

WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION, RULES & REGULATIONS

AFFILIATION

- 1 This body shall be called “West Australian Football Association” members thereof shall consist of such clubs at present affiliated with the League and such other Clubs which from time to time apply for affiliation and are accepted on a three-fourths majority of the League Council.

In this Constitution and any Rules and By-Laws or Regulations made under this Constitution the use of the word “League” shall mean the WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

ALTERATION OF RULES

These Rules shall not be altered, repealed or added to except upon a resolution carried by a three-fourths majority of the League Council at a meeting thereof 21 days notice of which, together with a copy of the proposed alteration, amendment or new Rule, has been given.

2. OFFICE

The office and principal place of business of the League shall be the League Office presently situated at Subiaco Oval, Subiaco Road Subiaco, or at such place as the League shall from time to time direct.

3. OBJECTS

The objects shall be:

- (a) The encouragement promotion and arranging of matches and competitions of the Australian game of football as played under the Laws of Australian Football as adopted by the National Football League of Australia.
- (b) The encouragement of any other sports, games and pastimes the League Council may at any time consider appropriate.
- (c) The promotion of such activities between members of the League and their friends at venues from time to time selected to engage in such activities.
- (d) The amalgamation or affiliation with other kindred sporting associations.
- (e) The consideration and decision of all disputes and matters in which the League or any Member Clubs or Members thereof or any players shall be concerned in any matters whatsoever.

- (f) The framing of By-Laws and Regulations to conduct the affairs of the League in accordance with the Constitution of the WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.
- (g) Non Profit Making - the income and property of the League when so ever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise howsoever to its members provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith or remuneration to any officer or servant of the League for services actively rendered to the League.

4. CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE LEAGUE:

- (a) The control and management of the affairs of the League shall be by a Board of three Directors.
Two Directors shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (b) The Board of Directors and Delegates Panel shall constitute the League Council for the purpose of determining all matters under which these Rules and By-Laws require a resolution of the League Council and matters which the Board of Directors consider should be ratified at a League Council Meeting.
- (c) A quorum for a League Council meeting shall be two (2) Directors and two-thirds (2/3rds) of members of the Delegates Panel.
- (d) There shall be a Delegate Panel consisting of one (1) Delegate from each member Club admitted to the League. Each member Club shall nominate two (2) people who will act as Delegates for their Club and such Delegates shall hold office until the appointment of a successor by their Club. No appointment shall be effective until written notice thereof signed by the Secretary or Manager of their Club has been given to the Board of Directors of the League.

5. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Any Australian Football Club which shall desire to become a Member of the League under the Rules of the West Australian Football Association shall submit an application in writing to the Executive Officer prior to the 31st day of January. Such application shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the Club, and shall state the name of the Club and all relevant details as required by the Board of Directors.
- (b) On receipt of application the Executive Officer of the League shall notify the Chairman of Directors who shall convene a Meeting of the League Council no later than the 15th December to consider such application.

- (c) Upon admission any new Club shall pay a non-returnable application fee and a bond as determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the League Council. The bond shall be held by the League in trust for a period of three years. Said bond to be forfeited if the Club fails to complete three years membership of the League.
On the completion of three years said bond plus interest is to be returned to the Club from lodgment date.

(d) REGISTRATION OF RULES OF CLUBS:

Forthwith upon admission being granted to the League: every Club shall deposit with the Executive Officer a copy of the Rules of such Club and shall also deposit with the Executive Officer a copy of every amendment thereof certified as aforesaid within 14 days after such amendment shall have been made.

(e) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

- (i) An annual Affiliation Fee shall be paid by each Club admitted to the League and shall be an amount fixed by the Board of Directors of the League and ratified at the Annual General Meeting. Payments by the Clubs shall be in five (5) installments due on 1st April, 1st May, 1st June, 1st July and 1st August each year and all payments are to be made within 14 days of the above date each year with the proviso that no club team may participate in final round matches if unfinancial for any monies due to the League by way of affiliations, fines, functions or accounts for sporting goods or services.

Any Club unfinancial for any monies due to the League as at the 1st November will be in-eligible to participate and or vote at meetings called for the transaction of any business of the League until that Club is fully financial. If the Club is still unfinancial as at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, that Club may surrender all rights and privileges to play in the WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION competition.

- (ii) “The Directors shall call for nominations for participation in the competitions annually by 31st January each year. A nomination fee, set by the Directors, shall be paid with the nomination, and shall be credited to the first affiliation fee the following year.”

(f) FINANCIAL YEAR:

The financial year of the League shall commence on the first day of November and end on the 31st day of October each year.

(g) TEAMS TO BE PLAYED:

of the results of nominations at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which Directors are to be elected. All nominations must be lodged in writing with the Returning Officer either by post or facsimile at the League Office or the nominated address as advertised. The Returning Officer will be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall handle all matters in relation to the election.

- (b) A person who is a continuing member of the Committee of Management or an employee of a League Club shall not be eligible for election to the Board of Directors of the League. Eligibility will not be negated by a retiring Club Member finishing his term providing it is within one (1) month from his election to the League Directorship.
- (c) The election of the Board of Directors shall be by secret ballot by the League Council.
- (d) Directors shall be appointed to hold office for a period of two (2) years, except that at the Annual General Meeting when more than two new Directors are required, the two candidates each receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be elected for a period of two years. The candidates receiving the next highest number of votes cast shall be elected for a period of one (1) year.
Where the number of votes cast for any two or more candidates are equally divided then the election of those candidates shall be declared void and a new election shall be held for those candidates. If the numbers of votes cast for each candidate are again equally divided, then the matter shall be determined by a toss of a coin.

Subject to 6(b) all Directors shall be eligible for re-election on the expiration of their term of office.

Directors shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which their term of office expires.

- (e) The Annual General Meeting of the League Council shall be held not later than 15th December in each year.
- (f) The Board of Directors may be offered a remuneration as determined at the Annual General Meeting.
- (g) The Board of Directors may fill any vacancy occurring during its term of office but the person appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the League Council or Special General Meeting convened to appoint a new Board of Directors.
- (h) All acts done by the Board of Directors shall, notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the election of any such Director or that they or any of them disqualified, shall be valid as if every such person had been duly elected and was qualified to be a

Director, any resolution of an invalid meeting may be validated by subsequent resolution of the Board of Directors.

- (i) On election, the Board of Directors shall appoint from amongst its members one Director as Chairman of Directors of the League and who will hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.
- (j) The continuing Directors may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their body.

7. DUTIES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Management and control of the affairs of the League are vested in the Board of Directors who without limiting the generality of the foregoing shall have the following powers and duties:-

- (a) To appoint and fix the terms and salary and conditions of employees as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine and to delegate to any person so appointed any of the duties specified by the rules or as the Board determines. In the making of such appointments the decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.
The salary or remuneration to be paid to any employee shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Such salary or remuneration to be paid in equal fortnightly installments commencing from the date of appointment.
- (b) To appoint sub committees composed of such persons as the Board of Directors may think fit to investigate any matter in any way relating to the affairs of the League or to perform such duties as the Board of Directors may determine and the Board of Directors may regulate the proceedings of all such sub-committees. Members of sub-committees need not be Directors.
- (c) To ensure that Minutes are kept of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of such other meetings as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.
- (d) To deal with all necessary correspondence.
- (e) To make and give receipts, release and other discharges for money payable to the League or any other claims of demands of the League and to ensure that a correct account of all such transactions is kept.
- (f) To open an account at a financial institution approved by the Board of Directors into which all monies received by the League shall be deposited, and to authorize the payment there from by cheque of all claims against the League by suppliers of goods, chattels and services to the League. In so doing the foregoing the Board shall authorize

persons to sign cheques on any such account and endorse cheques or any such documents on behalf of the League.

- (g) To ensure proper books of account are kept of the League assets and liabilities and day to day transactions and that the books are balanced at the end of the League financial year ready for annual Audit by an Auditor or Auditors.
- (h) To buy or take on exchange or otherwise acquire any real or personal property for the League and to sell any real or personal property of the League for cash or on terms or by auction or by private contract, to exchange any real or personal property of the League for any other property and to do any such thing on such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may think fit.
- (I) To invest monies of the League not immediately required for the purposes thereof in any form of investment thought appropriate by the Board of Directors and from time to time to vary or realise such investments.
- (j) The West Australian Football Association has the inherent power to institute proceedings against any body corporate, person or incorporated sporting body in relation to any outstanding fees, subscriptions, or general monies owing to the League.
- (k) To enter into all such negotiations and contracts and rescind and vary all such contracts and execute and do all such acts, deeds, as the Board of Directors may consider desirable for the performance of their duties.
- (l) To frame and constitute such by-laws and regulations for the conduct of the League's affairs, the control of football games, or affiliated football competitions as the Board of Directors determines.
- (m) **SEAL.**

The Board of Directors shall provide for the safe custody of the seal, which shall only be used on the authority of the Board of Directors, and every instrument to which to seal is affixed shall be signed by a Director and be countersigned by the Executive Officer or by a second Director or by some other person appointed by the Board of Directors for the purpose. Until other provisions have been made the persons authorised to use the Common Seal shall be the Chairman of Directors and Executive Officer.

- (n) **AUDITORS:**

The Board of Directors shall appoint an auditor or auditors at such remuneration (to be paid from League funds) as it determines. The auditors shall examine the books, accounts, receipt and other financial

records of the League for the year in which they are appointed. The auditors finding any deficiency in money or goods shall report the same immediately to the Board of Directors. The auditors shall submit an annual audit report to the Board of Directors for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

(o) **INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL:**

This Tribunal which will be constituted by 3 people one of whom will be the Chairman (with equal voting rights) as determined by the Board of Directors. The tribunal shall be empowered to act in accordance with the powers laid down in rule 12 (b) and (d). The investigating chairman or tribunal shall exercise the following functions and its decision shall be final and no appeal will be allowed:

(i) Hear all charges or protests referred to it by the Board of Directors, Executive Officer or Operations Manager.

(ii) Hear all witnesses to the incident as the Chairman of the Tribunal deems in his or their absolute discretion to be relevant.

(iii) The Board of Directors and official observers appointed by the League may prefer charges against players, clubs, coaches or officials of any clubs in respect of matters arising out of or in the course of any game. Any charge or protest shall be lodged in writing and received in the League's office within 48 hours after the conclusion of the match in which the incident occurred.

8. PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(a) The duties of the Chairman shall be to preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, League Council and other meetings at which his attendance is required and ensure that such meetings are conducted in a proper manner. He shall also represent the League at official functions and inter-League Competitions.

(b) Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened firstly at the Annual General Meeting by the Chairman after the election of the new Board of Directors, and then at the subsequent meetings a date shall be fixed for the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Such meetings shall be convened at least once each six weeks.

(c) The Chairman may at his discretion and shall on the request of two Directors or four Delegates convene Special Meetings of the Board of Directors or League Council whichever is applicable.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, questions arising at any Meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and a determination by a majority of the Board of Directors and shall for all purposes be deemed a determination of the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall have the casting vote.

- (e) A Director shall not vote in respect of any matter concerning the League in which they have a financial interest or any matter arising there from and if they do so their vote shall not be counted.
- (f) A resolution in writing, signed by the Board of Directors shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board of Directors duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by the three Directors.
- (g) **SUB COMMITTEES:**

Any sub-committee shall in the exercise of the powers delegated by the Board of Directors conform to any rules or directives that may be imposed by the Board of Directors. Subject to any determination by the Board of Directors, a sub-committee may elect a Chairman of its Meetings; if no such Chairman is elected or if at any meeting the Chairman is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for holding the Meeting, the members present may choose one of their number to be Chairman of the Meeting.

- (h) A sub-Committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper. Questions arising at any Meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and in the case of any equality of votes the motion shall fail unless the Chairman is a member of the Board of Directors in which case the Chairman may vote to resolve the deadlock.

9. LEAGUE COUNCIL:

- (a) A League Council Meeting shall be convened after the Annual General Meeting and prior to commencement of the official fixtures of the West Australian Football Association. The Executive shall give seven (7) clear days notice in writing to each member Club of such meeting and any subsequent meetings of the League Council.
- (b) Subsequent meetings of the League Council shall be convened by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Special Meetings of the League Council shall be called by the Executive Officer upon receipt of written requisition signed by no less than four Clubs and setting forth the object of such requisition and the business to be transacted at such meeting. Such meetings shall be held within nine days after receipt of the requisition and only business mentioned therein shall be transacted at such meetings.
- (d) Emergency Meetings of the Council may be called by the Chairman of Directors and the Executive Officer shall give seventy two (72) hours clear notice of such meeting. Notice may be by phone, email or facsimile.

- (e) Written notices to Clubs, players and officials from the Board of Directors shall be deemed to be sufficient notice when notice has been posted or faxed by the Executive Officer to the Secretary of the Club.
- (f) All Meetings shall be held at such places as the Board of Directors determine. Any meeting of the Board of Directors or League Council may be adjourned from time to time and for such time as shall be determined at the original meeting or at any adjournment thereof.

10. APPEALS AGAINST BOARD DECISIONS:

- (a) Any Club admitted to the League may appeal against a determination or ruling of the Board of Directors by submitting a notice of appeal to the Executive Officer of the League in writing stating the determination or ruling appealed against and the reason for such appeal. The notice of appeal must be lodged within fourteen (14) days of the date of the directive issued by the Executive Officer of the League and shall be accompanied by the \$200 deposit. At a League Delegates Meeting if the appeal is not supported by at least three other Clubs the appeal shall be deemed frivolous, and the Club that lodged the appeal shall forfeit \$100 of the deposit and this will be retained by the League.
- (b) On receipt of a notice of appeal from any Club the Executive Officer of the League shall notify the Chairman of Directors who shall convene a Meeting of the League Council within fourteen (14) days to hear and determine the appeal. The Executive Officer shall notify all Clubs admitted to the League in writing of date, time and venue of such meeting and attach thereto a copy of the appeal.

11. DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE LEAGUE:

The duties of employees of the League shall be as follows:

OPERATIONS MANAGER:

He shall attend all meetings and take minutes of the same, receive all correspondence and answer such questions as may be asked in accordance with these rules. He shall keep all correspondence received, and a copy of all letters sent, and shall perform all such other duties and services as the Board of Directors may direct.

He shall keep a complete register of all permits and clearances granted, and record history sheets particulars of games played by all players.

12. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES BOARD:

This Board shall consist of a maximum of eleven members not holding office in any Club. Any two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Nominations shall be made verbally at the Annual General Meeting of the League Council. If an election shall be necessary the same shall be held by means of a ballot. The Chairman of the Board shall be a Justice of the Peace whenever possible.

The Operations Manager shall summon meetings of the Protests and Disputes Board as and whenever there shall be any business to be transacted by that Board.

DUTIES OF PROTESTS AND DISPUTES BOARD:

The Protests and Disputes Board hereinafter referred to as the P & D Board shall exercise the following functions:

- (a) Hear all charges under the Laws of Australian Rules Football or as defined in this Constitution regarding offences against the aforesaid laws or in the conduct of players and officials at any game played under the jurisdiction of the League. All scratch matches or games played by a member Club of the League prior to the first round fixtures shall be deemed to be under the jurisdiction of the League where any umpire from the League panel of umpires is officiating.
- (b) Hear all protests, disputes and charges against players and impose such penalties or take such action as deemed appropriate.
- (c) Re-open and re-hear any matter previously dealt with and decided if the P & D Board in their discretion considers such step is justified.
- (d) To impose a fine or fines on a Club.
- (e) All decisions by the P & D Board shall be final.
- (f) Every decision of the P & D Board shall be reported to the Board of Directors, and shall be received without comment. A record of same shall be kept by the Operations Manager.

HEARING OF CHARGES:

- (a) The Protests and Disputes Board shall meet as nominated by the Operations Manager to consider any charge between 5.00pm, Tuesday, but no later than 7.00pm, on the Friday following the event giving rise to such charge. When the meeting is to be held other than as specified in this rule, the Operations Manager shall notify the parties in writing involved of the change of date or venue. All Clubs must contact the Operations Manager to ascertain time of Hearing of the charge no later than 3.00pm, Monday following the event giving rise to such charge.

- (b) The Protests and Disputes Board shall meet to consider any matter other than a charge, as defined in this Rule at a time convenient to it and the parties involved within a reasonable time of the matter having been referred to the Board.
- (c) The player offended against must be in attendance unless the Board decides otherwise and shall give evidence if the Board so requires. The offender and witness may have a representative from their Club to sit on the Hearing. The League witness representative does not have the right to tender any remarks unless requested by the Tribunal Chairman at the Hearing. Such representatives shall not be a person legally qualified to practice as a barrister and/or solicitor.
- (d) If any player refuses to give evidence he shall be dealt with under Rule 15(g).
- (e) Whenever a charge has been lodged by a Field Umpire, Boundary Umpire or Goal Umpire, then the respective Umpire must be in attendance unless a Statutory Declaration has been lodged and approved by the P & D Board. The reporting Umpire shall give evidence if the Board so desires.
- (f) The Board is empowered to impose a fine not exceeding \$400 or suspend an accused player, official, umpire or any witness for not telling the truth, or for unseemly conduct during the course of the hearing. The payment of fines imposed on any player, official or witness appearing on behalf of a player or any other person shall be the responsibility of the Club concerned or with which he is connected.
- (g) Should any player or official misconduct himself or commit any offence against the Laws of the game he shall be dealt with by the Protests and Disputes Board in such manner as the Board shall think fit.

13. APPEALS BOARD:

- (a) There shall be an Appeals Board which shall hear and determine appeals under these rules.
- (b) This Board will comprise of members of the Protests and Disputes Boards as verbally appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- (c) Three members of this Board shall form a quorum of which one member will be the officiating Chairman.

APPEALS:

- (a) A player who desires to transfer from one affiliated Club to another

affiliated Club shall after having made two (2) applications for a Clearance to that end in the prescribed manner and which applications have been refused be entitled to appeal to the Appeals Board.

- (b) An appeal to the Appeals Board shall be made in writing and lodged with the Executive Officer of the League within fourteen (14) days after the date upon which the last application for such clearance has been refused. Such notice of appeal shall have annexed to it a further clearance application completed by the player together with an appeal fee of \$100. No refund of this appeal fee will be forthcoming after lodgment.
- (c) A copy of such notice of appeal shall be delivered by the Club appealing on behalf of the player to the Club from which he is seeking a clearance, within 48 hours of lodgment, of the appeal with the Executive Officer of the League.
- (d) On receipt of an application for hearing of an appeal against refusal of a clearance, the Executive Officer shall arrange a meeting of the Appeals Board within fourteen (14) days of receipt of such application, and shall give the applicant, the Secretary of the Club refusing the Clearance and the Secretary of the Club to which he is making an application for clearance, at least seven (7) days notice of such meeting of the Appeals Board.
- (e) The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to a player disqualified under these Rules so long as he shall remain disqualified.
- (f) The player making the appeal to the Appeals Board and the Club against whose refusal of a clearance such appeal has been brought shall each be entitled to appear upon the hearing of such appeal with such representative as they shall nominate provided that such representative shall not be a person legally qualified to practice as a barrister and /or a solicitor.

The Appeals Board may grant or refuse a clearance to the player appealing to it, and in reaching its decision the Appeals Board shall consider and take into account all the circumstances and matters relevant to the application for the clearance in respect of which the appeal has been made including but without being limited to:-

- (i) the interest of the public and the game of Australian Football;
- (ii) the interest of the Club from whom the clearance has been sought;
- (iii) the interest of the Club to whom the Clearance is sought;
- (iv) the interest in all respects of the player making the appeal;
- (v) any hardship (whether financial or otherwise) likely to be suffered by the player making the appeal in the event of the appeal being disallowed and a clearance refused;
- (vi) the age of the player making the appeal;

- (vii) the service given by and the value of the player appealing to the Club from which such clearance is sought.
 - (viii) the interest of the League;
- (g)
- (i) the Appeals Board may decide to grant a clearance on such conditions as the Appeals Board shall consider fair and reasonable in all the circumstances having regard to the matters referred to in paragraph (f) of this rule;
 - (ii) in the event of the Appeals Board deciding that it will grant a clearance subject to conditions the Appeals Board shall not grant the clearance sought until the conditions imposed have been fulfilled.
- (h) Where the Appeals Board allows the appeal of a player and grants him the clearance he has sought the Chairman shall Endorse all documents and do all other matters and things necessary and required to give effect to the decision of the Appeals Board and the granting of such clearance.
- (i) The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and conclusive and binding upon all the parties to the appeal and no further appeal shall lie from it to any other Tribunal, Board or body whether judicial, quasijudicial, administrative or otherwise.
- (j) The appeal fee shall be paid into the funds of the League.
- (k) Each of the paragraphs or sub-paragraphs of this Rule is and is intended to be constituted separately and independently from each other paragraph and sub-paragraphs 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 or enforceability of the remaining paragraphs or sub-paragraphs.

14. PERMIT COMMITTEE:

There shall be a Permit Committee which shall consist of a minimum of four members of which two shall constitute a quorum. The Permit committee must meet at least once a week from the first day of February and before the first day of July in each year. The Committee shall exercise the following functions:-

- (a) Hear and determine all applications relating to unopposed clearances.
- (b) To grant or refuse a permit to any player when such a permit is necessary.

- (c) Hear and determine any questions relating to the right or qualification of any player to play with any particular Club in relation to permits only.

15. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, OFFENCES AND PENALTIES:

1. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS:

In all judicial proceedings taken before the Permit Committee and the Protests and Disputes Board under these Rules - the following provisions shall apply, viz:

- (a) Any Club making any protest or charge against another Club or player or official or reporting any infringement of these rules or the laws of the game shall forward particulars in writing to the Executive Officer of the League, together with a fee of \$100, within six days after the date upon which the occurrence complained of took place, and for the purpose of this rule the day of the occurrence and Saturday shall each count as one of such six days.
- (b) The said sum of \$100 shall be forfeited to the League if it be decided that the complaint so made was frivolous, vexatious, or groundless, but the same shall be refunded to the player or official or the Club making the complaint if such complaint is upheld, or the two parties concerned inform the League in writing within the six days that the complaint has been amicably resolved.
- (c) Any Club making a protest or charge against another Club or player or official shall give notice thereof together with a true copy of the particulars in writing of the occurrence complained of to such other Clubs within 24 hours after lodging the same with the Executive Officer of the League.
- (d) An Umpire preferring a charge shall do so in accordance with Rule 16. No fee is required.
- (e) The Executive Officer of the League shall in all cases satisfy himself that all the provisions of this Rule have been complied with before submitting the complaint to the Permit Committee or the Protests and Disputes Board as the case may be.
- (f) When any complainant shall require the evidence of an umpire in any case before the Protests and Disputes Board such umpire may be paid any necessary traveling expenses, but the Protests and Disputes Board may make any order as to payment of the whole of the costs of the inquiry.
- (g) The Permit Committee and the Protests and Disputes Board and

the parties concerned in any enquiry may summon any person whose evidence may be material to appear and give such evidence. If such person refuses to answer any question in the course of the enquiry without a satisfactory reason for such refusal to answer, then if such person be a player or official or in any way subject to the control of the League he shall be liable to disqualification, fine, or other penalty as the Committee or Board hearing the complaint may determine.

- (h) In event of a player or official required or summoned to appear before the Permit Committee or Protests and Disputes Board being unable to appear before the Committee or Board and such player or official submits a reason or reasons in writing for his non-appearance, and such reason or reasons are accepted by the Permit Committee or the Protests and Disputes Board, as a satisfactory explanation of his inability to attend the meeting, then the Committee or Board may in its discretion accept a Statutory Declaration by such a player or official of his evidence of such facts as he desires to submit to the Committee or Board.
- (i) Any player or official who is required to appear before the Permit Committee or Protests and Disputes Board may be paid by the League all such traveling expenses which in the opinion of the League were reasonable and necessarily incurred by the player or official in attending such meeting of the Committee or Board. A player shall mean any player whilst playing in the competition.
- (j) Any Club official or player concerned in any matter before the Committee or Board shall be entitled to appear and be represented at the enquiry by a representative provided that such representative shall not be a legal practitioner.
- (k) In the event of the Permit Committee or the Protests and Disputes Board refusing to accept as satisfactory the reason or reasons of the player or official of his inability to attend, or to accept a Statutory Declaration of such player or official then the Committee or Board may proceed with the hearing and deal finally with the matter, notwithstanding the absence of such player or official.
- (l) If any party to any matter before the said Committee or the said Board shall fail to appear at the Hearing thereof after due notice of such hearing has been duly sent to such party in accordance with these Rules, then the Committee or Board may proceed with the Hearing and deal finally with the matter, notwithstanding the absence of such party. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation as to non-attendance the Committee or Board may fine or disqualify the party concerned.

- (m) Any Protests and Disputes Board or Permit Committee may at any time and from time to time adjourn its proceedings to such place and time as it may determine.

2. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES:

- (a) The Board of Directors may by resolution from time to time declare any acts or omissions by players not specifically mentioned in these Rules to be offences under these Rules and may also declare the penalty for such offences.
- (b) It is an offence for any player or official to commit any of the offences referred to in the Laws of Australian Football. Any player or official who is found guilty of unseemly conduct or conduct prejudicial to the good order, management, control and administration of Australian Football commits an offence under this Rule.
- (c) For the purpose of this Rule “official” means official of a Club, and includes a Coach, Trainer, Runner and any other person employed by a Club in any capacity whatsoever.
- (d) A fine not exceeding \$1000 may be imposed in respect of any offence committed by a player or official under these Rules or under the laws of the game in cases where no specific fine or penalty is prescribed.

- (i) AUTOMATIC FINES

All administrative or game infringements of the Constitution, By-Laws or Minutes, which from time to time are adopted as Automatic Fines will be reported by the Field, Boundary or Goal Umpire on the “Umpires Match Report” and will be received without comment.

- (ii) OTHER AUTOMATIC FINES

Which do not come within the scope of the Umpire will be charged to the Club by the Executive Officer and will be accepted without comment.

- (e) All fines imposed under these rules shall be paid into the funds of the League.
- (f) Notice to Clubs and players from the Board of Directors dealing with the imposing of fines or payments due shall be sent by post or faxed to the Secretary of the Club concerned.

16. UMPIRES APPOINTMENT BOARD & UMPIRES:

An independent Umpires Appointment Board comprising a minimum of four members (and including the Umpires Coordinator) shall be appointed by the WAFC to constitute the Umpires Appointment Board.

- (a) Umpires observers may be appointed by the WAFC and paid a set fee per game. The observers shall submit written reports to the umpires Board on the performance of the Umpires at the game observed.
- (b) Selected Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires shall form a panel and train together under the direction of the Umpires Coordinator
- (c) The remuneration to be paid to Umpires employed by the League for all matches shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.
- (d) No field, Goal or Boundary Umpire shall be eligible to play with any Club during the season in which he has been a member of the League panel of Umpires.
- (e) Field Umpires shall lodge with the Operations Manager of the League before four o'clock in the afternoon of the first day after the match a report in writing containing the following particulars:
 - (i) The time when the match was commenced.
 - (ii) The final scores and such other information as is required on the form of the Umpires Report prescribed for same.
 - (iii) Such other remarks and observations as the Umpire may think fit to report.
 - (iv) The carrying out of the duties as to reporting players in accordance with Rules of the Laws of Australian Football.
 - (v) Any dispute reported to him regarding the correctness of the time interval of any quarter or the start or finish of any quarter as mentioned in the By-Laws thereof.
- (g) Field Umpires shall report to the Operations Manager of the League forthwith any infringement of these Rules or the Laws of Australian Football committed by the Club, player or official of a Club inside or outside the Oval on the day of the match.

17. CHARGES:

- (a) Each Umpire shall be provided with a report card of an approved form and their duties in the matter of reporting players is provided for in the Laws of Australian Football.
- (b) Umpires preferring charges against players, officials or Clubs, shall report by post, facsimile or by hand such charges to the League office within 48 hours after the conclusion of the match in which the incident occurred.
The Umpires Coordinator and Umpires Observers shall have the same power as Umpires to refer charges against players, officials or Clubs. Such charge shall be in writing and received in the League office within 48 hours after the conclusion of the match in which the incident occurred or if otherwise within 48 hours after the occurrence complained of took place or became known to the complainant.
- (c) Each Club shall be responsible for the attendance of a representative at the door of the Umpires room at the termination of the match to ascertain if there are any reports. In the event of the Umpire, Umpires Coordinator or Observer intimating an intention to report a player or players, official or Club, the representative shall retire for a period of 15 minutes to permit the Umpires, Umpires Coordinator or Observer to prepare a written report which will be handed to the Club representative.
- (d) Should no Club representative attend the Umpires room, then the Umpire, Umpires Coordinator or Observer shall be deemed to have complied with his duty as laid down as above.
- (e) On the handing by the Umpire to the Club representative a copy of the charges in compliance with the foregoing, such Club shall be deemed to have received full and sufficient notice as to the date and the time for the hearing of such charges. All persons mentioned in the report are thereby notified to be present and no further notice shall be necessary.
- (f) Any Umpire, Umpires Coordinator or Observer preferring charges against players, officials or Clubs must contact the Operations Manager of the League to ascertain time of hearing of the charge no later than 3.00pm, Monday following the event giving rise to such charge.

18. LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS:

- (a) SECTION COMMITTEE:
The manner of selecting League representative teams shall be decided upon by the Board of Directors. The constitution of

the selection committee shall also be determined by the Board of Directors.

(b) COLOURS:

The League colours shall be BLUE and WHITE.

(c) SELECTION OF PLAYERS

Any players who have been selected to play in any interstate or other combined League match and who shall fail to train or play as directed shall be liable to disqualification for such period as the Protests and Disputes Board shall determine unless he explains satisfactorily either directly or through the Secretary of his Club to the Protest and Disputes Board his failure to train or play provided that a player may make himself unavailable prior to the selection and in addition to or in lieu of such disqualification the Protests and Disputes Board may impose a fine on any such player's Club not exceeding \$200 in respect of each player who is in default thereunder.

(d) The net proceeds of any match arranged between the League and another League or Association shall be disbursed at the Board of Directors discretion.

19. LAWS OF THE GAME:

In all League Competitions the Laws of the Australian Football as adopted by the National Football League of Australia from time to time shall be complied with by the Clubs playing in such competitions. Any changes in the Laws of the game, shall be advised to the Clubs in writing by the Executive Officer..

20. AFFILIATION - W.A.F.L. & AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LEAGUES OR ASSOCIATIONS:

The Board of Directors may from time to time by resolution enter into any contract, agreement or other arrangement with any other League or Association formed for the purpose of encouraging the game of Australian Football and may by resolution cancel or determine any such contract, agreement or other arrangement.

21. LIFE MEMBERS:

(a) The Board of Directors may nominate as honorary Life Members in each year such persons as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable, providing that such nomination is approved by three-fourths majority of the League Council. Life Membership shall be awarded only for special services rendered to the League or the game of Australian Football.

- (b) The Board of Directors may award Certificates of Merit to persons whom the Board of Directors deemed to have promoted the game of Australian Football within the West Australian Football Association.

22. EXPULSION FROM LEAGUE

Clubs of the League shall be held responsible for the conduct and behavior (by its officers, servants, players, officials and members) at matches. The league may expel/fine any club whose conduct in the opinion of the Board of Directors be injurious to the character or interest of the league or render it unfit to continue with the League.

Before a club is expelled its conduct (as aforesaid) shall be enquired into by the Directors, and shall be given full opportunity to defend itself, and to justify or explain its conduct. If the Directors present when the matter is enquired into are of the opinion that the club has been guilty of such conduct as aforesaid and that it has failed to explain satisfactory, the Directors shall call upon that club to resign and if it does not resign, report to the League Council and to recommend the Council by resolution expel the club.

A club expelled from the League shall lose and forfeit all interest and benefit of the club in the League and in funds and property of the League as from the date of expulsion.

