



**MURRAY
VALLEY**
Football Netball
League

**MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL
NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED**

BY-LAWS

Adopted March 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL BY-LAWS

1. MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE STRATEGIC PLAN	1
2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP	3
3. ANZAC DAY MEDAL	4

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

4. CLUBS	5
5. MATCH DAY PROCEDURES	6
6. COMPETITION AND FINALS	10
7. UMPIRES	13
8. DISPUTES AND TRIBUNAL	13
9. PLAYERS AND QUALIFICATIONS TO PLAY	14
10. MVFNL APPROVED PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM.....	16
11. LEAGUE	19
12. LEAGUE PLAYING RULES – ADOPTION OR VARIANCE FROM SANFL/AFL RULES19	
13. CODE OF CONDUCT	24

NETBALL BY-LAWS

14. GAME DAY PROCESSES	25
15. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY	27
16. FINALS	28
17. ASSOCIATION UMPIRE VOTES AND AWARDS.....	29
18. DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION	30

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: MVFNL ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.....	31
APPENDIX 2: MVFNL VILIFICATION POLICY.....	32
APPENDIX 3: CONCUSSION.....	35
APPENDIX 4: CYBER SAFETY POLICY.....	36
APPENDIX 5: WEATHER POLICY	39
APPENDIX 6: CHILD SAFETY POLICY	40
APPENDIX 7: MVFNL INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE	42
APPENDIX 8: FINALS ROTATION	43
APPENDIX 9: TIMEKEEPERS	44
APPENDIX 10: UMPIRE PAYMENT SCHEDULE	46
APPENDIX 11: UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS	47
APPENDIX 12: OFFICIALS MATCH ATTIRE	48

MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

APPENDIX 13: REQUEST AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE	49
APPENDIX 14: FINES.....	51
APPENDIX 15: OVAL MARKINGS	53
APPENDIX 16: CONDITIONS OF ENTRY	54
APPENDIX 17: MEDIA POLICY	55
APPENDIX 18: COMPETITION MANAGEMENT POLICY	56
APPENDIX 19: COVID RULES	58
APPENDIX 20: MATCH DAY OFFICAL (MDO) RESPONSIBILITIES	60

GENERAL BY-LAWS

of

MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

1. MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE STRATEGIC PLAN

1.1 Our Mission

To provide all stakeholders with affordable, accessible, enjoyable and competitive games of Australian Rules Football and Netball in a safe environment, whilst making a meaningful contribution to the community and the sustainable development of the game.

1.2 Our Vision

Strengthening, sustaining and bringing together country communities through football and netball. Fostering and developing the abilities of our young people and helping them maintain strong community connections.

1.3 Our Values

Our MVFNL League's Values:

- Accountable to all stakeholders and its Member Clubs
- Respect each other
- Be progressive, whilst remaining respectful of our role as League guardians
- Provide our League with a sense of social and community values
- Provide an environment that encourages, develops and promotes participation in Football and Netball within our community
- Promote, recognise and provide a safe and inclusive culture across our member clubs
- Provide equal opportunities for everyone

1.4 Our Strategic Goals

KEY STRATEGIC GOALS	OBJECTIVES	EXPLANATIONS
Football & Netball Development	Integrity	Develop & support an appropriate, affordable, accessible and safe competition for all MVFL players, supporters, umpires and club officials. Identify policies that maximise participation.
	Competition	Support local country community clubs to provide quality management & environments to motivate volunteers, umpires, coaches, spectators and sports trainers for all levels of Australian Rules Football and Netball competitions within our clubs. Continued focus on schools with low football and netball participation rates, in particular multicultural schools.

	Talent Retention	Develop initiatives that support player retention in our league and talent identification. Encourage umpires Association to develop a recruitment, retention and recognition program Assist in the recruitment and retention program for umpires.
Sustainable Business Model	Governance	Maintain business best practice and corporate governance at The League and support the MVFNL Clubs to do the same.
Business Development	Financial & Organisation Assets	Manage and maintain the financial assets of The League to maximise the best return for member clubs. Encourage retention of quality people and their development
	Marketing & Partnerships	Use our brand strength and size to influence the positive growth of community football and netball in the country area and to attract new partners.

Objectives by Strategy

Competition Strategy

- (a) Maximize participation by developing an administration sporting framework that promotes & develops our clubs and their members. Ensure our player management system is accessible and user friendly
- (b) Develop a safe playing environment through educations programs, umpiring training & recruitment; continue reviews of our rules & regulations; providing an effective tribunal system

Talent Retention

- (a) Develop talent retention & identification policies to attract, retain & develop players, umpires and club officials for the MNFNL.
- (b) Contribute to the SACFL/SANFL review of the APPS and other state systems to ensure a playing environment that encourages max. player participation, a strong MVFNL & encourages player retention/attraction

Infrastructure

- (a) Advocate for the development of community facilities for the MVFNL clubs.

Governance Sustainability

- (a) Maintain rules, relationships, policies, systems and processes of The League including law, regulations, financial & constitution compliance
- (b) Develop business solutions to accelerate the business including best utilisation of financial resources of The League &, attracting new members
- (c) Attract, develop and retain quality staff/volunteers and promote a high-performance culture in line with our values

Business Growth/Marketing

- (a) Maintain & Build partnerships with business partners, sponsors, all levels of government, affiliated leagues, SANFL, SACFL, AFL and other key stakeholders
- (b) Deliver quality events and marketing campaigns that effectively promote the brand, game, related competitions & development programs
- (c) Financial Strength of the MVFNL to be improved to allow the implementation of new funding initiatives for member clubs

Raising Community Awareness

- (a) Enhance our support of volunteers and club development activities, with particular focus on managing increasing diversity and dealing with social issues in the community.

2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Life Membership of the League shall be limited to 10 years service rendered to this League (as well as RIFL and RINA) in an official capacity at the discretion of the delegates.
- (b) Player Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Players who have played 250 senior League games (including MVFNL representative matches) in the MVFNL (including RIFL and RINA). Nominations to be substantiated by Club records and any other records including but not limited to written, photographic and electronic that can verify the nomination.
- (c) Player/Coach Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Player/Coach who have played and/or coached 250 senior League games (including MVFNL representative matches) in the MVFNL (including RIFL and RINA). Nominations to be substantiated by Club records and any other records including but not limited to written, photographic and electronic that can verify the nomination.
- (d) Player/Umpire Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Player/Umpire who have played and/or umpired 250 senior League games (including MVFNL representative matches) in the MVFNL (including RIFL and RINA). Nominations to be substantiated by Club records and any other records including but not limited to written, photographic and electronic that can verify the nomination
- (e) Nominations for Life Membership to be presented at the mid-year delegates meeting.
- (f) A vote is then taken and two thirds of the delegates to assent.
- (g) If the resolution is passed the Life membership will be awarded at the League presentation dinner in the same year provided the requirements of Life membership are met.
- (h) RFL Life Members will be transferred to MVFNL.
- (i) RINA Life Members will be transferred to MVFNL.

3. ANZAC DAY MEDAL

- (a) The Anzac Day Medal is awarded to the player in the match considered to best exemplify the Anzac spirit—skill, courage, self-sacrifice, teamwork and fair play.
- (b) The Clubs to play for the Anzac Day Medal will be decided upon by the MVFNL Board. The match may be held on Anzac Day or close to Anzac Day and will ideally involve the previous Premiership winning team.
- (c) Anzac Day medals will be presented in A grade football, A grade netball and B grade netball.
- (d) One minute silence shall be observed before the game.
- (e) The umpires will decide on the recipient and award the medal.
- (f) MVFNL will fund and provide the medal.
- (g) The medal is to be named “MVFNL Anzac Medal”

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

of

MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

4. CLUBS

4.1 Clubs General

- (a) Clubs are required to nominate an A grade team and Juniors as the season permits.
- (b) Each club shall subscribe an annual affiliation fee, which shall be determined at the AGM each year. Subscriptions are to be paid within 7 days of the commencement of the playing season for that year.
- (c) In addition, every new player of that club shall before being permitted to play apply to the League via Play HQ and obtain a registration and permit to play.
- (d) Upon registering online via Play HQ and accepting the conditions to play each applicant shall be deemed to be a member of the League and Club mentioned in his application.
- (e) Any member once having obtained registration and a permit to play and subsequently signs another application for registration and a permit to play for another Club without first having obtained a clearance from the first mentioned Club shall be dealt with as the League thinks fit.
- (f) Under no circumstances whatsoever shall a player be granted registration to play in this League after the 31st day of July in any one season.

4.2 Club Colours

Each Club shall register its colours or change of existing club colours with the League prior to the registration or change to determine exclusive rights to wear such colours.

As per SANFL CFL Regulation 34, player uniforms must comply with the requirements set out. This latest version of this regulation can be found on the SACFL Website and Appendix 11 is specific on logos and where they are to be placed and sizes (as per Appendix 11).

- (a) The MVFNL Executive Officer will make available the MVFNL requirements in addition to the SACFL specifications.
- (b) Clubs will be directed to preferred MVFNL Suppliers which will be listed on the MVFNL Website.
- (c) If a club wishes to construct a special "one off" type Guernsey, then that club must apply in writing to the League Executive Officer 30 days prior to the date they are to be worn.
- (d) MVFNL requirements, MVFNL Logo on the top right breast of Guernsey, vertical MVFNL letters on each side of the shorts (contrasting club colour), MVFNL letters across the front of the socks (contrasting club colour).
- (e) The MVFNL logo on the Guernsey should measure 80mm in diameter.
- (f) See Appendix 11 Uniform Requirements

5. MATCH DAY PROCEDURES

5.1 Match-day Game Officials

- (a) Each club must provide goal umpires, Timekeepers, and boundary umpires unless provided by the MVFNL. If both clubs are unable to provide boundary umpires, then neither team uses them.
- (b) Team managers are essential to each team competing on the day.
- (c) In all matches of the League Clubs are to ensure the runner(s), trainer(s), water carrier(s), and club appointed umpires wear the appropriate match attire as prescribed in Appendix 13 Match Attire – Officials

5.2 Match Day Official- Ground and Umpire Contact

- (a) Clubs to appoint a Match Day Official at all matches.
- (b) A club match day official contact point of reference is to be displayed in the Umpires Change Room. Umpires are to approach the Match Day Officials to advise of any issues that requires addressing. For Match Day Officials Roles and uniform see Appendix 20 Match Day Official Responsibilities and Appendix 12 Officials Match Attire.

5.3 Home Club Responsibilities

- (a) Supply a new MVFNL branded football for the game, and a suitable used ball for each of the other grades. Junior grades where required may use a smaller sized football.
- (b) Ensure umpire's and player's change rooms are safe, clean and secure.
- (c) Ensure coach's boxes, Timekeepers and interchange areas are safe, and clean.
- (d) Ensure Timekeeper's box has two working timers and a printed copy of the Appendix 9 Timekeeper Duties placed in a suitable position. Refer to Appendix 9.
- (e) Provide a suitable and audible siren.
- (f) Supply a scoreboard operator for each grade.
- (g) Goal posts and point posts are fixed with compliant protective padding.
- (h) Provide a stretcher to be placed in a safe position on the boundary at the interchange area.
- (i) Ensure oval is marked to requirements below. Refer to Appendix 15.
- (j) Ensure the Marsh Oval Risk Assessment is carried out prior to commencement of games allocated on the day. This to be carried out electronically on phone or tablet app or as a hard copy and must include each club's agreeance and signature for games to proceed.
- (k) Ensure compliance with relevant acts of legislation, in particular the Liquor Licensing Act.
- (l) Ensure that home club paperwork procedure is completed as per by-law 5.8a.
- (m) Ensure Play HQ data for all grades is entered by 5.45 pm of the day the game was played unless the games have been negotiated for a later start for night football situation.

5.4 Gatekeepers

- (a) The home club shall provide gatekeepers who will charge patrons the Fees set at the previous MVFNL AGM by the League Delegates.
- (b) A sign must be displayed "Conditions of Entry" at the gate.
- (c) Alcohol or any drinks in glass are not permitted to be taken onto to the playing field at any time.
- (d) Gatekeepers are to remind patrons that animals are not permitted, unless on a leash, to enter the oval grounds.

5.5 Oval Marking

- (a) Ensure the playing field is properly marked with; Boundary line, goal squares and a centre square
- (b) A centre circle three meters in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter located in the middle of the centre square.
- (c) An interchange area 15 meters wide centralized between the two coach's boxes.
- (d) A line drawn in the shape of an arc 50 meters from the goal/behind posts at each end of the playing field.
- (e) A line is to be marked at 45 degrees connecting each point post to the boundary fence in order to delineate a safe area for the goal umpire to move without tripping or colliding with a moveable object or spectator.
- (f) A two-metre zone shall be marked around each coach's box.
- (g) Refer to Appendix 15 Oval Marking for diagram.

5.6 Club Play HQ Responsibilities

Play HQ is the platform in which each grade of the competition is administered. Functions include registration and transfer of players and officials, match results, teams selected tribunal history etc. Each club shall nominate their respective coordinator who will be responsible for all correspondence in relation to PlayHQ, pass on information to others in their club as required and make themselves available to attend meetings and training sessions.

- (a) Each Club shall enter information into Play HQ as directed by The League.
- (b) Registration of Players, Team Officials including coaches, team manager, trainers, Timekeeper and runner shall be registered in PlayHQ and listed electronically prior to the commencement of each match. Penalty for playing an un-transferred (or registered) player. Refer to Appendix 14 Fines.
- (c) Water boy registrations and electronic team sheet listing is optional, however they must at least be handwritten onto the paper copy team sheet prior to the match.
- (d) Select and submit team officials when selecting teams.
- (e) Enter teams for every grade no later than 9pm the Thursday night prior to the match.
- (f) Print Team Sheets before the match to give to the opposition team and field umpire(s).

- (g) Each club must continually monitor and keep PlayHQ information accurate and updated.

5.7 Club Officials

- (a) The appointed coach of each team of all Clubs must be registered online prior to the season starting with the SANFL or Play by the Rules and complete the modules.
- (b) All coaches and both match day and team officials must consent to being subject to a Working with Children's Check.
- (c) An appointed trainer of any team must have a current Senior First Aid, CPR Certificate and Level 1 Sports Trainers accreditation at the commencement of the current season.

5.8 Home & Away Clubs – Match Day Paperwork Procedure

- (a) Home Club
 - (i) Team Manager of home club to collect umpire team sheets of both clubs, votes and any match reports from the umpires at end of the match.
 - (ii) 2 x scorecards which have been signed by goal umpires and Timekeepers' sheets to be collected from goal umpires.
 - (iii) Results and Best Players – Home club to enter match scores, goal kickers and best players after each grade into PlayHQ (straight after each game), but by no later than 5-45pm Saturday nights. Please make sure scores are correct.
 - (iv) Home clubs are to hold all team sheets, score cards and Timekeepers' sheets until the end of the season. Vote envelope is to be sealed and signed by umpires then posted, via registered post postmarked no later than COB Tuesday after the match has been played, to the MVFNL Executive Officer. Failure to complete voting process correctly will result in those votes being null and void.
 - (v) Both clubs to sign Ground report form.
 - (vi) Home Clubs are to send paper copies of any reports to MVFNL Executive officer, after a photo has been emailed to both SANFL CFO and MVFNL Executive Officer directly after the match.
- (b) Away Club
 - (i) Amend any necessary details on PlayHQ no later than 10am the day after the games has been played.
 - (ii) Make sure the Team Manager gives goal umpires score cards and Timekeeper's sheets to Home club Team Manager.
 - (iii) Make sure any match reports are handed to home club to be sent in.
- (c) Home and Away Clubs
 - (i) Club records officer is to sign into PlayHQ no later than midday on Monday following the match and update players on each team sheet as they played and remove those who didn't play.

5.9 Runners, Trainers and Water Carriers

Runners, Trainers and Water Carriers are essential personnel during matches. While conducting their respective activities, they must adhere to the following criteria;

- (a) Runners are to relay a message from the Coach and then immediately leave the playing area.
- (b) Trainers and Water Carriers are to attend players and then immediately leave the playing area.
- (c) There is to be a maximum of 6 Trainers or Water Carriers on the playing area at any one time.
- (d) They are not permitted to barrack whilst on the playing area, encourage their team in a general manner or speak to an opposition player.
- (e) They are not to interfere with the flow of play in any manner.
- (f) A free kick shall be awarded against an official who intentionally, recklessly or negligently, interferes with the football, a player of the opposition team, an umpire or general play.
- (g) Runners, Trainers or Water Carriers who operate outside their official role will be warned in the first instance. If they persist a free kick will be awarded against the offending Club official. They will be issued with a yellow card and may be reported for more serious breaches.
- (h) Water carriers must be a minimum age of 12 years.
- (i) Runner, Trainers and Water Carriers are to be dressed appropriately and follow Official Match Attire. Refer to Appendix 12.
- (j) All matchday personnel and players shall remain within the marked zone around their respective coach's box area and must not introduce hazards to the players such as chairs etc.

Failure to adhere to the above criteria may result in penalties or fines. Refer to Appendix 14 Fines.

5.10 Timekeepers

Timekeepers are an integral part of the running of the game. The role of Timekeeper involves not only blowing the siren and timing the quarters. It now involves writing down the scores quarter by quarter and recording players sent off the field under the Send-off Rule. Refer to Appendix 9.

5.11 Matches and Times of Quarters – Refer to Appendix 9 -Timekeepers

- (a) The football season shall commence on the date to be fixed by the League. All matches shall commence at the time specified by the program.
- (b) Any Club not starting a match 15 minutes after the advertised or scheduled time may be fined. Refer to Appendix 14 Fines.
- (c) In the event of not starting within 30 minutes after the advertised or scheduled time shall forfeit the match and report in writing to the League the reason for failing to comply with this rule.
- (d) The League reserves the right to order the match to be played on a subsequent date or otherwise finally decide the matter.

5.12 Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificates

- (a) As per The South Australian Children’s Protection Act 1993.

All coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers and runners over the age of 14 who work with children at any junior level-under 18 and below, will be required to obtain a Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificate from DCSI and provide information to the Authorized Officer - MPIO (Member Protection Information Officer) of the MVFNL and Club for assessment via their respective Club MPIO.
- (b) A complete list of all appointed volunteers in the above capacities is to be forwarded to the MVFNL Executive Officer prior to the start of the season and is to be updated if any changes occur.
- (c) The MVFNL will check to make sure the screening checks are done.
- (d) The following persons are exempt from this regulation in the MVFNL.
 - (i) A parent or guardian of a child that is in the team they are volunteering for
 - (ii) A volunteer who is under 14 years of age
 - (iii) A Police Officer
- (e) These applications are free and are to be obtained when first commencing working with children and then renewed every five years thereafter. (Refer to Appendix 6 Child Safety Policy for procedures)

6. COMPETITION AND FINALS

6.1 Premiership Conditions

- (a) In all matches 2 points will be awarded to the winning team and 1 point in the event of a tie. In the event of a forfeit the club to which the forfeit was made shall receive 2 points.
- (b) In the case of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit shall at the conclusion of the minor round of matches be credited with the average number of points scored against the forfeiting team in the minor round and forfeiting team shall be debited with the same number of points.
- (c) In the event of 2 or more clubs receiving the same number of points the position of such clubs shall be determined by the percentage of all points kicked for and against such club.
- (d) At the conclusion of the minor round of matches final matches shall be played in accordance with the rules of the SANFL.

6.2 Forfeiture or Cancellation of Matches

- (a) Any Club forfeiting a match shall notify the Executive Officer of the League of its reasons for doing so. The League may accept the explanation or deal with the Club so forfeiting or any of its members as it may deem necessary.
- (b) As far as practicable any club wishing to forfeit shall advise the Executive Officer no later than 4pm on the day prior to the match

- (c) If a match is to be cancelled by the League for any unforeseen circumstance (Covid Pandemic, Inclement Weather Conditions or any other condition the League sees fit to cancel a match or round) then the policy outlined in Appendix 18 Competition Management Policy is to be followed and adhered to.
- (d) If a club has a game abandoned due to covid then each team to receive 1 point as per (b)

6.3 Matches other than League Matches

No Club shall play any match other than Scheduled League matches without first obtaining prior approval of the League. The only exception being preseason trial games.

6.4 Grounds for Finals

- (a) The MVFNL shares all finals and football related events as fair as possible across the delegate clubs.
- (b) Refer to Appendix 8 Finals Rotation.
- (c) Finals match to be allocated on a rotational basis as per the "Finals Allocation Disc", with all finals, including the Grand Final, being shared between all Clubs. Catering will be the responsibility of the host Club. In exceptional circumstances the MVFNL board may use its discretion to re-allocate any finals match.

6.5 Hosting Finals

Hosting MVFNL Finals is a joint venture between the MVFNL and the host club. Following is a list of requirements to ensure venues are safe and are efficiently run on the day.

Host Club Requirements:

- (a) Host clubs is to book the ground with the appropriate authorities, prepare the oval, oval precinct, clean change rooms and umpire's rooms and provide adequate rubbish bins and disposal arrangements.
- (b) All line marking must be carried out with white line marking material only.
- (c) Mark a separate white line 2 meters from boundary line. This is for spectators to keep behind, as well as coaches.
- (d) Mark a 'no go zone' behind the goals at each end of the ground. The area from the point posts to the boundary perimeter fence is a no-go zone for spectators and children.
- (e) Mark a line around Coaches box, for coaches to stand behind.
- (f) Interchange area must be clearly marked.
- (g) Oval must have a fit playing surface.
- (h) Ensure the siren is working and have a back-up system available if the siren fails to work.
- (i) Scoreboard to be manned and all signs for all clubs to be displayed. Scoreboard attendant must be over 16 years of age.
- (j) The host club is to ensure the gates are unlocked by 7.30am of the day of the match.

- (k) The host club will ensure it has the adequate liquor license approvals in place and provide security personnel if it intends to sell alcohol at the venue.
- (l) MVFNL Executive Officer will advise which teams are playing; hence the change rooms need to have a sign on the respective change room door indicating which teams are changing where.
- (m) MVFNL Executive Officer is to be supplied with the host club's internet password so that scores can be input during the day by the League.
- (n) The host club must have a working ball pump for easy access for the umpires to use.
- (o) Provide a space on the fence for the MVFNL marquee allowing participating clubs easy access to the MVFNL Executive Officer.
- (p) The host club must clean up oval precinct to council/owner's satisfaction after the league game.

MVFNL Board Requirements:

- (a) Supply gate keepers.
- (b) Supply security personnel at the gate.
- (c) May pay up to \$500.00 to the host club in lieu of issuing gate passes.
- (d) Ensure the Oval Risk Assessment prior to the first match is completed.
- (e) Enter the scores and results into Play HQ.
- (f) Arrange and pay all Central Umpires, Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires.
- (g) MVFNL to give funds for payment of scoreboard attendant to the host club (amount to be advised).

6.6 Shields or Trophies

- (a) Any shield or trophy presented to the League for competition shall remain the property of the League until such time as it has been won outright and presented by the President of the League.
- (b) Any Club holding such shield or trophy after winning it in any season and not been won outright shall return same to the President of the League prior to the Grand Final of the following season.
- (c) The League reserves the right to institute legal proceedings for the recovery of same against any Club refusing to return it. All expenses incurred shall be debited against such Club.
- (d) The Club holding any shield or trophy shall be deemed to be responsible for its safekeeping.

6.7 Even Scores at the End of Finals Match

In the event of the scores being even at the end of regular time for a finals match, the following procedure shall be adopted in all finals games.

- (a) Teams to change ends immediately scores have been checked at the end of full time to verify a draw with the umpires.
- (b) Then 5 minutes play to commence.

- (c) At the end of 5 minutes teams are to change ends again and play the second 5 minutes of extra time.
- (d) At the conclusion of the second 5 minutes if the game is still tied the game will continue without stopping or a siren being sounded until one of the team scores at which stage the siren will be sounded to end the game and the first team to score will be declared the winner.
- (e) The times are solely controlled by the Timekeeper with no time on added.

7. UMPIRES

The Murray Valley Football Netball League Board shall be empowered to appoint the umpires coach or coaches for the forthcoming season and to dismiss if proven to be unsuitable after due consideration.

7.1 General

- (a) The Murray Valley Football Netball League Umpires Association to form an umpire's panel each season.
- (b) The Murray Valley Football Netball League Umpires Association is to appoint all A grade and Junior umpires for programmed minor round matches. At times, clubs will be required to provide a central umpire. This will be arranged with the clubs involved by the MVFNL Umpire Panel Coach/Co-ordinator.
- (c) Murray Valley Football Netball League Umpires Association together with the Murray Valley Football Netball League Board representative is empowered to appoint all umpires for the major round.
- (d) No Club shall refuse to play under the field umpire appointed by the League or any umpire's association and no club shall forfeit any match because of objection to the appointed umpire. The Club so refusing to play or forfeiting a match for such reason shall be suspended or expelled. Any player or players who refuse to play or take part in the forfeiture of the match on account of objection to the appointed umpire may be disqualified for such period as the League may think fit.
- (e) No Club shall refuse to play under the field umpire appointed by the League or any umpire's association and no club shall forfeit any match because of objection to the appointed umpire. The Club so refusing to play or forfeiting a match for such reason shall be suspended or expelled. Any player or players who refuse to play or take part in the forfeiture of the match on account of objection to the appointed umpire may be disqualified for such period as the League may think fit.
- (f) Umpire Payments - During the minor rounds, each home club is responsible for the payments to the Murray Valley Football Netball League Panel umpires. Refer to Appendix 10 Umpire Payment Schedule.
- (g) Umpires are to be dressed to a standard. Refer to Appendix 12 Officials Match Attire.

7.2 Administration of Finals

MVFNL Finals are administered by the MVFNL League Board and are responsible for appointing all umpires for the finals.

8. DISPUTES AND TRIBUNAL

All clubs referring disputes, protests, charges against other clubs, delegates officials, players servants or umpires or reporting any infringement of these rules of the game shall refer to

Appendix 13 for the Request and Investigating Procedure that is to be followed by all parties concerned.

9. PLAYERS AND QUALIFICATIONS TO PLAY

- (a) Clubs shall only play members who have been duly registered and granted a permit to play, such permits to be granted prior to the match.
- (b) Junior players shall be under grade years of age on the first day of January of the current season to be eligible to play in the corresponding grade.
- (c) Any junior player whose age qualifications are questioned by the Murray Valley Football Netball League Board must supply a birth certificate as proof of such age.

9.1 Clearances and Permits

The Murray Valley Football Netball League operates under the National player transfer regulations and the SANFL Community Football Rules and Regulations which can be found on the website of the SANFL Community Football and we follow these rules in regard to Clearances and Permits to play in this League and all clearances or permits to play are to be conducted via PlayHQ procedures with any exception as mentioned in these by- laws.

9.2 Intra-League Transfers

Intra-League transfers involve player transfers who wish to transfer from one club to another within the same Football League.

(a) Transfers - A Grade

Intra-League Transfers can be completed online via Play HQ only if the player is currently playing or is registered with a club in this League and wants to transfer to another club within this League.

- (b) A player who has played for a club in this league and left to play for an AFL or State League Club (e.g., SANFL), and wishes to return to another club in this League, must return to his club of origin in this league unless he first obtains a written clearance from the original club to go to a club of his choice. A request is to be submitted via the league Executive Officer, not on PlayHQ.
- (c) A player who has played for a club in this league and left to play for any other club in another league (Except for AFL and State League) and wishes to return to a club in this league must return to his original club unless he first obtains a written clearance from the original club to go to a club of his choice. Except where it is otherwise stated in (d) or (e). A request is to be submitted via the league Executive Officer not on PlayHQ.
- (d) A player who has played for a club in this league and has left to play for any other club in another league, (Except for AFL and State League) and wishes to return to a club in this league and has been away for two (2) or more full seasons, can go to a club of his own choosing without first obtaining consent from his original club.
- (e) A player who has played for a club in this league and has not played for any other Club in this league or any other league for two (2) or more full seasons can obtain a Transfer (clearance) to play for any club in this league. It is to be submitted via PlayHQ.
- (f) As per the national player transfer regulations and community football regulations a maximum of 3 players can only be transferred from one club to another same club in total across all grades within this League unless the two clubs mutually agree to transfer more players between them.

(g) Appealing Denied Transfers

After a maximum of two (2) attempts at a transfer (clearance) Clubs have the right to appeal the denial providing all avenues of negotiation have been exhausted between the clubs and players concerned.

The Murray Valley Football Netball League Independent Tribunal is elected annually at the MVFNL Annual General Meeting.

A club may appeal to the MVFNL Independent Tribunal if a clearance between two affiliated Murray Valley Football Netball Clubs has been refused.

Clubs are reminded before appealing that the leagues focus is to keep junior players playing football.

- (h) The procedure is that the Club to whom the player wishes to transfer to must lodge an appeal within seven days of refusal accompanied by a cheque/direct deposit for \$500. The Club that has refused the clearance has seven days from lodgement in which to lodge a cheque/direct deposit of \$100 . Failure to lodge a cheque/direct deposit in the required time will result in the player being cleared by the MVFNL. The appeal will be heard at the earliest possible date. If the appeal is heard by the Independent Tribunal there is no refund of any money unless the appeals board grants a refund. If a decision is reached before the start of an appeal all money will be refunded. All avenues of negotiations must be exhausted before coming to the MVFNL Independent Tribunal which has to make a decision.
- (i) The procedure of the Appeals Tribunal is in Appendix 13 and the decision is final.
- (j) Prior to attending the appeal, the club appealing must provide to the Murray Valley Football Netball League a summary of the communications which have taken place between the player, the original club and the appealing club. The communications can be in the form of meetings, phone calls, emails, text messages etc. In the case of a junior player transfer it is important the parent or guardian is involved. Also, specific reasons for the appeal and any other relevant information the league requests.
- (k) No player shall be granted a clearance from this League who is under disqualification, unpaid fine or suspension. However, if both leagues agree a player can serve the remainder of their suspension at their new club.

9.3 Disqualifications

- (a) Any League Club after having received written notice from the Executive Officer of the League to the effect that any of its members have been disqualified or suspended by the League and who shall play any such members so disqualified or suspended until such disqualification or suspension has been removed shall forfeit the match in which such member has played and in addition may be fined. Refer to Appendix 14 Fines. This includes players or Club members from Riverland Football League
- (b) Any League expelling any of its members from its ranks shall forward within 7 days of such expulsion the name of such player or players together with particulars of the offence to the Club Secretary or any League Tribunal. The player or players shall have the right of appeal to the League provided the Appeal is lodged within 21 days of such verdict. No Club shall be allowed to play such players until his case has been fully decided upon by the League. . This includes players or Club members from Riverland Football League
- (c) Any Club forfeiting a match shall pay the Umpires fees for such match if required. This fee is to be paid to the League who shall be responsible to pay the umpire. Any Club refusing to pay such fee shall be automatically disqualified until such fee is paid.

9.4 Qualification for Finals

To qualify for finals selection in the MVFNL the following Criteria shall apply:

- (a) For Players to be eligible to play in the finals round of matches the player must have played not less than 3 games at any level for that club in the minor round on separate days including Junior players
- (b) If the A grade and Junior teams' side are both in the finals series, then any qualified player can be selected in either grade but not in two matches on the same weekend unless it is a junior player then they can at the discretion of the club play any Junior matches they are eligible for and 1 Senior Match on the same weekend.
- (c) When a Club has only one senior side in the finals series, then the following shall apply.
 - (i) The players must have qualified to play in Finals as per 1 above.
 - (ii) If the side is the only team in, then the team can be picked from any player that has qualified as per 1 above and can include any Junior matches, they are eligible for and 1 Senior Match on the same weekend.
- (d) Any alteration from these rules caused by illness, injury, lack of numbers or other unforeseen circumstances may be dealt with by the MVFNL board.
- (e) The club concerned must notify the League board at its earliest convenience if it wishes approval for players to play in the reserves team if the league side is not in the finals series. A list must be provided of the league team, including number of games played, League and Reserves as if they were still competing so a decision can be made. The club can apply by email as soon as the League side is not in the final series. The League board decision will be final, and the club will be notified of the decision.
- (f) The MVFNL Board will check team sheets and player qualifications to ensure this policy is adhered to and may issue penalties as it sees fit if it is not followed.

9.5 Playing Disqualified or Unregistered Players

No Club shall play any player which is under disqualification by any Australian Football Authority whether such authority is affiliated with the League or not. Neither will any club play an unregistered player. Any Club infringing this rule shall forfeit such match and be dealt with further penalty as the League management sees fit.

10. MVFNL APPROVED PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

Under Appendix 4 of the SANFL CFL Rules and Regulations every league is to adopt and implement an APPS (Approved Player Points System) in order to achieve the following objects;

- (a) Encourage the development and retention of local and junior players;
- (b) Encourage the recruitment of ex local players;
- (c) Encourage the loyalty of recruited players;
- (d) Assist in the equalisation of competitions;
- (e) Assist Regulation 31 in reducing player payments to sustainable levels,
- (f) Encourage Clubs to develop and promote the game in their local community.

Recommendations

The sub-committee recommended the following system and rules shall be applied;

- (a) A primary formula be adopted based on league game minor round win results over a 3-year period.
- (b) A set of criteria shall be met by a club in order to apply for additional points allocation to what the primary formula determined.
- (c) Rules to support the MVFNL APPS and includes the composition of the MVFNL Points committee, MVFNL Points Officer and their roles and duties.
- (d) The adopted system shall be reviewed if the current delegate club composition changes such as merger(s), new club(s) entering the league or current club(s) exit the league.

10.1 Primary Formula

The following formula will apply based on games won of the previous 3-year periods in the league competition only. The 3-tier system is designed to balance out the advantages of clubs in relation to location and population.

- (a) The above formula is applied at the conclusion of the minor round (excludes finals), enabling clubs to have the immediate knowledge of their points allocation for the ensuing season.
- (b) At the conclusion of the minor round, the formula relates to average wins over the previous two seasons and the current season, a total of 3 minor round seasons only.
- (c) The points range operates on whole numbers only, e.g., club has 12.5 wins, then the score rounds down to 12.
- (d) A draw is counted as a loss and not included in the equation.
- (e) Due to the COVID -19 affected season in 2020, the above points matrix will exclude wins in the said (2020) season.
 - (i) For season 2021, the matrix will include wins accumulated from 2017, 2018 and 2019.
 - (ii) For season 2022, the matrix will include wins accumulated from 2018, 2019 and 2021.
 - (iii) For season 2023, the matrix will include wins accumulated from 2019, 2021 and 2022.
 - (iv) From season 2024 and moving forward the system will revert to the regular pattern of the previous 3 seasons.

10.2 Application for Additional Points

Under SACFL Appendix 4, 3.4 clubs may apply to their league for an additional allocation of points. The MVFNL is limited in its allocation to 15 points per club. SANFL CFL Appendix 4.3 also covers the procedure for additional point's applications in excess of 15 per club.

10.3 Application Procedure

- (a) The opportunity for application for additional points commences after the MVFNL AGM for the applicable season.
- (b) Must be submitted to the MVFNL Executive Officer by February 28th of the relevant season, unless exceptional circumstances prevail, then June 30 as per Appendix 4 of SANFL CFL Rules and Regulations.

- (c) Application for additional Points to be assessed and an answer provided within 14 days of the application.
- (d) Must be approved by the MVFNL League Board.

10.4 Criteria for Additional Points

Club must meet all three of the criteria below when applying for additional points;

- (a) Loss of substantial quantity and quality players.
- (b) Lack of junior player stocks.
- (c) The club has been through a substantial period of low performance.

10.5 Murray Valley Football Points Committee

Consists of 3 persons, 2 members of the MVFNL Board who are to be elected at the MVFNL AGM every year and the SANFL Regional Operations Co-ordinator (who will be the points Officer as per Appendix 4 of the SANFL CFL Rules and Regulations).

10.6 Role of the Points Committee

- (a) Assess club's applications for additional points.
- (b) Submits its assessment of club application for a points increase to the MVFNL Board for its approval or decline within 14 days of the application.

10.7 Role of the Points Officer

- (a) Points Committee Chair/Officer to advise the clubs by phone and follow up with a written reason for their points application approval or decline.
- (b) Manage a register or database of all applications and reasons for the approval or decline.
- (c) Communication of a club's application outcome to all other clubs with justification of the decision.
- (d) Assess individual player points declaration forms and advise the club along with the MVFNL Executive Officer.
- (e) Ensure each club's player points list is sent to the MVFNL Executive Officer and is also published on the MVFNL website.
- (f) Record the player points as declared or assessed on a register or database.

10.8 Appealing a Decision of the Points Committee

- (a) A Club may appeal the decision of the Points Committee within 7 days of the original decision.
- (b) The Appeal must be in writing setting out the reasons for appeal and be accompanied by a fee of \$200.00, which is refundable if the appeal is won.
- (c) The Appeal is not to re hear the case but to determine if an injustice has occurred or the due process has not been followed.
- (d) The appeal is to be heard as soon as practicable and the procedure is in Appendix 23.

11. LEAGUE

11.1 League Sub-Committees

The MVFNL has various sub committees, which need to be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. Listed below are those committees, and it is a requirement that each year the Clubs nominate, and vote, who they would like to be on these committees.

Those positions for each season are:

- (a) MVFNL Independent Tribunal – Elected MVFNL Board Committee. Refer to Appendix 7 for procedures.
- (b) MVFNL Tribunal. Refer to Appendix 13 for procedures.
- (c) MVFNL Tribunal Appeals Committee. To consist of the following officials; MVFNL President, MVFNL Executive Officer plus an Independent Club President Refer to Appendix 7 for procedures.
- (d) APPS Committee.
- (e) APPS Appeals Tribunal. 1 APPS committee person and 2 impartial Club Presidents.
- (f) The persons elected to these positions are recorded in the Minutes of the AGM.

12. LEAGUE PLAYING RULES – ADOPTION OR VARIANCE FROM SANFL/AFL RULES

12.1 Send-Off Rule

A Yellow and Red card system is administered by the MVFNL board for all matches under the direction of the Murray Valley Football Netball League Inc. **Field umpires are the only officials that may order a player or any other official on the team sheet from the playing surface under this system.** In conjunction with the send-off rule, a Demerit point system will apply, details below.

Yellow Card – Send Off

- (a) The player or any other official on the team sheet is to stay off (they CANNOT be replaced) for 10 minutes actual playing time, which does not include includes breaks and time on and off, so a player or any other official on the team sheet may be on the sidelines for more than 10 minutes which is to be administered by the Timekeeper.
- (b) Any offence under AFL, SANFL, or MVFNL rules or by laws may attract a Yellow Card send off.
- (c) In the first or second instance if the breach is minor then a 25 or 50 metre penalty maybe awarded, but if the offence continues or a player is injured then the Yellow card may be given. This is entirely at the umpire's discretion at the time.

Red card – Send Off

A player or any other official on the team sheet will be sent off for a serious breach of the rules for the remainder of the game. The player or any other official on the team sheet is automatically reported. The player or any other official on the team sheet is to stay off (and cannot be replaced) for 10 minutes actual playing time, which does not include includes breaks and time on and off, so a player or any other official on the team sheet may be on the sidelines for more than 10 minutes which is to be administered by the Timekeeper.

A player or any other official on the team sheet who refuses or does not immediately leave the playing surface after being ordered off with either a yellow or red card by the field umpire shall;

- (a) In the case of a yellow card, be reported for the offence which led to the player being ordered off, and
- (b) In the case of either card, be reported for misconduct as well as the original offence.

Administering the Send Off

- (a) Details of players or any other official on the team sheet ordered off shall be recorded by the Timekeeper on an interchange sheet.
- (b) The umpire must escort the player or any other official on the team sheet to the boundary close to the Timekeeper and indicate with either the Yellow / Red card.
- (c) He must request the player turn around, so the Timekeeper has clear vision of the player's Guernsey number.
- (d) The Timekeeper must then indicate with a Yellow / Red Card in acknowledgement of the players Guernsey number and the category of his misdemeanour.
- (e) The Timekeeper must keep a record of 10 minutes actual playing time that the player or any other official on the team sheet must sit out of the game.
- (f) When the 10 minutes actual playing time is up, the Timekeeper must signal with a Green card to the Team Manager of the player's team that he is eligible to go back on the field.

Special Notes;

- (a) Any player or any other official on the team sheet who is ordered from the playing surface (yellow card) twice during the same game will be ineligible to return to the playing arena for the remainder of the match.
- (b) The offending player (s) and /or the interchange player must enter or leave the ground through the interchange area.
- (c) Umpire to complete report or documentation at his earliest convenience after the match.
- (d) All documentation must be conveyed to the MVFNL Executive Officer via the appropriate app or email as soon as practicable.

Demerit Points

Players and team sheet listed officials will have an allowance of 3 points per season. Once the player or team sheet listed official accumulate a total of 3 Demerit points, they are to be suspended for the following relevant match. Every additional Demerit point issued after that will incur a further one match suspension. Demerit points will be issued for Yellow and Red card breaches as the table below:

Description	Detail	Demerit Points	
		Normal Rounds & Finals	Grand Final Only
Yellow Card		1	2
Red Card	Early Plea Accepted	1	2
Red Card	Tribunal – Found Not Guilty	0	0
Red Card	Tribunal – Found Guilty	2	3

During the Grand Final Demerit points issued will be increased (as per table above) and carried over into the next year's competition. The MVFNL Executive Officer will keep records of all Demerit points issued. The MVFNL Executive Officer will notify the club the date in

which the player or official are permitted to resume. Demerit points are not administered by the tribunal or taken into account by the tribunal when handing down sentences.

12.2 Coach's Box

- (a) Club's coach's Box should only have essential members to the team including:
 - (i) Coach and Coaching Staff (Assistant Coach or Football Director)
 - (ii) Team Manager
 - (iii) Trainer(s)
 - (iv) Water Runners
 - (v) Runner(s)
- (b) Match officials should remain in allocated area, no closer than 1.5m from the boundary line.
- (c) All members of the Coach's box MUST be entered on the team sheet and registered on Play HQ and have a Working with Children Check.
- (d) Alcohol is prohibited in the coach's box allocated area at all times.
- (e) On field and Off field penalties may apply for any breach within club's coach's box. Refer to Appendix 14 Fines.

12.3 Last Possession Rule (Variation to AFL Laws)

A Free Kick shall be awarded against a Player who:

Kicks or handballs the football over the Boundary Line without the football being touched by another Player.

For the purposes of defining a kick, a kick shall be an intentional action, not accidental. When the ball comes off the foot or lower leg of a player without the intent of the player being to kick the ball, it will be deemed accidental contact and will not be determined as a kick by the umpire and therefore will result in a boundary throw in.

Where a Player who does not have possession stops the football being touched by an Opposition Player by Shepherding the ball across the Boundary Line where the ball could have otherwise been touched by the player being blocked, then the umpire will not award a free kick but will instead order a boundary throw in.

12.4 50 Metre Penalty

The MVFNL uses 50 metre penalties.

The player with the ball: Must be allowed to advance the mark without the infringing player delaying the game and will be able to play on while the penalty is being measured out.

12.5 Marks / Free Kicks (Deep D50)

For all defenders who take a mark or gain a free kick within 9 metres of their own goal, the man on the mark for the attacking team will be brought in line with the top of the goal square (which is 9 metres).



12.6 Umpire Contact

Players will be prohibited from setting up behind the Umpire at each centre bounce.

12.7 Kicking for Goal post-siren – Centre of Goal Line

A Player who has been awarded a mark or free kick once play has ended will now be able to kick across their body using a snap or check-side kick. The player shall dispose of the football directly in line with the man on the mark and the goal.

12.8 Marking Contest

'Hands in the Back' rule interpretation to be repealed, allowing a player to place his hands on the back of his opponent to protect his position in a marking contest but not to push the player in the back.

12.9 Deliberate rushed behind (Variation to AFL Laws) – Refer rule 15.8

This is omitted from MVFNL League Playing Rules, so a behind will result.

12.10 A Grade Team Game Player Numbers

All clubs should endeavour to be represented by 18 on field players, with either 2, 3 or 4 players on the interchange bench.

Each club should have sufficient registered players to ensure they field the required number of players each game.

If illness, injury or Covid does not allow a club to field the required number of players, the club can reduce their required number of players to a minimum of 16 players on field and 2 players on the interchange bench. The opposition team must also field 16 players but can have up to 4 players on the interchange bench. See table below.

The team wishing to reduce to 16 a side must contact the opposition team by 12:00 pm Friday before the game.

Club	On Field Players	Interchange Players - 1	Interchange Players - 2	Interchange Players - 3	Total on Team Sheet
A	16	2	3	4	18, 19 or 20

B	18	2	3	4	20, 21 or 22
---	----	---	---	---	--------------

If the game is being played with 16 per side on the field the opposition may still field 22 players for the match – 6 on the bench.

12.11 Covid Rules

For Covid Rules and information see Appendix 19.

12.12 Use of Stretcher

Health & Safety of Player

Any Player who is injured during a Match and who, in the opinion of a doctor, trainer or Official, requires the assistance of a stretcher, shall be attended by the Team's training staff and a stretcher as soon as possible so as to ensure the health and safety of the Player.

Procedure

Where a stretcher is required, the following procedure shall apply:

Upon being advised or noticing that a Player requires a stretcher, the field Umpire shall stop play at the earliest opportunity and unless a doctor considers or it is apparent that it is unsafe to do so, the Player must be removed from the Playing Surface on the stretcher by the shortest possible route and taken direct to their team's change rooms;

A Team may replace the injured Player with a Player listed on its Team Sheet, who must enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Area;

The Interchange Steward may allow the Player who is replacing the injured Player to enter the Playing Surface before the injured Player is removed from the Playing Surface;

Once the injured Player has been removed from the Playing Surface, the Field Umpire shall recommence play as follows depending on the circumstances:

- (i) Where the football was in dispute at the time the play was stopped, by throwing up the football;
- (ii) Where the football was Out of Bounds at the time play was stopped, by directing the boundary Umpire to throw the football in;
- (iii) Where a Player had possession of the football at the time play was stopped, by awarding a Free Kick to the Player;
- (iv) Where a Player had been awarded a Free Kick or a Mark at the time play was stopped, by allowing the player to dispose of the football.

A Player for whom a stretcher was called shall not resume playing for a period of 20 minutes (excluding intervals between quarters) from the time when the Player left the playing Surface. After the 20-minute period has expired, the Player may be interchanged in accordance with the procedure set out under Law 7.2 provided the Player is able, having due regard to their health and safety, to resume playing in the Match; and

Where a stretcher enters the Playing Surface but the Player elects to walk off, all provisions of Law 7.3.2 apply but the Player may go to the Interchange Bench.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT

- (a) At no time and under any circumstances will any Club Member, Player or General supporter exhibit unacceptable or extreme behaviour to the detriment or embarrassment of Club Patrons at any football match or other social gathering.
- (b) All Board Members including coaches and officials are expected to show impeccable behaviour. Senior players are expected to set a good example of conduct to their young players and supporters.
- (c) Any contravention to this Code of Conduct by any member or visitor, shall render action being taken by the President or Board Members, to expel or remove offending member/s or visitor/s from these premises or from the general oval area.
- (d) Contradiction of the code of conduct could face further sanctions by the MVFNL

NETBALL BY-LAWS

of

MURRAY VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

14. GAME DAY PROCESSES

14.1 Processes

- (a) Netballs used must be to the All-Australian Association regulation size and standard.
- (b) All matches are to be played in accordance with the rules and rule book of the International Netball Federation (INF). Umpires to follow INF guidelines for all game infringements and penalties.
 - (i) MVFNL will use the tactical substitution process for netball matches.
 - (ii) Clubs are required to have a nominated primary carer for all matches throughout the season. These are the people who can assist players to leave the court for injury time, and assist on the sideline.
- (c) There will be a limit of 10 minutes waiting time after the set match time for late arrivals or a player having to umpire the previous game
- (d) If a team is unable to field a minimum of five (5) players, the penalty is an automatic forfeit to the offending team.
- (e) Two (2) points shall be awarded for a win, two (2) for a forfeit, one (1) for a draw and zero (0) for a bye.
- (f) Once a scoresheet has been signed by both captains, scorers and umpires, the totals at the bottom of the scoresheet is recorded as the official score.
 - (i) If a discrepancy has occurred after the scorecard has been signed, the home sheet is deemed the official scoresheet.
- (g) Position changes for each quarter must be filled in prior to commencing the next quarter. This is the responsibility of the captains.
- (h) The names of the umpires should be printed on the scoresheet next to their signature or at the top of the scoresheet.
- (i) The home team must send the home score sheet and umpire awarded best and fairest votes via registered post to the Association Executive Officer.

Mail must be post marked by COB the Tuesday after the game has been played.

The home team must upload a photo of the official scoresheet to Facebook by no later than 5pm the Saturday of the match.

- (j) Forfeiting teams must notify the opposing team and the Association Executive Officer by 5:00 pm on the day prior to play
 - (i) Failure to notify by the advised time will result in a \$50.00 fine
 - (ii) Extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- (k) When a Club has only one team in the competition, that team must play in the A Grade competition

- (i) Except if the team has been consistently beaten by an excessive amount the year prior, in which case an application must be made to the Association for discussion and approval at the Annual General Meeting.
- (l) In the event of wet weather prior to the game, at the discretion of the umpires and captains involved, a game may be rescheduled.
 - (i) If the match is called off, this game can be played in the week following, time and venue of match to be decided by the teams involved.
- (m) After the commencement of the match, if both teams agree to abandon the match one (1) point is awarded to each team. If only one (1) team wants to abandon the match, the match shall be completed unless a team forfeit.
- (n) In the event of teams wanting to reschedule programmed games, both teams must agree, and these games must be played in the week prior to the week following the original program.
 - (i) Both teams must submit any rescheduled games in writing to the Board.
- (o) Games may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. In these circumstances one (1) point is awarded to each team and both teams should submit a scoresheet for player qualification.

14.2 UMPIRES

- (a) Umpires are implemented to control the game only. Any misconduct or misdemeanours that occur off court by spectators and crowd are to be controlled by the nominated Match Day Officials and followed up by the MVFNL Board where required. Police may be called if deemed necessary by Match Day Officials.
- (b) Each team must find its own umpires except in finals when board appointed umpires will be allocated
- (c) Umpires shall wear clothes distinct from those of the players. MVFNL logo white polo top or MVFNL logo white vest, white shorts, skirt or long pants.
- (d) Should clubs have discrepancy with an umpire's attire it is to be addressed with both umpires present by the team captain prior to commencement of the game.
- (e) Learner Umpires
 - (i) An umpire can choose to wear a MVFNL green vest to indicate to the players that they are a learner umpire.
 - (ii) A learner umpire can request to have a more experienced umpire run alongside them throughout the game, however the more experienced umpire must remain with the learner umpire the whole game to avoid uneven umpiring. Only the learner umpire is to have a whistle and control over the game.
 - (iii) A Club providing a learner umpire must contact the other Club to let them know they have a learner umpire prior to the game. Ideally only 1 learner umpire is permitted per game.
 - (iv) Learner umpires are not to be approached by anyone. Instead, the captains must approach and speak to the more experienced umpire.

14.3 Uniform

- (a) All players must play in registered uniform

- (b) Correct uniform must be worn by the third match unless approved by the League Committee.
- (c) Socks must be visible and above the shoe, unless ankle braces etc are required.
- (d) Black bike shorts above the knee are permissible.
- (e) All teams must wear positional bibs.
- (f) It is at the umpire's discretion whether to allow players on court if not in correct uniform.
- (g) Details of uniform descriptions or a sample template for any changes in club uniform must be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

14.4 Piercings

- (a) All visible piercings must be removed before taking the court. The only exception to this rule is if a player can supply a doctors/medical certificate (i.e., for a daith piercing for migraines)
- (b) Agreeing to abide by the MVFNL "Piercing Form" is required upon registration on PlayHq, a paper copy of the form is required by players using a single game voucher, where applicable. Email completed form to MVFNL Executive Officer with Match Day paperwork.

15. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Clubs must notify the Association Executive Officer, in writing, of how many team nominations they have and their Club officials 4 weeks before the first round.
- (b) All players must be registered in PlayHQ or using a single game voucher prior to the game commencing.
 - (i) Single game vouchers may be used up to three times for a player before they are required to register on PlayHQ.
 - (ii) All single game vouchers are to be filled out and signed before the game commences and sent to MVFNL Executive Officer via text prior to the start of the game.
 - (iii) The penalty for playing an unregistered player is an automatic forfeit to the offending team and a \$200 fine per player. Refer to Appendix 14 Fines.
- (c) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one Association, unless players have registered in PlayHQ for both Associations, or a single game voucher has been filled out prior to the game commencing.
- (d) An unfinancial player may not play until all money owed by that player is paid to the owing Club.
 - (i) Should an unfinancial player be played, a warning is to be issued to the Club involved.
 - (ii) A loss of two (2) premiership points will be removed from the team the player plays within should the unfinancial player continue to play.
- (e) Players may not play for more than one MVFNL club within a season.
 - (i) If a player wishes to change clubs during a season, they must seek clearance from the Association Board

- (f) A player can play in either grade for up to five (5) matches in any one season
 - (i) Once four (4) matches have been played, the fifth game played in that grade by that player determines the grade they stay in for the remainder of the season.
 - (ii) By round 3, all Clubs must declare five (5) A grade players who cannot play in a lower grade, in writing to the Association Executive Officer.
 - (iii) If any of the listed players play in a lower grade, a forfeit shall occur to the offending team.
- (g) Junior players are to be played at clubs' discretion.
 - (i) MVFNL will not be held liable for players under the age of 17.
 - (ii) The National Junior Sport Policy states that minors should not be playing senior netball.
 - (iii) Clubs will need written permission from a parent/guardian for any junior to play.
 - (iv) Clubs are to ensure any junior taking the court are mentally and physically safe and comfortable playing in a senior netball competition.

16. FINALS

- (a) A player must play three (3) minor round matches to be eligible for finals.
- (b) If a finals match is drawn at full time, there will be a four (4) minute break where teams can make positional changes, then two (2) seven (7) minute halves. There will be a half time interval of one (1) minute, where teams can make positional changes. Teams are to change ends at half time.
 - (i) In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, play continues until one team leads by two goals
- (c) The Association Committee are to arrange scoresheets, scoreboards as well as umpires and a volunteers roster (for scorers and timers) for all final matches.
 - (i) Clubs providing scorers and timers must ensure they are capable to suitably fulfil the role.
 - (ii) Clubs will be fined \$50.00 for failure to supply any persons required for duties when rostered.
- (d) Host Clubs are to organise two (2) tables, four (4) chairs and three (3) timers.
- (e) The MVFNL premiership shields will be presented after the grand final.
 - (i) MVFNL will organise a plaque to the winning club.
 - (ii) Shields will be used until full.
 - (iii) The completed shield will be awarded to the Club recording the most premierships at the MVFNL Presentation Night the following year. If two Clubs have the same number of premierships, the shield will be awarded to the Club with the most recent premiership.

17. ASSOCIATION UMPIRE VOTES AND AWARDS

17.1 MVFNL Best & Fairest Votes

The umpires will confer and jointly select three (3) Best & Fairest players from each match:

- (a) First awarded player will receive three (3) votes
- (b) Second awarded player will receive two (2) votes
- (c) Third awarded player will receive one (1) vote
- (d) Umpires must completely fill out the MVFNL Best & Fairest vote slip, including the positions the best players played in. Players who received sanctions during the game are not eligible to receive votes.
- (e) Vote slip will be placed in a sealed envelope, with umpires signing across the seal. Umpires to give the signed and sealed envelope to the home team Secretary.
- (f) Failure to complete voting process correctly will result in those votes being null and void.

17.2 The A Grade Team of the Year

The A Grade Team of the Year will be selected based on the MVFNL Best & Fairest umpire votes throughout the season. The votes will be tallied by the Board and used to allocate a player to each position (GS, GA, WA, C, WD, GD, GK and 1x reserve). For example, the position of GS will be allocated to the player who scored the most votes playing GS. If there are any allocations that are not clear, a decision to allocate that position will be made by the MVFNL board based on highest vote scorers and all games played. The Best & Fairest and Runner Up Best & Fairest will be allocated to a position first.

17.3 The B Grade Team of the Year

The B Grade Team of the Year will be selected based on the MVFNL Best & Fairest umpire votes throughout the season in the same way as A Grade Team of the Year, section 17.2.

17.4 The Rising Star Award

The Rising Star Award will be selected based on the MVFNL Best & Fairest umpire votes throughout the season. A player is eligible if they are under 18 as of the final minor round of the season. The nominated player must have qualified for finals to be eligible. If a player won the Rising Star Award previously, they are not eligible. All players who are eligible will be considered for the award. It will be awarded to the eligible player who collected the most MVFNL A grade Best & Fairest votes throughout the season.

17.5 The Golden Whistle Award

The Golden Whistle Award is awarded to the best A grade umpire of the season. An umpire will be eligible if they have umpired 4 or more A grade games in the season. At the commencement of the minor round, via email from the MVFNL Executive Officer, each Club will place one vote each for the eligible umpire they believe deserves the award.

17.6 Milestone Games

Milestone Games for MVFNL will be awarded at 100 games and then at 50 game intervals thereafter. Games must be played in senior grades for Clubs affiliated with Riverland Independent Netball Association.

18. DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (a) It is the duty of a Club President and Secretary to ensure members of the club know the rules and regulations of MVFNL as set out in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (b) The Association Committee may make regulations governing the hearing and determination of internal disputes, protests or complaints made by or against Members or participants or the Club or disciplinary matters generally or any other matter involving the enforcement of this Constitution or the Regulations or policies of the Club against Members or participants or the Club (including, but not limited to, matters which involve Members acting in a manner unbecoming of a Member or prejudicial to the Objects or interests of the Club and/or Sport or Members bringing other Members, the Club and/or Sport into disrepute).
- (c) Despite any regulation made under clause 11.2, and unless otherwise specific, the Association Committee may itself deal with any disciplinary matter referred to it or appoint a tribunal to do so.
- (d) All proceedings relating to matters falling under 11.2 must be conducted according to the rules of natural justice in accordance with the Act and procedural fairness generally.
- (e) A complaint must be made in writing to the Association Executive Officer.
- (f) A complaint related to a match shall be lodged on or before the Monday following the match.
- (g) Written complaints will be formally actioned by the Association President.
- (h) If a tribunal committee is required, the Association President shall notify all Board Members within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving any written complaint.
- (i) A Tribunal Committee will be decided by the Association Committee via nomination of an individual and subsequent voting.
- (j) The Tribunal Committee will seek to ensure that any disciplinary measure imposed is:
 - (i) Fair and reasonable.
 - (ii) Applied consistently with any contractual obligations or other requirements at law.
 - (iii) Commensurate with the principles of natural justice.
 - (iv) Based on the evidence and information presented.
 - (v) Proportionate to the conduct engaged in.
 - (vi) Determined in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, this Policy, the Complaint Handling Guidelines and/or the INF rules of netball.

APPENDIX 1: MVFNL ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Murray Valley Football Netball League view very seriously abuse of officials in sport and has adopted the following policy to comply with direction from the SANFL to cover the “abuse of officials” in sport. This policy cover Club Officials, Coaches, Players and Supporters respect for Umpires and Officials of the League and vice versa.

This policy is aimed at making football officials more comfortable in their role, knowing there will be support for the role they are undertaking. No one is above this.

Football is a partnership comprising coaches, players, umpire’s officials, families and supporters. We should at all times be privileged to be part of this partnership and we have certain expectations of all participants whilst observing the spirit of our great game.

- **No coach, player, club official or supporter will abuse or degrade an umpire or league official**
- **No coach, player, club official or supporter will take part in an exchange of heated words or debate with an umpire or league official during or after a game.**
- **No coach, player club official or supporter will be confrontational towards an umpire or league official.**
- **Every coach, player, official or supporter will show a strong level of personal restraint and control.**
- **Any club president, coach, team manager or club official observing a member of his “club” in this type of situation is to act immediately to remove the offender from this situation.**
- **Offender’s will be penalized under the constitution and or the rules of the Murray Valley Football Netball League Inc.**
- **Any person who is deemed to be a repeat offender will be unable to participate in any official capacity. See Appendix 23 Roles of Match Day officials**

ALL COACHES, PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS WILL ADHERE TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

Penalties may range from a severe reprimand to a season ban with fines up to \$1,000.00 as determined by the MVFNL League Board and/or the MVFNL tribunal. See Appendix 23 Roles of Match Day officials

All appeals will be heard by “The Appeals Committee” provided they are lodged with the MVFNL Executive Officer within seven days from the date the suspension was issued along with \$1,000.

APPENDIX 2: MVFNL VILIFICATION POLICY

1. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

1.1 No League Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the ground of their: race religion gender colour sexual preference, orientation or identity; or special ability or disability

1.2 (Vilification & Discrimination) No League Participant or Club Official shall engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to be offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening, or which is otherwise unwelcome, and a reasonable person would recognise it as being unwelcome and likely to cause the recipient to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated (Harassment).

2. Appointment of League Complaints Officer/s & Club Complaints Officer

2.1 The League shall appoint a League Complaints Officer/s to ensure that any breach of this Policy is responded to in an equitable and prompt manner in accordance with this Policy.

2.2 The League shall ensure that all Clubs have a Club Complaints Officer to whom all vilification and discrimination Complaints are initially directed.

2.4 The League Complaints Officer/s is responsible for liaising between Club Complaints Officers, in the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, or with a single Club Complaints Officer, in the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, in an attempt to achieve Informal Resolution of the Complaint.

2.4 The Club Complaints Officer and the League Complaints Officer/s shall liaise directly over incidents which in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer or League Complaints Officer/s are contrary to section 1

3. Preliminary Resolution Process

3.1 In the event that it is alleged that a person subject to section 1.1 or 1.2 has engaged in Prohibited Conduct, a Participant may by 5.00pm on the first working day following the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred.

3.2 In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer where the Complaint was made shall by 5.00pm on the next working day following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club, lodge the Complaint with the League's Complaints Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaints Officer. In the case of an Inter-Club Complaint, the League Complaints Officer/s shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the League Complaint Officer/s to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution.

3.3 In the case of an Intra-Club Complaint, the Club Complaints Officer shall take reasonable steps within the next three (3) days following the day on which the Complaint was lodged with the Club to achieve an Informal Resolution if, in the reasonable opinion of the Club Complaints Officer, the Complaint is capable of an Informal Resolution. If an Informal Resolution is not achieved or it is reasonably believed that the Complaint is incapable of an Informal Resolution, the Club Complaints Officer shall as soon as is reasonably practicable lodge the Complaint with the League's Complaints

Officer. The Club Complaints Officer shall take no further action once the Complaint has been lodged with the League unless otherwise instructed by the League's Complaint's Officer.

3.4 In circumstances where in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s a Complaint cannot be resolved by way of Informal Resolution, the League Complaints Officer/s shall proceed to Conciliation in accordance with section 5 below.

4. Confidentiality and Records

4.1 Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the Complaints Process. All parties to a Complaint, the League's Complaints Officer, the Club Complaints Officer, any witnesses and the conciliator must all agree to the maintenance of confidentiality. No person involved in the Complaints Process shall publicly comment on any aspect of the Complaints Process without the prior written agreement of all parties.

4.2 The League shall ensure that any documents relating to a Complaint shall remain confidential and be retained for 7 years from the date that the Complaint is made.

5. Conciliation Process

5.1 The League Complaints Officer/s shall make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times during the Complaints Process and that the outcome of the Complaints Process remains confidential. The Complaints Officer shall also refer any breach of confidentiality to the League Tribunal no later than 5pm on the next working day following the day that the breach is discovered, with the Tribunal to be convened within 7 days from the day on which the referral is made;

5.2 The League Complaints Officer/s shall:

- a. ensure the person alleged to have contravened the Policy is informed of the Complaint Process and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the Complaint;
- b. inform the President or CEO of the League or his or her nominee that a Complaint has been received by the League Complaints Officer/s;
- c. obtain statements from any witnesses identified by the parties to the Complaint;
- d. where available, obtain any other relevant evidence;
- e. make available to both parties any witness statements or any other evidence obtained in the course of conciliating a Complaint, with an opportunity to comment, as part of the Conciliation process;
- f. appoint a conciliator to conciliate the Complaint; and
- g. ensure all steps necessary for the Complaint to be conciliated are taken within 10 working days from the day on which the Prohibited Conduct is alleged to have occurred.

5.3 Participants subject to Conciliation who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied at the Conciliation by a Club Official over 18 years of age.

6. Investigation

6.1 In circumstances where a Complaint is not resolved in accordance with above, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the matter to investigation in accordance with the National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines (if applicable) if in the reasonable opinion of the League Complaints Officer/s, further investigation is required to resolve the Complaint

6.2 The Investigation Officer shall report to the League Complaints Officer/s on any information or evidence obtained in accordance with section 6.1. Any information or evidence obtained by the

Investigation Officer and provided to the League Complaints Officer/s shall be provided to all parties to the Complaint as part of the Complaint Process.

6.3 The Investigation Officer shall otherwise comply with the National Complaint & Investigation Guidelines (if applicable).

7. Tribunal Referrals, Process & Appeal

7.1 Following an investigation, with a failed Conciliation under section 7, the League Complaints Officer/s may refer the Complaint to a Disciplinary Tribunal, constituted in accordance with the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines (if applicable), for determination. The League Complaints Officer/s shall take all steps necessary to make a decision about the referral of the Complaint to the Disciplinary Tribunal as soon as is reasonably practicable.

7.2 The League shall determine who is responsible for prosecuting the Complaint at the Disciplinary Tribunal.

7.3 Where the referral to the Disciplinary Tribunal is made pursuant to section 7.1 of this Policy, the Tribunal will hear the Complaint within 5 working days of the Complaint referral being made.

7.4 The Disciplinary Tribunal has the power to order any reasonable penalties or directions for breaches of this Policy as are allowable under the rules and regulations of the League in force at the time of the hearing.

7.5 Where a party to a Complaint is dissatisfied with the decision made by the Disciplinary Tribunal, they may ask the Club's Officer to request that the League establish a panel to hear an appeal from the decision in accordance with the appeal provisions in the National Disciplinary Tribunal Guidelines (if applicable)

APPENDIX 3: CONCUSSION

As of 12/4/2021, The MVFNL have been advised the SANFL and AFL are reviewing the management of concussion. Until such time as the review is completed and policy re-issued, all clubs and leagues are bound by the information in the link below.

https://s.afl.com.au/staticfile/AFL%20Tenant/AFL/Files/Respect%20and%20Responsibility/2017_Community_Concussion_Guidelines.pdf

APPENDIX 4: CYBER SAFETY POLICY

The Murray Valley Football Netball League operates under the SACFL and has adopted its CYBERSAFETY POLICY as set out below. The MVFNL will review this in line with its document reviews; refer to Appendix 12 SA Community Football League Rules and Regulations.

Creating a Cybersmart Environment

Social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube can be a great way for clubs to provide information, promote their sport, their activities and successes.

As with off-line communities, some social media users can act anti-socially and show disrespect for their online community with little consideration of the social and potentially legal implications. Issues like bullying and harassment, unwanted or inappropriate contact, uploading of inappropriate or offensive content can cause issues for individual club members or the club involved.

In the club environment you may choose to promote Cyber safety by recommending to you members to;

- Use the privacy settings
- Keep your private information private.
- Think before you post any content, video, images or text, online. You can put it up, but you can't necessarily take it down. Ask before posting images or stories about others. What you see as harmless fun may be embarrassing and humiliating for them and create a poor club image
- Don't project an undesirable self-image of yourself or the club
- Choose your online friends wisely. Others' inappropriate views and behaviours can reflect badly on you and the club.
- Communicate with others as you would do offline, with courtesy and respect.
- If you think someone is being bullied or harassed online, speak out. If club members are involved speak with your coach or club official. The club will not tolerate this behaviour

Rationale

The SA Community Football League (SACFL) has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for league officials, staff, registered players, umpires, coaches, club members, parents, spectators and sponsors. This responsibility is increasingly being linked to the use of the Internet and Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) and has seen the emergence of a number of related Cyber safety issues. The Internet and ICT devices/equipment bring great benefits to all users and to the effective operation of the SACFL, individual leagues and clubs.

The SACFL places a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT devices/equipment which will benefit members; however, it recognizes that the presence in the sporting arena of these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, and even illegal behaviour and activities. The SACFL aims, therefore, to maximize the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time to minimize the dangers and manage the risks.

Policy

The SACFL and its member clubs encourage effective and safe Cyber safety practices which aim to maximize the benefits of the Internet and ICT and allow for the effective operation of the SACFL and member leagues and clubs, whilst minimizing and managing any risks.

The SACFL takes seriously its responsibility in providing robust policy and guidelines for its members in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online behaviours. The League and/or club name, motto, crest, logo and/or uniform must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for the league or club and its members.

Members of the SACFL and its clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the league's expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with officials, coaches, umpires, players, parents, spectators and sponsors. Players will not post inappropriate comments about individual SACFL or club members which if said in person during the playing of a game would result in disciplinary action being taken.

Images of Children

In South Australia under the Summary Offences Act 1953 a person must not engage in indecent filming. Images of children and adults should not be used inappropriately or illegally.

Wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent knows the way the image will be used. The privacy of others needs to be respected and clubs should disallow the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

Clubs or Associations displaying an image of a child should avoid naming or identifying the child or, wherever possible, avoid using both the first name and surname.

Do not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian.

Additional information such as hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc. should not be included as this information can be used as grooming tools by paedophiles or other persons.

It is the responsibility of the organization to only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to the sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport.

Cyberbullying

"Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others." (Belsey 2007)

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, racially vilifying or threatening another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including social network sites e.g., Facebook or blogs) and the sending, receiving and/or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a person. Club members must also be aware that postings from their individual accounts, whether done by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner.

All members of the SACFL and individual clubs must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the league and/or club will have no control. This particularly applies to 'sexting' where the image is of a person under the age of 18 years whereby Police will be informed immediately a club becomes aware of the situation.

Procedure

SACFL and/or club officials or members who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device. They should then print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the relevant club/league representative.

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully in accordance with SACFL Regulation 5.0 and may result in a notification to Police where the SACFL, league or club is legally obliged to do so.

If the SACFL and/or individual League's Board receives a complaint about an online issue, the allegations will be forwarded to the relevant League Investigation Officer.

If there is evidence, charges will be laid and the complaint will proceed to the league's Independent Tribunal, exactly the same as if the investigation relates to physical violence or other reportable offences.

Penalties

Any proven charges will automatically lead to a minimum of a two (2) match suspension for a registered player. In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of the act, the impact on the victim, the impact on the club/league/ SACFL and the prior good history or otherwise of the player. Players charged with these types of offences for a second or subsequent time and where a suspension has been previously imposed will face deregistration.

Any player presented before the tribunal for the first or subsequent time on a cyberbullying offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal members will cover the complete range including deregistration.

In the case of a non-playing club member being proved to have engaged in harassment or bullying, the club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the League a penalty to be determined by the league.

Important terms used in this document:

- a. The abbreviation '**ICT**' in this document refers to the term 'Information, Communication and Technologies.
- b. '**Cyber safety**' refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones
- c. The term '**ICT equipment/devices**' used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), Gaming Consoles, and any other, similar, technologies as they come into use.

APPENDIX 5: WEATHER POLICY

The MVFNL operates under the SACFL and the SANFL and has adopted the SANFL HEAT POLICY as set out below. The MVFNL will review this in line with its annual document reviews, but users are encouraged to refer to Appendix 10.26 SANFL Rules and Regulations.

Hot weather requirements include: Training sessions and matches, including pre-season trial matches, shall be cancelled if the temperature on the Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au is 34°C or greater one hour before training is proposed to occur or the match is proposed to be played.

Coaches and team managers shall provide additional drinks breaks during training sessions, trial matches and minor round matches and actively encourage junior players to remain hydrated when the temperature is forecast above 25°C. The coach and/or team managers should modify or terminate the training activity if they consider the conditions unsafe for the players.

If in their opinion of the field umpire(s) the temperature and humidity conditions have become unsafe for the players, they shall advise both team managers that they consider the conditions unsuitable for play and shall terminate the match.

Inclement weather requirements include:

- The field umpire(s) shall stop the match and order the players from the field if inclement weather conditions which they consider poses a safety risk to players and officials develop during the match.
- The match shall restart when the field umpire(s) deem conditions to be safe to do so. The match shall be shortened to comply with rule Game times 2.11 (refer to Abandonment of matches 10.6 (2) AFL rule book).

APPENDIX 6: CHILD SAFETY POLICY

MVFNL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

‘Looking after our kids today for a better MVFNL tomorrow’

Process for obtaining Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificates- working with children.

The safety of children is of paramount importance to the administrators of the MVFNL. We must do all we can to ensure that people who are appointed by Clubs to coach children are appropriate, and the children are protected from possible risk.

All coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers and runners who work with children at any junior level-under 18 and below, will be required to obtain a Child-Related Employment – Volunteer Screening Certificate from DCSI and provide information to the Authorized Officer - MPIO (Member Protection Information Officer) of the MVFNL and Club for assessment via their respective Club MPIO.

These applications are free and are to be obtained when first commencing working with children and then renewed every five years thereafter.

The process of obtaining the certificate is as follows;

1. The Club and or applicant are required to fill out an application via the following link: <https://screening.sa.gov.au/> - follow links to make application and include the following details:
 - a. Affiliated Club name
 - b. Volunteers full name
 - c. date of birth
 - d. personal email address of volunteer
 - e. Role Title (e.g., coach Under 15)
2. The Applicant (Volunteer) will then receive a conformation email from Department of Human Services initially to advise they have received the application.
3. A further two (2) emails will then be sent to the Applicant advising them how to log onto the DCSI website with a link. Application number and password.
4. Follow these links and complete the application including the identification which can be done online by copying details from the identification documents. 100-point check.
5. The Applicant will get confirmation that they have finalized the application and a decision stating if you have a clearance or not. A certificate will be posted to you.
6. Once you receive the certificate it must be produced to your Club MPIO who will check it and advise the MVFNL of the result of the check and provide the reference number and expiry date of the check (5 years from date of certificate) via email.
7. As the Clearance check does not provide any history of the applicant a copy may be sent to the MVFNL as confirmation which will be destroyed after checked.

ALL APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORISED MPIO BEFORE ROUND 1 OF THE SEASON OR THE APPLICANT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO WORK WITH JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS UNTIL THE FORM HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

Non-compliance with this policy could lead to individual Clubs or the MVFNL to be liable for criminal prosecution and/or civil legal action.

Assessments of the information on the certificates will be conducted pursuant to the Child Safe Environment Policy.

If, after assessing the Clearance Certificates, the Authorized Officer is concerned about the suitability of an applicant, the Junior Management Executive Committee (JMEC) will be informed and a meeting will be scheduled between the applicant, the Authorized Officer, the Club delegate and the JMEC to discuss the contextual factors surrounding the concern.

If, after that meeting the decision of the JMEC is that the applicant's character is such that they are not suitable for working with children in the MVFNL, the Club delegate and the applicant will be advised that the applicant will not be permitted to do so.

Due to the privacy provisions, the Authorized Officer or the JMEC will not retain or disclose any information contained within a clearance certificate to a third party without the express permission of the person named within the certificate

APPENDIX 7: MVFNL INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

The procedure is as follows;

- 1) The player assisted by his Club representative is to give reason for his transfer.
- 2) The Independent Tribunal may ask the player and his Club representative any questions relating to his reasons.
- 3) The Club opposing the transfer may question the player or the Club representative.
- 4) The Club opposing the transfer must give reasons for their refusal. The Independent Tribunal may question the Club official opposing the transfer.
- 5) The player assisted by his Club representative may question the opposing Clubs reason for refusal of transfer.
- 6) A closing submission by the player assisted by the Club official seeking the transfer to be given.
- 7) A closing submission given by the Club opposing the transfer to be given.
- 8) All parties will be asked to withdraw from the room.
- 9) The Independent Tribunal will reach a decision

Some of the information which may be taken into account will be;

- a) The age of the applicant
- b) The interests of the league.
- c) The interests of the game.
- d) The interests in all respects of the person appealing.
- e) Any hardship (financial or otherwise) likely to be suffered in the event of the appeal being disallowed.
- f) Contractual obligations (if any) between the person appealing and the Club from which such clearance is sought.

The Tribunal has the power;

- a) To summon any person to appear before and give evidence
- b) To admit or reject any evidence which may be given it
- c) To adjourn proceedings at and to such time and place as it shall deem fit.
- d) The decision of the Independent Tribunal will be final and conclusive, and no further appeal will be allowed during the current season.

APPENDIX 8: FINALS ROTATION

Finals matches to be allocated on a rotational basis and shared between all Clubs. Catering will be the responsibility of the host Club. In exceptional circumstances the MVFNL Board may use its discretion to re-allocate any finals match.

The rotation starts in 2023 with the following allocations:

1. Grand Final - Wunkar
2. Preliminary Final - Sedan Cambrai
3. 1st & 2nd Semi-Finals - BSR

And continues in the following order:

- 2023 Wunkar
- 2024 Sedan Cambrai
- 2025 BSR
- 2026 Paringa
- 2027 Brown's Well
- 2028 Ramco
- 2029 Murrayville

APPENDIX 9: TIMEKEEPERS

*TIMEKEEPERS MUST USE TIME CLOCKS SUPPLIED BY THE MVFNL- NO EXCEPTIONS

Timekeeper Duties:

- a) The timekeeping will be the responsibility of one representative from each club in each grade.
- b) Timekeepers shall follow the guidelines provided in each Timekeeper's box.
- c) The Timekeepers will use the timers provided, placed in the Centre of the bench where both can view.
- d) Timekeepers, as of 2023 AGM will record the players who are sent off under the yellow/red card system.
- e) Refer to Appendix 10 Timekeeper Duties for this process which should also be provided in each Timekeepers box.
- f) All games prior to last A grade must finish by 2:20 pm if any game is to be shortened it will be the game before the last A grade therefore at the beginning of game before (and review again at half time) – both Timekeepers are to agree on what length quarters are required and adjust to ensure the match finishes by 2:20 pm.
- g) All A grade matches shall be played in 4 quarters of 20 minutes including time on.
- h) All Junior matches shall be played in 4 quarters with time of each quarter as per Junior schedule below (No time on)
- i) In the event of extraordinary loss of time the umpire is empowered to signal time on which shall be added to the time of play.

JUNIORS	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAKS	MATCH DURATION	TIME ON
9:00 am start	4 x 12 min	3 x 2 min	48 min plus 6 min breaks	No. Finish by 9:54 am

A GRADE	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAKS	MATCH DURATION	TIME ON
2:30 pm start	4 x 20 min	3 x 10 x 5 min	88 min plus time on, 18 min breaks	Yes. Finish by 4:45pm

PLEASE NOTE AFTER 1/4 AND 3/4 TIME BREAKS TIMEKEEPERS MUST BLOW SIREN TO ADVISE A TWO (2) MINUTE AND ONE (1) MINUTE WARNING AND PLAY TO RESTART TIME - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LENGTH OF BREAKS ARE AS ABOVE.

- 1. All Timekeepers are to take note of the starting times of all grades especially the early grades.
- 2. Timetables must be adhered to at all times.
- 3. Timekeepers will blow the siren when the umpires hold up the ball as they walk onto the playing field.
- 4. Both Timekeepers must advise one another when there is two minutes remaining until full time of the quarter, where a countdown will commence. As each minute ticks away both Timekeepers must communicate before blowing the siren to end the game.
- 5. If an error occurs the Timekeepers must blow the siren with 3 quick bursts to alert the field umpires that the siren had been blown in error.
- 6. After consultation with the Timekeepers the field umpires will restart play as close as possible to where the game had stopped.
- 7. Timekeepers must record the scores on the scorecards provided as well as the yellow and red card events.
- 8. The scorecards and interchange sheets are to be handed to the home club administrator at the completion of the match.

TIME ON/OFF REQUIREMENTS – LEAGUE MATCHES ONLY

Time at the start of the quarter:

- Clock starts when the ball is bounced or thrown up by the field umpire.

Clock stops-Goal

- If a goal is scored when the goal umpire signals that goal has been scored.
- And restarts - when the ball is bounced or thrown up by the field umpire.

Clock stops-Behind

- When the goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored.
- And restarts when the ball has been brought back into play after a behind has been scored.

Clock stops-General play

- When the umpire raises their arm vertically and blows their whistle.
- When a 50-metre penalty has been issued and the umpire raises their arm vertically and blows their whistle.
- When the umpires issue a red/yellow card and blows their whistle to signal time off.
- And restarts-When the umpire raises their arm vertically and blows their whistle a second time.

An umpire can signal time off for:

- 25 and 50 metre penalty
- Red/Yellow card
- Blood rule
- Out of bounds injury time or a general delay in the game

*In the case of all games, the central umpire can indicate to the Timekeepers to halt play in the event of a significant delay, e.g., stretcher/ambulance.

SEND OFF RULE – RED AND YELLOW CARD.

1. Interchange forms are to be used to write down the time, player number and time back on, of the player.
2. When a player is sent off for a misdemeanour the umpire will escort him to as close to the time box as possible holding up the yellow or red card. The Umpire will request the player turn around for the Timekeepers to see their guernsey number. Once the Timekeepers have seen this and have registered the number, they are to hold up the relative colour cardboard square to acknowledge they are aware of the player's number. If the Timekeepers cannot see the number of the player, they are to not to hold the card up until they have recorded the number.
3. The player is to stay off for 10 minutes actual playing time, which does not include includes breaks and time on and off, so a player may be on the sidelines for more than 10 minutes. When his time is up signal with your green card for the Team Manager to see.
4. The time off commences once the player has left the playing arena.

APPENDIX 10: UMPIRE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Murray Valley Football Netball League Umpires Panel provides central Umpires to the League and is an essential body. The MVFNL Umpires Panel manages the payment of their fees solely.

The procedure for clubs and the MVFNL paying the fees are as follows;

- An email is sent out prior to first game of the season to all club Secretaries & Presidents, advising of the amount to cover Umpires match day payment (Juniors and A grade) and details of Umpires bank account.
- It is expected that the Home club should then transfer funds into that bank account by Wednesday of the week following their home game.
- Once all 3 home clubs have made their payments into the account, the Umpires Treasurer electronically transfers the amount for each umpire into their nominated bank account.

The Treasurer then compiles a spreadsheet showing the amount paid to each umpire, less any deductions i.e., subs, uniform. This is sent as an attachment in an email to all umpires and confirmation the payment has been made into their nominated account.

Umpires fees are agreed from time to time through approval and a meeting of the MVFNL Delegates. The current rates are set out below;

- A grade - \$450.00 (\$150 each - 3 umpires used)
- Juniors - \$240.00 (\$120.00 each if 2 Umpires or \$80.00 each if 3 umpires used)

Panel League Boundary Umpires

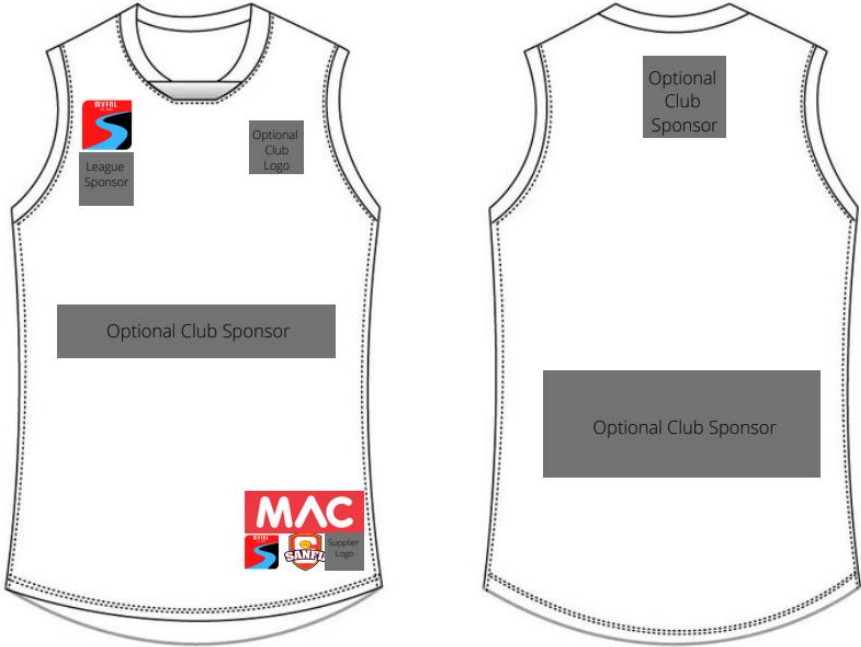
- \$50 each x 4 boundary Umpires - Total \$200.00

****NOTE – The above rates are restricted from increasing until the conclusion of the 2023 season.**

MVFNL

Football Uniform Requirements

Guernsey



Shorts



Sock Options



APPENDIX 12: OFFICIALS MATCH ATTIRE

In all matches, Member Clubs shall ensure their officials wear the appropriate match attire as below:

- a) MVFNL PANEL AND CLUB FIELD UMPIRES
 - MVFNL Green top or vest – Essential
 - White or Black shorts (No club shorts) – Essential
 - Black socks – Essential
 - Boots, sandshoes or runners – Essential
 - Whistle - Essential
- b) CLUB TRAINERS
 - MVFNL white polo shirt or vest – Essential
 - Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential
 - No club football shorts
- c) CLUB GOAL UMPIRES
 - MVFNL Green vest – Essential
 - Long black pants (recommended)
 - Covered footwear - Essential
- d) RUNNERS
 - MVFNL Orange Vest – Essential
 - Plain dark shorts or plain dark long pants (recommended)
 - Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential
- e) CLUB BOUNDARY UMPIRES
 - MVFNL Green vest – Essential
 - White/Grey shorts (recommended)
 - Black or white socks preferred
 - Boots, sandshoes or runners – Essential
 - Whistle - Essential
- f) WATER CARRIERS
 - MVFNL Pink vest – Essential
 - Boots, sandshoes or runners - Essential
- g) MATCH DAY OFFICIAL
 - MVFNL Blue Vest with MATCH DAY OFFICIAL located on the back and MVFNL badge on the front.

APPENDIX 13: REQUEST AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

This procedure is written to ensure compliance of our Bylaws, national tribunal procedures and national investigation procedures are followed in an orderly and fair way for all parties concerned.

1. The Club President or Executive Officer requesting an investigation into an incident must notify the MVFNL (Executive Officer or Football Operations Coordinator) in writing by 5 pm on the Monday following the Match that an investigation into an incident is requested.
2. The following must accompany that request.
 - a) A fee of \$250 to be paid by cheque, cash or bank transfer to the MVFNL.
 - b) A full written description of the incident concerned.
 - c) A list of all witnesses including phone numbers so follow up interviews can be conducted.
 - d) Full written statements from the witnesses explaining what they observed.
 - e) Any medical evidence to support the injuries.
3. Upon receipt of the above information the Football Operations Coordinator will immediately notify the Secretary of the club concerned that an investigation has been requested into an incident involving their club.
4. Information that is to be supplied to the club being investigated will include but is not limited to Players involved, medical report if any, and a description of the incident as from witness statements. This is to enable the club to investigate internally.
5. The Football Operations Coordinator in consultation with the MVFNL Executive Officer will appoint an independent investigator to commence an investigation. That investigator may be the Football Operations Coordinator.
6. A running sheet record will be kept by The Football Operations Coordinator and the investigator of the steps taken and investigation done. This will include but is not limited to date, time, person interviewed, statement taken, action taken etc.
7. All witnesses are to be made available to the Investigating officer and must be prepared to attend a tribunal hearing if required. They are to answer truthfully and give an accurate description of what occurred and sign a statutory declaration if required.
8. The investigation is to be carried out in a manner that requires professionalism and expedience according to the AFL National investigation guidelines 2013.
9. Once the investigation is complete the investigation officer will provide all of the information collected and any recommendations from the investigation to the Football Operations Coordinator and the MVFNL Executive Officer.
10. The MVFNL Executive Officer will advise the League Board who will then decide if a charge is to be laid, or apply any sanctions based upon the evidence and recommendations.
11. If no charge is to be laid, then the MVFNL Executive Officer will notify the Football Operation Coordinator who will notify all the clubs concerned of the result and the matter will be closed. All the records will be kept on file at the office of the league.
12. If a charge is to be laid then the MVFNL Executive Officer will notify the Football Operation Coordinator who will organise the laying of the charge, notifying of all the parties involved and organising the tribunal hearing.
13. If the club, player or other person being investigated decides to challenge the allegations, then as per the national tribunal guidelines, they must provide full written particulars of all relevant matters and forward written copies of that information to the MVFNL or Football Operations Coordinator by Midday on the day after the notification of the charge or matter to be heard by the tribunal.
14. The matter will then be heard by a tribunal and a decision made by them. All records will be kept on file at the office of the League.

15. If the club, player or other person being investigated is found guilty by the findings of this process (either by Tribunal or League Board decision) then that club, players club or other persons club will pay the investigation costs (clause 2.a) to the league, and the club requesting the investigation will be refunded the fee (clause 2.A) previously paid.

APPENDIX 14: FINES

The amounts shown below are maximum fines for any individual breach of Constitution and By-Laws and any or all of the amount may be suspended at the discretion of the MVFNL.

Administrative Breach	Fine
Non-attendance by Club at any compulsory meeting	\$100
Club changing official game times or dates without advising MVFNL in writing at least 7 days beforehand	\$50
Failure to lodge team official information by due date/time	\$50

Match Day Breach	Fine
Incorrect uniforms e.g., runners, trainers etc.	\$100
Placing junior scores in any social media	\$50
Failure by any match day official to follow umpire directions	\$100
Failure to provide team sheet to umpire	\$50
Late starting of matches (more than 15 minutes)	\$50
Failure to provide any Match Day Officials as required by MVFNL Rules & Regulations	\$100
Failure of host club to provide stretcher and place in correct position	\$100
Failure to provide a working scoreboard	\$50
Any player playing under another name	\$500
Playing uncleared player	\$500
Playing unregistered player	\$200
Incorrect team sheet	\$100 or at the discretion of the MVFNL. Max fine \$500
Runner on field excessively	\$100
Runner, Trainer or Watercarriers interfering with players or match	\$100 or at the discretion of the MVFNL. Max fine \$500
Player numbers in budget incorrect	\$50 or at the discretion of the MVFNL
Club notes for footy budget – minimum of 250 words	\$50 or at the discretion of the MVFNL
Playing a player without submitting a points declaration form	At the discretion of the MVFNL. Max fine \$500
Incorrect Personnel in coach's box	\$100
Personnel within 1.5m boundary line 12.2	

First Instance	Warning
Second Instance	Free Kick on Field
Third (repeated) Instance Reported to MVFNL Board	\$100 or discretion of MVFNL

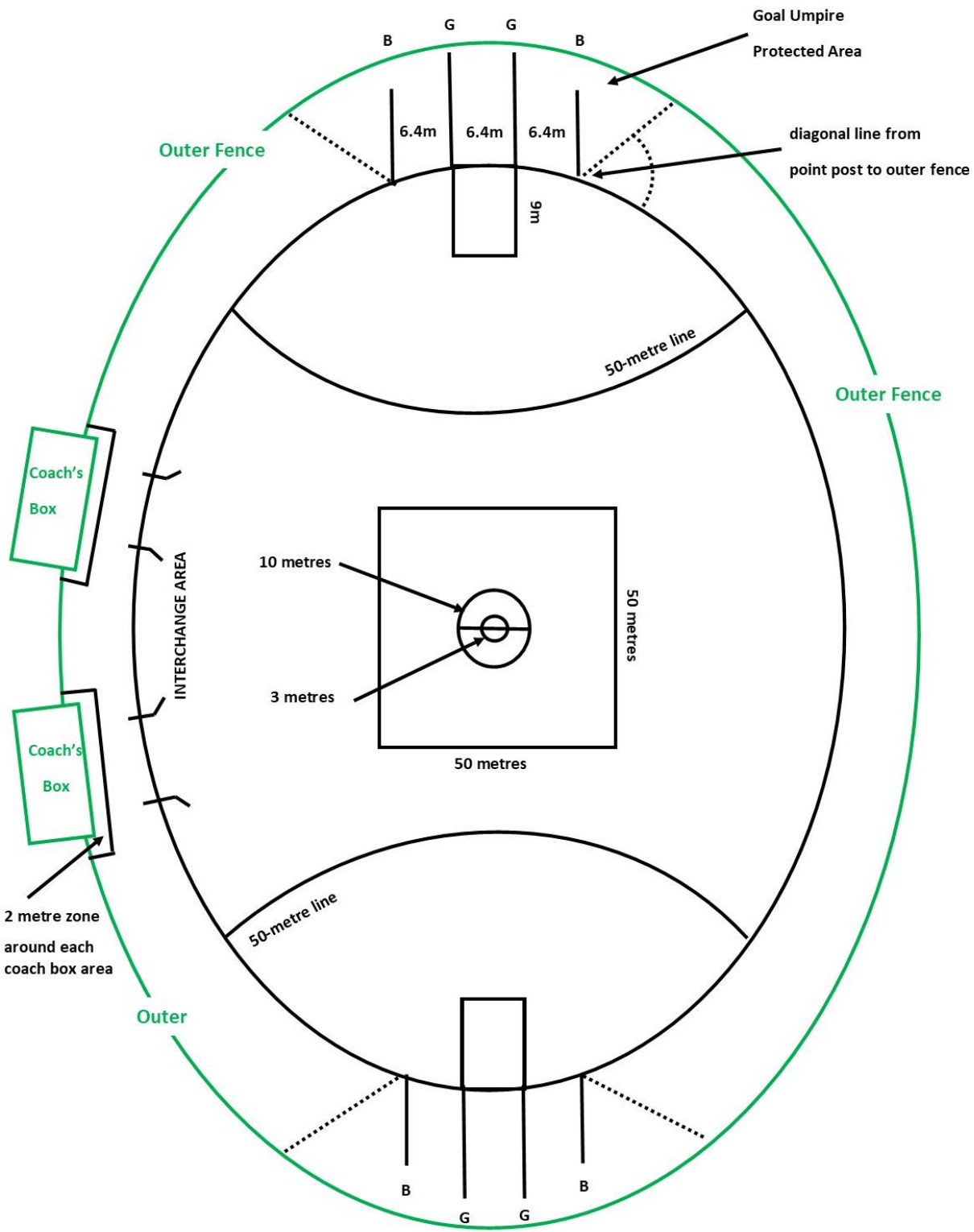
Other Breaches of Rules	Fine
Code of Conduct Breach	At the discretion of the MVFNL, max fine \$500
Club Participants engaging in a melee, except where a player's sole intention is to remove a teammate from the incident	\$500.00
Club playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age players 6.13	
First instance	\$100 plus loss of match ratio
Second instance	\$250 plus loss of match ratio
Third instance	\$500 plus team withdrawn from competition

SANFL CFL Rule 23. Playing Suspended or Disqualified Players

An Affiliated League Club which knowingly plays a suspended or disqualified player, in any Football Match will, in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed under these Regulations, be liable to a fine of \$2,000.00 for each occasion on which a player so plays.

Many fines are listed in the SACFL regulations which apply also, e.g., player points and salary cap.

APPENDIX 15: OVAL MARKINGS



APPENDIX 16: CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

A sign is to be displayed at each MVFNL venue with the conditions of entry, refer to the format below;

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

It is a condition of entry to the venue for matches forming part of the Murray Valley Football Netball League Inc. that patrons agree:

No alcohol, glass, cans, firearms, weapons, fireworks or other items deemed or considered dangerous will be brought into the venue.

Not to engage in any conduct, act towards or speak to any player, umpire, or other official or other patron in a manner which offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies that other person on the basis of that other persons' race, religion, colour, sexual orientation, descent or national or ethnic origin.

Use indecent or obscene language or threatening or insulting words, or otherwise behave in a threatening, abusive, riotous, indecent or insulting manner to any other person.

That a patron who is deemed to be affected by the consumption of alcohol or drugs may, in the Clubs sole discretion, be refused entry to, or ejected from, the venue by an authorised event official.

That entry to the Venue is only permitted to spectators who agree to be searched (including their vehicles, bags, clothes or other possessions) on entry and continued presence in the venue is only permitted to spectators who agree to be searched (including their vehicles, bags, clothes or other possessions) whilst in the venue.

Ground Management reserves the right to refuse entry to any person.

Patrons are admitted to the venue at their own risk.

Patrons who cause a disturbance, are offensive, discriminatory, display anti-social behaviour, use foul or abusive language, make racial or threatening remarks or gestures or refuse to comply with reasonable requests by Ground Management may be evicted and may be banned from future attendance.

Not to interfere with, obstruct or hinder the Club or its employees, agents or contractors in the exercise of their powers, functions or duties.

The Club promotes the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

BYO ALCOHOL PROHIBITED

APPENDIX 17: MEDIA POLICY

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

1. The use of photographic, video or audio equipment for commercial purposes is not permitted unless authorised by the MVFNL and the clubs participating in the game.
2. Patrons at a game sanctioned by the MVFNL are not permitted to transmit, broadcast, sell, license or otherwise publish, or reproduce any recordings (including photographic, video and sound recordings) of the match without the prior written approval of MVFNL and the clubs participating in the game. Such recordings may be confiscated or erased.
3. Patrons may be filmed, recorded or photographed by official broadcasters or photographers and these images or recordings may be used without consent of, or payment or provision of other compensation to, patrons for all manner of official broadcast and promotional purposes.
4. Patrons acknowledge that MVFNL and third parties authorised by MVFNL may make, create, store, record, transmit, reproduce or use recordings and images or any likenesses at or in relation to the event (including, without limitation, of persons).
5. Patrons grant MVFNL and third parties authorised by it, permission to use any recordings, images or likenesses of the Patron in any media world-wide and for any purpose without identification, compensation or payment of any kind.
6. Clubs are to advise the MVFNL of their intention to video games or have an official photographer(s) throughout the season.
7. The MVFNL will authorise and supply an official's badge for the club photographers or person's videoing. The MVFNL will store those permitted on a database.
8. Approved Photographers may take photographs and upload images to social media networks or web pages that the clubs have given permission to. They must wear MVFNL purple media vest to be easily identified.
9. Any video footage is not to be uploaded to social media networks unless it has been first approved by the MVFNL. It can only then be uploaded by the person or club taking the video or the MVFNL.
10. Parents of individual players are still permitted to photograph or video their own children individually or in groups but must be mindful of Child protection laws if posting them on social media.
11. Any person or club contravening this by law or part of it will be dealt with by the MVFNL Board as it sees fit under the circumstances.
12. Match Day Official to monitor filming and photography.

APPENDIX 18: COMPETITION MANAGEMENT POLICY

This Policy is made with regard to the following:

1.
 - a. The health and safety of the community remains the highest priority
 - b. That whilst balanced competition is important, that the opportunity to participate whenever possible be of higher priority (particularly for junior programs and competitions)
 - c. That where possible the Minor Round and Finals shall be conducted within the traditional timeframes
 - d. Equality in the draw be of lesser importance than opportunity to participate whenever possible
 - e. That a premiership will only be awarded once an agreed minimum of games is achieved
 - f. That a minimum viable season which triggers a Finals series be the maximum number of games possible and not influenced by traditional fixture requirements and expectations
 - g. That a Finals Series be played with a minimum of 1 week (1 v 2) and up to a traditional final's series of 4 weeks
 - h. With the above statements in mind the examples next explained are to be adhered to without exception.
2. **Impact of an interruption on a single round**
 - a. Should an entire round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
 - b. The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
 - c. The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence
3. **Impact of an interruption on consecutive rounds**
 - a. Should consecutive rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team for the abandoned rounds
 - b. The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
 - c. The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence
4. **Impact of an interruption on multiple rounds**
 - a. Should multiple rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
 - b. The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
 - c. The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence
5. **Impact of an interruption on individual matches within any round**
 - a. Should individual matches within any round be abandoned, teams shall receive the points allocated for a draw and the average weekly percentage of all participating teams of the same competition from that round of matches
 - b. The individual games shall not be rescheduled
 - c. The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence
6. **Impact of an interruption on individual teams/players/officials**
 - a. In the instance where players and/or officials are unable to participate in a match or matches due to directed quarantine/isolation/border closures, the League Board should determine at season commencement what the minimum requirement is to field an individual team (e.g., 80% of senior playing body available to play)
7. **Return to Play following an interrupted round or match**
 - b. If 1-3 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round at the discretion of the League Board.
 - c. If 4-6 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum of 7-day training period at the discretion of the League Board but not less than a minimum 7-day training period
 - d. If more than 6 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled Round following a minimum 14-day training period at the discretion of the League Board but not less than a minimum 14-day training period
8. **Impact of an interruption on individual finals matches**

- a. A league may reschedule finals matches at their absolute discretion
- b. Where time does not permit for a finals game to be rescheduled, should an individual match, excluding the grand final be abandoned, the team with a higher ladder position at the end of the minor round season shall be deemed the premier by virtue of higher ranking

9. Impact of an interruption on a grand final

- a. A league may reschedule grand final matches at their absolute discretion
- b. Grand finals should be completed by a date agreed upon by the governing league
- c. Where time does not permit for the grand final to be rescheduled and the match is to be abandoned, the team who entered the grand final first by way of victory, or if not applicable, by a higher ladder position, at the completion of the minor round season shall be deemed the premier

10. Final qualifications in an interrupted season

- a. Should a season be impacted on by an event as above the League Board may determine qualifications game requirements for players at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season

11. Awards & Votes

- a. Votes and awards should be awarded for games played and not prorated for missed matches

12. Consequence of a suspension in an interrupted Season

- a. All suspensions MUST be served in accordance SANFL Community Football Regulations and suspensions apply to games played and not dates

13. Impact of an interruption on the Approved Player Points System

- a. The APPS qualification has been reduced from 25 game to 20 to reflect shortened seasons over 2020 and 2021 The APPS will be reviewed as standard practice again in 2022.

14. Impact of an Interruption on the Total Player Payment System

- a. Regardless of any rounds or matches being abandoned, the Total Player Point System regulations and categories shall not be affected

15. Matters not covered

- a. Should any scenario occur which is not covered by this guide, then the matter shall be referred to the League Board to determine at their absolute discretion. However, SANFL should be consulted and notified of any scenarios that occur outside of this guide, so we can develop consistent advice and support across the community, that not only align with relevant health advice, but uphold the principles outlined in this policy.

APPENDIX 19: COVID RULES

MINOR ROUNDS

Impact of a COVID interruption on a single round

- Should an entire round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

Impact of a COVID interruption on consecutive rounds

- Should consecutive rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team for the abandoned rounds
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

Impact of a COVID interruption on multiple rounds

- Should multiple rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

Impact of a COVID interruption on individual matches within any round

- Should individual matches within any round be abandoned, teams shall receive the points allocated for a draw and the average weekly percentage of all participating teams of the same competition from that round of matches
- The individual games shall not be rescheduled
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

Impact of COVID interruption on individual teams/players/officials

- In the instance where players and/or officials are unable to participate in a match or matches due to directed quarantine/isolation/border closures the minimum requirement to field an individual team will be 16 players for senior games and 16 players for junior games.
- Player sharing should be considered for junior games to facilitate games being played.
- Where a club can only field one senior team due to reduced player numbers, priority shall be given to fielding the most senior team for a game over any lower senior teams.

Return to Play following a COVID interrupted round or match

- If 1-3 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round.
- If 4-6 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum of 7-day training period.
- If more than 6 consecutive rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled Round following a minimum 14-day training period

FINALS SERIES

Impact of a COVID interruption on individual finals matches

- In regard to the final date for completion of the Murray Valley Football Netball League competition, the League will attempt to reschedule finals games interrupted by COVID within this season timeline.
- Where time does not permit for a finals game to be rescheduled, should an individual match, excluding the grand final be abandoned, the team with a higher ladder position at the end of the minor round season shall be deemed the premier by virtue of higher ranking.

Impact of a COVID interruption on a grand final

- Where time does not permit for the grand final to be rescheduled and the match is to be abandoned, the team who entered the grand final first by way of victory, or if not applicable, by a higher ladder position, at the completion of the minor round season shall be deemed the premier

Final qualifications in a COVID interrupted season

- Should a season be impacted on by COVID the minimum game qualification requirement for players shall be 3 games.

CROSS BORDER COMPETITIONS

Impact of a COVID interruption due to the unlikely event of a border closure

- All principles as previously outlined in these By-Laws shall apply to cross border competitions.

OTHER

Awards & Votes

- Votes and awards will be awarded for games played and not prorated for missed matches

Consequence of a suspension in a COVID interrupted Season

- All suspensions will be served in accordance SANFL Community Football Regulations and suspensions apply to games played and not dates.

Impact of COVID interruption on the Approved Player Points System (APPS)

- The APPS qualification has been reduced from 25 game to 20 to reflect shortened seasons over 2020 and 2021. The APPS will be reviewed as standard practice again in 2022.

Impact of COVID Interruption on the Total Player Payment System

- Regardless of any rounds or matches being abandoned, the Total Player Point System regulations and categories shall not be affected.

Matters not covered

- Should any scenario occur which is not covered by these bylaws, then the matter shall be referred to SANFL to provide advice, which may then be considered by the R

APPENDIX 20: MATCH DAY OFFICIAL (MDO) RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Affiliated Club in the MVFNL shall appoint a Match Day Official who is responsible for the following:

- a. Must wear the MVFNL supplied VEST so as to be identified by umpires & MVFNL Officials.
- b. Attend the Umpires Room twenty (20) minutes prior to the commencement of the match and introduce themselves to the officiating umpires. MDO Contact information to be available in the umpires rooms.
- c. Escort the umpire(s) on to the field for the commencement of the match and on and off the field at the half time break and at the completion of the match.
- d. Ensure a Match Day Official or the Captain of the team in the match being played, are the only person who approach an umpire(s) at quarter, half-, or three-quarter-time breaks in regard to any issue their Member Club would addressed.
- e. Approach person(s) that are using abusive language and advise them that no swearing or abusive language is permitted.
- f. Advise a Member Club Official of the potential for the Member Club to be removed from arena/banned from future games as per Code of Conduct Behaviour Matrix below.
- g. Advise the person(s) that the Member Club is reported for bad language, abusive, aggressive or threatening behaviour towards another person(s).
- h. Use a MDO incident report form to record such report(s).
- i. Ensure that spectators are kept behind the spectator defined line (Where applicable)
- j. Ensure that Member Club Coaches and Officials keep within their defined areas.
- k. Ensure alcohol is not consumed in the defined non-alcohol consumption areas. (Where Applicable)
- l. Ensure no alcoholic or any drinks in glass are taken onto the playing field at any time.
- m. Ensure no Member Club Officials, Players or supports enter the umpire's room or centre square at quarter and three-quarter time breaks without the umpire's permission.

Member Club(s) Crowd Control Responsibilities

1. The League Code of Behaviour details the expected standards of behaviour from Member Clubs, Officials, Players and supporters.
2. Member Clubs shall be held responsible for the conduct and the behaviour of any official Interchange Steward, Timekeeper, Club Member, Player, supporter or any other person associated with their Member Club ("Associated Person(s)") at matches in which their teams are participating.
3. Member Clubs shall be liable to any penalty and/or fine imposed by the League for any breach of the Code of Behaviour for any misconduct or misbehaviour by their Associated Persons at, during or after any match of the League.

Starting Document for Match Day Officials

For outlining the clubs' responsibilities in instances like poor crowd behaviour, the best approach is to educate and collaborate. Often clubs do not know what process to undertake or what their options are regarding spectator behaviour. I would consider the following approaches reasonable and discuss them with your clubs for the best results. Attached is the SA Recreation Grounds Regulations (2011) that outline what is/is not acceptable.

1. Signage at all grounds that states what is and is not acceptable behaviour. It is important that this supports behaviours called out in your zero-tolerance policy. This includes display at ground entry.
2. Clubs to communicate zero tolerance policy and conditions of entry to members. Anyone who enters the ground on matchday has therefore agreed to these conditions.
3. Clubs to monitor behaviour of their members and spectators. Where required take action to stop such behaviour or have an offending person removed as detailed below.

Removal of a patron:

1. Verbal warning and reminder of the conditions of entry, monitor the spectator after the warning.
2. Ongoing breach of conditions of entry following a verbal warning the club may request that the person leave the ground.
3. Refusal to leave will result in notifying SAPOL.
4. If available SAPOL officers may escort the person in question off the premises.

Anyone asked to leave or escorted off the premises by SAPOL should be followed up with in writing by the club or league outlining the unacceptable nature of their behaviour. Future instances may result in bans under the liquor licensing act that will see them barred for a period from licensed areas in and around the club.

This is difficult for the league to police, so you need the buy in of clubs. Clubs also need to accept that they are responsible for the conduct of their members and spectators and must play a part in policing and upholding appropriate behaviours and not rely on the league to be the “bad guy” for lack of a better term.

Behaviour Matrix for Umpire Abuse – Players, Coaches, Club Officials & Spectators

Incident	Behaving in an obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire that can bring the game in to disrepute.
Action	Player issued with a yellow card. For First occasion written warning from the league
Incident	Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening, or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire.
Action	Automatic minimum 2 game suspension, plus direct to tribunal offence. Automatic 2 week ban from attending MVFNL games and venues to be issued from the MVFNL.
Incident	Second offence (24-month period).
Action	Automatic minimum 4 game suspension, plus direct to tribunal offence. Automatic 4 week ban from attending MVFNL games and venues to be issued from the MVFNL.
Incident	Third offence (24-month period).
Action	Automatic minimum 8 game suspension, plus direct tribunal offence. Automatic 12 month ban from attending MVFNL venues and games from date of incident.

Behaviour Matrix for Poor Crowd Behaviour – Members & Spectators

Incident	Behaving in an obscene manner, (including poor language), that is bringing the game in to disrepute, causing discomfort for other patrons, or seen to be potentially promoting a more serious incident.
Action	MDO officials to approach the supporter and provide a warning that the behaviour is unacceptable – poor behaviour needs to be stopped or the patron will be asked to leave the venue.
Incident	Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening, or obscene manner, (including aggressive or threatening language), that is bringing the game in to disrepute, causing

Action	discomfort for other patrons, or seen to be potentially promoting a more serious incident. MDO officials jointly ask the patron to leave the ground. Follow up email is sent by the club to the patron and to the MVFNL advising the patron of a 5-match ban from attending MVFNL venues during match day from the date of the incident.
Incident Action	Second offence of similar nature during the current football season. (Above) MDO officials jointly ask the patron to leave the ground. Follow up email is sent by the club to the patron and to the MVFNL advising the patron of a 12 month ban from attending MVFNL venues during match day from the date of the incident.
Incident Action	Aggressive behaviour towards MDO's or other supporters from any patron, member, or supporter (physical or dangerous aggression). MDO's to immediately call SAPOL – DO NOT deal with the situation themselves or risk anyone's safety within the venue including their own. Note: This matter should be referred to an investigation committee and dealt with accordingly with a minimum 12 month ban from MVFNL venues.
Incident Action	Breaching of league policies and By-Laws (e.g., illegal alcohol consumption, bringing alcohol into a licensed venue, breach of specific venue standards) MDO's jointly ask the patron to remove contraband to a designated area or advise of breach of standard or policy. If Patron becomes aggressive or refuses to cooperate, then MDO's should immediately call SAPOL for assistance.

Note: A subsequent register would need to be maintained by the MVFNL to record and date any indiscretions relating to the above indiscretions.

Constitution Version Control

Date	Item	Reference
19/03/2024	Adoption of by-laws	Special delegates meeting on 19/03/2024