



BY LAWS

MAY

2019

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PORT LINCOLN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

By-Laws

1. AFFILIATION

Subject to Clause 21 of the Constitution, the League may affiliate with any other body controlling the game in Australia and may at any time by resolution passed at any Annual or Special General Meeting of the League retire from such membership or affiliation.

- a) Affiliation fees to the Port Lincoln Football League are to be paid before 31st March in the year of affiliation.

2. LEAGUE CLUB REQUIREMENTS

- a) Each League Club shall have, in connection with, and to foster the interests of such League Club, a League team, a Reserves team, an Under Seventeen (17) team, Under Fifteen (15) team, Under Thirteen (13) team and Under Eleven (11) team, as at the first (1st) of April in any year.

3. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS

- a) All clubs are expected to have their nominated representative(s) or proxy representative(s) at official committee meetings, functions and activities and failure to do so without an acceptable reason will incur a fine to any club not represented. Apologies for absence will not be accepted and any club failing to attend a meeting, function or activity maybe be fined accordingly with the offending club automatically fined one hundred dollars (\$100) in the first instance for each required person not in attendance.
- b) Failure of a club to be represented at the same committee, function or activity in the same calendar year may see the fine doubled to two hundred dollars (\$200), a third offence to four hundred dollars (\$400) and so on.

4. VOTING PROCEDURES

c) Voting at Board meetings

- i. At all board meetings of the league every board member present shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- ii. At every meeting of the Board all questions shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a ballot is demanded by at least three (3) members. Any Member of the Board may call for a division.
- iii. Every ballot shall be taken in such manner as the Chairperson of the Board directs.
- iv. In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson of the meeting will have the casting vote.

d) Voting at Committee meetings

- i. At all committee meetings of the League every delegate member present personally or by proxy approved by the Board, shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- ii. At every meeting of the League all votes shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a ballot is demanded by at least three (3) members. Any member of the committee may call for a division.
- iii. Every ballot shall be taken in such manner as the Chairperson of the meeting directs.
- iv. In the event of a tied vote the matter will be referred to the Board to make a decision.

5. ENDORSEMENT OF DECISIONS AND DIRECTIONS OF LEAGUE

In the event of the refusal or failure of a Club to obey a decision or direction of this League in accordance with this Constitution such Club may be called to explain their actions to the Tribunal, who may deal with the matter as they think fit.

6. FALSE STATEMENT

Any person, official or servant of the League, or playing member of the League, who makes a false statement to the League or a Committee of the League, may be charged with such offence and such charge will be referred to the Tribunal who may deal with the matter as they see fit.

7. REGISTERING OF OFFICIALS

All elected Officials and Office bearers of each Club for the following season must be notified to the League prior to the Annual General Meeting of the League. Failure to notify the Football Operations Manager before the PLFL Annual General Meeting will incur a fine of \$100

8. PLAYERS REGISTRATION AND PERMITS TO PLAY

- a) Every person desiring to play for a Club in this League shall, before being allowed to play, apply to obtain registration and a permit to play in accordance with By-Law 8(c) and By-Law 9(a), with the exception of all incoming clearances which have been duly endorsed by the Club and Association or League from which the clearance was sought, wherein such cases a permit shall be automatically granted by the Football Operations Manager, except in the instance of 8(f).
- b) Every registration and permit to play, granted in accordance with By-Law 8 (a) shall remain in force until such person is granted a clearance by his Club and this League to play with another League Club in this League or another League, or until the Permit Committee revokes such registration and permit to play for any breach of the League's Constitution or By-Laws.
- c) The Football Operations Manager shall maintain a register of the persons who have obtained registration and a permit to play through Sports TG.
 - i. If proof of age of any player is required a birth certificate, statutory declaration or the registered full name and date of birth as recorded by the South Australian Education Department will be accepted.
- d) All players under the age of 18 as of the first (1st) of January in any year, must be registered on the prescribed form and have their registration forms endorsed by the signature of their parent or guardian.
- e) No permit shall be granted to a player whose clearance has not been lodged on or before the thirtieth (30th) of June in any one season.
- f) The processing of clearances and permits shall cease at five (5) p.m. on the business day preceding any day of matches.
 - i. Clearances out of this League for junior players only may be approved at any time pending notification to the Football Operations Manager from an Official of any other League's Club.

9. QUALIFICATION OF LEAGUE PLAYERS

- a) No player shall be registered to play in this League until he has obtained a clearance, or a temporary permit, on the prescribed form as per SACFL Regulation 8.2 and 8.3, from the Club and League with which he last played, except as provided for in By-Law 9 (d) and (e).
- b) No player, who is under disqualification, or who has failed to pay a fine imposed by the League, shall be granted a clearance by this League or any Club in this League.
- c) Should a registered player of this League leave his Club for such reasonable purposes as seeking employment, annual or long service leave, sickness or accident, business or employment commitments, without being cleared, then on his return he shall still be deemed to be a player of that Club if this occurs within a period 24 months from the date of the last match played.
- d) Players who are recruited from this League and registered with an SANFL Club are only able to return to their club in this League if they have an approved clearance on Sports TG to their club in this League. However, if they play with an SANFL Club on the Saturday, they are ineligible to play with their Club in this League, in the same round of matches being conducted by this League, over the same weekend period.
- e) Any registered player of this League who is transferred in his employment to another locality may be given a temporary permit to play in that locality in compliance with SACFL Regulation 16.1.

10. JUNIOR LEAGUE PLAYERS QUALIFICATIONS

- a) The age qualification for any junior grade shall apply from the first (1st) day of January in that season.
- b) All junior grade teams shall come under the jurisdiction and organisation of the Port Lincoln Football League Junior Committee.
- c) All players playing in any junior grade are to be within the three (3) year age bracket for that particular grade unless granted a permit under By-Law 15. E.g.: for a player to play in the Under 15 competition they must be twelve (12) years of age as of the first (1st) of January of that year.

11. IMPROPER REGISTRATION

A Player who has obtained a registration and permit to play by means of a false statement or without having the necessary qualifications shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 17 herein.

12. REFUSAL OF CLEARANCE

- a) Any player registered with an affiliated League Club who is refused a clearance to transfer from one club in the League in which he is registered, to another club in the same League, may appeal against that refusal to the Tribunal.
- b) Any such appeal for clearance shall be made in writing and lodged with the Operations Manager, along with a further clearance application completed by the player together with a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100), within seven (7) days of the clearance application being refused.
- c) The Football Operations Manager shall acknowledge receipt of the appeal by issuing a receipt for the fee and calling a Tribunal within seven (7) days of the appeal being received by the League. The fee will be forfeited by the person appealing if, in the opinion of the Tribunal, the matter is considered frivolous.

13. RECRUITMENT GUIDELINES

- a) No League club officer, servant or agent of a League club shall interview a registered player of another League club without in the first instance lodging a 'Permission to Interview' letter or form with the Secretary of the player's present club and the Football Operations Manager, using registered mail or e-mail. In addition, these requirements are also subject to By-Law 8(f) where applicable.
 - i. Seven (7) days after the lodgement of the Permission to Interview letter a club is free to interview the player, unless notification has been received, from his present club, advising that he has a valid contractual agreement with that club.
- b) No League club shall invite a registered player of another League club to train with that club, without first have requested approval from that player's present club. A written copy of this request shall also be lodged with the Operation's Manager. In addition, these requirements are also subject to By-Law 8 (f) where applicable.
 - i. Seven (7) days after the lodgement of this request by a club, the player is free to train with that club, unless notification has been received, that he has a valid contractual agreement with that club.
- c) No League club officer, servant or agent of a League club, shall in any way offer or suggest inducement or encouragement to a registered player of another League club to violate or terminate his agreement with such club.
- d) No official of any club can approach either a junior player or parent/guardian of a junior player under the age of 18yrs old, with the purpose of recruitment.
- e) Any breach of By-Law 13 (a),(b), (c) or (d) shall be referred to the Tribunal for their deliberation and if proven, may censure, suspend, disqualify or impose a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for a person and two thousand dollars (\$2000) for a club

14. PERMIT COMMITTEES

a) SENIORS

The Senior Permit Committee shall meet as required and shall comprise of the Football Operations Manager, and two (2) Commissioners.

b) JUNIORS

The Junior Permit Committee shall meet as required and shall comprise of the Football Operations Manager, Junior Development Officer and at least one (1) Commissioner.

- c) The Junior and Senior Permit Committees shall have the power to grant, refuse, or revoke player's registrations and permits to play, and apply terms and conditions at their absolute discretion, providing the necessary documentation, in accordance with the League's By-Laws, has been previously lodged with the League.

15. PERMITS FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS

Over-age players

Dispensation to play over-age players in junior grades may be sought from time to time and granted by the Junior League Permit Committee provided the following guidelines have been fulfilled.

- a) Permission to play over-aged players must be requested in writing on the appropriate form, by delegates of the Club concerned, to the Football Operations Manager.
- b) Approval will be given on a full round of matches with any finals to be considered separately, except whereby the Permit committee may choose to revoke a permit during the full round formerly granted.
- c) Permits for over-age players may apply to all grades under the jurisdiction of the Junior League.
- d) Over-age players granted a permit shall not be eligible for any voting or trophy considerations in the age group for which they are permitted.
- e) When re-applying for, or renewing a permit after a full round, a Club need only apply in writing unless requested otherwise by the Permit Committee

Under-age players

- f) For the purpose of the Junior grades, under-age players born in the year immediately outside the 'age bracket' of the particular grade may apply to the League for a 'Playing Up Permit' on the prescribed form, providing they comply with the SANFL Duty of Care Policy. This application must be submitted and approved by the Football Operations Manager by 5.00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the weekend of matches the player wishes to play.
- g) If granted approval to play, the player must abide by all the rules of the League for the competition they are playing in and must be wearing a clearly visible League endorsed 'Playing Up' arm band.
- h) Permits for under-age players will be in effect until the completion of any one (1) season unless revoked by the Permit Committee.
- i) A record of all permit applications will be kept by the League.
- j) Players issues with a permit must be indicated on any team sheet with the word "permit" following his name.
- k) Any player in breach of By-Law 15 will be deemed "Unqualified" subject to By-Law 17 and may have their permit revoked subject to By-Law 14 (c).

16. DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- i. No club shall play any player who is under disqualification by any Australian Football authority whether the authority is affiliated or not. Any club, having received written notice that a player has been disqualified or fined, which plays a disqualified player or a player whose fine has not been paid, shall forfeit the match in which it plays such a player and in addition, be fined an amount of up to, but not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1000), by the Tribunal.
- ii. A Disqualified Player or Official may not go onto the field of play during period of disqualification

17. UNQUALIFIED PLAYERS

- a) No club can play a player who is unregistered or for any reason unqualified.
- b) If a club fails to comply and is found in breach of Rule 17 (a) by the Football Operations Manager, the club will automatically forfeit the match and will be fined two (\$200) hundred dollars. This fine shall increase by one (\$100) hundred dollars for each repeat offence by any team in that club in one season.
- c) If the club should elect to dispute the decision the club may lodge a protest in writing with the Football Operations Manager no later than five (5) p.m. on the first business day following the date of notification of breach.
 - i. The matter is then to be referred to Tribunal level which can see a fine incurred of up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1000) and forfeit enforced.
 - ii. Such dispute shall be accompanied by a fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) to be forfeited if, in the opinion of the Tribunal, the same is unproven.

18. PAYMENT OF FINES

- a) Whenever a fine has been imposed by the League on a Club or a delegate member or proxy delegate, or on a playing member, or official member of the League, such fine shall be paid within thirty (30) days of notice of the infliction of such fine.
 - i. Fines imposed on players must be paid before 5pm Thursday, to allow them to play in any subsequent match.
 - ii. Any fines incurred during the major round must be paid within seven (7) days
- b) Each Club shall be responsible for the payment of all fines inflicted by the League or the Commissioners on the Club, or on its delegate members, or proxy delegates, or on its playing members, or Officials registered with the League. In default, the club shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 30.
- c) All clubs need to have paid overdue monies owing to Port Lincoln Football League by 5.00pm Thursday of the last game of the minor round for all teams of that club to be eligible to play in the final series.

GAME DAY BY-LAWS

19. LAWS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GAME OF FOOTBALL

The Laws of the Game as passed from time to time by the Australian Football League of Australia shall be adopted as a By-Law of this League except where variations have been approved by the S.A.C.F.L. Inc., in accordance with the A.F.L. Laws of the game.

20. CLUB COLOURS

a) The registered distinguishing colours of the Clubs shall be as follows:

Boston	Black & Yellow
Lincoln South	Blue & Yellow
Mallee Park	Green & Yellow
Marble Range	Black & White
Tasman	Red & White
Wayback	Blue & Red

- b) Any modification to colour or design, or the use of the advertising logos, shall be approved by the League.
- c) Any playing member who does not conform to the approved Club uniform may be prohibited by the Umpire from taking part in the game and upon written notification by the Umpire to the Operations Manager before five (5) p.m. on the first (1st) business day following such breach, the Permit Committee may impose a fine of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) on the offending player.
- d) All visiting A Grade Teams to wear white shorts. For matches in the major round the 2nd team into final will wear white shorts.

21. MATCHES

a) START TIMES

- i. The PLFL season shall commence on the date to be fixed by the League. All League matches are to commence by 2.40 p.m. with all other grades to start at times determined by the League from time to time.
- ii. Any Club not ready to start at the appointed time may be fined or dealt with as this League may deem fit, and, in addition, if not ready to start within five (5) minutes of the appointed commencing time, shall forfeit the match to the opposing team.

b) LENGTH OF MATCHES

- i. League Matches shall be four (4) Quarters of twenty (20) minutes duration with time-on.
- ii. Reserves Matches shall be four (4) Quarters of seventeen (17) minutes duration with no time-on.
- iii. Under 11 shall be four (4) quarters of ten (10) minutes duration with no time-on
- iv. Under 13 shall be four (4) quarters of twelve (12) minutes duration with no time-on
- v. Under 15 shall be four (4) quarters of fifteen (15) minutes duration with no time-on
- vi. Under 17 shall be four (4) quarters of twenty (20) minutes duration with no time-on

22. MATCHES OTHER THAN LEAGUE MATCHES

No Club shall play any match other than a League match without first obtaining the previous approval of the League, and clubs not engaged in semi-final or finals games shall not play any match without first obtaining the approval of the League.

23. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

- a) No Club shall refuse to play under the Field Umpire appointed by the SANFL Inc. or the Port Lincoln Umpires Panel Appointment Board and no Club shall forfeit any match because of objections to the appointed umpire. A Club so refusing to play or forfeiting a match shall be suspended or expelled by this League, or otherwise dealt with as this League may determine.
- b) Any player or players who refuse to play or take part in a match, resulting in the forfeiture of a match on account of objections to the appointed Umpire, may be dealt with by the Tribunal, as they deem fit.
- c) A Club forfeiting a match for any reason shall notify the Operations Manager of its reasons for forfeiting by 8.00pm Thursday night preceding the match and this League may accept the explanation or deal with the Club so forfeiting or the players of such Club, as it may deem fit.
- d) A Club receiving a forfeit approved by the League shall be credited with two (2) premiership match points (if applicable) plus five (5) goals or thirty (30) points for, and nil against.
- e) If a team has 3 unnotified forfeits, that team loses all acquired competition points and in each instance of an unnotified forfeit will incur a \$100 fine for the offending club.

24. PREMIERSHIP PRECONDITIONS

- a) In all matches, except the under eleven (11) grade, two (2) points shall be counted for a win and one (1) for a draw for the purpose of a premiership table.
- b) If at the conclusion of the minor round any two (2) or more Clubs have obtained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs shall be determined by overall percentage based on the AFL percentage system.
- c) The Club which occupies top position at the conclusion of the Minor Round shall be called the winners of the Minor Premiership.
- d) At the conclusion of the Minor Round the third and fourth teams on the Premiership Table shall play the First Semi-Final, and the first and second teams shall play the Second Semi-Final. A Preliminary Final shall be played between the winners of the first Semi-final and the losers of the second Semi-Final. The Grand Final shall be played between the winners of the second Semi-Final and the winners of the Preliminary Final.
- e) Should a tie be confirmed after the checking of goal cards and the time card in any of the matches played in the Major Round, an additional five (5) minutes each end shall be played, with a three (3) minute break between the match and extra time. In the event of scores still being tied the same format shall be repeated after a three (3) minute break until a result is achieved. Only coaches and trainers are permitted to enter field while tie breaker is applied.

25. MAJOR ROUND - PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

- a) A player must have played in four (4) or more minor round matches for their current club in that season to qualify to play in that club's League major round matches.
- b) A player must have played in four (4) or more Reserve minor round matches for their current club in that season to qualify to play in that club's Reserves major round matches unless the League and Reserves teams of that club are competing in major round matches on the same day. In this case any senior player not selected in the League grade team twenty-one (21) players shall be eligible for the Reserve grade team (subject to By-Law 22 (a)) and shall be eligible to continue playing in the Reserve grade during the major round. If the player is subsequently promoted to the League side this eligibility shall be annulled, unless both senior teams are playing.
 - i. A player shall not be eligible for any subsequent Reserve grade major round match if named in the League side on the day that team is eliminated.
- c) A player must have played in three (3) or more minor round matches for their current Club in any grade in that season to qualify to play in that club's junior major round matches and meet player qualifications (By-Law 10).
- d) A player who is prevented from qualifying, in any of the above, through injury sustained as a playing member in this League may apply to the Commissioners for permission to participate in major round matches. The decision of the Commissioners shall be final. All applications are to have a Doctor's Certificate attached.
 - i. Injury Permits to be submitted no later than Monday following the last minor round game

26. TEAM COMPOSITION

- a) In every minor round match a list of the twenty-two (22) players (League), twenty two (22) players (Reserves and Under Seventeen) and twenty five (25) players (Under Fifteen and Under Thirteen), with their respective numbers, shall be exchanged by officials of the opposing Clubs and only the players mentioned in such list shall be qualified to play. The Under Eleven grade may list an unlimited amount of players. A maximum of eighteen players are permitted on the field at any one time.
 - i. A copy of each list shall be available via Sports TG to the Field Umpire and opposing club Team Manager no later than 15 minutes before the start of the match.
 - ii. All players must wear distinguishing numbers for each match which must agree with those numbers shown on Official Team Sheet available to the Field Umpire before the start of each match.
 - iii. If during the course of a game a player number is destroyed it may be replaced with a distinguishing number which is not in conflict with others listed on the team sheet. The officiating field umpires and opposition are to be notified prior to the player resuming play.
- b) League major round team lists shall consist of twenty two (22) players, Reserves twenty two (22) players with Under Seventeen major round team lists also allowed twenty-two (22) players. Under 13 & 15 team lists to consist of 25 players
- c) If a junior grade side is unable to field eighteen (18) players, then whatever number they have available will be matched by the opposing team on the field, with the minimum amount set at fourteen (14) players. Excess players may be used as interchange men. It is also a requirement that where possible, clubs are to advise the opposition twenty-four (24) hours prior when a problem with numbers is anticipated and thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled match time the numbers shall be confirmed. This rule applies to minor round games only.
 - i. If a junior side is unable to field eighteen (18) players, opposition excess players must be used to equalise player numbers for both teams on the field, with the minimum number set at fourteen (14) club registered players, other than for the Under 15 grade for which the minimum number of registered players is twelve (12).
 - ii. For the purpose of junior football, the minimum number of existing registered club players required to constitute an official match is set at seven (7). The remaining players required to meet the total minimum requirement must be received by the team on an approved clearance.
- d) The Interchange player must be on the ground in uniform to play and must remain so ready until the conclusion of the match and must be identified on the team sheet.
- e) The Interchange player who comply with By-Law 24 (d) shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.
- f) The Interchange player shall be available for use at the discretion of his Captain or Coach, as a substitute player at any time during the match providing that, if a player is used as an interchange the players concerned make their entrance and departure from the playing arena through the designated area, otherwise they will not be permitted to take any further part in that particular game with the exception of players incapacitated through injury, who may be taken off the playing arena at the nearest vantage point with the right of return if subsequently required.
- g) For the purpose of the Under 9 and Under 11 grades, the maximum number of players that may be on the playing surface for any one team is twenty one (21). For all other grades, the maximum number of players on the playing surface for any one team must not exceed eighteen (18).

- h) Team Sheets must be completed in compliance with these By-Laws and the Laws of the Game as set by the AFL (AFL Law 2019 5.3.1).
 - i. Any club that is found to have incorrectly completed a Team Sheet and is found in breach of By-Law 26 (h) by the Football Operations Manager, will automatically be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each match in which a breach occurs.
 - ii. This By-Law does not exclude any other infringements of the rules and regulations of the game, which are to be dealt with as separate matters.

27. PLAYER OF THE DAY

- a) For the purpose of the underage competition only, a permit to play for the opposing side may be granted to a player for any minor round match provided that:
 - i. The two coaches concerned have liaised concerning the proposal and obtained the consent of the affected player and their parent/guardian.
 - ii. In the event of a permitted player under this rule being reported, both clubs shall be required to provide adequate representation at any tribunal convened to hear any charges laid.

28. UMPIRES

- a) The P.L.F.L. Umpires Panel shall provide where possible the field umpires for every match under its control and the P.L.F.L. Umpires Panel, where possible, shall provide a minimum two (2), maximum four (4) boundary and two (2) goal umpires in proper attire.
- b) The P.L.F.L. Board shall set the Umpire remuneration annually.
- c) No P.L.F.L. Umpires Panel Umpire who has acted as such shall be allowed to play in a League match during the season in which he has acted except with the consent of this League. A Club or Umpire breaking this rule shall be dealt with as this League may think fit.
- d) The League shall approve or reject the P.L.F.L. Umpires Association appointments for Secretary, Methods Coaches, and Fitness Co-ordinators and set their honoraria, payable by the League.

29. TIMEKEEPERS

All Clubs shall appoint a timekeeper to officiate at each Club game conducted by the League.

- i. Failure to comply will result in the offending club being fined \$100 in each instance

30. OFFICIALS ON PLAYING ARENA

No official (Trainers, Coach, Team Manager and Runners exempted) of any League Club is allowed within the playing arena during the progress of any game. (Playing arena meaning within the fenced enclosure). Trainers must not leave their position unless for attention to players. Coach and Team Manager may only leave their positions at quarter, half and three-quarter time. The Runner is to leave his position only to relay messages to players and leave the playing arena promptly after relaying a message.

31. SEND - OFF RULE

The following procedure applies in all grades:

- a) A player reported for any offence as defined in Infringements, 38. Appendix A – Independent League Tribunal Procedures Part 4. Tribunal Penalties or any other act of misconduct, if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature, shall receive a red card and be ordered from the field with no further participation in the remainder of the match, with no replacement player allowed.
- b) A player reported by an umpire for any Reportable Offence other than those listed in By-Law 31 (a), shall receive a yellow card and be ordered from the field for ten (10) minutes, with no replacement player allowed.
- c) A player who commits or threatens to commit an offence, whether verbal or physical, that in itself is not reportable but is considered by the Umpire to not be in the spirit of the game, may receive a yellow card and be ordered from the field for ten (10) minutes, with no replacement player allowed.
- d) A player who receives two (2) yellow cards in a game, for any reason, shall receive a red card and be ordered from the field with no further participation in the remainder of the match, with no replacement player allowed.
- e) A player who receives two (2) yellow cards under By-Law 31 (c), shall, in addition to the penalties applying under By-Law 31 (d), also be reported for misconduct.
- f) Any player sent off must exit through the interchange gate. Failure to do so will result in that player forfeiting further participation in the match.
- g) The reserve umpire is responsible for the keeping of time for players sent off for yellow card offence. Where there is no reserve umpire, the *time keepers* will be responsible for the keeping of time. Until directed back onto the field, the player must wait and re-enter through the interchange gate.
- h) If a junior receives 1 yellow card penalty, it makes the player ineligible for further games on that day irrespective of whether player has been reported or not.
- i) Time Keepers to record the offender details on the appropriate form and submit same with time card to the umpire's room after the match.
- j) A junior player who receives 3 yellow cards during any one season will be referred to the tribunal.

32. MERCY RULE

- a) In Under Thirteen, Fifteen minor round matches the "Mercy Rule" will be invoked when a difference of ninety (90) points is reached at any point in the game and the official game terminated. For U11 matches, the "Mercy Rule" will apply when a difference of sixty (60) points is reached at any point in the game.
 - i. The Time Keepers are to blow the siren when the margin reaches ninety (90) points
 - ii. Umpires will record votes and sign off goal cards at this point. If sufficient time is available the Coaches will re-congregate the teams to enable a more competitive contest and a trial game may be played.
 - iii. The length of trial game will be amended as required but must not impede upon the starting time of the next scheduled grade.
 - iv. In other regards, the rules of the game will still apply.

33. LEAGUE SELECTION

- a) Any player who has applied for and obtained registration and a permit to play is strongly encouraged to make themselves available for training and selection in any match arranged by the League.
- b) Those players who are unavailable for selection must in the first instance communicate verbally or in writing with their club's Interleague Committee member and the appointed Interleague Coach.
- c) If a player is selected and does not turn up for a game without good reason as determined by the tribunal he shall receive a 2 club game suspension
- d) For the purposes of Under fifteen (15), Under seventeen (17) and Mortlock Shield Interleague fixtures the teams to represent Port Lincoln are:-
 - i. Lincoln City: Tasman, Lincoln South & Wayback Football Clubs
 - ii. Lincoln Districts: Mallee Park, Marble Range & Boston Football Clubs
- e) Clubs are responsible for loss of income for their representative players arising from an Interleague fixture and clubs need to inform their representative players of what they are covered for under their club insurance.
- f) Both Lincoln City and Lincoln Districts are to have a minimum 3 Under 21 players selected for the annual Mortlock Shield Carnival

INFRINGEMENTS

34. THE TRIBUNAL

- a) At its Annual General Meeting the League shall appoint at least six (6) Commissioners, none of who shall be a registered Official of any club within the League to comprise the Tribunal panel.
- b) Three (3) Commissioners are to preside over a hearing of the Tribunal.
- c) Half of the Commissioners comprising the Tribunal shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and the other half for a term of one (1) year. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-appointment. These appointments must be notified to the SANFL Inc. within seven (7) days of the Annual General Meeting.
- d) For Tribunal Guidelines and Procedures see Appendix A

35. PROTESTS OR DISPUTES

Protests or disputes arising out of any League match must be made in writing by the President of the Club concerned to the Football Operations Manager not later than five p.m. on the first business day following the match in which such incident occurred. Such protest or dispute shall be accompanied by a fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) to be forfeited if, in the opinion of the body appointed to hear such protest or dispute, the same is frivolous. All such protests or disputes shall be heard by the Tribunal, no later than the next League or Interleague fixture, whichever is scheduled first following the reported incident and the Club or persons involved in the protest or dispute shall be allowed representation at the hearing by the permitted club advocate prescribed in By-Law 36(f).

36. REPORTING PLAYERS

The following conditions shall apply to a charge laid by an umpire in respect of a breach of the "Laws of the Game" by a player. All charges shall be heard by the Independent Tribunal in accordance with the procedures for Tribunal Hearings followed by the S.A.N.F.L. Inc. as contained in the Independent League Tribunal Procedures (Appendix A) from time to time.

- a) Each Umpire who makes a charge shall fill in duplicate copies in respect of each Club which has a player to be reported. Such copies shall set out the name of such player and particulars of the charge. Each Umpire who makes a charge shall sign both copies and if he is a boundary or goal umpire shall hand both copies to the field Umpire. The Field Umpire shall deliver one copy of each charge to the Football Operations Manager no later than five (5) p.m. on the first (1st) business day following the match.
- b) Each Club shall be responsible for the attendance of the Team Manager at the door of the Umpire's room at the termination of the match and where charges are made, the field Umpire shall hand to the Official of the Club concerned the duplicate signed copy of such charges. In the case of non-attendance of the Team Manager, the Club in default and any player concerned in a charge shall be deemed to have waived compliance with the provisions of this clause and the charge will be heard as if the Official received the copy of the charge.
- c) On the handing to the Team Manager of the copy of the charges as required by By-Law 36(b), the Club concerned shall be deemed to have duly received notice of such charge and thereupon such Team Manager shall forthwith notify the player concerned of the making of the charges.

- d) When an Umpire intends to make a charge against any player, he shall, if such charges relate to matters arising in the first three-quarters of the game, notify the players concerned as soon as reasonably possible after the incident, and in any event, not later than the start of the next quarter. If a charge is laid against a player during the final quarter, notification should occur as soon as practicable after the game, if notification has not occurred during the actual quarter of play.
- e) Charges shall be heard by the Tribunal before the next League Fixture. The Football Operations Manager shall fix the time and place for hearing any charges and notify the Club Official and Umpire of such time and place.
- f) Both the player accused or appealing and the Club accused or against which the appeal has been lodged, shall be entitled to an advocate in attendance at any hearing, providing such advocate shall not be a member of the legal profession, but is an office bearer of the Club concerned.
- g) Any player disqualified or suspended by the Independent League Tribunal for a period in excess of six (6) matches for any offence, may appeal through the SANFL Inc.
- h) Accredited Umpires appointed to officiate in a game on that day, at that venue shall have the broader power to report a player(s) in other scheduled games if alleged breaches of the laws occur at that venue.
- i) A complaint alleging an infringement of the Constitution or By-Laws of the League or of the laws of the game may be made by a League Executive Official, by a Club Official of a participating club (President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer) or by a Registered Official named on the team sheet of a participating team. Complaints made by a Club Official or Official named on the team sheet of a participating club must be approved in writing by the President of that Club and accompanied by a fee of five (\$500) dollars when lodged with the League. The fee will be forfeited if in the opinion of the Tribunal, the complaint is found to be unproven.
- j) A complaint pursuant to By-Law 36(i) must be lodged with the Football Operations Manager no later than five (5) p.m. on the first (1st) business day following the match in which the event or conduct, which is the subject of the complaint is alleged to have occurred.
- k) After due consideration of the complaint, the Football Operations Manager may refer the complaint to the Tribunal in the form of a report. The Football Operations Manager must then cause a copy of the alleged complaint, together with particulars of such complaint to be delivered to the person or body alleged in such complaint to have committed the infringement, as soon as practical.
 - i. The Football Operations Manager must also inform such person or body named in the report of the time and place fixed for hearing of such report.
 - ii. A report alleging a breach of laws of the game pursuant to By-Law 36(i) shall be heard by the Independent Tribunal in accordance with the procedures for tribunal hearings followed by the SANFL Inc. as contained in the Independent League Tribunal Procedures (Appendix A).
- l) A Player suspended for six (6) or more games may appeal to the SANFL Inc., such appeal shall be handed to or posted to the Football Operations Manager within fourteen (14) days of Tribunal Hearing for forwarding to the SANFL Inc. whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

37. REPORTING OTHER OFFENCES

- a) No person who is a member, player, official or servant of the League or a League Club shall:
- i. Use abusive, threatening or insulting language to the League delegates or umpires or other officials or to players or to gatekeepers.
 - ii. Interfere with or assault any League delegate, umpire or other official servant of the League or a playing member or gatekeeper.
 - iii. Be guilty of conduct detrimental to the best interests of the Australian game of football.
 - iv. Refuse or neglect to observe or comply with the rules of the League.
 - v. Obtain or attempt to obtain entrance to any oval or League function without producing an entrance pass or paying the proper admission charge.
- b) A charge against any person offending against By-Law 37a, (i) to (v) may be laid by the Football Operations Manager or servant, or in the case of an infringement of By-Law 37a (v), by any oval official or gatekeeper, providing in the instance of a player being involved, it occurs outside the actual playing of a game. In the event of an allegation of an infringement of the Constitution or By-Laws of the League or of the Laws of the Game in the actual playing of a game, By-Law 36 should be invoked.
- c) Such charge shall be in writing, which shall set out the matter or matters complained of and the name of the alleged offender.
- d) Such charge shall be lodged with the Football Operations Manager not later than five (5) p.m. on the first (1st) business day following the alleged offence.
- e) The Football Operations Manager shall give to the person against whom a charge has been made, two (2) clear days written notice of such charge, and shall set out a copy of such charge, and shall set out the time and place appointed for the hearing.
- f) Any charge under this rule must be heard by the Tribunal in accordance with By-Law 36 (k)ii.
- g) Where a charge under this rule has been found to be proved, the Tribunal may inflict such punishment either by way of censure, fine, suspension or disqualification as they think fit.
- h) Any person reported under By-Law 37 shall have the right to be represented by an office bearer of the Club to which the accused person belongs.

38. APPENDIX A – INDEPENDENT LEAGUE TRIBUNAL PROCEDUES

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The domestic disciplinary tribunal is, and will remain, one of the most contentious and emotional parts of our game. It is because of this emotion that it is also an area, which, along with the disputed clearance, is most likely to attract a legal challenge to a decision. Such challenges have been mounted in the past and when successful, as some have been, have resulted in the league or association being involved in great hardship, either in legal expenses or penalty. It is therefore critical that certain basic principles are adhered to so as to minimise the risk of a successful challenge.

1. The most basic, and most important, of these is **NATURAL JUSTICE**. In essence, in football terms, natural justice means - that every person is entitled to a fair hearing that they must be provided with the opportunity to present any evidence available to them in defence of any charge, that the tribunal must give proper attention to all the evidence, that the tribunal reach its decision in a fair and impartial manner.
2. Another important principle is — that the player/defendant must understand what the charge is, how the hearing will proceed, entitled to be heard and have his/her say.
3. Also important is that the Port Lincoln Football League should ensure that their tribunal's powers are clearly identified and understood by the commissioners.
4. The accused player shall be entitled to be represented before a tribunal hearing by an advocate appointed by their club.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE TRIBUNAL

Three (3) Independent Tribunal Commissioners will be appointed to hear and decide on any reportable offence for the Port Lincoln Football League that is referred to the Independent League Tribunal. These Commissioners will be selected from a panel of Commissioners appointed by the Port Lincoln Football League Board. It is recommended that these persons have skills in policing and/or judicial matters.

It is preferable that the Tribunal Commissioners has some knowledge of legal proceedings. Their role is to adjudicate on the evidence presented on the night, not their personal views on either the incident or the individual involved.

3. TRIBUNAL SITTINGS

The Football Operations Manager shall call Tribunals no later than the Tuesday following a report (refer 36(e)), and shall advise the Secretary of affected Clubs of the result of the hearing within seven (7) days.

Tribunal sittings may also be required at short notice due to non-local umpires officiating. Any such extraordinary sitting of the Tribunal will be called by the Football Operations Manager, in consultation with the designated Tribunal Commissioners.

4. TRIBUNAL PENALTIES

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	All	Tribunal	N/A
	High	High/Groin	Tribunal	N/A
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Reprimand
Careless	Severe	All	Tribunal	N/A
	High	High/Groin	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match	Reprimand
		Body	Reprimand	Reprimand

4.1 Registered senior players reported for an offence which attracts an early guilty plea offer, shall be given the opportunity to either accept the prescribed penalty, or chose to defend the charge at the tribunal hearing where either the base sanction or higher penalties may apply if the charge is proven.

5. Application of the Accepted Penalty

1. The accepted penalty shall only apply to players participating in the Port Lincoln Football League Senior Competition, irrespective of any age qualification.
2. Any Junior Player reported for any infringement while competing in the Port Lincoln Football League Junior competition, must appear before the Independent League Tribunal as convened and cannot participate in the accepted penalty process. Penalties for any Junior Player found guilty of any offence shall be at the discretion of the sitting Tribunal.
3. Any Official reported for any infringement must appear before the Independent League Tribunal as convened and cannot participate in the accepted penalty process. Penalties for any Official found guilty of any offence shall be at the discretion of the sitting Tribunal.
4. Any player charged of an offence who has been found guilty of a previous offence *during the previous 2 calendar years*, will have one additional match added to penalty.
5. If a player is reported of an offence during the first three weeks of the finals series the penalty will incur a 50% increase. If the player is reported and found guilty during the Grand Final the penalty will incur a 100% increase.

6. Officials

Coaches who are found guilty of an offence by the PLFL Tribunal process will have no Communication with anyone listed on the team sheet from one half hour (1/2) prior to the Start of the game until the completion of the game and may not enter the playing arena at Any time during the course of the game.

7. Tribunal Hearing Procedure

1. Player Representation
2. The accused player shall be entitled to be represented before a tribunal hearing
3. Order of Proceedings
4. Introduction of persons present.
5. The Commissioners shall satisfy themselves that the person charged has been presented with details of the charge.
6. Plea of player.
7. Umpires evidence.
8. Cross-examination of Umpire by the Commissioners.
9. Cross-examination of Umpire by the player or his representative
10. Evidence of Umpires' witness
11. Cross-examination of Umpires' witness
12. Evidence of player
13. Cross-examination of player by the Commissioners
14. Cross-examination of player by the Umpire
15. Evidence of player's witness
16. Cross-examination of player's witness by the Commissioners
17. Cross-examination of player's witness by the Umpire.

Note: The umpire is now able to leave Hearing

18. Submission by the player based upon the evidence presented.
19. All people other than the Commissioners shall withdraw to allow the Commissioners to decide whether the charge is proven.
20. Upon reaching his decision the Commissioners shall recall the person charged.
21. If the charge is found "not proven" the Commissioners will declare the hearing closed.
22. If the charge is found "proven" the details of the player's record shall be read.
23. The player or his representative may make a submission to the Commissioners on the question of penalty.
24. All parties shall again withdraw to allow the Commissioners to decide on the penalty.
25. The player charged and his representative shall then be readmitted and informed of the decision.

Special Notes

26. Evidence must be taken even if the player pleads guilty.
27. A plea is always required.
28. Any player who has representation before the Commissioners forfeits any right to question witnesses.
29. At any time the Commissioners may ask questions of the umpire, player or witness.
30. Any person who conducts himself disrespectfully to the Commissioners during the hearing of a charge may be dealt with in such manner as the Commissioners in their absolute discretion shall deem fit.
31. An advocate for the player may not address the tribunal unless specifically requested by the Commissioner.
32. Members of the media may be admitted at the discretion of the Commissioner.

8. Recall of Tribunal

A recall of a Tribunal is at the discretion of the Commissioners.

9. Tribunal Sitting Location

All Tribunal Sessions will be conducted at the Port Lincoln Football League Rooms, Centenary Oval Port Lincoln or at a place appointed by the Port Lincoln Football Board.

10. Administrative Support

1. Administrative support through the Football Operations Manager or his/her delegate will be provided to the Tribunal Commissioner to record proceedings and outcomes.
2. All Tribunal outcomes will be communicated in writing to all clubs within 7 days.

11. Powers of the Tribunal

1. The S.A.N.F.L. Constitution clearly identifies the power of its Commissioners. It is most important that each League ensure that its Commissioner's powers are clearly identified.
2. The S.A.N.F.L. Commissioners has, among others, the following powers and, as a general rule, these powers could or should be conferred on an Affiliated League or Association's Tribunal.
3. S.A.N.F.L. Rule 2.1.6. details the following powers —
 - i. A League Commissioner must hear and determine any reports or charge or complaint against such player, League Club or other person and in particular but without limitation has the power to:
 - ii. Enquire into, hear and determine a charge made against any person which is the subject of a report made in respect of a breach of the Laws of the Game.
 - iii. If requested by an affiliated League to inquire into, hear and determine any charge of assaulting or attempting to assault an umpire made by an umpire and/or umpires from a panel of umpires appointed or approved by the League against a player or official of an Affiliated League or Club of an Affiliated League on the grounds of assaulting or attempting to assault an umpire.
 - iv. Enquire into, hear and determine any charge made by an umpire provided by the League against a player or registered official of a League Club or player or official of an Affiliated League on the following grounds
 - v. Assault or attempt to assault an umpire,
 - vi. Using abusive, threatening, indecent or insulting Language towards an umpire
 - vii. Misconduct towards an umpire
 - viii. Acting in any way which is harmful to or derogatory of an umpire.
 - ix. Hear and determine any other matter or complaint which may be referred to them for hearing and determination under these regulations.
 - x. Summon any person to appear and give evidence at the hearing of any report, charge or complaint,
 - xi. Admit or reject any evidence given or tendered at the evidence of, such report, charge or complaint.
 - xii. Adjourn the hearing of any report, charge or complaint from time to time as may be convenient
 - xiii. Adopt or pursue any procedure which he thinks convenient and proper in the hearing adjudication and determination of such report, charge or complaint,
 - xiv. Determine the manner of, any matter relating to the conduct of proceedings on the hearing of such report, charge or complaint,
 - xv. Cause a transcript of proceedings on the hearing of such report, charge or complaint to be taken or recorded in such manner as they determine,
 - xvi. Punish by way of censure, fine, suspension or disqualification from playing or exercising any official function or suspended penalty, any person being a player or official of the League or an Affiliated League who is found to have knowingly and with intent to mislead, made any false statement at the hearing of any report, charge or complaint in respect of any matter which is material to the charge and directed to the proof of innocence or guilt of the person charged,
 - xvii. Dismiss any charge as being trivial or as not having been proved.

12. Rights of Appeal

The S.A.N.F.L. Constitution provides for **NO** right of appeal.

However, in the Affiliated Leagues, any suspension in excess of 6 or more games may be appealed against. These appeals, are made to the S.A.N.F.L. Commissioner for Country and Metropolitan Football.

1. The process to be followed is:
2. Player or player's club makes a decision concerning any appeal.
3. A written submission must be submitted to the Football Operations Manager by the player or player's Club.
4. Submission must give clear reasons for the basis of the appeal i.e. improper procedures, unfair hearing, no interpretation, unfair decision, or manifestly excessive penalty.
5. The Football Operations Manager forwards a copy of the Club's appeal submission together with the minutes and or audio recording of the Tribunal or written statement of the Tribunal.
6. This must be completed within 28 days of the hearing.
7. Matter is then referred and determined by SANFL Appeals Committee

13. Witnesses

The Tribunal cannot deny the player the right to call any such person as a witness in defending the charge against him. If the player seeks through the Tribunal to call a person, relevant to the charge, the Tribunal must summon that person before it, even if it means granting an adjournment until that person is available. This need not be the case with the umpire. Provided the Tribunal is satisfied that the charge has been made out clearly by the umpire, then they may use their discretion in not requiring a witness to appear, even if the umpire wishes to call one

14. More than One (1) umpire reports

1. In these cases, the umpires present their evidence in turn, with one umpire leaving the room while the other 'presents his/her evidence.
2. If three umpires are involved, the Tribunal would ask umpire one to present his evidence while umpires two and three wait outside. Cross examination of the umpire by the Tribunal and the player is done before umpires two and three present their evidence
3. The Tribunal would then call umpire two in to present his evidence. Umpire one may stay in the room and umpire three would wait outside. Cross examination of umpire two by the Tribunal and the player is done before umpire three presents his evidence. The Tribunal would then call umpire three. The same sequence applies. The player would then present his evidence.

15. When a player does not attend

1. In the circumstances where a player cannot or does not attend a hearing, the hearing should not proceed unless he is prepared for a nominee, usually his Club's advocate, to tender a plea for him (in which case the plea would have to be one of guilty; if he intends to plead not guilty then the Tribunal should adjourn the hearing until the player is able to attend) and has formally advised the Tribunal accordingly. If the player has not been advised of the hearing, the matter must not proceed until he is advised and is able to attend.
2. The player is not eligible to play until the charge against him has been dealt with. The charge stays 'live'. Even if the player 'retires' he can hold no official position with a Club, anywhere, until the matter has been resolved.

16. When an Umpire doesn't attend

1. Wherever and whenever possible the umpire should attend the hearing. Remembering that the player must have the opportunity to test the umpire's evidence, that task obviously becomes particularly difficult, and at times impossible, when the umpire is not present. It is difficult to test written evidence, as is it difficult for the Tribunal to get a 'moving picture' of the incidents from the written word. The S.A.N.F.L. would acknowledge that it is not always possible for the umpire to attend, particularly in some Leagues.
2. The player may request that some attempt be made to contact the umpire, perhaps by phone if he is not readily accessible or it is very difficult to reconvene the Tribunal at a later date, to enlarge upon his written evidence. This request should be granted where possible. It will make for an easier and more comfortable judgement to be made by the Tribunal.
3. If on some occasions an umpire is unable to attend a hearing, the tribunal may decide to allow the umpire to provide his/her evidence via telephone, but only in exceptional circumstances.

17. Technicalities

1. In the view of the League, technicalities that result in a charge being withdrawn should be few and far between.
2. What can be classed as a technicality that would result in the charge being dismissed.
3. Failure of the umpire to advise the player that he has been reported

YES

The umpire reporting the wrong player

YES

The umpire making an error on the umpire report sheet.

NO

The 'umpires report sheet' is not regarded as a material piece of evidence. It serves the purposes of formally advising the player of his report, what he has been reported for and when the alleged incident took place. It should be said the umpire is encouraged to complete this form in as much detail as possible.

The 'wrong' charge being laid by the umpire i.e. 'kneeing' instead of the correct charge which is 'undue rough play'.

NO

The umpire is not able to withdraw or amend a charge once it has been made. All of the preceding matters have dealt primarily with reports laid by an umpire. In all of these situations fairness to the player is and must be the primary consideration.