

BY LAWS

WEST AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rule	Topic	Page
	OBJECTIVES	1
	CODES OF CONDUCT	2
1.	CLEARANCES AND REGISTRATIONS	6
2.	SIGNING FORMS PLAYERS UNDER 18	10
3.	DUAL REGISTRATION – FLYIN/FLYOUT, STUDENTS	10
4.	TRANSFER FEES	12
5.	COACHING ACCREDITATION	12
6.	COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS	12
7.	WEEKLY PERMITS	12
8.	CLUBS TRANSFERRING	14
9.	CLUBS AMALGAMATING OR DISBANDING	15
10.	CLUBS IN RECESS	15
11	UMPIRES	15
12.	WACFL APPEALS TRIBUNAL	15
13.	APPEALS GENERAL	16
14.	LEAGUE/ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL	18
15.	RISK MANAGEMENT	18
16.	ORDER OFF RULE	19
17.	RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION	18
18.	CLUB RUNNERS/TRAINERS/WATERCARRIERS	21
19.	FORFEITED MATCHES	21
20.	UNBECOMING BEHAVIOUR	22
21.	DOPING POLICY	23
22.	WAFL/AFL TRANSFER FEES	23

OBJECTIVES

The WACFL and Leagues wish to ensure that teams fielded in competitions conducted by a League are as strong and well matched as possible.

The continuing support of such competitions and the opportunity for players to develop and employ their skills both depend upon a League continuing to conduct vigorous competitions between evenly matched and financially viable clubs.

In order to achieve these objectives, the WACFL has adopted these By-Laws to supplement the provisions of contract of service agreements between players and their clubs to provide a system that will :-

- (a) ensure sufficient stability in the membership of Club teams to enable team spirit and public support to be maintained;
- (b) prevent stronger clubs from obtaining an unfair proportion of the best players at the expense of the weaker clubs;
- (c) provide opportunities for players to enter competitions conducted by the Leagues and for an orderly system for :
 - i) players to move between Clubs; and
 - ii) Clubs to move between Leagues;
- (d) provide Clubs with an incentive to expend time, effort and resources in a development of Australian Football;
- (e) provide Junior Leagues and Clubs with the opportunity to expand participation within all levels of under age football.

Under these By-Laws (Rules and Regulations), a player or a Club is restrained in his or its freedom to transfer if it can be demonstrated that the restraint is necessary to achieve the objectives referred to above.

These By-Laws (Rules and Regulations) also establish relevant bodies and a mechanism by which reportable offences and alleged conduct of persons can be referred to, heard and determined by the relevant body.

Australian Football competes with numerous other sports, not only with respect to public attendances but also participation at a junior and senior level. At a time where athletes have numerous choices between competing sports the WACFL and Leagues recognise that it is important to encourage such athletes to play Australia Football.

This can be achieved, in part, if Australian Football is seen not only

as a physical and skilfully demanding sport, but also a sport played within the rules of the game and in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

The WACFL and Leagues consider that Australian Football played within the competitions conducted by the Leagues should aspire to the game being played both competitively and fairly. It is against this background that relevant disciplinary bodies have been established and are given power to impose sanctions (such as suspension or a monetary sanction) in circumstances where the conduct of a person is in breach of rules and regulations applicable to that person of the Laws of Australian Football. The WACFL considers that the imposition of such penalties is reasonably necessary to ensure fair and responsible conduct and thereby encourage participation in Australian Football in the competitions conducted by Leagues affiliated with the WACFL.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Senior Coach:

1. Be familiar with the Laws of Australian Football and abide by the rules and conditions of your League Club.
2. Attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of the WA Australian Football Coaching Association.
3. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and coaching developments.
4. Avoid verbal and physical confrontation with other club's players and officials and umpires at all times – use the League's official vehicle of communication to report any unfair situations that you may believe arise.
5. Don't ask for, but rather earn the respect of your players through your dealings with them and the manner in which you perform your coaching duties.
6. Through your behaviour in the community develop personal respect to enhance the image in your club and Australian Football.
7. Never swear, or use abusive language during the game or when addressing the players. Be mindful of the presence of your people and other spectators.
8. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
9. Treat the umpires and opposition sides with respect.
10. Be aware of the differing needs and attitudes of players of your club, particularly young players.
11. Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in players.
12. Be supportive of activities designed to encourage participation of young players at junior clubs, schools and development programs.
13. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.

Senior Umpires:

1. Regular attendance at training, coaching sessions, social and association activities. Provide prior advice of non attendance to any of the above, if possible; if not provide advice as soon as possible after the event.
2. Display an enthusiastic approach to training, coaching sessions, social and association activities.
3. Encourage and assist fellow umpires, advisers, coaches and observers.
4. Refrain from criticising fellow umpires, advisers, coaches or observers.
5. Accept any feedback or criticism in good spirit, recognising it as an opportunity to identify weaknesses and overcome them.
6. Accept all appointments in a positive manner.
7. Carry out the coaches instructions at training and coaching sessions willingly and without complaint.
8. Always speak positively and enthusiastically about umpires and umpiring.
9. Always do your best.
10. Encourage other people to become involved in umpiring.
11. Present yourself in a friendly and professional manner before, during and after games.
12. Be prepared to assist with training, coaching sessions, social and association activities when asked.
13. Take all opportunities to improve your umpiring.
14. Be a positive role model in behaviour and appearance.
15. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
16. Avoid any situation that may lead to a conflict in interest.

Senior Players

1. At all times abide by the rules of the League in which you compete and the club for which you play. Rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
2. Do not assault or attempt to assault an umpire, another player, official or spectator.
3. Ensure that both on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Swearing is not acceptable.
4. Do not abuse, dispute or react in an obviously provocative or disappointing manner towards an umpire.
5. Conduct yourself at a high level of personal behaviour on and off the field in such a manner so as not to bring the club or the game of Australian Football into disrepute.
6. Develop a respect for the League in which you compete, your club, teammates and opposition.
7. Be willing to be involved in local football development and promotional activities.
8. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.

Junior Football.

Umpires:

1. Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
2. Compliment all participants on their efforts.
3. Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
4. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
5. Ensure that the “spirit of the game” for children is not lost by using common sense and not over emphasising errors.
6. Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
7. Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
8. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
9. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.

Runners/Water Carriers:

1. The runner SHOULD BE AN ADULT.
2. The runner must be clearly identified.
3. The runner's name must be entered in both team books.
4. No abusive language or swearing.
5. Support the decision of the umpires at all times and never question such decision.
6. Not to be involved in melees.
7. Not to man-handle players in any way.

Parents and Spectators:

1. Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing, do not force them.
2. Focus upon the child’s efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage your child to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

6. Remember your child should be involved in football for their enjoyment – not yours.
7. Remember your child learns best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the League and your family. Your assistance to the team that your child is playing in so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your child far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language on gender or race.

Junior Coaches

1. Be familiar with the Laws of Australian Football and abide by the rules and regulations of your league and club.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
3. Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity wherever possible in any competitive practice session.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The "just average" players need and deserve equal time, if not more.
5. Remember that all players involved play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Emphasise the importance of the learning and development of skills and positive attitudes.
Never ridicule or yell at your players for making mistakes or losing a competition.
6. Ensure that equipment and facilities meets safety standards and are appropriate for the age and ability of the players.
7. The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the group.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of qualified people when determining when a player is ready to play or train again.
10. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound junior coaching principles and developments.

11. Attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of the WA Australian Football Coaches Association.
12. Avoid the use of derogatory language based on gender or race.

Junior Players

1. Abide by the rules of the game and rules set down by your coach, club and league.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree have your captain coach or manager approach the official during a break or after competition.
3. Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team Be proud to walk off the ground after each game knowing that you have given your best effort and never involve yourself in an argument with opposing players, umpires or officials.
6. Treat all players as you like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Your involvement to play is for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it.
7. Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them, there would be no game.
8. Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.
9. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.

1. CLEARANCES AND REGISTRATIONS

- 1.1 All clearance applications shall be processed through the relevant Country League/Association in order to be deemed valid.
- 1.2 If an application for a clearance is not returned to the transferee League/Association within fourteen (14) days of having been lodged with the transferor League/Association, and the transferee League/Association has notified the transferor League/Association in writing of its intentions to issue a permit, then such permit shall be granted.
- 1.3 A player may not receive a clearance from one League/Association to another, or, if within the same League/Association, from one club to another, whilst he is disqualified for committing an offence against the Laws of the Game. However, a player under suspension shall still be eligible to apply for a clearance but such application will not be considered

or dealt with until such time as the suspension period expires. Should the period of suspension expire after 30 June, the application will still be active and subject to consideration and decision after the expiry date.

- 1.4 Where a player who is applying for a clearance from one Country League/Association to another has a record of tribunal conviction(s), details of such record shall be attached to the clearance application form. Failure to comply with this By Law renders the offending League/Association liable to a fine, not exceeding \$1,000.
- 1.5 A person wishing to play for a country senior or junior Club shall apply to the Registrar of the controlling body of such designated competition for Registration.
- 1.6 Any player who has played senior football with a designated affiliated Club at any time in a designated affiliated competition who subsequently desires to play for another Club, either in the same competition or another designated affiliated competition, shall be required to obtain a transfer (Clearance) from his present Club, before being eligible to be registered by his new Club. Any application for a Clearance submitted by a player under the age of 18 years must be counter signed by his parent/guardian before it is accepted.
- 1.7 Any player not having played during the previous 24 calendar months shall receive an automatic clearance provided he is not under disqualification or bound by contract to his former Club and this clearance may be granted at any time during the season. Whilst the clearance is automatic the normal clearance papers must be completed and presented.
- 1.8 An application for transfer from one Club to another shall be requested on a form approved by the Country League.
- 1.9 A player who gives false information on an "Application for Transfer" or on a "Registration Form" shall be liable to suspension and/or disqualification as determined by the controlling body to whom such application was made; or a person or body appointed by that controlling body to exercise that power, and any application granted as a result of such false information shall be void.
- 1.10 Where a Club plays a player who is in breach of these rules such Club shall be liable to lose premiership points gained and to such further penalties as the controlling body of that competition or its appointee(s) shall determine.
- 1.11 For percentage purposes, a Club playing an ineligible player will be credited with "no score" and debited with the total score of the opposition. The side

receiving the premiership points will be credited and debited with the full time scores as registered by the official goal umpires.

- 1.12 An "Application for Transfer" shall be valid and accepted providing it has been signed and approved by an Officer of the Club from which the player has sought a transfer (the transferor club) and subsequently recorded by the registrars of both the transferor and transferee controlling bodies and endorsed by them and signed.
- 1.13 The registrar of a controlling body shall not refuse to endorse an application for transfer which has been approved by the transferor club except if the player making the application is under suspension, is financially encumbered to that controlling body or under 18 years of age and does not have the supporting signature of his parent/guardian.
- 1.14 A player having lodged an "Application for Transfer" with the registrar of the transferee body, the registrar shall record such application and endorse the recording number and dates of application on it and forward it to the transferor body by the first available means of communication for immediate action and reply. If such application remains unanswered after 14 days (clear) of despatch, it shall be deemed to have been answered in the affirmative and the registrar of the transferee body shall advise the transferor body that a permit to play has been granted. When an Application to Transfer is transmitted by computer process (electronic mail or on-line), the Club or League/Association official must keep the original application signed by the player making it for a period of 12 months, and produce it upon request by an official of the existing or intending League/Association.
- 1.15 Any subsequent appeals by the transferor body to have such "Permit to Play" revoked shall be determined by, and under the constitution of, the Appeals Board of the Country League. Where it is a local matter ie between Clubs within an individual League/Association such appeals shall be heard initially by that League/Association Appeals Board.
- 1.16 A player having lodged an "Application for Transfer" shall not subsequently lodge a second application until the first application has been answered, EXCEPT that where a player may have left a Club within the jurisdiction of a Controlling Body within the previous 24 calendar months and subsequently wishes to play with another Club under the same jurisdiction and is required to obtain a transfer from his original Club, he shall be permitted to lodge both applications at the same time. If he has not played for his "previous club" for 24 calendar months, a clearance from that club is not required.
- 1.17 A player whose "Application for Transfer" is refused by a Club from which he is seeking such Transfer, may lodge a second or subsequent application

immediately the transferee registrar has been advised that the previous application has been refused.

- 1.18 If a second subsequent application is refused, the player may appeal to the Appeals Board of the WACFL in accordance with the Rules of the Appeals Board to have his application granted. Where it is a local matter i.e. between Clubs within an individual League/Associations such appeals shall be heard initially by that League/Association Appeals Board.
- 1.19 A player who wishes to apply for a transfer from one club to another shall lodge an application for such transfer no earlier than the first day of February and not later than 4.00 p.m. on the thirtieth day of June. Any "Application for Transfer" lodged on or before the 30 June and subsequently refused after the 30 June, then the second application may be lodged after the 30 June (the 2nd application must be responded to within 5 working days Mon – Fri) and if again refused, that player then has the right of appeal. Where a player is genuinely transferred in his employment to another branch of the same employer's business to the relevant Country Association, after that date he may make an "Application for Transfer" prior to the commencement of the final round games subject to a written statement from his employer verifying that he has been:
- a) Legitimately transferred in his employment; and
 - b) Has been on the permanent payroll of the employer for at least three months prior to his notification of transfer.
 - c) This provision shall apply equally to children under the age of 18 years whose parent/guardian has been so transferred in their employment.

Any transfer under this rule shall be subject to the player being granted a "Permit to Play" by the Permit Committee of the controlling body to which the player has been transferred.

- 1.20 A Club or Controlling Body which refuses to grant an application for transfer lodged by a player shall be required to state on the application its reason for refusing to grant the application. Such reasons for refusal, together with the players stated reasons for seeking a transfer, shall be the basis on which any subsequent appeal shall be determined. Failure to do so may be taken into consideration by an Appeals Board in any relevant subsequent appeal.
- 1.21 An "Application for Transfer" shall not be granted or refused conditionally, by relevant notations on the transfer form except by the WACFL Appeals Board.
- 1.22 For the purpose of these rules, the registrar of a controlling body shall maintain a register of:

- a) All registrations issued by him; and of
 - b) All "Applications for Transfer" either inward or outward handled by him, including the date which they were received, the date on which they were answered and whether they were granted or refused, together with any relevant details.
- 1.23 Notwithstanding all or any of the above rules, a player who transfers from another state to Western Australia, may make application for a transfer from that State to the Club with which he wishes to play on INTERSTATE Form 2 as approved by the WAFL. On lodgement of the application the player may play immediately on the condition that he is not under suspension, not under contract and is not indebted to his previous Club. If a player who has left Western Australia to play in another State and who subsequently returns to Western Australia shall be required to obtain a transfer from the last Club with which he played before leaving Western Australia before playing for any other Club, as well as an Interstate transfer. If the player has not played with any West Australian Country Football League club in the previous 24 calendar months, a transfer from the last club he played with in this State is not required.
- 1.24 In the context of these rules, an Official or Officials of a Club may act or negotiate with other parties concerned on behalf of a player in their mutual interests of the Club and the player.
- 1.25 A player may only play in one Affiliated Country League/Association during any one weekend or long weekend.

2. SIGNING OF FORMS BY PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

- 2.1 Any official forms (eg. permit, registration or clearance form) signed by a player under the age of eighteen (18) years will not be considered valid unless it is counter-signed by his parent or legal guardian.

3. DUAL REGISTRATION

- 3.1 Fly in – Fly out Employment
- 3.1.1 Employees located in country locations on a “fly in-fly out” basis will be permitted to play with a club in the district of their temporary residence without the need to obtain a clearance from their original club.
- 3.1.2 These players, on producing a certificate from their employer certifying that they are employed on a “fly in-fly out” arrangement and a copy of their work schedule, can be registered with a club in the country League/Association in

which they are temporarily residing in addition to their original club. A copy of his registration must be provided to the player's original; League.

NOTE: Leagues and players must be aware that dual registered players whose "first" club is affiliated with the WA Amateur Football League will invalidate their qualifications for registration with that League if they accept match payment fees whilst playing with their "second" club.

3.1.3 These players will be eligible to play in final round matches in both competitions providing they satisfy the qualifying number of games in each.

3.1.4 Provided also that in accordance with Rule 1.25, a player may play in only one affiliated league/association on any one weekend. In addition, players can play with their "second" club only on those weekends they are in their temporary location on their normal "fly in-fly out" employment schedule.

3.1.5 Furthermore, should the employment of the "fly in-fly out" arrangement cease, the dual registration will also cease, and the player if remaining at his temporary location must seek a clearance from his original club before being permitted to continue playing with their "second" club. Such application can be made at any time during the season.

3.1.6 Should the player still be employed on a "fly in-fly out" basis but desires to transfer to another club in the League/Association where he is temporarily residing, or to another League/Association to which he may be transferred in his "fly in – fly out" employment, he must gain a clearance from his second club before being permitted to play with any new club.

3.1.7 Should a player be reported and suspended in either of his dual League competitions a report including date of the incident, details of his offence and length of suspension must be forwarded to his other dual League. That player will not be eligible to play in either competition until such time as the full period of his suspension has expired.

3.2 HIGH SCHOOL, TAFE, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MURESK AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

3.2.1 Students living away from home attending a high school, TAFE, Agriculture College Muresk or University may be registered to play with a club at their temporary location without the need to obtain a clearance from their home club.

3.2.2 They may return to play with their home club at any time during the season without the need for a special permit, but can only play in one affiliated League/Association on any one weekend.

3.2.3 If the student desires to transfer to another club in the League/Association in which he is temporarily residing, or if he transfers to another location to continue his studies, he must obtain a clearance from his second club before being permitted to play with any new club.

3.2.4 Provided they play the required number of qualifying games, they will be permitted to play in final round matches in both Leagues/Associations.

3.2.5 On completion of their studies, their dual registration will cease and they must obtain a clearance from their home club before being permitted to play with any other club.

3.3 EXPIRY OF DUAL REGISTRATIONS

3.1 Each dual registration will expire at the completion of each season, and players desiring to continue to play under the dual registration conditions will need to re-register in the new season.

4. TRANSFER FEES

4.1 No WACFL Club shall offer, pay, demand or receive a transfer fee for a player transferring between two WACFL Clubs.

4.2 In the event of a WACFL Club or Clubs being found in breach of this rule, the matter shall be referred to the WACFL Executive for adjudication and if necessary, penalty.

5. COACHING ACCREDITATION

5.1 All Country Leagues/Associations shall adopt a policy to ensure that coaches of all affiliated Clubs are accredited to at least Level 1 prior to the 30 June of the year of appointment.

5.2 Leagues/Associations are to impose some form of penalty if the unaccredited coach continues to coach without obtaining the required Accreditation. Penalties should be in the form of a financial fine for the club involved, and/or the loss of match points for matches won.

5.3 League will be subjected to funding penalties if found to be non-compliant.

6. COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.1 Only Leagues/Associations directly affiliated with the Country League are eligible to participate in events sponsored by the WACFL such as the Annual Country Championships.

7. WEEKLY PERMITS

A weekly permission form is used to allow a player to play on a weekly basis without a formal transfer. The weekly permission form also acts as a temporary registration form for the day of the game only. It also satisfies the registration requirements for selection in the State 18's squad and for inclusion in the AFL draft.

7.1 For use in the WAFL League Competition

A weekly permit may not be used for a player to play in the WAFL league competition.

7.2 For use in the WAFL Reserves Competition

Players qualifying for the WAFL Reserves competition coming from Country Leagues (Colts, Reserves or League) shall be permitted to play with a WAFL Reserves side on Weekly Permission Forms beyond the 30 June. The number of Weekly Permission Forms that can be used is unlimited and players will be eligible to participate in the WAFL Reserves finals on a weekly permit provided that they have played in at least five games for the Club in the Reserves or Colts grade during the year.

7.3 For use in the WAFL Colts Competition

7.3.1. Players qualifying for the WAFL Colts competition coming from Country Leagues (Colts, Reserves or League), shall be permitted to play with a WAFL Colts side on Weekly Permission Forms beyond the 30 June.

7.3.2. The number of Weekly Permission forms that can be used is unlimited and players will be eligible to participate in the WAFL Colts Finals on a weekly permit provided that they have played in at least one game on a permit in the Colts competition through the current season.

7.4 Weekly Permission Form - WAFL Players transferring to Country Leagues

7.4.1. Players of a WAFL Club are permitted to play on six (6) Weekly Permission Forms to 30 June in each year with a Country Club provided that permits are only issued to a WAFL player to play with one Country League Club.

7.4.2 WAFL players are permitted to play in only one football game on a weekend or long week-end. Issuing a permit for a second game contravenes the spirit of player welfare that this rule is based upon.

7.5 Number of Weekly Permission Forms per Country Team

7.5.1 Weekly Permits from WAFL Clubs back to Country Clubs, are restricted to a maximum of two (2) players per country team at any one time.

7.6 Country Player Transferring to Metropolitan Club (Not WAFL)

7.6.1 A country player who transfers to a metropolitan Club other than a WAFL Club, shall remain tied to his original zoned WAFL Club for a period of eighteen (18) months, from the date of his transfer from the country Club, notwithstanding that should he attain the age of 19 years and not be listed by his zoned club, he is then eligible to join a club of his choice.

7.6.2 If a country player under 19 years of age wishes to transfer to a WAFL Club that he is not zoned to, he shall only be eligible to be registered after receiving a transfer from his Country Club and zoned WAFL Club.

8. CLUBS TRANSFERRING

8.1 Where a Country Club wishes to transfer from one League/Association to another, that Club must apply to the Executive for permission to do so, after seeking the approval of both Leagues/Associations concerned. Failure by one or both of these Leagues/Associations to approve does not prevent the Country Club from making the application.

8.2 Any application to transfer must be lodged with the WACFL by 30 November to be considered for the following football season. The hearing of any such application by the WACFL must be completed within twenty-one (21) days. When unusual circumstances prevail, the General Manager may extend the period but the spirit of the rule is that any such application shall be heard as soon as possible.

8.3 If permission is granted by the Executive, the players of that Club shall be automatically cleared to the new League/Association except those players under disqualification or those financially encumbered to the original League/Association. The League/Association Official from which the Club is transferring shall supply a certified list of all registered eligible players of the Club concerned to the Club's new League/Association. Those players under suspension or financially encumbered will be cleared individually upon the appropriate application once their suspension or commitment to their previous League/Association has been satisfied.

9. CLUBS AMALGAMATING OR DISBANDING

- 9.1 If a player's club has disbanded, the player must obtain a clearance from his club's official appointed for this purpose and his League/Association. The disbanded club retains the right to refuse applications from players who are financially indebted to the club.
- 9.2 Where a player's club amalgamates with another club or clubs, the player shall automatically become attached to the combined club.

10. CLUBS IN RECESS

- 10.1 Clubs in recess must pay an Affiliation Fee including public liability to the level on one senior team.
- 10.2 After a period of two years in recess, the club in recess will be deemed to have disbanded unless after an application from the club, the WACFL extends the term.

11. UMPIRES

Each Country Club shall appoint a responsible senior person to act as Umpires Welfare Officer, and his responsibilities shall be:

- 11.1 To meet and assist the umpire upon his arrival.
- 11.2 To join him at quarter time (1/4) and three quarter (3/4) time intervals, together with the boundary and goal umpires and to move to him immediately the half time and final sirens goes and escort him from the ground.

This regulation shall apply to officials from each Club at all matches, irrespective of where the match is played.

- 11.3 To supervise entry to the umpires room or area and any approach to the umpire by an unauthorised person.

12. WACFL APPEAL TRIBUNAL

- 12.1 There shall be an appeal tribunal, which shall hear and determine all appeals, in the best interests of Australian Football in general.
- 12.2 The appeal tribunal shall consist of three (3) members of the Executive, one of whom shall act as Chairman.

- 12.3 Any member of the Executive who may be considered an interested party of a particular appeal shall be excluded from the appeal tribunal for the hearing of that appeal.
- 12.4 In the case of an emergency, an Executive member of Country League may be co-opted onto the appeal tribunal.
- 12.5 Any person or body affiliated with the Country League may apply to have an appeal heard by the WACFL Appeals Tribunal.

13. APPEALS GENERAL

- 13.1 The General Manager of the Country League shall immediately upon receipt of a notice of appeal, transmit it to the Chairman for the time being, of the Appeal Tribunal. A copy of such notice of appeal shall be forwarded by facsimile or mail on behalf of the player or person lodging the appeal, to the other party or parties involved in the appeal, within seven (7) days of lodgement.
- 13.2 An appeal concerning an application to transfer shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars. An appeal by a club or individual against an administrative decision of a Country League/Association shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee of five hundred (\$500) dollars. All or part of these fees will be non refundable at the discretion of the WACFL.
- 13.3 An appeal against a penalty handed down by a local Country League's Independent Tribunal for a transgression against the laws of the game will be referred to the WAFL Tribunal. Any such appeal must be accompanied by the prescribed fee of one thousand (\$1000) dollars which may be totally or partially retained at the discretion of the WACFL. All such appeals will be heard in Perth at a place appointed by the WAFL.
- 13.4 The Appeal Tribunal shall be empowered to impose a fine of up to five hundred (\$500) dollars on any Club or person considered responsible for a frivolous appeal or who is considered by the Appeal Tribunal to be guilty of a misdemeanour in connection with an appeal.
- 13.5 The WACFL or WAFL Appeal Tribunal shall hear any appeal within a period of fourteen (14) days of lodgement of such appeal. When unusual or extenuating circumstances prevail the General Manager may extend the period of fourteen (14) days but the spirit of the rule is that any appeal shall be heard as soon as possible.

- 13.6 The person or body making the appeal and the body against whom the appeal has been made, shall be the parties to the appeal and each shall be entitled to appear upon the hearing of such appeal with such representative as he or it shall nominate, provided that such representative shall not be a person legally qualified to practice as a barrister and/or a solicitor.
- 13.7 The decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final and conclusive, but an appeal may be re-opened at the discretion of the Appeal Tribunal Chairman if fresh evidence is produced.
- 13.8 Each of the paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of the By Law No 13 is intended to be constituted separately and independently from each other paragraph and sub-paragraph and in the event of any one of such paragraphs or sub-paragraphs being held, to be invalid for any reason whatsoever such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining paragraphs or sub-paragraphs.

TRANSFER/CLEARANCE

- 13.9 A player or person who desires to transfer from one country Club to another country Club, may, after having two (2) successive applications refused in any one season, appeal to the Appeal Tribunal against such refusals. Where it is a local matter ie between Clubs within an individual League/Association such appeals shall be heard initially by that League/Association Appeals Board.
- 13.10 An appeal to the Appeals Tribunal shall be lodged in writing with the General Manager of the Country League, together with the two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) fee, within fourteen (14) days of the date upon which the second or subsequent last application has been refused. Such notice of appeal shall have attached to it a further clearance application completed by the player or person. Copies of previous refused clearances by the transferor Club must be presented to the Tribunal.
- 13.11 The Appeal Tribunal may grant or refuse a clearance to the player or person appealing to it, and in reaching its decision the Appeal Tribunal shall consider and take into account all the circumstances and matters relevant to the application for clearance in respect of which the appeal has been made, including, but without being limited to:
- 13.11.1 The interest of the public and the game of Australian football.
- 13.11.2 The interest of the club from whom the clearance has been sought.
- 13.11.3 The interest of the club to whom the clearance is sought.

- 13.11.4 The interest in all respects of the player or person making the appeal.
 - 13.11.5 Any hardship whether financial or otherwise likely to be suffered by the player or person making the appeal in the event of the appeal being disallowed and a clearance refused.
 - 13.11.6 The age of the player or person making the appeal.
 - 13.11.7 The interests of the Country League/Associations involved.
 - 13.11.8 The service given by and the value of the player or person appealing to the Club from which such clearance is sought.
- 13.12 The Appeal Tribunal may decide to grant a clearance on such conditions as it shall consider fair and reasonable in all the circumstances having regards to the matters referred to in Rule 12.1 hereof.
- 13.13 In the event of the Appeal Tribunal deciding that it will grant a clearance subject to conditions, the Appeal Tribunal may not grant the clearance until the conditions imposed have been fulfilled.
- 13.14 Where the Appeal Tribunal allows the appeal of the players or person and grants the clearance the Chairman shall endorse the necessary documents accordingly and take any further action required to progress the decision of the Appeal Tribunal and the granting of such clearance.

14. LEAGUE/ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

- 14.1 Leagues/Associations should refer to the “Standard Tribunal Guidelines and Penalties for Community Football” issued by the WAFC for information and guidance on Independent Tribunal matters.

15. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 15.1 All affiliated Leagues/Associations and Clubs are to introduce the appropriate Risk Management procedures as outlined in the Risk Management Manual. All affiliated members of the Country League are to adopt this policy and use of the Match Day Check List as outlined. Each League/Association shall be responsible in ensuring that each Club completes the Check List as outlined and that the storage of the Check Lists are kept in a safe secure place for a period of seven (7) years from the date of the Check List.

16. ORDER OFF RULE

- 16.1 Leagues/Associations should refer to the “Standard Order Off Rule for Community Football” issued by the WAFC.

17. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION

- 17.1 No player in his capacity as a player of a club or, in the course of carrying out his duties or functions or as incidental to a player of a Club or any director, officer, servant or agent of a Club (including without limitations, any coach, Assistant Coach, trainer, medical officer, runner or person entitled to enter the arena during the course of or prior to or during any break in play in any match) shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (the person vilified) on the basis of that person’s race, religion, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.
- 17.2 In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened 17.1, an umpire, club or player may by 5.00 pm on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing with the person appointed from time to time by the League/Association as the Complaints Officer for the purpose of this Rule.
- 17.3 The League/Association shall:
- 17.3.1 Inform the person alleged to have contravened Rule 17.1 of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to it.
- 17.3.2 Arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.
- 17.4 Where the League/Association is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation, the League/Association shall:
- 17.4.1 In the case of a player, refer the complaint to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football;
or
- 17.4.2 In the case of any other person, refer the complaint to the League/Association to be dealt with under By-Law 11.
- 17.5 Where a person alleged to have contravened Rule 17.1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than the person vilified), the League/Association may refer the complaint directly to the Tribunal to be dealt with as a

reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football in the case of a player; or directly to the League/Association in the case of any other person.

- 17.6 Any conciliation referred to in 17.3 shall be conducted by the nominee of the League/Association, subject to the approval of the Country League.
- 17.7 In the event that a complaint is referred to the League/Association Tribunal under 17.4, no evidence shall be given to or accepted by the Tribunal or the League/Association relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to 17.3.
- 17.8 In the event that a Complaints Officer has not been appointed for the purposes of these Rules, or if the appointed is for any reason unavailable to act under these Rules, the Complaints Officer for the purpose of these Rules shall be the League/Association Secretary/General Manager.
- 17.9 The Complaints Officer shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that conciliation of a complaint under 17.3 is completed by 5.00 pm on the fifth working day following the day on which the incident is alleged to have occurred.
- 17.10 In the case where the Complaints Officer determines to refer the complaint to the Tribunal or the League/Association, the complaint shall be referred in time for the Tribunal or the League/Association as the case may be, to deal with within 48 hours of any cessation in the conciliation process.
- 17.11 Any time limit for the doing of anything referred to in this Rule may be extended by the League/Association if in the opinion of the League/Association, it is just and equitable to do so.
- 17.12 In the event that a complaint under these Rules in respect of conduct engaged in by a person is found to have been proven by the Tribunal or where the League/Association determines that a person involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League/Association, the Club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the League/Association, a penalty determined by the League/Association.
- 17.13 Rule 17.12 does not apply to a contravention by a person if in the opinion of the League/Association, the Club took all reasonable steps to prevent persons employed, engaged or otherwise associated with the Club from engaging in the conduct which contravened the vilification rules.

18. OFFICIAL CLUB RUNNERS/TRAINERS/WATER CARRIER

- 18.1 No person who is a registered player or an official of any Club who is under disqualification or suspension by his home club or League/Association shall act an official runner, trainer or water carrier in any competition match or any other match in which a WACFL affiliated club or League/Association is participating.
- 18.2 All official runners, trainers and water carriers are to be dressed in a uniform determined by the League/Association.
- 18.3 The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of his/her club and to immediately leave the playing arena.
- 18.4 The sole duty of a water carrier shall be to convey water to player and to immediately leave the playing arena.
- 18.5 The duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.
- 18.6 The officiating field umpire may upon infringement of the rule order the runner, trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the arena for a period of 15 minutes.
- 18.7 Any infringement of this rule or other infringement reported by the officiating field umpie shall be referred to the League's/Association's Independent Tribunal.

19. FORFEITED MATCHES

- 19.1 If the match is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the match, the teams shall depart the arena for twenty (20) minutes).
- 19.2 If the match is unable to recommence within such twenty (20) minutes period, should the game be terminated before half time, then the result would be declared a draw and each team awarded two premiership points. Their respective scores at the time would count for the purposes of percentage.
- 19.3 If the match has progressed beyond the half time interval and is unable to proceed at any time within the time schedule for the match, the teams shall depart from the arena for twenty (20) minutes. If the match is unable to recommence within such twenty (20) minutes period, then the result would be declared on the basis of scores at half time. This being the first point of the game where all things are deemed to be equal.

- 19.4 Unless otherwise determined by the League/Association, a field umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a match is unable to commence or proceed. A field umpire must determine that a match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or within the immediate proximity of the venue where the match is being conducted.
- 19.5 Where a team is directed to recommence play by a field umpires and the team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match in which case, By-law 19.6 applies.
- 19.6 Where a team forfeits a match, the full match premiership points shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit. The team receiving the forfeit shall be credited with the average number of points scored against the forfeiting team and debited with the average number of points scored by the forfeiting team to the date of forfeit. The forfeiting team shall be debited with the average number of points scored against it in that season by the team receiving the forfeit to the date of the forfeit and credited with the average number of points it has scored to that date.
- 19.7 Where a match result is altered by protest or dispute, the team winning the protest or dispute is to be awarded full premiership points. Points scored for and against in such a match to be recorded as usual.

20. UNBECOMING BEHAVIOUR

- 20.1 Each League/Association shall appoint an Investigation Officer to investigate any matter referred to him pursuant to the following:
- 20.1.1. The League/Association, Executive members, club, player who alleges that a player, or an official of a club, umpire has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official of club or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, may lodge with the League/Association, a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. Unless the notice is lodged by the League/Association, a deposit of \$200 shall accompany the Notice, which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers the allegation to be frivolous.
- 20.1.2. A Notice under 20.1.1 must be lodged with the League/Association within 5 days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the League/Association agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to by the

League/Association may be subject to such conditions as the League/Association thinks fit.

- 20.1.3. Notice of any allegation received under 20.1.1 shall be referred to the Investigation Officer by him. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit. Such investigation shall be completed within twentyone (21) days of the matter being referred to him, unless at the completion of the twentyone (21) days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) days is then granted by the League/Association at the request of the Investigation Officer.
- 20.1.4 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 or official; or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that allegations ought to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal as herein under provided, he may lodge with the League/Association a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.
- 20.1.5. If a Notice is lodged with the League/Association under 20.1.4 and the League/Association Executive determine that the matter should be referred to the Independent Tribunal, the League/Association Secretary/General Manager shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation before the Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than nine (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 20.1.4.
- 20.1.6. Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player, official or club prior to the hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and the club at least 48 hours prior to the hearing and the charged player, official or club shall be informed at that time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses.
- 20.1.7. In any proceeding brought before a tribunal under this by law. The Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the League/Association.
- 20.1.8. If the Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the player, official or club in question has engaged in unbecoming behaviour or conduct which has or is unlikely 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 Independent Tribunal may:-

- Impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the player, official or club in question; or
- May suspend the player, official or club in question for such period as it thinks fit.

21. DOPING POLICY

21.1 The Doping Policy of the Australian Football Foundation for the time being in force, shall apply to and be binding upon all Leagues, Associations and bodies affiliated with the AFL or affiliated with an Affiliated body of the AFL.

22. WAFL/AFL TRANSFER FEES

22.1 When a player plays his first WAFL league game, a transfer fee of \$500 is payable to his country club within 30 days. His country club must issue an invoice to the WAFL Club before payment can be made.

22.2 When a player plays his twentieth WAFL league game, a transfer fee of \$500 is payable to the country regional development committee within 30 days.

22.3 Should a country player be drafted in the AFL from a WAFL club before reaching any of the above milestones, the WAFL club will pay the appropriate transfer fee(s) within 30 days of receiving payment from the AFL.

22.4 Payment of transfer fees is the responsibility of the WAFL club to which the player is registered at the time he achieves the milestone. It is guaranteed by the WAFC in that they will deduct the amount from payments due to WAFL clubs if necessary.

22.5 A country player is one whose parents are permanent residents in the country.

22.6 The Football Operations Manager of the WAFL and the Manager of the WACFL will resolve any dispute on payment of transfer fees.