



FOOTBALL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RULES

2024

FIDA - FOOTBALL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

FOOTBALL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RULES

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FOOTBALL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RULES

- 1.1. The name of the incorporated association is **FOOTBALL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED** (in these rules called "the League").

INTERPRETATION

- 2.1. In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Board" means the board of the League as constituted in Rule 3.16 herein.

"Financial Year" means year ending on 31st October.

"Affiliated Club" means a club affiliated with the League in accordance with Rule 3.3 herein.

"Eligible Club" means a club eligible to apply for affiliation with the League in accordance with Rules 3.4 to 3.8 herein.

"Life Members" means all persons named in accordance with Rule 3.2 herein.

"Annual Meeting" means a meeting as referred to in Rule 10.1 herein.

"Special Meeting" means a meeting referred to in Rule 10.7 herein.

"Registered Players" means players registered by the League to participate in matches approved or controlled or organised by the League.

"Official" means any person acting on behalf of an Affiliated Club in relation to any match approved or controlled by the League.

"Member" means a member referred to in Rule 3.1 herein.

"Season" means the time from the commencement of the first matches played in accordance with the League's fixture for each division until the completion of all final series matches.

"The Act" means the Association's Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and all amendments thereto from time to time.

"The Regulations" means regulations made by the Governor in Council from time to time under the Act.

"Chief Executive Officer" means the person appointed from time to time pursuant to Rule 14 herein.

"Telecommunication Meeting" means a meeting held by telephone, video, or any other technology (or combination of these technologies), which permits each Board Member at a Board Meeting or each Member entitled to vote at a Special Meeting or Annual General Meeting to communicate with any other participant.

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. The League shall consist of the following members:

- a) Life Members pursuant to Rule 3.2 hereof.
- b) Affiliated Clubs pursuant to Rule 3.3 hereof.

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- c) Board Members pursuant to Rule 3.16 hereof.

LIFE MEMBERS

3.2.

- a) The Board may in each financial year confer upon any one person who has rendered outstanding service to the League a Life Membership of the League (herein referred to as "ordinary Life Membership").
- b) The Board may from time to time confer upon any person who has played not less than one hundred and fifty (150) open-age official games with a club or clubs affiliated with the League a Life Membership of the League (herein referred to as "150 game Life Membership").
- c) Nominations for the award of one hundred and fifty (150) game Life Memberships will be accepted from affiliated clubs and must be supported by documentary evidence that the nominee has played no less than one hundred and fifty (150) open-age official games in competitions controlled by the League. The Board shall have sole discretion to determine the award of any 150 game Life Membership.
- d) All Life Members shall be entitled to:
 - i. free entry to all matches controlled by the League on presentation of their life membership medallion or such other identification as directed by the Board from time to time;
 - ii. attend all Annual and Special Meetings of the League and speak at such meetings but shall not be entitled to vote.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

- 3.3. The clubs affiliated with the members of the association known as Football Integration Development Association as at date, which clubs are listed in Schedule 1 headed "Affiliated Clubs" as at date, shall be deemed to be Affiliated Club Members of the League. Where an Affiliated Club is unincorporated, the member of the League shall be deemed to be the President of the relevant club from time to time, who may appoint the Club Secretary in this stead.

Because the League's primary purpose is to provide an Australian Rules football competition for athletes with an intellectual impairment, it is acknowledged that an Affiliated Club may not be independently incorporated, but a sub-committee of another football club that is affiliated with another football league and whose primary purpose covers athletes without an intellectual impairment. Where this situation exists, the League requires written acknowledgement and acceptance from the club affiliated with another league, of the Affiliated Club's status.

- 3.4. Any other club seeking membership with the League, which club satisfies the Board of the following, namely, that:
 - i. it is incorporated pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 or be a company incorporated pursuant of the Corporations Act, or have formal association with a club affiliated with another league as per the provisions of 3.3.
 - ii. Its facilities and financial circumstances are of a standard acceptable to the Board;
 - iii. its name and uniform are acceptable to the Board or will be altered to a uniform acceptable to the Board;
 - iv. it was a financial member for the previous seasons of the previous league or association with which it was affiliated (if applicable);

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- v. it is willing to pay an acceptance fee as determined by the Board;
- may make a written application to the League for membership as an Affiliated Club.
- 3.5. Every such written application shall be circulated by the Chief Executive Officer to the Board of the League within 30 days after receipt of the written application. The written application will be an item for discussion at any Board Meeting after receipt of the written application by the League.
 - 3.6. All applications by Clubs wishing to become Affiliated Clubs will be voted on by the Board after it has been discussed under Rule 3.5 herein.
 - 3.7. An applicant club shall become an Affiliated Club and a member of the League upon a majority decision of all members of the Board attending and entitled to vote at the meeting at which the application is voted upon.
 - 3.8. All Affiliated Senior Clubs, whether incorporated or not, must be represented by two people at all Annual and Special Meetings of the League.

BOARD MEMBERS

- 3.9. The members of the Board from time to time shall be members of the League for such time only as they hold office.
- 3.10. The Board of the League shall comprise:
 - a) One President;
 - b) One Vice President; (appointed from the Board by the Board)
 - c) Up to Seven additional Board Members;
 - d) Any Board appointed Appointee pursuant to Rule 9.4(b);

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. The Chief Executive Officer shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the name of each Affiliated Club Member, Life Member and Board Member from time to time and the date of the entry of the name of each member. The register shall be available for inspection by all members upon request to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 4.2. Each Affiliated Club Member shall within fourteen (14) days of a change taking place notify the Chief Executive Officer of:
 - i. any changes to their Board; and
 - ii. any changes to the Representative for Annual and Special Meetings of the League.

VOTING RIGHTS

- 5.1. The voting at all Annual and Special General Meetings of the League shall be as follows:
 - a) every Life Member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof but **shall not** be entitled to vote;
 - b) every Affiliated Senior Club Member shall be entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof, and shall be entitled to **one vote** (on every resolution or amendment thereof **provided that** its right to vote is conditional upon it having paid

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all monies due to the League prior to each respective Annual or Special Meeting;

- c) every individual Board member is entitled to attend and debate every resolution or amendment thereof and shall be entitled to **one vote** on every resolution or amendment thereof.

DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

6.1.1. Subject to these Rules, in respect of any matter not expressly dealt with in the By-Laws, if the Board is of the opinion that a member or registered player or official has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member, registered player or official or prejudicial to the interests of the League, the Board may refer the matter to mediation under Rule 7 or resolve to proceed under this rule and resolve to: -

- a) fine that member, registered player or official; or
- b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
- c) expel that member from the League; or
- d) deduct match points from that member; or
- e) disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.
- f) suspend that player or official from participating in league matches for a specific period.

6.1.2. If the matter is referred to mediation but is not resolved by that process, the Board may resolve to:

- a) fine that member; or
- b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
- c) expel that member from the League; or
- d) deduct match points from that member; or
- e) disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.
- f) suspend that player or official from participating in league matches for a specific period.

6.2. A resolution of the Board under sub-rule (1) to expel a member does not take effect unless:

- a) at a meeting held in accordance with Rule (6.3), the Board confirms the resolution; and
- b) if the member exercises a right of appeal to the League under this rule, Football Victoria confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.

6.3. A meeting of the Board to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under Rule (1) must be held not earlier than fourteen (14) days, and not later than twenty-eight (28) days, after notice has been given to the member in accordance with Rule (6.4).

6.4. For the purpose of giving notice in accordance with Rule (3), the Chief Executive Officer must, as soon as practicable, cause to be given to the member, registered player or official a written notice:

- a) setting out the resolution of the Board and the grounds on which it is based; and

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- b) stating that the member, registered player or official or his or her representative, may address the Board at a meeting to be held not earlier than fourteen (14) days and not later than twenty-eight (28) days after the notice has been given to that member; and
 - c) stating the date, place, and time of that meeting; and
 - d) informing the member, registered player or official that he or she may do one or both of the following:
 - i. attend that meeting;
 - ii. give to the Board before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution;
 - e) informing the member, registered player or official that, if at that meeting, the Board confirms the resolution, he or she may not later than forty-eight (48) hours after that meeting, give the Chief Executive Officer a notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal to the League in general meeting against the resolution.
- 6.5. At a meeting of the Board to confirm or revoke a resolution passed under Rule (1), the Board must:
 - a) give the member, registered player or official or his or her representative, an opportunity to be heard; and
 - b) give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member, registered player or official; and
 - c) determine by resolution whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.
- 6.6. If at a meeting of the Board, the Board confirms a resolution, to expel a member, registered player or official from the League the member, registered player, or official may, not later than 48 hours after that meeting, give the Chief Executive Officer a notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal to the League in general meeting against the resolution.
- 6.7. If the Chief Executive Officer receives a notice under Rule (6), he or she must notify the Board and the committee must convene a general meeting of the League to be held within twenty-one (21) days after the date on which the Chief Executive Officer received the notice.
- 6.8. At the general meeting of the League convened under Rule (7)
 - a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - b) the Board may place before the meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution; and
 - c) the member, registered player or official or his or her representative, must be given an opportunity to be heard; and
 - d) the members present must vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- 6.9. A resolution is confirmed if, at the general meeting, not less than half of the members vote in person, or by proxy, in favour of the resolution. In any other case, the resolution is revoked.

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DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

7.1. The procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between:

- a) a member and another member or any registered player or official of another member; or
- b) a member and the League; or
- c) a member and a registered player or official of that member, where the member has referred the dispute to the League for resolution.

Board Referral:

7.2. The Board may resolve to refer for mediation under this rule, before proceeding further under Rule 6.1.1, any charge that a member, registered player or official has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules of the Associations and their associated By-laws or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the League.

Member Referral of Board Change:

7.3. If a member wishes to refer a resolution of the committee made under Rule 6.1.1 the member, registered player or official may invoke this rule by serving upon the Board a notice referring the matter to mediation under this Rule. Such notice must be received by the committee member within ten (10) days of receipt by the member of the resolution of the committee under Rule 6.1.1

Member/Member Referral:

7.4. Any member club, registered player or official with a complaint involving the result of a match or involving any other club, player or official may have that complaint dealt with in accordance with this Rule 7 and the By-Laws.

7.5. The Board may delegate its discretion as to the referral of the Complaint to the Chief Executive Officer to be exercised in accordance with this Rule and the By-Laws.

Mediation Procedure:

7.6. Once the referral of the complaint has been made, the parties shall proceed with the resolution of the complaint, howsoever referred, in accordance with this rule and the By-Laws.

Grievance Matters

7.7. If the mediation process does not result in any grievance the subject of Rule 7.4 or 7.5 being resolved, the matter shall be referred to the grievance committee for determination. Upon the matter being referred to the grievance committee, the party making the grievance in the first instance (except in the case of a Board grievance) shall be required to lodge a 20 penalty units' bond with the Chief Executive Officer within two (2) days of the mediation process concluding.

WITHDRAWAL OF AFFILIATION

8.1. An Affiliated Club Member may apply to withdraw its affiliation with the League only between 1st September and 31st October in any year by giving notice in writing to the Chief Executive Officer. Such notification shall be signed by the Executive Members of the Affiliated Club Member concerned and shall contain the reason for its decision to seek withdrawal together with a duly certified Minute of the Meeting of the member at which such decision was made.

8.2. The Board shall consider and rule upon any such application within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the notice in writing.

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- 8.3. In the event the Board objects to the withdrawal application, the Chief Executive Officer shall advise the Club in writing, of the reasons for its refusal within seven (7) days of that refusal.
- 8.4. Any Affiliated Club Member may within seven (7) days of receipt of the reasons set out in Rule 7.3 appeal the decision to Football Victoria.

BOARD

- 9.1. A person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Board if:
- a) the person holds tertiary qualifications and/or has practical experience in dealing with athletes with intellectual impairment; or
 - b) the person holds tertiary qualifications and/or has practical financial, business management, marketing; or
 - c) the person is a qualified legal practitioner; and
 - d) the person is nominated by the Board.
 - e) the person was appointed pursuant to Rule 9.4(b) if upon the expiration of the term of the appointment, the Appointee has notified the Board in writing that he/she seeks election at the next Annual General Meeting, for a position on the Board.
- 9.2. Each Board Member shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiration of his/her term.
- 9.3. Any retiring Board Member shall remain a Board Member and be eligible to vote and speak at all Annual and Special Meetings until the conclusion of the Annual or Special Meeting at which he or she is replaced.
- 9.4. Regarding casual vacancy on the Board:
- a) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office of the Board, the Board shall seek nominations to fill such vacancy or vacancies. In accordance with Rules 9.11 to 9.15 inclusive, at the next Special Meeting or at a Meeting called to consider a ballot, the elected person shall hold office for the period of that office, as if it had not been vacated. If no nominations are received within twenty-eight (28) days of that advertisement, the Board shall be empowered to fill such casual vacancy or vacancies and any person(s) so appointed shall serve in that office until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - b) The Board shall have the power to appoint not more than one person to act as a Board member for a term not exceeding two years should it decide in its absolute discretion that the skills and expertise of that person warrant his or her appointment as a Board member. Upon the expiration of the term, the Appointee shall be eligible for election at the next Annual General Meeting if upon expiration of the appointed term he/she gives notice in writing to the Board of the intention to seek election to the Board.

POWERS

- 9.5. The Affairs of the League shall be managed by the Board, constituted as provided in Rule 3.16 herein. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies in any position of the Board, the remaining members of the Committee may act provided their numbers are sufficient to maintain a quorum at Board meetings. A Board member can still retain his/her involvement with any Affiliated Club, provided that in dealing with matters that may present a conflict of interest between the matter in question, the League and/or the Affiliated Club, then that Board member must abstain from the decision-making process.

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9.6. The Board, in addition to any specific powers in these rules:

- a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the League;
- b) shall, subject to these Rules, The Regulations and The Act, have power to perform all such act and things as appear to the Board to be necessary for the proper management of the business and affairs of the League;
- c) may appoint an Auditor from time to time for such time as the Board considers appropriate;
- d) shall have power to discipline, suspend or expel members, officials of member clubs or registered players in such manner as is provided for in these rules or the By-Laws.
- e) make amend substitute or cancel such by-laws as the Board considers necessary for the League to implement from time to time; and
- f) may delegate specified powers and responsibilities, set out in the By-Laws, to the following committees:
 - An Investigation Committee
 - A Grievance Committee
 - A Permit Committee.
 - or any other committee the Board considers necessary in the circumstances.

CALL IN POWER

9.7. Before any:

- a) delegated committee of the Board;
- b) independent tribunal; or
- c) Board.

established under these rules or under the by-laws makes a decision in respect of any matter referred to it in accordance with the rules or by-laws, the Board may direct the relevant committee, tribunal or Board to refer the matter to it for determination, if it appears to the Board:

- d) the matter raises a major issue of policy in relation to the activities of the League and the determination of the matter may have a substantial effect on the affairs of the League and/or any of its members; or
- e) any decision on the matter has been unreasonably delayed or is otherwise disadvantaging one of the parties or the consideration of the matter by the League Board would better facilitate the League in controlling and managing the affairs of the League.

9.8. In response to any such direction, the relevant committee, tribunal or board must comply with the direction without delay and must not proceed further with the matter itself.

9.9. For the purposes of these rules upon directing that the matter be remitted to it, the Board of the League shall be entitled to exercise the power of the relevant committee, tribunal or board and shall adopt the procedures set out in these rules or the by-laws applicable to that committee, tribunal or panel.

9.10. Subject only to the rights of any member, registered player or official of the League set out in rule 6.6 being exercised, any decision made by the Board in respect of a matter remitted to it for determination, shall be final and binding.

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ELECTIONS

- 9.11. Any two Affiliated Club Members or the President may nominate any eligible person to stand for the position of a Board member.
- 9.12. Each nomination shall be in the form of Schedule 3 and signed by or on behalf of the Board by the President or on behalf of each of the nominee clubs (through their appropriate representatives) and on that form the nominee shall:
- i. acknowledge his willingness to stand for the position of which he is being nominated; and
 - ii. specify the basis of his eligibility to stand for election.
- 9.13. The nominating members, or the President, as the case may be, shall cause the nomination to be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer at least twenty-eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 9.14. The Chief Executive Officer shall inform all members of the meeting at which an election is to take place of the candidates for any position on the Board by providing each of the members of the League the list of candidates' names in alphabetical order in respect of each position to be filled at the meeting at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 9.15. All elections to elect Board Members shall be by ballot unless there shall not be sufficient numbers of candidates to require election, in which case the nominee shall be deemed to be elected to the vacant office.

VACANCY AND REMOVAL

- 9.16. The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if a member of the Board:
- a) submits his or her resignation in writing to the Chief Executive Officer; or
 - b) dies or becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent which interferes with the performance of his/her duties as a Board Member; or
 - c) is absent without approval from meetings of the Board for more than 3 consecutive months; or
 - d) holds any office of the League for pecuniary reward.

MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 10.1. Within six (6) months of the end of each financial year, the Board shall convene an Annual General Meeting.
- 10.2. The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
- a) to confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;
 - b) to receive from the Board reports upon the transactions of the League during the preceding financial year;
 - c) to elect members of the Board to fill any vacancies in Board offices; (with the exception of Vice President)
 - d) to receive and consider a statement submitted by the League containing the following particulars:

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- i. the income and expenditure of the League during its last financial year;
 - ii. the assets and liabilities of the League at the end of its last financial year;
 - iii. the mortgages, charges and securities of any description affecting any of the property of the League at the end of its last financial year; and
 - iv. in respect of each trust of which the League was trustee during a period, being the whole or any part of the last financial year of the League:
 - aa. the income and expenditure of the trust during the period;
 - bb. the assets and liabilities of the trust during that period; and
 - cc. the mortgages, charges and securities of any description affecting any of the property of the trust at the end of that period.
- 10.3. The Annual General Meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- 10.4. The Annual General Meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.
- 10.5. Only the representatives of Affiliated Senior Club Members and Affiliated Junior Club Members for the financial year reported upon shall be eligible to speak and vote at any Annual General Meeting.
- 10.6. A Board Member shall be eligible to speak and vote on all matters raised at an Annual Meeting and shall retain his office in the event of not being re-elected to office or not standing for office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which his term of office was terminated.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 10.7. The Chief Executive Officer shall convene extraordinary general meetings of the members of the League (to be referred to as Special Meetings) as follows:
- i. at least once during each season, at such times, places and dates nominated by the Board to deal with matters nominated by the Board and/or member clubs;
 - ii. upon receipt by the Chief Executive Officer of a requisition in accordance with the Schedule setting forth proposed motions for the meeting signed by representatives of at least five (5) Affiliated Club Members.
- 10.8. If the Chief Executive Officer does not cause a special meeting to be convened within one month after the date on which a requisition is received by him from the Affiliated Senior Club Members the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special meeting to be held not later than three months (3) after the date on which the Chief Executive Officer received the requisition.
- 10.9. A special meeting convened by members pursuant to Rule 9.8 shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which Special Meetings are convened by the Chief Executive Officer and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be reimbursed to the requisitioning members by the League.

TELECOMMUNICATION MEETING

- 10.10. A Special Meeting, Annual General Meeting or a Board Meeting may be held by means of Telecommunication Meeting, provided that:

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- i. the number of Members or Board Members (as applicable) participating is not less than a quorum for a Special Meeting, Annual General Meeting or Board Meeting (as applicable); and
- ii. the meeting is convened in accordance with the Act.

10.11. All provisions of these rules relating to a meeting apply to a Telecommunication Meeting in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provision of Rules 10.10 and 10.11.

CONDUCT OF TELECOMMUNICATION MEETING

10.12. The following provisions apply to a Telecommunication Meeting of the Board and Members of the League;

- i. all persons participating in the meeting must be linked by telephone, audio-visual or other instantaneous means for the purpose of the meeting;
- ii. all persons participating in the meeting may be given the opportunity to submit questions prior to the meeting in the manner determined by the Chief Executive Officer and communicated to such persons;
- iii. each of the persons taking part in the meeting must be able to hear and be heard by, and clearly and simultaneously communicate with, each of the other persons taking part at the commencement of the meeting;
- iv. each person taking part in the meeting is, for the purposes of these rules, to be present at the meeting; and each person who votes at the meeting is, for the purpose of these rules, taken to have voted in person;
- v. at the commencement of the meeting each person must announce his or her presence to all other persons taking part in the meeting;
- vi. a person may not leave a Telecommunication Meeting by disconnecting his or her telephone, audio-visual or other communication equipment unless that person has previously notified the chair;
- vii. a person may conclusively be presumed to have been present and to always have formed part of a quorum during a Telecommunication Meeting unless that person has previously notified the chair of leaving the meeting; and
- viii. a minute of proceedings of a Telecommunication Meeting is sufficient evidence of the proceedings and of the observance of all necessary formalities if the minute is certified to be a correct minute by the chair.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 11.1. The Chief Executive Officer shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the convening of an Annual or Special Meeting, cause to be sent to each member of the League via their Football Integration Development Association club email address, or other electronic messaging or where email or electronic messaging as determined by the Chief Executive Officer is not available, on an online location where notices can be viewed and downloaded or at each member's address appearing in the register of members, a notice (by prepaid post if applicable) which states the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 11.2. No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at any Annual or Special Meeting.
- 11.3. A member desiring to bring any business or motions before a meeting must give 14 days' notice of the business in writing in the form in Schedule 4 to the Chief Executive Officer, who shall

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include that business in the notice calling the next Annual or Special Meeting after receipt of that notice.

BUSINESS OF AND PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 12.1. All business that is transacted at a Special Meeting and all business that is transacted at the Annual Meeting, except for that specially referred to in these rules as being the ordinary business of an Annual Meeting, shall be deemed to be special business.
- 12.2. No item of business shall be transacted at an Annual or Special meeting unless a quorum or members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- 12.3. A majority of members of the League entitled to vote at meetings personally present or represented being members entitled under these rules to vote at Annual and Special Meetings, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at any Annual or Special Meetings.
- 12.4. If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of an Annual or Special Meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to a time and place determined and announced by the Board.
- 12.5. The President, or in his absence, the Vice President, shall preside as President at each Annual or Special Meeting of the League.
- 12.6. If the President and the Vice President are absent from any Annual or Special Meetings, the members present shall elect one of the remaining Board members to preside as President at the Meeting. If none of those persons are willing to act as President, the Members may elect a President from the Members present.
- 12.7. The Board of an Annual or Special Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the Meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 12.8. Where a meeting is adjourned for ten (10) days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an Annual or Special Meeting.
- 12.9. It is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- 12.10. A question or motion arising at an Annual or Special Meeting of the League, except as otherwise provided in these Rules, shall be determined on a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll or ballot is demanded, a declaration by the Board that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the League, is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the question or motion.
- 12.11. If at an Annual or Special Meeting a poll or ballot on any question is demanded by not less than two members, it shall be taken at the time and in such manner as the Board may direct and the resolution of the poll or ballot shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question or motion.
- 12.12. Upon any question or motion arising at an Annual or Special Meeting of the League, a member must vote personally by its representative/s. No proxies will be recognised. Where a Affiliate Member is entitled to two votes, each vote must be given by a personally present representative.

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- 12.13. In the case of an equality of voting on a question, at an Annual or Special Meeting the Board of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 12.14.
- a) A poll or ballot that is demanded on the election of a Board or on a question of an adjournment of the Annual or Special Meeting must be taken immediately upon the demand being made.
 - b) A poll or ballot that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at any time, before the close of the meeting, as the Board may direct.

PROCEEDINGS AT BOARD MEETINGS

- 13.1. The Board shall meet at such places and at such times as the Board may determine from time to time.
- 13.2. Special meetings of the Board may be convened by the President or by any five of the members of the Board.
- 13.3. Notice shall be given to members of the Board of any special meeting specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.
- 13.4. Any five members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Board.
- 13.5. No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week unless the meeting was a special meeting in which case, it lapses.
- 13.6. At meetings of the Board:
- a) the President or in his absence, the Vice President shall preside; or
 - b) if the President, the Vice President are absent, one of the remaining members of the Board as may be chosen by the members present shall preside.
- 13.7. Questions arising at a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee appointed by the Board shall be determined on a show of hands or, if demanded by a member, by a poll taken in such manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- 13.8. Each member present at a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee appointed by the Board (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote and, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- 13.9. Notice of each Board meeting shall be given to each member of the Board by communicating the time of the meeting to him at a reasonable time before the meeting.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- 14.1. The Board shall appoint a full-time Manager of the League (to be known as "Chief Executive Officer") who shall be:
- i. an employee of the League;
 - ii. entitled to remuneration and other employment benefits as the Board may determine from time to time;

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- iii. an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board and all duly appointed sub-committees of the League;
- iv. responsible for the day-to-day activities of the League under the direction of the Board;
- v. responsible for the recording and keeping of all minutes of meetings of the League and the Board, including all duly appointed sub-committees;
- vi. responsible for the collection and receipt of all moneys due to the League;
- vii. responsible for the custody and maintenance of correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the League with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the League, which accounts and books shall be open to inspection by any member of the League from time to time;
- viii. the Public Officer of the League.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL

- 15.1. The Board shall appoint an Independent Investigation tribunal to be known as "The Tribunal":
- i. to hear and determine any reports made by any approved umpire of matches controlled or authorised by the League, concerning the conduct of a player or official before, during or after any match;
 - ii. to conduct its hearings in such manner and at such times and places as it thinks fit;
 - iii. to hear and determine any from other matter referred to it by the Board.
- 15.2. The Tribunal may deal with any report or matter referred to it as it thinks fit and it may impose whatever penalty it deems appropriate in the circumstances of each report upon any player or official directly or indirectly related with the report or reference from the Board upon any player or official directly or indirectly relates with the report and the League shall give effect to all penalties imposed by the Tribunal.
- 15.3. The decision of the Tribunal shall be binding on players, officials, and the League.
- 15.4. The Tribunal shall notify the players and officials concerned of the decisions and penalties of each hearing.
- 15.5. The Tribunal may sit as a full tribunal or in divisions of not less than three (3) members. All sittings of the Tribunal, whether in a division or otherwise shall appoint one of their number to act as President of each sitting.
- 15.6. The Tribunal shall comprise a member of the Board, (excluding any member who may have a conflict of interest as defined in Rule 9.5), The Chief Executive Officer of the League, plus another independent person.
- 15.7. The Chief Executive Officer shall maintain a register of members of the Tribunal recording their names, addresses and telephone numbers and the date of their appointment and retirement.
- 15.8. The Tribunal shall cause to be published from time to time an outline of its procedures and the persons required and permitted to attend and give evidence in respect of its hearings.

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APPEALS BOARD

16.1. The Board shall appoint an Appeals Board to be known as "the Appeals Board"-

- a) to hear and determine any appeal from any decision of any of-
 - i. the Independent Investigation Tribunal;
 - ii. any decision of the Grievance Committee;
 - iii. any decision of the Permit Committee

only where the following pre-requisites are satisfied:

- iv. the decision of the determining body being appealed from imposes a penalty upon a player or official of a member club in excess of a four-week suspension; or
- v. the decision of the determining body being appealed from imposes a penalty upon a player or official of a member of a club of a four week or less suspension: or
- vi. in a matter where the decision of the determining body does not involve the suspension of a player or a member of club officials or a fine but some other penalty and the appealing party alleges the decision of the determining body is harsh and unreasonable in all of the circumstances;
- vii. the appealing party lodges with the Chief Executive Officer at the time of lodging the appeal an amount of 20 penalty units, except if lodged under pre-requisite (vi) whereby a bond of 100 penalty units is payable, by way of security to be dealt with as the Appeal Board directs.

16.2. Until the Appeals Board has heard the appeal, any decision of the determining body being appealed from shall apply and be performed and discharged.

16.3. A person wishing to appeal must lodge the appeal with the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm on the third day of the decision of the determining body being made, with the first day being counted as the day of the decision being communicated.

16.4. The notice of appeal lodged with the Chief Executive Officer must in writing: -

- a) identify the decision appealed from;
- b) set out the grounds of appeal;
- c) set out the persons who will be called in support of the grounds of appeal, together with a short summary of the evidence they will give.

16.5. The Chief Executive Officer shall notify the President of the Appeals Board (or his delegate) and all other relevant parties to the appeal by written notice within three days of receiving the appeal, with the day of the lodging of the notice being counted as day one.

16.6. The President of the Appeals Board (or his delegate) shall notify the League Board of the proposed time, date and place of the hearing of the appeal, which the Chief Executive Officer shall communicate to each of the parties to the appeal within six days (with the day of lodging being counted as day one) of the appeal notice being lodged with the Chief Executive Officer.

16.7. Any party to the appeal may appear by a legal representative upon giving prior notice to the Chief Executive Officer of its intention to do so on the express understanding, that the President of the Appeals Board may request a legal advisor sit with the Board in hearing the appeal (to advise in respect of any legal arguments put forward) and the party seeking legal representation on its behalf may be required to pay any costs incurred by the Appeals Board in obtaining legal representation in respect of the appeal.

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- 16.8. The Appeals Board may deal with any appeal in such manner as it thinks fit and may impose whatever penalty it considers appropriate in the circumstances upon any party to the appeal or, in the appropriate circumstances and after an appropriate opportunity of being heard has been given, to any other party it considers it appropriate to impose a penalty upon.
- 16.9. Subject to the right of any League member under Rule 6.2 the decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding.
- 16.10. The Appeals Board shall notify the parties to the appeal of its decision at the conclusion of the Appeal.

CONSTITUTION OF THE APPEALS BOARD

- 16.11. The Appeals Board shall comprise not less than three members who shall be appointed from time to time by the League Board.
- 16.12. The Appeals Board must sit with a quorum of not less than two members,
- 16.13. The Appeals Board may cause to be published from time to time an outline of its procedures in respect of its hearing.

UMPIRES' BOARD

- 17.1. The Board shall appoint an Umpires' Advisory Committee be known as "The Umpires' Board":
- i. to select, appoint, control, and organise and discipline all umpires required to officiate at matches authorised or organised by the League;
 - ii. to recommend rules of the Laws of Football to be adopted by the League;
 - iii. to arrange representation of umpires appearing before the League's Independent Tribunals, Panels or Committees;
 - iv. to deal with any matters referred to it by the League;
 - v. to abide by the directions of the Board from time to time.
- 17.2. The Umpires' Board shall comprise up to three persons to be appointed
- 17.3. The Umpire's Board may appoint observers to assist the Board in the performance of its duties.
- 17.4. The Chief Executive Officer shall maintain a register of the Members of the Umpires' Board from time to time.

NOTICES

- 18.1. Any notice required to be given to or served upon the League or the Board shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and emailed to the CEO's email address of the League from time to time and shall be deemed to have been duly served:
- a) at the time of personal service was made to the Chief Executive Officer; or
 - b) at the time any notice was sent to the CEO's address of the League;
- whichever is appropriate.
- 18.2. Any notice by the League or Board to any member, player or official of a member shall be emailed to the Member via their club email address and shall be deemed to have been duly served if addressed to the Secretary and/or President of the Member.

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ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

- 19.1. These rules and the Statement of Purposes of the League shall not be altered except by special resolution of the members of the League being a three-fourths majority of those attending, entitled to vote, and voting.

WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION

- 20.1. In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the League, the assets of the League shall be passed to a like-minded organisation as determined by the Board and/or AFL Victoria.

CUSTODY OF RECORDS

- 21.1. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Chief Executive Officer shall keep in their custody or under their control, all books, documents, and securities of the League.

FUNDS

- 22.1. The funds of the League shall be derived from annual subscriptions, grants, donations, fees and levies and such other sources as the Board determines from time to time.

FEES

- 23.1. Each Affiliated Club Member shall pay the prescribed annual subscriptions and other fees and levies of the League on or by the date prescribed from time to time by the Board.

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SCHEDULE 1

AFFILIATED MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE (subject to change)

METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE

Ajax Football Club	Lower Plenty Football Club
Ballarat Bulldogs Football Club	Mazenod Panthers FIDA Football Club
Carrum Downs Sports Club	Monash Demons Football Club
Coburg Lions Football Club	Parkside Football Club
Cranbourne Eagles Football Club	Ringwood Spiders Football Club
Eltham Panthers Junior Football Club	Sandown Cobras Football Club
Ferntree Gully Eagles Football Club	St Albans Saints Football Club
Fountain Gate Gators Football Club	Williamstown Seagulls Football Club
Kananook Sports Club	Wyndham All Abilities Football & Cricket Club

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Echuca/Moama Football Club
North Albury Football Club
Shepparton Football Club
Wangaratta Football Club
Wodonga Football Club

CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Bendigo FIDA Suns Football Club
Kyneton Tigers Football Club
Rupertswood Football & Netball Club

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Horsham Football Club
South Warrnambool Football Club
The Grampians Football Club
Wimmera Football Club

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SCHEDULE 2

BOARD NOMINATION FORM

(Rule 9 of the Statement of Rules)

TO: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TAKE NOTICE that the two member Clubs specified below hereby wish to nominate:

(Insert name) _____

for the position as (Insert position) _____

1ST NOMINATING CLUB (Name) _____ Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary* _____

2ND NOMINATING CLUB (Name) _____ Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary* _____
(* cross out whichever not applicable)

DATED this _____ day of _____ 20____

NOMINEE'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND BASIS OF ELIGIBILITY

I, (insert full name of nominee) _____

of (insert nominee's residential address) _____

the above-named nominee hereby state:

1. I am willing to stand for the above position for which I am being nominated.
2. I am eligible to be nominated because (specify Rule 9 eligibility):

SIGNED: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Nominating Members must cause the nomination form duly completed to be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer at least twenty-eight (28) clear days before the meeting at which the election is to take place.

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SCHEDULE 3

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING OF THE LEAGUE

(Rule 10 of the Statement of Rules)

TO: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

TAKE NOTICE THAT (Insert name of Club)

desires to bring the following business / motion before the next meeting of the League:

(Set out business / motion)

DATED this day of 20

NAME OF CLUB: _____ Football Club

Signature of Club President / Secretary* _____

(* cross out whichever not applicable)

NOTE:

This Notice must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer not less than fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which the Notice will be considered.