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Football By-Laws

1. Definition

- i. The name of the Incorporated body is the “West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Inc” herein after referred to as the “League”
- ii. The Board of Management is the elected members by the member clubs to oversee and control the affairs of the WGFNC; herein referred to as the “Board”.
- iii. Subject to the provision herein applied; the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition is an affiliate member of AFL Victoria and in the event of conflict between the WGFNC and AFL Victoria Rules and Regulations the AFL Victoria Regulation will take precedence.

2. Members

- i. The League consists of the members of the Board, Life Members and clubs duly admitted and affiliated in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition. If they remain a member, the member clubs will consist of the following clubs:- Bunyip, Cora Lynn, Dalyston, Garfield, Inverloch-Kongwak, Kilcunda Bass, Koo Wee Rup, Korumburra-Bena, Nar Nar Goon, Phillip Island, Tooradin-Dalmore & Warragul Industrials.
- ii. Each club shall field a Senior, Reserve, Third and Fourth grade or a combination of these grades as agreed to by the League.
- iii. No club fielding less than the four grades will be entitled to a reduction in fees payable to the League

3. Fines

- i. The Board shall determine the number of fines.
- ii. Fines may apply for late starting, poor ground markings, incorrect attire of players and officials, missing paperwork, wrong playing numbers, non-provision of required official etc. Fines will be notified to the Clubs by the General Manager/Finance Manager and are to be paid within 30 days.
- iii. Fines imposed by the Independent Tribunal are to be paid within thirty days of decision.

4. Auditor

- i. A qualified Auditor, who shall not be a club/League member, shall be appointed by the Board at the Annual Meeting

5. Committee of the Board

- i. The board may appoint at any meeting a subcommittee to control any affairs of the League.

6. Clearances

- i. Clearances shall be dealt with under AFL Victoria rules and regulations. Refer AFL Victoria rule 1.0.

7. Uniform & Registration

- i. Each Club is to wear a registered Club uniform as accepted by the League with approved AFL Victoria logos. Visiting teams will wear white shorts with AFL Victoria piping. Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.
- ii. The League shall keep a register of registered club uniforms which cannot be altered without the board's approval.
- iii. The visiting team will wear an alternate "strip" where the colours of competing clubs is the same /similar or is a clash.
- iv. The Board shall arrange for an "away strip" for the visiting teams where there is no alternate strip for the visiting club.
- v. Players must wear the numbers allotted them on the official team sheet, and in their own Club colours. Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.
- vi. An open radius shall apply for each Club.
- vii. To be eligible to play with a Club a player must register prior to playing his first match with the Club.
- viii. Sponsored logos must be approved by the board.
- ix. Logos on the back of jumpers - to be placed either directly above or below the player's number and must not exceed 30cm x 10cm in size. Logos on the front of jumpers must not exceed 10cm x 10cm.
- x. Logos on Shorts - can be placed on either side with a maximum size of 7.5cm x 7.5cm.

8. Team Numbers

- i. The maximum number of players that a club can field for Home and Away and Finals matches are:
 - **Seniors:** Eighteen plus four interchanges.
 - **Reserves:** Eighteen plus four interchanges.
 - **Thirds:** Eighteen plus unlimited interchanges.
 - **Fourths:** Eighteen plus unlimited interchanges.

9. Home Games

- i. The Clubs shall be drawn to play in Home and Away Matches and Finals matches, and the dates will be arranged by the League. Matches will take place on such grounds as the League shall elect.
- ii. During the Home and Away season the normal day starting times shall be:-
Seniors at 2.20pm, Reserves at 12-30pm, Thirds at 10-45am, Fourth's at 9-00am.
Twilight games starting times shall be:-Seniors at 4.50pm, Reserves at 3.00pm, Thirds at 1.15pm, Fourth's at 11.30am. Night games starting times shall be:-Seniors at 6.50pm, Reserves at 5.00pm, Thirds at 3.15pm, Fourth's at 1.30pm.
Permission may be sought from the League for different starting times with at least five days' notice. Clubs to be fined \$5 per minute for late starting and resumption of play except in the finals series when the penalty shall be \$10 per minute and shall apply to all teams.
- iii. Seniors shall have breaks of five minutes at quarter time/three quarter time and fifteen minutes at half time. Reserves, Thirds and Fourth's shall have breaks of five minutes at quarter time/three quarter time and eight minutes at half time.
- iv. At home and away matches all open-age players to pay at the gate.
- v. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Club so offending shall forfeit the match and pay the Umpires fees/or an amount equal to, unless notice is given to the League Secretary before 8pm on Wednesday immediately prior to the engagement. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, any club finding it necessary to forfeit a match must notify the League Secretary in writing of such forfeiture, stating the reasons for same. Such notice to reach the League Secretary no later than 5-00pm Friday prior to the match.
- vi. The Secretary of each competing team is to furnish two official scoring cards, two time keeping cards and two team sheets. Such team sheets to be handed to the

umpires and opposing Secretary 15 minutes prior to the commencement of each match.

- vii.** Team sheets are to be entered on the IT system and shall-
 - a) List the names and numbers of players in the team.
 - b) Identify the interchange players.
 - c) Identify the captain.
 - d) List the names of the coaches.
 - e) List the team runner.
 - f) List the trainers/water carriers (maximum of six).
 - g) List any other official taking part in the match.
- viii.** The Secretary of the home Club is to forward to the League, by Wednesday's mail following the match, the team sheets, the results of matches signed by goal umpires, timekeepers' cards, interchange sheets, code of conduct cards and any reports by umpires.
- ix.** If any Club is found guilty of playing any player who was not on the day he played a bona fide player, and ineligible to play under the Rules and regulations, the Club and player shall be subject to AFL Victoria rule 1.3.
- x.** The following shall apply regarding team sheet irregularities: -
 - a) Suspended player - if an illegible player appears on the team sheet and it is proven that he played; the penalty will be the loss of premiership points, up to \$500 fine for the Club and a charge being imposed on the player concerned, to be heard by the Independent Tribunal - If a suspended player appears on the team sheet, and he did not play, the penalty will be \$100-00 fine to the Club
 - b) If a player participates in a match, but his name does not appear on the team sheet, the penalty will be a \$100-00 fine against the Club and the player be ineligible for votes in the League Beat and Fairest award in that match.
- xi.** If a game is halted beyond the control of a Club, prior to half time, and the match cannot recommence within thirty minutes, the match shall be declared a draw. Each team to receive two premiership points and the scores at that time will be used to determine percentage. After half time, if the game is halted beyond the control of a Club, and play cannot recommence within thirty minutes, the team that is leading shall be declared the winner and receive four premiership points,

and percentage be calculated using the scores to that point. If scores are level, each team receives two premierships points.

10. Runners/Trainers/Water Carriers

- i. Eligibility as per AFL Victoria Rule 17.1.
- ii. Club Runners must be registered players/officials of the Club. Runners must wear the Official WGFNC Runner Uniform as directed by the league, pink top and bottom.
- iii. The reserves, thirds and fourths teams will be allowed one runner each. The senior teams may have up to two runners each. Only one runner, at a time, from each team, shall be allowed to enter the playing field. When using two runners, the runners must enter and leave the playing field between the interchange lines.
- iv. If both runners, from the same team, are found to be on the playing field during play, at the same time, the field umpire shall send one runner from the field with a yellow card and AFL Victoria send-off regulations shall be applied.
- v. Trainers and water carriers must be registered players/officials of the club. Trainers and water carriers must wear the official WGFNC trainers vest during a match. Trainers may wear white uniform or club attire under the vest. Design of the vests to be supplied by the League.
- vi. Runners, trainers, and water carriers to wear correct strip or the umpires will order them from the ground
- vii. Water carrier's minimum age is 15 years of age.
- viii. Fine for non-compliance of the above is \$50-00 per instance.
- ix. Duties as per AFL Victoria rule 17.2
- x. Trainers may deliver water to players during play.

11. Ground

- i. Each Club must provide a ground approved by the League together with adequate dressing room facilities.
- ii. Each ground will meet the standards of AFL/AFL Victoria Rule 3: Playing Surface and Goal Posts.
- iii. Each Club must provide an adequate scoring board with letters and figures not less than 30 cm in size and not less than 2 m from the ground.

- iv. Any Club not having grounds correctly marked shall be fined \$50 for each instance

12. Interchange

- i. There will be two lines, 15 m apart, marked across the boundary line (one metre each side) equidistant from the two coaches' boxes. Players must enter and leave the arena during the match between these lines unless otherwise provided for in the AFL Victoria Rules.
- ii. An Interchange Steward appointed by the Club is to be located inside the fence line, between the interchange lines. He/she must ensure that the AFL/AFL Victoria Laws of the game Rule 7. Interchange is adhered to.
- iii. Interchange stewards must wear red coat/vest and must escort Umpires from and to the umpire's room at the start, half time and at the conclusion of game
- iv. Changes to the interchange players need to be listed at breaks
- v. A player that requires use of a stretcher throughout a game can be taken from anywhere on the ground and can participate further in the game later
- vi. The League shall supply an interchange steward's list of duties to follow.
- vii. Fine for non-compliance of the above or not completing duties is \$50-00 per instance

13. Independent Tribunal

- i. The League shall appoint an Independent Tribunal comprising of a minimum of six members. Any three of such members shall form a quorum.
- ii. Qualification will be required under AFL Victoria rule 7.1.2.
- iii. The tribunal shall adhere to the procedures set by the AFL Victoria rules 7 & 8.
- iv. Charged players/witness, each with an advocate, are required to attend a set tribunal hearing.
- v. Reporting umpires are required to be present at the Tribunal hearings.
- vi. All players/witnesses/umpires and advocates shall sign the Tribunal register at the end of each hearing.
- vii. Fine for non-compliance of the above is \$200-00 per instance.

14. Order Off Rule

- i. The order off rule will apply as per the AFL Victoria Rule 11.

15. Set Penalties

- i. Set Penalties will apply as per AFL Victoria Rule 12.

16. Disciplinary Matters and Appeals

- i. All protests, disputes and questions shall be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal.
- ii. All protests must be accompanied by the required deposit of \$500, which shall be liable to be forfeited to this League if the protest is deemed to be frivolous, and any protest in respect to home and away matches together with deposits must be in the hands of the General Manager of the League within five days from the date of the match in respect of which the protest is entered, and in respect to the finals matches, within 48 hours of the match in which the protest is entered.
- iii. On protests being received by the General Manager, a meeting of the Independent Tribunal of the League must be called, who shall meet as early as possible.
- iv. In the case of any report the Tribunal Secretary shall give notice of the hearing to the Club Secretaries concerned and they must ensure required personnel attend such hearing and bring forward any evidence in connection with such a report.
- v. If any member Club of the WGFNC bringing legal action against the WGFNC, thus incurring costs to all member Clubs, shall be disqualified from the WGFNC.

17. Report Procedure

- i. There will be a report procedure provided by the WGFNC at the start of each year and clubs will adhere to this procedure. Fine for non-compliance is \$100-00 per instance.
- ii. The home club must ensure that the secretary/match day manager communicates with the field umpires at the conclusion of each match to obtain the "all clear" (no report) or that there is a report and then ensure that the report procedure is followed. Fine for noncompliance is \$100-00 per instance.

18. Stretchers

- i. Home club must have a suitable stretcher available at the interchange box at each home game. Fine for non-compliance is \$200-00.

19. Finals Eligibility

i. Seniors

To be eligible to play in a Seniors finals series match, a player must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the participating Club in the current season.

ii. Reserves

To be eligible to play in a Reserves finals series match, players must have played a minimum of four (4) matches in the Reserves with the participating club in the current season. For a player to remain eligible to play in the 2nd 18 finals series of the current season, he must not play more than eight 1st 18 Home & Away matches in the current season.

iii. Thirds

To be eligible to play in a Thirds finals series match, players must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the 3rd 18 of the participating Club during the current season. Players playing under a local interchange agreement must meet all criteria in the agreement to be eligible to play in a Thirds finals match.

iv. Fourths

To be eligible to play in a Fourths finals series match, players must have played a minimum of four (4) matches with the 4th 18 of the participating Club during the current season. Players playing under a local interchange agreement must meet all criteria in the agreement to be eligible to play in a Fourths finals match.

- v. For a player to have played a game under this by law, the player must have got changed into his playing attire and taken to the ground, in match conditions, for at least one quarter of the entire game.
- vi. A player who has qualified for finals in his respective grade cannot play more than one final game per weekend. If a player qualifies in two grades, he must then choose which grade he plays in for that entire weekend.

The only exception to this rule shall be.

Finals Qualification Exemptions

- if an under 16 player moves up to help field a team in the Thirds. **Note** - *you must first pick all available under 18 players before this happens & all qualified under 16s players in Thirds (Fourth players who have played a minimum of four games with the Thirds)*
 - An under 18 player moves up to help field a team in the Reserves. **Note** - *you must pick all available reserve players before this happens & all qualified Thirds players in the Reserves (Thirds players who have played a minimum of four games with the Reserves)*
- vii. If a Club has a combination of both Seniors, Reserves teams participating in the same final on the same day, or different finals on different days of the same weekend. The Club may choose any player on its list for one of those games provided the player has played four (4) games with the Club in the current season.

Gippsland Power/NAB League

Senior Qualification

- viii. For the purposes of Finals Qualification, a NAB League game is considered equal to a 1st 18 competition game with an AFL Victoria Country affiliated team.
- ix. Players that have played a NAB League match in the current season are ineligible to play in a Reserves finals match in that same season.

Thirds Qualification

- x. NAB League listed players must play a minimum of two (2) matches with the 3rd 18 of the participating Club during the current season to qualify to play in a Thirds finals match
- xi. Gippsland Power Under 16s matches or any other representative football matches in any senior/junior grade do not count towards West Gippsland Football Netball Competition finals qualifications.

Fourth Qualification

- xii. NAB League listed players must play a minimum of two (2) matches with the 3rd 18 of the participating Club during the current season to qualify to play in a Thirds finals match
- xiii. Gippsland Power Under 16s matches or any other representative football matches in any senior/junior grade do not count towards West Gippsland Football Netball Competition finals qualifications.

VFL/AFL Listed Players

- xiv. Any player drafted by an AFL club, placed on an AFL supplementary or rookie list or included on an official VFL list can, provided he has qualified under the rules, return to play with the WGFNC in the finals in the senior's grade only.

Penalties

- xv. The penalty for breaching any of these finals qualifying criteria in section 19 will be a club fine of \$1,000 per player and the forfeiting of the match the player was involved in.

20. Umpires

- i. Goal, field and boundary umpires for the seniors and field umpires for the thirds and fourths shall be obtained from a registered panel. Field, boundary and goal umpires from a registered panel have the power to report players.
- ii. If the panel is unable to provide field umpires the League shall communicate with both home and away clubs to organize personnel. These umpires will have power to report.
- iii. Each Club shall provide goal umpires for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th eighteen home and away matches. The above officials shall not have the power to report players.
- iv. Goal umpires must compare and initial each other's cards at the end of each quarter. If there is a discrepancy, goal umpires are to confer with timekeepers to ascertain correct score.
- v. Each Club must provide its goal umpires with two white flags at least 60 cm square and with white coats.
- vi. Home clubs shall provide boundary umpires for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th eighteen matches.

- vii. Any club having Officials in incorrect attire will be fined \$50-00 for each instance.

21. Interleague

- i. Any player selected in a squad to play in an Interleague game and does not make himself available shall be automatically suspended for two home and away matches unless he produces a Doctor's certificate or receives from the Coach and selectors permission to withdraw from the squad and such permission to be sought 24 hours prior to the match. The Coach and selectors shall be the sole judge of whether the permission should be given.

A player who produces a doctor's certificate will be ineligible to play for his club in the next home and away match unless given permission to play by the Coach and selectors.

- ii. Any player selected in a training squad for an Interleague team and, does not make himself available for each training session unless he produces a Doctor's certificate and receives from the Coach and selectors permission to withdraw from the squad, shall be automatically suspended for one home and away match for each training session that he makes himself unavailable. The Coach and selectors shall be the sole judge of whether permission should be given. Note: Suspension under these rules will not affect the eligibility for League Best & Fairest Medal.

22. Best & Fairest

- i. Field umpires will cast their 3,2,1, votes in each grade and place in a sealed envelope and handed to the home club representative who will ensure it is sent to the League.
- ii. When more than one player gains a winning or equal total of Umpires votes, then all players who are eligible will be awarded Best and Fairest Medallions.
- iii. Order of voting importance for all grades shall follow the order of number, Club, and name

23. Best on Ground in the Grand Final

- i. The Seniors Best on Ground will be called the AFL Victoria medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.

- ii. The seniors Best on Ground will be called the AFL Victoria medallion F(adjudged by a WGFNC appointed representative).
- iii. The Reserves Best on Ground will be called the AFL Victoria medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
- iv. The Thirds Best on Ground will be called the AFL Vic medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
- v. The Fourths Best on Ground will be called the AFL Vic medallion adjudged by the officiating field umpires.
- vi. Any of the above awards can be named after a sponsor or have a sponsor's name added to, that is procured for the WGFNC

24. Football Record

- i. The Football Record is the weekly publication produced by the League for the home and away season and finals series. At the beginning of each season the League will distribute a list of Football Record requirements that clubs will adhere to. Fine for noncompliance is \$100-00.
- ii. Players numbers are to be the same in the Football Record as the official team list. Fine for non-compliance is \$20-00 per instance.

25. Provision of Match Day Officials

- i. Home club is to supply one interchange steward (all four grades), one timekeeper (all four grades), one goal umpire and boundary umpires for reserves, thirds, and fourths games.
- ii. Visiting club is to supply one timekeeper (all grades), one goal umpire for reserves, thirds, and fourths.
- iii. All clubs must provide the required match day officials. Fine for non-compliance is \$50 per instance.

26. Proficiency of Officials

- i. All officials shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their duties as required under the laws of the game, rules & regulations and by laws of the AFL, AFL Victoria and WGFNC.

27. Required Paperwork

- i. The League shall distribute a list of required paperwork/instructions/duties etc at the start of each season and all clubs will adhere to these requirements.
- ii. The Secretary of the home Club is to forward to the League, by Wednesday's mail following the match, the team sheets, the results of matches signed by goal umpires, timekeepers' cards, interchange sheets, code of conduct cards and any reports by umpires.
- iii. Fine for non-compliance of the above is \$50-00 per instance.

28. Junior Development Officer

Each club is to appoint a Junior Development Officer who will attend JDO meetings and adhere to the JDO requirements. Failure to attend meetings will incur a fine of \$100-00.

29. Life Members

- i. Nominations for Life Members of the League may be presented to the Board with supporting information. Presentation to Life Members so elected shall be made at the board's discretion.
- ii. Nominees must have completed outstanding service and shown devotion to their club/League over a long period of time.
- iii. Life members will receive a badge and be allowed free entry to all H & A and finals matches

30. Failure to Carry Out League Instruction

- i. All clubs must carry out any instructions issued by the WGFNC or its representatives. Fine for non-compliance is \$100-00/and or referral to the Tribunal

31. Occupational Health & Safety

- i. All clubs must have an OH&S Policy and adhere to it.
- ii. It is expected that all clubs will Endeavor to have their venue a safe place to be with all care taken for the welfare of their employees, members, and visitors.

32. League fees payment & overdue accounts

- i. League fees will be invoiced on the first working day of month. Fees must be paid in full within 45 days of the date of the invoice.
- ii. Failure to pay the invoice within 45 days will result in the following penalties:

Ineligibility for competition points in all grades in both Football and Netball

- After 45 days of the date of the invoice owing, in any future matches where the invoice is still owing, the club in breach will be ineligible for competition points in all football and netball matches it competes in. Matches will be played in full; the match scores will be recorded as at the final siren with the club in breach listed as a giving a forfeit.

Percentage will be recorded for both sides on the ladder.

- Teams will be ineligible to compete in finals if their accounts receivable to the League includes overdue League Fees that exceed 45 days at the completion of round 18 matches.

Salary Cap Reduction

- The club in breach of rule 32 (i) for any invoice before June 30th will have their total Salary Cap reduced by \$20,000 of the original West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Cap for the year or by 10% (if their submitted budget is lower than \$130,000). The reduction will only occur for the current season and the amount cannot be reinstated for the season once deducted. If the breach of rule 37 (i) occurs for an invoice after June 30th the salary cap reduction will occur for the following season.

If that the club breaches the adjusted salary cap under the AFL Gippsland Allowable Player Payments Rule and is found guilty of breaching the reduced cap for their total player payments. The League will enforce the following penalties.

- The Senior football grade will be deducted 16 premiersip points for the following season.
- The Salary Cap will be reduced by \$25,000 for the following season that the Senior football team participates in.

- The club will be stripped of any Senior/Reserves football premierships won for the season where the breach of the reduced cap occurred.
- iii. A club may be exempt from the penalties listed in 37 (ii) if they have a payment plan for the overdue account and are meeting the minimum requirements. If a club believes it is going to have difficulty paying an invoice within 45 days, they must approach the League within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. The League will establish a payment plan for the club's invoice with the first instalment due the following working day at the expiry of the 45-day period from the invoice date. The club will need to meet the commitments of this plan otherwise the penalties in 37 (ii) will apply. If the club refuses to enter a payment plan, they will be liable for the penalties in 37 (ii).
- iv. Carry over fees from previous years: At the end of the League's financial year (October 31st), if a club has outstanding League fees on their account they must enter into a new payment plan from November 1st to clear their debts to the League.

The payment plan must have all overdue fees paid by the end of Round 18 in the following season or the club in breach will not participate in finals in any grade they participate in. For example - in Round 18 2020 a club cannot have any overdue fees from the 2019 season, or they cannot participate in finals.

33. Football & Netball Usage

- i. Prior to each season the League will instruct the clubs via email of any League requirements for footballs and netballs usage in the upcoming season. This may include brand of balls to be used, sponsorship requirements or any other League requirements. In every match during the regular season match balls that meet these requirements must be used.
- ii. Clubs require written permission from the League to use and balls in matches outside of the stated requirements.
- iii. Any West Gippsland Football Netball Competition football match scheduled as twilight or night fixtures require a yellow ball to be used that also meets any requirements in 38 (i). Fines for breaching 38 (i), (ii) or (iii) will be \$100 per instance.
- iv. The League will be responsible for supplying finals footballs and netballs.

34. Tampering with League Documents

- i. Any person alters, destroys, falsifies, or represents any document used in the operation of the League, to mislead, conceal, fabricate or conspire against the League, an official, an umpire or other member of the League commits an offence. Such offence is punishable by a suspension of up to six (6) months and/or a fine of up to \$2,000 as determined by the board or its delegate.



WEST GIPPSLAND
FOOTBALL NETBALL



Est. 1886

Netball By-Laws

These Bylaws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition – Netball. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and the direction of the WGFNC. The Directors adopted these Bylaws on 21st March 2023. Any amendments to these Bylaws come into effect on the date they are approved by the Directors and will remain in force until amended, repealed or replaced.

Bylaws are additional rules which apply to members which generally deal with internal, administrative or operational matters. Bylaws are subordinate to the Constitution and must not be inconsistent with the Constitution. There should be a clause in the Constitution that provides the power to the Directors to make Bylaws.

2. Registration

- i. West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Clubs are to ensure all participants are registered on Netball Connect before taking the court in any game. Players are required to have a primary or secondary NV membership with the club they are taking the court for.

3. Netball Victoria Membership

- i. The Netball Victoria membership fees are set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc.
- ii. All players, coaches and umpires, must be a current financial Netball Victoria member.
- iii. Single Game Vouchers (SGV) may be used for unregistered players. The WGFNC SGV must be submitted electronically to the Competition and purchased prior to taking the court.
- iv. Individuals with NV membership through another Association must complete an electronic secondary registration with the WGFNC club PRIOR to taking the court. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible and penalties will apply as per By-Law 2.

- v. Clubs failing to register eight teams (A,B,C, D, 17/U, 15/U, 13/U and 11/U) two weeks prior to the start of the season must appeal to the WGFNC in writing and provide reasons for failing to register the required 8 teams.

4. Coach Accreditation

- i. Clubs must ensure coaches obtain a coaching accreditation prior to round nine of the current season. Coaches must ensure they successfully complete an accredited Netball Victoria coaching course to obtain their accreditation.

5. Inclusive Environment

- i. The WGFNC is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.
- ii. The WGFNC may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure all are providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.
- iii. The WGFNC supports participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies. If issues arise, the WGFNC will seek advice and act in accordance with the Netball Victoria Transgender & Gender Diverse Policy. [NV Transgender & Gender Diverse Policy July 2022.pdf \(netball.com.au\)](https://www.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/NV-Transgender-&Gender-Diverse-Policy-July-2022.pdf)
- iv. All competitions will be clearly labelled in regard to age group and gender. This includes additional references to all genders that are permitted to play. All competition labelling will be clear and transparent.

6. Grading & Age Requirements

- (i) Participant age is determined as of 31st December of that year for A, B, C, D, 17/U, 15/U, 13/U and 11/U playing grades.

- (ii) The playing grades shall consist of A, B, C, D, 17/U, 15/U, 13/U and 11/U.
- (iii) Minimum age requirements are:
 - i. Open sections – 14 years – Female competition
 - ii. 17/U – Turning 14 years – Female competition
 - iii. 15/U – Turning 12 years – Female competition
 - iv. 13/U – Turning 11 years – Mixed competition
 - v. 11/U – Turning 9 years – Mixed competition
- (iii) The WGFNC observes the Netball Victorian Gender Regulation in regard to mixed competition:
 - i. Mixed competition for the 11&U and 13&U age groups will have NO restrictions applied on the basis of gender.

7. Conduct of matches

- a. Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:

Timing of Matches

11 & Under

Commence 8:00am

4 x 10 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 3 minutes at ½ time.

13 & Under

Commence 8:50am

4 x 10 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 3 minutes at ½ time.

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ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

15 & Under

Commence 9:40am

4 x 10 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 3 minutes at ½ time.

17 & Under

Commence 10:30am

4 x 12 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 3 minutes at ½ time.

D Grade

Commence 11:30am

4 x 12 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 3 minutes at ½ time.

C Grade

Commence 12:30pm

4 x 12 minute quarters

2 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 3 minutes at ½ time.

B Grade

Commence 1:30pm

4 x 15 minute quarters

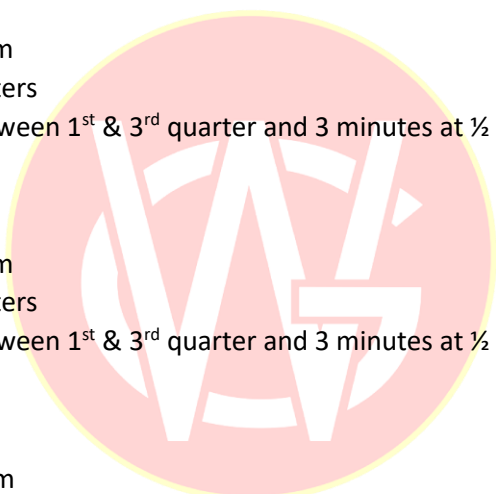
3 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 5 minutes at ½ time.

A Grade

Commence 2:45pm

4 x 15 minute quarters

3 minute break between 1st & 3rd quarter and 5 minutes at ½ time.



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Game times will be as above or as negotiated between clubs. (e.g Times may be altered to play two games at once, provided that both clubs concerned are in agreeance, Night Games) or determined by the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition (e.g Finals)

8. WGFNC Football & Netball Usage

- i. Prior to each season the WGFNC will instruct the Clubs via email of any requirements for netball usage in the upcoming season. This may include:
 - i. Brand of balls to be used.
 - ii. Sponsorship requirements.
 - iii. Or any other WGFNC requirements.

In every match during the regular season, match balls that meet these requirements must be used.

- ii. Clubs require written permission from the WGFNC to use any balls in matches outside the stated requirements.

Fines for breaching bylaw 8 will be \$100.00 per instance.

- iii. The WGFNC will be responsible for supplying finals netballs.

9. Injury / Illness or Blood Stoppages

The following is taken directly from the Netball Rule Book

[INF-RulesofNetball2020.pdf](#)

- i. The umpires hold time for blood when notices or for injury / illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).

- ii. The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The times keepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.
- iii. Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.
- iv. If the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court.
- v. The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
- vi. Any blood on the ball or court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.
- vii. During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and / or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
- viii. If no substitution is made for the injured / ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the Centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play Centre to allow the match to continue.
- ix. If the position is left vacant the player concerned may, during the match subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:
 - a. A goal has been scored (in this case the player or substitute must play in the position left vacant) Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped – the player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry.
 - b. A stoppage for injury / illness or blood.
 - c. An interval.

10. Club Requirements

Clubs are to ensure that at all home games the following forms are available courtside before each match:

- WGFNC Contact List
 - Official Rule book from Netball Australia
 - West Gippsland Football Netball Competition By-Laws
 - Reporting forms – Injury and conduct report sheets.
- i. Clubs are to ensure that appropriate league jackets for Court Supervisor and Primary Carer are available and worn at each match.
 - ii. Court Supervisors are to be appointed before each match and their roles and duties are as follows:

Role of the Court Supervisor

- This position will be the responsibility of the home club except during the finals series where it will be undertaken by West Gippsland Football Netball Competition representatives and members.
- The appointed person may change for each game, but not during the game.
- The appointed person should be one who is aware of the rules and bylaws and is mature and competent enough to take in considerations of safety and make crucial decisions on the day.
- The appointed person shall always act in an unbiased manner.
- The appointed person will remain courtside for the duration of the game.
- The supported person will wear the supplied High Vis vest for the duration of the game.
- The appointed person will act with the approval and authority of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition.

Duties of the Court Supervisor

- Attend to and resolve spectator issues. Where there is violence involved, please contact police immediately.

- Ensure timekeepers are in place and aware of the rules.
- Ensure scorers are in place and aware of the rules.
- Ensure coaches and team members remain in the designated bench areas.
- Should a no show by an umpire occur, it will be the responsibility of the Court Supervisor to contact a member of the WGFNC from the contact list provided for guidance or approval of an agreed upon resolution of the matter through consultation of both teams. Should no WGFNC member be contactable, the decision of the court supervisor will be deemed to be that of the WGFNC.
- Ensure safety of umpires.
- Ensure clear area at courtside for umpire movement during play.
- Ensure umpires are dressed to the appropriate standard of the Netball Australia rules. [General POLICIES - Netball Australia](#)
- Ensure a copy of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Netball Bylaws are available courtside.
- Ensure all the rules of Netball Victoria and bylaws of the WGFNC are adhered to and administered fairly without bias.

Penalty for not supplying a Court Supervisor will be \$100.00 per instance.

- Clubs are to ensure a Primary Carer is supplied for the entirety of each match. They must always wear supplied West Gippsland Football Netball Competition vest for identification by both umpires and court supervisors. Primary Carer requirements are as per stated in the Netball Australia rule book.

Failure to supply a Primary Carer for each game will incur at \$100.00 fine per game.

11. Risk Management

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Injury Reporting

- i. All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (if under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided and kept by the club. [RISK MANAGEMENT INFONET: RM14 \(netball.com.au\)](#)
- ii. Major injuries should be recorded on the back of the scoresheet.
- iii. All players in the WGFNC representative teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (if under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.
- iv. Each Club will provide a First Aid Kit complying with Netball Victoria Info net RM2 – First Aid for Netball. [First Aid.pdf \(netball.com.au\)](#)
- v. The WGFNC will ensure that a qualified First Aid person is present at Finals.

Emergency Procedures

Local Emergency phone numbers – Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure Plan is to be displayed prominently in the netball area and in the first Aid Kit. The Home club is to assist the Away club in an emergency.

Weather

In the case of extreme weather conditions, the WGFNC will follow Netball Victoria Policy. [Policies and Guidelines - Netball VIC](#)

Blood Policy & Infectious Diseases

The WGFNC will adopt Netball Victoria Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases. [Infectious Diseases and Hygiene.pdf \(netball.com.au\)](#)

Pregnancy

As per Netball Victoria Policy – Pregnancy and Netball. [SD-Pregnancy-Policy.pdf \(netball.com.au\)](#)

Pre-participation Screening / Medical Indemnity

As per Netball Victoria Policy. [Medical Indemnity and Consent Editable.docx \(live.com\)](#)

12. Delay due to serious injury

If play is required to be suspended due to a serious injury / incident that following shall apply:

- i. Play is to be halted by the umpires. The match umpires will note the time of the incident and the time remaining on the current quarter with the scorers and this will be recorded on the match scoresheets.
- ii. Quarter breaks are not to be taken early.

If a second court is available to recommence the match, the umpires will notify both Clubs that the remainder of the match will be played on another court.

For play to commence the following must occur:

- i. Both Clubs will be required to sign off on the Netball Australia matchday checklist to approve the surface and surrounds for play.
- ii. Both Clubs must have a scorer courtside at the new court.
- iii. A scoreboard must be visible at the new court for both benches.
- iv. Once the above measures are in place, the umpires will be responsible for the recommencement of play. The match will be played out in full.

If a second court is not available:

- i. The Captains and match Umpires will be responsible for determining when it is safe for play to recommence within a 30 minute period after the incident. If play resumes within the 30 minute period, then that match will be played out in full and all other scheduled games after the current match will commence at the conclusion of the game.
- ii. If play has not recommenced 30 minutes after the time noted on the scoresheet; the match umpires and two captains will meet and determine if the match will be abandoned. If the captains decide there is no immediate opportunity to recommence the match then it will be abandoned.

13. Match Abandonment

If a match is abandoned before half time the following shall apply:

- i. The game will be classed as a draw and both teams will receive two (2) points. The score will be entered in the Netball Connect system as 0-0. Players that have taken the court will count towards finals eligibility. No League B & F votes will be done for any match abandoned before half time.

If a Match is abandoned at half time or after half time the following shall apply:

- ii. The final score for the match will be as is when play was stopped by the umpires. Scorers are to confirm with the umpires that scoresheets are correct, and the final score will be recorded on the scoresheet. Both captains and umpires will be required to sign off on the scoresheet, and once signed off, the match result is final. Players that have taken the court will count towards finals eligibility. League B & F votes will be completed and submitted by the umpires.

14. Dress code

Bike pants / shorts worn underneath playing uniform may be permitted for medical reasons. Pants must be a Club colour as nominated on the uniform registration sheet. All permissions must be sought by the WGFNC before this occurs. [Uniform Guidelines - Netball VIC](#)

- i. Clubs and teams must notify the WGFNC in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform. The WGFNC must then approve all changes and contact the required Club Official.
- ii. The following items will be considered part of the standard uniform, and Do Not require the player to seek approval from the WGFNC:
 - Head coverings - Players must not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another competitor. This includes no jewellery and no sharp pins on head coverings. If the head covering needs to be fastened, clips and non-sharp pins are to be used. Head coverings must be tight and non-flowing
 - Additional clothing options are for cultural/religious modifications only. Additional clothing must be all black, all white or club colours and must be worn under the existing team uniform.
- iii. Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in full uniform.

Penalty \$50.00 per occurrence.

- iv. Jewellery which cannot be removed for religious / medical reasons should be covered with tape as necessary to prevent injury to others.
- v. Fingernails must be short and smooth when participating in the WGFNC. No taping of nails will be accepted. Gloves can only be worn with a medical certificate.

Penalty: Fine to be determined by Directors.

15. Clearances

- i. A clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club within WGFNC during a season. The relevant paperwork must be completed by no later than the 30th June each season.

- ii. No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.
- iii. Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of Club property (uniform, equipment) are not eligible to be granted a clearance.
- iv. A player must have received notification in writing from the WGFNC before playing for a new Club.
- v. The player must complete all details in the top section of the clearance form and send it to the WGFNC Administrator.
- vi. The WGFNC to forward the clearance request to the existing Club for approval.
- vii. The existing Club has 7 days to complete the clearance of the WGFNC will automatically clear the player to the new Club.
- viii. If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearances), the WGFNC will notify the player and Club advising the reason why. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the grievance procedure outlined in the Constitution.
- ix. The existing Club to advise the WGFNC when clearance is approved.
- x. The player will then receive notification advising that the clearance has been approved and a copy is forwarded to both Clubs.
- xi. A clearance is not required between seasons.

16. **Scoring**

- i. Each Team must provide a non-participating scorer / timer for all matches. These people must sit together for the duration of the match. Scorers must be free from all distractions, including mobile phones.
- ii. One (1) official scoresheet provided by the Home Team will be used for each match. This scoresheet will list the complete names (both given and surname) of all players intending to participate as players in the game prior to the commencement of play. This scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter by individuals and the game score. A record of centre passes must also be kept and provided if requested by an umpire.

- iii. Should a player take the court that was not on the score sheet prior to the commencement of play, the following penalties shall apply:
- **If the player has played 1 quarter or more:** The team will be liable for the loss of any premiership points for the game and the official result will be entered as a forfeit by the offending club. The game will continue after the breach has occurred and be played out in full.
 - **If the player has played less than 1 quarter:** Once the breach has been identified, the scorers are to sound the siren and notify the umpires of the offending player. The player will be removed from the court and the position left vacant until the end of the quarter. If the player was in the Centre position: One player must move to this position for the rest of the quarter. The offending player will not be able to return for the remainder of the match.

The offending club in either case will incur a \$200.00 fine per breach.

- iv. At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the Official score sheet is correct, it is to be signed by:
- The Captains of both competing teams, and
 - Officiating Scorers, and
 - Officiating Umpires
- v. If a scorer, team or club believes the scoresheet is incorrect they must:
- Not sign the scoresheet
 - Notify the WGFNC via email on the day of the match.
- vi. The League will advise the result of the dispute and this decision will be final and binding on all parties.
- vii. At the conclusion of each match, the score sheets are to be entered into Netball Connect. Clubs are to ensure that all results are entered no later than 12 noon the following day. Any internet issues are to be advised to the WGFNC as soon as possible.
- viii. The home team must send the original scoresheets via email to the WGFNC as per matchday manual provided by the WGFNC. The Home Club is to send the hard copy to the WGFNC Netball Co-Ordinator and are to be post marked by no later than Wednesday.

- ix. Once there becomes a 20 point difference in scored between 11/U and 13/U sides, the use of the scoreboard must stop. Match scoring continues on the scoresheet. Player positions must continue to be filled in each quarter on the scoresheet.

Any breach of bylaw 16 will incur a \$100.00 fine unless stated above.

17. Player Votes

Players in all grades are awarded votes (1,2 and 3) from third best to best on court. Votes will be conducted by the official umpires at the completion of each game during the home and away season. Votes are placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the Netball Co-Ordinator with the team sheets.

18. Six Game Rule

- i. Once a player has played six (6) games in a particular senior grade throughout the home and away season, the player in question is no longer eligible to play in any lower senior grade, but is eligible to play in a higher grade.
- ii. Junior players who play in the senior grades are also subject to this rule, but are still eligible to play in their own grade.

19. Qualifying Players

- i. Where senior players play in two (2) grades on the same day, only the game in the highest grade will count towards their qualifying quota of games.
- ii. Players must play one third (1/3) of the home and away playable rounds in that season with their Club to be eligible to participate in finals. Players named on the scoresheet who have taken the court, will be deemed to have played that game.
- iii. All players may only play in two (2) games of netball in any one given day.

- iv. Any additional players need to be registered on Netball Connect membership module prior to the start of any match. (This needs to be completed by the player online).
- v. Clubs requiring Day Passes for players in any season are required to register the player as SGV or Single Game Voucher on the Netball Connect system and are required to pay at the same time. Failure to follow this process will cause this player to be unregistered and if played, the Club will forfeit the game as per bylaw 2.

20. Premium players

A Premium Player (PP) is defined by the highest level of netball they are playing in the year of competition and the year preceding it. A player is classed to have played once they have taken the court in a competition match. Players who are playing or were playing Open levels of competition in VNL (Victorian Netball League), SSN (Suncorp Super Netball) and ANL (Australian Netball League) will be classed as a Premium Player.

- i. Only three (3) Premium Players are allowed from each team on the court at any given time of the A Grade match;
- ii. Premium Players are not eligible to play B,C or D Grade competitions;
- iii. Players who meet the Premium Player definition are to be clearly identified on the match scoresheet with 'PP' next to their name.
- iv. Junior players playing VNL are eligible to play in their age appropriate sides in WGFNC. However, they can only play A or B grade if playing in a higher grade.

Penalty for breach of bylaw 20: Loss of four (4) premiership points per player.

21. Finals

- i WGFNC will play top six (6) finals series.

- ii The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- iii Drawn matches in finals:
- If the scores are tied at full time, extra time will be played to determine a winner.
 - The length of each half is:
 1. 2 x 7 minute halves if the main game was 4 x 15 minute quarters.
 2. 2 x 6 minute halves if the main game was 4 x 12 minute quarters.
 3. 2 x 5 minute halves if the main game was 4 x 10 minute quarters.
 - There is an interval of two (2) minutes at the end of full time. Team changes and substitutions can be made during this time.
 - Extra time consists of two halves of equal length, with a half time interval of one (1) minute. Team changer and substitution can be made during this time. Teams change ends at half time.
 - The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled by the next centre pass.
 - In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual sign (orange card) is placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by two (2) goals.
- Injury time – see conduct of matches.

22.

Ineligible Players

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Ineligible players who participate in games either deliberately or inadvertently, or if unregistered are an unacceptable insurance risk. In these instances, the match in which the breach occurred will result as a forfeit to the offending team.

23. Forfeits

- i. Where a match results in a forfeit prior to the match clock starting, the nonoffending team will:
 - Be awarded the four (4) premiership points with a match score of twenty (20) – zero (0).
 - Credit games to only seven (7) nominated players on an official scoresheet for finals qualifications.
 - No games shall be credited to the players of the offending team.
 - In the event of a forfeit in a senior grade, a lower team from the club must be forfeited before a higher team.
- ii. Where a match results in a forfeit after the commencement of the match clock starting:
 - The result of the match will be twenty (20) – zero (0) if the forfeiture is caused by the winning team.
 - The score of the winning team or twenty (20) – zero (0), (whichever is greater) will stand if the forfeiture is caused by the losing team. The losing team will be stripped of its score and credited with zero (0).
 - No games shall be credited to players of the offending team.

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24. Cancellations

- i. When matches are cancelled on account of a factor beyond the control of the relevant Teams or Clubs (e.g. power outage, or other extenuating circumstances, some other cause) the match will be deemed a draw, both Teams or Clubs will be credited with two (2) points and five (5) goals each and the competition will continue as per the fixture.

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- ii. Four (4) points can only be awarded for fully completed games.
- iii. In the event that a game is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to seven (7) nominated players.
- iv. Should circumstances occur which require successive rounds to be cancelled, the WGFNC will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

25. **Protests**

- i. A team wishing to protest must lodge the protest in writing to the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition on an official letterhead with the prior consent from a club executive member within 48 hours of the match being played.
- ii. A Club shall have the right of appeal to the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition decision within 48 hours of notification of a penalty.

26. **Umpires**

- i. Each Club is responsible of the supply and payment to umpires during the home and away season. Minimum payment will follow the recommendation of Netball Victoria.
 - Umpires should not officiate more than two (2) games in any one given day.
 - All Clubs must supply a Netball Victoria Current Badged umpire for all A & B grade games.
- ii. All umpires must be current to their badge grading.
- iii. Umpires must wear a white or cream top. Block colour bottoms (black) are acceptable, until we establish our own netball umpire colour. Umpires will wear all white for finals. [Uniform Guidelines - Netball VIC](#)
- iv. All umpires must wear suitable sports footwear.
- v. All umpires are to have completed the Online Level 1 course and passed the theory section.

27. Pre-match checklist

- i. A pre-match check will be completed prior to all WGFNC match day games, by members of both competing clubs.
- ii. Any hazards identified will be:
 - Documented – completion of court audit form.
 - Rectified if possible.
 - Reported to the WGFNC if major repair is required and then the WGFNC will follow up with appropriate agencies.

28. Special circumstances/ Provisions clause

Where this bylaw is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the WGFNC is always maintained. The WGFNC may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in this bylaw relating to the WGFNC.

29. Indemnity

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the WGFNC and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating in the WGFNC activities as a member.



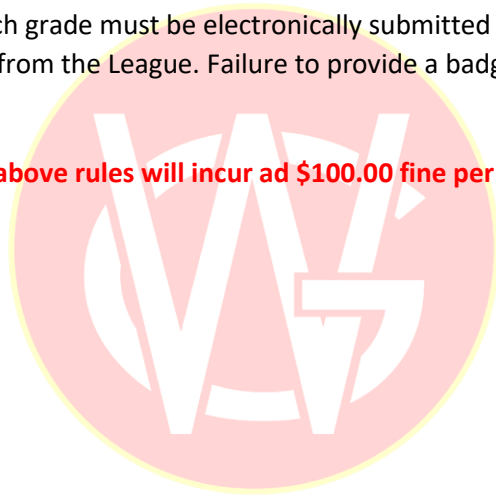
30. Penalties

Along with all the penalties mentioned in individual bylaws above, the following will also apply:

Failure to provide all original scoresheets (one per grade), votes and match results as per bylaw 16, incurs.

Scoresheets for each grade must be electronically submitted on the matchday as per instructions from the League. Failure to provide a badged umpire for A & B grades.

Any breach of the above rules will incur ad \$100.00 fine per instance.



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