The League and Clubs shall maintain a register of all players in each grade entered in the League.
- 6.2.2** To be registered to play, players must, at a minimum, turn 7 years old prior to 30 April in the year in which they commence playing.
- 6.2.3** Transfer of players will close at 7pm on the last day of June each year except for players who are subject to Interstate Transfer.
- 6.2.4** Where a player has a physical or intellectual disability or has physical size and/or development issues, and a medical physician certifies the player is unable to play in his correct age group, a club may apply to the League for approval for that player to play in a lower age group, using the official form. Such approval shall be at the discretion of the League and shall be for one season only.
- 6.2.5** Players may apply for a permit to play in a Senior, Reserves or Under 19 competition where an interchange agreement is in place between the two

Leagues. The player must be registered with a YJFL Club. A player may not be registered with a Senior club, and play in the YJFL on a permit.

6.3 General

6.3.1 Any Club with multiple teams in the same division of an age group must register each team separately and they will take part in the competition on the same terms and conditions as if they were entered as separate Clubs. Movement of players between teams in these circumstances can only be made after League approval is obtained. A list of players in teams concerned shall be forwarded to the League after final Grading of teams has been determined.

6.3.2 Any Club which fields an ineligible player as defined in these Rules or fails to comply with these Rules shall be liable to a penalty as prescribed in Schedule Q for each offending player plus the loss of all scores made by the team. All points for the match will be awarded to the opposing team provided that they have complied with the Rules.

6.4 Home and Away Games

6.4.1 Where multiple divisions are included in a grade, no more than four (4) Players may be rotated from a higher division to a lower division Team per round.

6.4.2 Where a team has a bye, its players from the previous round cannot be rotated to a team in a lower division in the age group without approval from the CEO or their appointee.

6.4.3 Once a player has played five (5) matches in the higher graded team, that player may not move to the lower graded team for the remainder of the season. A player can move between teams in their age group or up an age group until they have played 5 games without restriction.

- In cases where players who have been playing up an age group and have qualified in that age group, they can move down to their own age group to help in cases of genuine shortage only. Genuine shortage is defined as a mixed or boys team having less than 20 players available, and a girls team having less than 18 players available.

6.4.4 During the Grading period, no Player may participate in two games in the same age group in the same round, even if the two games are in different divisions of that age group or are played on separate days. The teams in which the ineligible player participates may, at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee, forfeit premiership points and points scored, if applicable, and/or the Club shall be penalised in accordance with Schedule Q. The opposing team, where applicable, shall be awarded the premiership points and retain points scored.

6.4.5 When clubs have two or more teams in an age group, players can only play for one team per day until they reach 5 games qualification OR clubs nominate squads at the end of grading period. (Note: Rule 6.4.4 remains in place during grading period). Once teams have settled players qualified/nominated in a

lower division team, players may play up a division (two games in one day in an age group) in cases of genuine shortage.

A maximum of 4 players can play down a division during a bye round in the same age group. Should 5 or more players be required to play down to reach minimum team numbers, the game will be ruled a forfeit a practice match is to be played. Note: Clubs who have a team/s in the age group below should utilise these players where possible. Consideration of player availability in lower age groups will be considered by the league in applications to players down a division in any one age group.

- 6.4.6** Where a club has multiple teams in an age group and may be unable to field a team in a lower division due to injuries or other player absences, the Club may seek approval from the League to utilize players from a higher team. Such approval shall only be given by the CEO or their appointee, to enable up to the maximum numbers for that age group to take the field. Such application should include at least six players names.

6.5 Finals Games

- 6.5.1** To be eligible to compete in a finals team, a player must have played the minimum number of games required in the team concerned. Where a team has one or more byes in a season, the number of games required will be reduced on a pro rata basis for finals qualification purposes. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted upon application to the League under the genuine shortage provisions (By Law 6.5.5), or because of injury or other special circumstances.

Season Length	Finals Eligibility Games
16 Rounds	4
15 Rounds	4
14 Rounds	3
13 Rounds	3
12 Rounds	3
11 Rounds	3
10 Rounds	2

Any applications must be lodged with the League by 5pm on the Tuesday following the final home and away round. A list of players permitted to play finals under the exemptions will be published on the YJFL website by the Thursday prior to the semi-final weekend.

- 6.5.2** A player who qualifies for finals in multiple Divisions within an Age Group may only play finals in the highest Division of that Age Group for which they have qualified.
- 6.5.3** Players are eligible for finals only with the first team they play 5 home and away games for. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted upon application to the League.
- 6.5.4** In Finals a number of players greater than 24 may be utilized to a maximum of 30, provided that each player is eligible to compete in a finals series in

accordance with By Law 6.5.1, 6.5.2 and 6.5.3 and has played these games in the team concerned.

- 6.5.5** Where a team has a genuine shortage of eligible players for finals games, the Club may seek approval from the League for the utilisation of players from other teams other than the one claiming genuine shortage. The League must promptly determine an application made under this Rule and similarly notify the applicant Club of the determination.

The intention of this By Law is to enable the team to field the minimum number of players in a final, and not to improve the performance of the team.

- 6.5.6** An application under By Law 6.5.5 must include at least six players. League approval will only be given for players from a team in a lower division. If the clubs do not have a team in a lower division, it may nominate players from a lower age group. In exceptional circumstances variations to this rule may apply upon application to the League. The League will take into consideration whether nominated players have received votes in the League Best and Fairest in the lower division or lower age group competition.

- 6.5.7** For the purpose of By Law 6.5.5, a team has a “genuine shortage” for finals games when they have less than 20 players. For Girls teams a genuine shortage is less than 18 players.

- 6.5.8** Players approved under By Law 6.5.5 are eligible to play finals with the team who sought the approval. Finals teams utilising players approved under By Law 6.5.5, may play a finals game with eligible and approved players on the Team Sheet to a maximum on the Team Sheet of 20 players. For Girls teams a genuine shortage is less than 18 players.

- 6.5.9** Approval of players under By Law 6.5.5 may be for one finals game only or the series of finals games with the team that sought the approval.

- 6.5.10** Boys and Girls who play in AFL Under 18 Pathway competition may play in the YJFL finals provided they have qualified by playing the required number of games under By Law 6.5.1

- 6.5.11** Once a player has played more than a total of 8 games with a Senior, Reserves or Under 19 team, that player will be ineligible to again participate in the YJFL season, including finals. An exemption to this rule may be sought in writing to the CEO, and approval may be granted by the CEO at their discretion.

7. UNIFORMS

7.1 Club Apparel

- 7.1.1** A League approved apparel licensee must be used for all on field item worn by teams during match times. Specifically.
- a. Playing Jumper (short, long, and reversible)
 - b. Shorts

- c. Socks
- d. Warm Up Top

- 7.1.2 All League socks must carry the YJFL initials.
- 7.1.3 The use of non-league approved suppliers is a breach of trademark and sanctions will be in line with Government regulations.

7.2 Registration of Uniforms

- 7.2.1 Each Club shall register its uniform with the League.
- 7.2.2 Clubs MUST receive prior approval from the League by way of registering their uniform before the uniform is worn. This registration shall include socks (colour).
- 7.2.3 The League's logo shall be displayed on Club / Team Jumpers and Warm Up tops. The League logo to be on left hand breast in standard size as set by the League.
- 7.2.4 Colour photographs of the uniform are to be supplied, with a description, to the League's Chief Executive Officer for entry into a register.
- 7.2.5 Players not attired in a registered uniform with a number not meeting the requirements shall cause the club to be fined.
- 7.2.6 Sponsorship – Signage on Jumpers/Warm Up Tops: League Approval to placing sponsorship signage/logo on Club uniforms must be obtained. The league reserves the left side on the front of jumpers for sponsorship signage (for League Major Sponsor). Clubs may use the right-side chest of the jumper to display a Club sponsorship (signage and/or logo) which shall be within the parameters of a square measuring 75mm x 75mm.
- 7.2.7 The back of the jumper is also available for Clubs to utilise where one sponsorship signage must appear below the number and one sponsorship signage may appear above the number, each at a height of no more than 10/11 centimetres.
- 7.2.8 Where clubs competing in a match have a jumper clash as listed in Schedule T, the Away club must wear an alternative jumper or white shorts. Where an away team does not wear an alternative jumper or white shorts in one of the identified clashes in Schedule T, a fine will be imposed as per Schedule Q.
- 7.2.9 In the event that clubs who are competing in a finals match have a jumper clash as listed in Schedule T, the second named club in the finals fixture must wear an alternative jumper or white shorts.
- 7.2.10 Where short or long-sleeved clothing is worn under the jumper, the colour of the clothing must be the same as the predominant jumper colour.
- 7.2.11 Sponsorship – Signage on Shorts: League Approval to placing sponsorship signage/logo on Club uniforms must be obtained. The league reserves the left side on the front of shorts for sponsorship signage (for League Major

Sponsor). Clubs may use the right-side leg of the shorts front or back to display a Club sponsorship (signage and/or logo) which shall be within the parameters of a square measuring 75mm x 75mm.

7.2 Shorts

7.2.1 When playing at Home, or first named team when playing at a neutral venue, wear either Black or League approved coloured shorts.

7.2.2 When playing away if there is a jumper colour clash with the home team jumper, wear either the team's alternative jumper or wear white shorts. Please refer to Schedule T for details of jumper colour clashes.

7.2.3 The first named side (in fixtures) is always the home team.

7.3 Numbers

7.3.1 Players taking part in matches shall be identified by the display of individual numbers on the registered uniform of the club.

7.3.2 No duplication of numbers is permitted.

7.3.3 The size of these numbers shall be a minimum of 20 centimetres in height.

7.4 Bicycle Shorts - Skins

Bicycle shorts (skins), when worn, are to be the colour of the shorts worn or beige/black coloured. Full length skins are not permitted to be worn unless for reasons of religious custom or medical purposes.

If for medical purposes, then the procedure for protective clothing under By Law 7.6 must be followed.

7.5 Gloves

Gloves are banned from being used in all League games (Under 11 onwards) unless for medical purposes in which case the procedure for protective clothing under By Law 7.6 must be followed.

7.6 Protective clothing

The wearing of glasses or any protective guards/braces on any part of the body during matches will only be permitted where written medical evidence for the need to wear glasses or guards/braces is provided. The written medical evidence must be produced by or on behalf of the player on request by the Field Umpires(s), who shall have the sole discretion to allow or disallow the wearing of glasses and guards/braces. Players are permitted to wear appropriate helmets, mouth guards and shin guards.

7.7 Fingernails

Players are required to keep their fingernails trimmed to avoid scratching or other injuries to other players. Where necessary will require the player to tape their fingernails.

7.8 Jewellery

Jewellery and/or body piercings of any nature whatsoever are banned from being worn in any League game. Any such jewellery or body piercing must be removed completely. Taping over any such jewellery or body piercing is not permitted.

7.9 Metal Stops

Metal or metal-tipped stops are banned from being worn in any League game.

7.10 It is the responsibility of clubs to manage 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9.

8. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

8.1 Maximum Number of Players

8.1.1 The total number of players allowed in Home and Away matches in boys and mixed competitions is 24 i.e., 18 players, plus 6 Interchange players. In Girls competitions, the total number of players allowed in Home and Away matches are 24 i.e., 16 players plus 8 interchange players. A team that is detected playing more than the 24 players shall forfeit premiership points and their score for the game concerned. The premiership points will be awarded to the opposing team.

8.1.2 A team captain may approach the umpire to request a head count. Where a team has more than the permitted number of players on the ground, the score at the time must be recorded by the Goal Umpires / Timekeepers. Play will resume where it was suspended originally.

The Field Umpire will refer the outcome of the head count to the League by notation on the Match Report (Team Sheet)

The League Executive will determine the final score of the game. This may include:

- Loss of all points scored by the offending team up to the time of the head count.
- Score of the offending team may revert to their score at the last break (i.e., the break immediately prior to the detection)

If the head count is considered frivolous by the Chief Executive Officer, the Club calling the head count could be fined.

8.1.3 In the event a Club commences play with fewer than the number allowed, that Club may complete its number in terms of, and subject to, the provisions of By-Law 2.4.2 or, if appropriate, 8.5.6.

8.1.4 Reduced Numbers per Side Provision

This provision only applies to teams in the Under 13 age group and above. Teams in Under 12 and below are to use the Evening Up Rule.

Additionally, the Reduced Number per Side Provision may only be used by:

- The team of a Club which only has a single team in that age group; or
- A Club's lowest ranked team in an age group where multiple Club teams in that age group exist.

Should any club be fielding a team in any match with **less than 19 players** for boys and mixed teams or **less than 17 players** for girls' teams, the club may ask for the match to be **reduced to a 16 per side game for boys and mixed teams, or 14 a side game for girls' teams.**

In this situation, all players in excess of the 16 (or 14 for girls) that are on the field for both teams, up to the League's maximum of 24 players, will be interchange players.

e.g., Team A has 18 players, Team B has 22 players. Team A requests a 16 per side match. At the commencement of the match, Team A will have 16 players on the field and 2 interchange. Team B will have 16 players on the field and 6 interchange.

For clubs wishing to invoke the Reduced numbers per side provision, the following protocol will be required:

1. By 8:00 pm on the Friday evening prior to the match, the Secretary of the Club wishing to invoke the Reduced numbers per side provision must make contact with the Secretary of the opposing club by phone.
2. The Secretary must then follow the phone call with an email to the Secretary of the opposing club confirming that the game will be played as a Reduced numbers per side match. The League must be copied into this email.

In the event that a team only has 14 or 15 players available for a match, normal even-up rules will apply.

8.2 Minimum Number of Players

8.2.1 The minimum number of players per team in all boys and mixed competitions shall be 13, and in all girls', competitions shall be 11.

A club who has a team that intends to forfeit a scheduled match must advise the League of its intention to do so no later than 5.00pm on the Friday prior to the day of the scheduled match.

8.2.2 Any side that fields fewer than the minimum number of players within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time, shall be deemed to have given a walk over without notice. The Team not having the required minimum number of players shall notify the Umpire and the opposing team manager of the intent to forfeit. A fine or loss of premiership points or both may be imposed at the discretion of the League.

8.2.3 In all competitive age groups, where one team has insufficient numbers (i.e., 13 for boys and mixed teams, and 11 for girls' teams), the competing

clubs may arrange to play a practice match. The players of both sides may be combined to ensure that as many players as possible can take the field.

8.3 Interchange Bench

- 8.3.1 Players can be interchanged at any time during a match.
- 8.3.2 All interchanges to be made in the designated area. A player who does not leave the playing surface as specified cannot re-join the game for a period of time equivalent to one quarter of the game being played.
- 8.3.3 The player leaving the field cannot be replaced until he has crossed over the boundary line between the Interchange Gate Marker.
- 8.3.4 Any injured player who leaves the playing area through interchange lines designated for injured players only, shall be replaced through the normal interchange area.
- 8.3.5 All interchange players must remain seated at all times.
- 8.3.6 A replacement may take the field if the replaced Player is so injured that time will be needed to remove him from the field, provided that before doing so the Field Umpire is notified of the move.
- 8.3.7 From the time that such notification is made, the injured Player shall be deemed to have left the field.

8.4 Blood Rule

- 8.4.1 No player shall participate in any League match or continue to participate in any League match for so long as the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform.
- 8.4.2 Any player directed to leave the field shall do so through the designated Interchange area.
- 8.4.3 Where a player is directed by an umpire to leave the field under this Rule the umpire shall wait a reasonable period to allow the replacement player to take up position before re-commencing play.

8.5 Requirements to even up Player Numbers (Evening Up Rule)

- 8.5.1 Where one team has between minimum and maximum on field players, and the second team has more players than the first team, **both teams shall field the same number of players**, therefore an equal number of players shall take the field. Exceptions to this rule apply in certain circumstances - refer to 8.5.4, 8.5.5, 8.5.14 and 8.5.15.
- 8.5.2 Up to and including Under 12 Teams, Clubs must loan or accept the number of players required to even up the teams.
- 8.5.3 Team Managers, particularly from the Team that requires the evening-up rule to apply, must ensure that the process is organized as early as possible and prior to the teams taking the field.

- 8.5.4** If a Club does not have jumpers available of a suitable and appropriate size for the Age Group to facilitate the loan of players, there is no requirement to even-up playing numbers on the field.
- 8.5.5** In the Under 13 through to Youth Boys and Youth Girls Age Groups, if players are not offered to the team with less than maximum on field players, then playing numbers must be reduced so that both teams field the same number of players. If players are offered, but not accepted, then the team with the greater number of players is not required to reduce playing numbers, i.e., the evening up rule does not apply.
- 8.5.6** Where an imbalance is caused during a Match due to injury, playing numbers shall be evened-up for the remainder of the game. A player should join the game from the Interchange Bench, if available. If not, a player from the team with the greater number of players must be removed from the field.
- 8.5.7** **Late Arrivals** - Should a player arrive late, that player may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:
- 8.5.8** The Team Manager shall inform the Officials of the other Team in accordance with By-Law 2.4.2.
- 8.5.9** The Opposition Team Manager is to be informed when the players are ready to take the field, that the playing numbers of each side are to be increased.
- 8.5.10** Addition to the playing numbers on the field can only be made providing the numbers on the field remain equal for both teams.
- 8.5.11** Where a head count is conducted, and uneven playing numbers are evident the scores at the time of the head count shall be noted and the matter referred to the League for determination of the result of the match.
- 8.5.12** **Daily loan of players** - When players are loaned, the Team Manager of both teams shall note on the Team Sheet the number of players loaned. Players may be loaned on a quarter-by-quarter rotating basis or for the whole match as appropriate.
- 8.5.13** Any dispute regarding By Law 8.5 will be referred to the CIT who will determine penalties, if any, to be applied. Penalties may include loss of premiership points and/or score by the offending team and/or the Club of the offending team shall be penalised in accordance with Schedule Q.
- 8.5.14** The Evening Up Rule is not to be applied in Finals.
- 8.5.15** Where a player is ordered off the field by the Field Umpire and there is no replacement available (as per 9.3.4) there is no requirement to even-up the playing numbers on the field.

The Spirit of the Rule

The league expects all team officials to understand and adhere to the 'spirit' of this rule, which is, the team that has the greater number of players available shall lend as many players as possible to equalise numbers with the other team so that all players available to participate in that match shall have the opportunity to play in as much of that match as possible.

8.6 Disputes relating to the Composition of Teams

Any team or club who is found to have Intentionally or maliciously manipulated the composition of teams (movement of players or restricting team numbers), contrary to by-laws 8.1.4, 8.2, 8.3.1, 8.5 may face the following sanctions:

- a. Fine
- b. Citation for head coach
- c. Loss of match points

Clubs who believe a breach has occurred in any game should provide a written submission to the CEO by 4pm Monday.

Should there be clear evidence of a breach, the League can sanction the offending club/coach at its discretion. Where an investigation is required, the club making the complaint shall pay for the cost of the investigation. If proven, the offending club will cover the cost of the investigation. Should the complaint be found to be frivolous the club lodging the complaint will forfeit part or all of the investigation costs.

9. OFFENCES

9.1 Officials Powers to Report

9.1.1 At all times and in all matches, League appointed Boundary and Goal Umpires are empowered to reprimand and report Players or Club Officials. Appropriately identified Umpires Coaches are also empowered to enter the field of play at any time to report or reprimand Players or Club Officials.

9.1.2 In all matches including Finals, if the League appointed Boundary or Goal Umpire reports a Player, they shall, at the earliest opportunity, notify the Field Umpire who shall, upon receipt of the report, send off the reported Player in terms of By-Law 9.3.

9.1.3 Club appointed officials have no power to report individual players or send them from the ground but may lodge an official complaint through their club to the League.

9.1.4 Termination of Game. The Field Umpire is to call Captains and Coaches over and instruct them that the game will be called off if their team's conduct does not improve. The Umpires will allow adequate time for this to be relayed to the players. If the decision is subsequently made to call off the game the Umpires will:

- Inform the Captains that the game is terminated.
- Inform the Timekeepers and record the time that the game was terminated.

- Ensure that all match paperwork is completed in the usual manner and.
- Forwarded together with Reports to the League's Chief Executive Officer as soon as possible.
- Advise the Umpires Manager as soon as possible.
- Where a match has been terminated by the Field Umpire/s they must provide a report containing the reasons for such action and forward this to the Chief Executive Officer as soon as possible, together with player / team reports.

9.2 Player Offences

A Player commits an offence if he/she displays any of the types of conduct listed in Schedule S.

9.3 Order Off Rule - Players

- 9.3.1** The order off rule is to apply in all age groups. An Order-Off Form is to be lodged, by the Field Umpire, in all instances of a player being ordered off.
- 9.3.2** The field umpire shall determine the length of time a player ordered from the ground must remain off the playing arena by display of either a **RED CARD** to indicate the remainder of the game, or a **YELLOW CARD** to indicate the equivalent of one quarter of the game being played.
- 9.3.3** The Player must exit through the Interchange area. The Timekeepers appointed to the game will maintain the necessary time record and is the only official authorised to consult with the field umpire in regard to the player's eligibility to resume play. This consultation is to take place at the end of the playing period in which the player was sent from the playing arena. The Coach of the offending player may consult the Timekeepers to ascertain when the player may resume playing.
- 9.3.4** A player who is ordered from the playing arena with a Yellow Card or Red Card may be replaced. A player sent off the field by the Field Umpire shall be escorted from the field by the Team's Runner or Trainer.
- 9.3.5** A player ordered off with a Yellow Card for a second time in a game shall be off for the remainder of the game and is automatically reported.
- 9.3.6** Players reported by official league field, boundary or goal umpires are to be ordered from the playing arena by the field umpire for the remainder of the game in which they have been reported.
- 9.3.7** Should a player refuse to leave the playing arena when ordered off, the field umpire shall inform the coach of the player's team. If following advice to the coach the player does not immediately leave the playing arena, the match will be abandoned, and full points awarded to the opposing team.

9.3.8 A player ordered from the playing Arena with a Yellow Card three times in a season will be required to appear before the Independent Tribunal to show cause why a suspension should not be imposed.

9.3.9 Players ordered-off for the remainder of the game are to exit the field through the Interchange area and shall be escorted to the clubrooms by the Team Runner, Trainer, or Team Manager immediately. The reported player shall change out of their team uniform and is not permitted to re-enter the playing arena for the remainder of the match including breaks.

9.3.10 Where a player is reported (Red Card) the umpire will complete the official Report Form after the match regarding the Intention, Impact, Location and Point of Contact in a case of physical contact, and Intent and nature of abuse in the case of the abuse of an umpire or other person, which will determine whether a mandatory penalty will be given.

The Umpire will offer the mandatory penalty to the player, who is to be accompanied by the Team Manager, immediately after completing the Report Form, and a copy of the form will be handed to the Team Manager. If the penalty is not offered, or not accepted if offered, the player will be required to appear at the Tribunal on the Monday night following the match.

The League will review the report on the evening of the match and will advise the club immediately whether a mandatory penalty, if accepted, will stand or the player will be required to appear at the Tribunal at a time advised by the League.

The Reporting System is included at Schedule V to these By Laws.

9.3.11 Any League appointed Umpire who fails to order-off a reported player shall face disciplinary action at the instance of the Board or of the Umpires Manager.

9.4 Order Off Rule - Officials

9.4.1 The order off rule is to apply, and an Order Off Form is to be lodged by the Field Umpire in all instances of an official being ordered off.

9.4.2 Where Unacceptable Behaviours are emanating from the Coaching Box, a three-phase system will be undertaken by the Field Umpire/s via the use of White and Red cards to stop such behaviours in real time. The three phases are (as per schedule AC):

- 1st Phase - a warning (White card shown)
- 2nd Phase - another warning, free kick and 25m penalty (White card shown)
- 3rd Phase - Head Coach reported and removed from game, free kick and 25m penalty (Red card shown)

9.4.3 An official ordered from the ground must remain off the playing arena for the assigned period as per the card displayed by the umpire. A **RED CARD** indicates the remainder of the game, and a **YELLOW CARD** indicates the equivalent of one quarter of the game being played.

9.4.4 Officials ordered off from the field may be replaced. Any Officials ordered off for a second time in a game shall be ordered off, for the remainder of the game and is automatically reported.

9.4.5 Officials reported by an official League field, boundary, or goal umpire are to be ordered from the playing arena by the field umpire for the remainder of the game, including quarter, half- and three-quarter-time breaks, in which they have been reported.

A reported official is required to appear before the Independent Tribunal on the Monday evening immediately following the match.

9.4.6 If an official refuses to leave the playing arena when ordered off, the field umpire shall inform the Coach or other relevant team officials. If following advice to the other team officials the official does not leave the playing arena, the match will be abandoned, and full points awarded to the opposing team.

9.5 Melees

A melee is defined as an incident involving six (6) or more players and/or officials who are pushing, grappling, wrestling with one another, and which, in the opinion of the umpire(s) is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the YJFL.

In the event of a melee taking place and following three (3) continued instructions from the umpire(s) to break up the melee, if the melee continues, the umpire(s) shall report the incident to the league.

A player or players who contribute to the formation of melees are, at the discretion of the Umpire/s, liable to be ordered from the field.

Clubs may be fined as per Schedule Q.

Under no circumstances are volunteers (coaches, runners, trainers, water carriers, club umpires etc.) permitted to approach or become involved in a melee involving players from either competing team. This includes attempting to separate or restrain players who are involved in the melee. Any official who approaches or becomes involved in a melee will be referred to the Conduct Investigation Tribunal.

9.6 Alcohol

Consumption of alcohol by person or persons in any form at League scheduled matches is strictly prohibited and can result in loss of premiership points, fines and disqualifications of individuals, teams, or clubs from the League.

9.7 Suspended Players and Officials

9.7.1 Where a player or official is suspended by the acceptance of an early guilty plea for a classifiable offence, or by the Independent Tribunal or Conduct Investigation Tribunal, the player is not eligible to receive an award for finishing in the top ten of a YJFL Best and Fairest Award and the official cannot coach or act as an official for any representative team during the period of suspension.

9.7.2 Where a player or official is suspended by the acceptance of an early guilty plea for a classifiable offence, or by the Tribunal or the Conduct Investigation Tribunal, the player or official shall not be permitted to enter any YJFL playing arena on match days during the period of suspension including during quarter, half and three-quarter time breaks, nor perform any Official duties on Match day for the duration of their suspension, including any role that would require that Person to be entered on a team sheet.

In the case of a suspended official, they are:

- Not permitted to communicate with any Football Official and/or players on Match Day for the duration of their suspension.
- Not permitted to enter club change rooms at any Match-on-Match Day for the duration of their suspension.

10 RULES FOR UNDER 8 MIXED, UNDER 9 MIXED, UNDER 9 GIRLS, UNDER 10 MIXED AND UNDER 10 GIRLS COMPETITIONS

10.1 Under 8 Competition

The Under 8 competition is to be the Introductory phase of the League competition. Players must, at a minimum, turn 7 years old prior to 30 April in the year in which they commence playing.

10.1.1 Player numbers

Twelve players per side on the ground at any one time, plus up to four interchange players. Under 8 teams are to have balanced numbers. Where one team is short on players, the opposition will loan players to ensure equality of team numbers on the field.

Interchange of players to be only at quarter, half, and three-quarter-time breaks, except in the case of injury when a replacement may be made immediately.

10.1.2 Ground Size

80 metres x 60 metres approximately which is designed to fit two games per oval.

10.1.3 Zones

Three equal zones to be marked with cones or discs, with four players from each team per zone. The Umpire will pay a free kick to the opposition if a player does not adhere to their zone.

10.1.4 Match Length

There will be four 10-minute quarters with breaks of five, five and five minutes, with the match to be completed within one hour.

10.1.5 Competition details

There will be no recorded scores, ladders, or finals. Scores will not be displayed on a scoreboard. There will be no recording of best players and goal kickers permitted. No League representative teams will be selected at this level.

10.1.6 Contact

Modified tackling* is permitted, but bumping is not permitted. Players cannot bump or push an opponent, knock/steal the ball out of their opponent's hands or smother the opponent's kick.

*Modified Tackling – A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind, providing the tackle from behind does not thrust the player with the ball forward (i.e., push the player in the back). If the player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the umpire feels the player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalised for holding the ball.

10.1.7 Umpiring

The Field Umpire, provided by the home team, shall wear a white shirt, or supplementary club umpire shirt and be equipped with a whistle. Each team will provide a goal umpire.

10.1.8 Bouncing the ball

A player may bounce the ball once before disposing of it.

10.1.9 Marking the ball

A mark is awarded, irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled, to any player who catches it from a kick, or makes a reasonable attempt to catch it.

10.1.10 Kicking off the ground.

No deliberate kicking off the ground is permitted; when detected a free kick will be paid to the opposition.

10.1.11 Out of Bounds

From a kick where the ball goes out of bounds a free kick is awarded against the player who last kicked the ball. From hands or body, or if there is doubt, the umpire shall call a ball-up 10 metres in from the boundary.

10.1.12 Stealing smothering, shepherding, and barging.

No stealing or smothering of the ball, shepherding, or barging is permitted.

10.1.13 Penalties

No distance penalties apply at this level. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion.

10.1.14 Commencement of play

Play shall be started by a ball-up between 2 players in the centre zone.

10.1.15 Team Officials

Coaches

Only one coach is permitted on the ground. The purpose of the coach being on the ground is to direct players to stay in their positions and zones. Coaches are to wear League Blue Bib identification.

Trainer

A Trainer may not be used to coach players and may remain on the field only the length of time taken to treat an injured player or to provide water. After attending to players Trainers must return to their position behind the boundary line. They are not to remain on the field. The League Green Bib identification must be worn by Trainers.

Runner

A Runner is not permitted in Under 8 matches.

10.1.16 At the End of the Game

At the end of the game all Players and Coaches are to gather together on the ground to be addressed by the Umpire, and all will leave the ground together - a visual demonstration of the spirit in which the game is played. Coaches are to instruct players to shake hands before/after game.

10.2 Under 9 Mixed & Under 9 Girls Competition

The Under 9 mixed and Under 9 girls' competitions are an introductory competition for the League. Players must, at a minimum, turn 7 years old prior to 30 April in the year in which they commence playing.

10.2.1 Player Numbers

Fifteen players per side on the ground at any one time, plus up to five interchange players. Under 9 Mixed and Under 9 Girls teams are to have balanced numbers. Where one team is short on players, the opposition will loan players to ensure equality of team numbers on the field.

Interchange of players to be only at quarter, half, and three-quarter-time breaks, except in the case of injury when a replacement may be made immediately.

10.2.2 Ground Size

100 metres x 80 metres approximately.

10.2.3 Zones

Three equal zones to be marked with cones or discs, with five players from each team per zone. The Umpire will pay a free kick to the opposition if a player does not adhere to their zone.

10.2.4 Match Length

There will be four 12-minute quarters with breaks of five, five and five minutes with the match to be completed within one hour and fifteen minutes.

10.2.5 Competition details

There will be no recorded scores, ladders, or finals. Scores will not be displayed on a scoreboard. There will be no recording of best players and goal kickers permitted. No League representative teams will be selected at this level.

10.2.6 Contact

Modified tackling* is permitted, but bumping is not permitted. Players cannot bump or push an opponent, knock/steal the ball out of their opponent's hands or smother the opponent's kick.

*Modified Tackling - A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind, providing the tackle from behind does not thrust the player with the ball forward (i.e., push the player in the back). If the player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the umpire feels the player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalised for holding the ball.

10.2.7 Umpiring

The Field Umpire, provided by the home team, shall wear a white shirt, or supplementary club umpire shirt and be equipped with a whistle. Each team will provide a goal umpire.

10.2.8 Bouncing the ball

A player may bounce the ball twice before disposing of it.

10.2.9 Marking the ball

A mark is awarded, irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled, to any player who catches it from a kick, or makes a reasonable attempt to catch it.

10.2.10 Kicking off the ground.

No deliberate kicking off the ground is permitted; when detected a free kick will be paid to the opposition.

10.2.11 Out of Bounds

From a kick where the ball goes out of bounds a free kick is awarded against the player who last kicked the ball. From hands or body, or if there is doubt, the umpire shall call a ball-up 10 metres in from the boundary.

10.2.12 Stealing, smothering, shepherding, and barging.

No stealing, smothering of the ball, shepherding, or barging is permitted.

10.2.13 Penalties

10 metre penalties can be applied at the umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion.

10.2.14 Commencement of play

Play shall be started by a ball-up between 2 players in the centre zone.

10.2.15 Team Officials

Coaches

Only one coach is permitted on the ground. The purpose of the coach being on the ground is to direct players to stay in their positions and zones. Coaches are to wear League Blue Bib identification.

Trainer

A Trainer may not be used to coach players and may remain on the field only the length of time taken to treat an injured player or to provide water. After attending to players Trainers must return to their position behind the boundary line. They are not to remain on the field. The League Green Bib identification must be worn by Trainers.

Runner

A Runner is not permitted in Under 9 matches.

10.2.16 At the End of the Game

At the end of the game all Players and Coaches are to gather together on the ground to be addressed by the Umpire, and all will leave the ground together – a visual demonstration of the spirit in which the game is played. Coaches are to instruct players to shake hands before/after game.

10.3 Under 10 Mixed Competition

The competition to be the Transition to Competition phase of the Yarra Junior Football League competition.

10.3.1 Player numbers

Eighteen players per side on the ground at any one time, plus up to six interchanges players. Under 10 teams are to have balanced numbers. Where one team is short on players, the opposition will loan players to ensure equality of team numbers on the field.

10.3.2 Ground Size

Up to Full size. However, where a large ground is used the coaches should agree to reduce the size of the ground using portable goal posts.

10.3.3 Zones

There will be no zones in the Under 10 competition.

10.3.4 Match Length

There will be four 15-minute quarters with breaks of five, five and five minutes with the match to be completed within one hour and thirty minutes.

10.3.5 Competition details

Scores are allowed to be kept and may be displayed on a scoreboard. There will be no published scores, ladders, or finals. All match paperwork is to be submitted to the League for grading purposes. There will be no recording of best players and goal kickers permitted. No League representative teams will be selected at this level.

10.3.6 Contact

Full tackling is permitted in the Under 10 competition.

10.3.7 Umpiring

A Club Supplementary Umpires will be provided by the home team, unless an official umpire is provided by the League. The Supplementary Umpire must attend a YJFL Supplementary Umpire Training session and wear a YJFL green Supplementary Umpire polo shirt and be equipped with a whistle. Each team will provide a goal umpire and a boundary umpire.

10.3.8 Bouncing the ball

A player may bounce the ball twice before disposing of it.

10.3.9 Marking the ball

A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 10 metres.

10.3.10 Kicking off the ground.

No deliberate kicking off the ground is permitted; when detected a free kick will be paid to the opposition.

10.3.11 Out of Bounds

The ball going out of bounds will result in a boundary throw in unless it is on the full in which case a free kick will be awarded to the opposition.

10.3.12 Penalties

25 metre penalties can be applied at the umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion.

10.3.13 Team Officials

Coaches

Coaches are not permitted on the playing arena during Under 10 matches and must coach from the coach's box. Coaches are to wear League Blue Bib identification.

Trainer

A Trainer may not be used to coach players and may remain on the field only for the length of time taken to treat an injured player or to provide water. After attending to players Trainers must return to their position behind the boundary line. They are not to remain on the field. The League Green Bib identification must be worn by Trainers.

Runner

A Runner is permitted in Under 10's under the provisions of By Law 5.3.

10.4 Under 10 Girls Competition

The competition to be the Transition to Competition phase of the Yarra Junior Football League competition.

10.4.1 Player numbers

Sixteen players per side on the ground at any one time, plus up to six interchange players. Under 10 teams are to have balanced numbers. Where one team is short on players, the opposition will loan players to ensure equality of team numbers on the field.

10.4.2 Ground Size

Up to Full size. However, where a large ground is used, the coaches should agree to reduce the size of the ground using portable goal posts.

10.4.3 Zones

The ground will be split into 3 zones across the half forward and half back lines. The number of players in each zone should be 5 – 6 – 5. Players will not be required to wear armbands.

10.4.4 Match Length

There will be four 12-minute quarters with breaks of five, five and five minutes with the match to be completed within one hour and fifteen minutes.

10.4.5 Competition details

Scores are allowed to be kept and may be displayed on a scoreboard. There will be no published scores, ladders, or finals. All match paperwork is to be submitted to the League for grading purposes. There will be no recording of best players and goal kickers permitted. No League representative teams will be selected at this level.

10.4.6 Contact

Modified tackling, as described in the Under 9 Girls Rules, will be enforced in Under 10 Girls (see 10.2.6 - Under 9 Mixed & Under 9 Girls Competition - Contact).

10.4.7 Umpiring

A Club Supplementary Umpire will be provided by the home team unless an official umpire is provided by the League. The Supplementary Umpire must attend a YJFL Supplementary Umpire Training session, and wear a YJFL green Supplementary Umpire polo shirt, and be equipped with a whistle. Each team will provide a goal umpire and a boundary umpire.

10.4.8 Bouncing the ball

A player may bounce the ball twice before disposing of it.

10.4.9 Marking the ball

A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 10 metres.

10.4.10 Kicking off the ground.

No deliberate kicking off the ground is permitted; when detected a free kick will be paid to the opposition.

10.4.11 Out of Bounds

The ball going out of bounds will result in a boundary throw in unless it is on the full in which case a free kick will be awarded to the opposition.

10.4.12 Penalties

25 metre penalties can be applied at the umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way. Players can be ordered off at the umpire's discretion.

10.4.13 Team Officials

Coaches

Up until and including Round 4, we will allow coaches on the field of play to assist in maintain zones, ensuring girls go to their correct positions and to generally assist the game to be played in a flowing manner (i.e., offer direction to the girls).

NB: Coach is allowed on field to assist players, up to and including Round 4.

Trainer

A Trainer may not be used to coach players and may remain on the field only for the length of time taken to treat an injured player or to provide water. After attending to players Trainers must return to their position behind the boundary line. They are not to remain on the field. The League Green Bib identification must be worn by Trainers.

Runner

A Runner is permitted in Under 10 Girls under the provisions of By Law 5.3 from Round 5 onwards.

11. WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

11.1 No person may act in the capacity as a Club President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer or in the capacity as Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Runner, or Trainer unless that person:

- Has obtained a Working with Children check (WWCC); or
- Has lodged an application for a Working with Children check (WWCC); or
- Is a sworn member of Victoria Police (who has not been suspended from duty) or a teacher registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

- 11.2** Each person acting in any capacity listed in By-Law 11.1 is required to enter their WWCC/certificate details into the Competition Management Platform and/or League approved platform.

12. UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS

- 12.1** No Club shall permit any of its officers, players, or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television, and all newspapers) in connection with any Policies or acts of the Board or in relation to any incidents relating to any games conducted by the League without the prior approval of the Board. To do so shall render the Club concerned liable to:

- a fine at the discretion of the League.
- suspension from the League.
- expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the League.

13. PENALTY FOR PLAYING NON-PERMITTED PLAYERS

- 13.1** Any Club that allows a player to play in home and away matches or finals series matches where the player is not eligible or not registered in the current season shall be liable to:

- A fine as set out in Schedule Q; and
- Loss of all premiership points obtained in matches in which the player played and the awarding of those points to the appropriate opposing teams, or in the case of a finals match shall be deemed to have lost the finals match.
- At the discretion of the Board, the Disqualification of the team and/or player from the competition.

14. CODES OF CONDUCT AND POLICIES

- 14.1** All Member Clubs, Registered Players and Officials are subject to and bound by all Policies, Codes of Conduct and/or Guidelines issued or adopted by the League from time to time. The Codes of Conduct issued by the League are set forth in Schedule D and Schedule AD.

- 14.2** The League formally adopts the Policies, Codes of Conduct and/or Guidelines contained in the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook relating to:

14.2.1 Player registration and transfers (Item 3)

14.2.2 Vilification and Discrimination (Item 10)

14.2.3 Member Protection (Item 9)

14.2.4 Coaching Accreditation (Item 5)

14.2.5 Coaches Code of Conduct (Item 9.3)

14.2.6 Age Dispensation (Item 4)

14.2.7 Concussion Policy (Item 19)

14.2.8 Safeguarding Children and Young People (Item 11)

14.2.9 Deregistration (Item 7)

14.3 To the extent that any of the Policies, Codes of Conduct or Guidelines adopted by the League in accordance with By-Law 14.2 are inconsistent with other Policies, Codes of Conduct or Guidelines adopted by the League, the other Policies, Codes of Conduct or Guidelines of the League shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

14.4 When the League is required to consider issues or matters which are the subject of the following Policies, Codes of Conduct and/or Guidelines of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook, the League's unfettered discretion may choose to act in accordance with any such Policy, Code of Conduct and/or Guideline:

14.4.1 Anti-Doping (Item 15)

14.4.2 Extreme Weather (Item 18)

14.4.3 Gender Regulation (Item 8)

14.4.4 Injury Management (Item 16)

15. FINES FOR BREACHES

15.1 Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws or by the Chief Executive Officer in his unfettered discretion, any infringement of the By-Laws shall be subject to a penalty of one unit.

15.2 The nominal value of each penalty unit shall be determined by the Board from time to time and may be adjusted by the Board at any time.

15.3 Offences for which automatic fines apply are set out in Schedule Q.

15.4 If an Associate of a Registered Player of a Member Club is found to have engaged in conduct contrary to the Policies, Codes of Conduct and/or Guidelines of the League, that Member Club shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of that Associate of a Registered Player and shall pay to the League a fine or bond as determined by the League.

16 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

16.1 A report by an umpire which relates to the conduct of a Registered Player or Official or a referral by the Board must be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer, who must forthwith deliver the report or referral to the Chairperson of the Tribunal.

16.2 The Chairperson of the Tribunal shall make arrangements as soon as practicable to convene a hearing by the Tribunal of the report or referral and to notify all interested parties of the time, date and venue of the Tribunal hearing.

16.3 The Tribunal hearing will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines contained in Schedule E.

17. CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL

- 17.1** A complaint, report, or referral in accordance with Rule 23 must be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer, who must forthwith deliver the complaint, report, or referral to the Chairperson of the CIT.
- 17.2** The Chairperson of the CIT shall make arrangements as soon as practicable to convene a hearing by the CIT of the complaint, report or referral and to notify all interested parties of the time, date and venue of the CIT hearing.
- 17.3** The CIT hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines contained in Schedule F.

18. APPEALS BOARD

- 18.1** A Notice of Appeal must be in the form of Schedule H.
- 18.2.** A Notice of Appeal must be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer, who must forthwith deliver the Notice of Appeal to the Chairperson of the Appeals Board.
- 18.3** The Chairperson of the Appeals Board shall make arrangements as soon as practicable to convene a hearing by the Appeals Board of the Appeal and to notify all interested parties of the time, date and venue of the hearing of the Appeal.
- 18.4** The hearing of the Appeal shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines contained in Schedule G.

19. VALIDITY OF HEARING

Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which a matter has been brought before the Tribunal, the CIT or the Appeals Board, the Tribunal, CIT or the Appeals Board may still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard.

20. AGGRESSIVE PLAYER RECRUITMENT

It shall be an offence for a Club Official and/or Team Official to engage in the aggressive recruitment of players. A Club Official and/or Team Official who is found guilty of engaging in aggressive recruitment of players shall be considered to have engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit pursuant to Rule 8.1.3., or otherwise.

21. LIFE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

The League has prepared Life Membership Guidelines which are contained in Schedule X.

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

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SCHEDULE A

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED GRADING/ RE-GRADING GUIDELINES

Grading of teams in the Yarra Junior Football League is aimed at enhancing the playing enjoyment of all players. Playing in a grade that is commensurate with team capability increases the opportunities for players to participate in games, which are competitive. The League will use these guidelines to assist in making grading decisions.

1. The initial Grading of teams to be on the basis of agreed Guidelines, last season's performance and recognize the total number of teams entered in the Age Group.
2.
 - (a) Teams who have played off in the Grand Final in Under 11 to Under 14 Age Groups are automatically graded into a higher Division the next year.
 - (b) Teams who finished in the bottom two ladder positions to drop down to a lower Division the next year.
 - (c) Grading of Youth Boys & Youth Girls Teams will be based on Club submissions and the team's previous year's performance.
 - (d) Grading of Under 10 teams. Where Clubs had 2 or more Under 9 teams the previous year and nominate 2 or more Under 10 teams, one of these teams will be considered for grading into either the First or Second Division. Club submissions will also be considered.
 - (e) A team that finishes on top of the ladder in Under 11 to Under 14 Age Groups after completion of Home & Away games but does not play off in the Grand Final will be considered for Grading into a higher Division the following year.
 - (f) Initial grading of Under 11 teams may require greater flexibility in placement of teams having regard to the previous years (Under 10) teams' performance.
3. In relation to initial grading of teams in the Under 11 – Under 16 Age Groups Club submissions will be considered where exceptional circumstances have arisen that impact on the team concerned.
4. Where a Club has two teams in the one Age Group they should start in separate Divisions, unless one of the Teams is to be graded in accordance with Guideline No.2 (a) and (b) above. It is possible where Clubs have multiple Teams in the same Age Group that re-grading may result in Teams playing in the same Division.
5. Clubs should alert the Grading Sub-Committee as soon as any problems emerge e.g., after two games so that the teams/s can be observed.
6. The Grading Sub-Committee will monitor results of the first four rounds played. Adjustments decided, having regard to performances, take effect for Round five and beyond.
7. New Merged Team. Grading of team will be determined on the basis of Club submission and player list review. Entry of team into the League will require BOARD approval. It is necessary that an existing Club assumes responsibility for a merged team. This is required in respect of Match Fees, Administration Fees, and any Fines and/or Bonds imposed.

SCHEDULE B

[DELETED November 2021]

[This Schedule will be updated following the implementation of the new AFL Victoria Registration Platform]

SCHEDULE C

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

MATCH FOOTBALLS – SIZES

Match Footballs (Sherrin) are used in each Age Group, as follows:

Age Group	Match Footballs
Youth Boys	Size 5 Match Ball – Full Size
Under 16 Boys	Size 5 Match Ball – Full Size
Under 15 Boys	Size 5 Match Ball – Full Size
Under 14 Mixed	Size 4 Match Ball (Leather)
Under 13 Mixed	Size 4 Match Ball (Leather)
Under 12 Mixed	Size 3 Synthetic
Under 11 Mixed	Size 3 Synthetic
Under 10 Mixed	Size 2 Synthetic
Under 9 Mixed	Size 2 Synthetic
Under 8 Mixed	Size 2 Synthetic
Youth Girls Under 18	Size 4 Match Ball (Leather)
Under 16 Girls	Size 4 Match Ball (Leather)
Under 15 Girls	Size 4 Match Ball (Leather)
Under 14 Girls	Size 4 Synthetic
Under 13 Girls	Size 3 Synthetic
Under 12 Girls	Size 3 Synthetic
Under 11 Girls	Size 3 Synthetic
Under 10 Girls	Size 2 Synthetic
Under 9 Girls	Size 2 Synthetic

Matches which commence at, or after, 3.30pm are required to be played using a **yellow** Sherrin match football.

SCHEDULE D

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

CODES OF CONDUCT

Coaches

1. Abide by the Laws of the Game, Club Rules, and League Rules
2. Teach the Rules: Rules are mutual agreements which nobody should break
3. Group players competitively
4. Avoid overplaying talented players
5. Maximise fun: Place winning in perspective
6. Stress safety always
7. Consider maturity levels: Devise training programs to suit all
8. Develop team respect: For opponents, umpires, and coaches
9. Recognise the importance of proper injury treatment
10. Keep up to date with Coaching developments
11. Attain Coaching accreditation
12. Avoid derogatory language based on gender or race.
13. Shall not engage in the aggressive recruitment of players. (Aggressive recruitment is to be determined on the facts of each particular case. As a guide only, aggressive recruitment will be considered to have occurred where there is contact on more than one occasion with a player (parent/guardian) and/or inducement is offered to a player to change Clubs).

Players

1. Play by the laws and rules
2. Don't argue
3. Control your temper
4. Be a team player
5. Be a good sport
6. Treat all players fairly
7. Cooperate with your coach and teammates
8. Play for fun and improvement
9. Avoid ugly remarks based on race or gender

SCHEDULE D

Parents

1. Encourage participation but do not force them.
2. Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning.
3. Encourage to play by the rules.
4. Remember, involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours
5. Remember, they learn best by example. Applaud both teams.
6. Never ridicule mistakes or losses
7. Recognise positively the recreational contribution of voluntary officials.
8. Never publicly disagree with officials. Raise issues privately.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse.
10. Support your club officials to foster high standards of behaviour for your Club/League

Child Safety

All YJFL and Club staff and volunteers are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

1. Adhering to the YJFL Child Safe Policy, this Code of Conduct and other YJFL policies.
2. Taking all reasonable steps to protect children and young people from abuse.
3. Treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions.
4. Welcoming all parents and children and being inclusive.
5. Respecting cultural, religious, and political beliefs and practices of children and their families and acting in a culturally sensitive way towards them.
6. Respecting the privacy of differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way.
7. Modelling appropriate adult behaviour.
8. Listening to children and responding to them appropriately
9. Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns appropriately and treating them seriously and with respect.
10. Complying with the YJFL guidelines on physical contact with children
11. Working with children in an open and transparent way and ensuring that other adults are aware of the work you are doing with children.
12. Respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who need to know.

SCHEDULE D

YJFL and Club staff and volunteers **MUST NOT**:

- Seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults.
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions, or disclosures of child abuse.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour, or language with children.
- Discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability or sexuality.
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Enter a room, toilet, or space alone with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children or show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention.
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children.
- Have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone.

SCHEDULE E

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

1. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 1.1 The Tribunal is an independent body.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer will assist with all administrative matters and all communication with Clubs and the Umpiring Department.

2. TRIBUNAL CONSTITUTION

- 2.1 The Tribunal will be constituted by a minimum of three members selected from a pool of appropriately qualified and trained personnel. Decisions will be by majority. The required standard of proof is on the balance of probability.
- 2.2 It is customary that the Tribunal will convene on Wednesday evenings at the League Headquarters, commencing at 7pm. However, the Tribunal may be convened on any date and time at any place as deemed necessary by the Chief Executive Officer.

3. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

- 3.1 The Tribunal has the power to regulate its own proceedings.
- 3.2 Any hearing before the Tribunal shall be:
 - Inquisitorial in nature; and
 - Conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- 3.3 The Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record and may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- 3.4 It is customary that the hearing will follow the following structure:
 - Introduction of all persons by the Tribunal Chairman
 - The Reading of the Report(s)
 - Reported Person enters their plea.
 - All Witnesses except the Reporting Umpire leave the hearing.
 - Reported Person's Advocate summarises the grounds of defence to the Report and the evidence proposed to be given to the Tribunal on behalf of the Reported Person

Umpires Advocate presents case for the Reporting Umpire

- (a) Evidence of Reporting Umpire - assisted by Umpires Advocate
- (b) Evidence of other Umpires
- (c) Evidence of other witnesses called by Umpires Advocate

Players Advocate presents case for the Reported Person

- (d) Evidence of the Reported Person
- (e) Evidence of witnesses for the Reported Person
- (f) Evidence of Person allegedly offended against
- (g) Evidence of witness/s for Person allegedly offended against

SCHEDULE E

- Closing Submission Umpires Advocate
- Closing Submission Reported Person's Advocate
- Tribunal may retire to consider a finding.
- Tribunal may resume and deliver finding.

If the report is sustained:

- Summary of Reported Person's history by Reported Person's Advocate
- Tribunal will retire to consider penalty.
- Tribunal resumes and delivers penalty.

Note: Tribunal members may:

- Ask questions at any time, and
- Give direction to Advocates as to particular aspects of evidence the Tribunal is most interested in.

- 3.5 The Tribunal may permit the presence of any observer at the discretion of the Chairman. All observers must, upon request from the Tribunal identify themselves, i.e.. Name, Club, Parent, Umpire. An observer shall not be permitted to participate in any way in the proceedings of the Tribunal.
- 3.6 A Reported Person and/or their witness must be represented by an advocate who must be an official of the club and must not have attained a Law Degree.
- 3.7 The Tribunal may find a Reported Person guilty of a more appropriate offence than that for which they are reported, if in the opinion of the Tribunal the other offence is proven.
- 3.8 The Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by the Tribunal.
- 3.9 A witness who was under 18 years old as of 28 February of the relevant year may give evidence by telephone or by virtual means and, if that witness is an umpire:
- a. they are only required to be available for a pre-determined period of time; and
 - b. may only be questioned by the Umpire's Advocate or a Tribunal Member

4. FAILURE TO APPEAR

- 4.1 In the event that a player, witness or official does not attend the Tribunal when required the Tribunal may:
- Suspend the player or official until they appear, or
 - Hear the case in their absence; and
 - Impose a penalty in their absence.
- 4.2 Clubs who do not supply an advocate may be fined by the Tribunal.

SCHEDULE E

5. MISLEADING OR UNSATISFACTORY EVIDENCE

- 5.1 The Tribunal may deal with any person who in its opinion:
- misleads the Tribunal; or
 - fails without reasonable excuse to appear when directed; or
 - whose conduct during the hearing is, in the opinion of the Tribunal, unsatisfactory.
- 5.2 In such circumstances the Tribunal may penalise an individual or the Club with whom the individual is associated or both.

6. TRIBUNAL PENALTIES

- 6.1 The Tribunal may apply any sanctions or penalties it sees fit.
- 6.2 The Tribunal will be the sole adjudicator of penalty based upon an assessment of all the circumstances.
- 6.3 Sanctions and Penalties may include:
- (i) Suspending a player from participating in matches conducted by the YJFL or any league or association affiliated with AFL Victoria.
 - (ii) Suspending any person from officiating or participating in any match conducted by the YJFL or any league or association affiliated with AFL Victoria.
 - (iii) A direction that a Reported Person is to participate in or undertake an activity that the Tribunal deems appropriate. For example, to perform duties as an Umpire or to perform a community service activity.
 - (iv) An order banning a player or official from attending or officiating at any specific or all the League matches.
 - (v) Reprimand a player or official.
 - (vi) Impose a Bond.
- 6.4 Any penalty involving a period of match suspension may be wholly or partially suspended for a period of time as determined by the Tribunal. For example, a 3-match penalty may be wholly suspended until the conclusion of the season.
- 6.5 Any person who fails to abide by any penalty imposed by the Tribunal shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Chief Executive Officer in their unfettered discretion.

7. APPEAL

- 7.1 A Member Club may appeal from any decision of the Tribunal, subject to the provisions contained in Rule 26.

SCHEDULE F

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL

1. CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL (CIT)

- 1.1 The CIT is an independent body.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer will assist with all administrative matters and all communication with Clubs and the Umpiring Department.

2. CONSTITUTION

- 2.1 The CIT will be constituted by an independent Chairperson and two other members appointed by the Board. Decisions will be by majority. The required standard of proof is on the balance of probability.
- 2.2 It is customary that the CIT will convene on Thursday evenings at the League Headquarters, commencing at 7:30 pm. However, the CIT may be convened on any date and time at any place as deemed necessary by the Chief Executive Officer.

3. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

- 3.1 The CIT has the power to regulate its own proceedings.
- 3.2 Any hearing before the CIT shall be:
 - Inquisitorial in nature; and
 - Conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- 3.3 The CIT is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record and may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- 3.4 It is customary that the hearing will follow the following structure:
 - Introduction of all persons by the CIT Chairman
 - It is usual for the reported person, advocates & witnesses to be present throughout the CIT hearing.
 - The Reading of the Report(s)/Complaint(s)
 - Reported Player/Official/spectator enters their plea.
 - The reading of all submissions presented to the CIT.
 - Questioning of reported person/s & witnesses is carried out by the CIT.
 - Any video evidence available can be played at the sole discretion of the CIT.
 - "Across table" questioning by Advocates is normal practice.
 - Advocate/s make closing submissions.
 - Reported person, advocates & witnesses leave the hearing.
 - CIT will ask all parties to retire, and when a decision has been reached (Including penalty) all parties will be invited back to the CIT, and the decision advised.

SCHEDULE F

Note: CIT members may:

- Ask questions at any time, and
- Give direction to Advocates as to particular aspects of evidence the CIT is most interested in.

3.5 The CIT may permit the presence of any observer at the discretion of the Chairman. All observers must, upon request from the CIT identify themselves, i.e., Name, Club, Parent, Umpire. An observer shall not be permitted to participate in any way in the proceedings of the CIT.

3.6 All reported players, officials and witnesses must be represented by an advocate who must be an official of the club and must not have attained a Law Degree.

3.7 The CIT may find any reported person guilty of a more appropriate offence than that for which they are reported, if in the opinion of the CIT the other offence is proven.

3.8 The CIT is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by the CIT.

4. FAILURE TO APPEAR

4.1 In the event that a player, witness or official does not attend the CIT when required the CIT may:

- Suspend the player or official until they appear, or
- Hear the case in their absence; and
- Impose a penalty in their absence.

4.2 Clubs who do not supply an advocate may be fined by the CIT.

5. MISLEADING OR UNSATISFACTORY EVIDENCE

5.1 The CIT may deal with any person who in its opinion:

- misleads the CIT; or
- fails without reasonable excuse to appear when directed; or
- whose conduct during the hearing is, in the opinion of the CIT, unsatisfactory.

5.2 In such circumstances the CIT may penalise an individual or the Club with whom the individual is associated or both.

SCHEDULE F

6. CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL PENALTIES

- 6.1 The CIT may apply any sanctions or penalties it sees fit.
- 6.2 The CIT will be the sole adjudicator of penalty based upon an assessment of all the circumstances. Advocates for the reported player or official and the umpire will be offered the opportunity to make submissions to the CIT on appropriate penalty.
- 6.3 Sanctions and Penalties may include:
- Suspending a player from participating in matches conducted by the League or any league or association affiliated with AFL Victoria.
 - Suspending any person from officiating or participating in any match conducted by the League or any league or association affiliated with AFL Victoria.
 - A direction that a reported player or official is to participate in or undertake an activity that the CIT deems appropriate. For example, to perform duties as an Umpire or to perform a community service activity.
 - An order banning a player or official from attending or officiating at any specific or all the League matches.
 - Reprimand a player or official.
 - Impose a Bond (with or without conditions) upon a Club.
- 6.4 Any penalty involving a period of match suspension may be wholly or partially suspended for a period of time as determined by the CIT. For example, a 3-match penalty may be wholly suspended until the conclusion of the season.
- 6.5 Any person who fails to abide by any penalty imposed by the CIT shall be liable to a sanction as determined by the Chief Executive Officer in their unfettered discretion.

7. APPEAL

- 7.1 A Member Club may appeal from any decision of the CIT, subject to the provisions contained in Rule 26.

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

APPEALS BOARD

1. APPEALS BOARD

- 1.1 The Appeals Board is an independent body.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer will assist with all administrative matters and all communication with Clubs and the Umpiring Department.

2. APPEALS BOARD CONSTITUTION

- 2.1 The Appeals Board will be constituted by a chairperson and two Panel Members selected from a pool of appropriately qualified and trained personnel.
- 2.2 The Appeals Board will convene at a time, date, and venue, as deemed necessary by the Chief Executive Officer.

3. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

- 3.1 The Appeals Board has the power to regulate its own proceedings.
- 3.2 Any hearing before the Appeals Board shall be:
 - Inquisitorial in nature; and
 - Conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- 3.3 The Appeals Board is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record and may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- 3.4 The question on appeal before the Appeals Board must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeals Board.
- 3.5 On the hearing of an appeal, the Appellant shall bear the onus of showing on the balance of probabilities that the Reportable Offence or matter should be dismissed or sustained or that the penalty was inappropriate.
- 3.6 Members of the Appeals Board may:
 - Ask questions at any time, and.
 - Give direction to Advocates as to particular aspects of evidence the Appeals Board is most interested in.
- 3.7 The Appeals Board may permit the presence of an observer at the discretion of the Chairman. All observers must upon request from the Appeals Board identify themselves, i.e., Name, Club, Parent, Umpire. An observer shall not be permitted to participate in any way in the proceedings of the appeal.

SCHEDULE G

- 3.8 All reported players, officials and witnesses must be represented by an Advocate who must be an official of the club and must not have attained a Law Degree.
- 3.9 The Appeals Board is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by the Appeals Board.

4. MISLEADING OR UNSATISFACTORY EVIDENCE

- 4.1 The Appeals Board may deal with any person who in its opinion:
- misleads the Appeals Board; or
 - fails without reasonable excuse to appear when directed; or
 - whose conduct during the hearing is, in the opinion of the Appeals Board, unsatisfactory.
- 4.2 In such circumstances the Appeals Board may penalise an individual or the Club with whom the individual is associated or both.

5. POWERS OF APPEALS BOARD

- 5.1 The Appeals Board may confirm, reverse, or modify the decision appealed against that is the subject of the appeal and make such orders and give such directions in such manner as it in its absolute discretion thinks fit.
- 5.2 Where the Appeals Board upholds an appeal and reverses the decision appealed against, the payment made under Rule 23.1.1.3 shall be refunded.
- 5.3 Where the Appeals Board:
- 5.3.1 dismisses an appeal and considers that an appeal was frivolous or vexatious or commenced for an improper purpose, or.
- 5.3.2 Dismisses the appeal but increases the penalty first imposed.
- The payment made under Rule 23.1.1.3 shall not be refunded.
- 5.3.3 dismisses an appeal but considers that the appeal was not frivolous or vexatious or commenced for an improper purpose, or.
- 5.3.4 decreases the penalty imposed by the Tribunals.
- It may order at its absolute discretion that all or part of the payment made under Rule 23.1.1.3 be refunded to the Appellant.
- 5.4 Any person who fails to abide by any penalty imposed by the Appeals Board will be liable to a sanction as determined by the Chief Executive Officer in their unfettered discretion.

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

**NOTICE OF APPEAL
(RULE 26.5)**

I *
of Junior Football Club
(*Player or official to complete)

Give Notice that I wish to appeal to the Appeals Board in respect of the decision made by the Independent Tribunal/Conduct Investigation Tribunal (delete if inapplicable) under Rule 23 or Rule 25 of the League Rules. I wish to appeal the decision in relation to:

- (i) liability and sanction, or.
- (ii) sanction only.

On (date of decision) the Independent Tribunal/
Investigation Hearing Committee made the following decision:

(Provide details of decision)

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

The grounds upon which I wish to appeal the decision are:

(Provide details of why you are appealing the decision)

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

I intended to call the following persons to give evidence in support of the appeal:

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

SCHEDULE H

Enclosed with this Notice of Appeal is the sum of \$500.00 as required by Rule 26.4.

I AGREE to be bound by the decision of the Appeals Board.

.....
Signed

.....
PRINT Full Name

.....
Dated

SCHEDULE I

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF FINALS

Ground Tenant Club (Host Club) Responsibilities:

- To supply a responsible person to act as Ground Manager.
- The name and contact phone number of the nominated Ground Manager(s) are to be provided to the League on the Wednesday prior to the relevant finals.
- Provision of a canteen.
- Provision of clean rooms prior to game and clean-up of rooms after games.
- Marking of ground, provision of functional scoreboard and provision of goal post padding.
- Provision of siren of good condition and emergency bell.
- Approved time clock capable of recording "time on".
- Provide a Ground Manager/Match Manager.
- Provide a match ball pump.
- Provide appropriate presentation of premiership flag and player medal following the game (Grand Finals only).
- Provide a PA speaker system for playing the National Anthem prior to the match, and presentation of medals (Grand Finals only).

Umpires

1. Field umpires will be supplied by the League for all finals matches. Two field Umpires will officiate in Under 14's, 15's, 16's, Youth Girls, and Youth Boys matches. Boundary umpires will be appointed to as many Semi-finals matches as possible and to all Preliminary and Grand Final matches.
2. An adult Goal Umpire complete with white coat and flags to be supplied by the participating Clubs for First and Second Semi-finals matches only.
3. League appointed Goal umpires will officiate in Preliminary and Grand Final matches.

Notes:

1. The proposed interval between the finish of a finals game and the commencement of any subsequent game will be planned to allow for a team that just completed their match to immediately vacate the rooms - this permits the second team to enter the room and prepare for their match with no interruption.
2. New footballs will be supplied by the League for use in each finals game. A spare football is to be provided by each team. (Refer item 5 below).

SCHEDULE I

3. **Use of footballs – At the ground manager’s discretion, two footballs may be used on the following basis: One ball for quarters 1 & 3, second ball for quarters 2 & 4.**

Each team participating is to provide:

1. An adult timekeeper.

Note: There is no automatic ‘Time-On’ in Finals.

2. Length of Quarters in finals:

Under 11, 12 and 13 (Mixed & Girls) 15 mins

Under 14 Girls 15 mins

Under 14 Mixed 17.5 mins

Under 15 Girls, Under 16 Girls & Youth Girls 17.5 mins

Under 15 Boys, Under 16 Boys & Youth Boys 20 mins

3. Refreshment to League appointed Boundary and Field Umpires at quarter, half, and three-quarter time. (First named Club).
4. Official League bibs to be worn by team runners and trainers. These are the only officials allowed into the playing area. Official YJFL coaches’ bibs must be worn by Coach and Assistant Coach.
5. A football of good condition is to be supplied to the Ground Manager, to be used as spare, suitably identified for return after match.
6. Teams are requested to be in attendance at least 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match.
7. **Presentations** - On completion of each Grand Final presentations will be made. All players and match officials from each team are expected to take part. This presentation will be carried out either on the ground or in the change rooms, depending upon conditions.
8. **Escort of umpires** - both teams are to provide umpire escorts in finals matches.

There are no drawn games in the final series.

In the event of the scores being level at the final siren ending a final series match, the following procedure will be followed -

1. A 4-minute break will be taken before the commencement of extra time to allow the coach to address their team on the field.
2. The end to which a team has been kicking prior to the end of the game will be changed to the opposite end and play recommenced with a centre bounce.
3. After 5 minutes play without time on being added the siren will be sounded and teams will change ends. After a further 5 minutes play, without time on, the siren will be

SCHEDULE I

sounded to end the game. As per By-Law 2.7.3, no officials, except the runner and/or trainer in the normal performance of their duties, shall be allowed on the ground during the change of ends.

4. In the event of the score still being level when the siren sounds after the 10 minutes additional time has been played, the procedure will be followed again until a result is known (Step 2 & 3).

First Named Club:

1. Black or coloured shorts to be worn.
2. Provide one Timekeeper.
3. Provide one spare football in very good condition.
4. Provide Umpire Escort
5. Provide all League appointed boundary and field umpires with a drink at all breaks.
6. Note all other conditions as listed in 'Guidelines for the conduct of Finals'.

Second Named Club:

1. If there is a jumper colour clash with the home team jumper, wear either the team's alternative or clash jumper or wear white shorts.
2. Provide one Timekeeper.
3. Provide one spare football in very good condition.
4. Provide Umpire Escort
5. Provide a responsible person to operate the score board.
6. Note all other conditions as listed in 'Guidelines for the conduct of Finals'.

Length Of Quarters During Finals:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Under 11, 12 and 13 (Mixed & Girls) | 15 mins |
| • Under 14 Girls | 15 mins |
| • Under 14 Mixed | 17.5 mins |
| • Under 15 Girls, Under 16 Girls & Youth Girls | 17.5 mins |
| • Under 15 Boys, Under 16 Boys & Youth Boys | 20 mins |

Length of breaks between quarters are consistent with home and away season.

1/4 Time: 5 minutes 1/2 Time: 10 minutes 3/4 Time: 7 minutes

SCHEDULE I

No spectators are to enter the centre third of the playing field (between each arc, including the centre square, at any break). Only match officials, umpires, and players, identified clearly in the bib relevant to their role, may enter the playing field during this period as per By-Law 3.6.1 Teams competing in the next fixtured game may warm up on the ground at $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Teams must be off the playing field prior to the commencement of the fourth (4th) quarter.

Please note there is no automatic time-on in finals. **Time on shall only be applied when indicated by the field Umpire.** This may be in circumstances where:

1. There is any undue delay in getting the ball back when it is out of play.
2. A player wilfully wastes time.
3. A player goes over an opponent's mark and does not come back immediately when asked to do so.
4. When more than one opponent stands on the mark.
5. Play is delayed unduly.
6. Whenever a stretcher is called on to the ground.

How time-on will be indicated, if required:

The Field Umpire shall signal to the timekeepers to add "Time On" or to stop adding "Time On" by blowing his / her whistle and raising the arm above the head (arm will be in a vertical position).

The time to be added on shall be the time that elapses between the two whistles. Should the timekeepers fail to hear the second whistle, they shall stop adding "Time On" when they see that the ball is in play.

TIMEKEEPERS PLEASE NOTE:

Watch the Field Umpire closely during play for his signals regarding time on.

Where the Umpire has mistakenly heard the siren to sound the end of playing time or the siren sounds mistakenly prior to the end of a quarter the Timekeepers must alert the Field Umpire as soon as possible of the error. The game shall restart with a ball up in the position where the ball was when the game was halted or if the field umpire cannot determine that position then a ball up in the centre of the ground shall occur as if a goal had been scored.

Evening Up Rule

As per by-law 8.5.14, the Evening Up Rule is not to be applied in Finals.

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

SMOKEFREE POLICY

Rationale

The YJFL recognises that Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected from exposure to tobacco smoke.

Accordingly, the League has developed the following policy to apply to all YJFL Facilities, Functions, and activities. This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, and visitors of the League when representing the YJFL or attending any YJFL facilities, functions, or events.

Clubs and their members should also be aware of State Government legislation regarding smoking bans at junior sporting events.

Facilities

Smoking and/or vaping will not be permitted on any clubs' playing arena.

By law, smoking and vaping is also banned within 10 metres of any public outdoor sporting venue during an organised match or training session.

All Change Rooms and Toilet Blocks at club grounds must be 100% smokefree.

Smoking and/or vaping will not be permitted in any indoor spectator viewing areas or outdoor grandstands within the League.

Cigarettes will not be sold (including from vending machines) at any time from YJFL club venues.

Functions

All official YJFL Functions (including dinners, fund-raising events, meetings, social occasions) to be 100% smokefree.

YJFL Representatives

YJFL staff and officials to refrain from smoking and/or vaping whilst acting in an official capacity.

YJFL representative players will refrain from smoking and/or vaping whilst in uniform.

YJFL representative coaches, trainers and officials will remain smokefree whilst acting in an official capacity.

Non-compliance:

All League Officials will police the SmokeFree Policy on match days and at official functions.

Non-compliance with the policy will be handled according to the following process:

1. Explanation of the League's policy on smoking to person, including the identification of areas in which smoking is allowed.
2. In the case of continued non-compliance with the policy, League officials will use their discretion as to the steps to be taken, which may include asking the person to leave the premises or function.

Review:

The League's SmokeFree Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

SCHEDULE K

[DELETED November 2021]

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Risk Management is a process of systematically, eliminating or minimizing the adverse impact of all activities which may give rise to injurious or dangerous situations.

Aim

Risk Management processes are designed to achieve the following:

- **Minimise 'risk'.**
- **Minimise the 'potential for litigation'.**
- **Avoid 'insurance premium increases', and above all else.**
- **Provide a safe environment for children to play competitive Australian Rules Football.**

In attempting to achieve this aim, it is necessary that all actions, rules, and procedures adopted by the YJFL and the YJFL Member Clubs must be lawful and comply with current Federal, State and Local Government Legislation and also comply with AFL Victoria Regulations and Policies.

Reference Material

Ground Inspection Reports, Ground Audits and Ground Emergency Information Sheets are attached to this policy document. These risk management tools are already in use in the YJFL. A Document 'Risk Management for Football Clubs' is also available for reference in each Club as was presented to Clubs on 30/4/2003 by (then) Football Victoria Staff.

Protection from Litigation

Whilst anyone can take anyone else to court, sound management practices help to reduce potential incidents and provide an argument for your Club if the worst-case scenario becomes a reality. This information is not offered as a legal opinion but rather as a lay interpretation. Parents are encouraged to seek their own legal interpretation should they feel this necessary.

Players

Players are protected by our Risk Management Procedures and a sympathetic and cooperative attitude towards a duty of care being provided by personnel from the League and Clubs, including, but not limited to, team officials and parents who are all jointly responsible to ensure that we provide an acceptable and safe environment for junior sport. These issues include such things as modified rules for younger players, codes of behaviour (for all involved), provision of an accredited/qualified trainer/first-aid person to attend to injuries, where possible and an accredited/qualified coach who is considered suitable to develop the social and football skills of young players. We also have health policies such as blood rules and, inspecting the playing surface and fitting goal padding to ensure the environment is safe and fit for its intended use which are part of our Risk Management strategies.

SCHEDULE L

Umpires

In considering the needs of the young player, the League requests that you also consider the needs of the young umpire. Given the requirement for players described above, we are all (also) duty bound to provide a safe environment for the umpires. If you consider that it is unacceptable (for someone) to abuse your child or expose your child to unacceptable risk, then this attitude MUST also be displayed to the umpire. Our Risk Management policies require us to identify risk and manage risk associated with our players. Our Umpires will be treated with the same equality and rules and procedures are in place to protect them from abuse etc.

Club Officials

Club officials are said to be protected by the Clubs Incorporation as an 'Incorporated Association' in accordance with the "Associations Incorporation Act (1981), as defined in your Club Constitution and Rules of Association. This incorporation offers the Club a legal identity. Without the protection of Incorporation, your individual Club officials are indeed vulnerable to personal litigation in respect to a claim of negligence etc. Clubs are encouraged to review their compliance with the Act, including the 1st of July 1998 Amendments as advised by 'Consumer Affairs Victoria'.

Note: Some clubs are part of Co-operatives and comply with the 'Co-operatives Act 1996', and/or are a Registered Company and comply with 'The Company (Administration) Act 1981'.

The Club

From 2021 the League will arrange for each Member Club to be included in the insurance policies arranged by the League. The League will publish the names of the insurance policies and the schedules of such insurance from time to time and upon any change of those insurance policies. This will provide insurance cover for each Club for the following: Public Liability, Products Liability, Professional Indemnity, Association Liability (Directors and Officers), Personal Accident and Non - Medicare Medical

The League

The League works closely with AFL Victoria and has adopted a number of their Policies, Codes of Conduct and Guidelines as specified in By-Law 14.2.

AFL Victoria

AFL Victoria has, on our behalf, negotiated with Government at all levels, and other involved entities, such as AIS etc to develop Policies to meet the requirements of current social issues and legislation.

Additional Matters

To date the League has attempted to address those issues that are seen to have a priority based on the Regulations and Policies published by AFL Victoria. This will need to be added to, reviewed and procedures developed, as required, on a need's basis in the future.



YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Ground Inspection Report

Date report completed: _____

Club: _____

Location: _____

YES NO

Goal Area

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the goal post padding present?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the padding: In good condition (at least 25mm thick)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Made from impact absorbing material?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As supplied by Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all goal and behind posts secure?

Cricket Pitch Area

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there sufficient soil covering the pitch?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is synthetic covering for the pitch in good condition and appropriately secured?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a smooth surface created by the grading of the pitch edge?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the turf wicket sufficiently watered to soften surface?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the turf have grass cover to soften the surface?

Boundary Area

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the boundary line at least three (3) metres from any fence?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all drains properly covered by grates?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there any wire or other material protruding from any fence?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there any wire or other material protruding from any signage?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has appropriate material been used for all ground markings?

Sprinklers

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are any sprinkler heads protruding?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are rubber protective covers in place on all sprinkler heads?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has any potholes surrounding sprinklers been adequately filled?

SCHEDULE L

Playing Surface

		Have all potholes been adequately filled?
		Are all drainage trenches adequately filled?
		Is the surface even?
		Is the surface clear of debris/garbage i.e., cans, rocks, bottles etc
		Has the ground been prepared correctly for an Australian Rules football match / Yarra JFL requirements?

General

		Are the rooms free of debris? (Syringes, glass, rubbish, etc.)
		Are the weather conditions safe for the game to commence? (Lightning, etc.)
		Are there any other factors which may be dangerous to the players?

I, the undersigned, have undertaken the above inspection prior to the first game being conducted at the playing venue.

Signature

Print Name

A copy of the form must be completed for each home game and retained on file by the Club. The form must be provided upon the request of the Yarra Junior Football League if required.



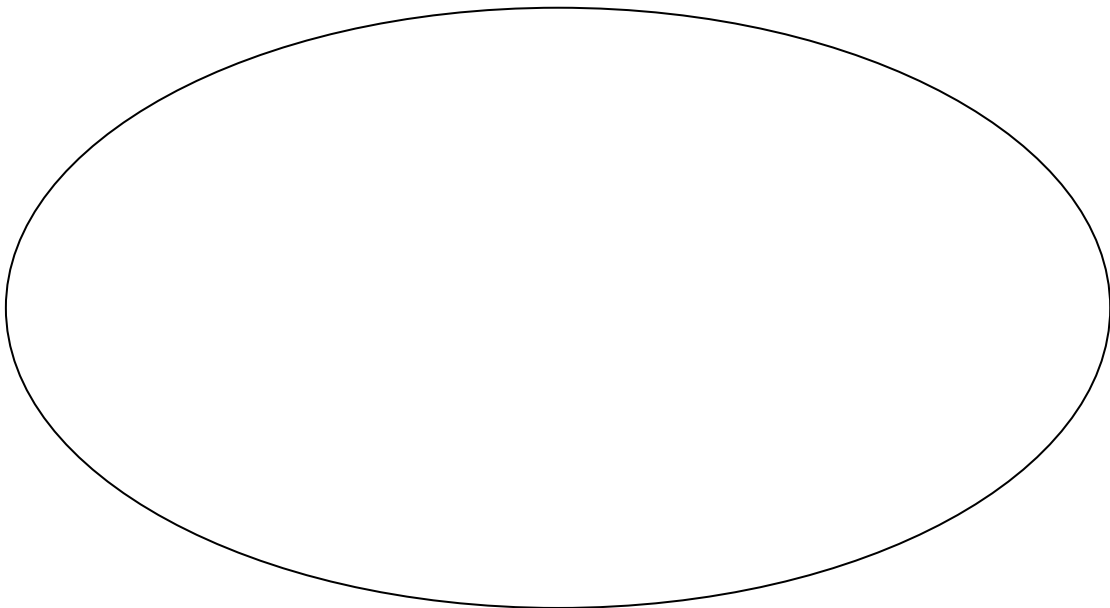
YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE GROUND AUDIT

SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

CLUB:JFC

GROUND:

- Existing facilities identified in black.
Proposed alterations / additions in broken line



COMMENTS:

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LEAGUE OFFICIAL.....

CLUB OFFICIAL.....

DATE.....

LEAGUE TO SEND COPY TO CLUB OFFICIAL FOR ANY ACTION REQUIRED



YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MATCH DAY INFORMATION SHEET

CLUB:

VENUE:

As part of the Yarra Junior Football League Risk Management Policy this Information Sheet is provided to assist in handling any emergency situation that occurs on match day and should be displayed prominently.

Doctor:

Dentist

Ambulance

Local Police:

Duty Manager Mobile:

Local Council:

Location of Gate Key (for fenced ovals):

Location of Stretcher:

Location of Defibrillator:

SCHEDULE M

[DELETED November 2021]

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

ROLE OF CLUB DIRECTOR

The Club Director represents their Club at Presidents and/or Club Directors Meetings and has the right to vote on their Clubs behalf on the various issues that arise.

The Club Director also plays an integral part in the operation of the League, i.e., to provide communication between the League & Club and to assist the League's Executive in the running of the League.

The Club Director may be involved, as a member, in League Sub-Committees, to determine outcomes, recommendations, etc, to the League (e.g., in the areas of football, grading, conduct, rules, finance etc.)

Part of the Club Director's role is to assist the League in handling minor issues or disputes that arise from time to time between Clubs.

Often it will be common sense to realise that an issue can be solved by the Club Director of one Club contacting the Club Director of another Club to clarify what has happened and come to an agreement about how to approach or handle the problem. Some examples might be spectators, players or officials not abiding by the League's Code of Conduct (minor incidents).

Sometimes it may be more difficult to determine whether an issue is of a minor or major nature. In these instances, advice can be sought from the League's Conduct Director. Major issues might include non-umpire reported incidents behind play or more serious spectator, player, or officials' incidents, particularly those involving violence.

Where a spectator, parent or official feels aggrieved about an unreported incident, they should always report their concerns to the Club who will decide on what course of action to take. Parents, spectators, and officials should not contact the League directly.

If a Club decides that a matter is of a serious nature, and they do not think it appropriate to approach the other club, or they have approached the other club and have been unable to resolve the problem, a formal complaint should be lodged with the League.

In all cases it is expected that where an incident does occur, steps to resolve it will be initiated as soon as possible, preferably on the Sunday evening after the match. It is anticipated that issues handled by the Club (Director) will be brought to a conclusion within 14 days. The League is to be advised, by the initiating Club, of issue/s that are being handled between Clubs.

The Conduct Director is available to assist any club with queries about how to handle a conduct issue. Also, the Chief Executive Officer is available to assist where appropriate in mediation between Clubs.

SCHEDULE O

[DELETED November 2021]

SCHEDULE P

[DELETED November 2021]

SCHEDULE Q

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

OFFENCES TO WHICH AUTOMATIC FINES APPLY

OFFENCES WHICH ENTAIL FINES	Penalty Unit	Code
Non-attendance at designated League sanctioned meeting	15	A
Unregistered or Ineligible Player	10	B
Late entry of match scores on line	5	C
Team sheet incorrectly completed	5	D
Failure to hand team sheet to umpire at half time	5	E
Duplication of number OR no number on jumper OR incorrect jumper	2	F
Incorrect shorts OR socks	1	G
No timekeeper, no goal umpire, no boundary umpire		
Unsatisfactory boundary OR goal umpire	3	I
Goal umpire failing to wear a white coat	2	J
A boundary umpire failing to wear a white top (By Law 5.7.1)	2	K
A runner failing to wear League Identification Apparel	5	L
A trainer failing to wear League Identification Apparel	5	M
Late start (5 minutes or more)	2	N
Late appearance: Quarter - Half - Three-Quarter - Time Break	2	O
Interchange area on incorrect side of oval	2	P
Goal area not roped off (applies to unfenced grounds)	4	Q
Inadequate ground markings	5	R
Unsatisfactory siren OR bell (NB! no vehicle horn is permitted)	5	S
Failure to provide Escort for umpire at half-time OR at match end	5	T
Failure to supply two reasonable standard footballs	4	U
No representation for all clear (match reports to be signed)	4	V
Late payment of accounts or dues per day	1	W
Failure by home club to provide adequate seating	2	X
Failure of interchange players to be seated (By Law 8.3.6)	2	Y
Failure to provide drink/orange for umpire - 1/2- or 3/4-time	1	Z
Coaches' area not roped off per By Law 4.3.10	7	AA
Non authorised persons inside coaching area	10	AB
Coach failing to wear League identification	5	AC
Failure to display scores	5	AE
Non-compliance with By Law 8.5 (Evening up of player numbers)	6	AF
Late Withdrawal of Team (after 5.00pm Friday prior to game)	10	AG
Noncompliance with By Law 6.4.3 (Playing two games in same Age group In the same round)	10	AH
Failure to mark ground with second line at unfenced grounds (By Law 4.3.9)	7	AI
Failure to update online team sheet by midnight on the day of the match	5	AJ
Failure of away team to provide clash jumpers as per Schedule T	10	AK
Players involved in a melee	5	AL
Use of non-league approved apparel provider		Referred to YJFL Board

The nominal value of one penalty unit applicable until otherwise directed by the Board is \$20.00.

SCHEDULE R

[DELETED November 2021]

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

OFFENCES

Any of the following types of conduct is a Reportable Offence:

- (a) Intentionally, recklessly, or negligently making contact with or striking an Umpire.
- (b) Attempting to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- (c) Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an Umpire.
- (d) Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire.
- (e) Disputing a decision of an Umpire.
- (f) Use of an obscene gesture.
- (g) Intentionally, recklessly, or negligently:
 - (i) kicking another person.
 - (ii) striking another person.
 - (iii) tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot, or leg.
 - (iv) engaging in time wasting.
 - (v) charging another person.
 - (vii) 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.
 - (viii) engaging in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable.
 - (ix) engaging in a melee, except where a Player's sole intention it to remove a teammate from the incident.
 - (x) spitting at or on another person; or
 - (xi) bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that Player has their head down over the football.

NOTE:

- a Player can bump an opponent's body from side-on but any contact forward of side-on will be deemed to be front-on.
- a Player with their head down in anticipation of winning possession of the football or after contesting the football will be deemed to have their head down over the football for the purposes of this law.

- (h) attempting to kick another person.
- (i) attempting to strike another person.
- (j) attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg.
- (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 for Goal and the football is in transit.
- (l) wrestling another person.
- (m) using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language.
- (n) failing to leave the Playing Surface when directed to do so by a Field Umpire.
- (o) wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 (of Laws of Australian Football).
- (p) any act of misconduct.

SCHEDULE T

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

JUMPER CLASHES

As per By-Law 7.2.2, if there is a jumper colour clash with the home team jumper, the AWAY team is required to wear either the team's alternative or clash jumper or wear white shorts. The first named side (in fixtures) is always the home team.

Club	Clashes with
Aquinas	Canterbury
Ashburton	
Balwyn	Carlton, Glen Iris, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Park Orchards, Richmond
Banyule	Beverley Hills, Fitzroy
Beverley Hills	Banyule, Fitzroy, Whitehorse Colts
Brunswick	Templestowe
Bulleen Templestowe	Macleod, Northcote
Bundoora	Doncaster
Camberwell	Ivanhoe, Park Orchards
Canterbury	Aquinas
Carlton	Balwyn, Ivanhoe
Doncaster	Bundoora
Fitzroy	Banyule, Beverley Hills
Glen Iris	Balwyn
Hawthorn Citizens	
Heidelberg	Balwyn, Richmond
Ivanhoe	Balwyn, Camberwell, Carlton, Park Orchards, Surrey Park
Kew Comets	Richmond (Youth Boys only), Whitehorse Colts (Youth Boys and all Girls)
Kew Rovers	Macleod
Macleod	Bulleen Templestowe, Kew Rovers, Northcote
North Brunswick	
Northcote	Bulleen Templestowe, Macleod
Parade/St Damian's	
Park Orchards	Balwyn, Camberwell, Ivanhoe
Parkside	Preston Bullants, Warrandyte
Preston Bullants	Parkside, Warrandyte
Richmond	Balwyn, Heidelberg, Kew Comets (Youth Boys only)
St Marys	
Surrey Park	Ivanhoe
Templestowe	Brunswick
Warrandyte	Parkside, Preston Bullants
Whitehorse Colts	Beverley Hills, Kew Comets (Youth Boys and all Girls)

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

1. Any Person who is found to have engaged in, or is suspected of engaging in the unacceptable use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other social networking site, including blogs, in connection with the game of Australian Football in relation to the Yarra Junior Football League in any way may be dealt with by the Yarra Junior Football League as it deems fit, notwithstanding the behaviour did not occur on the playing field.
2. Without limiting the operation of this Rule, unacceptable use may involve the Person:
 - i. Criticising umpires, players, officials or any other person involved in the Yarra Junior Football League.
 - ii. Engaging in but not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, racially vilifying or threatening another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including social network sites e.g., Facebook or blogs) and the sending, receiving and or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a person.
 - iii. Engaging in any other behaviour which the Yarra Junior Football League reasonably determines, in its absolute discretion, to have breached this policy.
3. In addition, it is important to note:
 - i. It is not relevant that the Person making the remarks was not aware that the content could or would be made publicly available.
 - ii. Members must also be aware that postings from their individual accounts, whether done by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner.
 - iii. All members of the Yarra Junior Football league and individual clubs must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the league and/or club will have no control.
4. **Procedure**
 - a. Yarra Junior Football League and/or club officials or members who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone, or other device. They should then print/ save a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the relevant club representative who will forward the evidence to the Yarra Junior Football League.
 - b. All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully in accordance with Yarra Junior Football League rules and regulations and may result in a notification to Police where the Yarra Junior Football League or the club is legally obliged to do so. If there is evidence, charges will be laid.

SCHEDULE U

5. Penalties

- a. If any offence under this Schedule is proven against any Official Registered Player or Associate of a Registered Player, the tribunal may apply any of the penalties in Rule 8.1 including a suspension or deregistration of a Registered Player or Official. In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of the act, the impact on the victim, the impact on the club and/or the League and the prior good history or otherwise of the Registered Player or Official.
- b. In the case of an Official or an Associate of a Registered Player being proved to have engaged in harassment or bullying, the Member Club employing, engaging, or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the League a fine or bond to be determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

REPORTABLE OFFENCES

Application

This document provides some guidelines as to the different categories of Reportable Offences and the appropriate sanctions and courses of action in respect of such offences.

These guidelines are designed to be used by the match day umpire and will be reviewed by the League Review Panel (the Panel). Members of this panel will include the League’s Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Staff, Board Member responsible for Conduct and other Board Members as required.

The Panel will confirm the suitability of an automatic suspension in place of a tribunal hearing or refer the player to the Tribunal or add a penalty where a bad record has to be taken into account (see (c) Impact of a Bad Record on Classifiable Offences).

Where a player accepts a Reprimand or Suspended Sentence, that Suspended Sentence shall be in place for a full 12-month period and be taken into account for any subsequent reports or tribunal appearances by the player within that period of time.

Classifiable Offences

(a) Which Reportable Offences are Classifiable Offences?

Classifiable Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which may be graded by a Panel in order to determine an appropriate base sanction for that offence.

Classifiable Offences
Striking
Charging
Rough Conduct
Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of another person
Scratching another person
Forceful Front-On Contact
Tripping
Using abusive language towards an umpire, or disputing the decision of an umpire.
Pinching or wrestling another person (severe cases)

SCHEDULE V

(b) Grading Classifiable Offences

The Umpire will grade an offence using the Player/Official Reportable Incident Sheet which takes into account a discount for a player electing to accept a set penalty without the need for a Tribunal hearing.

The Tribunal Panel or Investigation Officer may grade Classifiable Offences in accordance with the table below. The Panel has absolute discretion to grade the offence as it sees fit and the applicable base sanction be applied.

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	5+ Matches
		Body	4+ matches
	High	High/Groin	4 matches
		Body	3 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches
		Body	2 Matches
	Low	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
Careless	Severe	High/Groin	4+ matches
		Body	3+ matches
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches
		Body	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match
		Body	1 Match

1 Conduct (Intentional, Careless)

Intentional conduct:

- A Person intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Person engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that Reportable Offence.
- An intention is a state of mind and may be formed on the spur of the moment.
- Whether or not a Person intentionally commits a Reportable Offence depends upon the state of mind of the Person when the Person engages in the conduct with which they are charged. What the Person did is often the best evidence of their intention. In some cases, the evidence that the conduct itself provides may be so strong as to compel an inference of what the Person's intent was, no matter what they may say about it afterwards. If the immediate consequence of conduct is obvious and inevitable, the deliberate engaging of the conduct carries with it evidence of an intention to produce the consequence.
- As an example, a strike will be regarded as Intentional where a Person delivers a blow to another Person with the intention of striking them.
- The state of a Person's mind is an objective fact and has to be proved in the same way as other objective facts. The whole of the relevant evidence has to be considered. It is necessary to weigh the evidence of the Person as to what their intentions were along with whatever inference as to their intentions can be drawn from their conduct and/or other relevant facts. The Person may or may not be believed. Notwithstanding what the Person says, it may be able to be concluded from all the material that the Person intentionally engaged in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence.

Careless conduct:

A Player's conduct will be regarded as Careless where it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to all other Players. Each Player owes a duty of care to all other Players, Umpires, and other persons (as applicable) not to engage in conduct which will constitute a Reportable Offence being committed against that other Player, Umpire, or other person (as applicable). In order to constitute such a breach of that duty of care, the conduct must be such that a reasonable Player would not regard it as prudent in all the circumstances. Further, a Player will be careless if they breach their duty to take reasonable care to avoid acts which can be reasonably foreseen to result in a Reportable Offence.

2 Impact (Low, Medium, High, or Severe)

In determining the level of impact, regard will be had to several factors.

Firstly, consideration will be given to the extent of force and in particular, any injury sustained by the Player who was offended against.

Secondly, strong consideration will be given to the potential to cause injury, particularly in the following cases:

- intentional head-high strikes, such as those with a swinging clenched fist, raised forearm or elbow.
- high bumps, particularly with significant head contact and/or Player momentum.

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- any head-high contact with a Player who has his head over the ball, particularly when contact is made from an opponent approaching from a front-on position.
- forceful round-arm swings that make head-high contact to a Player in a marking contest, ruck contest or when tackling.
- any contact that occurs when the other Player should not reasonably be expecting or is not reasonably prepared for contact (i.e., contact off the ball)
- spear tackles; and
- driving an opponent into the ground when their arms are pinned.

The absence of injury does not preclude the classification of impact as Severe.

Thirdly, consideration will be given not only to the impact between the offending Player and the victim Player, but also any other impact to the victim Player as a result of such impact.

In addition, consideration will be given to the body language of the offending Player in terms of flexing, turning, raising, or positioning the body to either increase or reduce the force of impact. The absence of injury does not preclude the classification of impact as Severe.

Low impact (which is the minimum impact required for a Classifiable Offence to constitute a Reportable Offence) requires more than just a negligible impact. Most Reportable Offences require at least low impact and a collision or incident involving negligible force will not ordinarily result in a charge.

3 Contact (High/Groin, Body)

High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders. Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region and including the testicles.

Where contact is both High and to the Body, the Match Review Panel will classify the contact as High.

(c) Impact of a Bad Record on Classifiable Offences

A one match additional penalty will be added to the base sanction of a Classifiable Offence for a bad record, being where a Player:

- has been suspended for one or more matches in the past 12 months (as at the date of the offence) for any other Classifiable Offence(s).
- has received one or more reprimands in the past 12 months (as at the date of the offence) for any Classifiable Offence(s); or
- has been suspended for a total of two or more matches in the past 24 months (as at the date of the offence) for any Classifiable Offence(s).

(d) No reduction for Good Record

Players will not receive a reduced base sanction for a good record.

SCHEDULE V

Direct Tribunal Offences

(a) Which Reportable Offences are Direct Tribunal Offences?

Direct Tribunal Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which are referred by a Panel (or otherwise) directly to the Tribunal for determination without grading (i.e., without an assessment of the offence using the Classification Table):

Direct Tribunal Offences
Kicking or Kneeing another person
Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front on when that player has their head down over the football
Head butting or making contact to another person using the head
Intentional Contact with an Umpire
Striking an Umpire
Spitting on or at an Umpire
Spitting on Another Person
Stomping on Another Person
Attempting to Strike an Umpire
Eye Gouging
Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire
Any Classifiable Offence or Low-Level Offence which attracts a base sanction that a Panel finds inappropriate
Any Other Act of Serious Misconduct which the Panel considers appropriate to refer to the Tribunal

(b) Determination of Direct Tribunal Offences?

The Tribunal will determine Direct Tribunal Offences (as with any other Reportable Offence) in accordance with section 2.

Low-level Offences

(a) What Reportable Offences are Low-level Offences?

Low-level Offences are the following low-level Reportable Offences which do not require classification:

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Low-level Offences
Attempt to strike, kick, trip
Careless contact with an Umpire
Engaging in a Melee
Instigator of Melee
Staging
Wrestling
Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured Player
Obscene gesture
Disputing decision
Pinching
Interfering with Player kicking for goal
Shaking, climbing, or interfering with a goal or behind post
Time wasting
Prohibited boots, jewellery, equipment
Scratching
Not leaving playing surface
Any other act of low-level misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence

(b) Sanctions for Low-level Offences

Low-level Offences attract the sanctions as set out in the table below.

First Low-level Offence = Reprimand/Suspended Sentence	Second & Subsequent Low-level Offences = 1 match suspension
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A reference to second and subsequent Low-level Offences is a reference to a second or subsequent Low-level Offence occurring at any time in the previous 12 months (as at the date of the current offence). The second or subsequent Low-level Offence need not be the same offence as the first Low-level Offence. For the avoidance of doubt, a prior offence other than a Low-level Offence will not count as a first offence for the purposes of the above table.

In some cases, the umpire may determine that a reprimand is not a suitable penalty given the severity of the offence, and elect to refer the matter directly to the Tribunal for deliberation.

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Reportable Offences

The *Laws of the Game* sets out a non-exhaustive list of specific Reportable Offences in Law 19.2.2 as well as providing for various categories of permitted contact which shall not constitute a Reportable Offence (for example legally using a hip, shoulder, chest, arms or open arms, providing the football is no more than five metres away, and contact which is incidental to a marking contest where a Player is legitimately marking or attempting to mark the football).

The *Laws* define certain offences such as Charging and Engaging in a Melee, however they provide that in interpreting Reportable Offences, words, terms, or phrases which are not defined in the *Laws* shall be given their ordinary meaning. The following provides some further guidance in relation to what constitutes particular Reportable Offences.

(a) Striking, Kicking

Striking and kicking are interpreted in accordance with their commonly understood meaning. A strike would usually be by hand or arm and would generally not apply to other contact using the body. A kick is generally applied to contact by foot or leg.

A strike or kick, as opposed to an attempt to strike or kick, requires more than negligible impact. Where a strike, for example, does not make more than negligible contact, it is still open to the Match Review Panel to charge a Player for Attempting to Strike where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, the intention was to connect with greater force.

(b) Classification of Certain Strikes

For the purpose of these Guidelines all Persons should note that the following factors are considered when determining the classification of a Striking offence:

- **Intent:** Notwithstanding any other part of these Guidelines, the fact that an act of striking occurred behind the play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or elbow is usually conclusive that the strike was intentional.
- **Impact:** Notwithstanding any other part of these guidelines, any Careless or Intentional strike which is of an inherently dangerous kind and/or where there is a potential to cause serious injury (such as a strike with a raised elbow or forearm) will usually not be classified as “Low Impact” even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low. Such strikes will usually be classified at a higher level commensurate with the nature and extent of the risk of serious injury involved.

(c) Misconduct

Misconduct has a wide meaning and generally is any conduct which would be regarded as unacceptable or unsportsmanlike by other participants in the match or

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where it had the effect or potential to prejudice the reputation of any person, club, or the Controlling Body or to bring the game of football into disrepute.

Serious misconduct offences will be referred directly to the Tribunal. However, any other act of Misconduct will be subject to a Low-Level Offence to be determined by the Controlling body.

(d) Forceful Front-On Contact

Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that opponent has his head down over the ball is a Reportable Offence. Unless Intentional, such actions will be deemed to be Careless, unless:

- the Player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative way to contest the ball; or
- the bump or forceful contact was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Player which could not reasonably be foreseen.

Note: A Player can bump an opponent's body from side-on but any contact forward of side-on will be deemed to be front-on. A Player with his head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purposes of this law.

(e) Rough Conduct

Rough Conduct is interpreted widely in relation to any contact which is unreasonable in the circumstances. It is a Reportable Offence to intentionally or carelessly engage in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable.

Without limiting the wide interpretation of Rough Conduct, particular regard shall be had to the following officially recognised forms of Rough Conduct.

1. Rough Conduct (High Bumps)

A Player will be guilty of Rough Conduct where in the bumping of an opponent (whether reasonably or unreasonably) the Player causes forceful contact to be made with any part of his body to an opponent's head or neck. Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, unless:

- the Player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative way to contest the ball; or
- the forceful contact to the opponent's head or neck was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Player which could not be reasonably foreseen.

In the interests of Player safety, the purpose of the rule dealing with high bumps is to reduce, as far as practicable, the risk of head injuries to Players and this purpose needs to be kept firmly in mind by all Players and will guide the application of the rule.

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For the purpose of these guidelines, head clashes may be considered a reasonably foreseeable consequence arising from a bump. Accordingly, Players who elect to bump, resulting in a head clash, may be liable for a sanction if the level of impact is above the threshold required to constitute a Reportable Offence.

In determining the level of impact (if any) of a bump which causes a head clash, regard may be had to one or more the following:

- whether the degree of force applied by the Player bumping was excessive for the situation.
- whether the Player being bumped was actively involved in the passage of play.
- the distance the Player applying the bump has run to make contact.
- whether the Player being bumped is in a position to protect himself.
- whether the Player bumping jumps or leaves the ground to bump; and
- any alternatives available to the Player instead of applying a bump.

2. Rough Conduct (Bumps to the Body)

It should be noted that even if the rule relating to high bumps does not apply (for example in the case of a bump to the body), a Player may still be guilty of Rough Conduct if his conduct was unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether any bump was unreasonable in the circumstances, without limitation, regard may be had to whether:

- the degree of force applied by the person bumping was excessive for the situation.
- the Player being bumped was in a vulnerable position; and
- the Player could reasonably expect the contact having regard to his involvement in play or ability to influence the contest.

3. Rough Conduct (Dangerous Tackles)

The application of a tackle may be considered Rough Conduct which is unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether the application of a tackle constitutes a Reportable Offence and whether the offence is Careless or Intentional, without limitation, regard may be had to the following factors, whether.

- the tackle consists of more than one action, regardless of whether the Player being tackled is in possession of the ball.
- the tackle is of an inherently dangerous kind, such as a spear tackle or a tackle where a Player is lifted off the ground.
- the Player being tackled is in a vulnerable position (for example their arms are pinned) with little opportunity to protect himself; or
- an opponent is slung, driven, or rotated into the ground with excessive force.

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4. **Rough Conduct (Contact Below the Knees)**

Under the Laws of The Game, it is prohibited to make contact with an opponent below the knees. Players who keep their feet are vulnerable to serious injury from opponents who lunge, dive, or slide toward them and make contact below the knees. It is the purpose of these guidelines to protect such Players from the risk of foreseeable injury. A Player may be guilty of Rough Conduct if he makes contact below the knees of an opponent and does so in a manner which is unreasonable in the circumstances. It is not a defence that the Player who made the prohibited contact was contesting the ball or was first to the ball. The primary responsibility of Players with respect to contact below the knees is to avoid the risk of foreseeable injury. In determining whether any contact below the knees is unreasonable in the circumstances, regard may be had to:

- the degree of momentum and/or force involved in the contact.
- whether the Player causes contact below the knees by sliding with his foot, feet, knee or knees in front of him.
- whether the opposition Player was in a position that was vulnerable to contact below the knees (for example, standing over the ball or approaching from the opposite direction); and
- whether the Player making contact had any realistic alternative ways of approaching the contest or situation.

It should be noted that even where the contact is not made below the knees of the opposition Player but to another part of an opponent's body, a Player may still be guilty under the general definition of Rough Conduct for making unreasonable contact by sliding or dropping into an opponent with their knees or feet first.

(f) Instigator of a Melee

Instigator of a Melee is defined as where the Player's conduct results in retaliatory action which leads to a melee. The offence of Instigator of Melee is in addition to the offence of Engaging in a Melee which may have the effect of a Player being found guilty of both offences.

(g) Staging

A Player will be reported for staging. Staging can include excessive exaggeration of contact in an unsportsmanlike manner. Staging shall be a Reportable Offence as it may:

- affect umpires' decision-making.
- incite a melee; and/or
- not be in the spirit of the game (unsportsmanlike).

(h) Tripping

In determining whether a trip is above the level of impact to constitute a Reportable Offence, regard will be had to how fast the opponent was moving, whether the trip was by hand or by foot/leg and whether contact was made with a swinging motion.

SCHEDULE W

[DELETED November 2021]

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

LIFE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

1. Any Member may nominate a person, who meets the below criteria, for life membership of the League by providing to the Chief Executive Officer by no later than 1 September in each year a written nomination and a copy of the minute of the resolution of the committee of the Member Club proposing the nomination. The nomination form must:
 - a. be signed by the President of a Member Club.
 - b. be countersigned by one other person on the committee of the Member Club.
 - c. outline the reason(s) for the nomination; and
 - d. outline the history of the nominee's involvement with the League and the personal background of the nominee.
2. The Board shall consider the nomination prior to the Annual General Meeting and, in its total and absolute discretion, shall decide whether to admit the nominee to life membership. The Board shall not be required to provide any reasons for its decision.
3. The Board may of its own initiative appoint as a life member such persons as they consider to be entitled to life membership by reason of special services rendered to the League. In exercising such discretion, the Board shall consider the criteria for appointing a life member.
4. Life membership should only be offered to those persons who have rendered outstanding and valuable service to the League. The award of life membership must remain a highly regarded and prestigious reward and one which demands long and meritorious service. Life membership will be considered, but not automatically awarded, to a person meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Outstanding and valuable service to the League over a minimum of 10 years in aggregate as a President, Committee Member, Trainer, Board Director, Team Manager, Coach, Tribunal Member, Selector, Administrator, Umpire, or other volunteer position; or
 - b. Outstanding and valuable service to the League over a minimum of 15 years as a paid employee; or
 - c. Outstanding and valuable service to the League over a minimum of 10 years as both a paid employee and volunteer in both criteria a and b above; or
 - d. Service to the League that leaves a significant and long-lasting positive impact on the League.

SCHEDULE Y

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM
FOR PLAYER PLAYING WITH AND AGAINST GIRLS MORE THAN 2 YEARS OLDER

(BY-LAW 6.1.5)

I, (PRINT FULL NAME),

of (PRINT ADDRESS)

am the parent/guardian/caregiver* of

..... (PRINT PLAYER'S FULL NAME)

and CONFIRM that I have been informed of the advantages to her of playing in the below mentioned team which will involve playing with and against girls who could be more than 2 years older than her.

and **HEREBY CONSENT** to her playing for the Under (SPECIFY AGE GROUP) team.

of (PRINT CLUB'S NAME)

on .../.../..... (SPECIFY DATE OF GAME)/for the 20.... (SPECIFY YEAR) * season.

Signed:

Parent/guardian/caregiver*

Dated:

Checked: (TEAM MANAGER/COACH*)

(* Strike out whichever is not applicable)

SCHEDULE Z

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

YOUTH BOYS' PLAYER RETENTION POLICY

The YJFL will consider granting YJFL Clubs permission to register their prior year playing cohorts in the U17.5 competition, if means more players will keep playing football. YJFL Clubs are encouraged to use this policy as a means of encouraging players to continue playing football and assist with their transition to playing senior club football.

Permission will be granted for players that are born between 1 January – 30 June of the year they turn 18 (and so are otherwise ineligible for the U17.5 competition) to play if they:

- Played in the YJFL in the prior year; or
- Have not played any competitive football in the prior year; and
- Do not believe they are ready for a full senior football season for their mental & emotional wellbeing, or for reasons as defined in the National Age Dispensation Policy.

It is likely the player will be in their final year of High School and will not have been suspended for more than 4 weeks in junior football. YJFL Clubs should note that permission will not be granted for players that played in other adjoining Melbourne metropolitan football Leagues (NFNL or EFNL or EDFL or SMJFL) in the prior year.

Application must be made to the YJFL in writing on the attached form by the YJFL Club, for each player.

The YJFL CEO or their appointee may permit a particular player to play in the U17.5 age group where the YJFL is satisfied that the personal circumstances of that player are such that this ought to be permitted to occur.

A permit will not be issued to a player who is on a Coates Talent League list, currently playing in the first 18 at APS/AGS Football or previously played YJFL Interleague.

A permit will be revoked if a player plays more than one (1) game of Under 19 or Senior Football. The YJFL also reserves the right to revoke permission at its discretion.

The YJFL CEO or their appointee has full discretion to approve and decline permits.

SCHEDULE AA

YARRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO PLAY
YJFL YOUTH BOYS U17.5 COMPETITION
CLUB APPLICATION FORM

(BY-LAW 6.1.4)

Player name: Club name:
Date of Birth: **(BETWEEN 1 JAN & 30 JUNE)**

Height:.....cm Weight.....kg

Reason for request (if medical exemption please attach supporting documentation):

.....

Players first season with applicant YJFL Club:

Please advise the players playing history over the past 5 years:

Year	League	Club	Age	Games played

Is player attending High School in the year of the season for which permission is being sought? Yes / No (circle one) School name:

Club Officials Name:

Club Officials Role:

Office use only: League Approved: Yes / No (circle one)

SCHEDULE AB

TIE BREAKER

Ladder Tie-Breaker Process

Finishing positions will be deemed a tie were.

- Two or more sides finish on the same amount of match points or,
- Two or more sides finish on the same Match Ratio (*Games won/Games Played x100*).

Two Team Tie

1. Win-Loss record of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
2. Greatest winning margin in games played between two teams.
3. Most Goals in games played between two teams.
4. Win-Loss record vs. Highest ranked common opponent (Proceeding downwards if necessary).
5. Aggregate margin vs. Highest ranked common opponent.

Three Team Tie (or more)

The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

1. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams.
2. Greatest winning margin in games played between teams.
3. Win-Loss record vs. Highest ranked common opponent (Proceeding downwards if necessary).
4. Aggregate margin vs. Highest ranked common opponent.

SCHEDULE AC

COACHING BOX CARD SYSTEM (WHITE CARD POLICY)

1. CONTEXT

The Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL) is committed to undertaking proactive measures to ensure the match day environment for all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires, and spectators is a positive experience. In line with this undertaking, a new Coaching Box Card System will be trialled in 2023 across all competitive age levels of the YJFL. The system is focused on the Head Coach role modelling coach behaviour and being accountable for any unacceptable behaviour by any person/s located within the confines of the designated coaching box area. Club, Coach and Umpire feedback will be sought at the end of the season as part of the review process.

2. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

- (a) The behaviour of the Coaching Box will be deemed unacceptable when any Umpire observes or clearly hears someone within the confines of the Coaching Box area:
- Continually questioning/disputing umpiring decisions
 - Abusing umpires or making inappropriate comments to or about them
 - Using inappropriate language or gestures towards or about anyone
 - Speaking inappropriately or aggressively towards opposition players or coaches
 - Behaving in any manner that is socially unacceptable / contrary to the Coaches' Code of Conduct or Player Code of Conduct.
- (b) In recognising the emotions of being involved in a game, Umpires must understand that the Coaching Box Card System is in place to manage repeated instances of Unacceptable Behaviours, not isolated instances unless they are excessive/aggressive in nature.
- (c) This system does not override any Umpire's ability to report any person on a team sheet at any time throughout a game. For example, if an Umpire hears someone in the Coaching Box vilify someone else and they can identify the perpetrator, they should report that person immediately and take the relevant steps as per the standard reporting process.

3. COACHING BOX CARD SYSTEM OVERVIEW

- (a) Where Unacceptable Behaviours are emanating from the Coaching Box, a three-phase system will be undertaken by the Field Umpire/s via the use of White and Red cards to stop such behaviours in real time. The three phases are:
- 1st Phase - a warning (White card shown)
 - 2nd Phase - another warning, free kick and 25m penalty (White card shown)
 - 3rd Phase - Head Coach reported and removed from game, free kick and 25m penalty (Red card shown)

4. WHITE & RED CARD 3 PHASE PROCESS

4.1 Phase 1 (warning)

a) Field Umpire/s or Emergency Appointed Umpire who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. Notwithstanding clause 4.1 c), when a Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, at the next stoppage in play they shall pause the game and move to the corner of the centre square closest to the offending Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- ii. The Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. A Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused, then once the card has been issued, they will recommence play from where it stopped.
- iv. There is no on field penalty for the team that incurred the White card.

b) Goal & Boundary Umpires – Appointed & Club who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. When any Appointed or Club boundary or goal umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, they shall inform a Field Umpire at the next available opportunity. Notwithstanding 4.1 c), if the Field Umpire determines a card is appropriate, at the next stoppage they shall pause the game and move to the corner of the centre square closest to the offending Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- ii. The Field Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. A Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where the play was paused and once the card has been issued, they will recommence play from where it stopped.
- iv. There is no on field penalty for the team that incurred the White card.

c) Appointed Umpire & Club Umpire officiating together who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. If any Club Umpire is officiating in a game with a field Appointed Umpire and hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, they shall advise the field Appointed Umpire at the next pause in play and the field Appointed Umpire shall determine whether a White Card is applicable or not. If a card is deemed appropriate, the field Appointed Umpire shall move to the corner of the centre square closest to the offending Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- ii. The field Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. The Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused and once the card has been issued, they will recommence play from where it stopped.
- iv. There is no on field penalty for the team that incurred the White card.

d) Cards issued in-between quarters – Club Umpires & Appointed Umpires who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. If following a discussion between Umpires at any quarter time breaks, notwithstanding clause 4.1 c) if the Field Umpire/s deem a White card is appropriate, then prior to the game restarting a Field Umpire should
- ii. move to the corner of the centre square closest to the offending Coaches Box/Interchange area and
- iii. The Field Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iv. After the card has been issued play will resume with a centre bounce.
- v. There is no on field penalty for the team that incurred the White Card.

e) League or Club Appointed Ground Managers

Where an independent YJFL or Affiliate Club Ground Manager has been appointed and they hear or observe any Unacceptable Behaviours from the Coaching Box, they shall notify the Field Umpires at the next break between quarters and clause 4.1 d) shall be applied.

f) Abuse When a White Card is Issued

- i. When the Field Umpire or Emergency Umpire issues a White Card, if abuse is forthcoming from the Coaches Box/Interchange area during the card issuing process, a free kick and 25m penalty shall be applied.
- ii. The free kick and subsequent 25m penalty shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play was paused.

Note - If questions are being asked from the Coaches Box/Interchange area, such questions should not be assessed as abuse (unless delivered in an abusive manner) and the Field Umpire should vacate the area without engaging with the Coaches Box.

4.2 Phase 2 (second warning, free kick and 25m penalty)

a) Field Umpire/s & Emergency Appointed Umpire who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. Notwithstanding clause 4.2 c), when a Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, at the next stoppage they will pause the game and move to within 20m of the Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- ii. The Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. A Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused and then once the card has been issued, they will resume play by awarding a free kick to the Non-Offending Team and then apply a 25m penalty. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play was paused.

b) Goal & Boundary Umpires – Appointed & Club who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. When any Appointed or Club boundary or goal umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, they shall inform a Field Umpire at the next available opportunity. Notwithstanding clause 4.2 c), if the Field Umpire determines a card is appropriate, at the next stoppage they shall pause the game and move to within 20m of the Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- ii. The Field Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. The Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused and then once the card has been issued, they will resume play by awarding a free kick to the Non-Offending Team and then apply a 25m penalty. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play was paused.

c) Appointed Umpire & Club Umpire officiating together who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. If any Club Umpire is officiating in a game with a field Appointed Umpire and hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, they shall advise the field Appointed Umpire at the next pause in play and the field Appointed Umpire shall determine whether a White card is applicable or not.
- ii. If a card is deemed appropriate, the field Appointed Umpire shall move to within 20m of the coaching box/interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- iii. The field Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iv. The Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused and then once the card has been issued, they will resume play by awarding a free kick to the Non-Offending Team and then apply a 25m penalty. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play was paused.

d) Cards issued in-between quarters – Club Umpires & Appointed Umpires who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. If following a discussion between umpires at any break between quarters, notwithstanding clause 4.2 c), if the Field Umpire/s deem a White card is appropriate then a Field Umpire should once the players are in position to resume play a Field Umpire shall move to the corner of the centre square closest to the offending Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a White card.
- ii. The umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. They shall then award a free kick to the ruck of the Non-Offending Team in the centre of the ground and then apply a 25m penalty.

e) League or Club Appointed Ground Managers

Where an independent YJFL or Club Ground Manager has been appointed to a game and they hear or observe any Unacceptable Behaviours from the Coaches Box/Interchange area, they shall notify the Field Umpires at the next break in between quarters and clause 4.2 d) shall be applied.

f) Abuse or Dispute When a White Card is Issued

i. When the Field Umpire or Emergency Umpire issues a White Card, if abuse is forthcoming from the Coaches Box/Interchange area during the card issuing process, a second 25m penalty shall be given. ii. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play paused.

Note - If questions are being asked from the Coaches Box/Interchange area such questions should not be assessed as abuse (unless delivered in an abusive manner) and the Field Umpire should vacate the area without engaging with the Coaches Box/Interchange area.

g) Club Clarity

Clubs are unable to dispute the decision on the day as to why a White or Red Card was issued. The League will provide clubs with an explanation as to why the card was issued via email during the week. Any follow up should then be made by the Club President, Secretary or Coaching Co-ordinator.

4.3 Phase 3 (Head Coach/lead Assistant reported & removed from game, free kick and 25m penalty)

a) Field Umpires & Emergency Appointed Umpire who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

i. Notwithstanding clause 4.3 c), when a Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire observes or hears any Unacceptable Behaviours, at the next stoppage they will pause the game and move to the within 10m of the Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a Red card and verbally advise the Coaches Box/Interchange area that the Head Coach (or Lead Assistant if Head Coach is on the field) is on report and must immediately leave the Coaches Box/Interchange area.

ii. The Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any other dialogue when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.

iii. A Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused.

iv. Once the Field Umpire or Emergency Umpire observes the Head Coach or Lead Assistant has left the Coaches Box/Interchange area, they shall move into position as the non-controlling official, at this time the other Field Umpire will award a free kick to the Non-Offending Team from where the play was stopped and then apply a 25m penalty. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play paused.

b) Goal & Boundary Umpires – Appointed & Club who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

i. When any Appointed or Club boundary or goal umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, they shall inform a Field Umpire at the next available opportunity. Notwithstanding clause 4.3 c), if the Field Umpire determines a card is appropriate, at the next stoppage they shall pause the game and move to the within 10m of the Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a Red Card and verbally advise the Coaches Box/Interchange area that the Head Coach (or Lead Assistant if Head Coach is on the field) is on report and must immediately leave the Coaches Box/Interchange area.

- ii. The Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any other dialogue when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. The Field Umpire that is not issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was paused.
- iv. Once the Field Umpire observes the Head Coach or Lead Assistant has left the Coaches Box/Interchange area, they shall move into position as the non-controlling official, at this time the other Field Umpire will award a free kick to the Non-Offending Team from where the play was stopped and then apply a 25m penalty. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play paused.

c) Appointed Umpire & Club Umpire officiating together who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. If any Club Umpire is officiating in a game with a field Appointed Umpire and hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviours, they shall advise the field Appointed Umpire at the next pause in play and the field Appointed Umpire shall determine whether a Red Card is applicable or not. If a card is deemed appropriate, the field Appointed Umpire shall move to the within 10m of the Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a Red Card and verbally advise the Coaches Box/Interchange area that the Head Coach (or Lead Assistant of Head Coach in the field) is on report and must immediately leave the Coaches Box/Interchange area.
- ii. The Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any other dialogue when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. Once the Appointed Umpire observes the Head Coach or Lead Assistant has left the Coaches Box/Interchange area, they shall move into position as the non-controlling official, at this time the Club Umpire will award a free kick to the Non-Offending Team from where the play was stopped and then apply a 25m penalty. The free kick shall be given to the player who the Field Umpire in control of the restart deems was the closest to the ball where play paused.

d) Cards issued in-between quarters – Club Umpires & Appointed Umpires who hear or observe Unacceptable Behaviours

- i. Notwithstanding clause 4.3 c), if following a discussion between umpires at any break between quarters, if the Field Umpire/s deem a Red Card is appropriate a Field Umpire shall move to the within 10m of the Coaches Box/Interchange area and clearly display a Red Card and verbally advise the Coaches Box/Interchange area that the Head Coach (or Lead Assistant if Head Coach is on the field) is on report and must immediately leave the Coaches Box/Interchange area.
- ii. The Field Umpire or Emergency Appointed Umpire shall not engage in any other dialogue when undertaking this process and shall not answer any questions that come from the bench.
- iii. Once the Field Umpire observes the Head Coach or Lead Assistant has left the Coaches Box/Interchange area, they shall move into position as the non-controlling official, at this time the other Field Umpire will award a free kick to the ruck of Non-Offending Team in the centre circle and then apply a 25m penalty.

e) League or Club Appointed Ground Managers

Where a YJFL or Affiliate Club ground manager has been appointed to a game and they hear or observe any Unacceptable Behaviours from the Coaches Box/Interchange area, they shall notify the Field Umpires at the next break in between quarters and clause 4.3 d) shall be applied.

f) Head Coach or Lead Assistant Coach refusal to vacate

- i. Where either the Head Coach or the Lead Assistant (if Head Coach is on the field) refuses to vacate the Coaches Box/Interchange area, the Field Umpire shall verbally warn the Coaches Box/Interchange area that if the relevant coach doesn't vacate the game shall stop until such time the coach vacates.
- ii. If the game is stopped because of a refusal by the coach to vacate, or if the Coach doesn't leave the game within 1 minute the game shall recommence and a 25m penalty shall be applied and the matter referred to YJFL for sanction.
- iii. Such sanction may include a deduction of premiership points, coach suspension, coach deregistration etc.

g) Club Clarity

Clubs are unable to dispute the decision on the day as to why a White or Red Card was issued. The League will provide clubs with an explanation as to why the card was issued via email during the week. Any follow up should then be made by the Club President, Secretary or Coaching Co-ordinator.

h) Further Breaches of Unacceptable Behaviour

Following Phase 3, if any further instances of Unacceptable Behaviour occur the Field Umpire shall on each occasion pay a free kick and award a 25m penalty.

5. ONE FIELD UMPIRE SITUATIONS

In a situation where there is only one Field Umpire and a card is being issued during a quarter, the Field Umpire should place the ball on the ground where play stopped and then issue the card. The Field Umpire should resume play from where the ball was placed on the ground. Where a free kick is applicable due to a card being issued, the Field Umpire should award it to a player who they deemed was close to where play paused at the time or any player at their discretion.

6.COACH EJECTION / REPORTS / COACHING CITATION

- a) Notwithstanding 4 f), upon receiving a Red Card the Head Coach cannot nominate someone else to leave the box, it must be the Head Coach regardless of whether someone else's behaviour led to the red card.
- b) Any Head Coach or Lead Assistant that is ejected from the game must either go to the change room and remain there until the game is completed and both teams have left the playing surface, or they can elect to leave the venue.
- c) Any Head Coach or Lead Assistant who receives a Red Card shall be referred directly to the YJFL Review Panel. The Field Umpire who issued the Red Card is not required to stipulate a charge number on the report sheet. After considering the evidence before it from and Appointed Umpire/s or Club Umpire/s, the panel shall determine the appropriate sanction, which dependent on the circumstances may include the laying of classifiable offence in accordance with the Law of Australian Football and dealt with as per the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines, or an individual/club sanction or monetary Club sanction in accordance with the relevant Competition rules and regulation.
- d) Any Head Coach or Lead Assistant who receives a Red Card may also be issued with a coaching citation. The findings of the Tribunal will be considered when determining the application of a citation.

7. WHITE & RED CARD RECORDING

- a) The timekeeper/s will be responsible for noting the time and quarter of any White card or Red Card issued and to which team. A record of all cards issued must be listed on the official timecard.
- b) In the event there is a dispute as to the number of cards issued under the 3-phase system, a Field Umpire should consult the timekeeper/s for clarification.

SCHEDULE AD

ATTENDEE/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE

Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL) will from time to time adopt and implement codes of conduct pursuant to advice obtained from the AFL, AFL Victoria or of its own creation. These codes of conduct will be applicable to players, coaches, spectators and officials. Breaches of these codes of conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken pursuant to these By-Laws or the penalties prescribed in the spectator's "code of conduct".

The purpose of the Code of Conduct of the YJFL is to create the best possible match day and training environment for all participants. The Code of Conduct for Parents, Coaches, Volunteers and spectators was developed by the young leaders of all clubs of the YJFL to ensure our children develop, have fun and participate in Australian Rules Football in a positive and inclusive environment.

YJFL CODE OF CONDUCT

- Be great role models with your behaviour.
- Support all players, not just your child.
- Abuse, in any form, is not tolerated. Support all efforts to remove it.
- Everyone is different, we want everyone to be included and valued.
- Footy is fun. We play for the love of it and to make friends.
- Development of players, teams and clubs is more important than the outcome of a game.
- Respect everyone and their role. Let players, coaches, umpires and volunteers do their job.
- Your language matters. Please be positive and supportive and encourage us to do our best.
- Our safety is your number one priority.

CODE OF CONDUCT BY-LAW

Any club member, supporter or spectator attending an event under the auspices of the YJFL shall not:

1. Push, hit or strike an Umpire, Coach, Team Official, League Official, Spectator or Player.
2. Cause any act of misconduct that is detrimental to the best interest of YJFL.
3. Use offensive language or abuse (malicious and/or threatening) to any Coach, Team Official, Player, Umpire, Match Day Official or Spectator.
4. Consume alcohol (or illicit substances) in any form. Refer to By-Law 9.6.
5. Make a public nuisance of oneself before, during or after a scheduled event.

How the Attendee and Spectator Code of Conduct will be enforced

Offence: Person commits breach of the Attendee and Spectator Code of Conduct.

1. **Complaint Lodged:** Ground manager, YJFL Official or member of a club executive are advised of, or witness, a breach of the code of conduct. Such person, to whom a complaint is lodged, shall approach the person who has committed the breach of code

and may issue a warning to the person or depending upon the severity of the breach of code, require the person to leave the fixture/venue/event. This enforcement is not reliant on the receipt of a complaint.

2. **Eviction:** In the event of a Ground Manager, YJFL Official or member of a club executive determining that the person should leave the fixture/venue/event, such person shall be asked to leave and in the event of a refusal an eviction from the venue by security or police.
3. **Investigation:** The YJFL, upon written notification of an eviction and/or complaint lodged will engage a league investigator to review the incident. The Investigation will follow the process outlined in Rules 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9. At the conclusion of the Investigation, the Investigator may recommend a sanction to be ratified by the CEO and YJFL Board, or refer the matter to the YJFL Conduct Investigation Tribunal.
4. **Penalty Imposed:** YJFL may issue a letter to the person and/or club stating the offence committed and request for the person and/or club to show cause why a proposed penalty should not be imposed. The person and/or club must respond within 72 hours of the letter being forwarded by YJFL, or the penalty imposed by the YJFL will stand.
5. **Hearing:** If YJFL believes in good faith that the person and/or club has breached the Rules, Regulations and/or By-Laws of the league, the CEO may order the person and/or club to appear before the Yarra Junior Football League Board or League Independent Tribunal.

Penalties for Breach of Code of Conduct

Violation of Code 1

1. First Offence: Dismissal from all YJFL events for up to (1) year.
2. Second Offence: Permanent dismissal from all YJFL events.

Violation of Codes 2, 3, 4, 5.

1. First Offence: Dismissal from all YJFL events for three (3) weeks
2. Second Offence: Dismissal from all YJFL events for up to one (1) year
3. Third Offence: Permanent dismissal from all YJFL events.

The YJFL Board reserve the right to decrease or increase any penalty at its discretion.

Appeal Process

If a party who has been served a penalty by the League Board wishes to challenge the Board's verdict, they may do so by submitting a written application to the CEO, requesting the matter be heard by the League Independent Tribunal.