

RDFNL By-Law 1

Interpretation

In these By-Laws, unless the contrary intention appears;

- “League” means the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- “Seniors” are defined as First, Second, Third (Under 19.5) & Club 18’s Teams
- “Juniors” are defined as Under 17, Under 15, Under 13 & Under 11 & Under 9.
- “Female Football” means the female only football competitions that the RDFNL administers.
- “Board” means the Board of Directors constituted pursuant to Rule 20.
- “Rules” means the Rules of the Riddell District Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- “Penalty Unit” is defined as \$10.

RDFNL By-Law 2

Powers

The League shall, subject to its Statement of Purposes, and to its Rules, comply otherwise with the Laws of Australian Football (released by the AFL) and AFL Victoria.

RDFNL By-Law 3

Matters not provided for

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the Rules; in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football Foundation, or the AFL Victoria rules, the Board shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter.

RDFNL By-Law 4

Admission Prices

Admission prices will be determined by the Board prior to the commencement of each season, with sufficient time for clubs to complete their budgets for the coming year. Disbursement of gate receipts is covered by By-Law 18. The RDFNL Board will set the finals pricing for each season.

Admission prices:

Home & Away:

Adult: \$10

Concession: \$5

Children under 16: Free

Record: \$2

RDFNL By-Law 5

Change of Venue

The Fixture Committee consisting of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer and Football Operations Manager shall review all match venues on a weekly basis and determine any venue change no later than 5pm on the Wednesday preceding the round of matches. Match programming is covered in By-Law 31.

RDFNL By-Law 6

Clearance & Permit Curfew

In accordance with AFL Victoria Rules, the League imposes a clearance & permit curfew. No clearance or permit shall be handled after 5pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following a round of matches unless & except where by Exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager.

RDFNL By-Law 7

Club Contact Lists & Annual Reports

The RDFNL shall circulate each year a Club Contact List to be completed and returned by a date nominated by the Board. The information on the form will be included in the Season Information Booklet and circulated to all other clubs and members of the media. Clubs must inform the League immediately of any change of personnel after submission of the form or changes of communications details for any individual listed on the form.

Clubs must also submit to the League a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting by the 28th February in the following year. Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report by this date will see the Riddell District Football & Netball League impose a fine of 25 penalty units.

RDFNL By-Law 8

Football Records

Each home club will be allocated an amount of Football Records for distribution at matches. The Records should be distributed at the home venues. Each club must supply notes via email (only) prior to 5pm on the Tuesday preceding each round. The notes must not be of more than 250 words. Notes exceeding this amount may have any text after 250 words deleted. Failure to provide such notes will see a fine of 20 penalty units imposed on the offending club/s. The Home club must make arrangements for the allocation of Records to be collected from the league.

RDFNL By-Law 9

Jumpers

All jumpers in both Senior and Reserve matches must carry different numbers. Players must be wearing the number that corresponds to the RDFNL Record and the team sheet. Clubs will be penalised 2 penalty units per each duplicate jumper number across senior/reserve matches.

Clubs will be penalised 5 penalty units per each incorrect jumper number corresponding to the Official League Program and team sheet.

RDFNL By-Law 10

Submission of Selected Sides

Seniors:

Each club must submit their selected sides in the Senior Grade by 12pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches. Reserve and U/19.5 grades must submit their selected sides into the system prior to 8:30pm on the Friday night preceding a round of matches. Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the system. Should any player take the field outside the 22 named players and 3 emergencies, a 25-penalty unit fine per player not named will be enforced upon that club unless the club can provide evidence to support a valid reason for the change.

Clubs participating in matches that are scheduled to play on a Sunday will be permitted to submit an extended bench of 10 players (4 interchange plus 6 emergencies) however sides still need to submit all players in position and with jumper numbers. Failure of a Club to correctly submit a side to the system shall result in a fine of 25 Penalty Units. All teams must provide a copy of the team sheets to the umpires and opposition at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

RDFNL By-Law 11

Submission of Selected Sides Juniors:

Each club must submit their completed team lists into the system any time prior to the commencement of their game with enough time to print out and use as the club's official team sheet for match days. All teams must provide a copy of the team sheets to the umpires and opposition at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

All grades must print off copies of their team sheet from the system. Team sheets must represent a 100% accurate account of the players who take the field on a weekly basis. Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet however these changes must be submitted on the system immediately following each game in time for submission of results deadline. Refer to By-Law 12.

RDFNL By-Law 12

Submission of Match Results

All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game. It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to enter the final scores of each game however each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for every match. AWAY clubs can request that the HOME club enter the best players and goal kickers for them and if agreeable it will be the responsibility of the HOME team to ensure all results are entered on time.

The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm.

All final scores, best players and goal kickers must be submitted by this time, clubs failing to meet this deadline shall incur a penalty of 5 penalty units per offence. There is no longer a need for clubs to ring through scores to the league as this service will be provided by each club.

RDFNL By-Law 13

Live Scores

For senior competition football matches only, it will be the responsibility of the HOME club to conduct live scores via the program supplied by the league. Failure of a club to conduct the live scores service (without a valid excuse) shall incur a fine of 10 penalty units.

RDFNL By-Law 14

Media Commitments

Each club should attempt to make personnel available to the media as requested in order to aid the promotion of the League.

RDFNL By-Law 15

Practice Matches

The League must be notified of all practice matches, including the participating grades, clubs, date, times and venue to ensure Clubs & Players are insured. As outlined in By-Law 33, all Practice Matches must be officiated by Official Umpires. Both teams must submit a completed and accurate team sheet to the Umpires before the match begins. Clubs must ensure local government policies and procedures are followed to ensure booking of all venues and facilities are finalised well in advance to the commencement date of each practice match. It is also the responsibility of each club to place a booking at least 2 weeks prior to any practice match for any required umpires. Umpire bookings placed inside 2 weeks of any practice match cannot be guaranteed they will be filled.

RDFNL By-Law 16

Cricket Wickets

Clubs with Cricket wickets bear the responsibility of arranging the wickets to be covered and uncovered throughout the season in consultation with local councils.

RDFNL By-Law 17

Umpires

The Riddell District Football Umpires Association through the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the RDFNL, caters for all RDFNL Matches and supplies umpires as negotiated on a year to year basis. The RDFNL Board may enter into an agreement with an external supplier should the Riddell Umpires Association declare that they cannot meet the negotiated MOU.

RDFNL By-Law 18

Gate Receipts

The Board shall have power to establish policy from year to year in respect of the disbursement of gate receipts of the finals series matches.

RDFNL By-Law 19

Special Arrangements

The Board may in its discretion, make special allowances to affiliated Clubs in the defraying of expenses in conducting the affairs of the League and in so doing, shall honour agreements entered into or arrangements made with affiliated Clubs. The Board shall determine any such special allowances prior to the commencement of any season and advise all affiliated Clubs of any decisions in relation to special allowances and expenses.

RDFNL By-Law 20

Duties of League Officers

The Officers of the League appointed pursuant to its Rules, shall carry out such functions and perform such duties as are set out in the Rules and in addition such duties and functions as may be directed by the Board from time to time.

RDFNL By-Law 21

Honorarium

Office Bearers of the League shall be entitled to receipt of an Honorarium, such Honorariums to be fixed at a Board Meeting of the League.

RDFNL By-Law 22

Other Duties

The Board may in its discretion, delegate any one of its members to perform other duties and functions and if appropriate, may recommend that Honorariums relating to such duties, be fixed at a Board Meeting of the League and shall further have power to appoint from time to time, committees to carry out any of its duties and functions.

RDFNL By-Law 23

League Passes

The following outlines what passes entitle bearer to:

Ticket	Admits
RDFNL Life Members	Bearer, guest and vehicle to all H&A games and Finals
RDFNL Season Pass	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games and Finals
RDFNL Home & Away Pass	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games only
Bowen Medallist	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games and Finals
Ryan Medallist	Bearer & Vehicle to all H&A games and Finals

The following people shall be entitled to a season pass issued by the League. These people shall be entitled to admission free of charge to all matches in the League upon presentation of a season pass for that year to the gatekeepers.

(I) League Officials

(II) Life members of the League & one guest

(III) Officiating Umpires (refer football rule 23) and Riddell Umpire Association “officially” appointed advisers and observers

(IV) Netball Umpires

(V) League Investigation Officer

(VI) League Sponsors

(VII) Regional Media

(VIII) Any other person, as determined by the Board.

The Board shall issue each Member Club with twenty (20) passes, as determined by the Board, for its president, secretary, treasurer and coach or otherwise distributed at their discretion. Each named official shall be entitled to free admission to all games in which the named Club is participating on presentation of this pass during the home and away season only.

RDFNL By-Law 24

Life Membership

The Board may in each financial year confer upon a maximum of two persons who have rendered outstanding service to the League a life membership of the League.

Any nominations for consideration of RDFNL Life Membership shall be submitted on the approved RDFNL Life Membership Nomination Form and will include a full and detailed history of the nominee's service to the RDFNL and / or their Club. Any Member of the League whom the Board shall by resolution declare to have rendered outstanding service to the League, and who has played a minimum of 300 senior games and / or given a minimum of 10 years' service to their club and / or league, may be approved for life Membership of the League. This service will have incorporated recognisable achievement over a period of time.

Any member of the League who in the opinion of the Board has brought the RDFNL and / or a member club into disrepute shall not be eligible to be considered for Life Membership of the RDFNL.

Any member of a Club who has been nominated for Life Membership of the RDFNL shall only be considered eligible if they are a Life Member of an RDFNL Club. The Board may elect a nominee to a Life Membership by a majority of the Board present at any Meeting of the League.

Any such Members so elected a Life Membership shall be awarded this honour at the League's Presentation Night – the Bowen Ryan Medal.

RDFNL By-Law 25

Smoking / Alcohol

a) Smoking is prohibited within RDFNL Headquarters and at all official RDFNL functions. Under Section 5RI (1) of the Tobacco Act 1987, Victorian State Legislation, smoking is banned within 10 metres of a sporting venue that is an outdoor public place during an organised underage sporting event in Victoria from April 1, 2014. This ban also includes training or practice sessions to prepare for participation in an organised underage sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.

b) During any junior matches no alcohol is to be consumed around the ground or within any building constructed and used by the Club including any licensed premises without the written consent from the League which consent if given will only be valid for the year in which it is issued and on the conditions, it is issued. The Club shall be liable for any breach of this rule and shall be liable to a penalty of up to \$1000.00 for each breach of the rule.

RDFNL By-Law 26

Surplus

In the event a surplus is shown in the accounts at the completion of the season, the League may in its discretion, and prior to the declaration of a dividend, transfer to a Reserve Fund, such sum to be decided by the Board and such Reserve Fund shall be deemed to be the property of the League and any affiliated Club ceasing to be a member of the League shall have no equity in any monies then contained in such Reserve Fund.

RDFNL By-Law 27

Dividend

The League shall not declare a dividend in cash form. However, funds may be made available for all clubs to finance capital improvements or reduce club affiliation fees from time to time subject to the availability of funds.

RDFNL By-Law 28

Affiliation

- The League shall admit such Football Netball Clubs as it may from time to time determine provided such Football Clubs comply or are capable of complying with the Rules and these By-Laws and the Regulations of AFL Victoria.
- Each Football Netball Club affiliated with the League during the previous season shall be deemed to be an affiliated member of the League for the following season subject to payment of such affiliation fees as are specified and fixed by the League at its Annual General Meeting and any other outstanding monies due to the League.

RDFNL By-Law 29

Affiliation Fee

- Each affiliated Club shall pay to the League such affiliation fee as is fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- Affiliated Clubs neglecting or refusing to pay its affiliation fee; its declared share of any loss that may be incurred; any levy that may be made; or any fine as imposed by the Rules or these By-Laws, and such failure or refusal continues for one month after due notice has been given by the Board, shall be subject to the next following By-Law, be subject to expulsion.

RDFNL By-Law 30

Expulsion

A two thirds majority of members of the League present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, may expel such Club from the League or take such other action as it may determine in relation to the Club's affiliation with the League or permit its continued affiliation on such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable.

RDFNL By-Law 31

Programming

The Board shall arrange the programming of all matches and shall have the power to re-arrange the order of games and the grounds upon which matches are to be played if at any time, the question of suitability or availability of grounds arises.

RDFNL By-Law 32

Fixture Procedure

The Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the RDFNL Board and Football Operations Manager, shall determine the fixture for each season. Each club shall be entitled to make a submission to the League on issues to be taken into consideration, although no guarantee is made that all situations will be catered for. Such submission should be received by the League not later than a date as nominated by the Chief Executive Officer, for the following season. The fixture will be released publicly prior to Christmas each year, for the following season.

Junior clubs are required to notify the League Chief Executive Officer no later than 6 weeks prior to the start of the Junior Season of their team affiliations in Football and Netball. The Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the Junior Football Directors will devise the junior structure and the junior fixture. Any club who withdraws a team affiliation will not be refunded their affiliation fee and may be liable to other sanctions as deemed by the Board.

RDFNL By-Law 33

Other Matches

No affiliated Club shall, without the prior approval of the Board, engage in any match other than those programmed. All pre-season practice matches are to be umpired by official Umpires including Central Field Umpires. Any RDFNL club wishing to take part in any football competition that is not administered by the Riddell District Football & Netball League, must write to the Chief Executive Officer seeking approval from the RDFNL Board to compete. This excludes any pre-season competition organised by a club outside the league.

RDFNL By-Law 34

Points and Ladder Format

In all matches four points shall be counted for a win and two for a draw. At the conclusion of the minor rounds, if two or more Clubs have gained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs on the Premiership ladder, shall be determined by the percentage of points scored for and against any such Clubs. In the case the RDFNL fixture contains a bye, for the purpose of ladder calculation 4 points will be awarded to the team with the bye in a given round of matches.

Competitions that have an uneven amount of games played by all clubs during the home and away season will be ranked on the ladder by win percentage, then by a percentage of points scored for and against.

RDFNL By-Law 35

Forfeiture

If any Club forfeits a match, provided such opposing Club has a completed team sheet, four points shall be awarded to the Premiership score of the opposing Club, which also shall have added to its percentage account, the average number of goals and behinds scored in matches during the round in that competition. Fines will be imposed by the RDFNL to Clubs who forfeit scheduled fixtures or any scheduled match within the Riddell District Football & Netball League. The following fines will apply –

- Senior Football - 200 penalty units
- Reserves Football - 150 penalty units
- U/19.5 Football - 50 penalty units
- Any Junior Football fixture - 20 penalty units
- A Grade Netball - 100 penalty units
- B Grade Netball - 50 penalty units
- C Grade Netball - 25 penalty units
- 19&U Netball - 25 penalty units

Juniors

Clubs with more than one team in any age group must play their highest ranked team each week. If a club forfeits their top age team, they will automatically forfeit all other teams in the same age group and will be fined 40 penalty units. Therefore, clubs cannot forfeit their highest ranked team in any grade if they have players available playing in their other team/s in that age group.

RDFNL By-Law 36

Expenses

Any Club which forfeits its engagement, shall on top of any penalty imposed by the league be responsible for the expenses incurred in the arrangements of such match, unless it gives notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the League not less than twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of such match of its notice of intention to forfeit. This will be in addition to the fine imposed by the League. Refer to By-Law 35.

RDFNL By-Law 37

Calling off Games

The Riddell District Football Netball League has a fixture committee comprising of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer and Football Operations Manager who shall monitor the condition of venues and make a judgement call as to whether matches shall proceed for a given round. Individual matches called off by clubs are deemed as forfeiture and nil points awarded for the fixture. If agreement is reached between clubs to call off a match, it is to be in writing, endorsed by the controlling umpire on the day and forwarded to the League Chief Executive Officer immediately and premiership points shall be shared. For all other matters not catered for in this By-Law, refer to the AFL Laws of the Game.

Team sheets must still be submitted for games even if a match is called off. In the event of a forfeit, the opposing team shall submit a team sheet and those players named are deemed to have played in the game. This information is important when determining finals eligibility. In the event where a

suspended player is a representative of the non-forfeiting side, these games shall count as games served in reference to the suspension the player in question has received.

RDFNL By-Law 38

Records of Players

No later than 7pm on the night of a match, all match day paperwork as listed below, must be returned to RDFNL headquarters (or an alternative location nominated by the League). All paperwork of Clubs playing in such matches must be collected by either the home team's delegates or other accredited representative on the day and submitted to the league headquarters. The Home Club shall be responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted to the League by 9am on the Monday following the weekends matches.

Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 20 Penalty Units.

The following list of match day paperwork will be required for submission:

SENIORS

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- Team sheets
- League B&F vote cards (completed online)
- Report sheet (if applicable)
- Timekeeper cards
- Goal Umpire cards
- Match results sheets
- Permits of any kind
- Match day report sheets
- Marsh Insurance Checklist completed online

JUNIORS

- Team sheets
- League B&F vote cards (completed online)
- Report sheet (if applicable)
- Timekeeper cards
- Goal Umpire cards
- Match result sheets
- Permits of any kind
- Marsh Insurance Checklist completed online

NETBALL

- Match day checklist
- Scorecards

- League B&F vote cards (sealed)
- Report sheet (if applicable)

RDFNL By-Law 39

Scoreboards

Each venue used for RDFNL matches, both senior and junior, must be equipped with an operational scoreboard. Scoreboard attendants must be of a suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job. Scoreboards should operate throughout all games and must be kept as accurate as possible. Clubs must supply scoreboard attendants for each and every game. A fine of 10 penalty units will be issued for each game where the scoreboard fails to be attended and/or operational.

RDFNL By-Law 40

Time Clocks

All time clocks displayed to the general public at RDFNL venues must run from zero upward without stopping for time on. A fine of 2.5 penalty units per occasion the clock is not used (or used incorrectly) will be imposed. Time clocks used by timekeepers may count down towards zero (stopping for time on in senior competition only).

RDFNL By-Law 41

Board Meeting Format

Correspondence raised by the Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager & Netball Manager to be restricted only to that which requires a decision from the Board. All other items will be listed, but only raised if questioned. General Business will take place immediately after Correspondence and any Director with an item requiring discussion or a decision should have the Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Coordinator list it as General Business rather than raise it in the report.

Director's reports will be held at the end of the meeting, and these will be circulated with the meeting notice for review. Director's reports will only report on activity - issues requiring a decision should be listed in General Business. Directors with questions on reports should contact the reporting director, Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager. These reports will be duplicated and circulated with minutes.

RDFNL By-Law 42

Match Report Sheet

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that umpires fill out and sign off on a match report sheet for each competing team in each football game for seniors down to U/11's and have it inserted in the match day paperwork envelope.

Penalty 10 units per offence.

RDFNL By-Law 43

Use of Two Footballs

In the event of extreme weather conditions, two footballs may be used in a match with the change of footballs occurring at each quarter time break to ensure no advantage is gained by either club. Both clubs must agree to the use of two footballs. If no agreement is met, only one football may be used.

RDFNL By-Law 44

Ground Lighting

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue. The Umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if he/she considers the conditions unsafe.

Prior to a venue being considered suitable for night or twilight games, clubs must apply to the League for permission to host a night or twilight game, and meet criteria as determined by the League.

RDFNL By-Law 45

Fundraising

At venues, is the right of the Home Team, however Visiting Teams should be permitted to conduct activities that are internal based, and which form a part of a Club's week to week activities. E.g. Best player tickets.

RDFNL By-Law 46

Interchange Agreement

On an annual basis, the RDFNL shall enter into an Interchange Agreement with other leagues as it deems necessary. Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager to discuss an Interchange Agreement with another League.

RDFNL By-Law 47

Outstanding Debt

All clubs must ensure any outstanding debt to the League does not exceed 60 days. The following process shall apply to clubs who have outstanding debt that reaches the 60 day mark:

- a)** Clubs shall be given written formal notice and provided with seven (7) days to pay all outstanding debt exceeding 60 days.
- b)** Should a club fail to pay the full amount that has exceeded 60 days within the seven (7) day period provided, the Board / Executive shall determine which of the following penalty/ies shall be applied:
 - i.** Additional financial penalty at the discretion of the Board / Executive
 - ii.** Loss of premiership points for the current and/or following season, which may be applied to age groups at the discretion of the Board / Executive.
 - iii.** Application to the RDFNL Board to apply for the loss of Community Club Sustainability Program points under the player points system for the current and/or following season.

c) Clubs who have any debt exceeding 60 days on the 1st August in each season, and where and unless approval has been given by the Board, may be deemed ineligible to compete in the Leagues finals series. In addition, the club will not be considered to host any finals matches, or provided with any Catering/Bar/Fundraising rights.

d) All clubs must settle all outstanding debts with the League prior to the League's AGM in each year (with the only exception being debts relating to FootyMart orders placed after November 1st). Clubs who have not paid all debts (excepting Footymart orders as stated) will not be eligible to vote at the Leagues AGM.

e) Clubs who carry debt into the new year may be subject to the above stated penalties in point b) being applied for the upcoming season.

Clubs may apply to the Board / Executive for special consideration by providing a written submission outlining how the club's debt has exceeded 60 days and outlining the club's commitment to a repayment plan to clear in full all debt in a timely manner.

Submissions will only be accepted on club letterhead submitted via email and if the Board /Executive is satisfied that the above criteria is met.

f) Any debt owed as at October 31st, will be deducted from the Total Player Payments Allowed for that club for the following season. E.g. If the current Salary Cap is \$85,000 and a club is in debt to the RDFNL of \$5,000, their following season Salary Cap will be \$80,000.

RDFNL By-Law 48

Hire of Facilities

The maximum charge for any club charging another Club for the use of their ground & facilities during the home & away season are as follows:

- Junior games: \$50
- Senior game: \$100

If clubs wish to use the social rooms at a venue during or following the completion of their match, then they must approach the venue's President and or venue representative to arrange a price and conditions of use for the social room and facilities.

RDFNL By-Law 49

Use of Facilities for Finals

In the event where a club requires the use of another club's facilities for a RDFNL Finals match day, a fee of \$250 per day of use shall be paid to the Home club to account for the cost and use of utilities on that match day. Please refer to the RDFNL Finals Hosting Agreement which will be circulated by the RDFNL in the lead up to the finals series.

RDFNL By-Law 50

RDFNL Sounding of Siren Policy

The RDFNL understands the importance of keeping to the running sheet for match days and ensuring all games finish at their scheduled finishing times. Therefore, the following policy must be adhered to for all matches (except Senior football) competing in any RDFNL competition:

- Both Timekeepers must make an assessment of time at half time of every match (except Senior football)
- If it is determined that the match is running behind schedule, the time remaining until the scheduled finishing time shall be split equally in half also factoring in enough time for a three-quarter time break (see division of breaks in By-Law 108).
- If further time is lost throughout the second half, regardless of how long the final quarter has been running for, the siren MUST be sounded at the scheduled finishing time.

RDFNL By-Law 51

Pre-Match Warm Ups

The Riddell District FNL has an expectation that clubs will avoid the opposing side during their entry onto the ground both at the start of the game and at half time, and during any on-ground “warm up”. The Riddell District FNL requires that each club will warm up at opposing ends of the ground, with each club using the end that is located closest in proximity to their teams Coaches Box. It is understood and accepted that when clubs enter the ground they shall do a lap of the centre square, and when doing so they need to ensure they avoid the other side and their warm up area if the opposing side is already at one end of the ground

This By-Law shall apply to the Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 grades. It may also be applied to junior grades of football if an incident arises.

Clubs who breach this policy shall be determined to have acted in a provocative manner and may be fined up to an amount of \$500. In instances where this By Law is breached and the breach results to a more serious incident (e.g. a melee) the offending Club may face more serious charges as determined by the Board.

RDFNL By-Law 52

Codes of Conduct

AFL Victoria & Riddell District Football Netball League codes of conduct include:

- Junior Coaches & Team Officials – refer to appendix 1
- Junior Players, Parents and Supporters - refer to appendix 2
- Senior Coaches & Team Officials – refer to appendix 3
- Senior Players & Supporters – refer to appendix 4

Any breach of any codes of conduct will be referred to the RDFNL board.

Note this is not an exhaustive list and further codes of conduct can be found on the RDFNL, AFL Victoria and AFL website.

RDFNL By-Law 53

Investigations

Appointment of Investigation Officer:

Each league shall appoint an AFL Victoria accredited investigation officer to investigate any matter referred to him.

(a) (i) The League, League Executive members, Club, Player, League or a AFL Victoria appointed official, who alleges that a player or an official of a club, umpire, official of an umpires' Association, AFL Victoria Official, League official, Club, player advocate, or League appointed official has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official, or club, or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. Unless the notice is lodged by the League a deposit of \$600 shall accompany the notice which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers it frivolous. A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the League by 12pm Friday after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the League agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to by the League may be subject to such conditions as the League thinks fit and such request for an extension is to be provided to the League in writing outlining the reasons for the extension request.

When a League grants an extension it shall do so in writing and advise all parties to the matter.

(ii) Within two (2) days of the request for an investigation the League is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the requested incident or matter for investigation.

(b) Notice of any allegation received under paragraph (a) shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation by him/ her. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 10 business days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of the 10 business days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) business days is then granted by the League at the request of the Investigation Officer.

Request for extension of time must be received in writing by the League.

(c) If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player, an Official or Club or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the League Independent Tribunal as hereinafter provided, he/she may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.

(d) If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), the League administrator who appointed the investigator may provide the alleged offender/s the discretion to plead guilty and take the relevant set penalty for the alleged offence as described in the set penalty schedule below. If a player wishes to enter an early guilty plea and accept the minimum set penalty offered by the League, the players club secretary must contact the League administrator no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered by email to the League Chief Executive Officer. If the alleged offence falls outside of the offences listed within the set penalty schedule below or either the investigation officer, player/s being investigated, the player/s allegedly offended against, the League or the President/Secretary of either club request that the matter proceeds to tribunal, by no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings, then no set penalty will be offered and the matter will be dealt with according to section (e) of RDFNL By-Law 53.

Set Penalty Schedule (Please refer to RDFNL Notice of Report Sheet)

(a) (i) Striking another person (1 or 2 match set penalty)

(iv) charging an opponent (2 match set penalty)

(v) engaging in rough conduct against an opponent (2 match set penalty)

(viii) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with the eye region of another person (1 match set penalty)

(ix) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of an opponent (1 match set penalty)

(x) scratching another person (1 match set penalty)

(xi) tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)

(h) using abusive, insulting or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire (2 match set penalty)

(j) carelessly making contact with an umpire (2 match set penalty)

(k) disputing a decision of an umpire (1 match set penalty)

(m) attempting to strike another person (1 match set penalty)

(n) attempting to kick another person (2 match set penalty)

(o) attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)

(p) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player (2 match set penalty)

(q) engaging in a melee (1 match set penalty)

(r) instigating a melee (2 match set penalty)

(s) wrestling another person (1 match set penalty)

(t) pinching another person (1 match set penalty)

(u) engaging in an act of staging (1 match set penalty)

(v) using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language (1 match set penalty)

(w) use of an obscene gesture (1 match set penalty)

(x) engaging in time wasting (1 match set penalty)

(y) interfering with a player kicking for goal (1 match set penalty)

(z) intentionally shaking a goal or behind post (1 match set penalty)

(aa) failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an umpire (2 match set penalty)

(bb) wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of Laws of Australian Football (1 match set penalty)

(e) If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), and the League determines that it should be heard at Tribunal the League Chief Executive Officer shall fix a date, time and place for the 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, official or club, in question of those particulars and forward to the Player, Official, or club, care of the Club Secretary in question a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the Club Secretary of the Notice lodged under paragraph (c). Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player or official or club prior to the Hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and club at least 48 hours prior to the Hearing and the charged player or official or club shall be informed at the time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses. Notices should include any other relevant information pertaining to the matter at hand.

(f) In any proceeding brought before a tribunal or Appeals Board under this rule the Investigation Officer may personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the League.

(g) If the League Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question has engaged in unbecoming conduct or conduct which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the League Independent Tribunal:—

- (i) may impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player, Official or club in question: or
- (ii) must suspend the Player, Official or Club in question for such period as it thinks fit, if the Player, Official or Club is found guilty.
- (h) In any hearing before an AFL Victoria Appeal Board the Investigations Officer will be the informant and witness for the league or Association but will usually not be the prosecuting advocate in the hearing.

RDFNL By-Law 54

Investigations Fees

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with RDFNL By-Law 53 Investigations the required fee of \$600 shall be lodged with the full amount of \$600 to be retained by the league.

The following policy will be enforced by the league for investigations:

- a)** When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200, and the balance of \$400 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
 - b)** In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200 and the balance of \$400 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
 - c)** In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the RDFNL Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$600. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$400 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.
- Note: The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$400. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$400 and which will be negotiated with the Riddell District Football Netball League accordingly. In such instances, the Riddell District Football Netball League will adjust the amount of \$400 to the revised amount in the above case.
 - Note: In the instance of an investigation being initiated by the league or an independent body, which results in a tribunal hearing being required, the following will apply in the event that a guilty verdict is returned. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$400 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.

RDFNL By-Law 55

Tribunal

The Riddell District Football Netball League will have all match report hearing heard at the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, held on the Tuesday following a round of matches at RDFNL Headquarters, Arnold's Creek. The RDFNL will set the hearing times and communicate with clubs, investigators and/or umpiring associations.

If clubs wish to apply for a set penalty then the club must notify the Football Operations Manager by 12 noon on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested. After 12 noon, it will be assumed the club is happy to take the set penalty if it is available to be taken. Either club, the reporting Umpire or the Riddell District Football Netball League may request the hearing proceed, prior to 12 noon on the Monday.

Tribunal will not commence a new case after 10.30pm with any pending cases held over until a later night. Club attire or smart casual attire must be worn at all tribunal cases. Clubs not represented at Tribunal hearings shall incur a fine of 25 Penalty Units in addition to any fine imposed by the Independent Tribunal. Wednesday nights will be used as a backup night for cases overflowing to the next day in any given week.

- Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations may be accepted if any party to a report (i.e.. the reported player, the player allegedly offended against and the reporting umpire), is unable to attend owing to work or study commitments, or in the case of illness or injury. Note: A “letter” submitted as evidence will not suffice, and the Statutory Declaration must be signed by a certified signatory (E.g. Justice of Peace, Police Officer, etc) and date stamped at least 12 hours earlier than the scheduled start time for a tribunal case.

Providing the Riddell District Football Netball League is notified as early as possible after the report (no later than 12pm Monday), and that such Statutory Declaration is lodged with the Riddell District FNL no later than 12 hours prior to start time on the day of the hearing, the Statutory Declaration may be accepted.

Any Statutory Declaration submitted must set out:

- The reason for the missing party’s inability to attend the hearing if the person cannot attend the Tribunal on the scheduled night.
- A full description of the incident (or incidents) being the subject of the report. This must include – Time of incident (e.g. early in 3rd quarter), location of incident (e.g. right side wing), location of ball, any provocation, details of incident (e.g. blow with right hand), force of blow, result of impact / collision / blow, etc.

Any reported player who fails to attend or fails to submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined above, or fails to give notice as above, may have the charge or charges heard in their absence. Similarly, any witness who fails to attend or submit a Statutory Declaration or fails to give notice as above, may be dealt with as the Tribunal sees fit. Any such non-attendance may result in action as determined by the Tribunal, and can include fines upon a Club or the suspension of the player. Any reported player, witness or umpire who has a legitimate request for an early hearing e.g. work or study commitments, must submit such request by telephone to the Riddell District FNL as early as possible, and no later than 12 noon on the day of the hearing.

- Advocates / Appearance

The Riddell District Football & Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness bring along a Club Advocate with them to the hearing. The Riddell District Football Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness, and their advocates, do dress in an appropriate manner (minimum of smart casual or Club attire) that recognizes and respects the sanctity of the Tribunal. No tracksuits or hats will be allowed into the tribunal.

- Video/DVD Evidence

If clubs wish to use their own video/DVD evidence they must provide a signed Statutory Declaration, which certifies that the video/DVD has not been altered or tampered with. League video evidence does not require a statutory declaration to be used as part of any tribunal case or investigation.

Note: Reporting and Tribunal procedures and rules not covered in these By-Laws are to be determined by RDFNL Chief Executive Officer, RDFNL Football Operations Manager or the RDFNL Board.

RDFNL By-Law 56

Independent Tribunal and Appeal Board

An Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board, (The Tribunal), comprising up to 12 members, shall be appointed by the Board. Three members of such Tribunal shall form a quorum. Nominations for membership of the Tribunal and Appeals Board shall be advertised if required and intending nominee's names shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer.

RDFNL By-Law 57

Tribunal Duties

The Tribunal shall deal with and decide protests, disputes, and charges against Clubs, players, officials, and office bearers of Clubs and to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such protests, disputes or charges as they see fit.

RDFNL By-Law 58

Match Review Panel

A Match Review Panel, comprising up to 5 members, shall be appointed by the Board. The Match Review Panel is an independent panel of members who shall be asked to review incidents raised by clubs and Umpiring Associations from official league video evidence and asked to determine if a specific player or players in question may have a case to answer to under RDFNL rules (as stipulated on the RDFNL Notice of Report form).

RDFNL By-Law 59

Tribunal & Match Review Panel Membership

The members of the Tribunal and Match Review Panel shall not hold any other office in the League, nor be an official of any Club affiliated with the League, nor have been an official of any Club affiliated with the League for a period of 12 months. Any person wishing to become a member of the RDFNL Independent Tribunal or Match Review Panel must have not played for a period of 24 months. A person may not be a member of both the Tribunal and Match Review Panels at the same time.

RDFNL By-Law 60

Unsatisfactory Evidence

The Tribunal shall have the power to fine any player or official who, in the opinion of the Tribunal, does not present his/her evidence in a satisfactory manner.

RDFNL By-Law 61

Representation

If desired, any Club or player concerned in any protest or charge, may be represented by a delegate or representative, provided such delegate or representative is not a qualified member of the legal profession.

RDFNL By-Law 62

Decisions Final

Notwithstanding any appeals, the Tribunal's decisions and penalties shall be final and such penalties may extend beyond its term of office. The RDFNL Tribunal Memorandum of Understanding contains further information regarding appeals.

RDFNL By-Law 63

Optional Penalties

Optional penalty for players reported for some on field offences, and the guidelines for their implementation are as follows:

Umpires shall report and charge players in the manner provided for in these regulations but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal unless so requested by one or more of the umpires who lodged the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or an official of either club. Such request shall be made in writing and emailed to the Football Operations Manager no later than 12.00 Noon on the Monday immediately following the match. If the tribunal subsequently finds the charge sustained it shall have the power to impose such penalty as it deems fit.

RDFNL By-Law 64

Sustained Reports

A Club who, in a grade, has six (6) sustained reports for the season shall show the League why they should not be suspended from the League.

- Note: Sustained report = guilty verdict at tribunal (i.e. does not include set penalties taken).

RDFNL By-Law 65

Lack of Quorum

- In the absence of a Quorum at a meeting of the Tribunal, or if for any other reason it is unable to meet, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their Club until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal. In the event of a member of the Tribunal reporting a player or an official of a Club, such person charged shall be dealt with by the officers of the League.

RDFNL By-Law 66

Player Unavailability for Tribunal Hearing

In instances where a charged player is unable to attend a scheduled hearing of the RDFNL Independent Tribunal, he/she shall be ineligible to play until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal.

RDFNL By-Law 67

Guilty Verdict Fee for Independent Tribunal Hearing Outcomes

Any club whose player is found guilty of an offence by the Independent Tribunal, shall be fined \$175.00 per guilty offence in addition to any other penalty handed down by the Independent Tribunal.

RDFNL By-Law 68

Melee

Where a melee occurs during any senior or junior football match, the following process shall be followed when a melee matrix form is completed:

- 1)** Umpires to complete Melee Matrix form (one per club) noting the following:
 - a. Players actively involved from the one team
 - b. Duration of the melee
 - c. Level of aggression in melee
 - d. Umpires intervention in melee
 - e. Officials involved
- 2)** The WHITE copy is submitted to the League. The YELLOW copy is retained by the Umpire. The PINK copy is retained by the away club and the BLUE copy is retained by the home club.
- 3)** The League's Chief Executive Officer will contact the clubs involved in the melee upon receiving a copy of the melee matrix form. At this point, clubs will be provided with an opportunity to:
 - a. Accept the resulting fine; or
 - b. Dispute the details completed in the form by provision of official club submission that outlines their version of events and witnesses who can attest to what is written.
- 4)** The club submission will be forwarded to the League Board to make final determination on:
 - a. Whether the initial fine shall remain in place and apply
 - b. Whether the initial fine may be reduced to a lower amount
 - c. Whether the initial fine should be overturned; or
 - d. Whether the initial fine should be increased
- 5)** Clubs will be informed of the League's final decision (if Board intervention is required) and sent an invoice (if applicable) that must be paid within 30 days of the invoice being issued.
- 6)** Failure of clubs to adhere to the melee matrix process or pay a melee invoice within the 30-day terms may see the Clubs subjected to additional penalties that may range from additional fines, reduction of Player Points, loss of premiership points and percentage, etc.

RDFNL By-Law 69

Reports Resulting from Match Review

The Match Review Panel shall have the power to lay a report following the analysis of RDFNL footage that has been raised with the league from any club or Umpiring Association. The Match Review Panel shall follow RDFNL rules when laying a report from video footage. The RUA shall provide an advocate to prosecute all Match Review Panel cases that have been referred to the tribunal and at no point shall a member of the Match Review Panel be present during a tribunal case. The two systems shall remain independent of each other.

RDFNL By-Law 70

Using Video Evidence in Tribunal Cases

Where video evidence is available from a Riddell District Football Netball League authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL Victoria and RDFNL guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non - Riddell District Football Netball League video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than 10am on the day of the hearing and such video must be delivered to the Riddell District Football Netball League no later than Noon on the scheduled day of the tribunal hearing. The video evidence MUST also be accompanied by a signed statutory declaration confirming that the footage provided is true and correct and has not been altered in any way (excluding slow motion footage). Video evidence received after this time, unless agreed to by the league, will not be accepted as evidence in the case.

A member of the RDFNL Board, Chief Executive Officer or Football Operations Manager and the RUA Chief Executive Officer or RUA Chairman have the right to lay a report and/or request an investigation based on video footage presented to them.

RDFNL By-Law 71

Club Umpire Reporting Powers

Under RDFNL by-Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a RUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an “officially accredited” Umpire, and therefore can report or send off players at their discretion. Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the RUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

The definition of an umpire includes all field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match.

Volunteer Club Umpires shall register with the RDFNL and players can be umpires if there are insufficient numbers of umpires available. Therefore, once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are “official umpires” they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire. All Volunteer Club Umpires are to sign both team sheets and match report and indicate “CLUB UMPIRE”. The League shall then register these Umpires as a Club Umpire. Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Insurance Policy.

RDFNL By-Law 72

RDFNL Board Members/Umpires Observer Power to Report

Where a RDFNL Board Member or RDFNL Official is in attendance at an RDFNL fixtured match they shall have the same powers of reporting offences as the appointed umpire. The reporting RDFNL board member or official will report to the officiating umpire at the next quarter-break.

RDFNL By-Law 73

Comments in the Media

Any Club Member (player or official) found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards a member of the Riddell District Football & Netball League (RDFNL), AFL Victoria (AFL Victoria) or Riddell Umpires Association (RUA) shall be fined an amount at the discretion of the Board. The RDFNL Board shall decide appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to a fine being handed down.

RDFNL By-Law 74

Teams not Breaking from the Huddle

When the single siren is blown to indicate the end of a break the club/s not breaking from the huddle will be fined as per the Umpires Match Report sheet with clubs to be named on the umpire's match report sheet.

RDFNL By-Law 75

Leaving Playing Field

Senior, Reserve & Third Grade (Under 19.5) sides, shall be permitted to leave the playing field during the half time interval – including the Finals Series. Junior grade sides must remain on the field at ½ time, except under extreme weather conditions. Clubs leaving the playing field inappropriately shall be liable to a fine of 20 penalty units for all Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 teams and a fine of 10 penalty units shall apply to all Junior teams. Failure of Clubs to return to the playing field by the specified time will result in a fine of 2 Penalty Units per Minute being applied.

RDFNL By-Law 76

Late Appearance

Clubs who fail to appear on the playing arena at the scheduled time shall receive a fine of 2.5 penalty units per minute. The offence shall be recorded by the officiating Umpire on the match report sheet following the match and the club will be informed of their fine by the Chief Executive Officer.

RDFNL By-Law 77

Incorrect Program Listings

Players participating who are not listed in the program or are listed with a number that does not correspond to the number worn during a match shall be fined 5 penalty units.

RDFNL By-Law 78

Incorrect Team Sheet Listings

All players listed in the official team sheet for all Senior and Junior competitions must be identical to those who take to the playing field from the weekend's matches. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply for each instance a duplicate or incorrect listing occurs.

RDFNL By-Law 79

Non-Attendance at Club Delegates Meetings

Clubs who fail to attend or apologise for non-attendance of Club delegate at General Meetings held by the league will be fined 5 penalty units.

RDFNL By-Law 80

Failure to Appear at RDFNL or AFL Victoria Training Session

Any Club that fails to be represented at an official RDFNL or AFL Victoria Training course will be fined 10 penalty Units per offence.

RDFNL By-Law 81

Bringing the RDFNL into Disrepute / Interfering with a League Official

- a) Any club that in the view of the Board brings the Riddell District Football Netball League into disrepute can be fined any amount as determined by the Board. In such instances clubs will be given the opportunity to show due course as to why further action should not be taken against them.
- b) Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the League or any member of the Tribunal because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

RDFNL By-Law 82

Suspension

In the event of the Tribunal deciding at any time that a player of any Club shall not be permitted to play with such Club the Club upon receiving such notice from the Chief Executive Officer of the League shall discontinue to play such player until such notice is withdrawn by the Tribunal.

RDFNL By-Law 83

Disqualifications

A Club expelling a player or official from its Club shall forward within a week of such decision, particulars of such person and offence to the Chief Executive Officer of the League. The person so expelled shall have the right of appeal against his expulsion to the Board.

No Club shall be permitted to play such player, nor shall an official be entitled to hold office until his appeal has been determined by the League.

RDFNL By-Law 84

Unauthorised Entry on to Playing Arena

Any Player or Official who enters the playing arena during a match and somehow involves themselves in any type of incident shall receive an automatic four (4) match suspension. Suspensions are subject to approval from the Board of Directors of the Riddell District Football Netball League and further sanctions may also apply depending on the severity of the incident. Supporters from clubs who conduct similar behaviour shall be banned from attending RDFNL matches for a period to be determined by the Board.

RDFNL By-Law 85

Bowen Medal / Matthews Medal

- a)** An award known as the “Bowen Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the senior grade competition. The runner/s up of the Bowen Medal shall be awarded the Alan Matthews Medal known as the “Matthews Medal”.
- b)** Secret voting for such award shall be made by the Central Umpires officiating at all senior grade matches.
- c)** The Field Umpires officiating at each senior grade fixture, shall immediately following the conclusion of the match, select their idea of the three fairest and best players in the match. They shall then number one, two and three in order of preference in a sealed addressed envelope their three nominations. Their number one nomination to receive three votes, number two selection to receive two votes, and number three selection to receive one vote. The votes shall then be entered into the RDFNL competition management platform.
- d)** In the event that the two Central Umpire system is in operation, then the two Central Umpires shall confer, agree upon a joint nomination and otherwise comply with paragraph (c) hereof.
- e)** At the end of the minor rounds of matches, the League shall gather all votes made during the minor rounds and the votes shall be counted and the player or players receiving the largest number of votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of an equal number of votes being awarded to more than one player, then players receiving such equal number of votes shall be declared joint winners and separate medals shall be struck and awarded.
- f)** Any player who has incurred disqualification during the season shall be ineligible to receive the medal unless they have been suspended for refusing to play inter-league football for the Riddell District Football Netball League. Players who are suspended from an incident that occurred while playing inter-league football will be eligible to win the medal.
- g)** Any player who has been reported in a game shall still be eligible for Best and Fairest Votes in the match that the player has been reported in.

RDFNL By-Law 86

Scarborough Medal / O’Brien Medal

An award known as the “Scarborough Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Reserve Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the James Scarborough Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The runner/s up of the Scarborough Medal shall be awarded the Laurie O’Brien Medal known as the “O’Brien Medal”.

RDFNL By-Law 87

Watson Medal / McIntyre Medal

An award known as the “Watson Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Third Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the Charlie Watson Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The runner/s up of the Watson Medal shall be awarded the Don McIntyre Medal known as the McIntyre Medal.

RDFNL By-Law 88

Ryan Medal

An award known as the “Ryan Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the A Grade Netball competition and rules in relation to the Janine Ryan Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal.

RDFNL By-Law 89

Player of the Year Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League shall award a Football Player of the Year and Netball Player of the Year from the players selected in the respective Team of the Year.

Football Player of the Year – The player with the highest votes received from the Team of the Year Votes will be awarded the Player of the Year. Players who receive the same number of votes will then have their Bowen Medal votes added to determine the winner. If there is still a tie, both or all players will be equally awarded Players of the Year.

Netball Player of the Year – The player with the highest votes received from the Team of the Year Votes will be awarded the Player of the Year. Players who receive the same number of votes will then have their Ryan Medal votes added to determine the winner. If there is still a tie, both or all players will be equally awarded Players of the Year.

RDFNL By-Law 90

Team of the Year Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will ask all Senior Club Coaches to select their Team of the Year in starting positions. Each Senior Coach is unable to select any player from their own side. Each Senior Coach will also nominate a Senior Coach (other than themselves) for the Senior Coach of the Year with a 3-2-1 voting system to be used.

RDFNL By-Law 91

Club of the Year Award

The League may arrange an award each season for the club judged the club of the year, which is considered to have conducted its affairs during the season in the most efficient and lawful manner conducive to the best administrative practices of a football club and most disciplined club within the League. Criteria for determining Club of the Year as follows:

- Starting balance of 500 points
- Add total points from the umpire ratings.
- For Under 19.5 comp, any club which does not have an Under 19.5 team, use the average of all clubs
- For Under 19.5 comp, average out each club in the event of uneven fixture (if we end up with uneven affiliation numbers).
- Deduct 10 points for each individual rating of zero in the umpire ratings
- Deduct 10 points per week that a club player is suspended (either set penalty, or tribunal verdict)
- Deduct 10 points for each fine handed down, as per umpire match report sheet
- Deduct 50 points for failing to have club attendance at an RDFNL mandatory meeting, inclusive of coach & umpire forum
- Deduct 20 points for failing to supply club notes prior to weekly deadline
- Points deduction for aged debt as at August 1st. 2 points per \$100 in the 61-90 day category, 5 points per \$100 in the 90+ day category

RDFNL By-Law 92

Sponsors Awards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League shall award a best and fairest award and runner up best and fairest award in each of the Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 grades based on the votes of the Goal Umpires officiating each fixture match during the Home and Away Season. The Goal Umpires vote on the Best Defenders throughout the game. Rules in relation to the Sponsors Awards shall be identical to those provided for the Bowen Medal. The Sponsors Awards shall be known as the Buffalo Sports Awards.

RDFNL By-Law 93

RDFNL Unsung Hero Award

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will, on an annual basis, award an “Unsung Hero Award” to a Club/League volunteer for providing outstanding service. The Award will be known as “DOME Security Unsung Hero Award” and will be awarded at the Riddell District FNL Bowen / Ryan Medal Night.

RDFNL By-Law 94

Grand Final Best on Ground Medals

- a) Best afield in Senior Grand Final shall receive the Doug McIntyre Medal.
- b) Best afield in Reserve Grand Final shall receive the Tom Sankey Medal.
- c) Best afield in Under 19.5 Grand Final shall receive the Noel Rainey Medal.

RDFNL By-Law 95

Karman Medal

Best afield in the RDFNL Senior Interleague Match as adjudged by the Senior Coach and Coaching Panel shall receive the John Karman Medal and will be awarded at the Riddell District FNL Bowen / Ryan Medal Night.

RDFNL By-Law 96

Coaches/Umpires Meeting

Meetings may be convened annually between RDFNL Coaches and representatives of the RUA. The structure of the meetings will be determined by the league with one meeting to be directed more towards senior football and the second meeting relating to junior football matters. A penalty of 5 penalty units per coach for non - attendance will be imposed on the offending club.

RDFNL By-Law 97

Stretchers

Clubs must ensure a sports medicine approved 'MES Scoop Frame' style stretcher is placed at the interchange area. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 10 Penalty Units.

RDFNL By-Law 98

Coaches Accreditation

All Coaches within the Riddell District Football & Netball League shall be registered with the Riddell District FNL and shall be accredited via Coach.AFL prior to Round 1. Under RDFNL Rules, the penalty to be imposed for failing to comply with this rule shall be the loss of Match Points for matches won when the unaccredited Coach continues to Coach. Information on coach accreditation courses and qualifications should be directed to the RDFNL.

Any newly accredited coaches (i.e.: first year coaches) regardless of the age group they are coaching, must attend a Coach Development Day prior to the season commencement. Any coaches attending Coach Development Days outside of the RDFNL region must provide proof of attendance to the RDFNL Football Operations Manager prior to the season commencement.

RDFNL By-Law 99

Officials in Bench Area

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the RDFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box. Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach. Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners (1 runner for U11's & U13's as per By-Law 100), six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 116 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire. All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box. If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line. Trainers and

Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest.

All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

Any Club desiring authorisation of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorisation, prior to the commencement of the match.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised 10 penalty units per offense.

RDFNL By-Law 100

Club Runner

Clubs may use up to two (2) club runners for Seniors through to Under 15 for each match and only one (1) for Under 13 through to Under 11. Only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate. Runners must wear official top as determined by the RDFNL.

RDFNL By-Law 101

Ground Manager / Umpire Escort

a) For Senior match days, the Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. For Junior match days, the Junior Coordinators of both clubs, or an approved representative of both Clubs in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League.

b) The Umpires Escort's duties shall include the duties set forth on the AFL Club Help website, and any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the RDFNL.

RDFNL By-Law 102

Water Carriers

A maximum of up to four (4) Water Carriers can be used by Senior through to Under 15 teams and up to two (2) for Under 13 through to Under 11 teams. In extreme weather conditions, clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers however this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately. At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply to clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

RDFNL By-Law 103

Timekeepers

A Club shall for all grades provide a Timekeeper. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signalling device and a backup device for the use of Timekeepers.

Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League. A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide a Timekeeper for any RDFNL fixture match. A fine of 20 Penalty Units shall apply if a Club fails to provide an audible signalling device and "back up" siren or bell.

RDFNL By-Law 104

Interchange Stewards

The Riddell District Football & Netball League will appoint representatives from the Riddell Umpires Association to act as Interchange Stewards during finals matches when possible. RDFNL clubs are encouraged to provide an Interchange Steward for each match of each round of the home and away season.

RDFNL By-Law 105

Delayed Match

A Senior match may only be delayed up to 1 hour from the starting time, unless agreed to by both clubs. E.g. a 2pm scheduled match must start before 3pm.

RDFNL By-Law 106

Boundary Umpires

A Club shall, where required, provide a Boundary Umpire who shall be attired in a white shirt or jumper. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate regarding the competency of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. Should a club fail to provide a Boundary Umpire where advised, a penalty of 5 penalty units may be imposed. This By-Law is relevant for all RDFNL competitions when competing for points (Senior and Junior).

RDFNL By-Law 107

Goal Umpires

A Club shall, where required, provide a mature person as a Goal Umpire who shall be attired in a white coat. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate in regards to the maturity of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. All Goal Umpires supplied by clubs are to wear white coats and use white flags. A 2.5 penalty unit fine will occur for any of the above per item for Junior Fixtures, and 5 Penalty Units for Senior Fixtures.

RDFNL By-Law 108

Commencing Times and Time On

All matches shall commence at such times that are fixed and appointed by the Board. Junior match times will vary from venue to venue dependent upon the number of games to be played each day. Any Club unable to field fourteen registered players (with the exception of By-Law 132 in junior football only) at the appointed time shall be fined such sum as is fixed by the Board, and if not ready by half an hour after the appointed time, shall forfeit the match (fines as per By-Law 35 for forfeiture of match also apply). Goal umpires must synchronise their watches with the timekeepers prior to the commencement of the match. Commencement times will be as follows for Senior Football:

Senior Football

Grade Start Time Ground Quarters Breaks

Senior Football 2:00pm Full 4 x 20min PLUS time on 5min - 20min - 5min

Reserve Football 12:00pm Full 4 x 20min No time on 5min - 15min - 5min

U/19.5 Football 10:00am Full 4 x 20min No time on 5min - 15min - 5min

Junior Football

Grade Ground Quarters Breaks

U/17 Football: Full 4 x 20min No time on 3min - 8min - 3min

U/15 Football: Full 4 x 16min No time on 3min - 6min - 3min

U/13 Football: Full 4 x 14min No time on 3min - 6min - 3min

U/11 Football: Half 4 x 12min No time on 2min - 4min - 2min

Fines of 1 penalty unit per minute shall apply for clubs who fail to adhere to the running sheet. The Central Umpire is to make note of clubs who do not comply with starting times of all matches.

Time On

Seniors - first XV111.

Time-on is added (clock stops) in five circumstances, as follows: -

1. The field umpire indicates time-on by raising one arm and blowing his/her whistle. Time does not recommence until the field umpire again raises one arm and blows his/her whistle to indicate that play is to recommence.
2. Time-on is added (clock stops) after a score and until play recommences. Time-on is added from when the goal umpire indicates the score with his/her finger(s), until either (a) after a goal, play recommences in the centre of the ground, or (b) after a behind is scored, the full-back recommences the game by kicking or running out of the goal square.
3. A stretcher enters the playing field where trainers consider an injured player should be stretchered from the field. Stretchers cannot enter the field of play until a Trainer signals that a stretcher is required. Time stops when the stretcher enters the playing field, and restarts when it crosses the boundary line.
4. The ball is lost and/or goes flat.
5. In rare and exceptional circumstances, the field umpire considers that time should be added, in which case the field umpires will communicate such to the timekeepers. An example of this may be, say, an unattended car rolls onto the playing surface. These instances will be rarely invoked.

In all other grades of football, reserves to under 11's inclusive. Time-on is added (clock) stops in 4 circumstances: -

1. The ball is lost;
2. The ball goes flat;
3. A stretcher enters the playing field where trainers consider an injured player should be stretchered from the field. Stretchers cannot enter the field of play until a Trainer signals that a stretcher is required. Time stops when the stretcher enters the playing field, and restarts when it crosses the boundary line; or
4. In rare and exceptional circumstances, the field umpire considers that time should be added, in which case the field umpires will communicate such to the time- keepers. An example of this may be, say, an unattended car rolls onto the playing surface. These instances will be rarely invoked.

RDFNL By-Law 109

Colours and Uniforms

The colours of the League shall be Blue, Red & White. The design of the League apparel, interleague jumpers and apparel, Logo and stationary shall be the responsibility of the Board.

Each Club shall register its uniforms and priority of registration shall determine the exclusive right to wear such colours and uniforms. Any Club desiring to register new uniforms must submit a sample to the Board and seek approval for such registration.

The following concessions have been granted –

- a) Melton Bloods JFC have been granted approval to wear maroon shorts in all matches.
- b) Melton South JFNC have been granted approval to wear grey shorts in all matches.

RDFNL By-Law 110

Footballs

The League will supply one football per senior home game per senior club, plus two spares for the season. The Riddell District Football Netball League will supply all junior clubs with two leather or synthetic footballs at the beginning of the season.

The footballs to be used in Junior Grades are as follows –

- U/9 – Size 2 (Red/Yellow) synthetic
- U/11 - Size 3 (Red) synthetic
- U/13 - Size 3 (Red) leather
- U/15 - Size 4 (Red) leather
- U/17– Size 5 (Red) leather

RDFNL By-Law 111

Counting of Players

5.5.1 Request by Captain

The captain or vice-captain of a Team, or Team Runner(s), may at any time during a Match request that the field Umpire counts the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

5.5.2 Procedure

(a) Where a request is made under Law 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall:

- (i) stop play at the first available opportunity;
- (ii) call into line within the Centre Square the Players of both Teams who are on the Playing Surface at the time, and count the number of Players;
- (iii) upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and then recommence play at the position on the Playing Surface where the field Umpire stopped play; and
- (iv) as soon as practicable after the Match, report to the Controlling Body that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team, and the number of Players actually counted.

(b) The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is 18 per Team or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under Law 22, 18 less the Player(s) ordered from the Playing Surface.

5.5.3 Players Exceeding Permitted Number

Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a)** a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b)** a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
- (c)** the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that quarter up to the time of the count; and
- (d)** the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by Law 5.5.3(c).

5.5.4 Correct Number and Request Without Merit

Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a)** a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b)** a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
- (c)** if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play, or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting; and

(d) if Law 5.5.4(c) applies, the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction it deems appropriate.

5.5.5 Post-Match Review

(a) A Club or other person may request post-Match review by the relevant Controlling Body of a Team exceeding the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface where a request under section 5.5.1 did not occur during a Match.

(b) Notification of the request and lodgement of relevant evidence must occur within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant Match in a form prescribed by the Controlling Body.

(c) The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction it deems appropriate.

RDFNL By-Law 112

Logos on Uniforms

A maximum of five logos may be attached to the front of playing Guernsey, each of which must not exceed 10 cm x 6 cm, two of which must be the RDFNL Major Sponsor (if applicable) and the RDFNL logo.

One logo is permitted under the number on the back of the Guernsey, it must not exceed 35cm by 15cm. A logo can also be placed above the number on the back of the Guernsey. Four logos 10cm x 6cm would be permitted on the front of shorts. In special instances, clubs may apply to the Riddell District Football & Netball League for permission for an additional sponsor on the front or rear of their Guernsey and Shorts, and such requests will be determined at the discretion of the Board. All jumper designs must be approved by the RDFNL Board.

RDFNL By-Law 113

Numbers, Shorts & Socks

All players must wear RDFNL approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club and including numbered jerseys, and wear shorts and socks of registered colours. The numbers worn by players must correspond with the submitted team sheets and official League program, otherwise the Club shall be liable to a minimum fine of 5 penalty units for each such offence. In the event of replacement of a jersey during a match, the Ground Manager and Central Umpire must be notified of the change of player's number or the Club shall be liable to a fine of 5 penalty units.

RDFNL By-Law 114

Bike Shorts / Compression Garments

Bike shorts and Compression Garments may be worn by players under their playing uniforms however they must be flesh toned. A fine of 2 penalty units will be imposed on clubs for each player on each occasion coloured bike shorts or compression garments are worn.

RDFNL By-Law 115

Uniform Policy

- Junior Coaches yellow vest must be worn.
- Trainers white or navy pants & white top, with a number must be worn.
- Water Carriers Light Blue shirt, with club home colour or white shorts / pants must be worn.
- Runners Fluorescent Pink shirt with pink shorts must be worn.
- Goal Umpires White coat must be worn.
- Club Volunteer Umpire White shirt must be worn.
- Ground Manager yellow vest must be worn.
- Mentor purple tops must be worn.
- Umpire Escort orange vests must be worn.
- Team Manager navy blue tops must be worn.

Dark coloured skins may be worn underneath shorts. Jeans are not considered to be pants and are strictly forbidden as part of the Water Carrier & Runner uniform.

Club Officials not wearing uniforms as outlined above shall be removed from the ground by the Central Umpire and shall not be allowed to return until correctly attired. On an annual basis, or when requested, the League will provide Clubs with all match officials uniforms, which will be paid for by Clubs. Clubs who have incorrectly attired officials, shall be fined 2.5 penalty units per offence.

RDFNL By-Law 116

Interchange Players / Player Numbers on the field

For the Senior age group, clubs must have twenty-two (22) players listed on the team sheet. For Reserve and U/19.5 age groups, clubs will be allowed a maximum of twenty-two (22) players that may be listed on the team sheet and participate in any given match. Where a duplicate copy of Team Sheets is exchanged between competing clubs that copy must be identical to which is handed to the Umpire. Failure to comply - 5 Penalty Units.

At junior level, U/11's through to U/17, the Riddell District Football Netball League will take the following stance regarding interchange players:

- a)** Clubs will be allowed to have up to six (6) interchange players per side in U/11, U/13, U/15 & U/17 competitions.
- b)** Clubs are encouraged to assist their opponent with numbers if sides are uneven.
- c)** Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request to loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).
- d)** Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same number of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.
- e)** Clubs failing to follow this process will risk losing points and percentage.

RDFNL By-Law 117

Registration

Every club is responsible for the registration of their own players; however, all registrations expire on the 31st day of October. Players must be re-registered with their club on an annual basis should they wish to continue to play with that club.

Each player must complete their own re-registration from season to season online.

a) Any Club playing an unregistered player at any level will be penalised as per RDFNL Board ruling. Such penalties will include loss of match points and fines not less than 50 penalty units (Senior, Reserve & U/19.5 games) or not greater than 25 penalty units (Junior games). A player participating without registering is not insured and the club may be held liable for any injury via negligence, therefore, such a process exists to protect clubs.

b) Clubs will forfeit points from match that an unregistered player plays in, unless extraordinary circumstance exists, and the decision is overruled by the board of the Riddell District Football & Netball League.

The RDFNL adopts the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

RDFNL By-Law 118

Illegal Clearances

Any player who illegally obtains a clearance or permit shall be disqualified and the League after consultation with AFL Victoria may impose such penalty it considers appropriate upon the Club playing such ineligible player. Further sanctions may also be applied by AFL Victoria and the RDFNL.

RDFNL By-Law 119

Clearances

Refer to the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations

RDFNL By-Law 120

Football Stops

Aluminium stops are not permitted. Magnesium stops are acceptable.

RDFNL By-Law 121

Talking Devices Used on the Field of Play

Listening/talking devices (such as a walkie talkie) are banned from being used by club officials whilst on the field of play. This includes the banning of use by water carriers, trainers and runners. The only exception to this rule is for Coaching staff sitting in an elevated position away from the Coaches box where players cannot hear their instructions.

RDFNL By-Law 122

Wearing Gloves during Competition

Gloves are permitted to be worn in RDFNL Senior, Reserve and Under 19.5 competitions. Junior players must seek approval from the League Chief Executive Officer before wearing a glove/s.

RDFNL By-Law 123

Finals – Venue

In accordance with By-Law 128, the Board will determine all finals venues. Factors that will be considered include ground condition, participating teams, amenities, spectator attraction and the respective positions on the ladder of the participating senior teams. Clubs awarded finals hosting are required to comply with all criteria set out by the RDFNL.

a) Catering

Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any “exclusivity arrangements” that must be adhered to for Canteen / Catering sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors and must be adhered to for both Finals Catering and the regular season where advised. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units.

b) Booth

Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any “exclusivity arrangements” that must be adhered to for Booth sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors and must be adhered to for both Finals Booth and the regular season where advised. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units.

c) Raffle

Only the host club may conduct a raffle or any fundraising activity unless competing finals clubs are conducting internal fundraising such as best player tickets as outlined in By-Law 45.

d) Rooms

The Riddell District Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate the use of rooms to clubs during the senior and junior finals series. Consideration will be given to clubs who have more than one team participating in a finals series and clubs will be kept together as much as possible.

e) Shorts

The Riddell District Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate what colour shorts each club is required to wear during the course of senior and junior finals series.

f) Final 5

Week 1

A: 2nd vs 3rd - Qualifying Final

B: 4th vs 5th - Elimination Final

Note that 1st has the week off

Week 2

C: 1st vs Winner A - 2nd Semi Final

D: Loser A vs Winner B - 1st Semi Final

Week 3

E: Loser C vs Winner D - Preliminary Final

Week 4

F: Winner C vs Winner E - Grand Final

g) Final 4 – Juniors

Week 1

A -1 v 2 Qualifying Final

B – 3 v 4 Elimination Final

Week 2

C – Loser A v Winner B Preliminary Final

Week 3

Winner A v Winner C Grand Final

RDFNL By-Law 124

Finals

All playing arrangements, and the grounds upon which all finals matches are to be played, shall be determined at the discretion of the Board. The main criteria when scheduling will be the ability to attract the biggest crowd and profile for the league, ability to secure and collect the full gate revenue, suitable facilities for players and spectators and neutrality where possible.

RDFNL By-Law 125

Drawn Football Finals

In the event of a drawn game in any Finals match (including the Senior Football Grand Final), the following shall apply:

- a) The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three minutes.
- b) A five-minute quarter will be played (including time-on) before immediately changing ends for another five-minute quarter (including time-on). There is to be no break between these quarters.
- c) If at the end of the second five-minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends will occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and the first score will win.

RDFNL By-Law 126 –

Eligibility for Finals

SENIORS

- a) A player must play in at least four (4) premierships matches played over a minimum of four (4) rounds of the current season to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match

and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.

b) A registered player, playing four games with the Reserves or Under 19.5, or a total of four games in the Senior Grade, Reserve Grade and Under 19.5 during the minor rounds in any one season, shall be eligible to play in the final series in the Senior Grade competition.

c) In addition to 126 b, to be eligible to play Reserves finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of 1 game in that competition in the home and away season. The requirement to have played a minimum of 1 game in the Reserves in the home and away season to be eligible to play Reserves finals matches does not apply if both the Seniors and the Reserves of the player's club are playing finals on the same weekend.

d) Any player who, during the currency of the season, has played MORE THAN 9 matches in the minor rounds with the Senior Grade of his Club :

i. shall be ineligible to play in the finals of the Reserve Grade competition, except and unless, the player belongs to a Club which has its Senior Grade and Reserve Grade teams playing in the finals on the same weekend.

ii. shall be eligible to play in the finals of the Under 19.5 competition if they have played a minimum of four (4) Under 19.5's games during the Home & Away season, regardless of how many Senior, Reserves & TAC Cup games played.

e) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals, the only exceptions to this rule are if a club has senior, reserve and U/19.5 teams in the finals and find themselves short of players in the reserves or U/19.5 competitions, it is then permissible to bring a player up from a lower age group to fill any vacancies.

f) A player is free to interchange between his VFL and Under 18 TAC Cup club team during the RDFNL home and away season.

g) A VFL listed player is eligible to play finals matches provided they have met the qualification rules as outlined in rule 126 a).

h) For the purpose of Senior Finals Eligibility, RDFNL Club 18 matches shall be counted towards Senior matches played in the RDFNL.

JUNIORS

i) A player must play in at least four matches for his Club in the minor rounds (home and away games) to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match. Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the Club, with which he has been granted a permit to play and shall be required to therefore complete no less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his new Club before being eligible to play in the final series of matches.

j) A player must play in at least four matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:

i) Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 19.5 or any open age side

ii) Where a registered junior player is selected to play in a higher age group on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy (e.g. under 15 players playing Under 17). This is not to be at the expense of a registered and available player in that age group.

k) A registered player, playing four games during the minor rounds (home and away) in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy.

l) A registered player in any RDFNL Junior Competitions having played more than 7 games with a higher grade, as listed on the RDFNL Competition Hierarchy, shall be ineligible to play with the lower grade in the final series of matches.

m) Should any club be struggling for numbers in a particular age division and feel that there is a need to have players from a lower age division to assist the upper age division on more than 7 occasions, this request is to be submitted to League Chief Executive Officer for assessment.

n) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player can play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals unless special approval is granted by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer to account for unique circumstances

o) The Calder Cannons or Western Jets are not recognised as a player's home club.

p) Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.

q) For the purpose of Junior Finals Eligibility, RDFNL Club 18 matches shall not be counted as Junior matches played in the RDFNL.

r) Please note that the above by-laws apply to RDFNL Junior & Youth Girls competitions however, players in these competitions are required to play **3 (three) matches** to be eligible for finals.

RDFNL By-Law 127

Replacements

Where a Club is involved in finals matches on a Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend in both seniors and reserves grades, the following eligibility of player's requirements shall apply:

a) A player who has participated for the Senior side on the Saturday shall not be eligible to play with the Reserve side on the Sunday.

b) A player being in the twenty-two for the Reserves on Saturday will, save as provided below, be ineligible to play with the Seniors on the Sunday, however a Senior team playing on Sunday will be permitted, where a replacement player is required due to a late withdrawal of a selected senior player, to draw a replacement from the Reserves team that has played on the Saturday. For all under age teams the above rule will apply to the Interchange between Grades from Saturday to Sunday.

RDFNL By-Law 128

Clubs making Grounds available for Finals

Each club shall, as part of their standard User Agreement with their respective local government authority (LGA) for the use of their Reserve for the forthcoming season, shall arrange for their ground and facilities to be available for use by the Riddell District FNL for Finals fixtures, as and when required, and at no charge to the RDFNL. In most cases, such usage will include the use of the home tenant club, but in some cases may not do so.

RDFNL By-Law 129

Naming Rights or Ground Sponsorship

No RDFNL Clubs shall be permitted to enter into a "Club Naming Rights" Sponsorship without the written authority of the RDFNL. All proposals must be submitted to the RDFNL by the 1st March each calendar year to be considered.

Note: The RDFNL will not consider any Club Naming Rights Sponsorship proposals where such agreements may conflict with any existing RDFNL Sponsorship.

RDFNL By-Law 130

RDFNL Sponsors

Clubs shall, where requested:

- a) Display RDFNL sponsor signage at their venue, at no charge to the Riddell District FNL. The Riddell District Football & Netball League will be responsible for maintenance of such signs.
- b) Offer RDFNL Sponsors products for purchase at their venue. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of 10 penalty units per offence.

RDFNL By-Law 131

Ambush Marketing

Riddell District FNL Clubs shall not be permitted to include inserts in or to provide handouts with the official Riddell District FNL Footy Record without the explicit permission of the Riddell District FNL. The Riddell District FNL will only provide permission for Riddell District FNL Clubs to include inserts within or to provide handouts with the Footy Record when such inserts, handouts or promotions do not conflict with any Riddell District FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement.

Riddell District FNL Clubs shall be permitted to issue handouts at or in the vicinity of RDFNL venues to promote games, club events, social activities & forthcoming functions, only when such handouts do not include logos, promotions or offers which conflict with any Riddell District FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement. Clubs found breaching this By Law shall be fined an amount up to \$500 at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board.

RDFNL By-Law 132

Junior Football - Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game

Junior Football – (U18 Youth Girls & U17 Boys Down)

For junior football only (U18 Youth Girls & U/17 boys down), the following shall apply:

- a) Clubs who field a side with 12 or more players will be eligible to play for points. This means, the score, percentage, best players and all goal kickers will stand.
- b) Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, point a) shall apply.
- c) Clubs who field a side with 11 or less players will forfeit the points to the other side. Both teams are encouraged to still conduct a game with whatever players are available. The size of the ground can be reduced if need be.
- d) Where possible, clubs must assist their opposition to field a side of 18 or more players.

i) Where a team cannot field 18 players it can approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned. This request must be made at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the match and must be made by the Team Manager or highest ranking available team staff member.

ii) Loaned players must be listed on the opposition team sheet, with a note that they are from the opposing club and will be eligible for any fairest and best votes cast by the umpires as well as any goals kicked. These votes and/or goals will be credited as if the players were playing for their own club.

iii) Where the team that has less than 18 players does not request loan players from the opposing club then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players. (i.e. if team A has 14 players and does not request loan players from team B then team B may enter the field with 16 players).

iv) Where a team has requested the loan of players and is denied by the opposing team and then takes the field with less than 18, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players; all other players may be included as interchange players up to the maximum 24 players and can be interchanged as required.

e) In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.

f) In any round, a team that has been allocated the bye should assist other clubs by supplying them with as many players as they can and comply with the permit procedure set out in the Interchange Agreement adopted by the RDFNL.

RDFNL By-Law 133

Red and Yellow Cards

Red Card Offences:

A Player who commits a Red Card offence will be Reported and ORDERED OFF the ground for the REMAINDER OF THE GAME. The player may be replaced after 15 minutes playing time has elapsed.

Red card offences will usually be violent and intentional. Some descriptions of Red Card offences are:

- * Unduly interferes with or assaults or uses threatening language to an umpire or behaves in a threatening manner towards an umpire.
- * Assaults another player or official. Assault is defined as an unprovoked, callous and/or violent attack which is likely to inflict serious injury upon another player, like a king hit or eye-gouging.
- * Intentionally kicks or seriously attempting to kick an opponent or official.
- * Misconduct. (Misconduct covers all offences not specifically covered under the Laws, e.g. urinating in view of spectators, refusing to leave the ground when ordered off etc.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and it is up to the umpire/s what is deemed as a red card offence.

Yellow Card Offences.

A player who commits a Yellow Card offence may, or may not be reported, depending on the severity

of the offence. In every red or yellow card offence, the player will be ordered from the field for 15 minutes playing time. The player cannot be replaced for the duration of the 15 minutes playing time. All yellow carded players may return to the field after 15 minutes, whereas red carded players cannot return to the field. However, red carded players may be replaced after the 15 minutes of playing time.

Red card offences will always be reported. Lesser offences will be "Yellow Carded" and may be reported. Minor offences may be Yellow carded without Report.

Offences that may be yellow carded, and reported include: -

- * Uses abusive, insulting, or obscene language to an Umpire or behaves in an abusive, insulting or obscene manner towards an Umpire. Depending on severity **This could be a RED CARD**
- * Intentionally, recklessly, carelessly, or negligently...
 - Wasting time,
 - Shaking a goal post while opponent is kicking (or has kicked) for goal,
 - Throwing or violently pushing another player after a mark or when ball out of play,
 - Tripping or attempting to trip by hand, foot or leg,
 - Minor Striking or attempting to strike,
 - Charging another person,
 - Engages in rough conduct,
 - Wrestling another person,
 - Engaging in a melee.

Depending upon the severity of the following “Yellow Card” offences, a player may be sent off without a report if it is a first offence of the day.

- * Any player ordered from the ground for committing a second offence must be reported and sent from the ground for the remainder of the match with a red card. The player must not return to the field but can be replaced after 15 minutes of playing time.
- * Only field umpires may order a player from the ground, A player ordered-off MUST leave the ground through the interchange area, and report to the Ground Manager before returning.
- * A “Yellow Card” player cannot be replaced for the duration of the 15 minutes playing time. After 15 minutes, the player may return to the field or be replaced.
- * A “Red Card” player cannot return to the field for the duration of the game. The player may however be replaced by another player AFTER the expiration of the 15 minutes playing time.
- * In the event of a player failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, they shall be reported for misconduct. The player’s captain or deputy shall be advised by the umpire that their team will forfeit the match unless the player leaves the field immediately. These instances must be noted on the Match Report.
- * In all grades of football, field umpires may order a player off the ground for fifteen (15) minutes without report. Note; this would only apply when a player HAS NOT committed a reportable offence detrimental to the image of the game.

THE INTENTION OF THIS RULE IS TO PROVIDE THE PLAYER WITH A COOLING OFF PERIOD.

RDFNL By-Law 134

Under Age Grades

Qualification for underage competitions will be as follows for each age group:

- Under 19.5: Players must be aged 19 or under as at 1st July of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 20 years old prior to 1st July in the current year.
- Under 17: Players must be aged 17 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 18 years old in the current year.
- Under 15: Players must be aged 15 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 16 years old in the current year.
- Under 13: Players must be aged 13 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 14 years old in the current year.

- Under 11: Players must be aged 11 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 12 years old in the current year.
- Under 9's: Players must be aged 9 or under as at 31st December of the current year. Therefore, players cannot turn 10 years old in the current year. Players must also be at least 7 years old by 30th April in the current year.

Female Football age groups are to be determined at the start of the season. Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager for more information.

RDFNL By-Law 135

Player Age Group Exemptions

a) Playing Under Age

Players seeking to play up an age group for the full season can only do so if the League has received on club letterhead a signed letter from the players' parent / guardian. Players must be 15 years of age as of the 1st January in the current year to play Senior, Reserve or Under 19.5 Football.

This does not include Under 9's where players must have turned 7 years old by 30th April of the current season.

b) Playing Over Age

A Junior club may apply for approval to play a player in the age group below their age. To obtain approval clubs must submit the official Exemption and Permit forms to the RDFNL Football Operations Manager a request for each proposed player, supported with medical advice where applicable.

A player will not be considered for an exemption unless they meet the following parameters for each age group.

- Exemption to play Under 17: Height - < 175 cm, Weight - < 65 kg.
- Exemption to play Under 15: Height - < 170 cm, Weight - < 55 kg.
- Exemption to play Under 13: Height - < 155 cm, Weight - < 45 kg.
- Exemption to play Under 11: Height - < 145 cm, Weight - < 35 kg.

The Board in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to the member club within twenty-one (21) days. A player screening session may be required to assist with any player exemption request. The Board, Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time. Additionally, the Board can exempt or screen a player based on special circumstances deemed appropriate by the Board.

c) Open Age Player Playing Over Age

Players seeking to play over age in the Under 19.5 competition must in conjunction with their club submit in writing a request to play over age and may be required to attend a screening session. The Board of Management in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager and Junior Development Officer will consider the application and provide a response in writing to

the member club within twenty-one (21) days. The Board, Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager or Junior Development Officer has the power to review and rescind any approval to play a player in an age group below their age at any time.

RDFNL By-Law 136

Police Checks & Working with Children Checks

Police checks are no longer required in the Riddell District Football & Netball League, however, Team Officials of all junior clubs must complete a Working With Children Check to comply with state law. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team Officials undergo a Working With Children Check. Forms can be collected from any Post Office and WWCC are free of charge for volunteers. It is the responsibility of the club to have all Club Officials who have contact with children under the age of 18 undergo a WWCC. The club must then record the details of each Club Official's WWCC.

RDFNL By-Law 137

Underage Players Attendance at Tribunal Hearing

Players competing in U/11 and U/13 age groups who have been reported for an offence that has been referred to the Independent Tribunal for hearing shall not be forced to attend in person. Instead of attending the hearing in person, the player will be asked to provide a written account of the incident and the player's parent or guardian and/or advocate will be asked to present the letter and related information on the player's behalf. This written account does not need to be a statutory declaration.

RDFNL By-Law 138

Clash Jumpers

In the event of a clash of colours between 2 teams, it is up to the away team to wear their clash jumper unless otherwise agreed to or directed by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer or RDFNL Board.

RDFNL By-Law 139

Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance Policy Sanctions

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following sanction outcomes regarding Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance. The following shall apply to all RDFNL football & netball competitions:

- a)** Any registered RDFNL player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a 4-week suspension. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.
- b)** Should a member or supporter of a RDFNL Club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a RDFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the

spectator will incur a minimum of a 12-week suspension from attending RDFNL fixtures and his/her Club fined an amount of no less than \$250. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.

c) Should a RDFNL Club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the Club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit.

d) Should a RDFNL Club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the Club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Riddell District FNL Board and/or Riddell District Tribunal if they see fit. In addition, the Club will be asked to undertake "Culture Awareness Training" for all players and members that will be presented by a Facilitator appointed by the Riddell District FNL.

RDFNL By-Law 140

AFL / AFL Victoria Policies adopted by the RDFNL

The Riddell District Football & Netball League has adopted the following AFL Victoria Policies which can be found in full on the RDFNL, AFL Victoria or AFL Website. Copies of any policy can be requested from the Chief Executive Officer.

- a) National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations
- b) National Player and Official De-registration Policy
- c) AFL Social Media Engagement Policy
- d) AFL Coaches Code of Conduct
- e) AFL Trainers Policy
- f) Negligence and the Law in Football
- g) National Age Dispensation Policy
- h) AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy
- i) AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy
- j) AFL Victoria Alcohol Management Policy
- k) AFL Victoria Infectious Disease Policy
- l) AFL Anti-Doping Code
- m) Safeguarding Children Policy
- n) Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct
- o) Safeguarding Children Reporting Procedure
- p) AFL Victoria Extreme Weather Policy

- q) AFL Victoria Member Protection Policy
- r) AFL Privacy Policy
- s) AFL Vilification Policy
- t) AFL Junior Match Policy
- u) AFL Victoria Gender Regulation Policy
- v) AFL Victoria National Risk Protection Policy
- w) AFL Victoria No Surprises Policy
- x) Concussion Management Policy
- y) AFL Community Gender Diversity Policy

The RDFNL adopts the following policies from the AFL National Handbook:

- a) Player Registration & Transfers
- b) Coach Accreditation
- c) Deregistration
- d) Gender Diversity (participation of transgender and non-binary people)
- e) Member Protection
- f) Vilification and discrimination
- g) Safeguarding Children and Young People
- h) Social Media
- i) Gambling and match fixing
- j) Anti-doping
- k) Injury Management
- l) Protective equipment
- m) Extreme weather
- n) Concussion
- o) Pregnant players
- p) Infectious diseases and active bleeding
- q) Reportable Offences
- r) Policy Breaches
- s) Disciplinary Officer
- t) Tribunal
- u) Appeal Board

The following AFL National Handbook policies have not been adopted by the RDFNL:

- Age dispensation
- Umpire Accreditation

Please contact the RDFNL Football Operations Manager or Chief Executive Officer for a copy of the AFL National Handbook.

RDFNL By-Law 141

Restrictions on Players and officials betting

The Riddell District FNL strictly prohibits Riddell District FNL registered players and officials from placing bets or wagering in a game or competition where players or officials are engaged. For the purposes of clarity, Riddell District FNL players and officials are not permitted to place Bets on the Riddell District FNL premiership.

This restriction does not apply to players being registered on the Website and betting on contingencies not related to the game or competition in which they are engaged and on the broad range of contingencies in racing and sports wagering and gaming offered by the Website.

The Riddell District FNL shall have access to live reporting facilities on the Website in order to allow the League to view customer details and transaction histories, and in cases where Players and / or Officials do breach this By-Law they shall face sanction/s as determined by the Board of the Riddell District FNL.

RDFNL By-Law 142

Photography & Video Footage at RDFNL Games

Photography and taping of players at Riddell District Football Netball League football and netball matches shall be allowed so long as the photos and/or footage is taken of RDFNL competition matches in play. At no stage may any person take a camera into the change rooms of either club to take any kind photograph or video footage without the permission of the people whose image is being recorded.

Further to this, photographs and video footage of RDFNL games shall not be used for commercial gain without first obtaining the permission from the Riddell District Football Netball League and the participating clubs. Failure to adhere to this By-Law shall result in punishment as deemed necessary by the Riddell District Football Netball League Board of Directors.

RDFNL By-Law 143

Appeals

For all Tribunal and Appeals information please refer to the RDFNL Tribunal Memorandum of Understanding. This is available from the RDFNL Football Operations Manager.

RDFNL By-Law 144

Interrupted Season

In the event of an interrupted season (e.g. COVID19 lockdown) the adjustments and necessary changes will be determined by the RDFNL Chief Executive Officer and RDFNL Board.