



South Australian Women's  
Football League Inc

# LAWS AND BY-LAWS

*Retyped But Not Revised*  
Saturday, 30 April 2005

## LAWS OF THE GAME

*These Laws and By-Laws have only been retyped for legibility, and have not in any way been revised or amended.*

*A Sub-Committee will be reviewing these Laws in comparison with the AFL Laws and the SANFL Laws. Should there be any additions or amendments a Special Meeting will be convened within a quorum of all registered Officials and Players and the changes voted upon.*

*It is noted by the 2005 SAWFL Committee, that the numbering is not necessarily formatted sequentially. The numbering in this document is a direct copy from the original.*

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## 1. PLAYING GROUND, OVAL, GOAL AND BEHIND POSTS

- 1.1 The playing ground shall be oval in shape, between 135-185 metres in length, and between 110-155 metres in width.
  - 1.1.1 A line known as the boundary line shall mark the boundary of the playing ground.
  - 1.1.2 A circle three metres in diameter shall be marked in the centre of the ground and divided with a white line into two semi-circles laterally, such line to extend a maximum two metres on each side of the diameter. A centre square of 45 metres shall also be marked in white in the centre of the ground. In circumstances where centre areas are deemed to be impractical for bouncing a football, controlling bodies may approve the relocation of the square.
  - 1.1.3 Two short lines across the boundary line, 15 metres apart, shall mark the interchange area.
  - 1.1.4 The ideal playing area is 165 metres in length and 135 metres in width.
- 1.2 Two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than six metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground.
- 1.3 Two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres from each goal post and in a straight line with them. The minimum height of the posts should be three metres.
- 1.4 The line between the goal posts shall be called the goal line and the lines between the behind posts and the goal posts shall be called the behind lines.
- 1.5 Two lines shall be drawn at right angles to the goal line for a distance of nine metres from each post. The outer end of these lines shall be connected by a straight line. These lines shall be marked in white and known as the kick off lines.
  - 1.5.1 This area is known as the goal square

## 2.0 THE BALL

- 2.1 Dimensions; Footballs shall conform to a standard size of 720-730 millimetres by 545-555 millimetres and to the shape and standard specification approved by the National Australian Football Council.
- 2.2 Weight; The dry weight of the inflated ball shall be between 450 and 500 grams.
- 2.3 Provision of footballs; In the absence of other arrangements, the home team shall provide the ball for the match, giving the visiting team the choice of two balls which have been approved by the umpires. Unless the captains agree to a change, the same ball shall be used throughout the match.
  - 2.3.1 Where two teams play each other away from their respective home grounds each team shall supply one match ball which shall be approved by the umpires.
  - 2.3.2 The controlling body will supply match balls for the Grand Final. On all other occasions teams will supply match balls as required in rules 2.3 and 2.3.1.

### 3.0 TEAMS

- 3.0.1 All teams must lodge with the league a club registration form for each year they play. This form will include the names of all current club officials and the colour and type of the uniform to be worn for that year.
- 3.0.2 All players must be registered with the South Australian Women's League to participate in any match organised by the league.
- 3.1 The team shall consist of twenty two named players, not more than eighteen of whom shall take part in a match at any time.
  - 3.1.1 The remaining four players are the interchange players.
  - 3.1.2 Prior to the commencement of play an official of each team shall hand to the field umpire a list of names and numbers of the players comprising the team and indicating the captain and which of those four players will not take part in the match at its commencement.
  - 3.1.3 At any time during the course of the match, one of the players not then taking part in the match may be interchanged with one of the participating players.
  - 3.1.4 Should circumstances require a player's number to be changed the team runner should advise the field umpire during the next interval, or at the first available opportunity if the change occurs during the final quarter.
  - 3.1.5 The official runner of a team must wear the uniform determined by the controlling body and be easily identifiable by the umpire and her/his name shall appear on the team sheet of her/his team.
  - 3.1.6 The official trainer of a team must wear the uniform determined by the controlling body and be easily identifiable by the umpire and her/his name shall appear on the team sheet of her/his team.
  - 3.1.7 The official water carriers of a team must wear the uniform determined by the controlling body and be easily identifiable by the umpire and her/his name shall appear on the team sheet of her/his team.
- 3.2 The procedures for the interchange of players shall be as follows;
  - 3.2.1 If there is in attendance a steward appointed by the controlling body to supervise the operation of this law, the captain, the official runner or one other nominated club official, shall request permission from the steward, to make the replacement of one named player by another named player.
  - 3.2.2 The steward shall be stationed throughout the match in a prominent position as close to the boundary line as the controlling body shall approve.
  - 3.2.3 Players may leave the ground at any point, after advising interchange steward, but can only enter the ground through the interchange area during the game. If taken off other than through the interchange area the player must be on a stretcher or accompanied by the runner. This person will signify by raising his/her hand that the player is off the ground and shall remain with the player until another official replaces him/her. The player and the official must immediately proceed around the ground until he reports to the Interchange Steward. Her replacement shall enter the playing ground through the interchange area. The replaced player may return to the playing field by way of normal interchange.

- 3.2.4 The steward, on being satisfied that the proposed replacement is permitted under the provision of this law, shall give his/her permission which shall hold good for a period of three minutes from it being given, but shall then lapse if not acted upon.
- 3.2.5 A player who does not leave the ground in accordance with rule 3.2.3 shall not be permitted to take further part in the match unless she is taken from the ground on a stretcher.

When it is necessary for a player to be taken from the ground on a stretcher, the field umpire shall stop play at the first appropriate opportunity after she/he is advised that a stretcher is on the playing ground and is outside the boundary fence.

- 3.2.6 When a player has been, or appears to have been, so seriously injured as to prevent her being removed immediately from the playing ground, the steward may approve her replacement prior to leaving the ground, but if a replacement shall be made pursuant to such approval the replaced player shall take no further part in the match. The official runner or captain shall immediately inform the field umpire that the player has been replaced.
- 3.2.7 If a steward is not in attendance, the field umpire shall perform these duties. A request to make a replacement shall only be made during a period when time is being added to the playing time.
- 3.2.8 The steward and field umpire shall respectively report to the controlling body any breach of the provisions of this law.

3.3 The field umpire shall at the request of either captain, stop the match and call the players of the opposing team into line for the purpose of a team count. Such players shall line up in the centre square and remain until dismissed by the field umpire. The field umpire shall report to the controlling body upon every such request and result.

- 3.3.1 If a team has been counted and found to have more than eighteen players on the field, the controlling Body shall impose a penalty by way of reverse of match result, annulment of score or part thereof, fine or censure as it shall consider proper.

3.4 Subject to the approval of the South Australian Women's Football League, teams may reduce or increase the number of players who shall take part in any match. In no case shall the number be reduced to less than fourteen players.

#### **4.0 PLAYERS' BOOTS JEWELLERY AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

No player shall be permitted to play in a match with apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to herself or her opponents.

This includes the following:

- 4.1 Protruding nails or plates on boots.
- 4.2 A finger ring or other jewellery, including earrings.
- 4.3 Surgical appliances or guards.
- 4.4 Long fingernails

#### **5.0 STARTING THE MATCH**

5.1 Prior to the commencement of play, the field umpire shall:

- 5.1.1 Consult the time keepers as to their readiness to commence.
- 5.1.2 Inspect and approve the ball(s) to be used.

5.2 The umpire shall toss the coin for the choice of goal.

- 5.2.1 At the conclusion of each quarter, the teams shall change ends.

- 5.3 Prior to starting the match, the umpire shall consult the captains as to the readiness of their teams.
- 5.4 To commence play at the start of each quarter, the field umpire shall sound his/her whistle and bounce the ball in the circle.
- 5.4.1 After a goal has been kicked, the ball is bounced in the circle to re-start the match.
  - 5.4.2 The field umpire shall take up a position on the white line either side of the centre circle prior to bouncing the ball.
  - 5.4.3 The above procedure is followed except when a free kick has been given after a goal has been registered and before the ball is bounced in the circle.
  - 5.4.4 The field umpire has the authority to throw the ball in the air in the event of the ground surface being considered unsuitable for bouncing.
- 5.5 A maximum of four players of each team is permitted in the square for the centre bounce. No player is permitted to enter the square or centre circle from the time the field umpire commences his/her approach to bounce the ball or throw it up, until the ball touches the ground in the act of bouncing or is thrown up. One player of each team shall take up a position outside the semi-circle furthest from her own team's attacking goal.

The ball bounced or thrown up by the field umpire shall be contested only by the players referred to above, except in the instance of a poor bounce.

- 5.5.1 In the event of a breach of this Law, the field umpire shall award a free kick to a player of the opposing side nearest the centre circle.
  - 5.5.2 If an injured player is receiving attention from the training staff in the centre square at a time when the centre bounce occurs, she is deemed to be one of the four players allowed to her team; unless the captain or official runner seeks the field umpires permission to replace her in accordance with the provisions for interchanging players.
- 5.6 The field umpire shall report to the controlling body any club which is not ready to start at the appointed time.

## **6.0 GOALS AND BEHINDS**

- 6.1 A goal shall register six points and a behind one point. The team scoring the greater number of points shall win the match. If the points are equal, the match shall be drawn.
- 6.2 When a ball crosses a goal or behind line or hits a goal or behind post, the field umpire shall give the goal umpire an "All Clear" signal if there have not been any incidents in play which the field umpire intends to penalise.
- 6.3 A score cannot be registered unless the field umpire calls or indicates "All Clear", or "Touched, All Clear" to the goal umpire.
- 6.4 Subject to the "All Clear" signal, a goal shall be scored when the ball is kicked over the goal line by a player of the attacking team without touching a player or a goal post. A behind shall be scored in any other case when the ball passes over the goal line, or touches or passes over a goal post or passes over a behind line without touching or passing over a behind post.
- 6.4.1 If a defending player kicks or takes the ball over the goal or behind line, a behind shall be scored.
  - 6.4.2A If the ball touches or passes over a behind post, it shall be out of bounds if the ball has touched a player or come in contact with the ground after being kicked.

- 6.4.2B If the ball touches or passes over a behind post it shall be out of bounds on the full if it has not touched a player or contacted the ground after being kicked.
- 6.4.3 The fact that the ball has struck or touched an umpire (or any other authorised official or replaced player) shall not prevent the scoring of a goal or a behind.
- 6.4.4 While the ball is on the ground and a player has his hands on it, and if another player kicks the ball, it shall be deemed to have been touched in transit. If the ball goes over the goal or behind lines, the field umpire shall call "Touched, All Clear" and a behind shall be registered.
- 6.4.5 In the event that the ball crosses a goal or behind line, or hits a goal post, and the goal umpire does not receive an all clear from the field umpire and play continues, the goal umpire shall run after the field umpire and notify her/him at once.
- On receipt of such advice, the field umpire shall stop play and give the all clear.
- The goal umpire shall signal and record the score and play shall recommence in accordance with these laws.
- In the event that a free kick has been awarded after the ball crosses the line and before the all clear has been given, the field umpire shall give the all clear and the goal umpires shall signal and record the score. The free kick shall then be taken where the infringement occurred or where the ball is at the time, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.
- 6.4.6 In the event that, after the all clear has been given for a goal, an infringement occurs to a player of the defending team prior to the ball being bounced in the centre circle, the resultant free kick shall be taken at the spot where the infringement occurred, or at the centre circle, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.
- 6.4.7 In the event that, after the all clear has been given for a behind, an infringement occurs to a player of the defending team prior to the ball being kicked off after the behind, the resultant free kick shall be taken at the spot where the infringement occurred, or at the back line of the centre square, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.
- 6.5 The goal umpires shall be the sole judges of goals and behinds and their decisions are final, except when the ball has become dead by a decision of the field umpire.
- 6.5.1 Upon receiving "All Clear", the goal umpire shall initially indicate a goal by raising both index fingers, and a behind by raising one index finger.
- 6.5.2 The goal umpire shall then signal a goal by waving two flags, and a behind by waving one flag. A score cannot be annulled unless the goal umpire immediately rectifies a mistake by notifying the field umpire before the ball is bounced in the centre if she/he has wrongly signalled a goal or before the ball is kicked off in the case of a behind except when the ball has been signalled out of bounds and the signal has not been seen by the field umpire.
- 6.5.3 When a score has been annulled, the goal umpire shall immediately stand on the centre of the goal line and hold both flags above his head in crossed position.
- 6.6 At the first sound of the siren, the ball shall be dead, but a player who has, prior to the first sound of the siren, taken a mark or been awarded a free kick shall be allowed to kick or handball the ball. A goal or behind obtained therefrom or from a ball which is in transit prior to the first sound of the siren shall be counted.

In the event that the siren sounds whilst the ball is in transit, or whilst the player taking a kick after the siren is preparing to kick the ball, or after he has kicked the ball, an infringement occurs to a player of the attacking team before the all clear has been given, the field umpire shall blow his/her whistle and consult with the goal umpire as to whether a goal or behind has been kicked.

If a goal has been kicked the field umpire shall give the all clear and the goal shall be registered. In the event that a behind has been kicked, the player offended against shall be given the option of taking the free kick at the spot the infringement occurred, or allowing the behind to be registered.

Should the siren sound whilst the ball is in transit, or whilst the player taking a kick after the siren is preparing to kick the ball, or after he has kicked the ball, an infringement occurs to a player of the defending team before the all clear has been given, the field umpire shall award a free kick to the player offended against at the spot where the infringement occurred.

6.6.1 In the event that two or more field umpires are officiating, the ball shall be deemed dead when one of the field umpires hears the first sound of the siren.

6.6.2 If the ball is touched in transit the field umpire must be satisfied that the score was not assisted by another player, but if the ball touches any player below the knee it shall become dead and no score recorded.

6.7 Controlling bodies shall authorise such officials as they deem appropriate to record scores, separate from the goal umpires. In the event of the goal umpires disagreeing on the final scores, the controlling body may take the separately recorded scores into consideration in determining the result of the match.

## **7.0 KICKING OFF FROM BEHIND**

7.1 When a behind has been scored, unless a subsequent free kick has been given, any player of the defending team shall kick the ball into the field of play from within the kick off lines, the ball contact being made before the ball completely crosses the line. When the ball is being kicked off, no player shall be allowed within five metres of the kick off lines.

7.2 The player kicking off may regain possession provided the ball has travelled a minimum distance of two meters into the field of play from the kick off line.

7.3 If the ball is not brought into play correctly, the field umpire shall bounce the ball on the centre of the kick off line.

7.4 The ball shall not be kicked off until the goal umpire has finished waving the flag.

7.5 If an opposing player attempts to delay play by moving to or standing within five metres of the kick off line or prevents the player from kicking off, the field umpire shall penalise the offending team by advancing the mark from the kick off line to the back line of the centre square - the kick to be taken to the centre of the line by the nearest player of the team offended against.

In the event of a further offence against this Law, the mark to be advanced to the forward line of the centre square - the kick to be taken at the centre of the line by the nearest player of the team offended against.

7.6 If after the goal umpire has finished waving the flag a player will not kick off (time being added) when directed to do so by the field umpire, or if in the opinion of the field umpire the player has in kicking off deliberately kicked the ball over the goal or behind line, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent for wilfully wasting time. The offending player shall be reported for this offence. The mark of the free kick so given is the centre of the kick off line.

## 8.0 MARKING THE BALL

- 8.1 A mark is catching the ball directly from the kick of another player, not less than 10 metres distant, the ball being held a reasonable time and not having been touched in transit from kick to catch.
- 8.1.1 A mark shall be awarded to a player who crosses the boundary line from the playing ground but controls the ball before it has passed completely over the boundary line. If the field umpire is in doubt he/she should consult the boundary umpire.
- 8.1.2 A mark shall be allowed when the ball is caught and controlled on the goal, behind or boundary lines.
- 8.1.3 A mark will be awarded where a ball in flight strikes an umpire, or any other authorised official or replaced player.
- 8.2 When a player takes a mark or is given a free kick, an opponent is permitted to stand on the mark or spot where this occurrence took place.
- 8.2.1 Only one opponent may stand on a player's mark.
- 8.2.2 No other player is allowed within a semi-circle of 10 metre radius behind the mark which should be the centre of the radius.
- 8.2.3 In the event of an opponent encroaching over the mark when a player is kicking for goal and a goal is kicked, the field umpire shall give the "All Clear" and the goal shall be registered. If a goal has not been kicked, the player shall be given the option of another kick, and the mark shall be advanced 50 metres.

## 9.0 BALL DISPOSAL

The ball may be kicked or handballed.

- 9.1 A player shall handball the ball by holding the ball in one hand and hitting it with a clenched fist of the other hand. If the ball is not handballed correctly, a free kick shall be given to the nearest opponent.
- 9.2 A player may kick the ball by making contact with the ball below the knee.
- 9.2.1 A player who takes a mark or who is awarded a free kick shall be permitted to kick from any spot behind where she marked the ball or was awarded a free kick. If the player attempts to play the ball other than in a direct line over the mark, the field umpire shall call "Play On" and the ball shall immediately be in play.
- 9.2.2 When it is necessary for a defending player, from a free kick or mark, to take her kick from beyond the goal or behind line she must kick, handball or take the ball into play in a direct line with her mark. In such cases the player on the mark shall not be permitted to come within five meters of the goal or behind lines.
- 9.2.3 A player awarded a free kick or a mark and having gone back to the spot where the breach or mark, occurred, shall be allowed to kick from anywhere behind the line which makes up the diameter of a semi-circle of ten metres radius. An opponent on the mark shall be permitted to move along such a line, but if the player attempts to play the ball other than directly over the mark the field umpire shall call "Play On".
- 9.2.4 When a player is kicking for goal from a mark or a free kick, the kick shall be taken along a direct line through the mark to the centre of the goal line.
- 9.2.5 The ball shall be deemed to be brought into play when any portion of it is on or above the boundary line.

- 9.2.6 If a player taking her kick from outside the boundary line after having been awarded a mark or a free kick, fails to take the ball into play, or attempts to play on outside the boundary line, the ball shall be deemed to be out of bounds. The ball will then be thrown into play by the boundary umpire from the spot where the original mark or free kick took place.
- 9.2.7 If a player on the defending team, from a free kick or mark, kicks from behind the goal or behind lines and the ball hits either a goal or behind post, the field umpire shall direct the time keepers to add time on and give the player another kick to put the ball into play.

## **10.0 BALL POSSESSION**

- 10.1 A player may hold the ball for any length of time provided she is not held by an opponent.
- 10.2 If she runs with the ball he must bounce it or touch it on the ground at least once within every 15 metres from the commencement of her run, whether running in a straight line or turning and dodging.
- 10.3 If a player with the ball bounces it, she is deemed to be in possession of the ball.
- 10.4 If she runs with the ball and handballs it over an opponent's head and catches it, she must, within 15 metres of commencing her run or striking the ball on the ground, bounce it or touch the ground with it or dispose of the ball.
- 10.5 A player who lies on or over the ball is deemed to be in possession of the ball.

## **11.0 HOW A PLAYER MAY BE CHECKED OR TACKLED**

- 11.1 A player may be fairly met or checked by an opponent by the use of the hip, shoulder, chest, arms or open hand provided the ball is not more than five metres away.
- 11.2 A player may be pushed in the chest or side or shepherded by an opponent provided the ball is not more than five metres away.
- 11.3 A player in possession of the ball may fend off a prospective tackler by pushing him with an open hand in the chest, shoulder or side.
- 11.4 A player in possession of the ball may be tackled and grasped in the area below the top of the shoulders and on or above the knee. The tackle may be from front, side or behind provided that the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball.
- 11.5 Procedures for administering this law are as follows:
- 11.5.1 A player in possession of the ball when held firmly enough to retard her progress should be given a reasonable chance of disposing of it by kicking or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to her opponent for holding the ball.
- 11.5.2 The field umpire shall bounce the ball when the player with the ball has the ball held to her body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled in which case a free kick shall be awarded for holding the ball.
- 11.5.3 A player not in possession of the ball when held by an opponent shall be awarded a free kick.
- 11.5.4 When a player claims a mark, the ball having been touched in transit, and retains possession when held by an opponent, the field umpire shall not award a free kick but bounce the ball if she/he is satisfied that the player did not hear his call of "Play On". But if the ball has been taken away from the player by another player, the field umpire's call "Play On" shall hold good.

- 11.5.5 The field umpire shall allow play to continue if a player in the act of kicking or handball is swung off balance and her foot or hand does not connect with the ball.
- 11.5.6 The field umpire shall allow play to continue if a player is bumped and the ball falls from her hands.
- 11.5.7 The field umpire shall allow play to continue when a player's arm is knocked, causing her to drop the ball.
- 11.5.8 The field umpire shall allow play to continue if a player has her arms pinned to her sides causing her to drop the ball.
- 11.5.9 The field umpire shall allow play to continue if a player is pulled by one arm or swung causing the ball to fall from her hand.

## 12.0 FREE KICKS

12.1 The spirit of the laws relating to free kicks is:

- 12.1.1 The player who makes the ball her sole objective shall be given every opportunity to gain possession of the ball.
- 12.1.2 The player who has possession of the ball and is held by an opponent shall be given a reasonable time to kick or handball the ball.
- 12.1.3 The ball shall be kept in motion. The field umpire shall call "Play On" even though a free kick should have been awarded but by doing so would penalise the team offended against.

12.2 All breaches of the laws shall be penalised whether the ball is dead or in play. The field umpire shall sound her/his whistle for the awarding of a free kick. Unless otherwise specified, the player nearest to the opponent who commits a breach of the Laws shall receive a free kick.

- 12.2.1 If the field umpire has sounded her/his whistle for a free kick, she/he may cancel such a free kick by calling "Play On" if the side offended against will be penalised by enforcing the free kick.
- 12.2.2 A player awarded a free kick must go back to the spot where the breach occurred before being allowed to kick or play the ball. If such player kicks or plays the ball without complying with this law, the field umpire shall stop play and enforce compliance.
- 12.2.3 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who throws or hands the ball to another player, or to the advantage of play, while the ball is in play.
- 12.2.4 When a player who has taken a mark or been awarded a free kick is, in the opinion of the field umpire, unable to dispose of the ball through accident or the deliberate action of an opponent, the field umpire shall award a free kick to the nearest player of the same team at the time the incident occurred. The kick shall be taken at the spot nearest to where the incident occurred.
- 12.2.5 If a player has been awarded a free kick or a mark, and before the kick is taken a further breach of the laws is made by a player on the same side as the first offender, the field umpire shall sound her/his whistle and direct the free kick to be taken by a teammate at the spot where the subsequent breach took place, if doing so will penalise the offending team. Where a subsequent breach is committed by a teammate of the player taking the kick, a free kick shall be given to the nearest opponent at the spot of the original free kick, if doing so will penalise the offending team.
- 12.2.6 If a breach of the laws is committed, regardless of the position on the field, the free kick is to be taken at the spot where the infringement occurred, or where the ball is at

the time, whichever would be the greater penalty for the offending team.

12.2.7 A free kick shall be given if a player infringes any of the laws between the time the field umpire sounds her/his whistle and bounces the ball.

12.3 Free kicks for infringements concerning the field umpire bouncing the ball will be awarded against the player who:

12.3.1 Enters the centre circle when the field umpire is in the act of bouncing the ball at the start of the match, the start of each quarter, and after a goal has been scored.

12.3.2 Interferes with an opponent from the time the ball has been bounced in the centre circle until the ball subsequently makes contact with a player or the ground.

12.3.3 Unduly interferes with the bouncing of the ball by the field umpire or deliberately interferes with an umpire during the progress of the match.

12.4 A free kick will be awarded against a player who interferes with an opponent in the following manner:

12.4.1 Interferes with an opponent from the time the ball goes out of bounds, until the ball, after being thrown in by the boundary umpire, makes contact with a player or the ground.

12.4.2 When a goal is kicked by a player, and while the ball is being kicked or is in transit a breach of the laws is made by an opponent, the field umpire shall give the "All Clear" signal and the goal shall be registered; but in the event of a behind being scored the ball not having touched the ground or player, the player shall be given the option of another kick.

12.4.3 After the ball has been kicked and an infringement occurs, and the ball crosses the behind line on the full or hits the goal post on the full, the option of another kick shall be given to the player who originally kicked the ball at the spot from where the kick originated. If the breach of the laws occurred before or during the act of kicking or handball, a free kick shall be taken by the player offended against, at the spot where the breach occurred, provided that the team offended against will not be penalised by the taking of such a free kick.

12.4.4 If a breach of the Laws is made by a player of the attacking side, the field umpire shall not signal "All Clear" but must award a free kick, to the nearest player of the defending team.

12.4.5 If a player is fouled immediately after scoring a goal or behind and after the field umpire has given the "All Clear", the field umpire shall award such player a free kick at the spot where the offence took place. Another score may then be registered without the ball having been bounced in the centre circle or kicked off.

12.4.6 If a breach of the laws is committed against a player who has disposed of the ball, or who is shepherding for a teammate with the ball, and this occurs after the ball has been kicked or handballed, a penalty free kick shall be awarded to a player of the team offended against at the spot where the ball first touched the ground, a player, was marked or went out of bounds. If the awarding of such a free kick will penalise the team offended against, the free kick shall be given to the player who originally kicked the ball.

12.4.7 Trips or kicks, attempts to trip or kick or slings an opponent, or when not in possession of the ball, kicks in a manner likely to cause injury to an opponent, or strikes or attempts to strike an opponent with either hand or arm or deliberately with the knee.

- 12.5 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who kicks the ball out of bounds in the following manner:
- 12.5.1 Kicks the ball out of bounds on the full. The free kick shall be taken at the spot where the ball went out of bounds across the boundary line or adjacent to the behind post.
  - 12.5.2 When kicking off after a behind has been registered, the ball is kicked out of bounds without it having been touched by any player, a free kick shall be given at the spot where the ball went out of bounds.
  - 12.5.3 Wilfully kicks or forces the ball out of bounds without it being touched by another player.
- 12.6 A free kick shall be awarded against the player who checks or tackles an opponent in the following manner:
- 12.6.1 Catches hold of an opponent below the knee or by the neck or head, which includes the top of the shoulder.
  - 12.6.2 Charges an opponent.
  - 12.6.3 Pushes an opponent from behind in any way, except when legitimately going for a mark.
  - 12.6.4 Pushes, bumps or shepherds an opponent in the face, head, neck or in the shoulder.
  - 12.6.5 Pushes, bumps or shepherds an opponent who is in the air for a mark.
  - 12.6.6 Shepherds an opponent when the ball is more than five metres away or is out of play.
  - 12.6.7 Deliberately holds back or throws an opponent after that opponent has kicked or handballed the ball. No free kick shall be given if the player, unable to release his hold at once, throws the opponent down.
- 12.7 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who interferes with play as follows:
- 12.7.1 If the ball is in transit towards goal from a free kick, mark or field kick and an opponent shakes the goal post, the field umpire shall give the player the option of another kick if in the umpire's opinion, the opponent's action could have affected the result.
  - 12.7.2 If a teammate shakes the goal post, the field umpire shall award a free kick to the nearest opponent at the spot from where the ball was kicked.
- 12.8 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who wilfully wastes time by not allowing the ball to be brought into play prior to, or when directed to do so, by the field umpire.
- 12.9 A free kick shall be awarded against the team as follows:
- 12.9.1 Any official runner, trainer, medical officer, other approved team official or replaced player who interferes with the ball, the play or a player of the opposing team during the course of the game shall cause the field umpire to award a free kick to the nearest player of the team offended against at the spot of the infringement, or where the ball is at the time, whichever would be a greater penalty to the offending team.
- When a player is awarded a set kick at goal and an opposition player climbs on the shoulders of a teammate before the kick is taken, the mark shall be advanced to the centre of the goal line and the player with the kick shall be permitted to kick from directly in front of goal.
- 12.9.2 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who carries the ball across the boundary line, and after a boundary umpire signals out of bounds, does not give the ball

immediately to the boundary umpire or drop it directly to the ground.

- 12.9.3 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who touches the ball after it has passed outside the boundary line and been signalled out of bounds by the boundary umpire, except for a player of the team to receive the free kick when the ball has been kicked out on the full, kicked out directly from a kick off from a behind, or wilfully kicked or forced out without being touched by another player.
- 12.9.4 A free kick shall be awarded against a player who uses abusive, insulting or obscene language to an umpire or behaves in an abusive, insulting or obscene manner towards an umpire.

### **13.0 25/50 METRE PENALTY SPIRIT OF THE LAW**

"A 25 or 50 metre penalty will be awarded against a player who unduly delays the play or unduly encroaches over the mark after a mark or free kick has been awarded"

For blatant actions that encroach over the mark, or waste time or delay play after a set play has been awarded (eg deliberately hitting the ball out of a players hands, deliberately kicking the ball away or deliberately running into a player and knocking her to the ground), the 50 metre penalty will be applied immediately.

In the event that an opponent claims a player immediately after that player has been awarded a set play, or the opponent encroaches a maximum of 1 metre over the correct mark, the umpire will request that opponent once to let the player go or move back to the correct spot. If the opponent does not then respond immediately, the 25 metre penalty will be applied. (Note that the umpire need take no action in the event that a player with a set play successfully disposes of the ball despite her opponent being 1 metre over the mark).

Notes:

- a) A 50 metre penalty will be applied when a player who has marked the ball is knocked to the ground (thereby causing an undue delay) by an opponent whose prime objective was not to contest the ball.
- b) If a player of the offending team kicks the ball after a free kick has been awarded against her team, the umpire will award a 25 metre penalty against the player. In this circumstance, the umpire has license to use his/her discretion and not apply a penalty if she/he is of the opinion that the player was unaware a free kick has been awarded against her team. (It is anticipated that this would be a rare occurrence). In an effort to assist players, umpires are to endeavour to blow the whistle a second time if the offending team has possession, however, this is not to infer that the umpire will not award a penalty because she/he did not blow the whistle a second time.
- c) If a team mate of the woman on the mark runs through the 10 metre protected area, she will automatically be penalised 25 metres unless she is following an opponent through (within 5 metres of her).
- d) A 25 metre penalty will be automatically awarded against a player of the offending team who does not return the ball correctly (ie on the full) to the rightful player.

When the umpire applies a penalty, she/he will immediately signal "time on". The player benefiting from the penalty is not permitted to play on (for consistency in AFL). The spot is then advanced in a direct line with the centre of the goal. The player benefiting from the penalty must be given free access in taking up a set play position, in a direct line with the centre of the goal, he will signal "time off" regardless of whether an opponent is standing on the mark or not.

In the event of an opponent encroaching over the mark when a player is kicking for goal and the goal is "All Clear" and the goal shall be registered. If a goal has not been kicked the player shall be given the option of another kick and the mark shall be advanced 25 metres.

When a penalty is applied and the spot is advanced to the centre of the goal line, the player is required to be lined up directly in front of goal.

### SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. **SET KICK CONTROL** – If the infringement involves knocking the ball from the players hands, running blatantly over the mark, not throwing the ball back on the full, etc, the umpire should run directly to the amended mark.
2. **SET KICK CONTROL** – If the infringement causes the potential for a volatile situation to exist, eg a player is flattened after marking, an altercation occurs between players, etc, the umpire should run straight to the incident and take appropriate action before moving to the amended mark.
3. A player who has been awarded a set kick is not permitted to handball to a team mate who runs through the mark once the set play position is set up. If she does, the umpire will stop play and direct the player with the set kick to recommence play legally.
4. Players who are in the 10 metre protected area when the set kick is awarded, must leave the area immediately.
5. Multiple penalties – multiple penalties apply only for separate blatant infringements. (eg 50m only to be applied after 25m awarded).
6. Reports – Reports for wasting time will only apply to multiple 50 metre penalties.
7. Cancelling the penalty/Reversing the Free Kick – if the offender is moving satisfactorily to the amended mark and –
  - a) the player with the ball (or team mate) “runs through her” knocking her to the ground, the umpire shall blow his/her whistle and reverse the free kick. It is important that the umpire is alert to “staging” on the part of the player on the mark.
  - b) The player with the ball runs at her (but does not knock her down) causing an altercation, the umpire shall blow his/her whistle, inform the aggressor that she has lost the benefit of the penalty, and make that spot the new mark.
8. Signals 50m – Blow whistle, extend arm to time on position.  
25m – Blow whistle, extend arm to time on position, tap elbow (exaggerated) three times.

### 14.0 PLAY ON

The field umpire shall call and indicate "Play On" and the ball shall immediately remain in play in any of the following circumstances:

- 14.1 When an umpire, or any other authorised official or player is struck by the ball while it is in play.
- 14.2 When the ball, having been kicked, is touched while still in transit.
- 14.3 When the ball is caught directly from a kick of another player less than 10 metres distant.
- 14.4 When the field umpire cancels a free kick.
- 14.5 When a player who has taken a mark or been awarded a free kick, attempts to run, handball or kick otherwise than over his mark.

## **15.0 BOUNCING THE BALL**

15.1 The field umpire shall bounce the ball in the following circumstances:

- 15.1.1 At the start of the match, at the start of each quarter and after each goal has been kicked, except when a breach of the laws has been penalised by the awarding of a free kick.
- 15.1.2 When in doubt as to which player has taken a mark.
- 15.1.3 When a player, in kicking off after a behind has been registered, fails to correctly bring the ball into play, the ball to be bounced on the centre of the kick off line.
- 15.1.4 In a scrum where players are struggling in undue confusion for possession of the ball.
- 15.1.5 When the field umpire has bounced the ball and it goes over the goal, behind or boundary line without having been touched by any player.
- 15.1.6 When a player claims a mark, the ball having been touched, and retains possession of the ball when held by an opponent, the field umpire will bounce the ball if she/he is satisfied the player did not hear her/his call of "Play On".
- 15.1.7 When a goal umpire is unable to see whether the ball goes over the goal or behind lines, and cannot give a decision, the ball shall be bounced on the centre of the kick off line in front of goal.
- 15.1.8 When there is simultaneous encroachment of players from opposing teams, into the centre square prior to the ball being bounced.

## **16.0 UMPIRES: DUTIES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

### **16.1 APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES**

- 16.1.1 The controlling body shall appoint for each match a field umpire, two boundary umpires, and two goal umpires. The field umpire shall have full control of play and shall award penalties in accordance with the laws.
- 16.1.2 The controlling body may appoint additional umpires to officiate throughout the period of the match. All field umpires appointed shall have the powers conferred under these laws.
- 16.1.3 It shall be the responsibility of each club to pay the umpire(s) on the day of the match.
- 16.1.4 The league will supply field, goal and boundary umpires for the grand final.

### **16.2 REPLACEMENT OF UMPIRES**

- 16.2.1 When any umpire, before or during the progress of the game, becomes incapable through sickness, injury or accident in performing her/his duties, a substitute shall be chosen according to arrangements made by the controlling body.
- 16.2.2 In matches played without boundary umpires, the duties assigned to them by the laws shall be determined by the field umpire.

### **16.3 UMPIRES' ROOMS**

- 16.3.1 No person other than the umpires officiating in the match and their trainers shall enter the umpires' dressing room while the umpires are there. Each umpire is individually responsible for seeing that this law is observed and must report to the controlling body any person who breaches this law.
- 16.3.2 The provisions of this law do not apply to members of an Umpires' Appointments Board or to other persons authorised by the controlling body to select and appoint umpires to

matches or such other persons or class of persons to whom the controlling body shall from time to time determine this law shall not apply.

16.3.3 Umpires infringing this law may be dealt with as the controlling body thinks fit.

#### **16.4 INSPECTION OF PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT**

16.4.1 Prior to the commencement of play a field umpire may inspect the boots, hands and guards of players. The field umpire may similarly inspect the players' equipment at any time during the game.

#### **16.5 FIELD UMPIRES**

Field umpires shall indicate to the time keepers when "Time On" is to be added due to a delay in play, and shall indicate that "Time On" has ended when satisfied that play is ready to recommence.

#### **16.6 BOUNDARY UMPIRES**

16.6.0 The supply of boundary umpires shall be determined from time to time by the controlling body.

16.6.1 The boundary umpire shall, subject to being directed by the goal umpire, in relation to a score or when the ball hits or goes directly over the behind post, be the sole judge of when the ball is out of bounds.

16.6.2 To be out of bounds, the ball must be completely outside the boundary line. If any portion of it is on or above the boundary line, it is still in play.

16.6.3 When the ball has completely crossed the boundary line, the boundary umpire shall immediately signal to the field umpire and bring the ball back to the spot where it crossed the line.

16.6.4 Boundary umpires may use a whistle when indicating that the ball is "out of bounds", but the whistle must be used in conjunction with the raising of one arm.

16.6.5 When the ball has been kicked out of bounds on the full, the boundary umpire may sound his/her whistle and shall indicate, by raising his/her arm sideways to shoulder level, that the ball has fully crossed the line without having been touched in transit by a player. The boundary umpire shall indicate to the field umpire the spot on the boundary line where the ball crossed the line and from which a free kick to the nearest opponent shall be awarded.

16.6.6 When the boundary umpire signals that the ball is out of bounds, the field umpire shall immediately sound her/his whistle to indicate that the ball is out of play. When directed by the field umpire, the boundary umpire shall throw the ball over her/his head towards the centre of the field to a distance of between 10 and 15 metres and reaching a height not less than 3 metres.

16.6.7 When a goal umpire signals a "behind" and a boundary umpire signals "out of bounds", the decision of the goal umpire shall prevail.

16.6.8 In the event that the boundary umpire signals the ball out of bounds and the signal is not acknowledged by the field umpire and play continues, the boundary umpire shall run after the field umpire and notify him/her that the ball is out of bounds.

On receipt of such advice the field umpire shall stop play and order the ball to be taken back to the spot where it crossed the boundary line to be thrown in, or kicked in if it has been kicked out on the full.

Where the field umpire has awarded a free kick, or applied a 50 metre penalty, after the ball has crossed the boundary line and prior to the boundary umpire notifying him, out of bounds lapses.

In the event that a score is registered after the ball has crossed the boundary line and prior to the boundary umpire notifying the field umpire, she/he shall order the score to be annulled and the ball taken back to where it crossed the boundary line to be brought into play in accordance with these laws.

16.6.9 When a goal is scored the boundary umpires shall bring the ball back to the centre as quickly as possible without waiting for the ball to be kicked or handed to them and shall give it to the field umpire.

16.6.10 At centre bounces, players may enter the centre square until the field umpire commences her/his approach to bounce the ball.

Boundary umpires shall penalise only players who step over the white line after the field umpire commences his approach, and until the ball touches the ground in the act of bouncing or is thrown up by the field umpire.

16.6.11 Boundary umpires must be in a white uniform.

## 16.7 GOAL UMPIRES

16.7.0 The supply of goal umpires shall be determined from time to time by the controlling body.

16.7.1 Goal umpires shall keep a record of all goals and behinds scored in a match and furnish a report within the time specified by the controlling body.

16.7.2 In the event of a goal umpire observing the field umpire line a team up for the purpose of counting the players, he shall make a record of the scores at that time.

16.7.3 Goal umpires shall signal and record a goal or behind, as the case may be, upon receiving the "all clear" or "touched, all clear" from the field umpire. They shall not concern themselves with the question as to whether the siren has or has not sounded at any period of the match.

16.7.4 The goal umpire must watch the play closely, but if he/she is unable to decide who kicked the ball over the goal or behind line, he/she may consult the field umpire before making a decision.

16.7.5 Goal umpires are directed not to get in the way of players between goal and behind posts.

16.7.6 Goal umpires must be attired in white coats.

16.7.7 The supply of goal umpires shall be determined from time to time by the controlling body.

## 16.8 REPORTING PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

16.8.1 Umpires may report to the controlling body any player or official who, during the progress of the match or within oval on the day of the match, commits a reportable offence.

16.8.2 Umpires may report an offending player without taking into consideration whether the offending player received provocation or not.

16.8.3 Umpires may caution a player but must not at any time threaten a player.

## **16.9 REPORTABLE OFFENCES (REFER TO APPENDIX A)**

A player or official who commits the following offences may be reported:

- 16.9.1 Wilfully wastes time.
- 16.9.2 Unduly interferes with a player whilst such a player is kicking for goal.
- 16.9.3 Disputes the decision of an umpire
- 16.9.4 Unduly interferes with, assaults, or uses threatening language to an umpire or behaves in an threatening manner towards an umpire.
- 16.9.5 Uses abusive, insulting or obscene language to an umpire or behaves in an abusive, insulting or obscene manner towards an umpire on the day of the match.
- 16.9.6 Assaults another player or official.
- 16.9.7 Uses abusive threatening or insulting language.
- 16.9.8 If when a player is preparing to kick for goal after being awarded a mark or free kick, or if the ball is in transit, a player shakes the goal post.
- 16.9.9 Throws an opponent after that player has taken a mark, or after the ball is otherwise out of play.
- 16.9.10 Violently pushes an opponent after that player has disposed of the ball.
- 16.9.11 Intentionally kicks or attempts to kick an opponent or official.
- 16.9.12 Intentionally trips or attempts to trip an opponent or official.
- 16.9.13 Strikes or attempts to strike a player or official with her hand or arm.
- 16.9.14 Charges an opponent.
- 16.9.15 Engages in unduly rough play by committing a breach of the Laws against an opponent in a deliberate and violent manner.
- 16.9.16 Remains on the playing ground not wearing proper uniform after being warned by the umpire.
- 16.9.17 Wears unacceptable equipment - boot studs, rings, jewellery, surgical appliances or guards.
- 16.9.18 Commits an act of misconduct.

## **16.10 REPORTING PLAYERS**

- 16.10.1 When an umpire intends to make a charge or charges against a player, he shall notify the player concerned as soon as reasonably possible after the incident. If such a charge or charges relate to incidents arising in the first three quarters the umpire shall notify the player, or players, not later than the commencement of the next quarter. Where a charge is laid in the final quarter, if the umpire is unable to notify the player during the course of the match, notification on the official report sheet handed to team officials at the conclusion of the match will suffice.
- 16.10.2 Umpires shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with the offences which must be reported and report all offending players.

- 16.10.3 Umpires may not enter the competing clubs' dressing rooms to notify players of charges laid. In the case of a player charged in the second quarter and who does not return to the field for the third quarter, or who leaves the field injured or interchanged before being notified by the umpire of the charge, advice to the captain or acting captain not later than the commencement of the next quarter shall meet the requirements of this law.
- 16.10.4 After reporting a player or players, umpires must not at anytime enter into any conversation with delegates, club officials or players relating to any incident of the match or any charges made against a player.

### **16.11 REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- 16.11.1 Umpires shall be provided by the controlling body with report sheets on which they shall enter particulars of any charge or charges they make against players or officials. This shall be completed at or before the termination of a match.
- 16.11.2 The report shall be completed in duplicate, or in triplicate, if a player of each side is reported in relation to the same charge and each copy shall be signed by the umpire or umpires making the charge.
- 16.11.3 The field umpire shall take charge of a copy of all report sheets submitted to him at the termination of a match by boundary and/or goal umpires.
- 16.11.4 As soon as practical after the termination of a match in which a report has been made, the field umpire shall hand a copy of every report sheet to the appropriate official of the team of which the reported player is a member. For this purpose each club shall be responsible for the attendance of an official at the umpires' room at the end of each match. In the event of no such official attending, the field umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the duty imposed on her/him by this law.
- 16.11.5 Umpires shall lodge, or cause to be lodged the remaining copy of any report sheet they may have completed with the Secretary of the controlling body before 4.00pm on the second day (excluding an interviewing Sunday) after the day of the match, or within such other time as may be required by the controlling body.
- 16.11.6 Umpires must endeavour to note all particulars in connection with any report they make in order that a clear account may be given when such a report is being considered by the appropriate authority.
- 16.11.7 The procedures for reporting players and officials may be varied by controlling bodies to suit local requirements.

### **16.12 PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION**

- 16.12.1 A controlling body may disqualify for any term, players or officials who have been reported for and found guilty of breaches of the laws.
- 16.12.2 A controlling body may delegate this power to any person or body or persons duly constituted in accordance with its rules for the purpose of investigating any report of a player made in accordance with these laws.
- 16.12.3 Any player disqualified for committing an offence against the Laws of the Game shall not be permitted to play in any match under the control of the NAFC, NAFC Affiliated Bodies or Bodies Affiliated to NAFC Affiliated Bodies.
- 16.12.4 A disqualified player may seek permission from the Body which imposed the penalty to play in a competition that is conducted between 1 October and 31 March.

- 16.12.5 A player suspended in a competition conducted between 1 October and 31 March may seek permission from such Body to play in a competition conducted between 31 March and 1 October.
- 16.12.6 A player or official suspended by a Controlling Body and subsequently transferring to or interchanging with a club of another Controlling Body, shall complete the term of his suspension with her new club, provided that the competition is normally conducted between 31 March and 1 October.

The Controlling Body which imposed the suspension may require the player to fulfil any part of the suspension in that competition, should the player subsequently return within 12 months of the completion of the suspension.

### **16.13 STEWARDS**

The Controlling Body may appoint a Match Steward or Stewards who shall have the same power and duty of reporting players as that conferred on umpires under the laws.

### **16.14 ORDER OFF (REFER TO APPENDIX A)**

- 16.4.1 A player who is reported by a Field Umpire under laws 16.9.4, 16.9.6, 16.9.11 or 16.9.18 shall be ordered from the ground for the remainder of the match.
- 16.14.2 A player reported by a field umpire for a second offence shall in any event be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match.
- 16.4.3 A player ordered off may not be replaced.
- 16.14.4 A Field Umpire shall signal that a player has been ordered off, by pointing to the interchange area with an outstretched arm, the player shall leave the ground immediately and proceed directly to the interchange steward, or timekeepers.
- 16.14.5 In the event of a player failing or refusing to leave the ground when ordered off, she shall be reported for misconduct and her team shall forfeit the match.

## **17.0 MATCH - TIME, DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF UMPIRES & TIME KEEPERS**

### **17.1 DURATION OF THE GAME, QUARTERS & INTERVALS**

- 17.1.1 All matches shall be of four quarters each of 20 minutes playing time. The controlling body may, in an emergency reduce such time.
- 17.1.2 The time allowed between the end of the first quarter and the start of the second quarter shall be sufficient to permit teams to change ends, but shall not exceed five minutes. At half time the players may leave the playing ground for not more than 10 minutes, the match must recommence not later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of the second quarter. At the conclusion of the 20 minute period, the time keepers shall notify the field umpire by sounding the siren. Between the end of the third quarter and the start of the last quarter, there shall be an interval of not more than 5 minutes.
- 17.1.3 The time keepers shall indicate the end of each quarter by sounding the siren and the ball shall be deemed dead and play shall cease when any one of the field umpires hears the first sound of the siren. The field umpire shall signify that the siren has been heard by blowing his whistle and holding up both hands.
- 17.1.4 In the event of an encroachment of the area of play by unauthorised persons, or that play is prevented by any other means, the field umpire shall seek the assistance of his/her fellow umpires and/or other constituted authority to clear the playing arena so that the match may be resumed. If the field umpire is unable to do this within a reasonable time, she/he shall terminate play at that time and report all circumstances to the controlling body. This body may award the result or declare the match abandoned or call a replay at its discretion.

- 17.1.5 The duration of games and intervals may be varied to suit local requirements.
- 17.1.6 In the event of a finals game being drawn at the end of play, the teams will play a further 5 minutes each way. At the end of this 10 minutes if the game is still drawn the team to score first wins.

## **17.2 TIME KEEPERS**

Each team shall appoint a timekeeper whose duties shall be:

- 17.2.1 To keep the time of each quarter on time cards, complete the time cards and forward them to the Secretary of the controlling body.
- 17.2.2 To sound a siren at the start and finish of each quarter, and to keep sounding it until the field umpire notifies them that she/he has heard it.
- 17.2.3 To add time on to the playing time of the quarter whenever directed to do so by the field umpire, for injuries.
- 17.2.4 In the case of the field umpire failing to signal the completion of the time added period, or that the time-keepers fail to hear the whistle to signify the end of this period, they shall stop adding "Time On" when they see that the ball is again in play.
- 17.2.5 The provisions for keeping time may be varied to suit local requirements.

## **17.3 TIME ON**

- 17.3.1 The field umpire shall instruct the timekeepers to add "Time On" when play is unduly delayed through serious injury or player sent off.

## **17.4 TIME ON INDICATED**

The field umpire shall adopt the following procedure for indicating "Time On" to the time keepers.

- 17.4.1 To indicate the commencement of the time added period, the field umpire shall blow her/his whistle and raise one arm above her/his head.
- 17.4.2 To indicate that the time added period has elapsed, the field umpire shall again blow her/his whistle and raise one arm above her/his head.

## **17.5 FORFEIT**

Where a team fails to appear or where a team forfeits during the progress of a match, full premiership points should be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit. At the conclusion of the minor round, it should also be credited and debited with the average number of points scored against and by the forfeiting team. Similarly, the forfeiting team should be credited and debited with the average points against and for the team receiving the forfeit.

## **18.0 CONTROLLING BODY**

- 18.1 These Laws shall apply to all Bodies Affiliated to the South Australian Women's Football league.
- 18.2 The Term Controlling Body contained in these Laws shall refer to the South Australian Women's Football League.

**19.0 REGULATIONS – BINDING ON PLAYERS**

The player transfer regulations of the National Australian Football Council Limited for the time being in force shall apply to and be binding upon all leagues, Associations and Bodies represented on or affiliated with the National Australian Football Council or affiliated with and Affiliated Body of the NAFC, and all persons who play in or with such Leagues, Associations or Bodies shall obtain a permit to play in accordance with the prescribed rules of any of the particular Leagues, Associations or Bodies. If a person shall play for a club in a match played in a competition under the control or direction of a League or Association or Body represented on or affiliated with the National Australian Football Council Limited, or affiliated with an Affiliated Body of the NAFC, without such person having first obtained a permit to play with that club, the Club for whom such person so played shall be deemed to have forfeited such match.

**20.0 DOPING POLICY**

The Doping Policy of the National Australian Football Council Limited for the time being in force, shall apply to all and be binding upon all Leagues, Associations and Bodies represented on or affiliated with the National Australian Football Council, or affiliated with an Affiliated Body of the NAFC.

**20.1 INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

All Bodies affiliated to the South Australian Women's Football League will play under the guidelines as set out in appendix B.

**21.0 AGE POLICY**

The age and the division in which they can play shall be determined from time to time by the controlling body.

**22.0 INSURANCE**

All clubs must be insured to a level as determined from time to time by the controlling body.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE ORDER-OFF RULE AND REPORTABLE OFFENCES**

#### **CATEGORY "A"**

- Serious striking
- Kicking
- Charging
- Assault on umpire

The player is sent off for the rest of the game.

A report takes place.

#### **CATEGORY "B"**

- Minor Striking
- Wilfully wasting time
- Unduly interfering with a player who is kicking for goal.
- Disputing the umpire's decision
- Shaking a goal post
- Throwing or pushing an opponent unnecessarily
- Misconduct
- Refusing to remove unacceptable equipment when asked by the umpire to do so
- Unduly rough play

The player is sent off for 15 minutes playing time for the first offence.

The player is sent off for the rest of the game after the second offence.

In both circumstances a report can be made at the umpire's discretion.

#### **CATEGORY "C"**

- Obscene or abusive language

The player is sent off for 5 to 15 minutes playing time for the first offence.

The time is set according to what the umpire feels is appropriate.

The player is sent off for the rest of the game for the second offence.

In both circumstances, a report can be made at the umpire's discretion.

It is expected that a report will be made after the second offence.

Abusive or obscene language consists of swearing at an opposition player.

Swearing after one's own mistake is not considered as serious an offence although is punishable if within earshot of spectators.

Warnings can be given at the umpire's discretion but are not always compulsory before a order-off rule or report is applied.

#### **If a order-off rule is enforced:**

The umpire will signal "time on" and the clock will stop (as for an injury)

The umpire must tell the player immediately and accompany her to the bench where the coach needs to be told of the exact penalty.

The team is not allowed to replace the player who is sent off.

The umpire will fill out an order-off form after the game to give details of the incident. If the same player is involved in incidents similarly, the registrar can take further action.

The player must immediately come off the ground when notified or the game shall be forfeited by the team of the offending player.

#### **If a report is taken:**

The umpire must notify the player concerned (or the captain of that team) as soon as reasonably possible after the incident.

The umpire should not enter conversations about the incident with any delegates, club officials or players.

The umpire must fill out a report sheet following the game. The copies go to (1) the registrar, (2) the team of the offending player and (3) the umpire concerned.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDICINE FEDERATION LTD.**

#### **PRIVACY STATEMENT ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES (With particular references to HIV (AIDS) and HEPATITIS B)**

A number of blood-borne diseases can be transmitted during body contact and collision sports. The more serious include HEPATITIS B and HIV (AIDS) infections. These diseases may be spread by contact between broken skin or mucous membrane and infected:

Blood  
Saliva (not for HIV)  
Semen and vaginal fluids

There is no evidence that sweat/urine, and tears will transmit hepatitis B or HIV.

#### **THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF TRANSMITTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

All open cuts and abrasions must be reported and treated immediately.

#### **PLAYERS**

It is all participants responsibility to maintain strict personal hygiene as this is the best method of controlling the spread of these diseases.

It is strongly recommended that all participants, involved in contact collision sport and playing under adult rules, be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B.

All participants with prior evidence of these diseases are strongly advised to obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to participation.

#### **TEAM AREAS**

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that the dressing rooms be clean and tidy. Particular attention should be paid to hand basins, toilets and showers. Adequate soap, paper hand towels, brooms, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants must be available at all times.

Communal bathing areas (e.g. spas) should be strongly discouraged.

The practices of spitting and urinating in team areas must not be permitted.

All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious and treated accordingly.

Sharing of towels, shaving razors, face washers and drink containers must not occur.

It is strongly recommended that all personnel working in contact/collision sport team areas should be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B.

In all training areas, open cuts and abrasions must be reported to the coach immediately.

#### **REFEREES AND GAME OFFICIALS**

- 1) Officials must report all open cuts and abrasions to medical staff at the first available opportunity.
- 2) It is strongly recommended those who officiate in body contact and collision sports should be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B.

- 3) All contaminated clothing and equipment must be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume play.
- 4) If bleeding should recur, the above procedures must be repeated.
- 5) If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

Although Hepatitis B vaccination is usually effective in raising immunity to Hepatitis B, it provides no protection against other blood-borne diseases such as HIV. Vaccination must not result in relaxation of hygiene standards.

