



**FOOTBALL
INTEGRATION
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION**

**BY-LAWS
(UPDATED: 8 January 2025)**

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Interpretation	4
2. Definitions	4
3. Alterations to By-Laws	5
4. Affiliation & Fees	5
5. New Clubs	6
6. Member Club Responsibilities	7
7. Meetings	7
8. AFL & AFL Victoria Policies	7
9. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable People	7
10. National Inclusion Carnival (AFL Open)	8
11. Code of Conduct	8
12. Conduct Unbecoming	8
13. Investigation Process	10
14. Complaints & Protests	11
15. Grievance Procedure	12
16. Appeals	12
17. Competition Structure	13
18. Fixtures	14
19. Finals	14
20. Football Umpires	15
21. Penalties	15

SCHEDULES

1. Spirit of FIDA
2. Competition Regulations (2025)
3. Modified Rules (2025)
4. Functionality Grading
5. Affiliation & Team Registration Form
6. New Club Application Form
7. Codes of Conduct
8. Independent Tribunal Procedure
9. Player Report Sheet
10. Apparel Style Guide (TBC)
11. Concussion Policy
12. Social Media Policy
13. Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football
14. Australian Football Laws of the Game
15. National Community Football Policy Handbook

1. Interpretation

- 1.1 The Board, in accordance with the Statement of Rules of the Football Integration Development Association ('The Rules') and any previous By-Laws of the League, hereby rescinds all prior By-Laws and replaces them with these new By-Laws.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 In these By-Laws unless contrary appears;

Accreditation (or **Accredited**) means:

- a. In respect to a Coach, registration and accreditation (including re-accreditation) of a Person via Coach AFL
- b. In respect to an Umpire, registration and accreditation (including re-accreditation) of a Person via Officials HQ

AFL means the Australian Football League

AFL Policies means the AFL policies adopted by the League

AFL Victoria means AFL Victoria Limited

Board means the governing body of FIDA, designated to oversee the management of the League. The Board may also be referred to as the committee.

Board Executive means three of the Board; President, Vice-President, and the Treasurer

Board Member means a member of the Board elected in accordance with the Rules.

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent role as appointed in accordance with the Rules

Dispute does not include any disciplinary procedure or objection to a penalty imposed by the Board, Board Executive, Tribunal or the League against a Member Club, Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player, or Supporter.

FIDA means Football Integration Development Association Incorporated. In these rules referred to as "FIDA" or "the League."

Financial Agreement means a plan entered into between the League and a Member Club

Financial Year means the year ending October 31ST.

Fine means a penalty that a club must pay if a club or player is in breach of a FIDA By-Law.

- a. Financial penalties set using **penalty units** – 1 penalty unit = \$10.00

General Manager – Football Operations (GM-FO) means the person appointed by the League to hold that office or equivalent.

Independent Tribunal Procedure means the policy by that name as set out in Schedule 8

Laws of Australian Football (Laws of the Game) means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as set out in Schedule 18.

League means the Football Integrations Development Association Incorporated

League Investigation Officer means the person appointed by the CEO of the League to investigate complaints, protests or other matters as decided by the League.

League Official means any person appointed by the League to act in any official capacity and includes the CEO, any employee of the League, a Board Member, or any umpire.

Member or **Club** when used in isolation refers to a Member Club of the League

Member Club means a football or sports club whose application for membership has been approved by FIDA in accordance with the Rules.

Club Member may refer to any persons affiliated with a club in an official or unofficial capacity (this may include match day officials, volunteers, supporters, parents, and/or carers etc.)

Member Club Match Day Official includes any person acting on behalf of a Member Club in relation to any match approved or controlled by the League.

Member Club Official means any elected office bearer of a Member Club

Official means Member Club Match Day Official or Member Club Official

PlayHQ refers to the competition management platform

Player Points Policy refers to the policy outlined in Schedule 11

Player means a person registered by the League to play in competitions conducted by it

Reportable Offence Matrix refers to the table used to assess and grade reportable offences

Rules means the Rules of the Football Integration Development Association Incorporated

Spirit of FIDA refers to the schedule by that name, which underpins the spirit in which the FIDA League is conducted as outlined in Schedule 1

Supporter means a member of the public, who may not have a formal affiliation with a Member Club and is present on a match day watching and supporting a Member Club at a League match.

Tribunal means the Independent Tribunal appointed in accordance with the By-Laws

3. Alteration to the By-Laws

- 3.1 The By-Laws may be amended by the Board at its absolute discretion pursuant to the Rules and advised to affiliated Member Clubs.
- 3.2 The affairs of the League shall be managed by the FIDA Board. The Board, shall, subject to these By-Laws, have power to administer all matters as appear to the Board to be necessary for the proper management of the business and affairs of the League.

4. Affiliation & Fees

4.1 Club Affiliation

- 4.1.1 Each club shall affiliate with FIDA by signing an annual Affiliation Agreement Form and submitting the Affiliation & Team Registration Form to FIDA. Refer to **Schedule 5**

4.2 Annual Affiliation Fee

- 4.2.1 In accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules, each Member Club shall pay annual affiliation fees to FIDA of the sum prescribed by the Board at its absolute discretion. Affiliation fees are to be paid at the beginning of the season as per clause 4.2.2 by clubs via the CEO.
- 4.2.2 All monies due to be paid to the League by Member Clubs shall be payable in full no later the due date per the invoice and/or statement issued by the League. Payment terms for all League charges are fourteen (14) days from invoice date. Fees collected prior to the due date may be transferred to the league at any time and will be credited towards the final player invoice, with the balance payable by the due date.

- 4.2.3 The CEO or Board Executive, on application of a Member Club, has power to agree to a Financial Agreement;
 - a. Any Application for a Financial Agreement must be received in writing by the CEO a minimum of seven (7) business days prior to the due and payable date of each invoice, where upon application will be considered and if acceptable approved by the CEO and/or Board at their discretion.
- 4.2.4 Where a Member Club fails to make payments to the League in accordance with By-Law 4.2.2 no team of that Member Club will be eligible to play for match points until the account is paid in full. Percentages, where applicable, will be calculated on the final scores.
- 4.2.5 Points and percentages for any game played while a Member Club is ineligible for match points will be calculated as follows:
 - a. Should the Member Club in breach of this By-Law win, lose or draw the game, they receive no points and percentage will be calculated off the forfeit rule (**Competition Regulation 17**)
 - b. Should the opposition Club win the game they receive four points and percentage.
 - c. Should the opposition Club draw the game they receive two points and percentage
 - d. Should the opposition Club lose the game they receive no points and percentage
- 4.2.6 To be eligible to play in the FIDA Final Series, Member Clubs shall be;
 - a. Financial within the terms outlined in 4.2.2

If a Member Club does not meet the above criteria, that Member Club's team(s) shall be removed from the FIDA Finals Series and the next entitled team on the ladder shall be added, provided the next entitled team meets the above criteria.

4.3 **Player Registration Fees**

- 4.3.1 Each Member Club shall pay a registration fee for each player registered to participate in FIDA
- 4.3.2 A player is considered registered for the purposes of league registration fees when they have played one (1) match and the full FIDA Player Registration Fee will be charged by FIDA.
- 4.3.3 FIDA will audit the playing list of all Member Clubs following the closure of transfers and applications, on/or the next business day after June 30 to determine league registration fees. Invoices will be issued for payment.
- 4.3.4 Any player registrations after the invoice period and the end of the season will lead to an additional invoice for payment.
- 4.3.5 All monies due to be paid to the league for player registration must be paid under the same terms outlined in 4.2.2 or 4.2.3.

5. **New Clubs**

- 5.1 The League in consultation with the Board shall have the authority with any sports club seeking membership of FIDA.
- 5.2 The Board retains the right to offer or deny membership to any sports club.

6. Member Club Responsibilities

- 6.1 Should a Member Club fail to comply with By-Law 4.1 or By-Law 4.2, the CEO may penalise the Member Club as allowed by these By-Laws.
- 6.2 All correspondence by Member Clubs with the League shall be in writing from either the Member Club President, Secretary, Treasurer or Football Manager.
- 6.3 Each Member Club shall annually furnish to the CEO the names, addresses including email addresses, telephone numbers and any other pertinent particulars of its President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, and other key Member Club contacts within fourteen (14) days of the holding of its Annual General Meeting. **Penalty 25 Units**
- 6.4 Each Member Club shall notify the CEO of any resignations, changes to the official Member Club executive committee, or official status, or the replacement of previously notified officials as soon as reasonably practicable after such changes occur.

7. Meetings

- 7.1 All Member Club's shall nominate to the League a Club Delegate to represent the Club at any meeting and/or seminar convened in accordance with these By-Laws.
- 7.2 Where notice of a meeting has been given in writing to the Member Club or person concerned, they shall be required to be in attendance or nominate a proxy as appropriate. **Penalty 25 Units**
- 7.3 Club Delegate of a Member Club or person substituting for the Club Delegate shall absent themselves from such a meeting without furnishing a valid reason for such absence to the League within forty-eight (48) hours of the absence.

8. AFL & AFL Victoria Policies

- 8.1 FIDA is an Affiliated League with AFL Victoria
- 8.2 The League, AFL and AFL Victoria are required to adopt complementary rules and regulations, in football competitions under their respective control and jurisdiction.
- 8.3 Where there is a conflict between the AFL & AFL Victoria Policies and the FIDA Rules and By-Laws, the FIDA Rules and By-Laws will take precedent.
- 8.4 Where the FIDA By-Laws and Rules are silent, the Board may adopt AFL & AFL Victoria policies at its utmost discretion.

9. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable People

- 9.1 In conjunction with the AFL's policy on Safeguarding Children and Young People, it is mandatory by law for Coaches and volunteers to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) if they undertake any of the following roles:
 - 9.1.1 All club personnel including officials, coaches and trainers appointed in a volunteer or seeking appointment for financial reward;
 - 9.1.2 Volunteer personal who will or likely to travel away overnight with teams of persons under eighteen (18) years of age; and
 - 9.1.3 Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with persons under eighteen (18) years of age.

10. National Inclusion Carnival (AFL Open)

- 10.1 AFL Victoria has access to National programs such as the AFL Open (formerly National Inclusion Carnival). AFL Victoria funds and delivers the metro and country teams to the competition.
- 10.2 Players who elect to participate in this event/or similar must meet the eligibility criteria set out by the AFL. The eligibility criteria for the National Programs are not the same as those in place for FIDA.
- 10.3 The FIDA league does not influence the requirements nor competition structure of these events. However, can work collaboratively with AFL Victoria to support both Vic Metro and Vic Country teams.

11. Code of Conduct

- 11.1 The League has established a suite of Codes of Conduct for Players, Coaches, Club Officials, Volunteers and Spectators that Member Clubs are required to comply with. (Refer to **Schedule 7**)
- 11.2 Any person that represents the League in any capacity is bound by these By-Laws and shall agree to comply with the By-Laws, including all Schedules and policies.
- 11.3 Member Clubs shall be responsible for the behaviour of their Players, Officials and Supporters, prior to and during the game and after matches including intervals in the match and between matches.
- 11.4 Any supporters or barrackers who are known to be members of any Member Club, within the League who, in the opinion of the Field, Boundary, Goal Umpire, or League Official, behave in an offensive manner by spoken remarks, or openly incite players on the field to play in a manner not conducive to the best interests of the game, or are the cause of any disturbance between onlookers, will render the Member Club to which they belong liable to penalties under **By-Law 21**.

12. Conduct Unbecoming

- 12.1 The Board, League Official or Official Umpire who alleges that a Player, a Member Club Match Day Official, a Member Club Official, an Official Umpire, League Official or Supporter has acted in a manner which may bring the game of football into disrepute or engages in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League, may lodge with the CEO a notice in writing setting out the particulars of the allegation.
- 12.2 The CEO may directly lay a charge of conduct unbecoming.
- 12.3 A Member Club or League Official that alleges a Player, a Member Club Match Day Official, a Member Club Official, an Official Umpire, a League Official or Supporter has acted in a manner which may bring the game of football into disrepute or engages in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League, may lodge with the CEO, a notice in writing setting out the particulars of the allegation.
- 12.4 Any notice lodged by a Member Club under By-Law 12.3 can only be lodged by the President or Secretary of the Member Club and shall be accompanied by a fee of two-hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) (including GST).
- 12.5 A notice under By-Law 12.3 shall be lodged with the CEO within three (3) business days of the date of the incident to which it relates.
- 12.6 On receipt of the notice, the League will notify the other party/parties named in the notice within two (2) business days.
- 12.7 Any notice shall:

- 12.7.1 identify the person or organization that the incident relates to
- 12.7.2 indicate the date and time when the incident occurred
- 12.7.3 describe the incident in detail and
- 12.7.4 indicate the names of any witnesses and contact details to the incident.
- 12.8 All notices received will be considered by the CEO. The CEO, after consideration of the notice, may:
 - 12.8.1 require further information from the person/body lodging the notice
 - 12.8.2 refer the notice for investigation to the League Investigation Officer
 - 12.8.3 refer the notice to the Board for hearing
 - 12.8.4 refer the notice to the Independent Tribunal for hearing and
 - 12.8.5 deal with the notice itself
- 12.9 If the Independent Tribunal or Board hears the matter, it has the authority to impose a penalty on a party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.
- 12.10 If the matter is to be heard by the Independent Tribunal or the Board, the League shall set a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation.
- 12.11 Notice of the hearing shall be given to all interested parties through the Member Club together with a copy of the notice lodged under By-Laws 12.1, 12.2 or 12.3. The notification shall be forwarded prior to the scheduled Hearing.
- 12.12 In any proceeding brought before the Tribunal or Board under this By-Law the League Investigation Officer shall personally appear before it and provide any clarity or explanation in relation to the investigation report as requested.
- 12.13 Hearings before the Independent Tribunal will be regulated as provided in these By-Laws.
- 12.14 Any party appearing before the Board may be represented by an advocate. Such advocate shall not be a member of the legal profession.
- 12.15 The Board or CEO may summon any Umpire, League Official, Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter of a Member Club to appear before it and, if required, to give evidence. If the Board or CEO summons a party to appear before it, in accordance with By-Law 12.10, and that party fails to attend, the Board has the authority to impose a penalty on that party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Law 21.
- 12.16 Hearings before the Board shall not be bound by the rules of evidence. Procedural fairness shall be exercised by the Board.
- 12.17 Any party that desires to make a written submission to the Tribunal or Board shall lodge a copy with the General Manager – Operations within a reasonable time prior to the hearing, but no less than twenty-four (24) hours before the hearing date.
- 12.18 The fee paid in By-Law 12.4 will not be refunded where it is determined that the matter was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 12.19 Subject to clause 12.18, the fee paid in By-Law 12.4 will be refunded, within seven (7) business days of a decision being made, less an administration fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) except where:
 - a. The subject of the complaint is found guilty of a charge, in which case the administration fee will be refunded to the Member Club that made the complaint, and an invoice of that amount issued to the subject of the complaint.
 - b. Both parties are found guilty of a charge in which case the administration fee will be refunded in part and the balance will be invoiced to the subject of the complaint.

13. Complaints and Protests

- 13.1 A Player, Member Club, League registered umpire, League Official or a Board Member, may lodge a written complaint/protest with the CEO concerning any act or matter.
- 13.2 A complaint/protest referred to in this By-Law shall be lodged in writing within three (3) business days of the incident occurring. The complaint/protest shall be received by the CEO no later than 5:00pm on the last day allowed for lodging the complaint/protest.
- 13.3 Any complaint/protest lodged by a Player or Member Club can only be lodged by the President or Secretary of the Member Club and shall be accompanied by a fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) (including GST).
- 13.4 On receipt of the complaint/protest, the League will notify the other party/parties named in the complaint/protest within two (2) business days.
- 13.5 Any complaint/protest shall:
 - 13.5.1 identify the person or organization being complained or protested against
 - 13.5.2 indicate the date and time when the incident occurred
 - 13.5.3 describe the incident in detail and
 - 13.5.4 indicate the names of any witnesses and contact details to the incident.
- 13.6 All complaints/protests received will be considered by the GM FO. The GM FO, after consideration of the complaint/protest, may:
 - 13.6.1 require further information from the person/body lodging the complaint/protest;
 - 13.6.2 refer the complaint/protest for investigation to the League Investigation Officer;
 - 13.6.3 refer the complaint/protest to the Board for hearing;
 - 13.6.4 refer the complaint/protest to the Independent Tribunal for hearing, and
 - 13.6.5 deal with the complaint/protest themselves.
- 13.7 If the Independent Tribunal, Board or GM FO or CEO deals with the matter, they have the authority to impose a penalty on a party in accordance with By-Law 21.
- 13.8 If the matter is dealt with by the GM FO or CEO, they will decide after considering all the information provided as part of the complaint/protest and any material provided by any other relevant person/Member Club.
- 13.9 If the matter is to be heard by the Independent Tribunal or the Board, the General Manager – Football Operations shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing of the allegation.
- 13.10 Notice of the hearing shall be given to all interested parties through the Member Club together with a copy of the notice lodged under By-Law 132.1. The notification shall be forwarded not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Hearing.
- 13.11 Hearings before the Independent Tribunal will be regulated as provided in these By-Laws.
- 13.12 Any party appearing before the Board may be represented by an advocate but shall not be a member of the legal profession.
- 13.13 The Board may summon any Umpire, League Official, Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter of a Member Club to appear before it and, if required, to give evidence. If the Board summons a party to appear before it, in accordance with By-Law 13.10, and that party fails to attend, the Board has the authority to impose a penalty on that party in accordance with penalties allowed in the By-Laws.

- 13.14 Hearings before the Board shall not be bound by the rules of evidence. Procedural fairness shall be exercised by the Board.
- 13.15 Any party that desires to make a written submission to the Independent Tribunal or Board shall lodge a copy with the League within a reasonable time prior to the hearing, but no less than one business day before the hearing date.
- 13.16 The fee paid in By-Law 13.3 will not be refunded where it is determined that the matter was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 13.17 Subject to clause 13.16, the fee paid in By-Law 13.3 will be refunded, within seven (7) business days of a decision being made, less an administration fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) except where:
 - a. the subject of the complaint is found guilty of a charge, in which case the administration fee will be refunded to the Member Club that made the complaint and an invoice of that amount issued to the subject of the complaint; or
 - b. both parties are found guilty of a charge in which case the administration fee will be refunded in part and the balance will be invoiced to the subject of the complaint.

14. Investigation Process

- 14.1 The CEO shall appoint a League Investigation Officer as required
- 14.2 When a matter has been referred to the League Investigation Officer, he/she shall investigate the matter.
- 14.3 For investigating, any person shall:
 - 14.3.1 fully cooperate with the League Investigation Officer.
 - 14.3.2 truthfully answer any questions asked by the League Investigation Officer.
 - 14.3.3 provide any document in that person's possession, power or control relevant to the Investigation.
- 14.4 The League Investigation Officer shall promptly notify the League of the failure of any person to observe and comply with By-Law 14.3 above.
- 14.5 A person who fails to observe and comply with By-Law 14.3 or who provides any false or misleading information or information that is likely to mislead, shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 21.
- 14.6 As part of their role, the League Investigation Officer has the discretion to recommend a charge be laid against any person or Member Club that he/she deems appropriate regardless of whether that person or Member Club was named in the original complaint/protest.
- 14.7 The report and any recommendations submitted by the League Investigation Officer, shall be considered by the League in relation to By-Law 12 and By-Law 13. The League may follow the recommendations (if any) made in the report. The League is not bound by the recommendations made by the League Investigation Officer and may also issue further instructions regarding any person or Member Club named in the report.
- 14.8 Any hearing by the Tribunal or Board shall be held in accordance with the By-Laws with reference to By-Laws 12 and 13.
- 14.9 Any Member Club Official, Member Club Match Day Official, Player or Supporter that abuses, threatens or assaults any League Investigation Officer shall be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the League and shall be dealt with in accordance with By-Law 12.

15. Grievance Procedure

- 15.1 The grievance procedure applies to disputes between:
 - 15.1.1 A Member Club and one of its Players or a Member Club Official
 - 15.1.2 A Player or Member Club Official from a Member Club and the CEO or the Board
 - 15.1.3 A Member Club and another Member Club
 - 15.1.4 A Member Club and the CEO or the Board
- 15.2 The parties to a dispute shall attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within fourteen (14) days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.
- 15.3 If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by By-Law 15.2, the parties shall within ten (10) business days:
 - a. notify the Board of the dispute;
 - b. agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - c. attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 15.4 A mediator appointed by the Board shall not be a person who has a personal interest in the dispute or is biased in favour of or against any party.
- 15.5 The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, shall give each party every opportunity to be heard, allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party and ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- 15.6 The mediator shall not determine the dispute.
- 15.7 If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute as allowed by law.

16. Appeals

- 16.1 The League shall appoint an Appeals Panel as required.
- 16.2 There is no appeal available against any fine for a breach of the By-Laws.
- 16.3 Where there is a right of appeal under the Competition Regulations, or these By-Laws, a party may only lodge one (1) appeal with respect to the original decision.
- 16.4 Any appeal against a decision of the Board, Tribunal or CEO shall be made in writing and forwarded to the – League within two (2) business days of the original case being heard. The appeal shall state the grounds of appeal relied upon.
- 16.5 Only the Member Club of a suspended player or official may lodge an appeal against the decision of the Independent Tribunal to impose a penalty of a four (4) match or greater suspension and must do so in writing and forwarded to the League within two (2) business days of the original case being heard.
- 16.6 The appeal shall state the grounds of appeal relied upon in the National Community Football Policy Handbook and the League must:
 - 16.6.1 Be satisfied that any fresh evidence is reasonable, plausible and relevant having regard to the evidence addressed at the original hearing;
 - 16.6.2 Be able to identify the facts which the fresh evidence tends to prove or disprove and
 - 16.6.3 Consider the inherent credibility of the fresh evidence, the reliability of the witness and/or the authority of the source from which the fresh evidence comes.
- 16.7 A fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) shall be lodged with the League at the same time as lodging the appeal.

- 16.8 The fee, less an administration fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), will be returned to the appealing club upon resolution of the appeal, except in the case where it is determined that the appeal was frivolous or vexatious, in which case the League will retain the whole amount.
- 16.9 In the case of an appeal from the decision of the Board, the appeal will be heard by Board members who did not hear the original matter.
- 16.10 In the case of an appeal from the decision of the CEO, the appeal will be dealt with by the Board.
- 16.11 In the case of an appeal from the decision of the Independent Tribunal, the appeal will be dealt with by the Appeals Tribunal.
- 16.12 Prior to taking any other action, a party to a matter dealt with under these By-Laws, shall have exhausted their right of appeal under these By-Laws before commencing any Court proceedings.

17. Competition Structure

- 17.1 The League shall be comprised of the following Conferences
- 17.1.1 Metropolitan Conference
 - 17.1.2 Northern Conference
 - 17.1.3 Central Conference
 - 17.1.4 Western Conference
- 17.2 Where applicable each conference may include a divisional structure consisting of grades subject to a promotion and relegation system.
- 17.3 **Promotion & Relegation**
- 17.3.1 Where applicable, Member Clubs will play in a divisional structure that considers a promotion and relegation system. In each season, Member Clubs in each division shall play a series of home and away matches in accordance with the fixture. At the end of the home and away matches, a final series will be played in each division.
 - 17.3.2 Unless otherwise directed by the Board, a Member Club that wins a division premiership and there is a higher division, shall be promoted to the higher division
 - 17.3.3 Unless otherwise directed by the Board, a Member Club that finishes last in a division, and there is a lower division, shall be relegated to the lower division.
 - 17.3.4 The Board has the power to promote, relegate or refuse to promote or relegate any Member Club, if:
 - a. The Member Club cannot field a full complement of teams for the next season
 - b. Playing facilities of the Member Club are deemed by the Board to be not of a sufficient standard for the division in which the team is to compete in the next season.
 - c. The Member Club is in default of any financial obligation to the League or
 - d. There are any other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Board, require a Member Club to be promoted, refused promotion, relegated or not relegated
 - 17.3.5 A Club joining the League will participate in a division determined by the Board.

- 17.3.6 Member Clubs may apply to the League for exemption to 17.2.2 or 17.2.3 under exceptional circumstances.
- 17.4 **Re-Grading**
- 17.4.1 Regrading will be affected by the League at its absolute discretion within the first three (3) rounds of the fixtured season.
- 17.5 **Joining Clubs**
- 17.5.1 A Club joining the League will participate in a Conference and/or Grade determined by the League.
- 18. Fixtures**
- 18.1 The League shall determine at the earliest practical time preceding each season;
- a. the dates, starting times and fixtures of all football matches for all conferences and grades
 - b. the duration of matches and
 - c. any special conditions attached to matches
- 18.2 All matches shall commence on the days and at times during the season as directed by the League, unless otherwise agreed by the General Manager – Football Operations.
- 18.3 The League has the power to alter the fixtures at any time during the season.
- 18.4 **Failure to Fulfill Engagements**
- 18.4.1 Teams not ready to start the game at the appointed or previously agreed time shall render its club liable to a fine.
- 19. Finals**
- 19.1 **Arrangements**
- 19.1.1 The League Finals Series for all Conferences and Grades shall be played as approved by the GM FO and published prior to the start of the finals.
- 19.2 **Finals Bonds**
- 19.2.1 All Member Clubs participating in final series matches must be financial with FIDA before the last round of home and away matches.
- 19.2.2 If a participating club is not financial, the FIDA may at its discretion, remove all or any of its teams from their position in the final series matches and promote the next entitled financial teams in their place to participate in the final's series.
- 19.2.3 Each participating club must lodge a behaviour bond of **one hundred (100) penalty units** with the League prior to their participation in the Final series.
- 19.2.4 If there are no incidences, on or off the field, the bond will be refunded to the clubs playing in the finals within seven (7) business days of their last match where banking details having been provided.
- 19.2.5 Examples of, but not limited to, potential behaviour breaches':
- a. Abuse and or assault of officials,
 - b. Excessive disruptive behaviour on field (such as a melee)
 - c. excessive disruptive off field behaviour,
 - d. drinking in club rooms, spectator area or around the ground or
 - e. members of the public rushing on to the ground during play.

20. Football Umpires

20.1 General

- 20.1.1 The League shall where funding permits appoint a Umpiring Coordinator
- 20.1.2 The Umpiring Coordinator shall regularly report to the League on all its activities and decisions.
- 20.1.3 The Umpiring Coordinator shall;
 - a. regulate Umpire discipline, training and standards.
 - b. appoint, dismiss and supervise Umpires and maintain the general welfare and morale of Umpires.
 - c. perform any other function in relation to Umpires generally but subject to review by the League.

20.2 Umpire Duties

- 20.2.1 Umpires shall attend all meetings, coaching sessions, training sessions and other events as directed by the Umpiring Coordinator
- 20.2.2 All Umpires shall be registered as umpires with FIDA
- 20.2.3 All umpires shall enforce and administer all By-Laws, Competition Regulations, Rules and Rulings of the Board in so far as they relate to his/her match or other duties and shall report any person or Club infringing the rules of football or these By-Laws.

20.3 Umpire Powers

- 20.3.1 All umpires appointed by the Umpire Coordinator shall have the power to report Players, Member Clubs, Officials and Supporters in accordance with the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" adopted by the League from time to time and for any breach of these By-Laws.

20.4 Finals Appointments

- 20.4.1 Official Field and Goal Umpires shall be appointed to all grades during the final series.

21. Penalties

- 21.1 Where a penalty may be imposed under these By-Laws, the CEO, Tribunal or Board may impose any one or more of the following:
 - 21.1.1 A reprimand
 - 21.1.2 A fine – indicted in penalty units
 - a. One penalty unit = \$10
 - 21.1.3 A suspension or disqualification
 - 21.1.4 Loss of match and or premiership points
 - 21.1.5 Reverse match result
- 21.2 Any individual fine imposed may not exceed 500 Units

21.3 Schedule of set financial penalties

Infraction	Maximum Penalty
League Administration	
Club failing to nominate a Club delegate to the League	Up to 10 Units
Club failing to send a delegate to attend league meeting/seminar etc. as convened by the League	Up to 15 Units
Club Administration	
Failure to fulfil match engagement – Metropolitan A Grade	Up to 30 Units
Failure to fulfil match engagement – Metropolitan B Grade	Up to 30 Units
Failure to fulfil match engagement – Metropolitan C Grade	Up to 20 Units
Failure to fulfil match engagement – Northern, Western, Central Conferences	Up to 25 Units
Home Club Requirements	
Failure to notify League of Venue Change	Up to 5 Units
Failure to notify League of Time Change	Up to 5 Units
Ground not correctly and/or clearly marked	Up to 10 Units
No Goal Post Padding	Up to 20 Units
Incorrect placement of scoreboard (as outlined in Competition Regulation 28)	Up to 10 Units
Failure to meet Home Club Obligations	Up to 5 Units per infraction
Failure to provide and enforce exclusion zone around interchange benches	Up to 10 Units
Failure to submit final scores correctly by deadline	Up to 10 Units
Team Requirements	
Playing an unregistered/ineligible player	Up to 40 Units
No Accredited coach on team sheet	Up to 10 Units
Duplicate Player Number on Team Sheet	Up to 1 Unit per infraction
PlayHQ Team sheet not updated online by deadline	Up to 1 Unit per infraction
Submission of False or misleading Team Sheet	Up to 40 Units
Personnel	
Failure to have Umpire Escort at match	Up to 5 Units
Non accredited person acting in Coaching role during match	Up to 40 Units
No Medical Officer present at match	Up to 50 Units
Match Official not in correct apparel	Up to 5 Units
Spectator Code of Conduct Breach (First Offence)	Up to 10 Units
Spectator Code of Conduct Breach (Second Offence)	Up to 20 Units
Spectator Code of Conduct Breach (Third Offence)	Up to 50 Units
Club Officials & Volunteers Code of Conduct Breach (First Offence)	Up to 15 Units
Club Officials & Volunteers Code of Conduct Breach (Second Offence)	Up to 30 Units
Club Officials & Volunteers Code of Conduct Breach (Third Offence)	Up to 75 Units

21.4 Where an infraction occurs that does not fall under the schedule of set financial penalties outlined above a penalty may be enforced under By Laws 21.1 and 21.2