

# **East Gippsland Football Netball League**

## **East Gippsland Junior Football Association**

### **By-laws**

**(as of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026)**

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## **ADMINISTRATION:**

### **1. AFFILIATIONS:**

Football Netball East Gippsland Inc. affiliates with Netball Victoria and AFL Vic, effective 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

### **2. DOCUMENTATION:**

Any documentation pertaining to Football Netball East Gippsland Inc., that requires an authorised signature by a Member Club, must be signed by two members of the Executive of the Member Club. A Member of the Executive is considered to be; the Club President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. (Approved February 17<sup>th</sup> 2010)

### **3. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH BY-LAWS. (FINES FOR)**

The consequences for non-compliance with By-laws will be firstly a request for an explanation from the Club(s) with the option of fines, loss of match points and/or suspension if determined by the Commissioners. Relevant matters may be referred to the EGFNL/EGJFA Independent Tribunal.

### **4. PASSES FOR FINALS.**

All participating and non-participating EGFNL players and officials will pay for entry at the gate for Finals. (Approved February 17<sup>th</sup> 2010)

### **5. CLUB PASSES:**

(a) League Season passes have been printed in club colours with the club named on the card. Each club will be issued with 8 football and 8 netball passes. Additional passes, in club colours, will be issued to club trainers, once they have registered with the League.

(b) League Season passes have been issued to the FNEG Commissioners (8), Life Members, Media Reporters/photographers, Tribunal & Match Review Members & AFL Vic Country Investigation Officer.

(c) League Passes to the EGFNL Finals will be issued to our League sponsors.

Note: A League Pass issued to a Member Club cannot be used for entry to a match unless the team named on the card is competing. Club gatekeepers have the right to request payment from persons holding League passes from non-competing clubs. (Approved January 17<sup>th</sup> 2012)

### **6. ANNUAL MEETINGS OF CLUBS:**

(a) The Annual Meeting of each Club must be held not later than November 10<sup>th</sup> of each year. Failure to comply with this By-law incurs an automatic fine of \$100.00.

(b) The Secretary of each Club shall notify the League Secretary at least seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting of the League, of the names of the duly elected Office Bearers of the Club for the ensuing year.

### **7. MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

Each Club shall pay an annual affiliation, as fixed by the League at its Annual General Meeting of that year. The League shall retain such fees. Fees must be paid prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> April in the season. Clubs, which have failed to pay their affiliation, shall not be permitted to participate in matches controlled by the League.

### **8. POWER TO LEVY:**

The League shall have the power to levy from each Club such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet the expenses incurred by the League in connection with any of its activities.

### **9. DATE OF PAYMENT:**

(a) All payments or levies due to or made by the League shall be due and paid not later than twenty-one (21) days from the date of the issue of any notification advising same.

(b) Non-payment by the due date shall incur an automatic fine of 10% of the payment or the levy due for each seven (7) day period (or part thereof) that the payment remains overdue.

(c) The League shall have the power to amend any penalty as provided for in the By-law 22(b). Any appeal/submission must be made, in person, by the President of the offending Club, showing such extenuating circumstances for the non-payment of penalty.

**10. GATE TAKINGS AT FINAL MATCHES:**

The gate takings at all deciding semi-final and final matches shall be paid to the credit of the League. The League shall meet all expenses in connection with such matches, except for the payment of the umpires, which is a shared cost between the EGFNL Clubs, and the balance shall be dealt with as hereinafter provided.

**11. DIVIDEND TO CLUBS:**

At the meeting of the League, the League may consider the payment to each Club of an equal dividend from the balance in hand after all expenses have been met and shall have the power to retain a proportion of such monies for any purposes it may deem fit.

**12. BALANCE SHEET:**

At the Annual General Meeting of the League the League Treasurer shall submit a balance sheet.

**13. ADMISSION CHARGES, PRIVILEGES AND CHARGES:**

The League, at its Annual General Meeting, shall have the power to determine and prescribe the charge for admission to all matches and other charges associated with matches in this League.

**14. SEASON:**

The season shall be deemed to commence in each year on 1<sup>st</sup> November and shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> October in the following year.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS:**

**15. PLAYER UNIFORMS:**

(a) The colours of the East Gippsland Football League shall be Royal Blue and Gold.

(b) Each Club upon admission to the East Gippsland Football League shall register its uniform pertaining to guernseys, shorts and socks with the League Administrator.

**GUERNSEY:** Players must wear the following AFL Vic Country officially approved/endorsed coloured Guernseys for their respective teams:

Bairnsdale (Juniors) -Navy blue with red sash.

Boisdale-Briagolong – Black with a red diagonal sash.

Lakes Entrance-Maroon with white 'V' and trim.

Lindenow-Dark blue and white horizontal stripes or hoops.

Lucknow-Black and white vertical stripes.

Orbost Snowy Rovers-Navy blue, with aqua on the front, with a white bridge.

Paynesville-Royal blue and white vertical stripes.

Stratford-Red and white stripes.

Wy Yung-Black with yellow diagonal sash.

**SHORTS:** Players must wear the following AFL Vic Country officially approved/endorsed coloured shorts for their respective teams:

Bairnsdale (Juniors) - Dark blue.

Boisdale-Briagolong – Black.

Lakes Entrance - Maroon with white piping and stripes.

Lindenow - Dark blue and white piping or stripes.

Lucknow - Black with white piping or stripes.

Orbost Snowy Rovers - Navy blue with light blue piping or stripes.

Paynesville - Royal blue with white piping or stripes.

Stratford - Red with white piping or stripes.

Wy Yung - Black with gold piping or stripes.

The EGFNL away team is to wear white shorts. (Approved September 21<sup>st</sup> 2011)

**SKINS:** – Colour.

The colour of the 'Skins' be a 'flesh tone' colour or the colour of the club shorts. Non-compliance will incur a fine of \$50.

That 'Skins' must be the Club short's colour or the brand name 'Skins Natural' colour or equivalent.

**SOCKS:**

Players must wear the following AFL Vic Country officially approved/endorsed coloured socks for their respective teams:

Bairnsdale - Red.

Boisdale-Briagolong – Red and black

Lakes Entrance - Maroon with white capping.

Lindenow - Dark blue and white horizontal hoops or stripes.

Lucknow - Black.

Orbost Snowy Rovers - Navy blue.

Paynesville - Royal blue and white horizontal hoops or stripes.

Stratford - Red and white horizontal hoops or stripes

Wy Yung - Black and yellow horizontal hoops or stripes.

**16. ALTERATION TO CLUB UNIFORM AND/OR COLOURS:**

Any Club intending to alter its uniform and/or colours must do so by 'Notice of Motion' to the Annual General Meeting of the League. Any alteration shall be subject to approval of the FNEG Independent Commissioners.

**17. COLOURS-PLAYERS MUST WEAR:**

All players must play in their correct registered club uniforms. Any player offending against this rule shall, at the request of the opposing club captain, be compelled to change to his correct uniform and shall be reported to the League and his Club shall be fined the sum of \$50.00 for each player so offending. Should any player continue to offend in this respect, either in the same game or in any future games, he shall be reported to the League, who may suspend him or take further action as it deems fit.

**18. NUMBERS ON GUERNSEYS:**

Each player shall wear, attached to the back of his Guernsey, a distinguishing number of a size of each numeral to be not less than 28 cms. long and 5 cms. wide. No two or more players in the same Club shall wear the same number in the same match. Clubs and players offending in respect shall be dealt with in the same manner as provided in By-law 17.

**19. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS:**

The League, at its Annual General Meeting, shall fix the date of the first match and shall arrange the program of matches for the ensuing season and shall have the power during the season to amend or otherwise vary such program, if in the opinion of the Commissioners, circumstances warrant any such variation.

**20. PRACTICE MATCHES:**

(a) Clubs of the League shall notify the League Secretary in writing of the dates, times and venues of practice matches.

(b) Clubs shall use umpires appointed by the East Gippsland Umpires to umpire practice matches. The central umpire shall, in practice matches, have the power to report players and officials, as for official games. The League Tribunal shall deal with players and/or officials reported by appointed Umpires in practice games.

**21. EQUALISATION: EQUALISATION BY-LAW:**

Amendment: That the EGFNL Reserves will play with 18 on the ground with 4 on the bench.

The Under 17.5s will play with 18 on the ground with 4 on the bench. The League has agreed to vary the number on the Bench in the Home and Away and Finals for the Under 17.5s to an unlimited bench ON THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH COACHES. For avoidance of doubt, should one coach not agree to have an unlimited bench then the default of 18 on the ground with 4 on the bench will apply.

(Amended: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025)

1. There is a need for an 'Equalisation Rule' for Reserves and Thirds during the home and away games to cater for the 'ups and downs' in numbers over a season and from season to season.
2. These Equalisation Rules apply to all Reserves and Thirds home and away matches in the East Gippsland Football Netball League but not in the finals' series.

3. Some aspects of equalisation are compulsory, whilst others will be by agreement of both competing Clubs.
4. Fourteen (14) players to a team is the minimum number required to field a team. However, if one or both Clubs have less than fourteen (14) players then, with the agreement of both coaches, an official game can be played. E.g. 14-a-side with Quarters reduced to 15 minutes instead of 20.
5. A team can borrow up to two players to make the 14.
6. If either team has less than 18 players, then there must be even numbers on the ground for the whole match unless a player is 'ordered off' by the umpire or a player is injured. A team that has 'loaned' a player to the opposition must not be disadvantaged by this by-law. e.g. A team that has loaned a player(s) to the opposition suffers an injury leaving that team with less players than the team they loaned a player to. In this case the team that 'loaned' the player can request that the opposition take a player from the field to maintain equal numbers on the field. This does not apply in the event that a player is 'ordered off' by the umpires.
7. Clubs are encouraged to discuss any player shortages and make decisions in the best interests of the players. This could include loaning players to have even numbers on both sides, both on the field and on the bench.
8. Players loaned must be placed on the opposition team sheets with 'on loan' against their name. They are eligible to receive league votes. Any goals would be recorded in the league goal kicking and their game would be recorded for their home club.
9. Players loaned are permitted to play part of a game and then alternate with other loan players. The initial details will be recorded on the team sheet (see point 11). Other details should be recorded on a separate sheet and be forwarded to the League Secretary with any other match information.
10. No interpretation of these rules should allow the team loaning players to be disadvantaged.
11. A normal full team is 18 plus 4 on the Bench for Reserves and Thirds.
12. The Football Netball East Gippsland Commissioners have the right to determine whether teams which forfeits will be fined.

**EQUALISATION RULES: INTERPRETATION:**

**SCENARIO 1:- ONE TEAM HAS LESS THAN 14 PLAYERS.**

1. A team with less than 14 could request a loan of up to two players from the other club to make an official match. The other team must loan the players, if they have them available, so that an official match can occur. In this situation the match is official and premiership points, percentage, umpires' votes and goal kickers apply. Example: Team A has 12 players and team B has 18. The options are:  
Option 1: Team B must loan 2 players to team A. Team A then has 14 with no one on the bench, whilst team B has 2 on the bench.  
Option 2: Team B loans more than 2 players to still give equalisation on the field and allow the maximum number of players to have a game.
2. A team which starts with 14 could be reduced to below 14 by injury or 'order-off' card. The other team is not obliged to keep numbers on the ground equal except in the case of the team who loaned the players having numbers reduced by injury, in which case there is an obligation on the other team to even up the numbers.

**SCENARIO 2:- ONE TEAM HAS OVER 14 BUT LESS THAN 18 PLAYERS.**

1. If one team has less than 18 players, then both teams must have the same number on the ground.
2. A team with less than 18 players cannot have inter-change players. They must have all available players on the ground (unless there is mutual agreement to other arrangements). The team with excess players can have a full bench. Example: Team A has 17 players and team B has 20. Team A must put the full 17 on the field and team B will have the same number plus 3 on the inter change. Note: This is the 'default' situation if teams do not wish to borrow or loan players.
3. The team with less than 18 players could request a loan of players from the other team. If the other team agrees then there needs to be an agreement as to how many will take the field. The team who commenced with less than 18 players cannot have

inter-change unless they have a full team, with the loans included or unless the two teams agree. Example: Team A has 15 players and team B has 20.

Option 1: Both teams put 15 on the field and team B has 5 on the bench. (The 'default' situation where the teams do not want to borrow or loan players.)

Option 2: Team B loans one player to team A. They both play with 16 but team B has 3 on the bench.

Option 3: Team B loans 2 players to team A. They both play with 17 but team B has one on the bench.

In the above, Option 1 is the 'default' situation, where teams do not want to borrow or loan players. Option 2 and 3 will apply if there is mutual agreement between the teams.

4. If both teams start with even numbers on the field and one team, who has no player on the bench, loses a player through injury or 'order-off' card, the other team does not have to reduce on field numbers.

#### **SENARIO 3: BOTH TEAMS HAVE OVER 14 BUT LESS THAN 18 PLAYERS.**

1. The team with the lowest number must put all its players on the ground and that becomes the equalisation number. The other team may have numbers on the bench.
2. The team with the lower numbers could request a loan of players from the other team. If this is agreed to then there could be an agreement to maximise the numbers on the field or to have inter change, as well as the agreed numbers on the field.
3. If both teams start with even numbers on the field and one team, who has no player on the bench, loses a player through injury or an 'order-off' card, the other team does not have to reduce on field numbers.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE:** If a team with the lesser numbers refuses to accept players from the other team then the team with the extra numbers can play using all their players up to the maximum of 18 players.' (Approved January 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 and amended to 18 on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.)

#### **22. PREMIERSHIP POSITIONS AND POINTS:**

(a) In all matches, four points shall be scored for a game won and two for a game drawn. If two or more Clubs are level in respect of games won and drawn, then the relative position of such Clubs shall be determined by the proportion of points scored for and against such Clubs and the Clubs having the best percentage shall occupy the higher position.

(b) Except in cases where the League may rule that circumstances were beyond its control, the forfeiture of a match by any Club shall mean that the offending Club shall forfeit all rights to premiership points for that game and shall be liable for the umpires' fees.

(c) After the four leading Clubs have been determined, then the relative position of such Clubs shall be on the basis of games won and drawn and where two or more teams are equal in this respect, in so far as the first three Clubs are affected, the relative position of such Clubs shall be determined by the percentage system.

#### **23. DECIDING SEMI-FINAL, PRELIMINARY FINAL AND GRAND FINAL MATCHES:**

At the conclusion of the program of matches as arranged by the League, the first four Clubs in the Premiership list, as determined under By-law 33, shall play off for the Premiership. The following shall be the order in which the teams shall meet and play: (a) The third and fourth Clubs shall meet in the First Semi-final. (b) The first and second Clubs shall meet in the Second Semi-final. (c) The winner of the First Semi-final shall meet the loser of the Second Semi-final in the Preliminary Final match. (d) The winners of the Second Semi-final shall meet the winners of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final and the winners of this match shall be the Premiers for that season.

#### **24. TIE IN SEMI-FINAL, PRELIMINARY FINAL OR GRAND FINAL MATCHES:**

(a) Should a tie occur in any Senior, Reserves or Thirds Final match prior to the Grand Final, an extra five (5) minutes will be played at each end until a result is achieved.

(b) Should a tie occur in the Thirds, Reserves or Senior Grand Final an extra five (5) minutes will be played at each end until a result is achieved. (Amended June 2014)

(c) All quarters in the finals for Thirds and Reserves will be 20 minutes with no time on. Any attempt

at 'time wasting' can be addressed by the Umpires on the day and by Appeal to the Commissioners.  
(Amended February 2014)

**25. WHERE SEMI-FINAL, PRELIMINARY FINAL OR GRAND FINAL MATCHES SHALL BE PLAYED:**

All deciding Semi-final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final matches shall be played on such grounds as the League may decide and the control of and arrangements for the same shall be in the hands of the League.

**26. ADHERENCE TO THE PROGRAM: (Amendment: That clubs be fined \$150.00 per game for any forfeit in any grade of football or netball.)**

Every Club shall adhere to the program of matches drawn up by the League. Any Club or Clubs failing to fulfil any engagement on the date fixed shall, within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter, furnish the League with a statement setting forth the facts and the League shall have full power to decide as to what action shall be taken, provided always that should the reason be given be deemed to be frivolous, then the offending Club shall forfeit the match and it shall be counted as a loss. Further, all expenses, such as umpire's fees etc., shall be borne by the offending Club unless the League decides otherwise.

**27. DISBANDING CLUBS:**

If a Club nominates for the competition and on or after the first match disbands or fails to carry out its program, then such Club shall be suspended at the pleasure of the League and no registered player of such Club shall be permitted to play with any other Club in the League without a permit from the League, nor shall any registered player of such Club be granted a clearance to any other Club or Association without a permit from the League. Any Club in the League playing any registered player of a suspended Club, contrary to this Rule, shall forfeit each match in which such player takes part and shall be liable for such other penalty as shall be decided by the League.

**MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS:**

**28. FOOTBALLS:**

In all Senior home matches the home Club shall supply two new footballs ready for use and for Reserves and Thirds matches the home Club shall supply two footballs in good condition. Footballs used in matches must meet with the approval of captains. If no agreement can be arrived at, then the field umpire shall have the deciding authority and his decision shall be final. The Thirds may use yellow footballs. Should the clubs agree to use two footballs then one football is to be used for the first and third quarter and the second ball is to be used for the second and fourth quarter.

**29. EGFNL & EGJFA UMPIRE ESCORT POLICY:**

All AFL Vic Country clubs are required to provide an adult umpire escort for all matches their club is involved in during a season. The Umpire escort must wear the league approved identification.

The Umpire escort(s) shall be required to escort and assist the umpires at all breaks in play to ensure that any incidents are controlled in a reasonable manner.

In Senior EGFNL matches both competing clubs must provide an Umpire Escort. (Amended March 2012)

In Reserve Grade and Thirds matches the Home Team must provide one Umpire Escort. (Amended March 2012)

(Failure to provide an Umpire Escort will incur a fine of \$200.)

The Umpires Escort must:

- a) Be listed on the official team sheet
- b) Wear the league supplied official escort identification

- c) Be capable of assisting the umpires if an incident arises
- d) To be present at the umpire's rooms five minutes prior to the umpires entering the ground
- e) To accompany the umpires on and off the ground and to stand with the umpires at all scheduled breaks in play
- f) To move quickly to the umpires at the end of each quarter
- g) Not to give comment on the umpire's performance
- h) In the event of an incident involving the umpires the Umpire Escort is to remain with the umpires and ensure their safe departure from the ground (providing the safety of the Umpires Escort is not put at risk)
- i) Escort the umpires to the umpire's room door before duty is completed
- j) Ensure that goal umpires are accompanied to umpire's room
- k) In the event of an issue of crowd behaviour that is deemed inappropriate by the umpires, the Umpire Escort should be approached by the umpires and requested to ask the home club president, or his delegate, and if necessary the opposition club president or his delegate, to take appropriate action or if necessary contact the police. (Amended: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010)
- l) The Club Umpire Escort should attend the umpires at quarter time and three-quarter time. (Amended: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010)

**30. MATCH OFFICIAL. CENTRAL UMPIRES:**

- (a) Central Umpires for the East Gippsland Football Netball League shall be engaged and appointed by the East Gippsland Umpires in accordance with the Rules laid down by the Memorandum of Understanding as per AFL Vic Country Guidelines.
- (b) Complaints against any of the East Gippsland Umpires must be lodged, in writing, with the Secretary of the East Gippsland Umpires Association.
- (c) The East Gippsland Umpires shall levy Clubs for their home games and levy an equal share of the costs for travel and finals. Such levies shall be paid by the Club, in six instalments, throughout the season. By-laws pertaining to 'finance' shall apply for levies requested for payment of Umpires.
- (d) In the event of the umpire appointed or his substitute failing to attend, then the captains of both teams shall choose an umpire but if unable to agree, the delegates of the two teams shall decide.
- (e) In the event that the East Gippsland Umpires are unable to appoint umpires to the Reserves and Thirds then Club Umpires will officiate in the matches. All Club Umpires must complete the Level 1 Umpire Accreditation prior to officiating. The Level 1 Accreditation is now able to be completed on-line by accessing the AFL Club Help website.
- (f) Central Umpires for the East Gippsland Junior Football Association shall be club umpires to be supplied as follows; Under 11s: One central umpire supplied by the home club. The home club may supply two umpires at their discretion. Under 13s: One central umpire supplied by the home club. The home club may supply two umpires at their discretion. Under 15s: One central umpire supplied by EACH COMPETING CLUB. In the event that the visiting team is unable to supply a central umpire then the visiting club may request that the home club supply both central umpires with 'reasonable notice' given in the event that the visiting club cannot supply a central umpire. The fine for non-compliance of this by-law is \$50 for the first breach, \$100 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> breach and \$200 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and any subsequent breach. The League may seek to appoint East Gippsland Umpires in accordance with the Rules laid down by the Memorandum of Understanding as per AFL Vic Country Guidelines. The EGUA may use the EGJFA Under 15s and Under 13s competition for the development of trainee central umpires and shall invoice the clubs directly for related costs.

**31. GOAL AND BOUNDARY UMPIRES:**

(a) In all Senior matches the goal umpires shall be appointed by the East Gippsland Umpires. In the Reserves and Thirds each opposing team shall appoint one goal umpire to act at each premiership match. During the finals series all goal umpires may be appointed by the East Gippsland Umpires.

(b) Goal umpires, when acting as such, shall wear white coats and be equipped with white flags.

(c) In all Senior matches the boundary umpires shall be appointed by the East Gippsland Umpires. In the Reserves and Thirds matches in which they participate, each opposing team shall appoint one boundary umpire, provided that:

(i) All boundary umpires officiating in Reserves and Thirds matches must be twelve years of age and over, unless they are of a physical size and ability to be able to complete a game and perform to a satisfactory standard.

(ii) All club boundary umpires officiating in E.G.F.N.L. matches must be attired in white shirt and shorts.

(iii) All boundary umpires for Semi-final, Preliminary final, Grand final and inter-league games shall be appointed by the East Gippsland Umpires.

(d) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Rule shall incur a penalty of not less than \$50.00.

**32. INTERCHANGE STEWARD:**

Each home club must supply an interchange steward for each Senior, Reserves and Thirds match. This person shall keep a record of players sent from the ground under the AFL Vic Country Order-Off Rule. Such record is to be returned to the League Secretary along with other records following the conclusion of the match. In the event that an interchange steward cannot be found for the Reserves or Thirds matches the home club must request that the timekeepers keep a record of players sent from the ground under the AFL Vic Country Order-Off Rule.

**33. TIME-KEEPERS:**

Each opposing team shall appoint a timekeeper to act at each match, for each game and each timekeeper shall be in possession of an approved clock and an official timekeeper's card.

**34. DUTIES OF CLUB TIMEKEEPERS:**

(a) Each club shall provide an electric siren or bell, of sufficient volume to be heard over all parts of the ground.

(b) The timekeepers shall be required to keep an accurate account of progressive match scores, which may be used to decide official scores, where the scorecards of the goal umpires do not coincide.

(c) The club not ready at the sounding of the siren or bell at each authorised starting time, shall be fined \$50.00 in each case, unless in every instance a satisfactory reason for the delay shall be given to the League. These fines shall be automatic as per the time indicated on the signed timecards.

(d) Timekeepers shall sound a siren or bell at the proper time of the termination of each quarter of the game. The timekeepers shall continue to sound the siren or bell until the field umpire acknowledges that he has heard the siren or bell by blowing his whistle and holding two hands above his head.

(e) Should the captain of a Reserves or Thirds team request a count of players during a game, time off shall then be added.

**Instructions for East Gippsland Football Netball League Timekeepers:**  
**East Gippsland Football League Inc.**

**Starting times for matches:** (Amended July 2019.)

**Under 17.5s:**

10:30 Start. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
10:50 Quarter time: 4 minutes.  
10:54 Commencement of Second Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
11:14 Half time: 8 minutes. Players and umpires do not leave the field.  
11:22 Commencement of Third Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
11:42 Three Quarter Time: 4 minutes.  
11:46 Commencement of Fourth Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
12:06 End of Match:

**Reserves:**

12:30 Start. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
12:50 Quarter time: 4 minutes.  
12:54 Commencement of Second Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
1:14 Half time: 8 minutes. Players and umpires do not leave the field.  
1:22 Commencement of Third Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
1:42 Three Quarter Time: 4 minutes.  
1:46 Commencement of Fourth Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with no time on.  
2:06 End of Match:

**Seniors:**

2.15 Start. Twenty-minute quarter with time on.  
Quarter time: 6 minutes.  
Second Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with time on.  
Half time: 15 minutes.  
Third Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with time on.  
Three Quarter Time: 6 minutes.  
Fourth Quarter. Twenty-minute quarter with time on.  
As per the By-laws, Clubs will be fined for late starts.

## Instructions for timekeepers

AFL Laws of the Game:

### 10.2 TIMEKEEPERS

#### 10.2.1 Appointment

(a) A Controlling Body shall appoint two or more persons to act as the Timekeepers for a Match.

(b) Where the Controlling Body does not appoint a Timekeeper, each of the participating Teams shall appoint a person to act as a Timekeeper for the Match.

#### 10.2.2 Duties

Each Timekeeper appointed for a Match shall:

(a) keep time for each quarter of the Match;

(b) record on timecards the time taken to play each quarter and lodge the completed cards with the relevant Controlling Body;

(c) sound the siren in accordance with the procedures contained in these Laws;

(d) stop the clock which is used for the timing of each quarter as required under Law 10.5 for a stoppage in play;

(e) record the Goals and Behinds scored by each Team during a Match; and

(f) perform any other function as may be directed by the relevant Controlling Body.

<b>Start of Match</b>	<b>Number of Occasions</b>
Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the Match and as Umpires enter the Arena	Once
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of Match)	Once
<b>Quarter time interval</b>	
<b>Start of Second Quarter</b>	
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
<b>Half time interval</b>	
<b>Start of Third Quarter</b>	
Five minutes prior to scheduled starting time of the quarter and as Umpires enter the Arena	Once
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
<b>Three quarter time interval</b>	
<b>Start of Final Quarter</b>	
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
<b>End of Match</b>	

## **10.4 BRINGING PLAY TO AN END**

### **10.4.1 End of Quarter**

The Timekeepers shall sound the siren to signal the end of a quarter until a field Umpire or the emergency Umpire acknowledges the siren and brings play to an end, by blowing a whistle and holding both arms above their head.

### **10.4.2 Free Kick or Mark**

If immediately before hearing the siren, a field Umpire is of the opinion that a Player should be awarded a Free Kick or a Mark, the field Umpire shall signal that play has come to an end and then award the Free Kick or Mark to the Player. A Free Kick will not be awarded where the football has been kicked and, after the field Umpire has heard the siren, lands Out of Bounds on the Full.

## **10.5 STOPPING AND RECOMMENCING TIME**

### **10.5.1 Stopping Time**

The Timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of a Match when:

- (a) directed to do so by a field Umpire in accordance with Law 10.5.3;
- (b) the goal Umpire signals that a Goal has been scored;
- (c) the goal Umpire signals that a Behind has been scored;
- (d) the boundary Umpire signals that the football is Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full; or
- (e) the field Umpire crosses their arms to indicate they are going to throw the football up.

### **10.5.2 Recommencing Time**

The Timekeepers shall recommence the clock used for the timing of a Match when:

- (a) directed to do so by the field Umpire in accordance with Law 10.5.3;
- (b) the football is bounced or thrown up by the field Umpire;
- (c) the football is brought back into play after a Behind has been scored;
- (d) the football is thrown back into play by the boundary Umpire or brought back into play by a Player (as the case may be), after it has gone Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds on the Full;
- (e) the football is obviously in play; or
- (f) the umpire calls 'Play On'.

### **10.5.3 Signalling**

A field Umpire shall signal to the Timekeeper to stop the clock or re-start the clock used for the timing of the Match by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head.

### **10.5.4 Domestic Provisions**

A Controlling Body may vary the provisions of Law 10.5.1 at its discretion.

#### **East Gippsland Football and East Gippsland Junior Football Domestic Provisions.**

There is no provision for time to be added in the Thirds or Reserve Grade matches or in the Under 15, Under 13 and Under 11s. Any attempt to abuse this By-law shall be referred to the FNEG Commissioners who may determine a penalty, which may include loss of match and fines and further penalties as determined by the Commissioners. (Amended May 2014)

### **35. OFFICIAL RUNNER/TRAINER/WATER CARRIER:**

No person, who is a registered player or an official of any Club, other than his home Club, whether affiliated or not, nor who is under disqualification or suspension by his home Club of League, shall act as an official runner, trainer or water carrier in any competition match, or any match in which a AFL Vic Country affiliated Club or League is participating. Further provided that no coach or assistant coach of an AFL Vic Country open age team shall act as a runner, trainer or water carrier, in an open age match, in which a team of his Club is participating. All official runners, trainers and water carriers shall be listed on the official team sheet. No team shall be permitted to have more than the

combined total of 6 runners, trainers and water carriers unless approval is granted by the AFL Vic Country and the FNEG Commissioners to increase this number. Any Club that infringes this Rule shall appear before the Leagues Independent Tribunal to determine the penalty. The penalty applicable for determination by the Independent Tribunal shall include the following a. Substantial fine and/or b. Loss of points for the match, and/or c. Such other penalties as determined appropriate by the Tribunal. All official runners, trainers and water carriers are to be dressed in a uniform determined by the League.

- (i) The Official Runner of the team must be attired in the approved top as determined by the League. The sole duty of the Runner shall be to confer with the player or players of his/her Club and to immediately leave the playing arena. AFL Laws of the Game Rule Change 2019 season: Team Runners can only come on the field of play after a goal has been scored and they must exit before the re-start of play. (Not to be used in EGFNL or EGJFA games.)
- (ii) Water Carriers must be at least twelve years of age and of medium to large physique. The sole duty of the water carrier shall be to convey water to the players and to immediately leave the playing arena. AFL Laws of the Game Rule Change 2019 season: Water carriers are not allowed to come on the field during live play. (Not to be used in EGFNL or EGJFA games.)
- (iii) The duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.  
Note: The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of this Rule, order the runner, trainer or water carrier of the offending Club from the playing arena. Any infringement of this Rule or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire, (which shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire), shall be referred to the League's Independent Tribunal.

36. **STARTING, MATCH AND INTERVAL TIMES:** See By-law 34.

37. **GOAL UMPIRES:**

(a) Goal umpires and timekeepers shall be supplied with scorecards by the League through the Secretary of the home Club.

(b) At the conclusion of each quarter the goal umpires shall compare cards. In the case of a variation in scores, the scorecards of the timekeepers shall be consulted. At the conclusion of the match the goal umpires and the timekeepers shall compare scorecards. In case of a variation between the cards of the goal umpires and timekeepers, the scores upon the cards of the goal umpires shall be regarded as official, provided that the scorecards of both umpires coincide. Where the scorecards of the goal umpires do not agree, the concurring scorecards of the timekeepers shall be the arbitrator of the dispute provided they agree with one or other of the goal umpire's cards. Where none of the scorecards agree, the matter shall be referred to the League for decision.

(c) Goal umpires and timekeepers shall sign each other's cards, which shall then be handed to the Secretary of the home Club, who shall place them in the Match Day Envelope and forward to the League Secretary.

38. **ORDER-OFF RULE:** In accordance with the AFL Vic Country Rules.

39. **UMPIRES TO BE INTERVIEWED:**

It shall be the responsibility of the Club Secretaries, or their deputies, to interview the umpires at the conclusion of each match and ascertain whether anyone, or more of them, has any reports to make. If possible, the representatives of both teams should interview the umpires in company, within fifteen minutes of completion of the match.

40. **INFECTIOUS DISEASES:** In accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football.

**DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:**

41. **DUTY OF THE TRIBUNAL:**

It shall be the duty of the Tribunal to hear all protests, disputes and charges preferred against players, or other matters referred to them for decision by the League.

**42. VALIDITY OF HEARING:**

In any matters referred by the League to the Tribunal the validity of the hearing shall not be questioned or affected by the reason of the incident or matter not having been previously notified or reported within the times mentioned in these by-laws within which protests, disputes, charges or reports shall be lodged with the League Secretary.

**43. POWERS OF THE TRIBUNAL:**

The Tribunal shall have full power to inflict such punishment as it deems necessary in regard to any player, official or club reported for any offence and any decision of the Tribunal can only be varied by that body.

**44. LODGING CHARGES, PROTESTS ETC:**

All protests, disputes, charges etc. must be in writing and must be lodged with the League Secretary not later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday following the match of the incident under review, and (except in the case of reports or charges laid by umpires as per By-law 48 or matters referred by the League) must be accompanied by a deposit of \$300.00, the whole or any portion of which shall be forfeited to the League, if in the opinion of the Tribunal, the matter is deemed frivolous.

**45. TIME WITHIN WHICH HEARD:**

The hearing of all matters referred to the Tribunal shall be commenced and where possible, finalised within two days of the date of the notification of the report, protest, charge, dispute or other matter.

**46. NOT TO BE WITHDRAWN:**

Any charge, protest, dispute etc. once lodged cannot be withdrawn unless an agreement has been made between all affected parties and approved by the FNEG Independent Commissioners.

**47. CONVENING THE TRIBUNAL:**

Upon receipt by the League Secretary of any matter for consideration by the Tribunal he shall, if such matters are in order, and comply with the rules, forthwith call the Tribunal together for the purpose of dealing with the case.

**48. AFFECTED PARTIES TO BE ADVISED:**

The League Secretary shall advise each of the affected clubs, parties or bodies of the time and place of the hearing, provided that in regard to an official or player charged it shall be considered sufficient notice if the Secretary of his club is notified and who shall be held responsible for delivery of such notice and shall be deemed in order if the requisite notice has been given to the Secretary of the club.

**49. MEETING PLACE/EXPENSES:**

(a) The Tribunal shall meet at such place, as it deems most suitable.

(b) The expense of the members of the Tribunal shall be borne by the clubs or parties affected by and concerned in the hearing.

(c) Tribunal costs. A club, whose player is reported and chooses to go to the Tribunal and is found guilty, when the player could have taken the Prescribed Penalty, shall be liable for the cost of the Tribunal.

(d) Power of the Independent Tribunal and FNEG Commissioners to impose fines and costs resulting from Tribunals.

The Independent Tribunal and Football Netball East Gippsland have the power to impose fines on Member Clubs to recover any costs incurred from Investigation and Tribunals, should the Clubs' player who has been reported is found 'Guilty'. (Approved October 17<sup>th</sup> 2012)

**50. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION:**

In accordance with the AFL Laws of Australian Football. Refer to AFL Policy.

**51. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:**

The League shall have the power to elect Honorary Life Members, such membership to be awarded to those, who, in the opinion of the Commissioners, have rendered special service to the League or to the game. Such Life Members shall be elected by at least two-thirds majority of the Commissioners in attendance at the meeting.

**52. LIFE MEDALLIONS:**

Every Life Member, upon election as same by the League, shall be presented with and retain permanently, the official medallion of the League. The official medallion shall entitle the holder to admission to all matches conducted by, on behalf of, or under the jurisdiction of the League, without payment.

**53. COACHES: Suspension of a coach.**

The Board has written to the AFL Vic Country Rules Committee re the enforcement of a suspension of a coach. The AFL Vic Country has determined that the EGFNL/EGJFA should create its own by-law on this. See below.

**SUSPENSION OF A COACH:**

A coach (playing or non-playing) of a team in the East Gippsland Football Netball League or the East Gippsland Junior Football Association who is suspended by the League Independent Tribunal will be subject to the following conditions;

The coach shall be prohibited from coaching in any way, shape or form on game day

This to include but not limited to:

- Addressing the players before, during or after the game
- Sitting on or near (20 meters minimum) the coach's bench
- Communicating with the bench/players verbally, in writing or via any form of electronic media

Any breach of these conditions will result in the coach being referred to the League Independent Tribunal by the FNEG Commissioners. Should the coach be found guilty of breaching these conditions the Tribunal will have the power to add any additional penalty as it sees fit.

The FNEG Commissioners will also hold the coach's Club responsible for any breach of these conditions. If a coach is found guilty by the League Independent Tribunal of breaching their original suspension the Club will be fined \$2,000.00 (no suspended amount).

This By-law came into effect from the start of the 2012 season.

(Approved March 21<sup>st</sup> 2012)

**54. PLAYER JUMPER NUMBERS IN THE LEADER MAGAZINE:**

Player jumper numbers in the Leader.

Any senior club that does not have the correct player numbers for their senior players is fined \$25 for the first offence and \$50 for the second occasion.

(Approved June 20<sup>th</sup> 2012)

**55. PLAYER POINT SYSTEM:**

The EGFNL Player Point System was replaced by the AFL Club Sustainability Program in October 2015.

**Player Points System 2026**

**Implementation:**

1. The clauses listed below will be read in conjunction with the AFL Vic Country Community Club Sustainability Program Policy dated August 2025 and AFL Gippsland Player Point Rules dated August 2025, along with addendums.
2. There will be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Leagues and Clubs in East Gippsland that, subject to approval from AFL Vic, will allow all FNEG Clubs to have 'Junior Aligned Club' status to ensure that appropriate player pathways exist.
3. The EGFNL will implement a 'ladder position' system for determining the allocation of Player Point totals for the following season.

The EGFNL Clubs will commence the 2026 season with the following points based on ladder positions after Finals in the 2025 season;

1<sup>st</sup> on ladder – 38 points.  
2<sup>nd</sup> on ladder – 39 points.  
3<sup>rd</sup> on ladder– 40 points.  
4<sup>th</sup> on ladder– 41 points.  
5<sup>th</sup> on ladder – 42 points.  
6<sup>th</sup> on ladder – 43 points.  
7<sup>th</sup> on ladder – 44 points.  
8<sup>th</sup> on ladder – 45 points.

**Note: For 2026 Paynesville has been granted five (5) additional points by AFL Vic taking their points to 50.**

**Note that the EGFNL Clubs play 18 a side with 4 Interchange.**

**The Salary Cap for the EGFNL Clubs for 2026 is \$70,000.00.\*\***

4. Once a player's points allocation has been assessed, a reduction of one point will apply for each 'season of service' to the club (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches 1 point. (This is the minimum number of points a player can have). For the avoidance of doubt if the player is eligible for underage football at that club, it must be 5 senior games to meet the criteria for a season of service.
5. If an EGFNL player transfers so that he is competing against their immediate former EGFNL Club an additional two points (instead of one point) will apply.
6. In the matter of former Bairnsdale West players (Club went into recess in 2011) these players will be able to have their first EGFNL Club as their 'Home Club'.
7. The above Clauses will be reviewed annually by AFL Vic.

#### **56. AREA AGREEMENTS:**

**The EGJFA has Area Agreements with the Gippsland League, Omeo District Football Netball League and Sale and District Junior Football Association.**

**In 2026 a standard Area Agreement for Junior Football was introduced by AFL Gippsland for all Junior Football Leagues in Gippsland.**

**The Agreement limited the number of players who can be listed on a team sheet to 20 if a permit player was used.**

#### **LOCAL CONDITIONS:**

#### **EGJFA & OMEO DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION:**

**No East Gippsland Junior Football Association registered player who is under the age of 11 years of age as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 is eligible to play in the Omeo District Football Netball League (Junior Competition – Under 16s).**

**The following Permit condition shall specifically apply to Finals Permits between the**

**East Gippsland Junior Football Association (Junior Competition – Under 11s, 13s and 15s) and**

**the Omeo District Football Netball League (Junior Competition – Under 16s)**

**Omeo District Football Netball League (Junior Competition – Under 16s) players are permitted to play East Gippsland Junior Football Association Under 13 and Under 15 Finals provided that the player must have played a minimum of 5 H&A games in the team of the grade in which he has been selected to play finals and has met any additional league eligibility requirements.**

**Omeo District Football Netball League (Junior Competition – Under 16s) requires players from the East Gippsland Junior Football Association to have played a minimum of 8 games in the team of the grade in which the player has been selected to play in the finals.**

**This local Agreement overrides AFL Victoria Country rule (iii). Players are allowed to play on permit on bye weekends.**

**EGJFA & SALE & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION:**

A maximum of 2 Sale and District Junior Football Association permit players, shall be allowed on any one EGJFA team sheet.

Sale and District Junior Football Association Permit Players, shall be eligible to play all EGJFA home and away games in the one season, except when their SDJFA team is playing in the SDJFA Finals.

This local Agreement overrides AFL Victoria Country rule (iii). Players are allowed to play on permit on bye weekends.

**EGJFA & GIPPSLAND LEAGUE**

Registered Gippsland League players are ineligible to play in East Gippsland Junior Football Association finals.

This local Agreement overrides AFL Victoria Country rule (iii). Players are allowed to play on permit on bye weekends.

57. **BAIRNSDALE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB ALIGNED E.G.F.N.L. CLUB FORMS:**  
Deleted

**PLAYER REGISTRATION, CLEARANCES AND PERMITS:**

58. **CLOSING DATE FOR CLEARANCES AND PERMITS:** As per AFL Vic Country Rules.

59. **SEASON PERMITS:**

Season Permits are to be used between the EGJFA/SDJFA and the EGFNL and EGJFA and ODFNL.

60. **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS:**

- (a) A Club playing an ineligible player shall be subject to AFL Vic Country Rule 1.1.  
(b) Any player who is not eligible to play shall be subject to AFL Vic Country Rule 1.1.  
(c) The age limit of Thirds teams shall be that all players shall be 17 ½ years of age or Under 17 ½ years of age on the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day of December 2025.

AFL National Transfer Regulations 2020 state:

**3.8 PLAYER AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY**

3.8.1 The minimum age for a player to be eligible to register with a Football Body in any year will be in accordance with the Australian Football Match Policy as published and amended by the AFL from time to time.

3.8.2 A player's age group shall be based on a player's age as at 31 December in the year prior to the applicable playing year. For example, if a player is 11 years of age as at 31 December 2019 then that player's playing age group for the 2020 calendar year will be Under 12s (assuming single age groups).

3.8.3 A Football Body that extends the age of a competition must retain 31 December in the year prior to the applicable playing year as the age determination date. E.g. for an Under 18 ½ competition in 2020, the age determination date shall be extended back to 30 June 2019, thus allowing the player to be 18 ½ on 31 December 2019.

61. **INCORRECT OR FALSE REGISTRATION, INFORMATION OR PARTICULARS:**

Any player guilty of furnishing incorrect, false or insufficient information in his registration form shall be referred to the League Tribunal for penalty as it deems fit.

62. **RECORD TO BE KEPT AND CLUBS ADVISED:**

The League Secretary shall keep on Play HQ a record of all registered players. The record shall be available for inspection by the FNEG Commissioners, club secretaries and presidents.

**63. INCOMPLETE REGISTRATIONS NOT ACCEPTED:**

Registration forms submitted with material details omitted shall not be classed as valid registration until details are supplied.

**64. INTERCHANGE PLAYERS: (Amended for Reserves and Thirds to eighteen on the field.)**

Any player who has been selected and recorded on the official team sheet exchanged between the clubs, as an interchange player, shall be regarded as having played in the match in which selected as interchange player provided that during the progress of the game he was present and able to take the field if required. This player must be in full Club uniform and be seated on the Interchange bench until at least half time of the match in which he is recorded as being an Interchange player. The Senior teams shall consist of eighteen players on the field at any one time and four interchange players. The Reserves teams shall consist of eighteen players on the field and four interchange players. The Thirds team shall consist of eighteen players on the field at any one time and four interchange players. (See Equalisation Rules.)

The senior interchange bench was reduced from four to three from the commencement of the 2019 season and as a consequence the senior team list was decreased from 22 to 21. (Approved February 2019)

In June 2023 the Clubs requested that the Interchange Bench be increased back to four for the 2024 season. The Commissioners agreed to this pending the advice from AFL Vic on changes to the Player Points and Salary Cap. The advice was that there would be no increase in points or Salary Cap. At the League AGM in November 2023 the Clubs agreed to have a Senior Interchange Bench of 4. This was endorsed by the Commissioners and comes into effect for the 2024 season. (Approved November 2023)

**65. PLAYERS IN THE FINAL SERIES:**

**PLAYERS IN THE FINAL SERIES:**

- (a) If a player plays six (6) games with the senior team, he must play three (3) games with the reserve team to qualify for the reserves finals.
- (b) If a player plays seven (7) or eight (8) games with the senior team, he must play four (4) games with the reserve team to qualify for the finals.
- (c) If a player plays nine (9) or ten (10) games with the senior team, he must play six (6) games with the reserve team to qualify for the finals.
- (d) If a player plays more than 10 games with the senior team, he is ineligible to play in the reserve team finals matches.
- (e) Third XVIII final's eligibility. The only restriction is to be three regular *Thirds* season game.
- (f) To qualify for having played a game the player must be in full club uniform and must either play in a game or sit on the Interchange bench until half time. This player must be able to take the field if required. E.g. A player sitting on the Interchange Bench with a broken leg does not qualify as having played in the match.
- (g) A player must play for a club in three (3) rounds of home and away matches in the current season to be eligible to play for that club in the final's series.
- (h) Where a club is required to field a senior, reserve and thirds team for the finals matches to be played on the same day, the provisions of Rule 72 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) shall be waived. Such club shall be permitted to select its senior, reserve and thirds and teams from all players eligible under Rule 72 (g). (Amended 24/06/14)
- (i) A player playing in the Reserves team and the Senior grade on the same day, the Senior game to count in the number of games he has played in the Seniors for the Season.
- (j) When the First and Second Semi-Finals are played on the same weekend, it will be regarded as two separate rounds. Players can play on both Saturday and Sunday, in any grade, providing they meet normal eligibility rules.
- (k) Where a Club is required to field a senior and reserve team for final matches to be played on the same day, provisions of Rule 72 (a), (b), (c) and (d) shall be waived. Such Club shall be permitted to select its senior and reserve teams from all players eligible under Rule 72(g).

**66. CLEARANCES AND PERMITS:**

As per National Transfer Regulations, AFL Vic Country Rules and AFL Gippsland and Football Netball East Gippsland Local Conditions.

**Season Permits on PlayHQ:**

PlayHQ calls Permits 'Season Permits' There is no reference on PlayHQ to Type 2 Permits. When applying for a 'Season Permit' a player must use the 'New Season Permit Request' and apply for a Permit with the start date and end date being the date of the match to be played on permit. Players are unable to apply for a 'Season Permit' beyond the date of the permit match. Local conditions, as set out in the relevant Area Agreement must be complied with.

Penalty: A player in breach of this By-law will be referred to AFL Vic Country Rule 1.1 Ineligible Player.

**EGJFA/SDJFA/EGFNL Interchange Agreement:**

**UNDER 15 PLAYERS PLAYING WITH AN EGFNL SENIOR CLUB ON PERMIT**

- i) This agreement allows for ‘TOP AGE’ U/15 players to compete in the EGFNL U/17.5’s only. The player shall obtain written permission to do so from his parent club by applying for a Season Permit. The player’s club is required to submit a Form A for each match in which the player participates.

For avoidance of doubt:

Subject to Section 3.1(b)(iii) of the AFL National Community Football Policy August 2025, a Player’s age eligibility to participate in an U/17.5 Competition age group is:

***A player must have turned 14 and a half by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The player must turn 15 and a half during the 2026 season.***

As per the AFL National Community Football Policy August 2025 a player, playing outside these ages must submit an application to ‘Play Up’ in the U/17.5s. It is the responsibility of the player’s club to submit the application. The player must not take the field in the U/17.5s until the application has been approved in writing by the League and AFL Vic.

As per the AFL National Community Football Policy August 2025 a Controlling Body may permit a Player to participate in a higher age group where it determines that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that warrant such permission being granted. [Guidance note: In assessing whether there are exceptional and compelling circumstances, a Controlling Body must have regard to the Player’s football development interests including their physical capacity, experience, skill level and social maturity.]

- ii) That a player from the EGJFA/SDJFA may play with one club only of the EGFNL during the season.

**OTHER PROVISIONS**

- 1) For the purpose of this Agreement each EGJFA/SDJFA Club will be aligned to the following EGFNL Club

EGJFA/SDJFA Clubs	East Gippsland Football Netball League
SDJFA Club	Player to nominate either BBFNC or Stratford FNC
Bairnsdale FNC (Junior Teams)	Player to nominate one EGFNL Club
Lakes Entrance FNC (Junior Teams)	Lakes Entrance FNC
Lindenow FNC (Junior Teams)	Lindenow FNC
Lucknow FNC (Junior Teams)	Lucknow FNC
Orbost Snowy Rovers JFC	Orbost Snowy Rovers FNC
Paynesville FNC (Junior Teams)	Paynesville FNC
Wy Yung JFC	Wy Yung FNC

- 2) An EGFNL registered player must be played before an EGJFA/SDJFA registered player. (Where there are 18 EGFNL Under 17.5 players they must start the game and any EGJFA/SDJFA player must start on the Interchange bench.) AFL Gippsland has set a local condition that should a permit player be selected then a maximum of 22 players can be listed on the team sheet.
- 3) Under 15 players will not be permitted to play in any EGFNL Inter-league/Representative matches.

- 4) An U/15 player can only play in one senior club Under 17.5 match per weekend. The qualifying requirement for EGFNL Under 17.5 finals will be five (5) EGFNL Under 17.5 games with the senior club.
- 5) An U/15 player is deemed to be a player who is under 15 years of age as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.
- 6) An EGJFA/SDJFA club may only permit **4 players** per weekend to play with its aligned EGFNL Club. **However, the player cannot play for an EGFNL club if his EGJFA/SDJFA club is participating in finals on the same weekend (weekend includes Friday night).**
- 7) The player cannot play with the EGFNL on the same weekend when he is selected to play in a Junior Inter league match. (weekend includes Friday night)
- 8) Under 15 players who are reported for a field offence shall have the charge heard by the Independent Tribunal. In the event of finding the player guilty, this Tribunal shall determine the penalty, the duration of which is to be served in the Under 15 team in which the player is registered. The suspended player is ineligible to play in either the senior or junior club during the term of his suspension.

## ***FORM A***

		M	
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>
<i>Home Phone</i>	<i>Mobile / Work Phone</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	

DO HEREBY apply for permission to play with the \_\_\_\_\_ FNC for

Round: \_\_\_\_\_ to be played on the \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2026.

**The player can only play in an EGFNL Under 17.5 Grade.**

Are you presently under disqualification for a misdemeanour or financial reasons? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No)

Player's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Parent /Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

***(Parents Signature is required)***

**CLUB** (with which the Player is currently registered)

The Applicant is a registered player of the \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club affiliated with the **EGJFA/SDJFA** and IS/IS NOT (*Circle*) under disqualification for any misdemeanour or financial reasons.

AND THIS CLUB hereby APPROVES this application.

**EGJFA/SDJFA Club Coach's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EGJFA/SDJFA Club President's/Secretary's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Failure to lodge in the Match Day Envelope will deem the player(s) as being ineligible.**

**UNDER 15 PLAYER WHO WISHES TO PLAY ONLY WITH THE SENIOR CLUB:**

Regarding a player who turns 15 years or is under 15 years of age on the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) of December 2025 who wishes to play only for the Under 17.5s.

A written application must be completed and signed by:

The player, the player's parent/guardian and the club and is lodged with the League Secretary who will refer the application to the FNEG Commissioners for their consideration. The player must not play outside his age group until approval has been given.

Point of clarification:

In the event that these players wish to return to the EGJFA they must do so by 30<sup>th</sup> June. A letter informing the Commissioners regarding this will be required. Once a player returns to the EGJFA he is ineligible to play for the senior club on Interchange. (Amended June 2014)

**67. RECORD OF CLEARANCES:**

A record of clearances is kept on Play HQ.

**68. PERMIT AND CLEARANCE FORM:**

As per AFL Vic Country Rules.

AFL Vic Country Clearance/Registration Form.

An AFL Vic Country Clearance/Registration Form must be completed by all players seeking a transfer, with any player under the age of 18 to have the form signed by the player's parent or legal guardian. The forms are to be retained by the Club requesting the transfer. A transfer lodged online (Play HQ) without a signed AFL Vic Country Clearance/Registration Form will be subject to a monetary fine of \$500 to be paid to the League within 14 days of receipt of the invoice.

**69. LEAGUE TO APPROVE TRANSFERS ELECTRONICALLY ON PLAY HQ:**

When a player has been granted a clearance under these rules, the clearance shall be forwarded electronically to the League Secretary via Play HQ, who shall have the power to endorse the approval of the League on such clearance, if in order, without waiting for a meeting of the League and forward the clearance to the applicant through the secretary of the club.

**70. DUTIES OF CLUBS:**

The League directs all member clubs to provide, maintain and enforce to the best of their ability, the matters covered by sub-clauses (a) to (l) of Rule 78, to the satisfaction of the League.

(a) The playing arena in good order, marked plainly, for all matches under the control of the League, as to boundaries, goal square, interchange area, centre bounce area and the playing surface free from all animal excreta etc.

(b) Dressing sheds with adequate hot and cold showers and sufficient accommodation for each of the three teams of both visiting and home clubs.

(c) Separate dressing room accommodation for all umpires.

(d) Separate accommodation for duly accredited timekeepers and prohibition of unauthorised persons into the same and the provision of approved signal device; electric siren or bell, installed at hand.

(e) Adequate provision of both male and female conveniences on all grounds with running water for washing, at all grounds where reticulated services are provided.

(f) Provision of a scoreboard of a satisfactory size and the use of clearly visible letters and numbers, so that at all times the progressive scores are clearly visible to all spectators. Each home club shall be responsible for the appointment of a competent scoreboard attendant for all matches.

(g) Provision of sockets on the goal posts for use as flag holders and padding of goal and behind posts to AFL Vic Country standards.

(h) Insistence on club officials enforcing the payment of entrance charges at all gates of the grounds by officials without the official passes provided by the League.

(i) All club secretaries shall provide, and within such time as is stipulated by the League Secretary, all information as is required by the League Secretary for the completion of records. All such requirements shall be circularised to the Club secretaries before the commencement of the season and at other such times as directed by the League.

(j) The provision of adequate seating inside the fence line for: (a) the interchange steward. (b) the coaches, interchange players, trainers etc. of each club.

(k) A stretcher for use of participating teams in case of injury.

(l) A telephone or other communication should be provided at the ground. Where it is not possible, it remains the responsibility of each club to have access to a nearby telephone in the event of an emergency.

**71. CLUB RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICER: (Deleted)**

**72. VOTING FOR LEAGUE AWARDS:**

The League shall have the power to conduct such awards for players as it deems fitting.

(a) Fairest and Best Awards votes shall be cast by umpires in charge of games. Immediately following the conclusion of each match, the umpire shall record the numbers, names and clubs of the three (3) players who in his opinion were the fairest and best players in the match, on the official card provided by the League. These players shall be recorded 1, 2 and 3 in order of preference. The card shall then be sealed in the envelope provided and returned to the League Secretary, along with any other records of the match.

(b) Voting in any other awards conducted by the League shall be a matter for decision by the FNEG Commissioners at a meeting of the League prior to the commencement of each season.

(c) 'Rising Star' and 'Spirit of Sport' awards for the Thirds competition.

Procedure for awarding of 'Rising Star' award: The coaches of the Thirds teams will be asked to complete a voting card after each round. At the end of the game the coaches are to discuss the best players and award the best three players votes (5, 4, 3). The vote cards are handed to the home club secretary and forwarded to the League Secretary.

The leader board is announced in the Leader magazine after each round and the votes are tallied for the 16 Rounds. The overall winner is presented with a trophy from the sponsor on Grand Final Day.

The Thirds coaches will be briefed on the award at the Coaches meeting. (Approved March 10<sup>th</sup> 2010)

(d) 'Spirit of Sport' award for the Thirds competition.

Procedure: Under 17.5 Football Spirit of Sport Award vote cards are to be completed by the Under 17.5 coaches. Each coach is to select three players from their own team, in order, who have displayed great sportsmanship. These are not best & fairest awards as these are done by the umpires. The vote cards in sealed envelopes are to be forwarded to the League Secretary at the conclusion of the matches. The leader board is announced in the Leader magazine after each round and the votes are tallied for the 16 Rounds. The overall winner is presented with a plaque from the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation on Grand Final Day.

**73. COUNTING OF FAIREST AND BEST PLAYERS' VOTES:**

How votes are to be counted; Number 1 vote to receive three (3) votes, Number 2 two (2) votes and Number 3 one (1) vote. The player receiving the greatest number of votes is to be declared the winner. Under 17.5 and Reserve Grade players playing for another club will be awarded votes for the team he plays for. In the event of multiple ties all players concerned shall receive the Fairest and Best Trophy. The votes shall be announced at a place nominated by the League. Any player who has been found guilty of a field offence or incurred disqualification during the season shall be ineligible to receive the East Gippsland Football Netball League Fairest and Best Award. If a player is suspended during the finals the Fairest and Best shall carry over with the suspension in the next season where he shall be ineligible for the East Gippsland Football League Fairest and Best Award.

Best and Fairest medals for each Grade shall be named as follows:

Seniors: The Stewart Wren Medallion.

Reserves: The 'Wally' Trinder Medallion.

Thirds: The Chris Woodward Medallion.

These medallions are to be presented to the winners on Grand Final Day by family representatives, who shall be invited to attend the Grand Final by the League Administrator.

**74. AWARDING OF MEDALLIONS FOR PREMIERS AND RUNNER'S UP:**

Football:

E.G.F.N.L. Grand Final medallions to Premiers only. No Runners Up Medallions.

Footnote: EGJFA: Grand Final medallions to Premiers. Runners Up Medallions to runner's Up.

Netball:

EGFNL: Grand Final medallions to Premiers only. No Runners Up Medallions for Senior Grades. (To bring in line with senior football.) (Amended May 2013.). The Clubs requested that Runners Up Medallions be presented to the runners up in the 17 and Under and 15 and Under for the 2024 season. This was approved by the Commissioners. The awarding of Runners Up Medallions was extended to the 13 and Under runners up for 2025 and will continue until revoked by the Commissioners.

**75. USE OF PLAYERS BY MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS:**

No player from this League shall be used by a Major League team unless his parent club shall first grant him the necessary Season permit required under the provision of the AFL Vic Country Regulations for Clearances and Permits.

**76. INSURANCE:**

All AFL Vic Country Registered Players are insured under the AFL Vic Country Insurance Scheme. It is recommended that Clubs advise all Players that they consider additional insurance for 'loss of income' and 'top up' insurance as well as being a member of the Ambulance Scheme.

**77. DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED:**

At the insistence of the League, any official or officials of any club, or any player may be requested to sign a Statutory Declaration that he or they, or the Club concerned has not either directly or indirectly failed to comply with any or all of the rules of the League. Any party failing to comply with any request of the League made under the provisions of this rule shall be dealt with in such a manner as the League deems suitable.

**78. RULES AND BY-LAWS BINDING ON CLUBS:**

All clubs comprising the League shall be and are hereby bound to abide by and conform to the Rules and By-laws and decisions of the League. Any club deemed guilty of non-compliance with this By-law shall be dealt with as decided upon by the League.

**79. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS:**

Amendments to these By-laws shall be carried out as follows;

**FNEG Rules of Association**

**Rule 39. Football and Netball Competition Rules**

- 39.1 The Playing Rules; Regulations and By-Laws of the football and netball competitions may be altered at a meeting of the independent commission provided that seven day's prior notice is given to members and the Secretary will notify members of the Association of any alterations which will be binding upon all members.**
- 39.2 A member club or Independent Commissioner may propose motions to the independent commission for the alteration of the football and netball competition Rules by notice in writing delivered to the Secretary at least seven days before an independent commission meeting and the member club or Independent Commissioner making the said suggestion shall be invited to make submissions in relation to the suggested alterations to the Independent Commissioners' meeting.**
- 39.3 In matters pertaining to the EGFNL only an EGFNL Club or an Independent Commissioner may propose and second a motion. Should the Independent Commissioners seek feedback on a matter pertaining to the EGFNL only EGFNL Clubs may vote.**
- 39.4 In matters pertaining to the EGJFA only an EGJFA Club or an Independent Commissioner or a merged EGFNL Senior/EGJFA Junior Club may propose and second a motion. Should the Independent Commissioners seek feedback on a matter pertaining to the EGJFA only EGJFA Clubs or a merged EGFNL Senior/EGJFA Junior Club may vote.**
- 39.5 In matters pertaining to both the EGFNL and EGJFA the EGFNL Clubs, EGJFA Clubs or an Independent Commissioner may propose and second a motion. Should the Independent Commissioners seek feedback on a matter pertaining to the both the EGFNL and EGJFA both the EGFNL Clubs and EGJFA Clubs may vote.**

Alterations to the Rules of Association will be dealt with under the Rules of Football Netball East Gippsland.

**80. INTERPRETATIONS:**

(a) In the event of any question arising not provided for in these By-laws of the East Gippsland Football Netball League, the League shall have the power to decide such questions.

(b) The 'catch-words' or headings in these By-laws shall not be taken as part thereof, or in any manner affect the interpretation or construction of the same.

(c) Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural and visa versa.

(d) "In writing" and "written" includes typing or printing, faxing or other electronic forms of communication.

**81. NON-ATTENDANCE AT LEAGUE AGM:**

Any FNEG Club that fails to attend the League AGM, without a reasonable excuse, shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Commissioners.

**82. DATE WHEN OPERATIVE:**

These By-laws shall become operative from the date at which passed by the League.

NOTE: Amendments, revision and addendums subsequent to the date above mentioned shall be circularised to clubs as they become operative.

**83: COVID FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORK & By Laws – Please go to the following link for the latest information: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19>.**

**84: AFL NATIONAL COMMUNITY FOOTBALL POLICY:**

Football Netball East Gippsland (East Gippsland Football Netball League and the East Gippsland Junior Football Association) has adopted the AFL National Community Football Policy August 2025.

**Reportable Offences:**

The Policy allows Leagues to set fees for Incident Referrals from a Member Club. The complainant must lodge a deposit of \$500 by 5 p.m. on the Monday following the alleged incident. The deposit may be refunded in full, in part or forfeited at the discretion of the League Independent Tribunal or the League Executive.

Should a Report of Umpire be lodged, and the Club of Reported Player opt to take the offer of an Early Guilty Plea, the League will charge the Club a fee ranging between \$50 and \$150 for the cost of the Match Review Panel. Clubs that refer a Reportable Offence to the Tribunal will be subject to the costs as determined by the League Independent Tribunal and/or the League Executive.

## **APPENDIX: AFL and FNEG Forms, Policies and Documents.**

### **FORMS, POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS:**

To locate AFL policies and documents please go to [www.play.afl/clubhelp/policies/national-community-footy-policy-handbook](http://www.play.afl/clubhelp/policies/national-community-footy-policy-handbook)

The handbook contains quick links within the document to find what you need. Key sections include:

#### **Eligibility & Registration**

- **Player registration & transfers**
- **Age Dispensation**
- **Coach Accreditation**
- **Umpire Accreditation**
- **Deregistration**
- **Gender diversity**

#### **Member Protection & Integrity**

- **Member protection**
- **Vilification and discrimination**
- **Safeguarding Children and Young People**
- **Social Media**
- **Gambling and Match Fixing**
- **Anti-Doping**

#### **Health & Safety**

- **Injury management**
- **Protective equipment**
- **Extreme weather**
- **Concussion**
- **Pregnant players**
- **Infectious diseases & active bleeding**

## **Disciplinary**

- **Reportable Offences**
- **Policy Breaches**
- **Disciplinary Officer**
- **Tribunal**
- **Appeal Board**

**PLEASE GO TO AFL CLUB HELP TO ACCESS A NUMBER OF WORKSAFE AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY FORMS: [National Community Football Policy Handbook - Play AFL](#)**

### ***PLAYER TRANSFER & APPEAL FORMS***

- **Defending Club - Intention to Appeal Form**
- **Transfer Withdrawal Form**
- **Transfer Refusal Form**
- **Temporary Interstate Transfer**
- **Intention To Oppose Appeal Form**
- **De-reg Players Appeal Form**
- **De-reg Player Appeal Representation Form**
- **AFL Vic Country Notice of Appeal Form – Regulation 7.4.2**
- **AFL Vic Country Notice of Appeal Form – Regulation 8.4**
- **Type 2 Permit- Temporary Interchange**

### ***DE-REGISTRATION FORMS***

- **National De-Registration Policy**
- **Coach De-reg Appeal Form**
- **De-reg Coach Appeal Representation Form**
- **De-reg Player Appeal Representation Form**
- **De-reg Players Appeal Form**
- **De-reg Players Appeal Form**

### ***PERMIT FORMS***

- **Under Age Compassionate Permit**
- **Student Living Away From Home Form**
- **Special Circumstance Permit – drought**

- **Special Circumstance Permit – recess**

***OTHER FORMS***

- **AFL Vic Country Notice of Report Form**
- **AFL Victoria Country VAFA interchange agreement**
- **Age Dispensation Application Form**

**FNEG FORMS CAN BE FOUND IN A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT:**