



# BY-LAWS

# BFNL BY-LAWS

## Preamble

Every person in the Bendigo Football Netball League (BFNL) community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

The BFNL is committed to promoting and protecting the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered.

We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

Bendigo Football Netball League respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of all the lands and waters on which we train and play. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and future

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the:

- BFNL Constitution
- Laws of Australian Football
- Victorian Country Football League (AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY) Rules and Regulations as published in the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Handbook each year or as amended by notification from AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY after the printing of the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Handbook
- All Australian Netball Association Rules
- Playing Rules of the International Federation of Netball Associations
- Netball Australia Limited Member Protection Policy

## Definitions and Interpretation

In these By-Laws unless the contrary intention appears:

- “BFNL” means Bendigo Football & Netball League Incorporated. In these rules referred to as “BFNL” or “the Bendigo Football & Netball League”.
- “Commission” means the Commission of AFL Central Victoria Inc. (Central Victoria Australian Football Commission)
- “C.O.G.B” means City of Greater Bendigo. In these rules referred to as “BFNL” or “C.O.G.B.” means City of Greater Bendigo
- “Laws of Australian Football” means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified for the League
- “League” means the Bendigo Football & Netball League

The appendices and schedules attached should be read in conjunction with and form part of the By-Laws of the Bendigo Football & Netball League.

## Affiliation Rules

1. Any sporting body may apply to the League for affiliation to participate
2. Any application shall be in writing and state:
  - a) The name of the body
  - b) The number of teams to be fielded.
  - c) Whether such body is corporate or un-incorporate.
  - d) The names of the current directors/office bearers.
  - e) The current financial membership of such body
  - f) The current financial status of such body and shall have appended to it audited copies of the last financial report and a copy of its constitution and rules.
3. The League may at its discretion accept or refuse any application for an affiliation, or may impose any conditions on the affiliation that it thinks fit.
4. Any affiliation granted shall continue for the period specified or may be terminated earlier by agreement between the parties.
5. The League may require an affiliate to pay such annual fees, levies or other payments to the League as it determines

In the event that the affiliate fails to make any such payment the League may at its discretion decide that the affiliation is ended, or suspended for such period and on such terms as it prescribes, or may impose such other penalty as seems appropriate.

## **1. CLUB AFFILIATION**

### **1.1 Affiliation**

Each Club shall affiliate with Bendigo Football & Netball League by signing an Affiliation and Agreement Form and submit the Affiliation and Agreement Form to the Bendigo Football & Netball League.

### **1.2 Annual Affiliation Fee**

Each Affiliated Club shall pay an annual affiliation fee of the sum prescribed by the BFNL from time to time and payable in accordance with Bendigo Football & Netball League invoicing provisions.

### **1.3 Payment of accounts**

Each Club must pay all outstanding tax invoices to Bendigo Football & Netball League as determined by the BFNL. All monies due to be paid to the League by Affiliated Clubs shall be payable in full no later than Thirty (30) days after the date of the invoice issued by the League unless contrary arrangements are specifically authorised by the BFNL.

### **1.4 Clubs in default of payments**

In the case of clubs failing to make such payments, unless acceptable alternative arrangements are made with the Bendigo Football & Netball League CEO, Clubs will be subject to Bendigo Football & Netball League Payments Default Policy as outlined below.

Failure to meet payment within specified 30-day period, unless that Club has entered into a formal agreement with the Bendigo Football & Netball League CEO, will result in that Club being subject to the following process.

Step 1: As a reminder, Club President to be contacted by Bendigo Football & Netball League on the day after payment falls due via email. The email will contain details of the relevant outstanding invoice/s.

Step 2: Payment of any outstanding amount to be made within 5 business days of reminder being issued.

Step 3: For each subsequent period of 5 business days that elapses until payment is made, an additional \$100 administration levy will be imposed with NO limit. After 15 business days, 4 premiership points will be deducted from your Club. These points will be deducted from your highest placed team, football or netball. The deduction of premiership points will continue each 5 business days until the outstanding amount is paid in full.

Step 4: It will be deemed that un-financial Clubs will not participate in the Bendigo Football and Netball League finals.

Step 5: If, at the close of the Bendigo Football & Netball League financial year (October 31st) where a club has gone through Steps 1 to 3, and has payments outstanding, processing of player transfers into that club for the following season shall not commence until all payments are met or an alternative arrangement has been made with the Bendigo Football & Netball League.

### **1.5 Disputed Invoices.**

Any dispute must be finalised within payment date period through negotiation with the BFNL. In such instances payment of original or negotiated amount must still be made within period indicated on original invoice.

## **2. CLUB ANNUAL MEETINGS AND ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **2.1 Club Annual Meetings**

All affiliated Clubs must hold their annual meeting no later than 30 November unless the BFNL gives approval. Penalty: \$100.

### **2.2 Club Annual Reports**

Affiliated Clubs must submit to Bendigo Football & Netball League a copy of their Annual Report including audited financial reports showing Profit and Loss Statements, Balance Sheet, and the Bendigo Football & Netball League standard chart of accounts for the previous year within 14 days of the conduct of the Annual General Meeting. Penalty: \$500

## **3. CLUB OFFICE BEARERS**

Not later than 30 November each year, all senior and junior affiliated clubs must lodge with the league (on the form provided from time to time), a list of all club office bearers for the ensuing year. Penalty: \$100

## **4. RULES COMMITTEE**

### **4.1 Appointment**

A Bendigo Football and Netball League Rules Committee shall be formed at the discretion of the BFNL.

The Rules Committee will investigate required amendments to the rules and provide interpretations and application of the rules in the event of disputes over the rules.

### **4.2 Alteration to By-Laws and Competition Rules**

The Competition Rules and By-Laws may be amended by the BFNL from time to time pursuant to the Rules and advised to affiliated Clubs.

### **4.3 Fines for breach of By-Laws and Competition Rules**

Fines may be imposed by the BFNL for non-compliance with or violation of these by-laws.

- (a) At the rates specified in the By Laws and or Competition Rules; or
- (b) If no rate is specified in the By Laws and or Competition Rules, at the rate determined by the BFNL.

## **5. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL**

### **5.1 Appointment**

The BFNL shall annually appoint an Independent Tribunal panel in accordance with AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rule 7 consisting of up to twelve persons, three of whom will comprise any one sitting. Such persons will not be directly associated with any Club in the Leagues but will be thoroughly conversant with the rules of the game and the Leagues and, in the opinion of the BFNL, will be thoroughly capable of handling any cases or disputes which may be put before them.

This Independent Tribunal will deal with players and officials reported in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Rules of the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY and Bendigo Football & Netball League.

They may also sit in judgment on any football or netball issue or matters for Bendigo Football and Netball League at the direction of the BFNL within its jurisdiction.

They are to meet when occasion demands and their decision is to be final and binding. All divisions affiliated with Bendigo Football and Netball League will come under the jurisdiction of the BFNL Independent Tribunal.

The Bendigo Football and Netball League shall appoint the Chairperson of the Independent Tribunal.

### **5.2 Club Advocates**

A Club advocate shall accompany any player attending the Independent Tribunal. Advocates are not permitted to be a member of the Legal profession. Penalty: \$100

An independent League advocate is available for the offended against player only, upon request.

### **5.3 Attendance at Tribunal hearings**

5.3.1. Players or officials charged with an offence must attend the Independent Tribunal Meeting. If necessary, the Meeting will be adjourned and the player or official penalised until attendance is confirmed.

Club Secretaries (unless an alternate club official is notified to Bendigo Football and Netball League at the commencement of the season) will be contacted with dates and times of Tribunal hearings.

- 5.3.2 Players or officials as witnesses, who are personally unable to attend the tribunal hearing are allowed to submit a Statement to the tribunal, outlining reasons for non-attendance, their impressions of the circumstances or events relating to the report. It is the Clubs responsibility to ensure relevant witness(es) attend the tribunal hearing. The statement must include a telephone contact number that the witness will be available on and contactable at the scheduled time of the tribunal hearing. Submission of such statement must be approved by the Bendigo Football and Netball League offices no later than 12 noon on the day of the tribunal hearing.

#### **5.4 Hearings – Reported Players**

In normal circumstances the Bendigo Football and Netball League Independent Tribunal will meet, when required, on Wednesday nights commencing from 6.30pm.

In the event that more than one case is scheduled, they will be heard in the order determined by the Tribunal Secretary, allowing approximately 45 minutes for each case. Should there be more than 3 cases to be heard on the one night a second Tribunal will be convened at a time, date and venue organised by Bendigo Football & Netball League.

#### **5.5 Video Evidence**

Where video evidence is available from the Bendigo Football and Netball League authorized media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non Bendigo Football and Netball League unedited video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify Bendigo Football and Netball League and such video must be delivered to Bendigo Football and Netball League not later than the close of business of the day prior to the scheduled tribunal hearing.

#### **5.6 Power to report BUA (football)**

- 5.6.1 If requested, any of the officiating BUA umpires from a game or accredited BUA Coach or observer may view specific incidents from the authorised match video of their match by 2.00pm on the first business day following the match, and if deemed appropriate they may lodge a report based on this video evidence.

5.6.2 If requested, any of the officiating BUA umpires from a game or accredited BUA Coach or observer may view specific incidents from the authorised match video of their match by 2.00pm on the first business day following the match, and if deemed appropriate the League can activate the BFNL Melee Matrix Procedure to grade and sanction any player/s or official/s determined as actively involved in any incident defined as a melee.

## **5.7 Reporting of Players**

5.7.1 A current years AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY player report pad is to be placed in the umpire's room at the beginning of the day and left there for the duration of the day's games. Penalty \$100

5.7.2 If a report is made, a copy of the report must be scanned and emailed through by the home club to the Bendigo Football and Netball League as soon as possible, but no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the match. If a scanner is not available, the home club must email the following details to the Bendigo Football and Netball League within the same time frame. Reported player, Offended player (if applicable), Reporting umpire, alleged offence, if a tribunal is required.

The original copy of the Notice of Report must be included in the match day paperwork envelope regardless of whether a set sanction has been accepted or not. Penalty \$100

## **5.8 Set Sanctions**

If after the game the reporting umpire doesn't indicate on the player report sheet that the offence warrants a tribunal hearing, the offending player can choose to accept the prescribed penalty by signing the player report sheet in the space provided. He can also delay this decision until 12 noon on the first business day following the incident at the latest. The reporting umpire, the offending player and the offended player's club secretary all have until 12 noon on the first business day following the incident to inform the league that they wish the matter to be heard by a tribunal. If one party initially chooses the set sanction, they can change their decision within the time frame. Once one of the above parties indicates the matter should be heard at tribunal, the set sanction will not be an option. That decision cannot be changed. If there is no official indication within the designated timeframe, the charged player will automatically be awarded the identified set match penalty.

Players and/or team managers from both teams must sign the Player Report to acknowledge receipt of the form from the umpires. Notifications regarding this section of the rule must be made to the Tribunal Secretary or nominated representative.



## **5.9 Netball Specific Information - to be read in addition to the preceding rules.**

Any persons under the age of 16 attending the Independent Tribunal MUST be accompanied by a parent or Guardian.

The assistance of the BFNL Independent Tribunal may be enlisted if required.

The Tribunal shall have the power to:

- (a) Decide any matter that is referred to it for determination.
- (b) Impose any costs on the parties, or withhold all or part of any deposit lodged.
- (c) Make any decision or impose any penalty that it considers appropriate in each case, or
- (d) Charge any person with the offence of giving untruthful evidence.

## **6. INVESTIGATION OFFICER**

An Investigation Officer will be appointed by the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY from its panel of Investigation Officers to investigate any matter referred to him/her pursuant to AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rule 5.2 (Unbecoming conduct).

Netball - the BFNL Board shall be empowered to appoint an investigation Officer. Cost of the appointment may be incurred to the Club.

## **7. UNBECOMING CONDUCT FOOTBALL**

**7.1** Bendigo Football and Netball League members, Club members, Players or Umpires who allege that a player or an official of a Club has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a Player or an Official of a Club or which is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute may lodge with the League a notice in writing setting out the particulars of the allegation within 5 days. A notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the Bendigo Football & Netball League within five days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the BFNL agrees to extend this period to a maximum of 30 days. An extension agreed to by the BFNL may be for such period and subject to such conditions as the BFNL thinks fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 21 days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of the 21 days, the League at the request of the Investigation Officer then grants an extension of time up to a maximum of 10 days. A Deposit of \$500 from a club requesting an investigation shall accompany the notice. If the Investigation Officer finds that there is no case to answer, or if the Independent Tribunal finds the person not guilty, then

the entire cost of the investigation shall be borne by the club requesting the investigation. In this instance, the deposit shall be forfeited in whole or part, with any further costs over and above the deposit to be invoiced to the requesting club. If there is a case to answer and that person is found guilty at a subsequent tribunal hearing or accepts the set match penalty offered, then the cost of the entire investigation shall be borne by the club to which the guilty person is affiliated, and the deposit will be returned to the club who requested the investigation. If both clubs are to be found at fault, then costs shall be shared between the two clubs involved at the discretion of the League.

- 7.2** Notice of any allegation received under By-Law 7.1 shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit.
- 7.3** Within 2 days of receiving the official request for an investigation, the league is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the incident or matter for investigation.
- 7.4** If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player or Official in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player or an Official of a Club or is likely to bring the game of football in disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the League Independent Tribunal as hereinafter provided, he may lodge with the League a notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.
- 7.5** If a notice is lodged with the League under By-Law 7.3, the League shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation before the League Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than 9 days after lodgement of the notice and shall advise the Player or Official in question of those particulars and forward to the Player or Official direct or care of the Club Secretary in question a copy of the notice lodged under By-Law 7.3
- 7.6** The League Independent Tribunal shall regulate any proceedings brought before it under this Rule as it thinks fit, but in any such proceedings, the Player or Official against whom the allegation has been made and his advocate shall be entitled to appear before the League Independent Tribunal.
- 7.7** In any proceeding brought before a tribunal under this rule the Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and lay any necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the League.
- 7.8** If the League Independent Tribunal decides that the Player or Official in question has been guilty of conduct which, in the opinion of the League

Independent Tribunal, is unbecoming to a Player or Official of a Club or which is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the manner as it thinks fit.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the League Independent Tribunal may:

- (a) Impose a fine or suspended fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player or Official in question; or,
- (b) May disqualify the Player or Official in question for such period as it thinks fit.

**7.9** The decision of the League Independent Tribunal in respect of any allegation brought before it under this Rule shall be final and binding on all parties.

## **NETBALL**

**7.10** All Complaints against any Club Official, Club Member, Player and or Umpire must be lodged in writing on official documentation by 12 noon of the Monday following the match concerned.

**7.11** All complaints are to be lodged with the BFNL Manager and NOT directly to the opposing Club. It is the responsibility of the BFNL Manager to inform any club of the complaint lodged by another and ensuing action to be taken.

**7.12** All complaints lodged will be investigated in line with the regulations outlined in the Netball Victoria Competition Complaints Handling Regulations.

## **8. BFNL BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS**

**8.1** The BFNL shall provide an award/s for the Best and Fairest player in each grade of the competition each year.

**8.2** The voting for the BFNL Best and Fairest Award/s shall be determined as follows

8.2.1 At the conclusion of each of the home and away matches, the field umpire/s shall award three (3) votes to the player considered to be the fairest and best player in the match, two (2) votes to the player considered to be the second fairest and best, one (1) vote to the player considered to be the third fairest and best.

8.2.2 Such votes shall be recorded on a special card provided by the BFNL, and returned to the BFNL office in the envelope provided for match paperwork.

- 8.3** The Best and Fairest Medals have been named to honour individuals who have provided outstanding service to the BFNL and to football/netball generally.

The Medals are to be known as follows:

Seniors Football – Michelsen Medal

Reserves Football – Alan McDonald Medal

Under 18 Football – George Symons Medal

A Grade Netball – Betty Thompson Medal

A Reserve Netball - Holborn Medal

B Grade Netball – B Grade Medal

B Reserve Netball – B Reserve Medal

17 & Under Netball – Sing Medal

- 8.4** Any player who is found guilty of a charge by the Tribunal or has accepted the prescribed set penalty during the home and away matches resulting in a one (1) or more week/s suspension, shall not be eligible to win a BFNL Best and Fairest award, during that season in any grade of competition, regardless of the grade the player was found guilty of such charge
- 8.5** In the event of a tie in a Best and Fairest count in any grade, the award shall be presented to each of the players involved in such tie.

## **9. FOOTBALL “RECORD”**

### **9.1 Club Editorial material**

- 9.1.1 All Club scribes for the ‘BFNL Record’ must have their name, email address and contact number registered with the BFNL.
- 9.1.2 Each Club will be allocated approximately half a page in the weekly ‘Record’ for notes. These notes, as well as any alterations to player names/numbers must be sent via e-mail to the publishers by Tuesday 9.30am. Penalty \$100
- 9.1.3 Club notes must use full names, not abbreviations or nicknames, e.g. ‘Bomber’Thompson. Penalty \$50
- 9.1.4 Clubs must refrain from including content of derogatory, sexual or defamatory nature. Penalty \$50.

### **9.2 “Record” Team Lists**

- 9.2.1 All senior Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the publisher at least 10 days prior to the commencement of the first competition match in each season the following lists accurately stating all the club registered players’ first name, surname and jumper numbers for inclusion in the record for the first game. Penalty: Post Round 4 in each competition - \$30 per name.

- One list for Senior and Reserve grades and one list for Under 18 grade football
  - One list for Senior grades and one list for 17/Under grade netball
- 9.2.2 All senior Affiliated Clubs shall forward to the Publisher, no later than 9.30am each Tuesday prior to the next round of the fixture, any changes of player names and numbers for Senior and Reserve grades or Under 18 grades football team lists published in the “Record”.
- 9.2.3 Team Lists for finals fixtures must be separated to reflect ‘Seniors’ ‘Reserves’ ‘Under 18’ football (with a recommended maximum number of 30 players on each list) and ‘A’ ‘AR’ ‘B’ ‘BR’ ‘17/U’ netball (with a maximum of 12 players in each list) and submitted to the Publisher no later than 9.30am Tuesday prior to each game
- 9.2.4 Teams competing In the Grand Final must submit photos and required information to the Publisher no later than 9.30am Tuesday prior to the Grand Final

### **9.3 Production details**

- 9.3.1 Minimum number of records per round will be 75, a Club desiring additional records can arrange extra copies by contacting the League.
- 9.3.2 All records shall be collected by home club from the Publishers office prior to 5.00 p.m. on the Friday prior to each match.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence to the Board must be in writing on Official Club letterhead and signed by a Club Executive Member.

The Bendigo Football Netball League must be advised of any intended correspondence with the BUA, the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY, AFL Victoria Development Manager, Netball Victoria or other Leagues/Associations. The correspondence must be on official Club letterhead and signed by the Club president.

## **11. UNAUTHORISED MEDIA STATEMENTS**

No club shall permit any of its officers or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television and all newspapers) in connection with any policies or acts of the BFNL without the prior approval of the BFNL. To do so shall render the club concerned liable to:

- (a) A fine for any breach at the discretion of the BFNL;
- (b) Suspension from the League;
- (c) Expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the Association

## **12. COMPETITION AND FIXTURES**

### **12.1 Fixture**

The BFNL shall be responsible for the organisation of matches in all competitions by preparing fixtures for each team in each Division for each season. The BFNL may amend a fixture as required.

### **12.2 Home and Away Rounds**

The league shall conduct a series of 18 (or such number as the BFNL shall from time to time determine) home and away matches for Senior, Reserve and Under 18 Grades of Football and A, A Reserve, B, B Reserve and 17/U Netball.

### **12.3 Finals**

The finals series will be developed at the discretion of the BFNL.

## **13. LADDERS**

### **13.1 Point Allocation and match ratio calculations**

- (a) In the home and away matches, four points will be allotted for a win, four points for a team in whose favour a forfeit is ruled, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. Where an affiliated Senior Club deemed to be not financial competes in a home and away match, four points will be awarded to the opposition club. In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, the League shall also prepare a match ratio which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.
- (b) The League shall prepare a weekly ladder for each Division and in addition to awarding points for each win, forfeit, walkover, draw or loss it shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team and in the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage points will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with lower percentage points.

All decisions of the League in respect of the calculation of the points and percentages shall be final and binding.

### **13.2 Scores Used to Calculate**

## **FOOTBALL**

The scores used by the League to calculate the points and percentages for each football Divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores contained in the goal umpires' cards. Should these scores disagree; the timekeeping cards may be used as the basis for calculating points and percentages in accordance with Rule 16, Laws of Australian Football.

## **NETBALL**

The scores used by the League to calculate the points and percentage for each netball Divisional ladder shall be based upon the scores contained on the official score sheet.

### **13.3 Forfeit Calculations**

Football - Refer to Rule 11.2, Laws of Australian Football.

Netball - There shall be four points and twenty goals given for percentage to the non-forfeiting team.

### **13.4 Non-Completion of Matches**

- (a) Failure by any club to play an arranged match as set out in the fixture of the League from time to time shall render the club liable to a Fine for breach to be fixed by the BFNL unless a satisfactory reason is received by 5.00 p.m. on the Monday following the failure to play the arranged match.
- (b) If any match which has been started and cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the affiliated Senior or affiliated Junior Club or Clubs, or where a match has been cancelled at the direction of the officiating umpire, the following procedures shall apply:
  - (i) Subject to clause (iii) below, if a game is concluded prior to half time and the match cannot proceed within the scheduled time, the teams shall depart the arena and the match will be declared a draw. Each team will be awarded two premiership points and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted would be used to calculate the percentages.
  - (ii) Subject to clause (iii) below, if a game has progressed beyond half time and is unable to proceed with the scheduled time for the match, the teams will depart the arena and the scores of the clubs at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be final scores of the match and shall be used to calculate percentages. The team with the highest score will be declared the winner and awarded four premiership points.
  - (iii) If a match has been started and cannot be completed within the time scheduled for reasons within the control of any club, such club will be dealt with by the BFNL.
  - (iv) The BFNL retain the right to take whatever action it deems necessary to address any issue arising from a ground or court inspection report, including but not limited to; moving the game to another venue, cancelling the game, or re-scheduling the game to another day or time. Preference of the BFNL is for any scheduled game to be completed on the same day or weekend at the agreement of competing clubs.

## **14. FINALS**

### **14.1 Finals Arrangements**

- (1) On completion of the home and away matches, the Affiliated Clubs gaining positions one to five on the premierships lists of each of the grades shall form the Final Five, except where altered by the BFNL, and shall compete to determine the premiership under the system adopted by the BFNL.
- (2) All finals matches shall be played on grounds to be decided by the BFNL and where a charge for admittance can be made.
- (3) Participating Affiliated Clubs shall be supplied with tickets for free entry to the finals matches according to schedule endorsed by the BFNL.

### **14.2 Fixtures and venues**

The BFNL shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all finals matches.

### **14.3 Entrance Fees**

The BFNL shall be responsible for the fixing and collection of all entrance fees at all finals series matches. The BFNL may delegate its authority for the collection of entrance fees from time to time.

### **14.4 Finals Uniforms**

The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall wear their registered guernsey and home shorts unless this is varied by the BFNL. After the Elimination and Qualifying games the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team.

### **14.5 Finals Change Room Allocations**

- (a) The team placed highest on the ladder prior to the commencement of the finals series shall be considered the home team and receive their choice to use either change rooms and Coach's box unless this is varied by the League or its appointee. After the Elimination and Qualifying games, the first team to proceed to the next round will be considered the home team.
- (b) The League, at their discretion, will align any lower grades competing on the same day as their senior team with their senior team to share change room facilities where possible. The Senior change room allocation structure will always be given preference where applicable and lower grades moved to align when multiple teams from the same club are competing on the same day



## **15. INTERLEAGUE MATCHES**

- 15.1** The BFNL may select any players registered with the League from time to time to participate in inter-league matches to represent the BFNL.
- 15.2** Any player selected to participate in inter-league matches must play for the BFNL and any failure to do so shall be dealt with by the BFNL.
- 15.3** In all cases under 15.2 of this Rule it shall be sufficient to answer:
- (a) That the BFNL received from the player not less than two clear days before the date of the match a written explanation of his inability to play satisfactory to the BFNL.
  - (b) That the BFNL received within two days after the date of the match a medical certificate that the player was unfit owing to illness or injury to play.
- 15.4** The BFNL may continue with home and away matches notwithstanding any representative fixture on the same day. No player selected for a representative team shall take part in a home and away match on the same day.
- 15.5** No person shall be qualified to play in any interleague team unless he/she is qualified to play for a League Affiliated Club in matches played under the auspices of the League.

## **16. COACH REQUIREMENTS**

### **FOOTBALL**

Refer AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY Rule 14.0

All coaches of AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY clubs are required to obtain or update Level 1 Accreditation prior to the commencement of the season.

The penalty to be imposed by leagues if coaches continue to coach having not obtained the necessary accreditation must be i) a \$200 fine (Senior) or \$100 fine (Junior) and ii) the loss of match points for the matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach. In the event of no match points being received the league must apply the above fines. Fines are applied once only (\$200 or \$100) and are not applicable to every match.

In the instance where coaches are not accredited and commit to completing the next available (or otherwise agreed upon) AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course, the following bonds for clubs are to apply \$200 (Senior) and \$100 (Junior). Where a coach fails to complete the agreed upon AFL Victoria Coach Accreditation Course the bond paid by the club is forfeited.

## **NETBALL**

All BFNL netball coaches are required to hold Netball Australia Accreditation.

A Grade, A Reserve and 17 & Under coaches require a minimum standard of Development Level accreditation. B Grade and B Reserve coaches require a minimum standard of Foundation Level accreditation.

All accreditation required prior to the current season commencing or on presentation of receipt/ confirmation of booking at the next available course listed. Only Registered Coaches with correct Accreditation will be permitted to coach during finals series.

(a) \$ 150 fine per Club Coach not correctly accredited.

## **17. LIFE MEMBERS**

Bendigo Football and Netball League may at its discretion annually elect as BFNL Life Members any person/s who has/have rendered outstanding service to the BFNL. Members of the former Bendigo Football League, Bendigo Netball League, Golden City Football League and Bendigo Golden City Football League shall be Honorary Life Members of the League.

Life Membership of the League shall be conferred automatically in the case where:

A player currently playing in the League has played 300 or more first and/or second XVIII football or senior netball matches totalled from:

- i) Within the League
- ii) As a member of any representative team any match played in the former Bendigo Football League, Bendigo Netball League, Golden City League or Bendigo Golden City Football League

The Board shall be empowered to elect not more than two Honorary Life Members of the League annually

- a) A person has for a period of not less than 20 years given service within the league or member Club by way of administration and/or associated work;
- b) Who are nominated in writing prior to the 1st day of May in each year by a League Club, or by a member of the Board;
- c) Who are elected by resolution of the Board.

### **17.1 Life Member Entitlements**

Life Members of Bendigo Football & Netball League are entitled to:

- Annually receive a letter from Bendigo Football and Netball League acknowledging their Life membership
- Annually receive a complimentary BFNL Season Pass for entry into all games

## **18. MEETINGS OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVES**

- 18.1** The BFNL may convene compulsory meeting(s) for Club Presidents and/or officials as stipulated by the BFNL from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: Presidents, Club Administrators, Team Managers, Senior and Junior Coaches Forums.
- 18.2** The designated person may, with the prior approval of the BFNL, appoint another person to attend Annual and Special Meetings or other compulsory meetings in their place.
- 18.3** All Clubs must be represented when requested at all official League meetings (e.g. presidents, secretaries, managers, coaches etc.) and functions. Penalty: \$100.

## **19. CODES OF CONDUCT AND OTHER POLICIES**

- 19.1** All players, officials and Club members at all League matches shall be subject to the Policies and Codes of Conduct as issued by the BFNL from time to time.
- 19.2** The BFNL is required to adopt complementary rules and regulations in football and netball competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction as those of the AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY and AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria.
- 19.3** The BFNL has adopted the following AFL Victoria and AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY policies (as published by AFL Victoria and/or AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY) as policies of the BFNL:
- Infectious Diseases Policy;
  - Smoke Free & Alcohol Management Policy;
  - National Vilification and Discrimination Policy;
  - Anti-Doping Policy;
  - Codes of Conduct - Players, Coaches, & Parents;
  - Gender Regulation Policy;
  - National De-Registration Policy;
  - National Age Dispensation Policy;
  - National Player Transfer Regulation;
  - Privacy Policy;
  - Responsible Serving of Alcohol;
  - Junior Coach Code of Conduct;
  - AFL Social Media Engagement Policy;
  - Extreme Weather Policy;
  - Cybersafety Policy;
  - Trainers Policy;
  - AFL Victoria Transgender Policy;

- AFL Victoria Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy;
- AFL Victoria Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct;
- AFL Victoria Safeguarding Children and Young People Reporting Procedure;
- AFL Victoria Acknowledgement of Country Statement;
- AFL Victoria Child Safety Code of Conduct Declaration Form; and
- AFL Victoria Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People Statement

**19.4** The BFNL has adopted the following Netball Victoria policies (as published by Netball Victoria) as policies of the BFNL the following policies:

- Codes of Conduct;
- Member Protection Policy;
- Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy;
- Cyber Safety Policy;
- Competition Regulations;
- Netball Victoria Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People Statement;
- Netball Victoria Child Safeguarding Policy (Jan 1st 2023);
- Netball Victoria Member Protection Policy (Jan 1st 2023);
- Netball Victoria Acknowledgement of Country Statement;
- Netball Victoria Transgender Policy;
- Netball Victoria Child Safety Code of Conduct Declaration Form;
- Netball Victoria Uniform Guidelines; and
- Netball Victoria Concussion Management Policy (Sep 3rd 2021)

## **20. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

Notwithstanding anything elsewhere contained in these Rules, the Board shall be empowered to take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary against any Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire or other person, where in the Board's opinion such Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire or other person has been guilty of any act, practice, conduct, matter or thing that is

- a) Unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest of the League or
- b) Calculated to bring or in fact bringing discredit on the League or any of its Constituent Clubs or a person connected therewith, or to impair or affect the enjoyment by any Club or person of the privileges associated with membership of or association with the League.

**20.1** Without limiting the generality of the foregoing the Board may, in taking disciplinary action, determine that:

- a) The membership of a Club in the League be ended or suspended for such period and on such terms as the Board thinks fit,
- b) A player be deregistered or refuse to register a player, and/or

- c) May impose such monetary penalty upon any Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire or other person as it thinks proper, including but not limited to suspended monetary penalty fines, or
- d) Impose such further or other penalty, suspended or otherwise, as appears to it to be appropriate.

**20.2** The Board shall before determining any disciplinary action give the Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire or other person against whom the Board may propose to take such action, details of the default alleged, and give such Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire or other person the opportunity of being heard.

## **21. SMOKE FREE POLICY**

All BFNL and associated meetings shall be conducted in a smoke free environment.

## **22. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of extreme circumstances occurring in any of the League's Rules, the BFNL Board of Management shall have the power to deal with any matters arising and impose any penalties as they see fit.